

Thursday, August 15, 1946

JTA*Daily News Bulletin*

PUBLISHED BY THE JEWISH TELEGRAPHIC AGENCY

106 EAST 41st STREET, NEW YORK 17, N. Y.

TRUMAN'S COMPROMISE PLAN FOR PALESTINE DELIVERED TO BRITISH GOVERNMENT BY U.S. EMBASSY

LONDON, Aug. 14. (JTA) -- President Truman's compromise proposal for Palestine is reported by official quarters here to have been handed to the British Government by the United States embassy this afternoon.

Although neither the Foreign Office nor the Colonial Office would confirm receipt of the President's note, it was reported that after study of Mr. Truman's suggestion by Colonial Office experts, it will be submitted to the British Cabinet before the end of the week.

The Cabinet met this morning and heard reports from high ranking military and naval officers on the situation in Palestine following the deportations of visaless refugees to Cyprus. Meanwhile, it was reported that at present there are no definite plans for setting up additional internment camps for Jews in places other than Cyprus.

Plans are being mapped here for the forthcoming round-table talks on Palestine. With the decision of most of the Arab states to attend, negotiations are still going on with Jewish Agency representatives concerning Jewish participation in the discussions.

TRUMAN'S PROPOSAL PROVIDES FOR ADMISSION OF 50,000 DISPLACED JEWS TO UNITED STATES

WASHINGTON, Aug. 14. (JTA) -- President Truman's submission of his counter-proposal on Palestine to the British Government was reported here today. It includes a suggestion for the establishment of a special United States immigration quota for displaced Jews, under which 50,000 Jewish refugees would be admitted to this country during one year, through special legislative shifting of unused quotas to countries which exceeded their quotas.

The President's counter-plan was not submitted as the final word, but as a basis for further negotiation. It incorporates certain features of a scheme suggested by the Jewish Agency and insists on the resumption of Jewish immigration to Palestine before embarking on long-term plans.

The suggestion to admit 50,000 displaced Jews during one year to the United States was recommended to the President by Henry F. Grady and his associate Cabinet Committee alternates. This number would be independent of the yearly 39,000 immigrants now permitted to enter the United States under existing laws.

Cabinet Member Reveals Washington Studied Jewish Agency's Partition Plan

Secretary of the Treasury John Snyder said at his press conference today that members of the President's Cabinet Committee on Palestine have seen a plan for partition of Palestine into Jewish and Arab states submitted by the Jewish Agency. He refused to discuss the reaction of the Cabinet Committee to the plan.

A White House spokesman said earlier that the President would not issue any statement on Palestine and is not likely to have anything to say this week. He de-

clined to answer any questions as to whether the President was in communication with Prime Minister Attlee on the plan proposed by the Jewish Agency which allegedly suggests the following:

1. Palestine should not be "federalized" but should be divided into autonomous Jewish and Arab states, with full local control over immigration into the respective territories.
2. The Jewish state should include the entire Galilee area, the Central Jordan Valley and some of the mountainous areas in that section, as well as the Negev, which Britain had reserved for itself under the "federalization" plan.
3. Tacit recognition that Britain should be granted rights to establish whatever naval or land bases in the Jewish state it might need, and joint or international control should be established in Jerusalem and other Holy Places.
4. A definite date should be fixed for the surrender by Britain of the Palestine Mandate, with a considerable period of time allotted for transition from the mandate to autonomous Jewish and Arab states.

Under the reported Jewish Agency plan, all of Samaria would be turned over to the Arabs, with the port of Jaffa. Provision would be made for a corridor to Jaffa from land-bound Arab territory, under joint or international control.

ACTIONS COMMITTEE DECIDES TO HOLD WORLD ZIONIST CONGRESS IN NOVEMBER IN EUROPE

JERUSALEM, Aug. 14. (JTA) -- The Small Zionist Actions Committee today decided to convene the forthcoming World Zionist Congress in November of this year. The Congress will be held not in Palestine, as originally scheduled, but in Europe, probably in Switzerland.

