

# JTA

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### SOVIET DIPLOMATS ARRIVE IN PALESTINE TO ADDRESS JEWISH CONFERENCE

JERUSALEM, Aug. 24. (JTA)-- For the first time in the history of Soviet Russia, diplomatic representatives of the Soviet Government arrived here today to address a Jewish gathering. The conference, called by the Palestine League to Aid Russia, was opened this afternoon by Dr. Shlomo Kaplanski, leader of the Histadruth, in the presence of 400 delegates coming from all parts of Palestine.

The Soviet official delegation is composed of the first secretary of the Soviet Embassy in Ankara and the press attache of the embassy. The two Russian representatives visited a Jewish colony on their way from Haifa and listened with great interest to the description given by the settlers of the development of the settlement, which is conducted on lines identical with those of the collective settlements in Russia.

Impressed by the warm reception given to them by the settlers, Petronko, the first secretary of the embassy, concluded his address with the Hebrew words "Shalom Chaverim." He voiced the hope that the Jewish colonists would realize the Jewish colonization idea of Palestine "in your own way." In Tel Aviv the two Russian diplomats visited at the headquarters of the Histadruth.

The conference sessions are being conducted in Hebrew. At a press conference preceding the opening session, the leaders of the League described the organization as a non-partisan body open to all regardless of race, religion and political opinions. "The League is based on Zionist conceptions aiming at a rapprochement between the Yishuv and Russia and the rendering of maximum assistance to the Russian heroic struggle against Fascism," a statement issued by the secretariat at the press conference declared.

### JEWISH ORGANIZATIONS IN SWITZERLAND INTERVENE AGAINST EXPULSION OF REFUGEES

BERN, Aug. 24. (JTA)-- Jewish organizations here have interceded with the Swiss authorities to rescind the decision expelling to Nazi-occupied France the Jewish refugees who crossed into this country illegally in order to escape deportation by the Nazis to occupied Eastern territories. Negotiations to this effect are still in progress, it is learned.

The possibility that the Swiss Federal Council may reconsider its decision is hinted at in the Liberal newspapers which have protested the expulsions on the ground that they violate the country's oldest tradition of offering asylum to the persecuted. The protests of the Swiss liberal newspapers have found a wide echo among the entire Swiss population.

MUSSOLINI WORRIED OVER NAZI DESIGNS ON PALESTINE, SYRIA, EGYPT, IRAK, LIBYA

CAIRO, Aug. 24. (JTA)-- Reliable reports reaching here from Rome indicate a rift between Hitler and Mussolini over the thorny question of a division of spoils not yet secured in the Middle East.

Mussolini, his suspicions aroused by reports of German plans for a Pan-Arabic Federation, is reported to have forced a conference on the subject to ascertain what share if any would be allotted to Italy of the territory conquered by joint Axis forces. The conference is said to have taken place in Vienna early this month. The German delegates, as Mussolini knew in advance, were not of first-rate political importance, which was merely another way of saying to Mussolini that the inner councils of the Nazis were not particularly interested in the Middle East. The chief Nazi delegate was Hans Bohle, head of the department of the Foreign Office which organizes the services of Germans living abroad.

The Italian under-secretaries attending the conference learned that the Nazis had worked out plans for Pan-Arabia to include not only Palestine, Syria, Irak, Saudi-Arabia, Transjordan and Egypt but also Libya. Instead of dividing the Moslem lands between the Axis partners, the Germans apparently envisaged a sort of joint Axis administration of the whole bloc. Libya could not be given to Italy, Bohle argued, because the hatred of Italy engendered by Marshal Graziani's ruthless massacres and deportations of Arabs from the Libyan coastline years ago still rankled in Arab breasts and would jeopardize the whole scheme of federation. Argument proving fruitless, the Italian delegates could do nothing but return home and report.

Mussolini then tried to ascertain through the Italian ambassador in Berlin whether the Bohle plan actually had been sanctioned by Hitler and Ribbentrop. He also wanted to know whether Frank Frobenius, notorious Nazi agent in the Middle East and German convert to Mohammedanism, with a Syrian wife, had been picked as viceroy of the Pan-Arabic federation. In neither of these two quests was Mussolini successful. The Nazis' hierarchy answered neither yes or no. The situation at present is that the Nazis, by keeping Mussolini guessing, are also keeping him worried.

REXISTS DEMAND ESTABLISHMENT OF COMMISSARIAT FOR JEWISH AFFAIRS IN BELGIUM

STOCKHOLM, Aug. 24. (JTA)-- The establishment of a Commissariat for Jewish Affairs in Belgium along the same lines as in France and Rumania is demanded by the anti-Semitic and pro-Nazi Rexist Party in Brussels, Nazi-controlled Belgian newspapers reaching here today report.

"Such an apparatus to deal with the Jews in Belgium is needed, because the Jews are endeavoring by all means to evade the existing anti-Jewish regulations and their activities, therefore, must be put under more stringent control," one of the Rexist papers writes.

Other Belgian papers predict that the Nazi occupational authorities will soon announce measures in Belgium ordering the Jews to "productive work" which is interpreted here to mean that they will be sent to forced labor either in Belgian mines or in eastern territories occupied by the German army.

APPOINT ALLOTMENT COMMITTEE TO ALLOCATE FUNDS RAISED BY 1942 U.J.A.

