

Friday, September 13, 1946

**JTA***Daily News Bulletin***PUBLISHED BY THE JEWISH TELEGRAPHIC AGENCY****106 EAST 41st STREET, NEW YORK 17, N. Y.****JEWISH GROUP ELECTS DELEGATES TO PALESTINE PARLEY; ARAB ENVOYS REJECT BRITISH PLAN**

LONDON, Sept. 12. (JTA)--No spectacular developments are expected within the next few days at the conference on Palestine. Today's session was devoted entirely to statements made by all Arab delegations regarding the "plan for provincial autonomy" for Palestine offered by the British Government. It is understood that they all rejected the plan.

Jewish groups in Britain which are not affiliated with the Jewish Agency were to meet today and discuss the question of their joining the conference under certain conditions. The meeting was arranged by Acting Chief Rabbi Harris Lazarus of the British Empire, but was postponed at the last minute at the request of the Board of Deputies of British Jews.

The Anglo-Jewish Association at a meeting tonight appointed Leonard Stein and Neville Laski as its representatives to the conference. However, they will not participate in the parley "pending clarification of the attitude of the Jewish Agency." This is interpreted to mean that the Anglo-Jewish Association has no intention of joining the conference without the Agency, although this possibility is not entirely excluded. The resolution of the Association expressed the hope that the Agency will yet participate in the conference.

Some of the non-Agency groups in London are disappointed at the fact that the Jewish Agency has not yet taken advantage of the renewed offer made by Colonial Secretary George Hall to the leaders of the Agudas Israel, suggesting that Jewish Agency leaders continue informal talks either with him alone, or with him and Foreign Minister Bevin.

At the same time, the non-Agency groups reiterate that it would serve no useful purpose for them to attend the conference without the Jewish Agency. Nevertheless, it was stated today by H.H. Goodman, Agudah leader, that "there is a growing feeling that the present negative attitude is not fully justifiable."

A suggestion that the non-Agency groups should participate in the conference for a single day in order to demonstrate the Jewish willingness to cooperate has met with little response.

**Arab League Secretary Regrets Absence of "Jewish Cousins" at Conference**

Regret that "our cousins, the Jews," were absent from the conference on Palestine was expressed today by Abdul Rahman Azzam Bey, secretary-general of the Arab League, at a press conference here. He said that the Jews might have been impressed "by the clear Arab statements" made at today's private session of the conference.

"We came to London to rid the world of one of its most difficult problems which had to be faced," he said. "We never felt enmity or hatred towards the Jews.

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We do not want to increase anti-Semitism which we detest. We have always been friends of the Jews with whom we lived for centuries. But unfortunately new problems of political Zionism have upset the relations. Nevertheless, there is no real enmity."

Declaring that all Arab states are of one opinion regarding Palestine, Azzam Bey expressed the hope that after the conference is over an Arab-British block will be formed. He said that it is still possible that the Palestine Arabs may come either as delegates or as observers to the conference. He evaded a question as to whether the Arabs will sit at the same table with the Jews, and indicated that the Arab states will bring the Palestine question before the General Assembly of the United Nations if no agreement is reached at the present parley.

A message requesting that the Palestine question be submitted to the Security Council of the United Nations was received from Bagdad today by the conference. The message, sent by the three major left-wing political parties in Iraq, said: "We condemn the present negotiations on Palestine. No solution will satisfy the Arab world, except the realization of an independent democratic Arab state in Palestine."

#### RECENT OUTBREAKS OF SABOTAGE ARE NOT APPROVED BY PALESTINE JEWS, HAGANAH SAYS

JERUSALEM, Sept. 12. (JTA)--The Haganah announced today in a broadcast over its secret radio, "Voice of Israel," that the recent outbreaks of sabotage in Palestine did not have the authority and approval of Palestine's Jewish community. The announcer described the London conference on Palestine as Anglo-Arab "bluff."

Mayor Israel Rokach of Tel Aviv today issued a statement expressing abhorrence of the recent outbreaks in Palestine, in which British soldiers and Arabs have been killed, and disassociating the city's residents from any responsibility for them.

Meanwhile, a clandestine broadcast of Irgun Zvai Leumi described an incident, which it said was still unknown in Palestine, in which "one British officer was killed and one officer and nine soldiers wounded during a direct clash between the British and units of the Irgun." The broadcast claimed that the story has not been released because "the British are ashamed to admit so many casualties in such a clash."

One hundred workers were evacuated today from a government building in Jerusalem which contains five British offices after a telephone call that the building was to be blown up. Police and troops searched the building but nothing was found.

#### DEATH SENTENCE IMPOSED ON PALESTINIAN JEW COMMUTED TO LIFE IMPRISONMENT

JERUSALEM, Sept. 12. (JTA)--The death sentence passed by a British military court on Aug. 30 on Jack Alkalai, who was found guilty of shooting at British soldiers, was tonight commuted to life imprisonment by Gen. Sir Evelyn Barker, British commander in Palestine.

