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# THE PALESTINE POST

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**THE PALESTINE  
POST**

THE SUBSCRIPTION DEPARTMENT  
has returned to The Palestine Post  
offices, Hassolei Street,  
Jerusalem, Tel. 4233.

# STATE OF ISRAEL IS BORN

The first independent Jewish State in 19 centuries was born in Tel Aviv as the British Mandate over Palestine came to an end at midnight on Friday, and it was immediately subjected to the test of fire. As "Medinat Yisrael" (State of Israel) was proclaimed, the battle for Jerusalem raged, with most of the city falling to the Jews. At the

same time, President Truman announced that the United States would accord recognition to the new State. A few hours later, Palestine was invaded by Moslem armies from the south, east and north, and Tel Aviv was raided from the air. On Friday the United Nations Special Assembly adjourned after adopting a resolution to appoint a mediator but without taking any action on the Partition Resolution of November 29.

Yesterday the battle for the Jerusalem-Tel Aviv road was still under way, and two Arab villages were taken. In the north, Acre town was captured, and the Jewish Army consolidated its positions in Western Galilee.

## Most Crowded Hours in Palestine's History

Between Thursday night and this morning Palestine went through what by all standards must be among the most crowded hours in its history.

For the Jewish population there was the anguish over the fate of the few hundred Haganah men and women in the Kfar Etzion bloc of settlements near Hebron. Their surrender to a fully equipped superior foreign force desperately in need of a victory was a foregone conclusion. What could not be known, with no communications since Thursday morning, was whether and to what extent the Red Cross and the Truce Coms would secure civilized conditions for prisoners and wounded, and proper respect for the dead. Doubts on some of these anxious questions have now been resolved.

On Friday afternoon, from Tel Aviv, came the expected announcement of the Jewish State, and its official naming at birth, "Medinat Yisrael"—State of Israel, with the swearing in of the first Council of Government.

The proclamation of the State was made at midnight, coinciding with the sailing from Haifa of Britain's last High Commissioner. Within the hour, President Truman announced in Washington that the Government of the United States had decided to give *de facto* recognition to the Jewish State, with all that such recognition implied.

The Assembly of the United Nations, meeting since the middle of April for "further study" of the Palestine problem was thus left, by one means or another, to ratify the Two-States decision of November last year, or dissolve with nothing concrete to its credit. The Assembly adjourned with the resolution to appoint a mediator between the Jews and Arabs, to cooperate with the Security Council's Truce Commission in Jerusalem.

**Russian Recognition Awaited**  
Russia and her allies had given early assurance of their intention to recognize the Jewish State, whoever else did or did not. As a result of Washington's action and the Eastern Bloc's stand, other countries are expected to extend their recognition to the newly born state.

Nor did the Arab Bloc remain idle. True to their promises, or threats, the members of the Arab League completed their plans for a full-scale invasion of Palestine in what has been described as a "Moslem crusade" against the Jews. Tel Aviv was bombed twice yesterday by Egyptian war planes. One of the enemy planes was shot down by a Jewish fighter plane, and the pilot taken prisoner, showing that this move against the civilian population was not a surprise, and that the Jewish preparations include anti-aircraft defenses.

A black-out has been ordered for the whole of Jewish Palestine. Tel Aviv itself having blacked out on Friday.

At the same time, the air was filled with reports of two Egyptian columns on the move from the south towards Gaza and Beer-sheba, and of intensified shelling from across the northern border.

On Friday morning, the Truce Commission met at the French Consulate and invited Jewish and Arab representatives to confer with them. Jewish Agency delegates agreed that the "cease fire" be extended in Jerusalem for eight days. Arab representatives could not attend, they said, because of the firing in Julian's Way, and a two-hour respite was arranged from 5 to 7 in the evening. Whether they agreed or not, became academic as by that time the battle for Jerusalem had been renewed.

To Jerusalem's tension was added the aggravation of electric power failing in most parts of the city, as nearly all of the Electric Corporation's lines had been shot down. This meant, on top of the other hardships to a fuel-less city, no broadcast news yesterday, when there were no newspapers. For more than a week the city was also without piped water.

**ACRE CAPTURED**  
Acre, the sea-coast town across the bay from Haifa, was captured by Jewish forces yesterday, the Haganah Radio reported. The surrender of the town, and subsequently two villages to the north, came after a strong Jewish attack.

Arms dumps containing enormous quantities of military equipment were captured. The B.B.C. stated yesterday that almost all of Western Galilee was in Jewish hands, but that Naharayim, on the Jordan, had been occupied by the Legion.

