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BAN ON JEWISH IMMIGRATION TO PALESTINE EFFECTIVE TOMORROW; STATUS OF U.S. JEWS UNCLEAR

WASHINGTON, March 29. (JTA) -- The question of whether Jews who are American citizens will be admitted to Palestine for permanent residence after the closing of Palestine's doors to Jewish immigration this Friday under the terms of the British White Paper, was a subject of discussion here today among members of Congress.

Puzzled and confused as a result of President Roosevelt's statement yesterday in which he supported the War Department's opposition to the Palestine resolution now before the House of Representatives and the Senate, and considering this statement to be a flat refusal by the President to intervene with the British Government for withdrawal of the White Paper ban on Jewish immigration, members of Congress wanted to know what would happen after Friday if an American Jew applies for a Palestine visa and is refused on the ground that Jewish immigration to Palestine -- except for 20,000 refugees -- is no longer permitted.

There are at present several thousand American Jews in Palestine, most of them elderly Jews who because of religious attachment to the land of their forefathers, have made Jerusalem their permanent home.

No obstacles have hitherto been placed in the way of Jews entering Palestine on permanent visas. The present ban on Jewish immigration to Palestine, however, will make it legally impossible for any American Jew to take up permanent residence there, while no such restrictions will apply to non-Jews.

Situation Compared with Ban on American Jews in Czarist Russia

It was recalled here today that the situation in Palestine may resemble that which prevailed in Czarist Russia where Jewish holders of American passports were barred from residence in the sections of Russia closed to Jews in general. This resulted in an exchange of correspondence between the State Department and the Czarist Government and caused the abrogation of the U. S. treaty of 1832 with Russia in 1911 following a resolution to this effect adopted in both houses of Congress.

It was also recalled here today that the State Department toward the end of the last century protested to the Turkish Government when American Jews were refused admission to Palestine which, at that time, was a part of Turkey. At present, since Palestine is a mandated territory in which the interests of American citizens are specifically protected by special provisions, the ban on immigration of American Jews for permanent residence in Jerusalem or any other part of Palestine would be contrary to America's stipulations with regard to the mandate. At the same time, the admission of American Jews would be contrary to the restrictions of the White Paper.

Diplomatic circles here predicted today that the ban of Jewish immigration to Palestine -- excepting the 20,000 Jewish refugees who can still come -- there under the White Paper quota -- will probably remain in effect until the end of the war.

They based their observations on the fact that President Roosevelt, in his statement yesterday, emphasized that the Palestine problem is a civilian question for the future to be worked out in connection with the peace.

Zionist Leaders Refrain from Commenting on Roosevelt's Statement

Zionist leaders, though apparently disappointed, today refused to comment on President Roosevelt's statement, which is considered a blow to Zionist efforts and to the work of rescuing Jews from occupied Europe. Disappointment at "the President's attitude" was expressed by Senator Edwin C. Johnson, Colorado Democrat, and Senator Bennett C. Clark, Missouri Democrat. The latter, who led an hour-long debate in the Senate yesterday, declared that the President's statement still presented no bar to Senate action on the Palestine resolution.

President Roosevelt's statement, made at his press conference, came as a shock to all members of Congress who have gone on record as supporters of Jewish immigration to Palestine. The President said that his views on Palestine, as expressed through Dr. Abba Hillel Silver and Dr. Stephen S. Wise recently, conformed to, rather than conflicted with, the position taken by the War Department.

On the one hand, the President pointed out, there was a military matter, on the other hand a civilian question for the future to be worked out in connection with the peace. The military aspect, the President thought, was a temporary bar to further discussion at the present time. A very serious bar, too, he added.

The President declined to go into a general discussion of the Palestine situation. He apparently saw no conflict between his previous statement that the U. S. Government has never approved the British White Paper and his present endorsement of the War Department's opposition to any Senate action on the Palestine resolution which asks for the abrogation of the White Paper. The immediate problem, he said, was what can be done for the refugees coming out of Europe through Spain and through the Balkans into Turkey. The number of these refugees was relatively small and not all of them are Jews, he added.

