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IMPORTANT PRO-PALESTINE MOVE IN AMERICA: VICE-PRESIDENT OF UNITED STATES HEADS COMMITTEE OF LEADING SENATORS AND CONGRESSMEN OF ALL PARTIES FORMED TO FURTHER UPBUILDING OF JEWISH NATIONAL HOME: PRESIDENT HOOVER SENDS MESSAGE TO GATHERING ADDING HIS EXPRESSION TO "SENTIMENT AMONG OUR PEOPLE IN FAVOUR OF REALISATION OF AGE-OLD ASPIRATIONS OF JEWISH PEOPLE FOR RESTORATION OF THEIR NATIONAL HOMELAND".

New York, Jan. 18th. (Jewish Telegraphic Agency).

Some of the most prominent men and women in the political life of the United States, irrespective of Party divisions, including Republicans, Democrats and Progressives, met last night at the Mayflower Hotel in Washington, when, as a result of the efforts and negotiations conducted over a considerable time by Mr. Emanuel Neuman, the American member of the Zionist "World" Executive, an American Palestine Committee was formed, with its functions defined as "aiming to further the Jewish National Homeland and the upbuilding work there, aiding in the effective fulfilment of the provisions of the Palestine Mandate relating to the Jewish National Home, and disseminating accurate information concerning its work and its progress for the guidance of American public opinion".

The inauguration of the Committee took place at a dinner called under the auspices of the sponsoring committee, headed by Mr. Charles Curtis, the Vice-President of the United States, the members of which are Senator Borah, Chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, Senator Swanson, Senator Robert La Follette, Senator William King, Senator Wagner, Congressman Henry Rainey, the Majority leader in the House of Representatives, and Congressman Charles Linthicum, Chairman of the Foreign Affairs Commission of the House of Representatives.

Mr. Emanuel Neuman and Professor Felix Frankfurter addressed the gathering, presenting the Zionist case in a way which moved the distinguished audience to favourable action. Mr. Neuman made a profound impression when he depicted the misery and hopelessness of the Jewish masses in Eastern and Central Europe, whose terrible plight, economic and otherwise, compels them to seek a way out by emigration, but who must stay where they are because all the countries of immigration have closed their doors and refuse to admit any more immigrants.

Describing the Jewish accomplishments in Palestine during the course of the past decade, Mr. Neuman argued that Jews are entitled to ask the civilised world for a chance in Palestine to save their ancient race and culture.

Vice-President Curtis Warmly Endorses Zionist Aims And Recalls Part He Played Ten Years Ago In Securing Adoption Of Congress Resolution In Favour Of Jewish National Home In Palestine.

Vice-President Curtis, who was the guest of honour, warmly endorsed the Zionist aims in the course of his speech, and recalled the part he had played in securing the adoption in 1922 of the resolution of the United States Congress, Senate and House of Representatives, and signed by President Harding, declaring that "the United States of America favours the establishment in Palestine of a National Home for the Jewish people".

A message from President Hoover to Mr. Emanuel Neuman was read out to the meeting, in which the President writes:

I am interested to learn that a group of distinguished men and women is to be formed to spread knowledge and appreciation of the rehabilitation which is going forth in Palestine under Jewish auspices, and to add my expression to the sentiment among our people in favour of the realisation of the age-old aspirations of the Jewish people for the restoration of their National Homeland.

I should appreciate it, the President concludes, if you will present my cordial greetings to those attending the dinner in Washington on January 17th. in order to advance this enterprise.

Senator King, who presided, announced that another meeting of the Committee would be held at an early date for the purpose of completing the organisation and electing officers.

The members of the Joint Committee include:

Mr. Arthur Hyde, Minister of Agriculture; Senator Borah, Chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee; Senator Walter of Georgia; Senator Wagner of New York; Senator King of Utah; Senator La Follette of Wisconsin; Senator Van den Burg of Michigan; Senator Watson of Indiana, and Senator W. Wheeler of Montana, the Republican Majority leader in the Senate; Congressman Rainey of Illinois, the Majority leader in the House of Representatives; Congressman Linthicum of Maryland; Congressman Kvale of Minnesota; Congressman Chindblum of Illinois; Congressman Luther Johnson of Texas; and Congressman Tilson of Connecticut; Mr. James Rogers, Assistant Secretary of State; Mr. Gleene Hookworth, the Solicitor to the Department of State; Mr. John Lord O'Brien, Assistant United States Attorney-General; Mr. James Newcorn Scott, Director of the Carnegie Foundation for International Peace; Congresswoman Ruth Owen, and Dr. Elwood Mead, United States Commissioner for Reclamation.

