

Monday, February 5, 1945

Daily News Bulletin

PUBLISHED BY THE JEWISH TELEGRAPHIC AGENCY

106 EAST 41st STREET, NEW YORK 17, N. Y.

AMERICAN JEWISH COMMITTEE ADOPTS POLICY ON POST-WAR PROBLEMS; REAFFIRMS PALESTINE STAND

NEW YORK, Feb. 4. (JTA) -- A series of resolutions on peace and post-war problems, including the Palestine problem, abrogation of Nazi anti-Jewish legislation, repatriation of refugees, outlawing of anti-Semitism, and post-war migration, were adopted here today by the executive committee of the American Jewish Committee at a meeting in the Hotel Waldorf Astoria, in lieu of the cancelled 38th annual meeting of the organization.

presided over by Jacob Blaustein, chairman of the executive committee, the meeting heard a number of reports, including one on peace problems presented by Judge Joseph M. Proskauer, president of the American Jewish Committee, and one by George Z. Medalie, chairman of the overseas committee of the organization. The following course of action was recommended in the resolutions adopted:

1. The creation, in accordance with the Dumbarton Oaks proposals, of "a permanent commission to be set up at the earliest possible time by the United Nations Conference to formulate an International Bill of Rights embodying the principles of human rights, fundamental freedoms, religious liberty, and racial equality, and a course of procedure for the implementation and enforcement of the bill."

2. The outlawing by the United Nations of "public or organized incitement against religious, ethnic and racial groups" as "contrary to the principles and interests of world democracy and a danger to the peace and security of the world."

3. The abrogation of Nazi legislation and discrimination against Jews in the "just" manner of the armistice agreements between the governments of the United Nations and the respective governments of Rumania, Bulgaria and Hungary. These armistice agreements -- in the words of the Hungarian armistice -- provide for the repeal of "all discriminatory legislation and disabilities" and the enactment of measures that will give "all displaced persons and refugees, including Jews and stateless persons, at least the same measures of protection and security as its own nationals."

4. A liberal policy of repatriation that would provide, all displaced nationals, irrespective of race, creed or ethnic origin, with readmission to the country of their nationality; the readmission of all displaced persons, "whether of foreign nationality or stateless" to the country of their permanent residence; "that no displaced person should be compelled to return to the country from which he was displaced" and that he should be "allowed to continue to live in the country in which he resides even, insofar as practicable, in neutral countries which have served as a temporary haven of refuge." Displaced persons are defined as "those who have fled, been expelled from, or forced to leave the countries of their nationality or permanent residence since the Nazis came to power in January 1933."

Establishment of Commission on Migration is Urged

5. That inasmuch as "migration is a matter of vital international interest" that "a Commission on Migration, under the Economic and Social Council of the general International Organization should work for the adoption and ratification of an international migration convention" based upon the principle that in all migration matters,

there should be "non-discrimination between racial, religious, and ethnic groups," this new Commission on Migration should be "set up as a technical body to explore promising areas in the world with a view to developing and increasing their absorptive capacity," pending the establishment of such a world migration policy, "liberal provisions for migration should be extended to individuals and groups that have suffered particular hardship during the war and who continue to labor under unusual hardships."

International Trusteeship for Palestine Suggested; Ask End of Statelessness

6. On Palestine, the Committee reaffirmed its previous statements and resolutions, including the Statement of Views of January 31, 1943, which recommended for Palestine "an international trusteeship responsible to the United Nations" in order; "to safeguard the Jewish settlement in and Jewish immigration into Palestine and to guarantee adequate scope for future growth and development to the full extent of the economic absorptive capacity of the country; to safeguard and protect the fundamental rights of all inhabitants; to safeguard and protect the holy places of all faiths; to prepare the country to become, within a reasonable period of years, a self-governing commonwealth under a constitution and a bill of rights that will safeguard and protect these purposes and basic rights for all."

7. Statelessness and the practice of denaturalization should be recognized as "a condition injurious to the existence of the national state, to the human community and to the dignity of the human personality." To this end, a convention on statelessness should be adopted by the United Nations and a Commission on Statelessness should be set up under the Economic and Social Council to implement this convention.

The Committee endorsed the statement and urged "the adoption and enforcement" of the policy of the State Department in regard to the punishment of Axis criminals and their associates, which calls for "the punishment of German leaders and their associates for their responsibility for the whole broad criminal enterprise devised and executed with ruthless disregard of the very foundation of law and morality, including offenses, wherever committed, against the rules of war and against minority elements, Jews and other groups, and individuals."

Blaustein Outlines Activities of the Committee at Home and Abroad in Past Year

Reporting on the activities of the American Jewish Committee during the past year, Mr. Blaustein declared that the organization has, in all its work, at home and abroad, emphasized the necessity of "the dignity of the human being" to the end that "political, civil and religious equality of the citizens of all lands, regardless of creed or ancestry, shall be solemnly recognized."

