

Friday, November 9, 1945

JTA

Daily News Bulletin

PUBLISHED BY THE JEWISH TELEGRAPHIC AGENCY

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

SIR ALAN CUNNINGHAM APPOINTED NEW HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR PALESTINE

LONDON, Nov. 8. (JTA) -- General Sir Alan Cunningham, Commander-in-Chief of military forces in Eastern England, today was named High Commissioner for Palestine, succeeding Lord Gort who resigned last week.

The new High Commissioner, who is 59 years old, was commander of the Eighth Army in Libya as successor to Sir Archibald Wavell. He was succeeded in 1942 by Gen. Sir M. Ritchie who commanded the Eighth Army for a short time until Gen. Montgomery took over. Since 1942, Gen. Cunningham has been stationed in Ireland and Britain.

KILLED POGROMS IN TRIPOLITANIA; 30 MORE JEWS KILLED; TOTAL DEAD EXCEEDS 100

CAIRO, Nov. 8. (JTA) -- The number of Jews killed in Arab riots in Tripolitania rose to more than 100, following renewed anti-Jewish outbreaks at Zanzur and Arbia, Tuesday night, it was reported here today by the British Ministry of Information.

The report said that in addition to the seventy-four killed in the pogrom in Tripoli, thirty Jews were killed Tuesday night in Zanzur and six were massacred at Arbia. They included a number of children. Arab mobs in Zanzur also burnt the synagogue and a number of Jewish houses, the report stated.

Byrnes Disturbed by Arab Pogroms on Jews in Tripolitania

WASHINGTON, Nov. 8. (JTA) -- Secretary of State James F. Byrnes is very deeply disturbed by the anti-Jewish riots in Tripolitania, a delegation of the Agudas Israel said today after being received by the Secretary.

The three-man delegation, headed by Jacob Rosenheim, of New York, world president of the Agudas Israel, called on Mr. Byrnes for a discussion of Jewish settlement in Palestine and the forthcoming visit of Prime Minister Clement Attlee to the United States.

Meier Schenkolewski, executive member of the organization, and Michael Tress, chairman of the Agudas Israel Youth Council, told the press, after seeing the Secretary, that they had submitted a proposal for a round table conference of Arabs and Jews looking primarily toward admission into Palestine of the 100,000 Jewish refugees now in Germany. They said that the Secretary, while expressing no opinion on the proposal, looked favorably upon it and will submit it, together with a statement from the delegation, to President Truman.

The delegation stated that Mr. Byrnes feels that now is the time to take a completely new approach to the treatment of the Palestine problem and to find a peaceful solution. They gained the impression from the Secretary that he felt the United States should take a more definite interest in the questions.

The proposal for the round table conference suggests "peaceful pressure" on the Arabs from the United States and Britain, the delegation said. Declaring the ad-

question of the 100,000 Jews the urgent question, they said that the problem of a Jewish state could be settled later. The Secretary, according to the delegation, feels that the problem of the Jewish refugees must be solved quickly and that the United States should share in the solution. He is reported by the delegation to believe that their condition in Germany is still bad, although improved since issuance of the Harrison report.

U.S. ARMY PLANE BRINGS FOULOS BACK TO PALESTINE; FIND NO BASIS FOR HIS EXPULSION

JERUSALEM, Nov. 8. (JTA) -- Constantine Foulos, war correspondent of the Overseas News Agency who was expelled two weeks ago from Palestine, today returned to Jerusalem on a U.S. Army plane to resume his duties.

The readmission of Foulos to Palestine climaxed a vigorous fight for his reinstatement after the War and State Departments in Washington established, through investigation, that there was no justification for his eviction. He was pulled out of Palestine on Oct. 23 by the American public relations office in Cairo at the request of British military headquarters.

The investigation was ordered from Washington following a protest by Herbert Bayard Swope, chairman of the board of directors of the Overseas News Agency. When the British authorities who made the request for the withdrawal of the correspondent refused to give any explanation to the American military authorities, Maj. Gen. Benjamin S. Giles, U.S. Commanding General in this theater, addressed himself to Gen. Sir Bertram C. T. Paget, British Commanding General in the Middle East, asking the reason for Foulos' expulsion. When no reply was received, U.S. Army headquarters in Cairo decided to grant Foulos permission to return to Palestine on an army plane and gave him a high priority.

