

Tuesday, February 12, 1946

JTA*Daily News Bulletin*

PUBLISHED BY THE JEWISH TELEGRAPHIC AGENCY

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

ANGLO-AMERICAN SUB-COMMITTEE TOURS WARSAW GHETTO; CONFERS WITH JEWISH LEADERS

WARSAW, Feb. 11. (JTA) -- Members of a sub-committee of the Anglo-American Committee on Palestine, which arrived here over the week-end, today toured the ruins of the Warsaw Ghetto, and viewed huge open graves containing the carbonized bodies of martyred Jews.

The committee members, several of whom wept as they stood before the graves, suggested that the ruins be preserved intact as evidence that the Jews suffered terrible sacrifices in the battle to destroy Nazism. The people in England and America, they said, had no conception of the heroism and sufferings which the Jews endured.

Later, the sub-committee, headed by Sir John Singleton, co-chairman of the full committee, was received by Foreign Minister Wincenty Raymowski. It will also meet with Minister of Social Welfare Jan Stanczyk and Jacob Berman, adviser to Prime Minister Edward Osobka-Morawski.

The sub-committee also visited Dr. Emil Sommerstein, chairman of the Central Jewish Committee, who told it that most of the Jews in Poland want to emigrate, because they feel that they are "alone," rather than for economic reasons. Dr. Sommerstein said that he feels that the only solution for the problem of the Jews is creation of their own state in Palestine.

An official delegation of the Jewish committee called on the sub-committee members, and speaking in behalf of the entire Jewish population, with the exception of the members of the Jewish Socialist Bund, described the tragedy of the Jews of Poland and their desire to settle in Palestine. They also told of the heroism with which the Jews of Poland fought the Nazis. The Jewish spokesmen paid tribute to the friendly attitude of the Government and reviewed its efforts to aid Jewish survivors. Questioned by some members as to what form this governmental assistance took, the delegation replied that it was both economic and political.

Accompanying the inquiry group members on their visit to the ghetto site were Louis Segal, general secretary of the Jewish National Workers Alliance in the United States, who is in Poland on behalf of the World Jewish Congress; Dr. Adolph Berman, a Jewish deputy in the Polish National Council; and other local Jewish leaders.

The Anglo-American probes will shortly leave for Lodz where the "League for Working Palestine" plans to organize a street demonstration of all Jews in the city to indicate their desire to go to Palestine.

CRUM SAYS HE WILL RECOMMEND IMMEDIATE EVACUATION OF ALL JEWS FROM DP CAMPS

MUNICH, Feb. 11. (JTA) -- A recommendation that all Jewish refugees be released from DP camps immediately will be made by Bartley Crum, American member of the Anglo-American Inquiry Committee on Palestine, he told the JTA today.

Crum said that no matter how much conditions in these camps may be improved in the future, the Jewish survivors of Nazi persecution "will be ruined spiritually and

psychologically" if they are not enabled to settle in permanent homes. He stressed, however, that no Jew must be forced to go anywhere against his wishes.

Crum made these statements at the conclusion of a three-day tour of the American zone by a sub-committee of the Anglo-American body, during which virtually 99 percent of the camp residents interviewed declared that they desired to go to Palestine. The sub-committee also saw the results of a vote organized in the camps by the UNRRA, which showed that of 19,311 refugees, 18,702 wanted to go to Palestine, 393 to the United States, 13 to Germany and the remainder elsewhere.

Sir Frederick Leggett and Crum, who comprise the sub-committee, heard testimony that 70 percent of Hitler anti-Semitism remains in Germany. This was alleged by Israel Guttman, chairman of 1,000 displaced Polish Jews living in a "camp" established on a city block in the heart of Stuttgart, who based his charge on the fact that only 30 percent of the voters in last week's general elections in the American zone cast their ballots for the left parties such as the Socialists, Communists or Christian Socialists.

Director Says Impossible Run Camp Life on Other than Zionist Lines

Harry Lerner of Omaha, UNRRA director of the camp, told the committee that it was impossible to organize camp life along any lines other than Zionist. "We tried to organize a boys' club," he said, "with debating, classes, dances, but by the time the third meeting was held it was a Zionist rally." In reply to a question by Leggett, he said that there were no outside elements influencing the DPs to think along Zionist lines. "If we wanted to give an agricultural program," Lerner added, "it turned out to be a couple of farmers talking about Palestine. If they sang songs, they turned out to be Palestine songs. If they spoke about trees, it was about planting trees in Palestine."

