

Thursday, February 1, 1945

JTA

Daily News Bulletin

PUBLISHED BY THE JEWISH TELEGRAPHIC AGENCY
106 EAST 41st STREET, NEW YORK 17, N. Y.

NEW WAR REFUGEE BOARD DIRECTOR WILL DEMAND PUNISHMENT OF GERMANS FOR CRIMES AGAINST JEWS

WASHINGTON, Jan. 31. (JTA) -- Brigadier-General William A. O'Dwyer, newly appointed director of the War Refugee Board, said today that he intended to press for action by the United Nations War Crimes Commission on crimes committed by the Axis nations against their nationals.

During his first press conference since he took over the job, General O'Dwyer was asked if he intended to continue the efforts of his predecessor, John W. Pehle, to have this Government issue a clear-out statement serving notice on the Germans that crimes against German Jews would be punished. O'Dwyer said firmly, "I certainly do." He added that he felt that if people behind the enemy lines who commit mass murders are reminded of what President Roosevelt has said about the punishment of war criminals, their potential and present victims would be in less danger.

"From what I've seen," O'Dwyer said, "the War Refugee Board has done a significant job, but there is still a good deal to be done. I must learn the details, and discover just exactly what the job to be done is." He denied that the fact that he will combine the unpaid rescue job with his \$20,000-a-year post as Kings County District Attorney means that the work of the War Refugee Board has slackened. "On the contrary," he said, "I intend to go at it with renewed vigor. He said that 500,000 survivors, primarily Jews, are still in desperate need of help within enemy lines.

Declaring that he did not know whether or not the War Refugee Board would continue to function after the collapse of Germany, O'Dwyer said he had accepted the post "until the job is done or I am otherwise requested to leave." Congressional appropriations for the War Refugee Board extend only until June, 30.

Authorities in Liberated Germany Will Punish Nazis for Anti-Jewish Crimes

LONDON, Jan. 31. (JTA) -- The British Government will do its utmost to insure the punishment of Nazis guilty of the mistreatment and murder of Germans, it was stated in Commons today by Under-Secretary of the Foreign Office Richard K. Law.

Mr. Law's statement was taken to mean that Britain would insist on punishment for crimes against Jews, Catholics and other persecuted persons inside Germany. He added that Britain planned to treat as war criminals those responsible for the murder and persecution of anti-Nazi Germans in concentration camps or elsewhere.

The Under-Secretary said that the punishment would be meted out "by the authorities in control in Germany at the end of the war," adding that "I can leave it to you to guess who those authorities will be."

Lord Wright, who represents Australia on the War Crimes Commission, was elected chairman of the body today. He had been serving as acting chairman since the resignation of Sir Cecil Hurst, British delegate, who resigned, reportedly, in protest against the Foreign Office's failure to support his demand for punishment of Axis crimes against their own nationals.

DR. WEIZMANN ANNOUNCES HE WILL ENDEAVOR TO ESTABLISH AN AMERICAN HECHALUTZ MOVEMENT

JERUSALEM, Jan. 31. (JTA) -- Dr. Chaim Weizmann, president of the Jewish Agency for Palestine, today announced that he intends to establish in the United States a movement for sending young pioneers to Palestine.

"It is not enough for American Jewry to supply only the means for the up-building of Palestine," he said. "I shall soon proceed to the United States and will endeavor to establish there an American Hechalutz movement."

Dr. Weizmann made this announcement during a visit to the Mishmar Ha'Emek settlement of the Hashomer Hatzair. "The most important thing for us is another tree, another dunam of land, and more people," he declared. "The total of all these will give us a Jewish State."

Visiting today the Jewish agricultural school at Pardes Chanah, Dr. Weizmann stated, "As a chemist, I am engaged in creating chemical syntheses. As president of the World Zionist Organization, I will try to synthethize all groups within the Zionist movement."

CHIEF RABBIS OF PALESTINE RE-ELECTED FOR NEW TERM AT COLORFUL CEREMONY

JERUSALEM, Jan. 31. (JTA) -- Chief Rabbi Isaac Herzog and Chief Rabbi Ben-Zion Uziel were today re-elected heads of the Palestine Rabbinate which is composed of eight rabbis. The other six elected were three Sephardic rabbis and three rabbis of the Ashkenazi community.

The elections to the Rabbinate, which take place every eight years, were held at a colorful conclave of 42 rabbis and 38 laymen representing the Jewish National Council of Palestine and the local Jewish communities all over the country. The term of the present Rabbinate expired three years ago, but the Palestine Government, which recognizes the Rabbinate as the supreme Jewish religious institution, extended its term of office taking into consideration that war conditions did not permit new elections.

