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ZIONIST ACTIONS COMMITTEE APPROVES ESTABLISHMENT OF A WASHINGTON OFFICE

JERUSALEM, May 20. (JTA)-- The Zionist Actions Committee, which is now in session here, today approved the plan of the Jewish Agency to establish a political office in Washington as well as to strengthen the office of the Jewish Agency in London.

The decision was taken following a lengthy report by Moshe Shertok, head of the political department of the Jewish Agency, on his recent visit to the United States and on the developments in London which are of direct interest to post-war Palestine. Mr. Shertok emphasized that the public in the United States knows little concerning Jewish aspirations and achievements in Palestine. He also stressed the necessity of better presentation of the Zionist cause before the United States Government.

The Actions Committee, which is the supreme Zionist body between sessions of the World Zionist Congress, also discussed questions concerning the rescue of Jews in Nazi Europe. It approved the attitude taken by the Jewish Agency executive with regard to further enlistment of Palestine Jews in the British armed forces.

David Ben-Gurion, chairman of the executive of the Jewish Agency, who was scheduled to deliver a report on the Agency's attitude towards the post-war reconstruction plan for Palestine suggested by the government, was taken ill suddenly and was unable to be present. The Actions Committee expects to hear Ben-Gurion's report at its next session, which will probably take place next month.

FRENCH JEWISH DELEGATION ASKS U.S. TO SEEK RESTORATION OF CREMIEUX DECREE

WASHINGTON, May 20. (JTA)-- A memorandum analyzing the effect of the abrogation of the Cremieux decree on the status of the native Jews in Algeria and asking the intercession of the United States government to bring about the restoration of this decree, was presented today to Under-Secretary of State Sumner Welles by a delegation of distinguished French exiles representing the French-Jewish Representative Committee, which is affiliated with the World Jewish Congress.

The delegation, composed of Capt. Pierre Dreyfuss, Henri Torres, Paul Jacob and Paul Weill, was introduced to Under-Secretary Welles by Dr. Nahum Goldmann, chairman of the administrative committee of the World Jewish Congress. It pointed out that "the abrogation of the Cremieux decree is actually the most unjust racial discrimination ever inflicted upon French citizens of Jewish faith who are natives of Algeria."

The 16-page memorandum reviews the history of Jewish citizenship in Algeria and offers proof to the effect that the abrogation of the Cremieux decree is not only an act of discrimination against native-born Frenchmen, but is actually illegal under the organic laws of the French Republic. Contary to offering a basis for better understanding with the Arabs, this abrogation jeopardizes the possibility of securing a just and complete emancipation of the Arabs, it points out.

The memorandum also points out that (1) in 1870 the Cremieux decree conferred citizenship on Jewish natives of Algeria of whom possibly less than a score

are alive today; (2) that the law of August 10, 1927, further established the citizenship of the descendants of those Algerian Jews who became naturalized citizens in 1870; and (3) that in view of the fact that the abrogation of the Cremieux decree is now being applied to 44,000 native Algerian Jews, that the withdrawal of citizenship is applied to native Frenchmen whose status as native citizens was automatically established under the Napoleonic Civil Code and reaffirmed in the Citizenship Law of August 10, 1927.

#### Naturalization Difficulties Stressed; Arab Question Discussed

"Even if naturalization were accorded to native-born Jews upon application," the memorandum asserts, "the effect of the abrogation of the Cremieux decree is to make it necessary for a five-year period to elapse before citizens thus naturalized may become voters, and ten years to elapse before such naturalized citizens may become electors or hold mandates."

The memorandum devotes an important chapter to a discussion of the Arab situation. The problem of the acquisition of French citizenship by the Arabs is independent of the problem of the citizenship of the Jews, it points out. General Giraud's explanation of his act on the ground of eliminating racial discrimination between Jews and Arabs has no basis in fact, it emphasizes. The difference between a native Jew and a native Arab was defined in the French law, it asserts, on the basis of religion and not of race and having to do solely with the personal status of the Arabs under Moslem law.

