

# JTA

VOL. XII No. 44 (27th year)

Friday, February 23, 1945.

## Daily News Bulletin

PUBLISHED BY THE JEWISH TELEGRAPHIC AGENCY

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

### ROOSEVELT AND CHURCHILL DID NOT DISCUSS PALESTINE QUESTION WITH ARAB KINGS

LONDON, Feb. 22 (JTA) -- A high British personality, whose name cannot be disclosed, today stated that no plan for Palestine was discussed at the conferences held by Roosevelt and Churchill with the Arab kings. He expressed the opinion that "the Palestine question will be settled after the war."

A report stating that the U. S. Ambassador in Paris has presented to Gen. de Gaulle a memorandum indicating that the mandates over Palestine, Syria and Lebanon would be handed over to United Nations trusteeship is published in the London Daily Sketch.

(State Department sources in Washington told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency that they had no knowledge that instructions had gone to Ambassador Caffery in Paris to inform General de Gaulle that the British mandate for Palestine and the French mandates for Lebanon and Syria were to be turned over to an international trusteeship of the United Nations.)

The London Daily Herald says that the report that Britain suggested the partitioning of Palestine "can be dismissed." The paper adds that no important decisions and no formal agreements were made during the conversations in Egypt with leaders of the Arab countries.

The London Times, in an editorial commenting on the separate talks which Roosevelt and Churchill had with the Arab kings in Egypt, said that there is good reason to hope that the policies of the United Nations with regard to the Middle East are being framed in relation to the general world organization. The problems of Palestine and of the Levant states, the editorial continues, cannot be viewed as isolated questions but are being considered in relation to the general problems in the Middle East which are now becoming a matter of joint interest of the United Nations.

The Manchester Guardian says "whether Palestine remains a mandated territory or becomes an independent state, it will have considerable bearing on post-war security." It adds that no one can contest the fact that the Jewish National Home is a reality and is going to increase in strength.

### Palestine Jews Excited over Cairo Reports; High Commissioner visits Weizmann.

JERUSALEM, Feb. 22 (JTA) -- A feeling of excitement prevails among the Jews in Palestine in connection with the report from Cairo that it is expected that the major part of Palestine will be merged with Lebanon as a Jewish-Christian state.

This feeling was heightened by the fact that High Commissioner Gort paid a visit on Tuesday to Dr. Chaim Weizmann at Rehovoth, which lasted for several hours. Although this visit was arranged a week ago, the public nevertheless coupled it with the meetings which Roosevelt and Churchill had in Egypt with the Arab kings. Moshe

Shertok, head of the political department of the Jewish Agency, was present at the conversations between the High Commissioner and Dr. Weizmann.

Arab newspapers in Palestine, commenting on the Roosevelt, Churchill meetings with Farouk and Ibn Saud, declare that the Arabs in Palestine may soon expect good news. The Mishnar, official organ of the Jewish Hashomer Hatzair party, commenting on the Cairo reports, warns against the danger of partitioning Palestine, advocating at the same time a peaceful settlement with the Palestine Arabs.

#### LEADERS OF ARAB COUNTRIES REJECT PROPOSAL TO MERGE PALESTINE WITH SYRIA

CAIRO, Feb. 22 (JTA) — Leaders of Arab countries meeting here for the purpose of drafting a constitution for the projected League of Arab Nations have rejected the proposal that Palestine and its neighbouring countries be merged into a greater Syria, the Jewish Telegraphic Agency learned today from reliable sources.

The representative of Saudi Arabia was especially insistent on rejection of this proposal. He expressed the wish of King Ibn Saud that each country in the Middle East respect the independence and the autonomy of its neighbors. Arab circles here also emphasized that Britain and the United States promised to consider sympathetically the Arab viewpoint regarding the Palestine problem.

Replying today in the Egyptian senate to a number of questions on Palestine, Foreign Minister Nokrashi Pasha said: "The Ministry on Arab Affairs has not yet presented any report regarding the Palestine issue. Personally I do not know how the Palestine problem will be solved. Anyhow, the solution of this problem could not prejudice the nature of the natural structure of the Eastern states, especially since the latter are free to choose their own national structure."

#### BRITISH GOVERNMENT DECIDES TO ADMIT TO PALESTINE ALL JEWISH INTERNEES ON MAURITIUS

LONDON, Feb. 22 (JTA) — The British government has decided to re-admit to Palestine all Jews who had been deported as illegal immigrants to the island of Mauritius, it was announced yesterday by Colonial Minister Oliver Stanley. He added that he could not promise when the Jewish internees will be transferred from Mauritius to Palestine "in view of formidable transport difficulties."