Swope Lauds War and State Departments for Prompt Action on Foulos

NEW YORK, Nov. 8. (JTA) -- The prompt action by Washington in securing Foulos' return to Palestine was lauded today by Herbert Bayard Swope. In a statement he said:

"The Overseas News Agency believes that the action taken is a victory for a free press and against the forces of suppression and political censorship. It acknowledges the prompt and effective work of the War Department through its bureau of public relations and the State Department."

BRITISH WAR SHIP BRINGS LAST TRANSPORT OF "LEGAL" JEWISH IMMIGRANTS TO PALESTINE

JERUSALEM, Nov. 8. (JTA) -- A transport of 789 Jewish immigrants, the last group that will be admitted under the White Paper, arrived in Palestine today aboard a British war ship from Italy. The immigrants were transferred to the Athlit camp for final examination of their papers.

The immigration certificates for the arrivals were distributed by the Palestine Government, since the Jewish Agency refused to accept the certificates, because they were issued under the White Paper. The bulk of the transport is composed of young men and women, including ninety expectant mothers, seventeen partisans from Poland and people who recently left Nazi camps in Europe. The group also included three hundred orphans.

ARAB ORGANIZE "SHOCK TROOPS" IN PALESTINE; MUFTI MAINTAINS CONTACT WITH LEADERS

JERUSALEM, Nov. 8. (JTA) -- Followers of the exiled Mufti of Jerusalem, key figure in every anti-Jewish Arab uprising in Palestine during the last 20 years, are organizing Arab "shock troop" units modelled on the lines of the Nazi storm troop formations, it was learned here today.

The organization of these units, aimed to restore the Mufti's stranglehold on Palestine's Arab population, is being undertaken by members of the Husseini faction on direct instructions from the Mufti, now technically a prisoner of the French, and living in luxury in a sumptuous villa outside Paris.

Arab circles here have disclosed during the last few days that they have been in frequent correspondence with the Mufti over a whole range of political matters. In his more recent correspondence the Mufti has urged the Arab parties in Palestine to unite in the formation of an Arab Higher Committee, such as the Mufti led until its dissolution in 1937 by the British authorities for having organized an Arab uprising. The Mufti signified, Arabs declare, that he would be ready to accept the presidency of such a body.

The role of the Arab "shock troop" formations in the past has been to suppress all Arab opposition to the Mufti's domination of the Arab population. These units were held responsible for a number of political assassinations in the years preceding the war and during the first year of hostilities. Farkh Bey El Nashashibi, strong-man in the opposition to the Mufti, was one of their victims, having been shot down in a Jerusalem street. It is recalled that in 1935 and 1936 some of these Arab young men's groups, dressed in boy scout uniform, patrolled the shores near Jewish colonies and reported to the police the arrival of vessels carrying "illegal" Jewish immigrants.

Egyptian Government Asks Britain to Transfer Mufti to Egypt

Meanwhile, powerful forces are being brought into play to secure the abandonment of war crimes charges against the Mufti and his eventual return to Palestine. The speaker of the Egyptian Senate has announced that the Egyptian Government was proposing to the British authorities that the Mufti be permitted to take up residence in Egypt. The Government undertook to guarantee that the Mufti would not "escape" to Palestine.

(Informed sources in New York disclosed yesterday that the British had permitted three of the Mufti's henchmen to return to the Middle East and take up residence in Syria where they are organizing anti-Jewish activities.)

Azzam Abdul Rahman Bey, secretary general of the Arab League, is reported by Arab sources here to be making similar efforts to secure the Mufti's return. During his recent visit to London, where he conferred with Foreign Minister Bevin and other British officials on the Palestine question, Azzam Bey sent a special envoy to the Mufti to report on his negotiations in London and to convey his assurance that he was doing his utmost to enable the Mufti to resume his leadership.

At a recent press conference in Cairo, Azzam Bey declared that the question of the Mufti was one that concerned the entire Arab world and that the Mufti must be restored to his former position.

A.M.C. REPRESENTATIVE RECEIVED BY POPE; THANKS VATICAN FOR AID TO JEWS DURING OCCUPATION

ROME, Nov. 8. (JTA) -- A private audience was granted by Pope Pius to Reuben Bonnik, representative of the Joint Distribution Committee, who expressed thanks for the aid given by the Vatican to Jews in Italy during the German occupation.

CZECHOSLOVAKIA REFUSES CITIZENSHIP TO RUTHENIAN JEWS; ALL MAY HAVE TO LEAVE COUNTRY

PRAGUE, Nov. 8. (JTA) -- Carpatho-Russian Jews who chose to retain Czechoslovak citizenship after Carpatho-Russia was ceded by Czechoslovakia to the USSR will probably have to leave Czechoslovakia since the Government is not likely to recognize their option, the Jewish Telegraphic Agency was told today by a high official of the Ministry. Up to now, the authorities have been accepting options from these Jews on a provisional basis.

