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AMERICAN JEWISH COMMITTEE ADOPTS PROGRAM ON POST-WAR EUROPE AND PALESTINE

NEW YORK, Jan. 31. (JTA)-- Pledging "every effort and every sacrifice to the winning of the war," the 36th annual meeting of the American Jewish Committee today adopted a statement urging the United Nations and "those who shall frame the terms of peace" to bring relief to Jewish victims of Axis barbarism by effecting "their repatriation, rehabilitation and the complete restoration and safeguarding of their equal civil and religious rights."

The statement also affirmed the Committee's desire "to cooperate with those Jews who wish to settle in Palestine" and approved for Palestine an international trusteeship responsible to the United Nations for the purposes of safeguarding Jewish settlement in and Jewish immigration into Palestine, protecting the fundamental rights of all inhabitants as well as the holy places of all faiths, and preparing Palestine "to become, within a reasonable period of years, a self-governing Commonwealth." At the same time it emphasized that "settlement in Palestine, although an important factor, cannot alone furnish and should not be expected to furnish the solution of the problem of post-war Jewish rehabilitation."

The statement was adopted following the presentation to the meeting of a report on overseas activities of the American Jewish Committee by George Z. Medalie. Describing the situation of Jews in various countries, Mr. Medalie said that "the North African situation today is frankly distressing, notwithstanding the sincerity of our government in its declared purposes with respect to Jews who reside there." He termed "amazing" the statement made last week by Gen. Giraud that the Jewish question was an internal one in which the world as a whole has no interest, and declared that it is the duty of American Jews, together with other Americans, "to insist that what we fight for throughout the world shall not be mocked in one part of it under our own control."

Proskauer Elected President; Blaustein is Chairman of General Committee

Judge Joseph M. Proskauer was elected president of the American Jewish Committee at the meeting which took place at the Hotel Astor. Jacob Blaustein was elected chairman of the General Committee and Alan M. Strock chairman of the Administrative Committee. Ira Yonker was elected treasurer and N.M. Ohrbach assistant treasurer. Lessing J. Rosenwald and Carl J. Austrian were re-elected vice-presidents. New vice-presidents elected are James H. Becker, Chicago; Monto M. Lomann, New Orleans; Jesse H. Steinhart, San Francisco and Victor S. Riesenfeld, New York.

Judge Proskauer, in accepting the presidency, declared that the statement adopted by the meeting marks the course of conduct of the American Jewish Committee in the present emergency and is not a creed. He emphasized that he will loyally and faithfully carry out the terms of the statement, the acceptance of which he urged. Maurice Wertheim, the retiring president, who presided at the meeting, expressed his belief that the statement voices the views of the overwhelming

majority of the members of the Committee, even though they continue to entertain differing views on Jewish life. "It is a good thing," he said, "that this diversity of view prevails. The objects of the American Jewish Committee are not those of a political party. This Committee, welcoming all American Jews within its fold regardless of their religious or political views, is intended to represent a cross section of American Jewry. Our effort to find common ground on this vexed question seems to me to be indicative of what all Jewish direction should be, namely, in line with the American motto, "United We Stand, and Divided We Fall."

Full Text of the American Jewish Committee Statement

The statement, as adopted by the meeting, reads: "At this time, when our country is engaged in an epoch-making war, we, who are united with our brethren of all faiths in the common bond of American citizenship, pledge every effort and every sacrifice to the winning of the war, the achievement for the whole world of the Four Freedoms and the blessings of the Atlantic Charter and the establishment of a just and enduring peace.

"We reaffirm our devotion to our religion and pledge ourselves to maintain and perpetuate the vitality of the Jewish religious community, confident that its teachings have constituted and will continue to constitute a basic contribution to the development of civilization and of democracy. We join with our brethren of all creeds in the continued fight against those who through bigotry and prejudice endeavor in any way to imperil the rights of any group of American citizens and thus to divide our country and undermine the foundations of American liberty.

"We urge upon the United Nations and upon those who shall frame the terms of peace the relief from the havoc and ruin inflicted by Axis barbarism on millions of unoffending human beings, especially Jews, their repatriation, rehabilitation and the complete restoration and safeguarding of their equal civil and religious rights. To the extent that economic conditions in the war torn lands shall make emigration therefrom of their nationals necessary, we ask the implementation by those who shall frame the terms of peace of a program which shall under international supervision facilitate voluntary settlement elsewhere under the most favorable conditions."

"We ask of the United Nations and those who shall frame the terms of peace, reaffirmation of the fundamental principle that Jewish citizens of every land, fulfilling their obligation of complete loyalty to their respective countries, shall be guaranteed the correlative right of complete equality. We applaud the recent statement of the Secretary of State, that we must have a world in which Jews like all others "are free to abide in peace and in honor." Thus, while associating ourselves fully with all the purposes of human freedom and betterment proclaimed by the President of the United States, we have special concern with the two objectives, salvation of those suffering people and the preservation of the Jewish community as a spiritual force."

