

NEWS

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BRITAIN GIVES ARABS, JEWS WEEK TO AGREE BEFORE IMPOSING SOLUTION; TO MASS TROOPS IN PALESTINE

LONDON, March 8. (JTA) -- The British Government has decided to announce its final plan for settlement of the Palestine problem if indications of an agreement with the Arabs and Jews are not forthcoming within a week, it was learned today after a Cabinet session. Simultaneously, War Secretary Leslie Hore Belisha announced in the House of Commons that provisions would be made for stationing sixteen battalions of troops in the Holy Land, where the military concentration has already reached its post-war peak.

The two developments indicated that the Government had all but lost hope of any amicable agreement arising from the month-old Palestine conference and was determined to carry out its own solution. The proposals to be announced by the Government in the event the one-week deadline passes without indications of agreement will be final and will be subject to modification only in detail, not in principle, it was learned.

The Government's view is that after four weeks of discussions it is now able to review the situation and the prospects and draw up what it considers a possible settlement in the light of Arab and Jewish reactions to the suggestions, advanced ten days ago, for an independent Palestine state in which the Jews would have a minority status. The British representatives at the conference are working out final proposals and this week the Arab and Jewish delegations will be asked to decide within a short time on whether they wish to accept the plan.

The Government's conviction that there was virtually no hope of settlement by agreement was strengthened after a round-table session of British, Jews and representatives of three Arab states which ended last midnight at the St. James Palace with official circles admitting that little progress had been made. The meeting was informal in character, as had been the two similar sessions last month, and was confined to general aspects of the situation and a review of the background of the Arab and Jewish cases.

No formal sessions will be held for the present. The British representatives are informally contacting the Arabs and will contact the Jews after receipt of the letter from the Jewish Agency Executive asking clarification of the Government's intentions regarding the Jewish homeland, which was sent to Colonial Secretary Malcolm MacDonald tonight.

Meanwhile, Robert Szold and Louis Lipsky, the remaining American Zionist representatives at the conference, sailed today for New York on the liner Ile de France after a conversation by overseas telephone with Dr. Solomon Goldman, president of the Zionist Organization of America.

"Axis" Plot on Palestine Charged

PARIS, March 8. (JTA) -- Pierre Bernus, well known commentator of the newspaper Journal des Debats, reported today that he had obtained documents indicating that pushing agitation in Palestine and Syria, perhaps as far as revolution, was part of the plan for 1939 of the Rome-Berlin axis.

"The agitation may be pushed, it is hoped, as far as revolution," the writer for the moderate conservative newspaper said. "From this fact everything that happens concerning the Palestine conference in London should be followed closely. What is happening at this moment on the subject is very instructive."

The Hitler-Mussolini plan was also said to include an attack by Germany on the Netherlands, and eventually Switzerland, as part of a series of steps intended "to create all sorts of varied and increasing difficulties for the western powers." Declaring the documents in his possession "indisputable," Mr. Bernus warned the British and French Governments to deliver an immediate warning to Hitler that execution of his plan would lead Germany to catastrophe.

3 Jews Slain, 5 Wounded in New Disorders

JERUSALEM, March 8. (JTA) -- Arab terrorists today attacked a convoy of Jewish trucks near Beisan, killing two Jews, Arish Wald and Jacob Joseph Milonad and wounding two others. Earlier, the body of a 23-year-old Jew, Abraham Grabov, was found in a water cistern on the outskirts of Jerusalem. A postmortem proved that Grabov, who had been missing for three days, had been murdered. Three Jewish passengers were wounded when Arab snipers fired upon Jewish buses traveling between Haifa and Nesher.

10 Governors, 20 Congressmen Ask Roosevelt Intervention

NEW YORK, March 8. (JTA) -- President Roosevelt and Secretary of State Hull have been asked by ten Governors, 20 United States Senators and Representatives, and 17 mayors and city councils, including New York City, to intervene with Great Britain to avert threatened abandonment of the mandate and the Balfour Declaration, it was announced today by President Solomon Goldman of the Zionist Organization of America. In many cases, Dr. Goldman said, cables had been sent directly to Prime Minister Neville Chamberlain and Colonial Secretary Malcolm MacDonald.

The Conference Committee of Jewish Women's Organizations, comprising nine groups with a total membership of 350,000, announced that it has cabled the Jewish delegation at the London conferences an expression of "their profound regret at the reported plan of His Majesty's Government to restrict immigration of Jews into Palestine."