Messages of approval and endorsement were received from Colonel Edward House, who was President Wilson's confidential representative; Mr. Theodore Dreiser, the famous American author; Miss Mary E. Woolley, the United States delegate to the Disarmament Conference which is opening shortly in Geneva; Governor Emerson, of the State of Illinois; Governor Winnant, of New Hampshire; Governor Ritchie, of Maryland; Governor Philip La Follette, of Wisconsin; Governor Pinchot, of Pennsylvania; and Governor Olsen of Minnesota.

A message was also read out to the gathering by Mr. Emanuel Neuman received from Mr. Nahum Sokolov, the President of the Zionist World Organisation and the Jewish Agency, who was unable to attend because he was speaking at the Palestine Fund Campaign Conference held in New York (reported in yesterday's J.T.A. Bulletin) which decided to raise a sum of 2½ million dollars during the present year for the continuation of the reconstruction work in Palestine.

THE SOROCA AFFAIR: GOVERNMENT EXONERATES FRONTIER GUARD: OFFICIAL STATEMENT SAYS VICTIMS WERE COMMUNIST COURIERS CONVEYING INFORMATION ACROSS TO SOVIET TERRITORY: DENIES THEY WERE SHOT WHILE FACING GUARD AND SAYS WOUNDS WERE IN BACK AND SIDES: CLAIMS SOLDIERS COULD NOT APPROACH CLOSER BECAUSE THEY SUSPECTED PARTY WAS ARMED: PEOPLE ASK IF VICTIMS WERE SOVIET AGENTS WHERE ARE DOCUMENTS AND WEAPONS FOUND ON THEM.

Bucharest, Jan. 18th. (Jewish Telegraphic Agency).

A Cabinet meeting was held here yesterday to consider the Soroca shooting affair, and a communique has now been issued by the Minister of War, General Stefanescu, exonerating the frontier guard and declaring that the victims were Communist couriers conveying information across to Soviet territory. The investigation has revealed, the statement further says, that the wounds of all six dead were in the back and sides, showing that the soldiers did not fire while they were facing them.

The communique has been received with a great deal of scepticism in the country. People are pointing out that it flatly contradicts the report of the State Attorney in Soroca, who stated that the victims had been shot in the breast. If the victims were Soviet couriers and were carrying arms, it is further urged, where are the documents they were carrying across to Soviet territory, and where are their weapons, which the frontier guards must have found on them, if they had been there.

Victims Had Wanted To Cross To Soviet Ukraine Because They Were Unemployed And Hoped To Find Work There: Were Not Communists And Were Not Interested In Politics: Were Trapped By Corporal Of Frontier Guard Who Had Promised To Guide Them Across Frontier And Brought His Detachment To Place Where They Were To Meet Him: Victims Were Shot From Distance Of Only 5 To 15 Paces: Autopsy Revealed Bullets Were Lodged In Breast: Statements Which Contradict Government Communique.

Deputy Landau, who was in Soroca immediately after the shooting outrage, and attended the autopsy, declares that it definitely showed that the victims had been shot while facing the guard, the bullets having lodged in all cases in the breast. There were more than 10 bullets in each. Fragments of grenades were also found in the bodies.

The deep conviction which I have carried away from the investigation which I conducted on the spot, Deputy Landau declares, is that there was a trap laid for these young people to kill them.

According to the statement made before he died by Samuel Tikinowsky, who lived for fourteen hours after he was shot, the six young people had wanted to cross to Soviet Ukraine because they had been unemployed for a long time and could not bear to continue to burden their families and they had hoped to obtain work across the border. They had therefore approached one of the frontier smugglers, who told them that he had arranged with a corporal of the frontier guard that he would guide them across the River Dniester for 4,000 lei. The corporal had apparently then gone to his Commander and told him what he had arranged, and when the group arrived at the spot where they were to meet him, there was a whole detachment of the frontier guard waiting for them. When the victims realised that they were trapped, they faced the guard, and the shots were fired while they were facing the guard at a distance of 5 to 15 paces.

