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ZIONIST EMERGENCY COUNCIL RE-ELECTS DR. WISE AS CHAIRMAN; SILVER RESIGNATION ACCEPTED

NEW YORK, Dec. 29. (JTA) -- The controversy within the American Zionist Emergency Council, which was precipitated by the differences of opinion between Dr. Stephen S. Wise and Dr. Abba Hillel Silver over Zionist tactics in Washington, culminated last night in the formal acceptance by the Council of the resignations of the two co-chairmen of the organization and in the immediate re-election of Dr. Wise as the sole chairman.

The elimination of Dr. Silver from leadership resulted in a statement issued today by the *Mizrahi* expressing "disappointment" but declaring that the *Mizrahi* "does not as yet choose to officially withdraw from the American Zionist Emergency Council." A statement was also issued by Dr. Israel Goldstein, president of the Zionist Organization of America, supporting Dr. Wise.

The Zionist Emergency Council, in a statement issued after last night's meeting, said: "The Council desires to make clear that the controversy referred to in the public press does not involve any difference with respect to fundamental Zionist policy or maximal or minimal Zionist program, but is rather one of procedure, methods of implementation and the authority of its officers. The American Zionist Emergency Council will go forward with continued vigor and determination for the realization of its objective - unrestricted Jewish immigration into Palestine, full opportunity for Jewish colonization and the reconstitution of Palestine as a free and democratic Jewish Commonwealth. For this it will seek the active support of the executive and legislative branches of the United States Government and the good will of the American people."

Committee on Implementation of Policy Will be Elected

Dr. Silver's resignation was accepted with an expression of appreciation for his devoted services, and his pledge of continued membership and service in the Council was welcomed, it was officially announced. In addition to re-electing Dr. Wise as chairman, the Council recommended to the executive committee the establishment of a Committee on Implementation of Policy to be composed of a chairman, the heads or designees of the organizations represented in the Emergency Council, and the chairman of the Council and the chairman of its executive committee. In accordance with constitutional provisions, the executive committee will at its next meeting elect its own chairman and the chairman of the Committee on Implementation of Policy. Meanwhile, it elected Mrs. S. W. Halprin, Hadassah leader, as treasurer.

ZQA Executive Finds Dr. Wise Action Justified; Will Cooperate with Council

Dr. Goldstein, in his statement, said that "one redeeming circumstance of the entire situation" is that Dr. Wise remains a friendly contact with President Roosevelt and the State Department. "To maintain this friendly contact is essential," he emphasized. He disclosed that on Dec. 19, the executive of the ZQA, by a vote of 17 to 4, adopted the following resolution:

"It is the sense of this meeting that on the basis of the facts as presented to us, Dr. Wise's resignation as a protest against Dr. Silver's action in contravention of the decisions of the Emergency Council is justified. We believe that Dr. Wise's resignation from the leadership of the Zionist movement in America would most seriously

injure the interests of the movement and, therefore, conditions must be created to enable Dr. Wise to continue as chairman of the American Zionist Emergency Council. We leave it to our representatives on the Emergency Council to act in accordance with these views."

This resolution was reaffirmed at a meeting of the Z.O.A. Executive held after Dr. Silver's full report to the Emergency Council had been heard. Dr. Goldstein added. "The ZOA will continue to give the Emergency Council full cooperation," he declared. "Its leaders and representatives, however, will retain the right to express honest, and conscientious judgement on questions as they arise, abiding, of course, by the will of the majority, and will also continue to insist on discipline as the fundamental basis of any democratically organized constituency."

Mizrachi Considers Silver's Withdrawal "Serious Blow," Criticizes Council

The statement issued by the Mizrachi representatives on the Zionist Emergency Council expressed "regret and intense disappointment at the disheartening fact that all efforts during recent weeks to bring about unity within the Council have completely failed due to the unyielding attitude of the majority within the Council, which in our opinion represents however a definite minority within the rank and file of American Zionists." The statement emphasizes that the Mizrachi "considers the present decision, which forces the withdrawal of Dr. Silver from the official scene of political Zionism in America, as a serious blow to the vigorous policy which we have continually supported, and is regarding it as a concession to an approach of which we disapprove now as we have rejected it heretofore."

"Approximately two years ago Mizrachi had initiated an independent political effort through a bureau in Washington, having been dissatisfied with the inactivity and disorganization of the Emergency Committee of the time," the statement continues. "This effort, though it originally had even the encouragement of Dr. Weizmann, was given up in full submission to the reorganized and revitalized Emergency Council under the joint leadership of Dr. Silver and Dr. Wise. We declare that in our opinion the last 18 months of adequate, impressive and fruitful political effort, in which Dr. Silver played a leading role, more than compensated our comparatively small sacrifice in the giving up of our own partisan instrumentality."