"We do not delude ourselves, however," said Mr. Blaustein, "into believing that even with the achievement of that aim, our work will be done. Alas, tragic experience has shown that rights granted by charters and treaties are not always granted in practice, and that the full and loyal implementation of solemn pledges can be assured only at the price of eternal vigilance and continuous struggle. To such vigilance and struggle the American Jewish Committee is pledged."

Mr. Medalie, reporting as chairman of the overseas committee, declared there must be no isolationism in our thinking either as Americans or Jews. "It is very important," he said, "that we not succumb to the views of the extremist who believes that fighting anti-Semitism on the homefront is the one and only job for American Jewry; nor must we abdicate our sense of perspective to the zealot who does harm to his cause by thinking only in terms of overseas relief and Palestine."

SUMNER WELLES ADVOCATES JEWISH HOMELAND IN PALESTINE; URGES INTERNATIONAL TRUSTEESHIP

NEW YORK, Feb. 4. (JTA) -- An International Bill of Rights, which would guarantee the fundamental rights of life and liberty to every individual of every race and creed in all countries of the world, should be made an integral part of an international organization of nations, it was stated here last night by Sumner Welles, former Under-Secretary of State, addressing the New York chapter of the American Jewish Committee at a dinner at the Waldorf-Astoria Hotel.

Each state becoming a member of the international organization of the United Nations should be placed under "specific and contractual obligations" with regard to observing the provisions of the International Bill of Rights, the violation of which would be penalized, Mr. Welles urged. Enduring world peace depends upon the enforcement of such a Bill of Rights, he said.

With regard to the post-war status of Palestine, Mr. Welles said, "Palestine must become a Jewish Homeland. It would be my hope that in the settlement soon to be reached, the International Organization would proffer an international trusteeship over Palestine, to continue until a final solution has been obtained."

Pointing out that Palestine "involves inescapable problems which must be solved, if world stability is to be achieved in the years to come," Mr. Welles continued, "I further believe in the possibility of a successful and prosperous autonomous Commonwealth of Palestine. I am equally convinced that no lasting nor constructive solution will be found through violence, through force, nor through attempted imposition. I fully share the views expressed by that outstanding and wise statesman, Dr. Weizmann, when he publicly urged the need for a transition period after the war in order to seek by negotiation, and by agreement on the part of all peoples and governments who have legitimate interests in the problem, a solution which will be based on equity, but which will at the same time satisfy the just aspirations of so many of the Jewish people."

Refugees Must be Given Means to Establish Themselves, Welles Says

Outlining a program for post-war rehabilitation of refugees and urging the strengthening of the Intergovernmental Committee for Refugees, Mr. Welles demanded that the refugees who have been driven from their homes in Europe should be enabled to return to them should they so desire. "But, in addition," he said, "they must be granted all necessary guarantees as to their physical safety, once they have gone back. They must also be afforded the means of returning; relief until they are able to support themselves; and help in finding the way in which they can achieve economic security."

"It may well be that the greatest number of refugees will be comprised of countless men and women who have suffered grievously during the war years and who will wish to find new homes beyond the seas. Wherever these new homes may be, the refugees must also be given a fair chance to recover from the horrors to which they have been subjected. Far more than that, they must be given the means to establish themselves in these new homes so that they and their children may once again look forward to a life of security and happiness. There are many countries in the New World and in other regions of the earth which are still largely undeveloped. Their governments realize that desirable immigration will be indispensable in order to develop what are still often largely untouched sources of national prosperity. I am confident that this possibility for resettlement offers to these countries as great an advantage as it should offer the potential immigrants."

Other speakers at the dinner were Judge Joseph M. Proskauer, George Z. Medalie, Judge Irving Lehman and David Sher, officers of the American Jewish Committee.

FRENCH GOVERNMENT PROMULGATES DECREE CURBING ADMINISTRATORS OF JEWISH PROPERTY

PARIS, Feb. 4. (JTA) -- The French Government acted last night to protect Jewish property seized under Vichy legislation by establishing a service to control the administrators and liquidators and by defining their responsibility and limiting their compensation.

The decree, which appears in the journal *Officielle*, is signed by Gen. De Gaulle and the Ministers of Finance and Justice. It is restricted to safeguarding several thousand former Jewish businesses and properties which are still in the hands of administrators or liquidators named by Vichy's Commissariat for Jewish Affairs or confirmed as managers under the ordinance of November 14, which covered the question of confiscated Jewish property. It does not deal with the question of restitution.

This question will be handled in an ordinance presently under study by the government. It has not yet been decided whether the Government will submit the measure to the Consultative Assembly before its promulgation. It is understood that the final draft of the decree has been completed with some modifications to meet earlier objections. It is considered doubtful, however, whether the modifications have removed the main criticism of the measure, which would make recovery of property by Jews and other victims of discriminatory legislation long and difficult.

