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FIGHT OVER PARTITION ISSUE STARTS AT WORLD ZIONIST CONGRESS; GENERAL DEBATE OPENS

BASLE, Dec. 11. (JTA) -- The crucial issue of the partitioning of Palestine, as proposed by the Jewish Agency executive, came before the plenary session of the World Zionist Congress today with the initiation of a full dress political debate which is expected to last several days.

The debate followed addresses yesterday by Dr. Abba Hillel Silver, president of the Zionist Organization of America, who indicated his opposition to the partition scheme, and by David Ben Gurion, chairman of the Jewish Agency executive, who stated that the Zionist movement should not propose any partition plan to the British Government, but should be amenable to compromise. "If we have discussions with the British Government," Ben Gurion stated, "we must stand on our full right to the whole of Palestine, but if Britain proposes an acceptable compromise, the executive should bring it for discussions before the authoritative organ of the world Zionist movement."

This statement by Ben Gurion was punctuated by cries from various parts of the hall. Several delegates rose and shouted: "So you agree to partition! Why don't you say so plainly!" Ben Gurion replied that "the compromise which we are prepared to consider does not exist. At any rate not at this moment. We have no alternative, therefore, but to stand on our full, historic and legal rights."

Ben Gurion then assured the assembly that in the negotiations with the British Government, the following three basic demands will be advanced by the Jewish Agency: 1. Opening the gates of Palestine to Jewish immigration; 2. The Jewish Agency should have control over immigration and Palestine development, and 3. The establishment of Palestine as a Jewish state.

Ben Gurion Seeks United Labor Front; Partition Issue Splits Laborites

Prior to the opening of today's debate, Ben Gurion addressed a meeting of all laborite delegates at which he pleaded for unity and urged the creation of a united front at the Congress of the Palestine Labor Party, the L'Achdut Avodah and the Hashomer Hatzair. He stressed the serious external and internal political situation of the Zionist movement, and urged the two opposition groups within organized Palestine labor to join at the Congress with the Mapai, the Labor Party, of which he is the leader.

Delegates of the Hashomer Hatzair expressed their reluctance. They emphasized that they cannot join with the Mapai unless Ben Gurion comes out clearly against partition and until he is ready to pledge that he will not favor unconditional participation in the talks on Palestine, in London. All indications point to the fact that the Hashomer Hatzair leaders will not retreat from these demands.

Criticism of Dr. Nahum Goldmann for having submitted the partition plan to the U.S. Government was voiced by some of the laborite delegates but Ben Gurion

defended Dr. Goldmann's mission. He pointed out that it was undertaken with the authorization of the Agency executive. If the mission failed, he argued, it was a failure that all members of the executive should share, and if it was a success, the whole executive should share the credit. He made clear that he strongly believed that the mission was a success.

Neumann Opens Debate With Warning Against Joining London Parley

The debate was opened by Dr. Emanuel Neumann, vice-president of the Zionist Organization of America, with a slashing attack on the executive which, he said, has abandoned the principle of a Jewish state in an undivided Palestine. He also warned against the participation of the Jewish Agency in the London conference on Palestine.

Dr. Neumann charged in a speech which was frequently punctuated by applause that the "new line" adopted by the executive at its conference in Paris was a failure without any results to justify it. "The executive experimented and its experiment failed," he said. They speculated on the hope that a compromise would be accepted and they lost. It was a costly experiment. The Zionist movement will continue to pay a heavy price for it in many ways.

Criticizes Submission of Partition Plan to U.S. Government

As far as the governments of the United States and Britain are concerned, Dr. Neumann continued, the executive presented the partition plan to them as an expression of the Zionist policy. "If this policy is to be changed now it means that new methods are to be applied and new men elected," he declared.

The partition plan has not been accepted by the British as a basis for discussion, nor does it find favor with the Arabs, Dr. Neumann pointed out. He added that if some Arabs are inclined to accept the partition scheme, they are "discreetly silent" about it. "The Arab official position is as inflexible, as adamant as before," he asserted.

Discussing the question of participation in the London Conference, Dr. Neumann stressed that the Zionist movement had once before accepted an invitation to a round table conference in London, which resulted in the issuance of the White Paper. He also cited the report of the Anglo-American inquiry committee whose recommendations the British Government refused to accept.

"We have not declared war against the British people," he stated, "but we must frankly recognize the fact that Britain is waging a war against the most vital interests of the Jewish people."