POLISH RABBIS PROCLAIM 18 MEATLESS DAYS AS PROTEST ON SHECHITA BILL

WARSAW, March 8. (JTA) -- A special conference of 500 rabbis from all over Poland today proclaimed an 18-day meatless period for Jews, starting March 14, in protest against a measure before Parliament that would prohibit completely the practice of shechita, Jewish ritual method of slaughtering animals for human consumption. Shechita has been under partial proscription throughout Poland since Jan. 1, 1937.

The measure, which has already been adopted by a Parliamentary committee, would put the ban into effect by stages with final prohibition set for the end of 1942. It was scheduled to be submitted to a plenary session of the Sejm today but failed to come up and no date was set for a debate.

The rabbinical conference, after an all-night session, also proclaimed a day of fasting and prayer to coincide with the day the shechita measure is brought to the Sejm floor for action. On that day, too, it was decided to declare a "cherem" (virtual excommunication) against all Jewish butchers who sold as kosher meat not prepared in the ritual way. From March 14 to 31, Poland's 3,500,000 Jews are ordered by the rabbis to refrain from eating meat, except for poultry. During that period, the practice of shechita will be suspended throughout the country, Jewish butcher shops will be closed and Jewish restaurants will not serve meat.

At the same time, the conference drafted a petition to Premier Skladkowski and the Minister of Religions, urging them not to permit prohibition of shechita on the grounds that it violated the Polish Constitution and abridged the freedom of conscience of religious Jews. A protest against the shechita bill was submitted to the Minister of Agriculture yesterday by a delegation of Polish Moslems and Karaites, a heretical Jewish sect.

YOUNG FOREIGN JEWS IN ITALY SEEK TO JOIN BRITISH SERVICE; U.S. STILL WAITS ACTION ON NATIONALITY BILL

ROME, March 8. (JTA) -- Following reports in the Italian press that Great Britain's call for volunteers had been unsuccessful, British consulates throughout Italy were today besieged by young foreign Jews, who are slated for expulsion by March 12, with offers to join the British service.

Despite repeated personal requests during the last week, the United States Embassy has still received no reply from the Italian Government on the status of American Jews with regard to the expulsion edict. The Argentine Embassy, meanwhile, has assured its Jewish nationals of their right to remain in Italy after the expulsion deadline, declaring it would not accept discrimination against them and promising adequate protection if the expulsion orders are carried out.

The Interior Ministry announced yesterday that applications for exemption from the anti-Jewish laws will not be considered after March 31. No applications will be considered unless accompanied by all the necessary documents. It is noteworthy that the number of exemptions granted to date have been very few.

IRISH CATHOLIC PAPER WARNS AGAINST RACE AGITATION

DUBLIN, March 8. (JTA) -- Warning against stirring up of racial hatred was voiced today by the Standard, leading Catholic weekly, in an editorial referring to circulation of anti-Jewish literature by a group calling itself the "Irish Ireland Research Society." The society has been circulating a letter which begins: "Having fought for political freedom against England for centuries, we are confronted with a new enemy today -- the Jew."

Recalling that the Irish had been persecuted in the past but had never persecuted a minority, the Standard said that "today's anti-Jewish literature was comparable to the anti-Catholic literature in past centuries when the Catholics were accused of abominable crimes and secret vices."

REICH PERMITS JEWS TO KEEP WEDDING RINGS, DENTAL BRIDGEWORK

BERLIN, March 8. (Havas) -- Wedding rings, silver watches, dental bridgework and four pieces of silver cutlery per person were exempted today from the list of gold and silver articles which Jews throughout Germany have been ordered to turn in to authorities.

An economy ministry order published today permits Jews to keep their wedding ring as well as the wedding rings of their deceased spouses, silver or silver-plated watches and one silver knife, fork, tablespoon and teaspoon per person. They are also permitted to keep gold and silver dental bridges, if they are being used.

28 REFUGEES HAVE STARTED KENYA TRAINING, COMMONS TOLD

LONDON, March 8. (JTA) -- The first group of 28 Jewish refugees selected for settlers in Kenya colony already have left Europe to begin their training period in Kenya, Colonial Secretary Malcolm MacDonald told Commons today. He was asked by G. Lathan, labor, to make a statement on the progress of the scheme for Jewish settlement in Kenya recommended by the Committee on Settlement in its recent report.

