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SUMNER WELLES SAYS BERMUDA CONFERENCE IS NOT SECRET; REJECTS LABOR PROTEST

WASHINGTON, April 27.(JTA)-- Under-Secretary of State Sumner Welles today denied that the Anglo-American conference on refugee problems which is now being held in Bermuda is taking place "behind closed doors." He announced that the State Department is ready to transmit views, recommendations and suggestions to the American delegation at Bermuda "with the full assurance that such a communication will receive the fullest and most careful consideration of the delegates."

The statement by Mr. Welles came in the form of a letter dated yesterday, replying to a formal protest lodged with the State Department by Philip Murray, president of the Congress of Industrial Organizations, emphasizing that the membership of the CIO "is profoundly shocked at the outrageous mass murder of the Jewish people in Axis-dominated Europe" and criticizing the action of the State Department in closing the doors of the Bermuda Conference to representatives of American war relief groups.

"It was our desire and intention to send outstanding officers of the CIO to the current conference in Bermuda to report the sentiments of our membership," Mr. Murray stated in his protest. "To our dismay we have been informed that this conference is behind closed doors, and that we will not be permitted to appear. We appeal to you that the voice of the people's organizations of the United Nations should be heard at this conference. The closed-door policy gives us deep concern that this conference might be a mere diplomatic nicety. We would regret a repetition of the futile Evian conference. We urgently request that you reconsider the closed-door policy and admit our representatives to be heard on this tragic and urgent matter." Mr. Murray's protest followed the receipt of a cable from the Histadruth, Federation of Jewish Labor in Palestine, asking American labor to exert its influence on the conference by sending a labor delegation to the Bermuda parley.

Replying to the CIO protest, Mr. Welles emphasized that the Bermuda Conference is not being held behind closed doors as charged by Mr. Murray. He pointed out that representatives of news agencies have been permitted to proceed to Bermuda to cover the conference and that various organizations have submitted memoranda to the conference. He suggested that the CIO immediately submit its recommendations to the Bermuda delegates through the State Department "in order that such communication may at once be forwarded."

Lauds Evian Conference; Says It Established Inter-Governmental Machinery

The full text of Under-Secretary Welles' letter to the president of the CIO reads: "I know that it is unnecessary for me to state to you that this government has from the inception of the inhuman policy of racial discrimination and mass murder practiced by the Nazi government done everything within its power to combat this policy and likewise everything within its power to relieve the sufferings of its victims.

"I am, for that reason, surprised that you should refer to the Evian Conference as 'futile.' May I remind you that the conference which was called upon

the initiative of President Roosevelt was the first constructive, international movement to create inter-governmental machinery which might make it possible in a practical way to give relief to those who are suffering persecution in Europe. The conditions which have resulted from the war, and in particular military conditions, have, of course, made it impossible to afford relief through the agencies created as a result of the Evian Conference on as large a scale as it had been hoped might be achieved.

"In your letter now under acknowledgement, you say that you have been informed that the conference now in session in Bermuda is taking place behind closed doors, and you ask that representatives of the Congress of Industrial Organizations be permitted to be heard by the delegates.

Newspapers Could Send Correspondents to Bermuda, Welles States

"In reply may I say that the Bermuda Conference is not taking place 'behind closed doors,' nor is there any reason why the views, recommendations and suggestions of the Congress of Industrial Organizations or of any other organization should not be transmitted to the delegates of the United States with full assurance that such a communication will receive the fullest and most careful consideration of the delegates.

"Any organization which desires to present a communication to the conference at Bermuda may transmit it to the Department of State by which it will be transmitted to the United States delegation. This has already been done in the case of every organization or person in this country desiring to present such communications for the consideration of the conference. May I suggest, therefore, that such recommendations or advice as the Congress of Industrial Organizations desires to present to the conference be transmitted immediately to this department in order that such communication may at once be forwarded.

"In conclusion may I also say that in order that the press of the United States might have full opportunity of reporting upon the conference, the Department of State arranged for representatives of four principal press organizations of this country to proceed in company of the American delegation and these press representatives are now reporting upon the proceedings of the conference. This department has likewise made it known that it would be glad to issue passports to any other press correspondents who desire to proceed to Bermuda in order to report on the conference."

Text of Appeal from Palestine; Jews Prepared to Share Everything

CIO headquarters here today made public the full text of the cable which they received from the Histadruth in Palestine and upon which Mr. Murray acted. It reads:

"With Jewish masses facing immediate annihilation, we naturally extremely anxious results Bermuda conference. We believe necessary public opinion be brought to bear upon conference by delegation sent to Bermuda representing your organization and other who have clearly expressed not only horror over situation but also demanded immediate means for saving all possible. From very authoritative sources we learn that if United Nations found means providing transport tens thousands and more could be saved. We are overcome with fear that situation may change any day and last chance be forfeited. Jews Palestine prepared share all with incoming Jews. Please do everything you can. We rely upon you."

BERMUDA CONFERENCE CONSIDERS FATE OF PEOPLE WHO WILL BE UPROOTED BY ALLIED INVASION

HAMILTON, Bermuda, April 27.(JTA)-- The conference on refugees here is not losing sight of the possibility of large masses of people being uprooted when the Allied armies invade Nazi-occupied Europe, it was learned today. It is understood that the recommendations which the conference will make to the United States and British Governments will deal with this problem.

It was also understood that the American and British delegates have reached a tentative compromise with regard to the question of settling refugees temporarily in North Africa, Ethiopia and Cyrenaica.

