

# JTA

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### LONDON CONFIRMS REPORT TRANSJORDAN ASKED BRITISH TO PATROL SOUTHERN NEGEV BORDER

LONDON, March 21. (JTA) -- The British Foreign Office today confirmed the reported Transjordan request for British troops to patrol the Transjordan frontier between the Gulf of Aqaba and the Dead Sea. A spokesman said that Christopher Pirie-Gordon, charge d'affaires at Amman, last Thursday forwarded the request to London.

Meanwhile, Foreign Under-Secretary Christopher Mayhew told Commons the government was considering Transjordan's request for British frontier patrols. Mayhew said the British Government does not consider sending troops to Aqaba a breach of the U.N. Security Council's resolution. "His Majesty's Government," he said, "never considered that the United Kingdom was debarred under the Security Council resolution of May 29 from supplying, reinforcing or otherwise altering the composition of its forces in the Middle East." He asserted that the move of troops to the area had had an extremely beneficial effect on the Rhodes armistice talks.

### ISRAEL WILL CONSIDER BRITISH RELIEF OF ARAB FORCES IN NEGEV A TRUCE VIOLATION

TEL AVIV, March 21. (JTA) -- Israel will consider it a most serious breach of the Palestine truce if Britain accedes to the Transjordan request to take over military responsibility for the southern Transjordanian-Israeli border, an official Israeli spokesman declared here today.

The spokesman pointed out that if the British patrol the Negev border from Aqaba to the Dead Sea, the Arab Legion forces in that area would be released for use on other fronts. He also denied the recurrent allegations of Israeli crossings of the Transjordan border.

### U.N. CIRCLES BELIEVE BRITAIN WILL COMPLY WITH TRANSJORDAN REQUEST FOR PATROL UNITS

LAKE SUCCESS, March 21. (JTA) -- It was taken for granted at U.N. headquarters today that Britain would send more troop reinforcements to Aqaba at the formal request of Transjordan, although the British delegation indicated that London would not move before acting mediator Dr. Ralph J. Bunche submits his comprehensive report on the tangled situation there.

In order to forestall inevitable Israeli charges that the truce has been violated, however, the United Kingdom delegation is suggesting to the Foreign Office in London that United Nations military observers should accompany the Army units in their patrols northward from the Red Sea port to the southern tip of the Dead Sea. By arranging for U.N. scrutiny in advance, the delegation hopes to make certain that the motives behind these troop movements will not be misunderstood, a British representative here declared.

Considerable anxiety is felt at Lake Success, nevertheless, about the ultimate effect of Britain's increasing involvements in the Palestine situation. While slow progress has been recorded thus far in the armistice negotiations with Transjordan, the advent of British troops on the Negev frontier, within striking distance of Israeli settlements scattered through the desert and of military positions in the key Beersheba area, would, it is thought here, have a negative effect.

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SYRIAN AGREEMENT TO ENTER ARMISTICE NEGOTIATIONS WITH ISRAEL REPORTED TO U.N. BY BUNCHE

RHODES, March 21. (JTA) -- Acting United Nations Palestine mediator Dr. Ralph J. Bunche today notified the Security Council at Lake Success that he had received Syria's acceptance to his invitation to enter into armistice negotiations with Israel.

Bunche said he had informed Reuven Shiloah, of the Israeli Foreign Ministry, of Syria's decision and that the Israeli official--on behalf of his government--agreed to enter into negotiations with the Syrians. Bunche also revealed that he has made all necessary preparations for the negotiations, which will be held under the U.N.'s chairmanship.

PALESTINE-LEBANESE BORDER TO BE RESTORED UNDER TERMS OF ISRAELI-LEBANESE PACT

TEL AVIV, March 21. (JTA) -- The Israeli-Lebanese agreement which is scheduled to be signed on Wednesday provides for the restoration of the former Palestine-Lebanon border and the removal of troops to a point several kilometers from the border, reliable sources told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency today, adding that the Israelis would withdraw from 14 Lebanese villages to a line ten kilometers from the frontier.

These same sources said that each nation will maintain only 1,500 troops on its side of the line. The Lebanese line will be much farther away from the border than the Israeli line. Under the agreement, the Lebanese will withdraw from only one point--the customs house at Ras el Nakura, where the formal accord will be signed. It was learned here, meanwhile, that when the Israeli-Syrian armistice talks begin, they will probably take place either in Samakh or in Mishmar Hayarden, on the Syrian border.

ISRAELI CABINET GETS RIGHT TO SET KNESSETH AGENDA AFTER SHARP DEBATE IN ASSEMBLY

TEL AVIV, March 21. (JTA) -- The Israeli Knesseth resumed its session today with a sharp debate between the government and the opposition parties over the former's right to set the Assembly's agenda.

