

Sunday, August 11, 1946

JTA*Daily News Bulletin*

PUBLISHED BY THE JEWISH TELEGRAPHIC AGENCY

106 EAST 41st STREET, NEW YORK 17, N. Y.TRUMAN SAYS CONSTITUTION DOES NOT ENTER INTO U.S. DECISION ON PALESTINE PLAN

WASHINGTON, Aug. 9. (JTA) -- President Truman told his press conference today that the question of the Constitution will not enter into American consideration of the British plan for the "federalization" of Palestine as the issue has nothing to do with the Constitution or treaties.

His statement came in reply to a question by a British correspondent who cited a story appearing in the New York Times this morning to the effect that the President had been advised by Judge Joseph C. Hutcheson, chairman of the American section of the former Anglo-American inquiry committee, that the British scheme involved revision of the Anglo-American convention of 1924 and, therefore, would have to be approved by the Senate.

Mr. Truman said that he would not reach any decision on Palestine over the week-end. He side-stepped a question as to whether he could foresee when he would act by stating that he would inform his press conference as soon as he did.

The President repeated previous denials that he has been in contact with Prime Minister Attlee on the Palestine problem and displayed obvious pique at the fact that the British had released the details of their plan without waiting for official American reaction.

When a correspondent asked him whether he saw any objections to publication of the "Grady report," the President said that it should not have been published while it is still in the negotiating stage. Queried whether he was referring to the announcement of the plan in the House of Commons by Deputy Prime Minister Herbert Morrison, Mr. Truman replied that he had no control over Morrison, but he has some control over Grady.

The President declined to comment on the actions by the British Government aimed at stopping "illegal" immigration into Palestine, which have been interpreted as an answer to American delay in approving the "federalization" proposal.

Henry Moneky, chairman of the interim committee of the American Jewish Conference, yesterday conferred with Secretary of War Robert P. Patterson, Attorney General Tom Clark and other government officials on the Palestine plan and expressed the objections of the Conference. He urged support of the short-term recommendations of the inquiry committee, particularly the immediate admission of 100,000 Jews.

McNARNEY SAYS HE IS TRYING TO DISCOURAGE "ORGANIZED MOVEMENTS" OF JEWS INTO U.S. ZONE

FRANKFURT, Aug. 9. (JTA) -- Gen. Joseph T. McNarney, commander of the U.S. zone in Germany, said today that he is trying to discourage "organized movements" of Jews "from other areas. The United States zone is not a way-station on the road to Palestine," he added.

"I accept those who have been persecuted and give them temporary haven," Gen. McNarney told a press conference, adding that "I will not accept movements of

those who have not been persecuted." He explained that that was the reason why American outposts had recently turned back 700 Jews who tried to enter from the British zone "where they were not being persecuted." He said that there was a well-organized movement of Jews into U.S.-held sections of Germany and an "organized evacuation of Jews from Poland."

British Also Tightening Controls on Immigration into Their Zone

Speaking to correspondents in the British zone about the same time, Air Marshal Sir Sholto Douglas, British commander, disclosed that he was tightening border controls in the British zone because of the great influx of refugees.

Predicting that displaced persons would cost the United States \$80,000,000 a year after UNRRA suspends operations on Dec. 31, Gen. McNarney revealed officially that the Army has already drafted plans to take over operations of the DP camps from UNRRA.

Lieut. Gen. Geoffrey Keynes, commander of the Third Army, will be in charge of the camps, he said. He stated that he hoped that the Army could retain as many employees of UNRRA as possible, but that he was limited by lack of adequate funds. Congressional appropriations, he asserted, are not sufficient to take care of both the DP's and the problem of feeding the Germans.

Referring to the mass exodus of Jews from Poland into the American zone, the U.S. commander in Europe said that while their flight was organized the Polish Government was "in the clear." He pointed out that the government has outlawed anti-Semitism and resettled repatriated Jews from the Soviet Union, but said that it could not control anti-Semitic elements.

If the United States military authorities here tolerated organized movements of refugees, and provided them with food and accommodations, it would result in as many as 200,000 Jews entering American-occupied Germany from Hungary, Rumania and Bulgaria, McNarney declared. "It is the desire of the Jewish race as a whole to have a home such as Palestine. This desire extends all over Europe."

