

Friday, September 6, 1946

**JTA***Daily News Bulletin*

PUBLISHED BY THE JEWISH TELEGRAPHIC AGENCY

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

BRITAIN MAKES NEW ATTEMPT TO SECURE JEWISH AGENCY PARTICIPATION IN LONDON PARLEY

LONDON, Sept. 5. (JTA)--The British Government today made a last-minute attempt to secure the participation of the Jewish Agency in the conference on Palestine, which is scheduled to open Monday.

Colonial Secretary George Hall addressed a letter to the Jewish Agency asking for more explicit details of the grounds for the Agency's refusal of the invitation to the conference, and for clarification of the terms on which the Agency would take part in the parley. The letter was sent following a meeting last night of members of the government and high officials of the Foreign Office and the Colonial Office.

The two main demands on which the Jewish Agency insists are: 1. The creation of a self-supporting Jewish State in Palestine as a basis of discussion at the conference; 2. Complete freedom to choose the Agency representatives for the conference.

An official announcement today stated that invitations to the conference have in the meantime been sent in England to the Board of Deputies of British Jews, the Anglo-Jewish Association, the Agudas Israel Organization and Acting Chief Rabbi Harris M. Lazarus of the British Empire.

First to announce acceptance was Rabbi Lazarus. "I hope that I shall be able to make a useful contribution," he told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency. Leaders of the Board of Deputies, including Prof. Salig Brodetsky, the chairman, are meeting tonight to decide whether to accept the invitation. Chief Rabbi Herzog of Palestine, who arrived here today, is also joining in the meeting.

The Anglo-Jewish Association announced that it will not attend the opening session of the conference, but will hold a special meeting next week to consider the invitation. Friendly discussions were being conducted today by Jewish Agency leaders with the leaders of the Agudas Israel on the undisclosed attitude of the Agudah.

High Commissioner Extends Invitation To Ten Jewish Leaders In Palestine

JERUSALEM, Sept. 5. (JTA)--The High Commissioner today extended invitations to ten Palestine Jewish leaders to attend the London conference. The ten are:

Chief Rabbi Herzog and Chief Rabbi Uziel, representing the Rabbinate; Isaac Ben-Zvi, president of the Jewish National Council; Goldie Meyerson and Joseph Sprinzak, leaders of the Histadruth; Israel Rokach and Felix Rosenbluth of the Aliyah Hadasha party; Mordecai Bentov, leader of the Hashomer Hatzair; Rabbi I.M. Levin of the Palestine branch of Agudas Israel, and Werner Senator of the Ihud party.

Representatives of the Agudah today said that the final decision whether to accept or reject the invitation rests with the World Agudah Conference in Paris.

However, they indicated that the Palestine branch of the organization objects to participation in the London conference if the Jewish Agency will not take part. Rokach indicated that he will accept the invitation only with the approval of the Jewish Agency, while Senator declined to accept the invitation. A Jewish Agency spokesman predicted that none of the Jewish recipients of the invitation will accept it. A JTA survey among the invited leaders tends to support the Agency's assertion.

#### U.S.-BRITISH CONSULTATIONS ON PALESTINE CONTINUE IN LONDON, TRUMAN REVEALS

WASHINGTON, Sept. 5. (JTA)--President Truman said today that consultations on Palestine between the United States and British governments are continuing in London. He told his press conference that no American observers would be sent to London for the forthcoming British-Jewish-Arab conversations, declaring that the United States is not interested in these talks.

Asked about his reply to Great Britain on the Palestine problem, the President said the substance of his answer had been made public. All he was trying to do, he said, was to get 100,000 Jewish refugees into Palestine. The Grady-Morrison "Federation plan" for Palestine is still under consideration, Mr. Truman stated.

The President was asked whether he would approve a \$300,000,000 Arab loan as proposed in the Grady-Morrison plan. He replied that such a loan was under discussion and that he would rather not comment on it until the whole program is decided upon.

#### PALESTINE GOVERNMENT CONSIDERS WARRANT FOR EX-MUFTI'S ARREST STILL VALID

JERUSALEM, Sept. 5. (JTA)--A warrant issued in 1937 for the arrest of the ex-Mufti of Jerusalem is still valid, Richard Stubbs, Palestine Government information officer, revealed at a press conference here today.