The final solution was that the government was given the right to draft and present the agenda and members of the body were granted the right to suggest additions. A debate was also scheduled on a bill to establish a comptroller-general's office.

WEIZMANN PAYS OFFICIAL VISIT TO NEGEV; REVIEWS ARMY UNITS IN BEERSHEBA; GETS GIFTS FROM ARABS

TEL AVIV, March 21. (JTA) -- Israeli President Weizmann today paid an official visit to the Negev, the highlight of which was a trip to Beersheba where he reviewed a parade of Israeli Army units composed of representatives of all Negev defense forces, including veterans of the Eilat occupation.

Later, Bedouin Sheikhs--Haj Suleiman and Abu Jalyun, of the Tarbien tribe--presented Dr. Weizmann with a silver sword, recalling that he had always hoped for cooperation between Jews and Arabs in the Negev. They said they had been liberated by Israeli troops in the Jews' advance on Abu Geila after having been interned by the Egyptians for their pro-Jewish sentiments.

A third Sheik, Suleiman Harlin, of the Yahye tribe, presented Dr. Weizmann with a Koran. The Israeli President, in response, said that he had always hoped for cooperation between the Jews and Arabs, particularly in the Negev where, he added, it is up to the Israelis to raise the standard of living of the Arabs to further the common interest. The President's visit to the Negev was climaxed by a dinner attended by both Israelis and Arabs.

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PORTFOLIOS FORMERLY LEFT VACANT FOR OPPOSITION GROUPS DIVIDED AMONG ISRAELI MINISTERS

TEL AVIV, March 21. (JTA) -- The Israeli Cabinet last night decided to distribute the four portfolios formerly left vacant in the hopes that the Mapam or the General Zionists would reconsider their decisions and join the coalition government.

One of the portfolios was wiped out while the remaining three were temporarily assigned as follows: Ministry of Agriculture to Bernard Joseph, who also holds the Ministry of Supply; Ministry of Industry to Eliezer Kaplan, who is also the Finance Minister; and Ministry of Health to Moshe Shapira, who is also Minister for Immigration. The jurisdiction over the Druze and Circassian minority groups was handed over to Justice Minister Felix Rosenbluth.

Fifty-five hundred refugees arrived at Haifa yesterday and today. From the establishment of the state of Israel last May 15, until the end of February, 1949, 145,000 Jews, including 11,000 visitors, arrived. December set a record with 29,000.

Israel's ordinary state revenue exceeded budget estimates for the half year ending Dec. 31, 1948, by more than \$4,000,000, while expenditures were lower than expected, according to the Official Gazette. Total expenditures were \$32,000,000 and total revenue exceeded \$38,000,000.

A mobile operating theatre contributed to Israel in the name of its President arrived today at Haifa. The mobile hospital unit was contributed by a group of Chicago Jews who originally came from Motale, Poland, birthplace of Dr. Chaim Weizmann. The same vessel on which this unit arrived brought many other gifts from American Jews.

NO JEW UNDER SENTENCE OF DEATH IN IRAQ, STATE DEPT. SAYS; STILL CHECKING SITUATION

WASHINGTON, March 21. (JTA) -- No Jew in Iraq is now under sentence of death, a spokesman for the State Department said today on the basis of a communication from U.S. Ambassador Edward Crocker in Bagdad. The Department is still checking the situation of Jews in Iraq, the spokesman said.

(In London, Iraqi charge d'affaires A.M. Khederi, replying to a protest received from the Agudas Israel, denied that seven Iraqi Jews had been executed on charges of Zionist activity, as was reported. Pointing out that death sentences could be carried out only after a court martial, he said 100,000 Jews are presently living at peace in Iraq.)

BRITAIN WILL HONOR PALESTINE MANDATE DEFENSE BONDS ON SAME BASIS AS OWN SECURITIES

LONDON, March 21. (JTA) -- Defense bonds and savings certificates issued by the British Mandate Government of Palestine before May, 1948, will be treated as liabilities of the United Kingdom, the Colonial Office announced.

Holders of these Palestine Government securities were requested by the Colonial Office to register their ownership and full details of their holdings with the Under-Secretary for Colonies.

SPOKESMAN DENIES FRENCH GOVERNMENT LIFTS ARMS BOYCOTT AGAINST SYRIA AND LEBANON

PARIS, March 21. (JTA) -- A French Foreign Ministry spokesman denied today that France had lifted its arms embargo against Syria and the Lebanon, and also denied knowledge of the presence in Paris of an arms purchasing commission for both countries. Arms would be sold to those nations after the conclusion of peace, the spokesman said.