(The Czechoslovak border through which Jews from Poland crossed into the American and British zones in Germany and Austria, has been closed to refugees, according to information received by Jewish leaders in Paris today.)

Delay in Moving Soldiers' Wives to Germany not Caused by Refugee Influx

MUNICH, Aug. 9. (JTA) -- A report published in the American press to the effect that the shipment of American soldiers' wives to Germany has been delayed because of the influx of displaced persons into the American zone, which has caused a "critical housing situation," was today termed a "malicious lie" by representatives of the UNRRA and of voluntary relief organizations.

Army officers also condemned the report, emphasizing that by no stretch of the imagination could anyone visualize a situation where any American civilian, or member of the military personnel would wish to keep his family in the camps occupied by displaced persons.

The report, which was credited to the U.S. Army in Frankfurt, apparently grew out of an announcement made in Frankfurt that a special Army board has been appointed to investigate the reasons for delaying the shipments of dependents from the United States. This announcement in no way blamed the displaced persons, or anybody else, for the shortage of housing accommodations.

Two German policemen who shot and killed one displaced Jew and wounded another outside Fochrenwald on July 24, were cleared today by U.S. Army authorities.

NEW OUTBREAKS ANTICIPATED IN PALESTINE AS BRITAIN INITIATES WAR-TIME NAVAL BLOCKADE

JERUSALEM, Aug. 9. (JTA) -- Anticipating new outbreaks in Jerusalem in connection with the drastic measures which the British Government contemplates using to prevent further entry of Jews into Palestine, army engineering units today started to fortify the center of the city converting it into a citadel surrounded by barbed-wire fences and pillboxes.

The action coincides with the arrival at Haifa of the British cruiser, Ajax, and with an air-and-sea blockade instituted today along the eastern shores of the Mediterranean. British warships and planes will attempt to prevent vessels carrying Jewish refugees from reaching here.

It was indicated here in British circles that war-time blockade tactics which were applied against the Italians and Germans will now be used against Jews attempting to enter Palestine "illegally." It was predicted that specially armed boarding parties will be placed on all British destroyers, corvettes and other ships in the Mediterranean patrolling the sea lanes on which Jewish refugees from Europe are thought to be sailing for Palestine.

These crews, it was stated, will be placed aboard the intercepted vessels and will be responsible for maintaining order en route to pre-arranged destinations other than Palestine. They will be equipped to prevent active resistance by the passengers.

In addition to appealing to Soviet and Rumanian authorities to prevent the movement of Jews from Constanza and other Rumanian ports to Palestine, the British Government today also sent similar appeals to France and Italy from which ships bearing Jewish refugees have sailed for Palestine. Other governments have also been asked by Britain to aid in preventing Jewish refugees from leaving for Palestine.

Jews Announce They Will Resist Blockade of Refugee Ships

The Jewish National Council of Palestine, now in session here, today declared that Jews would resist all measures aimed at preventing refugee ships from trying to reach Palestine "with the last ounce of their effort." It declared that all Jews in Palestine consider themselves responsible for the immigration of men and women "now fleeing from the poisoned atmosphere of Europe" and for their absorption in Palestine.

In a resolution adopted at today's session, the Council demanded the immediate release of the imprisoned leaders of the Jewish Agency executive and other leaders of Palestine Jewry now held at the Latrun camp. The resolution sharply criticized the recent statement by British military authorities that the whole Jewish community was responsible for the blasting of the King David Hotel. It charged that Jewish curfew breakers were maltreated in Jerusalem military prisons, and protested against the withdrawal by the authorities of the traditional right of Jews to pray at the Wailing Wall on Tisha B'av.

CYPRUS POLITICAL PARTIES PROTEST INTERNMENT OF JEWS THERE; 500 DUE ON MONDAY

LONDON, Aug. 9. (JTA) -- Leaders of various political parties on Cyprus met yesterday in Nicosia, capital city of Cyprus, to protest the reported British plan to intern visaless Jewish refugees on the island, it was reported here today.

Another report from Cyprus said that a first batch of 500 Jews is expected there on Monday, with 2,000 more coming later in the week.

JEWS CAN OFFER ALTERNATIVES TO "FEDERALIZATION" PLAN AT LONDON PARLEY, BRITAIN SAYS

LONDON, Aug. 9. (JTA) -- Jews and Arabs who accept the British invitation to attend the Palestine round-table discussions in London will be in a position to offer alternative or counter proposals to the "federalization" plan for Palestine, a Foreign Office spokesman stated today. He said that Britain does not intend to limit the scope of the discussions to the "federalization" scheme.