Urges Shifting of Zionist Headquarters to Non-British Country

Pointing out that the Zionist movement has not dissolved and does not intend to dissolve its historic association with Britain, but cannot behave as if nothing had happened since the Balfour Declaration, Dr. Neumann declared: "Britain will understand if we say that no Zionist executive will ever be elected by the Congress to participate in the liquidation of the Zionist movement. We cannot change our policy to follow exclusively a British orientation."

The American Zionist leader said that the time may have come to symbolize the change in the relations between Britain and the Zionists by shifting the center of Zionist political activity to a country which is not under a British flag. At the

same time, Dr. Neumann told the Congress that the recent statement issued by U.S. Secretary of State Byrnes urging Jews to attend the London Conference on Palestine was an attempt to make the Zionists agree to unconditional participation in the parley.

Discussing Jewish resistance in Palestine, Dr. Neumann said that the Yishuv itself must determine the form that the resistance should take and the point to which it should be carried. "If responsible elements in the Yishuv are engaged in a struggle not for themselves, but for the sake of all people, we intend to back them to the limit and to extend them every moral and material assistance," he stated.

U.S. Laborites Back Executive; Mizrahi Delegates Clash on Partition

While the general debate continued, the various delegations were holding special party conferences to hammer out their stand on the many critical issues facing the assemblage.

The Canadian and American Poale Zionist delegations, which comprise 32 delegates, voted to give full support to the policies of the present executive on the future status of Palestine and to back the stand of the Haganah against terrorism.

The meeting of the Mizrahi delegates was marked by sharp clashes on the question of partition and the composition of the executive. In a letter read to the meeting, Rabbi Meir Berlin, influential Mizrahi leader who is in Palestine, outlined the following program which he urged the movement to support: unmodified rejection of partition in any form, revamping of the executive to include new personalities and assignment of seats on the basis of party strength and opposition to placing Keren Kayemeth funds under control of the Jewish Agency.

These views were challenged by 71-year-old Rabbi Judah L. Fishman, Mizrahi representative on the executive, who favors the executive's present policies. Rabbi Fishman said that he would not be a candidate for office again and that this was his farewell speech.

Mizrahi Laborite Leader Urges Rejection of Partition Plan

The Labor Mizrahi meeting heard Moshe Shapiro, head of the organization and its representative on the executive, propose a political platform which would reject the Jewish Agency's position on partition, as formulated in Paris last summer, and return to the demand of the 20th Congress in 1937, which called for a Jewish state. Shapiro called on the Zionist Congress to authorize the new executive, when elected to decide whether or not to participate in the London conference. He urged that efforts be concentrated on immigration and the suppression of terrorism.

The question of whether the Revisionists had a legal right to be represented at the Congress in view of the fact that the New Zionist Organization was still in existence came up for discussion at a Revisionist caucus this morning. The conference adopted a resolution stating that the United Zionist-Revisionists were now a part of the World Zionist Organization and had no connection with any other movement, but the NZO could not be dissolved until a special conference is held for that purpose.

Revisionists Want Congress to Elect Government-in-Exile

Speakers declared that the Revisionists will not assume responsibility for the policy of the Jewish Agency executive and will continue to fight with the Zion-

ist movement and at the Congress for the election of a Jewish government-in-exile.

Swiss police are maintaining the rigid security precautions which have been in effect since the Congress opened. Every floor of the Mustermesse, the hall in which the Congress is meeting, is patrolled nightly by a policeman accompanied by a police dog. The various Congress offices are also closely watched. A 24-hour guard has also been placed around the British consulate for the duration of the Congress to prevent possible extremist attacks.

GOVT. NOT HINDERING JEWISH EMIGRATION FROM PALESTINE, BRITISH COLONIAL MINISTER SAYS

LONDON, Dec. 11. (JTA) -- The Palestine Government is placing no obstacles in the path of Jews desiring to leave Palestine, Colonial Secretary Arthur Creech-Jones announced in Commons today.

He said that exit visas are no longer required by prospective emigrants and added that he could not estimate the number of Jews who desired to leave the country. Replying to a question from Tufton Beamish, Conservative, who asserted that the number of ration cards distributed in Palestine indicate that the Jewish population of Palestine is considerably larger than 580,000 as announced by the government a year ago, Creech-Jones declared that there was no evidence to support such a statement.

