

JEWISH AGENCY ASKS FOR 19 MILLION DUNAMS OF UNCULTIVATED LAND IN PALESTINE

JERUSALEM, Feb. 23. (JTA) -- The demand that Jews be given an opportunity to secure 19,000,000 dunams - approximately 4,500,000 acres - of land in Palestine which are generally considered not to be "fit for cultivation," was voiced here today by Bernard Joseph, acting head of the political department of the Jewish Agency.

Speaking at ceremonies marking the planting of a forest in memory of Brigadier Frederick Kisch who was killed in Tunisia, Mr. Joseph emphasized that Jews are not depriving Palestine Arabs of their land. He pointed out that the late Brigadier Kisch strongly believed in the possibility of Arab-Jewish cooperation and worked for it during the years when he was a member of the executive of the Jewish Agency in charge of the political department.

Ranking British military officers and Jewish soldiers from all services, as well as prominent civilians and members of the Jewish Agency, participated in the ceremony which took place on the barren wind-swept Judean hills, near the settlement of Maale Hamisha which overlooks Jerusalem. The first tree was planted by Lt. Colonel Hooper representing the General Officer-in-Command, the second tree was planted by Chief Rabbi Uziel, and the third by Jerusalem District Commissioner Newton who delivered a moving tribute in Hebrew.

DANES REFUSE TO PUBLISH DANISH "WHO'S WHO" WHEN NAZIS DEMAND OMISSION OF JEWS

STOCKHOLM, Feb. 23. (JTA) -- Because the German authorities in Denmark insisted that all Jewish names be left out of the Danish "Who's Who," the publication will not be issued this year, the Swedish newspaper Dagens Nyheter reports today. The report says that in defiance of the Nazi order, the Danes decided not to publish "Who's Who" at all rather than omit the names of Danish Jews.

A Polish Jew from Rawa-Ruska, Galicia, who escaped to Sweden through the aid of the Polish underground movement, today described in the newspaper Sydvenska Dagbladet how the Gestapo executed hundred of Jews daily in an ancient subterranean fortification near Belzec.

"The Germans established a large crematorium there," the escaped Jew writes. "Every day, since May 1942, ten trains packed with Jews were brought to the execution place near the crematorium. Each train had 50 cars with many Jews packed into each car. The Jews were executed on the day they arrived."

FURTHER ARRESTS IN SLOVAKIA FOR HELPING JEWS TO LEAVE THE COUNTRY

ZURICH, Feb. 23. (JTA) -- Slovakian newspapers reaching here today report that more railway workers have been arrested for helping to smuggle Jews into Hungary. The latest arrest was that of a Slovakian engineer who assisted a number of Jews to cross into Hungary by hiding them in the coal tender of his train which ran between Presov, Slovakia, and Kosice, Hungary.

ZIONISTS MAY APPEAL TO ROOSEVELT ON PALESTINE RESOLUTION NOW BEFORE CONGRESS

WASHINGTON, Feb. 23. (JTA) -- With the House Foreign Affairs Committee scheduled to start private hearings on the Palestine Resolution, it was indicated in Jewish circles here today that the fate of the resolution now depends largely on the attitude of the State Department or War Department which may ask for a postponement on alleged "military grounds."

The situation is somewhat similar to that which existed about a year ago in connection with the restoration of the Cremieux Decree, which was also held up on similar grounds, Zionist leaders said. They emphasized that if a veto is interposed now by one of the Government departments, the question may be put up to President Roosevelt. It is understood that the State Department was consulted both by Zionists and Congressional leaders before the Palestine Resolution was introduced and that no opposition had been expressed. About three-quarters of the members of the Foreign Affairs Committee favor the resolution and it is assured an overwhelming majority in the House if the Committee acts upon it favorably, it was emphasized.

PALESTINE-EGYPT TRADE AGREEMENTS WILL AID ARAB-JEWISH RELATIONS, SAYS MINISTER

JERUSALEM, Feb. 23. (JTA) -- Closer trade relations between Egypt and Palestine will help to foster Arab-Jewish rapprochement in the Middle East, Egyptian Finance Minister Amin Osman told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency today following the successful conclusion of trade talks between the two countries.

