

# JTA

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### BULLITT DISCUSSES FATE OF PALESTINE IN REPORT TO ROOSEVELT

WASHINGTON, Feb. 16. (JTA)-- Concern over the fate of Palestine was expressed in pro-Palestine circles here today following Prime Minister Churchill's revelation in his broadcast yesterday that the Mediterranean is now closed to Allied shipping.

Churchill's broadcast was followed by the disclosure here that Ambassador William C. Bullitt, in a report to President Roosevelt on his flying visit to the Near East, discussed the possibility of Palestine, Syria and the Suez Canal falling into the hands of the Nazis. The news was broadcast from here last night over a nation-wide hook-up by Drew Pearson and Robert S. Allen, well-informed Washington columnists.

Terming Bullitt's report to the President as "very pessimistic," the two Washington journalists stated that Bullitt informed Roosevelt that the Nazis are about to stage a strong drive on the Near East and have amassed enough troops in North Africa so that they will not have to go through Turkey, but will drive on through Libya and Egypt to the Suez Canal. "Bullitt reported that in his opinion the Nazis will take not only the Suez Canal, but also Syria, Palestine, Mosul, Mesopotamia and Iran," the Washington journalists declared in their joint broadcast.

Churchill, in his broadcast yesterday, announced for the first time that "the Mediterranean is closed and all our transports have to go round the Cape of Good Hope, each ship making only three voyages in the year." Predicting that "another serious battle will soon be fought" in the Libyan desert, the British Prime Minister added that one of Britain's principal tasks now is "to provide for the safety and order of Abyssinia, Eritrea, Palestine, Syria, Iraq and Persia."

### Wedgwood Says Palestine Will be Battleground if Rommel Drives Through Egypt

LONDON, Feb. 16. (JTA)-- If Gen. Erwin Rommel's forces drive through Egypt or "somebody else drives down through Asia," Palestine will become a battleground and every man and woman there "will have a knife at their throat," it was stated by Lord Wedgwood, addressing a Zionist meeting here.

Deploping the War Office's refusal to arm the Jews of Palestine, Wedgwood declared that the Palestinian Jews, who are not even allowed to form homeguard units, could supply three divisions." He criticized the official explanation that no equipment was available for a Jewish force, and denounced "appeasement of the Arabs."

### First Balloon Barrage Sent Up Over Haifa to Protect Military Objectives

HAIFA, Feb. 16. (JTA)-- Important military objectives in this city, one of the principal ports of the Middle East, will be protected in the future by a balloon barrage, similar to that used in London. The first balloons with the thick wire cables, which spell destruction to any plane coming into contact with them, were sent up this morning. Military authorities announced that other measures have been taken to improve the defenses of strategic sections of the city, which has been the target of enemy bombers on several occasions.

EVIDENCE OF RACIAL DISCRIMINATION IN DEFENSE INDUSTRY SUBMITTED TO ROOSEVELT COMMITTEE

NEW YORK, Feb. 16. (JTA)-- A brief against "discriminatory practices now prevailing in many defense industries and imperilling the success of the nation's war effort" was submitted today to the opening session of the President's Committee on Fair Employment Practices, by the Non-Sectarian Anti-Nazi League, on the grounds that such discrimination "has the effect of impeding a united war effort by all elements of our people against Nazism."

The brief, signed by Julius L. Goldstein, chairman of the League's executive committee, listed names of companies concerned and described their practice of inquiring into racial and religious origins of applicants for positions in defense industries. The League, which has been conducting an extensive inquiry into discriminatory practices in industry, also submitted documentary evidence, consisting of affidavits from persons discriminated against as well as a collection of application blanks of various companies engaged on orders for the United States Government. It will soon establish an advisory service to aid in cases of religious or racial discrimination and is advertising for persons who feel that they have been discriminated against, to communicate with it.

"In many cases," the League's brief stated, "persons indicating Negro, Italian or Jewish background, even though qualified by years of specialized experience in machine work, or by graduation from government courses in sheet metal working and similar fields, were arbitrarily refused further consideration. In other instances, such persons were given discriminatory tests or medical examinations, which were used as a camouflage for discrimination."

