

# JTA

VOL. XIII No. 292 (28th year)

Monday, December 23, 1946

## *Daily News Bulletin*

PUBLISHED BY THE JEWISH TELEGRAPHIC AGENCY

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

### FLASH

#### SILVER-BEN GURION COALITION TO HEAD EXECUTIVE SOUGHT AS TALKS WITH WEIZMANN FAIL

RASLE, Dec. 22. (JTA) -- Negotiations for the formation of a new Zionist executive headed by Dr. Weizmann have apparently failed, it was learned late tonight.

Dr. Moshe Shoh is now attempting to bring together Dr. Abba Hillel Silver and David Ben Gurion to form a new executive which would not include Dr. Weizmann.

(See earlier story on following pages.)

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### CONGRESS POLITICAL COMMITTEE AGAINST GOING TO LONDON; WEIZMANN DICKERS WITH LABORITES

BASLE, Dec. 22. (JTA) - The political committee of the World Zionist Congress, by a vote of 20 to 16, with several abstentions, today adopted a resolution opposing participation in the London Conference on Palestine except on the basis of the full Zionist program. The Poale Zion members of the committee announced that they were reserving the right to raise the issue before the plenary session of the Congress, when a minority resolution embodying their position will be presented.

Simultaneously, a meeting of the Zionist Organization of America delegates passed a resolution reaffirming their opposition to participation in the London talks and reiterating their endorsement of Dr. Chaim Weizmann as honorary president of the Zionist Organization, but opposing him for the presidency.

Their action came shortly after a three-day session of the World Union of Poale Zionists voted 90 to 30 to support Dr. Weizmann for the presidency, if he agrees to support the program outlined in a resolution adopted by the meeting. The resolution calls for attendance at London on the basis of a pledge by Britain that it will implement the terms of the mandate or agree to the principle of a Jewish state. It strongly opposes terrorism.

The resolution was presented to Dr. Weizmann early today by Moshe Shertok and Eliezer Kaplan. The Zionist leader expressed thanks for the Laborites' readiness to support him, but said that it would require some time for him to consider the ramifications of the resolution, and he would have to take into consideration the composition of the new executive to be elected by the Congress. A special meeting of the Poale Zion caucus is scheduled for late tonight to consider Dr. Weizmann's reply, but it is not known whether it will be received in time.

### Weizmann Election Seems Certain if Reaches Agreement with Laborites

If Dr. Weizmann accepts the Laborites' conditions, and agreement is reached between them on program and composition of the executive, his election is considered to be virtually certain. A straw vote taken by the General Zionists this afternoon indicates that at least 65 of their 120 delegates would vote for him. With another 25 votes from the Hashomer Hatzair, he would have a slim majority of the 370 delegates. However, he would be likely to pick up a few more votes from dissidents within the parties that are opposed to him.

The resolution as finally adopted by the Poale Zion caucus represents a mutually unsatisfactory compromise between the views of Dr. Weizmann and David Ben Gurion, Laborite leader, but it was the best that could be worked out. Leaders of the party, who say that it was adopted to prevent a serious split, point out that it

would enable Weizmann to make a last effort to secure concessions from the British Government, and failing that, he would be forced to resign and a new Congress would be elected to choose a new executive.

#### General Zionists Stress Need for Single Labor Federation

A resolution stressing the need for a single, united labor federation in Palestine was adopted last night at the world conference of the General Zionists. It called on all General Zionist workers in Palestine to join the General Zionist Labor Union, which is affiliated with the Histadruth, pointing out that this is the only union recognized by the Confederation of General Zionists.

Dr. Abba Hillel Silver appealed for a single labor movement, asserting that the existence of more than one major labor federation in the United States has had harmful effects. Urging the Palestine Revisionist labor organization to join the Histadruth, Dr. Silver declared he was impressed with the Histadruth's achievements and predicted that the cooperation of all workers in one federation would encourage progress in the country.

A joint meeting of the American and Palestinian delegates of the Poale Zion party called on the Jews of America to support the Histadruth's efforts to build a Jewish Commonwealth.

#### Revisionist Leader Quits Because of Party's Separatist Actions

Dr. Jacob Marcus, a member of the Revisionist world executive and former chairman of the central committee of the Palestine Jewish State Party, last night announced his resignation from the Revisionist Party, declaring that it lacked a clear political line and was continuing its secessionist, separatist actions.