CHIEF RABBI OF HUNGARY SENT TO CONCENTRATION CAMP; RUMANIAN JEWS REACH TURKEY

ISTANBUL, March 29. (JTA) -- Reports reaching here today from Budapest reveal that the Chief Rabbi of Hungary has been placed in a concentration camp by the Gestapo and that raids on Jewish homes throughout Hungary continue. The report did not give the name of the rabbi.

"For the last eight days trucks loaded with Jews have been proceeding from Budapest and other Hungarian cities to unknown destinations," the report stated. "Among those arrested are hundreds of the most prominent Jews in the country, including the Jewish industrialist Leo Goldberger who is a personal friend of Admiral Horthy, the Regent of Hungary." Goldberger was made a member of the House of Lords in 1932.

The German Transcontinental Press today reported that Dr. Istvan Kulchar, well-known Hungarian anti-Semite, has been appointed Hungarian Commissioner for Unemployed Intellectuals "because of his great experience in Jewish public and economic life," to place Hungarian "intellectuals" in posts presently held by Jews.

A Turkish steamer, the S.S. Milka, carrying 243 Jewish refugees from Rumania, reached Istanbul today from the Rumanian port of Constanza. The Jewish Agency is making arrangements to move the refugees from Turkey to Palestine by land. Most of them are children. Rabbi Sabattai Dajen, chief rabbi of the Sephardic community in Rumania, also reached Istanbul today en route to Palestine.

JEWS HAVE DISAPPEARED FROM STREETS OF PARIS AND BRUSSELS, NEUTRAL TRAVELLER REPORTS

LONDON, March 29. (JTA) -- The yellow stars which marked the Jews of France and Belgium have disappeared from the streets of Paris and Brussels, indicating the extent to which the Germans have purged those cities of Jews, the Jewish Telegraphic Agency was told today by a neutral traveller who was in the French and Belgian capitals recently.

The JTA informant said that it is almost impossible to ascertain the whereabouts of former Jewish acquaintances. Non-Jewish neighbors, when queried concerning the fate of Jews who had lived in the neighborhood, can only furnish the vaguest details as to their sudden disappearance, or, in some cases, gruesome stories of how the Jews were taken from their homes by the police in the middle of the night and never heard of again. Even the families of the arrested Jews never learn what has happened to them.

From conversations he had with anti-German Frenchmen and Belgians, the neutral traveller voiced the opinion that a defeat of the Germans will not, automatically, bring an end to anti-Semitism in western Europe. He said that some of the Nazi arguments concerning Jews have influenced the populations of the occupied countries, resulting in these people asserting that while they were not opposed to native Jews, they would object to immigration of Jews from eastern Europe after the war.

3,000 JEWISH WAR PRISONERS KILLED BY GERMANS, CAPTURED NAZI TESTIFIES

MOSCOW, March 29. (JTA) -- Three thousand Jewish Red Armymen who were among the Russian troops captured in the Ukraine by the Germans, were executed in Dniepropetrovsk in February, 1942, in violation of all international conventions covering the treatment of war prisoners, it is revealed in testimony by a captured German, Pvt. Walter Pfeifer of the 31st Regiment of the 24th Infantry Division, made public here today. Pfeifer stated that he had personally seen his commanding officer shoot 80 Jewish prisoners in one day.

Another German prisoner, Sgt.-Major Arthur Schrants, radioman attached to the 4th Aviation Squadron, reveals in his testimony that the Germans killed hundreds of Jewish civilians, including children, in Pyatigorsk by lining them up in an open field and compelling them to grasp an uninsulated wire through which a heavy electric charge was sent, killing them instantly.