"The glorious chapter of the American Zionist Emergency Council is now being ended, as we see it, by a small majority imposing its will and viewpoint to the hurt and even annulment of a policy in Zionism which we consider vital for the advance of Zionism's political interests and the achievement of its objectives. Mizrachi registers herewith its intention to align with all forces in Zionism that are seeking the opportunity of recreating a front for aggressive Zionism, though it does not as yet choose to officially withdraw from the American Zionist Emergency Council," the statement concludes.

ANTI-SEMITIC TEXTBOOK OUSTED FROM POLISH REFUGEE SCHOOLS IN MIDDLE EAST

LONDON, Dec. 29. (JTA) -- A Polish text-book entitled "I-wow," which was being used in the schools for Polish children in the Middle East has been withdrawn and destroyed as a result of vigorous representations by liberal circles, it is learned here.

The text, which was published in Palestine by Polish educational authorities, contained a number of slanderous anti-Jewish passages.

MASS-EXECUTIONS OF JEWS IN BUDAPEST DESCRIBED; THOUSANDS GASED AND MACHINE-GUNNED

BERN, Dec. 29. (JTA) -- A man who escaped from besieged Budapest less than a week ago told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency today that hundreds of thousands of "opponents" of the Szalasy regime, mainly Jews, have been murdered in recent weeks.

The identity of the JTA's informant, a 35-year-old man who looks as if he were sixty, cannot be revealed, nor can the route he travelled in fleeing Hungary. All that can be said is that his flight was made possible through the bribing of Gestapo officials. He travelled for four days in coal cars, freight cars and, finally a sealed coach, with only a loaf of hard bread and a few lumps of sugar for food.

He described how, in the company of many other persons, he was arrested and taken to a factory in an isolated section of the city. There they were left for six days without food, during which many of the older prisoners succumbed and three women delivered children on the bare stone floor.

On the seventh day, those who had been baptized for at least 30 years and those married to non-Jews were separated from the others and sent to hard labor. The remainder were gassed or mowed down by machine guns.

During air raid alarms, he said, Christian workers were sent to shelters in the cellar, while Jews were forced to mount to the top floors of the buildings to which they had been assigned for slave labor. "From there," he stated, "we had a grand view of the destruction caused by the bombs, and quickly got used to the raids."

Palestine Jewry Asks Russia to Warn Hungarians Against Killing Jews

JERUSALEM, Dec. 29. (JTA) -- The Jewish National Council of Palestine and the Chief Rabbinate today sent a joint cable to Soviet Foreign Minister Molotov appealing for an immediate declaration by the Russian Government warning Hungarians against participating in the extermination of the country's Jews.

UNITED JEWISH APPEAL RAISED \$50,000,000 DURING PAST YEAR; ALLOCATIONS ANNOUNCED

NEW YORK, Dec. 29. (JTA) -- More than \$50,000,000 has been raised by the 1944 nationwide campaign of the United Jewish Appeal, it was announced today by Rabbi James G. Heller, William Rosenwald and Rabbi Jonah B. Wise, national chairmen of the unified drive in behalf of the Joint Distribution Committee, the United Palestine Appeal and the National Refugee Service. Gross pledges toward the \$52,000,000 quota for 1944 exceeded the figure of \$30,000,000, representing the largest sum ever raised in one year in the United States for any Jewish purpose.

The national chairmen announced that the sum of \$25,080,000 has thus far been allocated by original agreement as well as by the action of the U.J.A. allotment committee. By agreement \$15,000,000 was distributed as follows: \$8,640,000 to the Joint Distribution Committee; \$5,360,000 to the United Palestine Appeal; and \$1,000,000 to the National Refugee Service. Several weeks ago the allotment committee distributed an additional sum as follows: \$5,232,568 to the J.D.C.; \$4,767,442 to the U.P.A.; and a contingent amount of \$80,000 to the N.R.S. Additional amounts available for allocation will be divided at another meeting of the allotment committee which is scheduled to convene early in 1945.

GERMAN ANTI-SEMITIC POISON WILL REMAIN IN EUROPE FOR GENERATIONS, WEIZMANN WARNS

TEL AVIV, Dec. 29. (JTA) -- The anti-Semitic poison which the Germans have spread throughout Europe will endure for many generations, Dr. Chaim Weizmann said yesterday, addressing a "Small Zionist Congress" convoked here by the Keren Hayesod. It is necessary, therefore, he added, that a Jewish homeland be established in Palestine as the only solution for the problem of the Jews of Europe.

Dr. Weizmann, who was given a tumultuous greeting when he entered the meeting hall, said that hundreds of thousands of Jewish men, women and children from Europe are striving to come to Palestine, which represents their last hope. He emphasized that the question of large-scale immigration was the greatest and most urgent problem facing the Jews of Palestine and the world.

David Ben-Gurion, chairman of the executive of the Jewish Agency, took issue with a recent statement by Dr. Weizmann in which the latter said that it may be necessary to wait five or six years before a Jewish state is established in Palestine. "We are all ready to wait with Dr. Weizmann," Mr. Ben-Gurion said, "but nobody has a right to advise the Jews whose families have been slaughtered to wait. We cannot compel Churchill, Roosevelt and Stalin to fulfill our demands, but we must be the mouthpiece of the Jews whose parents have been annihilated."