**Double Summer Time in Jerusalem**  
At midnight tonight all clocks in Jewish Jerusalem will be advanced two hours.

The Emergency Committee has instituted double summer time in order to save fuel. The measure does not apply to the rest of the country.

The Jerusalem Electric Corporation will cut off current to the Jewish Quarters from 1 to 9 p.m. as from today.

## JEWS TAKE OVER SECURITY ZONES

The Battle for Jerusalem, which began when the British forces withdrew on Friday morning, continued all day Friday and yesterday. The crackle of small-arms fire and explosions of mortar shells were still being heard in the early hours of this morning as the battle entered its third day.

Repeated efforts on Friday evening and again on Saturday by the U.N. Truce Commission to bring about a "cease fire" were brought to naught when the Arab representatives failed to agree within the specified time limit.

On Friday morning, Jewish forces entered the Russian Compound and Zone C to re-occupy the buildings requisitioned from Jews last year. This operation was almost bloodless, but beyond the western edge of Zone C, Arabs engaged the Jews in Jaffa Road. The Arabs were forced back and the Barclays Bank area was taken.

In other parts of the city fighting flared up. Jews overran one after another the areas evacuated by the British. By last night, the quarters and strongpoints held by Haganah included the German Colony and part of the Baka's Quarter in Zone A, all of Zone B except for the Red Cross area, Sheikh Jarrah (where the Jewish flag was flown from the Mufti's House), the Mea Shearim Police Station and Allenby Barracks on the Bethlehem Road. The I.Z.L. were in occupation of the Scopus Police Billet.

Yesterday afternoon eight cannon shells fell on Jerusalem from the Arab village of Nebi Samwil, more than 100 shells falling in the north-western quarters. Several persons were injured.

Jewish casualties in the two days of fighting were eight killed and a number of wounded. Arab casualties are not known.

## EMERGENCY

A state of emergency in the Jerusalem area was declared to exist by the Haganah Area Commander as from yesterday in what is the first Order of the Day to be issued in almost 2,000 years by a Jewish Military Commander of the city.

The Order said: "With the declaration of the establishment of Medinat Israel (the State of Israel) and the setting up of its Provisional Council of Government, the Jews of Palestine have entered upon the decisive phase of the war.

In order to obviate any disturbance during the difficult time that confronts us, I hereby declare a state of emergency to exist in the Jerusalem District as from 06.01 hours on Saturday, May 15, and I hereby give the following instructions:

1. Every inhabitant must place himself at the disposal of the authorized security forces of Medinat Israel and obey their orders.

2. All property required for the needs of the Military Command must be expropriated by the security forces acting through officers carrying proper documents. Compensation for such expropriated property will be paid according to evaluation by the Jerusalem Committee and at such time as the latter shall decide.

3. The areas evacuated by the forces of the Mandatory Government and now held by the security forces are hereby declared to be Military Occupation Areas under the authority of Military Governors.

4. No person may enter any such area without permission of the Military Governor.

5. Any person found looting or committing any criminal act will be brought before a Military Court and punished with all the rigour of the law.

**The Palestine Post**  
Despite the power failure in Jerusalem, the Electric Corporation succeeded in providing these offices with power about 10.15 last night. There was another failure about 11.15 but again the Corporation was able to restore the current.

Before the linotype machines could begin to work, however, it was 1 a.m., and in order to be able to appear this morning, The Palestine Post is published, for the third time in as many weeks, in two pages.

## Egyptian Air Force Spitfires Bomb Tel Aviv; One Shot Down

Kol Israel, the Tel Aviv broadcasting station, reported at 2 o'clock yesterday afternoon that Tel Aviv had been bombed three times in the previous evening and morning, and that one plane had been shot down and its Egyptian pilot taken prisoner.

In the first raid, four planes attacked from a height of 300 feet. Two dropped bombs, while the others strafed the city. Little damage was caused. In the second attack two hours later, the airport to the north of the city was bombed, and an Air France plane parked there was damaged. The third raid was launched shortly before midday, but the planes were driven off without causing any damage.

Two settlements in the Negev had also been attacked from the air, the radio reported.

## 2 Columns Cross Southern Border

By WALTER COLLINS  
U.P. Correspondent  
CAIRO, Saturday. — A communique issued today by the Egyptian Ministry of National Defence reported that two columns of Egyptian troops, including infantry and artillery, had struck across the Palestine border, preceded by aircraft.

