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ILLEGAL JEWISH ORGANIZATION ANNOUNCES ITS RESPONSIBILITY FOR TERROR IN PALESTINE

JERUSALEM, Feb. 18. (JTA) -- The "Irgun Zvai Leumi," an illegal Jewish military organization, today announced that it is responsible for the terroristic acts recently committed in Palestine, including the bombing of the Government Immigration Offices in Jerusalem, Tel Aviv and Haifa, and the assassination of two police officers in Haifa.

The announcement was made in the form of a letter delivered to the editorial offices of Palestine newspapers by an anonymous messenger. The letter, which was signed by the "Commander-in-Chief of the Irgun," stated: "We started a battle for opening the gates of Palestine to the masses of persecuted Jews of Europe, and not for the insulting gesture of 900 immigration certificates which the Palestine Government has now granted."

The letter also warns the editors of the Palestine Jewish newspapers not to oppose the policy of the Irgun. Its contents have aroused protests on the part of all Jews in Palestine. The Jewish community in Haifa has adopted a resolution condemning the terroristic acts. In Tel Aviv, the crimes were denounced by Mayor Rokach addressing a session of the Municipal Council. He pointed out that the acts of terror only serve to discredit all Jewish achievements.

(The Irgun Zvai Leumi was founded in Palestine in 1936, as a secret Jewish military movement, when Arab anti-Jewish riots broke out in the country. Some observers believe it is an independent organization, while others believe it to be connected with the Zionist Revisionist movement. The number of members belonging to the organization has never been disclosed, but the organization was credited with many acts of self-defense and some military activities against Arab terrorists in Palestine from 1937 until the outbreak of the war. The proclamations of the Irgun are always issued from "Headquarters of the Jewish Military Organization in Palestine.")

Such Crimes Are Contrary to Record of Palestine Jewry, Weizmann Says

LONDON, Feb. 18. (JTA) -- Dr. Chaim Weizmann, president of the Jewish Agency, today published a letter in the London Times stating that if the murder of the two police officials in Palestine was perpetrated by Jews, he expressed "grief, horror and indignation" in behalf of the Jewish Agency for Palestine and all decent Jews throughout the world.

"Such crimes," Dr. Weizmann writes, "are utterly contrary to the past record of Palestine Jewry which, even under the intense provocations of Arab outrages, has preserved self-restraint." Dr. Weizmann, at the same time, takes exception to the manner in which the Jerusalem correspondent of the London Times "tries to turn the acts of a few, so far unidentified criminals to the detriment of the Jewish cause."

"In reality every Jew, whether Zionist or non-Zionist, is opposed to the White Paper," Dr. Weizmann emphasizes in his letter. "The demand for a Jewish Commonwealth in Palestine has been voiced by millions of Jews. The Jewish national cause must not be besmirched with crimes. Nor should it be linked up with them by tendentious implications."

TURKISH JEWS RETURN FROM FRANCE TO TURKEY AFTER BEING THREATENED WITH DEPORTATION

ANKARA, Feb. 18. (JTA) -- Two groups of Turkish Jews arrived in Istanbul today from France, which they were compelled to leave when they were notified that they would be arrested and deported to Poland if they remained on French soil.

The arrivals told representatives of the Turkish press that all foreign Jews have been ordered to leave France by the end of this month. Those remaining will be sent either to occupied Poland or to concentration camps. The order specifies that it will also be applied to Jews who are nationals of Hungary, Rumania, Bulgaria and other Nazi satellite countries.

QUESTION ON PALESTINE WITHDRAWN FROM HOUSE OF LORDS PENDING IMPORTANT NEGOTIATIONS

LONDON, Feb. 18. (JTA) -- Lord Strabolgi, pro-Zionist peer, today announced that important negotiations with regard to the future of Palestine are now taking place in London, and that "prospects for a sensible policy with regard to Palestine seem to be better."

