

# JTA

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### PALESTINE JEWS PETITION BRITISH PARLIAMENT TO START INQUIRY INTO STRUME DISASTER

JERUSALEM, March 4. (JTA)-- A petition signed by every Jew in Palestine will be sent to the British Government and to Parliament urging the appointment of a special parliamentary commission to investigate the details of the Strume disaster. A decision to this effect was adopted here today at a plenary session of the Vaad Leumi, the Jewish National Council of Palestine.

The petition will ask that the commission, when appointed, open an inquiry into the question of whether the Palestine administration was justified in refusing to permit the Strume refugees to enter Palestine under the immigration quota set for Jews. A group of three, representing the major fractions of the Yishuv was appointed by the Vaad Leumi to prepare the text of the petition.

By order of the Vaad Leumi, all Purim festivities and balls were prohibited throughout the country as an expression of mourning for the Strume refugees.

The Hazman, a Hebrew newspaper, today demands a "public inquiry" into the conduct of the Jewish Agency "in order to commit for trial those in the Agency's bureaucratic machine who are responsible for the death of the children on the Strume." The paper says that the Jewish Agency had ten days at its disposal to transfer the children from the Strume to Palestine, but neglected to do this despite the fact that the Palestine administration agreed to admit all the Strume children under 16 years of age.

### BRITISH CABINET IS DETERMINED TO GIVE FULL BACKING TO PALESTINE ADMINISTRATION

LONDON, March 4. (JTA)-- The British Cabinet is determined to give full support to the Palestine administration and to High Commissioner Sir Harold A. MacMichael, it was announced in the House of Commons today by Colonial Under-Secretary Macmillan.

The announcement was made in reply to a suggestion voiced by S.S. Silverman, Laborite, M.P., that drastic changes should be made both in the policy and the personnel of the Palestine administration in view of the approach of war-like action in the Near East.

Rejecting this suggestion, the Colonial Under-Secretary speaking in behalf of Lord Cranborne, the newly-appointed Colonial Minister, said that the Government is satisfied that the Palestine administration is carrying out faithfully the policy approved by Parliament. "His Majesty's Government has complete confidence in the High Commissioner of Palestine and in the members of the Palestine administration," he added.

The Colonial Under-Secretary was then asked by Miss Eleanor Rathbone, Independent M.P., to explain why the Palestine authorities refused to admit the Strume refugees. She pointed out that this is not the first time that a tragedy, such as the Strume sinking, has taken place and appealed to Macmillan, amidst cheers, to see to it that "the Palestine Government shows a little more mercy." Macmillan replied that the Colonial Office is not yet in possession of the full facts on the Strume case.

UNION OF AMERICAN HEBREW CONGREGATIONS PLEDGES SUPPORT TO GOVERNMENT

CINCINNATI, March 4. (JTA)-- The Executive Board of the Union of American Hebrew congregations, following a meeting held here, today issued a statement of principles pledging "full and effectual support to the Government of the United States." The statement also pledges "to help keep our fair land free, and to help obtain for the world the right to 'life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness'."

The Central Conference of American Rabbis assumed the obligation of raising \$20,000 annually for a pension plan approved last week for the benefit of its aged members, it was announced here today. In addition, the Conference agreed to appropriate \$150,000, the larger portion of its treasury, to help meet this obligation, the announcement said. The plan provides for a group undertaking, with the rabbi and congregation each contributing towards the amount, which shall be supplemented by a contribution of the Conference of American Rabbis and the Union of American Hebrew Congregations jointly. It was indicated that the rabbis of the Conference constitute the only ministerial body in the United States that has no pension plan in effect for its aged members.

The annual convention of over 150 alumni of the Hebrew Union College held here elected Rabbi Harry S. Margolis as president. Rabbi Jacob Singer was elected vice-president, Rabbi Henry Tavel secretary, and Rabbi Daniel Davis treasurer.

