

PALESTINE WATCHES FRENCH-LEBANESE FIGHT OVER ANNULMENT OF MANDATE

JERUSALEM, Nov. 12 (JTA)-- Both Jews and Arabs in Palestine were watching the developments in neighboring Lebanon today with great interest, as the border between the two countries was closed following the disorders which broke out yesterday between the Lebanese Government and the French administration over the question of Lebanon's independence.

It is felt here that the events in Lebanon may eventually influence the situation in Palestine. Should Lebanon succeed in having the League of Nations' mandate rescinded and in establishing complete sovereignty against the will of the French administration, then the Palestine mandate may similarly be challenged before its fate is decided by the League of Nations or any other international body which may replace the League. The mandate over Lebanon was entrusted by the League to the French Government in 1920.

The Jewish press in Palestine has so far abstained from commenting on the developments in Lebanon. The Yedioth Achronoth, a Hebrew evening paper, is the only newspaper which has taken an editorial stand concerning these developments. "The events in Beirut," the editorial says, "prove the erroneousness of the conception that Arab unity clashes with Zionist aspirations only, whereas actually similar problems exist also in other countries where there are no such issues as the Balfour Declaration, Jewish immigration, or the British White Paper. They also prove that the Western powers are unable to withdraw from the Middle-East and grant independence to every state which demands it."

RFrench Commissioner Says Only League Can Rescind Mandate

Situated just north of Palestine, the Republic of Lebanon was today the center of attention not only among Jews and Arabs in Palestine, but also in Syria, Egypt, and other Arab countries. Reports from Beirut, capital of Lebanon, stated that clashes between Lebanese and the French troops continued today both in Beirut and in Tripoli as a result of the mounting resentment on the part of the population over the arrest by the French administration yesterday of the President of Lebanon, the Premier, and all but one member of the Cabinet. Demonstrations of sympathy for Lebanon were reported also from Damascus, capital of Syria.

The French Commissioner in Lebanon today announced over the Beirut radio that the mandate of the League of Nations over Lebanon, which is entrusted to France, can be rescinded by order of the League only and in no other way. He termed "a unilateral modification of a two-party agreement" the law passed on Monday by the Lebanese parliament which resulted in the arrest of the heads of the Republic of Lebanon. This law, amending the Lebanese constitution so as to make Lebanon practically a sovereign state was passed unanimously. It provided that the French should have no say in the affairs of the Lebanese parliament, that the Lebanese would have their own flag and that Arabic would be the only recognized state language. All of the 48 members of the Lebanese parliament who voted for the constitutional amendment were reported today to have been arrested.

ONLY THIRTY PERCENT OF POLAND'S JEWS STILL ALIVE, UNNRA PARLEY TOLD

ATLANTIC CITY, NOV. 12. (JTA)-- only 30% of Poland's Jewish population has survived "ruthless extermination" by the Nazis, Polish Vice-Premier Jan Kuapinski told the council of the United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration today. "And these are dying of hunger and exposure," he added.

A statement read by Polish Ambassador Jan Cichanowski in behalf of the Polish government-in-exile added that Jews in Poland are allowed a ration of only 400 calories a day. Herbert H. Lehman, who yesterday was elected Director-General of UNNRA, said that his organization would be able to raise European diets to a minimum of 2,000 calories a day. The League of Nations has estimated that symptoms of starvation begin to appear when diets drop below 2,200 calories.

Lehman characterized the problem of returning displaced Europeans to their homelands as one of the hardest confronting the UNNRA. He estimated that 20 million Europeans exclusive of war prisoners, have been forced from their homes. Other estimates have run as high as 40 million. Forms for the registration of refugees, he disclosed, are already in use. They are being distributed by our armed forces in liberated areas.

"This problem cannot be solved over night," he said. "The return of large numbers of persons from one part of Europe to another, from one part of the earth to another, will require a great amount of effort". Lehman added that the question of immediate relief to Nazi-occupied Europe would not be taken up by UNNRA. "That is not within the province of the Council," he declared. "It is a matter of military policy and strategy."

