

Monday, May 2, 1949

# JTA Daily News Bulletin

Published by JEWISH TELEGRAPHIC AGENCY

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

## ARAB REFUGEE PROBLEM MUST BE SOLVED AS PART OF WHOLE PALESTINE ISSUE, EYTAN SAYS

LAUSANNE, May 1. (JTA) -- The Arab refugee problem can be solved only as part of the solution of the larger Palestine problem, Dr. Walter Eytan, head of the Israeli delegation to the preliminary peace conference here, declared in a statement here last night, as it was learned that U.N. quarters believe that it would be reasonable for Israel to take back some 250,000 of the refugees.

It was further learned that members of the U.N. Conciliation Commission lean toward the Israeli position that acceptance of the refugees must depend on final action on Israel's borders. These same circles believe that since Egypt has expressed disinterest in the Gaza strip which it still holds, it should be ceded to Israel together with the 150,000 refugees now living in it.

The addition of 60,000 refugees who are estimated to have entered Israel since the Transjordan armistice agreement plus another 40,000 who will be included in Israel's territory as a result of other frontier changes, is the minimum number of refugees that Israel will have to accept to break the deadlock on this issue, U.N. quarters assert. The essence of this point of view will be made soon in a proposal to Israel, Commission sources indicate.

Authoritative sources have also revealed that the Commission has asked the U.N. to appoint immediately a development committee to survey all available plans and projects for economic development and settlement in Arab countries and Israel. The U.N. requested the Geneva secretariat to select personnel for this committee which is expected to have an American chairman and a British deputy. The committee will be charged with studying all available proposals, including the Jezirah and Euphrates plan and Dr. Walter C. Lowdermilk's project for the Jordan Valley. It is to report in six weeks and its report would be designed to become the basis for a solution of the Arab refugee question.

## Israel Hopes Lasting Peace Will Emerge from Talks

Dr. Eytan, who is director-general of the Israel Foreign Ministry, also stated that Israel hopes that a lasting peace will emerge from the U.N.-sponsored talks. He added that Israel hopes that the parley will lead to a complete stabilization of relations between the Jewish states and its Arab neighbors, with each state undertaking to respect the "common" boundaries and cooperating in the "permanent resettlement and rehabilitation of those who left their homes in the course of the war against Israel."

In an elaboration of his point on the refugees, Dr. Eytan stated that Israel had never said that it would not take back any of the refugees. He questioned the estimates of the number of refugees accepted by the Commission, insisting that his government places the figure at 550,000. Dr. Eytan's statement also made clear that Israel would not enter into discussions with Syria until an armistice pact with her had been signed, and that no contract would be sought at this time with Saudi Arabia and Iraq.

The head of the Israeli delegation had a long private chat with Mark Ethridge, American member of the three-nation Commission, yesterday. The results of the talks are not yet known.

JERUSALEM ALERTED TO AIR ATTACK FOLLOWING EXPLOSIONS; EGYPTIANS EVACUATE BERRON AREA

TEL AVIV, May 1. (JTA) -- Jerusalem was alerted to air attack at 7:40 P.M. tonight, it was announced here. (A Reuters report in London, emanating from Tel Aviv, declared that several explosions were heard in Jerusalem today, but that no immediate explanation for the blasts was available. The dispatch added that police cars were racing through the city.)

Egyptian troops, cut off by the capture of Beersheba by Israeli troops in recently-ended hostilities, were being evacuated today under the supervision of a mixed armistice commission, it was announced here today. One hundred trucks carrying the Egyptians from the Berron area, south of Jerusalem, began passing through Israeli lines on the way to Gaza. The evacuation is slated to be completed by Tuesday.

The largest parade in the history of May Day in Palestine took place today in Tel Aviv with workers from all Histadrut-affiliated unions participating. Golda Myerson, Minister of Labor, addressed the huge rally, which include Arab workers and members of the Fighters Party, formerly the Stern Group. No newspapers appeared in this city and factories all over the country were closed.

A serious split has occurred in the Fighters. A rightist group under Dr. Israel Sheib has withdrawn from the party following the decision of Nathan Friedman-Yellin, former Sternist chief, and other members of the party to affiliate with the Histadrut. It is expected that some of the Sheib group will join the Irgun-sponsored Brut Party.

U.S. Ambassador James G. McDonald praised and compared Israeli democracy with that of the U.S. at a meeting here of the Israeli Journalists Association. Other speakers at the affair were Dr. Israel Goldstein, Jewish Agency treasurer, Hillel Rogoff, editor of the New York Daily Forward, and Edward Norman, president of the American Fund for Palestinian Institutions.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY MEETS TODAY TO CONSIDER QUESTION OF HANDLING ISRAELI MEMBERSHIP BID

LAKE SUCCESS, May 1. (JTA) -- Dr. Herbert Evatt, Australian Minister for External Affairs and president of the U.N. General Assembly, will convene the Assembly tomorrow to settle the issue of Israel's bid for membership in the international body. It is expected that tomorrow's action will result in a full debate on the membership application in the Ad Hoc Political Committee Tuesday.

