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THREE ASSASSINS EXECUTED; HAKIM AND BEN-ZURI GO TO DEATH CHANTING PRAYERS

CAIRO, Mar. 22. (JTA) -- Eliahu Hakim, and Ephraim Ben-Zuri, young Palestine terrorists, were hanged this morning for the assassination here last November 6 of Lord Moyne, British Minister of State in the Middle East.

The date of execution was not set at the time the two were convicted by an Egyptian military court on January 18 and neither of the youths were aware they were to be executed today until they were awakened in their cells in the Citadel Prison at 4:30 a. m. It was known that the executions were imminent, however, because Chief Rabbi Haim Effendi Hahoum was requested on Sunday to place a rabbi at the disposal of the authorities.

The young Jews went to their death calmly singing "Hear, Oh Israel, the Lord is One." They were taken by prison van from the Citadel Prison to the Cairo Central Prison over which a black flag had been hoisted. While chatting with the chaplain, they took off their prison garb and donned the red uniforms prescribed by Egyptian law.

Hakim entered the prison courtyard first, at 8 o'clock, and stood quietly as the official accusation was read to him. When asked if he had any last requests, he said that he regretted that he had not been warned of his execution earlier, as he desired to write some letters and talk with friends and relatives. He added that he would have liked to shave and put on better clothes.

Hakim began to chant hymns as he was marched to the gallows and he continued to do so as the hangman tied his hands and feet and covered his head with a hood. He was still singing when the trap was sprung. He was pronounced dead after four minutes and ten seconds.

Ben-Zuri, 26 pounds heavier than at the time of his trial, was equally composed and also expressed regret that he had not been given time to write letters. He asked that his hands and feet be left untied, but complied quietly when told that it was required by law. He was also singing as the trap fell. Relatives of the youths as well as various organizations and notables throughout the world had appealed in the past few weeks for clemency.

ALLIES APPROVE NEW JEWISH COMMUNITY COUNCIL IN ROME; NEW CHIEF RABBI WILL BE NAMED

ROME, Mar. 22. (JTA) -- A new chief rabbi of Rome, to succeed Israel Zolli, who became converted to Catholicism, will be chosen next week at the first meeting of the 15 members of the new Jewish Community Council, which was elected this week, it was announced here today.

The council, which was elected with the sanction of the Italian Government and the Allied Commission, will name one of its members president. Vitale Milano, a prominent member of the Rome Jewish Community, has been mentioned for the post.

Some 657 votes were cast in the elections for the council, representing about 25 percent of those eligible to vote. The small number of votes may be due to the fact

that the dispute between Hugo Foa, former president of the community, and Silvio Ottolenghi, who was named to succeed him after the liberation of Rome, was not an issue, since neither of them were candidates. Both men had accused each other of having supported Fascism and their dispute led to postponement of the elections which had been scheduled for last November.

The Rome Jewish community occupies an autonomous status under a concordat signed between the Italian Government and the Vatican in 1933. The Jews are responsible for raising their own funds and for their own charitable and religious organizations. The same principle applies to Italian Protestants. Thus, the president of the community has almost official authority over the Jews of Italy and is virtually a government official.

ARAB LEAGUE CHARTER SIGNED IN CAIRO; ROLE OF PALESTINE OUTLINED IN SPECIAL APPENDIX

CAIRO, Mar. 22. (JTA) -- The charter of a League of Arab Nations was signed here today by prime ministers and foreign ministers of Egypt, Iraq, Syria, Lebanon, Saudi-Arabia and Transjordan. Husa el Alami, the representative of the Palestine Arabs who attended the conference at which the charter was drafted, did not sign it because the status of Palestine, as well as his own status, has not been clarified as yet. It is understood, however, the Palestine Arabs will have an observer at the permanent office of the League which will be established here.

The charter of the Arab League provides for cultural, economic and political collaboration between the signatory countries. It contains two appendices, one of which deals with Palestine. Pointing out that Article 22 of the Versailles Treaty acknowledges the independence of all Arab countries which were detached from the Ottoman Empire after World War 1, the appendix says that the legal independence of these countries was thus admitted and approved "de jure" by the League of Nations in Geneva.

