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

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JEWISH BOARD OF DEPUTIES DECIDES AGAINST JEWISH WORLD CONFERENCE: MOTION WITHDRAWN ASKING BOARD TO SUMMON CONFERENCE: RESOLUTION DESCRIBED AS SUPERFLUOUS BECAUSE BOARD SHOULD WAIT FOR INVITATION FROM AMERICAN JEWISH CONGRESS WHICH IS CONVOKING WORLD CONFERENCE: MR. MYER SAYS HE ATTENDED JEWISH CONFERENCES AT ZURICH AND BASEL AND THEY DID NOTHING BUT TALK: IF I THOUGHT WORLD CONGRESS WOULD DIMINISH DISTRESS JEWRIES, ARE SUFFERING MR. LEONARD MONTEFIORE DECLARES OR REDUCE BY ONE IOTA PREVALENT ANTISEMITISM I WOULD NOT BE AGAINST IT: BUT I BELIEVE WORLD CONFERENCE WOULD NOT ONLY DO NO GOOD BUT ONLY HARM: NO GOVERNMENT WOULD TAKE SLIGHTEST NOTICE OF CONFERENCE RESOLUTIONS OR IMPLEMENT THEM BY LEGISLATIVE OR EXECUTIVE ACTION AND CONFERENCE WOULD BE ANOTHER "INTERNATIONAL JEW" SHOT IN HITLERIST ARMOURY.

London, May 22nd. (Jewish Telegraphic Agency).

The Board of Deputies of British Jews decided at its meeting here this afternoon against a motion calling on the Board to take "immediate steps to summon an International Congress of delegates from the Jewries of the world with a view to receiving reports upon the conditions prevailing in the districts which such delegates will represent; and subsequently for the Congress to take such action as will result in securing justice for our brothers and sisters in the affected areas".

Mr. J. Bolloten, the mover of the resolution, said that the Jewish position in Eastern and Central Europe was getting more serious. He was afraid that they were growing so used to the trials and the tribulations of their foreign brethren that they were becoming stultified and led to believe themselves helpless. Everywhere there was reason for apprehension. In Roumania there was boycott, persecution and massacre. In Hungary the Jews were being driven out. In Austria they were illtreated. Everywhere they were persecuted. Should they sit still and do nothing as they had been doing? They came to the Board meetings and debated a question. Occasionally they expressed their just indignation, and then they agreed with the Joint Foreign Committee to send mild letters to representatives of foreign Governments, and there the matter ended. They went away with the belief that they had done something for their stricken brethren when really nothing had been done. I feel strongly, he said, that definite and concrete action should at last be taken by way of a world congress for alleviation of antisemitism.

Mr. Gaventa, who seconded, said that if the scheme was workable it would be of undoubted value, because it would result in unified action.

Joint Foreign Committee Considers Under Present Circumstances
Any Such Action By Board Would Be Inexpedient.

The Joint Foreign Committee in its report to the meeting stated that it had considered the motion, and it was of the opinion that "under present circumstances any such action by the Board would be inexpedient".

What Mr. Bolloten wants us to do, Rabbi Dr. Samuel Daiches, a member of the Joint Foreign Committee, said, has been done by the American Jewish Congress. His resolution is superfluous because we shall, of course, be asked to participate in the World Congress to be convened by that body. We should wait for the invitation.

Mr. Morris Myer, editor of the "Jewish Times" and a member of the Joint Foreign Committee, said that he had attended the Jewish conferences convened by the Americans at Zurich and Basel. They did nothing except talk, and talk to-day was dangerous.

Mr. L. G. Montefiore, President of the Anglo-Jewish Association and Joint Chairman of the Joint Foreign Committee, said: "We all appreciate the motives that led Mr. Bolloten to move his resolution. If I thought that a World Congress such as is suggested would diminish the distress that the Jewries are suffering, or reduce by one iota the antisemitism that is prevalent, I would not be against the scheme. I believe, however, he went on, that the proposed World Conference would do no good, but only harm. The causes of antisemitism lie very much deeper than a Congress could help. Antisemitism is the ugly phenomenon of a diseased and unhealthy political life. I would remind you that there has been no period when the exaggerated and bitter nationalism that exists in Europe has been so strong. Every country is sitting tight behind tariff walls hoping to sell and not to buy. If such a Congress were to assemble, it would have to be fully representative. We would have to have representatives from all the various Jewish parties in the various countries. From Roumania we might possibly have half a dozen parties represented. From Poland perhaps twenty. Then when the Conference had assembled what would it do but to pass resolutions? And each of the Governments in turn would be criticised. Does anybody really believe that there is a single Government which would take the slightest notice of those resolutions or implement them by legislative or executive action?"