When Crum asked Guttman: "You believe there is no future for the Jews in Europe - that Hitler has won the war against the Jews?" the latter replied: "Yes. We feel, however, that if the democratic world had really wanted to deal properly with Hitler, he would not have won his war against the Jews to such an extent." Guttman emphasized that despite their confidence in the democracies the displaced Jews feel that their only ultimate security lies in building a home of their own in Palestine. He deprecated the threat of Arab violence, stating that the Arabs would not molest the Jews if they were not incited, and, if they did, the Jews could defend themselves.

Similar questions were asked and similar replies given in visits to camps at Leipheim, between Stuttgart and Munich; and Funk Kaserne, Fahrenwald and Freiman-Siedlung, all near Munich. At Fahrenwald, which holds 5,000 DPs, the committee was greeted by a silent procession carrying banners reading: "Open the Gates of Palestine." Hundreds of persons stood silently outside the office, while the committee members held hearings. As they walked through the throng, after the hearing, Crum and Leggett were accosted by a boy of thirteen, who asked politely: "Why are we waiting here so long to go to Palestine? We cannot wait so long. It is unendurable."

At Funk Kaserne, the committee interviewed young Jews who recently fled Poland. They denied that there was an organized underground railway out of Poland, but said that they had been helped by local committees in the cities through which they passed. They said that they had come to Germany, because they had heard that that was the best way of getting to Palestine.

(A report from Jerusalem today said that four members of the advance secretarial staff of the Anglo-American inquiry committee have arrived there, and that another economic assistant had arrived at Cairo.)

JOINT GENERAL ASSEMBLY CONCLUDES AFTER URGING FIGHT ON ANTI-SEMITES IN U.S.

NEW YORK, Feb. 11. (JTA) -- The four-day General Assembly of the Council of Jewish Federations and Welfare Funds concluded here today after adopting a resolution calling upon its member organizations to continue a coordinated fight on anti-Semitism by supporting the National Community Relations Advisory Council, in which all the major Jewish civic protective groups are represented, in addition to 19 local Jewish communities.

The "independent list" of candidates for membership on the Council's board of directors, sponsored by a pro-Zionist group, was badly defeated in the elections last night. All the candidates proposed by the nominations committee of the Council were elected by an overwhelming majority.

Today's sessions were devoted primarily to reports on activities in connection with the fight on anti-Semitism in this country. Richard Outstadt, director of the B'nai B'rith Anti-Defamation League, reported that in so far as organized anti-Semitism is concerned, there has been a decided decrease in the number of anti-Jewish organizations. However, there is a noticeable tendency towards consolidation of such anti-Semitic forces, with clear evidence of constant systematic cooperation among anti-Semitic groups and individuals for exchange of information, joint meetings and joint action, Mr. Outstadt said.

He revealed that about twenty anti-Semitic publications are still being sent through the mails at the taxpayer's expense. "Important is the feeling of anti-Semitism pamphlets that now is the time for prosperity for their racket," he said. Mr. Outstadt reported how anti-Semitic propaganda is being distributed among Congressmen, containing charges that the Jews were responsible for Pearl Harbor, and that the Jews are the dominant force behind the United Nations Organizations.

Warns Economic Crisis May Place Veterans under Sway of Anti-Semites

Reviewing the activities of anti-Semitic groups throughout the country, he predicted that in case of economic and social dislocations of great magnitude, the returning war veterans and their families may easily fall under the influence of anti-Semitic propaganda, and might become the nucleus for a potential pro-fascist storm-troop movement.

"Perhaps of even more sinister import," he warned, "is the danger which comes not from the lunatic fringe, or those identified as irresponsible demagogues. Intellectuals, well-financed, pro-fascist are striving now to create an organization similar to those which exist in the ranks of the lower-level anti-Semites."

The plan to create a so-called "Save America Committee," ostensibly to fight Communism is actually aimed at eliminating what they consider Jewish influence from the American scene, the Anti-Defamation League director warned. He emphasized that the history of anti-Semitic activities shows that the anti-Jewish elements in this country are bent towards a common goal: A potential storm-troop set-up and a potential intellectual front. He called upon Jewish civic protective agencies to localize the threat stemming from these groups, through constant exposure of their activities.

Sher Resigns As Head of NURAC in Dispute over Expansion of Staff

David Sher, chairman of the National Community Relations Advisory Council, who analyzed the need for intensive activities to combat anti-Semitism, revealed the fact that he had resigned last week from that post, because he felt that some of the national agencies represented on the advisory council do not really accept it. "Their concern," he added, "is not that the NURAC may do too little, but that it may do too

uch." The issue over which he resigned revolved around the question of whether the working staff of the council should be increased, a policy which he favored.

