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## JEWISH TELEGRAPHIC AGENCY

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### 2-HOUR ARAB-JEWISH ROUNDTABLE FARLEY PROVES UNPRODUCTIVE; NEW SESSION TODAY

LONDON, Feb. 23. (JTA) -- Jewish, Arab and British delegates met at one table for the first time in the 16-day old triangular conferences today to consider together the Palestine problem, but a two-hour discussion failed to reveal any indication of a basis for agreement. The roundtable session will be resumed tomorrow afternoon. Today's discussions, held in the picture gallery of St. James Palace under the chairmanship of Colonial Secretary Malcolm MacDonald, revolved around general principles rather than particular questions. The atmosphere at the meeting was described as quite friendly.

It was understood that the session represented an attempt to get down to the basic aspects of the Palestine question and that it covered mainly the same grounds covered during the formal meetings of the British representatives separately with Jews and Arabs. It was noteworthy, however, that today's meeting was the first occasion on which the representatives of all three parties discussed the questions together. Informed sources said the discussion revolved largely around the question of the Palestine mandate, rights claimed by the Jews and Arab fears of Jewish domination. The meeting was opened by Mr. MacDonald with a brief prefatory statement and informal discussion followed. No agenda had been arranged for the session, those attending being permitted to speak on any aspects of the problem.

Members of the Palestine Arab delegation were not invited, the Arabs being represented by the delegates from Egypt, Iraq and Saudi Arabia. It was stressed today that the delegates attended the meeting as individuals rather than as representatives of their delegations, but they sat by delegations around one table replacing the usual horseshoe arrangement. It was declared in official quarters that no change in the general situation had resulted from the meeting. Arab-British discussions will be continued Saturday, while a British-Jewish session scheduled for tomorrow has been postponed.

The Government was represented today by Mr. MacDonald, Foreign Secretary Lord Halifax, Foreign Undersecretary Richard A. Butler and several experts and members of the Palestine conference secretariat. The Arab representatives in-

cluded Premier Nuri Pasha es-Said and Foreign Minister Tewfik es-Suwaidy, of Iraq, Ali Maher Pasha of Egypt and Fuad Hamza, of Saudi Arabia. The Jewish delegation was headed by Dr. Chaim Weizmann and included David Ben Gurion, Prof. Selig Brodetsky, Moshe Shertok, Dr. Stephen S. Wise, Lord Bearsted, Lord Reading and Simon Marks.

The Jewish Agency Executive this afternoon heard a report of the session and the Jewish conference committee will meet tomorrow morning to review the situation.

### Report Britain Will State Policy Next Week

LONDON, Feb. 23. (Havas) -- Competent spokesmen in close touch with the various delegations said the British Government probably would publish a statement early next week bringing the conference to a close explaining the policy that London intends to pursue in accordance with its mandate over the Holy Land.

### Commons Gets \$15,000,000 Bill for Palestine Disorders

LONDON, Feb. 23. (JTA) -- Colonial Secretary MacDonald today presented the House of Commons with a bill for the Palestine disorders exceeding \$15,000,000, including a grant-in-aid for the Palestine Government. He told Commons that the situation in the Holy Land had "improved slowly but surely in recent months." Rebel activities, he said, had been reduced to a minimum, the main trouble now being individual sabotage and assassinations, which take long to suppress. He said the military were able to restore order but not peace, which was the task of the current Palestine conferences.

All parties in Commons supported a supplementary estimate of \$72,000 for the expenses of the conferences. The House agreed not to debate the Palestine question now in order not to jeopardize what possibilities for success the parleys have.

### 5,000 DANZIG JEWS FACE ENSLAVEMENT FOR ROAD WORK

WARSAW, Feb. 23. (JTA) -- The tragedy of the 5,000 Jews in the Nazi-dominated Free City of Danzig has entered a new phase with the decision of the Senate to utilize the Jews as cheap labor for construction of a motor road between Danzig and East Prussia and to intern them with their families in concentration camps.

The former project of shipping all the Jews to unknown destinations seems to have been abandoned after the date for the shipment of the first transport of 1,000 Jews had several times been postponed "for external reasons." Meanwhile, those who had been marked for evacuation have been completely ruined. Their property has been sold to "Aryans" for a song and the proceeds confiscated to "cover the expenses of emigration." Their personal luggage has been taken away "for storing pending emigration" and has not been returned.