To the unprejudiced observer, Mr. Montefiore said, the Conference would show that Jews is divided from Jew in the way that non-Jew is divided from non-Jew on certain major questions. But what of the prejudiced observer? To him it would be another weapon, the weapon of the "International Jew", for further antisemitism. It would be another shot in the armoury of the Hitlerites.

I am certain that it is necessary at times to take risks and damn the consequences, Mr. Montefiore said. But on this occasion, the Conference would do no good, and as I have said, would possibly do harm.

Mr. Montefiore added that he wanted the Board or anyone to be under no delusion that any invitation that was received would meet, as far as he was concerned, the same views as he had expressed.

Mr. Limborne protested, claiming that Mr. Montefiore's view was that of a small, but of course important minority, but if the Deputies consulted their constituents, he thought that they would find that they were opposed to such opinions.

Mr. Bolloten, in withdrawing his motion, said that he felt the Deputies had not been convinced of the essential soundness of his views, and the necessity for the Conference. In withdrawing the motion, he would urge that serious consideration should be given to the invitation from America.

Serious consideration will certainly be given to any invitation, r. d'Avigdor Goldsmid, President of the Board and Joint Chairman of the Joint Foreign Committee, thereupon assured him.

Heated Discussion On Position Of Polish Jewry.

A heated discussion took place on the report of the Joint Foreign Committee on the position of the Jews in Poland. After declaring that the allegation of the Vilna Court which had sentenced the Jewish student Wulfin, charging the Jews with being animated by a great and profound enmity against Christians in general and the Poles in particular, has been received with amazement in Jewish circles, the Joint Foreign Committee went on to state that "the economic situation of the Jews in Poland continues to be deplorable, and is hardly likely to be improved until the world-wide depression in trade shows signs of lifting. A ray of hope appears in a report that the Commission, which was recently appointed by the Ministry of Trade to recommend measures for improving Polish trade, is considering a recommendation to amend the Sunday Closing Law so as to enable Jews who keep their shops closed on Saturday to open for a few hours on Sunday. A further indication that the Government is adopting a more sympathetic attitude towards the Jews is the recent recognition of the status of the Jewish 'Gymnasium' at Brest-Litovsk. Similar action is shortly expected in connection with the Vilna 'Gymnasium'. The High School at Bialystock has already received Government recognition".

Mr. Altman objected that great distress was prevalent in Poland, with three million Jews on the verge of starvation. It is a case of boycott by private persons and the Government, he contended, and we ought to make a general appeal to the Jewish public on behalf of the Jews of Poland. We ought to ask the Alliance Israelite to join with us, because France is an ally of Poland, to do something for the Jewish people there. There are suicides daily and whole towns are starving.

Mr. Gaventa said that in his opinion representations ought to be made to the Government and perhaps the League of Nations because of the Polish Government's restriction of monopolies, particularly tobacco.

Mr. Bolloten argued that the question had nothing to do with minorities. Three million Jews, he said, are being boycotted by the Government, but their rights as minorities are not being infringed. The Government is guilty of something worse. It is guilty of a system which deliberately tries to starve out its own nationals, simply because they are Jews. This is an offence committed by the Polish Government and something much stronger than a polite letter to the Government representative should be done.

Give us a suggestion without making a long speech, r. Nathan Lasaki interjected.

Mr. H. A. Goodman, Political Secretary of the Agudath Israel World Organisation, said that irresponsible persons were indiscriminately attacking the Polish Government without any knowledge of the true facts. From personal visits to Poland and from information that was authoritative and reached him daily, the Polish Government was doing what it could in most difficult circumstances to alleviate the Jewish position. The repeated attacks on the Polish Government were unjustified, and thoroughly unwarranted, and they must lead to dangerous repercussions in the situation of Polish Jewry.

The Soroca Flood Victims.

The Joint Foreign Committee, in the course of its report said that an appeal had been received on behalf of the Jews of Soroca, whose homes had been devastated by the recent floods. 600 Jewish families were said to be without shelter or means of livelihood, and the appeal had been referred to the Foreign Appeals Committee.

Mr. L. G. Montefiore added that the Federation of Jewish Relief Organisations had sent £50 and the Appeals Committee would be sending a further £50. The Anglo-Jewish Association (of which he is President) would donate £25. The Board of Deputies would be glad to transmit any further subscriptions received.