Believing that partition of Palestine would be acceptable to both Jews and Arabs, the London Spectator, leading English weekly newspaper, today urged that Britain adopt this policy without delay. In view of the fact that visaless immigrants are arriving in Palestine on an unprecedented scale, the newspaper said, Britain is faced with the choice of allowing "illegal" debarkations, or preventing these landings at the cost of provoking war with the Hagamah.

Meanwhile, the New Statesman and Nation, pointing to the deterioration of the British position in the Middle East, which it attributes to Foreign Minister Bevin's Palestine policy, says that troops stationed in Palestine should have provided support for Britain's policy in the Middle East but instead are committed to operations against the Jews. The magazine also warns that sending back the visaless immigrants to Europe would destroy the last hopes for cooperation between Britain and the Jews.

CHIEF RABBI OF POLISH CORPS IN ITALY CHARGED WITH GIVING FALSE REFUGEE FIGURES

ROME, Aug. 9. (JTA) -- Refugee circles here today challenged a statement by Chief Rabbi Nathan Rubners of the Polish Corps in Italy that 16,000 Jewish refugees arrived in this country during the last few months. The rabbi's statement appeared in an Associated Press dispatch appearing yesterday in the English-language Rome American.

According to refugee leaders here, about 3,000 Jews arrived in Italy during March and April and since then there has been virtually no immigration. In all of Italy, they said, there are only about 15,000 Jewish refugees.

Jewish organizations also denied a report in the same newspaper that a vessel bearing illegal immigrants to Palestine sailed from Sicily this week.

CANADIAN OFFER MAY ENABLE JEWS IN POLISH ARMY TO IMMIGRATE TO DOMINION

MONTREAL, Aug. 9. (JTA) -- An inter-departmental commission of the Canadian Government left today for Italy where it will begin screening applicants for Canadian visas among the Polish troops in Italy.

Jewish circles here point out that since at least ten percent of the Polish troops are Jews, the Canadian offer to accept 4,000 members of Gen. Anders' army may enable some Polish Jews an opportunity to immigrate to the dominion.

Applicants will be interviewed in the next few weeks in England, Holland and Belgium as well as Italy. Preference will be given to persons knowing English or French or who received training in Canada, or "who show a favorable disposition to the Canadian form of democracy."

JEWISH AGENCY MEMBERS MEET IN SECRET SESSION IN PARIS; SUBJECT OF TALKS UNKNOWN

PARIS, Aug. 9. (JTA) -- Members of the Jewish Agency executive met here today in a secret session from which even Zionist officials were barred. The subject of their discussions was not divulged.

AUSTRIAN MINISTER PROMISES SPEEDY RETURN OF CONFISCATED JEWISH ASSETS UNDER NEW LAWS

VIENNA, Aug. 9. (JTA) -- Minister of Property Custody Peter Krauland told a Jewish delegation today that assets confiscated by the Nazis in Austria will be returned to the rightful owners and that persons whose assets cannot be traced will be compensated from a fund composed of property, cash and valuables which have not been claimed and property taken from war criminals.

The delegation, which consisted of several representatives of the World Jewish Congress and David Brill, president of the Jewish Community Council, was assured that every effort will be made to speed property restitution. The new measures will go into effect later this month and September, Krauland said.

He added that special questions of property restitution affecting Jews which are not covered by the new legislation will be discussed with Jewish representatives.

Russians Still Hold Jewish Farmer Who Headed Land Restitution Committee

Oscar Wilhelm, a Jewish farmer and chairman of the Austrian Land Restitution Committee, is still being held by Russian authorities, however, for opposing seizure by the Soviet occupation authorities of several large Jewish-owned farms. The Red Army has taken over ten Jewish farms ranging in size from 200 to 1,000 acres.

Wilhelm was arrested two weeks ago and the Austrian Government has been unable to secure his release, although three of his associates who were arrested at the same time have been freed, high officials of the Ministry of Economic Planning revealed.

Still imprisoned with Wilhelm is Engineer Leopold Greil. Wilhelm Hartzar, an official of the Ministry of Trusteeship, was released after two days and Dr. Jakob Stoiber and Engineer Berger were freed after three days. All five were arrested after they had been summoned to the Russian Kommandatura for a conference on Russian claims to lands seized from Jews and others after the Anschluss.

