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# JTA

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### BRITISH GOVERNMENT ASKS FRANCE FOR EXPLANATION OF EX-MUFTI'S "ESCAPE" TO MIDDLE EAST

LONDON, June 10. (JTA) -- Britain today asked the French Government for an account of the circumstances under which the ex-Mufti of Jerusalem escaped from France over the week-end, a Foreign Office spokesman announced.

A Reuter report today emphasized that the ex-Mufti, though considered guilty of offences against the Palestine Defense Regulations, is not regarded by the British Government as a war criminal despite the fact that he acted as an agent for Hitler and Mussolini during the war. A Foreign Office spokesman said that Britain still wanted to place the ex-Mufti on trial for his participation in the anti-British, pro-Nazi rebellion in Iraq in 1941.

Official quarters here stated that the French Government was aware that the return of the ex-Mufti to the Middle East under present circumstances "would be most unwelcome" to Britain. The London newspapers report that the British Legation in Damascus denies that the ex-Mufti arrived there on a British plane. A Reuter report from Damascus said that it was learned tonight that the ex-Mufti is not in the Syrian capital.

A Foreign Office spokesman today denied a report from Cairo that the British Government has notified the King of Egypt that it will not approve the recommendations of the Anglo-American inquiry committee on Palestine. He indicated that Britain would not commit herself on these recommendations before receiving the official views of the Jews and the Arabs which are expected within the next ten days.

Field Marshal Lord Montgomery, who will become Chief of the Imperial General Staff at the end of this month, left England by plane for the Middle East, it was officially announced today.

### France Dismisses High Police Official Following Disappearance of Mufti

PARIS, June 10. (JTA) -- A high French police official, responsible for the control of foreigners in the country, is understood to have been relieved of duty today following the disappearance of the ex-Mufti of Jerusalem from his home in a Paris suburb where he had been held under police surveillance.

The circumstances under which the ex-Mufti left France still remain a mystery. The French Foreign Office sharply rebuked correspondents asking whether it had had advance information of the ex-Mufti's intention of escaping. One Paris newspaper reports that the foreign office first learned of the escape through a letter from the ex-Mufti expressing thanks for the hospitality he received during his stay in France.

The correspondent of the Jewish Telegraphic Agency was told at the Foreign Ministry that the police are still investigating the ex-Mufti's departure. The correspondent has checked every airport and air service out of Paris and it appears that

the ex-Mufti did not take that route out of the country. The National Railroad said there was no record of a compartment reservation for him, nor is there any report of his passing through a frontier post.

The French press reporting the ex-Mufti's escape says that he was not really guarded. Some papers express the belief that the French Government may have facilitated his escape. The newspaper Le Monde says that neither the French nor the British were sincerely against his departure from the country. The paper emphasizes that the two governments could have considered the ex-Mufti as a war criminal if they so desired. Any protest from the British Government against the departure of the ex-Mufti will be only a formal gesture, the article declares.

#### U.S. GOVERNMENT INVESTIGATES REPORT MUFTI LEFT FRANCE ON AMERICAN MILITARY PLANE

WASHINGTON, June 10. (JTA) -- An investigation into a newspaper report that the ex-Mufti of Jerusalem had left France for Syria on a U.S. Air Transport Command plane was launched here today, it was revealed by a spokesman of the State Department.

(A cable from the Jerusalem correspondent of the Jewish Telegraphic Agency last night stated that the ex-Mufti arrived in Damascus yesterday morning on a French plane and that he left immediately for Bludan, Syria, to attend the Arab League conference there. The cable said that the ex-Mufti's plane stopped earlier in the morning at Cairo, where he was given a warm welcome.)

The British Embassy here today ridiculed reports that the ex-Mufti left France in a British plane. An embassy spokesman suggested that it would have been in character for the ex-Mufti to have adopted a disguise and passed himself off as an official of another country.

The Government of the United States was urged today to make, together with the British Government, diplomatic representations to all countries of the Arab League demanding the return of the ex-Mufti for trial as a war criminal. The suggestion was made in a telegram sent to President Truman by the Non-Sectarian Anti-Nazi League.

The Hebrew Committee of National Liberation today made public the text of a message sent to the British Government demanding that it charge the ex-Mufti with his crimes, secure his extradition and imprison him "pending trial in Palestine."