Committee's Views on Palestine Formulated

"We recognize that there are now more than half a million Jews in Palestine who have built up a sound and flourishing economic life and a satisfying spiritual and cultural life, and who now constitute substantially one-third of the population, and that while this Palestinian immigration has been a blessed amelioration of the condition of this large number of Jews, and has helped to bring about a great

development of the country itself, settlement in Palestine although an important factor, cannot alone furnish and should not be expected to furnish the solution of the problem of post-war Jewish rehabilitation.

"We affirm our deep sympathy with and our desire to cooperate with those Jews who wish to settle in Palestine. With respect to the government of Palestine, we recognize wide divergence of opinion and that under existing conditions there should be no preconceived formula at this time as to the permanent political structure which shall obtain there. Since we hold that in the United States as in all other countries Jews, like all others of their citizens are nationals of those nations and of no other, there can be no political identification of Jews outside of Palestine with whatever government may there be instituted.

"We endorse the policy of friendship and cooperation between Jews and Arabs in Palestine and urge that every possible avenue be followed to establish good will and active collaboration between them.

"We approve for Palestine an international trusteeship responsible to the United Nations for the following purposes: a) To safeguard the Jewish settlement in and Jewish immigration into Palestine and to guarantee adequate scope for future growth and development to the full extent of the economic absorptive capacity of the country; b) To safeguard and protect the fundamental rights of all inhabitants; c) To safeguard and protect the holy places of all faiths; d) To prepare the country to become, within a reasonable period of years, a self-governing Commonwealth under a Constitution and a bill of rights that will safeguard and protect these purposes and basic rights for all."

PALESTINE JEWISH COUNCIL DRAWS ATTENTION OF U.S. TO POSITION OF NORTH AFRICAN JEWS

JERUSALEM, Jan. 31.(JTA)-- The marked differences between the position of the Jews in Tripolitania, liberated by the British, and in the French North African possessions occupied by the American forces were cited today in a memorandum submitted to U.S. Consul-General Lowell C. Pinkerton here by the Jewish National Council of Palestine.

The memorandum points out that while the British authorities, after occupying Tripolitania, promptly released the Jews from Axis concentration camps and ghettos and took immediate measures to abolish the anti-Jewish laws, almost nothing has been done as yet to release the Jews in French North Africa from the concentration camps in Morocco and Algeria as well as from forced labor camps in the Sahara desert.

At the same time the Council delivered a memorandum to the Palestine Government taking exception to the recent official statement which warned against the use of violence in inducing residents of Palestine to enlist in the armed forces. The statement is interpreted by Jewish leaders as "intending to detract from the purity of Jewish voluntary enlistment."

Addressing a press conference today on the subject of the Government statement, Isaac Ben-Zvi, president of the Council, which is the representative body of Palestine Jews, said that the Council was first to condemn hooliganism and violence, but certain passages in the Government communique have provoked a feeling of embitterment among Jews in Palestine because "they create the impression that Jewish enlistment is carried out under pressure, whereas actually it is inspired by a sincere desire to participate in the war of the world democracies against Hitler and to honorably defend the Jewish homeland."

NAZIS MASSACRE 3,000 JEWS IN KISLOVODSK BEFORE RETREATING FROM CITY

KUIBYSHV, Jan. 31, (JTA)-- Approximately 3,000 Jews were executed by the Nazis in Kislovodsk, one of the resort towns of the Caucasus, prior to the German retreat from the city, it was reported in the Soviet press today. More than 1,000 of the victims were machine-gunned near a slaughter house in the city, while 2,000 were executed near a glass factory, three kilometers from Kislovodsk.

Describing the raids on Jewish houses in Kislovodsk, the Russian press reveals that a number of Jewish families committed suicide by slashing their veins in order to avoid seizure by the Nazis. Among them were several Jewish doctors from the Kislovodsk sanatorium, one of the most famous medical institutions in Russia.

JEWS IN FRANCE FORBIDDEN TO APPROACH VILLAGES ALONG SWISS BORDER

ZURICH, Jan. 31, (JTA)-- Jews in France residing in localities near the Swiss border have been ordered to move into the interior and access to these border villages has been forbidden to Jews, it was reported today by the Swiss press, quoting an order issued yesterday by the Prefect of the Department of Haute-Savoie.

The local newspapers state that the order was motivated by the fact that Jews continue to slip across the border into Switzerland with the help of willing Frenchmen.

JEWS IN SLOVAKIA DISCARD YELLOW BADGES, NAZI PAPER COMPLAINS

ZURICH, Jan. 31, (JTA)-- A complaint that the Jews who have not yet been deported from the Nazi puppet state of Slovakia have discarded their yellow badges is voiced in the Slovakian Nazi newspaper Grenzboten which reached here today.

