

VOL. X. NO. 103

Monday, May 3, 1943

UPA PARLEY APPEALS TO U.S. TO INTERVENE WITH BRITAIN FOR ABOLISHMENT OF WHITE PAPER

PHILADELPHIA, May 2.(JTA)-- The government of the United States was appealed to today "to make representations to Great Britain to annul forthwith the White Paper of 1939 and to ask assurances that Jewish immigration into Palestine shall not be abridged nor shall the purchase of land by Jews be restricted," in a resolution adopted here at the closing of the two-day National Conference for Palestine called by the United Palestine Appeal. The resolution condemned the White Paper as an illegal document which would "liquidate the Palestine mandate and terminate the growth of the Jewish National Home."

Another resolution adopted by the 1,450 delegates expressed deep disappointment at the failure of the Bermuda Refugee Conference "to give adequate consideration to the desperate plight of the Jews under the heel of Hitlerism and to include within its recommendations the immediate possibilities of large-scale mass immigration into Palestine." A special resolution paid tribute to Dr. Abba Hillel Silver, national president of the UPA, who was elected to that post for the fifth time.

Weizmann Says "Jews Will Never Accept White Paper"

Dr. Chaim Weizmann, president of the Jewish Agency for Palestine, told the conference that "Jews will never accept the White Paper as the last word in British statesmanship." He added that "we shall not permit our last hopes to be smothered, nor shall we be intimidated by threats of revolt." Referring to the refugee problem, Dr. Weizmann said: "Whenever the refugee situation is discussed and the possibilities of Palestine considered, someone always introduces a treacherous 'but' to keep the doors closed to our last hope - our only hope. We are too weary, our suffering is too great to be satisfied with mere palliatives. We want instead a generous understanding and a will to action."

Dr. Stephen S. Wise compared the White Paper to the Munich agreement and stated that "as the Munich pact was destroyed, so shall the White Paper be destroyed." Other speakers at today's sessions included Dr. Abba Hillel Silver, Frank Gannet, publisher; Bernard Rosenblatt of the Palestine Foundation Fund; Dr. Israel Goldstein, Rabbi Meir Berlin, Judge Morris Rothenberg, Judge Louis E. Levinthal and others.

Jewish Homeland "Taboo" in Washington, Silver Charges

In the keynote address of the conference, delivered last night, Dr. Silver stated that the whole subject of a Jewish homeland in Palestine "has suddenly become taboo" in Washington. "The President of the United States sent an official greeting to the United Jewish Appeal this year which quite pointedly, and not by accident, omits any mention whatsoever of Palestine," he said. "Our former friends in government circles content themselves with sending us prolific expressions of sympathies on Jewish persecution. When pressed to do something about it, they regretfully remind us how difficult it is to do anything for these unfortunate people under present war conditions. The suggestion is even made that anything which may be done for

these unfortunate Jews now might in some way postpone the day of their ultimate liberation. That they may all then be dead does not seem to arouse these friends of ours to any extraordinary emergency acts of rescue and deliverance." Describing these friends as "men of many words and few deeds whose compassion never goes beyond political expediency," Dr. Silver accused them of "detouring the world's clamor into some governmental refugee conference" such as that at Evian which "accomplished nothing beyond offering a way out for governments" and the recent one at Bermuda. Asserting that "our fortunes were never so low," he called upon Zionists and non-Zionists to unite to continue the upbuilding of Palestine.

Other resolutions adopted by the conference pledged the UPA's continued support of the war effort, protested the refusal of the British Government to allow the formation of a Jewish Army in Palestine, greeted the Yishuv for its "mighty contributions to the cause of the United Nations" and promised the Jews in Palestine to continue the fight for the creation of a Jewish Commonwealth there.

#### SWISS NEWSPAPER SAYS INTERNATIONAL RED CROSS SHOULD INVESTIGATE WARSAW GHETTO

WASHINGTON, May 2.(JTA)-- The Office of War Information today reported from Switzerland that the anti-Nazi newspaper Die Nation, which is published in Berne, suggests that if an International Red Cross commission is sent to Smolensk to investigate the Nazi stories of the bodies of massacred Polish officers in the Katyn forest, it should also visit the Warsaw ghetto and investigate the Nazi mass-murder of Jews in occupied Poland.

