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BERMUDA CONFERENCE OPENS TODAY; GEORGE BACKER AMONG ADVISORS TO U.S. DELEGATION

HAMILTON, Bermuda, April 18. (JTA)-- George Backer, American Jewish leader, is one of three advisors to the United States delegation to the Anglo-American Refugee Conference which opens here tomorrow. The other two advisors are George Warren, executive secretary of the President's Advisory Committee on Refugees and Robert Clark Alexander, assistant chief of the State Department's Visa Division. (Mr. Backer is vice-president of the Joint Distribution Committee; a member of the executive committee of the American Jewish Committee and its overseas committee; president of the Jewish Telegraphic Agency; member of the board of the Council of Jewish Federations and Welfare Funds, and president of the American ORT.)

Maintenance of refugees in neutral countries and asylum for them in other friendly nations until the termination of the war will be the two chief points of discussion at the conference, it was indicated by the American delegation.

At a pre-conference meeting with the press, Prof. Harold W. Dodds, president of Princeton University, who heads the American delegation, stated that the agenda of the parley would be based on the contents of the note sent by Secretary of State Cordell Hull to the British Government on March 3. This note stressed the necessity of securing inter-governmental collaboration in solving the refugee problem and suggested the maintenance of the refugees in neutral nations, financial guarantees to those nations providing havens and also guarantees that the refugees would be repatriated after the war. It also proposed that the possibility of securing asylums in "countries other than neutral" be explored together with the availability of shipping.

The American delegates expressed doubts that it would be possible to send food to persecuted persons in Axis-occupied Europe, if it develops that it is impossible to secure their emigration. Congressman Sol Bloom, one of the delegates, pointed out that Congress appropriated \$50,000,000 two years ago for that purpose, but that it had been found impossible to secure guarantees that the food would not be diverted to Nazi uses. He added that there is "no doubt that some of the food sent to Greece has been taken by the Germans." It was indicated that the food question was a military one and would have to be decided by the military authorities. Prof. Dodds also expressed doubt that any appeal to Germany either on feeding persons within its territories or on obtaining their release would accomplish anything.

Answering criticism appearing in the newspaper PM to the effect that the conference would not be able to make any binding decisions, the U.S. delegation emphasized that only two nations are represented at Bermuda while there is in existence an Intergovernmental Refugee Committee which represents 18 nations, and which is consequently more entitled to make any final decisions.

It was announced today that the conference will be officially opened tomorrow by Acting Governor Murphy of Bermuda. This session will be open to the press, although subsequent sessions will be held in camera. The third member of the U.S. delegation, Senator Scott Lucas, is expected here for the opening.

SOLDIERS, SAILORS, REFUGEES PROVIDED WITH SPECIAL FOOD TO START PASSOVER TODAY

NEW YORK, April 18.(JTA)-- Thousands of Jewish soldiers and sailors in this country and in the American outposts in other parts of the world have been supplied with matzo's, Passover wine and food so that they may fittingly observe the oldest holiday in the Jewish calendar, which will be ushered in tomorrow evening, commemorating the deliverance of the Jews from the oppression of the Pharaohs and their entrance into the Promised Land.

More than 110 tons of Matzo's, about 10,000 gallons of wine, 3,500 cans of gefuellte fish, as well as thousands of food packages, have been - or are being - sent to service camps all over the country and to England, Iceland, the war zones in Africa and the Pacific, Rabbi Phillip S. Bernstein, executive director of the National Jewish Welfare Board's Committee on Army and Navy Religious Activities, declared today. In addition to the foods and wine, more than 100,000 Haggadas have been dispatched by the Welfare Board of which Frank L. Weil is president.

At ports of embarkation, where in some instances there are no Jewish chaplains, the Passover food will be placed with the Christian chaplains in charge, and they, in turn, will see that the Jewish soldiers at sea, during the eight-day holiday, will be able to follow the ancient observance.

