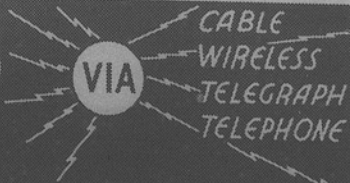


# NEWS

*from all over the world*



*by the*

## JEWISH TELEGRAPHIC AGENCY

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### MacDONALD DENIES CHANGE IN PALESTINE PLAN; SAYS ARAB TALKS AIMED AT 'ELUCIDATION'

LONDON, April 19. (JTA) -- Colonial Secretary Malcolm MacDonald denied in the House of Commons today that the discussions in Cairo on the Palestine problem were an extension of the recent London conference. He said the talks were undertaken on the initiative of the Arab states and covered certain points of the pending Palestine policy to be imposed by the British Government and were informal.

Mr. MacDonald declared he was unaware that Egyptian Ambassador Hassan Nachat Pasha had conveyed to Cairo, as had been reported, any variation in policy from that contained in the final proposals made by the Government at the London conference. He declined to reveal the nature of the points raised during the Cairo discussions, but asserted that the talks last week between Dr. Chaim Weizmann, president of the Jewish Agency and Premier Mohammed Mahmoud Pasha of Egypt were not part of the discussions with the British.

Replying to critical queries on why informal discussions were being held with the Arabs and not also with the Jews, Mr. MacDonald declared the way was open to the Jewish Agency for Palestine to raise any points if it wished. Later in the afternoon, he conferred with Ambassador Nachat Pasha in the Colonial Office.

### Colonial Secretary's Statement

Mr. MacDonald stated at question time, answering Tom Williams, Laborite: "Since the London conference came to an end, His Majesty's Government have been considering their future policy on Palestine. In informal discussions before they left London, the delegates of some neighboring states expressed certain views and raised points in connection with His Majesty's Government's intentions, and the informal discussions which have taken place have been concerned with elucidation of those points."

Mr. Williams then asked: "As the statement made at the end of the London conference was that His Majesty's Government would now explain their own policy to be superimposed on Palestine, can he (the Colonial Secretary) say, if informal conversations are taking place with the Arab delegation, why there have not been similar conversations with the Jews?"

Mr. MacDonald replied: "As I have said, the delegates of certain Arab states took the initiative in raising certain points in connection with policy, as they were perfectly entitled to do. We have informal discussions with them on those points, and it is open to representatives of the Jewish Agency to do the same thing if they wish to do so."

"Can he say," Mr. Williams interposed, "if, when the Egyptian Minister travelled to Egypt to continue the conversations, and when representatives of the Jewish Agency were at Cairo, whether the Minister conveyed from His Majesty's Government any variation in the policy of the Government as previously submitted to the London conference?" The Colonial Secretary replied in the negative.

#### Palestine Counts 5,774 Casualties on Disorders Anniversary

JERUSALEM, April 19. (JTA) --- With the organized Arab rebel forces apparently crushed but sporadic disorders continuing, Palestine today looked back upon three years of violence that have taken a toll of 5,774 casualties and millions of dollars in property damage. The three years of the rebellion have seen an estimated 450 Jews killed and 944 wounded; 140 British soldiers and civilians killed and 476 wounded; 2,287 Arabs killed and 1,447 wounded. Direct damage to Jewish property was estimated at \$2,500,000.

In the same period, the Jewish population of Palestine increased from a 1936 total of 375,000 to the present figure of 457,000. Zionist land purchases in that time have totalled 74,792 dunams (about 18,000 acres). Thirty-six new Jewish colonies have been established since 1936. Ten thousand Jews have been put under arms as special policemen. Total new Jewish investments in the three years have been about \$85,000,000, while 1,000,000 trees have been planted to replace 85,000 destroyed by Arab marauders.

Meanwhile, the Arab quarter of Jerusalem's Old City was placed under curfew following the fatal shooting of a British constable.

#### Defense Measures Pressed in Holy Land

JERUSALEM, April 19. (JTA) -- The crew of the British destroyer Grenade was reported today to be laying a boom across the entrance of Haifa harbor to guard against submarine attack. Meanwhile, civilian defense measures were being organized. A special committee headed by Lady Trusted circularized English women, including Jewesses, to volunteer their services in the event of war.

#### 200 Refugees Held on Ship in Haifa Harbor

HAIFA, April 19. (JTA) -- Two hundred Jewish refugees have been held incommunicado on board the Greek vessel Assima since it was apprehended by the coast guards April 11 while trying to land them illegally, it was learned today. The Jewish community, however, has been permitted to send milk, food and medicine to the passengers while the authorities decide whether to seize the ship, which would involve landing the refugees, or to send it back to sea. Several other vessels which tried to smuggle refugees into Palestine have been turned back after brief detention.

