

MIZRACHI WOMEN'S CONVENTION DEMANDS JEWISH ARMY IN PALESTINE; BACKS FDR POLICY

CHICAGO, Nov. 9. (JTA)-- Advocacy of a Jewish corps in Palestine, support of President Roosevelt's defense policies and of the world democratic forces fighting Nazism, and a demand for a just solution of the Jewish question by opening Palestine to rapid colonisation, marked the opening tonight of the sixteenth annual convention of the Mizrahi Women's Organization of America at the Congress Hotel.

More than 500 delegates and 1,000 guests who attended an open session enthusiastically applauded the demands contained in the presidential message of Mrs. Abraham Shapiro, and in an address by Rabbi Wolf Gold, Chairman of the World Mizrahi Central in Jerusalem. The delegates, representing 35,000 orthodox Jewish women gathered in 150 chapters throughout the country, heard greetings from President Franklin Delano Roosevelt; Secretary of State Cordell Hull; Rabbi Meyer Berlin, president of the World Mizrahi; and others. Mayor Kelly of Chicago also welcomed the delegates to Chicago in a brief speech. Memorial tributes to M. M. Ussishkin, pioneer Zionist and late president of the Jewish National Fund, and to Supreme Court Justice Louis D. Brandeis, were also paid by the convention.

MEETINGS IN AMERICA WILL CONDEMN NAZI MASS-EXECUTIONS OF CIVILIANS

NEW YORK, Nov. 9. (JTA)-- In a world-wide endeavor to express the indignation of the free people everywhere against the wholesale killing of civilians by the Axis powers, mass meetings are being scheduled throughout the United States and other free countries on Sunday, November 16, by the Committee to Defend America and the Free World Association, it was announced here today.

Meetings have been already scheduled in New York City, where the Metropolitan Opera House will be the scene of the demonstration of protest, in Chicago, Boston, Philadelphia, Washington, Pittsburgh, Cleveland, Cincinnati, St. Louis, Kansas City, St. Paul, Milwaukee, Denver, and many smaller cities. In Latin America protests against Axis brutality will be voiced at great rallies in Mexico City, Havana, Montevideo, Santiago (Chile), Buenos Aires, Bogota and other centers. A preliminary rally has already been held in bomb-shattered Chungking at which forceful resolutions were adopted and sent to President Roosevelt, Prime Minister Churchill and the International Labor Conference. Resolutions adopted at these meetings will be broadcast to Europe by short wave in all languages.

NAZI ACTIVITIES IN ARGENTINA ARE DIRECTED AGAINST JEWS, CONGRESSMAN SAYS

NEW YORK, Nov. 9. (JTA)-- Representative Raul Damonte Taborda, Chairman of the Argentine Congressional Committee investigating anti-Argentine activities, who, together with other Argentine congressional leaders is visiting the United States as guests of the United States House of Representatives, declared today that "Nazi activities in Argentina were directed primarily against the Jewish community there."

He declined to make any statement regarding the recent refusal of Acting President Ramon S. Castillo to grant transit visas to 95 Jewish refugees who are aboard the Cabo de Hornos en route to Spain.

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BREAKDOWN IN NEGOTIATIONS FOR FORMATION OF A JEWISH ARMY IRKS AMERICAN ZIONISTS

NEW YORK, Nov. 11. (JTA)-- The Emergency Committee for Zionist Affairs today issued a statement declaring that the breakdown of the negotiations with the British Government concerning the formation of a Jewish military force, as reported by Dr. Weizmann in his London speech last Sunday, has aroused great interest in America. A special meeting is being called by the Emergency Committee in New York for Thursday "in order to define the attitude of American Zionists in view of the new turn of events," the statement announced.

"The Emergency Committee, which represents all groups and parties in American Zionism, has consistently supported the proposal for the establishment of a Jewish military force and it reiterates its stand in this regard," the statement said.

