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ISRAELI-TRANSJORDAN ARMISTICE PACT MAY BE SIGNED TUESDAY; MILITARY TALKS TO END TODAY

RHODES, March 25. (JTA) -- The signing of the Israeli-Transjordan armistice agreement will probably take place here Tuesday, well-informed observers predicted today.

Discussions regarding reduction of the Israeli and Transjordan forces which have been carried on for more than a fortnight by a joint military sub-committee are expected to end Sunday with only political questions remaining to be reviewed. The sub-committee met again today and will probably hold another session tomorrow.

A joint meeting of the Jews and Arabs here which was scheduled to take place today did not materialize despite the return from Tel Aviv of top Israeli negotiators and Brig. Gen. William Riley and Henri Vigier, U.N. officials who attended the formal ceremonies at Ras-el-Nakura, on the Israeli-Lebanese frontier, where the armistice agreement between the Tel Aviv and Beirut governments was signed.

It was reported that the reason for the slowdown in the joint military sub-committee today was submission of a demand by the Israelis that the British forces in the Aqaba area and along the Negev frontier be withdrawn or the Arab forces be reduced in proportion to the British strength. The Jews argued that Israel has agreed in principle to a reduction and equalization of Israeli and Transjordan forces, and that the presence of the British units would leave the Arabs with a preponderance of power in the area.

Meanwhile, it was learned that U.N. mediator Ralph J. Bunche has asked U.N. Secretary-General Trygve Lie to use his influence with the British to reduce the tension in the Aqaba area and thus speed up completion of an Israeli-Transjordan agreement. The arrival here of a State Department representative, who was closeted with Dr. Bunche this afternoon, was interpreted to mean that the U.S. Government was seeking information on Aqaba in order to convince the British to ease the tension.

Transjordan Pact Due This Week, Israeli Foreign Ministry Official Says

TEL AVIV, March 25. (JTA) -- Walter Eytan, director of the Israeli Foreign Ministry, said today that the Israel-Transjordan armistice agreement will probably be signed next week.

Circles close to the Israeli Government voiced the belief, meanwhile, that the so-called "Arab triangle" in the central part of Palestine will also be covered in the Amman-Tel Aviv pact expected to be signed on Rhodes. This opinion is based on a recent statement by Iraq's Foreign Minister, Dr. Fadhel Jamali, that Transjordan is entitled to negotiate in behalf of Iraq, including the Iraqi forces in the triangle sector which, he added, will be withdrawn. Some observers believe that certain frontier changes in this area may soon be possible.

Earlier, Eytan said that although the time and place of the prospective armistice negotiations with Syria have not been set, the same delegation that represented Israel in the talks with Lebanon will negotiate with the Syrian Government. (In London, Reuters reported in a Damascus dispatch that Syrian-Israeli negotiations will begin April 2.)

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U.N. ASSEMBLY PRESIDENT WILL TRY TO "EXPEDITE" ISRAELI MEMBERSHIP BID, LIE SAYS

LAKE SUCCESS, March 25. (JTA) -- The president of the U.N. General Assembly, Dr. Herbert Evatt, will do everything in his power to have Israel accepted as a member of the U.N. at the forthcoming session of the Assembly.

Secretary-General Trygve Lie underscored this policy in his weekly press conference today. Lie said that the Foreign Minister of Australia, who will arrive in New York April 3, told him that he will do everything in his power as president to "expedite" Israel's application for admission at the forthcoming session. The session opens formally April 5 and Lie estimated that it will last from four to six weeks.

As the agenda now stands, and according to the tentative timetable, there is an even chance that Israel may become a member of the organization in the first half of its deliberations. If this happens, the Israeli delegation will actually participate in some U.N. decisions before the Assembly adjourns.

Lie did not explain what Dr. Evatt intends to do to hasten consideration of the Tel Aviv application, but in the established routine of Assembly business Dr. Evatt will probably call on the General Committee--the U.N. steering body--to give it a high priority on the order of business. Evatt is also the presiding officer of the Committee.

