

Sunday, May 23, 1948

JTA Daily News Bulletin

PUBLISHED BY THE JEWISH TELEGRAPHIC AGENCY
106 EAST 41st STREET, NEW YORK 17, N. Y.

HEGANAH BLASTS SYRIAN ARMY OUT OF SAMAKH; SITUATION IN OLD CITY REMAINS CRITICAL

TEL AVIV, May 21. (JTA) -- A counterattacking Heganah force today dislodged the Syrian Army from the town of Samakh, key to the south Tiberias section, and pushed the invaders farther south, in the opposite direction from their bases.

The successful Jewish thrust was made possible by an heroic eight-hour defense at the colony of Degania yesterday and last night, during which the aggressors' strength was sapped on futile attempts to overwhelm the Jews. When the battle at Degania ended a number of tanks and armored cars used by the Arabs had been wrecked and the remaining two armored vehicles of the force had been captured by the defenders.

Today's victory marks the second time that the Arabs have been forced to retreat from positions in Samakh. In the town the Jews seized a large quantity of arms and munitions and found many Arab corpses. Beit Joseph, near Samakh, beat off a new Arab raid.

Arabs Infiltrate Meah Shearim Quarter in Jerusalem

In Jerusalem the situation remains virtually unchanged, except for the loss of additional lives and use of munitions, a Haganah communique revealed. The Arab Legion was repulsed in several attempts to break through the Jews' desperate last line of defense in the Old City. The Arabs have kept up a ceaseless artillery barrage. Their activities north of the Old City seem to have borne better fruit. The latest reports state that the Arabs are infiltrating the Jewish Meah Shearim quarter, although at a heavy cost, and are shelling Ramath Rachel, a suburb south of the city.

In yesterday's shelling of Jewish controlled areas the Legion destroyed one wing of the Hadassah Hospital--containing X-ray equipment and the operating theatre. According to Dr. Eli Davis, acting director of the hospital, the institution's value as a hospital has been destroyed by the shelling and several of the patients and staff have already been evacuated. Jewish circles in Jerusalem hope that the Red Cross will step in and evacuate the wounded and the staff. Dr. Davis revealed that 27 wounded and most of the 45 unwounded members of the staff still have to be evacuated.

A water shortage is causing acute suffering in Jerusalem. Available supplies are dwindling rapidly. It is impossible to obtain a glass of drinking water or enough water to wash one's hands. One of the sights of the city is the queues of persons waiting for water from the tank trucks.

Food is in short supply, too. At one of the biggest restaurants in the Jewish section of modern Jerusalem, a meal consists of a small serving of meat, a spoonful of potatoes or peas, a thin soup and a lonely sardine on a chunk of bread. This meal costs the equivalent of four dollars.

Gershon Hirsch, Jewish Agency spokesman in Jerusalem--the Agency is still so referred to in the Holy City--told a press conference that Jewish leaders consider

the Arab Legion's entrance into Palestine tantamount to "a British invasion through the back door."

Hirsch said that the Agency replied to the British consul's plea for "respect" for Gaza airfield as British property by pointing out that Egyptians now occupy it. The Agency advised the consul, he declared, "to take all necessary steps to ensure the evacuation of Gaza airfield by the Egyptians. Failing this, the Jewish forces will be obliged to take action with regard to British ownership."

Jewish Air Force Shifts Its Attacks from Syria to Egyptian Points

For the second night in a row the Jewish air force struck at the Arabs. This time they shifted their target from Syrian concentrations in Semakh to Egyptian points in the Gaza area. The target areas were left blazing and all Jewish planes returned safely to base. A group of planes also raided an Arab concentration at Kfar Shafet, northwest of Jerusalem. An attack on Yad Mordechai, in the Negev, by Egyptian infantry was beaten off.

Tel Aviv suffered two air attacks today, but there is no official report available on casualties. During the first raid Egyptian Spitfires circled the city for 45 minutes and finally dropped their load of bombs on the suburbs. The Irgun reported that one of its soldiers shot down an Arab plane strafing Rehovoth. Four British Spitfires which flew over the city yesterday almost became targets, the Haganah announced today. However, they were recognized in time and no anti-aircraft guns were fired.

In Tel Aviv this morning an agreement was signed between the municipality and the Red Cross placing all the hospitals in the city under the protection of the international relief agency. All hospitals will be marked with the Red Cross within the shortest possible time.

Hundreds of Jewish colonists and Haganah guards abandoned a number of colonies north of the Dead Sea last night, including Beit Hearava and Saom, which were bypassed by the Arab Legion's advance on Jerusalem and cut off in all-Arab territory. Before they left, the Jews burned all installations belonging to the Palestine Potash Company.

