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FAVORABLE OR UNFAVORABLE SOLUTION OF PALESTINE PROBLEM EQUALLY POSSIBLE, SAYS BEN-GURION

TEL AVIV, Mar. 18. (JTA) -- Zionist leadership should be ready for both a favorable and an unfavorable solution of the Palestine problem, David Ben-Gurion, chairman of the executive of the Jewish Agency, warned today, addressing a meeting of the central committee of the Palestine Jewish Labor Party prior to his departure for London.

Declaring that the conference of the United Nations in San Francisco apparently will not discuss the Palestine problem, Ben-Gurion stated: "In any case we ought to be prepared. If a favorable solution is reached, then it must be carried out speedily. If the solution is unfavorable, then we will not hang all our hopes solely on talks with world rulers. There is one factor which cannot be disregarded. The Jews in Palestine and their achievements cannot be annulled by words only."

The leader of the Jewish Agency denied the report published in New York that the Arabs are inclined to offer numerical parity to Jews by consenting to the admission of 300,000 more Jews to Palestine. "As far as we know this report is untrue," he told the meeting. His denial was substantiated by Arab leaders in Palestine in a statement to the correspondent of the Jewish Telegraphic Agency in Jerusalem which termed the report "nonsense".

Ben-Gurion outlined the demands on which the Jewish Agency is now concentrating as follows: The Agency insists on the opening of Palestine to unrestricted Jewish immigration. It will persist in this demand even if the solution of the Palestine problem is unfavorable. However, it is clear that large Jewish immigration is not possible without changes in the present political regime. The Jewish Agency must have sole control over Jewish immigration, and must also control the rehabilitation and the development of Palestine.

"Never was I so afraid to leave the country as I am now," the Zionist leader continued, calling on the Jews of Palestine to mobilize all their forces. "Things are much different from what they used to be. Let everybody harness himself to fill the gaps. The Jewish Labor Party, which has recently been weakened, must be strengthened if we want to achieve our aims."

The gathering was also addressed by Eliezer Kaplan, treasurer of the Jewish Agency, who is leaving this month for the United States. In outlining his mission, Kaplan revealed that he wants to secure from the Zionist movement in America the major part of the budget of the World Zionist Executive and expects to discuss with leaders of the Joint Distribution Committee various problems concerning the sending of aid to Jews in liberated European countries.

Prior to leaving today for London, Ben-Gurion submitted to the Zionist Action Committee a two-point proposal on Arab-Jewish relations. The proposal, which will be taken up at a session of the committee this month, urges full cooperation between the Jews and the Arabs in Palestine, and similar cooperation between the Jewish State and neighboring Arab countries.

PERSONS RESPONSIBLE FOR DEPORTATION OF JEWS NO LONGER CONSIDERED WAR CRIMINALS

BUCHAREST, Mar. 18. (JTA) — The Rumanian Minister of Justice today issued a decree under which those responsible for the establishment of ghettos or for the deportation of Jews will no longer be considered war criminals, but will be placed in the category of "persons responsible for the disaster of the country." Persons in this latter category are receiving milder punishment than those classified as war criminals.

Special services were held in the Bucharest Synagogue to mark the return of Transylvanians to Rumania. Representatives of the government attended the ceremonies which were presided over by Chief Rabbi Shafir who offered prayers for the more than 100,000 Transylvanian Jews who were deported to Poland and Germany and whose whereabouts are not known.

Speakers included Abraham Zissu, leader of the Jewish Party, who appealed to the government to assist in the repatriation of Transylvanian Jews who are among the survivors liberated from the Oswiecim death camp by the Russians. Most of the liberated Jews are still in the neighborhood of Oswiecim because they have no way of returning to their homes.

PALESTINE PROBLEM IN FOREFRONT OF DISCUSSION AT ARAB CONFERENCE; PARTITION STUDIED

CAIRO, Mar. 18. (JTA) — The Palestine problem will be in the forefront of discussions at the preliminary conference of the League of Arab Nations which opened here yesterday, it was reported today. Meanwhile, unconfirmed rumors concerning different solutions for the Arab-Jewish problem, which are alleged to have been brought to the conference by the various delegates, continue to circulate here.

