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JTA Daily News Bulletin

EGYPT WITHDRAWS OFFER TO CEDE GAZA AREA TO ISRAEL; LAUSANNE TALKS MAY LAST ALL SUMMER

LAUSANNE, May 17. (JTA) -- Egypt has withdrawn its earlier offer to cede the Gaza coastal strip to Israel provided the Jewish state accepts the 150,000 Palestine Arab refugees now in the area, it was learned here today. It is believed in U.N. Conciliation Commission circles that some kind of a secret agreement on the future frontiers of Israel was recently reached by Egypt and Transjordan.

The Commission indicated today that it is prepared to continue the peace parley here until September, if necessary. The conference has been proceeding very slowly and it may require many months for the negotiations to bear fruit.

Mark Ethridge, United States member of the Commission, has postponed his departure at the request of the State Department until June 10. So far he has not received any inkling from the State Department about the identity of his successor--although the name of Dr. Ralph J. Bunche, former acting mediator for Palestine, continues to be mentioned as the most likely candidate.

The appointment of a technical committee to prepare all data on Palestine refugees is about to take place. It has been delayed by a quarrel and misunderstanding between the Turkish Government and the United Nations Secretariat at Lake Success. As this has now been cleared up, the composition of the refugee committee will be announced next week.

ISRAELI-SYRIAN ARMISTICE NEGOTIATIONS BREAK OFF INDEFINITELY PENDING NEW U.N. PROPOSAL

TEL AVIV, May 17. (JTA) -- After seven weeks of fruitless negotiations the Israeli-Syrian armistice talks today broke off "until and if" the United Nations submits a proposal acceptable to both sides. Meanwhile, Israeli and Syrian liaison officers will meet in no-man's land tomorrow to discuss an exchange of prisoners of war.

Lt. Col. Mordecai Makleff, head of the Israeli delegation, revealed that the earlier proposal by U.N. mediator Dr. Ralph Bunche was not acceptable because it was interpreted differently by both sides. The two delegations are deadlocked with the Jews insisting on a withdrawal of both forces to the old Palestine border and the Syrians refusing.

BILL TO SEND CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEE TO ISRAEL TO BE INTRODUCED IN HOUSE TODAY

WASHINGTON, May 17. (JTA) -- A bill which would provide for a joint Congressional and technical committee to go to Israel to investigate possibilities for development under point four of President Truman's "bold new plan" will be introduced in the House tomorrow, it was learned today. Authors of the bill are Representatives Jacob K. Javits and Abraham J. Multer, both of New York.

It is expected that the committee would include four members of the House, four Senators, and a number of technical experts. The bill would conform with the program being drawn up by the administration to spend \$125,000,000 to promote world prosperity through development of underdeveloped areas. It is anticipated that such men as Dr. Walter C. Lowdermilk, author of the plan for a Jordan Valley Authority, would be included among technical experts accompanying the Congressional delegation.

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ROMANIA RELEASES TWO ZIONIST OFFICIALS; DROPS CHARGES OF CURRENCY LAW VIOLATIONS

BUCAREST, May 17. (JTA) -- Two Zionist officials who had been under arrest here since last October were released from jail yesterday following court action in annulling the warrants under which they had been held pending trial.

The two men, Leon Itzkar and Enicu Cohn, were the representatives here of the Jewish National Fund and the Keren Hayesod. Charges of alleged violations of currency regulations against them were withdrawn by the Rumanian Finance Ministry but they are still accused on secondary charges of tax evasion. At the time the Jewish fund officials were arrested, the offices of the J.N.F. and Keren Hayesod were also closed down.

ISRAEL URGED TO ADOPT LAW REQUIRING IMMIGRANTS TO SETTLE IN BARREN AREAS FOR TWO YEARS

TEL AVIV, May 17. (JTA) -- A demand that Israel adopt a law requiring every youth and new immigrant to spend two years in settlements to colonize the barren areas of Israel was made here today at the seventh world conference of the Brith Trumpel-tzar organization.

The demand was made by Aaron Propes, leader of the organization, after the reading of a message from Premier David Ben Gurion appealing to the youth of Israel to settle the barren areas of the southern Negov, the hills of Jerusalem and Galilee. Propes also urged establishment of a joint committee of all Israeli youth organizations to send instructors to immigrant camps to encourage the new arrivals to take up life in the settlements.

A group of youths belonging to the Hashomer Hatzair today established a new settlement in the Negov overlooking the Wadi Araba valley. The valley will soon be turned over to Israel under the terms of the Israeli-Transjordan armistice agreement.