#### PLAN TO ESTABLISH PROVISIONAL ARAB GOVERNMENT IN PALESTINE REJECTED BY ARAB LEAGUE

BLUDAN, Syria, June 10. (JTA) -- A plan to set up a provisional Arab Government of Palestine in one of the neighboring Arab countries was rejected today at a meeting of the political sub-committee of the Council of the Arab League, which is now holding a conference to shape Arab policy toward the report of the Anglo-American inquiry committee.

It was reported that the conference is considering plans to call an Arab Peoples Congress in Bagdad as the third of a series of Arab political maneuvers to upset the Anglo-American committee's recommendations.

Fares Bey Khoury, former Syrian Premier and head of Syria's Arab delegation, is reported to have advised the sub-committee studying possible submission of the Palestine case to the United Nations to submit it to the General Assembly only, and not to the Security Council.

THREE TRAINS DERAILED AND BLOWN UP BY ARMED GROUPS IN PALESTINE; ONE ARAB KILLED

JERUSALEM, June 10. (JTA) -- Armed groups tonight derailed three trains in various parts of Palestine and blew up their engines.

One of the trains was stopped by a group of armed men and women between an Arab village and a Jewish suburb of Tel Aviv. After ordering all passengers to leave the carriages, the terrorists dynamited the train. One Arab policeman was killed.

REPORT \$70,000,000 RAISED TO DATE TOWARD \$100,000,000 QUOTA OF UNITED JEWISH APPEAL

NEW YORK, June 10. (JTA) -- A total of more than \$70,000,000 has been raised to date toward the United Jewish Appeal quota of \$100,000,000, it was announced tonight at a dinner at the Ambassador Hotel in honor of Edmund I. Kaufmann, national chairman for Initial Gifts of the United Jewish Appeal.

More than 150 Jewish leaders joined in paying tribute to Mr. Kaufmann on the occasion of his sixtieth birthday. Herbert Bayard Swope served as chairman. The principal speakers included Congressman Emanuel Celler, of New York, Judge Samuel I. Rosenman, William Rosenwald, Rudolf G. Sonnborn, Rabbi Jonah B. Wise, Dr. Stephen S. Wise, Isidor Coons and Henry Montor.

The announcement of the record total of \$70,000,000 thus far achieved by the United Jewish Appeal was made by Mr. Kaufmann, who pointed out that when the \$100,000,000 national quota is reached, that sum will be adequate to meet only the minimum needs of the large-scale effort to provide for the relief, rehabilitation and resettlement of the surviving victims of Nazi oppression in Europe.

"The Jews of the United States," he said, "have demonstrated through their response to the United Jewish Appeal that they are prepared to give the fullest support to the British and American Governments for the realization of this first large undertaking to relieve the homelessness of the liberated survivors."

A bound volume containing messages and letters of tribute to Mr. Kaufmann was presented to him. Among the leaders represented in the testimonial book were President Truman, Dr. Chaim Weizmann, Herbert H. Lehman, and others.

AMERICAN CITIZENS CAN CLAIM WAR DAMAGES IN POLAND, STATE DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCES

WASHINGTON, June 10. (JTA) -- Americans who suffered war damages in Poland may file compensation claims with the Polish Government, the State Department announced today. The announcement is especially important for Jews who claim property in Poland left by relatives who died during the Nazi occupation.

The Polish Government has not yet begun payment of compensation to Polish citizens, but the Polish Foreign Office has advised that American and other Allied nationals may expect payment after Polish citizens have been recompensed.

HEBREW UNIVERSITY STUDENTS BEGIN "WARNING" STRIKE AGAINST INCREASED TUITION FEE

JERUSALEM, June 10. (JTA) -- Several hundred students of the Hebrew University today began a 10-day "warning" strike against the decision of the University administration to double tuition fees.

FIRST TRANSPORT OF POLISH JEWS LEAVES WARSAW BOUND DIRECTLY FOR PALESTINE

PRAGUE, June 10. (JTA) -- The first group of Polish Jews to leave for Palestine directly from Poland since September 1939 passed through Czechoslovakia today. The group consists of 105 emigrants.

Representatives of the Palestine Office and of the Joint Distribution Committee met the transport at the railway station here and extended greetings and aid. The group is headed by Dr. I. Kurtz, head of the Palestine Office in Warsaw, which has resumed its work of organizing Jewish emigration from Poland to Palestine.

