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U.N. GENERAL ASSEMBLY OPENS TODAY; WILL DISCUSS REFUGEES; PALESTINE ISSUE MAY BE RAISED

NEW YORK, Oct. 22. (JTA) -- The United Nations General Assembly opens here tomorrow to decide, among other major world issues, the fate of the refugees in Europe. The Palestine question, although not on the agenda, may also be brought up.

The Secretary General of the United Nations, Trygve Lie, today announced that the British Government this afternoon transferred to United Nations trusteeship the territories of Tanganyika, Togoland and Cameroons, which were under the United Kingdom mandate. The transfer, which did not include Palestine, will be submitted for approval to the General Assembly, in accordance with Article 85 of the U.N. Charter.

Commenting on the possibility of the Palestine question being raised at the General Assembly, Sir Ivor Thomas, chief British alternate delegate to the Assembly who arrived yesterday by plane from London, said that there were enough problems for the Assembly without the Palestine issue. "However," he added, "if the question of Palestine is brought up, Great Britain has a clear conscience." Sir Ivor is the Parliamentary Under-Secretary for Colonial Affairs in the British Foreign Office.

(In London, Richard Crossman, British member of the Anglo-American Inquiry Committee on Palestine, told a Labor Party meeting today that if the Palestine question is brought up at the U.N. General Assembly, "it will become another Trieste in world politics." He urged the British Government to implement the unanimous report of the inquiry committee which advocates the immediate admission of 100,000 displaced Jews from Europe to Palestine.)

DP Emigration, Repatriation or Stagnation; U.N. to Decide on Answer

The question concerning the fate of the displaced persons, as it will be placed before the General Assembly will be: How and to what extent shall the United Nations take over the work of UNRRA which goes out of existence on June 30, 1947? The Assembly will have to approve the constitution of the International Refugee Organization created by the U.N. Economic and Social Council to deal with refugee problems after the UNRRA winds up its activities. A spirited debate is expected before the constitution is approved.

United Nations officials dealing with the refugee problem today indicated that at the core of the matter is the question of whether the United Nations shall concentrate on securing admission for displaced persons in new countries, keep them in camps in Europe, or send them back to their countries of origin. Sir Raphael Cilento, of Australia, director of the U.N. division for refugees, today estimated that there are more than 200,000 Jewish DP's in Europe.

The General Assembly will also take up the question of establishing a Trusteeship Council, as provided by the U.N. Charter, to organize international supervision of mandated territories. The British Government does not intend to raise the question of the Palestine mandate before the Assembly on the basis that the conference on Palestine which is now taking place in London is attempting to settle the future status of the country.

BYRNES SAYS HE DID NOT DISCUSS PALESTINE WITH BEVIN; MATTER IS IN TRUMAN'S HANDS

WASHINGTON, Oct. 22. (JTA) -- Secretary of State James F. Byrnes revealed today that he did not discuss the Palestine problem with Foreign Minister Ernest Bevin at the Paris Peace Conference, because President Truman handled the entire question directly with Prime Minister Clement R. Attlee.

Asked at his first press conference since his return from abroad whether the State Department was still discussing the Palestine issue with the British Government, Byrnes replied that the President is in immediate and sole control of the matter and has been for the past year. The State Department's function in this matter, he added, has been to send communications, as directed by the President.

BLAST CUTS JERUSALEM RAIL LINE, DERAILS ENGINES AND FREIGHT CARS; NO ARRESTS MADE

JERUSALEM, Oct. 22. (JTA) -- The explosion of a land mine early this morning tore up 60 feet of track and derailed two engines and a number of freight cars several miles out of Jerusalem on the road to Battir. No casualties were suffered.

Police searched several areas of the city minutely today using bloodhounds who followed tracks leading from the site of the explosion. However, no clues were found and no arrests made.

In the Haifa area only one incident was reported. A small bomb was thrown into a jeep last night on a bridge leading out of the port city. The damage was slight and no one was injured.

Sternist pamphlets distributed in Tel Aviv last night and in Jerusalem this morning warned British soldiers and policemen that they were liable to be shot if they appeared on the streets and roads of "our country" with arms. Placing responsibility for the death of refugees and unarmed Jews and the terrorizing of the Jewish populace on all British soldiers and policemen, the pamphlet declared that the Jews will not remain at the "mercy of outrageous and armed enemy soldiery."

Three Jewish youths were today sentenced to six years imprisonment by a military court, following their conviction on a charge of illegally possessing arms. The three, Itzhak Wilenczik, Chayim Wasserman and Joseph Rosenzweig, residents of Nathanya, were captured in an orange grove at Pardess Hanna, near Haifa, where, the police allege, they were drilling.