"The investigation probably would be worth while. It belongs to the picture of 'New Europe,'" Die Nation states. It emphasizes that photographs have reached Switzerland, taken in Warsaw, which show the horrible scenes of thousands of starved, naked bodies of men, women and children piled up and Jewish grave-diggers "forced to bury their racial brothers and standing up to their knees in corpses."

The newspaper concludes by stating that if the Nazis do not give explicit permission to an International Red Cross commission to stop in Poland on its way to Smolensk and stay there as long as necessary and to move freely and speak freely with the population, then "the Red Cross had better stay home and do its usual work in the service of humanity."

#### HEAD OF SWEDISH RED CROSS RESIGNS WHEN NAZIS BAR SENDING OF FOOD TO GHETTOS

STOCKHOLM, May 2.(JTA)-- Frits Bauer, director of the Swedish Red Cross, has resigned in protest against the refusal of the Nazis to permit the sending of food and medicine to the ghettos in Poland, according to reports appearing in the local press.

Simultaneously, Madame Alva Myrdal, prominent Swedish scientist who is active in movements to aid the Jews in occupied Europe, writing in the Stockholm Aftonbladet, declared that "from her own sources" she has been informed that 5,000 to 6,000 Jews are dying in the ghettos of Poland every day and that "the deportations and slaughters are continuing."

#### AMERICAN DELEGATION TO BERMUDA CONFERENCE ARRIVES HOME

NEW YORK, May 2.(JTA)-- The American delegation to the Bermuda Refugee Conference arrived at LaGuardia Field here this afternoon aboard a Pan American Clipper. Herbert H. Lehman, Director of the Office of Foreign Relief and Rehabilitation Operations, returning from London, was a passenger. Also aboard the Clipper were George Backer, American Jewish leader, one of the advisers to the U.S. delegation, and Mrs. Ida Landau, who covered the Hamilton meeting for the Jewish Telegraphic Agency.

ROUND TABLE OF FRENCH SCHOLARS IN NEW YORK CONDEMNS ABROGATION OF CREMIEUX DECREE

NEW YORK, May 2.(JTA)-- The abrogation by Gen. Giraud of the Cremieux Decree was condemned here at a Round Table on North African problems held by the Ecole Libre des Hautes Etudes, a French university affiliated with the New School for Social Research.

Jacques Maritain, noted Catholic philosopher, in commenting on the abrogation of the Cremieux Decree and on the situation of the Jews in North Africa, pointed out that Gen. Giraud's abrogation of the decree was possibly an evidence of the anti-Semitic feelings remaining in North Africa. He expressed concern over the danger that the anti-Jewish principles and practices which are now enforced in North Africa may be followed as a general line in the reconstruction of France.

Paul Jacob, a prominent lawyer in pre-war France, declared that the revocation of the citizenship of native Algerian Jews was as ridiculous as if the United States were to declare that since the Indians living in Texas were not granted citizenship when that state was annexed by the United States and the Mexican residents were, the only way of remedying that situation would be to reduce the descendants of those Mexicans to the present status of the Indians, who may now apply for citizenship as individuals but do not receive it automatically.

Mr. Raoul Aglion, one of the Fighting French leaders in this country, attacked the legality of all constitutional measures taken since the disruption of the French parliament. He pointed out that in all territories under the direction of General de Gaulle, the French Republican laws had been maintained or re-established and pointed to Syria where despite strong anti-Semitic propaganda, the application of Republican laws had not met with any difficulty. He emphasized that such an experience was in absolute contradiction to the present situation in North Africa.

Another speaker, Henri Gregoire, recalled the history of the Cremieux decree. He explained how long before the liberal Empire of 1865 there was a law giving all rights to the Jews of Africa with the one exception that they could only become French citizens individually. Upon the advice of Cremieux, the most competent authority on African questions at that time, a decree was passed changing this lengthy procedure, which decree has been considered one of the basic laws of France. The action taken by Giraud in this respect is an attempt to violate the French Republican principles, Mr. Gregoire said.