#### \* Senator King Accuses Britain of Breaking Faith

WASHINGTON, April 19. (JTA) -- Senator William H. King of Utah, addressing a Hadassah meeting here, charged today that Great Britain had broken faith regarding its obligations in Palestine. He said that the extent of the Arab problem was exaggerated and praised the Jews for the "magnificent changes" they had wrought in the Holy Land.

SLOVAKIA BANS JEWS IN JOURNALISM, SETS 4% LIMIT FOR LAWYERS

BRATISLAVA, April 19. (Havas) -- A sweeping anti-Semitic law modeled along the lines set by "protector" Nazi Germany was promulgated today by the Slovak Government. The measure defined Jews as (1) Anyone who was not baptized before Oct. 30, 1918; (2) Anyone not affiliated with any faith who had at least one Jewish parent; (3) Anyone who had a Jewish father or mother who was baptized later than Oct. 30, 1918; (4) Anyone living with a Jew, or any children born of such a union.

The measure restricted Jewish lawyers to four per cent of the total legal profession and entirely banned Jews from journalism.

SCHWEITZER, 50 TODAY, IMMERSSED IN J.D.C. WORK

PARIS, April 19. (JTA) -- David J. Schweitzer, European vice-chairman and financial adviser of the Joint Distribution Committee, will be 50 years old tomorrow. The anniversary will find him at his desk in the J.D.C.'s Paris office, submerged in the work of helping to cope with the unprecedented problem of Jewish distress.

Mr. Schweitzer, who immigrated to the United States from Russia at the age of 15, is a naturalized American citizen. Before joining the European staff of the J.D.C. in 1920, he was active in New York social and philanthropic work. He had attended the College of the City of New York, Columbia University and the New York School of Philanthropy. In 1937, he was appointed a Chevalier of the French Legion of Honor in what, he told the J.T.A., was "an expression of the French Government's appreciation of the activities of the Joint Distribution Committee in France and elsewhere."

SIMPSON CRITICIZES BRITAIN FOR NOT UTILIZING REFUGEES

MANCHESTER, England, April 19. (JTA) -- Addressing a meeting of the Friends' Refugee Committee, Sir John Hope Simpson appealed today for the raising of an international loan to solve the refugee problem and denounced the "shortsighted, timid" British policy toward refugees.

"If there is one thing we want to import, it is brains," Sir John said, "yet we are insisting on sending them to the United States when they have been here for three months. If this Empire is committed to keeping enormous areas empty as a temptation to potential enemies then we deserve what we get." Sir John is director of the Refugee Survey of the Royal Institute of International Affairs.

NATHAN, FIRST JEW TO SERVE AS GOVERNOR OF BRITISH COLONY, DEAD AT 77

LONDON, April 19. (JTA) -- Sir Matthew Nathan, first Jew to serve as Governor of a British colony, died yesterday at the age of 77. Sir Matthew, who held the rank of Lieutenant in the British Army, in which he saw long service, started his career as a Colonial official in 1899, when he was named Governor of Sierra Leone. In the following years, he was Governor of the Gold Coast, Hong Kong, Natal and Queensland.

Other Government posts held by Sir Matthew included Secretary to the Ministry of Pensions, Undersecretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland, Chairman of the Board of Inland Revenue and Secretary to the Post Office. His most recent position was High Sheriff of Somerset. Sir Matthew visited the United States in 1926, when he made a study of some government departments. He was vice-president of the Anglo-Jewish Society in London.

BERTHA KALICH, NOTED ACTRESS, DIES AT 64

NEW YORK, April 19. (JTA) -- Bertha Kalich, the noted actress, died last evening at Beth Israel Hospital at the age of 64 after a lingering illness. Miss Kalich retired from the stage in 1931 because of an eye ailment, but since then made occasional appearances. Born in Lemberg, Galicia (now Lwow), she began her stage career at the age of 12, came to New York when she was 17, became famous on the Yiddish stage and later in the English-language theater. She is survived by her husband, Leopold Sprachner, and a daughter, Lillian Sprachner.

\$150,000 DRIVE LAUNCHED FOR YOUTH HOSTEL IN JERUSALEM

NEW YORK, April 19. (JTA) --- A \$150,000 drive to erect a third youth hostel in Palestine was launched today at the tenth anniversary luncheon of the Women's League for Palestine, attended by about 1,500 persons at the Hotel Astor. It was announced that \$5,000 has already been sent to break ground for the new home in Jerusalem, the other two being in Haifa and Tel Aviv. Speakers at a luncheon included Mme. Irene Harand, Mrs. William Prince, president of the league; Mrs. Richard Gottheil, the founder; Rabbi William F. Rosenblum and Reginald T. Kennedy of the National Conference of Christians and Jews.

