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REFUGEE GROUPS DISAPPOINTED AT DECISION TO SHIFT ANGLO-U.S.A. PARLEY TO BERMUDA

WASHINGTON, March 28. (JTA)—Groups concerned with aiding Jewish and other refugees from Nazi-occupied territories to find havens in Allied or neutral countries expressed disappointment today at the announcement that the forthcoming Anglo-American refugee conference is to be held in Bermuda, instead of Ottawa, the site originally suggested by Secretary of State Cordell Hull in his note to the British Government.

These interested groups feel that the conferees will be less subject to public pressure in Bermuda, since it will be difficult for delegations and reporters to go there, and also that the shift from Ottawa lessens the prospects for collaboration by the Canadian Government, since a meeting on Canadian soil might have encouraged the Dominion to receive refugees.

Among those mentioned here as possible representatives at Bermuda are Myron C. Taylor, President Roosevelt's envoy to the Vatican and the United States representative on the Intergovernmental Refugee Committee and Archbishop Francis Spellman, now on his way back to the United States; and Lord Winterton, British representative on the Intergovernmental Committee and its chairman and Sir Gerald Campbell, British Minister to the United States.

The State Department, meanwhile, was charged today with restricting the immigration of refugees to this country to a far greater extent than authorized to do so by Congress. It was pointed out that since 1933 less than forty percent of the immigrants entitled to enter under the existing quotas have been granted visas.

The charges, made by Louis E. Spiegler, Washington representative of the HIAS, were voiced in connection with the forthcoming refugee conference. He referred to the note delivered by the Secretary of State on February 23, 1943 to the British Government in which the conference was suggested, and pointed out that while 153,774 immigrants can enter this country annually under the existing immigration quota, only 51,776 entered during the year 1940-1941 and no more than 28,781 entered during the immigration year of 1941-1942. These included 23,737 Jews in the former year and 10,608 in the latter.

The Secretary of State in his note to the British Government stated that 228,964 visas were issued in the war years 1939-1942, and also that "from the advent of the Hitler regime in 1933 until June 30, 1942, 547,775 visas were issued by American diplomatic and consular officers to natives or nationals of the various countries now dominated by the Axis powers, the great majority of which persons were refugees from Nazi persecution." It added that in affording asylum to refugees, the U.S. Government "is and must be bound by legislation enacted by Congress determining the immigration policy of the United States."

In analyzing the note, Mr. Spiegler pointed to the fact that under the existing quota regulations, more than 1,380,000 immigrants could have entered the United States since 1933 as compared with the 547,775 for whom visas were granted. During the war years 1939-1942 more than 460,000 visas could have been issued under the immigration quota as compared with the 228,964 which the State Department says were issued.

DESTROYER ESCORT LEVY, NAMED AFTER JEWISH HERO OF WAR OF 1812, LAUNCHED IN NEWARK

PORT NEWARK, N.J., March 28.(JTA)-- The U.S.S. Levy, one of the first two destroyer escort vessels to be launched in the Third Naval District, which includes New York, Connecticut and part of New Jersey, slid down the ways at the Federal Shipbuilding Company's yard here today. Named after Commodore Uriah P. Levy, Jewish naval officer who distinguished himself in the War of 1812, the vessel was sponsored by Mrs. Charles Mayhoff of New York City, a niece of the Commodore.

Commodore Levy, a native of Pennsylvania, served on the frigate Constitution in the Mediterranean and at one time was commander of the famous Macedonian. He is credited with securing the abolishment of flogging in the Navy in 1850. He died in New York late in 1862 and is buried there.

The vessel bearing his name will augment the rapidly growing fleet of such ships, which are helping to combat the Axis U-boat menace. Nearly as large as destroyers, they are simpler in construction, less heavily armed and can be produced much faster than the former vessels. They are designed primarily for protection against undersea and air attack.

JEWS IN MINSK MASSACRED FOR REFUSING TO EXPOSE LEADERS OF UNDERGROUND MOVEMENT

MOSCOW, March 28.(JTA)-- Nearly half of the 1,500 Jews who remained in Minsk - the remnants of a pre-war Jewish population of 80,000 - were murdered by the Nazis during the last week of January, this year, it was disclosed here today by Byelo-Russian guerrillas who were sent to Moscow to recuperate from wounds suffered in battling the Nazi occupation forces.

Early in January, these partisan fighters report, the German authorities summoned the oldest Jews in the Minsk ghetto and told them that the Gestapo had received information that underground activity was being carried on there. Unless the persons who were active in organizing anti-Nazi resistance and in recruiting members for guerrilla bands were exposed, the entire Jewish population would suffer, the Nazi commander said. At the same time the "Minsk Gazette," published by the Germans in the Byelo-Russian language, urged the non-Jewish population of the city to emulate the example of other "liberated towns," and wipe out the ghetto and all its residents.

These threats, however, were unavailing, the guerrillas said, and consequently on January 25 a group of Gestapo men broke into the ghetto and opened machinegun fire at random. Hundreds of Jews were killed. Those who remain, numbering less than a thousand, live in constant dread that they, too, will soon be massacred, since the Germans have been unable to capture the leaders of the underground movement.

BRITISH CIVIL LIBERTIES COUNCIL ASKS OUTLAWING OF ANTI-SEMITISM, AID TO REFUGEES

LONDON, March 28.(JTA)-- A resolution demanding that the British Government outlaw anti-Semitic and Fascist propaganda was adopted here today at the annual meeting of the Council of Civil Liberties.

The meeting also urged immediate action to rescue the Jews in Europe and to release the anti-Fascist internees in North Africa. Speakers cited the increased manifestations of anti-Semitism in England and warned that the persons spreading such propaganda were attempting to pave the way for a fascist government.

