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STATUS QUO AT THE WAILING WALL: J.T.A. FORECAST OF INTERNATIONAL  
 WAILING WALL COMMISSION'S REPORT EXPECTED TO BE PUBLISHED  
 THIS WEEK.

Geneva, Feb. 22nd. (Jewish Telegraphic Agency).

The maintenance of the Status Quo, the J.T.A. representative here understands, is in broad terms the verdict contained in the report of the International Wailing Wall Commission set up by the League of Nations Council at the request of the British Government to settle finally the question of the respective claims of the Jews and Moslems at the Wailing Wall, which (as reported in the J.T.A. Bulletin of the 20th. inst.) is expected to be published next Thursday, the 26th. inst.

The report will be a big document, he gathers, running to about 80 pages of typescript and consisting of two parts, the first a historical survey of the Wailing Wall question and conflict, and the second consisting of about seven or eight pages, containing the conclusions and verdict of the Commission. The Commission, basing its decision on the terms of Article 13 of the Mandate for Palestine, which places upon the Mandatory Power all responsibility in connection with the Holy Places in Palestine, of preserving existing rights and securing free access and the free exercise of worship, while ensuring the requirements of public order and decorum, at the same time making the further provision that "nothing in this Mandate shall be constructed as conferring upon the Mandatory authority to interfere with the fabric or the management of purely Moslem shrines, the immunities of which are guaranteed, has formulated an exact and detailed regulation laying down the rights of the Jews at the Wailing Wall, with regard to their approach to the Wall for worship, and the use of the appurtenances required for Jewish worship, which, in accordance with the terms of reference under which the Commission was appointed, are final, and will now take the place of the temporary regulations issued after the publication of the White Paper on the Wailing Wall by the British Government in 1928.

Judge Barde, one of the three members of the International Wailing Wall Commission, who is resident in Geneva, said in the course of an interview with the J.T.A. representative here to-day, that the Commission had been well received by both sections of the population in Palestine, Jews and Moslems.

Both sections had been absolutely correct and courteous in their attitude to the Commission and had endeavoured to facilitate its work, providing it with all the information they had and supplying a large number of documents. Although the Commission had been given powers by the British Government and the League of Nations Council to settle finally the conflict at the Wailing Wall, Judge Barde said, the members of the Commission had nevertheless been anxious to obtain a voluntary settlement by agreement between the parties than to pronounce a verdict and have it enforced.

They regretted, Judge Barde said, that they had not been able to bring about such an agreement, which he did not think by any means impossible. The aim of the Commission had been to find a way of establishing real peace in Palestine on the principles of Justice, and they believed that their verdict embodied such a compromise decision as might have been reached by agreement between the parties, and they were confident that it would help to calm the atmosphere in Palestine, and to promote the great work of peace and goodwill between the different sections of the Palestine population.

Judge Barde went on to say that he had been very much struck in Palestine by the admirable Jewish upbuilding work, and he was particularly impressed by the Jewish achievements in medicine and hygiene. He had visited the Hadassah institutions in Jerusalem, he said, and had found the most modern methods employed there. He had also been to Tel Aviv and had admired the rapidity of its development. He hoped, he said, that with moderation and understanding on both sides, it would be possible to reach an agreement and in that way to ensure the unhampered development of the country, in the interests of both its peoples.

Status Quo As Defined In White Paper: No Innovations May Be Made By Jews.

The Western or Wailing Wall formed part of the western exterior of the ancient Jewish Temple; as such, it is holy to the Jewish community, and their custom of praying there extends back to the Middle Ages and possibly further, the White Paper of 1928 said. The Wall is also part of the Haram-al-Sharif; as such, it is holy to Moslems. Moreover, it is legally the absolute property of the Moslem community, and the strip of pavement facing it is Waqf property, as is shown by documents preserved by the Guardian of the Waqf. The Jewish community have established an undoubted right of access to the pavement for the purposes of their devotions, but, whenever protests were made by the Moslem authorities, the Turkish authorities repeatedly ruled that they would not permit such departures from the existing practice as the bringing of chairs and benches to the pavement. It is understood that a ruling prohibiting the bringing of screens to the pavement was given in 1912.

The Palestine Government and His Majesty's Government, having in mind the terms of Article 13 of the Mandate for Palestine, have taken the view that the matter is one in which they are bound to maintain the status quo, which they have regarded as being, in general terms, that the Jewish Community have a right of access to the pavement for the purposes of their devotions, but may bring to the Wall only those appurtenances of worship which were permitted under the Turkish regime. Whenever the Moslem authorities have preferred complaints that innovations have been made in the established practice, and the Palestine Government on enquiry have satisfied themselves that the complaints were well founded, they have felt it their duty to insist that the departures from practice which gave rise to the complaints should be discontinued.

His Majesty's Government regard it as their duty, and it is their intention to maintain the established Jewish right of access to the pavement in front of the Wall for the purposes of their devotions and also their right to bring to the Wall those appurtenances that they were allowed to take to the Wall under the Turkish regime. It would be inconsistent with their duty under the Mandate were they to endeavour to compel the Moslem owners of the pavement to accord any further privileges or rights to the Jewish community.

