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PALESTINE PROBLEM BELIEVED TO HAVE BEEN DISCUSSED BY ROOSEVELT WITH ARAB RULERS

LONDON, Feb. 20 (JTA) — The belief that President Roosevelt touched upon the Palestine problem during his conferences in Cairo with King Ibn Saud of Saudi-Arabia and King Farouk of Egypt, which were held on his return journey from the "Big Three" conference at Yalta, was expressed here today following the announcement in Washington of the President's meeting with the Arab rulers.

King Ibn Saud traveled more than 800 miles from the Red Sea port of Jidda to meet President Roosevelt. This was the first time he had left his country's soil. His entourage included 48 persons. It was understood here today that President Roosevelt also conferred for hours with Prime Minister Churchill in Alexandria on matters concerning Middle Eastern problems.

London newspapers, reporting that Churchill also conferred in Egypt with King Farouk and King Ibn-Saud, as well as with the president of the Syrian Republic, said that the announcement of these conferences was issued "amid persistent rumors that Britain was taking the initiative in a move to solve various Middle-Eastern problems through the formation of a single Arab state and the establishment of a separate Jewish state comprising most of Palestine."

It was assumed in British circles here that both President Roosevelt and Premier Churchill were kept advised, during their visit in Egypt, of the progress made by the conference of representatives of Arab countries now being held in Cairo to draft a constitution of the projected Arab League, and were informed of the attitude of this conference towards the Arab-Jewish problem in Palestine. Zionist leaders here termed "nonsense" a report that a plan for the Middle East has been prepared which provides for the partitioning of Palestine. At the same time, some Jewish leaders here indicated that the report may not be entirely without foundation.

Plan to Merge Partitioned Palestine with Syria Reported

PARIS, Feb. 20 (JTA) — Paris newspapers today carry a report from Cairo stating that a scheme for the establishment of a "Jewish-Christian State," composed of Jewish areas in Palestine merged with Lebanon, was submitted by British authorities to Arab leaders. The papers say that this plan has the "strongest American endorsement."

The remainder of a partitioned Palestine would be merged with Transjordan in a kingdom ruled by Emir Abdullah, according to the alleged plan.

The French Foreign Office, commenting on the Cairo report, emphasized that if any such scheme has been presented to Arab leaders in Cairo, the French government, which holds the mandate over Lebanon and Syria, has not been informed of it. Nor was it consulted. Official circles here doubt whether any such plan would be advanced without consulting France, in view of this country's position as mandatory power for the Levant states and her interest in the affairs of the Middle East.

BULGARIAN PEOPLES COURT WILL TRY 110 PERSONS CHARGED WITH PERSECUTING JEWS

SOFIA, Feb. 20. (JTA) -- The prosecutors staff of the Bulgarian Peoples Court is preparing indictments against five categories of persons accused of anti-Jewish activities, and they are expected to be tried shortly, it was learned here today. The accused, who total 110, are divided into the following groupings:

- 1 - The former Commissar of Jewish Affairs, Alexander Beloff, and his assistants and co-workers in the commissariat;
- 2 - All those who mistreated Jews in concentration camps;
- 3 - Persons who wrote or published anti-semitic literature;
- 4 - Persons who terrorized Jews in the towns and villages to which they were exiled from Sofia and other large cities;
- and 5 - Liquidators of Jewish property, such as lawyers, judges and other functionaries."

JEWS IN PALESTINE INSIST ON MORE IMMIGRANTS AS WHITE PAPER QUOTA NEARS END

JERUSALEM, Feb. 20. (JTA) -- The question of securing the admission into Palestine of more Jews from Europe, as the number of immigration certificates available under the terms of the British White Paper are nearly exhausted, was the major question under discussion at the plenary session of the Jewish National Council which opened here last night.

Numerous speakers today emphasized that everything must be done - including the calling of a general strike throughout the country - to impress upon the British Government that the doors of Palestine must be kept open for Jewish immigration.

