

Cyprus Mail 10.8.46

FIRST BATCH OF ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS EXPECTED IN CYPRUS TOMORROW

Caraolos Camp at Famagusta ready. Four more camps being prepared to receive five thousand

London Saturday. As the British authorities awaited today the start signal from London for the "operation round-up" — the British plan to stop illegal immigration into Palestine — a mysterious telephone call to the Headquarters of the Palestine Land Settlement in the centre of Jerusalem warned that the building would be blown.

Hurried Evacuation

Officials hurriedly evacuated the building which was formerly the Palace Hotel. At the same time British troops were completing the fortifications of the "strong point" in the centre of the city where miles of barbed wire conceal all Government buildings.

Refugee Beachhead Patrolled.

Other troops were closely patrolling the "Refugee

Beachhead" between Natcha and Haifa on the Palestine coast to prevent landings from the "armada" of ships which many Jews believe to be on the high seas.

Naval forces strengthened by the arrival of the cruiser Ajax from Malta were co-operating in the tight blockade of Palestine's 180 mile coastline.

Expected in Cyprus on Monday.

The first batch of illegal immigrants diverted from Palestine was expected to reach the Cyprus port of Famagusta on Monday, reports from Famagusta stated. Troops were working against time to complete the 500 tent camp inside a ten foot barbed wire enclosure a mile from the port.

France will co-operate

(The French Ministry of Interior in response to a request from the British Government stated in Paris today that whenever their attention had been drawn to a possible flow of illegal Jewish immigrants through the French border points or ports, the check on passports and visas at those places was immediately doubled.

The French Ministry of Foreign Affairs said today that the British Government had not sent any note on the subject but "merely drawn attention to the fact that such immigration existed."

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs then asked the Ministry of Interior to co-operate which resulted in notes going out to all port and border officials asking for a close watch on papers of all

immigrants to be most strictly observed.

The Ministry's spokesman declined to say whether any suspected illegal Jewish immigrants had been detained by the French frontier officials or to specify what measures would be taken if any were caught. (R)

Camp personnel arrives.

Early yesterday morning numbers of officers arrived with their baggage at Caraolos camp outside Famagusta, and the second battalion of the Kings Shropshire Light Infantry took up quarters there later in the afternoon.

The transit camp at Famagusta is to be disbanded at the end of this month, and streams of lorries are transporting materials to Caraolos where water mains are being rapidly installed, but where so far there are no signs of any electric light.

Four of the watch towers, roughly built of timber and roofed with corrugated iron, reminiscent of the "Big House" set of American films, are already in position and the foundations of four others are now being dug.

Ready In Two Days

Entering the camp to-day representatives of the press reliably informed that only two hundred and forty tents are being pitched in Caraolos which will be ready for visitors in two days. Each tent will house only four occupants, the larger tents in the smaller of the two blocks being intended for women and children.

Four other Camps to be built

Other equipment inside

Caraolos camp is for four other camps which are being erected along-side. The ports for these have already been marked to arrive, and are being put into place by Cypriot workmen and by British Army personnel, while the amount of barbed wire, and the marked sites of watch towers suggests that these will be as strongly "fortified" as the first.

It was also stated that the guarding of these camps would be in the hands of British personnel only, and that British soldiers would be billeted

Strictest Secrecy

The strictest secrecy is still being maintained, and journalists were again warned that they should "keep away" from the camp.

Harbour authorities were completely in the dark regarding the time and mode of arrival of the illegal immigrants but it was stated that, as Famagusta harbour is unsuited for large vessels, was most probable that the vessel which carried the first five hundred immigrants would anchor off the port, and land the passengers in boats.

Tank Landing Craft Arrived

At 11 a.m. yesterday two tank-landing "Z" craft arrived from Haifa to await further orders which were unspecified, and these could be used for the purpose of landing the immigrants either in the port, or on the beach about a quarter of a mile from the camp

Set שם הארכיון:

14/137 מספר תיק:

Cyprus Mail