Nine hundred and ninety-six immigrants who entered Palestine on the Birya were released from the Atlit camp today as the Aug.-Sept. immigration quota of 1,500 became effective. At the same time, 846 persons who were still aboard the "Haganah" and the "Hahayal Haivri" in Haifa harbor were taken to Atlit to await issuance of the next monthly quota.

JEWISH AGENCY MEMBERS FLY TO LONDON TO CONFER WITH WEIZMANN ON URGENT MATTERS

PARIS, Aug. 14. (JTA) -- Four members of the executive of the Jewish Agency left today for London to confer with Dr. Chaim Weizmann in connection with urgent developments which may follow President Truman's counter-plan for Palestine.

The executive of the Jewish Agency, now in session here, will not resume its meetings until the four return. They are expected back tomorrow. They include Rabbi Stephen S. Wise, Eliezer Kaplan, Dr. Nahum Goldmann and Berl Locker.

Last night the Agency executive here issued a statement charging the British Government with attempting to "defend a regime of injustice and violation of international obligations" which it accepted under the Palestine Mandate.

The statement pointed out that if the principle of immigration to the extent of the economic absorptive capacity of Palestine had been observed by the British, thousands of Jews could have entered Palestine before the war.

RELATIONS BETWEEN JEWS AND PALESTINE GOVERNMENT SEVERED AS NON-COOPERATION IS INVOKED

JERUSALEM, Aug. 14. (JTA) -- Relations between the Palestine Government and the Jews were virtually severed this morning, when Jewish members of government advisory committees resigned and Jewish mayors and heads of local councils announced that they would have no dealings with the British.

Meanwhile, tense British troops patrolled the streets of Palestine's main cities today in anticipation of large-scale outbreaks by Jewish resistance forces in protest against the deportation to Cyprus yesterday of 1,300 refugee Jews.

(A report from Famagusta, Cyprus, today said that the government will probably announce tomorrow that provision is being made to accommodate 10,000 "illegal" immigrants in Cyprus. The Caracal camp, near Famagusta, is ready for the first arrivals and extraordinary security precautions have been taken, including ringing the camp with three barbed wire fences.)

Although the Jewish population's resentment has been confined up to now mainly to anti-British demonstrations--such as that in Tel Aviv last night where 20,000 jeered and booed every mention of Britain--security authorities have placed troops and police on a war footing in expectation of what they believe are almost certain retaliatory measures by the Haganah and more extremist Jewish groups.

Jerusalem today resembled a besieged city. Heavily armed troops guarded a "government zone" in the center of the city, containing government offices and military headquarters. Other troops were stationed around the Jewish and Arab quarters of the city. Each of the three defense zones can operate independently if they should be cut off.

All employees and visitors in the general post office building here were hurriedly evacuated this afternoon following a mysterious phone call warning that the building was mined. Police and armored cars are on guard around the building.

Picked units have been stationed at road blocks guarding all main traffic arteries and guards were strengthened at the Latrun detention camp where three leaders of the Jewish Agency are imprisoned. Although official announcements said all was quiet, occasional shots could be heard as troops fired into the air to disperse crowds.

However, Jerusalem, Tel Aviv and Haifa were calm compared to the situation last night when crowds rolled through the streets shouting defiance of Britain, although there was a brief clash in Haifa between club-swinging police and a crowd which attempted to storm the port area after the funeral of the three Jews killed there yesterday.

TRIAL OF IRGUNISTS WHO ATTACKED HAIFA RAILROAD YARDS RESUMES IN THEIR ABSENCE

HAIFA, Aug. 14. (JTA) -- Fifty prosecution witnesses were heard today as the trial of 23 members of the Irgun Zvai Leumi charged with attacking the Haifa railroad yards on June 17 resumed this morning, after passage of special legislation authorizing trials in absentia.

The proceedings were adjourned on Monday when the defendants conducted a "singing filibuster," which made it impossible for the trial to go on. It was announced in court today that the 23 would not be brought into the courtroom until the judges were ready to issue their verdict and sentences.

BYRNES PROMISES U.S. DELEGATION AT PEACE CONFERENCE WILL FIGHT FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

PARIS, Aug. 14. (JTA) -- The United States delegation at the Peace Conference will do everything possible to have guarantees of human rights and freedoms included in the peace treaties, Secretary of State James F. Byrnes pledged today.