JDC Provides Refugees in Russia With Matzo's; JNF Sends \$500,000 to Palestine

More than 200,000 pounds of matzo's were ordered by the Joint Distribution Committee for shipment to refugee communities in many parts of the world, it was disclosed today by Joseph C. Hyman, executive vice-chairman of the organization. The bulk of the shipments was dispatched to Polish Jewish refugees in Asiatic Russia, traveling approximately 18,000 miles to get to their ultimate destination. In addition to the U.S.S.R., the Joint Distribution Committee shipped matzo's to the island of Jamaica, the Dominican Republic, Haiti and Portugal. In Spain and Switzerland, the Joint Distribution Committee made direct cash remittances for the purchase or baking of matzo's in those countries.

The sum of \$500,000 as a Passover gift to acquire more land in Palestine was cabled to the head offices of the Jewish National Fund in Jerusalem yesterday. This is one of the largest single remittances made on behalf of American Jewry to the world headquarters of the Fund.

Seder for Jewish Deaf Will be Conducted in Sign Language

The HIAS announced today that arrangements have been made for the traditional Seder for refugees here and at Ellis Island. Agencies affiliated with the Federation of Jewish Charities in New York will make it possible for more than 50,000 sick and needy Jews to observe the Seder. A unique Seder service, conducted in the sign language, has been arranged by the Society for the Welfare of the Jewish Deaf. Community Seders are scheduled at all 18 Federation community centers in New York, in every section of the city.

The Eleventh Annual Third Seder, dedicated to the Palestine pioneer movement, Histadruth, will be held Saturday evening, April 24, simultaneously in three large ballrooms at Hotel Astor and Hotel Commodore, where over 5,000 guests will gather to pay tribute to the Jewish soldiers and pioneers who are among the leading allies of democracy in North Africa and the Middle East. The Passover festival will be sponsored by the National Labor Committee for Palestine.

BRITISH JEWS TO PRAY FOR NAZI VICTIMS DURING SEDER; NAZIS RENEW RITUAL MURDER TALE

LONDON, April 18.(JTA)-- For the first time in Jewish history, Izkor, the traditional prayer for the dead, will be recited during the Seder in Jewish homes throughout England, in accordance with an appeal issued today by Chief Rabbi Dr. Hertz. The appeal urges every Jew in Britain to include the Izkor prayer in the Seder ceremony in commemoration of the Jews killed by the Nazis.

The London press today reports that in connection with Passover, anti-Jewish ritual murder exhibitions have been opened by the Nazis in more than fifty of the largest cities in Germany, the Czech Protectorate, Slovakia, France, Belgium, Holland, Norway and Yugoslavia.

13,500 JEWS WILL BE ADMITTED TO PALESTINE DURING NEXT THREE MONTHS

JERUSALEM, April 18.(JTA)-- The Palestine Government today announced that it has assigned 13,750 immigration certificates for the admission of 13,500 Jews and 250 non-Jews to Palestine during the three-month period from April 1 to June 31, 1943.

The announcement specifies that of the 13,500 immigration visas for Jews, 10,625 will be allocated to children and 2,875 will be issued to adults accompanied by wives and minor children.

A statement accompanying the announcement declares that the above number of certificates is available - subject to the absorptive capacity - under the White Paper policy which provides for the admission into Palestine of 75,000 Jews from 1939 until the middle of 1944. Of this total, the statement says, the immigration authorities have already granted 41,000 certificates during the period from April 1, 1939 until March 31 of the current year. Actual arrivals during the period included 21,242 Jews who entered the country legally and 16,100 who came illegally for whom visas were deducted from the immigration quota. There are still 3,825 illegal entrants for whom visas will be deducted from the total, thus leaving a balance of 33,833 immigration visas for Jews as of April 1 of this year.

The Jewish Agency for Palestine, it was learned here today, has approached the Palestine Government to allot all available immigration certificates for immediate distribution in countries from where Jews can still be rescued.

