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NEW PALESTINE JEWISH ASSEMBLY HOLDS FIRST MEETING: ONLY THREE ABSENTEES - MISS HENRIETTA SZOLD MR. USSISCHKIN AND MR. JABOTINSKY. RESOLUTION ADOPTED UNANIMOUSLY PROTESTING AGAINST MR. JABOTINSKY'S EXCLUSION FROM PALESTINE BY GOVERNMENT: REVISIONIST PARTICIPATION DEPENDS ON ASSEMBLY'S ATTITUDE ON GOVERNMENT NEGOTIATIONS LEGISLATURE AND DEVELOPMENT SCHEME REVISIONIST GROUP DECLARES DECLINING MEMBERSHIP OF PRESIDIUM: DR. ARLOSSOR-OF DEFENDS GOVERNMENT NEGOTIATIONS AND URGES MODUS VIVENDI WITH ARABS WHILE EMPHASISING JEWISH RIGHT TO PALESTINE NOT OPEN TO DISCUSSION: DISORGANISATION AND LACK OF LEADERSHIP GREATEST ENEMY MR. RUTENBERG SAYS IN MESSAGE TO MEETING.

Jerusalem, Feb. 9th. (Jewish Telegraphic Agency).

The stand which will be taken on the Jewish Agency negotiations with the Government, the Palestine Legislature project and the Simpson Development Scheme will determine the measure of our participation here and in the next Vaad Leumi, the representatives of the Revisionist fraction declared at the first meeting of the new Palestine Jewish Assembly (Assefath Hanivcharim) elected a month ago, in refusing membership of the Presidium at its first meeting held this afternoon in the Lecture Hall of the Straus Health Centre. The Simpson Development Scheme was described by the Revisionists as designed to build up an Arab national home not a Jewish national home in Palestine.

The chair was taken by Mr. D. Ben-Gurion, the Palestine Labour leader, whose Party forms the largest group in the new Assembly, holding 32 of the 71 seats, with the Revisionists, with 15 seats coming second. Mr. Ben-Gurion, Mr. Eliezer Kaplan, Mr. Joseph Meyuhas, Dr. Benzion Mossinsohn, Rabbi Ostrowsky, and Rabbi Cohen, a Yemenite member, constitute the Presidium.

Only three of the 71 members were absent - Miss Henrietta Szold, Mr. M. M. Ussischkin, and Mr. Jabotinsky, who are all out of the country. A resolution protesting against the Government's action in excluding Mr. Jabotinsky from Palestine was adopted unanimously.

Mr. Rutenberg, the President of the retiring Vaad Leumi, was not present but he sent a message, in which he says that disorganisation and the lack of leadership is the greatest enemy at this present most critical period. Salvation lies in the hands of the Yishub itself, he declares.

The Jewish Agency, on the other hand, dwells in its message to the Assembly, which is signed by Colonel Kisch, on the bond existing between the Yishub - described as now forming through the new Assembly a part of the recognised law of the ancestral home of the Jewish people - and world Jewry.

The entire Jewish Agency Executive were present, as well as the Jewish officers of the Government, who did not, however, deliver any message of greetings. A question was put to the Chairman in this connection as to whether the Government was represented at the meeting, Mr. Ben-Gurion replying that the Chair was not aware, and was not interested.

Chief Rabbis Kook and Jacob Meir both sent messages to the Assembly, in which they make appeals for unity.

Rabbi Uziel delivered a memorial address for the victims of the Palestine disturbances of August 1929, for Achad Ha'am, Louis Marshall, Lord Balfour, Lord Melchett and Lina and Nathan Straus.

A sense of the imminent publication of the Government statement in reply to the Jewish Agency in the negotiations with the Government Committee was apparent in the opening speech on the political and economic position of Palestine Jewry delivered by Dr. Arlonsoroff, who defended the Cabinet negotiations and urged a modus vivendi with the Arabs, although the right of the Jews to Palestine, he said, is not open to discussion.

