

Published by the Jewish Telegraphic Agency

106 East 41st Street, New York 17, N. Y.

VOL. X. NO. 196

Monday, August 26, 1943

MOVE TO ORGANIZE INDEPENDENT DELEGATES TO AMERICAN JEWISH CONFERENCE LAUNCHED

PITTSBURGH, Aug. 22. (JTA)-- Edgar J. Kaufmann, a leading figure in American Jewish life, is taking the initiative in a movement to organize "the independent delegates to the American Jewish Conference and the delegates elected by organizations who come to the Conference open-minded."

Mr. Kaufman, one of the independent delegates to the Conference, has addressed a letter describing his plan to the delegates to the Conference, acting in the matter in behalf of various national leaders, including Jacob Blaustein of Baltimore, Md.; Mrs. Maurice L. Goldman of San Francisco, Cal.; Benjamin Kaufman of Trenton, N.J.; Fred Lazarus, Jr. of Columbus, Ohio and Judge Joseph M. Proskauer of New York, N.Y. These individuals all represent various points of view.

The letter points out that under the Conference procedure, "every delegate may affiliate himself with one or a number of listed groups, or, if he prefers to remain unaffiliated, with any of these groups, he is asked to register 'designation reserved.'" Unaffiliated delegates may be represented in the membership committee only by being organized into a unit of ten or more. Thus, without his plan, Mr. Kaufman contends, the voice of unaffiliated members will scarcely be heard.

Stressing that his plan appeals to delegates of "various points of view but who come to the Conference open-minded," the letter calls attention to a meeting to be held before the opening of the Conference.

Text of the Letter

"We, the undersigned," the letter reads, "are addressing our letter to you as a delegate of the American Jewish Conference. You have received, or will soon receive, a letter from the office of the American Jewish Conference describing a procedure under which every delegate may affiliate himself with one of a number of listed groups, or if he prefers to remain unaffiliated with any one of these groups, he is asked to register 'designation reserved.'"

"According to this plan unaffiliated delegates will be able to be represented in the membership committee only by organizing themselves into a unit of ten or more. Unless such a unit is created, unaffiliated delegates will have no opportunity of taking part directly or indirectly in the work of the various committees, will even be circumscribed in the plenary meeting of the Conference, and so be greatly restricted in expressing their views whatever they may be and asserting an influence on the Conference.

"The undersigned delegates entertain various points of view, but come to the Conference open-minded. We urge you to join us and thus make your participation in the Conference effective, because if you are an independent delegate,

this is the only way for you to participate in the work of the committee.

"It is of vital importance that the decision of the Conference shall reflect the composite sentiment of American Jewry and not those of any particular ideological or political group. With this in mind, the larger the active participation of independent delegates, the greater the promise of such result. If you are an independent delegate, register 'designation reserved' and immediately inform Mr. Edgar J. Kaufman to this effect. A meeting of the unaffiliated delegates will be held on Saturday evening, August 28."

Mr. Kaufman several years ago organized the General Jewish Council, composed of the American Jewish Committee, B'nai B'rith, the Jewish Labor Committee, and the American Jewish Congress, which was an earlier attempt to create a united voice for American Jewry.

Following up his letter with a telegram today to each of the delegates of the American Jewish Conference, Mr. Kaufman said: "It is my judgment that the problems confronting us require most earnest and impartial consideration. Delegates who are not committed to any specific party program but are willing to consider all proposals in an independent and open-minded manner can best meet the urgent problems confronting the Conference and be of most service in the unification of conflicting approaches. For these reasons, it is advisable that such delegates, at this time, remain free of any partisan commitments. I, therefore, intend to register 'designation reserved' and hope you will do likewise."

#### DIRECT TRANSPORTATION OF REFUGEES FROM NORTH AFRICA TO U.S. MAY BE RENEWED

LONDON, Aug. 22.(JTA)-- Renewed possibilities of direct transportation of refugees from North Africa to the United States were reported in a telegram received by Jewish organizations here today from Dr. James Bernstein, European director of the Hias-Ica Emigration Association at Lisbon.

In his message, Dr. Bernstein declared that groups of refugees are continuing to arrive at Casablanca regularly from Spain. All such refugees are allowed by the local authorities to consult with the Hias-Ica office as to their emigration to other countries and the securing of the necessary visas. It is possible too, according to Dr. Bernstein, that stateless refugees now in Spain will also be permitted to enter North Africa. All refugees released from Camp Miranda in Spain are enjoying full freedom while awaiting the arrangements for their emigration.

The Hias-Ica office in Lisbon and the office of the Joint Distribution Committee are now negotiating with Portuguese steamship companies for the chartering of a special steamer which will take to Palestine 600 Jewish refugees now in Portugal for whom the Jewish Agency has obtained Palestine immigration certificates, Dr. Bernstein further states. The ship carrying these refugees is expected to sail from Lisbon next month and will also stop off at Mozambique to pick up 165 refugees, whose destination is also Palestine.

#### SURVIVING JEWS CONTINUE BATTLE AS PARTISANS AGAINST NAZIS IN POLAND

LONDON, Aug. 22.(JTA)-- Jews who escaped from ghettos "liquidated" by the Nazis in Poland are continuing to fight as partisans, it is reported in a message received here today from Jewish underground units in Poland by Dr. Ignacy Schwarzbart, Jewish member of the Polish National Council.