U.S. ARAB LEADER VISITS SAUDI ARABIAN RULER; BRINGS HIM PERSONAL MESSAGE FROM TRUMAN

JERUSALEM, June 10. (JTA) -- Prof. Phillip Hitti of Princeton University, leader of the Arab anti-Zionist group in the United States, arrived in Beirut today following a four-day visit to Ibn Saud, ruler of Saudi Arabia.

It is reported that he delivered to the Arab King a personal message from President Truman indicating the attitude of the United States Government toward the recommendations of the Anglo-American inquiry committee and clarifying the intentions of the United States in the Middle East.

Ira Hirschman of New York, who is now touring Europe and Asia as special envoy of the UNRRA, arrived here to study the problems of the transfer of the 100,000 Jews from Germany and Austria in the event Britain permits them to enter Palestine. He conferred today with Eliezer Kaplan, treasurer of the Jewish Agency.

ABROGATION OF WHITE PAPER, NATURALIZATION OF REFUGEES DEMANDED AT LABOR PARTY PARLEY

BOURNEMOUTH, England, June 10. (JTA) -- Resolutions urging the British Government to abrogate the White Paper, in conformity with previous Labor Party resolutions, and enable the establishment in Palestine of a Jewish State with equal rights for Arabs, was today submitted to the opening session of the party's annual convention here by the Labor Zionist Party of Great Britain.

In his opening address to the convention, Harold Laski, chairman of the party's executive, called on Britain to admit 100,000 displaced Jews to Palestine as recommended by the joint inquiry committee and give the Jews again "a possibility for a creative life in Palestine."

All resolutions on the Palestine issue are expected to be presented in an omnibus resolution to be introduced by a non-Jewish delegate and seconded by Nat Jackson, Zionist Labor representative. Other resolutions which have been submitted to the conference call for outlawing and suppression of fascist activity in Britain and urge that refugees from fascism who have lived in the country for over five years be permitted to remain and that their naturalization be facilitated.

LATEST TRANSPORT OF "VISALESS" IMMIGRANTS WILL BE RELEASED IN PALESTINE ON JULY QUOTA

JERUSALEM, June 10. (JTA) -- The 470 Jewish refugees who arrived at Haifa over the week-end on the schooner Hariva Reik will be released from internment after all the immigrants who arrived on the Max Nordau and are still detained at the Atlit camp, it was learned here today. This is not expected to take place until the Palestine Government allocates the immigration certificates for the months of June and July.



"BIG FOUR" URGED TO SPEED TRANSFER OF 100,000 JEWS FROM EUROPE TO PALESTINE

ATLANTIC CITY, June 10. (JTA) -- A resolution demanding that the "Big Four," whose foreign ministers are meeting this Friday in Paris, take immediate steps for the admission of 100,000 displaced Jews from Europe to Palestine was adopted today at the 59th annual convention of the Independent Order Brith Abraham, attended by 700 delegates from all parts of the country.

The resolution supported the Zionist demand for the establishment of Palestine as a Jewish Commonwealth. It characterized the British White Paper as a "double cross" and a "disgrace" against civilization. Other demands advanced by the convention include:

1. The promulgation of an international law outlawing anti-Semitism; 2. The establishment by the United Nations of an International Bill of Human Rights to be enforced by a strong standing army or an international police force; 3. Speedy return of confiscated Jewish property in all liberated countries; 4. Continued rehabilitation and rescue work for the Jews who survived Nazi annihilation.

AMERICAN AGUDAS ISRAEL LEADERS DEMAND LEGALIZATION OF ORGANIZATION IN POLAND

NEW YORK, June 10. (JTA) -- A demand for the legalization of the Agudas Israel orthodox organization in Poland was made here today by leaders of the organization in America during a conference with the delegation of the Central Committee of Polish Jews, which is now visiting this country under the leadership of its president, Dr. Emil Sommerstein.

The Agudas Israel leaders pointed out that their organization was one of the most influential Jewish bodies in pre-war Poland. They emphasized that the stand of the World Agudas Israel Organization towards the present Polish Government will be determined by the attitude of the Polish authorities towards organized Jewish orthodoxy in that country.

FINAL MERGER OF BOTH GROUPS WITHIN GENERAL ZIONIST PARTY MARKED IN PALESTINE

TEL AVIV, June 10. (JTA) -- Merger of groups A and B of the General Zionist Party took place in Tel Aviv at a nation-wide conference of delegates from both groups.