One of the solutions which the members of the conference may study deals with the eventual partitioning of Palestine and the formation of a greater Syria which will include the part of Palestine assigned to the Arabs, it was stated.

Usually well-informed Arab circles claimed that there is also a proposal on hand — allegedly already accepted by the foreign ministers of the Arab countries participating in the conference — which provides for the granting of administrative and cultural autonomy to Jewish sections within an Arab Palestine.

It was also reported today in Arab circles that Arab delegates at the San Francisco conference will propose the admission of another 100,000 Jews to Palestine, after the expiration of the immigration quota under the terms of the British White Paper, with the proviso that all further immigration will be prohibited. This scheme is said to be considered by Arab leaders to be advantageous from the Arab viewpoint, since it will not weaken the Arab majority in the country and, at the same time, will show to the world that the Arabs are ready to welcome a large body of surviving European Jews, which is more than any other nation proposes to do.

BRITISH FOREIGN MINISTER RECEIVES JEWISH DELEGATION; GETS POST-WAR JEWISH DEMANDS

LONDON, Mar. 18. (JTA) — Foreign Secretary Anthony Eden last Monday received a delegation of the British section of the World Jewish Congress which presented to him the resolutions on post-war Jewish demands adopted by the Emergency Conference of the Congress held in Atlantic City, it was reported here today.

ANTI-SEMITIC MOB IN PARIS PREVENTS JEW FROM RE-OCCUPYING HIS APARTMENT RETURNED BY COURT

PARIS, Mar. 18. (JTA) — A "mysteriously organized" mob of 600 people this week prevented a Paris Jew from recovering his apartment which was being illegally occupied by a person who had obtained it during the occupation, it was revealed here today. The owner of the apartment had obtained a court order dispossessing the present occupant and was accompanied by police officials who were powerless to disperse the mob.

The incident was disclosed by Juliette Jonvaux of the Movement Against Racism, addressing a meeting attended by 3,000 persons, called by a joint committee of various anti-racist and Jewish organizations to hear a report on the present status of the restitution problem. Mme. Jonvaux cited the above case as an example of the anti-Semitic activities still going on in France.

Yves Montol, a well known Paris lawyer, who spoke as a representative of the National Association of Victims of Germany and Vichy, analyzed the new law for restitution of Jewish property adopted by the Consultative Assembly on Friday. Although the measure is inadequate, he said, it is a great improvement on the draft presented to the Assembly by the government, particularly because it provides for speedy legal procedure. M. Montol charged Minister of Justice Francois de Menthon with delaying and obstructing restitution measures. The League Against Anti-Semitism, he declared, was ready to enforce the expulsion of all illegal tenants of Jewish apartments.

Albert Bayet, noted resistance leader, who is president of the Federation of the French Press, protested sharply against the government's failure to fulfill its promises on return of confiscated property. He opposed any proposal, such as that made by the government, to differentiate between so called bonafide buyers of confiscated Jewish property and illegal purchasers. "A father of four children is nevertheless a scoundrel if he bought Jewish property," M. Bayet said.

Bernard Le Cache, president of the League Against Anti-Semitism, stressed the unfavorable impression which has been created in America and England by the delay in settlement of the restitution problem. "Jews," he stated, "should have burned down the homes of those who stole their property, but they wished to remain lawful and disciplined." He urged that "for the sake of France and justice" the pre-war anti-racist law be revived.

Other speakers included representatives of the Communist and Socialist parties, the General Jewish Defense Committee and the Federation of Former Internees.

JEWISH INSTITUTE OF RELIGION SEEKS TO RAISE \$1,000,000 THIS YEAR, DR. WISE ANNOUNCES

NEW YORK, Mar. 18. (JTA) — The Jewish Institute of Religion will seek to raise \$1,000,000 during 1945 as part of its permanent endowment. Dr. Stephen S. Wise, its founding president, announced today in an address at the Founders Day dinner held in his honor at the Waldorf-Astoria Hotel. It was attended by 600 guests, including alumni, representatives of their congregations and friends of the Institute.

