

Wednesday, June 12, 1946

U.S. CABINET COMMITTEE ON PALESTINE APPOINTED BY TRUMAN; WILL NEGOTIATE WITH BRITAIN

WASHINGTON, June 11. (JTA) -- President Truman today appointed a Cabinet Committee on Palestine and Related Problems composed of the Secretaries of State, War and Treasury, under the chairmanship of Secretary of State James F. Byrnes.

The President said in a statement that he had appointed the committee in view of the urgency of various problems relating to the displaced Jews in Europe and Palestine.

"The committee will be charged with assisting me in formulating and implementing such policy with regard to Palestine and related problems as may be adopted by this Government," the President's statement said. "An executive order will be issued outlining the functions and authority of the committee in further detail.

"The committee will be authorized to negotiate with the British Government and with other foreign governments and to maintain contact with private organizations relative to the various matters arising out of the recommendations of the Anglo-American Committee of Inquiry. It is my earnest hope that the Cabinet committee will be able to undertake its urgent tasks at the earliest moment," the statement concluded.

Henry Grady Appointed as Special Ambassador of Cabinet Committee

Secretary of State Byrnes today announced at his press conference the appointment of Henry F. Grady as his alternate with the personal rank of ambassador on the special Cabinet Committee on Palestine and Related Problems. The Secretary leaves Thursday for Paris to attend the peace conference.

Mr. Grady recently headed the American section of the Allied mission to observe the elections in Greece and previously served as Assistant Secretary of State and on economic missions to the Far East and India. He is president of the American President Lines.

Byrnes explained, in answer to a number of questions regarding the committee, that its formation is solely to help the President in implementing the recommendations of the Anglo-American Committee of Inquiry. The committee will not exclusively study the recommendation for immigration of the 100,000 displaced Jews now in Austria and Germany, Byrnes said, but the entire report.

Replying to a question, he said that there is no plan to create an Anglo-American committee of technical experts to study physical problems connected with the immigration question, but that the Cabinet committee would include this on its agenda.

The British Government suggested to the United States a number of problems it wishes to discuss in connection with the admission of the 100,000, the Secretary said. Those relate to selection of the 100,000, provision and financing of transporta-

tion, and both temporary and permanent housing. Mr. Byrnes further said that the British also asked what contribution the United States Government is prepared to make in case of disorders, and methods of quelling them. Asked whether the British specified the aid they wished, the Secretary replied he was certain they had not made a specific request, but that that is the point they wish to discuss. He said that the United States will discuss all the subjects suggested by the British whether or not this Government agrees with them.

Cabinet Committee Will Consider Palestine Economic Development

The Secretary declared that the inquiry committee report includes other questions which the Cabinet committee will consider, such as those relating to the economic and cultural development of Palestine, and establishment of irrigation projects that would mean employment for prospective immigrants to Palestine. Disposition of displaced persons other than those who may go to Palestine will also be studied, he said.

Asked if the British had given any assurance that they would accede to admission of the 100,000 if the United States helps to find answers to the questions, the Secretary declared he knew of no such assurance. He went on to say that up to this time, the correspondence between the British and American Governments had been carried on by President Truman and Prime Minister Attlee, with copies furnished to Foreign Minister Bevin and himself, and that he had had several conferences with Bevin. He did not know whether he would have further talks with Bevin again in Paris, but said that if occasion arose for them, he would do so.

The problems now presented, Byrnes emphasized, are such that the President must ask the assistance of the Cabinet, and he therefore chose the three ranking Cabinet members for this task. It will be their duty to present to the President their study of the physical factors involved in the recommendations of the Anglo-American inquiry committee.

To a question as to whether the exchanges with Great Britain would still be on the top level, Byrnes replied that the executive order creating the committee provides for consultation by the committee with accredited representatives and agencies of other governments, and with public and private bodies. He said that United States Ambassador Harriman in London has been making some preliminary inquiries and will forward a statement of facts for consideration by the Cabinet committee immediately upon its organization.