That is how Palestine was placed under the British Mandate, it continues, and consequently, until Palestine gains its "de facto" independence, the conference of the Arab ministers decided that a delegate representing the Arabs of Palestine should participate in the work of the Arab League's Council. When the status of Palestine will be clarified, the decisions of the Council will automatically become applicable to Palestine.

FIRST OF 70,000 GREEK JEWS DEPORTED BY NAZIS RETURN TO ATHENS

ATHENS, Mar. 22. (JTA) -- Radio Athens today reported that the first of the 70,000 Greek Jews carried off by the Germans to concentration camps in the Reich and in Poland has returned to the Greek capital from a camp in Southern Poland after being liberated by the Russians.

Only 300 of the 2,000 Greek Jews who were in the camp where he was confined survived; the remainder were murdered by the retreating Germans, he reported. Those 2,000 were deported from Athens exactly a year ago. The returning Jew reached Greece by way of Czechoslovakia, Rumania and Bulgaria. His right hand still bears the signs of the serial number branded on it by the Germans during his internment.

A report from Sofia today stated that another Athens Jew, who was captured by the Germans during the battle for Crete and deported to Oswiecim, passed through Sofia this week on route home. He revealed that in January, 1944, a group of Salonika dock workers, part of the tens of thousands of Salonika Jews deported to Polish death camps, blew up a room in the crematorium at Oswiecim, killing 20 S. S.

REPRESENTATIVES OF MAJOR JEWISH ORGANIZATIONS TESTIFY BEFORE HOUSE GROUP ON WAR CRIMES

WASHINGTON, Mar. 22. (JTA) -- Representatives of major Jewish organizations were among those who testified today before the House Foreign Affairs Committee on behalf of the Celler Resolution calling for the appointment by President Roosevelt of a commission to work with the United Nations War Crimes Commission in preparation of "definite plans" for punishment of Axis war criminals.

Held today were Herbert C. Pell, former U. S. delegate on the War Crimes Commission, Rep. Emanuel Celler, sponsor of the resolution, and spokesman for the American Jewish Conference, the American Jewish Committee and the American Jewish Congress. Representing the American Jewish Conference at today's hearing were Maurice Bisgayer and Dr. Alexander S. Kohanski. The American Jewish Congress was represented by Sol Gelb, chief assistant district attorney of New York county. Marcus Cohn of the American Jewish Committee filed its support of the resolution, stating that a statement would be forthcoming later. The Conference representatives offered the following detailed recommendations:

1. Crimes committed by the Axis nations and their associates against the Jewish people shall be duly specified in the indictment against the war criminals and made punishable in accordance with the policy announced by the United Nations.
2. Crimes committed against Jews in given territories shall be tried in their respective national courts, except those committed in Germany and in the territories of her satellites, which shall be tried in international courts.
3. The United Nations shall require the surrender of the criminals by the Axis nations or by other countries to which they may escape. Provision for surrender shall be included in the terms of armistices.
4. The national as well as international courts shall recognize Jewish representatives as amici curiae. The Commission for Investigation of War Crimes, or a similar authority, shall give locus standi to a representation of the Jewish people.

Rep. Helen Gahagan Douglas, a member of the Foreign Affairs Committee, referred to the murder of four million Jews in Europe and asked Mr. Pell whether it would not be detrimental to world peace if these murderers were not punished. Mr. Pell replied that it would be "extremely detrimental" and that the Nazis would despise the demagogues for evidence of inefficiency. Replying to a further question by Mrs. Douglas as to whether "the murder of these four million Jews is listed as a war crime," Mr. Pell said it was not included in the list of the Hague conventions and "some lawyers, not the biggest ones, fear to make that elementary extension of law." To a final question by Rep. Douglas as to whether "failure to punish the murderers of the Jews would not partially endorse the Nazi philosophy," Mr. Pell replied, "it would endorse that part of the philosophy which says that democracy cannot take care of itself."

