

Monday, December 9, 1946

**JTA****Daily News Bulletin**

PUBLISHED BY THE JEWISH TELEGRAPHIC AGENCY

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

ZIONIST CONGRESS OPENS TODAY TO DECIDE ON PARTITION, ATTENDANCE AT LONDON PARLEY

BASLE, Dec. 9. (JTA) -- On the eve of the opening here tomorrow of the 22nd World Zionist Congress, which may be the most fateful since the first Congress was held in this city in 1897, the battle lines were sharply drawn between those who favor Jewish participation in the London Conference when it resumes in January, and those who oppose Jewish attendance.

The announcement by Secretary of State Byrnes that America would sit in on the talks, if the Jews agree to attend, has so far failed to sway opponents of participation. The question of attendance at the parley will--along with the major question of partition--be fought out on the floor of the Congress.

There is a deep cleavage of thought here. Dr. Weizmann, who will open the Congress tomorrow afternoon with delivery of the keynote address, is known to favor acceptance of the British invitation and believes that the Jewish negotiators should be given a free hand to act as they see fit to obtain maximum terms from the British Government.

Among the Laborites there is a strong difference of opinion on this subject. Moshe Shertok favors unconditional participation on any terms not harmful to the Zionist cause in order that a fight may be waged for a better plan than the Morrison-Grady scheme. David Ben Gurion, on the other hand, opposes unconditional participation and wants the Congress to leave the negotiations in the hands of the new executive which it will elect.

Americans Favor Attendance Only on Congress' Terms of Reference

Spokesmen for the American delegation said today that they would insist that participation in the conference can be only on the basis of definite terms of reference adopted by the Congress. They added that they would oppose giving a free hand to the negotiators, if the invitation to attend is accepted.

The American stand on partition, as outlined last night by Dr. Abba Hillel Silver in an address to a conference of the General Zionists, was the subject of considerable discussion today. Dr. Silver strongly attacked the partition scheme, which he said "was not even offered to us." He declared that "for years we have carried on what amounts to unilateral negotiations by ourselves in order to please people who continually interpreted every concession on our part as a sign of weakness.

"It is important that the Congress disavow the action of the executive, and reaffirm the basic Zionist position," he added, "or else the opinion will continue to prevail that a partitioned Palestine represents the authoritative Zionist pro-

EIGHT PASSENGERS LOST AS PALESTINE-BOUND SHIP FOUNDERS; OTHERS STRANDED ON GREEK ISLE

JERUSALEM, Dec. 8. (JTA) -- A vessel carrying more than 800 Jewish refugees bound for Palestine has sunk or been grounded near the small island of Sirini about 50 miles from Rhodes in the Dodecanese group, it was learned here today and at least eight of the passengers have been lost.

A Jewish Agency spokesman said that the remainder of the immigrants are safe on the island, but need emergency supplies of food, clothing and water. Royal Air Force bombers will take off at dawn to parachute supplies to the stranded refugees. The Agency is also planning to send a rescue expedition.

The spokesman expressed appreciation for the cooperation of the RAF and the Palestine Government, which has radioed the British embassy in Athens to speed aid to the immigrants.

The first news of the ship's plight was picked up by the Haganah radio, which usually keeps in touch with all vessels bound for Palestine.

A report from Cyprus says that two thousand Jews, mostly in family units, will move tomorrow from the Caraclos camp, where they have been housed since their deportation from Palestine, to special winter camps built for them near Larnaca during the past few months.

The new camp, which is expected to shelter about 6,000 visaless immigrants by the end of the year, is arranged in five separate communities each accommodating 2,100 persons. Each has a medical clinic for children and special facilities for expectant mothers.

BRITISH TROOPS RIOT IN PALESTINE TOWN; ONE JEW HURT, SHOP WINDOWS SMASHED

JERUSALEM, Dec. 8. (JTA) -- At least one Jew was reported injured and several shop windows smashed in a riot by British troops in Nathanya last night.

The official and unofficial versions of the incident differed, with police stating that the violence had occurred when soldiers of the Royal Ulster Rifles got into a fight with some paratroopers, while private reports said that the soldiers had aimed their attacks at Jewish civilians.