English Press Puzzled Over Britain's Flat Refusal to Form a Jewish Army

LONDON, Nov. 11. (JTA)-- Leading British newspapers were puzzled today over the news that the British Government has flatly refused to permit the establishment of a Jewish Army and has officially notified the Jewish Agency to this effect in a letter dated October 15th.

Pointing to the services rendered by Palestine Jewish soldiers in the battles of Libya, Syria, Greece and Crete, the London Times in an editorial today asks: "Why should their aid be declined? There seems to be little logic in denying to such units already in existence the right to wear badges and to describe themselves as Jews." Arguing that this right was accorded to the Jews in the last war, the article comes to the conclusion that official circles are apparently anxious not to stir up Arab suspicions.

The Manchester Guardian, dismisses the official argument advanced in the letter of the Colonial Office to the Jewish Agency that lack of military equipment prevents the establishment of a Jewish Army. Stressing the need for man-power, the Guardian writes: "We ought to welcome Jewish troops. Do we sit so easily on our seats that we can afford to reject the formation of a Jewish division which would be the nucleus of a larger Jewish force?"

JEWS IN RIGA ARRESTED FOR ATTEMPT TO GET FOOD OUTSIDE GHETTO

STOCKHOLM, Nov. 11. (JTA)-- Arrests of Jews in Riga for attempting to secure food outside of the ghetto is reported in the Deutsche Zeitung, a Riga newspaper reaching here today.

The paper lists the names of the arrested Jews and says that some of them were caught buying butter and meat outside the ghetto, while others were arrested for offering bread to Russian war prisoners in the street. The paper admits that food rations for Jews in the ghetto have been severely cut and reports that almost the entire Jewish population of Latvia has been crowded into the Riga ghetto.

REICH MUST BE PUNISHED FOR NAZI ATROCITIES IN OCCUPIED LANDS, SAYS CHURCHILL

LONDON, Nov. 11. (JTA)-- Retribution for all the atrocities the Nazis have committed in the invaded countries is one of the principal war aims of Great Britain, Prime Minister Churchill announced in the House of Commons today.

In his speech at the Mansion House yesterday, Churchill took the occasion to emphasize that those executed by Hitler as "Communists and Jews" are victims worthy of honor. "I would say generally," the British Prime Minister declared, "that we must regard all these victims of Nazi executioners in so many lands who are labeled Communists and Jews as if they were brave soldiers who died for their country on the field of battle."

BRITISH BROADCASTS MARK THIRD ANNIVERSARY OF NOVEMBER POGROMS IN GERMANY

LONDON, Nov. 11. (JTA)-- Two special programs, one in English and one in German, marking the third anniversary of the November, 1938, pogroms against Jews in Germany, were broadcast today over the British Broadcasting Company's "European Service."

"The Man in the Street," which is a pseudonym for a BBC speaker who is supposed to represent average public opinion, declared that the November pogroms were "Hitler's first really ambitious achievement and provided the first large-scale exhibition of the 'new order' at work." Carlton Greene, former Berlin correspondent of the London Daily Telegraph stated that nothing he had ever seen in Europe had shocked him so much as the Berlin pogroms of 1938. The November pogroms in Germany were launched under the pretext that they were reprisals for the assassination of Ernst Von Rath, third secretary of the German legation in Paris, by the Polish-Jewish youth Herschel Grynszpan.

ANTI-SEMITISM AMONG POLES DECREASING, DECLARE POLISH OFFICIALS IN PALESTINE

TEL AVIV, Nov. 11. (JTA)-- Thanking the Yishub for the "warm attitude" it has displayed toward the Poles who are now in Palestine, leading Polish officials today told the Jewish press here that the promises of the Polish government that Jews would have equality in a post-war Poland were sincere and not merely "lip service."