On the whole, the quiet and subdued tone in which Mr. Ben Zvi delivered his report on behalf of the outgoing Vaad Leumi, recounting the difficulties it had encountered since the Palestine disturbances, was characteristic of the entire proceedings, which were only occasionally enlivened by some interruption from the Left Poale Zion members.

GRAND MUFTI TRIED TO PREVENT INDIAN MOSLEM LEADER SHAUKAT ALI SEEING COLONEL KISCH TO THANK HIM FOR JEWISH AGENCY MESSAGE OF SYMPATHY ON HIS BROTHER'S DEATH: DISCLOSURE MADE WHEN COLONEL KISCH VISITS SHAUKAT ALI: RABBI BLAU ALSO VISITS HIM ON BEHALF OF AGUDAH.

Jerusalem, Feb. 9th. (Jewish Telegraphic Agency).

Colonel Kisch visited to-day Shaukat Ali, the Indian Moslem leader (whose speech at Jaffa that the Jews must change their policy in Palestine was reported in yesterday's J.T.A. Bulletin). Shaukat Ali said that he had intended seeing Colonel Kisch before, in order to acknowledge and thank him for the message of sympathy sent him by the Executive of the Jewish Agency on the occasion of the funeral of his brother, Mohamed Ali. The Grand Mufti of Jerusalem, it appears, however, had done his utmost to prevent a meeting.

Rabbi Blau also visited Shaukat Ali to-day on behalf of the Agudath Israel.

SHACKLING JEWS NOT NEEDED FOR PROMOTION OF ARAB WELL-BEING PROFESSOR ELWOOD MEAD UNITED STATES COMMISSIONER OF RECLAMATION TELLS JEWISH NATIONAL FUND CONFERENCE IN AMERICA: IS DIRECTLY OPPOSED TO ARAB ECONOMIC PROGRESS: IF GOVERNMENT WISHES TO CREATE ARAB SETTLEMENTS LIKE JEWISH SETTLEMENTS GOVERNMENT PRESSURE CANNOT DO IT.

Washington, Feb. 9th. (Jewish Telegraphic Agency).

Shackling the Jews is not needed for the promotion of Arab well-being, Professor Elwood Mead, United States Commissioner of Reclamation, who was a member of the Joint Palestine Survey Commission, said in a statement to the Jewish National Fund Conference now meeting here.

On the contrary, he declared, it is directly in opposition to Arab economic progress. The reason for suspending Jewish development is really a tribute to Jewish success, he went on. If the British Government wishes to create Arab settlements like Jewish settlements in Palestine, it will fail because the Arabs are not adjusted to it and cannot discard their primitive tools, nor adopt new ideas. Government pressure cannot promote such a movement. Meanwhile, he concluded, a great injustice is being inflicted upon the people who have contributed to Palestine's development.

DECISION AS TO CONSTRUCTION OF OIL PIPE LINE TO HAIFA DEPENDS ON OUTCOME OF IRAQ PETROLEUM COMPANY'S NEGOTIATIONS WITH IRAQ GOVERNMENT: GOVERNMENT STATEMENT IN PARLIAMENT: AGREEMENT WITH PALESTINE AND TRANSJORDAN GOVERNMENTS ONLY FORMAL LAYING DOWN CONDITIONS ON WHICH COMPANY WILL BE ALLOWED TO CONSTRUCT PIPE LINE THROUGH THOSE TERRITORIES.

London, Feb. 10th. (Jewish Telegraphic Agency).

Negotiations are still in progress between the Iraq Petroleum Company and the Government of Iraq, and I am not in a position to say whether any agreement has been reached, Dr. Drummond Shiels, the Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies, said in the House of Commons this afternoon in reply to a question by Mr. Hore-Belisha, a Jewish member of the Liberal Party, associated with the Seventh (Palestine) Dominion League.

The Company has negotiated a formal agreement with the Governments of Palestine and Transjordan regarding the conditions on which it will be allowed to construct a pipe line through those territories, Dr. Shiels explained, but the decision as to construction must obviously depend upon the outcome of the negotiations with Iraq.