In response to another question, he said that the Palestine Potash Company would be compelled to halt production if the rail transportation situation was not improved. He estimated that damage to the rail system caused by extremist attacks amounted to \$1,300,000 and that the system was losing \$12,000 daily in revenue. He said that transportation of the citrus crop was unaffected because it was moved chiefly by motor vehicles.

JEWISH YOUTH SENTENCED TO 18 YEARS AND FLOGGING BY PALESTINE MILITARY COURT

JERUSALEM, Dec. 11. (JTA) -- Benjamin Yossee Kimchin, 16-year-old Jewish youth, was today convicted of attempted robbery of a bank in Jaffa Sept. 13 and illegally bearing arms, and was sentenced to 18 and 12-year concurrent prison terms. In addition the military court ordered that he receive 18 strokes of the lash. When the verdict was read, he shouted: "Do you expect to be in Palestine 18 years?"

Kimchin, who appeared in court in a military shirt and shorts, refused to enter a plea. A second Jewish youth, 17 years old, is being held for trial on a similar charge.

PLAN EVOLVED TO FACILITATE TRANSFER OF GOODS FROM CZECHOSLOVAKIA TO PALESTINE

PRAGUE, Dec. 11. (JTA) -- A scheme by which persons wishing to emigrate from Czechoslovakia to Palestine may take along their assets in the form of exportable goods is being discussed here following the arrival from Jerusalem of Eugen Winterstein, who before the war was secretary-general of the Jewish Party in Slovakia.

Winterstein, who has already conferred with the Ministry of Foreign Trade here and the head of the Department of Industry and Commerce in the semi-autonomous Slovak Government, is representing an organization called "RASSCO," which was formed to facilitate the settlement of Czechoslovak Jews in Palestine.

1,250 REFUGEES RETURNED TO PALESTINE FROM CYPRUS; ANOTHER 500 DUE THERE NEXT WEEK

HAIFA, Dec. 11. (JTA) -- Five-hundred Jewish refugees from Cyprus arrived here this morning, bringing to 1,250 the number of deportees who have been returned from that island in the last 24 hours. Another 500 are due here Tuesday.

Last night's arrivals were transferred to a Jewish Agency camp at Kiryat Schmuel, near Chedera, to await release under the Dec.-Jan. immigration schedule. This morning's arrivals, together with the 500 due on Tuesday, will be held at the Athlit clearance camp until they are eligible to be released under subsequent monthly quotas.

ALL JEWS RESCUED FROM SIRINI; GOVERNMENT READY TO ADMIT WOMEN, CHILDREN TO PALESTINE

JERUSALEM, Dec. 11. (JTA) -- Four-hundred and eighty-eight shipwrecked Jews were removed from the island of Sirini today by a British destroyer and, together with the 254 rescued last night, are being transported to Suda Bay, Crete, en route to Cyprus, it was officially announced here. Sixteen wounded and sick persons are on their way to a hospital in Rhodes.

Following a conference this morning between leaders of the Jewish Agency and Palestine Chief Secretary H.L. Gurney, the government announced that it was ready to admit the sick and the women and children among the shipwrecked Jews directly to Palestine. The Jewish leaders are continuing their efforts to gain admission for the men on the 350-ton vessel which foundered Saturday.

A Jewish Agency spokesman voiced disappointment at the government's failure to admit all the Sirini refugees. He stressed that "the Palestine Jewish community had hoped that the government would recognize the Sirini case as a special case similar to the Patria." In 1937 the Patria sank in Haifa harbor with a loss of 200 lives. The remaining Jews were admitted to Palestine as a humanitarian gesture.)

"We were sure the government would display the same humanity and kindness as the RAF," he said. "The disappointment is greater since it will certainly not contribute to calming down the country. The Agency does not regard the matter as closed, more representations will be made here and in London for the early admission of the Jews to Palestine," he concluded.

BRITISH ARMORED CAR FIRES UPON PARTY OF JEWISH OPERA SINGERS; EIGHT WOUNDED

JERUSALEM, Dec. 11. (JTA) -- Eight members of the Hebrew National Opera were injured last night, two of them seriously, when they were fired upon by an armored car while en route to Tel Aviv from Chedera, where they had given a performance.

The car in which they were travelling was stopped by a military patrol for routine identity check. While the soldiers were examining the singers' identification documents, an armored car which was stationed across the road opened fire. Mordechai Heftman, 35, and Nahum Hochman have been operated on to remove bullets.

Replying to questions by police, the soldiers said that the armored car had fired "by accident," but the singers stated that the shooting was deliberate.