"I decline to be a party to any attempt to create an appearance of unity and coordination when there is neither unity nor coordination," Mr. Sher said. "There have been other indications of the lack of desire of agencies to submerge their organizational interests in a common effort, but the question of staff raised the issues squarely and answered it decisively. There are agencies which are simply unwilling to accept the NCRAC and what the community thinks it stands for."

At the same time, he urged that the aims and the objectives of the NCRAC not be abandoned. "Too much is at stake; too much and too soon. But these aims cannot be effectuated unless there is a new attitude on the part of the agencies--a genuine desire to work together for a common purpose."

Epstein Announces Fight on Discrimination in Educational Institutions

A report on the activities of the NCRAC was presented by Henry Epstein, former New York State Solicitor General, who is acting chairman, succeeding Mr. Sher. He reviewed the work of the organization, and announced that at the last meeting of the executive committee, expansion of the staff was approved. He discussed the problem of quotas for Jewish students in American colleges and universities, and said that the NCRAC was working on a comprehensive, over-all program to bring about equal educational opportunities. This program, he said, is in various stages of progress and includes such recommendations as:

1. The establishment of a non-discriminatory New York State university; 2. A study of the present state tax laws to determine whether they can be amended so as to deny tax exemption to educational institutions practicing discrimination against racial and religious minorities; and 3. Exploration of the desirability of establishing a Jewish university, or non-sectarian university, chiefly supported by Jews.

Truman Lauds NRS Efforts on Behalf of Fort Ontario Refugees

DETROIT, Feb. 11. (JTA) -- A letter of appreciation from President Truman to William Rosenwald, honorary president of the National Refugee Service, was made public today at the General Assembly, in connection with the closing of the Emergency Refugee Shelter at Fort Ontario. The letter was in reply to a report from Mr. Rosenwald to the President disclosing that the resettlement of the Oswego refugees had been completed by the NRS in less than four weeks.

"I am most happy that the refugees at Oswego have been taken care of" President Truman wrote. "It seems to me to be the best method in which to handle it. I appreciate also your contribution to public service in acting as honorary president of the National Refugee Service."

HIGH COMMISSIONER TELLS DELEGATION HE WILL RECOMMEND RETURN OF ERETRIAN DEPORTEES

JERUSALEM, Feb. 11. (JTA) -- A delegation headed by Moshe Shertok, chief of the political department of the Jewish Agency and Isaac Ben-Zvi, president of the Jewish National Council, was today informed by High Commissioner Sir Alan Cunningham that he will recommend to London the return of all Jews deported to Eritrea, provided they pledge not to escape from Palestine detention camps.

While the delegation was calling on the High Commissioner, a group of wives and mothers of the deportees came to the Council's offices to demand that every effort be made to secure the return of their sons and husbands.

AUSTRIAN JEWS FREED FROM CAMPS PROTEST GOVERNMENT'S FAILURE TO ASSIST THEM

VIENNA, Feb. 11. (JTA) -- A demand that discrimination between racial and political refugees in Austria be abandoned was voiced last night at a meeting here of 600 Jewish former internees in Nazi camps. Among those attending were representatives of Chancellor Leopold Figl and of the mayor and city council of Vienna.

Speakers declared that while assistance is being given to persons jailed for political reasons by the Germans, public officials and agencies are refusing aid to returning Jews, who were interned on racial grounds. One speaker pointed out that the Jews were the "most political" of all the internees, since the Nazis regarded Jews as their chief "political problem."

It was revealed that the Jewish Community Council has registered 1,670 former internees, as well as 32 children under fourteen years old who were also confined in camps. Up to now, the Council has received only \$50 in relief for them, and some parcels contributed by the American Red Cross.

JDC Austrian Director Reports Condition of Viennese Jews "Is Terrible"

PARIS, Feb. 11. (JTA) -- The condition of the Jews in Vienna, particularly in relation to the food situation, "is terrible," Benson Saks, Joint Distribution Committee director for Austria, reported in an interview here.

Pointing out that it was necessary in recent months to care for 20,000 to 25,000 people, including 5,000 transients monthly, Saks said that the JDC and the American Red Cross were the only organizations providing food and clothing to Viennese Jews. He asserted that the tuberculosis rate among Jews was "very high."