The Haganah radio, "Voice of Israel," addressed a message to "British mothers" today, stating that the Jewish community does not bear the responsibility for the death of "your sons" murdered by the terrorists, since it condemns terrorist outrages. "Sole responsibility rests with the British administration and its policy," the broadcast added.

Before leaving for Cairo today, where he is reported going to become general secretary of the Arab League, Jamal Husseini, vice-chairman of the Palestine Arab Higher Executive, reiterated official Arab opposition to partition. In a statement to the press, he said that the Palestine Arabs will not participate in the London conference if the ex-Mufti is not invited. He revealed that the Higher Committee has drawn up "certain resolutions to solve the Palestine problem," which, he said, would "have an immediate effect on the situation and be a surprise to the country.

Husseini warned that continued terrorism by Jewish extremists and American intervention into the Palestine situation might endanger the status of Jews in other Arab countries.

Republican Senator Wayne Morse of Oregon arrived here yesterday. He declared that in his recent tour of DP camps in Europe, he found that the refugees desire to

gram. It would be folly to enter the London Conference with a partitioned Palestine as our maximum demand, even assuming that it would be tactically sound to attend," the ZOA president concluded.

#### Silver Stand Attacked By Brodetsky As Formula Without Practical Plans

Replying to Dr. Silver at a political meeting of the General Zionists today, Prof. Selig Brodetsky, member of the World Zionist Executive, charged that Silver is presenting formulas, without stating in practical terms what is to be done. Brodetsky favored participation in the London Conference, and called on the Congress to reiterate Zionist aims to the whole of Palestine, and to decide on practical means of achieving them. Recalling that he had opposed partition in 1939, the British Zionist leader said that he now believed that there was "no solution but a state in which Jews will be their own masters."

He warned that Zionists could not continue their struggle by military means only, and criticized Silver's reference to "so-called terror." He urged the Congress to appeal to the Jewish community of Palestine to prevent repetition of recent terroristic activities.

Dr. Nahum Goldmann, Jewish Agency representative in the United States, who met recently in New York with Foreign Secretary Bevin and Secretary of State Byrnes, warned the meeting in blunt terms that the Zionists must be ready to compromise, since they cannot "by their present acts" force Britain to allow large scale immigration which would allow Jews to become a majority in five or ten years. He said that even friends of the Zionists in government circles were not prepared to recommend admission of 100,000 Jews without a final solution.

Declaring that he did not believe that Britain was bluffing when it implied in recent statements that it was ready to give up the mandate to the United Nations, Goldmann said that there were only two possible developments if that were done: Britain would get a U.N. trusteeship to replace the mandate, which would perpetuate the present situation, or a joint trusteeship would be established, which, he said, would mean a permanent stalemate. The only possible solution at the moment, therefore, he added, was the "tragic compromise" of partition.

#### Goldmann Scored By Sneh for Painting "Non-Existent Rosy World"

Dr. Goldmann was bitterly attacked by Dr. Moshe Sneh, who said that "men like Goldmann were dangerous because they depict a non-existent rosy world. The truth is that Britain does not seek a solution at all, but is following a policy dictated purely by strategic bureaucratic considerations."

For a compromise to be arrived at, Dr. Sneh said, there must be two offers, but at the moment "we are alone." He demanded that the Zionists refuse to participate in the London conference and refuse to offer any compromises. "Why should Jews serve as an ornament to a British conference seeking an anti-Zionist solution?" he asked.

The security chief of the Jewish Agency, who was the target of a country-wide British manhunt last summer, demanded that the Congress call for an exodus from Europe of Jews who desire to go to Palestine. He urged resistance to the British, and accused the London representatives of the Jewish Agency of misleading the Jerusalem leaders by presenting a false picture of the realities of the situation in London.

go to Palestine, and, therefore, he wishes to see "Jewish enterprise" here at first hand. Jacob Navits, Republican Congressman-elect from New York, who has been touring the country, visited Tel Aviv today, where he was received by Mayor Israel Rokach.

TRUMAN, BEVIN CONFER AT WHITE HOUSE; BELIEVE PALESTINE WAS AMONG SUBJECTS DISCUSSED

WASHINGTON, Dec. 8. (JTA) -- Foreign Minister Ernest Bevin had an hour long conference with President Truman this morning at the White House, at which all subjects under consideration by the two countries were discussed.

