JEWISH TELEGRAPHIC AGENCY

106 EAST 41st STREET, NEW YORK CITY

VOL. X. NO. 87

Wednesday, April 14, 1943

ONLY CONGRESS CAN DETERMINE IMMIGRATION POLICY, U.S. DELEGATE TO BERMUDA WARNS

WASHINGTON, April 13. (JTA) --Caution against too great expectations from the Anglo-American refugee conference in Bermuda, scheduled to begin next Monday, was indicated today in a statement by acting Senate President pro-tem Scott Lucas, Illinois Democrat, who is one of the three-man delegation which will represent the United States at the conference

"As one of the American delegation to meet with the delegation from Great Britain at the refugee conference in Bermuda, I am grateful for the opportunity to participate in an exchange of thoughts and ideas upon refugee problems," Senator Lucas said. "It should be remembered that what is done at the conference must be considered more or less informal. However, it is all-important that a thorough exploration of the facts with respect to the persecution of all the peoples of Europe be submitted to the executive committee of the Intergovernmental Committee on Refugees as soon as possible.

"America has never failed in her long history to do her share in the relief of oppressed and persecuted peoples. We will not fail in this crisis. In affording asylum to refugees, however, it is well to point out that any policies established can come only through legislation enacted by Congress, which determines the immigration policy of the United States," Senator Lucas emphasized.

JETISH ORGANIZATIONS IN ENGLAND DRAFTING JOINT MEMORANDUM TO BERMUDA CONFERENCE

LONDON, April 13. (JTA) --Jewish leaders met in conference here today to prepare the final draft of a memorandum which will be submitted through the British Government to the Anglo-American Conference on refugee problems which opens in Bermuda on Monday.

The memorandum will be submitted in behalf of the Joint Emergency Consultative Committee which is composed of representatives of the Joint Foreign Committee of the Board of Deputies of British Jews, the British section of the World Jewish Congress, the Jewish Agency for Palestine and the World Orthodox Agudas Israel Organization. The document will contain practical proposals covering the whole field of possible rescue measures. All four participating organizations are reported to have agreed on the main lines of the proposals.

Jewish leaders here are satisfied with the composition of the British delegation to the Bermuda Conference. The appointment of Richard K. Law, the Under-Secretary of the Foreign Office, is considered an indication that the British Government intends to deal with the general political aspect of the refugee situation. The fact that Under-secretary Osbert Peake of the Home Office is one of the delegates is interpreted by them to mean that the British Government will discuss at the Conference the possibilities of giving asylum in Britain to refugees.

The most significant indication of the possibilities of the Bermuda Conference, Jewish leaders feel, is the fact that one of the three British delegates is the Under-Secretary of the Admiralty, George Hall. This is taken here to mean that the question of providing transportation facilities for refugees will probably be one of the central points of discussion at the parley. Transportations difficulties have, hitherto, been the crux of the entire refugee problem.

JEWS SEND PLEA TO POPE TO INTERVENE FOR ACTION BY BERMUDA PARLEY

ZURICH, April 13. (JTA) --A plea to the Pope, asking him to intervene at the Bermuda Conference to secure immediate measures to save Jews in Nazi-held lands, will be taken from Switzerland to the Vatican by an influential Catholic personality, it was learned here today.

The plea was made by the Swiss branch of the Orthodox Agudas Israel Organization. The Swiss Catholic leader will deliver the plea to the Pope personally, it is understood.

Conference Will Not Recommend Appointment Of Refugee Commissioner

LONDON, April 15. (JTA) --Poreign Secretary Anthony Eden to day told the House of Commons that it is not anticipated that the Bermuda Conference will recommend the appointment of an Anglo-American commissioner to deal with the refugee problem. He made this statement in a written reply to a question as to whether such a commissioner will be appointed.

Chief Rabbi Hertz, in a Passover message today, emphasized that the Jews "are filled with dismay regarding the little that has been attempted so far for the rescue of Nazi victims from torture and butchery." The Jews in Europe, he said, this year are reduced to a slevery worse than that of Egypt. He urged that prayers for the Jewish victims be recited in every Jewish home during the Seder ceremonies.