ORGAN OF HLINKA GUARD DEFENDS TREATMENT OF JEWS AS "LAWFUL AND HUMANE"

ZURICH, Aug. 22. (JTA)-- The anti-Semitic newspaper Gardista, organ of the Hlinka Guard in Slovakia, received here today, carries an article which professes to prove that the Jewish problem in Slovakia is being solved "lawfully and humanely."

Issue is taken with those in Slovakia who assert that the mass expulsion of Jews and the confiscation of their property are violations of the Christian teaching to "love thy neighbor." The deportation of Jews from Slovakia does not violate any ethical principle but is further justified by "internal and external circumstances," it declares.

"We must help them to make their departure as smooth as possible, so that they will have no reason to accuse us of cruelty," the article goes on to say. "We must, however, not forget that they are unwelcome foreigners who have worked against us."

POLISH GOVERNMENT SUPPORTS 1,200 JEWISH REFUGEES IN PALESTINE, MINISTER REPORTS

LONDON, Aug. 22. (JTA)-- Twelve hundred Jewish refugees from Poland now in Palestine are being assisted by the Polish Ministry of Welfare, Jan Stanczyk, member of the Polish cabinet said in an interview here today upon his return from a visit to the Near East.

"Six hundred Jewish refugees from Poland are still stranded in Teheran," the Polish Minister stated. "They are being well taken care of. The Jewish refugee children in Teheran attend the Polish school established there."

Minister Stanczyk also studied the problems of two hundred Polish-Jewish refugees in Lisbon when he made a stop-over in Portugal. Efforts will be made, he said, by the Polish Government-in-Exile to secure visas for these refugees into other countries. He praised highly the Jewish achievements in Palestine.

CASE OF A JEWISH PALESTINE WILL BE PRESSED BY SOUTH AFRICAN PREMIER BEFORE ALLIES

JOHANNESBURG, Aug. 22. (JTA)-- Gen. Jan Smuts, South African Premier who scored a victory in the recent national elections, will press the case of a Jewish Palestine before the forthcoming peace conference, it was announced today by Senator A.M. Conroy, Minister of Lands, in addressing a reception arranged for him by the Keren Kayemeth leaders at Durban.

The Minister expressed his opinion that the Balfour Declaration which promised the establishment of a Jewish National Home in Palestine, did not go far enough.

"We have learned from experience," he said. "We shall, in the future, not be satisfied with declarations alone. This time we are going to ask for action. We shall see to it that no repetition takes place in the future of what has happened to the Jews during the last few years. The persecution of the Jews is stimulated by their being a people without a homeland. It is imperative that Jews have their own land."

3,500 JEWISH COLONIST FAMILIES FIRMLY ESTABLISHED ON JCA COLONIES IN ARGENTINE

NEW YORK, Aug. 22.(JTA)-- The work accomplished by the Jewish Colonization Association in Argentine is reviewed in a report published by the Argentine branch, on the occasion of the recently celebrated 50th anniversary of the foundation of the JCA. The report was made public here today by Louis Oungre, general manager of the organization.

"After fifty years of activity in Argentine," the report says, "it can be assured that the ideals of the founder of the Jewish Colonization Association have not been defrauded, seeing that there are nearly 3,500 colonist families firmly established, many of whom are Argentine born, sons and grandsons of the first settlers. However, it is comprehensible that complete success has not always crowned the efforts made by the Association.

"As occurs with agriculturists of all nationalities, there have sometimes been desertions, either for family reasons (illness, abandonment of families, etc.), or because an unexpected increase in land values has tempted some to mortgage their property and attempt some other kind of enterprise with the capital so realized. Sometimes the colonists also became discouraged by a succession of bad harvests and looked for other fields of action, but in this case they have not always been lost to agriculture, and today several hundred Jewish agriculturists, ex-colonists of the Association or sons of colonists, have settled in the centres of Medanos and Villalongs (Province of Buenos Aires), Villa Alba (Pampa), General Roca (Rio Negro), General Pinedo and Charata (Chaco).

"As regards the sons of present colonists, although some of them sometimes abandon their father's farm in order to dedicate themselves to other activities, the majority of them continue exercising their profession of agriculturists," the report points out. "The program which the Jewish Colonization Association set itself and which it has succeeded in carrying out, has been the settling of a chosen element and their eventual conversion into good Argentine agriculturists. For this reason this Institution is encouraged to continue its work, expanding and perfecting it in the light of experience gained, without departing from its fundamental principals and from its policy which up to now have assured its success."

SEVENTY-SEVEN PERCENT OF JEWS IN CANADA REPORT YIDDISH AS MOTHER TONGUE

NEW YORK, Aug. 22.(JTA)-- Seventy-seven percent of 168,000 Jews in Canada in 1941 declared Yiddish as their mother language, the Yiddish Scientific Institute in New York announced today following the completion of a lingual study of Canadian Jews. The study was based on official material recently published.

MEXICAN JEWS COLLECT 70,000 PESOS FOR RUSSIA AT BANQUET FOR MIKHOELS AND FEFFER

MEXICO CITY, Aug. 22.(JTA)-- A large mass-meeting in honor of Prof. Solomon Mikhoels and Col. Itzik Feffer, the two Jewish delegates from Russia, was held here, addressed by the two guests. The mass meeting followed a banquet which took place the evening before at which the sum of 70,000 pesos was raised for Russian war relief.

CHRISTIAN-JEWISH GOODWILL IN AMERICA LAUDED IN AUSTRALIA

SYDNEY, Australia, Aug. 22.(JTA)-- The activities of the Christian and Jewish groups in America in promoting goodwill between Gentile and Jew were lauded here by Rev. Cockett, member of the Australian Goodwill Mission, upon his return from the United States.