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TRUMAN'S POSITION ON PALESTINE STIRS INTEREST IN LONDON; AWAIT ATTLEE'S STATEMENT

LONDON, August 17. (JTA) — President Truman's statement on the position of the United States with regard to Jewish immigration into Palestine and the establishment of a Jewish State, has evoked a great deal of interest here both in general British and Jewish circles.

It was learned today that Prime Minister Attlee will be asked in the House of Commons on Tuesday also for a clear statement with regard to the Palestine issue. The question, too, will be raised in the House of Lords in connection with the ratification of the San Francisco Charter of the United Nations.

The feeling among American Zionist leaders here who are awaiting transportation to the United States, following the closing of the World Zionist Conference, is that President Truman's statement can be considered as encouraging, since it indicates that the Government of the United States is taking an active interest in the Palestine problem. At the same time, President Truman's statement is also taken in Zionist circles here as an indication that much remains to be done both in Washington and in London before any radical change of the present British policy with regard to Palestine can be assured.

Following the lead of the London Times and the Manchester Guardian, the two leading British newspapers which urge the partitioning of Palestine, the Spectator, an influential liberal weekly publication, came out today with an article against the declaration issued by the World Zionist Conference demanding Palestine as "an undivided and undiminished Jewish State."

"This demand," the editorial says, "goes far beyond the bounds of reason, and is far from being in accordance with the Balfour Declaration. In fact, it is a direct violation of the Balfour Declaration, since the document did not offer conversion of Palestine to the Jews as a state, but the establishment in Palestine of a Jewish National Home."

The editorial refers to the clause in the Balfour Declaration which provides that nothing shall be done to prejudice the rights of the non-Jewish communities in Palestine, and argues that a million Jewish immigrants would swamp the existing Arab population in Palestine, "even if this small country could support so many immigrants, which is extremely doubtful." The article also denies the Zionist contention that a large Jewish immigration to Palestine would prove economically advantageous to the Arabs.

The London Jewish Chronicle today expresses the view that the real brains behind the Arab propaganda office in London are not Arabs, but men of the upper strata of British society.

JEWISH AGENCY GRATIFIED WITH TRUMAN'S STATEMENT; WANT PART IN DISCUSSIONS ON PALESTINE

LONDON, August 17. (JTA) — Gratification with President Truman's views with regard to Palestine was expressed here today by the Jewish Agency in a statement emphasizing that it will not be necessary for the United States to send large military forces to maintain order in Palestine. The Jewish Agency also asks to participate in all the discussions and negotiations concerning the future of Palestine.

The full text of the statement follows:

"The Jewish Agency for Palestine is gratified to learn that the proposal to establish Palestine as a Jewish State is under active consideration. Jews everywhere appreciate the recognition by the American Government of the justice of the Jewish desire to bring to Palestine as many Jews as possible and re-establish a national state.

"The Agency must point out that the Palestine issue primarily concerns the Jewish people, the Arabs of Palestine and the Great Powers. Arabs of states neighboring Palestine have no other status in Palestine than all other members of the United Nations.

"The question of Palestine is one of the many international problems whose solution must be conceived in justice and equity, and carried out with determination. The notion that large military forces would specially be required in the case of Palestine, has, in the conviction of the Jewish Agency, no relation to the realities of the situation.

"If the future of Palestine is now under consideration by the great Powers, the Jewish Agency representing the Jewish people in matters Palestinian, must claim to be a party to all discussions and negotiations on equal footing with any national government."

SECRET UNRRA DECISION ON RELIEF FOR STATELESS PERSONS STUDIED BY JEWISH LEADERS

LONDON, August 17. (JTA) — Leaders of Jewish central bodies here who submitted memorandums to the United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration urging increased relief for displaced Jews now still in various camps in liberated Europe, today learned with satisfaction of the decision at a secret session of the UNRRA conference yesterday to accept a British-sponsored proposal to give aid to refugees who decline to return to their homelands.

The proposal, accepted in principle only, was made following several days of debate on the question. Russia, Poland, Yugoslavia and Czechoslovakia, through their delegates, have insisted that the UNRRA cease providing for such refugees as do not wish to be repatriated to their native lands. The United States and Britain took a different attitude.

Though the opposition to giving UNRRA aid to displaced persons who decline to return to their homeland was not directed primarily against Jewish refugees, many thousands of Polish and other Jews who prefer to remain stateless rather than to return to their former homes, are affected by it. The demand to deprive displaced persons of UNRRA aid was caused chiefly by the fact that many Poles who still support the former London Polish Government, as well as Russians who fought in the ranks of the German Army, insist on remaining stateless and refuse to be repatriated to their pre-war homes.

PUBLIC PROSECUTOR AT VIENNA TRIAL ASKS DEATH PENALTY FOR NAZIS WHO KILLED 102 JEWS

VIENNA, August 17. (JTA) -- Death sentence for four Nazi criminals now on trial here for killing 102 Jews was demanded today by the public prosecutor following the admission by the four, that they had participated in the torture and mass-execution of the Jews while marching them from the Engerau concentration camp to another camp near Vienna.

The four were members of the Nazi Storm Troops. They pleaded that they had massacred the Jews in obedience to orders from higher Nazi officials. British, American and Russian officers filled the court-room, from the beginning of the trial, three days ago.

The Neues Oestreich, organ of the Democratic Party in liberated Austria, came out today with an article regretting the fact that the first trial of war criminals held by the Peoples Court deals with Nazi underlings and not with the leaders responsible for selling out Austria to Hitler.

JEWS ARRESTED IN PALESTINE AS ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS; ARABS ASK FOR RETURN OF EX-MUFTI

JERUSALEM, August 17. (JTA) -- Seven Jews were arrested early this morning in the settlement of Naharia charged with illegally entering the country from Syria. One of the arrested is a Syrian Jew, the others are from Iraq.

The Regent of Iraq was asked today by the Husseini Party in Palestine to intervene with the British Government for the return of the Jerusalem ex-Mufti and other Arab leaders, exiled from Palestine. A similar request was cabled also to the ministers of Arab countries in London.

Clemency for all Jews in detention, in Palestine or abroad, under the Palestine Emergency Regulations or as a result of military court sentences is asked today by the Hebrew press. All newspapers joined today in editorials urging this action by the Palestine Government.

BULGARIA WILL NOT HAMPER JEWISH EMIGRATION TO OTHER LANDS, GOVERNMENT PARTY LEADER SAYS

SOFIA, August 17. (JTA) -- The Fatherland Front, composed of all major political parties in Bulgaria, considers the question of Jewish emigration from the country as a purely Jewish affair, Zdravko Mitovsky, one of the principal leaders of the pro-Government united front organization told the correspondent of the Jewish Telegraphic Agency today.

Expressing confidence that the Bulgarian government would not hamper Jewish emigration from the country to Palestine or any other land, the Bulgarian leader said that he believes that Jews remaining in Bulgaria will not suffer from any economic changes that may take place and that they will gradually recover their pre-war business enterprises.

A Palestine exhibition will be opened here, showing Jewish achievements in Palestine during the war period, it was announced today by Sabbatai Eskenesy, secretary of the Bulgarian-Palestinian Chamber of Trade.