

# JTA

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### BRITISH PARLIAMENT DISCUSSES SOVIET BAN ON ANGLO-U.S. INQUIRY COMMITTEE IN BALKANS

LONDON, March 4. (JTA)--The British Government was asked today to lodge a protest with Moscow against the action of Soviet military authorities in barring the Anglo-American Inquiry Committee on Palestine from Hungary and Rumania.

Capt. Leonard David Gammons, Conservative member of the British Parliament, who suggested that such a protest be made, insisted that the action of the Soviet authorities was an unfriendly act "in view of the fact that more Jews are alive in Hungary and Rumania than in any other part of Europe."

Minister of State Philip J. Noel-Baker, replying, said that the representatives would not serve any useful purpose, since the inquiry committee had already left Europe. He added that the matter was discussed with Soviet officials and that endeavors were made to secure entry of the committee into Hungary and Rumania, but the negotiations were not successful.

### CAIRO GENERAL STRIKE FORCES ANGLO-AMERICAN INQUIRY BODY TO POSTPONE HEARINGS

CAIRO, March 4. (JTA)--The Anglo-American Committee of Inquiry on Palestine was compelled to call off its scheduled hearings today because of a general strike which paralyzed Cairo. The strike was called to protest the death of Egyptians killed by British troops during the rioting here on Feb. 21.

The committee plans to hold final hearings here tomorrow, at which a spokesman for the Iraq Government will be heard, as well as representatives of the extremist Moslem Brotherhood, the Arab Union, the Moslem Youth Organization and, perhaps, spokesmen for Arabs in Libya and Tunisia.

(It is reported from Jerusalem that the city has been turned into a fortress in a move to guarantee the safety of the committee members, who are due to arrive there on Wednesday. Pill boxes and barbed wire barricades have been erected in the streets, and near the King David Hotel, where the committee will be quartered.)

### Jewish Agency Draws Up List Of Persons To Testify At Inquiry Committee

JERUSALEM, March 4. (JTA)--Members of the political department of the Jewish Agency met today at Dr. Chaim Weizmann's home in Rehoboth and drew up a list of Jewish representatives who will testify before the Anglo-American inquiry committee when it starts hearings here on Friday.

The list will not be made public before Thursday, but it is understood that it includes representatives of all Jewish groups in the country, political as well as commercial and industrial. Mrs. Blanche Dugdale, niece of Lord Balfour an outspoken pro-Zionist, is also expected to testify. She arrived in Palestine today.

ROMANIAN OFFICERS GO ON TRIAL IN BUCHAREST FOR MASSACRE OF 40,000 JEWS IN ODESSA

BUCHAREST, March 4. (JTA)--General Michail Barkan, former prefect of the Drohobici district in Rumania, and five others went on trial here today for anti-Jewish crimes.

The defendants are charged with the murder of 40,000 Jews in Odessa and the deportation of 13,000 Jews from the Drohobici area to Transnistria. Of the latter group, only 6,000 survived.

CZECHOSLOVAK JEWS CAN VOTE ONLY AS SLAVS; NO LONGER CONSIDERED A MINORITY

PRAGUE, March 4. (JTA)--A new electoral law just adopted by the Czechoslovak parliament limits the franchise to citizens of "Slavonic nationality," thus, in principle at least, depriving those who previously claimed Jewish nationality of the right to vote.

In practice, however, since the Government no longer recognizes a Jewish minority, the Jews will have the right to vote as citizens of Czechoslovakia. Jewish leaders are understood to be making an effort, however, to restore the franchise to Jews as such.

(A report from Prague received in Jerusalem says that 84 Czech Jews who returned to Czechoslovakia from Palestine last November, were robbed by a band of Russo-German deserters near the Czech-Austrian frontier, and stripped of their clothes and money. The robbery was reported in a letter from one of the repatriates to his son in Palestine.)

10,000 ARABS ENTERED PALESTINE ILLEGALLY, GOVERNMENT REPORTS; MANY ARE IN HAIFA

JERUSALEM, March 4. (JTA)--There are at present more than 10,000 Arabs in Palestine who entered the country illegally, an official Government estimate revealed today. Most of these illegal immigrants are concentrated in the Haifa district, the Government said.

