

(Cable and Mail Despatches)

Issued by the

JEWISH TELEGRAPHIC AGENCY, LTD.

Ludgate House,
107/111, Fleet Street,
London, E.C.4.

Telegrams: Jewcorrau London.
Telephone: Central 6501-2.

Vol. XIII. No. 59.

7 pages.

5th. Mar., 1932.

UNIFICATION OF PALESTINE JEWRY EFFECTED AT CLOSING SESSION
OF JEWISH ELECTED ASSEMBLY AFTER ALL-NIGHT SITTING:
REVISIONISTS ENTER VAAD LEUMI FOLLOWING AGREEMENT
BETWEEN ALL PARTIES ON LEGISLATURE AND ROUND TABLE
PROJECTS: LAST YEAR'S RESOLUTION AGAINST LEGISLATURE
REAFFIRMED WITH ADDITIONAL STATEMENT THAT POLITICAL
SITUATION DOES NOT WARRANT CHANGE IN THIS ATTITUDE BUT
THE REVERSE.

Jerusalem, Mar. 4th. (Jewish Telegraphic Agency).

A re-unification of Palestine Jewry was effected at the closing meeting of the second annual session of the first legally recognised Palestine Jewish Elected Assembly (Assefath Hanivcharim), which was concluded at Tel Aviv at six o'clock this morning, after an all-night sitting, following an agreement between all the parties represented on the Palestine Legislative Council project and the proposal to hold an Arab-Jewish Round Table Conference.

The Revisionists, who are with 16 members, the second largest Party in the Assembly, have in consequence decided now to join the Vaad Leumi, the Executive body of the Assembly, which conducts its work between its annual sessions. (At the last annual session the entire Revisionist bloc walked out of the Assembly as a protest against its adoption of a resolution to join in the negotiations conducted at the time by the Jewish Agency with the British Government on the Passfield White Paper, and they refused to accept the seats on the Vaad Leumi to which they were entitled according to their numbers. Dr. von Weisl, who was then the leader of the Revisionist bloc, declared at the time that the Revisionists would try to establish a separate council, although the withdrawal from the Assembly did not mean secession from the Kenesseth Israel, because the Revisionists were ready to return as soon as participation in the negotiations with the Government was renounced by Palestine Jewry).

The re-entry of the Revisionists necessitates a re-shuffling of the membership of the Vaad Leumi, which will now consist of 10 Labour representatives, 5 Revisionists, 2 General Zionists, 2 Mizrachists, 1 Sephardi, 1 Yemenite, and one Women's representative.

On the question of a Palestine Legislature, the Assembly has reaffirmed the resolution adopted by the last session a year ago, which is a repetition of the resolution adopted by the previous Vaad Leumi in October 1930, declaring that "the Yishub will not recognise and will not take part in any Parliamentary institutions calculated to arrest the development of the Jewish National Home", with the additional statement that "the political situation does not warrant any change in this attitude, but the reverse".

The Revisionist resolutions against the Round Table proposals, the Pan-Islamic Conference, and the Arab Federation and urging non-co-operation with the British Government have been tabled, as well as a motion introduced by the General Zionists against the idea of the cantonisation of Palestine into Jewish and Arab districts.

Palestine Jewry Will Oppose Any Scheme Ignoring Jewish Development And Restricting Jewish Immigration And Land Purchase: Resolution Adopted Unanimously By Assembly: Session More Successful Than Last Year's Vaad Leumi Leaders Tell J.T.A.: Attitude Of Revisionists Heralds Better Spirit They Say.

A resolution has been adopted unanimously by the Assembly on the question of the Palestine Development Scheme, declaring that Palestine Jewry will oppose any scheme in which Jewish development is ignored, and which restricts Jewish immigration and land purchase.

The leaders of the Vaad Leumi have expressed themselves in a statement to the Jewish Telegraphic Agency at the conclusion of the Assembly as gratified with the results of the session, which they describe as more successful than the first session which was held last year.

This is due, they say, to the fact that the session carefully deliberated on the political and economic problems, and decided on the taxation system and the budget, while the attitude of the Revisionists at this session heralds a better spirit.