The Colonial Office informs the J.T.A. today that the Report of the Wailing Wall Commission will not be published this week as was anticipated and that the date of publication will not be known before next week.

NEW GOVERNMENT LETTER ON PALESTINE HAS REMOVED HARMFUL EFFECTS OF WHITE PAPER AND IS IMPORTANT STEP TOWARDS ITS ANNULMENT SAYS RESOLUTION ADOPTED BY NEW YORK ZIONIST REGION ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE MEETING UNDER LOUIS LIPSKY'S CHAIRMANSHIP.

New York, Feb. 23rd. (Jewish Telegraphic Agency).

Satisfaction with the new Government letter of interpretation of the White Paper of 1930 is expressed in a resolution adopted to-day after long discussion by the Administrative Committee of the New York Zionist Region held under the chairmanship of Mr. Louis Lipsky, former President of the Zionist Organisation of America.

The Government letter has removed the harmful effect of the White Paper and is an important step towards its annulment, the resolution proceeds, praising Dr. Weizmann and his colleagues for their efforts which have resulted in obtaining this new statement.

NO SPECIAL SIGNIFICANCE ATTACHED TO VISIT TO EX-KING HUSSEIN IN TRANSJORDAN SAYS PALESTINE ZIONIST EXECUTIVE: UNDERTAKEN BY COLONEL KISCH AND DR. YELLIN ONLY TO PAY THEIR RESPECTS TO AGED EX-MONARCH: INTERVIEWS WERE INFORMAL AND FRIENDLY.

Jerusalem, Feb. 22nd. (Jewish Telegraphic Agency).

No special significance is attached to the week-end visit paid by Colonel Kisch and Dr. David Yellin to Amman, the Palestine Zionist Executive states. The visit was undertaken by them only in order to pay their respects to the ex-King Hussein, who is now staying there. They had lunch with him and with his son, Emir Abdullah, the Ruler of Transjordan. All the interviews which took place were informal and of a very friendly character.

SHAUKAT ALI INCITING SYRIAN ARABS AGAINST JEWS: JEWS DESIGNING TO OBTAIN ALSO SYRIA AND IRAQ HE IS SAID TO HAVE TOLD THEM AT BEIRUT: WOULDN'T HESITATE TO SEIZE EVEN KAABAH AT MECCA IF YOU COULD HE CLAIMS HE REPORTED TO DR. WEIZMANN IN LONDON INTERVIEW.

Jerusalem, Feb. 22nd. (Jewish Telegraphic Agency).

Zionism is not satisfied with Palestine alone, and is designing to obtain also Syria and Iraq, Shaukat Ali, the Indian Moslem leader, is reported to have declared at Beirut, the big Syrian seaport, where he is now staying after his recent visit to Palestine.

Dr. Weizmann, he alleged, had told him that the Jews expect to possess all the Arab lands with the consent of their inhabitants, leaving only the Hedjaz for the Moslems.

You wouldn't hesitate to seize even the Kaabah at Mecca (the most sacred Moslem shrine in the world) if you could, Shaukat Ali said he retorted to Dr. Weizmann.

The late Mohamed Ali, Shaukat Ali's brother, for whose funeral in the Mosque of Omar he went to Palestine, also conducted a violent campaign against Zionism during his stay in Palestine in 1928, in consequence of which questions were asked in the House of Commons, Commander Kenworthy, for instance, asking under what circumstances this Indian Moslem agitator had been permitted to enter Palestine, where he was making attacks upon His Majesty's Government in Palestine, upon the terms of the Mandate and on the Zionists and their programme generally, and why this agitation by a Moslem not an inhabitant of Palestine was permitted in territory held under a Mandate of the League of Nations.

JEWS SHOULD TAKE FULL SHARE IN PEACE MOVEMENT SIR HERBERT SAMUEL SAYS AT JEWISH PEACE SOCIETY MEETING AT HIS HOUSE: ORGANISED RELIGION OUGHT TO TAKE ACTIVE MEASURES AGAINST FORCES OF NATIONAL PASSION: RECALIS FINDING GERMAN BAYONET TURNED INTO PRUNING HOOK IN PALESTINE HOUSE WHEN HE WAS HIGH COMMISSIONER AND WHICH IS NOW IN IMPERIAL WAR MUSEUM TO WHICH HE PRESENTED

IT.

London, Feb. 23rd. (Jewish Telegraphic Agency).

Jews should take their full share in the peace movement, Sir Herbert Samuel said speaking to-day at a meeting of the Jewish Peace Society held at his residence in London, when Professor Gilbert Murray, the President of the League of Nations International Commission of Intellectual Co-operation and Chairman of the League of Nations Union, delivered an address on the work of the International Commission of Intellectual Co-operation.

The Old Testament, Sir Herbert said, is often quoted on the wide of belligerency. The spirit of the Book of Joshua is one which is not that of the modern world. But it is countered by that of Isaiah, and it is our duty to show to the modern world that Judaism does not base itself on the earlier book but on the universalism of the Prophets.