FULL TEXT OF PRESIDENT TRUMAN'S ORDER ESTABLISHING CABINET COMMITTEE ON PALESTINE

WASHINGTON, June 11. (JTA) -- The full text of President Truman's executive order establishing the Cabinet Committee of Palestine and Related Problems reads as follows:

"By virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and the statutes, and as President of the United States and Commander-in-Chief of the Army and Navy, it is hereby ordered as follows:

"1. In view of the urgency of the solution of various problems relating to the displaced Jews in Europe and to Palestine, there is hereby established under the chairmanship of the Secretary of State, a Cabinet Committee on Palestine and Related Problems (hereinafter referred to as the committee) composed of the Secretaries of State, War, and the Treasury. The functions and duties of the committee shall be:

"(A) To assist the President in the early consideration of the recommendations of the Anglo-American Committee of Inquiry (hereinafter referred to as the Anglo-

American committee) and of the views which may be submitted as a result of the consultations thereon, and in the determination of the steps to be taken by this Government in regard to Palestine and related problems.

"(B) To propose the specific measures considered necessary or appropriate effectively to implement the decisions made by the President with regard to Palestine and related problems.

"(C) So far as may be permitted by law, to implement and coordinate, either directly or through the appropriate departments and agencies of the United States Government, such policies or programs in respect of Palestine and related problems as may be approved and authorized by the President.

"(D) To perform such other tasks in connection with the functions and duties described in sub-paragraphs (A), (B), and (C) above as the President may from time to time direct.

Committee Will Establish an Executive Agency; Rules of Conduct Fixed

"2. Each member of the committee shall designate a fully deputized alternate to act for and in his behalf. The alternates thus selected shall function as the executive agency of the committee and shall be known as the board of alternates, whose chairman shall be the alternate for the Secretary of State. The committee is hereby empowered:

"(A) To fix its rules of conduct and procedures and the pattern of its internal organization.

"(B) To employ a secretariat to be headed by a secretary-general with such deputies and assistants and such clerical and administrative personnel as may be necessary.

"(C) To utilize to the maximum extent possible by way of loan or otherwise such personnel, facilities, and services of the State, War, and Treasury Departments as may be necessary or useful to the committee in the accomplishment of its functions and duties.

"(D) Subject to sub-paragraph (C) hereof and within the limits of funds which may be made available to it, to employ necessary technical personnel, consultants, or advisers without regard to the Civil Service laws and regulations, and to make provision for such supplies, facilities, and services as may be necessary to discharge the committee's responsibilities.

"(E) Whenever necessary, to call upon the heads of other departments and agencies of the Government to supply experts or technical advisers to the extent available to assist the committee or its staff in connection with its objectives.

Functions and Duties of the Cabinet Committee Defined

"3. In the formulation of its policy recommendations as provided in paragraph 1 hereof and in the implementation of any policies and programs approved by the President, the committee shall be empowered:

"(A) to negotiate and consult, directly or through its representatives, with accredited representatives and agencies of other governments, with public or private

international bodies, with states and municipalities and private and quasi-public organizations in the United States or abroad.

"(B) Upon the written request of the chairman, or his alternate, to procure from all departments and agencies of the Government such records and documents in their possession as may be necessary, relevant, or useful to the committee in the accomplishment of its objectives hereunder.

"4. In carrying out its functions and duties, and within the limits of available funds, the members of the committee and its personnel are authorized to engage in the necessary domestic and foreign travel. When permitted by law and otherwise practicable, the Secretary of War and the Secretary of the Navy shall provide appropriate travel assistance, including the furnishing of available government-owned transportation and other facilities."

ARAB LEADERS FEAR ALLIED PRESSURE FOR EXTRADITION OF "ESCAPED" MUFTI FROM SYRIA

JERUSALEM, June 11. (JTA) -- Haj Amin el Husseini, ex-Mufti of Jerusalem, is reliably reported today to be living at Chush el Mathben, a village near Damascus, capital of Syria, in a dwelling belonging to Jamil Mardan, the Syrian ambassador to Egypt.

