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POPE WILL RECOGNIZE JEWISH STATE IN PALESTINE IF PEACE CONFERENCE DECIDES ON IT

LONDON, Aug. 13. (JTA) -- Pope Pius XII will recognize a Jewish state in Palestine if the forthcoming peace conference decides on its establishment, Field Marshal Viscount Gort, the new High Commissioner for Palestine, was reported here today as having been told by the Pope.

The report, coming from Vatican City, disseminated by the French Independent News Agency, said that Field Marshal Gort was received by the Pope for a twenty-minute audience last week when Gort was in Rome en route to Palestine.

"The Vatican," the report adds, "will keep to strict neutrality with regard to the Palestine question and will accept as an accomplished fact any decision taken on this matter by the members of the peace conference. The Pope is animated by great sympathy for the Jews and does not intend to interfere with the realization of their aspirations for a national state of their own. At the same time, however, he believes that Catholic Arabs must not be discontented. The Pope wishes to see the Arab interests in Palestine safeguarded - and the integrity of the holy places insured - on the basis of the 1939 status quo."

London newspapers reported today that Pope Pius XII received Col. David Sarnoff of New York in a private audience. Col. Sarnoff is now communications adviser to Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower.

SPECTACULAR TRIAL OF GERMANS GUILTY IN MASS-EXTERMINATION OF JEWS TO BE HELD IN LUBLIN

MOSCOW, Aug. 13. (JTA) -- The Soviet Government is making preparations for what will doubtless be a spectacular trial of the Germans charged with participating in mass-extermiation of Jews in Lublin and in establishing "gas chambers" in the Lublin area where tens of thousands of Jews from Poland and other occupied countries were suffocated to death, the Moscow press reports today.

All Moscow newspapers carry today full pages of information, pictures and descriptions of the "death factories" which the Germans established in the Lublin district for the mass-killing of Jews. They point out that though the Germans have taken all measures to see to it that no person witnessing the mass-slaughter of the Jews in Lublin area remains alive, many non-Jewish witnesses will testify at the forthcoming trial. There will also be at least one Jewish witness. He is a Lublin Jew named Davidson who survived after escaping from a Nazi "extermination squad." He was hidden by a Polish family in the attic of his house for more than two years during which he spoke to no living person.

Captain Finds Two Jews in Lublin; Others Begin to Return from Woods

Captain B. Esterson, Soviet-Jewish military leader, today told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency that when he reached Lublin he found only two Jews there, but was

told that many of them are with the partisan units and are beginning to return to their homes. Before the war there were about 40,000 Jews in Lublin.

"Entering with the first Soviet tanks into the city," the Jewish captain stated, "I tried to find traces of the old Jewish Lublin which was bound up in a thousand ways with Jewish history. But I could not find a solitary Jew. When I asked about the whereabouts of the Jews, I was led by Polish militia members to a factory which the Germans had converted into a packing house where clothes of murdered Jews were methodically sorted, disinfected, packed and shipped to Germany. Here I found cases full of such clothes ready for shipment to Berlin. This was all that remained of Lublin Jews, and of the groups of Jews from Slovakia murdered in the "extermination camp" at Maidanka-Lubelsk.

"Continuing my search for several hours, I finally found two Jews. They came from the woods where they had been living and hiding under false identity documents as Catholics. One of them turned out to be an old acquaintance from Warsaw, Stanislaw Lets, a former contributor to the Polish-Jewish daily newspaper "Nasz Przeglond" and to the Polish satirical magazine "Szpilki." The other was a young Jew from Lublin. Both told me that not all Jews of Lublin and of Lublin district have been murdered and that several thousand of them are with the partisan units in Lublin district. These Jewish partisans are now beginning to return to their native towns, I was told.

"I listened to horrible tales of the last days of the Lublin ghetto," Capt. Esterson continued. "I heard remarkable stories how the last several hundred Jewish-skilled workers - were helped by the Polish underground movement to flee at night from the ghetto to the woods. But I hardly had the time to listen to all the horror stories. Our tank unit was speeding further west to the Vistula river in the direction of Warsaw. We were rolling along the wide Lubartowska street both sides of which were strewn with flowers by the rejoicing population. The frightful past for the Jews expecting to return to Lublin was all in the past now as was the misery, hunger and humiliation suffered by the Polish population there."

