

NEWS

from all over the world

VIA

WIRELESS
TELEGRAPH
TELEPHONE

JEWISH TELEGRAPHIC AGENCY

347 MADISON AVE., N.Y.C.

VOL. II. NO. 139

Tuesday, January 19, 1937.

ROYAL COMMISSION ENDS HEARINGS; TO SAIL JAN. 24

JERUSALEM, Jan. 18. (JTA) -- The Royal Commission of Inquiry concluded tonight an eleven-week investigation into the Arab disturbances of 1936 and the Palestine Government's administration of the mandate.

Sir Arthur Grenfell Wauchope, British High Commissioner for Palestine, was the final witness to be heard, testifying at a session in camera. Sir Arthur was also the first witness to testify when the six-man commission, under the chairmanship of Lord Peel, opened its investigation on Nov. 12 last. In the intervening weeks, the commission has heard testimony by scores of Jewish leaders and British officials. Arab leaders, after boycotting the investigation, finally abandoned the boycott and on Jan. 12 started presentation of the Arab case.

Lord Peel will leave for Egypt tomorrow. The entire commission is scheduled to sail for England on Jan. 24.

Among the witnesses at today's session were George Antonious, Christian Arab representative of the Near East Institute of World Current Affairs, an American-endowed body; Greek Catholic Bishop Hajjar and Dr. Totah, principal of the Quaker school at Ramallah.

Antonious, the final Arab witness to testify, voiced the belief that an Arab-Jewish compromise could not be reached. He listed the following as underlying causes of the recent troubles: Arab loss of confidence in the Palestine Government, which he said cost "fantastically much"; the feeling that Arabs were being treated differently than the Jews, particularly that they were being discriminated against in the matter of immigration and land policies.

Bishop Hajjar, declaring Jews, "being sons of Abraham," wished to dominate Palestine, charged they were planning to force removal of churches from the Temple area when they become a majority in the Holy Land.

Dr. Totah declared 85 per cent of Arab men and 93 per cent of Arab women were illiterate.

Commission recalled Hani Bey Abdul Hadi, Arab leader, to clear up alleged mistranslations of testimony last week in which he was quoted as rejecting round table talks with Zionist leaders. He declared he had stated that Arabs were not prepared to engage in round-table discussions under the present conditions.

Niemirower Denies Letter to Mufti

BUCHAREST, Jan. 18. (JTA) -- Chief Rabbi Jacob Niemirower denied today having written a letter to Haj Amin el Hussein, the Grand Mufti of Palestine, advocating the rebuilding of Solomon's temple where the Moslem Mosque of Omar now stands.

He characterized as "absolutely false" a statement to this effect made by the Arab leader in testifying last week before the Royal Commission of inquiry in Jerusalem. He cabled a similar denial to the Royal Commission.

\$500,000 ASKED OF JEWISH FINANCIERS TO BUILD TEL AVIV PORT

JERUSALEM, Jan. 18. (JTA) -- Jewish financiers and leaders were asked today to help raise \$500,000 needed to complete the harbor at the all-Jewish city of Tel Aviv, which was launched last April when Arab disorders made the neighboring port of Jaffa inaccessible.

The necessity for the Jews to have their own port was stressed by Siegfried Hoofien, managing director of the Anglo-Palestine Bank. The meeting was called by Menachem M. Ussishkin, world president of the Jewish National Fund.

HALL, PALESTINE'S CHIEF SECRETARY, SHIFTED TO ZANZIBAR POST

LONDON, Jan. 18. (JTA) -- The Colonial Office announced today the appointment of John Hathorn-Hall, now Chief Secretary of the Palestine Government, as British Resident of Zanzibar, off the eastern coast of Africa.

SO. AFRICAN HOUSE ADOPTS BILL CURBING IMMIGRATION

CAPE TOWN, Jan. 18. (JTA) -- A Government bill regulating immigration was passed by a large majority in the House of Assembly today after Premier J.B.M. Hertzog had warned that growing anti-Jewish feeling might result in bloodshed unless steps were taken to curb Jewish entry.

The bill provides for quotas for all immigrant groups except British-born. It was carried after a Nationalist bill directed specifically against the Jews had been tabled.

FINANCIAL AID TO FRENCH COLONIES PROJECT HELD POSSIBILE

PARIS, Jan. 18. (JTA) -- Proposed colonization by Jews of four French colonies might ultimately win the financial assistance of the Government, it was disclosed today. The aid, however, would be conditional, on the Government's being "absolutely certain" that the colonization enterprise was headed for success.