After Mr. Bevin left the White House, a British spokesman said that he and the President had "found themselves in general agreement." Asked whether the Middle East had entered into the conversation, the spokesman said that the Foreign Secretary and Mr. Truman had discussed everything. It is assumed that the Palestine question was included. Present at the conference were Dean Acheson, Under-Secretary of State, and British Ambassador Lord Inverchapel.

The office of the Jewish Agency here, meanwhile, refused to comment on the announcement by Secretary of State Byrnes that the United States would send an observer to the London Conference on Palestine when it resumes in January, if both Jews and Arabs participate in the talks.

In a letter to Bevin on Nov. 29, which was released yesterday, Byrnes stated that Jewish leaders with whom he had conferred wanted assurances that the partition proposal favored by them would be placed on the agenda of the London parley before they would agree to attend. In a reply, dated Dec. 2, also made public yesterday, Bevin pledged that all proposals by the Jewish, Arab and British delegations would be given equal status at the conference, and that Britain was not committed in advance to its own proposals.

PALESTINE HIGH COMMISSIONER GIVES JEWISH AGENCY MEASURES AGAINST TERRORISM WEEK'S TRIAL

LONDON, Dec. 8. (JTA) -- The Daily Telegraph in a dispatch from its Jerusalem correspondent quoting informed quarters there reports that High Commissioner Sir Alan G. Cunningham in his most recent interview with Isaac Ben Zvi, president of the Jewish National Council and chairman of the temporary Jewish Agency executive, said that he would give the Agency's plan for halting terrorism no more than a week's trial.

If its measures are not immediately effective, Sir Alan is reported to have said, the army and police forces will re-impose stringent restrictions which were recently lifted as a conciliatory gesture toward the Jewish community.

JEWISH AGENCY SENDS 1,000 FRENCH VISAS TO POLAND FOR EMIGRATION OF ORPHANED CHILDREN

BASEL, Dec. 8. (JTA) -- French visas have been sent to Warsaw for one thousand Polish-Jewish orphans who will arrive in Paris shortly, it was announced here today.

Accommodations have already been found by the Jewish Agency's Child and Youth Immigration Bureau for the 356 orphans who arrived in France from Poland last week, the announcement said.

U.S. MILITARY COURT IN AUSTRIA IMPOSES LONG PRISON SENTENCES ON JEWISH DP'S

VIENNA, Dec. 8. (JTA) -- Four Jewish DP's have been sentenced to eight years in prison and one to five years by a United States military court in Linz, as an aftermath of a riot on Nov. 14 in which several United States soldiers were injured, it was learned today.

The riot took place when military police were called in after the director of a DP camp was unable to stop a group of Jewish displaced persons from tearing apart one of the barracks for use as firewood. The DP's are alleged to have attacked the soldiers with stones and clubs, and two soldiers were reported to have been seriously injured.

It was also learned today that Soviet authorities have released Oskar Wilhelm, Jewish property administrator, for his failure to carry out an order to disband his organization.

YUGOSLAV GOVERNMENT AGREES TO ESTABLISHMENT OF AUTONOMOUS JEWISH RELIEF ORGANIZATION

PARIS, Dec. 8. (JTA) -- The Yugoslav Government has agreed to the establishment of an autonomous relief organization for the distribution of Jewish relief supplies in the country, Frederic White, representative of the Joint Distribution Committee, reported here upon his return from a tour of Yugoslavia.

White, who met a number of high government leaders, including the vice-president of Yugoslavia and the president of the Croatian Republic, declared that the government is friendly toward the Jews and that it transports free of charge J.D.C. relief supplies to various parts of the country. He said that there is little anti-Semitism in the country and that restitution of Jewish property is progressing satisfactorily and the Jews are looking forward to rebuilding their economic, communal and cultural lives.

He asserted that while there is a widespread interest in Zionism, very few of the Yugoslav Jews desire to emigrate to Palestine. He found that the 12,000 survivors of a pre-war population of 80,000 need food and clothing, but that their morale is high. He disclosed that there are now two Jewish children's homes, two students' homes and seven communal kitchens in operation, but added that there was need for a vocational training program. The J.D.C. will commence a works-training program in Yugoslavia in January, White announced.

