

BERMUDA CONFERENCE CLOSES; DECISIONS REMAIN CONFIDENTIAL; GENERAL STATEMENT ISSUED

HAMILTON, Bermuda, April 29.(JTA)-- The Anglo-American refugee conference, concluding a 10-day meeting, issued a joint declaration today announcing that recommendations had been made to the governments of Great Britain and the United States "which will lead to the relief of a substantial number of refugees of all races and nationalities."

The recommendations must remain "confidential," the declaration explained, since they "necessarily concern governments other than those represented at the Bermuda conference and involve military considerations." Recommendations were included for a "flexible" intergovernmental organization to deal with the refugee problem in the period ahead. The text of the joint declaration reads:

"The United States and the United Kingdom delegations examined the refugee problem in all its aspects, including the position of those potential refugees who are still in the grip of the Axis powers without any immediate prospect of escape. Nothing was excluded from their analysis, and everything that held out any possibility, however remote, of a solution of the problem was carefully investigated and thoroughly discussed.

Explains Why Some Proposals Rejected

"From the outset it was realized that any recommendation that the delegates could make to their governments must pass two tests: Would any recommendation submitted interfere with or delay the war effort of the United Nations? And was the recommendation capable of accomplishment under war conditions? The delegates at Bermuda felt bound to reject certain proposals which were not capable of meeting these tests.

"The delegates were able to agree on a number of concrete recommendations which they are jointly submitting to their governments and which, it is felt, will pass the tests set forth above, and which will lead to the relief of a substantial number of refugees of all races and nationalities. Since the recommendations necessarily concern governments other than those represented at the Bermuda conference and involve military considerations, they must remain confidential. It may be said, however, that in the course of discussion the refugee problem was broken down into its main elements.

"Questions of shipping, food and supply were fully investigated. The delegates also agreed on recommendations regarding the form of intergovernmental organization which was best fitted in their opinion to handle the problem in the future. This organization would have to be flexible enough to permit it to consider without prejudice any new factors that might come to its attention.

"In each of these fields the delegates were able to submit agreed proposals for the consideration of their respective governments."

AMERICAN JEWISH ORGANIZATIONS URGE POSTPONEMENT OF JUDGEMENT ON BERMUDA PARLEY

NEW YORK, April 29.(JTA)-- The heads of the Joint Emergency Committee for European Jewish Affairs, comprising the American Jewish Committee, the American Jewish Congress, B'nai B'rith, Jewish Labor Committee, American Committee on Zionist Emergency Affairs, Union of Orthodox Rabbis, the Agudath Israel of America, and the Synagogue Council of America, issued the following statement today in connection with the Bermuda Refugee Conference;

"Whatever the results of the Bermuda Conference are likely to be, the co-chairmen of the Committee still believe it to be necessary to postpone any report of or comment on the Bermuda Conference until after its report has been made.

"As soon as the Bermuda Conference report has been made and carefully studied, the officers and members of the Joint Emergency Committee will present their own statement with relation to the Conference and what may be expected to follow thereafter."

The co-chairmen of the Joint Emergency Committee are Dr. Wise, president of the American Jewish Congress, Judge Joseph M. Proskauer, president of the American Jewish Committee, Mr. Henry Monsky, president of B'nai B'rith, Adolph Held, president of the Jewish Labor Committee, and Rabbi Israel Goldstein, president of the Synagogue Council of America.

JEWS IN WARSAW GHETTO ASK FOR FOOD AND ARMS TO CONTINUE THEIR RESISTANCE TO NAZIS

JERUSALEM, April 29.(JTA)-- A message from the Jews in the Warsaw ghetto, signed by several well-known leaders of the Zionist labor movement in Poland, asking for arms to continue resistance to the Nazis, was received here today.