BARON ROTHSCHILD'S PROTEST AGAINST ABROGATION OF CREMIEUX LAW PROVOKES U.S. REPLY

WASHINGTON, March 28.(JTA)-- Under-Secretary of State Sumner Welles today made public the text of a letter he has sent to Baron Edouard de Rothschild, who, as president of the Consistoire des Israelites de France et d'Algiers, protested against the abrogation by Gen. Giraud of the Cremieux Law. The letter reads:

"My dear Baron de Rothschild: You will recall that last week you were good enough to send me the text of a statement which you had prepared for publication regarding the general position of the Jewish community in North Africa and, more particularly, the abrogation of the Cremieux decree of 1870 in relation to the speech made by Gen. Giraud on March 14.

"I felt so strongly that your statement gave a completely erroneous picture of the position of Jews in North Africa and of Gen. Giraud's measures in their behalf that I immediately telegraphed a summary of it to our representatives there. The following comment, prepared in consultation with an unbiased specialist familiar with the various legal points involved, has just been received. I hasten to send it to you in the belief that you will not wish to allow an erroneous impression of the situation to prevail.

"1. The laws relating to the Jews which were of Nazi inspiration were abolished by Gen. Giraud by an ordinance of the 14th of the current month. The Jews are guaranteed the right to practice the liberal professions including the holding of public office, the right to own property and freely to manage their property, assets and all business enterprises, and the right to attend institutions of learning of all degrees. The Jew is no longer indicated as of a race apart in the civil registry records. By ordering the reinstatement of all public officials, agents and employees excluded because they were Jews, General Giraud effaced an odious past. The order that property sequestered under provisional administration would be restored to the Jews and that the sales of real property and other assets would be null and void was given with the same objective. Consequently, Baron de Rothschild's affirmation that the decisions of Gen. Giraud are obscure and insufficient are untrue.

"2. French citizenship is retained by Jews born in France or descendants of parents born in France. Baron de Rothschild's affirmation that they lose their citizenship is untrue.

"3. Only native Algerian Jews were affected by the Cremieux decree. The decree is abrogated but in the near future a procedure will be established whereby native Algerian Jews who desire to become citizens may acquire citizenship. It may be remembered that, following the precedent of 1914-1918, elections are deferred until the end of the war, that is to say, until metropolitan France is liberated. Consequently, native Algerian Jews who desire to participate in those elections will have ample time to become citizens. The affirmation of Baron de Rothschild that Jews will be unlawfully deprived of voting power is likewise absolutely untrue."

INTERNATIONAL TRUSTEESHIP FOR PALESTINE BEFORE INDEPENDENCE URGED BY LABOR ZIONISTS

NEW YORK, March 28.(JTA)-- An international trusteeship for Palestine before it is granted complete independence was urged today at the concluding session of the three-day convention of the American Zionist Labor Movement here. During the period of trusteeship the Jewish Agency should have control of immigration, a resolution adopted by the convention stated. It also demanded of the United Nations that they pledge that a Jewish commonwealth will be set up in Palestine with free

immigration and with no discrimination between any Palestine inhabitants on grounds of race, religion or language.

The convention also demanded the establishment of a World Jewish Representation which is to have "either the status of a government-in-exile or membership among the United Nations." The projected body would, among other things, cooperate in the economic reconstruction of Jewish life and represent Jewish interests in such international bodies as may be set up for relief, resettlement, migration, colonization and economic readjustment.

Other resolutions demanded unrestricted rights for all refugees and deportees to return to their places of residence; compensation for individual or communal Jewish property confiscated by the Axis and the granting of adequate pensions to widows and orphans of Jewish victims of the Axis powers.

The meeting also suggested that one central Jewish agency for post-war relief and reconstruction be established as a section of the World Jewish Representation. It pledged full support to the projected American Jewish Assembly and urged that an organizational link be established between the Assembly and American Jewish relief agencies.

United Nations Asked to Pledge Restoration of Rights to Jews in Europe

NEW YORK, March 28.(JTA)-- The Government of the United States and the leaders of the United Nations were called upon today to clarify their position in regard to the complete restoration of the rights of the Jewish minority populations in European lands and towards the task of upbuilding a "self-governing Jewish Palestine." This demand was voiced by Dr. Israel Goldstein, president of the Jewish National Fund of America, at a dinner in his honor tendered by the Order Sons of Zion on the occasion of his tenth year as president of the Jewish National Fund.

Dr. Chaim Weizmann, president of the World Zionist Organization, and Senator Alben Barkley, majority leader of the Senate, also urged the creation of a Jewish homeland in Palestine after the war. Other speakers included Rabbi Meyer Berlin, president of the World Mizrahi Organization and a member of the presidium of the Jewish National Fund in Jerusalem and Judge Louis E. Levinthal, president of the Zionist Organization of America.

Governor Thomas E. Dewey sent a message praising Palestine's contribution to the Allied war effort and hailing the leadership of Dr. Goldstein during the last ten years "in a program which has resulted in the resettling of thousands of homeless Jews."

REFORM CONGREGATIONS HONOR FOUNDER ISAAC MAYER WISE

NEW YORK, March 28.(JTA)-- The annual Isaac Mayer Wise Founder's Day Service was held here today at the Central Synagogue under the auspices of the New York Federation of Reform Synagogues in cooperation with the New York City Alumni of the Hebrew Union College. Dr. Sidney S. Tedeschi of Union Temple of Brooklyn was the principal speaker. Thirty reform synagogues were represented.

In 1873, Isaac Mayer Wise founded the Union of American Hebrew Congregations of which the New York Federation of Reform Synagogues is an agency. The Hebrew Union College was founded in 1875 by Isaac Mayer Wise, and in 1889, he established the Central Conference of American Rabbis.