The Jewish Farmers' Federation is officially still abstaining from participation in the Assembly, but individual colonists attended the session and took part in the discussion, though they were not entitled by the abstention of their organisation to vote on the questions before the Assembly.

PALESTINE HAS ALL THE DISADVANTAGES AND NONE OF THE ADVANTAGES OF MEMBERSHIP OF BRITISH EMPIRE: PROTEST OF JEWISH AND ARAB CITRUS FRUIT GROWERS AGAINST IMPOSITION OF IMPORT DUTIES IN BRITAIN: WILL MAKE VIGOROUS PROTEST DEMONSTRATIONS.

Jerusalem, Mar. 3rd. (Jewish Telegraphic Agency).

Palestine has all the disadvantages and none of the advantages of membership of the British Empire, the Joint Arab-Jewish Committee representing the citrus fruit growers of Palestine complains in protesting against the effect of the new British Import Duties Act under which a 10 per cent. tariff is imposed on Palestine products entering Great Britain, because Palestine as a mandated territory is not exempted under the Imperial Preference Scheme.

The feeling among the growers, both Jewish and Arab, is one of growing resentment and indignation, and as in other matters affecting their common economic interests, like the protest of the Palestine Jewish and Arab shoe-makers against the importing of shoes from abroad and the united front of Jewish and Arab motor-car drivers in the strike against the Government licence fees, the Jewish and Arab growers are joining in a movement to organise big demonstrations in which they will protest vigorously against the new imposition, which, it is feared, will cripple the important and growing Palestine orange export trade to Britain.

EGYPTIAN EX-KHEDIVE DENIES ALL KNOWLEDGE OF PALESTINE ROUND TABLE PROPOSALS IN STATEMENT TO J.T.A.: HAVE SEEN THEM FOR FIRST TIME IN YOUR LETTER HE SAYS.

London, Mar. 4th. (Jewish Telegraphic Agency).

I was recently in Palestine merely in transit. I certainly saw the Mufti of Jerusalem there, the members of the Zionist Executive and also the British authorities. But my visits to all these gentlemen were but visits of courtesy, the Egyptian Ex-Khedive Abbas Hilmi writes in a letter which he has sent to the Jewish Telegraphic Agency here in reply to an enquiry which it addressed to him with regard to the recently published proposals for an Arab-Jewish Round Table Conference of which the authorship was attributed to him.

You will easily understand my astonishment, the ex-Khedive continues, at seeing these propositions attributed to me, as I have seen them for the first time through the medium of your letter. These proposals, which have never emanated from me, deal with Palestine, and are a matter for the Palestinians themselves. Having full confidence in the Mufti of Jerusalem and the members of the Arab Executive Committee (who are defending the cause of the Palestine Arabs) and appreciating the wisdom of the leading Zionists and the members of their Executive, I have the firm hope that everything will be concluded by finding a ground of mutual agreement for the prosperity of Palestine and the happiness of the Palestinians, for which I hope with all my heart.

EGYPTIAN PREMIER DENIES IN PARLIAMENT THAT HIS VISIT TO PALESTINE CONCERNED ANYTHING BEYOND ECONOMIC INTERCOURSE BETWEEN TWO COUNTRIES: DENIES RUMOURS OF CEDING SINAI TO PALESTINE OR PROCLAIMING EX-KHEDIVE ABBAS HILMI KING OF PALESTINE.

Cairo, Mar. 4th. (Jewish Telegraphic Agency).

The Prime Minister, Sidky Pasha, categorically denied in Parliament to-day the rumours which have been in circulation with regard to his recent visit to Palestine, such as that he had discussed there the ceding of the Sinai Peninsula to Palestine, and questions affecting the restoration of the Caliphate and the proclamation of the Egyptian ex-Khedive, Abbas Hilmi, as King of Palestine or of Syria.

The question was raised in the form of an interpellation addressed to the Prime Minister, asking whether these rumours had any basis. The Prime Minister declared that he had discussed with the Palestine Government only questions relating to economic intercourse between Egypt and Palestine.

LORD READING COMPLETELY WELL AGAIN: LEAVES EGYPT ON RETURN HOME TO ENGLAND.