In Rzhnev, 900 Jewish men, women and children were driven into a barn and machinegunned, it was disclosed by Cpl. Franz Weskalines of the 336th Regiment of the 161st Infantry Division. After the machinegunners had completed their task, the bodies of the victims were drenched with kerosene and set afire, he said. In this manner many Jews who had only been wounded by the bullets were burned alive.

The above incidents are typical of those reported in thousands of accounts of German atrocities against Jews which have been gathered by Soviet commissions for use in war criminal trials after hostilities have ceased, or perhaps, even before then if the perpetrators of the crimes are captured alive.

ZIONIST LEADERS DISCUSS PALESTINE PROBLEMS WITH CANADIAN PRIME MINISTER

OTTAWA, March 29. (JTA) -- Dr. Nahum Goldmann, a member of the Jewish Agency executive, and A. J. Freiman, honorary president of the Canadian Zionist Organization, today conferred here with Prime Minister MacKenzie King on questions affecting Palestine.

JEWISH WELFARE BOARD SENDS LARGE SHIPMENTS OF MATZOTH TO U.S. SERVICEMEN OVERSEAS

NEW YORK, March 29. (JTA) -- Assurance that Jewish members of the armed forces in every part of the world will be enabled to observe the Passover, which begins Friday eve, April 7, was given today by Frank L. Weil, president of the National Jewish Welfare Board in his report on the holiday activities of the Board.

Shipment of matzoth, sacramental wine, Haggadoth and other Passover supplies, began last November, Mr. Weil revealed. To date more than 400,000 boxes of matzoth, 7,000 gallons of wine and 190,000 Passover prayer books have been shipped by the Jewish Welfare Board and are awaiting distribution to the servicemen and women through regular army channels.

A circular letter issued by the Army to unit commanders in North Africa reads: "Through the same channels that subsistence rations are drawn, a ration of matzoth may be drawn for every Jewish man in the theater. This unleavened bread has been provided by the Jewish Welfare Board. Haggadoth are packed in cases, one for each ration. You may find that a group of your men wish to assemble for a Seder service, if there are no homes to which they may be invited, nor a Jewish chaplain in the immediate vicinity to conduct a service for them. Please give such groups any help they need in organizing the Seder." Similar circular letters have been issued in every theater of war, Mr. Weil reported.

ZIONIST EMERGENCY COUNCIL JOINS JEWISH AGENCY IN CONDEMNING PALESTINE TERROR

NEW YORK, March 29. (JTA) -- The American Zionist Emergency Council, representing all major Zionist groups in the United States, today issued a statement condemning the recent terroristic outbreaks in Palestine.

At a meeting of the council, a resolution was adopted supporting the stand taken by the Jewish Agency for Palestine, which has declared that "the deadly hand which directed these crimes is unwittingly or maliciously helping the enemies of the Jewish people."

HEAD OF WAR REFUGEE BOARD TO ADDRESS JDC CONFERENCE IN CHICAGO

CHICAGO, March 29. (JTA) -- John W. Pehle, executive director of the War Refugee Board, will make his first public address since his appointment by President Roosevelt, at the mid-western conference of the Joint Distribution Committee at the Hotel Stevens, here on Sunday, April 2.

Representatives of Jewish communities from nine states in the Middle West are expected to attend the meeting, which will be addressed, in addition to Mr. Pehle, by Joseph C. Hyman, executive vice-chairman of the JDC, Rabbi Jonah B. Wise, co-chairman of the United Jewish Appeal and Judge Ulysses S. Schwartz, president of the Jewish Welfare Fund of Chicago, who will preside.

NATIONAL CANADIAN WOMEN'S ORGANIZATION ASKS ABOGATION OF WHITE PAPER

MONTREAL, March 29. (JTA) -- The executive committee of the Federated Women's Institute of Canada, a non-Jewish organization with a dominion-wide membership of 75,000, has gone on record as opposing the White Paper on Palestine, it was announced here today. At the same time, the Institute expressed the hope that Palestine will be reconstituted as a Jewish national home within the British Empire.