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ARAB STATES SUPPORT DEMAND FOR PALESTINE INDEPENDENCE; CABINET TO DISCUSS ISSUE

LONDON, Feb. 20. (JTA) -- Representatives of the five Arab states participating in the three-sided conferences on Palestine issued a joint declaration today affirming support of the Palestine Arab demands for complete independence. The declaration was read at this afternoon's British-Arab session by a member of the Egyptian delegation in the presence of Lord Halifax, Secretary for Foreign Affairs.

It is now understood that discussion of the independence demand has been completed and the question will immediately be reviewed by Prime Minister Neville Chamberlain and the Cabinet without waiting for the outcome of discussions on other issues.

Ali Maher Pasha, Egyptian spokesman, stressed the value of an independent Arab State not only to Palestine but also to the surrounding Arab states in time of war. He emphasized the strategic value of an Arab State in Palestine linked by treaty to Britain and gave assurances that Jewish minority rights would be safeguarded.

After the joint declaration, Colonial Secretary Malcolm MacDonald reviewed the Jewish immigration question. He was understood to have presented the Jewish views to the Arabs. A spokesman for the Palestine Arabs made a long and closely reasoned statement, citing many figures to support the contention that Jewish immigration was exceeding Palestine's economic absorptive capacity. The statement followed the lines of the usual Arab arguments, denying that Jewish immigration brought any benefits to the Arabs.

The British negotiators asked time to consider the statement. Accordingly, the next Anglo-Arab meeting will be held on Wednesday. Yacoub Farraj, one of the two Palestine Arab moderates whose inclusion in the Arab delegation was accepted by the extremists, and Foreign Minister Tewfik es-Suwaydi of Iraq attended their first session today.

Britain Reported Ready to Grant Arab State Demands

LONDON, Feb. 20. (Havas) -- The British Government will grant formal recognition to Arab demands for political independence in the Holy Land after a trial period of self-government, authoritative sources reported tonight. The duration of the transitional period will be determined by the Arab willingness to assure respect for engagements contracted with Palestine Jews, it was said.

With respect to Jewish immigration, the government is expected to declare that heretofore the number of Jews allowed to immigrate to the Holy Land has been excessive, and will be

limited over a number of years. Under this plan, Jewish immigration will still be permitted but never in such proportion as would menace numerical Arab supremacy in Palestine.

The Cabinet will agree to a plan, it was said, which will divide Palestine into two zones, one of which will be destined for purchase of land by Jews while the other will be restricted for purchase of land by Arabs. The new political system will consecrate the political equality of both Arabs and Jews and will be founded on a communal base, it was reported.

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Palestine Takes New Measures Against Terrorism

JERUSALEM, Feb. 20. (JTA) -- Further measures to combat terrorism were announced by the Government today. Government employees were warned that contributing funds to Arab bands would bring dismissal. Bicycling was prohibited in the Musrarah quarter of Jerusalem, scene of several recent terrorist attacks, and in adjoining Arab quarters.

ENVOYS PLAN APPEAL TO ITALY TO DEFER EXPULSION OF FOREIGN JEWS

ROME, Feb. 20. (JTA) -- Foreign intervention in behalf of 15,000 foreign Jews slated for expulsion March 12 may be expected shortly, it was reliably learned today. Various legations, after examination of the problem, have decided that strong outside influence must be brought to bear on the Rome Government. It is believed that the Italian Government will be asked within the next few days to make good Premier Mussolini's promises to United States Ambassador Phillips and Prime Minister Chamberlain to defer the expulsion date and to urge the Intergovernmental Refugee Committee to make a study of the situation.

Unless an arrangement can be made with the Evian body, the Interior Ministry will order mass arrests of foreign Jews on March 12. Residential permits will be extended only to those who can prove ability to emigrate within a reasonable period. It is understood that a large number of Polish Jews will share the fate of deportees from Germany who since last October have been detained at the Polish-German frontier town of Zbonszyn. These are slated for transfer in sealed trains to the "no-man's-land" on the Polish-German border. Similarly, Rumanian, Greek and Hungarian Jews will be dumped on their home countries, while American, French and British Jews will probably be treated in the same way, although more diplomatically. Concentration camps, whether in Italy or Germany, loom for German Jews.

Meanwhile, hundreds of Jews from all parts of the country are streaming into Rome in a last desperate effort either to find, by canvassing foreign consulates, a country of refuge to which they can go by March 12, or to appeal to the central authorities for permission to remain in Italy a little while longer. The Government has thus far failed to give any reply, either in the affirmative or the negative, to hundreds of these individual pleas. This fact is being taken by many as a source of possible hope and an indication that the Government is at least considering the situation.

Information has been received from Rhodes that a number of Jews subject to the expulsion edict have been given permission to remain until the end of April. No reply has been received from the Government by the official Italian Jewish Refugee Committee to its petition for postponement of the expulsion deadline. (Expulsion of foreign Jews from Italian-ruled Rhodes has been postponed to April 15, according to a cable received in Jerusalem by a Jewish delegation which returned last Friday from a visit to the island to seek clemency for the threatened Jews, who number several thousands.)

