

Friday, October 12, 1945

JTA

*Daily News Bulletin*

PUBLISHED BY THE JEWISH TELEGRAPHIC AGENCY

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

BI-PARTISAN RESOLUTIONS ON PALESTINE INTRODUCED IN BOTH HOUSES OF CONGRESS

WASHINGTON, Oct. 11. (JTA) — Two Senators and two Congressmen introduced bi-partisan resolutions today in the Senate and House calling for free immigration of Jews into Palestine, and for an international commission to "effectuate the immediate transfer of the Hebrew people of Europe to Palestine."

The Senators are Francis J. Meyers, Democrat of Pennsylvania, and Charles W. Tobey, Republican of New Hampshire. The Congressmen are Andrew L. Somers, Democrat of New York, and Bertrand W. Gearhart, Republican of California.

It is expected that the resolutions will be referred to the Foreign Affairs Committee of the Senate and the Foreign Relations Committee of the House for consideration. The text of the resolutions, which are identical, reads as follows:

"The United States shall use its good offices and take immediate appropriate measures to the end that Palestine shall be re-opened at the earliest possible moment for free entry of Hebrews into that area, and that there shall be full opportunity for colonization and settlement on the land by the Jewish people, and that Palestine ultimately be established as a free and independent democratic state with full citizenship rights for its inhabitants without discrimination based on racial or religious factors.

"Pending the setting up of governmental machinery to effectuate the establishment of Palestine as an independent democracy and to aid the people of Palestine in so doing, our executive department is urged to take the initiatory steps in conjunction with other interested United Nations to set up a supervisory international commission to effectuate the immediate transfer of the Hebrew people of Europe to Palestine and to insure peaceful and orderly processes in securing these ends."

WASHINGTON DENIES THAT U.S. DIPLOMATS IN MIDDLE EAST HAVE BEEN SUMMONED BY TRUMAN

WASHINGTON, Oct. 11. (JTA) — Official sources today denied a report that President Truman has summoned American diplomatic representatives from Middle Eastern countries for a conference in connection with the Palestine situation.

It was pointed out that Lowell C. Pinkerton, U.S. Consul General in Palestine, was here on leave from Jerusalem, and that the U.S. envoys to Egypt and Saudi Arabia had arrived here for periodic State Department consultations. George Wadsworth, U.S. envoy to Syria and Lebanon is due here about November 1 for similar consultation. These visits, official sources emphasized, were in the nature of State Department routine and no general consultation was going on.

The War Department today denied to the Jewish Telegraphic Agency a report published in a New York newspaper that Walter Lichtenstein of Chicago has been named an assistant to Judge Simon Rifkind who has been appointed civilian adviser to Gen. Eisenhower on Jewish affairs.

JWS RAID MILITARY DEPOT IN PALESTINE; ESCAPE WITH WEAPONS AND AMMUNITION

JERUSALEM, Oct. 11. (JTA) — A large party of armed Jews raided a military training depot near Khovoth this morning and, after overpowering the guards, escaped with 218 rifles, 15 machine-guns, 220 bayonets, steel helmets, uniforms and ammunitions. They fled in trucks stolen from the depot.

Meanwhile, 20 Jewish youths, including two girls, were today found guilty by a British military court in Haifa of illegal possession of arms. Sentences will be imposed on Tuesday. The defendants were arrested on Aug. 16 at an overnight bivouac they had set up near the colony of Benjamina. Police found two rifles, several sub-machineguns, four hand grenades and a quantity of ammunition secreted nearby. The accused maintained at the trial that the arms did not belong to them, and defense counsel pointed out that the place where they were found was open to anyone.

Police are still hunting for 208 "illegal immigrants" who escaped from the Atlit internment camp yesterday. The police were reinforced by British troops, an additional 3,000 of which landed in Haifa yesterday.

The secret "Voice of Israel" station, which began broadcasting for the first time on Tuesday evening, last night said that the liberation of the Atlit internees was effected by an armed band of over 1,000. The broadcaster stated the Atlit break and the battle between police and Jews in Tel Aviv, yesterday, marked the beginning of a period of active resistance. "The Jews will no longer tolerate the deportation of their brothers from this country, whatever measures and whatever force are used," he warned.

The newspaper Haboker today charges that while the authorities are devoting all their energy to halting the immigration of Jews, hundreds of Arabs are entering Palestine illegally from neighboring countries, especially Egypt, without hindrance. The paper says that many of them have already found employment in military camps, and have even established a camp of their own near the colony of Ness Ziona. They are earning much more than what they could in Egypt, the immigrants say.

The Syrian border police today were given orders to shoot anyone trying to cross the Palestine-Syrian border, following the arrest of four Jews who were attempting to cross into Palestine from Syria. A Reuter report from Damascus says that the four are in protective custody and are being questioned as to the routes used by immigrants attempting to get across the Palestine frontier from Syria. The Syrian Government today refused transit visas to 105 holders of Palestine visas who are in Istanbul.

