

Published by the Jewish Telegraphic Agency

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

VOL. X, NO. 247

Tuesday, October 26, 1943

AMERICAN JEWISH COMMITTEE LEAVES AMERICAN JEWISH CONFERENCE; ZIONIST MEMBERS RESIGN

NEW YORK, Oct. 25. (JTA)-- The withdrawal of the American Jewish Committee from the American Jewish Conference was announced here last night following a full-day session of its executive committee attended by seventy-five leading representatives of Jewish communities throughout the country. The session was presided over by Jacob Blaustein, chairman of the General Committee.

Protesting this decision, three Zionist members of the American Jewish Committee resigned and telegraphed other members urging them to do likewise. The three are Mrs. David de Sola Pool, president of Hadassah, and two former presidents of the Zionist Organization of America, Judge Morris Rothenberg and Judge Louis E. Levinthal.

A statement on the position of the American Jewish Committee, presented by its president Joseph M. Proskauer, declared that "the present demand for the eventual establishment of a Jewish Commonwealth in Palestine, made by the American Jewish Conference, and constituting one of its major decisions, as well as the subordination of other Jewish issues to the problem of the political structure of Palestine, are in such essential disagreement with the fundamental views of the American Jewish Committee that in the best interests of Jews in this and other countries, including Palestine, the Committee feels impelled to withdraw from the American Jewish Conference."

The statement reaffirms the desire of the American Jewish Committee "to utilize for the Jews of Europe the broadest opportunities which Palestine can offer." It assures that the Committee "will apply its most diligent efforts to bring about the abrogation of the White Paper which closes the doors of Palestine to further Jewish immigration and restricts Jewish land purchase." At the same time it expresses the conviction that the problems of world Jewry cannot be solved by a single political panacea and that "the salvation and rehabilitation of the stricken Jews of Europe cannot be achieved through Palestine alone and certainly not through overemphasis on the political constitution of Palestine. It can be achieved only by considering Palestine a part of the larger program which looks to the rehabilitation and resettlement of Jews throughout the world and the restoration of their equal rights."

The statement further points out that the Committee's delegates to the American Jewish Conference pleaded for present unity of action and for an immediate positive program concerning Palestine. "The majority of the delegates to the American Jewish Conference, however, took such a stand that there was no room left for adequate presentation of the views of the American Jewish Committee and considerable segments of the Jewish community of America," it declares.

Wants Palestine Under International Trusteeship of United Nations

Outlining the basic position of the American Jewish Committee towards major Jewish problems of today, the statement emphasizes that regarding Palestine the Committee approves for the present "an international trusteeship responsible to the United Nations, for the following purposes: to safeguard the Jewish Settlement

in, and Jewish immigration into Palestine and to guarantee adequate scope for future growth and development to the full extent of the economic absorptive capacity of the country; to safeguard and protect the fundamental rights of all inhabitants...and to prepare the country to become, within a reasonable period of years, a self-governing commonwealth under a constitution and a Bill of Rights that will safeguard and protect these purposes and basic rights for all."

The Committee goes on to say in its statement that "much more than Palestine must occupy the attention of any responsible body which is vitally concerned with the total welfare of Jewry. Through the marshalling of public opinion, through representations to our government and through proper diplomatic channels, we shall continue to seek to achieve the quickest possible rescue of the Jews persecuted in Europe today and to attain for the millions who will be there tomorrow a normal life on a basis of equality with their fellow-citizens. We reject any thesis which surrenders the right of the Jews to live as equal citizens in Europe or anywhere."

Combatting Anti-Semitism in America Will Remain a Major Task

The combatting of anti-Semitism in this country will continue to be a major activity of the American Jewish Committee, the statement says. "By a broad educational program, by collaboration with all groups in America, who recognize the divisive and demoralizing nature of anti-Semitism, we shall seek to bring about such a community of understanding between all religious and racial groups that bigotry and discrimination will be destroyed."

While severing its connections with the American Jewish Conference, the American Jewish Committee declared its readiness to "cooperate with the Conference and those many vital Jewish institutions and movements in this country -- religious, cultural and philanthropic -- which help nourish and enrich Jewish life in America."

The statement was drafted by a special committee consisting of Chief Judge Irving Lehman, of the Court of Appeals of New York State; Horace Stern of Philadelphia, Justice of the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania; Alan M. Stookey of New York, chairman of the Administrative Committee of the American Jewish Committee; Fred Lazarus, Jr., of Columbus, Ohio; and Jesse Steinhart of San Francisco.

Zionist Leaders Deplore Action of American Jewish Committee

Dr. Israel Goldstein, president of the Zionist Organization of America, today issued a statement to the press declaring that "the American Jewish Committee, by the decision of its executive committee to withdraw from the American Jewish Conference on account of its Palestine resolution, is taking a step which would wilfully retard the most promising effort in a generation to achieve unity in the ranks of American Jewry."

