

Thursday, December 26, 1946

# JTA

## Daily News Bulletin

PUBLISHED BY THE JEWISH TELEGRAPHIC AGENCY

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

### ZIONIST ACTIONS COMMITTEE OPENS TALKS ON COALITION EXECUTIVE; WILL MEET SEVERAL DAYS

BASLE, Dec. 25. (JTA) -- The American delegates to the World Zionist Congress -- which concluded here yesterday without electing a president of the world Zionist movement and without being able to form an executive acceptable to all groups -- today took the initiative in proposing names for a new Zionist leadership as the Actions Committee, authorized to elect such a leadership, began meeting.

The session of the Actions Committee, which is the supreme body next to the Zionist Congress, is expected to last four or five days, it was indicated today following the close of the first meeting. The General Zionist forces, headed by Dr. Abba Hillel Silver, are playing the dominant role on the Committee.

David Ben Gurion, Laborite chairman of the Jewish Agency executive, addressing the opening meeting, formally suggested in behalf of the Laborite delegates that the General Zionists be charged with the task of forming a coalition executive since they are the largest group.

Inter-party negotiations for the composition of the new executive continued throughout the day, between the morning and evening sessions of the Committee. Various proposals and counter-proposals were considered with indications that progress had been made in ironing out some of the difficulties hindering the formation of an executive, including the president of the World Zionist Organization and the chairman of the new Actions Committee, who so far have not been elected. It is believed that Dr. Silver will be the head of the Actions Committee, in addition to being one of the leading members of the new executive.

### Congress Was Most Critical Since the Deliberations on Uganda

Veteran Zionist leaders who have attended many Congresses today stated that the 22nd Congress, which closed here yesterday in confusion and without electing a new leadership, was the most critical since the 6th World Zionist Congress in 1903, at which the British Government offered Uganda as a territory for Jews, with a Jewish governor and internal autonomy. The offer was submitted to the Congress by Dr. Theodor Herzl, father of political Zionism, but was strongly opposed by Russian Zionists.

It was opposition to Dr. Weizmann's policies rather than personal feelings against him which resulted in the refusal to elect him to active leadership, most of the delegates who remained in Basle to watch the sessions of the Actions Committee agreed today. The majority of the Congress, they said, felt that the time had arrived for a change in the traditional Zionist policy towards Britain, and Dr. Weizmann and the old executive symbolized that policy. Weizmann's opponents

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argued that they are more aware than he of the spirit now prevailing among the Jews in Palestine. They insisted that the Jews in Palestine will no longer follow Dr. Weizmann's policy.

The Zionist Laborite group which had enjoyed leadership at all Zionist Congresses during the last fourteen years was compelled to surrender its leadership because of internal differences over Dr. Weizmann. This brought the General Zionists to the dominant position they now occupy on the Actions Committee.

#### Palestine Jews Gloomy Over Congress; Chanukah Not Marred

JERUSALEM, Dec. 25. (JTA) -- The World Zionist Congress' failure to achieve unity within the movement and its inability to elect an all-embracing leadership has cast a cloud of gloom over the Palestine Jewish community. But the cloud was lifted last night as the 600,000 Jews in the country celebrated the lighting of the Chanukah candles closing the eight-day "Festival of Lights."

Parades were held in all Jewish settlements with the torch bearers leading the festive marches. Huge bonfires were lighted in the open country between towns and settlements as one group of Jews signalled to another.

In the Emek Hefer district where there are a number of Hapoel Hamizrachi settlements, thousands of Jews, including school children and youths, marched from village to village. They were received with lights and greetings in each colony and public prayers were held in all communities. At the conclusion of the parade, the marchers were addressed by Chief Rabbis Isaac Herzog and Iser Judah Unterman.

#### JEWISH COMMITTEE OF AUSTRIA ASKS COMPENSATION FOR JEWS WHO WORKED AS SLAVE LABORERS

VIENNA, Dec. 25. (JTA) -- The Jewish Central Committee in the U.S. zone of Austria today submitted a formal request to large factories where Jewish slave labor was used during the Nazi regime urging that the administration of these factories pay the Jewish workers for the time they were forced to work.

The request will have to be acted upon by the Austrian Government since the factories, such as the former Goeringwerke and others owned by the Nazis, have been turned over by the American military authorities to the Austrian Government for trusteeship management.

The Jewish Central Committee also pointed out that Jewish slave laborers not only worked in war industry, but were forced to build roads and new apartment houses for the civil population and perform various other tasks from which local municipalities benefited. For this work, too, the Committee requested payment to surviving Jewish workers.

#### TWO JEWISH CANDIDATES INCLUDED ON PRO-GOVERNMENT SLATE FOR POLISH ELECTIONS

WARSAW, Dec. 25. (JTA) -- Jewish groups in Poland will not have their own slates in the forthcoming parliamentary elections which are scheduled to take place Jan. 19. Instead, two Jewish candidates have been included on the general list of the government bloc, which represents four pro-government parties.

The two Jewish candidates are Dr. M. Shuldenfrei, chairman of the central committee of the Jewish Socialist Bund, and Prof. I. Sack, leader of the right wing of the Zionist Laborite Party and vice-chairman of the Central Committee of Polish Jews.

