

VOL. V. NO. 56.

Tuesday, February 7, 1939.

MacDONALD HOPEFUL OF ARAB-JEWISH ACCORD AT PARLEYS; HAILS U.S. JEWS! ROLE IN PALESTINE

LONDON, Feb. 6. (JTA) -- As final preparations were made for the opening of the Palestine conferences tomorrow morning, Colonial Secretary Malcolm MacDonald, who will head the British negotiators, tonight broadcast a statement expressing hope for an Arab-Jewish settlement but admitting the difficulties involved in the question.

Mr. MacDonald also paid tribute to American Jewry, which, he said, had "played a powerful role in the creative work going on in Palestine," and stressed the approval of the Palestine mandate given by the United States Government.

"No problem is insoluble, however I admit that this one is rather difficult," said the official who has gained a reputation as a Government "trouble-shooter" and who has had his hands full in recent weeks in insuring participation of all parties in Britain's latest attempt to end the long strife in the Holy Land.

Condemning attempts to solve the problem by violence, he declared that the delegates would "have an opportunity to gain a great victory for that other method of free discussion and reasoned negotiations, ending in an agreed settlement, under which alone can be founded just and happy relations among men."

The Colonial Secretary undertook to defend Britain's procedure in inviting the Arab states to attend the conferences, as well as the Palestine Arabs and the Jews of the world. The Arab states, he said, comprise peoples who have long been friendly to Britain and "naturally and necessarily" are interested in Palestine's progress. In this connection he pointed out that Britain was dealing not only with the Palestine Jews, but with the Jews of the world.

It appeared today that the British Government would have to conduct not only separate discussions with Jews and Arabs, but also separate talks with Palestine Arab extremists and moderates. The Government has failed to reconcile the dominant faction controlled by the exiled ex-Mufti of Jerusalem, who is now in Syria, with the representatives of the moderate Arab National Defense Party, led by the Mashashibis. Only today The Timos published a statement of the Palestine Arab Committee in Cairo protesting against the representation of the Mashashibi party at the conferences, and in Jerusalem, some Arab shopkeepers launched a strike in support of this protest.

Mr. MacDonald's emphasis on the difficulties was shared by The Times, often a reflector of official sentiment, which said editorially that chances for an agreement were not / promising, although there were grounds to expect that the influence of the Arab states would be exercised in favor of moderation. With all attention centered on what kind of solution can emerge from the conferences, The Times discussed the possibility of a federal solution. The task of the British Government, the editorial declared should not prevent the preparation of diplomatic ground for a wider scheme which would do much to ensure political stability and territorial integrity of the Arab East.

New Violence in Palestine

JERUSALEM, Feb. 6. (JTA) -- With the peace conferences opening in London tomorrow, new violence flared in Palestine today, marked by slaying of a Jew, wounding of several others, sabotage of railways and a protest strike by Arab merchants in the Old City here.

Dr. Samuel Posan, 55-year-old Jewish attorney who immigrated from Finland two weeks ago, was shot and killed during an Arab ambush near the Haifa City Hall. Two Jewish women, Batya Rayoff and Hannah Frudheim, and a Jewish special policeman were wounded in the same attack. Martin Young, 45, chief accountant of the Palestine Railways, was shot and slightly wounded by two Arab terrorists in Haifa.

Sabotage of railways near Rehovoth led today to suspension of Arab traffic to and from the Arab port city of Jaffa, British troops detaining 70 Arab vehicles until damage to tracks was repaired.

At the same time, Arab merchants in the Old City called a strike in protest against inclusion of the moderate Arab faction in the London conferences. The Musrara quarter, in the center of the new city, was collectively fined \$1,500 in punishment for incessant terrorism in the section.

Britain Reported Planning Army Reserve in Palestine

NEW YORK, Feb. 6. (JTA) -- The Associated Press said in a London dispatch today that the British Government was reported to be taking new steps to keep peace in Palestine and to guard trade routes through the Mediterranean by establishing an army reserve base in the Holy Land. The report was welcomed by Jews and resented by Arabs, the dispatch said, the Jews interpreting it as an indication of British determination to carry out the mandate. Viscount Gort, chief of the Imperial General Staff, is now in the Near East studying the problem.

Moslems in India Renew Demand for Representation

NEW DELHI, Feb. 6. (JTA) -- M.A. Jinnah, leader of the Indian Moslem League, today sent a telegram to the Marquess of Zetland, Secretary of State for India, asking him to reconsider his refusal to permit Indian Moslems to be represented at the London conferences on Palestine. The Marquess refused such a request in replying to a previous telegram from the Moslem Leader.

Polish Zionists to Fight Restriction of Rights

WARSAW, Feb. 6. (JTA) -- A resolution proclaiming Polish Jewry's intention to fight against any attempt to restrict Jewish rights in Palestine was adopted here last night by a special conference of Polish Zionist organizations called to discuss the London conferences.

POLITICAL CRISIS LOOMS IN SOUTH AFRICA AS NAZIS PRESS COLONIES CLAIM

LONDON, Feb. 6. (JTA) -- The Dominion of South Africa is rapidly approaching a political crisis which is bound to have serious and far-reaching consequences for the 100,000 Jews residing there, according to informed opinion in London circles closely connected with South African interests.

The crisis is bound up with the clash between the large South African group which believes that the Dominion can reach an agreement with Germany that would protect its interests and guarantee its security and those supporters of General Jan Smuts, the Deputy Prime Minister, who maintain that South African security and independence are inextricably bound up with the British Empire and that South Africa must seek closer ties with Britain if it is to survive as an independent entity.

