

Thursday, March 24, 1949

**JTA** Daily News Bulletin

Published by JEWISH TELEGRAPHIC AGENCY

106 EAST 41ST STREET, NEW YORK 17, N. Y.

ISRAELI-LEBANESE ARMISTICE PACT SIGNED; ISRAELI DELEGATION HEAD HAILS AGREEMENT

TEL AVIV, March 23. (JTA) -- The Israeli-Lebanese armistice agreement was signed today at the frontier town of Ras el Nakura. The formal signing ceremony took place in the town's police station, with A. Makleff, signing for the Jews, Fawfik Salim, for the Lebanese, and Henri Vigier and Brig. Gen. William Riley, for the United Nations.

After the formal documents were signed, the Israeli delegation chief said that the Israelis had never quarreled with the Lebanese and added that he saw no reason for any quarrels in the future. He voiced satisfaction that both parties had arrived at an agreement -- "closing an unhappy chapter" -- and also paid tribute to acting United Nations Palestine mediator Dr. Ralph J. Bunche and the U. N. staff. He said that without the U. N. officials' help, "the task would have been much harder."

The armistice provides that both sides will respect U. N. Security Council resolutions concerning Palestine, but reserve the rights concerning the political future. Both sides also will refrain from any hostile action and will not violate frontiers. Prisoners will be exchanged within 48 hours of the signing. An armistice commission will be formed to handle any differences.

The Israeli representative noted the "happy personal relationships established between the Jewish and Lebanese delegations" and concluded that the Israeli Government believes that the armistice agreement just signed is "an honorable one." He said the Israeli Government is determined to carry it out in full. "We are convinced that only by mutual understanding of each other's positions and honest co-operation among ourselves can we ensure an era of peace and happiness for our part of the world," he said.

Acheson Expresses Gratification Over Armistice

WASHINGTON, March 23. (JTA) -- Secretary of State Dean Acheson expressed gratification today over the signing of the Israeli-Lebanese armistice. He said that the United States Government looks forward to the conclusion of armistice arrangements between Israel and Arab states still to negotiate agreements.

BUNCHE REPORTS TO U. N. ON NEGEV; SAYS JEWS DID NOT MAKE INCURSIONS INTO FOREIGN AREA

LAKE SUCCESS, March 23. (JTA) -- The first detailed report by U. N. acting Palestine mediator Dr. Ralph J. Bunche on recent charges and counter-charges in the Negev shows that at no time have Israeli forces made any incursions into foreign territory.

Dr. Bunche concluded in his report, which was released here today, that "it is clear no Transjordan forces are now on the Palestine side of the frontier" and that no significant forces are involved on either side and no fighting took place. "Therefore, it has not been necessary to place it under close observation nor to define any truce lines," the report added.

Following are Dr. Bunche's major findings: 1. Since March 8 Israeli

military forces at considerably more than normal patrol strength have moved into the area between the Dead Sea and the Gulf of Aqaba -- in Palestine -- and have taken up positions which they have not previously occupied.

2. There has never been anything in the nature of a military line in this area. "It appears that Arab forces in small strength have recently patrolled in parts of the area," as have small Israeli patrols, "in violation of the truce order."

3. The main movement of Israeli troops have been down the road of Wadi Araba which runs "for its whole length inside Palestine," but close to the Transjordan frontier.

4. The complaint that Israelis crossed the frontier could not be verified and on March 18 the senior U. N. observer in Amman "reported that no Israeli post existed at that time on the Transjordan side of Wadi Araba."

5. Neither could the observers verify that one body of Israeli troops entered Um Reshresh by a road from the Egyptian frontier and no such complaint has been received from the Egyptians.

6. "No fighting has taken place between the Transjordan and Israeli forces in the southern Negev." A small Arab force which arrived in Um Reshresh March 3 left March 9 "and Israeli forces arrived the following day."

7. By March 15 Israeli forces had established a series of points on the Palestine side of the border in Wadi Araba from the Dead Sea to the Gulf.

BRITAIN DECIDES AGAINST ALLOWING TROOPS TO PATROL AQABA AREA NORTHWARD TO DEAD SEA

LONDON, March 23. (JTA) -- The British Cabinet has decided against permitting British troops at Aqaba to patrol territory northward to the Dead Sea, as requested by the Transjordan Government, it was learned today.

Inquiry into the circumstances surrounding the request have proved to the British Government's satisfaction that even if the voice that made the request on March 10 was that of Transjordan, the moving force behind it was that of either the British Foreign Office or the Middle East command, or both.