The only possibility of saving the Jews who remain "without roof, shelter or occupation" is their immediate transfer to Palestine, Mr. Ben-Gurion added. He demanded "not immigration, but a speedy transfer of Jews from Europe and eastern countries to Palestine." Pointing to the millions of dunams of unsettled land in Palestine and the possibilities for irrigation, the Agency chairman said that the country can absorb hundreds of thousands of immigrants and, "therefore, we are entitled to demand immediate realization of our vital needs - state authority, control of immigration and development."

Zionist Leaders in America Asked to Overcome "Petty Differences"

An appeal to Zionist leaders in the United States to make peace and "overcome their petty differences" was voiced by Joseph Sprinzak, a member of the Zionist Actions Committee, in a greeting to the Jews of the world, especially those fighting on battlefronts on all continents.

Eliahu Dobkin, immigration chief of the Jewish Agency, estimated that five out of every six Jews in Europe have been murdered and said that thousands of the survivors "are knocking at the gates of Palestine," but are barred by the White Paper. Mr. Dobkin said that the chief immigration task at present is the transfer to Palestine of thousands of Jewish orphans in Europe. He expressed gratitude to non-Jewish groups for the aid they gave these children during the Nazi occupation, but stressed that "we will never agree that they remain outside of Jewry."

Discussing the economic situation in Palestine, Eliezer Kaplan, treasurer of the Agency, revealed that no able-bodied person is unemployed. If full employment is to be maintained, Mr. Kaplan said, it will be necessary to reduce the high living and production costs in Palestine so that local industries may compete for world markets. A "suitable political regime" and a great deal of financial assistance from Jews in other countries will be necessary, he said, to maintain prosperity in Palestine and guarantee its normal development and its ability to absorb increased immigration.

Some progress has been made, the Agency treasurer revealed, in meeting the acute housing shortage here. A "fair amount" of building materials have been obtained and work has already started on 800 units, with the aim of completing 2,500 within a

short time. Nine new agricultural settlements have been established in the past year, he said, bringing to 40 the number founded since the outbreak of the war.

Present political portents indicate that solution of the Palestine problem will be postponed for some time, Emil Shmorak, head of the Economic Department of the Agency, told the delegates who jammed the hall to capacity. This is a great disappointment, Mr. Shmorak said, but under any circumstances, the principal economic task now is to prevent a financial crisis. This can be done, he continued, by expansion of agriculture, industry and public works. He also warned against the dangers of inflation and disclosed that the Agency has invited employers and employees to cooperate in an attempt to lower prices, on condition that the Palestine Government cooperate.

KANSAS CITY JEWISH COMMUNITY WILL CONSTRUCT \$750,000 MEDICAL CENTER; \$500,000 RAISED

KANSAS CITY, Mo. Dec. 29. (JTA) -- A \$750,000 medical center to include a home for Jewish aged, an addition to Menorah Hospital to provide facilities for the chronically ill, and a geriatrics clinic for research into the ailments of the aged will be constructed by the Jewish community of Kansas City, it was announced here today.

Approximately \$500,000 of the three-quarter million dollar goal has already been raised through efforts of the special gifts committee of the Jewish Welfare Federation in a four weeks pre-campaign effort. The remainder is to be raised through general solicitation of the Jewish community. Development of the co-related medical center is the result of a year's study by the Federation's Planning Committee. Upon its completion, the center will provide the finest medical services of its kind in the country, according to Max Bretton, executive director of the Federation.

J.D.C. STARTS SENDING FOOD PACKAGES TO JEWISH INTERNEES IN GERMAN CONCENTRATION CAMPS

NEW YORK, Dec. 29. (JTA) -- The Joint Distribution Committee has appropriated \$75,000 for food packages which will be sent from Sweden to internees in the concentration camps of Theresienstadt, Bergen-Belsen and Birkenau, Joseph C. Hyman, executive vice-president of the Committee, announced today. This package program from Sweden will be supervised by Laura Margolis, J.D.C. overseas worker. Export licenses have been secured for 75,000 kilos of foodstuffs for the parcels.

DR. BERNSTEIN, EX-PRESIDENT OF CONFERENCE OF JEWISH SOCIAL WORK, DIES IN LOS ANGELES

LOS ANGELES, Dec. 29. (JTA) -- Dr. Ludwig B. Bernstein, 74, former president of the National Conference of Jewish Social Work, died here yesterday. He had made his home in Los Angeles since 1937 when he retired as executive director of the Pittsburgh Federation of Jewish Philanthropies.

Dr. Bernstein participated in the first White House conference on child welfare at the invitation of President Theodore Roosevelt. He once taught modern languages in New York City schools and from 1902 to 1920 headed the Hebrew Sheltering Guardian Society. While in that post he introduced the cottage plan for care of children in institutions. He formerly was on the faculties of the Graduate School of Jewish Social Work in New York and the sociology department at the University of Pittsburgh.