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MUFTI REPORTED TO HAVE ARRIVED IN DAMASCUS EN ROUTE TO ARAB LEAGUE CONFERENCE IN SYRIA

JERUSALEM, June 9. (JTA) -- The ex-Mufti of Jerusalem has arrived in the Syrian capital of Damascus, it was reported here today. The report has not yet been confirmed because of the rigid censorship clamped down by the Palestine Government, which has barred any mention of the Mufti or speculation as to his whereabouts.

There has been considerable disquiet in Jewish circles here since yesterday when the statement by the French Foreign Office that the Mufti had left France was first received here. It is assumed that if he has arrived in Damascus, he is en route to the special session of the Arab League now in session in Bludan, Syria. The meeting was called chiefly to discuss action on the Palestine issue.

Dr. Izzat Tannous, secretary of the Arab Higher Committee, who said yesterday that he had expected that the Mufti would soon arrive in the Middle East, stated today that he had no knowledge concerning the Arab leader's whereabouts, but added significantly that he was awaiting news from Bludan.

(The Paris newspaper *Combat* said today that since the French Foreign Office has been able to confirm that the Mufti has left France, it follows that it must be aware of his itinerary. It suggests that the lack of information concerning his departure is a result of an official desire to keep the matter quiet.)

Arab Parley Expected to Adopt Far-Reaching Decisions on Palestine

At Bludan, according to information received here, a three-and-a-half hour session was held last night at which the Palestine problem was discussed. It is not believed that any decision was reached. The only official act was to pass a resolution thanking the Arab rulers for the support they have given their brethren in Palestine. It is expected, according to the report, that either tonight or tomorrow the meeting will adopt decisions of far-reaching consequence.

Before the conference went into executive session, representatives of Transjordan and Syria and Abdul Rahman Azzam Bey, secretary-general of the Arab League, expressed support of demands for an independent Arab Palestine. Mohammed Pasha Shureiki, the foreign minister of Transjordan, who is presiding, said that no power on earth could keep the Arabs from obtaining their demands in Palestine. The Syrian Premier, Saadullah Jahri Bey, said that the Arabs could not permit the large nations to flout Arab opinion and deny the rights of small nations. Azzam Bey voiced the hope that the League would be successful in securing Arab rights in Palestine.

Although several matters of interest to the Arab nations will be discussed at Bludan, Palestine will remain the main item on the agenda. The following aspects of that problem will be discussed: 1- Steps to prevent implementation of the Anglo-American Committee's recommendation for the admission of 100,000 Jews. 2- Unity among the Palestine Arab groups, which are now badly split. 3- Strengthening the boycott of Jewish goods. 4- Establishment of committees in all Arab countries to support the Arabs of Palestine.

HAROLD LASKI CALLS FOR IMMEDIATE TRANSFER OF 100,000 DISPLACED JEWS TO PALESTINE

BOURNEMOUTH, England, June 9. (JTA) -- In a speech prepared for delivery tomorrow at the opening session here of the British Labor Party's annual conference, Prof. Harold Laski, chairman of the party's executive, demands that the British Government swiftly and straightforwardly "make it possible for that tragic remnant of 100,000 displaced Jews in Europe to be given access to Palestine" as recommended by the Anglo-American inquiry committee.

(It was reported today from Jerusalem that the Jewish Agency's reply to the invitation of the British and American Governments to present its views on the Anglo-American committee's report will be submitted to Britain and the U.S. within a few days. At a meeting today, the Small Zionist Actions Committee authorized the Agency executive to prepare the final draft of the reply.)

470 VISALESS IMMIGRANTS ARRIVE AT HAIFA; MOST FROM GREECE, SOME FROM POLAND

JERUSALEM, June 9. (JTA) -- The Haviva Reik, which was captured last Friday off the coast of Palestine with a cargo of 470 visaless Jews, was brought into Haifa harbor yesterday afternoon with her Zionist flag flying from the mast. The schooner also carried a large banner with the inscription: "Keep the gates of Palestine open! We are not the last."

Ninety percent of the Haviva Reik's immigrants are Greek Jews, while the remainder are from Poland, Rumania and Hungary. All are young men and women who were either partisans or inmates of concentration camps. There are 40 children aboard the vessel and many of the women are pregnant.

MILITARY FORCES EVACUATE PALESTINE COLONY AFTER THREE AND ONE-HALF MONTHS OCCUPATION

JERUSALEM, June 9. (JTA) -- Military forces occupying the settlement of Birya, whose entire male population was sentenced to prison on June 1 following their conviction on the charge of illegal possession of arms, today evacuated the colony.

The district officer and high military and police officials returned the settlement to its inhabitants together with a formal announcement that the three and one-half months occupation was ended. The colony was occupied on Feb. 28 when British military and police forces raided it following an alleged attack on an Arab Legion camp nearby.