Britain has not yet replied to a request by Transjordan that British troops patrol the frontier between the Gulf of Aqaba and Gharandal, a Foreign Office spokesman said today, adding that a reply is forthcoming.

Meanwhile, King Abdullah has informed the Israeli Government that he never willingly invoked British help last December. He says that he was pressed to sign the invitation to the British 24 hours before a British force under a Col. Oulton landed at Aqaba.

IRAQ AND ARAB LEAGUE URGE UNITED NATIONS TO CHECK ALLEGED ISRAELI TRUCE BREACHES

BAKINGHAM, March 23. (JTA) -- The Government of Iraq and the Arab League have today called upon the United Nations to investigate what they allege to be breaches of the truce by Israeli forces.

In one cable Azzam Pasha, secretary-general of the Arab League, says he is informed "by an authoritative source" that the Israelis are persecuting the remnant Arab population of Faluja, confiscating their property, "killing some and forcing others to abandon their homes."

RESUMPTION OF TRANSJORDAN-ISRAEL ARMISTICE NEGOTIATIONS ON RHODES POSTPONED AGAIN

RHODES, March 23. (JTA)--Resumption of the Israeli-Transjordan armistice negotiations here was again postponed today, although all the Arab and Jewish delegates with the exception of Lt. Col. Moche Dayan, head of the Israeli military contingent, have returned from their respective capitals. It is expected that the parley will reopen tomorrow.

The official reason given for this latest delay is that the "delegations have not yet prepared their material." However, it was reported that new difficulties have arisen in defining the armistice lines and the reduction of forces in various regions covered in the draft agreement of the joint military sub-committee. Apparently Arnan does not accept the entire pact as drafted by the sub-committee. Acting U.N. mediator Ralph J. Bunche today met with members of both delegations in two short separate sessions.

GOVERNMENT SUBMITS LIST OF PARLIAMENTARY SUB-COMMITTEES TO ISRAELI KNESSETH

TEL AVIV, March 23. (JTA)--The Knesseth today opened general debate on the composition, number and functions of its standing sub-committees. Beba Idelson, chairman of the steering committee, submitted a list of nine sub-committees on behalf of the government.

The bodies proposed by the government spokesman would be devoted to rules and procedure, finance, economic affairs (dealing with trade, industry, supply, agriculture), foreign affairs, security, internal affairs, constitutional and legal problems, public services, education and culture, and labor and social insurance. Some opposition members criticized the proposal, demanding that the number of sub-committees be increased.

Meanwhile, Premier David Ben Gurion, receiving a workers delegation here last night, expressed hopes that a Socialist state will be built in Israel "in our generation." The Premier added that in view of the estimated doubling of the Israeli population within four years, the investment of private enterprise capital could be fully encouraged. He called for an increase in industrial production and a lowering in the high cost of living by means of the introduction of austerity measures.

Representatives of the Catholic, Greek Orthodox, Armenian and Coptic Churches in Israel called on Rabbi Judah L. Fishman, Minister of Religion, today, and congratulated him on his appointment. The church representatives expressed gratification at the peaceful relations established among all religious groups in the Jewish state. In reply, Rabbi Fishman promised sympathetic consideration of their problems and requests.

OVER 30,000 OF 35,000 BULGARIAN JEWS ALREADY REACHED ISRAEL, JEWISH AGENCY REPORTS

TEL AVIV, March 23. (JTA)--More than 30,000 of the 35,000 Jews of Bulgaria already reached Israel and the last immigrant ship bound for the Jewish state with Bulgarian Jewish immigrants is scheduled to sail within a few days, the Jewish Agency announced today.

At the same time it was made known that the number of Jews entering Israel may reach a new high in March when it is expected that over 30,000 new arrivals will have landed on the Jewish state's shores. Twenty-three thousand Jews arrived in Israel during the first three weeks of this month. The average daily rate of immigration to Israel during 1949 has been 1,000, the Agency noted.

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AMERICAN JEWISH COMMITTEE LEADERS LEAVING FOR ISRAEL AT INVITATION OF BEN GURION

NEW YORK, March 23. (JTA) -- At the invitation of Prime Minister David Ben Gurion, Jacob Blaustein, president of the American Jewish Committee; Irving M. Engel, chairman of its executive committee; Dr. John Slawson, executive vice-president; and Dr. Simon Segal, director of the New York office of the AJC's Foreign Affairs Department, are leaving this week for Israel.

