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GOVERNMENT NEGOTIATIONS WITH JEWISH AGENCY ENDED COLONIAL OFFICE TELLS J.T.A.; NEITHER GOVERNMENT LETTER NOR DR. WEIZMANN'S ACCEPTANCE MAKE ANY MENTION OF FURTHER NEGOTIATIONS.

London, Mar. 17th. (Jewish Telegraphic Agency).

The negotiations between the Jewish Agency and the British Government were finally concluded with the publication of Mr. Ramsay MacDonald's letter to Dr. Weizmann, which was made public on February 13th., the Colonial Office informed the Jewish Telegraphic Agency to-day. Neither Mr. MacDonald's letter nor Dr. Weizmann's letter, it was pointed out in this connection, make any mention of further negotiations.

The Colonial Office declined to say whether there are still any outstanding questions to be discussed other than with the Cabinet Committee.

I am hopeful, Dr. Weizmann concluded his letter to Mr. MacDonald, that the three parties, the Mandatory Government, the Arabs and ourselves, will now come together and work out a constructive policy for the future good and the development of Palestine.

Despite the repeated declarations by Zionist leaders that the Prime Minister's letter to Dr. Weizmann marks the end only of the first stage of the negotiations, I have most reliable authority for stating that, in Ministerial circles, the discussions between the Cabinet Committee and the Zionist leaders are regarded as finally ended, the "Jewish Chronicle" Parliamentary Correspondent wrote on Friday. There is no intention whatever on the Government's part, he said, to enter into further parleys with the Zionists, and it is authoritatively stated that there are no outstanding points which require further discussion.

At the same time further negotiations with the Government were spoken of in an official statement issued by the Zionist Executive recently given in the J.T.A. Bulletin of the 11th. inst.) which said that "the Zionist Executive and the Political Committee appointed by the Zionist General Council, in joint meetings held on February 16th.-18th. considered the political situation in the light of the Prime Minister's letter to Dr. Weizmann. These meetings will be resumed after an interval of some weeks in order to consider the outstanding problems yet to be discussed in the course of further negotiations with His Majesty's Government".

KING OF THE JEWS HAS ARRIVED TO CAPTURE JERUSALEM: NEW ARAB AGITATION IN VILLAGES IN CONNECTION WITH DR. WEIZMANN'S ARRIVAL: ARABS INCITED BY TALES OF JEWS KIDNAPPING ARAB CHILDREN: ARAB VILLAGERS BEING INDUCED TO MARCH ON JERUSALEM.

Jerusalem, Mar. 16th. (Jewish Telegraphic Agency).

The King of the Jews has arrived here with the intention of capturing Jerusalem, the reference apparently being to Dr. Weizmann's arrival in Palestine. This is the kind of agitation that has been started now in many of the Arab villages, backed up by invented stories of Arab children being kidnapped by Jews. The Arab organ "Al Ikdam" reports that efforts are being made to induce the Arabs from the villages to march into Jerusalem.

DR. WEIZMANN HAS COME TO SELL ZIONISM TO ARABS AS HE HAS SOLD IT TO BRITAIN: MANIFESTO BY EXTREME NATIONALIST YOUTH IN PALESTINE: ENGAGED IN SECRET BRITISH INTRIGUE IN EAST DR. VON WEISL PALESTINE REVISIONIST LEADER TELLS JEWS IN CAIRO: EGYPTIAN JEWRY CONCERNED OVER CAMPAIGN IN ARAB COUNTRIES INVOLVING NAMES OF PROMINENT JEWS CHARGED WITH ASSOCIATION IN BRITISH MOVES IN EAST: GRAND MUFTI ALSO GOES TO EGYPT TO ORGANISE ANTI-JEWISH BOYCOTT IT IS BELIEVED.

Jerusalem, Mar. 17th. (Jewish Telegraphic Agency).

