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HOUSE FOREIGN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE ANNOUNCES SHELVEING OF PALESTINE RESOLUTION

WASHINGTON, March 17. (JTA) -- The House Committee on Foreign Affairs today issued a formal announcement declaring that it will take no action "at this time" on the Palestine resolution which urges free Jewish immigration to Palestine and the ultimate establishment of a Jewish Commonwealth there. The announcement emphasizes that action on the resolution at this time "would be unwise."

A supplementary statement issued by Chairman Sol Bloom revealed that Secretary of War Stimson today sent a letter to the Foreign Affairs Committee in which he stressed that further action on the Palestine resolution by the committee at this time "would be prejudicial to the successful prosecution of the war."

Assistant Secretary of War John J. McCloy appeared this morning before a closed executive session of the Committee. It is assumed that he delivered Stimson's letter which bore today's date. The text of the letter reads as follows:

"Concerning our conversation with respect to House Resolutions 418 and 419, it is the considered judgment of the War Department that without reference to the merits of these resolutions, further action on them at this time would be prejudicial to the successful prosecution of the war."

The announcement issued by Rep. Bloom emphasized that the decision to postpone further action on the Palestine resolution was taken this morning "following the receipt of the letter from the Secretary of War." The full text of the Committee's announcement stated:

"Advice and information given to us by those responsible for the conduct of the war, have convinced the Committee that action upon the (Palestine) resolution at this time would be unwise."

Administration Criticized for Hiding Behind the War Department

WASHINGTON, March 17. (JTA) -- Resentment was expressed today by Rep. Ranulf Compton, Republican member of the House and co-sponsor of the Palestine resolution, at the action of the House Foreign Affairs Committee "in bowing to Administration pressure and delegating its authority to discuss legitimate foreign affairs of the United States to the War Department whether at the instigation of foreign interests or in line with a questionable new foreign oil policy."

"The Administration should frankly state our position on the Palestine resolution and not hide behind any mysterious and general inferences from the War Department," Rep. Compton said in a statement issued here. "I am reluctant to agree to the wisdom of a course of government which resigns diplomacy and decisions on political questions to the military. Let's have the truth! Let's be done with subterfuge and mystery. I do not think real danger to the Allied cause lies in the simple and honest wording of the Palestine resolution; but if it does let our war leaders state that danger openly."

"If there is powerful and mysterious opposition to the Palestine resolution right here in Washington, let the power be disclosed and the mystery dissipated," his

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statement continued. "People of this country can best consider and judge after public knowledge and discussion. A public statement is due the American people. Is it genuine fear of an Arab uprising - or is it merely a pipe-dream or a dream of a pipeline - that prompts this appeasement of the Arab puppets?"

Arab Objections to Jewish Claims Are Invalid, Congressman Says

Rep. James A. Wright, a Democratic member of the House Foreign Affairs Committee who is the co-sponsor of the Palestine resolution, issued the following statement to the Jewish Telegraphic Agency:

"The Secretary of War has notified the Foreign Affairs Committee that the security of our troops and success of the war might be endangered by action on the Palestine resolution at the present time. We are not military strategists and we cannot oppose our judgment on military matters to judgment of our military leaders. The result must inevitably be the delay of any action on this resolution for the time being.

"But this must not be considered a judgment upon the merits. Eventually - and I hope soon - we must decide whether or not we wish to maintain the position we took in the resolution of 1922 and in the convention of 1925. The claim to Palestine is a just one and any objections which the Arabs make to it are invalid. As soon as the military position improves, it is the obligation of the House to take affirmative action on the Palestine resolution.

War Dept. Objects to Palestine Resolution as a Whole

Authoritative sources disclosed today that the objections raised by the military authorities against the Palestine resolution were not directed against any particular part of the resolution, but against the resolution as a whole. The vote for tabling the resolution was 11 to 3, with Chairman Bloom voting with the minority, it was learned. The decision to discuss Palestine at today's executive session of the House Foreign Affairs Committee came suddenly. Some members of the committee did not know of the decision until this morning, when they were summoned to appear by telephone.

PALESTINE POLICE BATTLE TERRORISTS ON MAIN STREET OF TEL AVIV; BY-STANDER SHOT

TEL AVIV, March 17. (JTA) -- Palestine police and four youths suspected of being members of a terrorist gang engaged in a gun duel on a main street of Tel Aviv today during which a by-stander was injured by a stray shot.

The exchange of shots occurred when police came to search a building on Rothschild Boulevard which had been under police surveillance for several days, since the arrest of a woman resident for possessing a revolver and hand grenade. As a police car approached the building the four youths dashed from the exit and began to run down the street. The police car whirled around to follow the fleeing men and its occupants fired several shots into the air.

Their fire was returned by the young terrorists as passers-by threw themselves to the sidewalk to get out of the line of fire. Rivka Weizman, 23, who was wheeling a baby carriage along the street, was not able to dodge in time and was hit by a bullet. She was taken to Hadassah Hospital. The youths escaped.

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JEWISH COMMONWEALTH RULES OUT PARTITION OF PALESTINE, BEN-GURION SAYS

JERUSALEM, March 17. (JTA) -- David Ben-Gurion, chairman of the executive of the Jewish Agency and one of the leaders of the Jewish Labor Party, today issued a statement to the Jewish Telegraphic Agency declaring emphatically that "the Biltmore Declaration rules out any partition of Palestine."

Ben-Gurion's statement was made in reply to other leaders of the Jewish labor movement who oppose the Biltmore Declaration on the ground that the establishment of a Jewish Commonwealth in Palestine, which the declaration urges, would lead to the partition of the country.

