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WEIZMANN OPENS CONGRESS; AVOIDS ISSUE OF PARTITION, MUM ON ATTENDING LONDON PARLEY

BASEL, Dec. 9. (JTA) -- The twenty-second World Zionist Congress - first post-war gathering of the highest body of the World Zionist movement - opened here today in the Mustermesse, largest hall in Basle, with an address by Dr. Chaim Weizmann, president of the Jewish Agency, in which he appealed to the British Government either to carry out the provisions of the Palestine Mandate "in the spirit and in the letter," or to surrender the mandate after first creating a "political finality" in Palestine by establishing a Jewish State.

More than 370 delegates from 61 countries, as well as 2,000 guests and spectators, including diplomats from various legations in Switzerland, heard the veteran leader of the World Zionist movement bitterly charge Britain with being largely responsible for the annihilation by the Nazis of millions of Jews in Europe. If Britain had not kept the doors of Palestine closed to Jews, under its White Paper policy, many could have found refuge in Palestine instead of being asphyxiated in gas chambers, he stressed. At the same time, he pointed out that the Jews do not want to drive the British out of Palestine, but insist that they carry out the terms of the mandate which provide for the establishment of a Jewish National Home.

Dr. Weizmann made no direct reference in his 5,000-word keynote speech to the question of Jewish participation in the Conference on Palestine which will resume in London next month. Nor did he refer to the burning issue of partitioning Palestine into separate Jewish and Arab states. These two questions are the central points of interest at the Congress.

Condemns Terrorism in Palestine; Calls It "Moral Cowardice"

The aged Zionist leader scathingly condemned the use of terrorism in Palestine. Terrorist activities, he said, are alien to the Jewish spirit and an insult to Jewish history. "Jews came to Palestine to build, not to destroy," he pointed out. He denounced the "heroics of suicidal violence" and called for the "courage of endurance."

"Terrorist acts," he told the Congress, "apart from being morally abhorrent, are also barren of all advantage. They expose our hard-won achievements to the prospect of destruction, and they lead us to a bottomless abyss of nihilism and despair." He expressed the certainty that the Congress will support the efforts of the Jewish institutions in Palestine to combat the "vicious movements which threaten the good name of the Yishuv and its very survival."

Dr. Weizmann pointed out that he does not underestimate "the cruel pressures which have been at work" on the minds of Jewish youth in Palestine and have given rise to a feeling of despair. "It was the cruel destiny of our young generation," he said, "to see their kinsmen brutally murdered in Europe while they stood by helpless and impotent. The White Paper policy prevented them from rising to the rescue, and later that policy forbade them to receive the few survivors whom Providence had

spared. In their native homeland, the country of the National Home, they found themselves excluded on racial grounds from all but five percent of the land."

Assures Arabs of Jewish Desire to Live With Them in Peace

Touching upon the question of Arab-Jewish relationship, Dr. Weizmann said that this relationship "is too often envisaged in terms of incompatibility and conflict." He reviewed Arab-Jewish relations since the period following World War I to prove that "it was not always so," and pointed out that the Arab people now possess seven independent states and that they have emerged unscathed from wars which have devastated the Jews.

"Before the whole world I have said that our work has brought no injury to the Arab peoples," he declared. "Against the sterile assumption of conflict, we set the higher conception of potential accord. We wish to bring Jewish effort into harmony with the wider interests of the Middle East. But if we are to do this, the respect which we give to the national rights of others must be recognized for us."

Dr. Weizmann pointed to the recent letter sent by President Truman to King Ibn Saud asserting that it is not against the interests of the Arab world to urge the immigration of Jews into Palestine and the recognition of the Jewish National Home. "I whole-heartedly concur in that opinion," he stated.

Thanks President Truman for American Aid to Zionist Cause

"I have mentioned the name of President Truman," Dr. Weizmann continued, "and I would like to express here our deep appreciation for the sympathy and support which the President and the Government of the United States has consistently lent to our cause in these difficult days. Wherever American influence has been brought to bear on our problem - whether in treatment of our survivors in Europe or in the wider issues of preservation and development of the Jewish National Home - we have felt the great liberal impulses of that great country to be warmly alive. For all this, we are deeply grateful." The reference to the U.S. brought applause from the audience.

