

Monday, August 1, 1949

JTA *Daily News Bulletin*

ARAB RESIDENTS OF ISRAEL BEGIN APPLYING FOR ADMISSION OF REFUGEE MEMBERS OF FAMILIES

TEL AVIV, July 31. (JTA) -- Beginning tomorrow, Arab residents of Israel will be able to file applications for the return of close members of their families who are now refugees in the neighboring Arab states, it was officially announced here today.

Special offices will begin operating in key centers throughout the country to consider these applications, the announcement said, adding that stations will be set up on the Israeli borders with Syria, Lebanon, Egypt and Transjordan to handle returning refugees. The applications will be valid for wives, minor children and unmarried daughters of all ages of Arab residents.

An official spokesman today declared that Israel's position on the refugee question as set forth to the U.N. Conciliation Commission last May 5 is still unchanged. He was commenting on a report from Lausanne in the New York press that Israel has agreed to accept 100,000 refugees.

The spokesman pointed out that in a recent speech to the Knesset, Foreign Minister Moshe Sharett again emphasized that Israel will only discuss the repatriation of the refugees within the framework of a general peace. The spokesman also intimated that the Arabs at Lausanne are showing a more realistic approach to the problem.

Arab Delegations at Lausanne Accept Israel's Offer on Refugee Repatriation

LAUSANNE, July 31. (JTA) -- The four Arab delegations at the U.N.-sponsored peace parley here this week-end indicated that they would accept Israel's offer to readmit some of the Palestine Arab refugees. The lead in accepting Israel's proposal was taken by Egypt which, however, continues to insist on its territorial claims on the Gaza strip and a section of the southern Negev.

While the actual total number of refugees which Israel is prepared to accept has been kept a close secret, both from the Commission and from the Arabs, all parties involved think they have a good idea of the figures. Guesses range from 18 to 150 thousand, with the latter total favored in most quarters. The important thing, however, is no longer the precise number of refugees which Israel is prepared to take back, but that the Arabs and the Commission members now recognize that Israel means business and have stopped bargaining.

The effect of this realization was noted immediately in the action taken by the United States representatives here. At last it enabled the United States policy to play a decisive trump. A United States member of the Commission told the Arabs that they must now give up the pretense that all refugees would ultimately be sent back to their homes in Israel. Israel would and could take back part of the refugees and this the new state has now agreed to do. It was then up to the Arab states to declare equally clearly how many refugees they were willing to resettle in their respective countries, the American said.

This approach was made to Egypt, Syria, Lebanon and Transjordan. These four countries were told that provided they now cooperated in the solution of the refugee problem on these lines, the resettlement of the refugees would rank in United States eyes as "development work" and as such would come under the head of immediate dollar aid. The same would apply to the resettlement of Arab refugees in Israel.

ISRAELI PLANS FOR OIL PIPELINE FROM AQABA TO HAIFA REPORTED IN FINAL STAGES

TEL AVIV, July 31. (JTA) -- Plans for a government-sponsored pipeline project to carry oil from the Gulf of Aqaba, Israel's Red Sea outlet, to the refineries at Haifa are in the final stages, it was learned today on reliable authority.

The government's decision to go ahead on the largest project yet undertaken by the young state is the result of Iraq's persistent refusal to allow crude oil to flow through the existing pipeline from the Kirkuk fields to Haifa and Egypt's avowed intention to prevent the use of the Suez Canal to tankers carrying crude oil to the Haifa refineries. The pipeline would bypass the Suez Canal and obviate dependence of the refineries on Iraq oil.

Stoppage of Iraq oil 15 months ago and the subsequent closing down of the Haifa refineries has forced Israel to buy abroad the half-million tons yearly which it needs. These purchases have been made at exorbitant prices and in hard currency. This process has been going on at a time when Middle East oil prices have come down 15 percent.

The high cost being paid for fuel oil is one of the most serious drains on Israel's limited economy and one of the important drags in the country's economic development. Similarly, the enforced idleness of the refineries, which have a capacity of 4,000,000 tons a year, represents a serious economic loss for the state.

One month ago, the government proposed the project to the British-owned Consolidated Refineries and suggested that the company build and operate the pipeline. The Israeli Government was prepared to provide the dollars necessary for the purchase of pipes in the United States. The government also proposed giving the company the right to sell the pipeline after the first ten years, but reserving for the government priority on purchase in that event. The Consolidated Refineries, which are jointly owned by the Anglo-Iranian Company and the Anglo-Saxon Petroleum Company, rejected the proposal.

