

Tuesday, August 6, 1946

JTA*Daily News Bulletin*

PUBLISHED BY THE JEWISH TELEGRAPHIC AGENCY

JEWISH AGENCY EXECUTIVE REJECTS BRITISH PLAN AS "UNACCEPTABLE AS BASIS FOR DISCUSSION"

PARIS, Aug. 5. (JTA) -- The Jewish Agency executive meeting here announced today that the British proposals on Palestine are considered "unacceptable as a basis for discussions."

At the same time, it voted to convene a special session of the Zionist Actions Committee somewhere in Europe before the end of August. The meeting, which is expected to take place in France, will probably be attended by only half the members of the Actions Committee, because it is felt that it would be unadvisable to strip Palestine and other Jewish centers of all Zionist leaders at the present time.

The executive also announced that it is planning to submit to the Peace Conference a memorandum drawing the treaty-making nations' attention to certain "omissions" regarding Jewish needs and rights.

An Agency spokesman commenting on its rejection of the "federalization" plan, said that the Zionists felt it was unacceptable for the following reasons:

The plan offers no independence to either Jews or Arabs and the self-government provisions are illusory since important powers are left in the hands of the High Commissioner and even those assigned to the provincial legislatures require the approval of the Commissioner.

While depriving the Jewish people of their rights under the mandate in eighty-five percent of the country, the plan denies them the right to decide immigration policy in even the fifteen percent of the country allotted to them, which is even smaller than the Jewish state recommended by the Peel Commission.

Lastly, there is no finality to the scheme, except for those sections of it which deny Jewish rights in eighty-five percent of the country. It provides for arbitrary rule by the British for an indefinite period.

Charge Peace Treaty Drafts Do Not Deal Adequately with Jewish Problems

Discussing the Peace Conference's draft treaties which he said are "most inadequate in reference to the basic necessities of the Jewish communities in defeated Axis and satellite countries," the Agency spokesman said it would demand the following provisions:

1. A stipulation for the adequate protection of Jewish communities in the Axis and satellite nations.
2. Assurances of restitution of Jewish rights and properties.
3. Allocation of property left by heirless Jews to the Jewish community instead of allowing it to revert to the state.

The executive meeting is continuing, to discuss the remaining urgent problems, but there will be no session tomorrow because of Tisha B'Av. Dr. Nahum Goldmann left tonight for Washington.

TRUMAN SUMMONS MEMBERS OF ANGLO-AMERICAN INQUIRY COMMITTEE TO CONFER ON PALESTINE

WASHINGTON, Aug. 5. (JTA) -- The six American members of the former Anglo-American Committee of Inquiry on Palestine have been asked by President Truman to come to Washington to confer with the Cabinet Committee and himself on the British-proposed plan for Palestine, it is learned here. Several of the members have already arrived in the city.

Developments in the Palestine situation are expected Wednesday, after the President's return from Missouri. It is expected then that he will be given a report by Henry F. Grady, who headed the Cabinet Committee alternates in the London discussions which resulted in the unanimous acceptance by the American representatives of the British plan. In the meantime, Grady and his associates, Herbert F. Gaston, deputizing for Secretary of the Treasury John Snyder, and Goldthwaite H. Dorr, for Secretary of War Robert Patterson, have reported to the Cabinet Committee.

No comment was available here today on reports from Paris that Mr. Grady, in the face of opposition from his associates and staff, forced acceptance of the plan. The British were understood to have been taken by surprise by Grady's alleged prompt agreement to what is believed to have been only one of several plans which they had in reserve.

JEWS WARN ENTIRE COMMUNITY WILL RESIST ATTEMPTS TO TURN BACK VISALESS REFUGEES

JERUSALEM, Aug. 5. (JTA) -- A spokesman for the Jewish Agency and the Jewish Resistance Movement's radio, "Voice of Israel," today warned the Palestine authorities that the entire Jewish community would resist any attempts to turn back the 1,500 visaless refugees who still remain on five ships in Haifa harbor.

David Horowitz, a member of the temporary Jewish Agency executive, told a press conference that "prolongation of the refugees' sufferings would wreck any hopes of a reconciliation between the Jews and the British," while the secret radio threatened "country-wide action."

