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ROOSEVELT PLEDGES HIS SUPPORT OF EFFORTS TO ESTABLISH JEWISH COMMONWEALTH IN PALESTINE

ATLANTIC CITY, Oct. 15. (JTA) -- President Roosevelt today pledged that "efforts will be made to find appropriate ways and means of effectuating" as soon as practicable the establishment of Palestine as a free and democratic Jewish Commonwealth.

In a message to the 47th annual convention of the Zionist Organization of America, meeting at the Breakers Hotel here, the President said that "if re-elected I shall help to bring about this realization." He added: "I am convinced that the American people give their support to this aim."

Formation of a Jewish Commonwealth, the President declared, is in accord with traditional American policy and the spirit of the Four Freedoms. Mr. Roosevelt's message was addressed to Senator Robert F. Wagner and was read by him to the convention. The text follows:

Full Text of the President's Message to the Zionist Convention

"Knowing that you are to attend the 47th annual convention of the Zionist Organization of America, I ask you to convey to the delegates assembled my most cordial greetings. Please express my satisfaction that in accord with traditional American policy, and in keeping with the spirit of the Four Freedoms, the Democratic Party at its July convention this year included the following plank in its platform: 'We favor the opening of Palestine to unrestricted Jewish immigration and colonization, and such a policy as to result in the establishment there of a free and democratic Jewish Commonwealth.'"

"Efforts will be made to find appropriate ways and means of effectuating this policy as soon as practicable. I know how long and ardently the Jewish people have worked and prayed for the establishment of Palestine as a free and democratic Jewish Commonwealth. I am convinced that the American people give their support to this aim; and if re-elected I shall help to bring about this realization."

Zionists Express Gratitude for "Magnificent and Historic Statement"

Following reading of the President's message, Dr. Abba Hillel Silver, co-chairman of the Zionist Emergency Council, wired the White House expressing the appreciation of Zionists everywhere. The wire said:

"Please accept my profound appreciation and gratitude for your magnificent and historic statement read by Senator Wagner today. Not only American Jews, but Jews throughout the world, will hail it with deepest satisfaction as well as all people of good will everywhere. It is in keeping with your deep concern for the rights of all people struggling for freedom and a chance to live free and normal lives in the new

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world which you are helping to fashion. This is an historic day for us and we are, I repeat, profoundly grateful."

The convention received with jubilation the statement by President Roosevelt, which, coupled with the War Department statement issued yesterday, withdrawing its opposition to passage by Congress of the pending Palestine resolutions, created the feeling here that the resolutions will now pass both houses of Congress by a large majority.

Senator Wagner following the reading of the President's letter, praised Jewish achievements in Palestine and hailed the creation of the Jewish Brigade. "Jews," said Wagner, "have earned this measure of consideration not only because they were the first victims of Hitler and the chief sufferers of the Nazi regime, but also because the Jewish people, by their constructive efforts in Palestine - turning the desert into the most significant part of the 'fertile crescent' - has made it possible so to increase the economic capacity of Palestine that 600,000 Jews have a safe resting place in the land of their forefathers. Palestine has absorbed twice as many Jewish refugees as all of the rest of the world put together," he continued, "It is only fair and just that you be given every opportunity to explore the possibilities of Palestine as a factor in the solution of the age-old problem of the Jewish people."

FDR, Dewey Statements Take Palestine Issue Out of Politics, Says Silver

Addressing the evening session of the convention, Dr. Silver called President Roosevelt's message "a forthright, unequivocal endorsement of the Zionist program - a notable milestone in the struggle which we have been carrying on to secure public and official recognition of Jewish aspirations with regard to Palestine."

"Only forty-eight hours ago," he continued, "we received a similar pledge from Gov. Dewey, Presidential candidate of the Republican party. Mr. Dewey's pledge was equally clear, forthright and unambiguous. These two statements reaffirming the Palestine planks of the Republican and Democratic platforms adopted in Chicago in June and July, respectively, add up to this; that the American people and the standard bearers of both major parties are solidly behind our hopes and aspirations for the establishment of Palestine as a Jewish Commonwealth. This issue has been definitely removed from the sphere of partisan politics. Notice has thus been served to the world that the full weight of American opinion will be thrown into the scales when the moment arrives for reaching a decision on the future of Palestine through international action."