The Hebrew press and Jewish leaders today protested the refusal of British military authorities to allow male settlers from nearby colonies to replace, temporarily, the men of the colony of Biriya, who were arrested Friday, following an alleged attack on an Arab Legion camp in the vicinity of the colony.

The officer commanding the Galilee district allowed 20 settlers from neighboring villages to work in Biriya during the day yesterday, but they were compelled to return to their homes at nightfall, leaving the colony without protection.

The press also reports that J.J. Somerville, Assistant District Commissioner in the Nazareth area, has been advising Arabs not to sell lands to Jews. Somerville is quoted as declaring at an auction of Arab lands, which were purchased by the Jewish National Fund, that "I cannot comprehend how you tolerate the transfer of Arab land to Jews."

BRITISH CIVIL LIBERTIES GROUP ASKS OUTLAWING OF FASCIST PROPAGANDA AND ACTIVITIES

LONDON, March 4. (JTA)--Outlawing of fascist propaganda and activities in Britain was called for in a resolution adopted at a meeting of the National Council for Civil Liberties. The resolution expressed particular concern regarding the revival of racial propaganda by local fascists.

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14,000 JEWS IN SHANGHAI SLUM IN DESPERATE NEED OF HOUSING; LOOK FORWARD TO EMIGRATION

SHANGHAI, March 4. (JTA)--The 14,000 Jews surviving in the Hongkew slum section Shanghai, which the Japanese turned into a ghetto during the war, are still desperately in need of clothing and housing, although they are being fed by the Joint Distribution Committee and UNRRA, an investigation by a Jewish Telegraphic Agency correspondent reveals. Most of the refugees are deeply concerned over the possibilities of emigration and re-establishing themselves in other countries.

With immediate food relief being provided and clothing promised by UNRRA officials, the most pressing problem still to be solved is housing. The majority of the refugees live in crowded camps, in various make-shift huts and in scantily furnished basement apartments. These housing arrangements have one thing in common--lack of elementary sanitation and of even the most primitive conveniences. With the general housing shortage that exists in Shanghai, there seems to be no hope of moving the Jews from their hovels and furnishing them with living quarters which reach any degree of comfort and sanitation.

The morale of the Jews is suffering because they cannot begin to rebuild their lives until they are enabled to emigrate to a country of their choice. Apparently only a few of them desire to remain in China and be absorbed within that nation's ranks. Most of the others are faced with the problem of no capital to start them in a new country, and the older people fear that their ability to work will not live up to the standards required to make ends meet in a new country. All of them want to provide for themselves and be done with relief, but few can find means of accomplishing this aim.

NAZIS EXTRACTED 17 TONS OF GOLD FROM TEETH OF 4,000,000 VICTIMS AT OSWIECIM DEATH CAMP

LONDON, March 4. (JTA)--The Nazis extracted 17 tons of gold from the teeth of 4,000,000 people, mostly Jews, whom they gassed at Oswiecim, the London newspapers covering the trial of Bruno Tesch at Hamburg reported today.

The statistics were given at the trial by a Rumanian Jewish doctor, Charles Simund Bendel, who was an inmate at the camp from 1943 to 1945, and who estimated that more than a million people were gassed during the time he was at Oswiecim.

Tesch, who is a partner in the firm of Tesch and Stabenow, is accused of having supplied the gas used in the extermination of the Jews. The books of the firm, sole distributors of the gas, reveal a profit of 92,000 marks during 1941 from the sale of this product, which Tesch claims he had "naturally assumed" was used for exterminating vermin.

FIFTH ANNIVERSARY OF STRIKE AGAINST NAZI RAIDS ON JEWS COMMEMORATED BY 50,000 IN AMSTERDAM

AMSTERDAM, March 4. (JTA)--A demonstration of 50,000 people was held here to commemorate the fifth anniversary of the strike called to protest the first Nazi raids against Dutch Jews.

Queen Wilhelmina, who attended, presented the city of Amsterdam with a new flag, on which the symbol of "mercy," expressing the devotion of the city to its Jews, was inscribed. Jewish spokesmen addressed the meeting and a unit of the Jewish Brigade was present at the ceremony.

A.H.C. VOTES TO REMAIN WITHIN AMERICAN JEWISH CONFERENCE; NEUTRAL ON ZIONISM

CINCINNATI, March 4 (JTA)--By an overwhelming majority, which was later made unanimous, the delegates to the 39th council of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations, meeting here, voted to remain within the American Jewish Conference and affirmed the action of its executive board in its relations with the Conference.