The conference was addressed by leaders of both sections who revealed that preparations are now being made for the convocation of a party congress. Dr. Moshe Shoh, one of the leaders of the party, will soon proceed to Europe and the United States to arrange for the conference.

JEWS WAR VETERANS URGE FEDERAL, STATE GOVERNMENTS TO INVESTIGATE KU KLUX KLAN

SWAN LAKE, N.Y., June 10. (JTA) -- The Federal and New York State Governments were asked to investigate the Ku Klux Klan in a resolution adopted at the closing session here yesterday of the 16th annual convention of the Jewish War Veterans. Fifteen hundred delegates attended.

The governments were asked to determine the extent to which the Klan and other organizations which "spread racial and religious hate" are violating Federal and state statutes. The convention also urged President Truman and the Congress to press Britain to admit 100,000 Jews to Palestine as recommended by the Anglo-American inquiry committee. Jacob S. Spiro of Jersey City, New Jersey, was elected commander to succeed Isadore Ginsberg.

N.R.S. ENDORSES CONSOLIDATION OF ITS PROGRAM WITH COUNCIL OF JEWISH WOMEN

NEW YORK, June 10. (JTA) -- Consolidation of the programs of the National Refugee Service and the National Service to Foreign-Born Department of the National Council of Jewish Women into a single welfare service for immigrants was unanimously endorsed yesterday at a membership meeting of NRS at the Essex House Hotel. Previously the consolidation had been approved by the National Council of Jewish Women.

The consolidated program will "serve the community as a whole and the newcomers finding haven in our country better and more efficiently than ever," Charles A. Riegelman, president of NRS, declared in an address to the meeting marking the completion of his service in the office, which he has held since 1943. Final arrangements for the consolidation will be worked out at a conference of the two organizations in the near future.

LECTURESHIP HONORING DR. ISRAEL GOLDSTEIN CREATED AT JEWISH THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

NEW YORK, June 10. (JTA) -- The establishment of a Dr. Israel Goldstein Lectureship at the Jewish Theological Seminary, in honor of Dr. Goldstein, Zionist leader and rabbi of the B'nai Jeshurun Congregation in New York, was announced tonight at a dinner marking his fiftieth birthday at the congregation's community center. A scroll commemorating the creation of the lectureship was presented to Dr. Goldstein by Dr. Louis Finkelstein, president of the Seminary.

The lectureship provides for a series of annual lectures by an outstanding Jewish cultural leader and their publication in book form. Funds for the support of the lectureship have been donated by friends of Dr. Goldstein and the Seminary.

AMERICAN JEWISH CONGRESS CHARGES COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY DISCRIMINATES IN PLACEMENT POLICY

NEW YORK, June 10. (JTA) -- A complaint charging Columbia University with operating a placement bureau which uses discriminatory application blanks in violation of state law was filed with the New York State F.E.P.C. by the American Jewish Congress, it was reported today.

The Congress pointed out that a record for a teaching appointment, allegedly used at the University, asks "nationality," "race," and "place of birth." Another record requests the applicant to fill in a space labelled "religion." Such application forms are forbidden by law in New York, the Congress asserted.

330 CHURCHES IN WILKES-BARRE OBSERVE "COMMUNITY COOPERATION DAY" TO AID UJA DRIVE

NEW YORK, June 10. (JTA) -- Clergymen of 330 churches in Wilkes-Barre, Pa., yesterday observed "Community Cooperation Day" as part of the city-wide drive to aid the United Jewish Appeal campaign for 1946.

Clergymen of all denominations called upon their congregations for contributions to alleviate the plight of Jewish survivors in Europe. The non-sectarian drive in Wilkes-Barre is directed by a committee composed of Protestant, Catholic and Jewish spiritual leaders, headed by Charles Weissman.

CENTRAL CONFERENCE OF AMERICAN RABBIS WILL HOLD ANNUAL MEETING IN CHICAGO

CHICAGO, June 10. (JTA) -- The 57th annual convention of the Central Conference of American Rabbis will be held in Chicago at the Sherman Hotel from Tuesday, June 25, through Sunday, June 30, it was announced today by Dr. Abba Hillel Silver of Cleveland, president of the Central Conference.

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