

Published by The Jewish Telegraphic Agency

106 East 41st Street, New York, N. Y.

VOL. IX. NO. 106

Monday, May 11, 1942

AMERICA, ENGLAND, RUSSIA HOLD KEY TO JEWISH FUTURE IN PALESTINE, WEIZMANN SAYS

NEW YORK, May 10. (JTA)-- The future of Jewish aspirations in Palestine lies in the hands of the United States, England and Soviet Russia, Dr. Chaim Weizmann declared last night addressing the opening session of the three-day Extraordinary Zionist Conference being held at the Biltmore Hotel here, in lieu of the World Zionist Congress.

David Ben-Gurion, Dr. Nahum Goldmann and Mrs. Edward Jacobs, three members of the executive of the World Zionist Organization, addressing the Conference today similarly expressed the opinion that America, Britain and Russia are the powers upon whom the fate of a Jewish Palestine will depend after the defeat of the Axis in the present war. They urged American Jews to become especially active in presenting their case to the major powers of the United Nations.

"America, England, and Russia," Dr. Weizmann said in his address, "have a stake in the progressive and orderly development of the Near East. At the juncture of the three continents, as a bridge linking East and West, and standing guard, as it always stood, over the route from Europe to India, Palestine can play a peculiarly significant part in the reconstruction of the post-war world."

Pointing out that the modernization and progressive development of the Near East cannot be carried out in an imperialistic way but can be done by Westernized and modern Jews who feel that their security and destiny are tied up with the security and destiny of the Arab people, Dr. Weizmann called upon the Jews to first come to an understanding among themselves.

Urges Presentation of Palestine Problems to People of USA, Britain, Russia

"The question for us," Dr. Weizmann said, "is: Can we, by a joint effort of the will and the intelligence, bring to the notice of the American, the British and the Russian people, the decisive elements in our problem and their interplay with the problems of world stabilization? Can we demonstrate a readiness to assume responsibility - with the benevolent sympathy of the world - for the solution of the Jewish post-war problem in a manner which will harmonize with the needs and hopes of the post-war world? Can we, in fact, show that in our desire to answer the cry of a homeless Jewish people, we are actuated by motives which transcend our own pain and fuse with the strivings of humanity? I believe that we can; for I believe that in this tormented and decimated Jewish people there resides that ancient and elemental will which has carried it across many crises in human history, and still demands a creative and not merely a curative outlet."

Dr. Weizmann estimated that three million European Jews will remain uprooted as a result of the present war and will constitute a floating population. A calm and statistical estimate, he stated, foresees that twenty-five percent of central European Jewry will be physically destroyed by cold-blooded murder, starvation and

systematic over-exploitation. "Of the seventy-five percent - if as much as that will emerge from the ghettos, the labor camps, the prisons, on the day of democratic victory - what picture can be drawn?" he asked.

The president of the Jewish Agency for Palestine then went on to predict that the total or even substantial re-integration of the uprooted Jews with the surrounding world "is not within the realm of possibility." Large-scale immigration to the New World in the period following the war cannot reasonably be anticipated, he said. An expanding Jewish Palestine will remain the only place for the absorption of the larger part of the floating Jewish population, he declared. This, he added, is not simply a Jewish problem, but an integral part of the reconstruction problem of Europe and of the world.

Ben-Gurion Demands Jewish Agency Have Authority Over Palestine Immigration

David Ben-Gurion, chairman of the World Zionist Executive, addressing today's session, demanded the immediate granting of authority to the Jewish Agency for Palestine to control Jewish immigration and the industrial and agricultural development of the country. Other proposals made by him "for a solution of the Jewish problem and the problem of Palestine," were: "The unequivocal reaffirmation of the original intention of the Balfour Declaration and the Mandate to re-establish Palestine as a Jewish Commonwealth; complete civil, political and religious equality for all the inhabitants of Palestine; self-government in all municipal matters and the autonomous management by the Arab and Jewish communities of their respective educational and religious affairs."