"Despite the official policy of the British Government, the White Paper policy which is still in force, we know that powerful sections of British opinion favor our position," Dr. Silver said. "We are confident that Prime Minister Churchill is earnestly desirous of correcting the wrong and the blunder of the White Paper and to bring about a fundamental revision of policy leading to a Jewish Commonwealth, whatever views may be entertained by other elements in British official circles. I believe that Mr. Churchill will welcome these forthright expressions coming from America and they will strengthen his hand immensely in effecting a just solution of this problem."

"I earnestly trust that the President's magnificent utterances will be followed by speedy action. Time presses. The White Paper is still in force. Our immigration permits for Palestine are well nigh exhausted. Scores of thousands in liberated

countries are already knocking at the gates. Now is the moment for energetic steps to be taken by our government to bring about an immediate opening of the doors of Palestine."

First Post-War World Zionist Congress Will Be Held in U.S.

Addressing the opening session of the convention, last night, Dr. Israel Goldstein, president of the ZOA, said that the first post-war World Zionist Congress will be held in the United States, probably in Washington.

Discussing the post-war prospects of Palestine, Dr. Goldstein urged that as part of her post-war reparations, Germany be forced to contribute to the development of a Jewish National Home. Estimating that 15,000,000 to 18,000,000 refugees have been made homeless in European countries by German aggression, of whom less than 10 percent are Jews, he recommended that Germany be required to pay \$1,000 each to re-establish her victims. The first post-war responsibility of the United Nations should be to facilitate Jewish mass immigration into Palestine, he said, considering that the Jews of Europe have suffered a tragedy beyond that of any other people.

WAR DEPARTMENT NO LONGER OBJECTS TO PALESTINE RESOLUTION; CONGRESS TO RESUME HEARINGS

WASHINGTON, Oct. 15. (JTA) -- Congressional hearings on the Palestine resolutions, which demand free Jewish immigration to Palestine and the eventual establishment of a Jewish State there, will be resumed next month, it was announced here today by Rep. Carl Bloom, chairman of the House Foreign Affairs Committee, following a statement by Secretary of War Stimson that the War Department no longer objects to the resolution.

Mr. Stimson's statement, made public over the week-end, emphasized that the War Department has come to the conclusion that the military considerations which resulted in its previous opposition to the passage of the Palestine resolutions by Congress are no longer valid.

"I find that there is still strong feeling on the part of many officers in my department that the passage of such a resolution would interfere with our military effort," the War Secretary said. "However, I do feel that the military considerations which led to my previous action in opposing the passage of this resolution are now as strong a factor now as they were then. In my judgment, political considerations now outweigh the military, and the issue should be determined upon the political rather than the military basis."

Mr. Bloom, in announcing that hearings on the Palestine Resolution, which was introduced into Congress earlier this year, will be resumed next month by his committee said, "I intend to call a meeting of the committee on Wednesday, November 16, for the immediate consideration of the Palestine resolution. In view of the approval of the Secretary of State and the Secretary of War I have no doubt but that the resolution will be favorably reported by the Foreign Affairs Committee without delay."

"Favorable action by the Committee on Foreign Affairs and the House of Representatives would be in accord with our Government's established policy toward Palestine and would be in conformity with the Palestine planks of the platforms of both the Democratic and Republican parties. I am looking forward to the speedy approval of this resolution."

10,000 JEWS IN LYON AND VICINITY ARE DESTITUTE; RELIEF GROUPS MERGE

LYON, Oct. 10. (Delayed) (JTA) -- Jewish relief officials here today estimated that about 20,000 Jewish families are residing in Lyon and the vicinity. Most of these have come here since the liberation of southern France, en route to their homes in Paris and elsewhere in the liberated northern part of the country. About 10,000 of them are virtually destitute and require assistance.

In the five weeks since Lyon was liberated the number of families receiving assistance from the General Committee for the Defense of Jews has increased from the 600 who were aided during the underground period to 2,000. In addition, the Committee for Assistance to Refugees, which operated independently under the aegis of the Consistory, gave aid in September to 1,200 families, but it is likely that there is considerable duplication in the lists.

The Consistory officials declare that of Lyon's pre-war Jewish population of 4,000 French Jews and 3,000 Moroccan Jewish workers, plus their families, only one-fourth survived the Nazi terror. At least 300 Jews were executed in Lyon and the immediate vicinity and hundreds were deported to unknown destinations. The deportations continued up to as late as August 11, and included old men and women over 75.

An agreement was reached yesterday between the GCDJ and the CAR under which all relief activities will be combined and both groups will function in the same offices. This will not only centralize relief work, but will eliminate duplication of and facilitate relations with the French authorities, the Red Cross and the National Relief Agency.

