

NEWS

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SIKORSKI PLEDGES JEWISH EQUALITY IN PLANNED EAST EUROPEAN 'FEDERATION'

WASHINGTON, April 9. (JTA) -- Polish Premier Wladislaw Sikorski has disclosed plans for a democratic "new order" in Eastern Europe based on a federation of states, in which all minorities would have equal rights.

"Poland will be a democratic country and other concepts result from democracy," Gen. Sikorski stated at a press conference last night. "I am a loyal and truthful man and I declare that the Jews will have equal rights and equal obligations with all other Polish citizens."

The Premier said the exiled Polish Government and the Czech Government had been conferring on formation of a post-war eastern European federation and had been in communication with Yugoslavia about this. The federation "would be modelled on the British Commonwealth of Nations," he said.

The plans for Poland, he declared, demand a strong national unity party which would include all elements of the present-day Poland and which would be based on the strength of the peasants.

Britain Not To Act on Polish Anti-Semitic Paper

LONDON, April 9. (JTA) -- British Government spokesmen indicated in Commons today that they did not intend to act, directly or through the exiled Polish Government, against Jestem Polaken, anti-Semitic Polish nationalist weekly.

Replying to questions by Col. Josiah Wedgwood, S.S. Silverman, Philip Noel-Baker and D.L. Lipson, Minister of Information Alfred Duff Cooper stated that suppression of newspapers did not lie within the power of his ministry, while Foreign Undersecretary Richard A. Butler indicated that the British Government's views were well known to the Polish Government.

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Meanwhile, at a session of the Polish National Council, which unanimously approved the Government's budget, Ignacy Schwartzbart, the Jewish member, said he was supported the budget as an expression of confidence that the Sikorski regime was fighting for the independence of Poland, but added that he was dissatisfied with part of the work of the Polish Ministry of Information, referring to the "unsatisfactory" handling of the Jestem Polakem matter.

PALESTINE GOVERNMENT GIVES AID TO CITRUS GROWERS

JERUSALEM, April 9. (JTA) -- The Palestine Government today announced plans for financial assistance to citrus growers.

Citrus growers will be reimbursed for bank debts during the 1940-41 season after which further bank advances for 1941-42 will be limited to 3,200 mils per dunam, covering an area not exceeding 170,000 dunams. A special loan of £100,000 will be provided for other approved growers for acquisition of stock, poultry, cattle, seeds and fertilizers, thus increasing Palestine's food production.

LONDON, April 9. (JTA) -- Colonial Undersecretary Hall announced in Commons today that the Palestine Government had guaranteed £517,000 in advances to citrus growers over two years and that the British Government was prepared to give financial assistance if Palestine's resources were insufficient to meet liabilities.

SHERTOK URGES ENLARGEMENT OF JEWISH ARMED FORCES

REHOBOTH, Palestine, April 9. (JTA) -- Enlargement of the Palestine Jewish forces serving the British cause was demanded today by Moshe Shertok, head of the Jewish Agency's political department, addressing the 43rd annual conference of the Histadruth, Palestine Jewish labor federation. He declared that 8,000 Jews in the British forces was not commensurate with the Jewish ideal of support of the war effort.

Shertok appealed for unity among Palestine Jews. "A minute's delay may cause missing the hour altogether," he said. "How can we appeal for efforts from other parts of the nation and from other nations if we are unable to establish Zionist and labor unity?"

David Ben Gurion, chairman of the Jewish Agency Executive, was among those on the speakers' list at tonight's session.

PALESTINE SCHOOL CHILDREN AID JNF

JERUSALEM, April 9. (JTA) -- Jewish school children have collected £18,000 for the Jewish National Fund, including £2,000 last year, it was announced today at the fourth Palestine teachers' conference for the J.N.F., attended by 200 delegates.

VICHY DENATURALIZES MORE JEWS

VICHY, April 9. (JTA) -- Another 14 Jewish families with 26 members were among 60 denaturalized under a decree published today.

JEWISH GROUP GIVES \$25,000 FOR ORPHANS' HOME IN ENGLAND

NEW YORK, April 9. (JTA) -- The sum of \$25,000 for establishment of a non-sectarian nursing home for 60 orphaned children somewhere in England, to be named after Lieut. Gen. Sir Archibald Wavell, commander-in-chief of the British forces in the Near East, was presented to the British War Relief Society today by the Jewish Section of the Interfaith Committee for Aid to the Democracies.