On the occasion of the celebration of Polish Independence Day, Polish Consul Dr. Henryk Rosmerin, Commissar for Refugees Dr. Lubaczewski, Emissary for Special Duties Olszewski and M. Madey, editor of the Polish military paper here, stated that anti-Semitism on Polish soil, in the ranks of the Polish army and among the workers and peasants was decreasing. The Polish leaders declared that even the anti-Semites are becoming less anti-Semitic. Speaking of Jewish achievements in Palestine Madey stated that "we have much to learn from them."

Gen. Sikorski, the Polish Premier, may pay a visit to Palestine since he is at present visiting the Polish forces in the Mediterranean, it was also stated here today by the Polish officials.

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LONDON, Nov. 11. (JTA)-- Polish Jewry's sincere wish for the speedy reestablishment of a free Poland was expressed today by a delegation from the Council of Polish Jews who visited Polish President Raczkiewicz's office. August Zaleski, who received the delegation in the absence of President Raczkiewicz, expressed the hope of closer collaboration between the government and the Council.

1,023 PALESTINE JEWISH SOLDIERS LOST IN GREEK CAMPAIGN; 440 ARE NAZI PRISONERS

LONDON, Nov. 11. (JTA)-- Exact data on the number of Palestine Jewish soldiers lost in the battles of Greece and Crete was for the first time given today in the House of Commons by Capt. David Margesson, British Secretary of War.

Capt. Margesson disclosed that 1,023 Palestine Jewish volunteers are now considered as lost in the British campaign in Greece and Crete. Of them 440 are known to have fallen into the hands of the Nazis as war prisoners, while 583 remain unaccounted for. They were all in the Pioneer Labor Units, some of which were armed. All were commanded by British officers who, Capt. Margesson said, remained with their troops. A total of 421 Arabs serving in the same units are also missing.

The War Secretary's statement came in reply to repeated questions in Commons by Col. Josiah Wedgwood concerning the fate of Palestine soldiers in the Greek campaign. Wedgwood had asked whether the troops were armed and commanded by British officers. "I strongly deprecate Mr. Wedgwood's suggestion in this and other recent questions that the conduct of British officers in this war has been in any way inconsistent with the traditions of the British army," Margesson stated in Commons today.

GERMAN JEWS PERMITTED TO EXTEND STAY IN U.S.A. WITHOUT GERMAN PASSPORTS

WASHINGTON, Nov. 11. (JTA)-- Austrian and German citizens of Jewish religion who entered the United States on a temporary permit and who desire to secure extensions of their stay in this country will no longer be required to get an extension of their expired German passports before they are granted a further stay, it was announced here today.

FATE OF 86 REFUGEES BARRED FROM ARGENTINA IN BRITISH HANDS; SEEK LANDING IN TRINIDAD

WASHINGTON, Nov. 11. (JTA)-- The fate of the 86 German-Jewish refugees who were denied admission into Argentina, Brazil and Uruguay and who are on their way back to Spain is now in the hands of the British Government, it was learned here today. Should the British authorities refuse them admission to Trinidad, where their "tragedy ship" is due to dock on Thursday, they will be delivered to Spain and into the hands of the Gestapo.

Last minute efforts were being made today by Congressman Sol Bloom and influential organizations which requested the British authorities in Washington to intervene to secure the admission of the refugees into Trinidad. Similar appeals made earlier this week to the British met with a negative reply. The refugees have been wandering for over ten months without being admitted anywhere. The Government of Paraguay offered them asylum, but neither Brazil nor Uruguay would grant them transit visas enabling them to proceed to Paraguay.

BEN-GURION EN ROUTE TO U.S.A. TO REPORT ON ZIONIST POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS

LONDON, Nov. 11. (JTA)-- David Ben-Gurion, chairman of the executive of the Jewish Agency, today left for the United States to report to Zionist leaders there on the latest political developments concerning Palestine. It is expected that Dr. Weizmann will also visit the United States soon.

The feeling prevails in Jewish circles here that Zionist groups in America may, under the present circumstances, be in a better position to advance Jewish interests in Palestine than are British Zionists.