Executive officers of the Council reported that during the period between the last plenary session and the present, two representative Jewish delegations appeared before the High Commissioner and appealed for his intervention to secure the opening of Palestine to the remnants of European Jewry. One of the delegations also explained to the High Commissioner the aims and the role of the Hagannah, the Jewish self-defense organization in Palestine.

ANTI-ZIONIST LEAFLET DISTRIBUTED BY ARAB GROUP AT JEWISH MEETING IN PARIS

PARIS, Feb. 20. (JTA) -- Following their disruption of Zionist meetings here, a group of youths representing the "Friends of Arab Palestine" yesterday distributed anti-Zionist leaflets to persons entering a meeting of the Jewish Socialist Bund.

The meeting featured an address by Daniel Mayer, Secretary General of the French Socialist Party, who charged that failure of Minister of Justice Francois de Menthon to purge his ministry and the courts of collaborationists was the cause for the delay in the promulgation of legislation restoring confiscated Jewish property. Declaring that no "Jewish question" existed in France, Mayer cautioned his audience against speaking of a "Jewish problem," asserting that such discussions bred anti-Semitism.

The meeting adopted a resolution demanding a prompt solution of questions of property restoration, repatriation of deportees, and a purge of the administration.

JEWISH DELEGATION WILL STUDY POSITION OF POLISH JEWS IN FRANCE, BELGIUM, SWITZERLAND

LONDON, Feb. 20 (JTA) -- A delegation of the Council for Rescue of Polish Jews left today for Paris to investigate the position of the Polish Jews in France, the delegation, headed by Emanuel Skorer, Jewish member of the Polish National Council, will also proceed to Belgium and Switzerland to study the situation of Polish Jews there.

2/21/45.

GERMAN RED CROSS WORKERS REFUSED TO GIVE FOOD TO AMERICAN JEWISH WAR PRISONERS

MOSCOW, Feb. 20. (JTA) — German Red Cross workers refused to sell food to a group of American war prisoners which included several Jews, it was revealed here today by Dr. Ernest Gruenberg, 29, of New York City, who arrived in Moscow over the week-end after fleeing from a German camp in Poland.

The young Jewish physician, formerly an interne at St. Elizabeth's Hospital in Washington, D.C., told how while being transferred from one camp to another a group of Yank prisoners paused at a wayside station near Poznan, Poland. They asked a Red Cross "Fraulein" to sell them some soup. When, in reply to her query, they said that there were Jews among them, she refused to sell them anything.

Capt. Gruenberg, who was captured in Normandy on June 8, two days after D-Day, eluded, together with two other officers, the guards who were transferring them westwards to another camp and hid until the Red Army arrived. After a series of adventures which took them across most of Poland and parts of Russia, they arrived here Saturday evening.

While imprisoned by the Germans, he was forbidden to act as a doctor in the prison camps, and, therefore, organized a school for his fellow officers, despite difficulties placed in his way by the Nazis.

JEWISH LEADERS TESTIFY IN FAVOUR OF ANTI-DISCRIMINATION BILL IN NEW YORK

ALBANY, N. Y., Feb. 20 (JTA) — Jewish leaders representing all major Jewish organizations today urged passage by the New York State Legislature of the Ives-Quinn Anti-discrimination Bill, which bars racial and religious discrimination in employment, during testimony before a joint legislative committee.

Judge Joseph M. Proskauer, speaking for the American Jewish Committee, emphasized that he attaches particular importance not so much to the punitive provisions of the bill, as to its conciliation provisions. "I think the bill provides an important and vital educational process," he said, terming the bill "a great forward step in advancing in a practical way the ideals upon which our nation is reared."

Dr. Stephen S. Wise spoke for the bill in behalf of the American Jewish Congress. Henry Epstein, former solicitor general of New York State, advocated passage of the bill on behalf of the National Community Relations Advisory Council. Nathaniel M. Kinkoff urged its speedy passage in behalf of the Jewish Labor Committee. Judge Meir Steinbrink, in a telegram sent as chairman of the Eastern Regional Office of the Anti-Defamation League of the B'nai B'rith, said that the bill "must be passed without circumscribing its provisions through amendments designed to cripple its effectiveness."