Mr. H. M. Davis, the President of the Federation of Synagogues, wanted to know whether the Foreign Appeals Committee intended making a general appeal to the Community.

Mr. Morris Myer, the Chairman of the Foreign Appeals Committee, replied that the Appeals Committee only made general appeals to cover circumstances of great magnitude. I appreciate the misfortune of the families of Soroca, he said, but comparatively this is a small case.

600 Jewish families, and yet you think it is sufficient to send £125, Mr. Barnett, a member of the Board objected. It is better to send nothing.

This was an appeal to the Jews of the world, Mr. Myer said, and it was a question of our share in the world contribution. He thought that the money sent would meet the case.

Do I understand that an appeal will not be made to the community? Mr. Davis persisted.

As far as I know, Mr. d'Avigdor Goldsmid, the President of the Board, answered, no appeal will be made, but it will be of assistance if further contributions are received or transmitted by the Board.

The Tariff Question And Palestine.

When the Board came to consider the report of the Palestine Committee, which said, in part, that "the position of Palestine under the Import Duties is still actively under consideration", Mr. Silverman, a member of the Board, said that after two months of operation of the Import Duties he would have thought that the Committee could have said more than this vague paragraph. Palestine is an excellent customer of this country, he went on. 40 per cent. of her exports come to Britain. Of all countries trading with the United Kingdom Palestine is one of the very few that can show a balance of trade that is favourable to this country. It has been suggested that the difficulty in this question is legal and constitutional. Is that so?

Yes, of course, Dr. Israel Feldman, the Chairman of the Committee, replied.

There is going to be a lot of tariff bargaining within the next month or so, Mr. Silverman went on, and I hope that Palestine will be there and her interests adequately safeguarded.

Dr. Israel Feldman, the Chairman of the Palestine Committee, said that the Palestine Committee and the Jewish Agency and all organisations associated directly and indirectly had had this matter under consideration. The Palestine Committee were informed as soon as the duties came out that it would be against the interests of Palestine if any public or semi-public discussion took place on this topic. On all sides, he said, there is the utmost goodwill in furthering the economic interests of Palestine, so that as far as we as a Board are concerned, it is not a question of adopting a resolution in the

face of a hostile attitude. The difficulties are technical and legal, as is known by everybody. We have been advised that we can only do harm by having the suspicion of a public discussion.

Mr. H. Newman asked whether any arrangements had been made to safeguard the interests of Palestine at the Ottawa Conference.

The matter has been dealt with in Dr. Feldman's answer, Mr. d'Avigdor Goldsmid, the President of the Board, who was in the chair, said.

The Palestine Committee also reported that in regard to the creditors of the Russian Zionist centre, the Committee was of the opinion that there was no immediate prospect of an agreement being arrived at between the parties upon the basis of which arbitration proceedings could be initiated. The Committee therefore felt that no useful purpose would be served by pursuing the matter further.

The Board agreed to this course after considerable discussion, in which Mr. d'Avigdor Goldsmid said that the passing of the paragraph would not preclude the reopening of the matter de novo if representations were made to the Board.

The Aliens Committee reported that a fully representative committee, under the chairmanship of Mr. Otto Schiff, has been set up to deal with applications for the employment of foreign Rabbanim and Chazanim and has already dealt with a considerable number of cases.

GERMAN LIBERAL JEWS AGAINST JEWISH "WORLD CONGRESS PLAN: STRUGGLE FOR JEWISH EMANCIPATION MUST BE CARRIED ON BY JEWS OF EACH COUNTRY IN THEIR OWN LAND: IF CONFERENCE IS HELD ALL QUESTIONS ON WHICH DIFFERENCES EXIST SHOULD BE EXCLUDED: IN ANY CASE TIME FIXED FOR CONFERENCE - IN JULY - TOO SHORT FOR CALLING INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE.

Berlin, May 22nd. (Jewish Telegraphic Agency).

The plan to call a Jewish World Conference in Geneva in July which has been put forward by the American Jewish Congress with a view to convoking a Jewish World Congress as a permanent institution is another attempt to make the Congress a path-clearer for realising the Jewish nationalist aspirations, the "Juedisch-liberale Zeitung", the organ of the Federation of Liberal Jews in Germany, comments.

The struggle for Jewish emancipation, it declares, must be carried on by the Jewish population of each country in its own land. The fight against anti-Jewish feeling and the combating of the anti-Jewish economic boycott cannot be conducted in all countries on the same lines, established by international conferences.