The injuries show that hand grenades and dum-dum bullets were also used, it is stated, and that shots were fired when the victims were already lying wounded on the ground.

The investigations have shown, it is added, that none of the victims had any connections with Communism, not even one of them named Leib Rudmann, who had once been found in possession of a few Communist leaflets.

They had been unemployed for months, and had finally decided to cross the Dniester to find work there, so that they should not be a burden to their parents, who are Jewish small traders, living in abject poverty, unable to maintain them.

All the victims, including Tikinowsky, who was living with his grandmother in Soroca, were born in Soroca and were well known in the town. Saida Pferdman, a girl of 18, had only recently matriculated at the high school, and she had said that if she found work across the Dniester she would send some money to help her parents, who had made heavy sacrifices while she was studying. Shapse Papusch, a 22 year old printer, who had lost his employment in Bucharest several months ago, is stated to have been a very hard-working young man who took no interest in political matters. He had tried to find work in Bucharest, but had exhausted all means, and being unable to continue to live in Bucharest, he had been compelled to live with his parents in Soroca, and he could no longer stand living on them.

Deputy Landau Submits Deposition By Jew Living Near Soroca Who Says He Was Dragged To Dniester By Frontier Guard And Told Ten Jews Would Have To Be Shot To Show Jews Are Escaping Across to Soviets.

According to the "Dimineatza" here, Deputy Landau has shown its representative a number of papers which have bearing on the shooting outrage in Soroca, among them a deposition made by a Jew named Moise Rusu, belonging to Trifanesti, which is about 5 kilometres from Soroca, who states that on December 4th. 13 frontier guards came to his house, bound his hands and told him that he was under arrest. He was dragged to the River Dniester, and was beaten all along the way with their rifles. They told me, he says, that I would appear before Lieut. Canter, to whom I would have to admit that I had been caught while trying to cross the Dniester. When I came before the Lieutenant, he did not question me, but asked the soldiers why they had arrested me, and they replied that they had caught me trying to cross the Dniester. I protested, and said that it was a lie, whereupon the Lieutenant beat me with his whip. I was then thrown into prison, and Sergeant Lunteanu was placed on guard over me. The Sergeant told me that he had been instructed by his captain to get ten Jews who were to be shot, and all money found on them would have to be handed over to the captain, and the State would reward them. If I did not bring him these ten Jews, the Sergeant said, the captain threatened that he would have me shot. A bullet only costs six lei, the Sergeant added. If you want to live, he added, you must bring me someone else to shoot.

The deposition concludes by stating that fourteen days after Rusu was placed before a court martial in Jassy and was acquitted, and proceedings were taken against Sergeant Lunteanu.

This case shows, the "Dimineatza" comments, that other attempts were made to manufacture some such story about Jews trying to escape across the Dniester, like this which has resulted in the outrage at Soroca.

JEWISH PARLIAMENTARY PARTY PUBLISHES COMMUNIQUE ON PRIME MINISTER'S INTERVIEW WITH DEPUTY LANDAU REGARDING SOROCA: GOVERNMENT FOLLOWS IT UP WITH COMMUNIQUE DECLARING PREMIER GAVE DEPUTY LANDAU NO MATERIAL FOR ISSUE OF COMMUNIQUE: ADVIS GOVERNMENT HAS NO INTEREST IN SHIELDING GUILTY.

Bucharest, Jan. 18th. (Jewish Telegraphic Agency).

The Jewish Parliamentary Party has published a communique stating that Deputy Landau has been received by the Prime Minister, Professor Jorga, and has reported to him on the result of the enquiry which he conducted in Sorooca on January 12th. and 13th.

Deputy Landau, the communique says, submitted to the Premier several documents which throw light on the mysterious affair in Sorooca, and these documents made a deep impression on the Prime Minister.

Professor Jorga assured Deputy Landau, it proceeds, that the Government has no interest in shielding the guilty. The enquiry which was in progress, he said, would completely clear up the whole affair. The Government was concerned, the Prime Minister declared, to establish whether the victims had been trapped or not. If it was found that they had been trapped the guilty persons would be punished in such a way that they would serve as an example.