Between 1865 and 1937 only 2,488 Arabs were admitted to French citizenship in Algeria, on an average of 40 a year. Of that number 1,793 took place between 1919 and 1937, despite the fact that all that is required for a Moslem to become a French citizen is to appear before a Justice of the Peace and make declaration of his intention to become a Frenchman under law.

"The fact of the matter is that the lack of citizenship for the Moslems has not meant lack of political rights, for native Moslems of Algeria elect a quarter of the members of the General Council, and are represented by a third of the members in the financial delegations that vote the budgets of the three departments which constitute Algeria," the memorandum emphasizes.

#### ARGENTINE GOVERNMENT RENEWS SUBSIDY TO VIOLENT ANTI-JEWISH PUBLICATION

MONTEVIDEO, Uruguay, May 20.(JTA)-- Clarinda, the violently anti-Semitic, anti-American and pro-Nazi Argentine magazine, which has been on the United States blacklist since last October, is once more receiving substantial indirect support from the Castillo government, it is indicated in the May issue of the publication which was received here today.

The Argentine petroleum trust and several government-controlled national and municipal banks have large advertisements in Clarinda this month - the only advertisements that the magazine carries. It seems obvious that without the income from these advertisements, the publication could not support itself. The Castillo administration withdrew its advertisements from Clarinda about a year ago, after strong protests from most of the countries in the Americas. Their reappearance at this time would seem to indicate that Argentina is still throwing in its lot with the Axis, despite the recent reverses suffered by the fascists in North Africa.

The May issue of Clarinda, which is nearly twice its usual size, contains vicious anti-Jewish articles, editorials and cartoons. Most of the cartoons are signed "Meta Jacobos," which means "Kill the Jews." There is also much anti-American and anti-British material. In the past, Argentine anti-Semites have paraded up and down the main streets of Buenos Aires during rush hours carrying the cartoons and slogans from Clarinda on placards, provoking protests by members of the Jewish community there.

RESULTS OF BERMUDA CONFERENCE WILL SOON BE APPARENT, STATE DEPARTMENT SAYS

WASHINGTON, May 20.(JTA)-- The State Department last night issued a statement on the recommendations of the Anglo-American Conference on refugees in Bermuda, emphasizing that "the results of the recommendations submitted by the Conference will soon become apparent."

"While the details must be regarded as confidential so long as a knowledge of the recommendations contained therein would be of aid or comfort to our enemies, or might adversely affect the refugees whom we are all trying to aid, certain facts may now be made public," the statement reads. "The two delegations accomplished the useful task of dividing suggestions and proposals for the solution of the refugee problem into two categories: 1. What was possible under existing war conditions and, 2. What was impossible under these same conditions. All suggestions were measured by two strict criteria. In the first place, nothing could be recommended that would interfere with or delay the war effort of the United Nations, and, secondly, any recommendation submitted must be capable of accomplishment under war conditions.

"The shipping problem was recognized to be of the utmost urgency and it was agreed that any plan looking toward the diverting of Allied shipping from the war effort to remove or care for refugees would present considerations of a military character, which would disclose almost insuperable difficulties. It was also agreed that no negotiations with Hitler could be undertaken, since his entire record has left no doubt that he would only agree to such solutions as would be of direct aid to the Axis war aims.

"The conference was, however, able to recommend measures both for removing refugees from neutral countries and, in those cases where such removals was not possible, for giving assurances of international cooperation in the future of the refugee problem so far as it affected them. It also recommended a number of refugee havens to which refugees could be transported and maintained. If and when shipping should become available. At least one such movement has been effected.

