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PALESTINE LABOR PARTY CONFERENCE FAILS TO ACHIEVE UNITY; PEACE TALKS TO CONTINUE

JERUSALEM, Jan. 11. (JTA) -- After negotiating for five days in an attempt to obtain party unity, the conference of the Palestine Jewish Labor Party concluded today without reaching any definite decision as to its internal difficulties.

The ten leaders, representing both factions of the party, who were appointed to negotiate a year's "armistice" to prevent a split within its ranks could not come to any agreement. The conference was thus compelled to conclude after voting that these leaders be given another two weeks to arrive at some kind of a solution.

Explaining why the ten negotiators could not reconcile their differences before the close of the conference, David Ben-Gurion said: "The shortness of time as compared with the misunderstandings which have piled up, the complexity of the problems, the doubts and soul-searching, as well as the presence of 180 delegates impatiently waiting for a decision, weighed upon us during the negotiations. Also, it was not easy to overcome contradictions between light and darkness in our souls. We, therefore, decided to continue our efforts over a longer period of time."

The continued negotiations, Mr. Ben-Gurion warned the conference, "might be disappointing and might fail. But they might also be fruitful." His report created the impression that the prospects for a settlement of the two-year old inner struggle within the Labor Party were slight. A split within the party would have grave consequences not only for the Palestine labor movement, but for the entire Zionist movement and for the political activities of the Jewish Agency.

JEWISH AGENCY ASKS FOR PERMISSION TO SEND RELIEF DELEGATION TO LIBERATED ITALY

LONDON, Jan. 11. (JTA) -- The British Government has been asked by the Jewish Agency for Palestine to enable representatives of Palestine Jewish institutions to go to Italy to organize relief work for Jews there and to arrange for the emigration to Palestine of Jewish refugees.

It is estimated that there are about 7,000 Jewish refugees in Italy, the majority from Yugoslavia, in addition to about 45,000 Italian Jews. About 2,000 of the refugees are in the liberated section of the country. An announcement by the Jewish Agency also disclosed that it has contacted the British Red Cross in Palestine and Egypt to arrange shipments of clothing and food parcels to Jewish refugees in Italy.

JEW IN RUMANIA THREATENED; TOLD RETREATING GERMAN TROOPS WILL MASSACRE THEM

ZURICH, Jan. 11. (JTA) -- With Russian spearheads steadily bringing the war closer to Rumania, the anti-Semitic press in Bucharest was reported here today to be warning the Jews that they can expect massacres during the retreat of the German and Rumanian armies from Transnistria, Bessarabia, and other areas.

"Not a single Jew will be left alive in the territory from which the German and Rumanian troops will be forced to withdraw," the Bucharest newspaper Porunca Vremii is quoted as stating.

KIEV RADIO URGES JEWS IN OCCUPIED POLAND TO HIDE UNTIL LIBERATION BY RUSSIAN ARMY

JERUSALEM, Jan. 11. (JTA) -- As the Russian Army continued its advance into former Polish territory occupied by the Germans, the Kiev radio, in a broadcast last night in Yiddish, addressed itself to the Jews of Nazi-held Poland urging them to flee labor camps and hide in the woods until the Russian Army arrives.

"Jews in concentration camps, labor camps and ghettos, escape," the broadcast said. "Flee to the forests and wait for the Red Army. Make contact with partisan bands. Do not attempt to escape to the Red Army now, as it is impossible to cross the front lines. Remain in the forests. The hour of liberation is near." The broadcast also appealed to all partisans hearing the message to inform the Jews what to do.

REFUGEES RELEASED FROM AUSTRALIAN INTERMENT AMONG AUSSIE FORCES FIGHTING JAPANESE

LONDON, Jan. 11. (JTA) -- A large number of German refugees who were sent to Australia for internment shortly after the outbreak of the war, have since their release adopted Australian nationality and joined the Aussie forces fighting the Japanese, it is reported by Reynolds News, London newspaper.

Other London dailies quote reports from the German press today to the effect that an "Arab Legion" of the Wehrmacht is now being used against guerrilla forces in Greece. The Arabs fight under a Palestine-born German commander, under Arab colors and carry slogans calling for a "free Arabia," these reports state.