In his appeal for support in raising additional endowment, Dr. Wise said, "American Israel is indebted to the faculty of the Institute for preparing 165 rabbis in the 23 years since it was established. Of this number, 40 are serving as chaplains in the armed forces of our country, and 18 are Hillel Foundation directors at colleges and universities. More than 100 alumni are serving with distinction as rabbis of congregations throughout the country."

REPORT OF JESSE H. BECKER, DIRECTOR OF AMERICAN JEWRY, J.D.C. LEADERS TALK CONFERENCE

ST. LOUIS, Mo., 15. (JTA) — More than 400 representatives of Jewish communities in the St. Louis - Southern Illinois area attending a conference here today heard leaders of the Joint Distribution Committee outline the work of the "J.D.C. Plan" and rehabilitation program which is now operating in sixteen European countries, as well as in North Africa, the Middle East, South America and other global areas affected by the war.

Dr. Isaac H. Levy, vice-chairman of the Joint Distribution Committee, told the conference that 1,500,000 destitute Jews in Europe, who have suffered the most holocaust, place their only hope for survival and rebuilding of their communities in the help American Jews will extend to them.

Referring to the task of American Jewry in providing relief and rehabilitation to impoverished and impoverished Jews overseas, the Dr. Levy said that the national campaign for \$45,000,000 to meet the urgent requests of these unfortunate persons - this is an unprecedented sum in the history of overseas relief, and the long and narrow have been appropriated too," Dr. Levy declared. "The committee stated that \$15,000,000 will be needed just to feed the Jews in Europe alone, and it is obvious that our campaign goal is certainly a million times greater than that of any other relief campaign."

Emphasizing that the increasing liberation of Europe is revealing increasing needs of suffering Jews, Dr. Becker in turn, outlined the activities of the J.D.C. disclosed that appropriations for the first quarter of 1948 are almost double those of the corresponding 1947 period. During the first three months of 1947 the J.D.C. appropriated \$1,250,000 for rescue and relief purposes.

Detailing current operations, Dr. Becker disclosed the following figures: famine relief during the first quarter of 1948, \$1,500,000 for aid to Jews in Hungary, Bulgaria, Romania, Yugoslavia, Northern Italy, Greece, Switzerland, Czechoslovakia and internment camps; and \$800,000 to Jews in France, \$700,000 to Poland, \$400,000 to Belgium, \$200,000 to Greece, \$150,000 to Austria, \$100,000 to Czechoslovakia, and \$50,000 for relief purposes. Additional appropriations of \$1,000,000 have been made for relief and rehabilitation work and for religious and educational purposes.

It noted that the J.D.C. has arranged for 10,000 Jewish refugees, and that \$50,000 worth of food and clothing to Jews in Poland, \$10,000 worth of clothing and food in Italy, and \$5,000 worth of clothing, \$10,000 worth of clothing and food, and \$10,000 worth of clothing and food supplies to Jewish Jews in France, \$10,000 worth of clothing and food supplies to Jewish refugees in Austria, \$10,000 worth of clothing and food supplies to Jewish refugees in Poland, \$10,000 worth of clothing and food supplies to Jewish refugees in Czechoslovakia, and \$10,000 worth of clothing and food supplies to Jewish refugees in Yugoslavia.

ALICE L. BAKER, DIRECTOR OF THE JOINT DISTRIBUTION COMMITTEE, TALKS AT CONFERENCE

NEW YORK, N.Y., 15. (JTA) — Alice L. Baker, J.D.C. director, who is in the American City of this city, was heard speaking at the J.D.C. conference today. First speaker of the American Jewish Conference, Dr. Becker, said that the J.D.C. is now in the process of raising \$45,000,000 for the relief and rehabilitation of Jewish refugees.

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