With the disembarkation of 800 persons today, mostly women and children, the 1,500 remaining aboard the ships are able-bodied males. Horowitz charged that sanitary conditions aboard the vessels made the release of the remaining passengers imperative.

The Voice of Israel warned today that British troop reinforcements are now being centered in the Haifa area, apparently in anticipation of possible disturbances if the refugees are not released soon.

Tension is growing here also because of reports that the British plan large-scale raids, such as those just completed in Tel Aviv, in other cities, particularly Jerusalem. The Irgun radio, "Voice of Fighting Zion," said last night that the next British curfew would be defied and that if the authorities attempted to enforce the curfew by arms, there would be many casualties on both sides.

Seventeen of the 3,000 persons who were arrested in the June 29 raids were released today from Latrun prison. About half of the 3,000 are estimated to have been freed in the past few weeks, but additional hundreds arrested in Tel Aviv last week have been sent to Latrun and Raffa.

The 2,070 prisoners held at Raffa are threatening to launch a hunger strike in protest against the slow process of interrogation and screening, which is holding up their release, and the fact that the authorities have cut off all contact with the Jewish community. The Histadruth welfare officers have been barred from the camp.

LEBANON OFFERS REWARD FOR TERRORISTS WHO BLASTED AMERICAN AND BRITISH LEGATIONS

BEIRUT, Lebanon, Aug. 5. (JTA) -- Prime Minister Abdul Hamid Keramy tonight posted a large reward for apprehension of the terrorists who last night blasted the American legation and British consulate here.

The blasts, which were attributed by police to persons dissatisfied with the Palestine plan recommended by the Anglo-American conferees in London, were caused by time bombs which exploded simultaneously.

The U.S. legation was almost totally ruined and tonight was declared unsafe and ordered evacuated. The British consulate was damaged less severely.

(It was reported tonight from Cairo that the foreign ministers of the Arab countries will meet in Alexandria on Aug. 12 to consider calling an extraordinary session of the Arab League to discuss the Palestine question. The Mufti may attend.)

Arabian Delegation Confers With State Department on \$10,000,000 Loan

WASHINGTON, Aug. 5. (JTA) -- Abdullah Al-Sulayman, Saudi Arabian Finance Minister, conferred today with Acting Secretary of State Dean Acheson on a \$10,000,000 Export-Import Bank loan which has been under discussion for many months.

Sulayman was accompanied by Asad Al-Faqih, Saudi Arabian Minister to Washington, and Loy Henderson, chief of the Near Eastern Division of the State Department. The Export-Import Bank announced that it had approved the \$10,000,000 loan on June 26.

BRITISH CURFEW BARS JEWS FROM WALLING WALL ON EVE OF TISHA B'AV DESPITE APPEALS

JERUSALEM, Aug. 5. (JTA) -- Tonight, for the first time in centuries, the Jews of Jerusalem were forbidden to visit the Walling Wall on the eve of Tisha B'Av. The curfew which has been in effect since the King David Hotel bombing, was not lifted despite appeals by the Jewish community to the British military authorities.

The only visitors to the Walling Wall, where Jews come to pray on the traditional mourning day, were a dozen aged rabbis who live in the Old City and a group of Jewish journalists possessing the curfew-exempt "white press card."

SENTENCES OF 19 LANDSBERG DP'S CONFIRMED BY MILITARY GOVERNOR, BUT 11 SUSPENDED

MUNICH, Aug. 5. (JTA) -- Lieut. Gen. Lucius D. Clay, deputy military commander in the U.S. zone of Germany, today confirmed the findings of a military court which last May convicted 19 displaced Jews from the Landsberg Camp of rioting, but he suspended or reduced the sentences of 11 of the defendants.

Six of the sentences were ordered suspended immediately and five after the prisoners have served six months. Of the eight whose sentences were not changed, one has already completed his three-month term, six must serve one year and one must serve two years.

The eleven who have been freed or will be released shortly have been paroled in the custody of Rabbi Philip S. Bernstein, Commanding General McNarney's advisor on Jewish affairs.

The Bavarian Minister of the Interior announced today that he is investigating the conduct of two municipal employees in the town of Kohlgrub who inserted the names Israel and Sarah, respectively, before the first names of a Jewish man and woman who applied for registration cards. The two were also identified on their cards as "Gottman Jew," rather than "Gottman."