Deputy Landau drew the attention of the Prime Minister, the communique goes on, to the fact that the enquiry could not be properly conducted while the military people under suspicion in connection with the affair are still in the service. The Prime Minister thereupon ordered that the suspected military men should be immediately suspended, and he issued a written order to this effect to the Minister of War, and to the Under-Secretary of State for the Interior, M. Ottescu.

The Government has followed up the Jewish Parliamentary Party communique with an official statement, in which it declares:

The Prime Minister, Professor Jorga, has given Deputy Landau no material that he could utilise for a communique. Communiques are usually issued in a different way than in the form of a conversation with substitute Deputies.

So far as the enquiry in Sorooca is concerned, the Government declares that it has no interest in shielding the guilty. If their guilt is established they will be severely punished. The enquiry is still in progress. All civil and military authorities against whom the enquiry is being conducted have been removed from their office. Any interference by outside persons in the enquiry can only do harm to the country.

ANOTHER SERIES OF TRIALS AGAINST JEWISH STUDENTS IN VILNA?

Warsaw, Jan. 18th. (Jewish Telegraphic Agency).

The Jewish population of Vilna is again excited over the action of the authorities in starting fresh legal proceedings against a number of Jewish students at Vilna University in connection with the anti-Jewish disturbances which took place in Vilna in November, the "Najer Ha'nt" here reports to-day.

The Jews fear, it says, that the authorities are making preparations for a new series of trials of Jewish students, in an attempt to bring it out that it was the Jewish students who were responsible for the disturbances in Vilna.

ORDER MUST BE MAINTAINED NE" POLISH MINISTER OF INTERIOR TELLS  
PARLIAMENT: CITIZENS MAY THINK "WHAT THEY LIKE BUT MUST  
NOT USE VIOLENCE.

Warsaw, Jan. 18th. (Jewish Telegraphic Agency).

Order must be maintained in the country, the new Minister of the Interior, M. Pieracki, declared in the Sejm, in outlining his programme.

The present economic crisis has increased the extent of lawlessness, he said. The police are putting down this tendency, however, and in the same way the authorities are combating Communist activities.

The Minister repudiated the allegation that the police are serving only one Party, the Government Party. That is not true, he declared. What is at the bottom of the charge is that the police are resisting the attempts made by any particular Party to stir up violence in order to reach its goal. Poland is a democratic country, the Minister said, and every citizen has a right to think what he pleases, but he must not use violence.

Speaking of the nationalities question, the Minister gave an assurance to the Sejm that the Government is seeking the peaceful co-operation of all citizens inhabiting the country without distinction of nationality. The Government would not permit, however, he added, any separatist tendencies or any division of citizens into categories.

Every loyal minority, he declared, can always count on the protection and the assistance of the Government.

AUSTRIAN GOVERNMENT INTRODUCES STUDENT RIGHTS BILL INTO PARLIA-  
MENT AS SOON AS PREMIER LEAVES GENEVA: STUDENTS TO BE  
ARRANGED IN "NATIONS" ALL ENJOYING EQUAL RIGHTS.

Vienna, Jan. 18th. (Jewish Telegraphic Agency).

To-day, when the Prime Minister left Geneva at the end of his mission to the League of Nations with regard to the Austrian finances, the Government, which had postponed the student rights bill, fearing its effect on League of Nations circles, introduced the bill in Parliament.

The bill is in accord with the forecasts circulating with regard to it last month. The student corporations are under the bill organised on the lines of student "nations", but the students are given the right to choose whether they will join the student "nations" or the "mixed nations". All the student "nations" will enjoy equal rights, and also there is no compulsory contribution required from the students.

With the composition of the German student "nation" as a pronouncedly race-antisemitic body, there is no likelihood of any Jews being admitted to membership of this "nation".

At the same time, the Zionist and Jewish Nationalist students are satisfied with the provision setting up a separate Jewish student "nation", their only condition having been that it should enjoy equal rights with the other student "nations".

JEW KILLED IN CRUSH AT WARSAW STATION WHEN GERER REBBE LEFT FOR  
PALESTINE.

Warsaw, Jan. 18th. (Jewish Telegraphic Agency).

A Jew named Mordecai Polman, 64 years of age, is reported to have been killed in the crush at the railway station when the Gerer Rebbe and his party left for Palestine. Many Jews are reported to have been injured.