

## DAILY NEWS BULLETIN

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SITUATION IN HULEH AREA CONTINUES TO BE TENSE; ARMISTICE COMMISSION CANCELS MEETING

JERUSALEM, March 28. (JTA) -- The situation in the Huleh region of northeastern Israel where Israeli and Syrian troops face each other across the Jordan River remained tense today as the Israeli-Syrian Armistice Commission cancelled its scheduled meeting at the last minute. Drainage operations were halted by Israel this morning for technical reasons, but is expected to resumed by tomorrow morning at the latest.

An Israeli worker who was wounded by Syrian troops yesterday as the Jews began the reclamation project in earnest, died this morning of his wounds. A policeman, who was a member of a detachment evacuating the injured worker under a white flag, was hit when the party came under Arab fire. The ambulance in which the worker was being removed was hit by 30 bullets and wrecked.

The Arab press in Jordan territory reports that the Jordan Government has complained to the Mixed Armistice Commission that Israel does not permit Arab shepherds and Trappist monks to use a well which is located in Israeli territory near Iatrun. The press also asserts that Egypt has protested to the U.N. against Israel's "unlawful conquest" of Elath, on the Gulf of Akaba, which, although admittedly not in Egyptian possession when the Israelis moved into the area, is claimed to have been "under Egyptian jurisdiction."

ZIONIST CONGRESS MAY AGAIN BE POSTPONED; DELAY SOUGHT FOR ELECTION OF ISRAELI DELEGATES

TEL AVIV, March 28. (JTA) -- The question of whether the forthcoming World Zionist Congress will again be postponed was raised here today following a decision of the Central Elections Committee--by a majority of 6 to 4--requesting the World Zionist Executive to postpone the elections for Israeli delegates to the Congress which are scheduled to take place April 30. The Congress itself is now scheduled to open at the end of July.

The decision still requires the approval of the plenary election commission and the Jewish Agency executive. It stipulates that elections to the Zionist Congress should take place only after the Parliamentary elections in Israel are over. The Cabinet this week suggested that the Parliamentary elections be held on July 10.

The demand that the elections to the Zionist Congress be postponed was raised at the Central Elections Committee by a Mapam representative. Other groups which voted for it were: the General Zionists; Herut; Mizrahi; and Poale Mizrahi. The representatives of the Mapai and the Progressive Zionists opposed.

ISRAEL'S AMBASSADOR DISCUSSES KOREAN SITUATION WITH STATE DEPARTMENT

WASHINGTON, March 28. (JTA) -- Israel Ambassador Abba Eban today met with John D. Hickerson, Assistant Secretary of State for United Nations Affairs. Mr. Eban said they discussed the Korean situation, and that the talk was friendly.

ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF STATE LEAVES ISRAEL; IS OPTIMISTIC ABOUT THE FUTURE

TEL AVIV, March 28. (JTA) -- Assistant Secretary of State George C. McGhee said today, prior to his departure from Israel, that although grave problems in the Middle East persist, such as the refugee question and the failure to attain a peace settlement, "I am able to report a lessening of tensions since my last visit in 1949 and I am confident for the future."

The American diplomat, who is in charge of Middle East affairs for the State Department, arrived in Israel yesterday on his tour of Middle Eastern capitals and was scheduled to leave tonight for the Old City of Jerusalem. During his 36 hours in Israel, Mr. McGhee conferred with President Chaim Weizmann, Premier David Ben Gurion, Foreign Minister Moshe Sharett, Finance Minister Eliezer Kaplan and other key Israel figures. He expressed particular gratification at meeting Dr. Walter Eytan, director-general of the Foreign Ministry, whom he described as an Oxford college mate.

He said he was impressed by Israel's "remarkable achievements in its few years of statehood" and said there is no question of "the spirit of vigor and self-dedication of the people of modern Israel." Commenting on his swing around the Middle Eastern capitals, Mr. McGhee declared:

"I had a very satisfactory series of visits in the Middle East countries where I had frank and friendly talks with their leaders. Although grave problems persist, such as the refugees and the failure to attain a peace settlement, I am able to report a lessening of tensions since my last visit in 1949 and I am confident for the future. I am impressed by Israel's remarkable achievements in its few years of statehood. Of the spirit of vigor and self-dedication of the people of modern Israel there is no question; the people of Israel face many and complex problems.