U.S. WILL TAKE NO ACTION ON PALESTINE WITHOUT PRIOR CONSULTATION WITH BRITAIN

LONDON, Dec. 11. (JTA) -- As a result of the recent talks between Secretary of State Byrnes and Foreign Secretary Bevin, the United States has agreed not to make any unilateral statements on Palestine without prior consultation with the British Government, it was reported here today.

An informed source said that this did not indicate any change in U.S. policy on Palestine, but was only intended to integrate the activities of both countries on the Holy Land issue.

A resolution calling on the British Government to influence the United Nations to reach a solution of the problem of displaced Jews by their absorption in Palestine and other countries, was adopted here today by the annual meeting of the Anglo-Jewish Fellowship, the British counterpart of the American Council for Judaism.

The resolution stressed that the sufferings of the displaced Jews had led to acts of violence, not in accord with the Jewish tradition, to "illegal traffic in desperate human beings and a deterioration in the relationships between Jews and non-Jews everywhere." It also appealed to the government to distinguish between political Zionism and Judaism and to refrain from using the term "Jew" in connection with acts of violence "condemned by religious Jews everywhere," in Parliamentary debates, government reports and White Papers.

Arab League Urges Palestine Arabs to Attend London Parley Without Jews

CAIRO, Dec. 11. (JTA) -- The Arab League will urge Palestine Arabs to participate in the London Conference when it resumes next month, provided that there will be no joint meeting with the Jews and that partition and American intervention shall not be the "basis of the conversations."

While not disapproving the insistence by the Palestine Higher Arab Committee that it be allowed to select its own representatives, the League is expected to suggest that the Palestine Arabs do not demand that the ex-Mufti be included.

ARABS KIDNAPPED IN PALESTINE; RAID LINKED WITH ARAB PLAN TO INCITE ANTI-JEWISH RIOTS

TEL AVIV, Dec. 11. (JTA) -- Twenty armed men alleged to be Jews raided the Arab village of Salama near here, entered three houses and kidnapped the two sons of the local mayor after wounding him in the leg, the Arab press reported today.

Arab sources speculate whether this action was aimed at the Arabs because they were members of Najada, Arab "defense" organization, following a rumor that Najada was preparing to create anti-Jewish disturbances. They also believe today's raid is linked with one yesterday on the Najada's office in Jaffa when four armed men invaded the premises and carried off leaflets and Arab "mobilization" plans.

Meanwhile, Mohammed Nimr Hawari, leader of Najada, said today that he asked the authorities for permission to arm some officers of the organization following yesterday's raid. Hawari said that a member of the Najada had been kidnapped by Jews recently and held for several hours while he was questioned about the activities of the group.

U.N. BODY ADOPTS MEASURE WHICH WILL ENABLE ESTABLISHMENT OF TRUSTEESHIP COUNCIL

LAKE SUCCESS, Dec. 11. (JTA) -- A compromise proposal which is expected to permit the creation of a Trusteeship Council at this session of the United Nations General Assembly was adopted last night at an evening session of the sub-committee of the Trusteeship Committee.

The proposal will allow the setting up of trusteeship agreements, subject to the understanding that no agreement has been reached on what constitutes the "states directly concerned" in such agreements.

A.M.G. ORDERS GERMAN AUTHORITIES IN HESSE TO CEASE EVICTING JEWISH DP'S FROM HOMES

FRANKFURT, Dec. 11. (JTA) -- The German government of Hesse province in the American zone has been ordered by the military government to cease evicting displaced Jews from homes there, it was learned here today. The order followed an investigation by military government officials and representatives of the Central Jewish Committee.

The Germans claimed they were evicting the DP's on the basis of an earlier military government directive which required them to evict displaced persons who entered the province after June 30, 1946. Investigation determined that the order was being misinterpreted, either intentionally or unintentionally, because it specifically applied to nationals of members of the United Nations who had been evicted from camps for political reasons.

SEVEN REVISIONISTS RELEASED IN ITALY; WERE HELD AS SUSPECTS IN EMBASSY BOMBING

ROME, Dec. 11. (JTA) -- The Italian police authorities have released seven members of the Zionist-Revisionist youth movement in Italy who were held in connection with the recent bombing of the British embassy here. They had been under arrest for about three weeks.

Those released include members of the executive of the Betar organization. They had been questioned by the authorities concerning their connection with the Irgun Zvai Leumi.