This was made clear during Saturday's press interview with Colonial Minister Marius Moutet, in which Jews were invited to colonize Madagascar, French Guiana, New Caledonia and the New Hebrides. The statement was made in answer to questions following M. Moutet's reading of a prepared declaration on the subject.

Further details of the interview, (published in outline in yesterday's news bulletin) follow:

Cautioning against exaggeration of the possibilities which the French colonies offer for mass immigration, M. Moutet declared: "I know Jews are a good element for colonization and are very adaptable for agricultural work, which is the basis for all colonizing work. They gave remarkable proof of their ability in colonization activities in Palestine."

He added that attempts to embark on mass settlement might "involve risks of political difficulties similar to those now in evidence in Palestine."

After making allowances for these reservations, which he said were dictated by prudence, M. Moutet expressed the belief that the colonization attempt might be profitably made. He explained that the French Government on the whole was disposed to help people of good will to settle in French colonies and also that the Colonial Governors would assist to the best of their ability in launching the enterprise.

The Colonial Minister, declaring a "careful preliminary investigation" was advisable, offered to put at the disposal of interested Jewish organizations the services of "any expert they might wish."

"Certain investigations," he said, "have already been started. I have already received reports from colonial governors, some of them, notably the governor of Madagascar, favorably disposed towards the project, providing we deal with colonists who are to be supported by organizations with sufficient finances.

"Favorable colonization areas might be found in the mountainous regions of Madagascar, or in New Caledonia and the New Hebrides, or even in French Guiana, where the climate is less unhealthy than is generally supposed.

"I have asked the head of the political department of my ministry, Gaston Joseph and Cabinet Member M. Boutolle, to study this question and prepare all documents which those who might start an investigation would like to consult.

"I would be happy if on the one hand I could make a good job of this colonization effort and on the other hand be of real assistance to the people whose plight I know as victims of political and religious passions and racial prejudice," M. Moutet concluded.

Replying to a question, the Colonial Minister declared Franco was not disposed to engage in individual colonization efforts. An indispensable condition for admission as colonists, he stated, is establishment of a powerful financial organization, preliminary exploration of the chosen area and careful selection of the future colonists.

Ultimately, he added, the French Government might consider the possibility of financial assistance, but only when "absolutely certain" of the enterprise's success.

- - -

Warsaw Jewish Press Cool to Proposals

WARSAW, Jan. 18. (JTA) -- Jewish newspapers, while thanking France for her goodwill, were cool today to proposals to settle Jewish refugees in French colonies, but anti-Semitic newspapers expressed jubilation over the offer of the Blum Government.

Jewish newspapers said in editorials that the project for admitting Jews to Madagascar, New Caledonia, New Hebrides and French Guiana spelled misfortune for the Jews. While it could hardly be carried out, the plan provides grist for the mills of the anti-Semites, the articles said.

Anti-Semitic newspapers declared, "Our Madagascar plan is finally accepted." They had been campaigning for weeks for emigration of Polish Jews to the island off the east coast of Africa on the grounds that Premier Blum is Jewish and that the plan would keep the Jews far enough away from Europe for the anti-Semites' purposes.

"FREILAND" LEGALIZED BY POLAND

WARSAW, Jan. 18. (JTA) -- The Polish Government today legalized "Freiland," an organization for Jewish colonization, in Poland.

REPORT JEWS WHO BACKED BUDZINSKY ELECTION TO SUE FOR FRAUD

WARSAW, Jan. 18. (JTA) -- Haint, Yiddish daily, reported today that a court action has been planned by a number of Jewish industrialists against Deputy Budzinsky, anti-Semitic member of Parliament, on the grounds that he obtained money from them on false pretenses.

The industrialists are said to have contributed 150,000 zlotys (about \$30,000) towards Budzinsky's election campaign on his promise to protect Jewish interests. The deputy, however, has proved one of the most outspoken of the anti-Semitic bloc in Parliament. Following a speech in which he cast aspersions on the Jewish war record, he was challenged to duels by eight Jewish army officers. The duels were called off when Budzinsky signed a statement alleging he had been misquoted by the stenographers and the press.

POLISH STUDENTS CONDEMN EXCESSES AT UNIVERSITIES; URGE EMIGRATION

WARSAW, Jan. 18. (JTA) -- Anti-Jewish excesses in the universities of Poland were condemned as degrading to Polish prestige at a meeting today of pro-Government students.

The meeting urged solution of the Jewish problem "in civilized fashion, by emigration."