DR. ABBA HILLEL SILVER LEAVES FOR ENGLAND ON AN IMPORTANT MISSION

NEW YORK, March 4. (JTA)-- Dr. Abba Hillel Silver of Cleveland, noted Zionist leader and national chairman of the United Palestine Appeal, is leaving for England on an important Zionist mission which will keep him there for several weeks, it was announced today by the American Emergency Committee for Zionist Affairs.

Dr. Silver has responded to an urgent call and invitation which came to him jointly from Dr. Chaim Weizmann, President of the World Zionist Organization, and the American Emergency Committee for Zionist Affairs, representing all Zionist groups and parties in this country, the announcement said. His mission to England has a threefold purpose. Dr. Silver will confer with leaders of English public life on Jewish and Zionist questions and convey to them the views and sentiments of American Jews. Another object is to establish closer liaison between the British and American Zionist organizations on matters of policy and methods. Finally on the invitation of the Keren Hayesod, Dr. Silver will participate in the launching of the Keren Hayesod campaign in England.

EPIDEMIC CONTROL PROGRAM FOR PALESTINE ANNOUNCED BY HADASSAH ON 30TH ANNIVERSARY

NEW YORK, March 4. (JTA)-- An epidemic-control program for Palestine to "prevent ravages which could be brought about by war," was announced here today in a special report issued to mark the thirtieth anniversary of the founding of Hadassah.

Mrs. David de Sola Pool, national president, who made the announcement, said cabled reports disclosed that "though the general incidence of infectious diseases in Palestine was lower in 1941 than in 1940, there was an increase in typhoid, diphtheria, jaundice and scabies. Malaria has shown a considerable decrease even though many new and previously undrained areas have recently been opened to settlers."

The program calls for enlarged hospitalization facilities, inoculation of school children against typhoid, and of pre-school children against diphtheria.

MIKVE ISRAEL AGRICULTURAL SCHOOL, OLDEST IN PALESTINE, IN DANGER OF CLOSING

TEL AVIV, March 4. (JTA)-- The Mikve Israel agricultural school here, one of the oldest institutions of its kind in the world, is in acute danger of closing down it was revealed today by its headmaster Dr. Krausse, at a press conference on the occasion of the school's seventy-second anniversary.

Revealing that the deficit of the school, which now has 275 pupils, had reached about \$50,000, Dr. Krausse stated that the Alliance Israelite, which founded the school in 1878, no longer was able to contribute any funds, since its headquarters are in Paris. He thanked the American Palestine Fund, under the leadership of Nathan Strauss, Jr., and the late Felix M. Warburg, for the assistance it has rendered in past years and appealed for further aid now.

Dr. Krausse demanded that the Yishuv's institutions act to prevent closing of the school. Mayor Rokach of Tel Aviv, who was present at the conference, promised his cooperation in rescuing the institution, but pointed out that the bulk of the necessary funds must come from the United States, the Palestine government and the Jewish Agency.

NAZIS EVACUATE "ARYAN" POPULATION FROM FORTRESS TOWN WHERE CZECH JEWS WILL BE CONFINED

LONDON, March 4. (JTA)-- All non-Jewish residents of the fortress town of Terezin which is to be converted into a ghetto for all Jews in the Czech Protectorate, have been evacuated to other sections of Bohemia by order of Reinhard Heydrich, the Nazi "protector" according to advices reaching the Czechoslovak Government-in-Exile here today.

None of the "Aryan" population of the town were given any explanation for their sudden evacuation. The Nazi authorities in the Protectorate are determined to complete the mass-deportation of the Jews from Prague and other Czech cities to Terezin within the next few weeks without the knowledge of the Czechs whose manifestations of sympathy towards Jews are considered to be a form of anti-Nazi activity, the report said.

ALGERIAN JEWS OUSTED FROM FIRMS DEALING IN PROPERTY AND SECURITIES

LISBON, March 4. (JTA)-- All firms in Algeria dealing in property, legal titles and securities, and which are owned in whole or in part by Jews have been placed under the control of temporary administrators appointed by the regional Office for Economic "Aryanization," it was announced today by the Algiers radio.