The members of the Revisionist bloc have not yet been able to agree on the composition of the party leadership. The elections are to be held tonight. The struggle for the presidency of the party has been complicated by internal conflicts on political policy.

Some of the participants in the political debate stressed that the Revisionists do not desire to drive Britain out of Palestine, but merely to "make her understand that the Jews were her best allies in the Middle East." Arie Altman, leading candidate for the party presidency, counselled the party against "flirting" with the Soviet Union. The conference decided to establish its central headquarters in Paris.

The Congress court hearing charges against the American Revisionists for certain activities in the United States decided today not to call any further witnesses. It announced that its decisions will be rendered tomorrow.

#### Mrs. Weizmann Appeals for Transfer of European Children to Palestine

An appeal for the rescue of Jewish children still in Europe and their transfer to Palestine, was made last night by Mrs. Vera Weizmann at a reception preliminary to today's opening of the Youth Aliyah conference.

"These children belong to us, they are our treasures, the only one left for us in our impoverishment," Mrs. Weizmann declared, "and of this last possession we

will not be robbed." Mrs. Judith Epstein, president of Hadassah, greeted the meeting on behalf of her organization and George Landaauer spoke on the activities of Youth Aliyah.

Memorial services were to be held at the plenary session tonight for prominent Zionists who have died since the last Congress was held in 1939. Dr. Weizmann is scheduled to deliver eulogies of Henrietta Szold, who would have been 85 years old yesterday had she lived. A film depicting the high points of her activities was shown here last night. Dr. Weizmann is also expected to pay tribute to Jacob Fishman, veteran Zionist and newspaperman who died last night.

#### BEN GURION STATEMENT THAT ARABS FAVORED PARTITION IN 1937 DENIED BY ARAB-JEWISH GROUP

JERUSALEM, Dec. 22. (JTA) --- A denial of David Ben Gurion's statement at the World Zionist Congress last week that the Arabs were prepared to accept partition in Palestine as far back as 1937 was issued here today by the League for Arab-Jewish rapprochement.

In a statement to the press, the League said that a representative of the Mufti of Jerusalem approached Chaim Kalvarisky, president of the League, in 1937 and asked his aid in arranging a conference with the Jewish Agency to arrive at a common front in opposition to the British partition scheme. The Mufti's aide refused to even consider partition, declaring that the Arabs wanted a round table conference to "find, by joint endeavor, a way out of the complicated situation."

The discussions were to be based on a bi-national program providing for large-scale Jewish immigration and the political equality of both peoples, the statement declared, adding that the Agency did not respond to the Mufti's proposal because it was engaged in discussing partition with the British, and that the contact was finally broken when the British deported the Mufti's emissary as well as other members of the Arab Higher Committee.

Mishmer, organ of the Hashomer Hatzair, commenting on the statement, says that this and other material which cannot be published completely refute Ben Gurion's statement at the Congress.

The Irgun Zvai Leumi secret radio, "Voice of Fighting Zion," today stated that the underground group was supporting neither the "Goldmann nor the Morrison plan" for the partition of Palestine. "Both mean a ghetto in the Jewish homeland," the announcer said, "an abyss into which the enemy is pushing us. It is imperative to halt this process. We will do it, but not by words."

#### SPEAKERS AT PALESTINE ARAB "ARMY" CEREMONY VOICE STRONG ATTACKS ON JEWS, BRITISH

TEL AVIV, Dec. 22. (JTA) -- Strong attacks on the Jews and British were voiced in Jaffa today at ceremonies marking the first anniversary of the establishment of Najada, Arab "defense" organization.

One of the speakers at the meeting told the members of Najada "to hold yourselves in readiness to strike." Over 3,000 members of the "army" marched in the parade which preceded the meeting. They were joined by hundreds of members of the Arab Legion, clad in civilian garb.

DENY CYPRUS REFUGEES WILL GO TO PALESTINE IF CONGRESS VOTES TO JOIN LONDON PARLEY

LONDON, Dec. 22. (JTA) -- An authoritative Colonial Office source told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency that there was no truth to a Jerusalem dispatch in the Daily Telegraph to the effect that the 8,500 Jewish deportees now held in Cyprus would be transferred to Palestine if the Zionist Congress authorized the Jewish Agency to attend the London Conference on Palestine.

The Telegraph report said that Jewish leaders in London had discussed the arrangement with the British Government. It also stated that the terrorists would continue the truce now in effect for the duration of the Congress, until after the London talks are held.