The presentation was made by Dr. Israel Goldstein, chairman of the Jewish Section, at a luncheon at the Hotel Pierre given by the organization in honor of Frederick W. Gehle, chairman of the fund-raising division of the British War Relief Society, on the occasion of his 55th birthday.

The \$25,000 includes a gift of \$15,000 made by Mr. and Mrs. Frank Cohen in behalf of the Esco Fund Committee. The remaining \$10,000 was a result of smaller individual contributions. The \$25,000 gift brings the contributions of the Jewish Section to more than \$100,000. More than \$75,000 has already been presented to the British War Relief Society for mobile field kitchens. In addition, the Esco Fund Committee presented an \$18,000 gift of Navitol through the Jewish Section for use among the children of Great Britain.

Other speakers at the luncheon were Mrs. Frank Cohen, president of the Esco Fund Committee, Dr. Stephen S. Wise, president of the American Jewish Congress, and Dr. Maurice L. Perlzweig, chairman of the British Section of the World Jewish Congress.

Gehle, in accepting the gift, stated: "I should like to express my warmest thanks in behalf of the British War Relief Society for this magnificent gift. Its association with the great name of General Wavell encourages the hope that the increasing volume of civilized effort on behalf of the people of Britain will help to hasten the day of victory for the principles and individuals which have brought us together...As a Christian, I have no difficulty in understanding the impulse which led to the establishment of the Jewish Section of the Interfaith Committee for Aid to the Democracies. It is a Jewish effort, motivated by the teachings of the tradition which gave birth to my own Christian faith. It is a Jewish contribution to common effort. That is the significant meaning of the word 'interfaith.'"

U.S. OFFICIAL SEES FULL UTILIZATION OF ENTRY QUOTAS

WASHINGTON, April 9. (JTA) -- A competent Government official today predicted that despite the curtailment of North Atlantic shipping there would be a full utilization of the German, Polish, Czechoslovak, Hungarian, Rumanian, Bulgarian, Portuguese and Spanish quotas. While the French and Swiss quotas are not expected to be fully used, "a substantial increase" over the number of visas utilized last year was predicted.

Officials admitted that there were 6,000 visas outstanding in the United Kingdom which have been charged against the quotas of several European countries and that these have been renewed after the customary four-month limit has expired.

Admitting pressure to reassign these numbers to the continent, a Government source said it was felt that, as the shipping situation out of British Ports might change at any

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time, this would not be fair.

Despite frequent reports from abroad that transportation facilities were not sufficient to carry the immigration load, an official interviewed today expressed confidence that the six ships a month--U.S., Spanish and Portuguese--leaving Lisbon at the present time, coupled with the transportation available for refugees reaching the Far East, would be sufficient to meet the demand.

In all, it was said, not more than a "few hundred" quota authorizations would not have visas issued against them by the end of the year. At the moment, the American Export Line is concentrating on carrying U.S. citizens out of Lisbon. This will require only a few trips, it was pointed out, and thereafter the emphasis will be on quota immigrat

WAUCHOPE LAUDS JEWISH COMMUNAL SETTLEMENTS IN PALESTINE

LONDON, April 9. (JTA) -- Sir Arthur Grenfell Wauchope, former High Commissioner of Palestine, yesterday paid glowing tribute to Jewish communal settlements in Palestine, addressing a luncheon of the London Overseas League, attended by leading representatives of British and Allied governments.

Sir Arthur said he chose the topic of communal settlements because, despite the war, "we are all interested in solving economic changes after the war, especially those needed to effect more equal distribution of wealth." Describing in detail how 15,000 Jewish settlers in actual practice had solved the problem of equal distribution of wealth by the "simple if drastic method of having none," he said:

"It is easy to understand how much self-sacrifice is needed for this method of living, but without visiting and talking to the settlers it is harder to realize how much they gain from their disregard of personal wealth. They do not fear want and do not envy another's possession. If labor is arduous, it is regular. There is no unemployment and every man is assured a livelihood.

"Similar experiments attempted in other countries for the past 2,000 years all have failed, but in this case you cannot escape the facts. What is the reason for this astonishing success? The reasons are to be found in the spirit of the settlers. The spirit that fills them is the faith of a people happier in leading a simple life without money than if joined in the general struggle for wealth and yet more wealth.

"Such faith demands great unselfishness, as well as great devotion to the community. Should that faith ever fail, this experiment will also fail. The communal settlements in Palestine are an example of cooperation working in an extreme form which is perhaps unsuited to England but which is worthy of study if we, too, are determined to effect a just settlement of our social and economic needs after victory is gained."