"A problem among the world's free peoples," he added, "is the release of creative impulses of men everywhere, enabling them to plant fields and build industries which give all men a minimum decent standard of living. Basic to the success of this endeavor is an atmosphere of peace and mutual confidence among nations. We in America are striving to create this atmosphere in many parts of the world today. It matters little how well one builds one's own country if his relations with his neighbors are not strong, friendly and secure," he concluded.

JEWISH WAR VETERANS URGE U.S. TO SUPPORT ISRAEL'S \$1,500,000,000 CLAIM ON GERMANY

NEW YORK, March 28. (JTA) -- The Jewish War Veterans of the United States of America today urged the State Department to support Israel's claim for \$1,500,000,000 in reparations from Germany.

In a message signed by Henry Albert, national commander of the organization, the Jewish war veterans stressed that U.S. support for the claim was being advocated by them regardless of the outcome of agenda discussions now going on in Paris among the deputies to the Big Four Foreign Ministers.

The Jewish Agency for Palestine "heartily endorsed" the Israel Government's \$1,500,000,000 reparation claim on Germany, Dr. Nahum Goldmann reported today following his return from Israel yesterday. The chairman of the American section of the Jewish Agency made it clear that this sum was over and above the claims on German authorities which the Agency and other interested organizations are pressing under the indemnification and restitution laws of Western Germany.

ISRAEL REPORTED SEEKING JORDAN'S PERMISSION FOR JEWS TO VISIT THE WALLING WALL

JERUSALEM, March 28. (JTA) -- The Israel Government has officially approached the Government of Jordan seeking permission for a number of Jews to visit the Walling Wall in the Old City, it was reported by the Amman newspaper El Orden.

According to the Arab newspaper, the Israeli request was submitted to Jordan through the Arab representative on the Mixed Armistice Commission. The Jordanian is reported to have discussed the matter with Premier Rifai, but no decision has yet been reached, according to El Orden. Queried here, Israeli authorities stated that they "prefer to keep silent on this matter."

EGYPT ORDERS SUDAN ADMINISTRATION NOT TO ENGAGE IN ANY TRADING WITH THE JEWISH STATE

LONDON, March 28. (JTA) -- The Egyptian Government has applied pressure on the Sudan Administration to prevent trade between Sudan and Israel, it was revealed here in a London Times dispatch from Cairo.

Abraham Faraz Bey, Minister of Municipal and Rural Affairs, told the Egyptian Parliament that in response to several letters from him instructing the Sudanese authorities not to permit traffic with the Jewish state, the Governor General of Sudan had replied that his administration "was careful to carry out Egypt's wishes in this matter." The Sudanese official also declared that no official trade relations exist with Israel and that no Jewish trade delegation has arrived in the Sudan.

The Arab League headquarters in Cairo announced that a bureau is being established to tighten the Arab economic blockade of Israel. The announcement claimed that there is a continual smuggling of goods across Arab borders into Israel. The bureau will consist of representatives of all the seven Arab states which are members of the League, the announcement said.

BRITISH PARLIAMENTARY DELEGATION HONORED BY ISRAEL PARLIAMENT, JERUSALEM MUNICIPALITY

JERUSALEM, March 28. (JTA) -- The British Parliamentary delegation which is currently visiting Israel was honored at a reception here tendered by the Jerusalem Municipality. Mayor S.Z. Shragai, pinning a Jerusalem emblem on each of the British MP's, declared that Britain was the first country which "believed in the fulfillment of the prophets' vision and the return to Zion."

Britain looks favorably on the rise of the "small state of Israel," W. Glenvil Hall, head of the British Parliamentary delegation, declared last night at a Knesset reception in honor of the visiting British parliamentarians. Mr. Hall also praised Israel's progress and said that the Jewish state had "nothing to fear."