Many Jews gathered from neighboring villages and settlements to witness the event. At night Jewish youths from the surrounding district of Galilee marched on Birya carrying torches, dancing the horah and singing: "Birya is ours."

HAILE SELASSIE INTERVENES TO SAVE TWO PALESTINIAN JEWS FROM RETURN TO ERITREAN PRISON

JERUSALEM, June 9. (JTA) -- Emperor Haile Selassie has intervened to save two Palestinian Jews who escaped from Eritrean concentration camps to Ethiopia from being sent back, Max Seligman, their lawyer, announced here.

The Jews fled the Amara camp in February and were interned when they arrived in Abyssinia. Several weeks ago it was reported that the officials at Addis Ababa, Ethiopian capital, had granted a British request for extradition. After cancellation of the extradition orders a special commission was appointed to study the problem.

TRIAL OF HUNGARIANS RESPONSIBLE FOR ANTI-JEWISH RIOT WILL RE-OPEN IN BUDAPEST

BUDAPEST, June 9. (JTA) -- The trial of the persons responsible for the anti-Semitic riot at Kunszadas, 80 miles from here, during which three Jews were killed, will re-open here this week before a five-man tribunal under provisions of the law for "protection of democracy and the Republic."

Under-Secretary of Justice Zoltan Pfeiffer told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency today that it was decided to transfer the trial from the military court which was hearing it, because of the capture of a Slovakian named Zsigmond Toth, who is believed to be one of the principal instigators of the pogrom. Toth's testimony, he said, will make possible a thorough-going inquiry into all the causes for the outbreak, including the failure of the police to curb the rioters.

4,000 CARPATHO-UKRAINIAN JEWS SEEK REFUGE IN FRANCE; ARRIVE THERE DESTITUTE

PARIS, June 9. (JTA) -- The Federation of Jewish Societies in France today announced that it is establishing a special department to aid Jewish refugees from the Carpatho-Ukraine who are entering the country in great numbers.

The Federation estimated that at least 4,000 Jews from the Carpatho-Ukraine, former Czechoslovak territory which is now a part of the USSR, have entered France during the last few weeks and many more are on the way.

They present a problem for Jewish relief organizations here, since they constitute a new type of immigrant, hitherto almost unknown in France. Most of them are very religious, necessitating special treatment, and are completely destitute. They say that they could not remain in their native towns because the present situation in the Carpatho-Ukraine makes life difficult for them.

TENSION AND MISERY MARK LIFE OF DISPLACED JEWS, SAYS MEMBERS OF JEWISH CULTURAL GROUP

PARIS, June 9. (JTA) -- Dr. Israel Efros, a member of the World Jewish Congress cultural delegation which made a tour of DP camps in Germany, during which it spoke to 30,000 displaced Jews, arrived here today.

Dr. Efros, who is a Hebrew poet and educator, said that he and the other two members of the delegation, H. Leivick, Yiddish playwright and poet, and Mrs. Emma Lazroff Schaver, an opera singer, had visited 18 of the 21 camps for Jewish DP's in the American zone in Germany.

Jewish life in Germany today, he said, is a picture of misery, nervous tension and despair. However, the DP's have created a social organization and a form of communal life. Through workshops and schools they are attempting to train themselves to play a productive role in whatever place they wish to settle - which in most cases is Palestine. There is not sufficient work for all of the camp residents, he stated, and as a result tension is growing.

The German population has succeeded in beguiling the American soldiers and is becoming increasingly arrogant toward the Jews, Dr. Efros said. Although the troops who fought the war were extremely friendly to the liberated Jews, the occupation troops have fallen under the influence of the Germans, he charged.

TRUMAN CALLS AMERICAN PEOPLE TO HELP HOMELESS IN EUROPE AND TO FIGHT PREJUDICE

ATLANTIC CITY, June 9. (JTA) -- President Truman called upon the American people to unite and work together to alleviate the suffering of the homeless peoples of Europe, in a message to the delegates attending the 59th annual convention of the Independent Order Brith Abraham which opened here today. The President's message also urged the people of the United States to fight prejudice, disunity and other ills besetting the "troubled world."

The convention was opened by Grand Master Harold O.N. Frankel, who, addressing the 750 delegates representing 400 lodges from all over the country, demanded that the United Nations promulgate an International Bill of Human Rights to outlaw discrimination against any minority groups. He also urged that Palestine be made a National Homeland for Jews and asked that all red-tape be eliminated and the 100,000 Jews be permitted to enter the Holy Land without delay.

James G. McDonald, a member of the Anglo-American Committee of Inquiry on Palestine, who also spoke, warned that the continued delay in admitting the 100,000 Jews to Palestine, as recommended by the inquiry committee, might have serious repercussions in the camps for displaced Jews and perhaps cause "even more serious difficulties in Palestine."

