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FEDERATIONS ASSEMBLY ESTABLISHES NEW UNIFIED CIVIC PROTECTIVE GROUP

PITTSBURGH, Pa. Feb. 6. (JTA) -- Representatives of more than 600 Jewish communities throughout the United States and Canada, attending the 11th General Assembly of the Council of Jewish Federations and Welfare Funds, today unanimously approved a resolution calling for the formation of a "National Community Relations Advisory Council" to formulate policy in the area of civic protection.

The action was immediately endorsed from the floor by Judge Joseph M. Proskauer, president of the American Jewish Committee; Morris Margulies, administrative secretary of the American Jewish Congress; Henry Monsky, president of the B'nai B'rith, and Isaiah Minkoff, vice chairman of the Jewish Labor Committee.

The purpose of the plan is to effect the formulation of policy in the civic protection field by the joint deliberations of the national and local groups. Under it, the National Community Relations Advisory Council will consist of representatives of the leading national civic protective agencies and of the 14 communities which have organized civic protective agencies and are members of the Community Relations Conference. Provision is made under the plan for extending representation to include other communities and agencies interested in this problem.

New Council Will Hold First Meeting in March

To put the plan into operation as promptly as possible a committee was set up consisting of Philmore J. Haber of Cleveland, Bernard P. Kopkind of New Haven, Morris B. Fagen of Philadelphia, Edgar J. Kaufmann of Pittsburgh, Sidney Hollander of Baltimore and David M. Watchmaker of Boston. The committee met immediately, following which it was announced by the co-chairmen, Messrs. Haber and Kaufmann, that a call for a meeting early in March is being sent out at once. Letters will be sent promptly to the agencies named in the resolution calling for the appointment of representatives to attend the meeting.

Coming after three years spent in discussions and conferences, all seeking to achieve a unified policy in civic protective work, the plan adopted at the General Assembly today was hailed as a most important step. Since the opening of sessions on Friday morning, one session of the Assembly has devoted all its time to a consideration of the problems in this field. These sessions resulted in the plan for formation of the National Community Relations Advisory Council. The plan was submitted to the board of directors of the Council of Jewish Federations and Welfare Funds, which endorsed the plan and submitted it to the General Assembly with its recommendations.

When the resolution came before the assembly there was agreement on all sides that it offered genuine possibilities in the direction of unifications of policies in the civic protective field. Representatives of the organized Jewish community expressed themselves as satisfied that such a plan would give the much desired opportunity for joint formulation of civic protective policies by the organized communities

and the national agencies. It was at this point that Judge Proskauer, Mr. Monsky, Mr. Margulies and Mr. Minkoff voiced their support. The resolution was then put to a vote and carried unanimously.

### Resolution Setting Up National Community Relations Advisory Council

The full text of the resolution setting up the new National Community Relations Advisory Council reads:

"It is recommended that one lay and the professional head of each of the civic protective agencies represented in the Community Relations Conference, with two officers and three representatives of each of the four national civic protective agencies, serve in a National Community Relations Advisory Council that shall have the function of formulating policy in civic protective work.

"The National Community Relations Advisory Council shall have the power to co-opt additional members from communities other than the following included in the Community Relations Conference: Brooklyn, Boston, Philadelphia, Baltimore, Pittsburgh, Cincinnati, Cleveland, Indianapolis, Detroit, St. Louis, Minnesota, Los Angeles, San Francisco and Milwaukee.

"It shall be understood that the National Community Relations Advisory Council shall have no authority over fund raising or the organizational structure of the national agencies."

### Assembly Elects Officers for 1944

Following adoption of the resolution, the Assembly elected the following officers for 1944, most of whom served during this past year: President, Sidney Hollander, Baltimore; Vice Presidents, William Rosenwald, Greenwich; Edwin J. Schanferber, Cincinnati; and David M. Watchmaker, Boston; Secretary, Elias Mayer, Chicago; and Treasurer, Ira M. Younker, New York. The majority of the directors were re-elected and several new members were added to the board.