District Commissioner Pollock, who was present today at the re-election of Chief Rabbis Herzog and Uziel, greeted them in behalf of the Palestine Government. Other greetings were delivered by representatives of central Jewish bodies. Chief Rabbi Herzog, in his acceptance speech, appealed to all nations "to redress the wrongs committed against the Jewish people" and at least save the remnants of European Jews by abolishing the White Paper and by opening the gates of Palestine for their immigration. He also asked for the immediate establishment of a Jewish State. Chief Rabbi Uziel spoke of the activities conducted by the Chief Rabbinate and its aims for the future.

JEWISH AGENCY WANTS NO ZO& DELEGATION; ASKED FOR DELEGATION OF ALL U.S. ZIONIST GROUPS

NEW YORK, Jan. 31. (JTA) -- The administrative committee of the American Zionist Emergency Council today issued a statement with reference to a report from Jerusalem that it has been suggested to the Jewish Agency executive that it invite Dr. Stephen S. Wise, Mrs. Rose Halprin and Dr. Israel Goldstein to come to Palestine to determine a policy for the Zionist Organization of America.

"In the course of the past two or three months," the statement reads, "the Jewish Agency executive has made several requests to the Emergency Council to send a delegation representative of all groups to Palestine for a conference, in order to consider matters of general Zionist importance. The Council is ready to accept this invitation if transportation will be available. The Council knows of no such proposal as mentioned in the report from Jerusalem. The invitation to send a representative delegation to Palestine is one altogether independent of any controversy which may have arisen in Zionist ranks in this country."

PALESTINE READY FOR AMERICAN INVESTMENTS SAYS REPORT OF PALESTINE ECONOMIC CORPORATION

NEW YORK, Jan. 31. (JTA) — Development of Palestine along modern industrial and agricultural lines, "spurred and strengthened" by the war, has made that country a "going concern", ripe for investment capital, it is pointed out in the 18th annual report of the Palestine Economic Corporation, released today. This investment capital can make it possible to provide jobs for new immigrants, the report adds.

The war, instead of halting Palestine's growth, actually has stimulated its economy and made possible the maintenance of large numbers of new settlers, the report explains. "Palestine has been able to absorb more than 210,000 immigrants in the past ten years, and it is today the world's most successful modern example of colonization," it asserts.

"Palestine stands on its own feet economically," says Robert Szold, chairman of the board of directors, in an introductory statement to the corporation's 1,400 American stockholders. Capital invested in the country with normal prudence may expect a return, he declares, adding that "the Palestine Economic Corporation, with its social-economic program, has been one of the pioneer forces in bringing Palestine to its present immigrant-absorbing status. It now plans for expansion of its work."

The Palestine Economic Corporation, which has capital reserves and surplus in excess of \$5,500,000, regards its task as merely begun, the report states, recalling that it was formed in 1926 "to afford an instrument through which American Jews and others who may be interested may give material aid on a strictly business basis to productive Palestinian enterprises and thereby further the economic development of the Holy Land and the resettlement there of an increasing number of Jews."

Describing how the Palestine Economic Corporation is intimately related to many aspects of Palestine's developing economy, the report says: "Through various subsidiaries and affiliated companies, it has a hand in such diverse fields as the Jewish co-operative movement, the financing and building of low-cost housing, the planned urban development of the Galilee area, the scientific exploitation of Palestine's water resources, the development of the Dead Sea mineral resources, and the furnishing of electric power to the country. Directly or indirectly, these activities give our Corporation further participation in industry, banking, agriculture, transportation, social legislation and other fields."

MORE KIDNAPPINGS IN PALESTINE; VICTIM SNATCHED ON JERUSALEM STREET

JERUSALEM, Jan. 31. (JTA) — Three more kidnappings took place in Palestine during the past two days bringing to about a dozen the number of persons abducted within recent weeks.

An unknown man was seized in broad daylight on a busy Jerusalem street today, while a taxi-driver, Jacob Roth, was kidnapped in Natchanya yesterday and a young member of the Betar football team, Meir Samuelov, was abducted yesterday in Petaah tikvah.

LIBERAL PARTY WILL DISCUSS DEMAND FOR REVERSAL OF WHITE PAPER POLICY ON PALESTINE

LONDON, Jan. 31. (JTA) — A resolution demanding immediate reversal of the White Paper on Palestine and fulfillment of the pledges contained in the Balfour Declaration will be presented on Friday to the annual conference of the Liberal Party which opens tomorrow, it was learned here today. The resolution states that British "honor and interests" require such action.

