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ARABS ATTACK JEWISH PASSENGERS IN SOUTHERN PALESTINE; WOMAN SERIOUSLY WOUNDED

JERUSALEM, March 20. (JTA) -- A bus carrying Jewish passengers from the settlement of Ruchama, situated in the southern part of Palestine, was attacked today by Arabs. Hanna Weiner, one of the passengers, is reported to have been seriously injured.

This is the first Arab attack on Jews since the outbreak of the war. It was established that the bus was attacked by dwellers of the Arab village of Barbara.

A conference of members of an Arab labor organization in Palestine which is affiliated with the Palestine Jewish Federation of Labor opened today in Tel Aviv attended by delegates from all parts of the country. The speakers complained that the Palestine Government, through its Labor Department, is attempting to prevent organization of Arab workers and cooperation between the Arab labor groups and the Jewish Federation of Labor.

JEWISH YOUTH KILLED IN TEL AVIV BATTLE WITH POLICE; BELIEVED MEMBER OF TERRORIST GROUP

TEL AVIV, March 20. (JTA) -- A Jewish youth, whose name is not disclosed, was shot and killed today by the police in an exchange of shots which took place on the staircase of a building in the center of the city. A note found near the body indicates that he was a member of the terrorist "Stern Gang," the police said.

An official communique issued by the police declares that the youth, who had aroused the suspicion of several policemen, was followed into a building where he attempted to reach the roof. Discovering that the door to the roof was closed, he turned around and opened fire. The policemen replied and one of their bullets hit him.

Eliezer Perlson, deputy mayor of Tel Aviv, addressing a session of the municipal council today, emphasized that overzealous searches for terrorists conducted by the police among the civilian population might lead to clashes and injuries to innocent people. He warned that such raids might also cause tension between the police and the public. Mayor Rokach told the council that he would convey Person's remarks to the inspector-general of the police.

JEWISH EVACUEES TURNED FARMERS START SPRING PLOWING THROUGHOUT RUSSIA

MOSCOW, March 20. (JTA) -- Tens of thousands of Jewish evacuees who were moved into the interior of the country when the Germans invaded their towns and cities early in the war are now part of the tremendous land army which is engaged in the third spring plowing since the outbreak of the war, the Jewish Anti-Fascist Committee announced today.

Reports reaching the Committee from the far-flung republics of central Asia, disclose that Jews from industrial cities, most of whom had never seen a plow or a reaper before, are now experienced agricultural workers - some of them even are Stakhanovites. In Uzbekistan, Turkestan, Turkmenistan and the Bashkirian Republic, thousands of acres have already been planted in wheat and barley by Jewish families from eastern Poland and the western districts of the Soviet Union. In the Moscow region, Jews from Minsk, Bobruisk, Gomel and other cities are working on farms, and many of them have won awards for their achievements.

HOUSE COMMITTEE APPROVES BILL ASKING RELIEF AND FOOD FOR OCCUPIED COUNTRIES

WASHINGTON, March 20. (JTA) -- The House Foreign Affairs Committee today approved a bill urging the United States to cooperate with Great Britain, Sweden, and Switzerland in the "setting up of systematic and definite relief for all stricken and hungry countries where the need is now the most acute." The measure is not expected to come up on the House floor before next month.

A similar bill was passed in the Senate on Feb. 15 after it was unanimously approved by the Senate Foreign Relations Committee in December. Shortly after the Senate action, Acting Secretary of State Edward R. Stettinius categorized immediate relief for Nazi-occupied countries as a "military question." Stettinius said that the State Department was "deeply sympathetic" but it was necessary to realize that our primary object had to be the bringing of the war to a successful conclusion at the earliest possible moment.

DEMAND FOR JEWISH ARMY RENEWED IN LONDON; PARTITION SCHEME SHELVED GOLDMANN REPORTS

NEW YORK, March 20. (JTA) -- The Jewish Agency is renewing its demand for the formation of a Jewish Army, it was revealed here today by Dr. Nahum Goldmann, Zionist leader and chairman of the administrative committee of the World Jewish Congress, upon his return from London.