POLISH SUPREME COURT UPHOLDS BOYCOTT LEAFLETS

WARSAW, Jan. 18. (JTA) -- The Supreme Court has ruled, it was announced today, that leaflets urging boycott of the Jews are within the law since their distribution does not disturb public order.

Simultaneously, a ruling of the Interior Minister was announced permitting Polish artisans to display a special emblem with a cross to distinguish their shops from Jews' establishments.

BOYCOTT SEEN MAKING PROVINCIAL TRADERS' LIFE "UNBEARABLE"

WARSAW, Jan. 18. (JTA) -- Intensification of the boycott against Jews has made the situation of Jewish traders in the provinces "no longer bearable," provincial delegates today told a conference of the Jewish Small Traders Union. The delegates stressed the "complete hopelessness" of their position.

BOARD OF DEPUTIES PROTESTS TRIPOLI SABBATH LAW

LONDON, Jan. 18. (JTA) -- The Board of Deputies of British Jews adopted a resolution yesterday "profoundly deploring" a measure issued by Italian authorities in Tripoli compelling Jews in certain areas to keep their shops open on Saturday, the Jewish Sabbath.

Leonard Montefiore announced that the Joint Foreign Committee was considering action to submit the Tripoli case to proper authorities. Scores of Jews were arrested there recently and two publicly flogged for violating the new decree.

There has been a distinct lull in Fascist anti-Jewish activities in London's East End, reported Lionel Cohen, presiding in the absence of Neville J. Laski, but the Fascist press is carrying out its "pornicious anti-Jewish propaganda" which he held "obviously inspired by the Nazis."

Referring to the Archbishop of Canterbury's recent statement condemning anti-Semitism, Mr. Cohen said:

"It is gratifying to learn that these utterances met with practically universal approval. We are receiving numerous expressions of support from churches expressing the view that the fight against anti-Semitism concerns non-Jews as much as Jews."

BRITISH JEWS QUERY JAPAN'S ENVOY ON HARBIN EXCESSES

LONDON, Jan. 18. (JTA) -- The Board of Deputies of British Jews has communicated with the Japanese Ambassador in London, it was announced today, regarding reports of continued anti-Jewish activities in Harbin, Manchukuo, by White Russian elements.

Report White Russian Reign of Terror Against Harbin Jews

SHANGHAI (JTA) -- A White Russian reign of terror in Harbin in which synagogues have been repeatedly raided and a Jewish visitor forced to declare under duress he was a Communist was described by refugees from the Manchukuoan city arriving here.

The visitor, it was stated, was arrested on arriving in Harbin and after being forced through torture to assert he was "spy and a Communist" was summarily deported. Others have been arrested on slight pretext, according to the refugees' accounts.

Israel's Messenger, local weekly, quoted reports that a synagogue had been raided and the Holy Scrolls of the Law "irreverentially handled" in the hope of finding Communistic literature. Other reports of raids on homes were cited.

White Russians, reputedly in control of Harbin, are even holding people in concentration camps in what the Messenger calls "a carbon copy of Nazi Germany." The weekly says that Japan is giving the Russians their way to win their aid in the event of a war with Soviet Russia.

NEW ORLEANS PARLEY URGES JEWISH MUSIC ONLY AT SERVICES

NEW ORLEANS, Jan. 18. (JTA) -- Congregations were asked to use only Jewish music and Jewish singers for Sabbath services and such rites as Kiddush in a resolution adopted today at the 35th council of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations.

Other resolutions were adopted petitioning the Hebrew Union College to re-establish its chair of Jewish music and recommending that the Union make educational moving pictures.

A resolution was sent to President Roosevelt felicitating him on the occasion of his second inauguration.

Rabbi Abba Hillel Silver, presiding last night at a discussion of "The Synagogue and the Non-Jewish World," declared that the major concern of the synagogue was not anti-Semitism but reconstruction of society.

Rev. Andrew Gottschall, Baltimore, said that the 1928 Presidential campaign brought to life the opposition against religious prejudice and social discrimination on the basis of religious difference.

Samuel B. Finkel, New York, said that the synagogue could do little about anti-Semitism, adding that it should not try to do even that since anti-Semitism was irrational, incurable and inextinguishable.

Robert P. Goldman, Cincinnati, was elected president of the Union at today's session.

ZISHA LANDAU, YIDDISH POET, DEAD AT 48

NEW YORK, Jan. 18. (JTA) -- Funeral services were held today for Zisha Landau, 48, Yiddish lyrical poet, who died Saturday night of a heart attack. He was one of the leaders of the group of "young poets," and at the time of his death was Yiddish publicity director of the Federation for the Support of Jewish Philanthropic Societies.