Cairo, Mar. 3rd. (Jewish Telegraphic Agency).

The Marquess of Reading, who has now practically recovered from the illness, which attacked him here soon after his arrival from Palestine, sailed to-day from Port Said with Lady Reading on their return to England.

EX-KING ALFONSO OF SPAIN LEAVES PALESTINE FOR EGYPT; DENIES ALL KNOWLEDGE OF LIBERAL PROCLAMATION TO SPANISH PEOPLE DENOUNCING JUDAISM AS FACTOR RESPONSIBLE FOR PRESENT CONDITIONS IN SPAIN.

Jerusalem, Mar. 4th. (Jewish Telegraphic Agency).

Ex-King Alfonso, of Spain, who has spent a few days here sightseeing under the title of the Duke of Toledo, left to-day on his way to Egypt.

∴ Ex-King Alfonso has declared that he has no knowledge whatever of a manifesto published in the press a few days ago, attributed to him and his uncle, Don Alfonso Carlos de Bourbon, the head of the Spanish Bourbons, in which he was stated to have appealed to the Spanish people to rally round him, and save Spain from her present "anarchical state", for which he was said to have blamed "the machinations of Communism, Freemasonry and Judaism".

Ex-King Alfonso said that the alleged manifesto was absurd and comic beyond all belief.

TRIAL OPENED IN JERUSALEM OF ROWDIES ARRESTED DURING BENTWICH LECTURE AT HEBREW UNIVERSITY.

Jerusalem, Mar. 3rd. (Jewish Telegraphic Agency).

Twelve persons who were arrested on February 10th. during the disturbance at Mr. Norman Bentwich's inaugural lecture at the Hebrew University on taking up his post as Weizmann Professor of International Peace, were put on trial to-day.

Dr. Berkson, a member of the Jewish Agency Executive, who was present during the disturbances, is one of the witnesses called for the prosecution.

HEBREW UNIVERSITY STUDENTS WHO WERE SUSPENDED FOR PARTICIPATION IN DISTURBANCES PERMITTED TO CONTINUE THEIR STUDIES: REGULATIONS GOVERNING RIGHTS AND DUTIES OF STUDENTS TO BE PUBLISHED SHORTLY.

Jerusalem, Mar. 3rd. (Jewish Telegraphic Agency).

The Council of the Hebrew University has decided to permit those students who were suspended because they had taken part in the disturbances during Mr. Norman Bentwich's inaugural lecture on February 10th. to continue their studies as regular students at the University from to-day, it is announced in a communique issued by the University.

Recent experiences, the communique adds, have shown the advisability of having specific regulations governing the rights and duties of students, and such regulations, it says, will be published within the next few days.

NUMERUS CLAUSUS AT POLISH UNIVERSITIES WILL PREVENT CONSTANT ATTACKS ON JEWISH STUDENTS: NOW PROFESSOR OF CONSTITUTIONAL LAW AT VILNA UNIVERSITY JUSTIFIES HIS INTRODUCTION OF NUMERUS CLAUSUS MOTION IN PARLIAMENT: GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN DECLARES MOTION IS CONTRARY TO CONSTITUTION AND MINORITIES TREATIES AND ITS ENFORCEMENT COULD LEAD TO DEMAND FROM LEAGUE OF NATIONS FOR ITS ABOLITION.

Warsaw, Mar. 3rd. (Jewish Telegraphic Agency).

The motion introduced into Parliament by the antisemitic National Democratic Party on December 19th. for the enforcement of a numerus clausus law at all Polish universities, restricting the number of non-Christian students in proportion to their percentage in the total population of the country, came up to-day for consideration at the meeting of the Educational Commission of the Sejm.

Professor Kalmarnicki, Professor of Constitutional Law at Vilna University, in explaining the Bill on behalf of the National Democratic Party, said that the numerus clausus would put a stop to the constant anti-Jewish fighting at the Universities. He quoted in this connection the Juedisches Lexicon edited by Dr. Klatzkin, to show that Czarist Russia, Imperial Germany and the Austro-Hungarian Empire had enforced a numerus clausus against Jewish students.

