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STATE DEPT. OUTLINES U.S. POSITION ON PUNISHMENT OF GERMANS FOR ANTI-JEWISH CRIMES

WASHINGTON, Jan. 29. (JTA) -- Acting Secretary of State Joseph C. Grew at his press conference today side-stepped questions on the failure to return Herbert C. Pell to London as U.S. representative to the United Nations War Crime Commission, but said that new appropriations will be sought from Congress and that every effort will be made to carry on the work of the Commission.

Asked about Pell's charge that the State Department was dissatisfied with his demand that the Germans be punished for crimes committed against German Jews, the Acting Secretary said:

"A considerable amount of speculation has been broadcast and published regarding this Government's position on this subject. Our position has been repeatedly stated by the President and the Secretary of State. It is unchanged today. It is the policy of this Government to see to it that the Axis leaders and their henchmen who have been guilty of war crimes and atrocities shall be brought to the bar of justice. We, in this Government, know our minds on this subject. We have a definite program. It is a program which, I assure you, is comprehensive and forthright".

From an absolutely unimpeachable source the Jewish Telegraphic Agency learned today that John W. Pehle, former director of the War Refugee Board whose resignation was made public yesterday, has for months been vainly urging that the war crimes committed by the Axis powers against their own nationals, such as the torture and murder of German, Hungarian and Bulgarian Jews, be placed on the agenda of the United Nations War Crime Commission.

The Jewish Telegraphic Agency was also informed by the same source that neither Secretary of State Edward R. Stettinius nor War Secretary Henry L. Stimson, has ever made any statement opposing the punishment of war crimes committed by Axis governments against their Jewish nationals, but opposition to such punitive action has been more or less openly expressed by subordinates in both the State and War Departments.

Specifically, the State Department's delay in acting on this situation is attributed to two possible causes: first, that a more efficient organization than the present War Crimes Commission is needed; second, a lack of interest in acting, feeling has grown among informed persons in Washington that a thorough overhaul of the War Crimes Commission is now imperative, reducing the representation on it from 15 nations to the 4 main powers, Britain, U.S.A., France and Russia.

Refusal by the Allied powers to consider the murder of Jews as a war crime is serving as a spur to the Germans in their campaign of extermination, it was charged today at a press conference here by the Hebrew Committee of National Liberation. It was announced at the conference that the Committee plans to run the British blockade of Palestine and smuggle in every Jew from Europe that it can get across the borders.

WARSAW MAYOR RECEIVES JEWISH DELEGATION; SURVIVING JEWS FED BY FIELD KITCHENS

LUBLIN, Jan. 29. (JTA) -- The newly appointed mayor of Warsaw has received a delegation of the Central Committee of Polish Jews to which he expressed his approval of the committee's efforts to assist the few Jews surviving in the shattered Polish capital, it was reported here today. Temporary field kitchens have already been set up to supply hot food to the near-starved Jews, the report said.

Jonas Turkow, chairman of the Jewish Writers Association, broadcasting today on the Lublin radio, addressed the following message to the Jews of the world, "Jewish culture has been annihilated together with Jewish children. The Herrenvolk will have to pay for this crime. We few Jews who remain will do everything in our power to reforge the chain of Jewish culture." He announced plans for a Jewish publishing house and a Jewish newspaper.

In another broadcast over the Lublin radio, today, it was charged that a detachment of the Polish Home Army, which is affiliated with the Government-in-Exile in London, murdered sixteen Jews who were hiding in a house in Warsaw to evade the Germans. The unit, the broadcast charged, was led by a Lieut. Ostojka, a Dr. Karolak and two brothers named Krawczyk. Two survivors, who escaped by shamming death, revealed the massacre, the broadcaster added.

SEVERAL HUNDRED INTERNEES REPORTED TO HAVE REACHED SWITZERLAND FROM GERMAN CAMPS

LONDON, Jan. 29. (JTA) -- Several hundred internees from German concentration camps, including Dutch and Hungarian Jews who are holders of Latin American passports, reached Switzerland during the week-end, it was reported here today by the Agudas Israel organization.

(Estimating that there are still 600,000 Jews left in German-held territories, the World Jewish Congress today telegraphed an appeal to President Roosevelt, Prime Minister Churchill, Marshal Josef Stalin and Gen. De Gaulle, asking them to discuss the speedy rescue of Jews from Nazi lands and to use every feasible means to that end, in order to prevent "wholesale murder" of the Jewish survivors.)

DEATH SENTENCE DEMANDED FOR BULGARIAN MINISTER CHARGED WITH CRIMES AGAINST JEWS

SOFIA, Jan. 29. (JTA) -- The Bulgarian Peoples Court trying members of the former pro-Nazi governments were urged today to impose the death sentence on ex-premier Bogdan Filov, and members of his cabinet, for their persecution and murder of thousands of Jews.

Demanding the death penalty, Chief prosecutor Petrov reviewed the testimony by many witnesses concerning the infamous treatment of Jews, and the confiscation of Jewish property and the deportation of Jews from Macedonia and Thrace and declared, "It is unfortunate that I cannot bring into court any witnesses among the deportees, because they have all been burnt alive."

Petrov disclosed that during the four years of the fascist regime about 1,000,300,000 levas (approximately \$12,000,000 at pre-war rates of exchange) in taxes alone were squeezed out of Bulgaria's Jews, aside from property, businesses and valuables which were seized.

As Petrov read out the crimes against the Jews committed by the defendants, members of the audience shouted, "Death, death."