The paper reports that Slovakian Jews in the cities of Michalovce, Umonne, Presev and Nitra no longer wear the yellow armbands and that "Aryan officials are testifying that these Jews are indispensable for Slovakia's existence." It states that "as a matter of fact, only poor Jews have been deported from Slovakia, while the other classes of Jews who remain are doing everything possible to hinder the reconstruction of the country."

ONLY 800 JEWS IN FINLAND, OFFICIAL REPORTS; COMPLETELY ISOLATED FROM FINNS

STOCKHOLM, Jan. 31, (JTA)-- Prof. Linkomies, vice-president of the Finnish parliament, in a statement to representatives of the German press, "clarified" the position of the Jews in Finland.

"There is no Jewish problem in our country," he said. "We have only about 800 Jews in the whole of Finland and they are mostly dealers in ready-made clothing. It is impossible to speak of rich Finnish Jews. The position of the Jews in our country could be described as that of complete isolation. It is quite impossible for a Jew in Finland to associate with Finns or to become assimilated. I personally have never met Jews in Finnish company."

FOUR JEWS PROMOTED TO RANK OF GENERAL IN THE RUSSIAN ARMY

MOSCOW, Jan. 31, (JTA)-- Four Jews were promoted today to the rank of general in the Red Army in recognition of their bravery at the front. They are Major Samuil Tarkushvitch, Major Israel Boskin, Major Samuel Shapiro and Major Aaron Katz.

AMERICAN JEWS SPENT \$74,000,000 IN TEN YEARS TO SAVE JEWS FROM NAZI HANDS

NEW YORK, Jan. 31. (JTA)-- American Jews contributed \$74,885,285 during the past ten years for the rescue of the victims of Nazi oppression, it was announced today by the United Jewish Appeal on the occasion of the tenth anniversary of Hitler's accession to power. Of the total expenditures, the Joint Distribution Committee spent \$40,000,000; the United Palestine Appeal, \$23,676,107; and the National Refugee Service (during the period from 1939 to 1942), \$11,209,178.48, the announcement said.

Reviewing the decade of despair brought on by Nazi oppression, the United Jewish Appeal reported that during the past ten years 305,000 Jews had found a home in Palestine, 203,000 refugees had emigrated to the United States, and 125,000 had found a refuge in South America. Together with the smaller numbers of Jews who found a haven in remote sections of the world, the United Jewish Appeal said, the total number of Jews who were helped to escape from Nazi-dominated Europe since January 30, 1933 amounted to 750,000.

LEHMAN CITES IMPORTANCE OF U.S. RELIEF TO LIBERATED COUNTRIES AT ORT DINNER

NEW YORK, Jan. 31. (JTA)-- The importance of immediate American relief to countries liberated from the Axis in order to "prevent the spread of pestilence and epidemic from the concentration camps and the ghettos where Nazi leaders have wilfully and deliberately allowed disease to run rampant as a means of exterminating whole races and nationalities," was stressed tonight by Director of Foreign Relief and Rehabilitation Operations, Herbert H. Lehman, addressing a dinner in his honor at the Hotel Commodore here, tendered by the Labor Division of the American ORT Federation.

Pointing out that military leaders agree that relief activities are a prerequisite to establishing peace and democracy in countries freed from Nazi occupation, Mr. Lehman stated that "it is vitally important that if we are to win this war, that we be ready with plans, with materials and resources and with personnel to follow up military operations with emergency food, shelter, clothing and medical facilities to give assistance to the men and women who kept burning the hatred of the Axis and the will to survive and be free."

Mr. Lehman declared that "the great work with which I am entrusted is but an extension and tremendous elaboration of the work which you good people already have pioneered through the ORT." Citing the 62 years of service by the ORT, he added that "the darkness into which the brutal forces of aggression has plunged the world has temporarily obscured the outlines of the work of the ORT in Europe. But now as the liberating forces of the United Nations gather to deal the Axis a finishing blow, we can look forward toward the dawn of a new day in which the ORT's principle of helping others to help themselves will be revitalized by all America and extended on a broader, even world-wide scale."

Among the speakers at the dinner, who paid tribute to Mr. Lehman's long record of humanitarian and welfare activities, were Gerore Backer, president of the American ORT Federation; former Governor Charles Poletti; leaders of the A.F. of L. and the C.I.O.; David Dubinsky, president of the ILGWU; Jacob Potofsky, secretary-treasurer of the Amalgamated Clothing Workers of America and many others. Mr. Backer particularly thanked Mr. Lehman for his keen interest in the activities of the ORT. Adolph Hold, chairman of the Labor Division of the ORT, presided at the dinner.