There is a great difference between what is implied in "a Jewish Commonwealth in Palestine" and "the establishment of Palestine as a Jewish Commonwealth," Ben-Gurion pointed out. He disclosed that when the text of the Biltmore Declaration was prepared in New York, some Zionist leaders suggested that it demand "a Jewish Commonwealth in Palestine."

"I opposed this formulation, and insisted that the text should ask for 'the establishment of Palestine as a Jewish Commonwealth' thus definitely ruling out any possibility of partition," Ben-Gurion emphasized. "I should like to know whether the phrase 'Jewish National Home in Palestine' which the Balfour Declaration contains, more effectively safeguards the integrity of the country than the phrase 'Palestine as a Jewish Commonwealth' which the Biltmore Declaration contains."

Opposition Says Free Immigration Must Precede Commonwealth

Isaac Tobenkin and Aaron Zisling, leaders of the group in the Palestine Labor Party which opposes the Biltmore Declaration, today issued a statement explaining that they are interested, at present, chiefly in securing the development of Palestine through free Jewish immigration and colonization, under the sole control of the Jewish Agency, with the aim of creating a Jewish majority in all sections of Palestine and not in a part of it.

They do not oppose the eventual establishment of Palestine as a Jewish Commonwealth, the opposition leaders pointed out, adding that an interpretation of the demand contained in the Biltmore Declaration will have to be given "at the right time" by an authoritative body of the world Zionist movement competent to do so.

"Our proposal is entirely in accord with the policy which the Jewish Labor Party of Palestine adopted during the elections to the last convention of the Histadruth," the opposition statement said. "We are responsible to our electors in the struggle for Jewish independence, for regulating mass-immigration and for securing a free hand in the economic upbuilding of Palestine."

AGENCY AND PRIVATE COMPANIES FORM NEW SHIPPING LINE IN PALESTINE

TEL AVIV, March 17. (JTA) -- Establishment of a Jewish National Shipping Company, jointly by the Jewish Agency and the Nachson and Atro shipping lines, was announced here today. The company will have an initial capital investment of \$100,000. David Remez, Histadruth leader, who has been active in formation of the new shipping line stressed its importance to Jewish seafaring in Palestine and to future Jewish immigration.

CIVIL LIBERTIES UNION TESTIFIES AGAINST BILL BARRING RACIAL PROPAGANDA FROM MAILS

WASHINGTON, March 17. (JTA) -- Although admitting that anti-Semitism and bigotry in the United States are "at an all-time high," a spokesman for the American Civil Liberties Union today told the House Post Office Committee, which is considering the Lynch Bill to ban race propaganda from the mails, that the organization is opposed to legislation to combat intolerance.

Queried by Rep. Chet Holifield, Calif. Dem., as to whether he did not believe that it was the job of Congress to do something about the spread of hate propaganda, Clifford Foster, staff counsel of the ACLU, replied that he did not favor government action except in the case of "overt action." Rep. Holifield charged that the persons who spread racial propaganda were behind the Detroit and Boston disturbances, and stated that he felt that Congress should not wait for further riots before acting.

INTER-FAITH COMMITTEE FORMED TO CONSOLIDATE RELIGIOUS AID FOR RUSSIA

NEW YORK, March 17. (JTA) -- Establishment of a Russian War Relief Inter-Faith Committee, composed of 56 national leaders of Christian and Jewish denominations, was announced here today. The committee was established to consolidate the growing activity of church groups in the program of aid to Russia, the announcement said.

Among the Jewish leaders on the new committee are Dr. Stephen S. Wise, Dr. Israel Goldstein, Dr. Abba Hillel Silver, and Dr. James Heller. Dr. Ralph E. Sockman of New York is chairman of the committee.

SYNAGOGUE COUNCIL OF AMERICA WARNS AGAINST "THE BIBLE IN THE HANDS OF ITS CREATORS"

NEW YORK, March 17. (JTA) -- The Synagogue Council of America which represents all rabbinical and synagogue organizations in the United States, today issued a statement denouncing the recently published book "The Bible in the Hands of Its Creators" as a volume which "is entirely incompatible with and offensive to Judaism."

"Within its almost 2,000 pages are scattered animadversions on some of the essential religious precepts of Judaism expressed in a manner tantamount to blasphemy," the statement says. "In spirit and content the views expressed in 'The Bible in the Hands of Its Creators' are out of harmony with the teachings, beliefs and practices of Judaism. It displays a spirit of intolerance and irreverence toward the sanctities and the Faith of Israel, and constitutes a desecration of its holiest doctrines."

"Since 'The Bible in the Hands of Its Creators' purports to have come from the pen of a Jew by birth, the Synagogue Council of America, representing a cross-section of Jewish religious community in this country, is impelled to state that the author seems to have repudiated the fundamental teachings of the Faith of his Fathers and, for all religious purposes, detached himself from the normal phases of its communion. The Synagogue Council of America does not hesitate to declare that any effort to disseminate the teachings embodied in this publication has no connection with responsible Jewish religious opinion or activity," the statement declares.

NEW YORK GOVERNOR ASKS CREATION OF STATE COMMISSION ON RACE PREJUDICE

ALBANY, N. Y., March 17. (JTA) -- Creation of a temporary State commission to study racial and religious discrimination was urged upon the Legislature today in a message from Governor Thomas E. Dewey. The commission, the Governor suggested, should be composed of representatives of industry, labor, various minority groups, legislators and others. Its chief purpose, he said, should be to study existing laws and to recommend legislation "aimed at eliminating discrimination in the social and economic structure of our State."

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