Because of these negotiations, Lord Strabolgi has decided to withdraw, for the time being, the question on Palestine's future which he submitted to the House of Lords with a view to stimulating debate on the post-war status of Palestine. "I think it would be better for me to wait with this question until the Government can say something definite," he explained today. "As soon as the Government is ready, I shall bring this question up again," he added.

Dr. Israel Goldstein, president of the Zionist Organization of America, arrived here today from New York as the first member of the delegation which American Zionists are sending to London to assist Dr. Weizmann in his negotiations with British officials on Palestine problems. Other American Zionist leaders are expected to arrive here soon. In a statement to the Jewish Telegraphic Agency, Dr. Goldstein declared that during his stay in England he will participate in the preparations for the United Palestine Appeal drive which opens next month.

LONDON PRESS DISCUSSES SUGGESTION TO DOMINIONS TO ADMIT MORE IMMIGRANTS AFTER WAR

LONDON, Feb. 18. (JTA) -- The London press today discussed a suggestion voiced yesterday by Sir Alfred Beit, Conservative M.P., at a public meeting in Bristol, urging the British dominions to admit "millions of immigrants after the war."

Some of the newspapers agree with Sir Alfred that the dominions have an opportunity to develop economically if they follow the policy pursued by the United States in the last century, of unrestricted admission of immigrants from Europe. It is understood that some dominions now realize that their position would have been stronger from both an economic and a military point of view had they followed a liberal immigration policy before the war.

CATHOLIC PRIMATE OF BRITAIN JOINS COUNCIL OF CHRISTIANS AND JEWS

LONDON, Feb. 18. (JTA) -- Msgr. Bernard W. Griffin, Archbishop of Westminster, and Catholic primate of Britain, has joined the Council of Christians and Jews, it was reported here today at a meeting of the council of the Anglo-Jewish Association by the Rev. Henry Carter, chairman of the Christian Council for Refugees.

PALESTINE-EGYPTIAN CONFERENCE ON POST-WAR COMMERCIAL RELATIONS OPENED IN JERUSALEM

JERUSALEM, Feb. 18. (JTA) -- Negotiations between Palestine and Egypt aimed at assisting both countries to overcome wartime supply and trade difficulties and to establish a basis for closer postwar commercial relations opened here today.

The Palestine official delegation is headed by Food Controller Geoffrey Walsh, who is chairman of the conference; the delegation also includes unofficial Jewish and Arab members. Mahmoud Suleiman Ghannam, Minister of Commerce, heads the Egyptian delegation, in the absence of the Egyptian Finance and Agriculture Ministers.

In a speech opening the conference, Walsh said that war conditions necessitate a greater coordination of supply problems in the Middle East, and suggested that they must be regarded as a single problem rather than as a dozen separate problems for each country.

He declared: "The aim of self-sufficiency in the narrow sense of attempting to make each member of the group self-sufficient is open to serious objection, since it denies to the Middle East as a whole the benefit resulting from a difference in harvests and the times of harvests, and the wider market for manufactured articles in which a particular member of the group may specialize or to which a particular country may be specially adapted."

Turning to the specific problems of Palestine-Egypt trade, Walsh outlined an informal agenda: First, interterritorial trade -- what Palestine can supply and what Palestine would want from Egypt; second, the question of visa facilities-- the difficulties and delays Palestinians meet in obtaining Egyptian visas; third, control of prices of exported goods to provide a fair price to the producer and benefit the consumer rather than the middleman; fourth, transit and trade facilities -- removal of difficulties in shipping goods to Palestine via Egypt. Subcommittees were appointed to deal with each of these questions.

Outlining Palestine's contribution to Middle East economy, Walsh said: "Palestine's potential contribution to the common welfare consists mainly in its capacity to manufacture a rapidly increasing range of industrial products, the chief limiting factors being the provision of the raw material necessary for conversion into finished products, and containers in which to pack them." He pointed out, also, that Palestine has an abundance of citrus available for export, but is an import country with regard to other foodstuffs.

