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## AMERICAN JEWS HELP STAMP OUT ANTI-SEMITISM IN RUSSIA SAYS SMIDOVITCH

**Declares Constructive work for Russian Jewry Brings Mutual Understanding**

The opinion that American Jews, by their constructive work in Russia in aiding the colonization movement, are helping to stamp out anti-Semitism in Russia, was expressed by Peter Smidovitch, Vice-President of the Soviet Union, in an interview with Betty Ross, an American Jewish correspondent who is now visiting Russia.

David A. Brown, national chairman of the United Jewish Campaign, made public yesterday a cablegram from Moscow reporting the interview.

"The Jewish colonization work is bringing mutual understanding in effacing racial difficulties. We have a firm hope in the success of the Jews on the soil and look forward to the new colonies in Crimea and the Ukraine to develop the cultural level and uplift the standards of the native colonists," Smidovitch stated. "The Soviet Government can only grant land and small credit. The American Jews, by their financial help, make live

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## ZIONISTS AT BERLIN ACTIONS SESSION IN HEATED DISCUSSION OVER AGENCY RECOMMENDATIONS FOR PALESTINE

**Fight Centers Around Executive's Resolution to Adopt American Proposals with Slight Amendments: Laborites and Die-hards Charge Weizmann with 'Surrendering': 'Social Reaction' Seen by Labor Spokesman in Recommendations**

(Jewish Telegraphic Agency)

Berlin, July 21.—The proposals of American and German non-Zionists for formulating a constructive program of Palestine upbuilding work on the basis of sound business principles, as embodied in the recommendations of the Commissioners of the Joint Palestine Survey, recently arrived at the London conference, were the center of a heated struggle among the members of the General Council of the Zionist World Organization in session here. The General Council is the body of the Zionist World movement holding the power of review of Zionist matters between the Zionist Congresses which meet bi-annually.

Strong opposition to the proposals of the American non-Zionists came to the fore during the discussion which was started at the Friday session of the General Council, the Laborites and the die-hard Zionists taking a leading

part in the fight which, as was rumored, may bring about the resignation of Dr. Weizmann's executive if its recommendation is defeated.

The discussion centered around a resolution submitted by the Zionist Executive that the General Council adopt in principle the recommendations of the Jewish Agency Commission consisting of Felix M. Warburg and Dr. Lee K. Frankel of New York, Lord Melchett (Sir Alfred Mond) of London and Oscar Wassermann of Berlin, recently submitted to Louis Marshall, President of the American Jewish Committee, and to Dr. Chaim Weizmann, President of the World Zionist Organization. The Zionist Executive did not ask for a full endorsement of the program outlined by the Commissioners for a five year period with an annual one million pound budget, but suggested that the General Council accept the report in principle although it offers its suggestions for changing some of the recommendations. The representatives of the conservative and progressive elements in the Zionist movement were pitted against the Laborites and radical Zionists and Revisionists in the discussion.

Moses Suprassky of Tel-Aviv, representative of the Palestine middle-class, criticized the Zionist Executive for its failure to exert influence with the Palestine Government. The Palestine authorities, he charged, are hampering the economic growth of the Jewish community in the country.

Dr. Leon Reich of Lemberg, Poland, staunch supporter of the Weizmann policy, defended the attitude of the Zionist Executive and urged that the General Council adopt the recommendations of the non-Zionist Commissioners. "It is established by now that the Zionist movement as it is constituted now cannot by itself achieve the upbuilding of Palestine. The limit of the financial cooperation of the Jewish masses for this purpose has been reached. The General Council must accept the report of the Jewish Agency Commission although some changes should be made," he urged.

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## AGENCY EXPERTS' FINDINGS PRESENT PALESTINE IN NEW LIGHT OF FACTS

**Country Has Two and Three-Quarter Million Acres of Cultivable Land; Credit Facilities are Sufficient but Loan and Trading Corporation with \$5,000,000 Capital Proposed**

(J. T. A. Mail Service)

London, July 9.—Palestine as a land for Jewish colonization, its possibilities for agricultural, industrial and commercial development, is presented in a new light of facts in the findings of the Joint Palestine Survey Commission on which basis the Agency Commission has formulated its report.

