

Tuesday, October 29, 1946

JTA**Daily News Bulletin****PUBLISHED BY THE JEWISH TELEGRAPHIC AGENCY****106 EAST 41st STREET, NEW YORK 17, N. Y.****U.S. BELIEVES JEWISH HOMELAND MUST BE CREATED IN PALESTINE, TRUMAN TELLS IBN SAUD**

WASHINGTON, Oct. 28. (JTA) -- President Truman in a 1,500-word message to King Ibn Saud of Saudi Arabia today restated this government's hope for entry into Palestine "of considerable numbers of displaced Jews in Europe." At the same time, he reiterated his intention of asking Congress for special legislation to admit "additional numbers" of displaced Jews to the United States "over and above the immigration quotas fixed by our laws."

The President's message was in reply to a letter of Oct. 15, from Ibn Saud protesting Mr. Truman's statement of Oct. 4 as "inconsistent" with previous pledges by this government.

Declaring that the United States Government and people have supported the concept of a Jewish National Home in Palestine since the end of World War I, President Truman stated that the United States still believes "that a national home for the Jewish people should be established in Palestine."

He pointed out that most of the peoples of the Near East liberated after the first World War "are now citizens of independent countries" but "the Jewish National Home, however, has not as yet been fully developed."

"It is only natural, therefore, that this government should favor at this time the entry into Palestine of considerable numbers of displaced Jews in Europe, not only that they may find shelter there, but also that they may contribute their talents and energies to the upbuilding of the Jewish National Home," he declared.

Says Admission of Jews to U.S. and Other Countries Will Be Sought

The President's efforts, as initiated in his correspondence with Prime Minister Attlee over a year ago, to expedite solution of "the urgent problem" of surviving Jewish displaced persons, he wrote, were in line with "traditional policies" of this government. "It was my belief, to which I still adhere," said Mr. Truman, "and which is widely shared by the people of this country, that nothing would contribute more effectively to the alleviation of the plight of these Jewish survivors than the authorization of the immediate entry of at least 100,000 of them to Palestine." The President expressed himself as "still hopeful" that an affirmative decision may still be reached.

"At the same time," he continued, "there should, of course, be a concerted effort to open the gates of other lands, including the United States, to those unfortunate persons, who are now entering upon their second winter of homelessness subsequent to the termination of hostilities. I, for my part, have made it known that I am prepared to ask the Congress of the United States, whose cooperation must be enlisted under our Constitution, for special legislation admitting to this country additional numbers of these persons, over and above the immigration quotas fixed by our laws. This government, moreover, has been actively exploring, in conjunction with other govern-

ments, possibilities of settlement in different countries outside Europe for those displaced persons who are obliged to emigrate from that continent."

Says Jewish Leaders Plan No "Aggression" Against Arab States

Answering Ibn Saud's fear of "force and violence" by Jews "in aggressive schemes against the neighboring Arab states," President Truman expressed the opposition of this government "to aggression of any kind or to the employment of terrorism for political purposes. "I may add, moreover, that I am convinced that responsible Jewish leaders do not contemplate a policy of aggression against the Arab countries adjacent to Palestine."

The President found himself "at a loss" to understand Ibn Saud's feeling that the presidential statement of Oct. 4 urging immediate entry of the 100,000 displaced Jews contradicted previous United States promises or statements.

"I do not consider that my urging of the admittance of a considerable number of displaced Jews into Palestine, or my statements with regard to the solution of the problem of Palestine, in any sense represent an action hostile to the Arab people," he said. "My feelings with regard to the Arabs when I made these statements were, and are at the present time, of the most friendly character. I deplore any kind of conflict between Arabs and Jews, and am convinced that if both peoples approach the problems before them in a spirit of conciliation and moderation these problems can be solved to the lasting benefit of all concerned."

Regrets London Parley Adjourned Without "Fair Solution"

President Truman likewise rejected Ibn Saud's contention that the Oct. 4 statement was "inconsistent" with the President's statement of Aug. 16. This expressed the hope that the proposed conversations between the British Government and Jewish and Arab representatives could lead to "a fair solution" of the Palestine problem and to taking of "immediate steps" to alleviate the condition of displaced Jews in Europe.