Addressing a press conference, Dr. Goldmann disclosed that the partition of Palestine as a solution of the Arab-Jewish problem had been discussed recently "in some English quarters" but has been pushed into the background because of the unanimous opposition of all leaders of the Zionist movement.

"There is good reason to look forward with hope and confidence to a just solution of the Palestine problem which will pave the way for Arab-Jewish cooperation in the large areas in the Near East," Dr. Goldmann stated. "The Zionist leadership is renewing its demand for the formation of a Jewish military unit based primarily on the nearly 40,000 Jewish volunteers from Palestine. This unit should participate in the liberation of Europe, which will mean also the liberation of enslaved European Jewry."

Possibility of Rescuing Jews from Europe Still Exists

"I had the opportunity in London," Dr. Goldmann continued, "to meet with Jews and non-Jews who had arrived recently from occupied Europe. Their reports confirmed the worst apprehensions about the extermination of European Jews. From more than three million Jews in Poland, less than 200,000 are supposed to be alive. Still, there are several millions of Jews living in Europe."

"I got the conviction that possibility of rescue exists, if it is properly organized without undue red tape and done with energy and efficiency. To speed up rescue is doubly necessary now before the invasion of Europe. There is justified fear that the period before the final collapse of the Nazis may become the worst chapter in this tragedy. The retreating Nazis will try to exterminate the Jews before they withdraw."

PALESTINE CHIEF RABBINATE PROCLAIMS PRAYER DAY FOR JEWS IN EUROPE

JERUSALEM, March 20. (JTA) -- The Chief Rabbinate of Palestine today proclaimed Thursday, March 23, as a Day of Fasting and Prayer for the Jews in occupied Europe. The Rabbinate cabled its decision to rabbinical organizations in the United States, England and Latin American countries asking them to join in the observance.

UNIVERSITY OF MANITOBA MEDICAL SCHOOL DENIES REJECTING JEWISH STUDENTS

MONTREAL, March 20. (JTA) -- Charges that Jewish students were rejected by the medical school of the University of Manitoba were denied here by Justice A. K. Dysart, chairman of the Board of Governors, who appeared before a special committee of the Manitoba Legislature.

The charges were contained in a brief presented by Hyman Sokolof, of the Avukah Society, an organization of Jewish students. The brief claimed that "in the admission of applicants to medicine a vicious and bigoted system has been adopted and practiced for 12 years."

Justice Dysart answered the charges by claiming "that a quota system limiting the number of medical students became effective in 1932." He asserted that no complaints had been made to the board of governors, adding that the university now has a total of 2,400 students, including 368 Jews, the Jewish student body representing 15.3 percent of the whole.

ZIONIST LEADERS ASSURED THAT U. S. WILL NEVER APPROVE PALESTINE WHITE PAPER

BOSTON, March 20. (JTA) -- "The American Government will never give its approval to the British White Paper," Congressman John W. McCormack, majority leader in the House of Representatives, stated in a message addressed to the annual New England regional conference of the United Palestine Appeal.

Pointing out that he had been permitted to make this statement as an addition to the statement on the same subject which President Roosevelt authorized Rabbi Stephen S. Wise and Dr. Abba Hillel Silver to release, Rep. McCormack informed the 1,000 representatives of Jewish organizations and communities in New England who attended the conference, that he favored the Palestine resolution now pending in Congress. "I will do my part as an American and Christian to help bring it about in this better world which I visualize, that there shall be a place for a free and democratic Jewish commonwealth in Palestine," his message said. "Despite the White Paper, the doors of Palestine will not be closed to the Jewish people."

Congressman Ranulf Compton, co-sponsor of the Palestine resolution, addressing the conference, declared that he had "not become the author and sponsor of this resolution in the U. S. House of Representatives in order to take part in the liquidation of the Balfour Declaration." He challenged the State and War Departments "to tell the American people enough to convince them that the Palestine resolution is actually prejudicial to the successful prosecution of the war and is not, in fact, merely prejudicial to the selfish interests of the British Colonial Office, or prejudicial to some new mysterious foreign oil policy affecting the United States and King Ibn Saud, the Arab ruler."

