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BRITAIN REJECTS REQUEST OF ARAB GOVERNMENTS FOR ANGLO-ARAB TALKS ON PALESTINE

LONDON, June 25. (JTA) -- The British Government has definitely turned down the request of the Arab governments for bilateral Anglo-Arab talks on Palestine which would exclude the United States and the Jews from participating in a settlement of the Palestine problem, it was learned here today.

It was emphasized that at present the British Government is primarily interested in reaching an agreement with the Government of the United States with regard to the Palestine issue. However, Anglo-Arab talks are not excluded at a later stage, it was pointed out.

Bevin Denies He Opposes Admission of 100,000 Jews to Palestine

WASHINGTON, June 25. (JTA) -- British Foreign Minister Ernest Bevin denies that he has disapproved the admission of 100,000 Jews to Palestine, and although opposed to a Jewish national state, favors a "Palestinian state of some sort," Lord Inverchapel, British Ambassador here, informed Senators Wagner and Mead of New York in a letter of June 23, released today by the British Information Service.

Replying on behalf of the Foreign Minister to a cable from the two Senators protesting Bevin's recent speech to the Labor Party conference, the Ambassador said that he had been asked by Mr. Bevin "to stress that in his Bournemouth speech he was concerned to put forward, in an atmosphere of realism, some constructive suggestions which he hopes may be of assistance" in the current Anglo-American discussions on Palestine.

The letter ignores the criticism by Wagner and Mead of Bevin's statement that "the agitation in the United States, and particularly in New York, for 100,000 Jews to be put in Palestine is because they do not want too many of them in New York."

Mr. Bevin instructed the Ambassador to point out to the Senators that "he did not say that he would not agree to the admission of the 100,000 Jews to Palestine. He said that if they were put there tomorrow, he would have to send another division of British troops there and that he was not prepared to do it. But although he drew attention to these difficulties," Lord Inverchapel wrote, "he said that he would strive for a Palestinian state, from which the voice of the Jews in Palestine could be heard in the chancelleries of the world. Mr. Bevin made clear that he was determined that the Jews should be given fair treatment; and that he would not agree to their being excluded from any country; and that he championed equal rights for them in whatever country they were settled."

Lord Inverchapel once again expressed the view of the British Government that admission of the 100,000 "would involve certain heavy financial and other commitments which they could not carry alone." The Ambassador expressed his "own deep conviction that in Britain, which has traditionally been a friend to the Jewish people, there is no less a sincere and widespread desire than in the United States to find a just and lasting solution of their tragic problem."

THREE MEN, ONE WOMAN ARRESTED IN REHOVOTH FOLLOWING DISCOVERY OF AMMUNITION DUMP

JERUSALEM, June 25. (JTA) -- Palestine police today announced the arrest of three Jewish men and one woman in the settlement of Rehovoth following the discovery of a cache of arms, ammunition and explosives in a house there.

The raid in Rehovoth was part of the nation-wide search which British troops and Palestine police units are carrying out in various sections of the country in an effort to find the three British officers kidnapped by the Irgun Zvai Leumi. The search for the kidnapped officers today entered its seventh day.

All vehicles entering or leaving Tel Aviv today were subjected to a close scrutiny by British troops. Infantry and police were also combing orchards and orange groves in the Tel Aviv area in the hope of finding a clue there to the whereabouts of the officers. Houses and cellars in settlements throughout the Sharon district were also checked, but without results.

In Tel Aviv the police force became exclusively Jewish today, when British sergeants handed over the stations to Jewish officers. Immediately upon taking over the Jewish police officers removed the barbed wire entanglements from in front of all police stations in the city. Henceforth all local police duties will be carried out by Jewish policemen, except the combatting of "terrorism" for which the assistance of British police and military forces is required.

A British destroyer today intercepted a ship carrying 1,000 visaless immigrants and is escorting it to Haifa where it is expected to dock tomorrow, it was reported here. Another report says that R.A.F. reconnaissance planes have spotted another vessel with 1,300 persons aboard about 150 miles off the Palestine coast and that it is being kept under observation.

RUMANIAN POLICE DISCOVER UNDERGROUND GROUP IN BUCHAREST PLANNING TO MURDER JEWS

BUCHAREST, June 25. (JTA) -- Rumanian police authorities today announced the discovery of an underground fascist organization which planned to murder Jews.