Engel is scheduled to sail today, Drs. Slawson and Segal will fly on March 25 and March 29, respectively, while Blaustein will sail Friday. They are scheduled to meet in the Paris office of the American Jewish Committee on April 2, at which time they will be presented to the President of France, Vincent Auriol. French Jewish leaders have also announced plans to tender receptions to the A.J.C. delegation.

On April 3, the delegation will fly to Tel Aviv, where they will be guests of the Israeli Government. While in Israel they will be received by the Prime Minister, the Cabinet, labor and industrial leaders and will make a government-escorted tour of Haifa, Galilee, Jerusalem and the Negev. A meeting with James G. McDonald, the United States Ambassador to Israel, is also scheduled. Blaustein expects to include a tour of North Africa and Western Europe to survey the situation of the Jews in those areas during his stay overseas.

The main purpose of the trip, the A.J.C. president announced, is to study physical and economic conditions in Israel as they pertain to that country's ability to absorb the 150,000 immigrants who are expected to reach Israel within the next eight months. Pointing out that Israel was created as a haven for those Jews who find it necessary or desirable to go there, as well as for the welfare of its inhabitants, Blaustein said that "we of the American Jewish Committee feel, as do all American Jews, that Israel must be rendered capable not only of supporting its existing populations but of acquiring and maintaining facilities for extensive immigration."

Z.O.A. URGES POSTPONEMENT OF ZIONIST ACTIONS COMMITTEE SESSION FROM MAY TO SUMMER

NEW YORK, March 23. (JTA) -- The Zionist Organization of America has requested that the forthcoming meeting of the Zionist Actions Committee scheduled to take place in Israel early in May be postponed to the summer, it was revealed in a statement issued here today by Emanuel Neumann, president of the Z.O.A. The statement reads:

"The Zionist Organization of America has requested the postponement of the meeting of the Actions committee to the summer on two grounds: 1. The time proposed, which is early in May, is in the midst of the fund-raising campaign and all other Zionist activities; 2. That the Z.O.A. representatives would be unable to go in May because it is shortly before the annual convention which will take place at the end of May. The Z.O.A. has urged that it is preferable for these and other reasons to hold the meeting during the slack season of the summer."

BRITISH BOARD OF DEPUTIES PROTESTS AGAINST REPORTS ON ANTI-MOSLEY DEMONSTRATIONS

LONDON, March 23. (JTA) -- The Board of Deputies of British Jews, in a statement issued today, deplored the impression given by press reports here that the demonstrations against the parade of Sir Oswald Mosley's followers in the East End section on Sunday "came from one political party."

The statement added that the "Board, to which is affiliated the Association of Jewish Ex-Servicemen, neither of which has any political associations, while in no way approving or condoning unconstitutional measures or any restrictions on true freedom of expression, wishes to make it clear that it is at one with the vast majority of people who -- irrespective of party -- are opposed to Fascism and its exploitation of racial intolerance and who, therefore, demonstrated against the Fascist march last Sunday."

METROPOLITAN OF SALONIKA CRITICIZES YOUTHS WHO POSTED ANTI-SEMITIC POSTERS IN CITY

ATHENS, March 23. (JTA)--The Greek Orthodox Metropolitan of Salonika today voiced regrets that "illegal elements, aiming at defamation of the church and creation of friction between Christians and Jews in Salonika" had put up anti-Semitic posters in the city.

The placards, which were discovered during the past few days, called on all Christians "to realize the perils involved for Christianity by the recent creation of the state of anti-Christ." The posters were signed by the "Religious Union of Orthodox Youth."

The Jewish community in Salonika addressed a protest to the city's Metropolitan who pointed out that he was powerless to act since a police investigation revealed that legally the "Union" group did not exist. Local Greek newspapers featured the Metropolitan's statement criticizing the anti-Semitic posters.

RUMANIAN EDUCATION MINISTRY NAMES YIDDISH TEACHER FOR SCHOOLS WITH MANY JEWISH PUPILS

BUCHAREST, March 23. (JTA)--The Rumanian Ministry of Education today appointed a teacher of Yiddish for two elementary schools in the town of Roman following a request from the schools' officials that Yiddish courses be begun there. Both schools have large Jewish enrollments.

A school in which the entire curriculum is offered in Yiddish was opened in Jassy, capital of the province of Moldavia, it was reported here. The Jassy school is the third of four schools which the government plans to conduct entirely in Yiddish. Two previously-established all-Yiddish schools are now operating in Bucharest and Timiscara, while a fourth is planned for Satu-Mare.