Other speakers at the conference included Pierre Van Paassen, M.P., Archibald Silverman and Dr. James G. Heller. Elihu D. Stone was re-elected president of the New England U.P.A. for 1944.

STEPHEN WISE MADE HONORARY CITIZEN OF TEL AVIV ON OCCASION OF 70TH BIRTHDAY

TEL AVIV, March 20. (JTA) -- The municipal council of Tel Aviv today unanimously voted to confer honorary citizenship upon Rabbi Stephen S. Wise on the occasion of his 70th birthday. Addressing the council, Mayor Israel Rokach declared that "the first Jewish city is glad to confer its citizenship on a devoted fighter for Zionist ideals." Wise is the second American Jew to be so honored. First was the late Samuel Untermyer.

CENTRAL CONFERENCE OF AMERICAN RABBIS DENIES CHARGES OF HOUSTON CONGREGATION

PITTSBURGH, March 20. (JTA) -- The Central Conference of American Rabbis today made public the text of a reply to the charges against it voiced in resolutions adopted recently by Congregation Beth Israel of Houston, Texas. The Houston congregation had charged the organization of Reform Rabbis with becoming Zionistic and with abandoning the essentials of Reform Judaism.

"Without considering for the moment the specifications of the charge, the general case can well be admitted, namely, that Reform Judaism as expressed in ideas and utterances of most members of the Central Conference does indeed represent a departure from some of the ideas and practices laid down by Reform Jewish leaders in past generations," Rabbi Solomon B. Freehof, president of the Conference writes. "It is only an Orthodoxy which dares not depart from 'classic' patterns laid down by past generations. It is the principle of Orthodoxy that all laws authentically deduced from past laws are sacred and represent the will of God, and that customs which have been widely accepted in the past have the force of law and may not be abolished even when circumstances change. But Reform Judaism is a liberal Judaism. It proclaims the right of each generation to change customs and rituals and even to restate doctrines, provided the essential principles of Judaism are preserved and strengthened by such changes."

Taking issue with the by-laws which the Houston congregation recently adopted, and which provoked much criticism among Jews in America, Rabbi Freehof says, in a letter addressed to Leopold L. Meyer, president of the congregation; "The clear purpose of your by-laws is to keep from membership in the congregation those individuals who believe in a Jewish state in Palestine, who believe that Kashrus is an essential practice in Judaism, and that the Hebrew language is indispensable in school and in worship. It is true that if a man cannot subscribe to your by-laws he may become a non-voting member; but of course no self-respecting Jew will join your congregation if he knows that his convictions will disfranchise him and make him a second-class member. Your object is definite; you wish to exclude those who disagree with you on any one of the above points."

Changed Attitude of Reform Rabbis Towards Zionism is Explained

Replying to the charge that the Central Conference of American Rabbis has become Zionistic, Rabbi Freehof points out in his letter that "the Conference has not become Zionistic, but it has ceased to be anti-Zionistic."

"In past years the Conference, in a number of resolutions, expressed its anti-Zionism," the reply states. "There were few Zionists in the Conference in those years. By the way, the anti-Zionist majority would have been appalled if anyone during all these years had ever made the un-Jewish suggestion that Zionist Reform Rabbis, disagreeing as they did with the avowed principles of the Conference, should not have the right to vote. As the years went by the number of Zionists in the Conference increased. By this time it may well be that the majority of our members are Zionists. We do not seek to know. We do not submit our members to a credal test.

"The manifest fact now is that there are many, perhaps even a majority, of our members who are both convinced Zionists and convinced Reform Jews. These rabbis do not find their Reform Judaism and their Zionism to be mutually incompatible. It is obvious, then, that there has been a definite change of mood in our Conference. Therefore, in harmony with liberal principles, this new mood was acknowledged in our 1943 Resolution. We recognized the fact, plainly observable in the life of hundreds of our Reform Rabbis, that Reform and Zionism are quite compatible. Each member of our Conference may decide for himself whether to accept or reject Zionism. Whichever way he decides will not affect his status or his moral right to be part of our Conference."