Meanwhile, in the midst of all this violence and tension, 25 pioneers from the colony of Near Haoved took possession today of over 1,000 acres of Jewish National Fund land at Yakuk, near Tiberias, and began preparing for the erection of a settlement which will house fifty ex-servicemen and their families.

REPRESENTATIVES OF JEWISH AGENCY CONFER WITH PALESTINE HIGH COMMISSIONER IN JERUSALEM

JERUSALEM, Oct. 11. (JTA) -- Representatives of the Jewish Agency and of the Jewish National Council today visited High Commissioner Lord Gort and conferred with him on a number of urgent questions.

A group of fifty-five Jewish immigrants arrived in Haifa today from Yemen. They were transferred for control to the Jewish Agency's hostel at Kiriyath Mozkin.

# COLONIAL SECRETARY REPORTS TO BRITISH PARLIAMENT ON THE ATHLIT INCIDENT

LONDON, Oct. 11. (JTA) -- Asked for an assurance that armed resistance to the law in Palestine would be met with "full rigor", Colonial Secretary George Hall stated in the House of Commons today he could make no full statement before receiving a report on recent incidents in Palestine.

The question was raised by Lord Winterton in connection with the escape from the Athlit camp of 203 Jewish "illegal immigrants." Hall told the House of Commons that according to latest information the 208 have so far evaded arrest, but that a full investigation was continuing.

"It appears," he reported, "that a large number of armed Jews attacked the Athlit clearance camp for immigrants between one and one thirty yesterday morning. They were armed with rifles, pistols and daggers. Some were in police uniforms. Four temporary constables on guard were seized and beaten with rifle butts and bound and gagged. One Arab was seriously hurt and one Jewish temporary constable was tied up but not seriously injured.

"Over 200 illegal immigrants were released apparently with inside knowledge. Eleven immigrants who had presumably refused to accompany the escapees were bound and gagged. Of these one Christian woman died of suffocation. (The Palestine press reported that the woman was a German disguised as a Jewess.)

"The party then escaped in the direction of Mount Carmel. The police took immediate action to seal the Carmel Range. One police party which proceeded to establish a road check was fired upon and ambushed by Jews armed with rifles, sub-machine guns and grenades. The police truck was overturned and I regret to say a police constable was shot dead. Next of kin have been informed. One Arab constable was seriously wounded and a Jewish corporal slightly wounded," Hall declared.

## POLAND DRAFTING LAW AGAINST ANTI-SEMITISM, ATTORNEY GENERAL REPORTS IN LONDON

LONDON, Oct. 11. (JTA) -- The Polish Government in Warsaw is drafting a law making anti-Jewish incitement a punishable offense, Dr. George Sawicki, Attorney General of Poland and chief prosecutor at the trial of the Nazis who murdered 1,500,000 Jews and others at Majdanek, revealed today at a press conference arranged by the Allied War Crimes Commission.

Dr. Sawicki attributed the recent anti-Jewish excesses in Poland to the activities of "political adventurers." These elements, he said, are exploiting the anti-Semitic feelings which existed even before the war and were intensified during the five years of German occupation through Nazi propaganda.

## MAJORITY OF FRENCH JEWS PREFER TO REMAIN IN FRANCE; FOREIGN-BORN WANT TO EMIGRATE

PARIS, Oct. 11. (JTA) -- French Jews, although they became more "Jew conscious" during the German occupation, do not expect to emigrate from the country, Max Gottschalk, director of the overseas department of the American Jewish Committee, told a press conference here today. He revealed that among 3,000 formal applications for emigration, covering about 6,000 persons including children, ninety-eight percent were from foreign-born Jews, most of whom came to France after 1933.

Mr. Gottschalk said that he found the Jewish situation in France better than it was several months ago. He expressed the opinion that "widespread anti-Semitism has no general nor serious character" in France. French Jewish organizations, he declared, are watchful of anti-Semitism, but so far have found no cause for concern.

PRISON INMATES GO ON HUNGER STRIKE TO PROTEST DECISION TO CUT THEIR RATIONS

LONDON, Oct. 11. (JTA) — A person who arrived from Belsen today said that the inmates went on a one-day hunger strike this past Sunday to protest the camp administration's decision to stop the distribution of Red Cross parcels and restrict the inmates to local rations.

The protest began with a march through the camp area by most of the residents, who carried placards and banners. Otherwise, the strike passed peacefully, and there were no incidents. As a result, however, it is understood that the camp authorities are reconsidering their decision.

CZECHOSLOVAK JEWS WHO CLAIMED GERMAN NATIONALITY MUST APPLY FOR "CERTIFICATE OF LOYALTY"

PRAGUE, Oct. 11. (JTA) — Czechoslovak Jews who claimed German nationality before the war must obtain a certificate of loyalty before they can become Czech citizens, in accordance with a recent decision of the Government, which is attacked in a letter appearing in the publication "Time and Tide."