The group of nationalist youths who organised the demonstration against Dr. Drummond Shiels, the Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies, when he visited Tel Aviv, has issued a proclamation against Dr. Weizmann, denouncing him as Mr. Ramsay MacDonald's satellite, who dares to come to Palestine when Mr. Jabotinsky is not allowed to enter the country. Dr. Weizmann is in Palestine for the purpose of selling the Zionist ideal to the Arabs, as he has already sold it to Britain, the manifesto says.

Cairo, Mar. 17th. (Jewish Telegraphic Agency).

Denouncing Dr. Weizmann as a supporter of British Imperialism in the East, Dr. Wolfgang von Weisl, the Revisionist leader in Palestine, who arrived here to-day, says that he will disclose at a meeting which he is addressing to-night, a secret intrigue in which Britain is engaged in the East with the support of Dr. Weizmann.

The Egyptian Revisionists during Dr. Weizmann's recent stay in Egypt on his way to Palestine, also issued a manifesto in which they declared Dr. Weizmann to be a British agent.

Egyptian Jewry is much concerned over the possible effects of propaganda conducted by Jews in the Arabic countries, associating the name of prominent Jews like Dr. Weizmann with supposed British designs in the East.

On enquiry at the offices of the Central Committee of the Revisionist World Organisation in London, the J.T.A. is informed that the Revisionist headquarters have no knowledge of such propaganda by Dr. von Weisl and the Egyptian Revisionists.

Jerusalem, Mar. 16th. (Jewish Telegraphic Agency).

The Grand Mufti has left for Egypt on a political mission, it is believed, probably aiming at an extension of the anti-Jewish boycott-movement proclaimed this week by the Palestine Arab Executive.

BERNARD SHAW VISITS MELCHETT ESTATE IN PALESTINE.

Jerusalem, Mar. 16th. (Jewish Telegraphic Agency).

Mr. George Bernard Shaw has paid a visit to-day to the Melchett Estate at Migdal, on the shores of Lake Tiberias, and was entertained by Lady Erleigh, the late Lord Melchett's daughter.

ARAB SQUATTERS WHO RECEIVED GOVERNMENT LAND IN BEISAN WANT TO GIVE IT BACK TO GOVERNMENT: UNABLE TO PAY TAXES SAYS REPORT.

Jerusalem, Mar. 16th. (Jewish Telegraphic Agency).

Arab squatters who were given grants of land by the Government in the Beisan area intend to notify the Government that they are unable to pay the taxes demanded, and would therefore like to return the land to the State, it is reported here to-day.

The grant of the Beisan lands to the Arab squatters has been much criticised by the Zionist Organisation and the Jewish Agency, and has formed the subject of official complaints by the Zionist Organisation to the Mandates Commission of the League of Nations. Dr. Weizmann referred to the matter at length in his covering letter to the memorandum on the development of the Jewish National Home presented to the Mandates Commission session held in June 1928. The Report of the Experts of the Joint Palestine Survey Commission (Findings of Fact) published about the same time, contained the following passage: Up to the present the Zionist Organisation has received from the Government little in the way of active assistance in the settlement of Jews on the land. The long drawn-out negotiations between the Zionist Organisation and the Government with reference to the allotments of State lands for Jewish colonisation, more particularly in the Beisan area, have up to the present produced no positive result.

The British Government in its observations to the Mandates Commission made a reference to this matter, stating that regarding the Beisan lands the claims arising out of that agreement have been and are being investigated by a special commission which has made considerable progress. In addition, attention has been given to the possibility of enabling individuals and bodies concerned with agricultural development to acquire land from beneficiaries under the Beisan agreement on the conditions on which those beneficiaries hold the land. While His Majesty's Government are hopeful that a satisfactory conclusion may be reached, the statement added, they wish to point out that the matter is one in which it is necessary to proceed with caution in order to guard against the landless class of the present beneficiaries under the agreement thus nullifying the object of that agreement.

The Mandates Commission in its report following consideration of this question said: "The Commission hopes that means may soon be found to utilise to the full the possibilities of the land in the Beisan area".