"I assume Lathan has in mind the scheme referred to in paragraph 158 of the Kenya Settlement Committee report issued last January," Mr. MacDonald replied. "Of thirty refugees selected to form the first body of settlers under the scheme all but two already have left Europe to begin their period of training in Kenya."

CELLER QUERIES MORGENTHAU ON REICH BARTER DEALS HERE

WASHINGTON, March 8. (JTA) -- Representative Emanuel Celler today asked Secretary of the Treasury Henry Morgenthau Jr. whether the Tariff Act's countervailing duties had been waived in the interest of German barter deals, making it possible for American exporters of oil, cotton, copper, wheat and lard to exchange their products for a wide variety of German products which were then sold here below the cost of American-made goods.

"Such barter arrangements," Mr. Celler said, "run counter to the reciprocal trade agreements and we should pause before entering into barter deals with nations like the Reich, which has on its hands the blood of thousands of innocents, the victims of hate. Germany, in continuous default on sovereign indebtedness to American bondholders, should not be encouraged and repaid by barter arrangements."

GIFT TO WISCONSIN U., RESTRICTED TO PROTESTANTS, WITHDRAWN AFTER PROTESTS

MADISON, Wis., March 8. (JTA) -- An offer to the University of Wisconsin of about \$100 annually, to be used as a loan fund restricted to white, Protestant women students, has been withdrawn "because of the attacks made on it by a religious group," President Clarence A. Sykstra disclosed today, criticizing the attacks.

"If such an attitude prevails here," Dr. Dykstra told the J.T.A., "it will be impossible for anyone ever to give the University aid for Negroes, for instance, or for German refugees, or for any other special purposes. It is quite possible that freedom consists in allowing all kinds of groups to be helped by those who wish to aid them."

ROOSEVELT'S SON WOULD BAR SPEECH FREEDOM TO PREACHERS OF "ISMS" AS TREASONABLE

WASHINGTON, March 8. (JTA) -- The Federal Radio Commission had on record today a statement by Elliott Roosevelt, second son of the President, that freedom of speech should be barred to advocates of nazism, fascism and communism since their remarks constituted treason.

Testifying yesterday in the commission's investigation of chain broadcasting and possible monopoly in the radio industry, Mr. Roosevelt, who is president and chairman of the board of the Texas State Network, Inc., declared: "Freedom of speech is important, but there is also treason. Persons preaching the doctrines of nazism, communism or fascism are making treasonable remarks and are, therefore, not subject to freedom of speech."

ISAYE SCHWARTZ NAMED CHIEF RABBI OF FRANCE

PARIS, March 8. (JTA) -- Isaye Schwartz, Chief Rabbi of Strasbourg, was today elected Chief Rabbi of France.

YEHUDA COHEN, CO-FOUNDER OF TEL AVIV, DIES IN PALESTINE

TEL AVIV, March 8. (JTA) -- Dr. Yehuda Cohen, a pioneer Zionist, died here today at the age of 70. Dr. Cohen was a co-founder of Tel Aviv and founded the Herzliah High School.

BRITISH JEWS CABLE GREETINGS TO POPE PIUS XII

LONDON, March 8. (JTA) -- The Board of Deputies of British Jews today cabled greetings to Pope Pius XII.

2 FASCISTS KILLED WHEN BOMB MEANT FOR JEWS EXPLODES

LONDON, March 8. (JTA) -- Dispatches from Praha said today that two Fascists were killed when a bomb they were placing in the Pilsen Jewish Cemetery exploded prematurely. One of the victims was the 23-year-old editor of a Fascist newspaper and the other was a bank clerk.

REVISIONISTS BREAK UP J.N.F. RALLY IN KAUNAS

KAUNAS, March 8. (JTA) -- Several persons were under arrest today following a Jewish National Fund meeting here last night which was broken up by Revisionists, extremist Zionists, who distributed leaflets attacking the Jewish Agency for Palestine. Police intervened when fighting developed.

HERSHEL GRYNSZPAN TRIAL TO TAKE PLACE IN MAY

PARIS (JTA) -- The trial of Hershel Grynszpan is to take place in May at the Paris Assizes, it was announced. According to a report by the doctors appointed by the court to examine his mental condition, Grynszpan was "responsible" at the time he shot Ernst vom Rath, German Embassy official.