Defending the ruling, several Prague papers today point out that it is based on a Presidential decree of Aug. 2, which stated that all persons who declared themselves of German nationality will lose their Czechoslovak citizenship, and must apply to the proper authorities if they wish to regain it.

The papers say that it would be a mistake to suppose that there is any racial discrimination involved in this, or that such discrimination will be practiced in regard to any other similar matters.

SWITZERLAND WILL ALLOW REPATRIATED REFUGEES TO TAKE ALONG TOOLS AND MACHINES

GENEVA, Oct. 11. (JTA) — The first transport of tools, sewing machines and textbooks to be sent by OET to Jews in Germany left here today for Landsberg, Bavaria, where a workshop has been established to train 300 students.

In a move to facilitate the economic rehabilitation of Jewish refugees who will be repatriated from Switzerland to their home countries, Swiss authorities will permit the refugees to take along with them tools and machines, it was announced today by the OET, following a conference with an official of the Commerce Department. The OET also received a general export authorization, which will speed emigration.

The OSE headquarters here has announced that a temporary headquarters of TOZ, its sister organization in Poland, has been opened in Lodz and that trucks carrying eight tons of medicaments, and dental and surgical instruments sent from here have arrived there. The OSE also reported that a shipment of medicines sent to Jews in Austria, Hungary and Rumania last August, through the International Red Cross, have arrived there.

ENTIRE JEWISH POPULATION OF RUMANIAN TOWN MURDERED BY NAZIS; RE-INTERRED IN JASSY CEMETERY

JASSY, Rumania, Oct. 11. (JTA) — The fate of the entire Jewish population of the town of Souleny, near Jassy, all of whom were deported in 1941, has now been disclosed, revealing that they were massacred to the last man.

All 600 were buried in three mass graves, an official investigation disclosed. Since it was impossible to separate the corpses, they have been re-interred in a common grave in the Jewish cemetery here.

WORLD JEWISH CONGRESS PRESENTS \$20,000 TO VATICAN IN RECOGNITION OF RESCUE OF JEWS

NEW YORK, Oct. 11. (JTA) -- The World Jewish Congress has made a gift of 2,000,000 lira, the equivalent of \$20,000, to Vatican charities, it was disclosed today by Dr. A. Leon Kubowitzki, secretary-general of the World Jewish Congress, who returned recently from a visit to Europe.

A check for this sum was presented by Dr. Kubowitzki, following his reception by Pope Pius XII, to Monsignor Giovanni Battista Montini, Acting Secretary of State at the Vatican, in recognition of the work of the Holy See in securing the rescue of Jews from Fascist and Nazi persecution, which entailed considerable expenditures. The gift was made, he said, at the request of the Union of Italian Jewish Communities. A contribution of a similar sum had been made by the World Jewish Congress prior to the liberation of Italy to the Italian Resistance Movement which was instrumental in saving many Jewish lives.

(The Swiss newspaper Berner Tagwacht criticizes the World Jewish Congress gift to the Vatican, declaring that "when the remnant of European Jewry lives in despair and in need, there is no reason for making such gift to the wealthiest institution in the world.")

EX-CONGRESSMAN ROGERS, RETURNING FROM EUROPE, URGES SUPPORT OF TRUMAN APPEAL TO ATTLEE

WASHINGTON, Oct. 11. (JTA) -- Lieut. Will Rogers Jr., former Congressman from California, in his first public statement since his arrival from Europe two days ago, urged full public support to reinforce President Truman's appeal to the British Labor Government to open Palestine to the surviving 100,000 Jews in the American zones in Germany and Austria.

"It will be a crime against the United Nations," Rogers told a press conference, "if these people, the first victims of Hitler, are not allowed to go to the land of their choice when they have no homeland of their own." Rogers, who said he is connected with the American Committee for a Free Palestine, expressed his opinion that Arab opposition to increased Jewish settlement in Palestine is mainly British inspired "on account of oil."

Having visited several camps for displaced persons near Frankfurt about two months ago, Rogers said he was gratified that the Harrison report corroborated his observations on the desire of the majority of the Jewish refugees to go to Palestine. He declared that in the camps he saw, the DP's, mostly Jews, were treated as "semi-prisoners," were kept behind barbed wire and clothed in ragged American uniforms.

He emphasized that a permanent solution of the problem of Jewish survivors in Europe could only be reached through settlement in Palestine. Asserting that anti-Semitism would increase if they were kept in Europe, Rogers said it would be bound to sweep over to the United States.

BOLIVIA WILLING TO ADMIT LIMITED NUMBER OF JEWISH AGRICULTURAL WORKERS

LA PAZ, Bolivia, Oct. 11. (JTA) -- Bolivia is prepared to admit a limited number of Jewish immigrants, provided that they can prove that they have worked on the land and possess \$2,500 in cash, machinery or tools, Under-Secretary of Information Dr. Rigoberto Arce told the JTA today. He denied that Bolivia's immigration laws discriminate against Jews, but pointed out that the quota of Jewish immigrants is almost exhausted. There are 5,000 Jewish refugees residing here.