WORLD ZIONIST CONGRESS WILL DECIDE WHETHER JEWISH AGENCY SHOULD JOIN LONDON PARLEY

JERUSALEM, Oct. 22. (JTA) -- Representatives of the Jewish Agency who participated in the informal talks on Palestine with the British Government informed the Colonial Office that the forthcoming World Zionist Congress will have to decide as to whether the Agency should join the conference on Palestine when it resumes its sessions on Dec. 16, it was learned here today.

The Jewish representatives made this announcement last Friday, just before the talks in London ended without results. Originally, the decision on this matter was to be made by the Small Zionist Actions Committee in Jerusalem, but in view of the fact that the World Zionist Congress is scheduled to open in Switzerland prior to the resumption of the London conference, the issue will be left for the congress, which is the supreme Zionist body.

800 VISALESS JEWS TRANSFERRED TO CYPRUS; TOO TIRED TO OFFER RESISTANCE TO MARINES

HAIFA, Oct. 22. (JTA) -- The 800 visaless Jews who were intercepted off Lebanon by a British minesweeper on the immigrant vessel S.S. Alma, and escorted into the harbor here yesterday were transferred before dawn today to two British transports, the Empire Heywood and the Ocean Vigour, and promptly transhipped to Cyprus.

As the transports moved out of the harbor toward Cyprus, the faint cries of the hungry, thirsty and exhausted refugees still rang in the air.

British military and naval authorities took elaborate precautions during the transfer, including dropping depth charges to discourage attempts to leave the ship and to keep swimming saboteurs away. However, one man, David Wasserman, jumped overboard and was found to be severely injured after he was rescued.

Resistance was reported only from one Jew, Joseph Rafael, who was beaten on the head when he tried to oppose efforts to push him aboard the transport. The rest of the refugees were too exhausted to offer resistance.

During the transfer, women clutched in their arms everything on which they could lay their hands. Mothers were forcibly detached from their children, who were the last to be put on board. The party included 516 men, 202 women and 41 children. On the pier, Army medical personnel attended to the sick refugees, a number of whom were sent to hospitals here.

Spent 14 Days on High Seas; Ran Out of Food and Water

Details on the voyage of the Alma, just learned here, disclose that it had spent 14 days and had run out of food and water last Friday, when it was spotted off the Lebanese coast by naval planes. It was intercepted by two minesweepers while still in Lebanese waters.

When the Alma approached Palestine waters, one of the airplanes radioed: "You are entering Palestine territorial waters. You must comply with British orders."

In the meantime, the minesweeper Moon approached the Alma and ordered it to halt. But the Alma increased its speed and tried to evade the British ship. Then the dramatic chase began. Finally, the Moon closed in on the Alma, which took a sharp turn to evade the towing lines which were being thrown at her. Then a second minesweeper appeared, barring the way.

When a boarding party came on the Alma's deck, it announced in Italian and German that the Alma was to proceed to Haifa where the passengers would be transhipped. The refugees defiantly replied by singing "Hatikvah," and shouting: "We want to go to Palestine."

British Ready Cyprus Camp for Visaless Immigrants Captured on "Alma"

NICOSIA, Cyprus, Oct. 22. (JTA) -- "Camp 61" at Caracolos was today made ready to receive the 800 visaless Jewish refugees being brought here by two British vessels following their capture on the S.S. Alma off the coast of Palestine. The deportation vessels are expected to arrive at Famagusta tomorrow morning. "Camp 61" already houses nearly 600 immigrants brought to Palestine by the S.S. Palmach last month.

ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF WAR PETERSON FAVORABLY IMPRESSED BY JEWISH DP WORK IN CAMPS

MUNICH, Oct. 22. (JTA) -- Assistant Secretary of War Howard Peterson today declared that he was favorably impressed by the work program instituted by Jewish leaders in the displaced persons camps for Jews in Germany and Austria and by the more extensive program for a "DP economy" planned for the future.

Peterson, who spoke at a press conference called jointly by him and Rabbi Philip S. Bernstein, advisor on Jewish affairs to the American forces in Europe, revealed that the War Department will soon ask Congress to appropriate \$100,000,000 for the entire DP program. He said the Jews made up one-fifth of the displaced persons in the American zones of Germany and Austria.

Dr. Bernstein, addressing the conference, asserted that the DP problem in the American zone could be eliminated if Congress liberalized the present laws governing immigration into the U.S. and if it took a "firm stand" in advocating the opening of Palestine to Jewish immigration. He pointed out that the admission of another 100,000 persons to the United States would have no adverse effect on the country's economy, but rather would have a beneficial effect. He called for the enlargement of present consular staffs and the opening of U.S. consular offices in Poland to facilitate the emigration of Jews.