One column was reported to have crossed the frontier 30 miles inland and to have attacked the "Jewish village

## A Good Thing

CAIRO, Saturday (U.P.). — The Egyptian Premier, Nokrashi Pasha, told the press that advance units of the Egyptian army had entered Gaza 12 hours after crossing the frontier.

"This is a very good thing," he added.

of Auja on the road to Beer-sheba, wiping it out because its inhabitants had refused to surrender." (Auja is a police post near the frontier, about 25 miles from the nearest Jewish settlement). The column then entrenched itself on heights east of Gaza.

Meanwhile, according to this Cairo report, another column crossed the border at midnight, travelling north along the coast road towards Gaza. Egyptian sources later reported that their forces had reached the Negev settlements of Nirim and Kfar Darom, but could give no further details.

In Cairo, at midnight, 2,000 Egyptian Police, commanded by 370 Officers, started a round-up of suspected Zionist sympathizers and arrested 600 persons within six hours.

According to Haganah sources, Jewish soldiers beat off an Egyptian "amphibious operation," an attempt to land troops near Ashdod, 20 miles north of Gaza. The ship which attempted to make the landing was forced to turn back, these sources said.

**Arab Legion Cross Border**  
It was reported in Jerusalem last night that troops of the Arab Legion had crossed the border into Palestine in two places, over Allenby Bridge and near the Palestine Electric power station at Naharain.

According to Reuters, the long convoy of the first route of lorry-borne troops, artillery and armoured cars, was headed by King Abdullah, who fired a symbolic pistol shot towards Palestine and wished his troops success in their campaign.

In Cairo, a group of journalists have asked the Egyptian Premier, Nokrashi Pasha, for an interview to discuss the proposed blackout of news, the Cairo Radio has reported.

## U.S. RECOGNIZES JEWISH STATE

WASHINGTON, Saturday. — Ten minutes after the termination of the British Mandate on Friday, the White House released a formal statement by President Truman that the U.S. Government intended to recognize the Provisional Jewish Government as the *de facto* authority representing the Jewish State.

The U.S. is also considering lifting the arms embargo but it is not known whether to Palestine only or the entire Middle East, and the establishment of diplomatic relations with the Jewish Provisional Government.

The White House press secretary, Mr. Charles Ross, told correspondents today that reaction so far to the recognition had been overwhelmingly favourable. He said this step had been discussed with Mr. Marshall and Mr. Lovett before action was taken, and it had their complete support.

Mr. Ross said that the President had decided several days ago to grant American recognition to the new Jewish State, but due to protocol regulations he could not announce his policy until a formal letter arrived. "We were able to move very quickly when the messenger brought the letter," he said, "because the President had already determined the course of action to be taken."

## Provisional Government

A few minutes before five (midnight Palestine time), Mr. Eliyahu Epstein, of the Jewish Agency's Washington Office, handed a letter to the White House, requesting the U.S. to recognize the new Jewish State. "With the full knowledge of the deep bond of sympathy which existed and has been strengthened over the past 30 years between the U.S. Government and the Jewish people of Palestine," the letter said, "I have been authorized by the Provisional Government of the new State to tender this message and express the hope that your Government will recognize and welcome Israel into the community of nations."

In Frankfurt, General Lucius D. Clay, the U.S. Military Commander of Germany, said today that Jews in Germany and Austria would be assisted to leave for the State of Israel as soon as official word of America's recognition was to hand.

## EGYPTIAN INVASION BEFORE U.N. SECURITY COUNCIL

LAKE SUCCESS, Saturday. — Israel today appealed to an emergency meeting of the Security Council to order a halt to Arab invasions into Palestine and, if necessary, to impose economic and military sanctions.

Dr. Mordechai Eliahu, representing the day-old Jewish State, appealed to the Council to act fast against the invading Arab States, because "every hour counts." He stated that King Abdullah of Trans-Jordan, through the instrument of the Arab Legion, was clearly committing an act of aggression.

At the beginning of the session, Dr. Issa Nakhleh, of the Arab Higher Committee, declared that Egyptian forces had been invited by the A.H.C. to assist in the establishment of law and order. He asked: "What right has the Jewish Agency, which represents world Jewry, to complain against this action before the Security Council?"

Mahmoud Bey Fawzi, of Egypt, declared in explanation of a cable which he had earlier

## Proclamation by Head Of Government

The creation of "Medinat Yisrael", the State of Israel, was proclaimed at midnight on Friday by Mr. David Ben Gurion, until then Chairman of the Jewish Agency Executive and now head of the State's Provisional Council of Government.