ISRAELI GOVERNMENT INVITED TO ATTEND FIRST INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE WITH FULL RIGHTS

TEL AVIV, March 25. (JTA) -- The first international diplomatic conference to be attended by Israel with full rights will be the International Convention to Determine the Status of Civilian War Sufferers, which will open in Geneva April 21.

Israeli officials disclosed that this country had been invited to participate because it is now a signatory to the Geneva Convention on prisoners of war. The Jewish state's delegation will be composed of Maurice Fischer and Zvi Locker, of the Foreign Ministry; Emil Najjar, legal advisor; Menachem Cahani, Israeli representative to Switzerland; and Dr. Arie Steinberg, of the Ministry of Health.

PALESTINE ARAB REFUGEES WISH TO RETURN TO THEIR HOMES, U.N. CONCILIATION COMMISSION TOLD

LAKE SUCCESS, March 25. (JTA) -- Non-governmental Arab bodies testified in Beirut yesterday at a special meeting called by the United Nations Conciliation Commission for Palestine that the majority of the Palestine Arab refugees wish to return to their homes, a report from the Lebanese capital received here today revealed.

The Palestine Arab Higher Committee, the so-called Arab Palestine Government of Gaza and Haj Amin el Hussein, ex-Mufti of Jerusalem, did not attend the Beirut meeting although they had previously evinced a desire to do so. Those who appeared at the Conciliation Commission meeting claimed to "represent the interests and wishes of varied groups of refugees coming from various localities and belonging to different social levels," the U.N. report stated.

BAVARIA MAY RELEASE ILSE KOCH FOR TRIAL BY THURINGIA, IN SOVIET ZONE OF GERMANY

MUNICH, March 25. (JTA) -- Dr. Johann Ilkow, prosecutor of Bavaria, today told a press conference that Ilse Koch, notorious German war criminal, will probably be released for extradition to the province of Thuringia, in the Soviet zone of Germany, after the evidence against her is examined by Bavarian authorities. It is believed that hundreds of witnesses will be called in Dr. Ilkow's examination of the evidence of the Koch woman's crimes against German nationals.

BERLIN COMMUNITY OF DRESDEN TO SELL PLOT OF LAND TO RAISE FUNDS FOR SHIP FOR ISRAEL

BERLIN, March 25. (JTA) -- The Jewish community of Dresden has decided to sell a plot of land restored to it by the provincial government of Saxony and to use the proceeds of the sale, together with donations from other Jewish communities in Germany, to purchase a ship for Israel, it was reported today from Dresden, which lies in the Soviet zone.

The first group of emigrants have left the Soviet zone for Israel, it was disclosed here today in Der Weg, publication of the Berlin Jewish community. The newspaper expressed satisfaction that migratory movement to Israel was proceeding smoothly from all zones of Germany. However, it pointed out that not a single Berlin Jew has yet left the city to proceed to the United States under the DP Act, and appealed for assistance in the resettlement of victims of the Nazi regime who cannot find peace in Germany.

A Great Circle plane with a group of Israel-bound refugees aboard was yesterday forced to return to its base at Munich when it developed engine trouble. The landing was made safely and the passengers were transferred to another plane which has since left for Lydda.

1,900 JEWISH REFUGEES FROM VARIOUS COUNTRIES SAIL FROM ITALIAN PORTS FOR ISRAEL

ROME, March 25. (JTA) -- Some 1,900 Jewish refugees from Austria, Italy, Czechoslovakia and Shanghai sailed today for Israel from two Italian ports. Two immigrant vessels left from Naples while the third sailed from Venice.

A farewell banquet was held here last night for the last two members of the Jewish Agency office here, who are scheduled to leave Italy shortly. The office was closed down a number of days ago. In a speech at the banquet, Israeli consul Arie Green stressed the varied activities of the organization which began functioning in Italy some four years ago, during the war. Its first personnel consisted of soldiers on duty with the Jewish Brigade, and one of its chief functions was the organization of visaless immigration from Italy to Palestine.