The question was also dealt with in the report to the Sixteenth Zionist Congress and in a number of the speeches delivered at the Congress by Dr. Weizmann, Mr. Jabotinsky, Mr. Ussischkin, and others. The report of the Executive to the Congress remarked that although it was regretted that no progress could be recorded in the granting of Government lands to Jews, a statement of policy, however, had been published by the Government indicating the conditions whereby the transfer of certain State-owned lands in the area of Beisan from the possession of the present lessees to Jewish purchasers may be facilitated.

Sir John Hope Simpson in his Report published at the end of 1930 remarks that "another area that has unfortunately passed from the ownership of the Government consists of the lands of Beisan, Semakh, and Ghor-ul-Fara'a, which are the subject of the agreement concluded in November 1921 and known as the Ghor Mudawwara Agreement. It was probably politically desirable," he continues, "that the lands covered by this agreement should be settled with the Arab tenants who had undoubtedly enjoyed the use of the tract in the time of the Ottoman Government. At the same time the result of the agreement and especially of the modification of the agreement made in September 1928, have taken from the Government the control of a large area of fertile land eminently suitable to development and for which there is ample water available for irrigation.

"The grant of the lands," Sir John adds, "has led to land speculation on a considerable scale. The custom is that the vendor transfers to the vendee the liability for the price of the land still owing to the Government and in addition takes from him a sum varying from three to four pounds a dunam for land in the Jordan Valley. These proceedings invalidate the argument which was used to support the original agreement. It was made in order to provide the Arabs with a holding sufficient to maintain a decent standard of life, not to provide them with areas of land with which to speculate.

18/3/31.

ANY CHANCE OF JEWS BENEFITING BY RECLAMATION OF PINSK MARSHES?:
DIRECT QUESTION PUT TO POLISH MINISTER OF AGRARIAN REFORM:
NO LEGAL RESTRICTION TO PREVENT JEWS SETTLING ON LAND HE
REPLIES IF THEY DEVOTE THEMSELVES EXCLUSIVELY TO AGRICULTURE:
HINT AT NEED OF FOREIGN CAPITAL.

Warsaw, Mar. 13th. (J.T.A. Mail Service).

Jewish public opinion anxious to further the productivisation of the impoverished Jewish masses is greatly interested in the project of draining the Polysian marshlands and the possibility of Jews benefiting by the settlement opportunities that would be opened up there. Is there any chance of the Jewish population being settled on some of the reclaimed land in Polysia and engaging in agriculture like other people? Mr. Bernard Singer, a journalist on the staff of the Yiddish daily "Unser Express" here, asked the Minister of Agrarian Reform, Professor Kozlowsky, in the course of an interview.

If you speak of colonising openings for the Jewish population, the Minister replied, I must begin by pointing out that attempts to settle Jews on the land were made already in the days of Polish independence, and in a number of cases with satisfactory results. We have also old Jewish colonies in Poland, which grew up after the Polish partition. Besides, there are no legal restrictions in existence which could hold up or prevent the settlement of Jews on the land. The enjoyment of complete equal rights by the national minorities in Poland guarantee this, and a still greater guarantee is the traditional tolerance of the Polish State, which does not recognise any restrictions in this matter.

Obviously, the Minister went on, the colonisation work must be conducted on economic lines, on the principle that the people who settle on the land must be trained for agricultural work, and devote themselves exclusively to agriculture. When I speak of Jewish colonists, I have in mind people who are able and willing to devote themselves entirely to working on the land, because we intend to utilise this land solely for the settlement of such persons who want to engage in land work and to live exclusively by their own labour.

I have received the draft Statutes of a Jewish Society for Agriculture and Colonisation, the Minister added, and I shall have them approved.