The 1,000 Jews, forced to give up their residences, have been accommodated since January in the building which formerly housed the Jewish Sports Club, which was requisitioned for the purpose.

Although the Nazis have declared that Danzig will be "judenrein" (free of Jews) in six months at the latest, it is reported that the Nazis have now decided to intern all Jews, including women and children, to carry out State work, the first project being the construction of the road between Danzig and East Prussia.

While the official reason for the internment is declared to be to force the Jews to emigrate, it is understood that the action is prompted by a desire to convert the Jews into virtual slaves and thus to have cheap labor for the execution of the program which the Danzig Senate and the German authorities have worked out for the year 1939.

#### REICH ORDERS JEWS TO TURN IN PRECIOUS METALS

BERLIN, Feb. 23: (Havas) -- All German Jews were today under orders to turn in precious gems, pearls, and articles made of gold, platinum or silver. The measure also applies to Jews without nationality living in the Reich. They will be indemnified for these valuables at rates fixed by the Ministry of Economy. The exchanges will be made at officially-recognized loan offices. This ordinance, published in the official journal of Feb. 21, was the third to be issued under the decree requiring Jews to declare their fortune.

#### HUNGARIAN ANTI-JEWISH BILL BROUGHT INTO PARLIAMENT

BUDAPEST, Feb. 23. (JTA) -- The Government's anti-Jewish bill, tightening restrictions on Jews in commerce, public service and culture, was reported to Parliament today with minor amendments by a special joint committee of the two houses. The bill contains 28 sections.

The new measure is necessary, the report stated, to prevent Jews in neighboring states under anti-Semitic regimes from settling in Hungary and also to decrease the "high percentage" of Jews in Hungarian economy and "the excessive Jewish influence" on national life. Important changes have occurred in the European Jewish situation, affecting Hungary, since the original anti-Jewish law was passed last year, the report said. The new bill was held inevitable in view of measures taken by neighboring states "to eliminate or at least to restrict the living space of Jews."

Commenting on the section of the bill which restricts Jewish franchise and permits Jews to vote only a month after general elections, the report stated that the emancipation granted to Hungarian Jews in 1867 was intended only for Jews living in Hungary at that time and their descendants.

#### RUBLEE SEES "GREAT ALLEVIATION" IN FLIGHT OF REICH JEWS

NEW YORK, Feb. 23. (JTA) -- George Rublee returned today from his six-month mission as director of the Intergovernmental Refugee Committee, convinced that the emigration terms he negotiated in Berlin would result in "great alleviation" of the Jewish plight in Germany. The plan, Mr. Rublee told reporters on board the Queen Mary, will make it possible for 150,000 Jews to emigrate within an "outside limit" of five years and "will make possible orderly emigration, instead of the chaotic exodus existing until now."

The principal problems now facing the Intergovernmental Committee, the 70-year-old Washington lawyer and friend of President Roosevelt said, are (1) to find places for the emigrants to go to and (2) to find a means of financing the emigration. Regarding the first, Mr. Rublee said that investigations were now in progress or contemplated in British and Dutch Guiana, in the Dominican Republic, where he said there were "good possibilities," Northern Rhodesia and in the Philippine Islands, specifically the island of Mindanao.

Regarding the second, he said that it would cost at least \$1,000 for each emigrant -- more if mass colonization was contemplated -- (thus making a minimum of \$150,000,000 for the 150,000 proposed emigrants). The core of the solution of the financial problem, he said, would be a private international corporation which would raise its funds through a loan or in any other way it sees fit.

Mr. Rublee declined to discuss the nature of the memorandum containing the German Government's "unilateral" terms on emigration, but he did state that he believed there would be no further anti-Jewish excesses in Germany like the November pogroms and he also stated that the emigration plan did not involve increased commercial export of German goods.

"I held three talks with Dr. Hjalmar Schacht (then president of the Reichsbank) and nine with Dr. Helmut Wohlthat (ministerial director of the Economics Ministry)," Mr. Rublee said. "The result was that I brought back to report to the Intergovernmental Committee a document which set forth what the German Government is willing to do in order to make emigration orderly instead of chaotic."