GIRAUD'S ABOGATION OF CREMIEUX DECREE DENOUNCED BY FIGHTING FRENCH

NEW YORK, April 27.(JTA)-- The French National Committee of Gen. de Gaulle today issued a statement denouncing the abrogation by Gen. Giraud of the Cremieux Decree and emphasizing that this action by Gen. Giraud has deprived certain categories of native Algerian Jews of rights which were recognized even by the Vichy regime. The statement, cabled from London to the New York Post, reads:

"The National Committee takes the stand of integral respect for republican legality. It has re-established the laws of the republic in all of the territories freed since 1940 from the hands of the enemy. It cannot, therefore, associate itself with a measure which denies to a category of Frenchmen the rights that the republic gave them. The pure and simple abrogation of the Cremieux Decree deprives the native Algerian Jews, even certain categories exempted by Vichy, such as the war veterans, of their political and civil rights.

"The suppression of these rights effects the result of submitting the Jews, against their will, to the Mosaic laws and of taking away from them the protection of the French civil laws which they have enjoyed for three quarters of a century. Equality between the natives of Algeria - Mussulmans or Jews - cannot be conceived as a demotive levelling. Only a great amelioration of the legal status of all the natives of Algeria, and a revision in a liberal sense of the attribution of political rights can allow its realization."

JEWS IN RUSSIA PRESENT THREE MILLION ROUBLES TO STALIN TO BUILD BOMBERS AND TANKS

KUIBYSHEV, April 27.(JTA)-- Premier Joseph Stalin, in his capacity as Commander-in-Chief of the Russian armed forces, today addressed a message of thanks to the Jewish Anti-Fascist Committee in acknowledgement of a check for 3,294,825 roubles which the Committee placed at his disposal for the purpose of building an air-squadron and a tank column as a gift of the Jews in Russia to the Red Army.

This sum was contributed by Jews throughout Russia in addition to the contributions which they made to general war funds. It was announced today that collective farmers in the Jewish autonomous province in the Tambov region have contributed more than 7,000,000 roubles towards the general defense fund. The air squadron which will be built with the funds presented through the Jewish Anti-Fascist Committee will bear the inscription "Stalin - Friendship of Peoples" and the tank column will be marked "Soviet Biro-Bidjan."

MOSLEM CONVENTION IN INDIA SUPPORTS ARAB CLAIMS IN PALESTINE

LONDON, April 27.(JTA)-- A resolution supporting Arab claims to independence in Palestine and urging the United States not to submit to the influence of Zionist propaganda, was adopted at the closing session of the 30th annual convention of the Moslem League in India, British correspondents reported today from New Delhi. The resolution opposes unrestricted Jewish immigration into Palestine.

JOINT APPEAL TO ALLIED GOVERNMENTS TO SAVE JEWS AND CHRISTIANS IN POLAND

NEW YORK, April 27.(JTA)-- An appeal to the British and American governments to act immediately to save the Jews and other persecuted peoples in Europe - especially in Poland - has been issued here jointly by the Union for the Protection of the Human Person and the Committee for the Defense of the Rights of Jews in Central and Eastern Europe.

The appeal asks the Allied governments to take the following steps: extend to the concentration camps of Europe the same Red Cross supervision that is exercised in military prison camps; inform the German government that officers in areas where civilians are massacred will be treated as murderers under common law; send food shipments to Poland and ask neutral states to accept refugees - especially children.

DR. WISE OBSERVES 50TH ANNIVERSARY AS RABBI

NEW YORK, April 27.(JTA)-- With a prayer that "our nation may help to free mankind" and that "my people shall never again be wronged," Dr. Stephen S. Wise, rabbi of the Free Synagogue, yesterday observed the 50th anniversary of his ministry with an address before Congregation Bnai Jeshurun, which heard his inaugural address a half century ago.

"The year 1893, exactly 50 years ago, came within two years of the grievous pogroms of Czarist Russia," Dr. Wise said. "Alas, after half a century, the Jewish position is even more grave and grievous than it was in that far-off day. With much of Europe under the might and blight of evil incarnate, one great and enduring gain is at hand - the understanding on the part of civilization of truth that anti Jewish ill-will and assaults are primarily the weapons of those who would destroy political democracy and human freedom."

THREE-DAY CONFERENCE ON JEWISH EDUCATION CONCLUDED IN PHILADELPHIA

PHILADELPHIA, April 27.(JTA)-- Publication of propaganda literature in English in order to popularize the existing Yiddish schools among parents who do not read Yiddish was decided upon here last night at the closing session of the three-day annual conference of the Jewish Workmen's Circle schools attended by 250 delegates from all parts of the country.

The conference also adopted resolutions deploring the tragic situation of the Jews in Europe and praising the activities of the Jewish Labor Committee in the United States. Discussions on problems concerning Jewish education in America formed the major part of the conference program. It was reported that the Workmen's Circle now maintains about 150 schools in which 7,500 Jewish children receive education on Jewish subjects in Yiddish.

FOUR MORE JEWISH MAJOR-GENERALS IN RED ARMY; JEWISH OFFICERS DECORATED

MOSCOW, April 27.(JTA)-- Four more Jewish officers in the Red Army have been raised to the rank of Major-General in an order issued by the Peoples Commissariat of the USSR. They are Aaron Botwinick of the technical forces, David Verkhavsky of the medical services, and Lev Goberman and Nikolai Spier of the veterinary services. At the same time the praesidium of the Supreme Council of the USSR ordered that the Star of Lenin be conferred on Senior Lieut. Arthur Brodsky, Col. Abraham Kulik and Captain Mikhail Levine.