If there is to be a Conference of this character, the essential condition, as in the united Jewish Community, is that all questions on which differences exist among ourselves must be excluded from the scope of our common work. If assurances to this effect are given, and if the great Jewish organisations in Germany, above all the Central Union of German Citizens of Jewish Faith, are brought in, with a guarantee that their fundamental principles will be safeguarded, the preliminary Conference in Geneva will achieve something valuable.

In any case, however, the paper concludes, the time fixed for the Conference - July - seems far too short for convoking an International Conference, and for this reason, too, it will be necessary for us to await developments.

GERMAN ZIONIST ORGAN SAYS PRESENT-DAY CONDITIONS SO CHAOTIC THAT ONE CANNOT TELL WHETHER CONFERENCE CAN TAKE PLACE EVEN ON TECHNICAL GROUNDS: ALSO DIFFICULT TO SAY WHO IS TO TAKE PART IN WORLD CONGRESS: BUT SITUATION OF WORLD JERRY SUCH THAT IT DOES NOT DO TO BE SCEPTICAL ABOUT PROJECT.

Berlin, May 22nd. (Jewish Telegraphic Agency).

The "Juedische Rundschau", the German Zionist organ, discussing the plan to call a Jewish World Conference put forward by the American Jewish Congress, points out that there are difficulties in the way.

But the Jewish world situation is one that needs serious consideration, it goes on. On top of the political difficulties facing the Jews, there is a specific Jewish economic distress, distinctive for the Jewish Community.

There is an economic and social boycott directed against Jews even in countries in which there are a very small number of Jews, and which have hitherto appeared to be free from avowed anti-Jewish tendencies, it says, while in the countries where anti-Jewish tendencies are traditional the distress of the Jewish masses has become unbearable. Jews are practically everywhere regarded as aliens, and the Jewish question is showing itself as what it really is, a national question. The inclination and readiness of the world, full of serious difficulties of its own, to deal earnestly with the Jewish question in the sense of a constructive solution is to-day much diminished.

In such a situation, the "Rundschau" writes, the Herzlian saying is now more apt than ever -- "A people can only help itself, or nothing will help it".

The difficulties surrounding the idea of a Jewish World Congress are well known, it continues. They are the expression of the division and disunity that exist inside the Jewish Communities of the world.

It is hard to find a common denominator on which the important Jewish organisations and movements can come together for common consultation.

Another thing is that political conditions throughout the world to-day are so chaotic that one cannot know whether such a Conference can take place, even on purely technical grounds, unless it is fixed for the very near future.

It is also difficult to decide who is entitled to take part in such a Jewish World Congress.

Nevertheless, the paper goes on, this is not the time to be sceptical about such a project.

The facts that anti-Jewish hatred as a political organised movement is active practically all over the world, that the United States of America, once the goal and the refuge of tens of thousands of Jews, is to-day allocating State funds in order to send immigrants back to their old countries, are so horrifying that on the Jewish side all efforts must be made to throw the weight of the Jewish Community itself into the scales to decide the Jewish fate. How and to what extent it will have any effect does not depend on us Jews alone. But the essential point is that we must draw the consequences from the existing conditions, and not stand looking on passively while the waves break against the foundations of our Jewish life.

ALL-GERMAN FEDERATION OF JEWISH COMMUNITIES NOT FORMED:
DIFFERENCES AT CONFERENCE OVER METHOD OF REPRESENTATION:
PRUSSIAN FEDERATION ACCUSED OF SEEKING TO DOMINATE PRO-
JECTED NEW BODY.

Berlin, May 22nd. (Jewish Telegraphic Agency).

The attempt to form an All-German Federation of Jewish Communities (Reichsverband) has again broken down. The Conference of representatives of the Federations of Jewish Communities in the various German States which has been held at Frankfurt has been unable to agree on the method in which the new All-German Federation is to be constituted. The plan for appointing representatives put forward by the Prussian Federation of Jewish Communities has been objected to by other Federations on the ground that it would give the Prussian Federation dominance over the projected new All-German Federation.

SOVIET GOVERNMENT ALLOCATES FUNDS FOR BUREYA JEWISH SETTLEMENT.

Moscow, May 22nd. (Jewish Telegraphic Agency).

The Gosplan, the Soviet Commissariat for Economic Affairs, has decided to allocate 10 million roubles for industrial enterprises and 4½ million roubles for agricultural colonisation in Bureya (Biro-Bidjan).

The statement embodying the decision reaffirms that Bureya must become a Jewish autonomous unit at latest by the end of 1933, and that 14,000 Jews must be settled there in the course of 1932.

The Economic Commissariat has decided at the same time to send a Commission of experts to Bureya to investigate the possibility of generating electric power by utilising the Rivers Biro and Bidjan.