JEWS IN LIBERATED ITALY APPEAL FOR AID FROM ENGLAND AND AMERICA

LONDON, Nov. 12. (JTA)-- An appeal from Jews in liberated Italy to the Jews of England and the United States asking for aid was received here today through Lt. H. Rieck, a member of the British armed forces. The Jewish lieutenant reported that an organization to deal with repatriation of the Italian refugees has already been established, but at present they are in great need of food and of funds.

Lt. Rieck described how he released the first 22 Jews from a concentration camp in a liberated place in Italy. "I went to the camp escorted by an interpreter," he said. "There I asked the Italian colonel in charge to release internees. They were released within one hour and provided with food and funds to last them for a full week. It was on the first day of Rosh Hashanah, and it would be difficult for me to describe the joy of the liberated Jews. I obtained a room for them, provided them with wine and a special meal, and shared in their happiness. It was the finest holiday I have ever experienced in all my life."

J.N.F. PROPERTY CONFISCATED BY GERMANS; PARIS TO BE "JUDENREIN" BY END OF 1943

GENEVA, Nov. 12. (JTA)-- The Berlin radio today announced the confiscation of all property owned by the Jewish National Fund in Bohemia and Moravia. It also quoted the Nazi newspaper Pariser Zeitung as reporting that the German authorities in Paris are determined to make the city "judenrein" within the next six weeks.

GERMANS SLAUGHTER ALL JEWS IN YUGOSLAV CAPITAL, PARTISAN COMMANDER REPORTS

CAIRO, Nov. 12. (JTA)-- A commander of the Yugoslav partisans, who arrived here today, reveals that the Germans have slaughtered the entire Jewish population of the large city of Belgrade, the Yugoslav capital. Before the war there were more than 10,000 Jews in Belgrade.

U.S. GOVERNMENT WILL NOT IMPOSE ZIONIST PROGRAM UPON ARABS, SAYS ARABIAN MINISTER

NEW YORK, Nov. 12.(JTA)-- The belief that the British and American governments would not attempt to impose the Zionist program for a Jewish state in Palestine upon the Arabs was expressed here today by the Saudi-Arabian Minister to Britain, Sheikh Hafiz Wahba, upon the conclusion of a tour through the United States in the company of Emir Feisal, the son of King Ibn Saud.

"They would not try to force the Arabs to accept the Zionist idea," he said, emphasizing that his opinions were his own and were not to be taken as those of Emir Feisal who is also the Saudi-Arabian Foreign Minister. He conceded that the Zionist movement was considerable in the United States, but added that "whatever its power, the Arabs will never yield."

Despite Arab opposition to Jewish aspirations in Palestine, Sheikh Hafiz Wahba represented the Arab position as one of "keeping quiet" during the war. "We don't want to cause any trouble for the Allies," he explained. After the war, he said, the Palestine question would be settled. The British government, which rules Palestine under a mandate, was too preoccupied now with a "war for its life and death" to work out a settlement in Palestine, he declared.

Of efforts centering in Cairo for the creation of a pan-Arab federation, the Saudi Arabian Minister said, "I believe every Arab would like to see all Arabia united. But a united Arabia as a political reality will require time. Meanwhile, they can make many agreements regarding customs, currency, passports, education and other things. He could see no place within an Arab federation for a Jewish state.

Reminded of the Balfour Declaration of the last war, which promised the Jews a national homeland in Palestine, Sheikh Hafiz Wahba said: "Why should the promise of the Balfour Declaration be carried out? How many promises have not been fulfilled? And the Arabs never accepted the Balfour Declaration."

Arabs Open News Agency in London; Protest Willkie Message

LONDON, Nov. 12.(JTA)-- An Arab news agency, registered as a private company with a capital of \$40,000, was formed today in London for the purpose of disseminating news from Palestine and the neighboring Arab countries.

Reuter's today reports from Cairo that the Arab League has cabled a message to the U.S. Secretary of State Cordell Hull in which it protested against the Zionist statements sent by Wendell Willkie and Governor Dewey to the Zionist mass-meeting held on Balfour Day at Carnegie Hall in New York. The protest emphasized that the League considers that "Palestine belongs to the Arabs alone."