John Maynard discussed the respective situation of Jews and Moslems in North Africa. He explained how the two groups had statutes of their own which could not be compared because of their particular religious and legal standpoints and therefore opposed the idea that the abrogation of a law favoring the Jews would benefit the Moslems.

Dr. Alvin Johnson, president of the New School for Social Research, who presided at the Round Table, concluded by thanking the speakers and expressing his conviction that the French Republic had never ceased to exist and was in no possible danger of dying.

NAZIS BAR JEWS FROM FRANCO-SPANISH FRONTIER AREA TO HALT FURTHER FLIGHTS FROM FRANCE

STOCKHOLM, May 2.(JTA)-- In an attempt to prevent further flights by French Jews, many of whom fled to Spain in order to escape deportation to Nazi-held territory in Eastern Europe, the German occupation authorities in France have issued an order barring Jews from living in towns along the Franco-Spanish frontier, it is reported today by the Berlin correspondent of the Stockholm Aftonbladet.

ONLY INVASION OF EUROPE AND ALLIED VICTORY CAN SAVE JEWS, BERLE TELLS BOSTON MEETING

BOSTON, May 2.(JTA)-- Nothing can be done to save the persecuted Jews in Axis-occupied countries except through the invasion of Europe and the defeat of the Nazi army and German power, Assistant Secretary of State Berle declared today in an address delivered for him before 20,000 persons gathered in the Boston Garden at a mass meeting to protest Nazi atrocities.

"A few stragglers and refugees who have escaped through skill, good fortune, or, more often, by the corruption of the Nazi officials, may indeed be rescued," Mr. Berle said. "But these are so few that they hardly weigh in the scales. Actually, the only cure for this hideous mess can come through Allied armies, when they have cracked the defenses of western Europe and are able to maneuver on the European plains. The cure must depend on them, and on the fierce, relentless and growing air invasion over Germany, which must continue until the German hights are filled with avengers, and the German days with the advance forces of still greater armadas to come."

Because of Mr. Berle's illness, which prevented him from leaving Washington, his address was delivered by Robert J. Hooker, Jr., of the State Department.

CHURCHES THROUGHOUT NATION MARK "DAY OF COMPASSION" FOR JEWS IN EUROPE

NEW YORK, May 2.(JTA)-- Churches throughout the nation today offered special prayers for the persecuted Jews of Europe as part of the observance of a "Day of Compassion" for these Jews proclaimed by the Federal Council of Churches of Christ in America.

Dr. Henry St. George Tucker, Presiding Bishop of the Protestant Episcopal Church and president of the Council, in a statement in connection with the observances, said it was the first time Christian churches had set aside a specific day for a "united expression of their sympathy with a suffering and persecuted Jewry."<sup>1</sup> "What is happening to the Jews on the Continent of Europe is so horrible that we are in danger of assuming that it is exaggerated," he said, and cited a recent survey by the council of evidence that he said indicated that under the Nazis a policy of deliberate extermination of Jews was being carried out. "The survey shows that the actual facts are probably more, rather than less, terrible than the reports," he continued. "The Christian people of America vigorously protest against this brutal and cruel persecution. But protest is not enough."

J.N.F. DECIDES TO ESTABLISH SETTLEMENT IN PALESTINE NAMED AFTER BRIGADIER KISCH

JERUSALEM, May 2.(JTA)-- The board of directors of the Jewish National Fund today decided to establish a settlement named after Brigadier Frederik H. Kisch, the former head of the political department of the Zionist Executive, who was killed in action in Tunisia.

The Jewish National Fund will also issue a stamp carrying the portrait of Brigadier Kisch. The Jewish Community Council of Haifa, where Kisch lived for many years prior to joining the British forces, has decided to bring his body there for final interment.

WORKMEN'S CIRCLE BUYS \$1,000,000 WORTH OF BONDS IN SECOND WAR LOAN DRIVE

NEW YORK, May 2.(JTA)-- The Workmen's Circle, Jewish labor fraternal order, has purchased \$1,000,000 of war bonds in the second War Loan Drive just completed and is launching a campaign to have its 72,000 members buy another \$2,000,000 worth by the end of the year, it was announced yesterday at the opening of the 43rd annual convention of the organization by Joseph Weinberg, president.