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**RHODES, March 30. (JTA) --** Acting United Nations Palestine mediator Dr. Ralph J. Bunche, commenting on the Syrian Army's coup early today, said that he pressed the Israeli-Syrian armistice negotiations which were earlier scheduled to begin within a few days would be held despite the events in Damascus. Brig. Gen. William Hiley and Henri Vigier, the mediator's top military and political aides, are now in Damascus, arranging the time and place of the forthcoming armistice talks with Israel.

(The Syrian Army, whose lightning-like coup overthrew the government this morning, broadcast a report on the Damascus radio that Premier Khaled El-Azam and his Cabinet have been imprisoned. The whereabouts of President Shukri and his family are not immediately known, with some reports stating that he had fled the country and others that he was imprisoned. The Damascus broadcast said that Gen. Husni Al-Hafez, army chief of staff and commander of the gendarmerie, led the coup. He is also leader of the anti-Zionist military junta which now rules the country.)

TEL AVIV, March 30. (JTA) -- Commenting today on the military coup in Syria, an Israeli Government spokesman asserted that the seizure of power was "additional evidence how Arab governments continually try to play up first Palestine, and then the Israeli bogey, as a way of solving their economic difficulties."

The Foreign Ministry official added that he hoped that world opinion would realize that Gen. Husni Al-Zaim, the Syrian Chief of Staff who seized power, had only the most superficial pretext for his act.

LONDON, March 30. (JTA) -- Information received here today indicates that Israeli-Syrian negotiations for an armistice will be halted by Gen. Husni Al-Zaim, commander of the Syrian Army and gendarmerie, who seized power in Damascus today after arresting all the members of the present government.

Al-Zaim was described here today by a personal friend as being personally ambitious and having strong left-wing tendencies. A British Foreign Office official said that Al-Zaim has had such a checkered career and had shown accommodation to so many causes that it would be perilous to try to forecast his intentions. He pointed out that Al-Zaim had played a prominent role with the Vichy French in Syria before occupation of that country by Allied forces and later had switched to the Free French movement.

The Transjordanian legation here, which is in direct contact with Amman, reported tonight that Amman expects Al-Zaim to call on either Transjordan's Arab Legion or the Iraqi Army to aid him in establishing a new regime in Syria.

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ASSURANCES GIVEN BY BRITISH ON REDUCTION OF FORCES IN AQABA, SPOKESMAN SAYS

LONDON, March 30. (JTA) -- Britain has given no special assurances in connection with the proposal made at the Rhodes armistice negotiations that British forces at Aqaba be reduced so that the combined Anglo-Transjordan force in the Aqaba-Red Sea border region be equal in strength to the Israeli forces there, a Foreign Office spokesman said today.

The only assurances to this effect which Britain has offered, the spokesman said, were those mentioned by Foreign Undersecretary Christopher Mayhew in Commons Monday. (Mayhew told Commons that the British Government hopes that the successful conclusion of the Israeli-Transjordan armistice talks on Rhodes will make it unnecessary for Britain to dispatch troops to patrol the Aqaba area northward to the Red Sea.)

FOREIGN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE OF KNESSETH TO STUDY POSITION OF JEWS IN ARAB COUNTRIES

TEL AVIV, March 30. (JTA) -- The Israeli Knesseth, following an extended general debate on the position of Jews in Arab countries, decided today to refer the question to its foreign affairs and security committee to work out, together with the government, proposals for action on this problem.

Early in the debate, Premier David Ben Gurion said that the government--because of possible harm that might be forthcoming--would not make as full a statement on the situation of the Jews in Arab countries as might be desired. He declared that there was clear evidence that at least one Jew in an Arab country had been hanged solely for being a Jew. Israeli representatives in various countries, especially those assigned to the U.N., have been asked to raise the question as to how the United Nations genocide resolution is applicable to Jews in Moslem countries, he revealed.

Meanwhile, it was announced that the Israeli Government's budget for the next three months will be submitted by Finance Minister Eliezer Kaplan to an evening session of the Knesseth. The budget reportedly totals approximately \$20,000,000, with the sum the same as for the past three months except for an additional \$2,000,000 for general reserve.

The Heruth newspaper announced today that it will publish in tomorrow's edition a report which appeared in a March issue of an Amman newspaper--El Jasar--allegedly proving that seven Iraqi Jews were executed early this month, as was reported by the Bagdad Radio. The reports were later denied by several sources, including Washington.

BRITISH EMBASSY ASKS FOR POLICE PROTECTION FOR BEVIN ON HIS ARRIVAL IN WASHINGTON

WASHINGTON, March 30. (JTA) -- The British Embassy here today asked for extra police protection for British Foreign Secretary Ernest Bevin who was scheduled to arrive here from New York where he landed this morning after a trans-Atlantic crossing on the Queen Mary. (See earlier story on Page 3.)