The main problem facing the Army this winter was adequate shelter for the recently-arrived refugees, Rabbi Bernstein stated. He asserted that he expected only some 10,000 "infiltrates" in November and December and that arrangements for haven in other countries were being worked out. However, he said, these arrangements are still in their early stage.

AUSTRIAN CATHOLICS RELUCTANT TO RETURN JEWISH-OWNED PROPERTY, GOVT. PARTY SPOKESMAN SAYS

VIENNA, Oct. 22. (JTA) -- All Catholic owners of property seized or confiscated from Jews by the Nazis were charged with unwillingness to return the property to its rightful owners by Franz Sobek, a spokesman for Chancellor Leopold Figl's party, speaking at a Jewish mass meeting today. Sobek said that all the Catholics, regardless of whether they had been Nazis or not, were equally reluctant to make restitution.

Dr. I.A. Wolken, chief physician at the Rothschild Hospital, who was another speaker at the meeting, charged that neither the government nor any of the political parties in Austria were taking action to root out anti-Semitism in the country. He urged a nation-wide campaign of propaganda designed to educate the people against racism.

BRITISH GOVERNMENT WILL NOT PERMIT CREATION OF JEWISH HOMELAND, MIZRACHI PRESIDENT SAYS

NEW YORK, Oct. 22. (JTA) -- "The present British Labor Government will never allow the creation of a Jewish Homeland, even in a small portion of Palestine," Leon Gellman, national president of the Mizrahi Organization of America, declared at a press conference today.

Gellman, who has just returned from a three-month trip to Europe and Palestine, termed the partition plan which highlighted the Jewish Agency talks in Paris a "frightening political misfortune," which can only be considered when the plight of the European Jews is examined separately from the Jewish strength and political growth in Palestine. He asserted that the majority of the leaders of the Jewish community in Palestine are seriously disturbed by Britain's political dealings and fear that they are an excuse to keep Palestine a disunited mandate "wherein they may torture Jewish survivors, destroy Jewish settlements, and arrest innocent Jewish youth."

CANADIAN PRESS FIGHTS JEWISH EFFORTS TO SECURE ADMISSION OF REFUGEES TO CANADA

MONTREAL, Oct. 23. (JTA) -- A strong campaign against admitting European refugees to Canada is now developing in the country, while Jewish organizations are appealing to the government to permit the entrance of a larger number of displaced Jews from Europe.

The anti-immigration campaign is led chiefly by newspapers published in the province of Quebec. The influential Montreal Star charges that "pressure groups have sought a reckless flinging wide of our doors to all and sundry," and demands a strictly selective policy of immigration. Notre Temps of this city declares that humanitarian arguments for admitting the refugees is hypocritical, while the Quebec newspaper Action Catholique says the government is wise in not starting a full-scale immigration program. Other newspapers play up the fact that several Jews were included among the defendants in the recent Soviet spy trials, and use it as an argument against the admission of refugees.

A strong appeal to the Canadian Government to admit a larger number of European Jewish refugees was issued recently by representatives of 150 local Jewish organizations after hearing Saul Hayes, executive-director of the Canadian Jewish Congress, following his return from Europe. Emphasizing the appalling conditions of the surviving Jews in Europe, the conference appeal asked that the government of Canada take the lead in the rehabilitation of these Jews.

"We call upon it to take immediate steps for the admission of a number of these Jews who so urgently seek new homes, a number which will be commensurate with the dignity of the Dominion of Canada," the appeal says. "We also urge our government to use the good offices of its representatives in the United Nations and in other international institutions to enlist the active support of other peace-seeking nations in an international program to resolve the problem of the so-called displaced persons and to provide international security for the Jewish people against the menace of race hatred and anti-Semitism."

HEARINGS ON RACIAL DISCRIMINATION IN NEW YORK MEDICAL SCHOOL STARTED BY CITY COUNCIL

NEW YORK, Oct. 22. (JTA) -- The New York City Council committee studying discrimination in the city's institutions of higher learning met today to hear the testimony of members of the Cornell Medical College board of admissions. The session was closed to the public.

Thus far the committee, which was formed last month, has been investigating the Cornell medical school, but it is expected that officials of Columbia University College of Physicians and Surgeons will also be called to testify. Both the schools have been charged with discrimination against qualified residents of the city on racial and religious grounds.

Although the schools maintain they must give first priority to their own undergraduates, the number of rejections of applications for admission of New York City residents has increased to so great an extent within recent years that many civic and religious organizations have protested.

At today's hearing, a letter from former Dean William S. Ludd of the Cornell medical school admitting that the college had a quota system for Jewish students in 1940, was introduced. The present dean, Dr. Joseph C. Hinse, insisted that the school has no quota system now and accepts students on the basis of their college records.

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