STAR OF DAVID DESERVES A PLACE AMONG EMBLEMS OF UNITED NATIONS, EDITOR SAYS

LONDON, Jan. 11. (JTA) -- The Star of David is entitled to a place among the emblems of the United Nations, side by side with the British Union Jack and the "American Star Spangled Banner," Michael Foot, editor of the Evening Standard, declared here last night addressing a meeting of the Jewish National Fund at which it was announced that the JNF is planting a forest in Palestine to be named after King Christian of Denmark.

"It is often forgotten that the Jews were the first enemies of Hitler," Mr. Foot said. He emphasized that the war will really be over only when anti-Semitism is destroyed everywhere. The Danish Consul, addressing the meeting, stated that when the full story of the rescue of 5,000 Danish Jews from the Nazis will be told after the war, it will make one of the most fascinating stories of the war. He pointed out that the Jews in Denmark have always been considered an integral part of the Danish people.

Addressing the international conference of the Fabian Society, which is now taking place at Oxford University, Harold Laski, noted British economist, dwelt at great length on the resistance of the Jews in the Warsaw ghetto. Their fight, he said, is symbolic of the spirit which should animate the post-war world. Small nations should be given the right to free cultural development, Mr. Laski suggested.

MORE JEWS FROM BALKAN COUNTRIES REACH PALESTINE THROUGH TURKEY

JERUSALEM, Jan. 11. (JTA) -- Another transport of sixty-three Jews from the Balkan countries reached Palestine today from Turkey, supplied with Palestine visas issued to them under the existing Jewish immigration quota as soon as they arrived in Istanbul.

The Palestine Government today reported that it is sending one of its experts to India to discuss with the Indian authorities the possibility of exporting certain textiles to Palestine "in order to supply the Palestinian industrial factories."

INVESTIGATION SHOWS NO CONSPIRACY BEHIND ANTI-JEWISH VANDALISM IN NEW YORK

NEW YORK, Jan. 11. (JTA) -- A one-year investigation of anti-American and anti-Semitic acts of vandalism and violence in the city of New York has indicated that these acts were not the result of any organized conspiracy and that there is no group directing or planning them.

This was made clear in a 170-page report submitted yesterday to Mayor LaGuardia by Commissioner of Investigation William B. Herlands. The report emphasized, however, that these acts were not accidental, but that they were largely the result of propaganda and indoctrination emanating from such organizations as the Christian Front and Christian Mobilizers. The offenders were in the main susceptible youngsters averaging around seventeen years of age, of low mentalities and from homes which left much to be desired, the report established.

The report sets forth in detail thirty-one cases of vandalism and recounts the case histories of fifty-four offenders involved, mostly juveniles. In some cases the vandals were instigated directly by adults to commit the acts. The handling of some of the cases by the police was criticized in the Commissioner's report which stated that there was a tendency in the Police Department to look upon the incidents of vandalism and violence as boyish pranks, ordinary mischievousness and neighborhood hoodlumism. The report proposed the following 12-point plan for dealing with the problem:

1. Providing more effective police action and special police measures.
2. Appointment of a city-wide interracial and interfaith committee by the Mayor.
3. Establishment of local community co-ordinating councils.
4. Bringing home the fundamental responsibility of parents.
5. Further co-operation of public and parochial educational authorities to improve intercultural, interracial and interfaith relations.
6. Seeking of additional assistance from the churches and religious leaders.
7. Designation of panels of religious leaders to co-operate with the justices and probation officers of the Children's Court.
8. Increased participation of war veterans' groups in the field of intercultural, interracial and interfaith relations.
9. Additional attention of the Office of War Information to the problem.
10. Increased responsibility of various community organizations.
11. Co-operation of complainants and victims with the police.
12. Co-operation of private and semi-public fact-finding organizations with the police and the Mayor's committee.