ISRAEL CONTRIBUTES \$20,000 TO CHILDREN'S EMERGENCY FUND OF UNITED NATIONS

LAKE SUCCESS, March 30. (JTA) -- Israel today advised the United Nations that it will give \$20,000 to the Children's Emergency Fund of the world organization. This was made known in a letter to Maurice Pate, executive director of the Fund.

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# AMERICAN COMMUNISTS ADOPT ANTI-ZIONIST PROGRAM, YIDDISH COMMUNIST NEWSPAPER SAYS

NEW YORK, March 30. (JTA) -- Communists in the United States have officially adopted an anti-Zionist program and henceforth will wage war against Zionism as a form of "bourgeois nationalism," according to an announcement in the Morning Freiheit, Communist Yiddish daily. By so doing, the American Communists have returned to the traditional Communist opposition to Zionism from which they deviated when the Soviet Union supported establishment of a Jewish state in partitioned Palestine during the United Nations debates last year.

The reversal of the Communist position was proclaimed through publication in the Freiheit of a letter from Moshe Katz, one of its staff members, recanting an article written last January taking issue with strictures against Zionism written by Ilya Ehrenburg, the Soviet journalist. Along with this letter, the paper published a statement from the Morning Freiheit Association declaring that Ehrenburg's "ideological struggle against bourgeois nationalism and against Zionism is our struggle, the struggle of the entire progressive movement." It endorsed Ehrenburg's statement that the solution of the Jewish problem can be achieved only under Socialism and noted that it demanded "immediate commencement of a wide ideological campaign against bourgeois nationalism, against the reactionary Zionist leaders."

The statement rued the Association's failure to start such a campaign earlier and explained that the error had resulted from the "constant pressure of bourgeois nationalism on Jewish life in America."

In his letter of recantation, Katz declared that recent events "have clearly demonstrated that the bourgeois nationalists are the bitterest foes of their countries and that the Zionist leaders outside Israel and the social democratic rulers in Israel are prepared under the guise of the alleged cosmopolitan Jewish nation and of the alleged defense of the 'general national interests' to transform Israel into a nation of Jewish reaction and as a prop for Anglo-American imperialism."

## ISRAELI VETERANS ARRIVE IN N.Y. TO BEGIN NATIONWIDE TOUR IN BEHALF OF U.J.A.

NEW YORK, March 30. (JTA) -- Nine veterans of the Palestine war, headed by a 32-year-old lieutenant-colonel attached to the Israeli Army General Staff, arrived here today to begin a nationwide tour aboard the seven-train "Caravan of Hope," which is to visit 150 cities throughout the country on behalf of the United Jewish Appeal. Another group of ten is due here next week.

The Israeli delegation, which arrived today includes two women officers, a man who lost both legs in the Latrun battle, a former officer with the British forces that fought in Greece, and several youths who have been members of the Jewish defense forces in Palestine for the past ten years. The Israeli soldiers will be on guard aboard the "Caravans of Hope," which will depart simultaneously on Sunday from New York, Washington, San Francisco, Peoria, Ill., Chattanooga, Tenn., New Haven and Boston.

In Washington, the Israeli war heroes will meet Congressmen in Statuary Hall in the Capitol Building Friday as a preliminary to the departure of a United Jewish Appeal "Caravan of Hope" train from there. Rep. Jacob K. Javits of New York will introduce the soldiers to the Congressmen. It also is planned that the Israelis will lay a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier at Arlington National Cemetery.

NO MORE THAN 5,000 JEWS WILL REMAIN IN AUSTRIA AFTER 1950, W.J.C. REPRESENTATIVE SAYS

MUNICH, March 30. (JTA) -- "No more than 5,000 Jews will remain in Austria after 1950, including 1,500 to 2,000 Jewish displaced persons," Ernest Stiasny, representative of the World Jewish Congress in Vienna, declared at a press interview.

"Today, there are about 12,000 Jews in Vienna," Stiasny said, "but there is no doubt that at least 10,000 Jews will leave the country within the next two years." He added that there are, however, some aged Jewish refugees, most of them from Shanghai, who are still returning to Austria. Though the Jewish community in Vienna now has its own hospital, a well-functioning social welfare organization, and a credit institution--established with the aid of the Joint Distribution Committee--"it will be very hard to reorganize Jewish life in Vienna as it was before 1938," Stiasny said.

Stiasny charged the Austrian Government with indifference regarding the restitution of property to former Jewish owners. The Jewish community of Vienna has to care for thousands of Jewish men, women and children, because of the failure of the government to return their property.

TRIPOLITANIAN JEWS WILL NOW BE PERMITTED TO EMIGRATE DIRECTLY TO JEWISH STATE

ROME, March 30. (JTA) -- The emigration of Tripolitanian Jews to Palestine, which in the past the British have permitted only by way of Italian ports, will henceforth be permitted by a direct crossing to Haifa, it was announced here today. Authorities said that the first transport would leave Tripoli on Sunday and would not touch Italy.