The general assembly of the Palestine Arab Party today adopted a resolution calling for the unconditional return of the Mufti to Palestine. The session also endorsed the Palestine Arab Higher Committee's rejection of the British invitation to participate in the forthcoming London talks on Palestine. It also reiterated demands for the release of Arab political prisoners and the disarming of the Jewish community.

A spokesman for the party said that 2,000 recruits had joined Jamel Hussein's "Youth" army in Jerusalem within the last few weeks. A blackmarket in arms for the Arabs is reported to be smuggling hundreds of weapons across the Palestine borders of Transjordan, Syria and Lebanon. It is estimated that Hussein's "Youth" army of 13,000 is already one-third armed, while the "Helpers," another unofficial Arab army of 5,000, has approximately 2,500 weapons. The Moslem Brotherhood's private army is also partially equipped with rifles, submachine guns and revolvers.

It is reported here that British officers and troops and Palestine policemen have been selling weapons to the Arab extremists in ever-increasing quantities.

#### BRITISH PARACHUTISTS IN PALESTINE APOLOGIZE FOR HUMILIATING JEWISH EX-FLIER

JERUSALEM, Sept. 5. (JTA)--Ten members of a British parachute regiment, stationed in Palestine, today made a public apology for "the mean and detestable conduct" of ten other paratroopers who are alleged to have humiliated a Jewish resident of Jerusalem formerly in the Royal Air Force. The apology was made in a signed letter published in the "Palestine Post."

POGROM AVERTED IN HUNGARIAN TOWN; MOB ATTACKS LAWYERS WHO RECLAIMED JEWISH LANDS

BUDAPEST, Sept. 5. (JTA)--A pogrom was narrowly averted today in the town of Hajdusoboszló, about 100 miles from here, when police dispersed an anti-Semitic mob attempting to attack Jewish lawyers who had recovered 50 acres of land seized from Jews during the war.

The two police arrested three local leaders of the Peasant Party who were responsible for instigating the outbreak, but were forced to release them when the mob threatened police headquarters. The provincial police are now investigating.

The mayor of the town has denied that the demonstrations were of an anti-Semitic nature, insisting that they sprang from the extreme poverty of the peasants. He asserted that the embittered peasants also attempted to attack Gentile lawyers bringing legal action to reclaim land which they had obtained during the war.

Meanwhile, Laszlo Stoekler, president of the Jewish Community Council of Budapest, told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency that the government's over-all restitution and compensation bill, whose issuance has been long delayed, has once again been referred back to various ministries for further changes. However, Stoekler declared that progress is being made and that a bill satisfactory to the Jews can be expected within two weeks.

RETURN OF JEWS TO AUSTRIA IS EXPECTED BY ENVOYS OF WORLD JEWISH CONGRESS IN VIENNA

VIENNA, Sept. 5. (JTA)--The hope that the Jews who fled Austria will return to it in greater numbers than those now planning to leave the country was expressed today at a mass meeting here by Siegfried Altmann and Ernst Stiasny, representatives of the World Jewish Congress, who are returning to America after a three-month study of Jewish conditions in Austria.

Emphasizing the necessity for the reconstruction of a strong Jewish community in Austria, they declared that the Jews must trust the government's promise to compensate them for their confiscated property. They said that on the basis of discussions with government officials, they had learned that the Austrian laws concerning property restitution would become effective within two months.

REPARATIONS WILL BE PAID JEWS FOR PROPERTY DAMAGES, RUMANIAN GOVERNMENT SAYS

BUCHAREST, Sept. 5. (JTA)--The Rumanian Government today assured a Jewish delegation leaving for Paris in connection with securing guarantees of equal rights for Jews in former enemy countries, that Rumanian Jews will be paid for property destroyed under the pro-Nazi regime.

High government officials also informed the delegation that a citizenship bill just completed will give special consideration to Jews who failed to obtain citizenship rights after 1918, those deprived of citizenship during the pro-Nazi regime and deportees who have been repatriated since the end of the war. Widows of Jews slain during pogroms or in Nazi deportation camps will be granted full "war widow" rights and benefits.

The delegation included Mishu Benvenisti, chairman of the Zionist organization, Wilhelm Fischer, president of the Rumanian section of the World Jewish Congress, Leopold Fildermann, chairman of the General State Industries, who represents the Jewish Socialists, and M.H. Marx, representing the Jewish Communists.

