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AMERICAN JEWISH COMMITTEE DELEGATION SEES HALIFAX; ASKS ABOGATION OF WHITE PAPER

WASHINGTON, Jan. 17. (JTA) -- A delegation of the American Jewish Committee, composed of Judge Joseph M. Proskauer, president, and Jacob Blaustein, chairman of its general committee, today presented an 11-page memorandum to Lord Halifax, British Ambassador to the United States, requesting the abrogation of the White Paper which closes the doors of Palestine to Jewish immigration after March 31 of this year.

The memorandum declares that Great Britain's refusal to abolish the White Paper would constitute an act of "discrimination against the Jews." While not urging "at this time determination of the final constitutional status of Palestine," the American Jewish Committee asks for annulment of the 1939 White Paper which "violates the mandate for Palestine entrusted to Great Britain by the League of Nations in 1922."

"The primary purpose of the Mandate," the memorandum states, "was the establishment of a national home for the Jews with the understanding that nothing be done to prejudice the civil and religious rights of existing non-Jewish communities in Palestine or the rights and political status of Jews in any other country. This promise of a homeland within Palestine was specific and admitted, the memorandum emphasizes, and not controversial as is the question of the creation of a Commonwealth."

Judge Proskauer's Statement to the British Ambassador

Presenting the memorandum to the British Ambassador, Judge Proskauer said: "In handing you this memorandum I wish, on behalf of the American Jewish Committee, to make it indubitably clear that we ask that nothing should be done that would, in any degree, interfere with the Allied prosecution of this war for freedom. I also ask you to note that this memorandum is wholly unrelated to any plan for the organization of a Palestinian state."

"We urge abrogation of the White Paper primarily on the ground that abolition of that prohibition against immigration and land purchase which is directed against Jews, as such, would be an act wholly consonant with the historic friendship of Great Britain, which has made its leaders pioneers in the establishment of equal rights for Jews within the confines of their own country and staunch spokesmen for justice when oppression and persecution brought misery in other lands."

Lord Halifax Says Jewish Immigration to Palestine Isn't Being Stopped

Lord Halifax thanked Mr. Proskauer for his memorandum and said he would send copies of it to London. On the subject of the White Paper, Lord Halifax could add nothing to previous statements by the British Government. He drew attention however, to the announcement recently made in the House of Commons by the Colonial Secretary upon the subject of Jewish immigration into Palestine, and pointed out that any statement to the effect of such immigration being stopped next March was totally without foundation.

"The memorandum refers to the historic friendship of the people of Great Britain and their successive governments for the Jews. This remains a fact. Along with her

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Allies, Great Britain is now devoting all her effort to the defeat of these, whose hostilities to the Jewish race have revolted the conscience of the world," Lord Halifax said.

#### Conflict Between Mandate and White Paper Cited in Memorandum

The American Jewish Committee in its memorandum, points specifically to the "limitation of immigration and land purchases" as counter to the intent and purpose of the Mandate of Palestine. These limitations, the memorandum states, are a direct violation of Article 15 of the Mandate which declares that "no discrimination of any kind shall be made between the inhabitants of Palestine on the ground of race, religion or language. No person shall be excluded from Palestine on the ground of his religious belief."

The American Jewish Committee charges that "by providing for the cessation of Jewish immigration and in barring the Jews from land purchases in large areas of Palestine, the White Paper is not only inconsistent with the Mandate's terms but would make Palestine a country in which Jews are discriminated against on the basis of race and religion."

The memorandum relates how the immigrants "utilizing their own enthusiasm and energies and drawing on the encouragement and support of Jews throughout the world, had brought Palestine to great heights of development. Arabs as well as Jew had benefited from the highways, modern housing, exemplary hygienic provisions and from the introduction of economic efficiency and modern agricultural methods."

#### Committee Quotes Churchill's Opposition to the White Paper

The American Jewish Committee quotes from the address Mr. Winston Churchill made in 1939 opposing approval by the House of Commons of the White Paper: "...the provision that Jewish immigration can be stopped in five years' time by the decision of an Arab majority...is a plain breach of a solemn obligation....This pledge of a promise was not made to the Jews in Palestine but to the Jews outside Palestine," Mr. Churchill was quoted as saying. "Now there is a breach, there is the violation of the pledge, the abandonment of the Balfour Declaration."

The events of the past four years, the memorandum continues, have served to emphasize Mr. Winston Churchill's vision and wisdom in stating that the agitation against the Balfour Declaration "is fed with foreign money and ceaselessly inflamed by Nazi and by Fascist propaganda..."

#### UNRRA WILL NOT DEAL WITH REFUGEE PROBLEMS DISCUSSED AT BERMUDA CONFERENCE

WASHINGTON, Jan. 17. (JTA) -- The House Foreign Affairs Committee, in its report made public today on participation of the United States in the work of the United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration, made it clear that the UNRRA "does not encompass the political questions presented to the Intergovernmental Committee on Refugees, established and the Evian Conference, nor does it deal with the vital and tragic problems considered at the recent Bermuda conference on the fate of refugees in Europe."

"One of the policies adopted by the Council is that the UNRRA's resources shall be dispensed fairly on the basis of relative needs of the population and without discrimination because of race, creed, or political belief. It will be the responsibility of those charged with the task of distribution to see that this principle is adhered to," the report of the House Foreign Affairs Committee emphasized.

JEWISH AGENCY IS DEFINITELY AGAINST PARTITION OF PALESTINE; WANTS COMMONWEALTH

JERUSALEM, Jan. 17. (JTA) -- The Jewish Agency will oppose any partition scheme for Palestine in whatever form such scheme may come, the Davar, leading Hebrew newspaper, reported today quoting "highest sources."