The message, which was addressed simultaneously to the World Zionist Executive in London and to the labor movement in Palestine, says that the Jews who still remain in the Warsaw ghetto are putting up a vigorous fight against the Nazis "for the sake of Jewish honor and the little that has been left." It appeals for urgent aid to enable the Jews to acquire arms for themselves and food for their children and concludes with greetings to the Jewish people the world over and to the international labor movement.

Another message reaching here from the Warsaw ghetto states that unprecedented hunger prevails there. The message concludes with sharp criticism of the Jews in the democratic countries, especially the Jews of America, charging them with indifference. "While we are being exterminated, they indulge in olympic calmness," the message reads.

SLOVAK EMPLOYERS AIDING JEWS TO EVADE ANTI-SEMITIC REGULATIONS, NAZI PRESS CHARGES

ZURICH, April 29.(JTA)-- Wide-spread evasion of the anti-Semitic laws in Slovakia, as a result of collusion between Jews and friendly Slovak employers is charged in the Grenzbote, pro-Nazi Slovak newspaper reaching here today from Bratislava.

The paper alleges that large numbers of Jews are being given working permits by Slovak employers who declare that they are "essential" to successful conduct of the business, although in many cases they could easily be replaced by non-Jews. Some employers, especially apothecaries, hire more employees than are needed so as to aid Jews, the Grenzbote adds.

NAZI ATROCITIES IN Lwow DESCRIBED BY EYE-WITNESS; ALL SYNAGOGUES SET AFIRE

KUIBYSHEV, April 29.(JTA)-- The systematic brutality with which the Nazis reduced the Jewish population of the city of Lwow, Poland, from 160,000 to 10,000 in the space of little more than a year, was related here by Arthur Rotenstroikin, a 40-year-old bank employee who succeeded in fleeing from the Nazi-occupied city several months ago to Kharkov, where he remained until the Red Army captured the city and he was evacuated.

This is Rotenstroikin's eye-witness account as told to the representatives of the Jewish Anti-Fascist Committee, which made the story public today:

"After the Germans invaded Lwow, hundreds of Jews, including myself, were driven to the outskirts of the town and ordered to crawl back to the city on hands and knees. When we reached Lwow, all of us were lined up and machinegunned. The dead were then photographed and subsequently declared to be Ukrainians murdered by the Bolsheviks. Fortunately, I fainted and fell to the ground before a bullet hit me and thus escaped death. In the middle of the night, I and several others crawled from the mound of dead and returned home.

"Shortly after this the Germans ordered the Jews to form a special 'kehillah' to carry out their orders. They also levied a tax of 20,000,000 roubles on the Jewish community and ordered that all gold and silver objects be surrendered to them. The Nazis set fire to all the synagogues, some of which were more than 800 years old. The Gentile population was compelled to help destroy the synagogues and pictures of these scenes were used by the Nazis as 'evidence of how the Russian population destroyed and burnt synagogues.'

Jewish Leaders Hanged; Children Forced to Beat Parents

"Of the 400 grams of bread per week which was our nominal food ration, we received only one-half or one-third. Leading members of the 'kehillah' were hanged or shot. Young Jewish boys were formed into a 'ghetto militia' and forced to beat their parents. On August 13 and the subsequent two weeks, 60,000 Jews were killed in a mass pogrom. Other thousands were sent to concentration camps, where, ragged and unshod they were forced to do hard labor. Beginning March, 1942, thousands of Jews were shipped to Belsetz, between Lublin and Tomashov, where they were electrocuted and their bodies rendered to make soap. I, myself, saw a peice of soap, the wrapper of which was inscribed, 'Jewish soap!' Jews from Holland, Belgium and other parts of occupied Europe were also brought to the Belsetz forests and executed. The cries of the victims could be heard for miles. During Rosh Hashanah last year, all religious Jews, among them Doyen Rappaport, were ordered to spread the Holy Scrolls upon the ground and dance upon them while Jewish musicians played music.

When I fled Lwow in November, 1942, only 10,000 Jews were left of the original Jewish population of 160,000. Among the dead were my wife and our two-year-old baby."