The Government representative, M. Stypinski, and Deputy Bogdant, a member of the Government Party, urged that there was no need for a numerus clausus law in Poland. The motion introduced by the National Democratic Party, they said, was in contradiction to the Polish Constitution, which guarantees the principle of equal rights of all citizens, and it was also in conflict with the Minorities Treaties, so that its enforcement would be harmful to the interests of Poland, and would lead the League of Nations to intervene and demand the abolition of the numerus clausus law.

Deputy Minzberg, President of the Lodz Jewish Community, who is one of the leaders of the Agudath Israel, and is a member of the Government Parliamentary Party, delivered a long speech, in which he vehemently opposed the idea of a numerus clausus law, and called upon the Parliament to refuse to consider it. Deputy Sommerstein will speak to-morrow against the bill in the name of the Club of Jewish Deputies.

The motion is due to come up next week before the ordinary session of the Sejm.

ALL SECTIONS OF ROUMANIAN JEWRY UNITE IN APPEAL TO PREMIER TO REOPEN SOROCA HEBREW HIGH SCHOOL.

Bucharest, Mar. 3rd. (Jewish Telegraphic Agency).

All sections of Roumanian Jewry have joined in an appeal to Professor Jorga, the Prime Minister and Minister of Education, to withdraw the order which he issued recently that the Hebrew High School in Soroqa, which was closed after the shooting affair there should not be reopened.

Attention is drawn in particular in this connection to the working of the official statement on the subject. It makes no charge against the school itself, does not suggest that it had been found guilty of conducting Communist activity, but says that it is feared that the teachers and the authorities of the school cannot keep the students from coming under the effect of the revolutionary sentiments which dominate the local Jewish population.

A deputation has visited Professor Jorga, consisting of Senator Chief Rabbi Dr. Niemirower, Senator Ezra Berkovitz, Senator W. Dinerman, ex-Deputy Dr. Filderman, President of the Union of Roumanian Jews, Deputy Michael Landau, Deputy Dr. S. Singer, and Deputy Dr. Manfred Reifer, members of the Jewish National Party, and Dr. Bauberger, member of the Executive of the Jewish National Party, and has presented a memorandum to him demanding in the name of the Roumanian Jews of all parties that he should order the Soroqa Hebrew High School to be reopened.

Senator Ezra Berkovitz, who is a leading member of the Liberal Party and is the publisher of the French daily "Independence Roumaine", published here, acted as the spokesman of the delegation.

Professor Jorga promised the delegation to have a new investigation made with regard to the position at the Soroqa Hebrew High School.

STORY IN AMERICA OVER ANTI-JEWISH ATTACK IN "ARMY AND NAVY REGISTER": PRESIDENT HOOVER ASKS MINISTERS FOR ARMY AND NAVY TO LOOK INTO ATTACK: APOLOGY MADE BY EDITOR DESCRIBED BY AMERICAN JEWISH CONGRESS AS ONLY A PRETENCE WHICH WILL NOT SATISFY JEWS AND AS ADDING INSULT TO INJURY.

New York, Feb. 22nd. (J.T.A. Mail Service).

American Jewry is in a state of excitement over an attack on the patriotism of the Jews made in the "Army and Navy Register", a paper which circulates among the members of the United States Army and Navy.

The Jews as a race, it said in an editorial, have notoriously little stomach for military service. The pay is poor, there is no profit in it, and worse, they might be called upon to die for their country of adoption. If you examine the lists of the volunteers in any of our wars, you will find that the Jews are conspicuous by their absence. They are willing to exploit our country, but not to defend it.

The Yiddish press throughout the country has taken up the matter and publishes editorials demanding that the paper should be made to prove its charges or to apologise. The President of the American Jewish Congress, Mr. Bernard S. Deutsch, sent a letter to Mr. John E. Jenks, President and Editor of the "Army and Navy Register", in which he wrote: "We expect that in the forthcoming issue you will endeavour to make amends for this lying and scandalous attack upon a notable section of your fellow citizens, who have since the founding of the United States served their country without let or stint, and whose patriotism has repeatedly been demonstrated.