Arab leaders said today that if pressure continues on Syria for the extradition of the Mufti, he would probably be transferred to Saudi Arabia. They pointed out that the plane which brought the Palestine Arab delegates to the Arab League Conference now under way at Bludan, Syria, is still at Damascus and would be available to the Mufti.

From Cairo it was reported today that Arab League circles stated that they had good reason to believe the Mufti flew from France in a French plane to Syria and went on by air to Saudi Arabia, where he is seeking sanctuary at the court of King Ibn Saud.

From Beirut it was reported that frequent visits to Damascus by delegates of the Arab League meeting in Bludan--25 miles away--have strengthened the belief that the Mufti is there. Most morning papers said the Mufti had arrived safely in one of the Arab states but for political reasons the announcement had been postponed. The Lebanese and Syrian Governments said they had no information.

Palestine Censor Delates Reports on U.S. Interest in Mufti's Escape

Arab journalists and leaders of Arab political parties in Palestine openly speak of the ex-Mufti's presence in Damascus though official sources continue to deny his arrival there.

While permitting the sale of the Mufti's picture in the streets of Jerusalem, the Palestine Government's censor prohibits any mention in the press of the Mufti's whereabouts. Jewish Telegraphic Agency cables from the United States reporting American interest in the "escape" of the ex-Mufti were similarly suppressed by the censor.

Bernard Joseph, legal advisor of the Jewish Agency, today denied a report carried by an American news agency that he summoned a special secret session of the Jewish Agency executive to discuss the re-appearance of the ex-Mufti in the Middle East. "This report is without any foundation," he told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency.

NEW EXPLOSIONS IN PALESTINE; SEVEN JEWS ARRESTED FOR BLOWING UP TRAINS

JERUSALEM, June 11. (JTA) -- Tremendous explosions were heard today on the outskirts of Tel Aviv and near Hedera. The section of Tel Aviv in which the explosion occurred was immediately cordoned off by the police. It is believed that an ammunition store of an illegal group blew up.

Leaflets calling for civil disobedience were distributed here today by the Irgun Zvai Leumi, extremist Jewish underground group. The leaflets also urged Jewish non-cooperation with the Palestine Government and the establishment of a Provisional Jewish National Government. The leaflets declared that promises made by Britain were "empty words" and concluded that "this struggle for life and death is for a last hope--the only hope."

Seven Jews have been arrested and police are still searching for other members of the armed groups who dynamited three trains in Palestine yesterday, it was officially announced here today. A Government spokesman declared the sabotage to be the work of a Jewish organization, which is believed to be the Irgun Zvai Leumi.

British military planes were flying today over the main Lydda-Tel Aviv, Lydda-Jerusalem, and Lydda-Haifa lines where the attacks occurred, in an attempt to locate the terrorists. Armored cars, Bren gun carriers and hundreds of troops of the British Sixth Airborne Division were rushed to the scene last night and commenced a search throughout the Lydda district. The wrecked trains were still blocking through traffic to Cairo this morning.

On the Tel Aviv line the train was stopped by a passenger pulling the emergency cord. When the engineer brought the train to a stop a group of twenty-five to thirty armed men in Arab clothes surrounded the train. The Jewish engineer and his Arab assistant were ordered out of the cab, and the 200 Arab and Jewish passengers were forced to alight and scatter into the nearby fields. A container of dynamite was thrown into the locomotive and set off. The resulting explosion set afire the five passenger coaches and only the mail pouches were saved from the blaze, which continued for several hours.

On the Haifa line, the train was also halted by a passenger and the locomotive was sent rolling over a land mine after the train crew and passengers had been removed. An Arab policeman who resisted was shot and wounded. The Jerusalem train was stopped by a young boy in Arab clothes who was standing on the track waving a red signal flag. A group of fifteen armed Jews captured the train and destroyed it.

ARAB LEAGUE DECIDES TO CONFER WITH BRITAIN BEFORE SUBMITTING PALESTINE ISSUE TO U.N.

