

Monday, January 14, 1946

JTA

Daily News Bulletin

PUBLISHED BY THE JEWISH TELEGRAPHIC AGENCY

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

PALESTINE NEEDS AND CAN ABSORB MORE PEOPLE, EXPERTS TESTIFY AT WASHINGTON HEARING

WASHINGTON, Jan. 13. (JTA) -- Palestine needs a larger population for the constructive effort from which both Jews and Arabs would benefit, Dr. Walter C. Lowdermilk, assistant chief of the Soil Conservation Service of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, testified yesterday before the Anglo-American Inquiry Committee, which will conclude its hearings here tomorrow.

The Jordan Valley irrigation project, he said, is as practical as any similar project in Southern California. He lauded the Jewish colonists in Palestine for their love of the land. Through application of modern technology, he stated, they increased productivity per acre and per man thus enlarging the world food supply and improving standards throughout the Middle East.

Dr. Abel Wohlman, professor of sanitary engineering at Johns Hopkins University and chairman of the Palestine Economic Board, told the committee that the present 100,000 irrigated acres in Palestine could, through the projected hydroelectric development of the Jordan, be increased by 650,000 acres at a cost of less than \$200,000,000. "This is not a grandiose scheme but a grand scheme," he said, "a bankers undertaking which would pay out at three percent in under 50 years."

The project can be developed in eight stages, he said. Results of the first stage would be evident within the first five years and other results in ten years. A twelve-month growing season, he said, would ensure success of the project. Dr. Wohlman emphasized that the purpose of the project is to recapture lands historically fertile. Discussing costs, Wohlman said the first stage would cost approximately \$25,000,000, and other stages could be developed at a more moderate cost. As alternative financing sources, he presented government or joint government-private financing.

James Hays, engineer of the Palestine Economic Board, presented to the committee a technical outline of the Jordan project. His explanation of the plan for use of the Negrov with irrigation aroused the committee's interest. Henry W. Bayshore, of the Palestine Economic Board and for 39 years with the United States Bureau of Reclamation, expressed the view that amortization of the project in forty to fifty years at two percent would make an appreciable difference to the water user.

Church Representative Testifies Against Admission of Jews to Palestine

The Reverend Charles T. Bridgeman, of Trinity Church in New York, who lived in Palestine from 1924 - 1944 as a representative of the American Episcopal Church, advocated immediate admission to the U.S. of as many Jewish displaced persons "as can not be resettled in decent conditions in their former homes in Europe." He said it would be hypocritical for us to force Great Britain to foist Jews upon the Arabs who have already received up to half their number, and not to enlarge American immigration quotas.

"Palestine is too small to serve as a solution of the Jewish problem," Bridgeman said. He stated that the British Administration and not the Jews were responsible for improvement in Arab health and education.

The type of nationalism developing in Palestine is patterned after "eastern

European totalitarianism," he said. He declared that "narrow Jewish nationalism" provoked anti-Jewish attacks in neighboring countries. After Bridgeman had attributed the majority of the difficulties to the Jews, Sir John Cingleton asked Bridgeman if the Arabs did not have faults too.

Rev. Daniel A. Poling, representing the Christian Council on Palestine and the American Palestine Committee, said that Christian Zionists in the United States favor the establishment of a Jewish commonwealth in Palestine. He also cited the recent Gallup poll as proof that Americans in general favor the project. He called for abrogation of the White Paper and implementation of the Balfour Declaration. Judge Joseph Hutcheson, American chairman of the committee, and two of the British members, Wilfred F. Crick and Richard H. S. Crossman, challenged Dr. Poling's assertion that the Christian Churches favored the establishment of a Jewish State in Palestine.

A joint statement by 123 Jewish chaplains in the United States armed forces was submitted to the committee by the American Jewish Conference, urging free entrance into Palestine of the uprooted Jews of Europe, and the establishment of a free and democratic Jewish commonwealth in Palestine. The statement was part of a supplementary memorandum presented by the conference.

It also contained a statement by Rabbi Philip Bernstein of the Committee of Army and Navy Religious Activities of the Jewish Welfare Board, declaring that thousands of communications in the JVB files testify to the hopeless situation of Jews in Eastern and central Europe. Statements by five army chaplains graphically describing the conditions of Jewish refugees in Europe, as they personally witnessed them, were included in the memorandum.

Agudah Demands Full Rights for Jews in Statement to Inquiry Committee

NEW YORK, Jan. 13. (JTA) -- "It is our sacred duty to demand the full right for any Jew to enter Eretz Yisrael at all times, and to enjoy there the same privileges of trade, industry and land purchase as all other inhabitants of the land," the Agudas Israel of America told the Anglo-American Inquiry Committee in a letter made public here today.

The letter was sent in reply to an invitation from the committee for a statement of policy by the Agudas Israel on the Palestine problem. Earlier in the week the Agudah had notified the committee that it would not appear to testify because its position would be presented by its central offices in London and Jerusalem.