Ghannam said that the present negotiations were the first time that Egypt had sent an official delegation to Palestine to discuss trade relations and that the Egyptian government attaches considerable importance to them. Palestine economic circles are closely following the negotiations and hope for an immediate outlet for the surplus citrus crop, imports of which are now limited by Egypt. Palestine industries, turning to civilian manufactures, seek markets.

BROTHERHOOD WEEK STARTS TODAY THROUGHOUT AMERICA; CHURCHES TO DENOUNCE ANTI-SEMITISM

NEW YORK, Feb. 18. (JTA) -- Leaders of churches throughout the country will mark the opening of Brotherhood Week on Sunday with sermons denouncing anti-Semitism as detrimental to the interests of the State and the Church. Brotherhood Week is arranged by the National Conference of Christians and Jews. It also will be observed in many schools and by community organizations.

10,000 JEWS EXPECTED TO IMMIGRATE TO PALESTINE BY JUNE, DR. HELLER REPORTS

NEW YORK, Feb. 18. (JTA) -- On the basis of immigration certificates that have been distributed by the Jewish Agency for Palestine and from reports of its representatives in Lisbon, Istanbul and Teheran, some 10,000 Jews may be expected to enter the country by June, 1944, Dr. James G. Heller, national chairman of the United Palestine Appeal, announced today. They include 500 who had been interned at Ferramonti, Italy; 150 Rumanian Jewish refugees now in Cyprus; 600 from Turkey, 420 Bokharian Jews now in Teheran and 1,200 Yemenite Jews. The Joint Distribution Committee has been making available the funds for the transportation of such refugees while the United Palestine Appeal agencies have provided for their integration into the economy of Palestine.

Dr. Heller also announced that over 5,000 Jews have entered Palestine in the four months ending January 31, on the basis of immigration certificates issued by the Jewish Agency for Palestine. These included 3,000 Jews from Yemen and Turkey and 2,000 from Nazi-occupied countries. The announcement emphasized that the immigrants are arriving in a state of destitution. Large sums are required for their housing and accommodation.

RABBI BRICKNER FETED BY PRIME MINISTER OF NORTHERN IRELAND, OTHER NOTABLES

BELFAST, Ireland, Feb. 18. (JTA) -- Sir Basil Brooke, Premier of Northern Ireland, and several members of his cabinet were among the notables attending a luncheon today for Rabbi Barnett Brickner, who has been touring the world-wide battle fronts as an emissary of the National Jewish Welfare Board of the United States to Jewish servicemen in the American forces. Premier Brooks paid tribute to the hospitality which has been extended by the Jewish community of Northern Ireland to American troops of all denominations.

Earlier, Rabbi Brickner told a press conference in London that he planned to discuss with Christian and Jewish leaders the formation of a World Council on Christianity and Judaism to foster brotherhood and better relations in the post-war world. Rabbi Brickner stated that from his observations Jewish servicemen are deeply interested in the fate of European and Palestine Jewry.

HADASSAH TO PLANT 10,000 TREES IN PALESTINE TO MARK RESCUE OF CHILDREN FROM NAZIS

NEW YORK, Feb. 18. (JTA) -- Ending a week long celebration of the tenth anniversary of the Youth Aliyah movement which has settled and educated more than 10,000 Jewish children in Palestine in the last decade, Hadassah, which is the official representative of the Youth Aliyah in the United States, today voted to establish a Youth Forest Reserve in the Holy Land to mark the occasion.

The Forest will comprise 10,000 trees, one for every refugee child brought to Palestine so far. These will be replanted as the need arises in settlements that have recently taken in Jewish boys and girls brought to the country by the movement, and in new colonies established by graduates of the Youth Aliyah system.

CANADIAN CLERGYMEN HIT WHITE PAPER, BACK JEWISH NATIONAL HOME IN PALESTINE

WINNIPEG, Canada, Feb. 18. (JTA) -- The Winnipeg Ministerial Association went on record this week opposing the White Paper on Palestine and asking implementation of the Balfour Declaration.