Seventy-two Jews who were murdered in 1944 along with 283 other hostages by the Germans at Fosse Ardeantine were honored today at ceremonies marking the opening of a mausoleum dedicated by the Jewish community here. Chief Rabbi Prato delivered a eulogy for the martyrs. More than 2,000 Jews, including numerous Italian Jewish leaders, participated in the services.

CANADA SECOND ONLY TO ISRAEL IN ABSORBING DP'S, HIAS DIRECTOR IN GERMANY REPORTS

NEW YORK, March 25. (JTA) -- Canada is second only to Israel in accepting displaced persons from Europe as immigrants, Mandel Kraicer, director in the British zone of Germany for HIAS, reported here today at a press conference. He returned to this country after a three-year stay in Germany and will shortly resume his post as director of the central region of the Jewish Immigrant Aid Society of Toronto.

Since the end of the war, Kraicer said, Canada absorbed 100,000 displaced persons, including 14,000 Jews. Of the 40,000 Jews who were in the British zone of Germany in 1946, he reported, 30,000 went to Israel. As a result of the influx of displaced Jews from other parts of the continent, the British zone now has a Jewish population of some 14,000. Half of these are in DP camps, 2,000 others are classified as DP's, while 5,000 are German Jews living in urban areas.

Kraicer voiced the belief that all of the Jewish DP camps in the British zone will be closed down this year, with half of the area's Jewish population moving out. Three thousand Jews in the British zone are eligible for immigration to the United States, he added.

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CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION ORDERS ALL GOVT. AGENCIES TO END DISCRIMINATION IN EMPLOYMENT

WASHINGTON, March 25. (JTA) -- The Fair Employment Board of the Civil Service Commission today ordered all government agencies to end religious and racial discrimination in Federal employment and issued instructions to carry out this policy.

Government agencies must now afford any worker who feels he is being discriminated against, "a full opportunity to present his case." The order supplements President Truman's ban on discrimination in civil service announced last July. All agencies are reminded in the Board's order that the "basic principle of the American creed is equality of opportunity."

N.Y. LAW ON RACIAL AND RELIGIOUS EQUALITY IN BUSINESS WORKING WELL, STATE REPORT SAYS

ALBANY, N.Y., March 25. (JTA) -- The New York State law calling for racial and religious equality in business is working well and, during the past three-and-a-half years of its existence, not a single case involving its violation has been taken to court, the State Commission Against Discrimination said today in a report on its activities in 1948.

The Commission pointed out that while the law urges arbitration and negotiation in cases where racial or religious bias is found, the State body is empowered to take an offender to court where fines or prison sentences can be imposed. A total of 273 verified complaints were filed with the Commission last year, the report said.

(The American Jewish Congress, in a joint letter to the New York Times today, signed by its executive director David Petegorsky, Walter White, secretary of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, and Edward S. Lewis, executive director of the Urban League of Greater New York, said that it endorsed a recent Times editorial calling for the State Commission Against Discrimination to issue more complete reports, "thus making possible an understanding and assessment of the work of that agency." The letter, however, objected to the newspaper's recommendation that the work of the Commission be transferred to the Department of Education.)

N.Y. BOARD OF EDUCATION URGED TO BAN "OLIVER TWIST," "MERCHANT OF VENICE" AS ANTI-SEMITIC

NEW YORK, March 25. (JTA) -- The New York City Board of Education will face a legal suit next week unless Charles Dickens' novel, "Oliver Twist," and Shakespeare's play, "The Merchant of Venice," are eliminated from local school curricula, Joseph Goldstein, former city magistrate, said today. He has petitioned the Board to remove the volumes on the grounds that they are anti-Semitic and "cause irreparable damage" to school children.

A spokesman for the Board voiced doubts that the body would take any action on Goldstein's demand that the books be banned. "Oliver Twist" is used in school libraries, but is not a required textbook while "The Merchant of Venice" is listed as a textbook, but is used at the discretion of the individual school principal, the spokesman added.

