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PALESTINE NORMAL DESPITE NEARNESS TO WAR SCENE, ROTHENBERG SAYS ON RETURN

NEW YORK, Oct. 17. (JTA) -- The general belief in Palestine is that the Ethiopian war will not spread to the Holy Land, declared Morris Rothenberg, president of the Zionist Organization of America and newly elected co-chairman of the Jewish Agency Council, arriving today from a tour of Europe and Palestine on the Italian liner Rex.

As a result of the war, Mr. Rothenberg said, there has been some nervousness in Palestine, but not much. The normal routine of business and commerce, he asserted, was marked by an assurance of continued peace and security.

Edward A. Filene, Boston department store owner recently recovered from an attack of pneumonia in Moscow, also returned on the Rex, predicting war in Europe in the near future even if the Ethiopian crisis is cleared up. "It will be a great many years before peace and prosperity return," he declared.

Alexander Kahn, Socialist leader and non-Zionist member of the Jewish Agency, returned from his first visit to Palestine declaring the country could normally absorb 5,000,000 people in the next ten years. Palestine is so prosperous, he said, that Jewish inhabitants have sent more than \$12,000,000 to needy relatives in other countries. He lauded the Histadruth, Palestine labor federation, and held the quality of labor leadership in Palestine better than in England.

Interviewed in the lounge of the Rex as it steamed in from Quarantine, Mr. Rothenberg said the Mediterranean "swarms with British war vessels prepared to protect British interests in Egypt, Palestine and the Near East."

On the subject of the proposed representative legislative council, Mr. Rothenberg reported that Palestine Jews are vigorously opposing the plan while the Arabs are indifferent. Maintaining the council would be premature, the Zionist leader said High Commissioner Wauchope is in "serious danger of marring the excellent record he has made" if he insists on the plan.

"Some Arab leaders," he asserted, "wish to use the council as a means of obstructing Jewish progress for purely selfish reasons."

He was enthusiastic about the development of the Jewish homeland industrially and agriculturally, and said that German Jews, about 30,000 of whom have already entered the country, "will contribute great cultural and economic values.

"What forcibly strikes one traveling through Palestine," Mr. Rothenberg continued, "is that despite the urban and rural development that has already taken place, there are vast tracts of land in every section awaiting cultivation and settlement."

He deplored the fact that "rural development in Palestine has not kept pace with the amazing growth of Haifa, Tel Aviv and Jerusalem. A normal and sound economy demands that there be a proper balance between the two." He reported a need for extension of workers' agricultural settlements.

He emphasized that the acuteness of the labor shortage in Palestine threatens to retard industrial development.

While in Europe, Mr. Rothenberg said, he noted that political unrest threatens to bring new discriminations upon the Jewish population. The Nuremberg "ghetto laws," he declared, "dealt the final blow in the liquidation of the Jewish community and hurled it back to the Middle Ages."

Discussing future Zionist policies in the United States, Mr. Rothenberg said one of the most important tasks is the consideration of the proposal to establish a national Zionist federation joining all parties and factions.

Mr. Rothenberg will be given a dinner Sunday evening at the Hotel Astor at which he will be greeted by a number of Zionist and Jewish communal leaders. His trip to Palestine was the first in ten years.

REPORTS ITALIAN PROPAGANDA HASN'T INFLUENCED EAST

LONDON, Oct. 17. (JTA) -- Italian propaganda has so far not penetrated the East, certainly not to Palestine to a perceptible degree of influence, Great Britain and the East, semi-official organ of the Colonial Office, reports in its issue out today.

The periodical, formerly known as Near East and India, states that only minor manifestations of Italian support have developed in the East. This is explained by the magazine as chiefly stimulated by personal reasons.

KEREN HAYESOD MARKS 15TH ANNIVERSARY

JERUSALEM, Oct. 17. (JTA) -- The Keren Hayesod, Zionist colonization body, entered its sixteenth year of activity today. Its fifteenth anniversary was impressively celebrated here yesterday at a ceremony with Leib Joffe, Eliezar Kaplan and Isaac Ben-Zvi, Zionist leaders, among the principal speakers.