"The action of the American Jewish Committee is the more reprehensible because the given reason for opposing the Palestine resolution at the Conference was not the ideology of the Palestine resolution but the question of the wisdom of adopting it at this particular time," he added.

Judge Levinthal, Judge Rothenberg and Mrs. de Sola Pool, upon resigning from the American Jewish Committee, issued the following joint statement:

"As members of the American Jewish Committee we deeply deplore the undemocratic action of the executive because it threatens to disrupt American Jewry at a time when unity is vital in our efforts to save the remnant of Jewry in Europe,

to safeguard Jewish rights everywhere and to assure the fulfillment of Jewish aspirations in the Jewish National Home. Moreover, the membership body of the American Jewish Committee, many of whom support the program of the American Jewish Conference, has been ignored by the executive committee and has had no opportunity to vote on this question, although it is scheduled to meet in less than three months.

"In these circumstances, self-respect commands our resignation from the American Jewish Committee. We support completely the American Jewish Conference, the medium through which we can best meet the grave problems besetting world Jewry in this unparalleled crisis. We affirm that the Conference program of rescue, post-war rehabilitation and implementation of Jewish rights to Palestine must be carried forward by a united Jewry. Inasmuch as the American Jewish Committee has now acted to undermine the one instrument through which this necessary unity has been achieved, we must withdraw from the Committee."

HADASSAH CONVENTION OPENS; DEMANDS JEWISH REPRESENTATION IN UNITED NATIONS

NEW YORK, Oct. 26. (JTA)-- The inclusion of Jewish representatives in any United Nations conferences called to deal with Jewish matters and the immediate shipment of food to feed the starving survivors of the ghettos and concentration camps was demanded here today at the opening session of the twenty-ninth annual convention of Hadassah which is taking place at the Henry Hudson Hotel with 500 delegates from all parts of the country in attendance.

These demands were voiced by Mrs. David de Sola Pool, president of the organization, who also insisted that the White Paper must be annulled and that "lend-lease aid must be given to an enlarged Palestine so that it might speedily absorb millions who could enter and rebuild the country."

"It does not seem credible that a country like ours, capable of producing such vast and phenomenal programs as lend-lease and relief and rehabilitation on a world-wide scale, should have been unable to help the doomed of the children of Israel," Mrs. Pool stated in her presidential address. She laid special emphasis on Great Britain's offer to make available 29,000 certificates of entry into Palestine for Jewish children, 4,500 of them for young people in Bulgaria. She charged that "long delays in the mechanics of transportation, not all of them to be laid at the door of the war emergency, held up the movement of the children until the trap closed upon them with the entrance of the Nazis into Bulgaria," and warned that "the same bitter tragedy is being repeated in Italy today."

Dr. Israel Goldstein, addressing the session, characterized the White Paper as a "bomb timed to explode six months hence." He declared that nothing could stop England from opening wide the gates of Palestine except its own unwillingness, stating further that the United States government, by historic precedent, Congressional endorsement of the Balfour Declaration and the Mandate for Palestine, and co-sponsorship of the Atlantic Charter, has a moral and legal right to intervene to make the White Paper impossible. The American sense of justice should dictate that larger considerations of justice be invoked in the solution of the Palestine problem just as they will be in the solution of many another thorny problem of the post-war world, Dr. Goldstein said.

An accusation that "British imperialism," has never in the course of Britain's mandatory regime striven for Arab-Jewish reconciliation, but has systematically sabotaged every effort in that direction, was levelled by Pierre Van Paassen, who was one of the speakers. He declared that such an understanding was considered "definitely contrary to the interests of the British Empire as these interests are interpreted by Tory anti-progressive imperialists who still rule the roost in Whitehall."

RUMANIAN JEWS FORCED TO BUILD FORTIFICATIONS IN EXPECTATION OF RUSSIAN OFFENSIVE

STOCKHOLM, Oct. 25.(JTA)-- The Swedish press reports today that thousands of Rumanian Jews have been sent to Bessarabia to build fortifications on the banks of the Dniester and Prut rivers in preparation for a possible Russian offensive if the Rumanian forces are compelled to retreat from Odessa, which is now under Rumanian administration.

Swedish newspapers also report that in order to counteract unrest in the Baltic countries caused by the advance of the Russian Army, the German authorities in Lithuania have launched a violent anti-Jewish campaign in the local press around the allegation that Jews are taking revenge on the local population as soon as territory is reoccupied by the Russian troops.

The Italian fascist radio station in the German-held part of Italy today broadcast an article from the Italian newspaper Messagero branding the Jews "Italy's Enemy Number One" and urging the Italian people "to overcome their indifference with regard to the Jewish danger." The broadcast revealed that Jews in the German-held part of Italy are charged with showing "exuberant joy" over the collapse of the fascist regime and with "participating in acts of devastation" during that period.