David Ben Gurion, Prime Minister

## Special Assembly Adjourns

FLUSHING MEADOWS, Saturday. — The Special U.N. Assembly, called four weeks ago to discuss the U.S. proposal for a temporary Trusteeship for Palestine, adjourned yesterday until its next regular meeting in September without taking any decision to alter the resolution of November 29, which called for the setting up of two states in Palestine. The Assembly adopted only one motion — to appoint a special mediator to go to Palestine and cooperate with the Truce Commission.

President Truman's announcement that the U.S. was proposing to recognize the new Jewish State reached newsmen during the session before the American delegation itself knew about it.

All the afternoon, the Assembly had been tied up in knots. After much filibustering it rejected the Franco-U.S. proposal for a special administration for Jerusalem. As the debate dragged on, correspondents sat with stop-watches to see whether a decision would be taken before the six o'clock deadline (N.Y. Summer Time) when the Mandate terminated. As zero hour was reached without a vote, they rushed to the booths, and about ten minutes later, the tickers in the local news agency offices flashed President Truman's recognition.

## Gromyko and Jessup

The Assembly floor was half deserted and the American delegation had not been officially informed. The first to mention the Jewish State from the rostrum was M. Gromyko, who said he saw no need for further action on the American mediator proposal, since the Jewish State had been recognized as a reality by the U.S. He asked what was being proposed for the Arab area of Palestine which was still without a government.

Shortly afterwards, Mr. Philip Jessup, the anti-Partition fighter, mounted the rostrum and officially announced U.S. recognition of the Jewish State, insisting, however, that the passage of the American mediator proposal was more necessary now than ever.

The Assembly passed its vote there was an eerie atmosphere in Flushing Meadows. The lights of the television cameras played on the rostrum, lighting up one Arab speaker after another who mounted the steps and expressed in a low voice frustration and anger.

To the last minute, officials of the State Department had been lobbying right on the floor against the Jewish State, even while the President's statement was already on the wires.

The Assembly did not adopt any resolution at all which altered the U.N. decision of November 29, 1947.

The first act of the Council of Government, as announced by its head, was to abolish all legislation of the 1939 White Paper of the late Mandatory Power, particularly the Ordinances and Orders relating to immigration and land transfer.

In the declaration of Independence, Mr. Ben Gurion called on the Arabs of Palestine to restore peace, assuring them full civil rights and full representation in all governmental organs of the State.

Mr. Ben Gurion prefaced the declaration with a review of the historic connection of the Jewish people with the Land of Israel and of their efforts to return, which never ceased throughout the generations of their dispersal, until the Nazi holocaust proved anew the urgency of the need for a Jewish State.

The Balfour Declaration of 1917, confirmed by the League of Nations, had given explicit international recognition to the right of the Jewish people to reconstitute its National Home in Palestine, he said.

"On November 29, 1947," continued the declaration, "the United Nations decided on the establishment of a Jewish State and an Arab State in Palestine and called upon the inhabitants of the country to take all steps necessary for the establishment of the two States."

## Historic Rights

"This decision cannot now be changed. Accordingly, we, the members of the Provisional Council of Government,"

(Continued on Page 2, Col. 6)

## 2 Villages Taken In Road Battle

In the battle for the Tel Aviv-Jerusalem road, the Haganah on Friday night took Kubeib and Abu Shusha villages between Latrun and Ramle. In engagements elsewhere along the route positions near Latrun and Bab el Wad changed hands.

Jewish casualties in this area in the last two days are about 40 killed. The Iraqis suffered greater losses, but their exact number is unknown.

It was reported that Iraqi troops had entered the Trappist Monastery at Latrun, and had set up strongpoints on the grounds and the building itself.

## Sir Alan Sails From Palestine

The High Commissioner's departure from Palestine on Friday went according to plan — he appeared on the steps of Government House at 8 o'clock in the morning, wearing a full General's uniform. There he reviewed a guard of honour, consisting of 50 men of the Highland Light Infantry, the last British troops to leave Jerusalem.

Sir Alan Cunningham then drove to Kalandia airfield and boarded a plane for Haifa. Spitfires and Lancasters covered his short car journey.

The last British civil servants left Jerusalem together with Sir Alan: including Sir William FitzGerald, the Chief Justice, and Sir Henry Gurney, the Chief Secretary.

Sir Alan's plane was piloted to Haifa by the Air Officer Commanding in Palestine, Air Commodore Dawson.