

CRISIS IN JEWISH AGENCY EXECUTIVE UNSOLVED; WEIZMANN'S REPLY EXPECTED

JERUSALEM, Oct. 28. (JTA)-- The crisis within the executive of the Jewish Agency precipitated by the resignation of David Ben-Gurion as chairman remained unsolved today, notwithstanding the fact that both the executive and the Zionist Actions Committee voted not to accept the resignation.

In accordance with yesterday's decision, the Zionist Actions Committee today cabled Dr. Chaim Weizmann to come from London to Palestine "within two weeks" in order to settle differences between him and Ben-Gurion here. During these two weeks Ben-Gurion will probably remain inactive in the executive. Should Dr. Weizmann not come to Palestine within the two-week period, Ben-Gurion will let his resignation stand, members of the Actions Committee today revealed.

Everything now depends on Dr. Weizmann's decision as to whether he can comply with the request to come to Palestine in the given time. It was indicated here that should it come to a break between Dr. Weizmann and Ben-Gurion the former will have the support of the majority of the Zionist Actions Committee and of other Zionist bodies in Palestine notwithstanding the fact that Ben-Gurion has a large following among the Jews here. (In London, it was announced today that Dr. Weizmann has not yet decided on the Actions Committee appeal that he urgently proceed to Palestine. The office of the Jewish Agency in London declared that it had no statement to make on the situation for the present.)

"Either Weizmann or Ben-Gurion" Alternative Not Acceptable

Leaders of responsible Zionist institutions said today that the crisis in the executive which resulted in Ben-Gurion's offer of resignation had not been precipitated by differences between Ben-Gurion and the Zionist movement, but by "principal divergencies between Ben-Gurion and Dr. Chaim Weizmann."

"The majority of the Zionist movement will not accept the alternative of 'Either Weizmann or Ben-Gurion' but will strive for a democratic solution", the *Hatzman*, a daily newspaper, writes today. "The most responsible leader will have to yield to the decision of the majority, which will not let either Dr. Weizmann or Ben-Gurion go." The paper emphasizes that Ben-Gurion's resignation "marks a severe crisis in our leadership." It says that "the Zionist movement has made Ben-Gurion the head of its executive to lend in the fight against the regime of Zionist liquidation and for a full Zionist solution of the world Jewish problem."

Taking an opposite view, the newspaper *Mishmag*, organ of the *Hashomer Hatzair*, the left wing of the Palestine Labor Party, publishes an editorial saying: "Ben-Gurion's departure will not be regretted by those who are aware of the disastrous nature of the Biltmore Declaration which demands a Jewish Commonwealth in Palestine and which could not withstand the test of practical statesmanship. The Biltmore Declaration, purporting to be the common roof for the whole Zionist movement, proved a poor shelter for unity."

ZIONIST EMERGENCY COUNCIL TAKES ISSUE WITH AMERICAN JEWISH COMMITTEE

NEW YORK, Oct. 28. (JTA)-- Taking issue with the American Jewish Committee for its withdrawal from the American Jewish Conference, the American Zionist Emergency Council, which represents all Zionist groups in this country, today issued a statement declaring that "there is the danger of exaggerating the significance of the secession of the American Jewish Committee from the American Jewish Conference beyond all proportions in the light of the relative insignificance of the Committee in American Jewish life."

"The American Jewish Committee and the American Jewish Conference are not correlative bodies. The Committee is a self-constituted and self-perpetuating body representative of no one except a few individuals, and responsible to no one at all. On the other hand, the Conference is the democratically elected body of American Jewry consisting of 502 delegates, of whom 375 were elected from every major community and the remainder were designated by 65 national organizations of which the American Jewish Committee was one.

"The withdrawal of the Committee is nevertheless a calculated attack upon Jewish unity and it will be deeply resented by every American Jew who is eager to advance the Conference program of immediate rescue of the Jews of Europe, their post-war rehabilitation and the implementation of Jewish rights to Palestine.

