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STROOCK NAMED A.J. COMMITTEE HEAD; AGITATION SEEN AT NEW LOW

NEW YORK, Jan. 12. (JTA) -- Anti-Jewish agitation in the United States perceptibly declined and "stuck a new low of disrepute during the past year," the American Jewish Committee reported today at its 35th annual meeting, held at the Hotel Astor with delegates from all parts of the country in attendance.

The Committee elected Sol M. Stroock president in succession to the late Dr. Cyrus Adler, who held the post from 1920 until his death last April and to whom a special tribute was paid at the meeting by Morris Waldman, secretary of the Committee.

The Committee also elected the following officers: Chief Justice Irving Lehman and Judge Abram I. Elkus, honorary vice-presidents; Carl Austrian and Lessing J. Rosenwald, vice-presidents; Samuel D. Leidesdorf, treasurer; and Louis E. Kirstein, chairman of the board, a newly created post. The following were elected to the executive committee: David Sulzberger, Harold K. Guinzburg and Walter N. Rothschild, all of New York, and Milton W. King of Washington, D.C. Re-elected to the executive committee were: George Z. Medalie, Frederick M. Warburg, Mr. Leidesdorf, Solomon Loewenstein, William Weiss, Fred Butzel, James Davis, Mr. Kirstein and Fred Lazarus Jr.

Read by Judge Horace S. Stern of Philadelphia, the report noted that anti-Jewish agitation had always remained "an underworld movement, disapproved and condemned by all decent Americans." Declaring the agitation had reached a "new low of disrepute" in 1940, the report asserted that "there was a perceptible falling off of interest among those sections of the population which had formerly listened to the mouthings or read the scribblings of mischief-making rabble-rousers and misguided fanatics."

The report reviewed the tragic plight of Jews in various parts of the world, declaring that in all Nazi-dominated countries with the exception of Rumania, where "the Jews have always been a pawn in the game of foreign and domestic politics," adoption of Nazi anti-Jewish policies constituted "a measure taken unwillingly in the hope of appeasing the aggressor." "Even in Rumania," the report added, "these measures were neither desired nor approved by the population as a whole."

Appeasement of "the German war monster" was stated by the report to be similarly back of anti-Jewish legislation and policies by the Vichy Government in France, Hungary, Yugoslavia and Bulgaria.

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The report pointed out that the populations of the conquered countries were losing their susceptibility to Nazi propaganda as the full effect of Nazi domination began to make itself felt. Rising anti-German sentiment was noted in France, the Netherlands, Poland, Norway, Bohemia-Moravia, Denmark and Belgium.

Reviewing the disastrous effects of the war upon 5,000,000 Jews living in the subjugated or vassal states, the report also pointed to the difficulties confronting the 600,000 Jews in the Baltic States and that part of Rumanian taken over by Soviet Russia.

"Jews are suffering from the extension to these seized territories of the Soviet anti-religious policy," the report said. "As a consequence of the Communist hostility to religion, Jewish religious, community and religio-cultural activities are undergoing rapid liquidation. Many Jews are suffering economically because of suspected opposition to Communism or former anti-Communist activities."

In a section on Palestine, the report noted that the fear of the Holy Land becoming part of the theater of war operations had not materialized, so that Palestine remained a refuge for Jews from the European war zones although the British Government's refusal to admit refugees from enemy lands had temporarily reduced its possibilities as a haven. The report expressed gratification at the "marked improvement in Arab-Jewish relations" under the stimulus of the "common emergency of war."

Dr. Morris R. Cohen, Professor Emeritus of City College, reported on the results of the research project initiated by the Committee shortly after outbreak of the war to study the problems of post-war reconstruction and rehabilitation of European Jews.

Jacob Landa, managing director of the Jewish Telegraphic Agency and the Overseas News Agency, who has just returned from a trip to South America, reviewed the extent of Nazi penetration of that continent and the problems created for Jewish communities there and for the United States. Flagrant anti-Semitic activities, he said, were being promoted by Nazi agents in South America as the entering wedge for a Nazi attack against America in the southern continent.

16 OF 25 JEWISH CITY COUNCILLORS RETAIN POSTS IN BUDAPEST

BUDAPEST, Jan. 12. (JTA) -- Only five of the 23 Jewish members of the Municipal Council have been removed from office, it was announced today. Only those were ousted who were unable to prove their ancestors had not been living in Hungary uninterruptedly since 1867.

Previously it was believed all 23 would be removed by arbitrary decree, but Interior Minister Ferencz Kerestess-Fischer spiked the ouster by a ruling that as long as Jews could fulfill the special suffrage qualifications imposed on them by the anti-Jewish law they had the right to be elected to public office.

The mandate of the present council expired Dec. 31, but the life of the body was prolonged by a special law in November which suspended elections for another year. The action was officially explained on the basis of "unsettled conditions," but it is generally believed that in reality it was due to the fear of the Government that the pro-Nazi Arrow-Cross Party would stuff the ballot boxes and gain control of the capital's municipal affairs.

CAPITAL PAPER URGES U.S. TO SEEK AID OF REFUGEES IN DEFENSE WORK

WASHINGTON, Jan. 12. (JTA) -- Skilled refugee Jewish craftsmen, technicians and scientists should be sought out all over the world and brought to the United States to aid in the national defense, the Washington Times-Herald declared yesterday in an editorial signed by Frank C. Waldrop, foreign and political editor.

