

Wednesday, October 12, 1949

JTA *Daily News Bulletin***ISRAEL NOT INCLINED TO YIELD ON REPATRIATION OF ARABS BEYOND EXTENT ALREADY OUTLINED**

TEL AVIV, Oct. 11. (JTA) -- For the time being Israel is not inclined to repatriate Arab refugees nor to pay them compensation except within the framework of an overall peace, as it outlined earlier, Gordon R. Clapp, chairman of the U.N. economic survey mission, told newsmen today just before he and his party boarded a plane for Beirut. The U.N. party, consisting of Mr. Clapp and a number of his deputies, met with Foreign and Finance Ministry officials three times between Sunday evening and last night.

Mr. Clapp added that the U.N. mission had come to Tel Aviv to discuss short term work projects for the Arab refugees in the various Middle East countries. The short term plan had been investigated by his group because the \$32,000,000 allocated by the U.N., and a like sum appropriated by voluntary relief agencies, will be exhausted within 36 days, Mr. Clapp declared. The short term projects being considered by the mission are intended to last for two years, he said.

Maintaining that he was leaving Israel with the feeling that concrete progress had been made in blueprinting the short term projects, he revealed that the plans must be ready for submission to the U.N. Conciliation Commission by November 1. He revealed that these projects would affect in Israel about 30,000 Arabs and 18,000 Jewish refugees. He also said that his party had met with no rebuff on the plan in any Arab capital where it had discussed the matter and that the Arabs were prepared to collaborate in such projects.

The U.N. official revealed that a group of U.N. experts will arrive in Israel within the next two weeks to draw up, together with Israel experts, the final plans which will then be submitted to the Conciliation Commission. The economic survey mission will revisit Israel next month.

Israel's Activities in Behalf of Arab and Jewish Refugees Discussed

An official communique issued by the Israel Government tonight, after the U.N. party left, revealed that the first meeting was held at the residence of Foreign Minister Moshe Sharett, that the second parley was held at the Foreign Ministry offices and the third took place at the home of David Horowitz, director general of the Finance Ministry. Ministers Sharett and Eliezer Kaplan participated in the first two sessions, but not the last.

Since the main aspect of most of the problems raised by the mission was economic, Mr. Horowitz was the chief spokesman for the Israelis during the second and third sessions. He outlined the Israel Government's activities in behalf of the Arab refugees who are in Israel. In this connection, he spoke of the organizations of public works projects for road construction, water supply, and the resettlement of refugees.

Mr. Horowitz disclosed, the communique stated, that the Israel Government has spent about 400,000 pounds (\$1,120,000) for Arab resettlement and reemployment. He estimated that out of an Arab population of about 170,000 in Israel at present, 30,000 are refugees. He also spoke of the government's measures to aid Jewish evacuees from the war areas and of the great damage caused the Israel economy by the war.

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ARAB LEGION ENGAGES IN ARTILLERY MANEUVERS OUTSIDE JERUSALEM; ABDULLAH VISITS OLD CITY

JERUSALEM, Oct. 11. (JTA) -- Heavy artillery fire north of Jerusalem disclosed today that the Arab Legion has been carrying out extensive heavy arms maneuvers in the area between Jerusalem and Ramallah.

Arab civilian traffic was halted today when Jerusalemites witnessed--from a distance--a procession of King Abdullah of Transjordan and his royal party moving down the slope of Mt. Scopus to the Old City to visit the Legion's headquarters. It is understood that John B. Glubb Pasha, former commander of the Legion, is accompanying the Transjordan monarch on his visit to Jerusalem.

ISRAEL, SYRIA WILL SPEED UP EVACUATION OF MISHMAR HAYARDEN AREA; JEWS DEMOLISH POSITIONS

TEL AVIV, Oct. 11. (JTA) -- The evacuation of Israel and Syrian forces from Mishmar Hayarden and the surrounding area will be carried out according to the provisional timetable set forth in the armistice agreement between the two nations, it was decided at a meeting yesterday of the mixed Syrian-Israel armistice commission. The parley took place in a customs house near the Bnot Yaacov Bridge on the Syrian-Israel border.

U.N. Chief of Staff Gen. William E. Riley and Lt. Col. Moshe Dayan, chairman of all Israel armistice delegations, both attended the meeting at which it was also decided that all mines and ammunition dumps would be removed from the Mishmar Hayarden area and all fortifications there would be destroyed within the next three weeks. The decision to clear this area so speedily was made in order to permit former inhabitants to return to their homes immediately.

The Israelis at the meeting also announced that they had destroyed seven military positions in the vicinity of Ein Gev, on the eastern shore of the Sea of Galilee, to which the Syrians objected at the last meeting of the joint commission. The Jews are also dismantling a new settlement established south of Ein Gev.

JOINT EGYPTIAN-ISRAEL BODY SET UP TO CHECK APPLICATIONS OF REFUGEES RETURNING TO ISRAEL

TEL AVIV, Oct. 11. (JTA) -- The return to Israel of Arab refugees who were separated from their families and who are now living in Egypt or Egyptian-held territory was discussed at a meeting yesterday of the Egyptian-Israel armistice commission, it was announced here today.

The atmosphere in which the conference was conducted was described as "most friendly." A joint subcommittee was established to draw up check lists of applicants who wish to return to Israel. This same body will arrange the details involved in the return of the refugees to their families.

HOUSE BODY DEFERS ACTION ON U.S. PROGRAM TO AID ISRAEL, OTHER UNDERDEVELOPED AREAS

WASHINGTON, Oct. 11. (JTA) -- The House Foreign Affairs committee voted today to postpone action on President Truman's "Point Four" program to aid Israel and other underdeveloped areas of the world. The measure will be brought up again in January.

U.S. AMBASSADOR TO ISRAEL CONFERS PRIVATELY WITH POPE IN ITALY; RETURNS TO TEL AVIV

WASHINGTON, Oct. 11. (JTA) -- James G. McDonald, U.S. Ambassador to Israel, conferred privately with Pope Pius XII at Castel Gondolfo, Italy, yesterday, it was learned here. Mr. McDonald left Italy today for Tel Aviv.