Meanwhile, Wilhelm's farm is one of those taken by the Russians as "German assets." The Restitution Committee is still functioning in his absence although apparently it is understaffed.

EIGHT MAJOR JEWISH BODIES AGREE TO HAMMER OUT JOINT PROPOSALS FOR PEACE PARLEY

PARIS, Aug. 9. (JTA) -- The representatives of the leading Jewish organizations of the United States, Great Britain, and France met today in the first of a series of sessions to hammer out a joint program of Jewish demands to be presented to the Peace Conference for inclusion in the peace treaties.

Present at the session were delegates of the American Jewish Conference, American Jewish Committee, World Jewish Congress, Board of Deputies of British Jews, Anglo-Jewish Association, Central Representation of the Jews of France, Alliance Israelite and Agudas Israel.

The delegates have decided to work out the texts of their demands jointly and to present them in a body. Although the joint texts have not yet been drafted, it is apparent that the delegates are pleased with the progress they have made. Observers here believe that the coalition faces its greatest test over the problem of whether to ask "group rights" for the Jews of Rumania, Hungary, and Bulgaria.

CANADIAN ROYAL COMMISSION CRITICIZED FOR BRINGING JEWISH ISSUE INTO SPY ACTIVITIES

NEW YORK, Aug. 9. (JTA) -- The statement by a Canadian Royal Commission investigating "Soviet spy activities" that "the natural reaction of persons of Jewish origin to racial discrimination was one of the factors played upon by the Communists' recruiting agents," is attacked in the current issue of "The Churchman," independent Protestant monthly.

Pointing to the fact that an investigator of the Wood-Rankin Committee here denounced all groups fighting anti-Semitism as "Communist transmission belts," the magazine says that "we can now expect that all those who seek to prevent utilization of atomic power for destructive purposes and who hate anti-Semitism will be denounced as 'Communist.'"

JEWISH REFUGEES IN SHANGHAI APPEAL TO TRUMAN FOR ASSISTANCE IN ENTERING U.S.

SHANGHAI, Aug. 9. (JTA) -- Emphasizing that the American consulate at Shanghai has not processed a single application under the regular quota system, the Council of European Refugee Organizations, representing 15,000 Jewish refugees here, has sent President Truman a cable appealing to him to help refugees who have already obtained affidavits from relatives and friends in America to enter the United States.

Similar pleas were addressed to Sir Herbert Emerson, chairman of the Inter-governmental Refugee Committee, the Jewish Agency and other organizations asking them to aid the Jewish refugees to emigrate from China where they are in a "desperate, untenable situation."

ARABS BOMBED U.S. LEGATION IN BEIRUT AS PROTEST, PALESTINE ARAB EXECUTIVE ANNOUNCES

JERUSALEM, Aug. 9. (JTA) -- The bombing last Sunday night of the American Legation and the British Consulate in Beirut was the work of Arabs, it was officially announced today by the Palestine Arab Executive.

Jamal Bey Hussein, deputy chairman, said the bombing was to protest American interference in Palestine and was the result of Arab resentment.

RABBINICAL BODIES APPEAL TO BRITAIN FOR ENTRY OF JEWS INTO PALESTINE

NEW YORK, Aug. 9. (JTA) -- The Central Conference of American Rabbis and the Rabbinical Assembly of America, representing 900 rabbis, today appealed to Lord Inverchapel, British Ambassador to the United States, to "communicate to the British Government our earnest plea for admission into Palestine of refugees on board ships in Palestinian harbors."

Signed by Dr. Abraham J. Feldman, of Hartford, of the Central Conference, and Dr. Israel Goldman, of Providence, of the Rabbinical Assembly, the message added: "On religious and humanitarian grounds we plead for these tragic survivors of the Nazi inferno and to prevent recurrence of the Struma and Patria tragedies."

SOUTH AFRICA LAUNCHES \$1,000,000 CAMPAIGN FOR JEWISH EDUCATION

JOHANNESBURG, Aug. 9. (JTA) -- A million-dollar campaign in behalf of Jewish education in the Union of South Africa was launched here today. Cabinet Minister Conroy made a large personal contribution and the campaign's chairman, Joseph Milne, donated \$30,000.