POST-WAR SETTLEMENT OF 50,000 JEWS IN WESTERN AUSTRALIA IS PREDICTED

SOMEWHERE IN AUSTRALIA, April 18.(JTA)-- The possibility of settling 50,000 European Jews in Western Australia after the war was seen here today by Dr. I.N. Steinberg, leader of the Jewish Free Land League, on the eve of his departure for London by way of the United States and Canada. Dr. Steinberg has been in this country since 1939 investigating the project. In an interview today he stated that he is convinced that a favorable decision on this scheme would be made as soon as peace is declared.

There is a vast tract of land near Kimberley in the northwestern part of Western Australia which is at present sparsely populated and where there are conditions for prosperous agriculture, Dr. Steinberg said. Accompanied by an expert on pastoral lands, he has inspected this territory and found it suitable for growing maize, millet, lucerne (alfalfa) flax, tropical fruits and vegetables as well as for cattle grazing and dairying. He emphasized that proposed settlement of 50,000 Jews in the Kimberley area had the active support of churches, universities, trade unions, chambers of commerce and manufacturers whom he had approached.

LEGISLATION AGAINST ANTI-SEMITISM DEMANDED AT LONDON CIVIL LIBERTIES CONFERENCE

LONDON, April 18.(JTA)-- The British Government was asked today to introduce legislation outlawing anti-Semitism, as a result of the increased anti-Jewish propaganda now being spread throughout the country by fascist elements.

A resolution to this effect was adopted at a conference last night called by the National Council for Civil Liberties and attended by 443 delegates representing 273 organizations which have more than 1,000,000 members. The resolution urged the government to combat anti-Semitism in England and to rescue Jews in Nazi Europe. The conference, which was called for the purpose of launching a campaign against the anti-Jewish agitation in Britain, was addressed by prominent leaders of political parties all of whom demanded energetic government measures to counteract the anti-Semitic elements. The Archbishop of Canterbury, in a message to the conference, stated: "I wish to make it clear that anti-Semitism is contrary to the spirit of the Gospel, therefore Christians ought to unite in resisting it with all their power."

ABRAHAMSON RESIGNS NRS POST TO JOIN ARMY; JOSEPH BECK WILL SUCCEED HIM

NEW YORK, April 18.(JTA)-- The resignation of Albert Abrahamson, executive director of the National Refugee Service, to enter one of the armed services, and the appointment of Joseph E. Beck to succeed him, were announced simultaneously today by William Rosenwald, president of the organization.

Mr. Beck, executive director of the Jewish Welfare Society of Philadelphia since 1934, will assume his new post May 1. Mr. Abrahamson became director of the National Refugee Service in June, 1941, and was on leave from Bowdoin College where he has maintained his affiliations as a faculty member since 1928. "The National Refugee Service is very much in Albert Abrahamson's debt," Mr. Rosenwald said. "He skillfully guided the organization through a period of change and stress. His many contributions to the effective working of the agency represent, in the end, contributions to the successful meeting of the refugee problem itself."

ITTAMAR BEN AVI, HEBREW EDITOR AND AUTHOR, DIES HERE AT 60

EAST ORANGE, N.J., April 18.(JTA)-- Ittamar Ben Avi, noted Zionist leader and Hebrew editor and author, died at his home here this morning at the age of 60. He will be buried in Newark, where his body will remain until it can be transferred to Palestine after the war. Dr. Stephen S. Wise will deliver the eulogy at the funeral services.

Mr. Ben Avi was the son of Eliezer Ben Yehuda, famous Hebrew author and lexicographer, who is regarded as the father of modern Hebrew as a spoken language, and was the first Jewish child in modern times to have been reared with Hebrew as his native tongue. He received his early education in Jerusalem and later studied at the universities of Paris and Berlin. Former editor of Doar Ha'Yom, the Palestine Daily Mail, he had written extensively in Hebrew as well as in most of the European languages. He played a prominent part during the first world war and in the post-war era.

Mr. Ben Avi was twice sentenced to jail for a period of several months for having conducted pro-Allied political activities in Palestine when it was under Turkish rule and was later condemned to death but managed to escape a few hours before the execution. He had spent considerable time in the United States on missions for various Zionist causes.