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STRIFE AMONG JEWISH LEADERS IN ROME FORCES GOVERNMENT TO POSTPONE COMMUNITY ELECTIONS

ROME, Nov. 14. (JTA) -- Acting on the recommendation of Col. Charles Foletti, head of the Allied Military Government in the Rome area, the Italian Government has again decided to postpone elections to the board of the local Jewish community, it was announced here today.

The action was taken as a result of the conflict between two groups of Jewish leaders in Rome, each of which is accusing the other of having Fascist tendencies under Mussolini's regime. In view of the fact that the controversy has aroused excitement among the followers of both groups, both Col. Foletti and the Italian Government felt that elections to the Jewish Community board were inadvisable at the present time.

The status of the Rome Jewish Community is hard to explain to Americans. It was fixed by the concordat concluded between the Italian Government and the Vatican in 1933 and is based upon customs of many decades. Under the concordat, Jews are responsible for raising their own funds for their own charitable and religious organizations. The same principle also applies to Italian Protestants. Thus, the president of the Jewish Community has almost official authority over the Jews of Italy and is practically a government official.

The leaders of the two Jewish groups in Rome are both prominent lawyers. One, Hugo Foa, was the president of the Jewish Community Council, prior to the liberation of Rome by the Allies. Following its policy of replacing leaders of all groups with new men, the Allied Military Government ousted Foa and appointed Silvio Ottolenghi to head the Jewish Community Council and renamed the council the "Jewish Commissariate."

Since then Foa has been demanding new elections. He has been directing an attack against Chief Rabbi Israel Zolli of Rome arguing that the rabbi should have stayed with his congregation during the German occupation instead of hiding. Rabbi Zolli had a price of 300,000 lira on his head. His life was undoubtedly saved by the fact that Catholic friends hid him.

Foa is also directing his attack against Ottolenghi, pointing out that the latter, together with other Rome Jews, in 1938, signed a statement condemning international Zionism. Ottolenghi's friends explain that this statement was a necessary step in view of anti-Semitic propaganda which was, at that time, being conducted throughout Italy by Fascist officials.

On the other hand, Ottolenghi's supporters, including Chief Rabbi Zolli, point to Foa's Fascist record. Foa joined the Fascist Party in 1932. He is president of the association Nostro Azzurro, a non-political organization of war veterans. His Jewish opponents say that only those truly persona grata with the Fascists could head a national organization, even a non-political one. But Foa is attacked primarily, because of the fact that the lists of all Rome's 11,000 Jews fell into the hands of the Germans, thus enabling the Gestapo to swiftly hunt down many Jews and seize them. It was Foa's duty, his opponents argue, to destroy this list.

EGYPT WILL TAKE CENSUS OF ALL FOREIGN JEWS IN CONNECTION WITH MOYNE MURDER

CAIRO, Nov. 14. (JTA) -- Egyptian authorities will shortly take a census of all Jews who have arrived here recently, it was reported here today. They will be asked to inform the authorities where they are living and working.

It is believed that the census is being contemplated in connection with the assassination here, last week, of Lord Moyne, British Resident Minister in the Middle East, by two Jews who came here from Palestine.

In an interview broadcast by the Cairo radio, the premier of Iraq, Hamdy El Pachaji Proel-Mida, assured the Arabs of Palestine that the neighboring Arab states would shortly take steps to aid them. Among the steps he outlined were: Establishment of an Arab propaganda bureau in Britain and America, financial backing to prevent the sale of Arab lands to Jews, and "establishment of strong diplomatic protection for the Arabs of Palestine."

PALESTINE JEWISH COUNCIL CALLS FOR FIGHT ON TERRORISM; DRAFTS POST-WAR DEMANDS

JERUSALEM, Nov. 14. (JTA) -- A call to the Jews of Palestine to combat terror in the country was issued here today by Isaac Ben-Zvi, president of the Jewish National Council, following the election of a new executive of the Council which is composed of fifteen members representing various groups. Ben-Zvi expressed the Council's abhorrence "over the dastardly murder of Lord Moyne."

Post-war demands, for submission to the United Nations in behalf of the Jewish population of Palestine, were drafted at an earlier meeting of the Jewish National Council at which it was emphasized that Palestine Jewry is primarily interested in securing unhindered immigration of Jews desiring to come to Palestine from European countries, as well as equal rights for Jews desiring to remain in the countries in Europe where they now reside or where they resided before the war.

The Council also discussed a demand that Jewish children in Europe who lost their parents should be entrusted to Palestine Jewish institutions for guardianship. Problems of reparations for Jews whose property has been looted or confiscated were also discussed. The executive of the Council was authorized to work out detailed resolutions with regard to these problems.