Demanding that "the Palestine mandate should be entrusted to the Jewish people themselves," Ben Gurion said that America, England and Russia may help, but Palestine will be as Jewish as the Jews themselves make it. "Either Zionism will provide a complete and speedy solution of the burning need of large numbers of uprooted Jews and through mass immigration and colonization will lay the sure foundations of a free self-governing Jewish Palestine or it becomes meaningless," he stated. He added that it must be made clear that there is no Arab problem in the sense that there is a Jewish problem. "There is no homeless Arab people, there is no problem of Arab migration, and the immigration and settlement of the Jews in Palestine is not being done at the expense of the Arabs," he emphasized.

Thorough Study of Arab-Jewish Problem Demanded by Mrs. Jacobs

Mrs. Edward Jacobs, member of the Jewish Agency Executive, demanded that a thorough analysis of all aspects of the Arab-Jewish question be made in order "to formulate an approach for the future." She revealed that the Hadassah organization in America has initiated such a study and called upon all other Zionist groups to support it. Bernard A. Rosenblatt, chairman of the Keren Hayesod in America, spoke in favor of a federated Palestine, taking in territories on both sides of the Jordan, to consist of an autonomous Jewish Commonwealth and an Arab State.

Dr. Stephen S. Wise, chairman of the American Emergency Committee for Zionist Affairs, in his opening address last night expressed the hope that "the Victory Peace Conference of the United Nations will recognize the fact of the Jewish National Home or Commonwealth of Palestine." He emphasized that the Jews of Palestine insist rightfully that they be permitted to defend their country.

Judge Louis E. Levinthal, president of the Zionist Organization of America, who presided over today's session, declared that all American Zionists will pool their energies to meet the issues confronting the Jewish people. "American Jewry, the freest, the most numerous, the most influential Jewish community in the world today," Judge Levinthal said, "must show that it is worthy of the heroic role that destiny has assigned it."

WAR WILL ANNIHILATE THREE MILLION JEWS IN EUROPE, DR. GOLDMANN REPORTS

NEW YORK, May 10. (JTA)-- The prediction that "the totality of European Jewry, apart from Soviet Jewry, may be reduced from five or six million before the war, to two or three million, if not less, after the war," was made here today by Dr. Nahum Goldmann, member of the executive of the Jewish Agency for Palestine, addressing the evening session of the extraordinary Zionist conference at the Biltmore Hotel here, which is being attended by more than 550 American delegates and by 67 Zionist leaders from foreign countries now in the United States, including many from Nazi-occupied European countries.

"Soviet Jewry itself," Dr. Goldmann said, "has been reduced greatly by the slaughtering of hundreds of thousands of Jews in German-occupied territories, and these territories happen to comprise nearly all the large Jewish centers in Soviet Russia. Fortunately, hundreds of thousands of Jews from Poland, Rumania and the Baltic states have escaped into Soviet Russia. Nevertheless, it would be wrong to conclude that Soviet Russian Jewry, formerly 8,500,000, has not also been greatly reduced.

"The Jews who will survive in Europe," Dr. Goldmann continued, "will be a community of physically ruined people, large sections of them fit only for hospitals or homes for the aged and infirm. With all the miraculous moral courage of many of these Jews, there are limits to physical endurance which no moral heroism can abolish. This picture of a Central and Eastern European Jewry reduced to a few millions, of whom a large part are physically broken, must be faced as one of the probabilities of the Jews in the post-war world."

No Strong Zionist Effort Possible Without Russian Jewry

Pointing out that all this will affect the Zionist movement and the Jewish aspirations for Palestine, Dr. Goldmann recommended that efforts be made to bring Russian Jewry "into the life of the Jewish people" and that the Zionist movement should undertake to strengthen the bonds among all Jewish communities for mutual cooperation, so that there should be no "Jewish isolationism" with regard to the question of a Jewish Palestine.

