

# JTA

VOL. XII No. 223 (27th year)

Monday, October 1, 1945

01-2-2

6-22-5

## Daily News Bulletin

PUBLISHED BY THE JEWISH TELEGRAPHIC AGENCY

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

### LABOR PARTY EXECUTIVE TO CONFER WITH ZIONISTS THIS WEEK; WILL THEN MEET WITH GOVERNMENT

LONDON, Sept. 30. (JTA) -- The executive committee of the Labor Party will receive a delegation of the Zionist executive this week to discuss the entire question of Palestine, including the letter sent to Prime Minister Attlee by President Truman to which no reply has yet been given, it was reported here today.

The report said that following their meeting with the Zionists, the Labor Party will take up the problem with the Government before the reconvening of Parliament, at which time the Prime Minister is expected to make some statement on Palestine. It also discloses that the Labor Party executive met last Wednesday and discussed the reported Government plan for Palestine. Dr. Chaim Weizmann, according to the report, will meet with Foreign Minister Ernest Bevin this week.

### GEN. EISENHOWER ORDERS REQUISITIONING OF GERMAN DWELLINGS TO HOUSE DISPLACED JEWS

WASHINGTON, Sept. 30. (JTA) -- Acting in accordance with sharp directives from President Truman to improve the plight of the displaced persons in Germany, especially tens of thousands of Jews, Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower today ordered that lodgings for victims of the Nazis, particularly Jews, are to be requisitioned without hesitation, it is reported here today from Frankfurt.

Gen. Eisenhower's order, which followed by a day the disclosure by the White House that the President had criticized the handling of displaced Jews in a letter to the American commander in the European theatre, instructed military and civil officials to see to it that there is sufficient food and other necessities provided for the 100,000 Jews quartered in camps, so that they may be prepared for the winter.

The President's letter, which was sent to Gen. Eisenhower together with a copy of a report by Earl G. Harrison, U.S. representative on the Intergovernmental Committee for Refugees, drew the General's particular attention to a section of the report in which Harrison declares that "as matters now stand, we appear to be treating the Jews as the Nazis treated them, except that we do not exterminate them."

Criticizing the failure of the military to carry out the decisions on treatment of displaced persons reached at Potsdam, Mr. Truman called for removal of the DP's from camps into decent houses until they can be repatriated or evacuated. He ordered that "these houses should be requisitioned from the German civil population," stressing that this was "one way to implement the Potsdam policy that the German people 'cannot escape responsibility for what they have brought upon themselves.'"

The President's letter also revealed that he had communicated with the British Government "in an effort to have the doors of Palestine opened to such of these displaced persons as wish to go there." The text of the letter follows:

"I have received and considered the report of Mr. Earl G. Harrison, our representative of the Intergovernmental Committee on Refugees, upon his mission to inquire

10/1/45

into the condition and needs of displaced persons in Germany who may be stateless or non-repatriable, particularly Jews. I am sending you a copy of that report. I have also had a long conference with him on the same subject-matter.

"While Mr. Harrison makes due allowance for the fact that during the early days of liberation the huge task of mass repatriation required main attention, he reports conditions which now exist and which require prompt remedy. These conditions, I know, are not in conformity with policies promulgated by SHAEF, now combined displaced persons executive. But they are what actually exists in the field. In other words, the policies are not being carried out by some of your subordinate officers.

"For example, Military Government officers have been authorized, and even directed, to requisition billeting facilities from the German population for the benefit of displaced persons. Yet, from this report, this has not been done on any wide scale. Apparently it is being taken for granted that all displaced persons, irrespective of their former persecution or the likelihood that their repatriation or resettlement will be delayed, must remain in camps—many of which are overcrowded and heavily guarded. Some of these camps are the very ones where those people were herded together, starved, tortured and made to witness the death of their fellow-inmates and friends and relatives. The announced policy has been to give such persons preference over the German civilian population in housing. But the practice seems to be quite another thing.

"We must intensify our efforts to get these people out of camps and into decent houses until they can be repatriated or evacuated. These houses should be requisitioned from the German civilian population. That is one way to implement the Potsdam policy that the German people cannot escape responsibility for what they have brought upon themselves."