105 JEWISH DISPLACED PERSONS ARRIVE IN BOSTON ON 19TH DP VESSEL; AIDED BY HIAS, USIA.

BOSTON, March 25. (JTA) -- A total of 105 displaced Jews arrived here last night aboard the S.S. Marine Tiger under the provisions of the Displaced Persons Act of 1948. The vessel brought 549 immigrants to the United States and is the 19th DP vessel to reach these shores since last July. Fifty-nine of the Jewish immigrants were sponsored by HIAS, while 42 of the Jewish passengers will be aided by the United Service for New Americans.

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W.J.C. URGES PERU TO ALLOW IMPORT OF PASSOVER MATZOES; ASKS FOR BAN ON NEW MAGAZINE

NEW YORK, March 25. (JTA) -- The World Jewish Congress has sent an urgent appeal to Peru to lift its ban on the importation of matzo to meet the religious requirements of the Jewish community of that country, it was revealed here today. Peru's import restrictions--imposed to conserve foreign currency--now bar the customary shipments of matzo.

Dr. Robert S. Marcus, political director of the W.J.C., in a cable to Gen. Manuel A. Odría, President of Peru, suggested that the Peruvian Government issue a special emergency import license for the Passover period should it find the time before now and Passover--which begins April 14--too short to revise its import restriction.

Earlier, the Congress charged that a new anti-Semitic magazine--"Temple"--has begun to appear in Peru and "has strong resemblances to periodicals published in Germany under Nazi directives." The magazine is being issued by a group of Peruvian fascists, the W.J.C. said, adding that it has asked the Lima regime to ban it.

HEBREW UNION COLLEGE MARKS FOUNDER'S DAY; 74TH ANNIVERSARY TO BE NOTED AT SERVICES

CINCINNATI, March 25. (JTA) -- Hebrew Union College will mark Founder's Day here tomorrow at special services honoring Dr. Isaac Mayer Wise, founder of the institution which will celebrate its 74th year. Dr. Nelson Glueck, president of Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion, will preside at the special ceremonies. The Founder's Day sermon will be delivered by Rabbi Joseph L. Fink, of Buffalo, N.Y.

NATIONAL JEWISH YOUTH WEEK TO BE OBSERVED MAY 15-22; MACCABIADS, PARLEYS TO MARK EVENT

NEW YORK, March 25. (JTA) -- The second annual National Jewish Youth Week will be observed throughout the country May 15-22, Arnulf M. Pins, chairman of the National Jewish Youth Conference, sponsored by the Jewish Welfare Board, announced here.

The special period will be marked by Jewish youth Sabbaths, program institutes, local conferences, exhibits of youth activity, Maccabiads, festivals of arts, drama and music, Israel youth conferences, "Jewish community days" and other special events.

DR. JOSEPH STRYER, NOTED ZIONIST LEADER IN URUGUAY, DIES; HEADED J.T.A. BUREAU

MONTEVIDEO, March 25. (JTA) -- Dr. Joseph Stryer, long active in the Zionist movement in Europe and one of Uruguay's leading Zionist figures since his arrival here ten years ago, died last night at the age of 56. He was also chief of the Montevideo bureau of the Jewish Telegraphic Agency.

Born in Brody, situated along the old Russian-Galician frontier, he became affiliated with the early Zionist movement while still a student. He wrote many articles for Zionist publications of his day and, after settling in Austria, where he studied medicine and philosophy, he devoted all of his time to Zionist activities. In 1921 he was elected a member of the executive council of the World Union of Zionist Students.

He practiced medicine in Vienna until 1938 when he fled to Czechoslovakia following the Anschluss. His attempts to reach Palestine were unsuccessful and the following year he proceeded to Uruguay. Active in numerous Jewish and Zionist causes in this country, he was the chief candidate on the Zionist ticket in the recent elections for the Jewish Community Council here. He was elected a member of the Council, a position which he held until his death.

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