BRITISH SECURITY FORCES ORDERED TO BE ON LOOKOUT FOR PLANES BOUND FOR ISRAEL

LONDON, May 21. (JTA) -- Security police and customs officials at southern airfields were instructed today to be on the lookout for planes allegedly leaving Britain for Europe but which are actually en route to Palestine to be used by the Israelis or the Arabs. The order grew out of the discovery that several aircraft at an airfield near London had been tampered with.

Meanwhile, reports that the British have received assurances from King Abdullah that his forces will not cross the U.N. partition-allotted territory of the Jewish state if the Israelis remain in their own territory were denied here by the Foreign Office. A spokesman for the Foreign Office also denied reports that Britain has a new plan for settling the Palestine war on the basis of a Jewish state reduced in size from its present 5,500 square miles.

Asked by newsmen if the British Government will intervene in Arab states for the protection of Jews residing in those countries, as was requested this week by the British section of the World Jewish Congress, he replied that he was unaware of any action which had been taken in the matter.

U.N. TRUCE COMMISSION URGES SECURITY COUNCIL TO SEND NEUTRAL ARMY TO JERUSALEM

LAKE SUCCESS, May 21. (JPA) -- The United Nations Truce Commission today called the Security Council that Jerusalem will continue to be a battlefield unless a large and powerful neutral army is sent to Palestine immediately,

The cable bore the signature of Thomas Wasson, U.S. Consul-General in Jerusalem and a member of the U.N. Commission. It also suggested that the Security Council explore the possibility of clamping economic and military sanctions on the Arab League states, as provided in Articles 41 and 42 of the U.N. Charter. Such drastic action has not yet been considered in the Council debate thus far and the present U.S. resolution calls only for limited steps under Article 39, which is preliminary to stronger measures and even this proposal, however, seems unlikely to be adopted.

While the Council resumed its slow-moving debate, Count Folke Bernadotte, newly-appointed United Nations mediator for Palestine, telephoned Secretary-General Tryve Lie from Stockholm to confirm his acceptance of the post. Bernadotte will arrive in Paris Tuesday morning and will be joined there by Dr. Ralph J. Bunche, principal secretary of the defunct U.N. Palestine Commission. They will fly to Palestine together later in the week.

It was also announced here today that Harold Evans, of Philadelphia, special Municipal Commissioner for Jerusalem, is leaving New York tomorrow for Palestine. Another secretariat team, headed by John Reedman, former economic adviser to the Palestine Commission, will leave for the Israel capital next Tuesday. All these moves are designed to strengthen the hands of the Truce Commission and the U.N. Mediator.

Supports Shertok's Demand for U.N. Military Observers

The Truce Commission's message requested the Security Council to send a small party of competent military observers to Palestine immediately, as had been suggested yesterday by Moshe Shertok, Foreign Minister of Israel. It declared that the only alternatives to sending a strong neutral force into Jerusalem are "victory by one of the two sides or a stalemate. Both Arabs and Jews," the Commission reported, "have expressed a desire for a 'cease-fire' and a truce on their own terms, which are unacceptable to the other side."

Another cable from the U.N. Commission reported that the Arab Legion commander at Jerusalem had rejected the terms of a Jewish Agency truce proposal for the Old City. The Arab officer insisted upon complete Jewish capitulation.

The Council itself made no progress today. Andrei Gromyko, Soviet delegate, speaking at today's session, attacked the British Government for pledging on the one hand that it would cease supplying the Arab Legion if the U.N. declared the Arab attacks illegal and on the other hand blocking in the Security Council any attempt to label the Arab aggression as illegal.

This was "sheer casuistry," Gromyko added, and was reminiscent of the British role at the League of Nations. King Abdullah was now in the limelight as a kind of new "Middle Eastern Caesar," Gromyko declared but it was obvious that his army could not march into Palestine without British consent. He also attacked the delegates of Belgium and China who are opposed to the unequivocal U.S. proposal to order a cease-fire and stand-fast in Palestine under Article 39 of the Charter.

The Soviet delegate said no useful purpose would be served by "gazing into the crystal ball" to divine what the next step should be in the event that the Arab states fail to comply with the Security Council's orders. He was sure that they "cannot disregard our decision." Faris el Khoury of Syria, however, warned that the Arabs will not comply with such an order. The Arab states, he said, would never accept a Jewish state in the Middle East.

U.S. MINISTER INSTRUCTED TO DEMAND RELEASE OF AMERICAN JEWS DETAINED BY LEBANESE

WASHINGTON, May 21. (JTA) -- The U.S. Government today informed Lebanon that it will be compelled to view "seriously" any discrimination against American citizens by any government on the basis of race, color or creed. The American Minister to Lebanon, Lowell Pinkerton, was instructed to demand the release of the American Jews who yesterday were forcibly taken off the S.S. Marine Carp at Beirut and transferred to a concentration camp at Baalbeck.