"We quote this paragraph with particular reference to the Jews among the displaced persons: 'As matters now stand, we appear to be treating the Jews as the Nazis treated them, except that we do not exterminate them. They are in concentration camps in large numbers under our military guard instead of S.S. troops. One is led to wonder whether the German people, seeing this, are not supposing that we are following, or at least condoning, Nazi policy.' You will find in the report other illustrations of what I mean.

"I hope you will adopt the suggestion that a more extensive plan of field visitation by appropriate Army group headquarters be instituted, so that the humane policies which have been enunciated are not permitted to be ignored in the field. Most of the conditions now existing would quickly be remedied if through inspection tours they came to your attention or to the attention of your supervisory officers.

"I know you will agree with me that we have a particular responsibility toward these victims of persecution and tyranny who are in our zone. We must make clear to the German people that we thoroughly abhor the Nazi policies of hatred and persecution. We have no better opportunity to demonstrate this than by the manner in which we ourselves actually treat the survivors remaining in Germany. I hope you will report to me as soon as possible the steps you have been able to take to clean up the conditions mentioned in the report.

"I am communicating directly with the British Government in an effort to have the doors of Palestine opened to such of these displaced persons as wish to go there."

HARRISON URGES EARLY EVACUATION OF DISPLACED JEWS FROM GERMANY TO PALESTINE

WASHINGTON, Sept. 30. (JTA) -- The early evacuation to Palestine of all non-repatriable Jews in Germany and Austria who wish to go there is the principal recommendation of the 7,000-word report on displaced persons submitted to President Truman by Mr. Harrison, as a result of the inquiry which he made, at the President's request, into the conditions and needs of displaced persons in Western Europe, particularly Jews, who might be stateless or non-repatriable.

Declaring that the majority of the approximately 100,000 Jewish refugees wish to go to Palestine, Harrison reiterates throughout the report his thesis that "the main solution, in many ways the only real solution, of the problem lies in the quick evacuation of all non-repatriable Jews in Germany and Austria, who wish it, to Palestine. In order to be effective this plan must not be long delayed. The urgency of the situation should be recognized. It is inhuman to ask people to continue to live for any length of time under their present conditions." He urges "some reasonable extension or modification" of the White Paper in view of the moderate numbers involved and, "if there is any genuine sympathy for what these survivors have endured."

Recommends Entrance Into U.S. of "Reasonable Number" of Refugees

Harrison further recommends entrance into the United States, under existing immigration laws, of "reasonable numbers," particularly those with family ties here and emphasizes that the number wishing emigration to the United States is not large. Other recommendations include:

1. That the Jews, who suffered first and worst from Nazi persecution, should have first claim upon "the conscience of the people of the United States and Great Britain" in the program for aiding displaced persons.
2. That the Jews be separated from other nationality groups and placed in separate camps or billeted in private homes.
3. That actual operation of the camps be turned over as soon as possible to the UNRRA.
4. An immediate review of military personnel selected for the jobs as camp commandants and more extensive "field visitation" or inspection of the camps by army group headquarters responsible for their administration.
5. That a tracing service be set up to aid in reuniting families.

Harrison sharply criticizes the military handling of food for DP's. He contrasts the "more varied and palatable diet" of the German population and declares: "The camp commandants put in their requisitions with the German burgomeister and many seemed to accept whatever he turned over as being the best that was available." Other major charges in Harrison's report include:

1. Many Jews and other displaced persons are still living under guard in former concentration camps "amidst crowded, frequently insanitary and generally grim conditions" in complete idleness and without opportunity to communicate with the outside world.
2. While there has been marked improvement in the health of victims of Nazi starvations, there are still many cases of malnutrition in the camps. He said one Army

chaplain, a rabbi, had attended 23,000 burials at the Bergen Belsen camp alone after liberation and that 14,000 refugees were still being held there.

3. Many Jewish displaced persons late in July still had no other clothing than their concentration camp garb or old German S.S. uniforms.