Dr. Wolfgang von Weisl, whose hunger strike has evoked wide attention in Palestine, is on the 12th day of his fast and has suffered another hemorrhage. He is paying no attention to the influx of telegrams from leading Jewish personalities in Palestine, various settlements and societies and many friends urging him to call off his protest fast.

AGED VIENNA JEW EXILED TO SIBERIA FOR DISPUTING SOVIET ORDER, AFFECTING JEWISH PROPERTY

VIENNA, Sept. 12. (JTA)--Oscar Wilhelm, 60-year-old Austrian Jew who was in charge of the restitution of landed properties in Austria to Jewish owners, has been sentenced by a Russia military court to two years in a Siberian labor camp, it was announced today.

Wilhelm had been appointed by the Austrian Government to direct the colonization society which took over from the Nazi colonization office the properties seized from Jews. He was responsible for administering Jewish lands pending legal measures for restoration.

Recently the Russian command in Vienna ordered the liquidation of the colonization society. Wilhelm ignored the order, claiming the headquarters of the society was situated in the international zone where Russian orders are effective only with the permission of the Allied Control Council.

In a report to Austrian Chancellor Leopold Figl, Wilhelm charged that the Russians had seized a large number of Jewish holdings on the grounds that they were German property. It is understood he also informed the foreign press of the move, thereby angering the Soviet commanders.

RABBI BERNSTEIN LEAVING FOR U.S. TO DISCUSS ENTRY OF 25,000 JEWISH DP'S INTO ITALY

FRANKFURT, Sept. 12. (JTA)--Rabbi Philip Bernstein, Jewish advisor to the American occupation forces in Germany, on his return here today from Italy where he secured an audience with Pope Pius XII, announced that he will leave Sunday for Washington to discuss with the War Department the plan for the admission of 25,000 Jewish refugees to Italy, in which the U.S. Government is interested.

Rabbi Bernstein said the Pope displayed great sympathy for the Jews when they discussed current anti-Semitic manifestations in Poland and the problems of displaced Jews.

BRITAIN URGES U.N. PROTECTION FOR REFUGEES ACCEPTED BY VARIOUS COUNTRIES

NEW YORK, Sept. 12. (JTA)--The British Government today demanded that the proposed International Refugee Organization, or its interim committee, conclude agreements with countries accepting displaced persons for the purpose of protecting the legitimate rights and interests of the refugees.

The demand was made at a meeting of the United Nations Social and Economic Council at which the problem of displaced persons was discussed. The meeting approved a proposal by John Winant, U.S. representative, suggesting that the question of refugees be dealt with by a committee composed of all the members of the Council.

CENTRAL COMMITTEE FOR JEWISH EDUCATION IN EUROPE PROPOSED AT PARIS CONFERENCE

PARIS, Sept. 12. (JTA)--The creation of a central committee for Jewish education in Europe, composed of representatives of the American Jewish Committee, the Anglo-Jewish Association, the Joint Distribution Committee, the Jewish National Council of Palestine, as well as delegates from important Jewish communities, was proposed today at the world conference of Jewish education, meeting here.

The committee, whose proposed location is London, would have the function of training religious and educational leaders and teachers, publishing books and setting up a program of adult education. The delegates discussed the need for the reconstruction of education in the shattered European communities. Reports were submitted on the decline of Jewish education in central and eastern Europe.

600,000 JEWS WILL FACE SEVERE WINTER IN EUROPE, DR. SCHWARTZ REPORTS; URGES MORE AID

NEW YORK, Sept. 12. (JTA)--Some 600,000 Jewish survivors in Rumania, Hungary and Poland face the prospects of a severe winter unless means are found to increase the large-scale assistance which they are already receiving through the Joint Distribution Committee, Dr. Joseph Schwartz, J.D.C. European director, said today at a press conference.

Dr. Schwartz, who is returning to Europe on Monday, pointed out that Rumania has suffered a disastrous crop failure and that as a result food prices are soaring beyond the reach of the 335,000 Jews there, and that the J.D.C. must increase its aid to that country. In Hungary he declared, the J.D.C. has already spent \$4,000,000 for aid this year for the 200,000 Jews there, but with the stabilization of currency the value of the dollar has decreased and relief funds will have to be increased from \$500,000 in August to \$750,000 in September.

Declaring that 60,000 Jews have fled Poland since the July 4 pogrom at Kielce, he said that the remaining Jews are finding it increasingly difficult to rehabilitate themselves and to rebuild their future because of the "rampant anti-Semitism." He asserted that most of the Jews who were repatriated from the U.S.S.R. to Poland during the Spring, have already moved out of the country.