Dr. Weizmann, whose sight is now seriously impaired, read his address from a specially prepared manuscript in large type. On the platform seated behind him were, in addition to the other members of the world Zionist executive, representatives of the Swiss federal and cantonal governments and of the Basle municipality.

British Absent From Session; U.S. and Soviet Diplomats Attend

British representatives were conspicuously absent from the diplomatic gallery, but diplomats from 24 other countries were present, including United States Vice-Consul John A. Lehrs and I.F. Lunkow, First Secretary of the Soviet Legation. The British Consul in Basle sent a letter expressing regrets on behalf of the British Minister to Switzerland, T.M. Snow.

A huge portrait of Dr. Theodor Herzl, father of political Zionism, dominated the assembly from the rear stage, flanked by huge blue-and-white flags. The session opened with the playing of Hatikvah as the delegates stood at attention. They remained standing and cheering as Dr. Weizmann ascended the platform. He delivered a short greeting to Palestine in Hebrew, which was broadcast, and then introduced various Swiss dignitaries, including the mayor of Basle, who welcomed the delegates.

Following their addresses, David Remez, chairman of the Jewish National Council, made a brief address on behalf of the Jews of Palestine, during which he invited

the next Zionist Congress to meet in Palestine, "the land which Zionism created as a home for all Jewry." Replying, Weizmann said that he, too, hoped that the next Congress will be held in Jerusalem.

Speaking at tonight's session on "Fifty Years of Zionism," Rabbi Stephen S. Wise, who was English secretary of the Second Zionist Congress, held in this city in 1898, called on the Jews of Palestine "to resist, resist, resist oppression of our brothers, but let no deeds soil the blameless record of our long, unsullied history." If the high moral standards of Zionism are forgotten, he warned, it will sink to "the level of rabble-rousing chauvinism."

Reviewing Zionist history, he said that "nothing worse befell us throughout two generations of resettlement than the White Paper, the failure to reject which out of hand was a terrible blunder by all of us," which, he added, "cost the lives of tens of thousands of Jews.

"It is barely credible that the British Government should in one generation descend from the heights of the Balfour Declaration to the depths of Yagour and Cyprusism," he continued. "Surely this government, which long stood as a friend of the Jewish people, will not be satisfied with the role of the betrayer of Zionism."

JEWISH AGENCY WELCOMES U.S. INTENTION TO SEND OBSERVER TO LONDON PARLEY ON PALESTINE

BASLE, Dec. 9. (JTA) -- The Jewish Agency welcomes the announcement by Secretary of State James F. Byrnes that the United States is ready to send an observer to the conference on Palestine provided that Jews and Arabs participate, "as a practical expression of American interest in the solution of the Palestine problem," it was stated here today by Moshe Shertok, head of the political department of the Jewish Agency, addressing a press conference.

Shertok added, however, that his statement was not to be interpreted as an indication of the ultimate action to be taken by the Congress on the question of participation in the London conference.

The Agency political chief denied that either he or David Ben Gurion, chairman of the Agency's executive, had received requests from Palestine to return immediately owing to the gravity of the security situation there, as had been reported from Jerusalem.

Asked whether there was any truth in a report from Cairo that the Jewish Agency had received an invitation from the Soviet Government to send representatives to conduct negotiations in Moscow on the Palestine issue, Shertok said that the report was baseless.

The head of the Agency's political department said that the Zionist Congress will concentrate on the following four points: 1. Reaffirmation or modification of the present policy of the world Zionist executive which was elected seven years ago at the last World Congress, and held in Geneva on the eve of the outbreak of the war; 2. Whether or not the Jewish Agency should participate in the London Conference on Palestine; 3. Elections of a new executive; and 4. Organization and direction of Zionist work in Palestine.

He said that the 370 delegates present at the Congress had been elected by 2,000,000 Jews throughout the world as against 1,200,000 seven years ago. He emphasized that it is significant that there should be this increase although the Jews have lost a third of their number in Europe.