The sentiment of nationality, Sir Herbert went on, is a very powerful one, and a worthy one if kept within bounds, but there is danger if it is allowed to go beyond bounds. The forces of national passion, reinforced as they are by appeals to the worthy motives of patriotism and loyalty, make it easy for any nation to be infected with war fever, and unless public opinion is consciously organised to resist a tendency of that kind, at a critical moment whole nations can be plunged to disaster. Against that, organised religion ought to take timely and active measures.

Sir Herbert recalled that when he was High Commissioner in Palestine he came to a house where a German bayonet had been beaten into a pruning hook. He presented it to the Imperial War Museum in London, that enormous collection of instruments of war and of every kind of belligerency. If you go to the museum, he said, you will see there that pruning hook in a frame and beneath it the words in three languages: They shall beat their swords in ploughshares and their spears into pruning hooks ...

There Are More Precious Things Than Accountancy And Book-keeping And Big Business Chief Rabbi Says Denouncing Calendar Reform Movement Which Would Unstabilise Sabbath.

The Chief Rabbi, Dr. J. H. Hertz, who presided, said that nothing was more important than to secure the co-operation of the intellectuals. If we can secure the co-operation of the intellectuals we need have no fear of the "mechanicals". It is the intellectuals that count.

The Chief Rabbi went on to refer to the proposal to introduce calendar reform, a threat to bring confusion and annoyance to millions. It would bring a maddening confusion, he said. It would unstabilise the Sabbath and it was all because American big business men thought it would help accountancy and book-keeping. There were more precious things than accountancy and book-keeping, he said.

MASARYK FUND RAISED BY CZECHO-SLOVAKIAN POPULATION INCLUDING JEWS AS TRIBUTE TO PRESIDENT ON HIS 80TH. BIRTHDAY HAS NOTHING FOR JEWISH INSTITUTIONS: BIAS SUSPECTED IN DISTRIBUTION OF FUND BY DIRECTORS.

Prague, Feb. 22nd. (Jewish Telegraphic Agency).

Much comment has been aroused here by the fact that the Masaryk Jubilee Fund, which was started last year in tribute to President Masaryk on his 80th. birthday and raised the sum of 20 million Czech Kronen (about £120,000) for distribution in aid of humanitarian objects, has been distributed now by the directors among various institutions, without any Jewish cultural or social institution receiving anything, although a number of applications were made by Jewish institutions, and although the Jews are much more in number than the Poles, whose institutions have benefited, as well as those of the German and Hungarian minorities. It is suggested that partisan political bias, and especially agrarian influence, is behind this complete passing over of all Jewish institutions.

When President Masaryk attained his eightieth birthday last March, the Jews of Czecho-Slovakia held special services in all the synagogues, and there were celebrations in the Jewish schools. The Czecho-Slovakian Zionists decided to commemorate the occasion by raising a fund to plant a Masaryk Forest in Palestine, and to inscribe his name in the Golden Book of the Jewish National Fund, as a record of his friendship to the Jews, and Jewish orthodoxy in Czecho-Slovakia and other Jewish groups in the country decided to raise a separate fund to establish a Jewish sanatorium in the Tatra Mountains named in honour of President Masaryk.

AMERICAN JEWS GAVE OVER 35 MILLION DOLLARS IN GIFTS OF MILLION DOLLARS OR MORE DURING 1930 BEING 25 PER CENT. OF TOTAL GIVEN IN THAT WAY THROUGHOUT COUNTRY: THIRD AND FOURTH LARGEST GIFTS CAME FROM JEWS.

New York, Feb. 22nd. (Jewish Telegraphic Agency).

35,470,020 dollars, or 25 per cent. of the total of 142,082,670 dollars given by individuals and philanthropic foundations in the United States in gifts of a million dollars or more during the year 1930, came from a Jew, according to figures just made public here. The third and fourth largest gifts came from Jews, Maurice Falk and the late Conrad Hubert who gave ten million and 8,750,000 dollars respectively.

The list of Jewish donors of a million dollars or more is as follows: one million dollars from Max Adler, for a planetarium in Chicago, five million dollars from Louis Bamberger, and Mrs. Felix Fuld, to establish an Institute for Advanced Study in Newark; one million from Max Epstein for an art museum to the University of Chicago; ten million from Maurice Falk, for the Pittsburgh Charitable Foundation; 1½ million from Daniel Guggenheim by his will to the Daniel and Florence Guggenheim Foundation; 8,750,000 from Conrad Hubert by his will to seven philanthropies; one million from Ralph Jonas, for the merger of the New York and Brooklyn Federations of Jewish Charity; two million from Mrs. Jules Mastbaum for the Rodin Museum in Philadelphia; 2,470,220 dollars from Harry H. Meyer by his will for the Montefiore Hospital in Pittsburgh and the Mount Sinai Hospital in New York; 2,550,000 from Julius Rosenwald in three gifts and one million dollars from Morris Schinasi by his will for a hospital in Constantinople.

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