ROTHENBERG, BRODETSKY, PHILADELPHIA JEWS HONORED BY J.N.F. AT WORLD CONFERENCE

BASLE, Dec. 8. (JTA) -- Formal presentation of certificates of sponsorship to three plots of land in Jerusalem, honoring Judge Morris Rothenberg, president of the American Jewish National Fund, Prof. Selig Brodetsky, president of the Board of Deputies of British Jews, and the Jews of Philadelphia, was made here over the weekend at the world conference of the J.N.F. by Dr. Abraham Granovsky, its president.

The conference, which opened Saturday morning, is being attended by delegates from the U.S., Palestine and many countries of Europe. In the opening address to the conference Dr. Granovsky reviewed the work in behalf of the J.N.F. being carried on throughout the world. He lauded the work of officials and volunteer workers alike. Elias Epstein, publicity director of the J.N.F., delivered a report calling for a new method of publicizing the organization's work and changing its appeal, in line with the changed conditions among the Jews of the world.

In a resolution today, the conference urged the raising of a \$40,000,000 fund for land redemption.

NEW YORK MAYOR PROCLAIMS "FEDERATION WEEK" TO LAUNCH \$12,000,000 CAMPAIGN

NEW YORK, Dec. 8. (JTA) -- Mayor William O'Dwyer will officially inaugurate "Federation Week" tomorrow morning in a proclamation calling on the people of the city to give generous support to the Federation of Jewish Philanthropies. With the issuance of the Mayor's proclamation, 10,000 volunteer workers will begin an intensive public solicitation drive in behalf of the Federation's current campaign to raise \$12,000,000 to maintain its 116 medical and welfare agencies, former Governor Herbert H. Lehman, chairman of the special Federation Week activities, said.

At the same time, Louis M. Loeb, over-all campaign chairman disclosed that \$6,700,000 has been raised by the Federation to date. The activities of Federation Week, he said, begin an "all-out" effort to raise the remaining \$5,300,000 required to reach the \$12,000,000 goal, largest sum ever sought for the maintenance of the Federation network.

FIVE OF EIGHT JEWS ARRESTED AFTER BOMBING OF BRITISH EMBASSY IN ROME REPORTED FREED

NEW YORK, Dec. 8. (JTA) -- Five of eight Jews arrested in Italy in connection with the bombing of the British embassy in Rome, attributed to the Irgun Zvai Leumi, have been released, it was announced yesterday by the American League for a Free Palestine.

Professor Johan J. Smertenko, executive vice-chairman of the League, who retained counsel for the defense of the imprisoned men, cabled the New York headquarters of the League confirming the release of the five. The cable also stated that one other Jew was expected to be free in a day or two, and that optimism was felt for the remaining two prisoners.

DIRECT SERVICE BETWEEN WASHINGTON AND PALESTINE WILL BE INAUGURATED NEXT MONTH

WASHINGTON, Dec. 8. (JTA) -- Direct air service between Washington and New York and Palestine will be inaugurated by Trans World Airline next month, the line announced here today.

The new service will be an extension of the present line operating to the Middle East via Europe. The run from Washington to Lydda will take 32 hours 35 minutes according to proposed schedules now under study, TWA said.

MRS. DAVID M. LEVY FLIES TO EUROPE TO ASSURE JEWS THERE OF CONTINUED U.J.A. AID

NEW YORK, Dec. 8. (JTA) - Mrs. David M. Levy, national conference chairman of the United Jewish Appeal, left for Europe on Friday to visit Jews in various countries there and in Palestine and to assure them of continued financial assistance during 1947.

Mrs. Levy, whose itinerary will include France, Belgium, Holland, Germany, Austria, Poland and Italy, will also study the conditions of Jews there. Her tour is expected to last ten weeks.

BUENOS AIRES MEETING GREET'S OPENING OF WORLD ZIONIST CONGRESS; ASKS JEWISH STATE

BUENOS AIRES, Dec 8. (JTA) -- A meeting marking the opening of the World Zionist Congress in Basle, Switzerland, was held here today under the auspices of the Pro-Palestine Committee and the Jewish Agency office in Argentina. In a message to the Congress, the meeting expressed its confidence in the establishment of a Jewish state in Palestine.

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