Prof. Emile Terroine, noted scientist, will be named head of the new service. He is coming to Paris from Lyon in about a week to assume his new duties. For some months immediately after the liberation of France, Terroine was sequesterator and liquidator of the Commissariat for Jewish Affairs in the Rhone-Alpes region. He is one of the leading figures in the National Movement Against Racism, and during the occupation played a leading role in the rescue of Jewish children and other victims of the Nazis.

Liquidation of the Commissariat for Jewish Affairs is presently being handled by a department within the Ministry of Finance, but it is understood that it is likely that this will become part of Terroine's task. His appointment is hailed here as an assurance that at least this aspect of the Jewish problem will be handled with a vigor and spirit which has been noticeably lacking in the treatment of other phases of the situation.

The new decree declares null and void all arrangements for compensation of administrators and liquidators made prior to August 9, 1944 and specifies that only those who administered the properties carefully and honestly are entitled to compensation, indemnity for personal obligations and repayment of useful and necessary expenses. No administrator, no matter how many nor how large the businesses he is supervising can receive more than 10,000 francs monthly.

Administrators are given 15 days to hand over to the national depository, to the account of the owner of the property they are administering, all funds held by them. They will all be held responsible under the common law and are liable to claims against them by owners of the property.

BULGARIAN JEWS CRITICIZE DELAY IN ISSUING PALESTINE IMMIGRATION CERTIFICATES

SOFIA, Feb. 4. (JTA) -- Criticism is growing among destitute Bulgarian Jews who wish to emigrate to Palestine at the failure of the British representatives here to provide Palestine immigration certificates, the Sofia radio said today. The British are accused of hampering the emigration of thousands of persons, especially children.

LIBERAL PARTY CONFERENCE IN LONDON URGES WITHDRAWAL OF PALESTINE WHITE PAPER

LONDON, Feb. 4. (JTA) — The annual conference of the Liberal party today adopted a resolution asking for the immediate withdrawal of the White Paper on Palestine and the fulfillment by the British Government of the pledge given in the Balfour Declaration to establish a Jewish National Home in Palestine.

Adoption of the resolution was preceded by a sharp debate. However, most of the speakers emphasized that British honor is at stake if Palestine remains closed to Jewish immigration under the provisions of the White Paper, and the resolution was thus carried by an overwhelming majority.

SNOW FALLS IN JERUSALEM; FLOOD WATERS MAKE ROADS IMPASSABLE; CROP DAMAGE FEARED

JERUSALEM, Feb. 4. (JTA) — The city of Jerusalem and its environs today presented a rare picture of snow and ice following a snowfall preceded by storm and rain.

Residents of Jerusalem, who seldom see snow, awoke yesterday morning to find the roofs of their houses, of towers and mosques, covered with a thick layer of snow, while the entire road from Hebron to Ramalla was made entirely impassable by flood waters, compelling the High Commissioner to interrupt his tour of Northern Palestine.

Palestine has not had so much rain for over a decade. The total quantity of rain, which averages annually about 700 millimeters, has already reached over 1,200 millimeters. Jewish settlers in the agricultural colonies fear that the abundance of rain will adversely affect crops. In some regions crops are reported to have already damaged.

FRENCH-JEWISH LEADERS AWARDED HONORARY DEGREES BY JEWISH THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

NEW YORK, Feb. 4. (JTA) — Dr. Leon Meiss, president of the General Council of Jews in France, and Rabbi Jacob Kaplan, Chief Rabbi of Paris, were today awarded honorary degrees by the Jewish Theological Seminary at a special convocation commemorating the 35th anniversary of the inception of the Teachers Institute of the Seminary.

Dr. Meiss was given the honorary degree of Doctor of Laws. Rabbi Kaplan received the degree of Doctor of Hebrew Letters. The latter degree was also awarded to Israel Konovitz, a leading American Jewish scholar and educator, and to Prof. Zevi Scharfstein of the Teachers Institute.

Prof. Mordecai M. Kaplan, principal speaker at the ceremony, which was attended by representatives of twenty-two Jewish organizations, emphasized that American Jewry today needs a Jewish University of Religion. "There is no reason in the world why the Jewish Theological Seminary of America should not become such an institution," he said.

Citations for distinguished service in Jewish education were conferred upon Doctor Alexander Dushkin of the Jewish Education Committee; Doctor Leo L. Honor, director of the Council of Jewish Education in Philadelphia; Professor Samuel Dinin, for the past sixteen years Registrar and Professor of Education and History at the Teachers Institute; and Doctor Emanuel Samoran, Director of the Commission on Jewish Education in Cincinnati.