Reports received here from South Africa indicate that General Herzog, the Prime Minister and titular head of the United (Government) Party now leans to the pro-German view and the Nationalists, the Afrikaander movement headed by Dr. D.F. Malan, is urging on him a coaltion of the Afrikaander, pro-German forces. Should such a merger eventuate, the line-up would be an all-Boer majority party committed to a course of friendship and close cooperation with the Third Reich, opposed by a smaller faction, under the leadership of General Smuts, composed of the British and moderate elements among the Boers. The present coalition of General Herzog's forces with General Smut's South African Party would be dissolved and General Smuts would re-create his party as the new opposition. In this, he would have the support of J.H. Hofmeyr, former Minister of Education, who resigned some months ago in disagreement with the Herzog policies.

There is little doubt that the projected Herzog-Malan coalition would be heavily tinged with anti-Semitism which is now one of the key planks in the Malan platform. The Malanites have been using the anti-Jewish war-cry as a slogan to rally the Boers around an Afrikander nationalist platform. This campaign has been making considerable headway in recent months with one of its by-products being the Benoni synagogue bombing. Should the Malanites, who are now urging complete prohibition of Jewish immigration into the Union, become, through the rumored coalition, part of the Government, then their anti-Semitic campaign would be tremendously accelerated, as would their anti-British drive and their demands for further repression of the natives.

The implications of this rapidly coalescing political situation in the Union has had its repercussions in the City of London, which has extensive South African financial interests. Recent weeks have seen an unloading on the London Exchange of the famed Khaffirs, the South African mining stocks, which have slumped. Financial circles report also that there has been extensive selling of Khaffirs by Jewish interests which are apprehensive regarding the future owing to the political situation and wish to withdraw their capital from South Africa.

The developing tendencies in South Africa today are attributed here to the altered international situation following the Munich Pact. Increasingly large numbers of Afrikaanders, never too friendly to Britain, are becoming increasingly skeptical of Britain's ability to stand up to the totalitarian states and there is a growing insistence on making terms with Germany before it is too late. General Smuts, almost single-handed among the Boers, has been campaigning against this attitude for months, emphasizing that South Africa's only hope for security lies within the British Empire and behind the bastion of the British fleet.

The position of the Jews in South Africa is being viewed here with increasing concern as a result of the impetus being given the nationalist movement and the growth of pro-German sentiment. The chief hope for a course of moderation in the Union lies in the possibility

of General Herzog acquiring the conviction that only through maintenance of close ties with Britain can South Africa keep South-West Africa from going back to German ownership and only within the British Empire is the security of the country assured.

STRONG ANTI-SEMITIC MEASURES COMING, SLOVAK PRESS CHIEF ASSERTS

LONDON, Feb. 6. (JTA) -- Voicing a new anti-Semitic slogan, "No more cake for Jewish children until each Slovak child has some," Sano Mach, chief of the Slovak propaganda press service, declared at a meeting of nearly 10,000 persons at Risnopce, near Neutra, Slovakia, yesterday that strong anti-Semitic measures would be instituted soon, according to reports here today. He said that the autonomous Slovak Government had eased up on anti-Jewish and anti-Czech measures recently merely to obtain time in which to plan how to get rid of both nationalities.

PROF. SAPIR, ANTHROPOLOGIST, DEAD AT 55

NEW HAVEN, Conn., Feb. 6. (JTA) -- Dr. Edward Sapir, Professor of Anthropology and Linguistics at Yale University, died Saturday at his home of heart disease after a two months! illness. He was 55 years old. Prof. Sapir was born in Lauenburg, Pomeranta, Germany, came to the United States in 1889, studied at Columbia University and taught at the Universities of California, Chicago and Pennsylvania before coming to Yale in 1951. He was particularly interested in the Yiddish language, serving as an honorary member of the curatorium of the Yiddish Scientific Institute. It was his belief, expressed in an address to the institute in 1934, that anti-Semitism resulted in large part from a Jewish "chosen people complex."

DOROTHY THOMPSON URGES DIES TO SEEK HALT IN ABUSE OF FREE SPEECH

NEW YORK, Feb. 6. (JTA) -- The question of whether the principle of free speech includes permission for racial attacks was raised by Dorothy Thompson today in her syndicated column, published in the Herald Tribune here. She said: "...what is 'free' speech? Is the publication of anonymous and defamatory literature against a racial or religious group of American citizens' free' speech?... Father Coughlin, while pretending to defend free speech, uses the instruments of economic force both to change a policy and to interfere with the free speech of others." Miss Thompson suggested that the Dies committee "consult the best legal advice as to how we can make 'free' speech also responsible speech, and how we can prevent it from being abused by those who only use it in an attempt to destroy it, and with it, our democracy."

REICH AIMS KNOW NO LIMITS, FORMER PRUSSIAN MINISTER WARNS IN BOOK

NEW YORK, Feb. 6. (JTA) -- The world is warned that "the aims of the Third Reich know no limits," in "Inside Germany," a new book by Albert C. Grzesinski, former Prussian Minister of Interior and Berlin Police President, published by E.P. Dutton & Co. He declares that "at the apex of the German pyramid stands a dictator drunk with successes and surrounded by a horde of daring adventurers." The book reviews the rise of Nazism in Germany and attributes it to the weakness of the Republic. The book was well received in the book review section of the New York Times and other papers.

SZALASY'S APPEAL FOR NEW TRIAL REJECTED

BUDAPEST, Feb. 6. (JTA) -- The Hungarian Court of Appeals today rejected the plea for a new trial filed by Major Ferenc Szalasy, Hungarian Nazi leader, who last July was sentenced to three years at hard labor for subversive activities.