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ALL POLITICAL PROCESSIONS BANNED IN LONDON AFTER CLASH BETWEEN MOSLEYITES, ANTI-FASCISTS

LONDON, March 21. (JTA) -- Home Secretary James Chuter Ede today banned all political processions in the London area for a period of three months. Ede's action, announced in Commons, followed clashes yesterday between Mosleyites and anti-fascists which resulted from an attempt by the fascists to march through the East End of London.

The Home Secretary said that he "regretted" the necessity for this step and revealed that the Commissioner of Police felt that his powers were insufficient to prevent "serious public disorder." Yesterday, in an attempt to protect the fascists who had a permit for their march, the police, mounted and on foot, repeatedly charged the anti-fascist demonstrators until they were all dispersed.

HONG KONG AUTHORITIES COMPEL TEN SYRIAN JEWISH FAMILIES TO LEAVE FOR PORTUGUESE ISLAND

HONG KONG, March 21. (JTA) -- Approximately ten Syrian Jewish families who found refuge here following the outbreak of Arab-Israeli hostilities last year have been compelled to move to the Portuguese island colony on Macao, it was reported here today.

The Jewish families--part of a group of 30 families who came here from Damascus following the outbreak of pogroms in Syria--were denied extension of their alien residence permits despite intervention in their behalf by local Jewish leaders. Hong Kong authorities alleged that the Syrian Jews were engaging in illegal gold transactions. The 30 families were originally permitted to reside here on the strength of guarantees provided for them by relatives and friends resident in this British Crown Colony. All of them, soon after their arrival from Syria, set up businesses and became active in local communal affairs.

FASCISTS PLACE ANTI-SEMITIC LEAFLETS ON COFFINS OF JEWS MURDERED BY NAZIS DURING WAR

ROME, March 21. (JTA) -- Groups of fascist sympathizers have placed anti-Jewish leaflets on the coffins of Jews murdered by the Germans during the Nazi occupation of Rome, it was reported here today. The leaflets--which were discovered by relatives who came to visit the mausoleum at Fosse Ardeatine--said: "Not enough of you have been shot," "Death to the Jews," and "We shall do better."

Italian police investigating the outrage said they have arrested four persons who were carrying explosives. It is believed that the four had planned to blow up the mausoleum, where the corpses of 75 Jews executed as hostages by the Nazis repose.

STENCH BOMBS THROWN DURING SHOWING OF AUSTRIAN FILM MAKING PLEA AGAINST ANTI-SEMITISM

HAMBURG, March 21. (JTA) -- Stench bombs were thrown during a showing here this week of the Austrian motion-picture, "The Angel With the Trumpet of Doom." The film, produced by the Viennese author, Karl Hartl, makes a strong plea against war, anti-Semitism, intolerance and Nazism.

Dr. Joseph Klibansky, legal advisor to the Jewish community in Frankfurt, protested this week against anti-Semitic incidents occurring in the city's slaughter-house. In a letter to the mayor, he charged that German slaughterers were attempting to boycott Jewish co-workers.

STATE DEPARTMENT ADVISOR ON DP'S NAMED TO REPRESENT U.S. AT I.R.O. EXECUTIVE SESSION

WASHINGTON, March 21. (JTA) -- President Truman today named George L. Warren as United States representative to a meeting of the executive committee of the International Refugee Organization which opens in Geneva Wednesday. Warren is advisor on DP's in the State Department.

## ZIONIST ORGANIZATION OF AMERICA TO HOLD ANNUAL CONVENTION IN NEW YORK MAY 28-30

NEW YORK, March 21. (JTA) -- The Zionist Organization of America will hold its 52nd annual convention the week-end of May 28-30 in New York, it was announced here today by the Z.O.A. executive committee. The convention date was set at a meeting of the committee attended by members from all parts of the United States.

Dr. Emanuel Neumann, Z.O.A. president, addressing a dinner meeting of the executive committee, warned that the chief danger now facing the Zionist movement "is a premature and unjustified feeling of complacency." He emphasized that it is the "duty of responsible Zionist leadership to warn that Israel is not yet out of the woods" and that "it is well to bear in mind that Israel is the product of half a century of unremitting struggle and organized Zionist effort."

Asserting that "the real, crucial test lies ahead," Dr. Neumann said: "If the Republic of Israel is to survive, overcoming its present and future difficulties, it can and will do so only with the help of the Jewish people the world over. In the trials, which I am convinced still lie ahead, we will need a great, powerful and disciplined Zionist movement."

Dr. Abba Hillel Silver, addressing a meeting of the Economic Commission of the Z.O.A., emphasized that American Jews will be called upon "for many years to pour into Israel their resources--through public gifts and private investments--to make possible the absorption and resettlement of hundreds of thousands of Jewish immigrants."

