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SAN FRANCISCO EXPECTED TO TAKE FIRST STEP TOWARDS INTERNATIONAL DECISION ON PALESTINE

SAN FRANCISCO, April 25. (JTA) -- The United Nations Security Conference which opened today at the opera house here will go down in Jewish history as having taken the first step towards an eventual international decision on the fate of Palestine by appointing a special body, to be known as "Committee Number Four," to deal with the question of international trusteeships for mandated areas including Palestine.

The appointment of such a body will in no way contradict the announcement made yesterday by British Deputy Prime Minister Clement R. Attlee, that no specific reference to Palestine will be made at the conference even in connection with the international trusteeship plan.

While it can be expected that neither the British delegation, nor the American, will mention Palestine during the discussions on international trusteeship, the fact remains that "Committee Number Four," which the general assembly of the conference will establish, will definitely have Palestine in mind when preparing recommendations for the machinery to deal with the practical details of international trusteeships.

It is difficult to predict whether Zionist observers or pro-Zionist consultants of American Jewish bodies will have an opportunity to influence the decisions of "Committee Number Four." The general belief prevailing here is that Dr. Chaim Weizmann is the only person whose presence would contribute much to the prestige of the Zionist cause since he, and he alone, is accepted by many members of the delegations of various nations as the person able to counteract any move which may be made by the Arab delegations, including a possible effort to have an Arab representative on the body which will be set up by the conference to deal with the international trusteeship plan.

American Jewish Conference Plans Vigorous Campaign on Palestine

Leaders of the American Jewish Conference here intend to tackle the problem by organizing a Pro-Palestine campaign jointly with the World Jewish Congress, the Jewish Agency and representatives of the Board of Deputies of British Jews who are expected to arrive this week as private observers. This campaign will begin with a press conference arranged by the four groups, jointly, for representatives of the American press and radio, to whom the arguments for establishment of Palestine as a Jewish Commonwealth will be presented. This will be followed by contacting of diplomats from various nations who may have a voice in the choice of members for "Committee Number Four."

Some observers here think that such an open press campaign may backfire, resulting in strong anti-Zionist statements from the Arab delegations who are attracting great attention in the press because of their colorful appearance, but who have, so far, abstained from making any statements regarding Palestine. Such a possibility

should not be lost sight of especially because of the powerful American oil groups which are doing their best to cultivate friendship with the Saudi Arabian delegation and are putting experienced American public relations men at its disposal as guides and advisers.

It is known that the Arab delegations here were much impressed by Attlee's announcement that the British delegation came to San Francisco with no recommendations whatsoever regarding the future of Palestine. They were even more impressed by the fact that Attlee declared that the question of whether Palestine should be placed under international trusteeship "should be put up to the Palestinians." This is being interpreted as an indication that the British government may demand that some form of plebiscite be held in Palestine before any decision is taken by the United Nations with regard to a change in the status of the Palestine mandate.

Attlee's Statement Came as Surprise to Zionist Leaders

Zionist leaders who are here in connection with the conference were taken by surprise when they learned of Attlee's statement to the press. None of them, as yet, have had a chance to see any of the members of the British delegation. The surprise was all the greater since it was expected that Dr. Weismann might be received by Prime Minister Churchill in London prior to the British delegation's leaving London for San Francisco. If Attlee's statement is the final word on the attitude of the British Government towards the Palestine question, it can only mean that Britain is determined to keep Palestine for itself under sole British trusteeship instead of under international trusteeship and, perhaps, may permit the United States to have a share in Palestine to the same extent as under the present mandate.

The key to the situation, therefore, remains in the hands of the projected "Committee Number Four." Will this committee be dominated by Britain with regard to the Palestine question, or will it make its own decisions - that is the question which is being asked here on the opening day of the Security Conference. Future sessions may contain a clue to the answer.

SYNAGOGUE COUNCIL ASKS JEWISH REPRESENTATIVES AT SAN FRANCISCO TO HOLD JOINT MEETING

NEW YORK, April 25. (JTA) -- The Synagogue Council of America announced today that it has appealed to representatives of all Jewish organizations at San Francisco to hold a joint conference to "consider the basic needs of Jewry and the recommendations upon which they may all agree."

The council disclosed that in response to an invitation from the State Department, its president, Rabbi Herbert Goldstein, and Rabbi Ahron Opher, have left for San Francisco where they will act as consultants on Jewish religious matters to the American delegation.

The Agudas Israel announced, at the same time, that it is sending a group of representatives to San Francisco who will also act as consultants on Jewish religious affairs to the U. S. delegation. The Agudah representatives will be headed by Dr. Jacob Rosenheim, president of the world Agudas Israel organization.

PROSKAUER, BLAUSTEIN IN SAN FRANCISCO AS AMERICAN JEWISH COMMITTEE CONSULTANTS

SAN FRANCISCO, April 25. (JTA) -- Judge Joseph M. Proskauer, president of the American Jewish Committee and Jacob Blaustein, chairman of its executive committee, have arrived here to act as consultant, and associate consultant, respectively, to the American delegation to the United Nations Security Conference. They were accompanied by Dr. Simon Siegel of the organization's overseas committee, and Marcus Conn, the American Jewish Committee's representative in Washington.

CANADIAN DELEGATION AT SAN FRANCISCO WILL SUPPORT AID FOR JEWS, OFFICIAL SAYS

MONTREAL, April 25. (JTA) -- The Canadian representatives in San Francisco will give all possible aid to the Jewish people, Acting Secretary of State Brooke Claxton has assured a delegation representing the Canadian Jewish Congress and the Zionist Organization of Canada.

