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JEWISH LABOR PARTY IN PALESTINE FACES SPLIT; CONFERENCE OPENS TO DECIDE ITS FATE

JERUSALEM, Jan. 6. (JTA) -- An appeal to members of the Mapai, the Palestine Jewish Labor Party, to avert a possible split within the ranks of the party was issued here today on the eve of the opening of the national conference of the Mapai.

Predicting that the outcome of the present conference will decide the fate of the party, which is the strongest organized Jewish body in Palestine, the appeal, signed by 28 party leaders, urges that the present crisis in the Mapai ranks be solved by adoption of the following compromise:

1. Party discipline is to be maintained despite the different views held by divergent groups within the party.
2. These groups are to be permitted to organize themselves into separate sections according to their ideological beliefs, but not to establish themselves as permanent organizations.
3. Elections to the institutions affiliated with the Jewish Labor Party should be carried out on a basis which will enable each group to secure proper representation.

The Hashomer Hazair, left wing of the party, issued a statement today charging the group led by David Ben-Gurion with desiring to suppress the opposition by excluding them, or by placing them in a position where they would be "crowded under" in the elections.

Spokesmen for the present administration of the Labor Party today stated that they are determined to maintain rigorous discipline and will insist on the abolition of all groups.

25,000 ITALIAN JEWS SENT TO CONCENTRATION CAMPS IN FIVE WEEKS

ZURICH, Jan. 6. (JTA) -- Approximately 25,000 Jews in German-controlled Italy have been placed in concentration camps during the last five weeks, it was reported here today from the Italian frontier.

The hunt for Jews is continuing unabated. Many Jews are hiding in remote villages where they pass as Italians since there is very little difference in appearance between Jews and non-Jews in Italy. The local population is trying to aid the fugitive Jews, but German troops are raiding non-Jewish homes in Northern Italy in order to establish the identity of newcomers whom they suspect of being either Jews or anti-Fascists, the report said.

JEWISH AGENCY APPOINTS COMMITTEE TO FORM RESCUE UNITS TO FOLLOW ALLIED INVASION

JERUSALEM, Jan. 6. (JTA) -- The Jewish Agency and the executive of the Jewish National Council of Palestine today appointed a joint committee to organize Palestine Jewish rescue units which will follow the invading Allied armies into liberated territories where Jews are in need of immediate aid.

The Jewish National Council today also announced that it will send a delegation from Palestine to New York to participate in the World Jewish conference which the World Jewish Congress will hold in March.

PALESTINE UNITS OF MIDDLE EAST ARMY PRAISED BY HIGH BRITISH OFFICIAL

LONDON, Jan. 6. (JTA) -- The "valuable work" of the Palestinian Jewish units of the British Middle Eastern Army was praised at a press conference today by Richard G. Casey, retiring British Minister of State for the Middle East, who has returned here before assuming his new post as Governor of Bengal.

Queried concerning the rumored Pan-Arab Federation, Mr. Casey said that the British Government was "sympathetic" to Arab aspirations for unity, "but that this was a matter for the Arabs themselves to work out." In reply to another question, concerning the so called "Green Book" issued in Cairo, which reportedly recommended the inclusion of Palestine within the projected Arab federation, he stated that "he could not remember the colors of various documents, but political developments can not yet be foretold."

(The "Green Book" was submitted to Mr. Casey in Cairo in November, according to a report in several London political periodicals at that time. Drawn up by the Iraq Government, it suggested a union of Syria, Lebanon, Palestine and Transjordan, which would be federated with Iraq, and guaranteed protection for all "national minorities," including the Jews in Palestine.)

HEARINGS TO REOPEN ON BILL URGING U. S. COMMISSION TO RESCUE JEWS; SENATE MAY ACT SOON

WASHINGTON, Jan. 6. (JTA) -- The proposal to save European Jews from Hitler through a special American commission will come up again next week before the Foreign Affairs Committee of the House of Representatives.