BERL KATZNELSON, NOTED PALESTINE LABOR LEADER, DIES SUDDENLY IN JERUSALEM

JERUSALEM, Aug. 13. (JTA) -- Jews of Palestine were mourning today the sudden death of Berl Katznelson, one of Palestine's outstanding Jewish labor leaders, who died about 10 o'clock last evening of a hemorrhage. His body was taken today to Tel Aviv whence it will be carried for burial to Kinereth, in accordance with Katznelson's last wishes.

Suffering fatigue as a result of the elections which took place recently to the Jewish National Assembly and to the Palestine Federation of Labor, Katznelson, who was also the editor of the Davar, Palestine's leading newspaper, came from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem to spend a few days with his friends here. Yesterday evening, shortly after nine o'clock, he suddenly lost consciousness. The arriving physicians said that nothing could be done to save his life. He died twenty minutes later.

Members of the executive of the Jewish Agency and of other national Jewish organizations, who were notified of his sudden death hurried to Jerusalem. They joined in the guard of honor from midnight till seven o'clock in the morning, when the body was transferred to the headquarters of the Jewish National Fund of which Katznelson was a director. There the body laid in state, covered with a blue-white flag until it was transferred to Tel Aviv to the headquarters of the Histadruth, of which Katznelson was one of the pillars.

Katznelson, who visited the United States in 1937, was born in Bobroisk, Byelorussia, in 1887. He emigrated to Palestine in 1909.

AMERICAN JEWISH COMMITTEE SUBMITS VIEWS TO U.S. GOVERNMENT ON POST-WAR RIGHTS FOR JEWS

NEW YORK, Aug. 13. (JTA) -- The American Jewish Committee will seek to secure in the peace terms "re-affirmation of the fundamental principle that Jewish citizens of every land, fulfilling their obligation of complete loyalty to their respective countries, shall be guaranteed the correlative right of complete equality," Judge Joseph M. Proskauer, president of the Committee, announced today.

The first step in what he termed "this essential endeavor" has been taken," Judge Proskauer disclosed, in a letter to Secretary of State Cordell Hull, proffering to the government the cooperation of the Committee in the formulation of peace terms which will help meet the post-war needs of the shattered Jewish communities overseas. He said also that the Committee had filed with the Department of State a Declaration of views setting forth the basic premises for the maintenance of Jewish rights.

In his letter to Mr. Hull, Judge Proskauer pointed out that after the last war the Committee devoted its efforts to secure in the peace terms provisions to prevent the infraction of the rights of Jews in any part of the world, to give assistance and to take remedial action in the event of threatened or actual restriction of such rights, and to obtain for all Jews equal civic, economic and educational opportunities. At the end of this war, he wrote to Mr. Hull, it is the Committee's aim "to aid in the formulation of peace terms which will secure a world in which Jews, like all others, are, in a phrase admirably used by you, 'free to abide in peace and in honor.'" He cited the Committee's Declaration of Views filed with the State Department that "we have a special concern with the salvation of suffering people and the preservation of the Jewish community as a spiritual force."

Committee on Peace Problems Formed; Will Study Rehabilitation of Jews

Simultaneously, Judge Proskauer announced the formation of a Committee on Peace Problems of the American Jewish Committee to study and draw up measures for the rehabilitation of Jews and the restoration of their civic and economic rights.

Comprising Jewish community leaders from all parts of the country, the members of the Committee on Peace Problems are: Honorary chairman, Abram I. Elkus and Judge Irving Lehman, New York; Chairman, Joseph M. Proskauer, N. Y.; Associate chairman, Jacob Blaustein, Baltimore, and George Z. Medalie, N. Y.; Secretary, Morris D. Waldman, N. Y.; Carl J. Austrian, N. Y.; James H. Becker, Chicago; Dr. Monroe Deutsch, Berkeley; Judge Phillip Forman, Trenton; Judge Eli Frank, Baltimore; Waldo Frank, N. Y.; Judge Jacob J. Kaplan, Boston; Dr. Hans Kohn, Northampton, Mass.; Arthur K. Kohn, N. Y.; Fred Lazarus, Jr., Columbus, Ohio; Monte M. Lemann, New Orleans; Samuel D. Leidesdorf, N. Y.; James Marshall, N. Y.; Harris Perlstein, Chicago; Dr. Milton J. Rosenau, Chapel Hill, N. C.; Dr. Alexander N. Sack, N. Y.; Dr. I. L. Sharfman, Ann Arbor, Mich.; Hon. Murray Spasongood, Cincinnati; Hon. M. C. Sloss, San Francisco; Jesse H. Steinhart, San Francisco; Judge Horace Stern, Philadelphia; Dr. Frank Tannenbaum, N. Y.; Sidney J. Weinberg, N. Y.; Maurice Wertheim, N. Y.; Rabbi Jonah B. Wise, N. Y.