BRITISH NAVAL UNITS SPEEDING TO AID 800 SHIPWRECKED JEWS; PLANES DROP FOOD AND MEDICINE

JERUSALEM, Dec. 9. (JTA) -- British and Greek naval units were today thrown into the air-sea mercy mission to aid 800 visaless Jewish immigrants shipwrecked Saturday on the two-and-a-half mile long island of Sirini, 50 miles from Rhodes in the Dodecanese group. Three large Royal Air Force Lancaster bombers returned to Lydda airport today and announced that they had been "completely successful" in dropping five tons of relief supplies to the castaways.

The four-motored aircraft which were assigned to the rescue mission by the Palestine Government at the request of the Jewish Agency, were loaded to capacity with food, blankets, clothes and medical supplies. In addition, a Jewish Agency transport also loaded with supplies and carrying a party of Jewish doctors and nurses will take off for Rhodes tomorrow where they will continue their journey by sea. The terrain of the island makes it impossible for planes to land.

In addition to the British destroyer Chevron which is speeding to Rhodes followed by a supply-laden British minesweeper, the Greek navy has dispatched two destroyers and a landing ship to Sirini. One destroyer is due to arrive there tomorrow morning. The Hadassah is reported to have chartered a small vessel and is adding more relief supplies for a trip to Sirini. The vessel will have to wait for the heavy seas caused by a storm now lashing the eastern Mediterranean to subside before it can head for the Dodecanese.

(In London a spokesman for the Jewish Agency revealed that a plan to drop a Jewish parachutist on the island to establish radio contact between the immigrants and the Jewish Agency has been abandoned because the island is very rocky and it would be too dangerous for a parachutist to attempt to land.)

It was revealed here today that the 800 refugees left a Greek port six days ago in a small overcrowded vessel and were caught in a terrific storm in the Aegean Sea Saturday. With their ship in immediate danger of sinking, the passengers took to life boats and rafts and reached land after a harrowing, exhausting effort, losing eight persons. They found Sirini inhabited by only a few Greek families which did not have sufficient supplies to replace their clothing torn and lost during the shipwreck and medical equipment to care for the numerous injured men, women and children.

Reports that the Palestine Government intends to send the 800 castaways to Cyprus when they are rescued have not yet been confirmed. Informed circles point out that the transfer is legally possible since the visaless immigrants are in an area which is still under British military control.

Meanwhile, the government press officer, Richard Stubbs, pointed out at a press conference in Tel Aviv that while the government will continue its efforts to halt the "illegal" entrance of refugees to Palestine, and while it has warned prospective immigrants of the dangers of the voyage particularly in winter, it will, nevertheless, for humanitarian reasons, do its utmost to relieve the plight of the 800 shipwrecked Jews.

Stubbs also revealed that 1,356 Arabs and 97 Jews were arrested this year while attempting to cross the borders of Palestine and that 9,167 visaless Jewish immigrants have been intercepted en route to this country.

PALESTINE GOVERNMENT WILL NOT INVOKE MARTIAL LAW TO HALT EXTREMIST ACTIVITIES

JERUSALEM, Dec. 9. (JTA) -- The Palestine Government does not intend to invoke martial law in an attempt to halt terrorist activities, a government spokesman announced today at a press conference.

It was learned here that the government is postponing the imposition of extraordinary measures in order to give Jewish leaders an opportunity to pacify the country. Authoritative Jewish circles told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency that today's government statement has caused them to be more optimistic concerning the immediate future. They stated that the strongest possible pressure is being exerted by Jewish national institutions to force the dissident groups to discontinue their activities.

It is known here that for several days negotiations have been carried on with the extremist underground groups and the outlook is reported to be hopeful. The Irgun Zvai Leumi and the Stern Group are asking that the British change their policy on Jewish immigration and that British troops and Palestine police force be compelled to cease terrorizing the Jewish population, before the underground groups declare a truce.

Meanwhile, the Irgun's radio, "Voice of Fighting Zion," last night broadcast a denial that it had ceased its activities or that pressure from the Haganah has forced it to declare a truce. "The Irgun Zvai Leumi has not ceased to fight against the British enemy," the announcer said, "we will continue until his defeat. There is no strife among the underground groups, fighting together against a common foe. Cooperation of the two groups -the Irgun and the Sternists -is conditioned on one thing only; that the fight be conducted against the common enemy," he declared. The announcer also said that the Irgun was responsible for clashes with troops in Jerusalem last Thursday night.