The Findings of Facts, together with the Agency Commission's report, were made public in a printed booklet of 182 pages, published here.

In addition to an historical introduction, giving the history of the Jewish attempts to reclaim Palestine, the Zionist movement, leading up to the issuance of the Balfour Declaration, the confirmation of the Mandate by the Council of the League of Nations and the adoption by the United States Congress of the resolution endorsing the Jewish National Home policy, the report gives a comprehensive description of Palestine's conditions and possibilities under the headings (a) Immigration, (b) Agricultural Col-

onization, (c) Industry, (d) Cooperative Movement, (e) Banking and Credit, (f) Public Health, (g) Labor, (h) Finance, (i) Education, (j) Organization of the Jewish Community and (k) The Function of the Government Under the Mandate. In addition to the Commission's conclusions and recommendations the Palestine Mandate, the Palestine Immigration Ordinance of 1925 and the terms of Reference and Specifications to the Survey Commission are appended. The Findings of Facts bring out a number of interesting and important points concerning the possibilities of the country.

On the subject of the possibility and desirability of acquiring additional land, it is said that the total exploitable land surface of Palestine does not exceed 4½ million acres (14,000,000 dunams), of which approximately 2¼ million acres (11,000,000 dunams) are considered as cultivable. There are in Jewish hands about 1,000,000 dunams. These

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## AMERICAN JEWS HELP STAMP OUT ANTI-SEMITISM IN RUSSIA SAYS SMIDOVITCH

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in conditions in the colonies possible. The Soviet Government will not interfere in any way with the establishment of schools and synagogues in the colonies by funds provided by American. American Jewish contributions help the government to keep the peace, for then the peasants do not accuse the Soviet Government of granting special privileges to the Jews. The tremendous energy and enthusiasm of the Jews is overcoming all hardships. They are being handicapped only by the lack of means. Financial help from America secures the success of the colonies and helps the government to solve the differences among the nationalities. Jewish colonization is destroying the artificial differences between the nationalities and making progress a memory of a discarded regime," Smidovitch stated.

## PALESTINE JEWS URGE APPROVAL OF AGENCY REPORT

(Jewish Telegraphic Agency)

Tel-Aviv, July 21.—The conference of representative Jewish organizations in Palestine urged the Zionist Actions Committee now in session in Berlin to accept the report of the Jewish Agency Commission.

The conference was attended by representatives of the middle-class National Party, Sephardic organizations, the Bnai Benjamin, the Committee of Religious National Youth and of associates of American and British Jews.

## AGENCY EXPERTS' FINDINGS PRESENT PALESTINE IN NEW LIGHT OF FACTS

(Continued from page 1)

holdings in July, 1927, were distributed as follows: P.I.C.A. approximately 400,000 dunams; Jewish National Fund 200,000 dunams; Old Settlements and "Achnuzim" 200,000 dunams; American Zion Commonwealth 100,000 dunams; Various Companies and Individuals 100,000 dunams.

The Government of Palestine have in their possession certain State lands which they may put at the disposal of settlers, and the Zionist Organization has been concerned with these possibilities.

Up to the present, the Zionist Organization has received from the Government little in the way of active assistance in the settlement of Jews on the land. The long-awaired negotiations between the Zionist Organization and the Government with reference to the allotment of State lands for Jewish colonization, more particularly in the Beisan area, have up to the present, produced no positive result.

Werkos is collected upon all immovable property on land as well as on buildings. The tax varies according to the legal status of the land under Moslem law. It is levied on the capital value of the property which was to be revalued every five years. In reality there were no general revaluations and property is revalued only when it changes hands or when new buildings are erected. Thus there came to be two categories of taxpayers, differently taxed for exactly the same sort of property: the old-established inhabitants paying werkos calculated upon the extremely low prices of property prevailing 30 or 50 years ago, and the post-war immigrants paying werkos calculated according to prices which were exaggeratedly high and often artificially inflated. This has led to two results: (a) that new immigrants, constituting the active element of the population, are more highly taxed, and (b) that the building industry is checked to some extent. In 1928 the draft of an Urban Property Tax Ordinance was published, whereby the werkos is to be abolished in cities, and replaced by a house tax and a tax on vacant lots.