Israeli President Weizmann visited Francis Cardinal Spellman at the latter's invitation last week. During the dinner, at the Cardinal's residence, the Israeli, Vatican and American flags flew from the building. Aubrey Eban, Israeli delegate to the U.N., was also present at the dinner.

It was learned that the Israeli President's and the Pope's recent statements on the solution of the Jerusalem problem were discussed. Although none of the parties involved have made the nature of the talks public, U.N. sources said that it would be correct to assume that Jerusalem was discussed.

690 CZECHOSLOVAK AND RUMANIAN JEWS TO SAIL FROM RUMANIAN PORT FOR ISRAEL TOMORROW

BUCHAREST, May 1. (JTA) -- A third group of about 600 Czech Jews arrived here today to board the Rumanian steamer Transylvania which will sail for Israel Tuesday. They will be joined by 50 Rumanian Jews who have received exit visas from this country.

JEWISH AGENCY OPENS CAMPAIGN TO HALT "UNAUTHORIZED" DRIVES IN BEHALF OF ISRAEL

NEW YORK, May 1. (JTA) -- The Jewish Agency today announced formation of a committee to eliminate "unauthorized and illegitimate" fund-raising drives on behalf of Israel and in other ways to assure the priority of the United Jewish Appeal as the central fund-raising agency in this country for the Jewish state. At the same time, the Agency pointed out that the Government of Israel has prohibited its members and officials from endorsing any campaign other than the U.J.A. except with government authorization.

While taking note of the important contribution of certain well-established individual campaigns in the field, the Agency declared: "The Jewish Agency for Palestine, charged by the Government of Israel with primary responsibility for the administration of philanthropic funds spent on the Israeli immigration and absorption program, considers that the confusion created by multiple campaigns endangers the success of the United Jewish Appeal.

"With a view to eliminating this confusion, the Jewish Agency has decided to set up a committee on multiple campaigns to consist of representatives of the Jewish Agency, the United Palestine Appeal and the United Jewish Appeal, which will be empowered to act with the full authority of the Jewish Agency."

The committee has been given the following specific functions: 1. To seek the elimination of unauthorized campaigns which might tend to divert funds from the U.J.A. 2. To coordinate the timing and publicity of authorized campaigns so as to assure maximum results for the U.J.A. 3. To offer its services to the contributing public as a guide to the validity of any organization soliciting funds on behalf of Israel.

Chairman of the committee, which was named at a plenary session of the Agency held in New York, is Dr. Nahum Goldmann, who is also acting chairman of the American section of the Agency. Other members are: Mrs. Rose Halprin and Baruch Zuckerman, members of the Agency executive; Henry Morgenthau Jr., chairman of the U.J.A., and Judge Morris Rothenberg, acting chairman of the U.P.A.

J.D.C. AND I.R.O. PRESSING EFFORTS TO EVACUATE 4,000 JEWS REMAINING IN SHANGHAI

NEW YORK, May 1. (JTA) -- Efforts to evacuate some 4,000 Jewish refugees trapped in Shanghai are being pressed by the Joint Distribution Committee and the International Refugee Organization, it was reported today by J.D.C. officials here. J.D.C.'s director in Shanghai, Adolph C. Glassgold, is standing by in the beleaguered city making every effort to accomplish the removal of the refugee group, the officials said.

In the last four months more than 4,100 Jews have been evacuated from Shanghai, J.D.C. officials pointed out. In addition, permission has been obtained by the J.D.C. to evacuate 500 refugees caught in Communist-held territory in the North, but the breakdown in transportation facilities to Shanghai from Tientsin, Peiping and other cities has prevented their movement thus far.

A most serious problem confronting the J.D.C. in Shanghai, agency spokesmen pointed out, is a group of about 400 seriously ill or extremely aged Jews in Shanghai, who can hardly face the rigors of travel, and many continue to need on-the-spot aid for some years to come.

J.W.B. PARLEY TOLD MORE MONEY, INCREASED MEMBERSHIP AVAILABLE TO JEWISH CENTERS

NEW YORK, May 1. (JTA) -- The two-day annual meeting of the National Jewish Welfare Board's Jewish Center Division Committee concluded here today after the reelection of Philip M. Klutznick of Chicago as chairman of the body, through which the J.W.B. operates as the national association of Jewish Community Centers and YM-YWHA's.

Pointing out that more money than ever before is being allocated from current combined United Jewish Appeal and local Jewish welfare fund campaigns to the maintenance of local and regional Jewish communal services in the U.S., S.D. Gershowitz, executive director of the J.W.B., revealed last night that upwards of \$70,000,000 has thus far been raised for this purpose. Other factors in Jewish community planning cited by Gershowitz as having broad implications for the Jewish community center movement were the splurge of all-encompassing plans for organizing the national Jewish community, and the thrust forward of the revitalized religious elements and groups in the American Jewish community.