HOLD FUNERAL SERVICES FOR JACOB FISHMAN, ZIONIST LEADER AND EX-JEWISH JOURNAL EDITOR

BASEL, Dec. 22. (JTA) -- Funeral services will be held here tomorrow for Jacob Fishman, American Zionist leader and former editor of the New York Jewish Morning Journal, who died last night of a heart attack. He was 68 years old.

Fishman, who was born in Radzilovo, Poland arrived in this country at the age of 14. After serving on the staff of the Jewish Daily News and the Warheit for 23 years he joined the Journal as editor-in-chief in 1916 and held the post until 1938. Since then he had served as a columnist. He is credited with having designed the first typewriter with Hebrew characters.

He was an active Zionist and a vice-president of the Zionist Organization of America. He also helped organize the United Palestine Appeal in the U.S. in 1925 and was active in the United Jewish Appeal. He was attending the 22nd World Zionist Congress as a Z.O.A. delegate and a correspondent of the Journal.

HUNDREDS OF PALESTINIAN JEWISH RUNNERS CARRY TORCHES IN TRADITIONAL MACCABEAN MARATHON

JERUSALEM, Dec. 22. (JTA) -- The traditional Maccabee marathon took place in Palestine yesterday with hundreds of runners carrying torches from Modiin, near Lydda, where the Maccabean rebellion against the Greek rulers of ancient Palestine began, to Tel Aviv.

The colorful marathon began at dawn at the graves of the heroes of the rebellion in Modiin, where the Zionist flag was flown at half-mast in memory of Jewish war dead and visaless immigrants who perished attempting to reach haven in Palestine. The runners were welcomed joyfully at each colony along the way and their torches were used to light new ones which were then brought to local synagogues to light Chanukah candles.

At Rishon Le Zion, Menashe Meirowitz, the only survivor of a group of Jewish students, organized in Russia as the "Lovers of Zion," who emigrated to Palestine in 1882, addressed a large group of settlers attending the celebration. The marathon culminated when the torch bearers arrived at the Maccabee center in Tel Aviv where an impressive ceremony was held with Jewish leaders from all over the country attending.

A parchment scroll containing greetings and a message of hope and courage to the delegates at the World Zionist Congress in Basel was sent from the meeting. The parchment, which was sent by air, asked the delegates to "remember Modiin" and "to rise to the great task of redeeming the Jewish nation."

COMMITTEE ESTABLISHED TO FIGHT FOR ADMISSION INTO U.S. OF 400,000 DP'S FROM EUROPE

NEW YORK, Dec. 22. (JTA) -- Establishment of a Citizens Committee on Displaced Persons which will fight for revision of U.S. immigration laws so as to permit the entry into this country of 400,000 refugees from Europe was announced here during the week-end.

The chairman of the committee is Earl G. Harrison, former U.S. Commissioner of Immigration and Naturalization and author of the report which led to President Truman's original demand for the admission into Palestine of 100,000 Jewish DP's. Harrison is also U.S. representative on the Intergovernmental Committee for Refugees. Among notables who attended the organizational meeting on Friday were former Gov. Herbert H. Lehman; Cardinal Spellman; the Rt. Rev. Henry S. George Tucker; David Dubinsky, ILGWU president; former U.S. Supreme Court Justice Roberts; former Justice Joseph Proskauer; Charles P. Taft; Maj. Gen. William J. Donovan; Dr. Alvin Johnson; Leon Henderson; Marshal Field; Jacob Potofsky, and Walter White, director of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People.

As its first act, the committee wired President Truman announcing its plan to fight for the admission of 400,000 DP's and expressed the belief that this number could be admitted within the present quota limitations of 153,000 per year. The 400,000 figure was based on Gov. Lehman's estimate of "our fair share" of displaced persons.

SLOVAK WHO DIRECTED DEPORTATION OF 50,000 JEWS FEELS REMORSE BUT STILL ANTI-SEMITIC

BRATISLAVA, Dec. 22. (JTA) -- Sano Mach, former Minister of the Interior in the Nazi puppet state of Slovakia, under whose direction more than 50,000 Slovak Jews were deported to death camps asserted yesterday before a Czechoslovak Peoples Tribunal trying him as a war criminal that he was unaware that deported Jews were murdered by the Germans.

Admitting that he favored a "solution of the Jewish problem" through deportations and aryenization of Jewish property, Mach claimed that he had no knowledge that the Jews ousted from the country were put to death. He said that the Nazis were paid 500 marks for each deported Jew. Although declaring that he felt remorse for the extermination of the Jews, Mach said that he was still anti-Semitic.