ROMANIAN GOVERNMENT LAUDS J.D.C. RELIEF IN BROADCAST OVER BUCHAREST RADIO

BUCHAREST, Feb. 20. (JTA) — The Rumanian Government, in a broadcast over the Bucharest radio station today, expressed thanks to the Joint Distribution Committee, the Swiss Red Cross and Russia for relief supplies sent here.

The broadcast lauded the J.D.C. for including insecticide in its relief shipments. It revealed that 2,600 kilograms of insecticide sent by transport plane from the United States reached Rumania within ten days after the plane left American soil.

PONTIAC JEWS ESTABLISH "PROGRESSIVE" REFORM CONGREGATION; WOMAN TO LEAD REGULAR SERVICE

PONTIAC, Mich., Feb. 20. (JTA) -- Criticizing the Central Conference of American Rabbis, the Union of American Hebrew Congregations and the Hebrew Union College, a group of local Jews today announced the establishment of a new congregation called the "American Reform Jewish Congregation", based on the belief that "conditions of the modern world demand renewed emphasis on the progressive spirit of Reformed Judaism",

One of the weekly services in the new congregation will be conducted by Mrs. Flora Vets, vice-president, the announcement said. She is believed to be the first woman to lead a regular Jewish service in any congregation in the United States. Differing in another way from the custom of Jewish congregations, the new group will have no separate women's organization, which in Jewish temples are generally known as "sisterhoods". Norman Buckner is the president of the new congregation.

The tenets of the new group are expressed in eight basic principles on the basis of which members will be admitted to the congregation. One of the principles declares: "We are Jews by virtue of our acceptance of Judaism. We are not a nation, we are a religious group only. We stand for the continuation of Judaism solely as a religion; and not as a political entity, either in whole or in part. We stand unequivocally for the separation of Church and State. Our religion is Judaism. Our nation is the United States of America. Our nationality is American. Our flag is the stars and stripes. We look upon Palestine, not as a Jewish nation, but as one of the places where those who are oppressed may find a haven of refuge. We consider it our sacred privilege to promote the spiritual, cultural and social welfare of our co-religionists there and elsewhere."

The new group accepts as binding the moral laws of Mosaic legislation and prophetic teaching. "While respecting the convictions of our Orthodox and Conservative brethren concerning the rabbinical and Mosaic laws which regulate diet, priestly purity, dress and similar laws, we however, as an American Reform Congregation, do not regard these as being religiously obligatory; we shall retain and use in connection with our religious services only such ritual and ceremonies as may symbolize, in effective and beautiful form, the principles of our faith, and we shall also retain and use such rituals and ceremonies as are adaptable to the progressive and liberal spirit of our times," the statement of principles says.

"We are firmly convinced that the destiny of American Reform Judaism depends upon steadfast adherence to the fundamental principles of our faith. We regretfully record our feeling that the Central Conference of American Rabbis has abandoned them in large part; that the Union of American Hebrew Congregations has neutralized them; and that the Hebrew Union College has failed to teach them adequately," the statement continues. "We fear that there has been worshipping of the idol of "unity." It is desirable to have as much unity as may be consistent with principle. Whenever unity is placed above principle the result is eventual loss of both unity and principle. We respectfully urge that while there is still time, the Union of American Hebrew Congregations, the Central Conference of American Rabbis and the Hebrew Union College give to their programs vigorous and thorough analysis, reconstruction and action."

HISTADRUTH DELEGATE NAMED MEDITERRANEAN REPRESENTATIVE ON WORLD TRADE UNION BODY

LONDON, Feb. 19, (JTA) -- Berl Looker, delegate of the Histadruth, the Palestine Federation of Labor, to the World Trade Union Conference, has been named a member of the continuation committee of the conference. He will represent the trade unions of the Mediterranean countries, it was announced here today.