The London press reports today that representatives of the governments of Palestine, Lebanon, Syria, Transjordan, Iraq and Egypt decided at a conference in Cairo to establish a Middle East statistical bureau for the purpose of promoting economic advancement in each of these countries.

WEIZMANN APPEALS TO BEN-GURION TO WITHDRAW HIS RESIGNATION

JERUSALEM, Nov. 12.(JTA)-- David Ben-Gurion today told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency that he is unable to make any statements with regard to his resignation which is still pending. The Palestine press today reports that Dr. Weizmann has sent a cable addressed to Ben-Gurion asking him to withdraw his resignation, and to come to London to participate in the Zionist political negotiations there.

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COUNCIL OF JEWISH WOMEN ASKS CONGRESS TO ADMIT CHILD REFUGEES OVER QUOTA LIMIT

CHICAGO, Nov. 12.(JTA)-- A request that congress adopt legislation permitting the immigration for permanent residence of child war victims over the regular quota was voiced last night at the closing session of the 17th triennial convention of the National Council of Jewish Women. The convention also asked for the establishment of "Nansen Passports" for persons driven from their homes by the war.

Other resolutions pledged that the Council would fight to safeguard the Negro's rights as a citizen, would attempt to promote a program of education to develop a better attitude toward the Negro people, and would help to establish community welfare projects and lend support to Negro social and welfare organizations.

Earlier, the convention delegates heard United States Commissioner of Immigration and Naturalization Earl Harrison warn the American people that they should "look around first for political opportunism in all arguments against immigration." If we give free play to prejudice and race bias, "we will be a sick nation," Mr. Harrison continued. He paid tribute to the Council's 50 years of activities in behalf of immigrants. Mrs. Joseph M. Welt of Detroit was elected president of the Council for the coming three-year period.

LEON BLUM COLONY DEDICATED IN PALESTINE; FRENCH COUNSUL THANKS JEWS

JERUSALEM, Nov. 10 (Delayed).(JTA)-- "Kfar Leon Blum," a new labor settlement named in honor of the famous French Jewish Socialist leader, former premier Leon Blum, who is reported to be confined in a German concentration camp, was dedicated here today at ceremonies attended by representatives of the Palestine Jewish Community, the Palestine Government and the French Committee of National Liberation. The settlement was begun several months ago by a group of young Labor-Zionists, many of whom are Americans. It is located on the banks of the Jordan near where the frontiers of Palestine, Syria and Transjordan meet. The chief industries of the colonists will be farming and fishing, in nearby Lake Huleh.

In a short address, the French consul-general voiced his appreciation for the friendship extended to France by Palestine's Jews and revealed that the pupils at the Ruhama School in Jerusalem have contributed funds to plant a grove of trees in honor of the sailors who went down with their ships when the French navy was scuttled at Toulon to prevent it from falling into the hands of the Germans. Other speakers included Robert Gottlieb, general manager of the PICA, Golda Meirson of the Histadruth and Dr. Abraham Granovsky, one of the three directors of the Jewish National Fund. In the cornerstone of the first building the settlers placed a scroll written in Hebrew describing the historic period in which they are founding their village.

GROVE OF TREES TO BE PLANTED IN PALESTINE IN HONOR OF DANISH KING

LONDON, Nov. 12. (JTA)-- A drive will soon be launched here to raise funds to plant a grove of trees in Palestine in honor of King Christian of Denmark as a tribute from English Jewry to the Danish monarch's resistance to the Nazi persecution of the Jews, it was announced today. Sponsors of the project include the Danish Ambassador Count Reventlow, the Marchioness of Reading, Lord Melchett, Chief Rabbi Hertz, Simon Marks, Dr. Chaim Weizmann and Selig Brodetsky.

A certificate representing a forest of 15,000 trees which have been planted in Palestine in honor of the 70th birthday of Chief Rabbi Joseph Hertz, which he celebrated last year, was presented to him last night at a dinner in the Dorchester Hotel. British Zionist leaders paid tribute to the Chief Rabbi's efforts in behalf of Zionism.