9/6/46

COUNTRIES NEIGHBORING ON GERMANY EXPECTED TO PROVIDE WINTER HAVEN FOR JEWISH DP'S

MUNICH, Sept. 5. (JTA)--Countries neighboring on Germany will be asked to provide a temporary haven for displaced Jews during the winter months, under a plan now being prepared by Rabbi Philip S. Bernstein, advisor on Jewish affairs to Lt. Gen. Joseph T. McNarney, American military commander in Europe.

The plan is still in its early stages, and while the details have not been disclosed, it is known that the Army is interested in the plan because it would reduce the number of refugees entering the American zone. It was stressed, however, that even if the plan is adopted, it would not change the American policy of keeping the borders open. Furthermore, it would be only temporary; since plans for permanent settlement must be established at a higher diplomatic level.

Meanwhile, it was learned here that Jewish leaders are keeping a close watch on several sub-standard camps established by the Army to handle the large number of refugees who have been flocking into the American zone. One of the camps is located at Cham, on the Czech border, and the other at Landshut, 50 miles north-east of Munich. The Jews are housed in large tents. However, it was pointed out that both camps are well supplied with food.

ARMY TO ASK WAR DEPT. TO EXCLUDE JEWS FROM DP SCREENING TESTS; FEARS DISTURBANCES

FRANKFURT, Sept. 5. (JTA)--Army authorities here are planning to request the War Department for permission to exclude all Jews from the general screening program now under way among displaced persons to determine which of them are to continue to retain their DP status, it was learned here today.

Military officials pointed out that should displaced Jews be deprived of their DP status following screening examinations, disturbances would occur.

Meanwhile, representatives of various political parties and Jewish groups met in Munich and formed the "Association of Persecutees of the Nazi Regime," whose program includes combatting the revival of Nazism, militarism and anti-Semitism. The group also plans to secure speedier rehabilitation and relief for the "persecutees" and their families.

A resolution urging the German provincial government to place more victims of the Nazis in responsible positions was adopted at the meeting. Complaints that former Nazis still retained government positions and that "persecutees" were not receiving sufficient opportunities were also aired at the sessions. Delegates asked for a speed-up in the restoration of their property which had been confiscated by the Nazis.

It was reported today from Berlin that Jews whom the Nazis had compelled to adopt the given names of Israel and Sarah to identify them as Jews can now have these names officially removed from all personal and official records. Formal removal, however, will have to wait until the necessary records and files are obtained from the Sudetenland where they were stored during the war.

TWO BODIES FOUND ON PALESTINE SHORE; BELIEVED TO BE "FOUR FREEDOMS" IMMIGRANTS

JERUSALEM, Sept. 5. (JTA)--Two bodies, believed to be those of swimmers who dived overboard from the Jewish immigrant ship "Four Freedoms" on Monday, were washed ashore today at Kfar Vitkin, Jewish communal settlement near Nathanya.

9/6/46

CZECH GOVERNMENT HELPING POLISH JEWS WHO CROSS INTO CZECHOSLOVAKIA, CONSUL REPORTS

NEW YORK, Sept. 5. (JTA)--The Czechoslovak Government is cooperating closely with Jewish organizations in providing shelter and transportation for thousands of Jews who cross from Poland and other neighboring countries into Czech territory en route to the American zones in Germany and Austria, Dr. Rudolf Kuraz, Czechoslovakian Consul-General in New York, declared at a press conference here today.

Dr. Kuraz also reported that the remnants of Czech Jewry are starting a new life with the help of both the government and their fellow citizens. He stated that more than 50 new Jewish communities have been established during the past year containing many Jews from Poland and the sub-Carpathian province which Czechoslovakia ceded to Russia.

The Consul-General professed ignorance of a report that the Czechoslovak Government was planning to expel 3,000 Sudeten Jews to the American zone in Germany. Instead, he pointed to Podmokly, a town near the German border which the Sudeten Nazis cleared of Jews in 1938, and in which the Jewish community is flourishing again.

Dr. Kuraz emphasized that his government is determined to eradicate anti-Jewish acts. Admitting that some elements in Slovakia have retained the anti-Semitism propagated by the former pro-Nazi regime, he said the authorities are vigilantly prepared to suppress any anti-Jewish outbreaks, such as occurred several months ago.