Dr. Shiels' statement bears out what was suggested in this regard in the J.T.A. Bulletin of the 5th. inst., that "the convention signed between the Iraq Petroleum Company and the Palestine Government is still contingent upon the conclusion of an agreement between the Company and the Government of Iraq", and further that "the negotiations between the Iraq Petroleum Company and the Governments of France and the French mandated territories of Syria and Lebanon have not yet been completed and it is still possible that an agreement will be reached to lay the oil pipe line to Alexandretta, Tripolis or some other Syrian port, as well as to Haifa, carrying out the much-discussed bifurcation project. In any case, the possibility of the oil pipe line being built to a Syrian port as well as to Haifa is not disposed of by the agreement".

French Anxiety Lest Line Be Constructed Only To Haifa And Construction Of Tripoli Line Postponed Indefinitely Owing to Diplomatic Troubles: M. Briand Asked To Explain Position To Senate Foreign Affairs Commission.

The Foreign Affairs Committee of the French Senate, the "Times" reports to-day, has directed its chairman to request M. Briand, the Minister for Foreign Affairs, to appear before it and to furnish it with precise information as to the present relations between Syria and Iraq, the schemes for pipe lines between Mosul and the sea, and "the value of certain news quite recently published". The decision to call upon M. Briand was reached only after a long discussion, in the course of which several members of the Committee repeated the statement that an agreement had been reached some six months ago between Great Britain, France, Syria, and Iraq. By this agreement it is understood that the pipe line had been so designed that one branch would terminate at Tripolis, and would thus be under French control, while the other would terminate at Haifa and would be under British control. It was stated by various Senators that the line to Tripolis would traverse a flat country and could be constructed at a "relatively low cost, while the other would cross a hilly country and its construction would be expensive. Reference was made to recent statements in the French Press according to which it was now intended to construct only the line to Haifa and to postpone the construction of the line to Tripolis indefinitely owing to diplomatic difficulties.

POSITION OF STAATENLOSE IN LITHUANIA BROUGHT UP BEFORE LEAGUE OF NATIONS.

Geneva, Feb. 9th. (Jewish Telegraphic Agency).

The position of the Staatenlose in Lithuania in connection with the new Government regulations preventing non-citizens obtaining employment in the country has been raised in a petition submitted to the League of Nations by Mr. Aberson, the permanent representative in Geneva of the Committee of Jewish Delegations and the Council for the Protection of Jewish Minorities, which includes the American Jewish Congress.

NOT DIRECTED AGAINST ANY SECTION OF POPULATION AND NO GROUND FOR FEAR WITH REGARD TO POSITION OF JEWS LITHUANIAN PRESIDENT ASSURES J.T.A.: NEW EMPLOYMENT LAW A NECESSITY FOR STATE BUT WILL BE CARRIED OUT SCRUPULOUSLY WITHOUT WRONGING ANYONE.

Kovno, Feb. 9th. (Jewish Telegraphic Agency).

I want to say that the law is in no way whatever directed against any section of our population; the President of the Lithuanian Republic, M. Smetona, declared in an interview with the J.T.A. representative here, who had asked whether the President was aware of the anxiety among the Jews in Lithuania and abroad with regard to the position of the Jewish Staatenlose under the new employment regulations.

There is no ground for fear, therefore, with regard to the position of the Jews, the President said. I can assure you that we shall carry out the provisions of the law, which is a State necessity for us, with the utmost scrupulousness, and we shall endeavour as far as possible to meet all interests. It is not to our advantage to wrong anyone. You can make this statement public with the utmost assurance, the President declared.

The Lithuanian people is taking the road of humanity, upholding the traditions of its ancient leader and national hero, Witold the Great, the President went on, and it makes no distinction whatever between the citizens of the country. Lithuania is a small State, inhabited by people of diverse nationalities and faiths. The Government endeavours to meet the needs of all citizens of the country, irrespective of nationality, faith or culture.

Not long ago, the President said, I instructed the Minister of Education to send one of our stipend-holders to Palestine, to attend the Hebrew University there in order to learn the Hebrew language thoroughly, because we need experts to enable us to administer the network of Hebrew schools existing in Lithuania.