"Israel calls upon American Jewish businessmen to invest their efforts, business acumen, technical know-how and capital--on a sound, practical basis," Dr. Silver said. He lauded the Israel Corporation of America which, he said, has "dedicated itself to the objective of promoting the economic building of Israel through private investments aimed at the furtherance of a many-faceted program, including the enlistment of private capital for the building of industry, housing and agriculture."

Twelve presidents and past presidents of Zionist regions, speaking in their own behalf, today issued a statement urging Daniel Frisch to become a candidate for the presidency of the Zionist Organization of America at the forthcoming convention. Lauding him as a "man of action and practical experience," the Zionist leaders voiced the belief that he "can bring about greater cooperation in the Zionist movement."

It was reported at the executive committee meeting that since the beginning of a Z.O.A. food for Israel campaign, some three thousand tons of food, valued at \$2,500,000 have been collected by all Z.O.A. branches throughout the country.

## WEIZMANN INSTITUTE OF SCIENCE ESTABLISHES LATIN AMERICAN DEPT.; DR. S. TOCKER NAMED HEAD

NEW YORK, March 21. (JTA) -- Establishment of a Latin American department by the Weizmann Institute of Science, which will be headed by Dr. S. Tocker, who formerly directed a similar department for the Palestine Foundation Fund, was announced today.

In a letter addressed to Dr. Tocker, President Weizmann of Israel wrote that he "was very glad" that Dr. Tocker had been appointed representative of the Weizmann Institute for the Latin American countries. "I believe the Institute will be one of the vital weapons in our struggle for the upbuilding of Israel and its scientific achievement and good reputation will reflect on every Jewish community all over the world," Dr. Weizmann's letter said.

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PLAN TO EASE NATURALIZATION OF ARGENTINE RESIDENTS NOW UNDER STUDY, PERON TELLS JEWS

Buenos Aires, March 21. (JTA) -- A plan is now being considered to facilitate the naturalization of Argentine residents, President Juan Peron told a delegation from the Organizacion Israelita Argentina--pro-Peron Jewish group--after hearing an O.I.A. delegation spokesman complain that many Jews in Argentina who wish to be naturalized are meeting with difficulties.

Peron, acting on a request from another member of the delegation, ordered the immediate release of several Jews who had been interned by immigration authorities. Emphasizing that he does not wish Jews to try to enter the country illegally, Peron said: "I wish that all Jews who desire to immigrate (to Argentina) and who have good intentions and are capable of lending a good service to our country, should come to Argentina."

The Argentine President also told Sucher Matrajt, president of the O.I.A. who is leaving soon on a visit to Israel, that he would give him a personal message for Israeli President Dr. Chaim Weizmann.

ISRAEL GIVES GREECE PERMISSION TO USE LYDDA AIRPORT; TRADE TALKS ON BETWEEN TWO STATES

Athens, March 21. (JTA) -- The Greek Government has sought and obtained permission for the Greek airline to extend its service to Lydda airport, in Israel, Asher Moissis, Israeli consul here, announced today. He said that an air agreement between the two countries would probably be negotiated soon. The Israeli consul also disclosed that trade and navigation talks have already been begun between Greece and Israel.

A.J.C.-BACKED LIBEL BILL DOES NOT MENTION ANTI-SEMITISM BECAUSE IT IS AIMED AT ALL BIASES

New York, March 21. (JTA) -- The Javits-Klein group libel bill presently before the House does not specifically mention anti-Semitism since "the bill is aimed at all forms of racial or religious defamation," a statement issued by the Commission on Law and Social Action of the American Jewish Congress said today. The statement added that the bill was drafted and sponsored by the A.J.C.

"Group libel legislation in Soviet Russia, Poland, Rumania and Yugoslavia are likewise expressed in general terms and do not mention anti-Semitism by name," the statement said. The Congress statement, pointing out the need for a Federal group libel law, noted that "no Federal law today prevents or punishes the malicious circulation of falsehoods designed to incite race or religious hatred and only two states--Massachusetts and Indiana--have comprehensive group libel statutes on their books."

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY FOR LABOR ISRAEL TO BE HELD IN N.Y. IN JUNE, LABOR ZIONISTS ANNOUNCE

New York, March 21. (JTA) -- A National Assembly for Labor Israel will be held here in June, the Labor Zionist Organization of America announced today. American Jews prominent in the fields of art, communal service, social welfare, education, religion, journalism and public affairs have been invited.

LEONARD CHUDACOFF NAMED PRESIDENT OF LOS ANGELES FEDERATION OF JEWISH WELFARE GROUPS

Los Angeles, March 21. (JTA) -- Leonard A. Chudacoff was unanimously elected President of the Federation of Jewish Welfare Organizations of this city for his fourth consecutive term, it was announced here today. He is a member of the executive committee of the American Jewish Committee and of the Joint Defense Appeal and served as 1947 chairman of the United Jewish Welfare Fund here.