In a letter to Dr. Everett Clinchy, president of the National Conference of Christians and Jews, released by Mr. Byrnes' office, the Secretary of State pointed out that the draft treaties already had guarantees of religious freedom, and that the U.S. Government would make every effort to see that this principle was followed in preparing the final treaties.

POPE PIUS CONDEMNS PALESTINE TERRORISM IN MESSAGE TO ARAB DELEGATION

ROME, Aug. 14. (JTA) -- The Vatican newspaper L'Osservatore Romano today published the text of an address by the Pope deploring terrorism, which was made to an Arab delegation which called on him last week.

"We condemn all recourse to force and violence, wherever it comes from, even as we condemned repeatedly in the past the persecutions which a fanatical anti-Semitism unleashed against the Hebrew people," the Pope said.

He added that a prerequisite to a peace in Palestine founded on "truth and justice" was that "the rights of others, or certain acquired positions and tradition, especially in the religious field," would be respected.

AMERICAN ZIONISTS CHALLENGE BRITISH STATEMENT ON HALTING OF PALESTINE IMMIGRATION

NEW YORK, Aug. 14. (JTA) -- The American Zionist Emergency Council, in a statement issued by Dr. Abba Hillel Silver, today sharply attacked the announcement by the British Government that it was halting Jewish mass-immigration to Palestine.

The statement, which took up the British announcement point by point, charged that the present influx of so called "illegal" immigrants was the result of the fact that Britain had delayed so long in complying with President Truman's request for the admission of 100,000 Jews.

Granting the British claim that 500,000 Jews had settled in Palestine under the mandate, Dr. Silver pointed out that hundreds of thousands of others perished in Europe because they were barred from the Holy Land. He said that during the war, it was not so much Britain who saved the Jews of Palestine, but the Palestinian Jews who rallied to the cause of the British Empire, although their aid was accepted reluctantly.

The Zionist statement charged further that the White Paper was illegal and, therefore, Britain deserves no credit for allowing 1,500 Jews to enter monthly at present, even though the White Paper quota has been exhausted. It termed the Palestine Government a police state and asserted that Britain's sole justification for being in Palestine was to carry out the terms of the mandate.

Dr. Silver contrasted the British "distress" concerning persecution of Jews in Eastern Europe with their request to the governments in that area to bar the flight of Jews to Palestine.

Declaring that Britain's purpose is to compel the Jews to submit to a political decision on Palestine which would abrogate Jewish rights, the statement warns that neither the Jews of Palestine, Europe nor America will allow this to occur.

CZECH-POLISH FRONTIER REOPENED; HAD BEEN CLOSED FOLLOWING BRITISH REQUEST

PRAGUE, Aug. 14. (JTA) -- The Czech-Polish border was reopened last night after having been closed for three days. Additional trains have been placed on the Nachod-Bratislava run to speed movement of the refugees. Earlier, the Prague radio had said that the frontier had been closed following a British request.

Estimating that about 3,000 Jews daily were crossing the border from Poland into Czechoslovakia en route to Palestine, the broadcast said: "The mass movement of Jews across the frontier followed a decision of the Polish Zionist Organization that all Jews should leave Poland by Oct. 31, as a protest against the attitude of the Polish population towards the Jews."

Jews From Poland Wander Through the Night Trying to Reach Czechoslovakia

WARSAW, Aug. 14. (JTA) -- All night long every night, little groups of refugee Jews stream across the Polish border into the little frontier town of Nachod, in Czechoslovakia. Their feet are muddy; sometimes their clothes are wet up to the waist. Their eyes are red and bloated from the strain of trying to see through the darkness. Their backs are bent.

Once in a while, a very old couple comes in, the woman pulling and the man pushing a rundown cart filled with their badly battered "treasures." Or, more often, there is a stumbling father or mother pushing a wobbly wheelbarrow on which little children are sleeping. And their stories of weeks and months of wandering through forests, through streams and through fields, of hungry days and cold nights, are testaments to the endurance of human beings. Some make their way over the frontier alone and unguided. Others pay exorbitant rates to professional border-runners.