David Remez, leader of the Histadruth, demanded that a central bureau be established to coordinate all Jewish claims and that all important Jewish organizations throughout the world be represented in order to secure united Jewish action on all matters pertaining to compensation for confiscated or destroyed Jewish property in various European countries.

HEARING ON PALESTINE RESOLUTION POSTPONED; BILL ON RESTORATION OF PROPERTY INTRODUCED

WASHINGTON, Nov. 14. (JTA) -- Hearings on the pending Palestine Resolution, which were to have been resumed tomorrow before the House Foreign Affairs Committee, will not be held, it was announced today by Rep. Sol Bloom, chairman of the committee.

Congressman Bloom explained that since the House would only be in session Thursday and then adjourn until next Monday, very few members of the committee could be expected to attend any meeting held this week. The resolution demands unrestricted Jewish immigration into Palestine and the eventual establishment of a Jewish State.

A concurrent resolution providing for the United States to include in all peace treaties at the end of the present war appropriate provisions "for the restoration of property or reimbursement by way of damages to any and all persons who have been deprived of their property" by Axis countries "under cover of law or otherwise" was introduced in the House today by Rep. Samuel Dickstein, N. Y. Dem.

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AMERICAN JEWISH COMMUNITY LEADERS DISCUSS PLAN FOR STABILIZATION OF COMMUNAL LIFE

DETROIT, Nov. 14. (JTA) -- Reports on successful fund-raising campaigns, extensive community studies, improved methods of organization and budgeting and widespread capital fund-raising and planning were discussed here at the regional session of the East Central States conference of the Council of the Jewish Federations and Welfare Funds, attended by representatives of 35 communities from seven states and Eastern Canada.

The major topic of discussion was how Jewish communities can organize and plan their services to provide a basis for security and a satisfying communal life. Jerome N. Curtis of Cleveland, president of the region, presided.

Isidore Sobeloff, executive director of the Detroit Federation, urged that all community service groups be brought together for common planning and Israel Rappaport, secretary of the Committee on New Approaches to Jewish Education, pleaded for a community approach to Jewish educational programs for children, youth and adults related to the specific aims and conditions of American life. Programs in community organization through federations and through community councils were analyzed and the need for closer integration into one form of central communal organization was explored.

Needs of Returning Veterans and Displaced War Workers Studied

Communities expressed great interest in the need for adjusting and developing community services to meet the needs of returning veterans and displaced war workers. H. L. Lurie, executive director of the Council, pointed out that while the government could be depended upon to care for the basic needs of returning service men and women as veterans, local communities have an obligation to provide for them as civilians and this meant better organization and better standards of service to meet all civilian needs in the community.

Harry M. Epstein, Pittsburgh, presented plans for a more intensive development of community education and interpretation. He said that for real understanding, publicity programs must be integrated with community organization and democratic participation. It is the responsibility of the central agency, continued Mr. Epstein, to create opportunities for active knowledge participation in community affairs through better knowledge and systematic educational planning.

A report on the National Community Relations Advisory Council was presented by Sidney Hollander, national president of the Council. The NCRAC, said Mr. Hollander, is only a minimum plan and is operating under serious limitations but it is developing various forms of agency counselling so that a conclusive appraisal could not be made until there had been further experience with this present attempt to coordinate the activities of the national and local agencies. Ephraim R. Gombert, speaking for the United Jewish Appeal, reported that 89 percent of Jews on the European continent have been displaced and that the need for supplementing governmental programs was increasing as liberated areas offered new opportunities for constructive help.

Mrs. L. A. Friedberg, director of the Jewish Public Relations Council of Pittsburgh, described progress made in inter-cultural education secured through participation of all groups concerned with the perpetuation of democratic principles. The region elected the following officers for 1945: Julian Krolik, Detroit, president; Walton Strauss, Erie, and Bernard Pepensky, Cincinnati, vice-presidents; Herman Handmaker, Louisville, treasurer.

ONLY 1,200 OF 6,200 JEWS IN BORDEAUX SURVIVED NAZI OCCUPATION; SYNAGOGUES PILLAGED

BORDEAUX, Nov. 14. (JTA) -- Twelve-hundred of the 6,200 Jews who complied with the order of the German occupation authorities to register as Jews survived the Nazi terror in Bordeaux and the vicinity, the Grand Rabbi of Bordeaux, Josef Cohen, told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency correspondent. He estimated that practically all the Jews who did not flee the area when it was announced that the Germans would occupy the coastal zone registered.

French authorities have turned over to the remaining Jewish leaders all registration cards and they are seeking to establish the fate of the men, women, and children listed in these files. They are also forming a relief committee to aid the needy. The city of Bordeaux gave the Jewish community 100,000 francs to help the destitute.

Among the victims of the Gestapo were 15 residents of the community's home for the aged, including M. Aaron, 94-year-old councillor of the court of Nancy. The home itself was completely pillaged. Nothing is left but the bare walls.