NORWEGIAN RED CROSS SENDING RELIEF TO JEWS DEPORTED TO POLAND LAST YEAR

STOCKHOLM, Oct. 25.(JTA)-- The Norwegian Red Cross, defying the German occupation authorities and the Quisling Government, has been sending relief supplies to Norwegian Jews deported to Germany and Poland last year, it was revealed today.

The Frittfolk, organ of the Quisling storm troops, carries a front page editorial in its current issue attacking the Red Cross "for acting against vital Norwegian and German interests." The editorial says that it is the duty of the Red Cross to abstain from anything which is of a political nature and not to be influenced by considerations of political convictions, race or religion.

Pro-democratic Finnish newspapers received here today carry attacks against the chief of the state police, Anthoni, for his alleged responsibility for the mistreatment of Jewish refugees. Demanding his removal, the Arbetarbladet says that the plan to deport the refugees to Germany was luckily frustrated "otherwise Finland would have been disgraced forever."

IBN SAUD MAY RECONSIDER STAND ON PALESTINE AFTER RETURN OF SON FROM AMERICA

CAIRO, Oct. 25.(JTA)-- Following the failure of the special envoy of King Ibn Saud to reach an understanding with the Egyptian Premier on the status of Palestine, it was learned here today that no further discussions on Palestine will take place between Egypt and Saudi-Arabia before the return from the United States of Prince Feisal, the son of King Ibn Saud and Foreign Minister of Saudi Arabia.

It is assumed that Prince Feisal discussed the Arab-Jewish question with high American officials during his visit in Washington. In the light of these discussions, King Ibn Saud may reconsider his attitude on Palestine. At present, however, he is asking for immediate action by all Arab countries on the Palestine question, while the Premier of Egypt wants the Palestine problem postponed until after the war.

JEWISH CONFERENCE ASKS EASING OF IMMIGRATION LAWS IN AMERICAN COUNTRIES

LONDON, Oct. 25.(JTA)-- An indispensable condition to the future peace and security of the Jewish people is legal recognition of its unrestricted access to settlement in Palestine, it was asserted last night in a resolution adopted by the national conference of the British section of the World Jewish Congress. At the same time, the conference went on record supporting the Jewish Agency's demand for the establishment of a Jewish Commonwealth in Palestine and endorsed a policy of friendship and cooperation with the Arabs "to foster peace and prosperity in Palestine and the Middle East."

Deploring the lack of large-scale rescue measures to save the Jews of Europe, the meeting adopted a resolution demanding sanctuaries for refugees in Allied and neutral nations and lowering of immigration laws in the American republics. The resolution also called for the admission of large numbers of refugees to the British Commonwealth and acceptance of the Palestine Jewish community's offer to receive and maintain all Jews who desire and are able to leave Europe. The United Nations were urged in another resolution to declare the persecution of the Jewish people to be an international war crime and to demand the surrender of persons responsible for such persecution as a condition to any armistice.

After the war, the resolution continued, the victorious nations should immediately annul all anti-Jewish legislation, outlaw racial and religious discrimination, secure indemnification for the losses suffered by Jewish individuals and groups during Axis occupation of their countries and assure persons uprooted from their homes of the right to return to their native lands or to seek new places of settlement elsewhere. Lady Reading was re-elected president of the British section of the Congress and Mrs. Rebecca Sieff was chosen vice-president, succeeding Prof. Selig Brodetsky, who did not run for re-election. Samuel Silverman, M.P., was elected chairman.

DANISH MINISTER REPORTS 5,000 JEWS ESCAPED FROM DENMARK

NEW YORK, Oct. 25.(JTA)-- Henrik W. de Kauffmann, Danish Minister to the United States, told a conference of the Jewish National Workers Alliance in the Hotel Pennsylvania last night that 5,000 Jews have escaped from Denmark in the three weeks since the Nazis there decreed deportation.

Mr. de Kauffmann said that Denmark, with a population of 6,000 Jews, had taken in an additional 2,000 Jewish refugees from other lands occupied by Hitler troops.

BOARD OF DEPUTIES PRAISES RESTORATION OF CREMIEUX DECREE

LONDON, Oct. 25.(JTA)-- The Board of Deputies of British Jews today cabled to the French Committee of National Liberation at Algiers expressing the thanks of British Jewry for the Committee's restoration of the Cremieux Decree. "Not only British Jews, but Jews the world over will hail this action as a decisive step in the restoration of the principles of liberty, equality and fraternity for which the gallant soldiers of the Fighting French are battling in the ranks of the United Nations," the cable stated.

JEWISH WAR VETERANS LAUD ROOSEVELT'S PROTEST ON BAN OF YIDDISH PRESS IN ARGENTINA

NEW YORK, Oct. 25.(JTA)-- The Jewish War Veterans executive committee adopted a resolution praising President Roosevelt for his stand protesting the prohibition of Jewish newspapers by the Argentine government. A resolution advocating the repeal of the Chinese Exclusion Act by the United States was also adopted by the executive.