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PALESTINE LEADERS RESTING AFTER WINNING HUNGER STRIKE FOR ADMISSION OF REFUGEES

JERUSALEM, April 17. (JTA) -- The fifteen Jewish leaders who went on a hunger strike last Friday to secure the admission to Palestine of the over 1,000 Jewish refugees detained at La Spezia, Italy, were worn but happy today as they rested under the care of physicians.

They ended their strike at 6 o'clock yesterday evening, after 106 hours, when High Commissioner Sir Alan Cunningham promised to admit 700 of the detained refugees under the April immigration quota and the remainder under the May quota.

The High Commissioner's decision was conveyed to the strikers by Chief Rabbi Isaac Herzog following a meeting with Sir Alan. Immediately, more than 10,000 Jewish youths gathered before the building of the Jewish National Council to enthusiastically cheer the Jewish leaders on the successful accomplishment of the strike. The crowd was addressed by some of the strikers, who called for further efforts to intensify the Jewish struggle for free immigration into Palestine.

The first meal the strikers were permitted to eat last night after their five days of self-imposed hunger consisted of a small quantity of matzohs and some milk. The previous evening they observed a foodless seder at which the youngest of them, Isaac Werfel, asked the traditional "four questions" to which all present at the table replied: "God promised Palestine not only to our fathers, but also to us and our children." The "foodless seder" was presided over by Chief Rabbi Herzog, and Passover songs were sung by Zalman Rubashev, editor of the Hebrew daily Davar, who was one of the strikers.

Passover Prayers for the Strikers Recited by Thousands under Open Sky

Grave concern over the health of the strikers was manifested by Jews throughout Palestine. Tens of thousands of worshippers left Passover services in the synagogues on Monday and marched in their prayer shawls to the Jewish National Council building where they continued their prayers in the open, as an expression of solidarity with the strikers. They were addressed by David Remez, the oldest of the fifteen, who said: "We are not fasting here because of despair, but because of the conviction that united we shall be able to bring in all Jews desiring to come here."

At the same time, a meeting of the strikers and members of the executive of the Jewish Agency and the Jewish National Council was held when word reached the Agency at noon that the Colonial Office in London had agreed to admit the La Spezia refugees, providing that their immigration visas be deducted from the quota to which the Jewish Agency is entitled.

The meeting lasted for four hours, and Dr. Chaim Weizmann, as well as Eliezer Kaplan, urged that the strike be suspended as a result of the news from London. However, the strikers refused to end their fast until a definite guarantee was given by the Palestine Government that the La Spezia refugees would be admitted.

BRITAIN CONSENTS TO GRANT PALESTINE VISAS IN ADDITION TO REGULAR IMMIGRATION QUOTA

TEL AVIV, April 17. (JTA) -- The British Government has consented to grant Palestine immigration visas for Jews in addition to the quota allocated for the interim period during which the Anglo-American Inquiry Committee is preparing its report, it was revealed at a press conference here today.

The conference was addressed by David Remez, one of the 15 Jewish leaders who just completed a hunger strike in protest against the detention of the La Spezia refugees. Remez arrived here this morning from Jerusalem where physicians at Hadassah Hospital declared that the health of the participants in the hunger strike had not been impaired, but all must rest at least four days.

The dusk-to-dawn curfew on Palestine roads which was imposed on Feb. 26 was lifted as of dawn today. The curfew was imposed following an attack on a Royal Air Force airfield in which aircraft were destroyed or damaged.

STRIKE IN PALESTINE PARALYZES COUNTRY; TROOPS HANDLE TELEPHONE AND MAIL SERVICES

JERUSALEM, April 17. (JTA) -- British troops today manned the telephone exchanges in Jerusalem, Tel Aviv, Jaffa and Haifa, while engineering units are standing by ready to help maintain postal, railway, dock and other essential public services, which are paralyzed as a result of the strike of 50,000 Arab and Jewish government employees who are demanding better pay and working conditions.

Officers and soldiers of the British Army post office system were working at the general post office in Jerusalem sorting the huge stacks of mail which have been accumulating daily since the post office workers walked out eight days ago. Also on strike now are all junior civil servants, among them more than 10,000 clerks, typists, accountants, tax collectors and messengers.