The Leningrad Geological Oil Research Institute has allocated 25,000 roubles to cover the cost of sending a geological investigating commission to Bureya.

SLOBODKA 1929 POGROM: TRIAL OF PARTICIPANTS OPENED IN KOVNO.

Kovno, May 23rd. (Jewish Telegraphic Agency).

The trial has been opened here to-day of 17 persons, ranging in age from 23 to 30, who are accused of having beaten Jews during the anti-Jewish excesses that took place in August 1929 in Slobodka, a suburb of Kovno, almost exclusively inhabited by Jews.

The excesses took place during the time of the dictatorship of Professor Voldemaras, and most of the participants were members of the political police, the semi-military Rifleman's League, and the police force, who contended that they had been hunting Communists.

A large number of Jews, old men and women and children were set upon and cruelly beaten and injured.

32 Jews who were beaten are appearing as witnesses. Other witnesses are several officers of the criminal police, and a few non-Jewish inhabitants of Slobodka, who saw the Jews being beaten.

The prisoners are all people who were known to and recognised by their victims. Many others who took part in the excesses have not been recognised, and could not therefore be proceeded against.

Five well known Jewish lawyers are appearing for the Jewish victims, Professor Beliacki, one of the leading Jewish lawyers in the country; Advocate R. Rubenstein, the editor of the Kovno Jewish daily "Yiddishe Stimme"; ex-Deputy Advocate Garfunkel; Advocate Jacob Zinan, former Lithuanian State Prosecutor, and Advocate A. Rakowski.

The act of indictment runs to over 30 typewritten pages and describes in detail how the hooligans without any reason and without any fault on the part of the Jews attacked and wounded 32 Jews of various ages, sex and class.

Nine officers of the political police, six members of the League of Riflemen, and two police officers, the act of indictment says, armed with rifles, revolvers, and iron cudgels attacked on the night of August 2nd., 1929 Jews who were passing through the streets of Slobodka and beat them. Several Jews were badly injured. They were hunted through the streets and beaten, and this went on until there were no longer any Jews in the streets.

The act of indictment also quotes the statements made by the prisoners. The political police officers declared under examination that they had received orders from the political police headquarters to proceed against Communists, so they had gone to Slobodka, where they had met members of the Riflemen's League, who were beating Jews, and they had lent a hand, because they knew that Jews are Communists.

Professor Voldemaras had always claimed in public and private to be a friend of the Jews, and consequently the Jewish population was astounded that there should be anti-Jewish excesses under his regime. A short while before the excesses, Professor Voldemaras had given a dinner in honour of Mr. Nahum Sokolov, who was then in Lithuania, and he had expressed in his speech his sympathy with the Jews of Lithuania, and the Jewish aspirations. Professor Voldemaras used to attend all big Jewish gatherings and sometimes even spoke a few words of Hebrew at these meetings.

The J.T.A. representative in Kovno had an interview with Professor Voldemaras on the morning after the pogrom. He expressed disbelief when I told him what had happened, and said that he had heard nothing about it. In my presence he called up his Minister of the Interior, M. Kusteikis, and his Vice-Minister of the Interior, M. Stedel, telling them to report to him immediately on the occurrences. At 3 o'clock in the afternoon, I was again received by Professor Voldemaras at his home, and he declared that both the Minister of the Interior and the Vice-Minister had told him that no reports had been received by them of any anti-Jewish excesses in Slobodka, and the whole thing was therefore incomprehensible.

I told Professor Voldemaras that I could bring him the victims, but he said that he accepted my word for it, and that it would be enough if I gave him a list of all the victims. I gave him the list a few hours later. The same day Professor Voldemaras ordered one of the investigating judges to open an enquiry into the Slobodka excesses.

I discussed the question on two further occasions with Professor Voldemaras, once when it came out that the police were terrorising the Jewish victims in an attempt to get them to withdraw their evidence. The second time Professor Voldemaras himself raised the question. It was a day after the overthrow of his dictatorship, in September 1929. I am no longer at the wheel, he said to me. Don't be surprised if the Slobodka affair does not reach the courts, and the guilty people go unpunished.

After Professor Voldemaras had fallen from power, it was rumoured that he had known all about the excesses, and had even given his consent that they should be carried out. No evidence that this was so exists, but certainly the people who carried out the excesses were close associates of Professor Voldemaras, who must have felt that this rendered them immune.

The trial now, nearly three years after the excesses, has roused Lithuanian Jewry, which is looking forward eagerly to the condemnation of the guilty.

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