The destiny of the Jewish national home in Palestine "is bound up with the cause of democracy itself," Dr. Israel Goldstein, president of the Jewish National Fund, declared today in an address to 1,000 persons attending the ninth annual luncheon of the local chapters of the Mizrahi Women's Organization of America. Among other speakers was Rabbi Meir Berlin, honorary president of the World Mizrahi Organization. It was announced that a series of broadcasts over Station WINS would be inaugurated Sunday, dramatizing the life stories of refugee girls cared for in Palestine institutions of the Mizrahi Women.

ANTI-NAZI LEAGUE SETS UP PROPAGANDA INFORMATION BUREAU

NEW YORK, April 19. (JTA) -- Creation of a Bureau of Propaganda Information was announced at a press conference today by the Non-Sectarian Anti-Nazi League. The bureau, Executive Director Capt. G. Egerton Harriman said, already has in its files 4,000 pieces of anti-Semitic literature, documents and biographies of anti-Jewish leaders, assertedly the largest such collection in the United States. Aim of the bureau, he stated, is to help counteract anti-Jewish propaganda in America.

MILLIONS SYMPATHETIC WITH REICH UNDERGROUND MOVEMENT, EMIGRE AUTHOR ASSERTS

WASHINGTON, April 19. (JTA) -- Dr. Adolf Sturmthal, pre-Hitler Austrian author, declared in an address here today that 50,000 Germans would be imprisoned by the Nazi secret police the day war was declared. He said the anti-Nazi underground movement numbered 10,000 active workers in Germany but commanded the sympathy of millions.

NEW HANDBOOK REFUTES RACIAL THEORIES

NEW YORK, April 19. (JTA) -- A handbook on racial origins, entitled "We Americans," will be published by Atlantic Monthly Company, Boston, on April 27. The 128-page book, "dedicated to Liberty, tolerance, democracy," refutes totalitarian racial theories and discusses American principles. Contributors include Franz Boas, Edward P. Cheyney, Edward A. Hooton, Ales Hrdlicka, Alvin Johnson, James Weldon Johnson, Dumas Malone and H.L. Mencken.

ASSEMBLY PASSES DEVANY "ISMS" BILL; NEW PROBE OF SUBVERSIVE ACTIVITIES SOUGHT

ALBANY, April 19. (JTA) -- The Devany "isms" bill, seeking to bar from the civil service and teaching posts those who advocate overthrow of the Government, passed the Assembly today by a vote of 107-27, after extended debate.

Passage of the bill followed closely upon introduction of a resolution by Assemblyman Charles O. Burney Jr., Erie County Republican, calling for an investigation "of un-American and subversive activities and alien and foreign ideologies in the public service of the State and its various cities and civil divisions."

An effort by Assemblyman Charles R. McConnell, Brooklyn Democrat, to discharge the committee considering the McNaboe bill and thus bring the measure to the floor was defeated in a one-sided oral vote. The McNaboe bill, already passed in the Senate, has the same purpose as the Devany bill, but its definition of the doctrine of governmental overthrow is limited to Communism and criminal anarchy.

Opposition to the Devany bill, which is supported by the American Legion, was built around the contention that, while fine in purpose, it was bad in method. One opponent charged it would "short-circuit standard American methods as well as free speech and free thought."

The resolution for the proposed investigation went to the Ways and Means Committee. The investigating committee would have an \$8,500 appropriation and would report March 1, 1940.

BANK DEPOSITS RISE IN PALESTINE

JERUSALEM (JTA) -- In spite of the continued unrest, the banking position in Palestine during the past year shows a distinct change for the better. The total deposits held by banks and credit co-operative societies stood at £18,000,000 at the end of 1938, compared with £16,286,000 and £17,046,000 in 1937 and 1936 respectively.

The upward trend in the deposits is largely attributed to the appreciable amounts of immigrant capital which arrived in 1938, mainly in the last two months of the year. The number of capitalist immigrants registered during 1938 totalled 1,771, as compared with 1,300 in the previous year. Of the total of £18,099,134, banking deposits amounted to £14,980,000 and deposits held with co-operative societies to £3,119,000.

REICH BARS IMPORT OF PALESTINE ORANGES GROWN BY JEWS

JERUSALEM (JTA) -- Germany has now extended racial discrimination to the vegetable kingdom. Reich import regulations provide that only "Aryan" oranges are to be imported from Palestine. These are oranges grown by the 2,000 German Christian settlers in the Holy Land, who own extensive citrus groves, or by Arabs -- considered as "Aryans" for this purpose although they are Semites.

Total exports of citrus fruits from Palestine this season have reached the record-breaking total of 12,000,000 cases, or 500,000 more than the total for last year.