A State Department official revealed at a news conference that the Department sent instructions to the American Minister to Lebanon, Lowell Pinkerton, that in the event the American citizens removed from the Marine Carp had not been released, or if the Lebanese authorities detain in the future American citizens merely because they are Jewish, the Minister should inform the Lebanese Government that the Government of the United States considers that all bearers of American passports irrespective of race, color, or creed are entitled to an equal extent to the protection of the U.S. Government."

Pinkerton was also instructed to make it clear that the "United States Government must insist that governments of other countries do not discriminate against the bearers of American passports on the grounds of race, color, or creed and that the United States Government would be compelled to view seriously any such discrimination against American citizens by any government."

I.R.O. IN WASHINGTON "EXPLAINS" ORDER SUSPENDING EMIGRATION AID FOR DP'S TO ISRAEL

WASHINGTON, May 21. (JTA) -- A statement "explaining" why the International Refugee Organization has suspended migration assistance to displaced Jews en route to Israel was issued here today by Gen. Walter A. Wood, chief of the I.R.O. Preparatory Commission. The statement, released to the Jewish Telegraphic Agency, reads:

"Orders suspending sponsorship of immigration to Palestine are based on the conviction that open warfare there makes genuine resettlement of families, including women and children, impossible for the present. Since this is true it is considered no part of the job of an international agency to send soldiers to fight. Previous movements were carried out on visas issued by a recognized authority no longer in existence, hence I.R.O. has no assurance of post-resettlement welfare including housing, reasonable employment and normal existence for refugees' families.

"I.R.O. is non-political and takes no position in the Middle East controversy. Far from opposing resettlement in Palestine, I.R.O. has, on the contrary, already sponsored six thousand movements there and has budgeted to send 75,000 more in anticipation of an ultimate peaceful settlement.

"The policy statement was issued after receipt of press inquiries on the I.R.O. position. The policy in no way interfered with the freedom that refugees have to move anywhere in the world under any other sponsorship they can obtain."

YEHUD UBERALL, FORMER JEWISH AGENCY OFFICIAL, NAMED ISRAELI MINISTER TO PRAGUE

PRAGUE, May 21. (JTA) -- Yehud Uberall was named today Israeli Minister to Czechoslovakia. During the war, Uberall represented the Jewish Agency in various Balkan countries.

The text of the Czech Government's reply to Israeli Foreign Minister Shertok officially recognizing the Jewish state was made public here today. The message, signed by Foreign Minister Clementis, reads: "Happy to advise de jure acknowledgement. The Czech Government appreciates the Jewish nation's efforts for peace and social progress and is convinced that an independent Jewish state will make a real contribution to peace and to the consolidation of Middle East security."

ESTABLISHMENT OF ISRAEL WILL AID JEWISH EDUCATION IN U.S. AND WORLD, PARLEY HEARS

ATLANTIC CITY, May 21. (JTA) -- Declaring that the establishment of Israel will lend added significance to Jewish education in the United States, as well as throughout the world, Michael A. Stavitsky, president of the American Association for Jewish Education, last night told 200 delegates to the organization's annual meeting here that "Israel will provide a new spiritual reservoir to nourish Jewish life everywhere."

Emphasizing that "progress in Jewish education has been unsatisfactory in the light of the needs," Stavitsky asserted that "we cannot continue to put off the necessary development of the Jewish education facilities needed for our children. We must not forget our responsibility to Jewish education here at home any more than the Jews of Israel are forgetting their responsibility for educating their youth in the spiritual tradition of Judaism."

Dr. Israel Chipkin, executive director of the Association, reported that the group expended close to \$90,000 last year as compared with nearly \$50,000 the previous year. For 1948, he disclosed, the Association has adopted a budget of \$175,000 to make possible the engagement of "additional personnel in order to meet the ever-increasing demand "for the group's professional services.

ORT FORMS BODY TO SUPPLY MACHINERY, TOOLS TO ARTISANS AND COLLECTIVE SHOPS IN ISRAEL

NEW YORK, May 21. (JTA) -- The American ORT Federation announced today the formation of an association in Tel Aviv which will supply machinery and tools to artisans and collective workshops in Israel.

Assurance that the ORT will "devote all its resources to the noble work of building a prosperous democratic society based on the fullest development of a self-supporting and skilled labor force," was given today in a message of greetings sent to Dr. Chaim Weizmann, President of Israel, by George Backer, president of the American ORT Federation and the World ORT Union.

U.S. URGED BY RABBINICAL CONVENTION TO HALT E.R.P. AID TO BRITAIN, LIFT ARMS EMBARGO

NEW YORK, May 21. (JTA) -- The United States was urged today to halt all E.R.P. aid to Britain by the 12th annual convention of the Rabbinical Council of America.