Chairman Sol Bloom, New York Democrat, said he would bring it up as soon as hearings are completed on the bill to finance the United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration. No more prospective witnesses have asked to be heard on the plan, embodied in the Baldwin-Rogers bill, but Bloom said some may yet want to appear. Senator Guy M. Gillette, Iowa Democrat, indicated he would seek action soon by the upper House on an identical bill, but could not say when it would be considered. The Foreign Relations Committee approved the measure unanimously the day before Congress recessed for the Christmas holidays.

Bloom said he would support the bill, in committee and on the floor, despite his belief that it could accomplish little. He called attention to the recent statement of the American Jewish Conference, attacking the sponsors of the bill for making "rash and exaggerated claims as to what this resolution will accomplish."

SWEDES BACK AID TO DANISH JEWS, CONCERNED OVER ANTI-JEWISH PERSECUTION, POLL SHOWS

STOCKHOLM, Jan. 6. (JTA) -- Swedish public opinion fully backs the government's action in offering a haven to Danish Jews and in assisting those who have arrived here, according to results of a poll just completed by the Swedish Gallup Institute.

The poll also disclosed that the persecution of Jews in Europe ranked second among the events which created the strongest impression upon the Swedish people in 1943.

TARTAKOWER ARRIVES IN BRITAIN TO CONFER ON RESCUE OF JEWS

LONDON, Jan. 6. (JTA) -- Dr. Arieh Tartakower, of the World Jewish Congress, arrived here today, to confer with Jewish leaders and British officials on projects to rescue Jews in occupied European countries.

CZECHOSLAVAK MINISTER CALLS ON COUNTRYMEN TO RESIST NAZI ORDER FOR STERILIZATION OF JEWS

LONDON, Jan. 6. (JTA) -- Czechoslovakian Jews, who are married to "Aryans" or are "useful" to the German authorities, are being presented with the same alternative recently offered many Dutch Jews, sterilization or deportation, it was revealed today by Hubert Ripka, deputy Foreign Minister of the Czechoslovakian Government-in-Exile.

In a broadcast to his homeland, Mr. Ripka recalled that Dutch doctors had refused to sterilize Jews and that Dutch churches had protested the order. He called on all Czechs and Slovaks to assist "the Jewish martyrs." The deputy Foreign Minister expressed the belief that "no Czech doctor will be found who will morally degrade himself by participating in a crime which completes the measures of all crimes of our enemy."

"Your Jewish compatriots," he told his countrymen, "are victims of the same violence and brutality of which you have been victims. Our nation must enter the next period of history unsullied and clean. Democracy and humanity formed the spirit of our history and they will continue to lead us in our relations with our Jewish fellow citizens."

ANNUAL BIALIK PRIZES FOR LITERATURE AND SCIENCE AWARDED IN PALESTINE

TEL AVIV, Jan. 6. (JTA) -- The annual Bialik Prizes for literature and science were awarded today on the occasion of the 71st birthday of the late Hebrew poet, who died ten years ago. The awards were presented in his home and the ceremonies were broadcast over the Palestine radio.

First prize of £100 for literature went to A. A. Kabak for his novel "The Empty Spaces," dealing with the formative period of the "Lovers of Zion" organization in Russia, which was the forerunner of the modern Zionist movement. Second prize, also £100, was awarded to a young scientist, Dr. Pollack, for his research on the Khazars, a Crimean people which became converted to Judaism about the ninth century. Dr. Pollack was born in Kiev and studied at the Hebrew University.

JEWISH WELFARE BOARD REPRESENTATIVE FINDS NO RACIAL PREJUDICE IN ARMED FORCES

NEW YORK, Jan. 6. (JTA) -- No racial prejudice exists in the United States armed forces, it was reported at a press conference here today by Moritz M. Gottlieb of Allentown, Pa. who has just returned from a three and one-half month tour of the Pacific battlefront made on behalf of the National Jewish Welfare Board. Mr. Gottlieb conferred with General MacArthur, Admiral Halsey, and Lieutenant General Richardson, and other commanding officers of the Southwest Pacific, South Pacific and Central Pacific areas respectively. He travelled 32,000 miles, visiting scores of bases and talking to thousands of men.