Lag B'Omer, the ancient festival commemorating the cessation of the plague which is said to have killed thousands of Rabbi Akiba's disciples during the Jewish rebellion led by Bar Kochba against the Roman legions in Palestine, was marked in an austere manner throughout Israel today.

A new settlement was founded at Meron, burial place of Rabbi Johanan ben Zai, in the presence of Minister of Religion Rabbi Judah L. Fishman-Maimon and Dr. Dov Joseph, Minister of Food and Supply. Huge bonfires, in keeping with the traditions of the Lag B'Omer celebration, lit the Tel Aviv, Jerusalem and Meron areas.

RAGE OF UNEMPLOYED PERSONS IN ISRAEL NOW 8,500, MAPAM DEPUTY CLAIMS IN KNESSET

TEL AVIV, May 17. (JTA) -- The number of unemployed persons now in Israel has reached the figure of 8,500, Hans Rubin, Mapam deputy, declared today at a session of the Knesset. A demand by Rubin that "urgent" discussion be given by the Israeli Parliament to the problem of unemployment was not acted upon.

Deputy Hillel Kook, speaking for the Herut, urged the Knesset to discuss the Israeli proposals submitted to the Lausanne conference called by the U.N. Conciliation Commission for Palestine. This suggestion, too, was not acted on after it was announced that the subject will be discussed by the Knesset's foreign affairs committee.

HEBREW UNIVERSITY-HADASSAH MEDICAL SCHOOL FORMALLY OPENED IN JERUSALEM

JERUSALEM, May 17. (JTA) -- The formal opening of the Hebrew University-Hadassah Medical School took place today in the municipal garden in front of the buildings which temporarily house the school until it can be moved to Mt. Scopus.

The buildings are in the former British security zone of the Mandate days. The zone, popularly known as Bevingrad, is 50 yards from the Old City wall from which Arab Legionnaires watched the ceremony today. Evidences of recent armed conflict between Arabs and Jews were the former tank traps, now harmless, and strands of barbed wire. Rubble and loose stones and other reminders of battles have been removed.

The thousand invited guests included Premier David Ben Gurion, Cabinet Ministers, member of the Knesset, Army officers, members of the foreign diplomatic and consular corps and a United Nations delegation, officials of the Jewish Agency, Hebrew University staff members and leaders of the Hadassah National Board.

Freshly-planted grass and trees lined the long marble promenade, where unexploded bombs had recently been dug up. The academic procession wound solemnly down this promenade as the Voice of Jerusalem Orchestra played. The first group of marchers consisted of 45 students of whom all but a few were in military uniforms. All have been accepted for the Medical School. In the second group were medical professors, physicians of Hadassah Hospital and University professors.

Assemblage Greet Israel Premier and U.S. Ambassador

The entire assemblage remained standing to greet Premier Ben Gurion, U.S. Ambassador James G. McDonald and Sir Leon Simon, head of the British Friends of the Hebrew University. Sir Leon opened the program, saying that for many hundreds of years the Jews had showed extraordinary medical talents. "We are entitled to hope that this school in our eternal capital will tremendously contribute to the progress of medicine for the benefit of Israel and of all humanity," he declared.

Dr. Simha Assaph, rector of the University, voiced the appreciation of University officials for a \$100,000 gift to the medical school from Frieda Schiff Warburg, widow of Felix M. Warburg. The gift will serve as a fund to assist outstanding physicians and young scientists in pursuing studies in the best scientific and medical institutions in the United States and other countries.

Ambassador McDonald said the opening of the school in Jerusalem was a "promise for Israel and its neighbors of more than physical healing. It foreshadows and brings nearer the day when the Jew and the Arab will freely work together for the advancement of all peoples in this area," he asserted.

Mrs. Rose Halprin of New York, national president of Hadassah, said: "We open the school in emergency quarters. Some might ask why this excitement regarding a small school, but there is deep within us a certainty that some day it will be the bearer of great traditions of medical teaching, of research and healing." Other speakers included Dr. Israel Wechsler, president of the American Friends of the Hebrew University; Berl Locker, chairman of the Jewish Agency executive in Jerusalem and Dr. A. Dostrovsky, dean of the faculty of Hebrew University.

President Weizmann in a message, said the school was another "vehicle in the struggle to make the ideals of social progress and democracy realities, not only in Israel but throughout the Middle East. It is another aspect of America's program to

make the benefits of scientific advances available to other governments and other peoples. It is another instance of American generosity, and a manifestation of American Jewry's profound awareness of the meaning of Jewish history and tradition and their sensitivity to the cultural and physical needs of Israel today."