Expenditures for center work, Sanford Solender, director of the Center Division, disclosed, increased to \$10,290,000 in 1948, a rise of 44 percent over 1945. This increase enabled centers not only to meet rising costs but to expand and intensify their programming for all age groups, to extend their services into unworked areas and to broaden their community-wide activities. The activities of the Jewish Center Division, Solender declared, "reflected the trends of the field and at the same time have stimulated their development."

At the end of 1948 total Jewish Center membership was 468,000, a rise of 10 percent since the end of the war, Solender reported. In addition, greatly increased numbers have been affected by community-wide Center services such as Jewish youth councils, program services to adult and youth organizations, Jewish Book and Music Councils and camping services, Solender pointed out.

"With the emptying of the DP camps in Europe, the greater stabilization and security of the state of Israel and the setting up of long range plans for servicing Jews in oriental communities overseas there is a strong likelihood that there will be a finishing call for continuance of high goals for overseas purposes," Gershowitz also said. "Although the large sums hitherto raised through the emotional appeals of the overseas situation may not be matched after that appeal is reduced, many prognosticators confidently expect that the broad mobilization of interest and manpower through national means and through greater local effectiveness in campaigning may succeed in retaining higher levels of giving to meet the more comprehensive and overall needs of the American Jewish community."

AMERICAN COUNCIL OF CHRISTIAN CHURCHES ATTACKS CONCEPT OF "BROTHERHOOD WEEK"

DENVER, May 1. (JTA) -- The American Council of Christian Churches at a national conference which ended here this week-end has attacked the concept of national "Brotherhood Week" which is sponsored by the National Conference of Christians and Jews.

Dr. William H. Bordeaux, general secretary of the Council, declared that it represents 15 Protestant denominations with a membership of 1,500,000 in 6,000 local congregations. The Council's statement on "Brotherhood Week" called the project a "gross perversion of scriptural teachings" on the subject, asserting that the "New Testament does not teach the universal fatherhood of God and the universal brotherhood of man" but only of those who believe in Jesus Christ.

DELEGATES AT FIRST HEBREW CULTURE CONFERENCE VOTE TO FORM GROUP TO PROMOTE LANGUAGE

NEW YORK, May 1. (JTA) -- Some 300 Jewish scientists, educators, scholars and cultural leaders, representing 35 national Jewish organizations, today adopted a resolution to create a council of these organizations to promote Hebrew culture in this country. The delegates were attending the two-day first American Conference for Hebrew Language and Culture, sponsored by the Histadruth Ivrit of America, which concluded here today.

The resolution also declared that in the light of the establishment of the Jewish state the promotion of the Hebrew language and Hebrew culture must play its rightful role on the American Jewish scene. Dr. Chaim Weizmann, President of Israel, in a message to the conference, said "the day is not far when the spiritual life of American Jewry will be strongly interrelated with the cultural values of Israel."

Israeli Ambassador to the United States Elisha Elath, in another message, declared that "Hebrew language and education are the only means for suitable and permanent brotherhood between Israel and Jews everywhere. He called upon the conference to rally American Zionists "for intensified and increasing activities on behalf of the promotion of Hebrew language and culture" which "must cement into one solid nation the thousands of immigrants who are arriving in Israel every month."

PLANNING COMMITTEE PARLEY DECIDES TO RAISE \$1,972,000 FOR JEWISH THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

PHILADELPHIA, May 1. (JTA) -- A campaign to raise \$1,972,000 for the needs of the Jewish Theological Seminary and affiliated institutions during the 1949-50 year was voted here today at the third annual conference of the Seminary's National Planning Campaign Committee. This figure is a quarter of a million dollars more than has ever been sought before. Nearly 200 delegates from 100 congregations in the U.S. and Canada attended.

Maxwell Abbell, who was re-elected chairman of the body, declared, in his annual report, that there are signs indicating that American Jewry is "groping" toward an epochal religious and cultural re-awakening. It was also emphasized at the parley that American Jewry can "attain spiritual maturity" only by applying the same sacrificial zeal in supporting its own religious and educational institutions which it is now applying to meet the needs of the Jews of Israel and Europe.

U.J.A. TO MARK FIRST ANNIVERSARY OF ISRAEL WITH "TWELVE DAYS OF COMMEMORATION"

NEW YORK, May 1. (JTA) -- The United Jewish Appeal will sponsor "Twelve Days of Commemoration" in observance of the first anniversary of Israel's independence, U.J.A. general chairman Henry Morgenthau, Jr., announced this week-end. The observance will be launched here with a dinner in honor of Dr. Chaim Weizmann, President of Israel, at the Waldorf-Astoria Hotel Wednesday evening, May 4.

May 4, the first day of the twelve-day period, is the day on which the people of Israel will celebrate the first anniversary of the Jewish state according to the Jewish calendar. The period will end on May 15, the anniversary date according to the Gregorian calendar. The anniversary dinner will also be in the nature of a farewell to President Weizmann who, with Mrs. Weizmann, is returning to Israel on Thursday.