Speaking in the House of Commons, the Colonial Minister rejected the demand by some members of Parliament that compensation be paid to the survivors of the "patria", the ship which sank in Haifa harbor with the loss of several hundred Jewish refugees, after they were forbidden to land in Palestine. The Minister said that payment of such compensation would be an imposition upon the British tax payers. If the survivors of the vessel, who are now in Palestine, are destitute, it is a terrible indictment against the Palestine Jewish community, he argued.

The Colonial Minister also replied to questions regarding the methods of the Palestine police in carrying out arbitrary arrests and deportations. "The recent outrages which culminated in the killing of Lord Moyne necessitated the most drastic police measures in order to suppress terrorism, including the detention of terrorist suspects," he said. The cases of the arrested persons are periodically reviewed by a committee which advises on whether the prisoners should be released or not, he added. Another committee is at present inspecting the camp where the deportees are being detained, he announced.

DELEGATION OF HUNGARIAN JEWS ARRIVES IN BUCHAREST TO SECURE AID FOR SURVIVORS

BUCHAREST, Feb. 22 (JTA) — A delegation of the Jewish community of Debreczen, sent by the Hungarian Provisional Government, arrived here today to confer with Romanian Jewish leaders on measures to rebuild Jewish life in Hungary and to secure immediate assistance for the surviving Jews of Budapest. The Debreczen Jews have constituted themselves a temporary central body of Hungarian Jewry.

The delegation is headed by Prof. Mannheim, author of a well-known Hebrew-Romanian dictionary, who told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency that there are about 100,000 Jews left in Budapest. Prof. Mannheim said that information received from 27 liberated villages and towns indicate that another 10,000 Jews remain there. Included in the 27 are the city of Debreczen and its surrounding villages, where 2,000 Jews survive; Nagyvarad with 1,200; Kaposvar with 500; and Satu-Mare with 400. Of these only about ten percent are women.

Prof. Mannheim also stated that the Hungarian provisional government is preparing a law abolishing the anti-Jewish legislation introduced by the pro-Nazi regime and that it will soon be promulgated. A special secretariate for Jewish affairs will be established by the provisional government, he said. In the meantime, Dr. Leitner, the president of the Debreczen Jewish Community, has been appointed a member of the Hungarian National Assembly, he reported.

The delegation appealed, through the Jewish Telegraphic Agency, to the Jews of the world to send immediate relief, including medicaments, clothing, shoes and underwear. "The Germans robbed the Jewish population of everything, and the majority of the surviving Jews in Hungary are now barefooted and without clothing," Prof. Mannheim declared. He added that it is possible to buy food for the starving Budapest Jews from peasants in neighboring villages, but the Jewish population is penniless and cannot, therefore, secure any food unless relief funds are sent from abroad.

Dr. Mannheim revealed how young Jews secured false identification documents and joined the Arrow Cross storm troops. In this way they were able to smuggle food to the starving Jews in the Budapest ghetto and to help some escape from the ghetto. In October of last year, he said, all Jewish men between the ages of 18 and 48, and women between the ages of 16 and 40, totalling about 70,000 in all, were rounded-up and sent to forced labor. Meanwhile, 200 Jews were killed daily and their bodies flung into the Danube. This continued for several weeks.

ORTHODOX JEWS DEMONSTRATE IN JERUSALEM; DEMAND RELIGIOUS TRAINING FOR CHILDREN

JERUSALEM, Feb. 22. (JTA) — More than 100 Yeshiva students, rabbis and orthodox Jews today marched through the main street of this city to the Wailing Wall, protesting against the alleged failure of the Jewish Agency to provide religious training for the child refugees being brought here from Europe.

Demanding orthodox religious education for all Jewish children in Palestine, and especially those brought here from abroad by the Youth Aliyah, the demonstrators prayed before the Wailing Wall. Orthodox spokesmen complained that only a small number of the youthful refugees have been placed in their institutions.

GERMANS SEGREGATING JEWS AMONG POLISH WAR PRISONERS, RED CROSS INFORMED.

GENEVA, Feb. 22. (JTA) — The International Red Cross has received information that the German military authorities have divided Polish war prisoners into Jewish and non-Jewish categories, it was learned here today. Jewish circles are urging that a competent international organization make strong interventions immediately to prevent harm coming to the Jewish prisoners.