A new enlarged commission has been appointed to prepare a program for handling the problem of Jewish children, including the recovery of children who were ferried out in the countryside, convents and orphanages to save them from the Gestapo, maintenance of the children, their education, medical care and location of missing parents. At present, there are about 200 children being cared for by the GCDJ whose parents were either killed, deported or disappeared, or whose fathers are prisoners of war.

AGUDAS ISRAEL NEGOTIATING TO ENTER JEWISH AGENCY; REPRESENTATIVES CONFER

JERUSALEM, Oct. 15. (JTA) -- The Jewish Agency and the central committee of the world Agudas Israel organization are negotiating for the Agudah's entrance into the Agency, it was reliably learned here today.

The Great Rabbinical Council of the Agudah will meet shortly in closed session to consider what action is to be taken on the matter in light of recent developments connected with the rescue of European Jewry and the existence within the Agency of a rescue council with which the Agudah has been cooperating.

Negotiators for the Agudah are Rabbi Itche Mair Levin, Isaac Beuer and Benjamin Mintz. The Agency is represented by David Ben-Gurion, Eliezer Kaplan and Isaac Gruenbaum.

Meanwhile, the Poale Agudah is negotiating with the Poale Mizrahi on formation of a religious workers union along the same lines as the Histadruth, the Palestine Federation of Labor. The Agudah labor group is planning to send a delegation to the United States, and Britain, it announced today.

BUCHAREST RADIO ANNOUNCES JEWS WILL BE RECRUITED INTO ARMY

BUCHAREST, Oct. 15. (JTA) -- The Bucharest radio today announced that all Jews in the military classes of 1941 to 1946 will be recruited.

This is the first time since Rumania allied itself with the Axis that Jews have been summoned for military duty. Previously Jews were barred from the armed forces and used only in forced labor battalions.

PROGRAM FOR BUYING \$10,000,000 WORTH OF U.S. MACHINERY FOR PALESTINE IS ANNOUNCED

NEW YORK, Oct. 15. (JTA) -- An extensive program for the purchase of American agricultural and industrial machinery for shipment to Palestine was announced today at the concluding session of the Metropolitan Conference of the Jewish National Workers Alliance, held in the Hotel Commodore with the participation of more than 600 delegates.

The announcement was made by Edmund I. Kaufman, of Washington, D.C., chairman of the Board of Directors of the American Palestine Trading Corporation, who stated that the corporation has completed a survey of Palestine needs for American machinery and will soon take steps to fill the need by purchases here to the extent of \$10,000,000. The resources for financing the program will be made available through the floating by the American Palestine Trading Corporation of a loan in the amount of \$10,000,000.

Subject to the regulations and supervision of the Securities Exchange Commission, the corporation, which was organized with the object of developing more extensive trade relations between Palestine and the United States, will issue a series of bonds that are to be amortized within a period of 15 years. The loan will be secured by debentures which are to be issued by public institutions and corporations operating under the control of the Jewish Agency for Palestine and the Palestine Government.

JEWISH EDUCATION WEEK STARTS; 200,000 CHILDREN RETURN TO JEWISH RELIGIOUS SCHOOLS

NEW YORK, Oct. 15. (JTA) -- More than 200,000 Jewish children have returned to the Jewish religious schools all over the country since the beginning of October, according to an announcement made by Mark Eisner, President of the American Association for Jewish Education, in connection with Jewish Education Week, which started today.

The Jewish religious school is supplementary to the public school, Mr. Eisner emphasized. There are approximately 7,000 teachers in 2,200 religious schools. Intensive enrollment campaigns are being conducted by the Jewish communities in the United States to increase the enrollment figures. Children's rallies, parents gatherings and public assemblies will be conducted during this period. Special leaflets in English, Hebrew and Yiddish are being distributed in large quantities.

LUTHERAN CHURCH CONVENTION PLEDGES FIGHT FOR JEWISH LIBERTIES

MINNEAPOLIS, Oct. 15. (JTA) -- A resolution pledging the aid of the Lutheran Church in the preservation of Jewish liberties was adopted here at the biennial convention of the United Lutheran Church of America.

The resolution said the church viewed "with concern the manifestations of a rising tide of anti-Semitism in American life," and urged its members "to consider their Jewish brethren in the spirit of Luther who spoke kindly things of them as 'blood brothers of our Lord' to use every available means to assure the Jewish people of their communities of the efforts of our church for the preservation of their rights, and to offer prayers on their behalf."

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