Sixty-eight-year-old Rabbi Cohen was marked for arrest and deportation. On the night of December 17, last year, three members of the Gestapo and Vichy militia-men came to the building adjoining the synagogue, which houses the consistory offices and the rabbi's apartment, and demanded the rabbi's children. When he told them that he did not know where they were, they told him that he as their father was responsible and would be arrested. The rabbi's son, Michael, 20, who is now a lieutenant in the French Forces of the Interior, had joined the Maquis as soon as the resistance began.

Chief Rabbi Fled When Gestapo Came to Deport Him

The Gestapo men told rabbi Cohen to pack a bag, and prepare to accompany them. When he returned to the hallway where they were waiting for him, they told him to remain there for a while while they rounded up the concierge and his family. But the rabbi did not wait. Instead he dropped his bag and fled. He reenacted the episode for this correspondent with grim intensity in the semi-darkness of the debris-strewn synagogue from which every single interior fitting had been removed or destroyed by the Nazis, tip-toeing hastily through the small synagogue, fumbling with the locks of the doors as he did that December night when seeking egress. Then all around the great synagogue, stopping for a moment to show me where he fell over the pulpit steps.

Finally, he found one unlocked door, which led to a small courtyard from which there was a gate to a back street. He fled that way to the home of a non-Jewish friend who sheltered him and brought him to a safe refuge in the residence of the Catholic bishop where he remained until the city was liberated.

A few hours after the rabbi escaped, a whole crew of Gestapo men and militia-men came to the synagogue and began systematic devastation. They removed all the furniture, all the installations, including the ark and scrolls of the law and the pulpit, pulled down the balconies, cut down the huge chandelier, and tore down tapestries. They broke off the bronze handles of the door and even smashed a marble plaque commemorating Bordeaux Jews who died for France in World War I. Some time later, when the Nazis had erected barbed wire enclosures in the synagogue and were

using it as a detention pen for Jews awaiting deportation, some prisoner carefully collected the fragments of the plaque and piled them neatly in a corner where they still remain.

The small synagogue was treated similarly. Nothing remains there except the bare walls. The consistory offices were completely wrecked. All furniture was taken, and all community records, dating back nearly a century, were dumped onto the floor, knee-deep in utter confusion. The Nazis didn't bother trying to open the safe. They simply removed it.

They did such a thorough job, both here and in the rabbi's residential quarters, that they even removed basins, toilets, and towel racks from the lavatories, yanking out the plumbing. They carefully removed a large oil painting depicting the Sanhedrin from its heavy frame and took it with them. Everything in the rabbi's apartment was taken including chandeliers, mirrors and personal effects. Most of his library was left, but books were torn from the bindings and thrown to the floor where they were trodden on. The whole place is a litter of books and small articles the Nazis did not deign to take.

HADASSAH CONVENTION URGES U. S. INTERVENTION TO SECURE JEWISH COMMONWEALTH

CLEVELAND, Nov. 14. (JTA) -- The United States was urged to use its good offices to secure action by Britain opening Palestine to unlimited Jewish immigration, looking towards the development of a Jewish Commonwealth there, in a resolution adopted last night at the 30th annual convention of Hadassah, meeting at the Hotel Cleveland.

Other resolutions condemned the terrorists in Palestine, saluted the war effort of the Palestine Jewish community, urged the United Nations to assure full economic and technical assistance to Jews in Europe to enable them to rebuild their shattered lives or to emigrate to Palestine if they so desire, and demanded that Zionists be represented on any international body charged with finding a settlement of the Palestine problem.

JEWISH DELEGATION FROM ENGLAND RECEIVED BY WALLACE; DISCUSSES PROBLEMS WITH HALIFAX

WASHINGTON, Nov. 14. (JTA) -- Dr. Stephen S. Wise today presented the 10-member United Kingdom delegation to the War Emergency Conference of the World Jewish Congress to Vice-President Henry A. Wallace. The delegation also met Supreme Court Justice Frank Murphy, who heads the National Committee Against Persecution of the Jews.

Earlier the group, headed by S. Sydney Silverman, a member of the British Parliament, called on Lord Halifax, British Ambassador to the United States. They discussed the various problems affecting the position of the Jewish people today, and the ambassador was informed that refugees, war crimes, relief and rehabilitation and political rights and guarantees will be among the major matters dealt with by the emergency conference the week of November 26.

At a luncheon, Assistant Attorney General Normal Littel, secretary of the National Committee Against Persecution of the Jews, told the Britons that he has found that the great masses of the American people are responsive to good-will, that there is tremendous response against hatred. He is deeply encouraged, he said, but the war against the forces of hatred must be waged unrelentlessly and unceasingly.

Mr. Silverman issued a statement on behalf of the entire delegation condemning the murder of Lord Moyne.