As a sign of his government's good intentions, Dr. Kuraz recalled its action in turning over to Jewish communities the property and funds left by Jews exterminated by the Nazis. He admitted delays in restitution of Jewish property, but explained that the legal process is slow.

PRESIDENT TRUMAN PLEDGES FEDERAL EFFORTS IN ELIMINATING DISCRIMINATION IN COLLEGES

WASHINGTON, Sept. 5. (JTA)--Admitting the existence in America of "disturbing" evidence of racial prejudice, President Truman yesterday pledged the unsparing efforts of the National Commission on Higher Education in eliminating discrimination from the nation's colleges.

Mr. Truman's statement was made in answer to Charles G. Bolte, chairman of the American Veterans Committee, who had written him to call attention to the quota system applied by a number of colleges to members of minority groups. The President's letter said:

"I am keenly aware of the fundamental problem of discrimination in education to which you have called specific attention and of the broader problem of intolerance which this discrimination symbolizes. Those who sincerely desire to see the fullest expression of our democracy can never rest until the opportunity for an education at all levels has been given to all qualified Americans, regardless of race, creed, color, national origin, sex or economic status.

"It was with this principle in mind that I asked the members of the Commission to consider 'ways and means of expanding opportunities for all able young people.' I am pleased that the Commission, in its first meeting recently concluded, has decided to deal specifically with this problem. I am sure that the members of the

Commission will spare no effort in devising methods for eliminating existing barriers of discrimination affecting educational opportunity in our institutions of higher learning.

"We have only recently completed a long and bitter war against intolerance and hatred in other lands. A cruel price in blood and suffering was paid by the American people in bringing that war to a successful conclusion. Yet in this country today there exists disturbing evidence of intolerance and prejudice similar in kind, though perhaps not in degree, to that against which we fought the war.

"Discrimination, like a disease, must be attacked wherever it appears. This applies to the opportunity to vote, to hold and retain a job, and to secure adequate shelter and medical care no less than to gain an education compatible with the needs and ability of the individual."

#### BRITISH DETAIN U.S. NEWSPAPERWOMAN FOR ACCOMPANYING "FOUR FREEDOMS" REFUGEES

HAIFA, Sept. 5. (JTA)--An American woman journalist, found among the passengers seized by the British authorities two days ago aboard the Jewish refugee ship "Four Freedoms," is being held incommunicado, it was learned today.

The woman correspondent is reliably reported to be Claire Neikind of the Overseas News Agency, who left Rome between two and three weeks ago for a secret rendezvous with the illegal immigrant ship. British authorities here refused to give the name of the American newspaperwoman. They also declined to reveal whether she was transferred to Cyprus with the 1,200 immigrants seized aboard the "Four Freedoms."

The "Four Freedoms" refugees who landed at Famagusta yesterday were sent to the Caraclos camp near there today. A number of the Jews who were suffering from exhaustion were transported by stretcher.

#### AGUDAS ISRAEL YOUTH CONVENTION URGES U.S. TO ADVANCE ISSUANCE OF VISAS TO REFUGEES

HIGHMOUNT, N.Y., Sept. 5. (JTA)--The 24th national convention of the Agudas Israel Youth Council of America closed today at camp Agudah here after adopting a resolution condemning the British Government "for barring entrance to Palestine to Jewish survivors from Europe and forcibly transferring them to Cyprus."

The convention, which was attended by 600 delegates from branches in the United States and Canada, also adopted a resolution calling upon the American Government to grant to homeless displaced Jews in Europe "a loan of visas similar to financial loans given to other peoples" and to admit within the next six months all immigrants who would be entitled to enter this country during the coming ten year period in order to save them from the unspeakable suffering facing them "if they are forced to wait that long."

#### MEMBERS OF JEWISH BRIGADE INSCRIBE WINSTON CHURCHILL'S NAME IN "GOLDEN BOOK"

JERUSALEM, Sept. 5. (JTA)--Winston Churchill's name was formally inscribed in the Jewish National Fund's "Golden Book" today by officers and men of the Jewish Brigade in appreciation of his efforts in the formation of the group.

A special J.N.F. certificate will be presented to the former Prime Minister at a ceremony to be held in London this month. This is the second time Churchill's name has been inscribed in the "Golden Book." He was first honored in 1922 by the Jewish community of Kishinev.

THE CONTENTS OF THIS BULLETIN ARE NOT FOR PUBLICATION WITHOUT SPECIAL AUTHORIZATION