BEIRUT, Syria, June 11. (JTA) -- The Arab League Council, meeting here to shape its policy towards the Anglo-American inquiry committee's report, decided today to consult the British Government before submitting the Palestine issue to the United Nations Assembly. The council voted an expenditure of \$8,000,000 of which \$4,000,000 will be set aside for preservation of Arab land in Palestine and a further \$4,000,000 will be used for other purposes.

It was revealed here today that at the recent conference of Arab rulers in Egypt the question of the establishment of joint Arab armies under British command was discussed. Under the proposed plan Egypt would furnish 44% of the joint Arab forces.

MAJOR U.S. JEWISH GROUPS ASK TRUMAN FOR UNCONDITIONAL TRANSFER OF 100,000 JEWS

NEW YORK, June 11. (JTA) -- The American Jewish Conference, the American Jewish Committee and the American Zionist Emergency Council--three national Jewish organizations representing the great majority of the Jews in the United States--today telegraphed appeals to President Truman to insist on the immediate and unconditional transfer of 100,000 displaced Jews from Europe to Palestine.

The messages were signed by Henry Monsky, chairman of the interim committee of the American Jewish Conference; Dr. Stephen S. Wise and Dr. Abba Hillel Silver, co-chairman of the American Zionist Emergency Council; and Joseph M. Proskauer, president of the American Jewish Committee, and Jacob Blaustein, chairman of its executive committee.

All pointed to deteriorating conditions in the assembly centers in Germany and Austria, where displaced Jews have been confined since V-E Day, warned against catastrophe if these first victims of Hitlerism are not permitted to go to Palestine, and urged the United States Government to aid in their transportation and resettlement.

The American Jewish Conference assured the President that America's Jews are united in support of his position that the transfer should be accomplished with the greatest dispatch. "We earnestly hope that our Government will continue to press for action, that it will express its desire and readiness to give substantial aid in moving these people and in resettling them. For our part, we pledge ourselves in our private capacities to continue to do our utmost to share in the cost of this humanitarian undertaking," the conference wired.

The American Jewish Committee pointed out that "procrastination threatens the health, morale and very life of the displaced Jews now in Europe." It called upon the President to urge the British Government to permit without delay the entry to Palestine of 100,000 Jews and that "our Government further express its readiness to provide transportation and care for these people while in transit, and extend financial aid and other economic assistance in their resettlement in Palestine."

The American Zionist Emergency Council's telegram, emphasizing the need for immediate action, pointed out that "every additional week without action strengthens the hands of the obstructionists and makes possible such shameful and indeed barely credible developments as the reported arrival in the Near East of that arch murderer and satellite of Hitler, the ex-Mufti of Jerusalem. Only immediate and decisive action can remedy a situation which conflicts with elementary justice and decency."

STATE DEPARTMENT NOT INTERESTED IN ESTABLISHING HOW EX-MUFTI "ESCAPED" FROM FRANCE

WASHINGTON, June 11. (JTA) -- The State Department is not making any effort to ascertain the facts of the ex-Mufti's escape from France to Syria, Secretary of State Byrnes told his press conference today.

Responding to questions about the Mufti, the Secretary said that the Department has no information on the escape except press reports. When asked if the United States considers the Mufti a war criminal, and whether Hussein is on the list of war criminals determined by the war crimes tribunals in Germany and Japan, he said he did not know.

AMERICAN ZIONIST LEADERS SAY MUFTI'S "ESCAPE" WILL PROMOTE POGROMS IN PALESTINE

NEW YORK, June 11. (JTA) -- The reported "escape" of the ex-Mufti of Jerusalem from France to the Near East was today branded by the American Zionist Emergency Council as an "intrigue" designed to produce riots and pogroms in Palestine.

"Why has the Mufti been helped to 'escape' and who engineered his plane journey to Damascus? Has all this been done to make it possible for Britain to claim that 'the Arab world will go up in flames' if 100,000 homeless Jews are admitted into Palestine immediately, as requested by President Truman and recommended by the Anglo-American Committee of Inquiry?" the Council asked.