The proposed commission, Rep. Celler said, would prevent the punishment of war criminals from remaining a "dark secret" and would also propose plans for punishment of war crimes regardless of whether they were committed against the subjects of Axis nations and within their borders.

COMMITTEE FOR A JEWISH ARMY DISSOLVED AS RESULT OF FORMATION OF JEWISH BRIGADE

NEW YORK, Mar. 22. (JTA) -- Liquidation of the "Committee for a Jewish Army of Stateless and Palestinian Jews" was announced here today by Rep. Andrew L. Somers, co-chairman of the organization. The decision to dissolve the committee was taken as a result of the formation by the British Government of a Jewish Brigade. The committee was organized December 4, 1941.

"DECISION NOW" ON PALESTINE QUESTION DEMANDED BY DR. SILVER; DEFINES "TRANSITION PERIOD"

NEW YORK, Mar. 22. (JTA) — An immediate decision by the great powers, pledging the establishment of a Jewish State in Palestine, was demanded last night by Dr. Abba Hillel Silver at a dinner tendered to him at the Hotel Commodore, attended by 1,200 active Zionists.

"It is quite self-evident and elementary that a transitional period will be required and a Jewish majority before the full apparatus of a free and democratic Jewish State can be brought into operation," Dr. Silver said. "But all such reasonable exposition of self-evident truths at this time only serves the purpose of our adversaries who seize upon it as proof that Zionist leaders themselves favor delay and do not really expect a Jewish Commonwealth and may be satisfied with much less.

"If we succeed in obtaining a declaration now from the proper authorities that it is proposed to set up Palestine as a Jewish State, then, whether it takes three or five years to complete its implementation is secondary importance," Dr. Silver continued. "If we do not obtain such a positive declaration now, then the time element is altogether irrelevant, and whatever concessions in terms of immigration schedules are made, are politically speaking, of little moment. They may be only indices of defeat, for such schedules will most probably be fixed to insure a permanent minority status for us in Palestine."

Dr. Silver rejected any proposals for partition or bi-nationalism. He emphasized that "we would be a majority in Palestine today were it not for the interference of the mandatory power." He demanded that control over immigration to Palestine be vested in the hands of the Jewish Agency and that Palestine be placed at once under a special administration "on which the Jewish people shall have preponderant representation corresponding to its overwhelming stake in the country." This, he said, is the only kind of "transitional period" which can lead to a Jewish State.

Criticizes Roosevelt and Churchill for Consulting Ibn Saud on Palestine

Dr. Silver criticized Roosevelt and Churchill for consulting Ibn Saud, the ruler of Saudi Arabia, with regard to the future status of Palestine. "One wonders," he said, "why Arab states were consulted about the fate of the Jewish National Home. Were the Jewish people consulted about the fate of Iraq, or Syria or Saudi Arabia?" He said he wondered whether Jewish rights are to be made dependent on Arab consent. "It would seem that Ibn Saud is now the chief figure consulted by Great Britain and the United States about the future of the Jewish National Home," he declared.

pointing out that Churchill and Roosevelt will have much to do with the final settlement of the Palestine issue, Dr. Silver said that "they are great and good men and well intentioned toward us." However, he warned that "it would be a mistake" to leave the entire fate of the Zionist movement in the hands of these two statesmen. "Repeated instances of profession lagging behind performance, should caution us against exclusive reliance upon the good intentions of one or two great men, however unquestionably sincere their intentions are," he stated.

Senator Robert A. Taft of Ohio, speaking at the dinner, supported Dr. Silver's demand for a "decision now" on the Palestine question by the great powers. He charged President Roosevelt with inconsistency on the Palestine issue, in saying one thing and doing another. Alben W. Barkely, Senate majority leader, said that the solution of the Jewish problem would require the "patience and forbearance that for centuries have been characteristic of the great Jewish people." Other speakers included Dr. Reinhold Niebuhr of the Union Theological Seminary, Wolf Gold, leader of the World Mizrachi Organizations, David Pinski, well-known Jewish writer and Zionist labor leader, Emanuel Neumann was chairman.

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