

NEWS**NEWS****NEWS**

Jewish Telegraphic Agency

Latest Cable Dispatches

(A Personal Information Service)

230 FIFTH AVENUE, N. Y. C.

Phone: ASHland 4 - 3090

NEW YORK, N. Y.

VOL. 1 No. 25

Friday, August 30, 1935.

W.Z.O. PRESIDENCY IN DOUBT AS SOKOLOV DECLINES HONORARY POST

LUCERNE, August 29. (JTA) -- Left-wing Zionist Congress leaders today made unsuccessful attempts to clear the muddled political situation by offering Dr. Nahum Sokolow, incumbent World Zionist Organization president, another term in office and giving Dr. Chaim Weizmann, former president, control over the Zionist Executive's political activity.

It became known Dr. Weizmann, if he accepts any position at all -- which is still doubtful -- will take only the presidency. Yesterday it appeared almost certain he would decline any position.

Earlier today Dr. Sokolow, it was learned, declined the honorary presidency, letting it be known he would accept only the active presidency.

Amplifying its announced refusal to participate in the formation of an executive unless certain conditions are met, the Mizrachi (orthodox Zionist group) insisted today that it will not join the executive unless it receives sixteen per cent of the Palestine immigration certificates. The percentage was fixed by their proportional representation in the Congress.

The Mizrachi also demand establishment of a special religious department in the Zionist organization.

Further complicating the problem of formation of the executive is the report that Hadassah, women's Zionist organization, intends to ask a place on the body, arguing that the executive must give at least one to a woman.

Also complicating the situation is the fact that the General Zionist "B" or right-wing group intends to enter the new executive only if it is promised the portfolio in the organization department which is at present held by Berl Locker, English laborite.

LABORITES BACK BEN GURION PLAN

At an all-night session, the laborite delegation resolved that the Congress should adopt David Ben-Gurion's plan for coordination of all Zionist organizations throughout the world. Mr. Ben-Gurion, who is general secretary of the Histadruth (Palestine labor federation), proposes to make it obligatory for all Zionist groups in all countries to organize themselves into a Zionist federation in each land.

The function of the various federations will be, according to the Ben-Gurion plan, to conduct the work of the Keren Hayesod (land redemption body) and the Keren Kayemeth (colonizing agency); the selling of shekolim, which entitle purchasers to vote for congress delegates; organization of the congress elections; the work of operating the Palestine foreign bureaus that distribute immigration certificates; control of the hachshara (training camps for Palestine pioneers); spreading knowledge of Hebrew and mobilization of capital for Palestine and propaganda for Palestine. Local politics, the plan specifies, are not to come within the scope of the federations.

The plans for a national loan of £5,000,000 offered yesterday by I. M. Sieff of London and Israel B. Brodie of New York were under consideration today by the budget committee of the congress. The committee appointed a sub-committee of seventeen, inviting experts as coopted members to consider plans for developing the industry and agriculture of Palestine. Plans for the establishment of an economic intelligence service and as well as flotation of a large Jewish national loan will be formulated by the sub-committee of experts.

RECEPTION HELD FOR LEVANT FAIR

Meantime, a special reception was arranged for the Congress delegates today in connection with the forthcoming Levant Fair to be held next year in Tel Aviv. The reception marked the commencement of activities by the Congress on behalf of the Fair. Committees will be appointed in all countries to popularize the Fair.

Addressing the reception, S. Hoofien, general manager of the Anglo-Palestine Bank and a director of the fair, said the fair has now become a meeting point of Jewish merchants and financiers from all over the world.

Improvements of the Jaffa harbor will be discussed by the British House of Commons shortly after it reconvenes, Barnett Jan-ner, member of Parliament, today told the Congress.

POLITICAL COMMITTEE DISCUSSES SECURITY

LUCERNE, August 29. (JTA) -- The Political Committee was addressed last night by Moshe Shertok, head of the Zionist Executive political department in Jerusalem, and Dr. Selig Brodetsky, head of the Executive's London political department. The committee discussed the security of Jews in Palestine in connection with the Arabs, and also the possibilities of Jewish colonization in Transjordan. The matter of the proposed Legislative Council in Palestine, called forth especially warm discussion, and a special sub-committee was appointed to consider the problem more carefully.

The Committee on Problems of Jews in the Diaspora lands, headed by Dr. Stephen S. Wise of New York, met last night and discussed the question whether the Congress should adopt a resolution against the persecution of Jews in Germany. The transfer agreement between Palestine and Germany was the subject of heated debate. No decision was reached last night, and the discussion was to continue today.

The demand of the agricultural department of the Jewish Agency that \$3,000,000 be raised for new colonization on 13,000 acres of land recently acquired in Palestine, was the subject of discussion at the meeting of the Colonization Committee.

A number of projects concerning the immigration of Jews into Palestine were discussed last night by the special congress committee on immigration. Among the projects under consideration was reorganization and expansion of the system of training farms maintained by various branches of the Zionist movement in Europe for the preparation of Jewish youth for a life of labor in Palestine.

The committee also discussed a number of resolutions dealing with the regulation of immigration of Jews into Palestine.

Tonight's plenary sessions will hear the first reports from these committees and will proceed to the concrete business of the Congress.

JEWISH AGENCY EXECUTIVE REPORTS STRUGGLE WITH GOVERNMENT

LUCERNE, August 29. (JTA) -- The past two years have been a period of unprecedented increase in Jewish immigration into Palestine and "of an equally unprecedented struggle with the Government on the immigration issue," states the report of the Executive of the Jewish Agency for Palestine to the Council of the Jewish Agency, published here today in connection with the Nineteenth World Zionist Congress.