A mass demonstration will be held in Madison Square Garden tomorrow "to protest the obstructionist tactics on Palestine of Great Britain and the U.S. State Department," the Council announced. Speakers at the rally, which is being jointly sponsored by the Council and the American Jewish Conference, include Bartley C. Crum, member of the Anglo-American Committee of Inquiry on Palestine, Senator Edwin C. Johnson, Dr. Abba Hillel Silver, Dr. Stephen S. Wise and Henry Monsky.

The United Zionists-Revisionists issued a statement declaring that "the ex-Mufti could not have left France without the knowledge of the French Government, and he could not have arrived in the Middle East without the knowledge of the British. His reappearance on the political scene indicates a major attempt of the anti-Zionist forces in Great Britain to present to the world a grand spectacle of Arab opposition to Jewish aspirations in Palestine.

"The return of the Mufti to the Middle East is part of an elaborate conspiracy aimed not only at provoking serious trouble in Palestine, but at instigating mass massacres of Jews in Arab countries in an effort to block and forestall the implementation of Zionism," the statement said.

KEY TO JEWISH REVIVAL IN POLAND IS IN HANDS OF AMERICAN JEWRY, DR. SOMMERSTEIN SAYS

NEW YORK, June 11. (JTA) -- The fate of the 150,000 Jewish survivors in Poland is today in the hands of American Jewry, Dr. Emil Sommerstein, leader of the delegation of the Central Jewish Committee of Poland now visiting this country, told a huge audience tonight at a mass-meeting held at Madison Square Garden.

Dr. Sommerstein emphasized that more than 100,000 Polish Jews, including 25,000 children, have already been repatriated from the USSR, and that thousands more are expected to be repatriated within the next few weeks. He called upon the Jews of America to help the Jewish survivors in Poland establish themselves. He charged the Jews of the world with "not fulfilling their national duty with regard to their brethren in Poland."

Similar charges and demands were voiced by other members of the delegation. Dr. Stephen S. Wise, who was one of the principal speakers, emphasized the tragedy of Polish Jewry and the sacrifices made by them before and during the war. Prof. Oscar Lange, Polish Ambassador in Washington, greeted the delegation on behalf of his Government and declared that anti-Semitism is being fought by the present Polish regime. The delegation was also greeted by Mayor William O'Dwyer and Robert S. Marcus of the American Jewish Congress.

CRUM WARNS STATE DEPARTMENT ON RELEASE OF EX-MUFTI; LINKS HIM WITH GESTAPO LEADERS

NEW YORK, June 11. (JTA) -- Bartley C. Crum, American member of the Anglo-American Inquiry Committee on Palestine, today addressed a telegram to Secretary of State James F. Byrnes calling his attention "to the grave consequences" of the release of the ex-Mufti and his departure from France.

"From what I learned as a member of the Anglo-American Committee of Inquiry on Palestine it is my conviction that both the Arab League and the Arab Higher Committee intend to bring the Mufti back to Palestine for the purpose of furnishing a rallying point around which all subversive, anti-democratic and violently reactionary forces may gather," the telegram said. "We were warned in Jerusalem by Arab spokesmen that the Mufti would return there this year. His record, as disclosed to me from official files, shows that he together with one Richmann shared in the responsibility for and spearheaded the mass murder of millions of European Jewry.

"May I respectfully suggest that the State Department obtain from the official records available to the counsel in charge of the prosecution of war criminals in Nuremberg and in Vienna, and from our own Intelligence Department, copies of the written agreements between the Mufti and the Nazi Government. I refer particularly to the final agreement signed in Berlin shortly before the surrender of Nazi Germany, at which time huge sums of money in gold were paid to the representative of the Mufti in exchange for his promises to organize the Moslem world and lead it in fighting the 'common enemy,' namely, the allied democracies.

"In addition, I suggest that Hauptsturmfuehrer SS Dietar Von Wieszecany, now in Nuremberg jail as an important witness, be interrogated. In the event that Mr. Wieszecany's memory, or anyone else's, needs refreshing, I shall be glad to furnish the Department with a copy of the interrogation of Mr. Wieszecany taken in Nuremberg in March, 1946. This interrogation definitely links the Mufti and Richmann with Himmler in the mass extermination of the Jews.