The Finance Minister advocated the establishment of Palestine-Egypt chambers of commerce in both countries and also the exchange of students, in order that "contacts may be maintained not only through governments, but through people."

Discussing the results of the trade conferences, which have been going on here, Mr. Osman revealed that concrete agreements have been reached for the exchange of commodities between Egypt and Palestine and permanent machinery has been established for future economic relations.

The following arrangements have been concluded, he declared. First, Palestine will export to Egypt citrus fruits and some manufactured goods, principally pharmaceuticals, in exchange for which Egypt will ship Palestine some foodstuffs and raw materials; Second, an agreement for the control of prices of products exported; Third, establishment of a standing committee in each country to continue trade relations; Fourth, a decision to find means to overcome present visa difficulties impeding trade relations; Fifth, a "very satisfactory" settlement of the problem of expediting Palestine imports transported by way of Egypt.

The Finance Minister observed that the quantity of goods involved is not great, pointing out that the talks could not cover such commodities as wheat, rice and sugar, Egypt's exports of which go by prior arrangement to the Middle East Supply Center. But he said the agreements were just a beginning, and created the possibility of a future trade development.

CONGRESSMAN SABBATH APPEALS TO RANKIN TO DESIST FROM ANTI-JEWISH SPEECHES IN CONGRESS

WASHINGTON, Feb. 23. (JTA) -- An appeal to Congressman John E. Rankin of Mississippi urging him to desist from his almost daily defamatory speeches into which he injects a "Jewish" issue, was made from the floor of the House by Rep. Adolph Sabbath of Chicago.

"I have heard the gentleman from Mississippi say that he has nothing against the Jewish people," Sabbath said. "Nevertheless, it appears that whenever opportunity presents, he does attack anybody of the Jewish faith. I have received thousands of letters, in the interest of the good name of the House of Representatives to answer his accusations and statements that, I regret to state, have created prejudice."

ONTARIO GOVERNMENT ASKS LEGISLATION OUTLAWING ANTI-SEMITIC DISCRIMINATION

TORONTO, Feb. 23. (JTA) -- The Ontario Legislature had before it today a proposal by the Government of the province that legislation be enacted to ban anti-Semitic discrimination.

In the annual "Speech from the Throne," Lieut. Governor Matthews yesterday proposed that the provincial parliament adopt measures which would prohibit: 1- Discrimination against Jews in employment; 2- Posting of signs in hotels or other public places reading; "No Jews Allowed" or "Gentiles Only;" 3- Restrictions on the sale of property to Jews; and 4- Discrimination by hotels.

The Canadian Jewish Congress, which has been instrumental in securing this proposal, has contacted representatives of all parties in the Ontario Legislature, from whom they have obtained pledges of support. A Congress spokesman said today that the legislation would almost certainly be passed.

AMERICAN JEWISH CONFERENCE ACCEPTS CONDITIONS OF UNION OF AMERICAN HEBREW CONGREGATIONS

CINCINNATI, Feb. 23. (JTA) -- J. S. Pearlstein, administrative secretary of the American Jewish Conference, has advised the Union of American Hebrew Congregations that the conditions of the U.A.H.C. resolution passed recently at a meeting of the Executive Board were accepted by the Interim Committee of the American Jewish Conference.

"We welcome your continued membership in the Conference and accept the resolution as definitive of the relationship of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations to the American Jewish Conference," Mr. Pearlstein wrote Rabbi Louis I. Egelson, administrative secretary of the U.A.H.C.

In forwarding the resolution to the American Jewish Conference, Rabbi Egelson stated it defines and governs the relationship of the U.A.H.C. to the Conference. The resolution asserts that the Union continues as a member of the American Jewish Conference. It states further that because in the congregations of the U.A.H.C. there are divergent opinions on the question of Zionism, the U.A.H.C. recognizes the right of each individual to determine his own attitude on this controversial question and therefore refrains from taking any action on the Palestine Resolution adopted by the American Jewish Conference.

