

U. S. ASKED TO LIFT EMBARGO ON ARMS

**American Jewish Labor Group
and Mayor of Tel Aviv See
Palestine Jews Penalized**

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WASHINGTON, Jan. 16—Strong appeals were made here today for the United States to lift its arms embargo against Palestine. One was made at the State Department, by a delegation of the American Jewish Labor Council. The other was made by Israel Rokach, Mayor of Tel Aviv, at a news conference.

"The embargo is working a terrible hardship on the Jews of Palestine," Mr. Rokach said. "It is the Arab followers of the Mufti, and not the Jews, who are engaged in a war of aggression, and who are defying the United Nations.

"The elementary right of every people to defend itself and international order against aggression is denied to the Jews of Palestine as long as that embargo lasts."

The American Jewish Labor Council made its appeal at a conference with Loy W. Henderson, Director of the Office of Near Eastern and African Affairs of the State Department, during which it requested the United States, "to take the initiative in establishing peace and implementing the United Nations Palestine decision."

Cites "Urgently Needed" Steps

It declared that the following steps were "urgently" needed:

"A warning by the United States to Britain to stop arming and assisting Arab aggression.

"A United Nations ban on the shipment of arms from all nations to Arab states who refuse to accept the United Nations Palestine decision.

"United Nations provision for supplying of arms and munitions to the Jewish people for self-defense.

"Lifting of the State Department embargo on arms to the Middle East, which in effect discriminates against the Jewish people while Arab aggressors are free to obtain arms from neighboring Arab states."

Members of the delegation quoted Mr. Henderson as saying that State Department officials were "horrified" at the killings in Palestine, that the department was "fully aware of the seriousness of the situation" and as promising the department would give "immediate consideration" to the request.

The delegation included Leon Strauss of the International Fur and Leather Workers Union; Bruce Waybur of the United Electrical, Radio and Machine Workers of America; George Hanson of the United Office and Professional Workers of America; Fileno De Novellis of the United Shoe Workers, Joint Council 13; Jack Paley of the Wholesale and Warehouse Workers Union 65, and William Levner of the American Jewish Labor Council.

Urges U. S. to Take Lead

The delegation contended that "Arab bands with British connivance and under the leadership of the Fascist Grand Mufti had unleashed a reign of terror to thwart the will of the United Nations" and that the United States had "responsibility for assuming leadership in implementing the United Nations Palestine decision."

"Unless this responsibility was promptly honored," the delegation insisted, "the United States vote in favor of partition would prove an empty gesture that exposed the Jewish people to dangerous attacks."

Mayor Rokach suggested an international police force of 10,000 men to fix the boundaries of Jewish Palestine after the British withdraw. He had no preference, he said, as to where such a force might be obtained. He expected the British would remain after the mandate expires, probably until Aug. 1.

Declaring that the Jews in Palestine need arms and money, he said:

"But more than that, they need the elimination of British influence which encourages the Arabs to revolt against the United Nations decision and which prevents the Jews from living up to that decision. The Haganah is not weak. But it is treated by the British with their overwhelming might as illegal.

"The Jewish forces cannot appear in the open. Nor can they engage in orderly, systematic operations which would make for public security. They are reduced to hit-and-run tactics, and the British take away their arms at every opportunity they have."