Reporting on conditions in the displaced persons camps in the American and British zones in Austria, Saks stated that several American camps were good enough to be considered model camps, and that conditions in general were improving in all camps. Three camps in the British zone, he added, are also in "fairly good condition." The JDC, Saks said, is supplementing Army rations in three transient camps.

He pointed out that the JDC was cooperating with the Vienna Jewish Community Council in various ways, including financial assistance to homes and institutions maintained by the community. Of the 4,000 Jews in Vienna, 40 percent are over the age of 60, while 45 percent are over 45, Saks said.

HUNGARIAN GOVERNMENT SCORED BY JEWISH CONFERENCE FOR NOT ACTING ON URGENT DEMANDS

BUDAPEST, Feb. 11. (JTA) -- The Hungarian Government's failure to repatriate all Jewish deportees and to return confiscated Jewish property, and its alleged indifference to the existence of anti-Semitism here, were condemned today at a nationwide conference of Hungarian Jews.

Speakers demanded that unclaimed Jewish properties and goods be used to assist surviving Jews, instead of being allocated to government or political party uses. They asked that Jewish property for which there are no claimants be treated differently than property abandoned by fugitive Nazis.

Secretary of State Balogh told the meeting that the Government was aware of the importance of the Jewish problem, but asked patience in face of the immense difficulties facing the authorities. He warned that Jews should not attempt to "monopolize" assistance for themselves, since this might cause a resurgence of anti-Semitism.

WORLD CHURCH COUNCIL'S REFUGEE COMMISSION CONDEMNS ANTI-SEMITISM

LONDON, Feb. 11. (JTA) -- Resolutions condemning anti-Semitism and requesting that the United Nations Organization establish a special committee to continue relief and rehabilitation in Europe after UNRRA ceases to function, were adopted here today at the first meeting of the Refugee Commission recently established by the World Council of Churches.

Delegates from the United States, Austria, Canada, Denmark, Great Britain, Germany, France, Holland, Norway, Sweden, and Switzerland are attending the three-day session. Representatives of UNRRA and the Intergovernmental Committee for Refugees are also present.

ARGENTINE JEWS PROTEST SEPARATION OF TRANSJORDAN, RETURN OF ARAB TERRORISTS

BUENOS AIRES, Feb. 11. (JTA) -- Resolutions protesting the separation of Transjordan from Palestine and the return to Palestine of Arab terrorists were adopted here today at a meeting organized by the DAIA, central committee of Jewish organizations in Argentina, and the Zionist Central Council.

A Committee for a Free Palestine has been formed here by a number of prominent non-Jews. Included among them are former Foreign Secretary Jose Maria Cantile, Jose Santos Gollan, rector of the University of Santa Fe, Adolfo Lanus, editor of "La Prensa," and other public figures. Attacking anti-Semitism in Argentina, the committee pointed out that Jews are suffering in many countries, and called for establishment of a Jewish National Home in Palestine as promised by the Balfour Declaration.

BRITISH NZO CONFERENCE CHARGES PALESTINE ADMINISTRATION LIKE "TOTALITARIAN POLICE STATE"

LONDON, Feb. 11. (JTA) -- Charging that the Palestine Government was an "oppressive regime displaying the features of a totalitarian police state," the New Zionist Organization of Great Britain today protested the detention of Palestinian citizens abroad, and urged Jewish groups to carry on a legal fight against the Eritrean deportations.

At its annual conference here, the organization also called for establishment of a Jewish state within the historic boundaries of Palestine, and opposed the setting up of a separate "puppet state" in Transjordan. M.N. Ribenfeld, leader of the British NZO, said that it was still possible to include Palestine among the British dominions, but warned that if Britain continued her present policy against the Jews, the Government should not be surprised if the Jews turned against it.

KING FAROUK BREAKS ARAB LEAGUE BOYCOTT TO OBTAIN HIS FAVORITE "ZIONIST" CHEESE

JERUSALEM, Feb. 11. (JTA) -- Egypt's King Farouk is breaking the Arab League boycott against Jewish-made goods from Palestine, according to a report from the Co-operative Association of Jewish Agricultural Settlements.

Farouk, it seems, has developed a taste for the cooperative's Roquefort cheese, and when the association halted shipments to his palace, fearing their return by Government agents enforcing the boycott, the King missed his delicacy. Palace purchasing agents contacted the Palestine Government trade representative in Egypt for an explanation of the cheese shortage. After communications were exchanged between the Palestine trade agent and the cooperative, shipments were resumed, and the King is reported enjoying his cheese once again.