While the Intergovernmental Committee is concerned with refugees regardless of race, the plan negotiated in Berlin covers only Jewish emigration, Mr. Rublee said, because "the German Government refused to negotiate about the non-Jews." Asked what faith he put in the likelihood that the German Government would carry out its terms, Mr. Rublee said he was convinced that the officials who negotiated with him were "sincere" and "in earnest" and said he understood that they had their orders from the highest authorities. He said he believed that Dr. Schacht's removal as Reichsbank president had no connection with the negotiations.

Mr. Rublee will report to Secretary of State Cordell Hull next week and will see President Roosevelt sometime later.

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#### Monsky Urges Caution on Rublee Plan

PHILADELPHIA, Feb. 23. (JTA) -- Henry Monsky, president of B'nai B'rith, tonight warned American Jewry "not to be lulled into a feeling of unreal and baseless hope" concerning that phase of the Rublee plan for the emigration of Jews from Germany "which seems to imply that Jews remaining in Germany will be permitted a respite from the present economic pogrom." To accept any such idea "would be extremely unwise" for the Rublee plan "contains no guarantees for the Jews in Germany," Mr. Monsky told a B'nai B'rith meeting here. While expressing appreciation of the "high-minded purpose and humanitarian intent" underlying the Rublee plan, he urged caution in prejudging it. He said that though it "represents probably the best terms obtainable from the Nazi regime for rescuing the victims of persecution, it does contain some hazardous implications, readily recognized even by its proponents."

#### JEWISH CAUSE WILL TRIUMPH IN PALESTINE, LORD HARLECH HOLDS

NEW YORK, Feb. 23. (JTA) -- The belief that the Jewish cause ultimately will triumph in Palestine was expressed today by former Colonial Secretary Lord Harlech (William G.A. Ormsby-Gore), arriving on the Queen Mary for a three-week visit to the United States in behalf of the National Museum of Wales. Lord Harlech voiced the hope that the Arabs would come to their senses "and live in peace and friendship with the Jews, who could do so much for them if it were not for the Arab politicians."

Asked about his views on the Palestine conferences, Lord Harlech said: "There is just a chance that the conference will succeed. If the Palestine Arabs will listen to the leaders of the neighboring states, then they may come to terms....If the conference does not succeed, then the British Cabinet will have to consider the problem again."

The former Colonial Secretary said that he still believed "there will be created a Jewish nation which will have a national life in Palestine, no matter under what form of government. The trouble just now," he added, "is that Jewish nationalism has run up against another nationalism. Just as in Europe, racialism and nationalism are dominant in Asia -- too much so for the good of humanity."

Another passenger on the Queen Mary was Arie el-Manani, chief architect of the World's Fair Palestine Pavilion, who said the exhibits for the pavilion's ten halls had been completed by artists and craftsmen in Palestine and were now en route to New York. Aaron Bin-Nun, a leader of the Poel-Hamizrahi (religious labor organization) in Palestine and head of the Poel-Hamizrahi credit bank in Tel Aviv, also arrived on the Queen Mary to spend a year in the United States aiding in developing the organization here.

#### MATZOH-BAKING BANNED THROUGHOUT REICH; IMPORT FROM ABROAD PLANNED

PARIS, Feb. 23. (JTA) -- Baking of matzoh has been prohibited throughout Germany, it was indicated today by reports reaching Paris. Jewish organizations here received an appeal from Vienna stating that local authorities, in every part of Austria had prohibited baking of the unleavened bread and urging Jewish organizations abroad to send in matzoh lest Austrian Jewry go without it for the first time in its history next April.

A similar situation exists in the rest of Germany, where no official prohibition has yet been issued but not a single Jewish bakery is permitted to function, thus making matzoh-baking impossible for the first time since Chancellor Hitler's regime came into power.

Losing no time, Jewish organizations in Paris began studied to determine how best to provide Reich Jewry with the unleavened bread. It is expected that Jewish organizations in the United States and elsewhere will have to provide the funds for the matzoh since Reich Jews are not permitted to spend foreign currency necessary for importing the food. It is believed that a sufficient supply of matzoh is obtainable from Hungary and Czecho-Slovakia. However, negotiations with the German Government are required to obtain permission for entry of the matzoh-transport duty-free, since it is not intended for sale but for free distribution.

In this connection it is pointed out that even the Soviet Government, when the post-revolution Government prohibited matzoh-baking, agreed to admit carloads of matzoh from abroad duty-free.

Parallel with the matzoh problem, Reich Jewry is facing a meat problem for Passover since kosher slaughter is prohibited.