Pointing out that the Czechoslovak-Russian agreement granted the right to Czechoslovak citizenship to Czechs and Slovaks of Carpatho-Russia, the official said that the omission of Jews from the pact was probably a corollary to the aim of the agreement that there be no national minorities in liberated Czechoslovakia.

According to this official, the omission of Jews from the Czechoslovak-Russian treaty is not likely to have been an oversight, since a similar Polish-Russian treaty excludes Jews specifically. He said that he believed it was a mistake to grant Carpatho-Russian Jews provisional rights to elect Czechoslovak citizenship since this is not provided for in the pact and could be interpreted as an unfriendly act by the Soviet Union.

At the same time that he stressed that should the options by the Jews not be recognized by the Government, they may be asked to leave Czechoslovakia, he said they will be forced to return to Carpatho-Russia which is now a part of the Soviet Ukraine. They will be permitted to emigrate to any country, if possible Palestine.

Newspaper Says Czechs Dissatisfied with "Jewish Behavior"

On the pretext that it believes in giving "friendly advice" to the Jews, the "Pravda Varnsdorf," a provincial Czech newspaper which is the official organ in Varnsdorf of the four Czech political parties, publishes a lengthy article warning that the Czechs, who did much for Jews during the Protectorate regime, are now dissatisfied with Jewish behavior.

The article, which is replete with anti-Jewish slurs, states that if the Nuremberg laws had not been instituted in the Protectorate, Jews would have constituted fifty percent of the informers and collaborators. It charges that Jews abroad preferred office jobs and had reported for service with the Czech forces only when it became obvious that the war was almost over. This, the paper alleges, is proven by the small number of Jewish dead and wounded. The article concludes by emphasizing that only those Jews can claim privileges who actually fought.

BRITISH COUNSEL FOR NAZIS APOLOGIZES TO JEWS; REGRETS REFERENCE TO "GETTO DREGS"

LUERENBURG, Nov. 8. (JTA) -- Major Thomas C. Winwood, defense counsel for several of the Nazi defendants at the Belsen trial, today publicly apologized to the Jews for his remarks that the people exterminated in the Nazi camps were "dregs of the gettos".

During his final speech today in defense of Joseph Kramer, commander of the Belsen camp, Maj. Winwood said: "I personally regret that any words which may have been spoken by me should have added to the pain of that race which has suffered so much in Nazi Germany. I have been acting only as the mouthpiece of the accused."

However, Maj. Winwood opened his speech by suggesting that the experiments on human beings carried out at the Oswiecim camp might prove beneficial to humanity.

SEVEN JEWISH CHILDREN ARRIVE IN PARIS; FRENCH JEWS LAUNCH \$400,000 PALESTINE DRIVE

PARIS, Nov. 8. (JTA) -- Forty-four Jewish children, most of whom are orphans, arrived here today from Berlin in the care of UNRRA representatives. They were transported by the U.S. Army, and will be housed in Paris until they can emigrate to Palestine.

A 20,000,000 franc (\$400,000) drive for the Keren Hayesod was proclaimed here last night at a meeting of 20 delegates from various sections of France. The meeting, which celebrated the 25th anniversary of the Keren Hayesod's founding, was addressed by Isaac Gruenbaum, a member of the Jewish Agency and Dr. Weill Halle, who presided.

A belated celebration of the 28th anniversary of the Balfour Declaration was also held last night, with 3,500 persons in attendance. Sen. Justin Godard acted as chairman and Andre Philip, a prominent member of the new Constituent Assembly, spoke, telling Jewish achievements in Palestine.

LABOR WILL MAKE "GREATEST MISTAKE" IF IT FAILS TO KEEP PALESTINE PLEDGE, SAYS M.P.

LONDON, Nov. 8. (JTA) -- The Labor Party will have made its "greatest mistake" if it fails to implement its pledge to support a Jewish national home in Palestine, David Grenfell, a Laborite member of Parliament, said last night, addressing a Balfour Day meeting here attended by 2,000 persons.

Similar sentiments were voiced by other Labor M.P.s, including Mrs. Barbara Lytton Gould, a member of the party's executive, while Eleanor Rathbone, an Independent parliamentarian, said "I am sorry for the members of the Labor Party. How will they look in the eyes of the world if they fail to implement their pledge. Failure would be worse than the White Paper. Why is the Prime Minister so anxious every time a question about Palestine is asked? Is he ashamed of what's going on?"