2,528 ISRAELI VISAS ISSUED DURING FOUR-MONTH PERIOD TO JEWS IN POLAND

WARSAW, March 23. (JTA)--A total of 962 Polish Jewish immigrants received visas for Israel during the first two months of 1949, it was reported today by the Israeli legation in Warsaw. Of that number, 143 visas were issued to children.

For the period from Oct. 1 to December 31, 1948, the Israeli legation issued 1,566 immigration visas, including visas for 254 children. The legation also announced that it is opening, in the near future, a special information bureau which will provide Israeli news to all Polish newspapers, as well as to individuals seeking information about Israel.

DECREE ORDERING PROPERTY BUYERS TO LIST RELIGION REVOKED BY ARGENTINE GOVERNMENT

BUENOS AIRES, March 23. (JTA)--The Argentine Government has revoked a decree stipulating that the religion of persons buying and selling real estate in a so-called "security zone" of the country must be inscribed on all business and personal contracts, it was reported here today. No explanation for issuance of the original decree nor for its revocation was offered by the Defense Council of the Presidency.

The Association of Argentine Notaries--whose members were required by the original ruling to register the religious faiths of all persons engaged in property transactions within the "security zone"--noted that in recent years Jews bought numerous real estate properties in the Buenos Aires and Mar del Plata regions. The security zone was established as a 25-kilometer belt around the borders of Argentina.

LATIN AMERICAN STATES WHICH RECOGNIZED ISRAEL WILL BACK U.N. MEMBERSHIP BID, TOFF SAYS

NEW YORK, March 23. (JTA)--Nineteen of 20 Latin American countries which have already recognized Israel are prepared to support its application for U.N. membership, Moises Toff, head of the Latin American Division of the Israeli Foreign Ministry, declared here today in an interview with the Jewish Telegraphic Agency.

Toff attributed the friendliness of the Latin American nations to a number of factors including the fact that South American private investors are interested in the Israeli Government's invitation to private capital to help develop the Jewish state's economy. He also cited Israel's friendly attitude toward Catholic life within its own borders as an important reason for the Latin American attitude. The South American people, he stated, admire Israel's fight for independence.

A program of exchange of agricultural and medical information and specialists between the two areas is another reason for friendly relations between Latin America and Israel, Toff maintained. He also pointed to the fact that several universities in various Latin American countries have already begun to offer courses in Hebrew. Finally, he announced the appointment of four honorary Israeli consuls in Latin American countries. They are: Eric Heineman, Guatemala; Ernst Leibes, El Salvador; Dr. Ilazo Wise, Nicaragua; and Max Weismanblueth, Honduras.

Cuba Sends Greetings To New Israeli Government

HAVANA, March 23. (JTA)--The Cuban Government has sent a message of felicitations to the newly-elected Israeli Government, it was announced here today. The Cuban Foreign Ministry also said that diplomatic relations between the two nations will be established soon. There is as yet no exchange of diplomatic representatives between Cuba and Israel.

FRENCH AMBASSADOR LAUDS ORT'S PROGRAM AT MEETING OF GROUP'S CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEE

WASHINGTON, March 23. (JTA)--Ambassador Henri Bonnet of France lauded the CRT for its work in fitting Jewish DP's into the economy of France, when he addressed a luncheon of the CRT Congressional Committee here yesterday.

France hopes to integrate 50,000 Jewish skilled workers through CRT, Bonnet said. He said that CRT has done notable work in developing skills among Jews DP's in North Africa as well as in France. Bonnet reported that France is now allowing 20,000 Israel-bound DP's every three months to cross the country.

Rep. Jacob K. Javits, secretary of the CRT Congressional Committee, warned of a complete shutdown of Jewish emigration from Eastern Europe. He said that CRT had done "exceptional work" in the DP camps in Europe, "preparing them for their new lives with necessary mechanical skills." Sen. Brian McMahon, President, replaces Sen. Robert Wagner as chairman of the Committee.

Dr. Lvovitch, chairman of the executive committee of the World CRT Union, read greetings from Edouard Herriot and J. McDonald, American Ambassador to Israel, and asked the committee to express thanks to the Swedish Government for generous gifts to CRT work in the DP camps. He pointed out that the CRT work was supported financially by the Joint Distribution Committee from funds obtained from the United Jewish Appeal.