It is Jewish agriculture which suffers particularly from heavy taxation. In some of the settlements founded by the Zionist Organization since the war the per capita incidence for the working population amounts to four, five, or six pounds, while it amounts to £1.48 in Egypt, £1.75 in Cyprus, and only £2.50 in so wealthy a country as the United States of America. This heavy burden encumbers the Jewish settler from the very first day he establishes himself. That the existing system is indefensible has, indeed, been admitted by the Palestine Government itself, which has def-

initely announced its intention of abolishing it in favor of an equitable land tax on approved modern lines, and has, in fact, already begun to take steps in that direction. It has been repeatedly represented to the Government by the Zionist Organization that some concessions in respect of taxation should be made to new agricultural settlements in their early stages. Similar concessions are freely made in other countries in which the Government desires to encourage agricultural colonization.

With respect to the close settlement of Jews on purchased lands, the matter is primarily one of cost. Whether a farmer purchases his own farm with his own funds, or has the money loaned to him by the Zionist Organization or other organization on land to be purchased for him or on the inalienable land of the Keren Kayemet, the cost of establishing him varies between \$5,000 and \$7,000. These figures are minimal and assume that the family may be productively settled on 100 dunams in the Emek. It has now been found, however, that 100 dunams are insufficient.

There were weighty social and political reasons for reducing the farm unit in Palestine to the lowest economic area. The smaller the farms the larger the number of settlers who could be cared for in a given colony. The result was to reduce the size of farm units below what settlers require to keep them occupied or to earn a living. This is shown in the demand for more land, and the practice of renting outside land, and the extent to which settlers work for wages a part of the time. Palestine experience shows that a dry farm should have from 40 to 80 acres, whether in the Coastal Plain or in the Emek, and that 60 acres is a safer limit than 40. Where the land can be irrigated a much smaller unit is required to support a family. At present Jewish farmers follow Arab practices in irrigation, especially in the recently planted orange groves. The units may be materially reduced if it is found that artificial fertilizers can be profitably applied. In some of the colonies there are many more settlers than are needed to cultivate the land, and so many more than the land can be made to support, that reorganization is called for.

Under the heading of Banking and Credit the Report gives data relating to the Anglo-Palestine Company, Limited; Palestine "Kupat-Am" Bank, Limited; Workers' Bank, Limited; Artisans' Bank, Limited; Mizrahi Bank, Limited; Loan Bank, Limited; "Merkaz", Central Institution for Credit Co-operative Societies in Palestine; Central Bank of Credit Co-operative Societies in Palestine, Limited; Co-operative Bank "Bnai Benjamin", Limited; Palestine Building

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# J.D.B. NEWS LETTER

## AMERICAN-JEWISH STATISTICS ACCORDING TO STATES

(By our Washington correspondent)

Washington, July 21.—In explanation of the figures concerning the number of the Jewish population in the United States, fixed as 4,087,357, the Department of Commerce made public the following table showing the "Statistics for Jewish Congregations, by States, 1926." This table is one of 191 which are to be issued on the basis of the 1926 census of religious bodies in the United States.