NEW YORK, Aug. 24. (JTA)-- The appointment of an Allotment Committee to allocate funds raised by the 1942 United Jewish Appeal for Refugees, Overseas Needs and Palestine was announced today by Rabbi Jonah B. Wise, Chairman of the fund-raising committee of the Joint Distribution Committee, and Rabbi Abba Hillel Silver, national chairman of the United Palestine Appeal.

In accordance with the provisions of the agreement constituting the 1942 United Jewish Appeal, the Allotment Committee is authorized to act on the distribution of all funds raised by the United Jewish Appeal above the initial sum of \$9,100,000. Funds in excess of this sum are to be distributed between the Joint Distribution Committee and the United Palestine Appeal by the Allotment Committee. The National Refugee Service has received a fixed grant for the year.

Following the precedent established in previous years, membership of the 1942 Allotment Committee is composed of two representatives each of the Joint Distribution Committee and the United Palestine Appeal, and three representatives of the Jewish communities at large, selected jointly by the J.D.C. and the U.P.A. Members of the Allotment Committee are James H. Becker of Chicago and I. Edwin Goldwasser of New York, representing the Joint Distribution Committee; Charles J. Rosenbloom of Pittsburgh and Dr. Abba Hillel Silver of Cleveland, representing the United Palestine Appeal; and Joel Gross of Newark, Louis Caplan of Pittsburgh and Edwin J. Schanfarber of Columbus, representing the communities generally.

POLISH JEWS IN AMERICA ELIGIBLE TO JOIN POLISH BATTALIONS IN U.S. ARMY

WASHINGTON, Aug. 24. (JTA)-- Polish Jews in America are eligible to join Polish battalions in the U.S. Army, it was stated here today following reports that such battalions are now being contemplated.

The reports, published in the Polish press in America, said that the U.S. Army will form Polish units which will consist of natives of Poland or those of Polish extraction. Only those who have served either in the American or Polish Army will be eligible for enlistment. In the meantime officers cadres will be established to which only former officers and privates with military experiences will be admitted.

The decision to organize Polish battalions was acclaimed by the Chicago Dziennik Zwiazkowy. This newspaper declared that the knowledge of the Polish language and Polish conditions possessed by the members of these units will prove valuable "when the time comes."

The Glos Narodu of Jersey City commented that "it appears the American Government had decided to form various national fighting units in the U.S. Army. These will not be separate armies but separate national units which will be charged with special duties during as well as after the war."

JEWSH SOLDIERS ORGANIZE THEIR OWN THEATRE "SOMEWHERE IN PALESTINE"

JERUSALEM, Aug. 24. (JTA)-- The establishment "somewhere in Palestine" of the first Jewish soldiers' theatre was announced here today. Located in one of the military camps, the theatre was organized by Zvi Friedland, one of the members of the Habimah. The theatrical group giving the performances consists of a cast of twenty, the majority of whom are former students of the Habimah now serving in the armed forces.

U.S. AGENCIES ACCUSED OF VIOLATING FDR'S ORDER AGAINST JOB DISCRIMINATION

SAN FRANCISCO, Aug. 24. (JTA)-- Government agencies, including the United States Employment Service, are offenders against President Roosevelt's Executive order declaring against racial or other types of discrimination in war work, it was alleged today by the Bay Area Council Against Discrimination.

The council announced that it had investigated, or was investigating, complaints concerning "various branches of the War Department," the Mare Island Navy Yard, the United States Employment Service, Federal housing projects and such war work organizations as the Red Cross, United Service Organizations and the Civilian Defense Council.

The report asserted that "in the main, employers who have been confronted with allegations of discrimination have been quick to affirm the policy enunciated in the President's Executive order, and in the majority of cases have altered practices which offended that policy. Among instances of employer discrimination was one in which a company was charged with refusing to employ a woman "simply because she was Jewish."

Declaring that it was a "strange quirk of our democratic government that among the most serious offenders in the field of discrimination are some government agencies themselves," the report attributed this, in the main, to the fact that the practices of those agencies reflected, and were in a large measure determined by "the practices which are present in the private and business worlds."

SEVEN JEWISH ARMY AND NAVY CHAPLAINS PROMOTED; 64 ON ACTIVE DUTY

NEW YORK, Aug. 24. (JTA)-- Promotion of seven Army and Navy chaplains of the Jewish faith to higher rank and an increase in the number of Jewish chaplains on active duty to sixty-four were announced today by Dr. David de Sola Pool, chairman of the Committee on Army and Navy Religious Activities of the National Jewish Welfare Board.

Six Army chaplains were elevated from lieutenant to captain, and one Navy chaplain, H. Cerf Straus, of Alexandria, La., was named a lieutenant commander. Of the sixty-four chaplains now on active duty, fifty-eight are in the Army and six in the Navy.

The first American Jewish chaplain to reach Britain with the American armed forces is Earl Stone, formerly assistant rabbi of a Chicago temple.

AGUDAS ISRAEL CONFERENCE DECIDES TO RAISE FUND FOR RELIGIOUS WORK IN AMERICA

BELMAR, New Jersey, Aug. 24. (JTA)-- A decision to raise a fund to foster religious education among Jews in America was adopted here last night at the closing session of the three-day Conference for Strengthening of Judaism convoked by the Agudas Israel of America.

Rabbi Isaac Lewin, leader of Agudas Israel in Poland, addressing the conference, charged the Jews of America with "indifference" to the fate of the Jews in Nazi-held Poland. He suggested that the Agudas Israel establish a committee to organize relief for the persecuted Jews in Europe. Rabbi S. Gurari of New York was among the principal speakers at the session.