Fifteen United States universities, as well as the Universities of Brussels, Florence, Capetown, Sydney, Melbourne, Queensland and others, and prominent scientists from all over the world, sent greetings. The ceremony concluded with the singing of Hatikvah.

Vermont Marble Presented for Use As Medical School Cornerstone

NEW YORK, May 17. (JTA) -- A piece of Vermont marble being used in the new United Nations headquarters in New York was today turned over by U.S. representative to the U.N. Warren Austin to Mrs. Eaim Yaseky, widow of the late Hadassah medical director in Israel, at a ceremony at the Israeli consulate here marking the opening of the Hebrew University-Hadassah Medical School in Jerusalem.

The marble will be placed in the cornerstone of the main medical school building which will be erected on Mt. Scopus as soon as conditions permit. The school will be the first of its kind in Israel.

Austin hailed the opening of the medical school as a step toward peace and a force for raising the health level of all peoples in the east Mediterranean area. Pointing out that the ceremony follows close on the heels of the admission of Israel to the U.N., the American Ambassador declared that both the opening of the school and the construction of U.N. headquarters are great acts of faith. Arthur Lourie, Israeli consul general in this city, and Dr. E. Van Zile Hyde, senior American representative to the World Health Organization, also spoke at the ceremony.

BRITISH CHIEF JUSTICE VOICES HOPE FOR ESTABLISHMENT OF FRIENDLY ANGLO-ISRAELI TIES

LONDON, May 17. (JTA) -- Hopes for the speedy establishment of a firm and friendly basis of relationship between Britain and Israel were expressed last night by the Lord Chief Justice of Britain and other speakers at a dinner in honor of Dr. Mordecai Eliash, Israeli Minister to London, tendered by the law section of the Friends of the Hebrew University.

More than 200 prominent jurists were present at the function, including Lord Samuel, first High Commissioner of Palestine under the British Mandate, Lord Reading, Sir William Fitzgerald, last Chief Justice of Palestine under the British administration, and Norman Bentwich, first attorney-general of Palestine. Dr. Eliash described plans for the law faculty at the Hebrew University which, he said, would "wed the glory of the past with the necessity of the present by merging ancient Hebrew law with elements of modern, particularly English, law."

BRITISH MINISTER TO ISRAEL ARRIVES IN HAIFA; SEES IMPROVED ANGLO-ISRAELI RELATIONS

HAIFA, May 17. (JTA) -- Alexander Knox Helm, British Minister to Israel, arrived here today by air and was greeted by Israeli Government officials and members of the British mission in the Jewish state. He departed immediately for Tel Aviv where he was due to be received at the Foreign Ministry.

The British diplomat said upon his landing: "It is my earnest hope that as a result of my mission, relations between Israel and my country will become ever friendlier. I am confident that with good will on both sides we shall achieve this purpose."

UNITED NATIONS COMMISSION BEGINS DISCUSSING INTERNATIONAL COVENANT ON HUMAN RIGHTS

LAKE SUCCESS, May 17. (JTA) -- The United Nations Human Rights Commission today began discussion of an international Covenant on Human Rights. Just prior to the discussion the Commission heard a statement by Bernard Bernstein of the Coordinating Board of Jewish Organizations, which is composed of the B'nai B'rith, the Board of Deputies of British Jews and the South African Board of Deputies.

NEIRO COURT REVERSES CONVICTION OF PRIEST ARRESTED FOR ANTI-SEMITIC SPEECH

WASHINGTON, May 17. (JTA) -- The United States Supreme court yesterday reversed the conviction of Rev. Arthur W. Terminiello, a Catholic priest, who was charged with breaching the peace by delivering an anti-Semitic speech in Chicago three years ago. The decision, based on the argument that free speech must be maintained even when the speaker's words stir people to anger and unrest, was reached by a five to four majority.

Rev. Terminiello, who was under suspension as a priest at the time he made his speech but who was later reinstated in a parish, spoke at a meeting sponsored by Gerald L.K. Smith and the Christian Veterans of America which attracted a hostile crowd of at least 1,000 persons. Following his arrest, Terminiello was convicted and fined \$100 by a Chicago municipal judge. The conviction was upheld in the Illinois Appellate and Supreme Courts.

The majority opinion, written by Associate Justice William O. Douglas for himself, and Justices Hugo L. Black, Frank Murphy, Wiley B. Rutledge and Stanley F. Reed, disputed the original trial judge's definition of a breach of the peace as including a speech which "stirs the public to anger, invites dispute, brings about a condition of unrest, or creates a disturbance." Justice Douglas insisted that "a function of free speech is to invite dispute. It may indeed serve its high purpose when it induces a condition of unrest, creates dissatisfaction with conditions as they are, or even stirs people to anger."