4. With few exceptions, no effort has been made to rehabilitate the internees: "Beyond knowing that they are no longer in danger of the gas chambers, torture and other forms of violent death, they see--and there is--little change." Meanwhile, they see German civilians continuing to live normal lives in their own homes.

5. Very little has been done to reunite family groups that have been separated for from three to five years.

6. Many displaced persons, after long periods of near starvation, are still receiving a diet of principally bread and coffee. In many camps the 2,000 calories of food provided daily included 1,250 of wet black bread.

7. Many camp buildings in which displaced persons are housed are clearly unfit for winter use.

Harrison describes his report as partial in the sense that it does not include observations with regard to the situation of the displaced persons in France, Belgium, Holland and Switzerland. He pays tribute to the valuable work of Dr. Joseph Schwartz, European Director of the Joint Distribution Committee, who accompanied him, and emphasizes that the report represents their joint views, conclusions and recommendations.

#### TRUMAN RECEIVES TWO JEWISH DELEGATIONS; WANTS JEWS ADMITTED TO PALESTINE NOW

WASHINGTON, Sept. 30. (JTA) -- A delegation of the American Zionist Emergency Council and a delegation representing the American Jewish Committee were received, separately, by President Truman yesterday, in connection with the Palestine question.

The Zionist delegation, composed of Dr. Abba Hillel Silver and Dr. Stephen S. Wise, on emerging from the White House declined to say anything, declaring that President Truman might say something later.

The delegation of the American Jewish Committee, composed of Judge Joseph M. Proskauer and Jacob Blaustein, revealed that "the President expressed his deep interest in the program to save human life by the securing of prompt issuance of a substantial number of certificates for Jewish immigration into Palestine" and that the President stated "that he was using the good offices of this country to effectuate that result."

The full text of the statement issued by the American Jewish Committee delegation read as follows:

"The President today received Joseph M. Proskauer, president, and Jacob Blaustein, chairman of the executive committee, of the American Jewish Committee. It was represented to the President that there was a sharp distinction between the importance of Palestine as a place of homeland and refugee and the question of state-

hood for Palestine, and that the tragic events of the Summer have sharply accentuated the absolute need for opening the doors of Palestine to substantial further Jewish immigration.

"The President was informed that the Committee's reports from Europe indicate that this is now becoming a stark matter of saving human lives. The question is not one now of political ideology. Increase in immigration is necessary to give hope of life to the unfortunate remnants of European Jewry which have managed to survive the Nazi horror.

"The Committee representatives expressed to the President full recognition of the importance of the earnest efforts that the President had already made to attain this objective of substantially increased immigration and assured him of hearty gratitude and support for the continuance of these actions.

"The President expressed his deep interest in the program to save human life by the securing of prompt issuance of a substantial number of certificates for Jewish immigration into Palestine. He stated that he was using the good offices of this country to effectuate that result."

#### THOUSANDS CROWD MADISON SQUARE GARDEN TO PROTEST BRITISH POLICY IN PALESTINE

NEW YORK, Sept. 30. (JTA) -- More than 20,000 people crowded Madison Square Garden here tonight in a protest demonstration against the stoppage of Jewish immigration to Palestine by the British Government and for a Jewish Palestine. Thousands of others milled around outside, unable to enter the jammed auditorium. The meeting was arranged by the American Zionist Emergency Council.

The huge assemblage addressed a telegram to President Truman expressing deep appreciation for the "recent acts in behalf of the suffering Jewish survivors in Europe," and asking his unreserved support "for the immediate opening of Palestine to unrestricted Jewish immigration and the announcement of an immediate decision to establish Palestine as a Jewish Commonwealth."

The message to President Truman described as "noble humanitarian actions in the best tradition of democratic America," the President's directive to Gen. Eisenhower regarding conditions in American-controlled refugee camps and his letter to Prime Minister Attlee requesting 100,000 Palestine immigration certificates for European Jews. However, it informed Truman that "the predominant sentiment of American Jewry, shared by vast numbers of Christian Americans," is that philanthropic and relief measures alone cannot solve the Jewish problem. "It can be solved only by the re-establishment of Palestine as a free and democratic Jewish Commonwealth, where men of all races and creeds will enjoy full equality of rights and opportunity," the telegram said.