IMMIGRATION SPURRED FLOW OF CAPITAL TO PALESTINE

LONDON, Oct. 17. (JTA) -- The heavy flow of capital to Palestine is chiefly the result of great expansion in immigration to that country and the great strides made in agriculture, the Ministry of Foreign Trade reported today.

The rising immigration, the report points out, is tending to increase 1935 imports to Palestine which are likely to exceed the figures recorded for the previous year. Business has been brisk and the failures few and unimportant, according to the report.

Values of exports and imports in 1934 almost tripled those of 1931, the report states, while revenue approximately doubled. Imports to Palestine in 1931 totalled £5,940,000, whereas the 1934 figure was £15,150,000. Exports were valued at £1,570,000 in 1931 as against £3,220,000 last year. Revenue last year amounted to £5,452,633 as against £2,334,000 in 1931.

As long as immigration continues to increase, the report points out, there is no reason for apprehension with respect to the annual adverse trade balance of £10,000,000.

BRITISH PAPER HITS REICH-PALESTINE BARTER PACT

LONDON, Oct. 17. (JTA) -- The barter agreement in effect between Germany and Palestine, by which German Jews are enabled to withdraw their capital when emigrating to Palestine, was attacked in an editorial today by the London Daily Express.

The Express points out that while German imports to Palestine were rising from 10.95 percent of the total imports in 1934 to 13.92 percent in the first three months of 1935, British imports for the same periods dropped from 19.54 percent to 17.2 percent of the total.

On the opposite side of the picture, the Express points to the fact that Great Britain purchased 82.35 percent of Palestine goods in the first three months of the current year as against 55.48 percent in 1934. In the same period of 1935, on the other hand, Germany took only 3.21 percent of Palestine's exports, which represents a decrease from the 1934 figures of more than ten percent.

PROTEST SPREADS AGAINST ANGLO-GERMAN FOOTBALL MATCH

LONDON, Oct. 17. (JTA) -- The Anglo-German football match scheduled to take place at Tottenham on December 4 is becoming the center of a heated dispute which today found echoes in the general press.

Almost all of the dailies here carry scores of letter today voicing sentiments both for and against the international match. The protest movement is making so much headway that the Football Association is expected to order an investigation into the aspects of the situation.

REPORT SECRET TROOP MOVEMENTS IN PALESTINE

JERUSALEM, Oct. 17. (JTA) -- British troops are being secretly moved to Palestine and Transjordan, it was reported here today.

Reports were also being circulated today to the effect that some forces are being transferred from Malta to Transjordan. Basis for the reports were seen in the recent trip by airplane made by Acting High Commissioner John Hathorn-Hall for lunch with Emir Abdullah at Amman, Transjordan. There is no official confirmation of the rumors, however.

ALLIANCE ISRAELITE PROTESTS "GHETTO LAWS"

PARIS, Oct. 17. (JTA) -- A resolution strongly protesting against the Nuremberg laws "which with the subsequent measures are threatening to exterminate half a million people through hunger," was adopted today at a meeting of the central board of the Alliance Israelite, leading Jewish organization of France.

GREEK GOVERNOR ASSURES JEWS OF AID

SALONICA, Oct. 17. (JTA) -- A deputation of Jewish leaders which called upon M. Mandas, new Governor of Macedonia, was assured today that he has the fullest sympathy for Jewish interests.

"I am at the disposal of the Jewish Community in helping it solve its problems," Governor Mandas declared.

NAZI CHURCH LEADER URGES ADOPTION OF RACIAL PRINCIPLES

BERLIN, Oct. 17. (JTA) -- An appeal to all members of the Evangelical Church of Germany to acknowledge Nazi racial principles was issued today by the special board of the church recently established by Hans Kerrl, Nazi Minister for Church Affairs.

NAZIS PLAN NEW LAWS AGAINST JEWS IN FILM INDUSTRY

BERLIN, Oct. 17. (JTA) -- New anti-Jewish regulations designed to advance still further the expulsion of Jews from the film industry and the theatre world will be issued shortly, it was announced today by Hans Hinkel, Director of "Non-Aryan" Culture.

Herr Hinkel made his announcement at a meeting of Nazis here, called to discuss the "dejudaization" of the German film industry.

At Goslar, the authorities announced that Jews henceforth will be refused admission to all cinemas.