Addressing a conference of Rumanian university professors, Minister of Interior T. Georgescu emphasized that students in the Rumanian universities are still displaying anti-Semitic tendencies and are being encouraged by some members of the teaching staff. He pointed out that the Government is determined to combat anti-Semitism in whatever form it is discovered.

LEHMAN REJOINS JOINT DISTRIBUTION COMMITTEE; RESUMES POSITION AS VICE-CHAIRMAN

NEW YORK, June 25. (JTA) -- Herbert H. Lehman, former Governor of New York and one-time Director General of UNRRA has rejoined the Joint Distribution Committee as vice-chairman and member of its executive committee, it was announced today.

Mr. Lehman, who was first associated with the J.D.C. shortly after its founding in 1914, retired from active participation in the Committee's activities in December, 1942, when he assumed direction of UNRRA's program. His return to the J.D.C. was greeted by Edward M.M. Warburg, the Committee's chairman.

RELIEF OFFICIALS, ARMY OFFICERS RIDICULE REPORT THAT 3,000,000 JEWS MAY ENTER U.S. ZONE

BERLIN, June 25. (JTA) -- Representatives of voluntary relief agencies in Germany and a top-ranking military official here who is closely connected with the displaced persons problem today ridiculed a statement made this week by U.S. officers at Frankfurt that eventually the Army might be faced with the problem of caring for 3,000,000 Jews if the DP's continue to arrive from Eastern Europe.

The military authority expressed "complete surprise" at the figures released at Frankfurt. He declared that everyone was aware that large numbers of refugee Jews were entering the U.S. zone but refused to give the exact figures because the Army considered them as "classified" information which could not be released to the public.

Voluntary relief agency officials stated that the infiltration from Eastern Europe has averaged 10,000 a month for the last few months. They predicted that this figure might increase to 12,000, but insisted that at that rate it would still be many years before there would be 3,000,000 Jews in the American-occupied area. One official interjected that he wished that he could expect so large a figure, but "unfortunately such numbers of Jews no longer exist in Europe."

Other observers here explained that the Army is annoyed by the problem of caring for the incoming refugees and wants them barred but could not order such a stoppage because a popular humanitarian outcry would result. It was pointed out, however, that if the Army could convince the American people that it would have to feed, clothe and house millions rather than a few hundred thousand as originally estimated, it might arouse sympathy for the Army's problem and pave the way for an order halting admission of Jewish refugees to the American zone.

Jewish Camps in Berlin Overcrowded; Organizations Press for Action

Meanwhile, representatives of Jewish organizations here and in the American zone at Frankfurt are pressing the highest military authorities for an immediate solution of the acute problem of overcrowding of local displaced persons facilities.

The situation, which developed about four weeks ago when American Army authorities decided to halt shipment of DP's to the British zone and the southern section of the U.S. zone, has now reached a point where the Duppel camp in Berlin, designed for 1,200 persons, is accommodating 3,100. The present figure represents an increase of 700 since last week. Authorities expect several hundred more to arrive this week. The Wittenau camp in the French sector of Berlin has long since been filled beyond its normal capacity.

Despite the conditions under which they live, the residents at Duppel today held a party for some 500 camp children, including 200 orphans from Eastern European countries. The entertainment included a vaudeville show with DP singers, acrobats and magicians performing for the children. The circus atmosphere, which pervaded the German theatre where the show was staged, was heightened by the distribution of chocolate bars by American Army Chaplain Herbert Friedman, who had to go all the way to the commanding general for permission to purchase the candy.

5,000 Infiltrates Arriving Monthly in U.S. Zone, J.D.C. Official Says

PARIS, June 25. (JTA) -- An average of 5,000 Jewish infiltrates from Poland and other parts of Eastern Europe, including many pregnant women, children and aged persons, have been arriving in the American zone of occupation monthly, and accommodating them has become an acute problem for the Army, it was reported today by Leon W. Schwartz, deputy director for the Joint Distribution Committee in the U.S. zone.

BRITISH-AMERICAN DISCUSSIONS ON PALESTINE REPORT ARE CONTINUING, ACHESON STATES

WASHINGTON, June 25. (JTA) -- Discussions are continuing with the British Government on ways and means of carrying out the recommendations of the Anglo-American inquiry committee report, Acting Secretary of State Dean Acheson told his press conference today.