The motion to register the unanimous vote of the council was made by Rabbi Hyman J. Schachtel of Houston and seconded by William H. Fineshriber, of Philadelphia, two well-known anti-Zionist leaders of the American Council for Judaism. The actual vote on the two questions, the continuance within the Conference and the affirmation of the interim actions of the board, showed a majority of about six to one.

The resolution voted upon, which defined the Union's position on political Zionism as neutral, declared that "the Union recognized the right of each individual to determine his own attitude on this controversial question." The resolution adopted as a reaffirmation of the action taken by the executive board at its meeting in Chicago on January 18, 1944 which said:

"The Union, continuing as a member of the American Jewish Conference, declares its sense of fellowship with all Israel and will associate itself with all worthy and practical efforts designed to ameliorate the tragic plight of world Jewry and to assist in reconstruction of those communities that have suffered from the savagery of Nazi tyranny.

"Because in the congregations of the Union there are divergent opinions on the question of Zionism, the Union recognized the right of each individual to determine his own attitude on this controversial question, and therefore the Union refrains from taking any action on the Palestine Resolution adopted by the American Jewish Conference. We call upon our congregations and their members to rally loyally to the support of the Union so that its great and noble work may continue to enrich the spiritual life of American Israel."

Silver, Monsky Urge Participation; Rabbi Lazaron Leads Opposition

Rabbi Fineshriber in seconding the motion to make the action of the delegates unanimous said: "the overwhelming opinion of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations is to remain within the fold of the American Jewish Conference. My main objection to the conference has been that it was largely a paper organization. Maybe, with the impact of the Union behind it, it will be a forceful dynamic figure in Jewish life the world over." In the debate preceding the action, principal addresses in favor of the conference were delivered by Dr. Abba Hillel Silver of Cleveland, President of the Central Conference of American Rabbis, and Henry Monsky of Omaha, co-chairman of the American Jewish Conference.

The major presentation of the case against remaining within the conference was made by Rabbi Morris Lazaron of Baltimore who, in asking the Union of American Hebrew Congregations "to be neutral in action as well as in word," declared that participation in the American Jewish Conference was not true neutrality." The amendment, which called upon the Union to withdraw from the conference, was introduced by Richard Bloss of San Francisco.

Rabbi Silver, in urging participation within the conference, pointed out that a minority in a legislative body such as the Congress of the United States would not withdraw from the Congress if they were outvoted on an issue. He similarly urged



the Union not to withdraw, even if it could not subscribe to the Palestine resolution of the conference. To withdraw, said Rabbi Silver, "would not be a contribution to the cause of democracy."

Mr. Monsky, drawing an analogy between the Union and the B'nai B'rith both of which organizations, because of their diverse membership, had not taken a stand on the Jewish commonwealth issue, warned the delegates that to withdraw from the conference would "to isolate the UAHC from Jewish life."

#### Jewish Community Must Not Be Split By Controversy Over Zionism, Freehof Says

Predicting that "England and the United States will soon present a definite solution for the problem of Palestine and will press for the adoption of that solution as a permanent decision of the United Nations Organization," Rabbi Solomon B. Freehof of Pittsburgh emphasized that it is the function of the Synagogue to be "a moderating and mediating influence" in the fight between Zionist and anti-Zionists.

"We must be careful not to change the structure of American Jewish life in the controversy over Zionism, because the future of Israel all over the world is now dependent upon American Jewry, not only for what we send overseas, but for what we are here at home; no matter how important the controversy is, the stability of American religious life--in which the Union of American Hebrew Congregations plays so important a part--is a vital factor in world Jewish future," he said.

Dr. Freehof, said that he believed that the ultimate Anglo-American proposals for Palestine will "be a solution which will have the strongest guarantee of permanence." Insofar as the Jews are concerned, said Rabbi Freehof, the "solution may be a little less than Zionists ask for and it may well be more than anti-Zionists would wish, but neither will be able to do much about it. Neither will send guerillas to wage war against the decision of the United Nations Organization. The decision will be fairly acceptable and afterwards will be accepted."

The issues were defined last night in a town meeting discussion in which the participants were Rabbi Joshua Loth Liebman of Boston, Rabbi Irving F. Reichert of San Francisco, Isaac Heller of New Orleans and M.M. Dannenbaum of Houston. Robert A. Goldman presided.