PARTICIPATION OF JEWISH WOMEN IN WAR-TIME MEDICAL WORK IS LAUDED BY RED CROSS

WASHINGTON, Feb. 23. (JTA) -- "As the shortage of doctors, nurses and medical facilities has grown more acute, Jewish women and older girls the country over have been quick to respond to the Red Cross call for home nursing students," the American Red Cross today announced.

"When the armed forces of our country first began their expansion and nurses were stepping from civilian into military and naval service, the Red Cross began its intensive campaign to enroll students," the statement said. "This campaign has been continued without let-up, and during the past year more than 500,000 persons of all faiths successfully completed Red Cross home nursing courses.

"Jewish community and other centers," the statement continued, "have organized Red Cross home nursing classes, while Jewish organizations have actively fostered enrollment of their membership. The National Federation of Temple Sisterhoods, B'nai B'rith women and girls, the National Council of Jewish Women and the National Women's League of the United Synagogue, as well as others, have been actively interested in this Red Cross program."

JEWISH WELFARE BOARD OPENS THREE-DAY CONFERENCE IN CHICAGO TOMORROW

CHICAGO, Feb. 23. (JTA) -- Jewish community leaders from all parts of the country will meet at the Hotel Stevens here at a three-day conference opening this Friday, to plan and discuss the National Jewish Welfare Board program of service to the armed forces and to the Jewish Y's and centers of the country, Frank L. Weil, of New York, president of the Board, announced today.

The conference takes the place of the annual meeting of the Board, which was discontinued in 1942 for the duration, Mr. Weil explained, and participation is limited to 40 or 50 of the top leadership in army and navy and Jewish center work. The Jewish Center Division and the Army and Navy Division will hold separate sessions to discuss current plans and needs.

"We have built up, for service to the armed forces, a loyal and devoted group of volunteer workers," Mr. Weil said. "It is part of our responsibility that the organization we have built up does not disintegrate at the end of the war, but is kept intact for service to the communities of the country."

Governor Dewey of New York yesterday signed a bill changing the name of the Jewish Welfare Board to the National Jewish Welfare Board, to eliminate possible confusion between its work and the Jewish Welfare Funds, it was disclosed in connection with the conference.

The Board, with which are affiliated thirty-seven national Jewish organizations and 550 Army and Navy committees throughout the country, is the representative of the Jewish community in the United Service Organizations. It also acts as the church body in recruiting rabbis for service as chaplains in the armed forces and serves men in the armed forces by printing and distributing Jewish prayer books and other religious material and arranging for religious services.

REVISIONIST LEADERS FAVOR CHANGES IN N.Z.O. PROGRAM TO SECURE UNITY WITH HISTADRUTH

NEW YORK, Feb. 23. (JTA) -- Denying that the Zionist-Revisionist movement is anti-labor, Benjamin Akzin and Elisha Ben-Horin, two leaders of the New Zionist Organization (Revisionist) in the United States and members of the world executive of that organization, have published an article in the current issue of the "Zionews," official NZO organ, favoring a revision of the social-economic views held by the Zionist-Revisionist movement.

The two Revisionist leaders claim that the world Zionist movement has already accepted the major part of Vladimir Jabotinsky's political program on which Revisionism was based. They suggest, therefore, that the Revisionist movement should endorse the policy of a predominantly socialistic or cooperative upbuilding of Palestine, emphasizing that "this would create a basis for a close rapprochement between the Palestine Labor Party and the New Zionist Organization."

Pointing out that the changes caused by the war in the Jewish situation in Europe and in the general political scene would favor a predominantly socialistic colonization in Palestine, the article in the Revisionist organ says that the complete ruination of European Jewry eliminated the source for capitalistic immigration. From an international political viewpoint, "our best hope of outside support lies in those socially-oriented forces in Europe and Asia which are generally expected to play a most important part in the postwar world," the article states.