Increasing concern is being felt by Italian Jewish leaders, meanwhile, over the growing number of conversions of Jews to Catholicism, which is especially noticeable in Trieste and in the provincial towns where the Jewish communities are small and weak. Many

of the conversions, it is reported, are due to the desire of the parents to assure the future welfare of their children who, as Jews, would face a bleak and almost impossible existence in Italy. As Jews, these children are barred from the State schools, and unless the communities are able to maintain their own institutions, the children are left without schooling. Conversion gives these children the right to attend the Church schools. Among those who have left the Jewish faith in recent weeks is Signor Pio Tagliacozza, a former president of the Rome Jewish Community and a prominent social worker.

Jewish communities throughout the country are now trying to organize and strengthen themselves to prevent their destruction through conversion and are seeking assistance from Jewish communities in other countries to maintain religious and educational activities. A study of the effects of the anti-Jewish decrees on the various communities is now being made and a census taken of those deprived of their means of livelihood through the closing of their vocations to Jews. The results will be used in an attempt to devise a retraining program and a Jewish employment and replacement system.

DENY ROMANIA IS EASING UP ON JEWS; REPORTS SEEN AIMED AT U.S. SYMPATHY

PARIS, Feb. 20. (JTA) -- Well informed central Jewish organizations here today found it difficult to reconcile reports published abroad, of adoption by the Rumanian Government of a more lenient attitude towards the Jews, with their own most reliable information from Rumania.

At the same time, diplomatic circles saw in the reports, which were published in London and New York recently, the hand of a Bucharest regime eager to win America's sympathy for King Carol. This view is supported by information reaching Paris that Chancellor Adolf Hitler of Germany is insisting that King Carol abdicate within six months.

According to the latest information reaching Jewish organizations here, more than 150,000 Jews have been deprived of their citizenship under the decree for revision of the citizenship lists issued last year by King Carol. Not only have those Jews not been reinstated, but the process of denaturalization is stated to be continuing with severity. Among those deprived of their citizenship are war widows and orphans, as well as wounded veterans and those holding decorations.

Jews deprived of their status as citizens are automatically deprived of their right to work. Artisan cards have been taken away from tailors, shoemakers, barbers and launderers. Without these cards, craftsmen are forbidden to work, even in their own homes. Simultaneously, trade licenses have been revoked from firms whose owners have been denaturalized. Opening of new Jewish shops has been forbidden.

Similar methods are being applied, although contrary to the law, even to Jews who have remained recognized citizens. During the past few weeks, licenses have been revoked from Jewish innkeepers and tobaccoists in Cernauti (Czernowitz) Suceava, Dorohoten and many other towns and villages. In January, the 280 Jewish proprietors of inns and cafes in Bucharest, were deprived of their licenses and ordered to liquidate their affairs within a month. An estimated 40,000 Jews, including waiters and employers, will be totally ruined, Jewish spokesmen here said, if the cancellation of Jewish inn licenses continues.

In addition to exerting economic pressure, the Rumanian Government has deprived the Jews of all representation. This has been accomplished by closing down all Jewish central organizations, with the exception of those community bodies which are restricted to religious affairs only, and by refusing to accept Jews into the Party of National Regeneration, the nation's single official political party, which is alone permitted to nominate candidates

for election to Parliament. Thus, Rumania's estimated 800,000 Jews are now not even permitted to speak up for their rights nor to protest in difficult situations.

Anxious to have foreign opinion under the impression that the Jews are treated properly, the Rumanian censorship does not permit a true picture to reach the press abroad. At the same time, the Rumanian press continues unmolested its anti-Jewish campaign within the country. Thus, the nationalist newspaper Curentul complains in an article that the present anti-Jewish measures are insufficient and voices demands for enforced Jewish emigration. Similarly, Foreign Minister Grigore Gafencu, in a recent radio address, emphasized that while other Rumanian minorities would be treated properly, the Jews should not expect such treatment since the Government wished them to emigrate. Intervention of Jewish leaders with Cabinet members has not resulted in a change in the Government's attitude.

Reports of Easier Policy Published in London, New York

On Feb. 13 a London newspaper published a dispatch from Bucharest reporting that the Rumanian Government was adopting a more lenient policy on the Jews. According to the correspondent, the policy was attributed to a stiffening of the democracies' stand and a fear that persecution of the Jews might upset Rumania's economic system.

