

1 March, 1948

UNITED NATIONS PALESTINE COMMISSION

DAILY NEWS SUMMARY-23

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Jerusalem, February 29:

Twenty-eight British soldiers were killed when three cars on a Cairo-to-Haifa train were blown up by land mines near Rehovoth. Two soldiers died later of injuries. The Stern Group claimed responsibility for the attack as a reprisal for the Ben Yehuda Street explosion.

In Jerusalem, Jews fought Arabs in continued warfare. Groups of Jews robbed the Jerusalem Municipality Office of \$3,200 and raided a Jerusalem Public Works Department office, stripping it of \$40,000 worth of vehicles and equipment. According to a Jewish source, the Stern Group was responsible for the first job, and the Irgun Zvai Leumi for the second.

New fights between members of the Irgun and Haganah were reported at Jerusalem and Tel Aviv.

Eight hundred unauthorized immigrants from Italy were removed from their schooner at Haifa and shipped to Cyprus. (N.Y. Times, N.Y. Herald Tribune)

London, February 24:

In an editorial entitled "Outrages in Jerusalem" THE TIMES of London states that while Britain feels deep sympathy for the suffering of Jews in the Ben Yehuda Street explosion, their "reckless allegation of British complicity... and the wanton killing and wounding of British soldiers... out of a blind desire for revenge have aroused exasperation and indignation" throughout the country.

These tragic events, the editorial continues, "further strengthen the plea of the Palestine Commission for the organization of an international force to support its forthcoming administration of the Holy Land." In spite of the difficulties of organization, such a force "must somehow be created before May 15 if Palestine is not to lapse into anarchy". Jerusalem, meanwhile, has "special claims upon the immediate attention" of the Security Council. "There is a clear case", concludes the editorial, "for organizing an international police force without delay, and for enlisting

the active support of the leaders of the three religions to which Jerusalem is sacred, in an endeavour to establish forthwith the neutrality of the Holy City".