Karl Rham, former commander of the Theresienstadt Ghetto, who was recently turned over to Czech authorities by the U.S. Army in the American zone of Germany, will shortly go on trial in Prague, it was announced today.

ROMANIAN OPPOSITION PARTIES CHARGED BY JEWISH LEADER WITH FOSTERING ANTI-SEMITISM

BUCHAREST, Dec. 22. (JTA) -- The Liberal and National Peasant parties, which comprise the opposition to the present Rumanian Government, were charged today by M.A. Saraceanu, president of the Jewish Democratic Committee, with fostering anti-Semitism.

Addressing a conference of foreign correspondents, Saraceanu cited a petition signed by 80,000 persons charging the two parties with anti-Semitism and, replying to a recent denial by Juliu Maniu, head of the National Peasants, he produced several documents illustrating some of the party's anti-Jewish activities.

18 HIGH-RANKING GESTAPO OFFICERS DOOMED BY YUGOSLAV COURT FOR MURDER OF 5,000

BELGRADE, Dec. 22. (JTA) -- A Yugoslav military tribunal today sentenced 18 high-ranking Gestapo officers, headed by Gen. August Meissner, former chief of the Gestapo in Serbia, to death for the murder of 5,000 persons, many of them Jews, during the German occupation.

CONGREGATIONAL CHURCHES OF AMERICA CONTRIBUTE \$10,000 TO RESCUE OF JEWISH ORPHANS

BOSTON, Dec. 22. (JTA) -- A Christmas gift of \$10,000 from the Congregational Churches of America to help rescue Jewish orphaned children in Europe was announced here by the Boston office of Children to Palestine, which is a Christian organization cooperating with the Youth Aliyah of Hadassah.

Commenting on the gift, Charles A. Gates, executive director of the organization, said: "This gift from the Congregational Christian Committee for War Victims and Reconstruction will help bring hope and life to these children who are spending their second Christmas behind barbed wire in DP camps in Germany. It is part of a great outpouring of Christian mercy in behalf of the most innocent sufferers of World War II." More than \$100,000 has already been turned over to the Youth Aliyah movement by Children to Palestine.

TRUMAN, PATTERSON PAY TRIBUTE TO CLEVELAND SYNAGOGUE ON ITS 100TH ANNIVERSARY

CLEVELAND, Dec. 22. (JTA) -- Messages from President Truman and Secretary of War Robert P. Patterson paying tribute to the Euclid Avenue Synagogue here on the occasion of its 100th anniversary were read to the 1,000 persons attending anniversary services yesterday.

President Truman hailed "the brave pioneers who builded so well that their works follow them even to this day," and expressed the hope that "Euclid temple and the good works which emanate from it will grow and prosper through long years to come." Mr. Patterson declared that the morale of America is a "definite reflection of the heroic faith taught in church and synagogue."

CENTRAL SYNAGOGUE, NEW YORK REFORM CONGREGATION, CELEBRATES 100TH ANNIVERSARY

NEW YORK, Dec. 22. (JTA) -- The 100th anniversary of the Central Synagogue, New York's second oldest Reform congregation, was celebrated at a dinner at the Waldorf Astoria hotel last night with 500 persons attending.

The dinner was addressed by Dr. Jonah B. Wise, rabbi of the temple, Dr. William H. Fineshriber, of the Knesseth Israel temple in Philadelphia, and two Protestant ministers, the Rev. Dr. Ralph W. Sockman of Christ Church and the Rev. Dr. Theodore Cuyler Speers of the Central Presbyterian Church.

The congregation was founded in 1846 as the Ahaweth Chesed society by eighteen young men, most of them from Bohemia. The present Central Synagogue was built in 1870, with Rabbi Isaac Mayer Wise, founder of American Reform Judaism and father of Dr. Jonah B. Wise, laying the cornerstone.

PIONEER WOMEN LAUNCH \$650,000 DRIVE FOR PALESTINE WOMEN'S GROUP

NEW YORK, Dec. 22. (JTA) -- The Pioneer Women's Organization of America has launched a \$650,000 drive for the expansion of the refugee aid program of the Palestine Working Women's Council, it was announced here today by Mrs. Alexander Kahn.

The Council is establishing new homes for refugee children and is undertaking further educational programs for women and children and helping to prepare refugee women immigrants for agricultural and industrial work.

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