With the appointment of these administrators the former owners and directors have been ousted and any agreements previously made by them in the course of business are null and void unless they are now approved by the temporary administrators, the broadcast stated.

SOVIET GRANTS EXIT VISAS TO POLISH JEWS HOLDING PALESTINE IMMIGRATION CERTIFICATES

JERUSALEM, March 4. (JTA)-- Exit visas for a number of Polish-Jewish refugees who received immigration certificates for Palestine under last Fall's schedule were granted today by the Soviet government, according to a cabled advice received here.

Granting of these exit visas was interpreted by Jewish Agency circles here as an indication that the Soviet authorities will allow the departure of all Polish Jewish citizens who have Palestine immigration certificates. The Agency plans to allocate the major portion of the new immigration schedule to Polish Jews now in Russia.

NAZIS EXECUTE POLISH JEW ON CHARGES OF RITUAL SLAUGHTER OF CATTLE

ZURICH, March 4. (JTA)-- Chemo Wyszowski, a Jew, from the town of Ceglow in the Minsk-Mazowiecki district in Poland has been executed in Warsaw after having been sentenced to death by a special court on charges of slaughtering cattle according to Jewish ritual, it is reported in the Lemberger-Zeitung reaching here today.

The Nazi paper alleges that Wyszowski bought the cattle in the Warsaw district without the permission of the authorities with the aid of his father, who committed suicide when informed that the German officials were going to arrest him. Last week Chaim Silberman, a Jewish butcher, was executed in Lublin, charged with providing Jews with kosher meat.

GERMAN PRIEST, BROTHER OF OTTO STRASSER, SPREADS ANTI-JEWISH PROPAGANDA IN USA

NEW YORK, March 4. (JTA)-- The charge that the Free German Movement was established in New York "by Communists and Jews" and that this movement is directed "against my brother" Otto Strasser, who was one of the early leaders of the Nazi party in Germany and is now in Canada as the head of the Black Front, is made by Father Bernard Strasser, a brother of Otto, who is now in this country.

This charge is made in a letter published in the New York German-language publication "Aurora and Christliche Woche," in which the German priest also attacks Prince Lowenstein for participating in the anti-Hitler movement in America. "It is regretful that the Jewish-maintained Prince Lowenstein is supporting the movement as a "Catholic leader," Father Strasser writes.

SOUTH AFRICAN JNF RAISES \$660,000 IN RECORD-BREAKING FUND DRIVE

JOHANNESBURG, March 4. (JTA)-- A total of about \$660,000 was collected for the Jewish National Fund in South Africa, in the record-breaking campaign which was concluded last week, it was announced here today. Contributions were 224 percent above those of last year.

The JNF drive was directed by Alexander Goldstein, under the auspices of the Zionist Federation of South Africa. He was assisted by M. Kirschner, president of the Federation; Katie Gluckman, chairman of the JNF in South Africa and by Harry Levin of the JNF Jerusalem office. Aside from the sum raised during the drive the JNF in South Africa collected about \$150,000 during 1941.

PALESTINE JEWS JOINING BRITISH FORCES MAY RECEIVE PALESTINIAN CITIZENSHIP

JERUSALEM, March 4. (JTA)-- Jews who join the British forces in the Near and Middle East may acquire Palestinian citizenship, it was announced here today. At the same time it was announced that refugees who entered the country illegally may, nevertheless, join the British forces. In this way the refugees may secure Palestinian citizenship.

MEMORIAL SERVICES FOR DR. BRAMSON, ORT LEADER, HELD IN UNOCCUPIED FRANCE

VICHY, March 4. (JTA)-- Memorial services for the late Dr. Leon Bramson, chairman of the executive committee of the World ORT Federation, who died in Marseilles on March 2 last year, were held there on Feb. 20, it was learned here today.

Officiating at the services were the Grand Rabbi of France who came from Vichy especially to preside at the memorial, and the Rabbi of Marseilles. Representatives of all Jewish organizations attended the services. On the same day memorial rites were also held for Dr. Bramson in all synagogues in the unoccupied zone.