Dr. Weizmann To Present Memorandum To Bermuda Conferees

NEW YORK, April 13. (JTA) --Dr. Chaim Weizmann, president of the Jewish Agency, will submit a memorandum to the Bermuda Conference through the British Embassy in Washington, it was learned here today. The memorandum deals with the possibilities which Palestine offers for the absorption of Jewish refugees from Nazi-Europe.

BRITISH GOVERNMENT STUDYING TRANSFER OF JEWS FROM BALKANS TO PALESTINE

JERUSALEM, April 13. (JTA) --The British and Palestine Governments are in constant content concerning means of securing shipping to transport several thousand Balkan Jews to Palestine, a Jewish delegation was told today by James S. MacPherson, chief secretary of the Palestine Administration.

The delegation, which included Isaac Ben Zvi, president of the Jevish National Council and Dr. Judah L. Magnes, president of the Hebrew University, demanded immediate action to speed the transfer of Jews in Bulgaria and Rumania to Falestine. MacPherson said that he appreciated the urgency of the request and would submit it to the British Government immediately.

40,000 JEWS STILL IN WARSAW, 7,000 IN VIENNA, SWEDISH MISSION REFORTS

WASHINGTON, April 13. (JTA) --Only 40,000 Jews remain in Warsaw of the 500,000 Jews who lived in the ghetto there, the Stockholm newspaper Svenska Morgenbladet states today in a front page article reported to the Office of War Information here. The Swedish paper said that its facts were based on information received by the Swedish Israel Mission "From direct sources."

Only a "miraculous rescue" could save those remaining from death because "starvation is common and typhus is rampant," the article states. The Morgenbladet also reports that only 7,000 Jews remain in Vienna, of a pre-war Jewish population of 200,000.

TASK OF FOST-WAR JEWISH RECONSTRUCTION OUTLINED BY J.D.C. LEADER; ASKS FOR UNITY

DETROIT, April 13. (JTA) --The post-war task of reconstructing Jewish lives and homes now blasted by the forces of Fascism will be one unequalled in the history of any people, Mr. Joseph C. Hyman, executive vice-chairman of the Joint Distribution Committee, told the Community Forum on Jewish Affairs, meeting at the Jewish Community Center here last night. American Jews, through their organizations of relief and rehabilitation, he said, will play a major role in that reconstruction.

"In this enormous task the agencies of emergency aid, of reconstruction, of mercy and humanity, will play a greater role than even today," Mr. Hyman declared. "The Joint Distribution Committee, the United Palestine Appeal, and the National Refugee Service will be called upon in larger measure than ever before to serve as the channels of American Jewish good-will and as the articulate expression of American Jewish self-respect. They and the British community and the other Jewish communities of our Allies will need to collaborate fully in the far-flung fields of our common service."

Declaring that the problem of the future will be to save whatever spark of civilization that still smoulders among the ashes of Europe, both for the restablishment of Jewish life and for the betterment of all humanity, Mr. Hyman pointed out that a three-fold task faces the Jews of America today. "First, in the midst of wer and battle," he said, "we must labor with all our skill and knowledge and resource to save all who can be saved; second, to work out broad-based plans for a new society in which Jewish life and the lives of all groups may be put upon the firm foundation of security and equality before the law; and, third, to do our full job as Americans concerned with the fate and destiny of our country and the hopes we share with our fellow citizens - Catholic and Protestant - that this nation may continue in world-leadership in the shaping of the peace as fully and generously as it has taken on the enormous responsibilities of the fighting of the war."

Looking beyond these immediate concerns, Mr. Hyman outlined some of the practical requirements of the years after the war. "Then, as now, we shall have little time for tears," he said. "There will be too much to do to feed those who have been famished for years; to find parents and homes for children; to reunite husband and wife and parent and child; to rebuild broken homes and broken bodies; to heal the physical wounds and the infinitely more difficult mental and spiritual scars that have mutilated not only adults but innocent children. We shall have the Herculean task of restoring the Jewish institutions of self-help; the Jewish organizations of economic aid and self support. We shall have the problem of retraining and of reorganizing the structure of Jewish life in many parts of the world. We shall have to set into a sound pattern of European economy the Jews who will have come back from the concentration camps and internment centers, from the front lines of the battle fields, and from a hundred and one hiding places and from scattered areas into which they have been driven by the Nazi tyrants."