We know, he continued, that your modern Jewish culture is bi-lingual. We reckon, indeed, with this fact, although we would prefer it if we had to deal only with one Jewish national language. Being a classicist myself, I am inclined to Hebrew, insofar as it is possible to revive the language and to adapt it to modern life, but it is an internal Jewish question, and administratively we treat both languages on an equal level. In the small town of Wilkomir, for instance, the President said, there are two high schools, one providing instruction in Yiddish and the other in Hebrew, and we support both.

GREATEST MISTAKE WAS MADE WHEN CUZA WAS APPOINTED PROFESSOR AT JASSY THIRTY YEARS AGO SAYS M. SOCOR? EDITOR OF "ADEVERUL" WHOSE ATTEMPTED ASSASSINATION LED TO ARREST OF ANTI-SEMITIC LEADERS.

Bucharest, Feb. 9th. (Jewish Telegraphic Agency).

The greatest mistake made by a Roumanian Government was when Cuza was 30 years ago appointed Professor at Jassy, whence he has been incessantly infecting the school youth with his poisonous ideas, resulting in attacks upon people who have protested against these false ideas of nationalism, M. Socor, the editor of the "Adeverul", whose attempted assassination by the Cuzist student Dumitrescu, brought about the recent suppression of the antisemitic terrorist organisations, the Archangel Michael and the Iron Guard, and the arrest of their leaders Codreanu, Totu, Danila, and others, declared at a gathering given by his friends yesterday to celebrate his escape.

I shall continue, M. Socor declared, to fight for liberty and truth and the rights of all people against the obscurantism and fanaticism of the antisemites.

JEWS OF PROVINCIAL PLACES REALLY SUFFERING BY BEING COMPELLED TO BE IDLE TWO DAYS IN WEEK GOVERNMENT PARTY LEADER IN POLISH PARLIAMENT ADMITS SAYING MODIFICATIONS OF SUNDAY CLOSING LAW NECESSARY: CLAIMS GOVERNMENT ACTIONS SHOWN JEWS HAVE NO NEED OF WORKING WITH MINORITIES BLOC: JEWISH COMMUNITIES MUST BE RELIGIOUS COMMUNITIES NOT ZIONIST PLATFORMS HE DECLARES IN REPLY TO DEPUTY SOMMERSTEIN'S OBJECTION.

Warsaw, Feb. 9th. (Jewish Telegraphic Agency).

The Jews of the provincial parts are really suffering by being compelled to be idle two days in the week, and it is necessary to introduce modifications into the Sunday Observance Law, Deputy Holowko, leader of the Pro-Government Club in the Sejm, said speaking to-day in the debate on the budget of the Ministry of the Interior.

The Government has shown the Jews by its actions, he went on, that there is no need for them to work with a minorities bloc as they have done in the past. The Government is proceeding to carry into effect a number of important projects for regulating the Jewish position, he continued, as, for instance, the regulation of the Jewish Communities. The Jewish Communities must be religious communities and not Zionist platforms, he retorted when Deputy Sommerstein, member of the Club of Jewish Deputies, interjected - "We don't want such communities!"

Deputy Holowka was praising the schools of the Hebrew Cultural Organisation Tarbut, when Deputy Sommerstein again interrupted him to point out that all the same the Government was giving only 10,000 zlotys as its subvention for 28,000 pupils attending the Tarbut schools.

SHOLOM ASH DENOUNCED AS HERETIC BY LODZ JEWISH COMMUNITY REJECTING PROPOSAL TO ASSOCIATE ITSELF WITH BANQUET ON HIS FIFTIETH BIRTHDAY.

Warsaw, Feb. 9th. (Jewish Telegraphic Agency).

Sholom Ash, the famous Yiddish novelist, whom the Communists recently denounced as a counter-revolutionary, has now been denounced as a heretic (apikoirus) and a Bundist, by the President of the Jewish Community of Lodz, Deputy Minzberg, a leading Agudist and a member of the Government Party in the Sejm, in moving a resolution adopted by the Community rejecting the invitation to associate itself with a banquet to be given by his admirers to Sholom Ash in honour of his recent fiftieth birthday. The Zionist and Folkist representatives voted in the minority for participation in the banquet.

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