"Certain measures of a financial nature to cover necessary expenses and a declaration of intention to provide for repatriation upon the termination of hostilities were also recommended. The conference also submitted a plan for an expanded and more efficient inter-governmental organization with increased authority to meet the problems created or likely to arise under war conditions. Some of these measures are now being put into effect and others, it is hoped, will soon be possible. It is therefore believed that the practical results of the recommendations submitted by the conference will soon become apparent," the statement concludes.

JEWISH AGENCY CALLS UPON BRITISH PEOPLE "TO REDEEM FAILURE OF BERMUDA"

JERUSALEM, May 20.(JTA)-- The Jewish Agency for Palestine today made public the text of a statement sent to leading members of the House of Commons challenging the theory that "the Jewish refugee problem can be solved only by the end of the war" and expressing the hope that "the representative assembly of the British people will redeem the failure of Bermuda."

The statement, which was cabled to London on the eve of yesterday's debate in the House of Commons on the outcome of the Bermuda parley, reads:

"Three reasons are usually adduced in defense of the stand that it is impossible to save the remnants of European Jewry. They are: 1. The impossibility

of approaching the German government. 2. The inability to overcome transportation difficulties without interfering with the war effort. 3. The impossibility of admitting more Jews to Palestine than is warranted by the limited number of certificates available under the provisions of the White Paper of 1939.

"The total effect of these arguments, if accepted, is that there is no way of saving the remnants of Jewry from the Nazi hangmen. Closer analysis, however, reveals the fallacy of these arguments. An approach to the German government through appropriate channels, for which there are various precedents, might convince the Nazis that they can get rid of the Jews without murdering them. Similarly, there is no justification for the failure, because of bureaucratic reasons, to attempt to exchange Jews for German citizens detained in Allied countries. Transportation difficulties, also, are not insurmountable obstacles, as cargo vessels on return voyages are frequently capable of carrying refugees. Finally, it is utterly unwarranted to deny the persecuted Jews access to the only permanent, immediately available, refuge, with their own people in Palestine, because of the pre-war White Paper policy which is rooted in the appeasement era and is quite unrelated to the present unprecedented tragedy.

"It is utterly fallacious to believe that the Jewish refugee problem can be solved only by the end of the war. In fact, the victorious progress of the Allied armies may hasten the mass slaughter. It is similarly unjustified to adduce the vastness of the general refugee problem produced by the war as a reason for the failure to save the Jews from annihilation. The Jewish problem in Europe is not merely one of a refugee question but one of survival or death. Numerous steps are still practicable today to save the remnants of Europe's Jews, but the sands are running out quickly. Information from neutral quarters indicate their readiness to cooperate in the salvation of the Jews provided Anglo-American assistance is forthcoming. A terrible responsibility will be incurred by the United Nations if even this last chance is missed."

#### BRITISH AIR MINISTRY DENIES BLASTING OF GERMAN DAMS WAS SUGGESTED BY REFUGEE

LONDON, May 20.(JTA)-- While Nazi radio stations and newspapers called for reprisals on Jews for the British bombing of the two Ruhr dams, which has caused floods and great damage to Nazi war industries, the British Air Ministry last night issued a statement denying the report that the blasting of the dams was carried out at the suggestion of a Jewish refugee from the Reich now in London.

The statement of the Ministry said that the Royal Air Force intelligence service had long compiled material on all objectives important to German war production, including the wrecked dams. This material had been carefully examined by the proper military authorities with a view to attacks at the most favorable moment. The attack on the Ruhr dams "had been suggested on several occasions by members of the public, but the operation did not in fact originate with any such suggestion," the statement emphasized.

Major Oliver Stewart, writing in the London Evening Standard, ridicules the idea that the bombing of the dams was carried out at the suggestion of a civilian. "All who studied German and Italian targets for air bombing were aware of the enormous advantage for the Allies of breaching the dams," he points out. "The trouble has been with devising means to do it. The present attack is partly due to research which was started at the outbreak of the war by an engineer not well-known outside of the aircraft industry whose name cannot be disclosed."