Samples of application forms submitted by the League included those of the Liberty Aircraft Products Corporation, Bell Aircraft Corporation, Colgate Larsen Aircraft Co., Fairchild Aviation Corp., Glenn L. Martin Co., and others. All of those application forms contain spaces in which the prospective employee must indicate his religion, race or nationality before being considered for employment. In addition to the application forms, the League submitted affidavits of persons seeking employment at Brewster Aeronautical Corporation, Sperry Gyroscope Co., W. L. Maxon & Co. (instrument makers) and other corporations holding extensive government contracts. The affidavits showed that in every such case the companies involved inquired as to applicants' race and religion, before considering persons for employment.

Present at the first session were Lieut. Gov. Charles Polletti, Mayor La Guardia and representatives of labor unions, welfare groups and religious organizations.

CAMERON, FORMER EDITOR OF DEARBORN INDEPENDENT, ASSAILS ANTI-SEMITISM

DETROIT, Feb. 16. (JTA)-- Anti-Semitism as well as prejudice against any person because of his color or race, was assailed here last night by William J. Cameron, former editor of the defunct anti-Semitic Dearborn Independent, in his weekly broadcast on the Sunday evening hour, sponsored by Henry Ford, who was the publisher of the Dearborn publication.

Declaring that anti-Semitism is the "negation of humanity, intelligence and Christianity," Cameron endorsed Brotherhood Week, which began yesterday, as necessary "because the intolerance rampant abroad has been imported and manifests itself here."

"Likewise," he said, "Brotherhood Week is held here because this is one of the very, very few countries in the world where Brotherhood Week can be held."

PALESTINE MAYORS WORRIED OVER FOOD SUPPLIES; DEMAND INTRODUCTION OF FIXED PRICES

JERUSALEM, Feb. 16. (JTA)-- The question of regulating Palestine's food supplies in connection with the difficulties which Winston Churchill predicted yesterday for the Mediterranean area was raised today at a conference of mayors held in Haifa, attended by the mayors of the larger cities in Palestine. The same question will be discussed this week at a conference between the delegation of mayors and the Palestine High Commissioner.

At today's conference, the mayors decided to ask the Palestine government to fix the prices of flour, bread, rice, fats, tea, coffee and a number of other essentials and to ration these commodities. The conference also requested that the local municipalities in Palestine be given the right to fix prices of dairy products.

An acute shortage of workers in Palestine prompted the Histadruth today to issue a call to Jewish pupils to volunteer for work in the Jewish-owned fields. The call was issued through the Merkaz Chaklai, the agricultural section of the Histadruth. At a press conference today leaders of the Merkaz said that the shortage in Jewish field-hands is seriously hampering the development of the country.

The Jewish Agency today made public data showing that while the total Jewish population in Palestine increased from 492,000 at the end of 1940 to 520,000 at the end of 1941, the percentage of the Jewish population in the country has dropped from 31.3 to 30.8 during the same period.

MOSCOW INTOURIST OPENS OFFICES IN PALESTINE; WILL REGISTER SOVIET CITIZENS

JERUSALEM, Feb. 16. (JTA)-- Closer contact between Palestine and Soviet Russia was seen in the arrival here today from Moscow of Michael Raybersky, one of the managers of the Intourist, official Soviet travel agency.

In the absence of official Soviet diplomatic representatives in Palestine, Raybersky will start the registration of Soviet citizens of whom there are about 400 here. He will also establish branches of the Intourist in the large centers in Palestine with Jerusalem as headquarters.

Among other functions which the offices of the Intourist will perform in Palestine will be the re-transmitting of parcels from various parts of the world to relatives in Russia. This is the first time since the Soviet revolution that the Palestine Government has permitted the opening of an Intourist office here to be managed by Moscow representatives. Before the outbreak of the war bookings for journeys to Russia through the Intourist were arranged through local shipping agents who were Palestinian citizens.