"Unfortunately, these hopes have not been realized," the President declared, pointing to the postponement to December of the conversations "without a solution having been found... In this situation it seemed incumbent upon me to state as frankly as possible the urgency of the matter and my views both as to the direction in which a solution based on reason and good will might be reached and the immediate steps which should be taken. This I did in my statement of Oct. 4."

Referring to the consultations with both Arabs and Jews during the current year, the President said he does not feel "that my statements in any way represent a failure on the part of this government to live up to its assurance that in its view there should be no decision with respect to the basic situation in Palestine without consultation with both Arabs and Jews."

The President appealed to Ibn Saud with "the earnest hope" that he use his "great influence" in the Arab world to help "in the immediate future" to find "a just and lasting solution." I am anxious to do all that I can to aid in the matter and I can assure Your Majesty that the government and people of the United States are continuing to be solicitous of the interests and welfare of the Arabs upon whose historic friendship they place great value."

Emphasizing the "worldwide" problem of the Jewish survivors of Nazi persecution, President Truman said: "Many of these persons look to Palestine as a haven where

they hope among people of their own faith to find refuge, to begin to lead peaceful and useful lives, and to assist in the further development of the Jewish National Home."

Recalls U.S. Role in Securing Independence for Arabs in Near East

Mr. Truman reminded Ibn Saud of the United States' contributions to the winning of World War I, the subsequent freeing of a large area of the Near East and creation of a number of independent states now members of the United Nations. "The United States, which contributed its blood and resources to the winning of that war," he stated, "could not divest itself of a certain responsibility for the manner in which the freed territories were disposed of, or for the fate of the peoples liberated at that time.

"It took the position, to which it still adheres, that these peoples should be prepared for self-government and also that a national home for the Jewish people should be established in Palestine. I am happy to note that most of the liberated peoples are now citizens of independent countries. The Jewish National Home, however, has not as yet been fully developed."

Zionist Leaders Welcome Truman Letter to Ibn Saud

ATLANTIC CITY, Oct. 28. (JTA) -- Zionist leaders who are attending the ZOA convention here today warmly welcomed the President's letter to Ibn Saud.

Expressing deep appreciation of the "President's forthright statement," Dr. Abba Hillel Silver, ZOA president, said: "I am very pleased to read the message sent by President Truman to Ibn Saud of Arabia. One is at a loss to understand Ibn Saud's interference in the matter of Palestine. Jewish rights to Palestine, guaranteed by the mandate, are not subject to the review of Saudi Arabia any more than the affairs of Saudi Arabia are subject to the review of the Jewish Agency of Palestine. This desert chief of a backward and feudal state should be asked to turn his attention to his own country to devote himself to the improvement of the conditions of his impoverished, illiterate and exploited people which he has kept in subjection. He should not worry about the Jews who have brought to Palestine not only for themselves but for the Arabs there prosperity, progress and education."

Dr. Emanuel Neumann, chairman of the political committee of the ZOA, voicing gratification over the President's statement, expressed the hope that it was the beginning of a firmer stand on the part of the government and suggested that the President's letter might have been more effective if it had been based on the Jewish legal position in Palestine rather than on humanitarian grounds.

300,000 VOTERS GO TO POLLS TO CHOOSE 79 PALESTINE DELEGATES TO ZIONIST CONGRESS

JERUSALEM, Oct. 28. (JTA) -- More than 300,000 voters went to the polls throughout Palestine today to elect 79 delegates to the World Zionist Congress, running on 15 slates.

The chief issue in the elections is partition, with the Zionist attitude towards Britain running a close second. The Revisionists charged yesterday on the eve of the elections that the Jewish Agency has already signed an agreement with the British Government "selling out Jewish interests." The Agency vigorously denied the allegation. For the first time in the history of modern Palestine the Communist Party has entered the election lists.

The dusk-to-dawn curfew which has been in effect on all roads was lifted only for tonight to facilitate the widest participation in the elections.

ZOA CONVENTION WANTS JEWISH AGENCY AND AMERICAN ZIONISTS TO MERGE ACTIVITIES IN U.S.