"The Jews of Eastern Europe are continuously on the move," he said, adding that the continuing migration of at least one-sixth of Europe's 1,400,000 Jews is complicating the administration of relief. Commenting on this problem, Dr. Schwartz said: "The J.D.C. is helping to relieve hardships and suffering for the people in flight by supplying food, clothing, medical care to those in transit and by establishing emergency reception centers along the routes. It is also dealing with governments on the question of infiltrates, but has in no sense 'organized' migration anywhere."

The basic relief for the displaced persons in the camps and centers in Germany and Austria is the responsibility of the military authorities, but J.D.C. has been compelled to undertake a large-scale program of supplementary feeding, he revealed. "In the British zone of Austria," he said, "displaced people are receiving a diet consisting of 800 calories a day, which J.D.C. is supplementing by 1500 calories. In the American zone the United States Army supplies 1200 calories daily and J.D.C. an additional 1,000 calories. This program for additional food for displaced persons in the camps has grown to the point where J.D.C. is shipping in as much as 300 tons monthly."

"Unstinting praise must be given to the American military authorities for their understanding efforts in behalf of the displaced Jews," Dr. Schwartz concluded. "The Army has been most sympathetic to these homeless people and has given fine cooperation to the program of the J.D.C."

100,000 TEL AVIV RESIDENTS ATTEND FUNERAL OF ASHES OF NAZI-EXTERMINATED POLISH JEWS

TEL AVIV, Sept. 12. (JTA)--A handful of ashes brought back from Chelmno, a notorious Jewish extermination camp in Poland, was buried here today in the most mournful ceremony ever witnessed in this all-Jewish city, and attended by at least 100,000 persons.

The black box containing the ashes was placed in a holy shrine in the Great Synagogue prior to being taken to the cemetery, while Chief Rabbi Ben Zion Uziel led the funeral ceremonies. Mayor Israel Rokach delivered the eulogy.

JEWISH INTERNEES WHO ESCAPED FROM CYPRUS HOSPITAL CAPTURED; OTHERS STILL AT LARGE

NICOSIA, Cyprus, Sept. 12. (JTA)--Two visaless Jewish immigrants who were stated to have escaped from the Nicosia military hospital were taken into custody by the police in Limasol, Cyprus, according to an official announcement here last night.

This was the first intimation that the two had escaped. It is thought that others may be at large in view of a statement by the camp authorities that they have been unable to take a roll call since the visaless immigrants were diverted here from Palestine.

SIXTH NATIONAL CONVENTION OF AGUDAS ISRAEL ORGANIZATION OF AMERICA OPENS

BELMAR, N.J., Sept. 12. (JTA)--The sixth national convention of the Agudas Israel Organization of America opened here today at the Hotel Carlton with representatives of more than 500 Orthodox congregations attending. The convention, which will remain in session for four days, is being attended by delegates from the Agudah organizations of Palestine and various European countries.

Among the major problems to be discussed at the conference will be the position to be taken by Orthodox Jewry in America on the London round-table conference on Palestine. The convention will formulate its position after hearing reports by the representatives of the Palestinian and European organizations. Other problems to be considered include the rescue and resettlement of homeless Jews in Europe, the strengthening of religious Jewish life in America and the development of Orthodox Jewish educational schools.

JEWISH LEADERSHIP COMING TO FORE IN LATIN AMERICA, RABBI WOHL DECLARES

CINCINNATI, Sept. 12. (JTA)--Jewish leadership in Latin American countries is coming to the fore and there is intensive activity in every Jewish community there, Rabbi Samuel Wohl, of the B'nai Yeshurun congregation here, and a prominent American Zionist labor leader, declared today following his return from a three-month tour of Latin America where he studied Jewish political and cultural life and institutions.

During his trip he conferred with a number of foreign ministers and American ambassadors on various Jewish problems. He found a "tremendous eagerness" on the part of all Latin American Jewish leaders to have more frequent contact with the Jewish community of the United States.

\$5,000,000 CAMPAIGN LAUNCHED IN U.S. FOR EXPANSION OF PALESTINE LABOR MOVEMENT

NEW YORK, Sept. 12 (JTA)--A \$5,000,000 campaign was launched in the United States today by the National Committee for Labor Palestine for the expansion of Histadruth work in Palestine. Campaign secretary Isaac Hamlin disclosed that the Histadruth budget for 1946-47 amounted to \$18,000,000, of which the people of Palestine will contribute \$13,000,000.

POLISH JEWS FLEEING TO CZECHOSLOVAKIA WILL SOON RECEIVE PASSPORTS, HIAS REPORTS

NEW YORK, Sept. 12. (JTA)--A cable received today from his European headquarters by Isaac L. Asofsky, executive director of the HIAS, disclosed that Polish Jews who are fleeing from Poland and who are now stranded in Czechoslovakia because of the refusal of the Polish Consulate in Prague to give them passports, will soon receive passports enabling them to emigrate to other countries.

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