Urging the Office of War Information to redouble its efforts in apprising the public of the "divide and conquer" technique used in Nazi propaganda, Commissioner Herlands declared that "a persistent rumor which has poisoned the minds of many of the vandals investigated by us is that the Jews are shirking their part in the war effort; and that this is a Jewish war."

"These rumors," Mr. Herlands said, "are based upon Nazi anti-Semitic propaganda and are intensified by the distribution of anti-Semitic doggerels and 'poems.'" To counteract this, Mr. Herlands said, the OWI should present to the public "authoritative information showing that all Americans, regardless of race, color or creed, are making equal contribution to the war effort."

BRICKNER LEAVES PALESTINE FOR NORTH AFRICA TO VISIT JEWS IN U. S. ARMED FORCES

JERUSALEM, Jan. 11. (JTA) -- Rabbi Barnett R. Brickner of Cleveland, who is touring American army camps overseas on behalf of the Jewish Welfare Board at the invitation of President Roosevelt, left Palestine today for North Africa, from where he intends to proceed to Italy and England to visit the Jews in the United States armed forces there. He expects to return to America in February.

PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT APPEALS FOR BROTHERHOOD BETWEEN CHRISTIANS AND JEWS

WASHINGTON, Jan. 11. (JTA) -- Emphasizing that "the sons of the United States fight as one though they come from every racial and cultural strain and though they worship at different altars," President Roosevelt has issued a message, made public here today, calling upon all Americans to participate in the nation-wide observance of Brotherhood Week, arranged by the National Conference of Christians and Jews, which starts on February 20th.

"The annual observance of Brotherhood Week," the President's message reads, "is a time both of reminder and dedication. It reminds us of the basic religious faith from which democracy has grown - that all men are children of one Father and brothers in the human family. It dedicates us to the practice of understanding and justice through which freedom and equality flourish in human society.

"While we are engaged in a mighty struggle to preserve our free institutions and to extend the boundaries of liberty in the earth, it is good for us to pledge renewed devotion to the fundamentals upon which this nation has been built. Brotherhood must prevail. Our inescapable choice is brotherhood or chaos.

"On land and sea and in the air, the sons of the United States fight as one though they come from every racial and cultural strain and though they worship at different altars. They are brothers in arms now, soon, pray God, they shall be brothers in peace. We on the home front must see that history shall not repeat itself in post-war hatred and intolerance. It is for us to make the homeland more nearly a land of brotherhood, worthy of the victory our gallant sons and daughters shall surely win.

"I, therefore, heartily join with the National Conference of Christians and Jews and with all forces of good will in our country in urging nation-wide observance of Brotherhood Week, February 20-26, 1944. I hope that our citizens will meet in church and schoolhouse, in halls and public places to think through the implications of practical brotherhood today, to cement our country's unity during the trying times to come, and to pledge anew allegiance to the flag which is a living symbol of liberty and justice for all."

GERMAN-JEWISH REFUGEE WITH U. S. ARMY IN ITALY TALKS NAZIS INTO SURRENDERING

NEW YORK, Jan. 11. (JTA) -- A 45-year-old German-Jewish refugee now serving with the United States forces in Italy is credited with saving the life of his commanding officer and the remnants of his unit by an impassioned appeal to a German machine-gun squad to surrender, according to a front-line dispatch appearing in the Herald-Tribune today.

The soldier, Pfc Richard Stern of New York - who served with the German Army for four years during World War I - is attached to a unit of combat engineers which was ordered to assist the infantry in taking a well-defended German height. Their initial advance thrown back by a powerful German attack, Stern's squad was forced to retreat down the mountain. While retreating their commanding officer walked smack into a German machine-gun emplacement and was wounded. Had the Nazis followed up their advantage they could have wiped out the entire squad, but Stern, speaking in rapid-fire German, warned them to surrender "if they wished some day to return to the Fatherland." Believing that they were outnumbered, the machine-gunners surrendered and the squad and wounded officer were saved.

Stern, who was awarded the German Iron Cross, and also a decoration by Hitler before it was realized he was Jewish, came to the United States in 1939, and was active in civilian defense groups before joining the Army. He was offered an honorable discharge from the Army when the age limit was reduced from 44 to 38, but refused it.