A move to end the dispute was made today when John Shaw, Chief Secretary of the Palestine Government, met for the first time with strike leaders. However, they were unable to reach any agreement. Meanwhile, G.D. Kennedy, Palestine Postmaster General, and a representative of the Palestine Labor Department, left for Britain by air to confer with the Colonial Office, since the strike is considered the worst labor crisis in Palestine since the country became a mandated territory.

Commenting on the strike, Dr. J.L. Magnes said today: "There is complete unity and solidarity between the thousands of striking Arab and Jewish government officers. It is their common interests which brought them together, and not abstract formulas. It is life itself which welded the unity. This is what the Ichud Association, which urges Arab-Jewish unity, has always contended. The unity now achieved is but one example of what can come about if the declared sincere policy of the government will be Arab-Jewish cooperation. There are Arab-Jewish interests all along the line - in industry, agriculture, education and government."

PRAGUE JEWISH COMMUNITY AUTHORIZED TO USE SLAUGHTER HOUSES FOR SHECHITA

PRAGUE, April 17. (JTA) -- The Jewish community has been granted permission to introduce ritual slaughtering of cattle at the municipal abattoirs in Prague. Shechita has been permitted in Czechoslovakia since liberation, but not in public slaughter houses.

HUGE COMMUNAL SEDER MARKS FIRST FREE PASSOVER IN BERLIN; TOP MILITARY LEADERS ATTEND

BERLIN, April 17. (JTA) -- Jews throughout Germany observed their first free Passover since 1932 in a variety of ways during the past two days, ranging from a huge communal seder in Berlin, to private gatherings in many cities and solemn religious services in shattered synagogues.

More than 1,000 Allied military and civil personnel, and a section of the Jewish community crowded the Schoenberg Rathaus here to attend the first public seder in more than a decade. Two large halls were decorated with floral designs and filled with giant-sized banquet tables.

On the stage of the front hall were tables for Allied notables and large Allied flags adorned the walls. Chaplains Joseph Shubov and Herbert Friedman conducted the reading of the Haggadah which preceded a meal consisting of soup with "knaidlech," pot roast and potatoes, sliced peaches and wine. The tremendous amount of work involved in arranging the seder and securing the scarce foodstuffs was performed by the chaplains, the JDC and the Jewish Welfare Board, with the cooperation of the Army.

The five damaged synagogues in Berlin were jammed. They filled up early and many were unable to get in because of the limited capacity. The Jewish DP's observed the holiday in their camp synagogues and services were also held in Army hospitals and chapels and in the home for the aged.

Addressing the communal seder here, Maj. Gen. Ray Barker, U.S. commander in the Berlin district, told the gathering that "this is an historic occasion not only for the Jewish people, but all the people of the world. This marks a new day for all people, and I hope that it marks a day that will see the realization of those principles for which we fought and won. It was a privilege for the American army to bring an end to the Hitler terror. Let us hope it never happens again."

Maj. Gen. E.P. Nares, commander of British troops in Berlin, told the gathering that it was symbolic that the seder was being held "in the temple of Nazi tyranny." He lauded the contributions of the Jewish soldiers in the Allied armies and paid special tribute to the Jewish Brigade, which he said "did much to bring about victory."

Maj. Gen. Charles Lancon, French commander in the Berlin district, and Chaplain Aubrey C. Reilly, chief U.S. chaplain in this district, also spoke.

McNarney Warns of Long Job of Re-Educating Germans in Seder Address

FRANKFURT, April 17. (JTA) -- Speaking at a seder for American military personnel in the Palm Garden Red Cross club here, Gen. Joseph T. McNarney declared that "despite the fact that your families would like to have their children at home, they must derive satisfaction from the fact that you are passing the holiday in Germany under peaceful conditions and with others of your religion."

Gen. McNarney told the assembled troops that they must teach the Germans "who outlawed religion and freedom, something about democracy. This job will take many years, and is one to which you must give utmost devotion," he added. Earlier the U.S. commander-in-chief in Germany had issued a statement hailing the German Passover celebration as the "most significant" of all Passover observances throughout the world.

BULGARIAN JEWS HAVE DISMAL PASSOVER; NO MATZOES AVAILABLE, FEW ATTEND SYNAGOGUES

SOFIA, April 17. (JTA) -- Although attempts were made to make the celebration as festive as possible, Passover this year was a rather dismal holiday for the Jews of Bulgaria, particularly for the many thousands of needy.