ATLANTIC CITY, Oct. 28. (JTA) -- Creation without delay of "an authoritative over-all body" to conduct "the political effort on behalf of Zionism in the United States" was recommended by the convention of the Zionist Organization of America in a resolution adopted today. It pointed out that such a body must be constituted "with due regard for both the interests of the Jewish Agency and the vital and indispensable role which must be played by the American Zionist organization."

The delegates expressed the ZOA's thanks to President Truman for urging the admittance of 100,000 Jews to Palestine and called on both Mr. Truman and Secretary of State Byrnes to "take all appropriate measures to the ends that the objective of American policy in reference to Palestine be accomplished."

Declaring that the "Yishuv must be the decisive factor in determining the extent of resistance to the illegal policies of the British Government," the convention said that "insofar as the responsible elements of the Yishuv embark upon policies of non-cooperation or resistance, they shall receive wholehearted support of the Zionist movement."

Another resolution supported the efforts of the Palestine Jewish community in aiding the persecuted Jews of Europe to enter Palestine, and hailed the attempts by the DP's to reach Palestine despite the obstacles placed in their way.

Reiterates Invitation to Zionist Congress to Meet in U.S.

The convention expressed regret that the World Zionist Congress has been postponed several times, and reiterated the ZOA's suggestion that the Congress be held in the United States.

Taking cognizance of the possibility that proposals may be made to reconstitute the Jewish Agency to provide for the active participation of non-Zionist elements, the delegates suggested that "any steps toward reconstitution be closely guided by the experience of previous attempts to achieve the same ends."

In an address to a dinner session of the convention tonight, Bertley C. Crum, a member of the former Anglo-American Committee of Inquiry on Palestine, hailed the President's recent statement on Palestine and welcomed the letter of Secretary of State Byrnes to Dr. Stephen S. Wise, in which Byrnes stated that the Truman statement reflected official American policy on Palestine, and that the State Department was carrying out that policy.

Crum Calls for Ouster of State Dept.'s Middle East Chief

Crum stressed, however, that the "only way that we may be assured that the State Department at long last is in accord with the policies of the President," is if Loy Henderson, head of the Middle East desk of the Department resigns. He also suggested that the following steps be taken by Mr. Byrnes:

1. A directive be issued that in the future all communications between the Arab states and the State Department be made public.
2. Remove Dr. Philip Hitti, anti-Zionist Arab-American, as travelling "cultural representative" of the United States in

the Middle East. 3. Publish the Nazi file containing records of negotiations between the ex-Mufti of Jerusalem and the Germans during the war.

Lipsky Defends Agency Executive's Stand on Palestine

Louis Lipsky, a member of the Jewish Agency executive and a former president of the ZOA, addressed the convention last night, presenting a defense of the decision of the Agency executive to propose partition to the British Government. "As a matter of principle, no member of the Agency executive favors partition," he said, adding, that "we had to come with a concrete plan in this emergency as a way out of the impasse."

Interrupted by the audience, some members of which cried "appeasement," Lipsky said, "I know how you feel, but in political negotiations ideology must give way to reality. All Jewish life is built upon appeasement, or we could not have lived through certain dire situations."

BRITISH MILITARY HEADQUARTERS ORDERS INQUIRY INTO ARREST OF CORRESPONDENTS IN PALESTINE

JERUSALEM, Oct. 28. (JTA) -- British military headquarters today ordered a court of inquiry into the circumstances of the detention last Thursday night of a group of foreign and local correspondents by Lt. Col. Richard I. Webb.

The correspondents, who were arrested at the site of a bomb explosion while watching the screening of 1,000 Jewish men, women and children, were subjected to a violent anti-Jewish harangue by Webb who called the Jews a "despicable race."

In a broadcast last night, the Irgun Zvai Leumi radio "Voice of Fighting Zion" said that "from reports it appears that the Agency and the Palestine Government are preparing common action against us, but we hereby declare that we are ready to fight."

EGYPT, SYRIA WARN U.N. ASSEMBLY REFUGEES MUST BE RETURNED TO COUNTRY OF ORIGIN

NEW YORK, Oct. 28. (JTA) -- The question of displaced Jews came before the U.N. General Assembly today when both Egypt and Syria demanded that Jewish refugees be sent back to the countries in which they resided before the war. These demands were considered the opening blow in the Arab League's fight to prevent Jewish immigration into Palestine.