PIONEER WOMEN'S CONVENTION DECIDES TO RAISE \$500,000 FOR WORK IN PALESTINE

CLEVELAND, Nov. 8. (JTA) -- A drive for \$500,000 to support the activities of the Working Women's Council in Palestine, was decided on here today at the ninth national convention of the Pioneer Women's Organization of the United States and Canada.

The 250 delegates adopted a resolution stating that no legal restrictions which bar the rescue of the remnants of European Jewry and the further development of a Jewish national home will stop the Palestine Jews and Zionists abroad from pursuing these twin aims.

Dr. Abba Hillel Silver, co-chairman of the Zionist Emergency Council, in an address this evening, deplored the recent outbreaks of violence in Palestine, but declared that the British Government is responsible. He called upon President Truman to indicate to the Arab states that the American Government will not be intimidated by blackmail in carrying out its policies, and urged him to continue to press for the admission of 100,000 Jews from Europe.

Smuggling "illegal" Jewish immigrants into Palestine is honorable work, and those arrested while doing so will be replaced as fast as they are apprehended, Hayim Greenberg, Zionist labor leader, said last night, addressing the convention's opening session.

NEW YORK, Nov. 8. (JTA) -- The issue of a Jewish state in Palestine was debated here tonight by Rabbi Stephen S. Wise and Edgar A. Mowrer, on the one hand, and Rabbi Morris Lazaron and Carroll Binder, on the other, on "America's Town Meeting," nationwide broadcast over the network of the American Broadcasting Company.

Rabbi Wise reviewed Jewish achievements in Palestine and declared that Jews refuse to remain a minority there. Only Palestine, he said, can offer a haven to the suffering Jews of Europe. America's obligations in settlement of the problem, Dr. Wise pointed out, have been recognized on many occasions, and most recently by the dispatch of the Harrison mission to Europe and President Truman's request to Britain to admit to Palestine 100,000 Jews.

Rabbi Lazaron, while urging abrogation of the White Paper and increased Jewish immigration into Palestine, said that there was little likelihood of Jews becoming a majority in Palestine, and, therefore, it was impracticable to speak of establishing a Jewish state there. As alternatives, he proposed a round-table discussion of the Palestine problem, immigration of Jews into the United States and other countries, and the establishment in Palestine of a democratic commonwealth with cultural and religious autonomy for the different communities.

Mr. Mowrer, foreign correspondent and columnist, charged that "our American hands are stained with the blood of people we could have saved" by seeing to it that Palestine became a Jewish Commonwealth before the war. He denied that there was any ambiguity in the Balfour Declaration and asserted that it pledged establishment of a Jewish state. He called on the United States to express its willingness to share in a United Nations trusteeship over Palestine and to help protect Jews against threatened violence.

Mr. Binder, editorial editor of the Minneapolis Tribune, said that Palestine could not absorb the 1,250,000 European Jews who need assistance. "By insisting on finding relief for distressed European Jews with their aspirations for a Jewish state," he added, "the Zionists have made much more difficult the admission of Jews to Palestine. They have aggravated the condition of Jews in Europe where many Jews must continue to live for want of homes elsewhere. They have made more difficult the finding of homes for distressed Jews outside Europe and Palestine." He also favored a United Nations trusteeship for Palestine and increased Jewish immigration into the United States.

CIVIC, LABOR RELIGIOUS LEADERS JOIN IN L.A. MEETING IN SUPPORT OF JEWISH HOMELAND

LOS ANGELES, Nov. 8. (JTA) -- Civic and labor leaders joined with large sections of the Jewish and non-Jewish community in a mass-meeting here to protest British policy in Palestine.

Over 15,000 persons gathered on the steps of City Hall to hear Mayor Fletcher Bowron, Lt. Gov. Frederick Houser, Philip Connolly of the CIO Council, Harry Scott of the Central Labor Council, Rev. Glenn R. Phillips of the L.A. Christian Council on Palestine, Rabbi Jacob Kohn and others demand the establishment of a Jewish national home in Palestine.

The meeting unanimously approved a resolution asking the United States Government to "use its good offices to the end that the doors of Palestine shall be opened for the entry of Jews into that country--that they may reconstitute Palestine as a free and democratic Jewish commonwealth in which all men regardless of race or creed shall enjoy equal rights."