8/6/46

ANTI-SEMITIC DEMONSTRATIONS IN SLOVAKIA; JEWS ATTACKED, SYNAGOGUE STONED

PRAGUE, Aug. 5. (JTA) -- Anti-Semitic incidents are occurring frequently in Slovakia, more than a year after the defeat and ouster of the Germans, according to reports reaching here today.

Bratislava, the Slovak capital, is full of anti-Semitic slogans chalked on walls. Jewish communal institutions have been attacked and several persons wounded and some Jewish homes have been pillaged.

Clashes have occurred between Jewish and non-Jewish former partisans. Participants in a recent Slovak Partisan Congress shouted "Death to the Jews" and "Out with the Jews," as well as other anti-Semitic remarks.

In the town of Komarno there have been several anti-Semitic demonstrations and the windows of Jewish homes and of the local synagogue have been broken.

The authorities have announced that they have taken action to halt anti-Jewish excesses and that the situation has not gotten out of hand.

FLEEING POLISH JEWS HALTED BY CONSULATE IN PRAGUE; FOREIGN MINISTER FLEDGES CHANGE

PARIS, Aug. 5. (JTA) -- Polish Foreign Minister Wincenty Rzymowski today promised that the Polish consulate in Prague would facilitate the issuance of passports or other identification documents to Jews fleeing Poland.

Mr. Rzymowski's assurances were given to Lewis Neikrug of the HIAS who had protested to him that the Polish consulate in Prague had refused to issue passports to several fleeing Jews and compelled them to return to Poland. The Foreign Minister said that the consulate would be instructed to grant the necessary papers even in cases where the applicant left the country illegally.

Rabbi Philip Bernstein, advisor on Jewish affairs to Gen. Joseph T. McNarney, who visited Poland last week, told the JTA today that Jewish leaders in Poland had told him that the "panic psychology" which is now prevalent among the Jews is extremely harmful. They pointed out that all Jews would not leave the country and some would therefore, have to live with their Polish neighbors, also that expressions of such an attitude encourages pogroms and, lastly, they said, it is dangerous to create the precedent that pogroms can drive all Jews out of a country.

Rabbi Bernstein said that Premier Edward Osobka-Morawski had told him that the government's policy regarding Jews was two-fold: an attempt to create conditions which would enable Jews to live a decent life in Poland and, at the same time, not placing obstacles in the way of those who nevertheless wish to emigrate. The Army's Jewish advisor said that the best possibility of some Jews being able to rebuild their lives in Poland lay in Lower Silesia, where many thousand repatriates from Russia have been settled.

BRITISH CURRING TRANSIT THROUGH ITALY OF JEWS SEEKING PASSAGE TO PALESTINE

LONDON, Aug. 5. (JTA) -- British security officials have been questioning prominent Jews in Trieste and various Italian cities through which Jews seeking passage to Palestine pass, the Daily Telegraph reports today from Vienna.

It says that it is no secret that British intelligence has for some time been watching Jewish organizations in an effort to check the smuggling of Jews into Italy. Intensification of frontier restrictions are expected, the dispatch adds.

JEWISH GROUPS APPEAL TO UNRRA COUNCIL FOR INTERIM PROTECTION OF REFUGEES

GENEVA, Aug. 5. (JTA) -- The American Jewish Conference, the World Jewish Congress and the Board of Deputies of British Jews have submitted a joint memorandum to the Council of the United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration, which opened its final session here today to decide on the liquidation of the organization. The memorandum urges:

1. During the transfer of the functions of UNRRA to the International Relief Organization, care should be taken that the displaced Jews should not suffer.
2. Since the majority of the displaced Jews are not repatriable, as attested by the report of the Anglo-American Committee of Inquiry on Palestine, UNRRA should, in the execution of its transition program, be mindful of the fact that the future of these Jews lies in resettlement rather than in repatriation, and should undertake whatever resettlement assistance is possible for them.
3. The UNRRA Council should appeal to the Allied Control Council in the former satellite countries for permission to minister to the needs of the victims of persecution in those areas, in accordance with an earlier resolution adopted by the Council.

The Jewish organizations point out in their memorandum that nothing has been done to implement the last resolution, except a limited program in Hungary involving the expenditure of four million dollars. Recalling several earlier memoranda to the Council on the same subject, the document presented by the Jewish organizations "earnestly requests" the UNRRA to begin relief work immediately in the ex-satellite countries.