HEALTH MINISTRY ATTACKS EGYPTIAN BAN ON ISRAELI ATTENDANCE AT WHO MEETING IN ALEXANDRIA

TEL AVIV, July 31. (JTA) -- A recent Egyptian statement that Israeli representatives would not be allowed to attend the Middle East conference of the World Health Organization, a United Nations affiliate, to be held in Alexandria this fall, was scored by a spokesman for the Israeli Health Ministry here today.

The spokesman recalled that during last spring's international health organization conference in Rome, Israel had raised no objection to holding the next conference in Alexandria on the basis of a statement by the Egyptian representative that the Israeli representative would be allowed to attend.

MEMBERS OF ARAB GANG, SUSPECTED OF MURDER AND ROBBERY, KILLED BY ISRAELI POLICE

TEL AVIV, July 31. (JTA) -- Four members of an armed Arab gang which infiltrated Israeli territory from the Samaria area were killed this afternoon in the vicinity of Bedera by Israeli police.

The four were killed when the Israeli police, having pursued them to a cave hideout, returned their heavy fire. It is believed the gang, of whom many were wounded in the exchange of fire, were responsible for a number of murders and robberies which recently took place in the Samaria area.

HIAS REPORTS IT AIDED OVER 11,000 JEWS FIND NEW HOMES DURING FIRST HALF OF 1949

NEW YORK, July 31. (JTA) -- Despite mounting restriction faced by Europe's Jews who wished to emigrate from the countries in which they were living, HIAS aided 11,079 persons of 14 nations in Europe to find homes in more than 15 countries overseas and various other localities of Europe during the first six months of 1949, the organization reported today.

The report, a statistical compilation of HIAS accomplishments as released by Isaac L. Asofsky, the Society's executive director, stated that in many instances the figures surpassed those of the same period in 1948. It explained that mounting immigration of DP's to the United States under the current legislation in part accounted for the increased services rendered by HIAS. However, emigration from Eastern European countries had dropped off due to governmental barriers.

Operating with more than 100 offices throughout the world, the Society found a home for 6,918 in the United States during the first half of 1949; 1,016 in Israel; 765 in Canada; 493 in Argentina; 453 in Brazil; 457 in Australia; and 359 in other countries of Europe. Lesser numbers went to Central and a number of South American countries.

The greatest number of Jews moved from European countries by HIAS, in the first six months of 1949, were 5,629 from Germany. The Society helped 1,560 emigrate from France, 1,019 from Austria, 438 from Czechoslovakia, 388 from Italy, 418 from Poland, 271 from Bulgaria, 246 from England, 258 from Belgium, 245 from Sweden, 210 from Switzerland, 135 from Holland, 119 from Hungary, 129 from Rumania, and 58 from Turkey.

POPULAR CHILEAN NEWSPAPER CHARGES ARAB PUBLICATION WITH INCITEMENT AGAINST JEWS

BUENOS AIRES, July 31. (JTA) -- A demand that the Chilean Government take action against the Chilean Arab newspaper Mundo Arabe if it continues its anti-Jewish campaign is voiced in the widely read Santiago newspaper Noticias de Ultima Hora, just received here.

The Santiago publication asserts that neither the Jewish nor Arab communities in Chile have any desire to war on each other, and charges the Arab newspaper and a radio station of the same name with inciting the people of Chile against the Jews. It adds that the Arabe Mundo served as a propaganda organ of the Nazis during the late war and as such was blacklisted by the Allies.

ARGENTINE MINISTER FETTERED BY ISRAELI ENVOY; SAYS ARGENTINES SYMPATHETIC TO ISRAEL

BUENOS AIRES, July 31. (JTA) -- Moises Toff, head of the Latin American Department of the Israeli Foreign Ministry, last night tendered a party in honor of Dr. Juan Bramuglia, Argentine Foreign Minister. Mr. Toff praised Dr. Bramuglia as a world famous statesman, while the Argentine Minister stated that the Argentine Government's favorable attitude toward Israel was a true expression of the feelings of the Argentine people towards the Jewish state.

REDUCTION OF LEVIES ON GIFT SHIPMENTS TO ISRAEL ANNOUNCED BY ISRAELI CONSULATE IN N.Y.

NEW YORK, July 31. (JTA) -- Taxes paid by those who prepay duties on gift shipments to Israel will be reduced, the Consulate General of Israel announced this week-end. Effective August 1, the Consulate stated, a 10 percent consular fee, which has been collected on customs duty and luxury tax will be abolished.