ARAB STATES REPORTED AGREED TO ADMIT JEWS TO PALESTINE PENDING INQUIRY GROUP'S FINDINGS

LONDON, Jan. 13. (JTA) -- The member states of the Arab League agreed informally, at a meeting last week, to comply with the British suggestion that 1,500 Jews be admitted into Palestine monthly, pending the findings of the Anglo-American inquiry committee, Reuters reports today.

A correspondent of the British news agency, who has just returned from the Middle East, says that none of the Arab states, however, have, as yet, replied formally to the proposal for Jewish immigration, and are understood to be awaiting the results of conferences with King Ibn Saud, who is in Cairo. The final decision, Reuters says, is allowed to rest with the Arabian monarch, who must decide whether to agree with the Arab League or with the Palestine Higher Arab Committee, which has rejected the immigration proposal.

(Ibn Saud held discussions in Cairo today with a delegation of Palestine Arab leaders, headed by Jamel Hussein, who was recently released from British internment in Southern Rhodesia. The King told them "the question of the Arabs and Palestine is a question of Islam - all Arab countries are my own.")

PALESTINE POLICE HUNTING FOR JEWS WHO ROBBED \$140,000 FROM TRAIN; ARREST 17 IN HADERA

JERUSALEM, Jan. 13. (JTA) -- Police today were continuing their search for a band of 50 to 70 Jews who yesterday held up and robbed a train of \$140,000 at a deserted spot near the Jewish settlement of Hadera.

Immediately after the robbery, police and military contingents were rushed to the scene, and a curfew was imposed on the eastern part of Hadera and adjoining areas, excluding inhabited sections. A thorough search was conducted today and 17 Yemenite Jews in the Nachliel quarter of the settlement were detained for interrogation. The curfew was lifted later, except for the Nachliel section.

According to an official communique, about 70 Jews, including some women, attacked the train after it had been derailed by a land mine explosion. One group engaged the escorting policemen, while another forced British railway officials to surrender the payroll. The robbers, who were reported to have spoken English and Hebrew, wounded one British and one Arab policeman.

Twelve Jewish youths who were arrested on barges near Hertulia, last November, on suspicion of having aided in landing "visaless" immigrants, were today informed that they will be held for another six months in the Latrun detention camp.

The Palestine Arabs medical association has appealed to Palestine Arabs to boycott Jewish doctors "since the Jewish medical profession is primarily interested in furthering Zionist aims." It also urged Arab doctors not to prescribe Jewish manufactured pharmaceutical preparations.

The boycott will be a long term plan with no apparent results for at least six months, Ali Dajani, secretary of the Palestine Arab Chamber of Commerce, who is working out technical details, said, adding: "It will be applied by peaceful persuasion and no violence will be used to those disobeying the Arab League edict." Dajani said that latest boycott moves by Arab economic experts include the formation of several new companies--with capital varying between \$40,000 and \$400,000--designed in the long run to free Palestine Arabs from dependence on Jewish industry.

HUNGARY DRAFTING BILL TO COMBAT ANTI-SEMITISM; MINISTER ADMITS GROWTH OF BIAS

BUDAPEST, Jan. 13. (JTA) -- A bill providing severe punishment for propaganda against racial and religious minorities is being drafted by the Hungarian Government, Minister of Justice Stephen Ries told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency today.

The minister made this statement in reply to a question as to whether the government was taking any measures to combat the growing anti-Semitic activities in the country. He said that when the bill is passed, it will become a part of the constitution.

Ries admitted that anti-Jewish feelings "are frequent" in Hungary today, and attributed them mainly to the fact that many non-Jews fear that they will have to return to Jews property acquired during the pro-Nazi regime.

DR. CHAIM WEIZMANN ARRIVES IN BRITAIN FROM THE UNITED STATES

LONDON, Jan. 13. (JTA) -- Dr. Chaim Weizmann arrived here today from the United States. The Zionist leader is expected to remain in England for a short time, after which he will leave for Palestine for a protracted stay.

ZIONIST LEADERS REJECT PROPOSAL TO PLACE PALESTINE ISSUE BEFORE UNITED NATIONS ORGANIZATION

NEW YORK, Jan. 13. (JTA) -- Zionist leaders today reiterated their opposition to the Anglo-American Committee of Inquiry on Palestine, and also voiced their objections to a reported British plan to submit the Palestine issue to the United Nations Organization.

Addressing a meeting here of the National Zionist Administrative Council, Dr. Abba Hillel Silver, ZOA president, said that any proposed solution by the inquiry committee which recommends admission of a certain number of refugees into Palestine at the price of liquidating the objective of a Jewish State would be rejected.

Dr. Emanuel Neumann, who was one of the leaders of the Zionist delegation which testified before the committee last week, said that the Zionists still believe that the committee can do nothing but stall, and added that the proposal of Foreign Secretary Bevin that the UNO assume responsibility for Palestine is "another move in a prolonged and elaborate run-around of which the Jewish refugees are the immediate victim. He criticized President Truman for having "lent himself to this game," adding that the President's record on the Palestine question "is most confusing."

The meeting ratified a resolution proposed by the ZOA executive committee to support the strengthening and continued functioning of the American Jewish Conference. It also approved a plan for the enrollment of an additional 250,000 members, and the sale of at least 1,000,000 "shekels" so as to provide a large American representation at the World Zionist Congress slated to be held this Summer. Speakers included Rabbi Stephen S. Wise, Judge Morris Rothenberg, Louis Lipsky, Daniel Frisch and others.