Then there are the Zionist groups. Mostly young men and women, they cross the border via a carefully laid-out route, with their own guides and under their own armed guards. Earnest, defiant, well-disciplined, the girls wearing boots and the young men, shorts, they carry an absolute minimum of personal belongings. And they are not tired, but restless.

Cognizant of the fact that very few, if any, of this mass of refugees intend to remain in their country, the Czechoslovak authorities have been kind, considerate and helpful.

The routes followed from Czechoslovakia vary. The Zionists know where they are heading and how they will get there. But most of the older people, weary, hungry, broken and nerve-racked, want to go some place where there is peace and quiet--to them this means the American zones in Austria and Germany. Even those of the unorganized older refugees who feel that ultimately they want to go to Palestine, now head for Germany and Austria because they want to spend the "interim period" away from the strife and worry, "in the hands of the Americans."

All told, including the organized and unorganized, and even those with proper papers, between 700 and 800 Polish Jews leave Poland and cross over into Czechoslovakia every night.

The seventy or eighty thousand Jews who are in one stage or another of leaving Poland form a triangle running from Warsaw to Crakow, to Lodz. To the south and west of this triangle are those who are going to remain. For, in the face of the questionable future, there are some Jews who want to remain in Poland. How many there are, no one knows.

- - - -

(This is the second of a series of reports by a special JTA correspondent sent to Poland to survey the current situation of the Jews there.)

JEWISH ORGANIZATIONS ATTACK DEPORTATION OF JEWS TO CYPRUS AS THREAT TO WORLD PEACE

NEW YORK, Aug. 14. (JTA) -- The British Government's halting of "illegal" immigration and the deportation to Cyprus of visaless Jewish immigrants who reach Palestine was attacked today by the Mizrahi Organization of America in a statement issued by its acting president, Herman Hollander.

The statement termed the deportations "another indication which betrays the reactionary Labor Government's total disregard for humaneness, morality and godliness." Asserting that the Jews will not be kept out of their national home by the British blockade, the statement declares that Britain has "utterly failed its Jewish allies and one-time brothers-in-suffering at Haifa and Tel Aviv."

Dr. David Petegorsky, executive director of the American Jewish Congress, issued a statement calling the deportation of Jews to Cyprus an attempt "to provoke the Jewish population of Palestine into full-scale civil war." The move will aggravate existing tension in the country and "will make impossible any tolerable solution of the Palestine problem," he said.

Maintaining that "the issue is no longer one between the British Government and the Jewish people," Dr. Petegorsky added that all the people concerned with peace and security are affected by the British action. "The nations of the world will ignore that fact only at the cost of dire tragedy to mankind," he concluded.

"CAPTIVES OF ZION" FUND ISSUES CALL FOR AID FOR DEPORTED PALESTINIAN JEWS, FAMILIES

NEW YORK, Aug. 14. (JTA) -- A call for financial assistance for Palestinian Jews detained and deported to Eritrean prison camps and for their families, was issued here today by the Asirai Zion Fund.

Relating the arrest and detention of hundreds of Jewish men and women on suspicion of terrorism, the call points out that the prisoners need legal aid and medical supplies. In many instances the breadwinner of a family has been imprisoned for years and the family has been forced to depend upon local charity, which is often insufficient, it states.

The fund for the "captives of Zion" is headed by an honorary committee consisting of Rabbis Samuel Brot, Leo Jung, Louis I. Newman and Morris M. Rose and Professors Chaim Tchernowitz and A.S. Yahuda. The treasurer is Morris Weinberg, publisher of the Jewish Day.

CANADIAN JEWISH CONGRESS WILL SEND DELEGATION TO PARIS PEACE CONFERENCE

MONTREAL, Aug. 14. (JTA) -- The Canadian Jewish Congress will send a delegation of three to Paris in connection with Jewish problems that may arise at the Peace Conference, it was announced here today.

The delegation will consist of Samuel Bronfman, national president of the Congress, Saul Hayes, national executive director of the organization, and Ben Sadowski, president of its Ontario division. Hayes is already in Paris.