This country was probably the only one in Europe where there were no matzoehs available, and where the general food situation made it impossible to obtain few special rations.

The synagogues were not crowded and most Jews marked the holiday in their own homes. American, Soviet and British soldiers were guests at many of the seders. Jewish soldiers in the Bulgarian Army received two days leave, as did state employees. All the political parties, through their newspapers, published Passover greetings to the Jewish community.

HUNDREDS OF ORPHANED CHILDREN EN ROUTE TO PALESTINE ATTEND SEDER IN MARSEILLES

MARSEILLES, April 17. (JTA) -- The French steamer Champollion is scheduled to leave here tonight for Haifa, carrying more than 700 Jewish children and a few adults to Palestine. It will be the second refugee vessel to sail this week, the Cairo City having departed from here on Monday afternoon with 171 European Jews bound for Palestine.

On Monday evening, a gay seder was arranged for the children at Camp Languedoc near Marseilles. Speakers included Ruth Kluger of the Jewish Agency; Abbot Kaplan of the Joint Distribution Committee; Raphael Spanien of Hias; and other welfare workers.

The children, whose ages range from three to 16, appear healthy and well fed and are impatient to begin life anew in Palestine. Almost all are veterans of concentration camps and most are orphans.

UNITED NATIONS AIDES ATTEND SEDER IN NEW YORK; PASSOVER COMPARED TO U.N. IDEA OF FREEDOM

NEW YORK, April 17. (JTA) -- The liberation of the Jews from Egyptian bondage was compared to the basic idea of freedom now sought by the United Nations at a seder held last night at the Hotel Delmonico, attended by members of the United Nations Organization.

Benjamin A. Cohen, of Chile, assistant secretary-general in charge of the Department of Public Information, headed the group of United Nations representatives who participated in the service. The dining hall was decked with the flags of the United Nations and the flag bearing the Star of David.

Officiating at the service was Commander Joshua L. Goldberg, assistant district chaplain of the 3d Naval District. Also attending the service were twenty officers and men from the U.S.S. Kearsarge, moored at Gravesend Bay, Brooklyn.

Sermons preached throughout the city yesterday--the first day of Passover--underscored the new found freedom for Jews throughout the world on this first annual observance since the deliverance of the Jewish people from Nazi and Fascist enslavement. Rabbis also pointed to the present responsibility of those in "the land of plenty" of helping the less fortunate persons in the starvation areas of the world.



U.S. PROSECUTOR LINKS ALFRED ROSENBERG WITH MASS-KILLING OF JEWS IN EUROPE

NUREMBERG, April 17. (JTA) -- Alfred Rosenberg, the chief exponent of the Nazi racial theories, today again denied before the International Military Tribunal, that he knew of or participated in the extermination of millions of Jews in Europe.

When U.S. Prosecutor John H. Amen confronted him with documents proving that he advocated extermination of European Jewry, Rosenberg attempted to enter into a debate as to whether the German word "ausrotten," used by him in several of his addresses, meant extermination.

Amen submitted to the court several documents prepared by Rosenberg and his subordinates when he was "Reichscommissar for the East," indicating that they pursued a methodical policy of wiping out all Jews in the territory under his rule, regardless, as one document said, "of the effect upon the general economy."

Turning to Rosenberg, who continued to deny his responsibility for anti-Jewish atrocities, Amen said in conclusion: "Do you know that (Rudolph) Hoess who murdered 500,000 people, mostly Jews, was a reader of your books?" On Monday, Rosenberg had insisted that he was only the Nazi Party philosopher and had steered clear of participation in material things.

LEAGUE HEARS REPORT ON REFUGEES; TOLD PALESTINE WAS ONLY COUNTRY OF MASS-SETTLEMENT

GENEVA, April 17. (JTA) -- Completing his report on international assistance for refugees during the war years, Sir Herbert Emerson, League of Nations High Commissioner for Refugees told the League Assembly today that Palestine was the only country where mass group settlement had been possible. Egyptian delegate El Darwichey said that he wanted to make certain reservations concerning the report, but did not enlarge on the question.