International Conference of Federations of Polish Jews Called

NEW YORK, Aug. 13. (JTA) -- An international Emergency Conference of Federations of Polish Jews will be held in New York in November for the purpose of formulating plans for joint action in connection with the repatriation, and rehabilitation of the surviving Jews in liberated Poland, it was announced here today.

The conference is being arranged by the American Federation of Polish Jews. Cabled invitations have been sent to the federations in foreign countries requesting them to send delegates. The conference will also consider such matters as indemnities for Jewish property destroyed in Poland by the Germans and the re-integration of the surviving Jewish population into the Polish economy which will exist after the war.

JUSTICE MURPHY ENLARGES COMMITTEE TO FIGHT ANTI-SEMITISM; PLANS ANTI-BIGOTRY DRIVE

WASHINGTON, Aug. 13. (JTA) -- Invitations extended by Supreme Court Justice Frank Murphy to join the National Committee Against Persecution of the Jews have been accepted by 250 prominent Americans of almost every State, the committee announced today.

The committee said it would carry on a campaign of education in all parts of the country during the coming months. Mass meetings will be held in important cities to warn citizens of the dangers inherent in the spread of bigotry, according to Justice Murphy, who is chairman of the committee.

If attacks on Jewish citizens are not vigorously challenged, inciters to bigotry will be encouraged to apply their tactics to other groups in the nation, he declared. On the organizing committee are Justice Murphy, chairman; Wendell L. Willkie, vice chairman; Norman M. Littell, assistant United States Attorney General, secretary, and Vice President Henry A. Wallace, and many other prominent Americans.

LIBERTY SHIP WILL BE NAMED AFTER MORRIS FEINSTONE, JEWISH LABOR LEADER

NEW YORK, Aug. 13. (JTA) -- A goal set by the United Hebrew Trades to sell \$2,000,000 worth of War Bonds in one month to finance the purchase of a Liberty Ship has been oversubscribed by \$1,212,895, it was announced today by the Labor Section of the War Finance Committee for New York.

According to the announcement, the ship, which will bear the name of the organization's former executive-secretary, the late Morris C. Feinstone, has been assigned for construction to the St. John's River Shipbuilding Co. of Jacksonville, Florida and is tentatively scheduled to be launched on October 9.

The campaign, which was the United Hebrew Trades major effort during the recently concluded Fifth War Loan, was conducted from July 1 to 31 among the unions comprising the organization. Mr. Feinstone, in whose honor the drive was conducted, was executive-secretary of the United Hebrew Trades from 1915 until the time of his death, in April, 1943.

ABOUT 2,000 JEWISH REFUGEES ENTERED PALESTINE DURING JULY, JEWISH AGENCY REPORTS

NEW YORK, Aug. 13. (JTA) -- Over 1,950 Jewish refugees entered Palestine during the month of July, bringing the total of Jews entering there during the first seven months of 1944 to over 10,500, it was announced by Dr. James G. Heller, national chairman of United Palestine Appeal, on the basis of a cable received from the Immigration Department of the Jewish Agency for Palestine in Jerusalem.

Dr. Heller also stated that some \$2,500,000, the largest amount ever spent for this purpose by the Jewish Agency in its history was expended by the Jewish Agency during the first 6 months of the year, in order to provide maximum care for the immigrants on their arrival in the country.

ALEXANDER SHLUGER, LEADING MEMBER OF HIAS STAFF, DIED SUDDENLY WHILE ON VACATION

NEW YORK, Aug. 13. (JTA) -- Alexander L. Shluger, since 1920 a leading member of the staff of the Hebrew Sheltering and Immigrant Aid Society, died suddenly today while vacationing at Callicoon, N. Y. From 1920 to 1923, Mr. Shluger was in charge of the Warsaw office of Hias, and from 1924 to the present, he was the head of the Hias Information and Naturalization Service at the headquarters of the organization in New York.

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