"The Conference deliberations revealed the virtual unanimity of American Jewry on all major problems and the profound desire for unity in achieving their solution. On the Palestine resolution only four of the 502 delegates dissented, while less than 20 abstained. The mass enthusiasm for the Conference program was persuasive upon the chairman of the American Jewish Committee who announced at the time that the Palestine resolution was adopted that the Committee would remain within the Conference. But it now seems to have been only a temporary maneuver. The Committee now refuses to accept the will of the majority. It quits the Conference. It has always preached unity but evidently only on its own terms. The Committee must rule or ruin. It will do neither.

Calls Arguments of American Jewish Committee "Absurd"

"As an excuse for isolating itself from the overwhelming majority in American Jewish life, the American Jewish Committee complains that the Conference subordinated all other issues to the question of Palestine. This is absurd. Every major problem affecting Jewish interests was seriously and at great length considered by the Conference and its committees, and this in spite of the chairman of the American Jewish Committee who, it should be recalled, resisted the inclusion of the question of rescue in the Conference agenda. If Palestine's future played a major role in the Conference, and absorbed in a large measure the interests of the delegates, it is precisely because they realized that Palestine offers the one great constructive solution both to the problem of immediate rescue and the problem of Jewish national homelessness.

"The American Jewish Committee wishes now to ignore not only the expressed wishes of American Jewry but also the facts of history and its own record on the subject of Palestine. It is clear that a new regime has come into control of the policies and attitudes of the Committee. In the past, the Committee approved of the Balfour Declaration and of the Palestine Mandate which recognizes the historic connection of the Jewish people with Palestine and its right to rebuild its national home there. Under the inspiration of the late Louis Marshall, who was president of the American Jewish Committee, an enlarged Jewish Agency for Palestine was achieved, which included both Zionists and non-Zionists and which was based upon the acceptance of the principle of the Jewish National Home.

"But today the American Jewish Committee studiously and pointedly omits any reference to the Jewish National Home, the Balfour Declaration or the Mandate. These annoying facts of history it would like to erase. It speaks of a Commonwealth for Palestine but not of a Jewish Commonwealth. Its present position would liquidate the Jewish National Home. As the American Jewish Committee would have it, the Jewish National Home must not be Jewish and it must not be national. Inevitably, it would cease to be a home.

Sees Retreat to Committee's 1916 Stand

"The American Jewish Committee has always represented itself as desirous of safeguarding Jewish rights all over the world. But as far as Jewish Palestine is concerned, where our people has obtained internationally accredited rights for the rebuilding of its national home, the Committee interposes compromises and reservations and would oppose every safeguard essential for the realization of that home.

"It generously allows that Jews should have the right to immigrate to Palestine as to other countries. This we are to regard as a tremendous concession! But it insists that the Jewish Agency must under no circumstances be vested with control over immigration, for that would mean that in the course of time, a Jewish majority would be established in Palestine and as a result the Jewish Commonwealth would be constituted. This must not be allowed to happen! Immigration is therefore to be entrusted to some international trusteeship which the American Jewish Committee now improvises out of thin air.

"This reversal on the part of the American Jewish Committee, representing a new and disruptive line in its policies, is clearly a retreat to 1916, when a small handful of Jews in this country and in England violently opposed the Balfour Declaration and attempted to arrest the march of the Jewish people to its rightful place in the world's family of nations. They failed then. They will fail now!"

HADASSAH CONVENTION CLOSES; MRS. MOSES P. EPSTEIN ELECTED PRESIDENT

NEW YORK, Oct. 29. (JTA)-- Resolutions expressing "full support" for the American Jewish Conference and appealing to the British people and government to abandon the White Paper policy were adopted here today at the closing session of the 29th annual convention of the Hadassah, which elected Mrs. Moses P. Epstein president of the organization for the next term.