Extremists Reported to Have Agreed to Truce During Zionist Congress

It was reported in Tel Aviv today that "reliable sources" had stated that the Irgun and the Sternists had agreed to a truce for the period of the Zionist Congress, but that further deportations to Cyprus of visaless immigrants would disrupt the armistice and cause a new flare-up of violence.

For the last few days the Irgun has been warning against "blackmailers" who are attempting to extort large sums of money from wealthy Jews in the name of underground groups. The imposters were told that they would be sentenced to death by underground courts. Today three youths were found unconscious on a street in Tel Aviv. They told police that they had been sentenced to death but their sentences were commuted to 39 lashes each when they pleaded that they were the chief support of large families.

A group of 756 visaless Jews were scheduled to sail from Cyprus to Haifa today as the second group to be returned to Palestine under the November-January immigration quotas. Three hundred men, women and children in the first group have already been released and resettled throughout the country.

LARGE QUANTITY OF GOLD FOUND BURIED WITH HUMAN SKELETONS IN WARSAW GHETTO RUINS

WARSAW, Dec. 9. (JTA) -- A large quantity of gold jewelry was discovered here this week when workmen constructing a road through the ruins of the Warsaw Ghetto unearthed several skeletons under which the jewelry was found. The gold has been turned over to the government.

CENTRAL COMMITTEE OF POLISH JEWS IN USSR CLOSES; LAST LEADER ARRIVES IN WARSAW

WARSAW, Dec. 9. (JTA) -- The liquidation of the Central Committee of Polish Jews in the USSR was announced here today by Dr. David Sfar, the last of the leaders of the Committee to leave Moscow for Poland.

The Committee, which was established in July, 1944, played an important role in organizing material and cultural aid for the approximately 200,000 Polish Jews who found asylum in the USSR during the war and who were gradually repatriated to Poland during the past year. The Committee also aided in organizing the repatriation of Polish Jews to their native towns.

Upon his arrival from Moscow, Dr. Sfar told the Central Committee of Polish Jews in Warsaw that the liquidation of the Moscow office had been carried out with the aid of the Soviet authorities. Soviet officials also arranged that parcels sent by the Joint Distribution Committee from its Teheran warehouse to individual Polish Jews in Russia be re-directed to the repatriates in Poland. If the Jews to whom the parcels have been sent have in the meantime left Poland, they will remain with the Warsaw Central Jewish Committee. About 3,500 parcels have already reached Warsaw. Many thousands are still in the post offices in the USSR, especially in Uzbekistan, where most of the Polish Jews were concentrated prior to their repatriation.

Dr. Sfar also reported that the funds that remained in the treasury of the Moscow committee had been used to purchase Yiddish and Hebrew books, many of them rare volumes, which will be brought to Warsaw. The archives of the Moscow committee have been left in the Soviet capital under the supervision of R. Gerber, a Jewish historian, who is now preparing a study on the life of the Polish Jews in the USSR during the war years.

LESS THAN 5,000 DISPLACED JEWS FROM GERMANY ENTERED U.S. SINCE LAST MAY

MUNICH, Dec. 9. (JTA) - Only 4,700 displaced persons have emigrated from Germany to the United States since last May, although under present quota regulations more than 25,000 could have been admitted in that period, it was revealed today.

The figures were contained in an announcement by Military Government headquarters at Frankfurt that about 900 DP's left Bremen today for the U.S. aboard the Marine Flasher, reducing the number still awaiting passage at Bremen to about 1,200.

Officials attribute the delay to the fact that only a few ships have been assigned to the Bremen-New York emigration run. They disclosed that they have appealed to both the War and State Departments for additional shipping.

Ira Hirschmann, special representative of UNRRA Director-General Fiorello LaGuardia, has arrived here to make a study of the problems of displaced Jews in this area. He will report directly to LaGuardia.

EISENDRATH NAMED TO SUCCEED ROSENBERG AS PRESIDENT OF U.A.H.C.

CINCINNATI, Dec. 9. (JTA) -- Rabbi Maurice N. Eisendrath, executive director of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations, was yesterday named president of the UAHC to succeed the late Adolph Rosenberg, who died here last Friday. Dr. Eisendrath has been director of the UAHC for the past three years.