Lord Samuel, first High Commissioner for Palestine, another member of the delegation, greeted "with pleasure" the "youngest Parliament in behalf of the 'Mother of Parliaments.'" The presence of British Minister Alexander Knox Helm and thelegation's First Secretary, J. Wilson, was of particular note because this was the first time that a diplomatic envoy of one of the great powers visited the Israel Parliament since it had moved to Jerusalem.

ISRAEL AND ARAB STATES READY TO COOPERATE ON REFUGEE PROBLEM, U.N. COMMISSION REPORTS

LAKE SUCCESS, March 28. (JTA) -- The U.N. Palestine Conciliation Commission reported readiness by Israel and Arab states to cooperate in new commission plans for resettlement or repatriation of Arab refugees and compensation for those not permitted to return to their former homes in Israel.

## U.S. JEWISH GROUPS WILL PLANT FIRST MILLION TREES IN ISRAEL'S "FOREST OF SIX MILLION"

NEW YORK, March 28. (JTA) -- Jewish organizations in the United States today pledged to plant the first 1,000,000 trees in the "Forest of the Six Million" which the Jewish National Fund is inaugurating in Israel in commemoration of the 6,000,000 Jewish victims of Nazism. In addition to the million trees pledged by the organizations, 4,000,000 more trees will be planted by the Jews of the United States.

The pledges to plant the first million trees were given at a press conference addressed by Congressman Emanuel Celler and Dr. Harris Levine, president of the Jewish National Fund of America. The Zionist Organization of America led off with 300,000 trees; Hadassah pledged 250,000; the Jewish Workers Alliance 150,000; the Pioneer Women 75,000; World Federation of Polish Jews 50,000; Mizrahi Women 75,000 and Friends of Congressman Abraham J. Multer 25,000.

## JEWISH TEACHERS SEMINARY PRESENTS AWARD TO PROF. LOMKIN FOR HIS WORK ON GENOCIDE FACT

NEW YORK, March 28. (JTA) -- An Award for Humanities for his work in drafting the United Nations Convention against Genocide was made to Professor Raphael Lemkin of Yale University at the 33rd anniversary celebration of the Jewish Teachers Seminary and People's University here.

Prof. Lemkin warned that the Genocide Convention was in danger of "being broken up" through persistent tendencies of amendment and addition, which would delay ratification of the document by the various nations. Over 400 persons attended the celebration, which was chaired by Meyer Brown, chairman of the board of trustees of the Seminary.

## HIAS WILL FINANCE TRANSPORTATION OF JEWISH IMMIGRANTS EN ROUTE TO CANADA

NEW YORK, March 28. (JTA) -- The HIAS of America will cooperate with the Jewish Immigrant Aid Society of Canada by financing the inland transportation and allowances for food en route for immigrants to Canada coming under HIAS auspices, it was announced here today.

## SEPHARDIC JEWS DECIDE TO FORM SOCIAL AND CULTURAL ORGANIZATION IN AUSTRALIA

SYDNEY, March 29. (JTA) -- A representative group of Sephardic Jews from India, China, Iraq, Burma, Egypt, Hong Kong, Australia and other Far Eastern countries at a meeting here decided to establish a Sephardic social and cultural organization. One of the purposes of the group is to assist needy Jews in any or all the countries of the Far East and to help newcomers to Australia integrate themselves into the Dominion's life and economy.

## GROUP OF JEWISH YOUTHS LEAVE BRAZIL FOR ISRAEL AS CHALUTZIM; WILL SETTLE IN NEGEV

RIO DE JANEIRO, March 28. (JTA) -- A group of 23 Chaltzim left today for Israel to join collective settlements in the Negev. This is the fourth group of Chaltzim which left Brazil for Israel during the last two years.

## VESSEL CARRYING PASSOVER MEAT SHIPMENT TO ISRAEL LEAVES ARGENTINA

BUENOS AIRES, March 28. (JTA) -- A large shipment of meat left for Haifa today aboard the Argentine vessel Rio Gallegos. The meat is intended for use on Passover.

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