FIRST CONFERENCE OF JEWISH TEACHERS IN POST-WAR POLAND DISCUSSES EDUCATIONAL PLANS

WARSAW, Dec. 11. (JTA) -- The first post-war conference of teachers in Yiddish schools in Poland concluded this week in Lodz, after adopting a resolution declaring that "the Jewish schools in Poland aim to give the young generation of Jews a national, democratic and secular education in the spirit of the progressive ideas of our time."

The conference, attended by more than 150 delegates from all parts of the country, discussed various methods of Jewish education. It was greeted by representatives of the Ministry of Education and the municipal authorities. The gathering sent a message to President Boleslaw Bierut and Prime Minister Osobka-Morawski.

Prior to the opening of the conference of Yiddish educators, a conference of Hebrew teachers met in Lodz. It adopted a resolution declaring that the Hebrew schools in Poland will educate Jewish children in the spirit of Zionist Socialism.

The Yiddish schools maintained by local Jewish committees have about 2,600 pupils. There are about 900 children attending Hebrew schools. This does not include several hundred children attending religious schools maintained by local religious groups.

SURVIVORS OF RABBINICAL GROUP WHO WERE SAVED BY CZECHOSLOVAK PARTISANS ARRIVE IN N.Y.

NEW YORK, Dec. 11. (JTA) -- The surviving remnant of a group of rabbis and students who were hidden by the Czech and Slovak partisans and continued their religious studies in forest hide-outs between battles with the Nazis arrived in New York today aboard the "Ile de France."

There were 42 persons in the group, including noted Czechoslovak rabbis, their students, and the wives and children of a few of the men, most of whom are from 18 to 25 years old. Except for some 20 others due to reach New York in a few weeks, the group which arrived on the "Ile de France" are the only survivors of about 250 orthodox religious leaders and scholars who pursued their studies until late 1944 at a renowned yeshiva in Nitra, Czechoslovakia, which came to be known as the "Partisan Yeshiva."

The Jewish scholars are planning to re-establish their institution at Somerville, N.J. A residence has been furnished for them there by United Service for New Americans. United Service will also provide for their maintenance and other necessities. The Joint Distribution Committee arranged ocean passage to the United States for the group. The JDC also provided their transportation about two months ago from Nitra to Paris, where they continued their studies in a JDC-supported institution until leaving for this country.

U.S. ARMY GIVES 500 HEBREW TEXTBOOKS TO JEWISH SCHOOL IN VIENNA

VIENNA, Dec. 11. (JTA) -- A gift of 500 Hebrew textbooks has been made by the U.S. Army to a new Jewish school in Vienna, it was learned here today.

The school, which now has a registration of 60 students, conducts all classes in Jewish because it is the only language which all speak and understand. Since none of the children speak German they cannot attend regular Austrian schools, but the curriculum has been approved by the Austrian Ministry for Education. Hebrew courses, using the new texts, are being planned. The Joint Distribution Committee has provided all the teaching equipment and supplies as well as the administrative expenses and furnishes each child with a hot meal daily.

GREEK PREMIER RECEIVES W.J.C. OFFICIAL; PROMISES JEWISH REFUGEES TEMPORARY SHELTER

NEW YORK, Dec. 11. (JTA) -- Greek Premier Constantine Tsaldaris yesterday received Alex L. Easterman, political secretary of the British section of the World Jewish Congress who is now in the United States, the local office of the Congress announced.

Tsaldaris gave Easterman assurances that if non-Greek Jewish refugees come to Greece they will receive temporary shelter until arrangements can be made for their transfer. He reiterated that legislation transferring heirless Jewish property to a special body for Jewish relief and resettlement will be completed as soon as possible.

J.D.C. PURCHASES 4,100,000 POUNDS OF PASSOVER SUPPLIES FOR JEWS ABROAD

NEW YORK, Dec. 11. (JTA) -- More than 500,000 pounds of Passover provisions are now en route to Jewish survivors abroad, the first of a total of 4,100,000 pounds of matzoth, and other holiday supplies purchased by the Joint Distribution Committee for overseas shipment for next Passover, it was announced yesterday by Dr. Joseph C. Hyman, executive vice-chairman of the J.D.C.

Additional quantities of matzoth will also be baked in Europe and paid for by the J.D.C., Dr. Hyman stated. Sacramental wine for the Passover holiday will be purchased in Palestine for distribution among Jewish survivors.