The delegation submitted two briefs. The one from the Canadian Jewish Congress dealt with restitution of seized properties and the restoration of status of the Jews of Europe, protection of the stateless, and a Bill of Rights for the protection of life and liberty for all the people of the world. That submitted by the Canadian Zionist Organization dealt with Palestine. The Congress' memorandum also recognized the importance of the idea of Palestine as a Jewish homeland.

The delegation was headed by Samuel Bronfman, the national president of the Congress. He was accompanied by P. I. Spielman of Montreal, the national treasurer, and Saul Hayes, national executive director of the Congress, and by Rabbi Oscar Fasman of Ottawa, Edward E. Galbar of Toronto, and Mrs. Anna Raginsky of Montreal, the national president of the Hadassah Organization of Canada.

FIVE NORWEGIAN JEWS AT BUCHENWALD BELIEVED ONLY SURVIVORS OF OVER 1,200 DEPORTEES

LONDON, April 25. (JTA) -- A Swedish correspondent who has just returned from Buchenwald told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency today that he met there five Norwegian Jews, who believe that they are the sole survivors of the more than 1,200 who were deported from Norway in November, 1942.

The survivors - Samuel Steinman of Oslo; Assor Hirsch, Asriel Hirsch and Julian Rattiel of Trondheim, and Leo Ettinger of Molde - who range in age between 22 and 31, said that immediately after the deportations, the Jews were divided into two groups. Those unable to work were murdered, while the able-bodied ones were kept at Oswiecim until the approach of the Russians.

They were then loaded onto open trucks and sent to Buchenwald. Many died en route from exposure in the mid-winter cold. One of the five survivors told the correspondent that he was slated for extermination, but was saved by the arrival of the Allied troops. The Norwegian Government is arranging to bring them to England pending the liberation of Norway.

It was reported today that Eliezer Gruenbaum, a son of Isaac Gruenbaum of the Jewish Agency executive, is among the survivors found at Buchenwald.

OVER 11,500 ROMANIAN JEWS ALREADY REPATRIATED FROM TRANSNISTRIA; 350 FROM OSWIECIM

BUCHAREST, April 25. (JTA) -- More than 11,500 Rumanian Jews have already been repatriated from the sections of the Soviet Ukraine to which they were deported during the German domination of Rumania, it was disclosed here today.

It was also announced that an additional 350 Transylvanian Jews who were among the survivors at the Oswiecim death camp in Poland have returned home on trains provided by the Rumanian Government. Another train is en route from Cracow bearing other survivors.

REP. CELLER SAYS PRESIDENT TRUMAN WILL NOT DEVIATE FROM ROOSEVELT'S STAND ON PALESTINE

WASHINGTON, April 25. (JTA) -- President Harry S. Truman stands foursquare behind the late President Roosevelt's views on Palestine, Representative Emanuel Celler of New York declared today after a brief call on the President.

He said that Truman will not deviate one iota from the Palestine plank in the democratic party platform which Truman and he helped to write.

ANTI-JEWISH LAWS STILL IN FORCE IN SALONICA, SHERTOK REPORTS AFTER VISIT TO GREECE

TEL AVIV, April 25. (JTA) -- German anti-Jewish laws, providing for the expropriation of Jewish-owned property, are still in force in Salonica, Moshe Shertok, political chief of the Jewish Agency, revealed at a press conference here today.

Shertok said, however, that in an interview with Premier Petros Voulgaris he was promised that the government would look into the matter. The Agency's political head disclosed that he had also urged the Greek premier to facilitate the emigration to Palestine of Jews, especially children, and to exempt from military service youths receiving agricultural training in preparation for emigrating to Palestine.

During a visit with Archbishop Damsakinos, Shertok said, he thanked the prelate for his defense of Jews during the occupation, and Damsakinos revealed that he had not been molested by the Nazis until he voiced his opposition to anti-Jewish measures.

While in Rome, following his visit to the Jewish Brigade, Shertok was received by the Pope, to whom he expressed Palestine Jewry's appreciation of the assistance given Jews by the Church.

Shertok said that he knew "of no happier community" than the Jewish Brigade. "Although they are fighting and being killed," he continued, "they know that before them are the graves of 5,000,000 murdered Jews and behind them are the eyes of the United Nations and world Jewry."

WORLD JEWISH CONGRESS LAUNCHES BOOK COLLECTION FOR EUROPEAN JEWS

NEW YORK, April 25. (JTA) -- To assist in the cultural and spiritual rehabilitation of Jews in the war-torn countries, the World Jewish Congress has launched a campaign for the collection of books and religious articles to be shipped abroad, it was announced by Dr. Stephen S. Wise, president of the congress.

In urging American Jewry to contribute for this purpose, books in any field and in any language, particularly in Hebrew and Yiddish, Dr. Wise said that these would partly make up for the loss of hundreds of thousands of volumes which have disappeared in the destruction of Jewish communities throughout the war zones. Dr. Albert Einstein is honorary chairman of a special committee for the book collection.

DR. ABBA HILLEL SILVER AMONG LEADERS PARTICIPATING IN RALLY FOR JEWISH RIGHTS

NEW YORK, April 25. (JTA) -- Dr. Abba Hillel Silver has been added to the list of speakers who will address the mass rally for Jewish rights which is to be held in Madison Stadium here on Sunday. It was announced today by the American Zionist Emergency Council and the American Jewish Conference, which are sponsoring the meeting. He will share the platform with Dr. Stephen S. Wise, Mayor LaGuardia, Senator Wagner and Louis Lipsky.