CLEVELAND FEDERATION OPPOSES NATIONAL BUDGETING; CJFWF PRESIDENT ANSWERS OPPOSITION

NEW YORK, Jan. 13. (JTA) -- The Board of Trustees of the Cleveland Jewish Welfare Federation has passed a motion instructing its twelve delegates to the general assembly of the Council of Jewish Federations and Welfare Funds to vote "for any deferment of a vote on the proposal of National Advisory Budgeting Service and in the event the assembly votes not to defer action, the delegates are further instructed to vote 'No' on the proposal," it was announced here today by Ezra Shapiro, chairman of the Committee To Oppose National Budgeting and a member of the Board of Trustees of the Cleveland Federation.

Sidney Hollander, president of the CJFWF, today issued a statement branding Mr. Shapiro's objections to Charles P. Taft's support of National Advisory Budgeting as "narrow and parochial view."

Mr. Taft, acting chairman of the President's War Relief Control Board - now in the process of liquidation - had written Mr. Hollander that he was glad to learn the Jewish welfare funds and federations were considering a plan to set up a national budget review. Such a step, he said, is in line with what his board hoped private welfare organizations would create on their own volition "to assure the contributing public that effective use is being made of the support provided for charitable enterprises." Mr. Shapiro characterized Mr. Taft's letter as a device of applying pressure by non-Jewish governmental agencies on specifically Jewish issues.

"I do not share the narrow parochial views on Jewish affairs which is apparent in the reaction of Mr. Ezra Shapiro to the interest in national advisory budgeting expressed by Mr. Charles Taft," Mr. Hollander said. "On the contrary," he said, "I am convinced that the needs of the Jewish people both abroad and at home are at present of deep concern to all Americans. I believe further that at all times cooperation with other American groups is a desirable principle."

OSE INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE MAPS PLANS TO AID 45,000 ORPHANED JEWISH CHILDREN

GENEVA, Jan. 13. (JTA) -- Plans to aid 45,000 orphaned Jewish children of Europe, many of whom are still in convents or living with Christian families, were formulated here at the first post-war international conference of the OSE, Jewish health society.

Stressing the fact that the several thousand surviving Jewish children in Poland are threatened by tuberculosis, Dr. S. Herszenhorn, vice chairman of the Central Committee for Polish Jews, who arrived here from Warsaw to represent the TOZ, an affiliate of the OSE, said that 80,000,000 zlotys - about \$800,000 - will be required within the next six months by the TOZ to carry out its functions. He emphasized that the TOZ is responsible not only for the health of the surviving Jews from camps and ghettos, but also for the care of 16,000 demobilized Jewish soldiers.

"Relief organizations abroad," he said, "must realize that old clothing will not save the doomed Jewish survivors in Poland. The TOZ needs cash on the spot, which will enable it to buy food and other necessities."

Jews in many of the displaced persons' camps in Germany lack warm clothing, resulting in an accelerated death rate from tuberculosis, Dr. Joseph Weil, a director of the OSE, told the conference. He said that it was not too late to set up sanatoria to care for the many sick among the Jewish refugees.

Jews DO NOT SEEK EMIGRATION FROM WEST EUROPEAN COUNTRIES, HIAS DIRECTOR REPORTS

NEW YORK, Jan. 13. (JTA) -- The need for large scale Jewish emigration from Central and Eastern Europe to Palestine and other overseas countries was emphasized here today in a statement issued by Isaac Z. Asofsky, executive director of the HIAS, Hebrew Sheltering and Immigrant Aid Society, who has just returned from a six-week study of conditions of displaced Jews in various European countries. He emphasized that Jews in Western Europe do not desire to emigrate.

"With few exceptions, the native Jewish population of France, Holland and Belgium do not seek to emigrate from these countries," Mr. Asofsky said. "There are no visible signs of anti-Semitism in these countries, although for a short time after V-E Day there were local manifestations of anti-Semitism in France. But these were confined to individuals who resented the necessity of returning homes and other property which had been confiscated from the Jews by the Nazis and had found their way into the hands of some Frenchmen. But great progress has been made in the re-transfer of such property, and the resentment has not spread beyond the small number of people immediately affected."

"On the other hand, German Austrian and Polish refugees, and displaced Jews generally who are scattered in temporary havens all over Europe, face a bleak and hopeless future unless early steps are taken to enable them to emigrate to Palestine and other countries where they can set up permanent homes," Mr. Asofsky continued. "Living conditions in the refugee camps have improved somewhat, but are still unsatisfactory, and the danger of epidemics brought on by lack of sufficient food, clothing and fuel is still great."

WORLD JEWISH CONGRESS SENDS DELEGATION TO POLAND TO STUDY JEWISH POSITION

NEW YORK, Jan. 13. (JTA) -- The World Jewish Congress today announced that two of its leading members, Dr. Samuel Margoshes and Louis Segal, left this week for Poland to survey the position of the Jews there.

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