GERMAN JEWISH COMMUNITIES REFUSE TO MERGE WITH DP AND REFUGEE ORGANIZATION

MUNICH, March 30. (JTA) -- A proposal by the Jewish Central Committee of Germany that the German Jewish communities in the United States zone merge with the Committee has been turned down by the communities, it was learned here today.

The communities, however, have agreed to the creation of a central commission for restitution, indemnification, social welfare, medical care and the organization of cultural activities. The Central Committee and the central body of the communities will each appoint three members to a body which will take over these combined functions, it was reported.

RUMANIAN WAR CRIMINAL TO BE TRIED FOR HIS PARTICIPATION IN THE JASSY POGRROM OF 1941

BUCHAREST, March 30. (JTA) -- Gheorghe Gavrilă, a former Rumanian police official, who was recently arrested in Jassy, will face a war crimes court for his participation in the 1941 Jassy massacre of Rumanian Jews, it was reported here today. Gavrilă was in command of a police unit at Podul Ilcaie, a town near Jassy, when one of two death trains arrived with the survivors of the Jassy pogrom.

Gavrilă is charged with robbing the passengers of money and valuables and of stripping the bodies of the dead Jews who had been unloaded from the train. The indictment also states that Gavrilă killed a Jew who was trying to bring water to fellow prisoners. He will also face charges of trying to extort a huge sum of money from a local Jewish leader who attempted to aid the pogrom victims.

CONGRESS GETS BILL DESIGNED TO OUTLAW DISTRIBUTION OF ANTI-SEMITIC PROPAGANDA

WASHINGTON, March 30. (JTA) -- A bill to make the distribution of anti-Jewish and anti-Negro propaganda a criminal offense was introduced in Congress yesterday by Rep. Harry J. Davenport of Pennsylvania.

## SEVERAL HUNDRED JEWS PICKET BRITISH FOREIGN SECRETARY OF THE BUREAU IN NEW YORK

NEW YORK, March 30. (JTA) -- British Foreign Secretary Ernest Bevin was picketed today by several hundred persons affiliated with the Jewish People's Order and the American Jewish Labor Council upon his arrival here on the Queen Mary.

The demonstration against Bevin was organized by the Joint Committee to Combat Anti-Semitism, defense agency of the Order and the Council. The picketing was organized, the Committee said, because of "Bevin's slurs against Jewish citizens of New York City" and "British encouragement of anti-Semitism in British-occupied territory."

## LABORITE M.P. URGES ANGLO-ISRAELI UNDERSTANDING; ARRIVES IN N.Y. TO SPEAK FOR B.B.A.

NEW YORK, March 30. (JTA) -- Asserting that "it is absolutely essential for all of us to work for Anglo-Israeli understanding" and that "if Britain will not try to correct the mistakes of the past and cooperate with Israel, then peace and stability will be established in the Middle East," Harold Davies, Laborite member of the British Parliament, who arrived here today, stated that "the longer the war of nerves continues, the more Mr. Bevin and his advisers strain the entire machinery of delicate mediation." Davies came to this country to undertake a nation-wide lecture tour under the auspices of the Zionist Organization of America.

"Those of us who believe that the Jews can rehabilitate and uplift the whole of the Middle East regret the war of nerves over Aqaba," he said. "I am convinced that a strong, friendly Jewish nation with its technical, scientific and economic acumen will give the British Commonwealth a greater guarantee of peace and stability than any flaccid and effete Arab regime." Davies also paid tribute to the B.B.A. for its "titanic efforts" in behalf of Israel.

## MRS. ROOSEVELT URGES SUPPORT FOR ISRAEL; SEES JEWISH STATE AS "BEACON OF LIGHT"

NEW YORK, March 30. (JTA) -- Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt, calling for material and spiritual support for Israel last night at a meeting of the Bronx Section of the Zionist Organization of America, said that such aid will make the Jewish state "stand as a beacon of light in the world of the future." Mrs. Roosevelt added that "as we are given an opportunity to see peace grow in Palestine, we ourselves will have greater security."

## PROF. ISAAC MARKIN, NOTED ORIENTALIST AND SCHOLAR, DIES IN ENGLAND AT AGE OF 74

LONDON, March 30. (JTA) -- Prof. Isaac Markin, noted Orientalist and author who formerly taught at the Universities of Leningrad and Moscow, died Monday night at the age of 74. He reached England from Holland after the Nazi invasion of the Low countries in 1940. He had made his home in Germany from 1926 to 1938 following the 1917 revolution in Russia.

In Russia, he was active in numerous Jewish groups, including the OZP, and also edited a Jewish encyclopedia published in Russian. He was an authority on various periods of Jewish history and wrote several definitive works on the Karaites.

## HERMAN BACHRACH, PROMINENT ATTORNEY AND JEWISH LEADER IN BROOKLYN, DIES AT 76

NEW YORK, March 30. (JTA) -- Herman S. Bachrach, prominent attorney and a past president of the Brooklyn Federation of Jewish Charities, died here last night. He was 76 years old. He had also been active in the work of the Hebrew Educational Society of Brooklyn and other Jewish and civic causes.

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