State	Number of Congregations	Members, Jews	Expenditures		Value of Synagogue Buildings	
			Number Reporting	Amount	Number Reporting	Amount
Total .....	2,948	4,087,357	1,235	\$16,445,235	1,131	\$100,890,669
Urban .....	2,855	4,071,889	1,202	16,334,214	1,100	100,317,169
Rural .....	93	15,468	33	111,021	31	537,500
New England:						
Maine .....	19	7,582	9	23,480	8	169,500
New Hampshire.....	8	2,129	3	7,500	3	38,500
Vermont .....	5	1,433	—	(**)	—	(**)
Massachusetts.....	142	213,085	71	748,457	70	4,891,500
Rhode Island.....	19	23,385	7	139,700	7	684,000
Connecticut .....	66	89,895	31	240,167	24	1,352,200
Middle Atlantic:						
New York.....	1,126	1,896,593	365	6,720,538	359	44,394,260
New Jersey.....	184	217,258	79	882,237	71	5,085,000
Pennsylvania.....	295	392,544	130	1,385,319	119	10,092,583
East North Central:						
Ohio .....	109	166,264	46	829,072	46	7,247,100
Indiana .....	46	23,620	26	193,867	19	946,500
Illinois .....	171	338,179	79	936,262	86	7,754,478
Michigan .....	62	83,353	35	346,774	34	1,722,300
Wisconsin .....	34	32,013	18	146,361	16	678,100
West North Central:						
Minnesota .....	33	39,925	14	170,165	10	577,000
Iowa .....	26	12,712	14	65,212	9	111,500
Missouri .....	61	76,604	23	829,184	13	1,468,500
North Dakota .....	9	1,653	7	16,640...	4	213,000
South Dakota .....	4	380	—	(**)	—	(**)
Nebraska .....	10	12,141	5	69,626	6	233,500
Kansas .....	7	24,473	3	21,500	3	110,000
South Atlantic:						
Delaware .....	4	5,000	4	48,942	3	128,000
Maryland .....	66	69,654	32	331,328	29	2,392,400
Dist. of Columbia.....	5	16,000	5	83,014	4	343,000
Virginia .....	28	22,330	13	95,255	12	820,000
West Virginia .....	17	5,059	9	66,981	6	454,000
North Carolina .....	22	3,602	10	75,042	8	290,000
South Carolina .....	15	3,234	7	18,628	6	140,000
Georgia .....	23	18,366	11	89,308	9	423,000
Florida .....	28	12,060	17	247,589	13	722,000
East South Central:						
Kentucky .....	18	15,548	10	90,795	8	447,500
Tennessee .....	15	19,031	6	50, 782	6	404,000
Alabama .....	21	9,218	15	73,600	10	320,500
Mississippi .....	19	3,091	8	38,538	8	161,000
West South Central:						
Arkansas .....	15	5,140	7	22,155	5	142,000
Louisiana .....	23	13,845	9	95,924	6	283,000
Oklahoma .....	9	4,098	4	46,484	4	215,000
Texas .....	49	39,237	35	625,874	31	2,215,248
Mountain:						
Montana .....	3	671	—	(**)	—	—
Colorado .....	22	18,950	12	105,676	10	470,000
New Mexico .....	3	351	—	(**)	—	(**)
Arizona .....	4	933	3	5,650	—	—
Utah .....	3	2,290	3	24,200	—	(**)
Pacific:						
Washington .....	13	13,090	6	83,348	7	639,000
Oregon .....	8	12,000	3	40,406	—	(**)
California .....	75	118,024	33	294,183	30	954,500
Other States.....	4	1,314	8	19,472	9	1,167,000

\* States having less than 3 congregations (or less than 3 congregations reporting expenditures or value of synagogue buildings).

\*\* Included in the amount shown of "Other States."

# AGENCY EXPERTS' FINDINGS PLACE PALESTINE IN NEW LIGHT OF FACTS

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The American Savings Association, Limited; Palestine Finance Corporation, Limited; and General Mortgage Bank of Palestine, Limited.

In comparison, it proceeds, with the per capita circulation in England, Germany, and other highly developed countries where, in addition, to the currency in circulation bank clearings are very considerable, the figure for Palestine shows that the amount in circulation is well adjusted to the purchasing power. This suggests that the present high level of prices is not due to inflation, but has its roots in a defective system of distribution. In fact, in Palestine, the number of middlemen is excessive. The middlemen themselves in the majority of cases have to purchase their supplies in small quantities; hence, they are forced to pay more. The situation will only be relieved when cheaper goods and cheaper credits become available. Standardization of requirements would also aid materially.

Credit facilities in Palestine are sufficient. Banks and loan institutions closely affiliated with Jewish interests have already extended in credits roughly £2,000,000. In addition, substantial credits have been granted to Jews by the large international banking institutions operating in Palestine. Where requests for credit have not been granted it has usually been due to the fact that the ventures could not justify command such facilities when judged by the usual banking standards. Such ventures frequently need to have credit extended to them. This can only be supplied by institutions which are not forced to adopt a strict banking criterion. At the present time a number of such institutions are already operating in Palestine. In order to meet in a larger measure the demands for credits of this type there is room for a large Loan and Trading Corporation which, perhaps, might incorporate or consolidate the existing institutions. Working in close contact with the Jewish Agency the Corporation could foster new industrial activities, stimulate trade, and assist the process of distribution through the establishment of strategically located warehouses. The Corporation could also render appreciable service in making advances to farmers, growers and other exporters on the security of their products to the end that better returns may be realized than the present, largely chaotic, marketing methods permit.