Justice Robert H. Jackson, who wrote one of three dissents submitted by the majority, charged that in its decision the Court was indicating acceptance of the doctrine that "civil liberty means the removal of all restraints from these crowds" and that all local attempts to maintain order are impairments of the liberty of citizens. He added: "The choice is not between order and liberty. It is between liberty with order and anarchy without either." Justice Jackson also said that Terminiello's speech followed "with a fidelity that is more than coincidental the pattern of European Socialist leaders."

AMERICAN JEWISH CONGRESS, NEGRO ORGANIZATION ISSUE JOINT SURVEY ON CIVIL RIGHTS

NEW YORK, May 17. (JTA) -- A survey reviewing the state of civil rights in the United States during 1948 was issued here today jointly by the American Jewish Congress and the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People. The report is the first of a series of periodic reviews of the civil rights and group relations situation to be issued jointly by the two groups.

The survey evaluates 140 events in the fields of social, political and economic discrimination. In assessing the progress made last year, the study pointed to helpful decisions by the U.S. Supreme Court, forward steps taken by a number of State and local governments, and to some reforms achieved by private action in scattered instances. However, it added, "the practice of discrimination and segregation because of race, religion and national origin was still the rule in much of the day-to-day activities of the population." A basic failure, the report said, was the fact that no major federal civil rights bill was enacted.

ILLEGAL CAMPS IN ITALY CLOSE TO ENABLE POLICE TO CHECK ON REFUGEES' IDENTITY PAPERS

ROME, May 17. (JTA) -- All displaced persons camps throughout Italy were closed today while Italian police checked on refugees in the camps preliminary to the issuance of new identity papers. Under an agreement concluded between the International Refugee Organization and the Italian Government, movement of the refugees outside of the camps will be considerably restricted.

MORDECAI NAMIR IS APPOINTED ISRAELI MINISTER TO MOSCOW; SUCCEEDS GOLDA MYERSON

TEL AVIV, May 17. (JTA) -- Mordecai Namir, counsellor and charge d'affaires in the Israeli Legation in Moscow, has been appointed Israeli Minister to Moscow, according to an announcement today. He succeeds Golda Myerson, Israel's first envoy to Moscow, who is now Minister of Labor.

LEHMAN SEES SIMILARITY BETWEEN DEVELOPMENT OF ISRAEL AND UNITED STATES

TEL AVIV, May 17. (JTA) -- Former Governor Herbert H. Lehman of New York today issued a statement to the Jewish Telegraphic Agency summarizing his views on the situation in Israel prior to his embarkation on the Israeli transport Kedmah en route to France. He emphasized that he had long talks with Premier David Ben Gurion and other members of the Israeli Cabinet, as well as with leaders of the Jewish Agency and U.S. Ambassador James G. McDonald.

"The emergence of the state of Israel represents a miracle," Lehman's statement said. "Israel fought an enemy 50 times stronger than itself. Despite the most severe handicaps in war, it was able to create a state which is proving itself efficient and well-governed."

"I attended a session of the Knesset during the debate on the austerity program. I have had parliamentary experience as lieutenant governor, presiding over the state senate of the New York legislature. I believe Israel's parliament, despite being only a short time in existence, measures well in dignity and seriousness with any parliamentary body I know."

"The achievements of Israel are very great. We must realize the problems confronting it are also very great. There are many difficulties in connection with absorbing the new immigrants coming in daily. Israel has problems on how to finance the cost of maintaining a substantial army of defense, how to reduce the high cost of living, how to provide housing and employment for the new arrivals."

"Much of the early development of the United States was due to the investment of friendly nations in Europe. I think there is a great similarity between the agricultural and industrial development of the United States and that of Israel. Seventy-five years ago, the United States could not have developed its national resources had it not been for financial assistance in the form of investments from abroad. I think that similar loans and investments will have to come also in the case of Israel from abroad. I am confident that Israel will emerge as a strong nation which will be able to absorb many hundreds of thousands of immigrants."

ISRAELI EDITORS PLEDGE SUPPORT FOR EXPANSION OF JEWISH TELEGRAPHIC AGENCY SERVICE

TEL AVIV, May 17. (JTA) -- Editors of all Hebrew newspapers in Israel proclaimed today to support plans for the expansion of the service of the Jewish Telegraphic Agency and its affiliates to the Israeli press in accordance with the growing requirements of newspapers here. The plans were outlined by Jacob Landau, managing director of the J.T.A., at a luncheon which he had with the editors.