Mr. Acheson was asked whether the American Embassy in London has reported any progress in implementing the report. He replied that Henry F. Grady, alternate to Secretary of State Byrnes on the Cabinet Committee on Palestine, is working on the Palestine problem.

Reminded that the 30-day period during which the State Department had requested the views of Jews and Arabs on the report expired June 20, Secretary Acheson said that the replies have been coming in by various means and are being turned over to Grady. The State Department may make the replies public at a later date, he said.

Mr. Acheson declined to comment on the letter sent yesterday to President Truman by nine Senators urging pressure on the British Government for immediate admission to Palestine of the 100,000 Jewish refugees in Germany, because, he said, he had not yet seen the letter.

To a question whether the State Department has received any report connecting the ex-Mufti with current disturbances in Palestine, Acheson replied that no such reports have come in. He expressed certainty that the Department has received some reports on the ex-Mufti but disclaimed knowledge as to their contents.

PROSKAUER ASKS STATE DEPT. TO SUPPORT WEIZMANN'S PROPOSAL ON ARAB-JEWISH RAPPROCHEMENT

NEW YORK, June 25. (JTA) -- The good offices of the American Government in support of the plea made by Dr. Chaim Weizmann, president of the Jewish Agency, last week, calling upon the British Government to act as intermediary in bringing about an immediate rapprochement between Jews and Arabs in Palestine, were urged in a statement submitted to Dean Acheson, Acting Secretary of State, by Joseph M. Proskauer, president of the American Jewish Committee.

Declaring that "the present dilatory tactics of the British Government are fraught with the gravest dangers of further schism and bloodshed," Judge Proskauer stated that Dr. Weizmann's proposal "would have the heartiest support of all Jews, whether Zionist or non-Zionist." He urged that the proposal should be followed at once in connection with the immediate implementation of the Anglo-American inquiry committee's recommendation for the entry of 100,000 Jews into Palestine. "The situation is critical in the extreme and demands prompt healing and not divisive treatment," Mr. Proskauer emphasized.

"CHRISTIAN FRONTIERS" SENTENCED FOR ANTI-JEWISH PROPAGANDA LOSE THEIR APPEAL IN COURT

NEW YORK, June 25. (JTA) -- Kurt Mertig and Ernest S. Elmhurst, two of the three "Christian Frontiers" who were convicted of unlawful assembly and breach of the peace as a result of charges brought by members of the Jewish War Veterans of the United States, last February, heard their original sentences upheld today, in a unanimous decision handed down by the Appellate Division of the State of New York.

Mertig and Elmhurst, received six-month sentences and Homer Maertz, the last member of the trio, was sentenced to one year, following their arrest for distributing anti-Semitic material at a meeting in Queens Village, N.Y., last October.

DR. SILVER ANALYZES PROBLEMS OF AMERICAN JEWRY AT ANNUAL CONVENTION OF REFORM RABBIS

CHICAGO, June 25. (JTA) -- The question of whether there is a tendency to drift away from Judaism in the United States was the central theme of a presidential address delivered today by Dr. Abba Hillel Silver at the opening session of the 57th annual convention of the Central Conference of American Rabbis, attended by more than 400 Reform rabbis, including over 100 returned chaplains.

Dr. Silver disagreed with those who expressed pessimism on this score. "Our danger," he said, "was not in disloyalty or apostasy, but in fear and depression that may beat down the spirits of our people and may paralyze their creative efforts." He emphasized that a religious revival is needed to dispel the fears of American Jewry.

Dr. Silver also urged the formation of a permanent American Jewish Conference, the strengthening of the Synagogue Council of America as an instrumentality of Jewish faith, and the withdrawal from the Council for Judaism of the rabbis still associated with it. On the subject of Palestine, Dr. Silver limited himself to urging the continuation of efforts for the immigration of 100,000 European Jews to Palestine in accordance with the desire of President Truman and the Anglo-American Committee of Inquiry on Palestine.

Recalling the murder of 6,000,000 Jews in Europe, one-third of the Jewish population of the world, Dr. Silver said that "Jewry will continue to feel the traumatism of the physical and psychic shock which it suffered long after the second World War will have become a faded memory among men."