It is estimated that under present conditions such a Corporation could probably employ from £2,750,000 to £3,100,000.

## ZIONISTS IN BERLIN IN HEATED DISCUSSION OVER AGENCY REPORT (Continued from page 1)

Deputy Dr. Rarbostein of Warsaw, Poland, representative of the Orthodox Zionist Organization Mizrahi, criticised the recommendations of the Jewish Agency Commission, alleging that they are contrary to decisions adopted by the Zionist Congress. Nevertheless, he stated that the Mizrahi delegates will vote for the adoption of the recommendations if amended.

Dr. Felix Rosenbluth, speaking in behalf of the Zionist Executive, stated that the recommendations of the Joint Palestine Survey Commission do not constitute a document of the Jewish Agency proper, but they provide the basis for cooperation between the Zionists and non-Zionists. He urged that the resolution of the Zionist Executive allowing for amendments, be adopted.

M. Sprinkzak of Jerusalem, representative of the Jewish Socialist party Ikhuduth, led the attack against the recommendations of the Agency Commission. The report, he stated, is permeated with a spirit of "social reaction." Cooperation between Zionists and non-Zionists through the Jewish Agency will be possible only if the conditions laid down by the Zionist Congress are fulfilled.

M. Kaplanzky of Jerusalem, representing the Socialist party Poale Zion, charged the Zionist Executive with "surrendering the ideals of the Zionist movement to the desires of a group of notables." The resolution introduced by the Zionist Executive asking authority for the appointment of a provisional Jewish Agency committee to negotiate with the American non-Zionists is an attempt to usurp the power of the Zionist Congress, he said.

Deputy Isaac Gruenbaum of Warsaw, embittered foe of the idea to extend the Jewish Agency to include non-Zionists, predicted that the recommendations will be defeated and together with them the Zionist Executive. "Take your choice between the ideal of Zionism and the recommendations of the non-Zionists," he exclaimed.

M. M. Ussishkin, Jerusalem head of the Jewish National Fund, whose land leasing system was not endorsed in the Commissioners' recommendations, expressed his lack of confidence in the Jewish Agency idea. "Those who are alien to the ideals of Zionism do not understand the spirit of the Jewish National Fund land policy," he stated.

M. Dizengoff, former mayor of Tel-Aviv, pleaded for the adoption of the recommendations. "A flat refusal would be a political crime," he stated. He suggested that the Palestine work under the Agency plan be divided along the following lines: the neutrals being in charge of the credit work while the Zionists administer the other funds.

Dr. Arthur Ruppin, former member of the Zionist Executive, stated that the experts' report contained many shortcomings which are responsible for the failure to notice the main problems. The recommendations however, were made with good intention and if amended, the report is to be accepted, he stated.

Richard Lichtenheim, Berlin, a Revisionist, asked the General Council to reject the recommendations. An understanding between the Zionists and non-Zionists is impossible, he stated. Since the Zionist Executive has failed to carry out the resolutions of the Zionist Congress, the General Council must stop the effort to extend the Jewish Agency.

Ben Gurion, Jerusalem, speaking for the Jewish Socialist party Achduth Ha-Avodah, urged the rejection of the report. As Socialists we are not afraid of the capitalistic conservatism, but as Zionists we must reject the attempt to impose upon us a foreign will, he stated.

## MIKITIN, FIGURE IN STEIGER TRIAL, GRANTED AMNESTY (Jewish Telegraphic Agency)

Lemberg, July 21.—Nikolai Mikitin, the Polish official who played a prominent part in the Steiger trial and was sentenced to jail for falsifying evidence, was released from prison on an order granting amnesty.

Mikitin was one of the leading figures in the trial of the student Stanislaw Steiger, who was charged with having thrown a bomb at the Polish president Wojciechowski. Steiger was after a long trial found to be innocent and was released by the court.

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