Urging that the Palestine arms embargo be lifted, the convention delegates also adopted a resolution reading in part: "Our shipping of goods and funds to Britain is in no way different from our shipping of steel to Japan before the attack on Pearl Harbor." Rabbi Israel Tabak was elected president of the Council.

ORTHODOX RABBIS URGE TRUMAN TO HALT JERUSALEM FIGHTING; DEMAND FOOD, MEDICANTS

NEW YORK, May 21. (JTA) -- An appeal to the United States to halt the fighting in Jerusalem and to afford food and medical aid to the city's inhabitants who are cut off from the rest of the world was made today in a telegram sent to President Truman by the Union of Orthodox Rabbis of the U.S. and Canada.

In another message to the President, the Union appealed for the immediate lifting of the Palestine arms embargo, pointing out that although the "people of the Book have never accepted the principle that force of arms can decide issues, they must at times take up arms to protect their persons, their families, homes, settlements and the holy institutions."

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE OF JEWISH SOCIAL WORK ADOPTS DECISIONS ON WELFARE, MIGRATION

ATLANTIC CITY, May 21. (JTA) -- Important decisions on Jewish social work, including the problem of migration, in various countries, were adopted here at the two-day International Conference of Jewish Social Work, attended by delegates from the United States, Europe and Israel. The Conference decided to establish a committee of migration experts for the intensification of its efforts and to cooperate with a committee to better utilize training resources in order to meet personnel needs.

Speakers at the conference included: Jacob Lestschinsky, Dr. M. Wischnitzer, Miss Beta L. Stein, of the Joint Distribution Committee, Mrs. A.F. Schoolman, of the Youth Aliyah, Maurice Eigen of the HIAS, Louis H. Sobel, former president of the National Conference of Jewish Social Welfare, Miss Riva Aronson, of the municipality of Tel Aviv, Rabbi L. Rothschild, of Switzerland, S. Lublin, of Paris, Albert Harris, of the HIAS and Robert Gamzon of France.

The conference also heard Moses Lukaczer report on J.D.C. activities, Dr. David Lwovitz on the work of the ORT, Dr. L. Wulman on "OSE," and Curt Grossman on the World Jewish Congress' welfare programs. Reports were also given by Dr. Carl Frankenstein of the Jewish National Council in Jerusalem, Mrs. A.M. Dushkin of Hadassah, Rabbi S. Gordon of the World Federation of Y.M.H.A., Mrs. Eleanor Barr of the National Council of Jewish Women, and George Rabinoff of the training Bureau for Jewish Communal Service who reported on overseas personnel needs. Dr. Dr. Joseph Beck, Louis H. Sobel and Harry Greenstein presided at the sessions.

The Conference adopted principles of organization adapted from those of the International Conference of Social Work, proposed by Dr. F. Ollendorff of Jerusalem. Louis Kraft and Louis H. Sobel, both of New York, were elected president and vice-president, respectively, and Dr. Ollendorff, honorary secretary. The organization will have offices in New York and in Israel and will publish an international information bulletin on Jewish social work.

RABBI WOLSEY URGES DISSOLUTION OF COUNCIL FOR JUDAISM; CALLS FOR SUPPORT OF ISRAEL

PHILADELPHIA, May 21. (JTA) -- Dr. Louis Wolsey, one of the founders of the American Council for Judaism, today called upon the Council to dissolve itself since the Zionist movement, which the Council opposes, has "discharged its function as a nationalist movement and has attained its purpose," now that Israel has been proclaimed.

Addressing the members of his congregation, Temple Rodeph Shalom, Dr. Wolsey said: "I believe we should support the present reality of a land of Israel, with all our strength. As the founder of the American Council for Judaism, I call upon this organization to dissolve itself, and acknowledge what Mr. Austin called 'the realities,' and cease attacking a movement which in spite of all its mistakes, gives our harried people the only possibility of decency, freedom and dignity."

FRED M. BUTZEL, LEADER OF DETROIT JEWISH COMMUNITY, DIES AT 70; ACTIVE IN MANY CAUSES

DETROIT, May 21. (JTA) -- Fred M. Butzel, leader of the Detroit Jewish community, and one of Michigan's best known social welfare figures, died here last night at the age of 70. Honorary president of the local Zionist Organization and chairman of the state United Jewish Appeal, he devoted a life-time to furthering the programs of nearly every Jewish and non-Jewish philanthropic and social welfare group in the community.

He was active, and in most cases held top leadership positions, in Jewish welfare, educational and civic defense groups too numerous to list. When he was 60, a Jewish National Fund forest was planted in Palestine in his honor. News of his passing was carried this morning in front page obituaries here and tributes to his memory from the city's leaders are pouring into local newspaper offices. He was a native of Detroit and practiced law here since 1899.