"His previous activities against the United Nations and in favor of the Axis powers are of course completely documented and available to the Department. So are his subversive activities in Palestine, particularly in the years 1936 to 1939, when he was personally responsible for the serious disorders which cost many lives including the lives of many British soldiers. So are his subsequent activities in Iraq where he, with his cousin Jamal Hussein, was actively associated with Rashid Bey el Gailani in organizing the abortive revolt designed to betray the democratic cause by delivering the Near East into the hands of the Axis.

"There can be no question but that the reappearance of this notorious war criminal and instigator of assassination at this juncture constitutes a serious menace to the peace and order of the Near East and will most probably result in immediate violence and bloodshed. It is also unquestionably timed to frustrate the carrying out of the short term recommendations of the Anglo-American committee. Under the circumstances I would earnestly urge the American Government, acting in concert with the British Government, to take all necessary measures for the immediate apprehension of the ex-Mufti wherever he may be, his extradition, and trial," the telegram concluded.

BRITISH GOVERNMENT SAYS "URGENT INQUIRIES" MADE REGARDING EX-MUFTI'S DISAPPEARANCE

LONDON, June 11. (JTA) -- The Foreign Office today said that urgent inquiries have been made regarding the disappearance of the ex-Mufti. A spokesman announced that "news is awaited" after yesterday's representations by the British Ambassador in Paris.

POLICE INVESTIGATING SERIES OF DESECRATIONS OF SYNAGOGUES IN CALIFORNIA

SAN FRANCISCO, June 11. (JTA) -- California police authorities have begun an investigation into a series of desecrations of synagogues and Jewish student clubs which have taken place in San Francisco, Los Angeles and Berkeley.

The first vandalism was reported from Hollywood where hoodlums entered Temple Israel and tore an ancient Torah to pieces. They also scrawled swastikas and anti-Jewish slogans in German on the walls of the temple. Threatening letters were sent to Dr. Max Nusebaum, rabbi of the temple, after the case was reported to the police.

Several days later the Temple Beth Shalom in San Francisco was desecrated. The vandals painted a cross and the letters KKK on the walls. Police authorities believe that this act of vandalism, the first of its kind in San Francisco, is not the work of children, but of anti-Semitic adults.

In Berkeley, vandals damaged the club house of Zeta Beta Tau, a Jewish collegiate fraternity. They broke into the house and turned on a hose in the rooms. In Los Angeles a cross was burned on the lawn of the same fraternity.

BRITH ABRAHAM CONVENTION CALLS FOR FIGHT AGAINST RACIAL DISCRIMINATION IN UNITED STATES

ATLANTIC CITY, June 11. (JTA) -- A resolution urging a campaign against racial and religious discrimination in the United States through legal action was adopted here today at the closing session of the annual convention of the Independent Order Brith Abraham. A message from Governor Dewey to the convention declared that racial discrimination in New York State has decreased considerably as a result of the State F.E.P.C. law.

The convention also adopted resolutions urging increased relief and rehabilitation of Jewish survivors in Europe. It also called for establishment of a discrimination-free state university in New York.

Other resolutions adopted recommend:

1. Support of immigration laws which would relax present immigration quotas for a period of three years and permit the entrance into this country of all stateless persons who possess the qualifications for American citizenship.
2. Cooperation in every manner possible to bring about Jewish unity toward the end that the American Jewish Conference shall be recognized as the sole voice of American Jewry.
3. Continuance of pressure on all government agencies and officials until the 100,000 displaced and homeless Jews are permitted to enter Palestine as recommended by the Anglo-American Palestine Committee of Inquiry.

Dr. Stephen S. Wise, addressing the convention last night, expressed "undisguised contempt" for the British and French Governments for "conniving at" or "sanctioning" the flight of the ex-Mufti from France to the Middle East. He said that the ex-Mufti was returning to Syria through the conspiracy of governments that should have tried him for his war crimes.

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