"The great expansion of Jewish economic activity which had begun in the previous Congress period, has continued at an accelerated pace," the report declares. "It rendered possible a marked growth in the volume of immigration, but it produced at the same time a continued and intense labor shortage, the extent of which indicated in how large a measure labor immigration lagged behind the country's rapidly expanding economic absorptive capacity."

The report draws attention to the fact that the Government's estimates of the absorptive capacity fell far short of those of the Jewish Agency and, on the largest schedule granted, equalled only 56.4% of the Agency's estimate, from which was deducted a number of certificates mainly on account of illegal immigrants or tourists overstaying the authorized period.

The report notes, however, that the official estimates of the country's capacity to absorb immigrant labor have been steadily increasing, both absolutely and in relation to the estimates of the Jewish Agency, and that in spite of the increasing deductions, the net schedule figures have also risen.

The total number of Jewish immigrants for the period between the 18th and 19th congresses is placed at 100,000 and the total Jewish population of the country as 335,000 or over 26%. The report gives the total for the first six months of this year as 30,500 as compared to 42,359 for the entire twelve months of 1934.

Reviewing the problem of land acquisition, the report points out that the last two years have witnessed an inordinate rise of land prices in Palestine, and a wave of land speculation, with all its concomitant evils, has developed on an unprecedented scale. Although there was great activity in the land market, the net addition to Jewish land possessions was relatively small, the report reveals. In 1933 an area of 37,000 dunams, about 9,250 acres, was acquired and in 1934, 62,000 dunams exclusive of the Huleh, it states. The average price per dunam of the registered transactions, which stood at \$115. in the years 1931 and 1932, rose to over \$175. in 1933 and to \$270. in 1934.

The report also reviews the Government's stand on the question of a Legislative Council for Palestine and the Jewish Agency's objection to its establishment. "Recently," the report states, "the question of the Legislative Council has been opened afresh by the Government of Palestine with a view to early action, and the representatives of the Jewish Agency have reiterated the objections previously submitted and expressed the fundamental and categorical opposition of the Jewish Agency to the proposed constitutional reform."

The report also reviews the efforts of the Agency to obtain a fairer distribution of the £2,000,000 loan floated by the Government, larger subsidies for Jewish education and health work and the employment of Jewish labour, in the agreed amounts, on public works. It also tells of the Executive's activities with regard to police and security and Arab relations.

ANTI-SEMITIC LEAFLETS DISTRIBUTED IN LUCERNE

LUCERNE, August 29. (JTA) -- Anti-semitic leaflets were distributed throughout the city today in connection with the nineteenth biennial World Zionist Congress in session here. Anti-Jewish inscriptions were smeared upon walls of buildings in all parts of the city.

CONGRESS MARKS DEATH OF BELGIAN QUEEN

LUCERNE, August 29. (JTA) -- The Zionist flat atop the Congress and Arts Palace here where the World Zionist Congress is in session was lowered to half-staff when the congress was apprised of the tragic death in an automobile crash of the Belgian Queen Astrid. The praesidium wired its condolences to the Belgian Government on behalf of the congress.

DIZENGOFF'S CONDITION WORSE

ZURICH, August 29. (JTA) -- The condition of Meier Dizengoff, 74-year-old Mayor of Tel Aviv, who has been in Switzerland for some time recuperating from a serious illness, today took a turn for the worse. Prof. Max Zondek, who is now in Switzerland, has been summoned to a concilium of specialists.

U.S. CANNOT ABSORB REFUGEES, LEAGUE TOLD

WASHINGTON, D. C., August 29. (JTA) -- The State Department has informed the League of Nations that immigration laws prevent the United States from absorbing refugees, it was stated today at the State Department.

It was learned that the State Department has instructed the charge d'affaires of the American legation at Berne to inform the secretary-general of the League that "because of the immigration laws, the United States cannot absorb these refugees."

The instructions were issued in reply to a circular letter issued by the Nansen International Office at Berne to all nations asking about possibilities of settling German refugees from the Saar and refugees from Russia, Armenia, Syria, Turkey and other countries.

The letter was sent to the American charge d'affairs at Berne which transmitted it to the State Department here.

NAZI VANDALS DESECRATE JEWISH CEMETERIES

BERLIN, August 29. (JTA) -- Desecration of Jewish cemeteries by bands of Nazi vandals today spread to Detmold, in the province of Lippe.

There a gang of hoodlums raced through the Jewish cemetery, upsetting tombstones and leaving the cemetery a scene of destruction.

The same band also ransacked the synagogue on Friedrichstrasse, smashing doors, benches and candlesticks.

The police started an investigation, but no arrests have as yet been made.

In Nienburg-an-den-Salle, public authorities today ordered the removal of the Jewish cemetery which for generations had been situated in the center of the city. The authorities allege the cemetery is unhygienic and constitutes a public nuisance.

Warning Jews not to enter the city, the mayor of Chemnitz today threatened serious consequences to house-owners renting rooms to Jews.

In Barmen and Elberfeld pawnshops today refused to redeem tickets owned by Jews. They will have no further dealing with Jews, the "Aryan" pawnshop owners declared.

CHARGE POLICE CRUELTY AGAINST PALESTINE ILLEGALS

JERUSALEM, August 29. (JTA) -- Charges of police cruelty against illegal immigrants under arrest are contained in alleged eyewitness reports published today in Davar, Palestine labor daily.

The reports assert Jewish illegal immigrants are cruelly lashed to obtain confessions of nationality so they can be deported to their countries of origin.

The Davar also publishes an appeal to the Palestine government and the Jewish Agency to intervene to halt this alleged police cruelty and to take the proper measures against those guilty of instituting such methods.