The memorandum emphasizes that there are about 10,000 Jewish DP's in Hungary, 15,000 in Rumania, a few thousand in Bulgaria and also many who are not technically displaced persons, but should come under that category since they are totally uprooted and homeless, having been displaced within their own countries.

The Jewish organizations also renewed their demand for the admission of their representatives to the sessions of the UNRRA Council as observers, pointing out that "this is of special importance during the forthcoming transition period, particularly because the displaced Jews form a very large part of the total of displaced persons who are to be resettled."

JEWISH INTERN AT BUENOS AIRES HOSPITAL ASSAULTED IN AN ATTEMPT TO MAKE HIM QUIT POST

BUENOS AIRES, Aug. 5. (JTA) -- Anti-Semitic interns at the hospital attached to the Buenos Aires University medical school have assaulted one Jewish intern and threatened three others in an attempt to intimidate them into quitting their posts, it was learned here today.

Leonard Chait, the victim of the attack, was forced to strip and plunge into a pool of icy water and was then compelled to walk barefoot on glass splinters.

"What happened to Chait is nothing compared with what we are going to do to you," his assailants warned the other three students, one of whom is a woman. A detailed report on the attack was presented yesterday to the University authorities by the Democratic Association of Medical Students.

Following receipt of the report the University authorities issued a strongly worded warning against further anti-Jewish attacks. However, it is not expected that the warning will have any effect on the pro-Nationalist students.

CONFERENCE OF CHRISTIANS AND JEWS ASKS PEACE PARLEY TO SAFEGUARD HUMAN RIGHTS

LONDON, Aug. 5. (JTA) -- The first International Conference of Christians and Jews decided today to urge the Paris Peace Conference to include in all treaties safeguards of human rights and fundamental freedoms.

The Conference, which held its final session tonight, also decided to create an International Council to Promote Jewish-Christian Relations and to set up machinery to combat anti-Semitism in Europe. The Council will encourage research into racial and religious problems and disseminate the results of its investigations.

The Conference adopted a resolution recognizing the fact that anti-Semitism was the worst of the existing group tensions "because throughout history attacks on Jews have been attacks upon the Judeo-Christian foundations of society and have been used by dictators as a spearhead of the attacks against democracy."

Another resolution drew attention to the tragedy of the displaced persons of diverse races and creeds, and urged that new homes be found for them where they can rebuild their lives in freedom, dignity and security.

J.D.C. WILL ESTABLISH RABBINICAL AND TEACHERS' SEMINARY FOR JEWS IN GERMANY

BERLIN, Aug. 5. (JTA) -- Rabbi Alexander Rosenberg, religious liaison representative between the Army and the Jews in the American zone in Germany, and religious director for the Joint Distribution Committee, said today he expects to remain in Germany for a year to help in the restoration of Jewish religious life here. He added that he hopes to initiate this program in behalf of some 100,000 Jews, 15 percent of whom are German, who have lost all contact with Judaism since the war.

Rabbi Rosenberg revealed that he was planning to establish a rabbinical and teachers' seminary here to provide religious leadership for the displaced Jews in this area. Twenty-five DP rabbis as well as some teachers from the United States are expected to participate in this project.

PRESIDENT OF PERU ASSURES JEWISH AGENCY REPRESENTATIVE OF HIS COUNTRY'S SUPPORT

LIMA, Peru, Aug. 5. (JTA) -- President Bustamante Rivero of Peru has declared that his Government is sympathetic to the cause of a Jewish homeland in Palestine, it was disclosed here today by Moises Toff of the Latin-American department of the Jewish Agency.

Rivero said that he was studying ways in which Peru could intervene in behalf of the Jewish people. Meanwhile, Mr. Toff is meeting with other prominent officials in Peru in order to obtain their support.

While in Colombia, Mr. Toff, who is making a tour of all the South American countries, was assured by President Lleras Camargo that his country believed that only establishment of a Jewish state in Palestine can solve the Jewish problem. The President-elect, Ospina Perez, also indicated that he favored a Jewish state.

The Pro-Palestine Committee of Colombia has decided to contact similar groups in other South American countries in an attempt to have a joint proclamation published setting Aug. 10 as "American Pro-Palestine Day."