"Our soldiers," Mr. Gottlieb said, "have stopped thinking of their companions as white or black, Christian or Jew, Irish or Italian. Men are judged solely on the basis of character, on their courage, humility and willingness to sacrifice for the common good. This is one of the greatest benefits that America will receive from this horrible war. Our men are not fighting for the territory in New Guinea. They are fighting for a continuation of the kind of life they have learned in the fellowship and danger of jungle war."

"In the South Pacific area, I visited New Caledonia, New Hebrides, the Fijis and the reconquered Solomon Islands, including the front lines on Bougainville. I was deeply impressed by the determination of Christian chaplains to minister to the needs of Jewish servicemen."

FRENCH PRESS IN CANADA LAUNCHES VIGOROUS CAMPAIGN AGAINST IMMIGRATION PLANS

MONTREAL, Jan. 6. (JTA) -- The French Canadian press in the province of Quebec, with few exceptions, has renewed the campaign against immigration, attacking vigorously any scheme for mass immigration after the war, even of refugees from racial, religious and political persecution. One publication even criticizes the government for "opening an office in Portugal" to facilitate the entry into Canada of a few hundred refugees.

Opposing all immigration plans, but distinguishing between a British citizen and a foreigner, "Le Soleil" says, "This is not the moment for taking on additional obligations, especially when the experience of the last few years has shown that there are 250,000 people in Canada, all of foreign origin, who have not yet been capable of being assimilated in the nation's crucible."

"Le Droit" says that it would not only be unwise but it would be "criminal" to do anything whatsoever in the matter of immigration in so far as admitting refugees and other foreigners. It reveals a false sentimentality to think of foreigners to whom we owe nothing."

Another newspaper, "Le Devoir," which is known for its anti-Jewish bias, expresses the fear that whichever political party will come to power it will follow a policy of intensified immigration which will compromise "the noble ideal of national freedom," meaning that the interests of French Canada will be placed in jeopardy.

Any policy of immigration is violently denounced by "Le Boussole," which utters the threat "that when the veterans who have fought for the right to work, for possessing their own homes, find this liberty taken away by newcomers -- they will be ready and all set to take for themselves in Canada what they have bestowed upon the other peoples of the world."

BILL MAKING DESECRATION OF RELIGIOUS PROPERTY A FELONY INTRODUCED IN NEW YORK

NEW YORK, Jan. 6. (JTA) -- A bill making it a felony to desecrate the property of any religious institution in the state of New York was introduced today in the State Assembly at Albany. Assemblyman Crews who introduced the measure said that the bill aims at preventing the desecration of synagogue and church buildings by marking them with Nazi swastikas.

A conference held under the auspices of the National Conference of Christians and Jews decided to submit a petition to the Board of Education here asking it to introduce in the city's schools an effective cultural program that would help combat racial prejudice among children. Those attending the conference were of the opinion that the recent anti-Semitic incidents in the Washington Heights section of the city had no organized inspiration but were rather irresponsible actions of juveniles.

The Inter-Faith Clergy Committee of Washington Heights announced that a statement deploring incidents of juvenile delinquency and racial prejudice in the Washington Heights area will be read in Catholic and Protestant churches and in synagogues in the district on Saturday and Sunday. At the same time it emphasized that "it is not true that Washington Heights is in a worse situation than other parts of the city, nor is it true that vandalism is limited to Jewish and Protestant houses of worship."

JEWS WAR VETERANS URGE ABROGATION OF PALESTINE WHITE PAPER

NEW YORK, Jan. 6. (JTA) -- Immediate abrogation of "the inhuman Palestine White Paper of 1939" is asked by the Jewish War Veterans of the United States in a resolution adopted by its executive committee and made public today by National Commander Archie H. Greenberg.