"The American Army, under whose charge most of these Jewish refugees in Germany are, is most anxious that the camps be emptied at once and is proportionately ready to aid in emptying them," McDonald said. "The refugees themselves ask only that they be permitted to go to Palestine and there to work on the land and build new lives for themselves and their children. The economic and financial resources essential to effect such a vast transfer to and integration in a new country can, I am convinced, be mobilized and made available if only the political hurdles are removed. The Arab opposition in Palestine is impressive only to those who do not know of the inherent weakness of the local Arab political leadership and of the deep family and other cleavages which divide these leaders."

Wants American and British Credits for Settling of Displaced Jews

Emphasizing that "immediate immigration and change of the land regulations - like all the other recommendations in the committee's report can be carried out without injury to the legitimate interests of the Arab people in Palestine," McDonald continued: "I do not believe that the British and American Governments are wilfully delaying the exchange of views essential to their full cooperation. This is not to say that the responsibilities of the United States Government are the same or equal to those of the British Government. The latter, of course, as the mandatory power, has the direct responsibility for immigration and land policies and for the maintenance of peace and order in Palestine. Nonetheless, Great Britain's ability in part and, as Prime Minister Attlee underlined in his statement, its willingness to adopt the committee's recommendations will depend upon our Government's cooperation."

Reviewing the Jewish situation in Europe and in Palestine, McDonald said: "The needs in Europe of Jewish displaced persons and their opportunities in Palestine are two intimately interrelated parts of the same problem. To meet the needs and to open up the opportunities will require much more than the \$100,000,000 sought this year by the United Jewish Appeal. The required additional funds - in the form of credits, services and supplies - are the logical responsibilities of governments, particularly the American and British Governments. It is my hope that as part of a comprehensive program - private and governmental - Washington and London can be persuaded to play their appropriate role."

FORTY MEMBERS OF AMERICAN HECHALUTZ SAIL FOR PALESTINE; WILL SETTLE IN COLONIES

NEW YORK, June 9. (JTA) -- Forty American members of the Hechalutz movement, pioneer youth training organization, sailed yesterday for Palestine to settle in various cooperative colonies there. Five children, the youngest eight months old, sailed with their parents aboard the S.S. Marine Shark.

The prospective settlers were trained for several years at two training farms at Hightstown and Cream Ridge, New Jersey. They will enter agriculture, engineering, education and other fields as members of the Histadruth, the Jewish labor federation. This is the fourth Hechalutz-trained group to depart for Palestine within the last eight months. Also sailing are eight American ex-servicemen who will attend the Hebrew University and the Haifa Technicon under the provisions of the G.I. Bill of Rights.

LEADER OF CANADIAN JEWISH CONGRESS LEAVES ON J.D.C. MISSION TO SOUTH AMERICA

NEW YORK, June 9. (JTA) -- H.M. Caiserman, general secretary of the Canadian Jewish Congress, has departed by air for South America, where he will make an extended tour to present to Jewish communities there a first-hand account of the situation now confronting Europe's Jewish survivors and of relief and rehabilitation activities in their behalf by the Joint Distribution Committee.

Mr. Caiserman, a leader of the United Jewish Refugee & War Relief Agencies of Canada, an affiliate of the J.D.C., recently returned from a tour of Poland, where he studied the living conditions of the Jewish survivors and met the first of the Jewish repatriates who have returned to Poland from Russia. His trip was undertaken at the invitation of the Polish Government and took nearly three months. He will spend three to four months in South America and will address Jewish communities in Brazil, Uruguay, Argentina, Chile, Paraguay, Bolivia, Peru, Colombia, Ecuador and Venezuela.

JEWISH INSTITUTE OF RELIGION CONFERS HONORARY DEGREES ON FIVE CULTURAL LEADERS

NEW YORK, June 9. (JTA) -- Honorary degrees were today conferred on five prominent Jewish and non-Jewish leaders by the Jewish Institute of Religion at the school's 21st annual commencement exercises. Dr. Stephen S. Wise, president of the Institute, conferred the degrees and ordained the 15 members of the graduating class.

The degrees were awards to Pierre Van Passen, author and Unitarian minister; Zalman Shneour, noted Hebrew poet and novelist; Rabbi Philip S. Bernstein, Advisor on Jewish Affairs to Gen. Joseph T. McHarney, American commander in the European Theatre; Rabbi Morton M. Berman of Chicago, who served as Marine Corps Chaplain during the war; and Dr. Nathan Krass, Rabbi Emeritus of Temple Emanuel, New York.

RABBI MOSHE BLAU, LEADER OF PALESTINE AGUDAS ISRAEL, DIES IN MESSINA, ITALY

JERUSALEM, June 9. (JTA) -- Rabbi Moshe Blau, leader of the Agudas Israel in Palestine, has died in Messina, Italy, it was reported here today. He was 61 years old.

Rabbi Blau was heading an Agudah delegation en route to the United States when he contracted peritonitis aboard the Rumanian vessel Transylvania. He was taken off the ship at Messina.

He last visited America in 1940 when he went there to enlist the aid of American Jewry in helping the Jews of Europe and Palestine.

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