Although many victims of the inhuman terror will find great difficulty in resuming normal patterns of existence, he pointed out, their will to survive remains unbroken. Mr. Hyman called upon the Jewish community to heal its internal divisions se that it might present a stronger front to the enemy and make possible more effective aid to its victims.

BRITISH FOOD MINISTRY PROVIDES JEWISH EVACUEES WITH PASSOVER SUPPLIES

LONDON, April 13. (JTA) -- The British Ministry of Food today announced that it has sent appropriate supplies of Passover food to Jewish evacuees in safe areas of the country to enable them to celebrate Passover in accordance with Jewish dietary laws.

U.S. HAS ASSUMED RESPONSIB.ILITY FOR THE REFUGEE PROBLEM. SENATOR JOHNSON SAYS

WASHINGTON, April 13. (JTA) --The refugee problem is one for which the United States assumed responsibility when we entered the war, Senator Edwin C. Johnson, Colorado Democrat, declared here last night at a press conference, preceding the Washington presentation of the pageant "We Will Never Die" commemorating the murdered Jews of Europe.

Senator Johnson, who is the chairman of the Committee for a Jewish Army and a sponsor of the pageant, said he was interested in seeing "Jews raised to the dignity of a nation". He expressed the opinion that they could overcome their position as a scape-goat minority group if they "could raise their voice in the family of nations against injustice to their own race. The creation of a Jewish State in Pelestine, he said, is one of the ways to lay a basis for a permanent peace.

PALESTINE JEWISH SOLDIERS: CONTRIBUTIONS IN LAST AND FRESENT WARS LAUDED

IONDON, April 13. (JTA) --The fine record of Jewish soldiers in Palestine during the last war and the contributions of Jewish men and women in the forces now were lauded here today at a meeting called by the Anglo-American Committee for A Jewish Army to commemorate the 25th anniversary of the arrival in Palestine of the Jewish Legion.

Field Marshal Chetwoode, under whose command the Legion served, disclosed that the first Victoria Cross of the whole Palestine campaign was won by a Jew and added that he has been informed that Jewish men and women are now rendering invaluable services. He voiced support of the proposal for a Jewish army, stating that he had no doubt the Jews would fight "magnificently."

Prime Minister Jan Christian Smuts of South Africa sent a message emphasizing that since Hitler has made the Jews one of the main issues of the war, their fine contribution to the war effort must not be forgovien. Other messages were received from Lloyd George, Senator Edwin Johnson of Colorado, Col. John H. Patterson, who was the commanding officer of the Legion, and others.

HISTADRUTH IVRITH, HEBREW CULTURAL ORGANIZATION, CELEBRATES 25th ANNIVERSARY

NEW YORK, April 13. (JTA) --The 25th amniversary of the founding of the National Hebrew Culture Organization (Histadruth Ivrith) was celebrated by 500 friends of the organization at a dinner today at the Hotel Astor. Principal speakers included Dr. Israel Efros, professor of Hebrew at Hunter College, national president of the organization, Rabbi Israel H. Levinthal of the Brooklyn Jewish Center, and Dr. Alexander Dushkin, executive director of the Jewish Education Committee of New York.

The organization has stimulated the creation of Hebrew literature by American Jewish writers, and many prose and poetic works have been published by the society. A special volume in English, dealing with the historic role of Hebrew literature, from the Bible to Chaim Nachman Bialik, has been published for the anniversory observance.

NEGRO CONFERENCE URGES U.S. GOVERNMENT TO SAVE JEWS FROM NAZI EUROPE

NEW YORK, April 13. (JTA) --The Government of the United States was urged in a resolution adopted here at the Eastern Seaboard Conference of the National Negro Congress "to initiate and undertake immediately all possible rescue measures" to save the Jews in Europe from Nazi hands. "The plight of the Jewish people in foreign countries is the concern of all the United Nations," the resolution added.