On Feb. 18, a New York newspaper said in a Bucharest dispatch that the past six months had witnessed "frequent signs that the position of Jews is progressively improving." "Indeed the dispatch added, "nowhere in Southeastern Europe do they enjoy as much liberty as in Rumania." The correspondent reported that no differentiation was being made between Jews and Rumanians and that those deprived of their citizenship during the Goga regime had been re-instated. He also asserted that professional guilds had been ordered to revoke decisions to oust Jewish members, that Jews had been readmitted to practice of medicine and law and that liquor licenses which had been withdrawn from "non-Rumanians" had "for the most part" been restored. Anti-Semitic press attacks were said by the correspondent to have ceased almost entirely, "owing to the Government's instructions to censors not to tolerate such propaganda."

WASHINGTON WRITER SEES ANTI-SEMITISM RISING AS REACTION TO FOREIGN POLICY

NEW YORK, Feb. 20. (JTA) -- Raymond Clapper, Scripps-Howard political commentator in Washington, said today in his World-Telegram column that anti-Semitism was rising in various localities as "a perverted form of objection to intervention in Europe." The anti-Semitic feeling, he said, frequently takes the form of the question: "Are we going to fight a war to save the Jews in Germany?"

"Nobody likes Hitler," Mr. Clapper said. "Nobody wants to defend his regime. We instinctively feel safer with England and France on top than with Germany and Italy on top. But we don't want to face the logical conclusion of that feeling...So the tendency is to take refuge by putting the matter on some other ground. We hunt for some reason why we don't want to become involved. That is, I suspect, an unconscious reason for the growth of racial bigotry in this country. It is a flight from reality."

Mr. Clapper said one of the reasons that the Senate Military Affairs Committee last week questioned Hugh R. Wilson, Ambassador to Germany, was the rumor in Washington that he did not agree with the tactics of President Roosevelt in ordering him home from Berlin for "consultation and report" on the anti-Jewish excesses in the Reich.

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1,700 POLICE GUARD NAZI RALLY AT MADISON SQUARE GARDEN

NEW YORK, Feb. 20. (JTA) -- More than 1,700 police -- a record number for a mass meeting -- were on hand tonight at the Madison Square Garden and vicinity to preserve order at a Washington's Birthday "Americanism" rally called by the German-American Bund. Acting Mayor Newbold Morris this afternoon appealed to anti-Nazi elements to refrain from demonstrating at the Garden. Jewish organizations and newspapers urged Jews not to gather in the neighborhood. Some radical organizations, including the Socialist Workers Party, rallied their members to the Garden for picketing demonstrations.

By late afternoon the area for blocks around the Garden had been cordoned off by police. At 6 p.m. radio stations broadcast Mr. Morris's appeal, which said: "Public order can best be protected by the police force of our city under the capable direction of Commissioner Valentine. The best way to show your support of our democratic institutions is to shun this assemblage as one would a pestilence."

BECK TO DISCUSS JEWISH EMIGRATION IN LONDON VISIT

LONDON, Feb. 20. (JTA) -- Foreign Minister Jozef Beck of Poland will shortly visit London in response to a formal invitation from the British Government, it was reported today. It is believed that one of the questions he will discuss will be emigration of Jews from Poland. Efforts to bring the Polish emigration question within the scope of the Intergovernmental Refugee Committee have so far failed, it is said, largely because of the opposition of South American members to any extension of the committee's work.

Hope that the Intergovernmental Committee would deal at least with the problem of Polish Jews deported from Germany was expressed by a delegation from the Polish Jewish Society for Colonization, headed by Chief Rabbi Moses Schorr, which visited here recently for discussions with officials and Jewish leaders. A statement by the delegation said that George Rublee, then director of the Intergovernmental Committee, had declared the committee would take a favorable attitude towards the request for inclusion of the deportees within the committee's competence.

HITLER'S POSITION SEEN SHAKEN BY NOVEMBER POGROM

NEW YORK, Feb. 20. (JTA) -- There is no doubt that Chancellor Hitler's moral position was shaken by last November's pogrom, Mrs. Anne O'Hare McCormick said today in a dispatch to the New York Times from Berlin. The effect of the excesses was "to frighten Germans as well as to horrify the outside world," the commentator said. "It is said that he is aware of this and of the necessity of reestablishing his domestic authority by emphasizing order and peace," the dispatch added.

COUGHLIN CHARGES JEWS USE FINANCE TO 'CONTROL WORLD'

DETROIT, Feb. 20. (JTA) -- Father Charles E. Coughlin said in his weekly broadcast yesterday that "the system of international finance which has crucified the world to the cross of depression was evolved by Jews, both for their own defense as well as for holding the peoples of the world under control." Warning that "this policy of internationalism" would lead to war and Communism, the priest attacked the sale of American airplanes to France, emphasizing particularly that Secretary of Treasury Henry Morgenthau Jr. had supported President Roosevelt on the question of the aircraft sale.

BULLETIN

PRAGUE, Feb. 20. (Havas) -- Killing of livestock according to orthodox Jewish ritual and sale of kosher meat were banned by an order of municipal laboratory authorities here tonight. Prague's Jewish population was expected to protest against the move, reportedly made without authorization of the City Council.