Philip Noel-Baker, the British representative, proposed that Sir Herbert resign his post after the League is liquidated until a new organization to continue the work on behalf of refugees is established by the United Nations. Paul Boncour, speaking for the French Government, pledged that it would extend to all refugees whatever privileges are decided upon by international convention. Dominican delegate Pastoriza declared that his country would continue its "traditional liberal policy" in regard to refugees.

CONFERENCE OF PREMIERS IN LONDON WILL DISCUSS RECOMMENDATIONS ON PALESTINE

LONDON, April 17. (JTA) -- The scheduled conference of the prime ministers of the British dominions, which is slated to meet here about the time the Anglo-American Inquiry Committee will submit its report, will be given an opportunity to discuss recommendations contained in the report before the Cabinet acts on them, it was learned today.

The Palestine problem will also come up at the conference when questions on defense of the British Commonwealth are dealt with. Great importance is attached to the views on Palestine which will be expressed by Canadian Prime Minister William L. Mackenzie King and Field Marshal Jan Smuts of South Africa, and by Premier Peter Freuchen of New Zealand.

The memorandum sent by Gen. Smuts to the Anglo-American inquiry committee was made public here today. It emphasizes that the Balfour Declaration was not a temporary expedient, but was intended as a declaration of long-range policy. It also points out that the 1939 British White Paper was in conflict with the terms of the Palestine mandate.

PLAN FOR JEWS PROPOSED BY DOMINICAN REPRESENTATIVE ON U.N. REFUGEE COMMITTEE

LONDON, April 17. (JTA) -- Dr. Porfirio Herrera-Batez, the Dominican representative on the United Nations Committee on Refugees and Displaced Persons, yesterday reiterated his government's offer to admit large numbers of Jews to Santo Domingo.

Declaring that immigrants will receive full cooperation from the government, which is interested in mass immigration, Dr. Herrera-Batez said that if the funds used to maintain homeless and needy Jews in Europe were used to provide capital to finance Jewish rehabilitation in the Dominican Republic, a permanent economic base for the Jews would be established, which would promote increased immigration. He urged that whenever international body is created to deal with the refugee problem consider his suggestion.

Brazilian delegate Argeu Guimaraes told the committee that his country was ready to accept large numbers of "predominantly European" refugees.

CZECHOSLOVAK JEWS ORGANIZE CAMPAIGN FOR J.N.F.; 500,000 CROWNS COLLECTED IN SLOVAKIA

PRAGUE, April 17. (JTA) -- Over a half million crowns have been collected in Slovakia during the last few weeks, Leo Rosenthal, Bratislava chairman of the recently organized Czechoslovakian Jewish National Fund drive, announced today.

A total of 70,000 crowns were collected here by Zionists for the planting of Jews in Palestine. The collection was undertaken on the occasion of the departure of Isaac Neumann, local Zionist leader, for Palestine.

EINSTEIN URGES AMERICAN JEWS TO CONTINUE SHIPMENT OF RELIEF SUPPLIES TO RUSSIA

NEW YORK, April 17. (JTA) -- Prof. Albert Einstein today addressed a letter about 2,000 Jewish landmanshaften in America urging them to continue to send relief supplies to the Soviet Union. He also urged them to participate in the fifth annual conference of the Jewish Council for Russian War Relief which will be held in New York in the Hotel Astor.

"Soviet Jews, together with all the Soviet people, now are engaged in the greatest reconstruction effort in the history of mankind," the letter said. "They need our continued help."

SYNAGOGUE COUNCIL OFFICIAL QUIT; CITES BARS TO ESTABLISHING UNITED RELIGIOUS FRONT

NEW YORK, April 17. (JTA) -- Rabbi Ahron Opher, assistant to the president of the Synagogue Council of America, which represents the Orthodox, Conservative, and Reform Jewish bodies in the country, resigned at a plenary session of the Council, it was announced here.

Rabbi Opher, who was in effect the executive director of the Council for the past three years, said he was resigning because of "the insurmountable difficulties encountered by the Synagogue Council in its efforts to effectuate a strong and united religious spokesmanship for American Jewry." He expressed regret that Jewish communal, philanthropic, political and defense programs are in the hands of secular agencies, rather than the synagogues, and said that the religious groups themselves are "reluctant to yield" to an overall body some of their activities.