Addressing the general session of the Assembly last night, Francis B. Sayre, diplomatic adviser to the Director General of the United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration, stressed the fact that UNRRA has safeguarded against any discrimination in the distribution of relief. He pledged that UNRRA will do everything possible to "help to their feet" the Jewish victims of Nazi terror.

"There is always the danger that the distribution of relief goods be made the instrument for gaining political or other ulterior ends," Mr. Sayre said. "Against any such practices UNRRA has declared unceasing war. 'At no time shall relief and rehabilitation supplies be used as a political weapon,' voted the Council, 'and no discrimination shall be made in the distribution of relief supplies because of race, creed or political belief.' Under this vote whenever UNRRA undertakes to distribute or to arrange for the distribution of relief goods, it pledges all of its influence and power to ensure a distribution to individuals or to groups based solely on the criterion of human need.

"This cardinal principle of non-discrimination is of paramount importance, - perhaps to the Jewish race most of all. Among the millions of victims of Nazi persecution and unbelievable cruelty none have suffered more deeply than the Jews. But out of suffering may come immeasurable power and spiritual strength. The great periods in the history of a race are those not of material prosperity, but of want and adversity. My great hope is that out of the fire of suffering the Jewish race may gain new vision and power to help us forward in building for a new and better world. For UNRRA I cover the opportunity of ministering to the need and helping to their feet those Jews who have heroically survived and surmounted the Nazi terror."

ROOSEVELT CONDEMNS RACIAL PROPAGANDA; SAYS ANTI-SEMITES BETRAY AMERICAN CAUSE

WASHINGTON, Feb. 6. (JTA) -- President Roosevelt, in a message to the Federal Council of the Churches of Christ in America, today condemned racial prejudice and bigotry in the United States and emphasized that "the unity of the nations fighting for a free world included men of every color and race, while the strength which this nation contributes to that unity depends at home on men of all races who are all Americans."

The President issued his message in connection with the observance next Sunday of Race Relations Sunday which is being sponsored by the Federal Council, the constituency of which includes 140,000 congregations. President Roosevelt's statement reads:

"I am grateful for the opportunity to join with the Federal Council of the Churches of Christ in America in emphasizing the importance of the observance of Race Relations Sunday on February 13th. At no time in the twenty-two years of the observance of this day, dedicated to the Christian spirit in race relations, has its meaning been so significant to America and to mankind. The unity of the nations fighting for a free world includes men of every color and race. The strength which this nation contributes to that unity depends at home on men of all races who are also all Americans.

"Unfortunately, in this time when America requires greatness in its spirit, some of our citizens have betrayed our cause and damaged the world's respect for our faith by acts of violence and prejudice, bigotry and division. Such men miss the meaning of America as they are incapable of understanding the brotherhood of men in terms of divine teaching and democratic living. Some such men deserve our censure. Some are entitled to our contempt. All require the never-ceasing reiteration of the Christian and American faith in the dignity of all peoples and right of all men to equal treatment in this land and on the earth.

"No institution can be more effective in the creation of the harmonious and warm-hearted relations of men of all races than the Christian Churches. I rejoice in your observance of Race Relations Sunday and take courage from the divine teachings that every day give emphasis to the spirit of brotherhood among men upon which our hopes for lasting peace beyond victory must depend."

Conference of American Rabbis Issues Message on Racial Unity

ST. LOUIS, Feb. 6. (JTA) -- In observance of Race Relations Week, the Commission on Justice and Peace of the Central Conference of American Rabbis today issued a message expressing the hope that the time will come "when the evil of race prejudice will be cleansed from every phase of our national life."