"Talk of any other solution of the Palestine problem, but that based on the Biltmore Declaration which calls for the establishment of a Jewish Commonwealth, is a stab in the back of the Jewish people," the Davar quotes members of the Jewish Agency as saying.

GROUP OF JEWISH YOUTHS VOLUNTEER FOR WORK IN ENGLISH COAL MINES

LONDON, Jan. 17. (JTA) -- Twenty-five Jewish youths trained in England as Chutzim for eventual settlement in Palestine today volunteered as a group to work in English coal mines.

The Ministry of Fuel which is conducting a campaign for volunteers to join in "the battle of fuel" was extremely gratified at the offer of the Jewish group. Their willingness to aid in the coal shortage by becoming miners has apparently made a strong impression in British official quarters, as well as with the leaders of British labor unions, all the more so, as it is no secret that the Ministry's appeal for volunteers for the mines, generally speaking, has met little success.

The Jewish group is composed of sixteen young men and nine girls, all members of the Hashomer Hatzair and all British subjects. The young men will work in the underground of the mines while the girls will do household service in the hostel, assigned to the group at Salford near Manchester.

The London press, reporting the volunteering of the Jewish youths, notes that this is the first case of collective volunteering for coal mine work by any Jewish or non-Jewish group in England. The Chutzim organization hopes to be able to supply additional groups soon for the same purpose.

JEWISH FARMERS APPEAL TO PALESTINE GOVERNMENT TO BUY THEIR CITRUS CROP

TEL AVIV, Jan. 17. (JTA) -- The Jewish Farmers Federation today submitted a memorandum to the Palestine Government calling attention to what was described as a "catastrophic situation" in the Palestine citrus industry and asking the government to buy part of the citrus crop for army needs since no export of oranges from the country seems feasible.

At a meeting of the War Economic Advisory Board it was reported today that the Palestine Government expended more than eight million dollars last year in subventions for the increase of cereal crops in the country, and for the importation of cattle. The Palestine Government, it was also made public today, has ordered large quantities of medicaments from the United States through the British Buying Office in Washington.

BOARD OF DEPUTIES WILL COOPERATE WITH WORLD JEWISH CONGRESS DESPITE OPPOSITION

LONDON, Jan. 17. (JTA) -- The proponents of close cooperation between the Board of Deputies of British Jews and the World Jewish Congress scored a victory last night when the plenary session of the Board approved at a late hour the suggestion of its executive to establish a liaison office composed of representatives of both organizations. Earlier in the evening it was stated that the Board had accepted the suggestion "only in principle."

400,000 BUSHELS OF GRAIN GROWN BY FIVE J.C.A. SETTLEMENTS IN WESTERN CANADA

MONTREAL, Jan. 17. (JTA) -- More than 2,000 Jews are now living on Canadian farms, a third of them on settlements sponsored by the Jewish Colonization Association, it was reported today by Dr. Herman Abramovitz, chairman of the Board of Governors of the Canadian J.C.A., which has been functioning here since 1891.

"Five of the larger of these settlements in Western Canada each year produced over 400,000 bushels of grain," the report said. "The production policies of the J.C.A. settlements in Canada have been geared to the wartime agricultural program of the Federal Government. The International Labor Office characterized the Jewish Colonization Association as the only example of an organization dedicated to colonization for its own sake without thought of gain."

Dr. Abramovitz also reported that 28,000 Jews now live in Jewish Colonization Association settlements in Argentina. "These settlements," the report adds, "are spread throughout the vast Argentine Republic in order to foster close touch with all phases of Argentine life. Two-thirds of the annual produce of these settlements, which exceeds \$3,000,000 a year, is in grain and the balance equally in dairy, cattle, poultry and feed. The settlements vary from the 50-year-old Moisesville with its population of 5,000 to the newest, Avigdor, which is only now being cleared and settled by several hundred Jewish refugees, most of them from Germany. The children of the farmers remain on the land and are settled in their turn by the Jewish Colonization Association or secure land elsewhere in the Argentine."

POST-WAR IMMIGRATION TO CANADA URGED BY HEAD OF ANGLICAN CHURCH IN MONTREAL

MONTREAL, Jan. 17. (JTA) -- Stating that Canada was destined to be "a laboratory for minorities" Archdeacon Gower-Rees, head of the Anglican Church in Montreal, today expressed himself in favor of modified immigration laws so that Canada's doors should be opened to the peoples of crowded European countries.

"The Canada of post-war years was destined to be a laboratory for minorities where immigrants from other nations and races would find equality of opportunity," the Archdeacon declared.

The News Herald of Vancouver, also adds its voice to the protagonists of free immigration stating that one of Canada's chief contributions to post-war settlement must inevitably be the provision of "living space" for the people of overcrowded countries.

The paper predicted that in the post-war world no nation with vast stretches of unsettled and unused territory could claim these lands as its own. "We are not going to be able to pick and choose future immigrants in the manner we have done in the past," it added.

JEWISH PHILANTHROPIST IN ST. LOUIS OFFERS \$400,000 TO CITY FOR LOCAL INSTITUTION

ST. LOUIS, Jan. 17. (JTA) -- David Wohl, the local Jewish communal leader who, several years ago, established the David Wohl Foundation with a gift of a million dollars, has now offered to the city of St. Louis through the Foundation \$400,000 for the building of any much needed institution, it was announced here today. The city authorities have not stated what they intend to do with the gift. Mr. Wohl is a former officer of the Jewish Federation.