JEWS BARRED FROM TRADING IN HUNGARIAN VEAL MARKET

ZURICH, Feb. 16. (JTA)-- Jews have been restricted from buying or selling in the veal market in Hungary, in line with the drive by the Government to purge Jews from all phases of the economic life of the country.

The Donau Zeitung, Nazi paper for the Balkan region, publishing this report today alleges that the Jews were expelled "because they had been profiteering in veal."

NAZIS COMPLETE EXPULSION OF ALL JEWS FROM STOCK EXCHANGE IN BELGIUM

LONDON, Feb. 16. (JTA)-- The Antwerp Stock Exchange is now fully "Aryenized," it was reported today by Belgian circles here. The exclusion of all Jews has left only 251 brokers still engaged in trading as compared to the 500 who once owned seats on the exchange.

BIBLE IS FOUNTAIN OF STRENGTH, SAYS ROOSEVELT IN FOREWORD TO SPECIAL ARMY EDITION

WASHINGTON, Feb. 16. (JTA)-- President Roosevelt has written a foreword to an issue of pocket Bibles soon to be distributed by the War Department to all men of the armed forces who want them. Thus far, War Department officials said, 1,250,000 copies have been ordered. The testaments are to be issued in three types, one for each of the three major religious groups, Protestant, Roman Catholic and Jewish. The President's foreword follows:

"As Commander-in-Chief, I take pleasure in commending the reading of the Bible to all who serve in the armed forces of the United States. Throughout the centuries men of many faiths and diverse origins have found in the sacred book words of wisdom, counsel and inspiration. It is a fountain of strength, and now, as always, an aid in attaining the highest aspirations of the human soul."

NAZIS FIRE SYNAGOGUE AND RABBI'S HOME IN STATEN ISLAND; POLICE PROBE BLAZES

NEW YORK, Feb. 16. (JTA)-- Police and Fire Department officials were today probing two fires which broke out simultaneously yesterday at the Temple Emanu El in Staten Island and at the home of the congregation's rabbi, Dr. Isaac Milner, about four blocks away. Investigation disclosed that shingles on the outside of both buildings had been soaked with kerosene and an empty kerosene can was found near the synagogue.

Dr. Milner, who has headed the Emanu El Congregation for fifteen years, declared that he believed the fires were set by local Nazis in retaliation for articles he has written in a Staten Island daily attacking the Nazi regime. The rabbi expressed the belief that "there were a lot of Nazis on Staten Island."

INSTITUTE OF JEWISH AFFAIRS MARKS FIRST ANNIVERSARY WITH FORUM ON POST-WAR PROBLEMS

NEW YORK, Feb. 16. (JTA)-- The first anniversary of the founding of the Institute of Jewish Affairs, which is one of the institutions functioning in the field of research with a view to establishing the basis on which rights for Jews may be claimed at the post-war peace conference, was marked here today by a dinner at the Columbia Faculty Club.

The dinner, at which a group of distinguished men who have joined the Institute's Advisory Council were inducted, took the form of a forum devoted to a discussion of the post-war problems of reconstruction of Jewish life. Participating in this discussion were Professor Joseph P. Chamberlain, Professor Leo Wollman and Professor Jerome Michael, all of Columbia University; Dr. Paul Tillich of Union Theological Seminary; Dr. Jacob Robinson, director of the institute; the Rev. L. M. Birkhead, national director, Friends of Democracy; Dr. Nehum Goldmann, chairman, administrative committee, World Jewish Congress; Henry Wise of Boston, and Beryl H. Levy, counsel to the institute. The institute was founded in February, 1941, by the American Jewish Congress and World Jewish Congress.

All of the speakers expressed the opinion that the recognition given the Jewish problem in post-war reconstruction will be the acid test of the sincerity of the democratic professions by Allied leaders and of their loyalty to the democratic faith. Prof. Kallen urged the right of Jews to fight in a military force of their own.

Messages received from Thomas Mann, Prof. Carl Friedrich of Harvard, and Prof. Max Lerner of Williams College, who were unable to attend, endorsed the work of the institute and urged support of the efforts to find a just solution to the Jewish problem.