The resolution on the White Paper also urged the U.S. Government and the American public "to add its voice" in support of the Jewish demand. Another resolution appeals to the "conscience of the democratic peoples and the governments of the United Nations" to help bring about the rescue of 29,000 Jewish children in Europe for whom certificates of entry into Palestine have been promised by the British Government.

The convention adopted a budget of \$1,620,000 to be spent during the next year for medical, post-war health, child welfare, vocational education, youth, refugee and land reclamation projects. Tribute was paid by the convention to King Christian X of Denmark, and King Gustaf V of Sweden for the heroism with which their peoples have defended Jewish citizens and refugees in both countries against the Nazis, by announcing the planting of two groves of trees in the name of these monarchs in the Holy Land.

Dr. Stephen S. Wise and Dr. Abba Hillel Silver, of Cleveland, co-chairmen of the American Zionist Emergency Council, the chief speakers at the concluding session, concentrated upon a plea for the abrogation of the White Paper, which if implemented would curtail Jewish immigration into Palestine by March 1944; upon an attack on the British Palestine administration, which was accused of "staging" the recent arms-smuggling trials; and upon a demand for the creation of a Jewish Commonwealth.

GERMANS KILLED 20,000 JEWS IN DNEPROPETROVSK, MOSCOW RADIO REPORTS

STOCKHOLM, Oct. 28. (JTA)-- The Moscow radio reported today that the Germans had murdered 20,000 Jews in the city of Dnepropetrovsk, liberated this week by the Russian Army. It added that the last 12,000 Vilna Jews, deported by the Germans some time ago to isolated places in Lithuania had perished.

Swedish press reports say that property of Danish Jews which the Germans confiscated and shipped to the Reich is now being distributed among "families in Germany who have shown courage during the Anglo-American air raids" on various German cities.

ROOSEVELT'S DECISION EXPECTED ON ACTION NULLIFYING BAN ON RACE BIAS IN WAR JOBS

WASHINGTON, Oct. 28. (JTA)-- President Roosevelt is expected to decide within the next few days whether government contractors must promise not to discriminate for racial or religious reasons in their hiring.

Under an executive order of the President, contracts "shall include" a clause obligating the contractor not to discriminate. Yesterday, Comptroller-General Lindsay C. Warren ruled that this order need not be obeyed in all cases, that it is "directory" and not "mandatory."

According to Warren's ruling, the clause need not be included if the Government is prevented from getting vital goods or services by the contractors' refusal to agree to it. He cited the Southwestern Bell Telephone Company of Kansas City, Mo., as having refused to furnish telephone service to war agencies if the non-discrimination clause is invoked. His ruling constituted a victory for the company.

Presidential Secretary Stephen Early said today that he thought any question of the President's meaning should have been referred to Attorney General Francis Biddle. The Justice Department said Warren had not asked its advice, but that he was under no obligation to do so.

The President's Committee on Fair Employment Practices, charged with enforcement of the President's order, has asked him to make his meaning unmistakable. Although he will probably consult with the Justice Department, as well as other interested agencies, it is not legal but political advice the President will need. Racial and religious minority groups are urging him to insist on the anti-discrimination clause, but pressure from southern politicians is being exerted against them.

If the President supports Warren's ruling, it is agreed here that the FEPC will lose much of its potential effectiveness, Warren said.

"It seems that the most that can be accomplished by government contracting agencies in carrying out the national policy of non-discrimination in the employment of workers as declared by the President is to secure the assent of contractors to such provisions wherever and whenever possible."

BOSTON COURT FINES JEWISH BOYS IN TRIAL ON ANTI-SEMITIC CLASHES

BOSTON, Oct. 28. (JTA)-- Disappointment was felt among Jewish leaders here today over the fact that two Jewish boys were found guilty by the district court yesterday of participating in an affray in the Dorchester section of the city where anti-Jewish assaults have been going on for some time. The boys, Marvin Blaustein and Jacob Hodas, were fined ten dollars each. Both appealed to the Superior Court today against the verdict.