The "Army and Navy Register" responded to this letter by publishing an editorial headed "Recantation", in which it disclaimed responsibility for the attack made in its previous issue upon the patriotism of the Jews, but said that it was not in a position to retract the remarks of the author of the article, whom it described as honest, however over-zealous in his terms of communication.

So far as readers of that or any other article, it went on, choose to feel that they are therein or thereby slandered, grievously wronged, or cowardly attacked, we hasten to make the public disavowal that should set the paper right on the question of pure personality raised by our critic, whose courtesy of reproof coincides with his tolerance of expression. We refuse to give even the silence of consent to any charge against, or vilification of, anyone of whatever race, religious faith, or political conviction.

Mr. Bernard S. Deutsch, the President of the American Jewish Congress, on receipt of the issue of the "Army and Navy Register" containing this editorial, together with a letter from the editor, Mr. Jenks, made a statement to the Jewish Telegraphic Agency declaring that it is unsatisfactory and that further action will be taken by the Congress in the matter.

The editorial headed "Recantation" is entirely unsatisfactory and adds insult to injury, Mr. Deutsch said: "It further demonstrates the unfairness of the editor of the "Army and Navy" Register". "While pretending to apologise to the Jews and disclaiming any antisemitic feeling, the editor smuggles into the editorial the following phrase: 'We are not precisely in the position of retracting the remark of a correspondent, who was at least honest, however over-zealous in his terms of communication. This by no means will satisfy the Jewish people and the American Jewish Congress proposes to take further steps in this matter.'

President Hoover has taken up the matter by ordering the Secretary of War and the Secretary of the Navy to investigate the slur on the patriotism of the Jews contained in the article in the "Army and Navy Register".

The President's action followed on a protest sent to the White House by Captain Harold Seidenberg, of Boston, Commander-in-Chief of the Jewish War Veterans of the United States:

The protest was promptly answered on behalf of the President by his secretary, Mr. Lawrence Richey, who wrote: Your telegram in reference to a recent article in the "Army and Navy Register" has been received, and by direction of the President, is being brought to the attention of the Secretary of War and the Secretary of the Navy."

The Secretary of War, Mr. Patrick J. Hurley, has issued a statement in which he says:

The "Army and Navy Register" is not an official organ of the War Department, but a private enterprise conducted by civilians. I regret exceedingly that such a malicious statement has been published. I have no respect for any man who hides behind his anonymity to make such an attack on any group of patriotic American citizens. As an officer of the United States Army you must know that the attitude of this one isolated individual in no way reflects that of the War Department, nor of the preponderant element of the officers and enlisted men who make up our army. The War Department recognizes neither creed nor race. Personally and officially, I am proud of American Jews in our army to-day and of those who served in the World War.

The Jewish War Veterans of the United States has sent a letter to the editors of the "Army and Navy Register", signed by the Commander-in-Chief, Captain Harold Seidenberg, demanding a complete retraction of the attack made in its columns on the patriotism of the American Jews.

Notwithstanding the fact that Jews were restricted and disbarred from military service, the letter says, more than 50 Jews fought for the patriotic side in the Revolutionary War, 24 of whom were officers. In the Civil War, upwards of 8,000 Jews participated, although there were but 150,000 Jews in the entire country at that period. In the war with Spain, fully 5,000 men of the Jewish faith served. The War Department shows that over 4,000 furloughs were granted to Jewish soldiers for the purpose of celebrating the French Medaille Militaire, and 174 the Croix de Guerre. American Jews were also included in the casualties. According to formal estimates, there were over 14,000 including 2,800 who made the supreme sacrifice.

Your attention, it proceeds, is particularly directed to the statistics of voluntary enlistments among Jews in this country during the World War. Nearly 40,000 or twenty per cent. of the entire Jewish contingent were volunteers.

We wish to refrain from any comparison, which is always odious, but we question whether this record of voluntary enlistment is surpassed, or even equalled, in proportion to population, by any other group. Approximately one quarter of a million Jews served under our colours, this figure being about 4 per cent. of the total number who served in the armed forces; whereas proportionately the Jews in this country form about 3 per cent. of the total population.