The work of draining the swamps, the Minister explained, is dependent on our obtaining the necessary credits. Such big investments cannot be provided for in the annual State budget, but must be found by foreign capital. The Polysian swamps, he went on, contain several kinds of rich turfland, which could be used after reclamation as rich pasture land or rich meadows, for growing cereals and vegetables. The tests carried through by the experimental station in Sarni have yielded results which exceed all expectations. The reclaimed Polysian turf fields will give us a tract of land of the finest quality, in no way behind the "black lands", and suitable primarily for large-scale dairy-farming, cattle-breeding, etc. Polysia is as large in area as some of the smaller European countries, and constitutes a vast reservoir of land for our landless and insufficiently landed classes. The local population will be able to utilise the reclaimed areas only to a small extent, and the land will have to be thrown open to the poor population of other parts of the country.

The Ministry of Agrarian Reform in its work of improving the agricultural conditions has had in mind only economic motives and gives no heed to national or religious questions. In proof of this you have the amelioration work in the adjoining Volhynia, which is settled by Poles, Ukrainians, Czechs, Germans and Jews. Polysia will be populated in the same way and by the same methods when the drainage works have been completed. About 160,000 families could be settled on the reclaimed land to engage in agriculture alone, but their activity would lead to a general revival of the whole area, the establishment of new industries and commerce and the building of towns, so that in the course of time we estimate that about 3 million people could be settled on this area, the Minister said.

CLUB OF JEWISH DEPUTIES IN POLAND PAYS STRIKING TRIBUTE TO J.T.A. SERVICES TO POLISH AND WORLD JEWRY; OFFICIAL COMMUNIQUE ISSUED REPORTING VISIT OF J.T.A. HEAD.

Warsaw, Mar. 16th. (Jewish Telegraphic Agency).

A warm tribute to the great services rendered by the Jewish Telegraphic Agency to world Jewry and especially to the Jews of Poland, by spreading a true knowledge of Jewish affairs in all countries, thus establishing itself as a factor of world-wide importance for the welfare of Jewry, was paid by Deputy Rabbi Dr. Thon, the President of the Club of Jewish Deputies, in the course of an address which he delivered in greeting of Mr. Jacob Lendau, the Managing Director of the Jewish Telegraphic Agency, Mr. B. Smolar, the J.T.A. Special Representative, and Mr. Mozes, the Director of the Warsaw Office of the Jewish Telegraphic Agency, when they attended a sitting of the Club of Jewish Deputies today, says an official communique which the Club of Jewish Deputies has issued here.

ALLIANCE ISRAELITE GOES TO COURT IN VIENNA TO COMPEL ANTISEMITIC PAPER TO ADMIT ITS CHARGES OF SECRET JEWISH INFLUENCE HAVE NO SHRED OF EVIDENCE BEHIND THEM.

Vienna, Mar. 16th. (Jewish Telegraphic Agency).

The Alliance Israelite Universelle, which came into existence 70 years ago, because of the Damascus blood libel, is to fight another libel, in the Austrian law courts this time, against the antisemitic daily "Tageszeitung", which is trying to make a big Jewish issue out of a case in which a half-Jew named Gustav Bauer is standing his trial on a charge of attempted murder and robbery by presenting it as a typical example of the alleged war between Aryans and Jews, accusing the Alliance of making efforts in order to cover up the affair by corrupting the criminal investigators engaged in the case here and in Berlin. The Alliance intends by bringing the antisemitic paper into court to compel it to admit that its allegations of secret Jewish influence behind the police and law authorities in Austria and Germany are pure inventions and that it is unable to produce any evidence at all in support of its calumnies.

IS CHARLIE CHAPLIN A JEW?

Vienna, Mar. 17th. (Jewish Telegraphic Agency).

Charlie Chaplin's parents on both sides were Jewish it would seem, according to an interview he has given here to the "Neue Freie Presse", in which he describes his mother as a ghetto beauty, and his father as a fine jargon comedian, "Jargon" apparently meaning Jewish dialect. I have experienced the sufferings of a people treated as racially inferior, he said, and I naturally stand therefore for equal rights for all races.

Some Continental papers claim on the authority of the German-Jewish Lexicon that Charlie was born in London of immigrant Jewish parents originally named Thonstein. One journalist in Berlin asked him straight out whether he was a Jew, but Charlie evaded the question and said that certainly he was a son of Father Abraham.

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