#### J.D.C. WORK IN GERMANY NOT AFFECTED BY TRUMAN'S LICENSING OF RELIEF AGENCIES

NEW YORK, March 4. (JTA)--President Truman's designation of eleven national relief agencies as the Council of Relief Agencies Licensed for Operation in Germany applies only to the specific agencies included in the list and interested in relief for German civilians and will not offset the extensive relief and rehabilitation program carried on for Jewish survivors and displaced persons in Germany by the Joint Distribution Committee, it was emphasized today in a statement by Dr. Joseph C. Hyman, Executive vice-chairman of the J.D.C.

Dr. Hyman noted that some confusion has arisen in view of the announcement that the Council of Relief Agencies will be the only recognized organization in the United States for handling American contributions for German civilian relief. Since the Joint Distribution Committee, major American agency on behalf of distressed Jews overseas, was not included in the list, Dr. Hyman said, inquiries have been directed to the J.D.C. concerning continuation of the J.D.C. program in Germany.

More than \$13,750,000 has been spent by the Joint Distribution Committee for the relief and rehabilitation of Jews in Europe during the first quarter of 1946, the organization has disclosed. A total of fifty thousand letters from displaced Jews in camps in Germany and Austria to relatives abroad has been processed through the JDC's Paris message center, the JDC also reported.

AMERICAN JEWISH COMMITTEE WARNS QUINN DECISION MAY HELP SPREAD OF UNDEMOCRATIC IDEAS

NEW YORK, March 4. (JTA)--The New York City Board of Education's exoneration of Miss May Quinn, who was charged with spreading anti-Semitic, anti-Negro and anti-alien propaganda in the city schools, has been attacked in a statement by Ralph E. Samuel, chairman of the New York Chapter of the American Jewish Committee, who warned that the "trifling penalty imposed on Miss Quinn for dereliction of duty" may be interpreted "by bias-minded teachers" as an encouragement to "bring anti-democratic theories" into classrooms.

Mr. Samuel called upon New Yorkers not to permit the Quinn case to be "forgotten" and declared that the American Jewish Committee will press further action against the Board's decision by "supporting the campaign of the United Parents' Association." Meanwhile, parents at the new school to which Miss Quinn was transferred have protested to supervisory educational officers and have picketed the school demanding Miss Quinn's dismissal. Some parents have announced that they will not permit their children to sit in Miss Quinn's classes.

A project to study group and race prejudices in children has been instituted by the American Jewish Committee and is being carried out at the Institute of Child Welfare of the University of California, Dr. John Slawson, executive vice president of the committee announced today. The various influences affecting the spread of prejudice and the age at which it begins to manifest itself are the primary aims of the study, which is being carried on among 160 children all of whom are approximately 17 years old and have been under observation by California University educators since birth.

WORLD JEWISH CONGRESS INITIATES "ADOPT A FAMILY" PLAN; PERSONALIZED RELIEF PROGRAM

NEW YORK, March 4. (JTA)--A "personalized" relief plan, wherein families in America and elsewhere will "adopt" families overseas by communicating with them and sending them food and clothing, has been instituted by the World Jewish Congress, the organization announced today. The Congress is compiling a list of the neediest cases.

Dr. Moshe Polakiewicz, member of the advisory council on European Jewish affairs of the Congress, departed yesterday for La Paz, Bolivia, on the first leg of a tour of South American countries. Dr. Polakiewicz, who last year visited various Central American Jewish communities, will confer with organizations affiliated with the World Jewish Congress on political, economic, and cultural problems confronting them. From Bolivia he will proceed to Chile, Columbia, Ecuador, Peru, Uruguay, and Venezuela.

MEXICAN ZIONIST ORGANIZATION CONDUCTING POLL ON THREE MAJOR JEWISH QUESTIONS

MEXICO CITY, March 4. (JTA)--The Zionist Organization of Mexico is conducting a poll to ascertain the opinion of Jews toward three major Jewish questions, the organization has announced here.

The questions asked all Jewish men and women over the age of 18 are: 1. Do you favor immediate abolition of the White Paper; 2. Do you favor free immigration into Palestine under Jewish control; 3. Do you favor a public statement to the United Nations Organization on the rights of the Jews to Palestine.

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