The demands were made by the chief Egyptian delegate and president of the Egyptian senate, Mohamed Hussein Heykal Pasha and the chairman of the Syrian delegation Faris El Khoury. Neither of them mentioned Palestine for the Jews by name but the inference was clear.

Heykal Pasha declared that the refugee problem which he called one of the most important questions before the Assembly cannot be successfully solved unless victims of racial and religious persecution are returned to their country of origin. "In no case," he emphasized, "must resettlement be imposed on a sovereign nation or run counter to the aspiration or freely expressed wishes of the population." He hinted that Egypt will not support the proposed International Refugee Organization unless these recommendations are met.

El Khoury said the same thing in different words, adding that resettlement of refugees should have no political objective or implication. He warned that to act otherwise might lead to disturbance of peace and security. Both delegates strongly supported the creation of a Trusteeship Council.

BAVARIAN GOVT. OFFICIAL PLEADS WITH GERMANS TO CEASE HOSTILITY TO JEWISH DP'S

MUNICH, Oct. 28. (JTA) -- Dr. Philip S. Auerbach, Commissioner for Jewish Affairs in the Bavarian Government, today addressed a meeting of 400 Germans in the town of Nuernburg vorm Wald, pleading for an end to their hostility toward the 185 Jewish residents of the village.

Dr. Auerbach reminded the Germans of the cruelties suffered by the Jews and warned that further anti-Jewish incidents would place a black mark against present-day Germany. Later, speaking to the Jews, Dr. Auerbach called on them to restrain themselves and to maintain discipline.

The hostility between the two groups developed early in the month when a party of local Nazis was ordered to exhume the bodies of a number of concentration camp victims. When some of the Germans refused, they were beaten by several Jews and American soldiers, whose commanding officer was later replaced.

Before he left the town, Dr. Auerbach assured a Jewish Telegraphic Agency correspondent that the crisis was past and that the situation was improving.

JEWISH REPRESENTATIVES PROTEST REJECTION OF CITIZENSHIP PLEAS OF CARPATHIAN JEWS

PRAGUE, Oct. 28. (JTA) -- Representatives of the Jewish communities in Bohemia-Moravia, Slovakia and of the Carpathian Jews in Czechoslovakia today called on Minister of the Interior Vaclav Nosek to protest the rejection of the applications of many Carpathian Jews who have applied for Czechoslovak citizenship. They also saw Vice-Premier Zoltan Fierlinger.

JEWISH PHYSICIANS WHO ALTERED NAZIS' APPEARANCES FINED BY HUNGARIAN GOVERNMENT

BUDAPEST, Oct. 28. (JTA) -- Two Jewish physicians who operated on Nazis desiring to change their appearance so they would look like Jews, have been fined 1,000 florins each by a Hungarian court for failure to register the American dollars which they received in payment for the operations.

Dr. Bela Balough has been sentenced to a prison term of 15 years for torturing Jews and communists in 1920 following the suppression of the Hungarian Soviet Republic set up under the leadership of Bela Kun.

NEWSPAPER DEVOTED TO FIGHT ON ANTI-SEMITISM STARTED BY POLISH LEAGUE AGAINST RACISM

WARSAW, Oct. 28. (JTA) -- The first issue of a new newspaper devoted solely to the fight against anti-Semitism appeared here this week. Entitled "Human Rights," it is published by the League Against Racism. Editor of the paper is Prof. Olgierd Gorke, head of the Department of Jewish Affairs in the Foreign Ministry.

A report from Wroclaw (Breslau) today says that the city council there has renamed one of the city's squares "Heroes of the Ghetto Square." Street signs bearing the new name have already been erected.

TRIAL OF OFFICER ACCUSED OF ATTACKING BRITISH PALESTINE POLICY OPENS IN CAIRO

CAIRO, Oct. 28. (JTA) -- Lt. Kenneth Gourlay, British officer charged with attacking the policy of the Palestine civil and military authorities, went on trial here today before a court martial. The court rejected a defense motion to dismiss the charges because British law does not recognize group libel. After hearing two witnesses, the proceedings were adjourned until tomorrow.

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