Says "So-Called Good Will Movement" Is a Manifestation of Fear

In answering the question as to whether Jews in America are drifting away from Judaism, Dr. Silver said: "There is fear in the hearts of our people. The grave accent which American Jews have placed in recent years upon fighting anti-Semitism and on so-called good will movements is a manifestation of a fear which is gnawing at their hearts. We do not mean to disparage these activities or to question their value. But clearly they cannot exorcise the fear from the hearts which beat wildly nor can they strengthen the feeble hand.

"Only an ardent concentration and emphasis by the leaders of our people-- lay and religious alike-- upon the religious message of Judaism to the Jews of our day, the only stirring proclamation of its undefeated messianic faith, and its heroic challenge to the men of Israel to live and labor worthily in spite of all danger and contumely for the good and just society of free men which our prophets visioned, and by whose vision our people was forever covenanted, only such a religious revival, with all of its absorbing tasks and its undergirding disciplines will set the red blood of courage and confidence coursing through the veins of our people.

"It remains to be seen whether we of this generation still possess that insight and statesmanship and that sure instinct of survival which stood our ancestors in such good stead in all their trials. One of the reassuring signs has been the new awareness which has come recently to our congregations and, through them, to their national organizations, of the imperative need to expand their programs, to improve the method and content of religious education and of the training of teachers and rabbis, to found new congregations and to utilize all the facilities of mass education to bring the message of Judaism to our people. It is good that we have been alerted," Dr. Silver declared.

CONVENTION OF CONSERVATIVE RABBIS DISCUSSES JEWISH EDUCATION; CRITICIZES SUNDAY SCHOOLS

NEW YORK, June 25. (JTA) -- Plans for expanded Jewish education in the United States were presented today at the convention of the Rabbinical Assembly of America by Dr. Robert Gordis in his presidential address. He also called for a re-evaluation of Conservative Judaism's relationship to Zionism.

The whole attitude toward the Sunday school needs "rethinking," said Dr. Gordis. Both Protestantism and Reform, which initiated the Sunday school movement, are beginning to have serious doubts about it. He recommended instead a Jewish day school for children between the ages of 5 and 8, after which they could return to the public school system and continue in the afternoon Hebrew school. He said that he believed the Jewish day school or Yeshivah had proved a most efficient and significant agency for Jewish education.

Dr. Gordis criticized the Jewish centers as they operate at present. "It is not adult Jewish education to have lecturers speak on penguins in Tasmania or mules in Patagonia, or even the independence of China or the glories of the Soviet Union," he said. "It should instead teach Judaism, Jewish history, Jewish customs and philosophy." He called for the creation of new congregations, particularly labor synagogues, through which the laboring groups could be reached. He also urged the creation of a national youth camp for Conservative Judaism where young men and women could be set on a scholarship basis for Jewish study and Jewish living.

He warned the members of the Rabbinical Assembly that they could no longer give their loyalty to one or another of the existing Zionist parties by "deciding which is least uncongenial," and urged them to reconsider their conception of Zionism and reappraise their relationship to the Zionist movement. He recommended that the Zionist Committee and Executive Council prepare a pronouncement on Zionism as well as a program for implementing their position.

LIONEL GELBER APPOINTED POLITICAL ADVISOR TO JEWISH AGENCY IN UNITED STATES

NEW YORK, June 25. (JTA) -- Lionel Gelber of Toronto, Canada, writer and authority on international and British Commonwealth affairs, has been appointed political advisor to the Jewish Agency for Palestine in the United States, it was announced today. Mr. Gelber, who retired in 1945 from the Royal Canadian Air Force with the rank of Flight Lieutenant, was formerly on the faculty of the University of Toronto.

Born in Toronto, educated at Upper Canada College and at the University of Toronto, he was a Rhodes Scholar at Balliol College, Oxford, and lived for a number of years in England. He is the author of a standard historical work, "The Rise of Anglo-American Friendship," and of "Peace by Power," both published by the Oxford University Press.

DR. MORTIMER EPSTEIN, JEWISH LEADER, DIES IN LONDON AT RECEPTION FOR NEW RABBI

LONDON, June 25. (JTA) -- Dr. Mortimer Epstein, active member of the Board of Deputies of British Jews and treasurer of the United Synagogue, collapsed and died here during a reception following the induction of M. Swift, new rabbi of a London synagogue. He was 66. A few minutes earlier he had replied to a toast.

Dr. Epstein, a scholar and authority on education, was for some time a director of the "Jewish Chronicle," to which he contributed for many years under a nom de plume.