"With the reduced number of Jews after the war and with all the antagonistic tendencies which we will have to overcome, the bringing back of Soviet-Russian Jewry into the life of the Jewish people, will become more essential than ever," Dr. Goldmann emphasized. "I do not think it is impossible, because Soviet Russia will undergo changes, as will all other parts of the world. The isolation of Soviet Russia after a democratic victory will no longer be necessary. No effort or sacrifice should be spared to bring Russian Jewry back into the fold, because European Jewry, as I see it after the war, with Soviet Jewry eliminated as it now is, will not be able to serve as a strong basis for a renewed and strengthened Zionist effort. It will also be essential for us to do everything we can to strengthen the bonds among Jewish communities after the war, because of the numerical and physical weakness of European Jewry and the assimilationist tendencies, which may become stronger in the post-war period than they are even today."

Dr. Israel Goldstein, president of the Jewish National Fund, land-purchasing agency in Palestine, deplored the failure of the Jewish people to recognize the political importance of land purchase. "Had we had the vision and resources," he said, "to bring into the possession of the Jewish people greater land areas in all parts of the country, it would not have been easy to exclude any part of Palestine from the frontiers of the contemplated Jewish Commonwealth."

Robert Szold, treasurer of the Zionist Organization of America, cautioned against any commitments by the Zionist movement "that would in any way be the basis of whittling down Jewish rights to Palestine, which were acknowledged by the nations of the world after the last war."

ITALIAN JEWS MUST BE ISOLATED AND UTILIZED FOR WAR EFFORT. FASCIST SPOKESMAN SAYS

STOCKHOLM, May 10. (JTA)-- Attempting to explain the recent decree mobilizing all Jews in Italy between the ages of 18 and 55 for forced labor, an official Italian spokesman today told the Rome correspondent of the Stockholm Tidningen that it has never been the policy of Italy to completely eradicate the Jews but that the Jews must be isolated from the rest of the population and utilized for work essential to the Italian war effort.

The Swedish paper's Rome correspondent also reports that Jewish war veterans, who hitherto have enjoyed certain privileges in Italy, are not exempt from the decree mobilizing all Jews between 18 and 55 for forced labor. Registration for the labor service started on May 6. The order also affects so-called half-Jews.

The Tidningen declares that it is "noteworthy" that the Italian authorities are anxious to explain that the new measure is not discriminatory. The Fascists claim that Jews are being mobilized in the same manners as Italians who are not liable for military service, or women and children.

JEWS IN NEW GHETTO RECEIVE NO FOOD EXCEPT IN RETURN FOR MANUFACTURED ARTICLES

STOCKHOLM, May 10. (JTA)-- The 10,000 Jewish residents of a new ghetto which the Nazis have established in the Lublin district, some distance outside of the city proper, receive no food whatsoever, except in return for handicraft and industrial products which the Germans are forcing them to produce, it was reported today by the Berlin correspondent of the Svenska Dagbladet.

This is part of the new German policy, already introduced in the ghettos of Warsaw and other large Polish cities, under which the ghetto inhabitants are being utilized to clothe the Nazi war machine. Uniforms, shoes and similar products are being manufactured under German supervisors.

The new ghetto in the Lublin district has been completely surrounded with barbed wire and communication with persons outside is strictly forbidden except under the direct supervision of the German authorities, the Dagbladet reports.

DUTCH HOSTAGES SHOT BY NAZIS INCLUDED SEVEN JEWS

LONDON, May 10. (JTA)-- Among the seventy-two hostages executed by the Nazis in Holland last week were seven Jews, it was reported today in advices reaching here through neutral channels. The majority of those shot were officers and intellectuals, many of them members of the most prominent Dutch families. Dutch newspapers were forbidden to publish the names of the victims.

In London today Jews, Catholics and Protestants held separate religious services marking the second anniversary of the invasion of Holland by the Nazis and special prayers were offered for the executed men and their dependents.

FIFTEEN JEWS AMONG THOSE HONORED FOR BUILDING ROAD ACROSS LAKE LADOGA ICE

KUIBYSHV, May 10. (JTA)-- Fifteen Jews were among those honored yesterday by the Supreme Soviet for the heroic feat of building the road across the ice of Lake Ladoga, through which besieged Leningrad received supplies this past winter.

Among the Jews who received awards are Major Suchowoy Abraham, Senior Lieut. Galperin, Commissars Kaplan and Kofman and Political Instructors Fuchs, Abramov, Genapolski and Letschik.