#### Prime Minister Attlee Warned of "Irreparable Damage" to Britain

The demonstration also sent a cable to Prime Minister Attlee emphasizing that, as in the past, Jews prefer to be friends of Britain. "We do not want our youth in Palestine to come to regard you as their enemies," the cable stated. "Unless you act quickly and justly, irreparable damage will be done to Britain's name and prestige in the world. In this, we speak the mind of vast numbers of Americans of all faiths and all walks of life."

The cable pointed out that "hundreds of thousands, perhaps millions, of European Jews could have been saved during the war years if your Government had not kept

the doors of Palestine closed to the Jewish people, and tens of thousands are doomed today as a result of your Government's brutal policy." It demanded that "Great Britain shall fulfil the letter and the spirit of the solemn pledges given to the Jewish people; that it open the gates of Palestine to free and unrestricted Jewish immigration, and that it announces an immediate decision to establish Palestine as a Jewish Commonwealth."

A declaration addressed to British Ambassador Lord Halifax was read in unison by the entire audience and was distributed to all present for mailing to the British Embassy in Washington. It reads as follows:

"For years we waited patiently for the fulfillment of Great Britain's pledges to the Jewish people. We waited in vain. In the meantime, six million Jews were killed in Europe, while you and your colleagues gave us promises and meaningless words of sympathy. The British Government bears a great share of the responsibility for the Jewish tragedy in Europe! Our patience is at an end! We shall not continue to suffer British injustices silently. As Jews and as American citizens, we will fight back relentlessly until the legitimate rights of the Jewish people are recognized—until Palestine is opened wide to free Jewish immigration and a Jewish State is re-established."

#### Silver Warns Attlee: "British Tanks Will Not Crush Our Hope"

Dr. Abba Hillel Silver, who was one of the principal speakers, addressed himself to Prime Minister Attlee, warning that "British bayonets will not bar the way of our survivors, nor will British tanks crush the hope of our people."

Dr. Silver recalled the vigorous pro-Zionist statements made by the Labor Party and asked is "the social idealism and international vision of the Labor Government also to be quenched in the cynical imperialism of the bureaucracy of the Colonial Office." He called on Winston Churchill, as leader of the Opposition, to speak up, reminding Churchill of his denunciation of the White Paper in 1939 and of his statement, when a previous Labor Government planned to liquidate the Jewish National Home, that it should either carry out the Balfour Declaration or surrender the mandate.

President Truman's letter to Prime Minister Attlee was described by Dr. Silver as "the first forthright act by a Chief Executive of our country in many years, designed to help our people in the most fearful and tragic crisis in its history." He appealed to the President, however, to go further and act to support Zionist demands for the creation of a Jewish State, since the Jewish problem is "not a refugee problem. It cannot be solved by palliative relief measures. It is the age-old problem of Jewish homelessness."

(Addresses by Gov. Dewey, Rabbi Stephen S. Wise, Henry Monsky, and Mayor La Guardia and others had not been delivered when the Bulletin went to press. A summary of additional details of the meeting will appear tomorrow.)

#### PALESTINE GOVERNMENT BANS JEWISH MEETING IN TEL AVIV; SOCIALIST LEAGUE SEEKS LABOR UNITY

TEL AVIV, Sept. 30. (JTA) — The Palestine Government today prohibited a mass meeting here, at which Dr. Herzl Rosenbloom of the Jewish State Party, was to report on "The Truth of London."

At the same time, it was learned that the central committee of the Hashomer Hazair, the Socialist League, has approached the majority and minority factions within the Palestine Labor Party and also the Poale Zion Party, and proposed that a unified workers' organization be formed to combat the White Paper, and to take steps to rescue the remnants of European Jewry.

THE CONTENTS OF THIS BULLETIN ARE NOT FOR PUBLICATION WITHOUT SPECIAL AUTHORIZATION