"We are pleased to note that among the thirty-two allied nations with whom our country is associated in the present struggle against tyranny, all races are represented," the message said. "We record with appreciation the meeting of President Roosevelt and Winston Churchill with Chiang Kai-shek, leader of China's four hundred million men of the yellow race. We are glad to have the Chinese as our allies. Our soldiers are fighting side by side with theirs. Our aviators are flying wing by wing with theirs. In the Lend-Lease arrangement evolved by our country, we are sharing all we have now in a time of war with our allies, regardless of race. May we not express the hope that in times of peace we shall rise to similar moral heights to share what we have with all, regardless of race, to rebuild and to reconstruct and to help backward peoples attain higher standards of living."

The Central Conference of American Rabbis appeals especially in its message against Negro discrimination in this country. It points out that "the Negro has contributed much to our artistic, intellectual, industrial and agricultural life. It praises Negro participation in the armed forces. "We are ashamed of the race riots. They are a blot on our country, un-American and irreligious, fomented by the foes and not the friends of America," the message says.

OFFICE OF WAR INFORMATION REPORTS NEW ANTI-JEWISH MEASURES IN OCCUPIED ITALY

WASHINGTON, Feb. 6. (JTA) -- The Office of War Information today reported a decree published in the *Gazzetta Ufficiale* in Rome stating that henceforth Jewish property in Italy will be treated like the property of enemy aliens. A special office will administer the confiscated property. The office is authorized to delegate its power to credit institutions.

The decree, according to the Swiss newspaper *Gazette de Lausanne*, said that Italian Jews cannot "be completely or partly proprietors or managers in any capacity in firms of any kind and cannot assume any administrative post whatsoever;" that Italian Jewish citizens cannot "possess landed property, immovable property, or participate in any firm which possesses movable property;" and that within thirty days the creditors of Jews must announce the value of all property in their possession which belongs to Jews, whether they are Italian citizens or not and whether they are living in Italy or not. Persons who fail to report Jewish property deposited with them, or who give false information, or who help Jews evade the regulations will be subject to heavy fines and imprisonment.

The Office of War Information also quoted a report in a Geneva newspaper, *la Suisse*, declaring that by German figures altogether 60,000 Jews have been arrested and had their property confiscated; among them 10,000 in Rome, 12,000 in Milan, 8,000 in Trieste, 9,000 in Turin, 11,000 in Genoa, and 4,000 in Bologna. By the Fascist statistics there were only 39,444 Jews in the whole of Italy.

Vatican Paper Deplores anti-Jewish Action in Italy

The *Observatore Romano*, official organ of the Vatican, has published an article, reported to the Office of War Information, strongly protesting the persecution of Jews in German-occupied Italy. The article reads:

"The newspapers published a Stefani communique according to which the heads of Provinces have been ordered to put into force without delay a certain police ordinance. This lays down that all Jews, resident in Italy, even though they be 'discriminati' (hitherto exempt from racial laws) and of whatever nation they may be, shall be sent to special concentration camps, and that all their property, movable and real, shall be sequestered with a view to eventual confiscation for the benefit of victims of enemy air-raids; and that the issue of mixed marriages who have already been recognized as of Aryan race, shall be subjected to special police supervision. The ordinance is unaccompanied by any statement of the motives which have caused so severe a modification of the regulations hitherto in force.

"All the more, then, do reasons of humanity require it to be pointed out that, whatever these motives may be -- and conditions such as the abstention from all public life have already been imposed on the persons in question -- it remains a fact that the enormous majority of them are devoid of all responsibility, and innocent of all blame whatsoever; children, women, old people and invalids; those most exposed to the privations which a regulation of this sort necessarily involved, especially in view of the inclemency of the season, the scarcity of food and clothing, and of the want with which all are threatened."

The article concludes by pointing out that "the times through which we are passing are full of anguish, and great must be our desire not to see our anxieties increased by new trials and preoccupations -- trials and preoccupations which will not be limited to those who are directly affected by them, but will be extended through ties of relationship, sympathy and friendship to vast numbers of people."