BRITISH ZIONISTS OPPOSE PARTITION, REAFFIRM SUPPORT OF BILTMORE DECLARATION

LONDON, Jan. 29. (JTA) -- Reaffirmation of its support of the Biltmore Declaration, which calls for the establishment of a Jewish Commonwealth, and opposition to any partitioning of Palestine were voiced here last night by the British Zionist Federation, meeting in annual conference.

The meeting expressed the hope that Palestine, when it becomes a Jewish State, will be included within the British Commonwealth of Nations. It adopted resolutions condemning the terrorism in Palestine, protesting the official tendency to hold the entire Palestine Jewish community responsible for the outbreaks and the attempts to deprive the Jews of arms. Other resolutions protested the deportation of terrorist suspects to Eritrea and urged the admission into Palestine of the Jewish refugees interned on Mauritius.

The delegates voted to associate the Federation with the post-war program of the Board of Deputies of British Jews and declared that the new democratic order in Europe must ensure political and economic equality, and religious freedom and cultural development for Jews in all countries. They also suggested that a British Zionist delegation be sent to Palestine this year.

In a final resolution, the conference urged American Zionists to compose the differences which have arisen as a result of the controversy between the factions led by Dr. Abba Hillel Silver and Dr. Stephen S. Wise.

A report of the United Palestine Appeal given at the conference disclosed that \$3,200,000 of the UPA's \$4,000,000 goal has already been collected.

CONFLICT WITHIN PALESTINE LABOR FEDERATION TO BE AIRED AT CONFERENCE IN TEL AVIV

TEL AVIV, Jan. 29. (JTA) -- Sharp differences within the Histadruth, the Palestine Federation of Labor, are expected to be aired here at the Histadruth Conference, which opened today.

The conflict between the Palestine Labor Party, which has a majority within the Histadruth, and the opposition, consisting of the Hashomer Hazair and the "Movement for Labor Unity," revolve around the following three points:

- 1 - The Labor Party believes the federation should concentrate at present on problems concerning the life of the Jewish community in general, while the opposition groups feel that the present time should be used to strengthen the Histadruth's position within the community.
- 2 - The Labor Party favors organization of Palestine workers in national trade unions, along American and British lines, with the Histadruth becoming a central body such as the C.I.O. or A.F. of L. The Hashomer Hazair and the "Movement for Labor Unity" want to preserve the present set-up under which workers are directly affiliated with the Histadruth.
- 3 - The two groups differ on the problem of educational activity among the Jews in liberated Europe, and have established separate training schools to prepare instructors who will spread their particular viewpoints.

From all indications there will be a long hard struggle before these differences are reconciled, if ever. Davar, the Laborite newspaper, carries an editorial today expressing the hope that the conference will pave the way for unity in the Palestine labor movement.

NEW YORK STATE BODY RECOMMENDS LEGISLATION TO OUTLAW DISCRIMINATION IN EMPLOYMENT

ALBANY, N.Y., Jan. 29. (JTA) -- Legislation which would make New York State the first in the nation to establish a legally-constituted anti-discrimination commission with powers to enforce its directives was urged today in a report submitted by the Temporary State Commission Against Discrimination. It is expected that such legislation will be introduced in the Assembly and Senate this week.

Under the plan, on which the temporary commission worked for seven months, an employer or labor union or any one else found guilty of discriminating in employment against any person for "race, color, creed or national origin" may be sentenced to a year in jail, or fined \$500, or both. Five members would be appointed to the proposed permanent commission at salaries of \$10,000 a year. They would be required to devote their time exclusively to their commission work.

In addition to sitting as commissioners passing upon the merit of complaints of discrimination in employment, the commission members would be authorized to promote local or state-wide campaigns of education on the evils of all discrimination, and to organize local or state-wide advisory agencies of volunteer citizens dedicated to fight all discrimination.

CENTRAL CONFERENCE OF AMERICAN RABBIS ISSUES STATEMENT ON RACE RELATIONS IN THE U.S.

ST. LOUIS, Jan. 29. (JTA) -- The Commission on Justice and Peace of the Central Conference of American Rabbis today issued a message on racial relations, hailing as one of the moral objects of this war the achievement of fellowship among all men.

The message expresses the sense of brotherhood of all Jews with members of all races and pledges to the colored races support in their struggle "for the equality which is their right in all spheres of human endeavor." It welcomes the gains in racial justice achieved by the Fair Employment Practice Committee of the President and urges national legislation to make it permanent. It likewise recommends that every state set up a similar committee.

The message applauds the opening of new branches of service in the armed forces for colored men and women and pays tribute to the courage of Japanese-American soldiers. It recognizes that much must be done, "if we are to triumph over the tradition of hate, which sanctions Jim Crow laws with their accompaniment of bad housing, sub-standard wages and inadequate educational facilities." The message was released by Rabbi Ferdinand M. Isserman, chairman of the Commission.

CHICAGO JEWISH COLLEGE PLANS TO BUILD \$500,000 CENTER AFTER THE WAR

CHICAGO, Jan. 29. (JTA) -- The College of Jewish Studies here, which trains teachers for Hebrew and Sunday Schools and for Jewish adult education classes, plans to erect a \$500,000 building after the war, it was announced here yesterday at the annual meeting of the Board of Jewish Education.

Dr. Samuel Blumenfield, dean of the college, surveyed the twenty-year development of the institution, and Dr. Judah Goldin, who is the first to occupy the new chair of Jewish studies at Duke University, Durham, N.C., delivered the principal address. Prof. Louis Gottschalk, of the University of Chicago, and other officers and board members were re-elected.