The German Jews now exiled developed important minerals such as beryllium, tungsten and magnesium, the editorial said. "It is a cold, official fact that the German Jews were the brains of the post-war research that got German industry moving again and it is on their intelligence that the Nazi machinery keeps in motion to this day."

Asking what had become of the Jews of Jena, experts on optical instruments, the Times-Herald said: "Hitler tried to keep many of them, even in spite of his general pogroms, but the wild excesses of local Nazis made that impossible. Today the Jews of Jena are scattered around the world. Nobody knows where they are and that is a detriment to our national defense. We are, believe it or not, seven years behind the demand in supplying our army and navy with cameras, field glasses, range-finders and optical equipment. "It would be plain common sense to assemble these technicians from Zeiss and let them make up that shortage."

The editorial said there was quietly going on a search for a Czech Jew who was the brains of the Skoda munitions works and who had escaped the Gestapo. He is urgently wanted to aid in manufacture of American munitions, but thus far the American Government has been unable to find him, according to the editorial.

Celebrated figures such as Thomas Mann and the Rothschilds are followed by the public eye, but these quiet mathematicians and technicians have been left to crawl into corners and lick their wounds," the editorial said. "Plainly, it is time to invite them out."

UPA HITS HOLLANDER PLAN TO DELAY ALLOCATIONS FROM 1941 DRIVES

NEW YORK, Jan. 12. (JTA) -- The United Palestine Appeal today made public a resolution adopted by its Administrative Committee expressing disapproval of the request issued to welfare fund communities by Sidney Hollander, president of the Council of Jewish Federations and Welfare Funds, urging them to withhold making commitments on their 1941 campaigns until a budgeting body, which Hollander has proposed, is established to recommend allocations to local communities. The text of the resolution follows:

"Having consistently given its unreserved support to the policy of established local welfare funds in which, through a single campaign, all communal obligations and overseas responsibilities of American Jews are pooled and distributed; and having cooperated with the Council as a federation of representatives of the welfare funds was intended to be an impartial, fact-finding body interested in servicing its member agencies with dependable reports; and the Council having on various occasions indicated that it could not undertake to assume the function of determining allotments either as between the national fund-raising agencies or in the local Jewish communities;

"The Administrative Committee of the United Palestine Appeal is in duty bound to express its profound disapproval of the action taken by the president of the Council, who has seen fit at this time to give notice to all member agencies of an intention on his part

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to propose at the Atlanta conference of the Council that it set up 'its own budgeting body', to recommend allocations to its member agencies in making their 1941 commitments; and further, urging all welfare funds to await the recommendations of such a body before completing their local 1941 budgeting.

"The United Palestine Appeal is constrained to lodge its protest against this premature action on the part of the president of the Council, on the ground that it seeks to arrogate to the Council the function of decision in matters of budgeting, and that if its President's advice were followed, it would at once paralyze the 1941 campaign of the United Palestine Appeal--as well as of other bodies--until the so-called budgeting body would render its report, which could not be presented before late in 1941.

"The United Palestine Appeal must emphasize its unqualified opposition to any such program. We question the right of the president of the Council to advise communities to withhold making their budget until they have heard from the Council, and we give notice that we intend to apprise our friends throughout the country of the destructive consequences that must flow from the proposed transformation of the Council from an impartial to an interested body, and from its unwarranted and unprecedented interference with the normal progress of local 1941 campaigns throughout the country."

ANTI-SEMITISM LAID TO NO-WAR BODY BY ONE OF ITS FOUNDERS

NEW YORK, Jan. 12. (JTA) -- With Verne Marshall, head of the No Foreign War Committee scheduled to speak at a meeting tonight on the same platform as supporters of Father Charles E. Coughlin, it was reported that O.K. Armstrong, national director and one of the founders of the committee, would resign his post because he believed the organization to be anti-democratic and anti-Semitic.

Marshall was to speak tonight at a rally in Queens organized by an isolationist group. Bernard Darcy, New York representative of Coughlin's Social Justice, and other Coughlinites were listed on the program. Prior to the meeting Marshall issued a statement denying that the committee was anti-democratic and anti-Semitic, declaring the charges were part of a "desperate smear campaign aimed to deceive and confuse the American public."

According to the New York World-Telegram, Armstrong told a meeting of the governing committee of the Keep America Out of War Congress last week that he was 'fed up' with the Marshall committee, that he had become convinced it was reactionary and anti-Semitic and that no peace organization could be effective on such a basis. Armstrong was quoted as saying he had been invited to dinner by Merwin K. Hart, president of the New York State Economic Council, on behalf of the No Foreign War Committee, and that he had never heard such anti-democratic and anti-Semitic talk in his life as he heard that night.

PALESTINE GROUP HERE BACKS UPA CAMPAIGN

NEW YORK, Jan. 12. (JTA) -- A resolution urging support of the \$12,000,000 War Emergency Campaign of the 1941 United Palestine Appeal was unanimously adopted today at the 18th annual conference of the Council of Organizations for Palestine. The meeting was attended by delegates representing more than 550 Jewish fraternal and communal organizations. Herman Hofmann, Grand Master of the Independent Order of B'nai Abraham, was elected president and Judge Jonah J. Goldstein honorary president of the Council.