OBLIGATORY STUDY OF "JEWISH QUESTION" INTRODUCED IN FRENCH SCHOOLS

BERN, April 29.(JTA)-- French newspapers reaching here today from Paris report that in the future all students in the French universities will be compelled not only to attend lectures on the "Jewish question," but also to pass examinations in this subject. The study of the Jewish question will also be introduced in elementary schools, the French press says.

The establishment of a Ministry for Racial Problems is demanded in the newspaper Le Matin, which argues that "the Jewish question cannot be solved on a religious, but only on an ethical basis."

BRITISH LABOR PARTY CONVENTION WILL BE ASKED TO TAKE STAND ON JEWISH PROBLEMS

LONDON, April 29.(JTA)-- The drafts of at least ten resolutions dealing with various Jewish problems will be submitted to the 42nd annual conference of the British Labor Party, which is meeting here from June 14 to 17, it was learned today.

A resolution proposed by the Poale-Zion organization expresses horror at the extermination of the Jewish people and asks that Palestine be opened to unlimited Jewish immigration. It also asks equal status for Jews among the free nations of the world, implementation of the Balfour Declaration, international assistance for the upbuilding of a Jewish National Home in Palestine and the establishment of Palestine as a Jewish Commonwealth "integrated in the structure of the democratic world."

Other resolutions which the Labor Party will be asked to adopt urge the immediate rescue of the Jews in Europe, the creation of a special ministry to deal with the refugee problem, punishment of those persons responsible for the extermination of the Jews in Axis-held territories, and condemnation of the anti-Semitic agitation in Britain. The local branch of the Labor Party in Leeds at a meeting this week adopted a resolution demanding that the "Jewish people be adequately represented when the United Nations meet to consider problems affecting them."

CHURCHILL SENDS "PERSONAL REGRETS" TO MONTGOMERY ON DEATH OF BRIGADIER KISCH

LONDON, April 29.(JTA)-- Prime Minister Churchill has sent his "personal regrets" to Sir Bernard Montgomery, commander of the British Eighth Army, now fighting in Tunisia, on the loss of his "gallant chief engineer, Brigadier Frederick Kisch," it was revealed here today by Prof. Selig Brodetsky, president of the Board of Deputies of British Jews, addressing a memorial meeting for Kisch.

Churchill also asked that his sympathies be conveyed "to the sappers who Kisch led so gloriously," Prof. Brodetsky added. Other speakers paid tribute to the late Brigadier's activities in behalf of the Zionist cause in Palestine. Among those present at the ceremonies were representatives of the War Office, Colonial Office, Foreign Office and prominent military officials.

ZIONISTS HONOR JUDGE ROTHENBERG FOR WAR SERVICE

NEW YORK, April 29.(JTA)-- Judge Morris Rothenberg, chairman of the National War Effort Committee of the Zionist Organization of America, was honored at a testimonial luncheon today at the Hotel Biltmore, in recognition of his leadership of the current War Bond Campaign, in which more than \$17,500,000 in War Bonds were sold by American Zionists.

Representatives of more than 100 Zionist societies in Greater New York as well as leaders of other Jewish communal groups participated in the testimonial luncheon. The speakers included Dr. Stephen S. Wise, Dr. Israel Goldstein, and Dr. James G. Heller of Cincinnati. The appreciation of the United States Treasury Department was conveyed by Mr. William C. FitzGibbons, special assistant to Henry Morgenthau, Jr., who came direct from Washington to address the luncheon, at which Judge Louis E. Levinthal presided.

Leib Jaffe Returns From Cuba

NEW YORK, April 29.(JTA)-- Leib Jaffe, director of Keren Hayesod, has returned from Cuba where he conducted the 1943 campaign for the Palestine Foundation Fund. Before his departure from Cuba, Mr. Jaffe was received by the President of the Cuban Republic, Fulgencio Batista.