FOUR PALESTINE JEWS SERIOUSLY WOUNDED BY BRITISH; EXTREMISTS KILL JEWISH "TRAITOR"

JERUSALEM, Dec. 25. (JTA) -- Four Jews were seriously wounded today when a British soldier discharged his submachine gun into a group of bus passengers who were routed from the vehicle and lined up for questioning in the center of the city.

The soldier, who was one of the members of a mobile patrol, claimed he had fired the gun "accidentally." The wounded are: Jacob Zlochovi, 47; Yogi Malin, 21; Mordechai Fissak, 25; and his wife, Ahouva, 22.

Following the discovery in Tel Aviv this morning of the body of Israel Levin, 25, the Stern Group sent a letter to the Hebrew press explaining that he had been executed Saturday night after his conviction by an underground court of being a "provocateur, traitor and blackmailer." The letter added that Levin had pleaded guilty and had signed a confession.

The confession allegedly told of his having met with high ranking British police officers and that he and several other Jews had agreed to act as spies for the British in the underground movement for a regular wage and special bonuses for information leading to the arrest of underground leaders. In his confession, Levin is said to have declared that he had been promised \$4,000 for aiding in the capture of the Sternist commander. Besides obtaining information to help the British capture Sternist and Irgun leaders, Levin promised to furnish the police with information concerning the expected arrival of visaless immigrants, the ports from which they would sail and their approximate timetable.

The Sternist statement declared that Levin was due to leave for Italy shortly to aid British intelligence in disrupting visaless immigration activities there. He also told of having extorted money from wealthy Jews in the name of the underground movement, the statement charged.

The letter explaining Levin's "execution" was motivated by two factors, the Stern Group said: Firstly, to prove to the public that the underground court had condemned Levin only after carefully checking the evidence, including his confession; and secondly, to warn "traitors" that their crimes are known and that they will not escape.

87 DEGREES AWARDED AT HEBREW UNIVERSITY COMMENCEMENT EXERCISES IN JERUSALEM

JERUSALEM, Dec. 25. (JTA) -- Eighty-seven diplomas were awarded today at the commencement exercises of the Hebrew University of Jerusalem.

Dr. Judah Magnes, president of the University, in his address to the graduating class, condemned terrorist activities in Palestine and called for a "clean struggle" to achieve Jewish aims. He asserted that bloodshed detracted from the "glory of our country."

SEPHARDIC CONFERENCE URGES GREATER INTEREST IN CULTURAL DEVELOPMENT OF ORIENTAL JEWS

JERUSALEM, Dec. 25. (JTA) -- The national conference of Sephardic Jews in Palestine concluded here today with resolutions asking abrogation of the White Paper and condemning terrorism. The conference asked national Jewish institutions to give adequate representation to the Sephardic community and to make greater contributions towards raising the social and cultural standards of the Jews in Oriental countries.

U.N. URGED TO PROMOTE INTERNATIONAL PACT GUARANTEEING SHECHITAH IN ALL COUNTRIES

NEW YORK, Dec. 25. (JTA) -- A delegation of rabbis was received yesterday by Czechoslovak Foreign Minister Jan Masaryk who has evinced an interest in a declaration which the United Nations is asked to issue recognizing Jewish ritual slaughter as being "in accord with the highest principles of humaneness" and emphasizing that "agitation for its prohibition is motivated by anti-Semitism."

The delegation was composed of Rabbis Isaac Lewin, Michael L. Munk and Jeremiah J. Berman. The three are authors of a study on kosher slaughtering sponsored by the Agudas Israel World Organization and the American Jewish Committee. The study, published in the form of a 300-page volume, was submitted to members of the United Nations and is being examined by experts of the Social, Humanitarian and Cultural Committee.

The declaration which the United Nations is urged to issue in the interest of religious freedom for Jews asks that the member nations of the U.N. sign an international pact agreeing that they will issue no laws or administrative measures prohibiting shechitah or restricting its full exercise. It also provides that all legislation having the effect of prohibiting or restricting the practice of Jewish religious slaughtering "shall in due course be repealed" in the countries where such legislation exists.

PROMINENT AMERICANS APPEAL TO TRUMAN FOR IMMEDIATE ENTRY TO U.S. OF 100,000 JEWS

NEW YORK, Dec. 25. (JTA) -- Seventy prominent Americans, including Eleanor Roosevelt, Bishop Francis J. McConnell, Bishop Charles O. Sealeman, today addressed a Christmas appeal to President Truman asking for "the immediate entry of 100,000 Jewish displaced persons into the United States."

The appeal, which was made public by the American Committee for Protection of Foreign Born, also urged the President to "order the Immigration and Naturalization Service to grant stays to long-resident aliens who are subject to deportation, only because they entered the country illegally, until such time as immigration quota numbers for them are available and they can adjust their status in this country."

AMERICAN ACTION ON PALESTINE ISSUE IS ESSENTIAL, CONGRESSMEN REPORT ON RETURN TO U.S.

NEW YORK, Dec. 25. (JTA) -- United States action for the solution of the Palestine problem is essential, Representative Joseph Clark Baldwin and Representative-elect Jacob K. Javits declared yesterday upon their return from Palestine where they studied Arab-Jewish relations.

Baldwin urged the creation of a Jewish state in Palestine which would embrace as Palestinian citizens the displaced Jews who are now in camps in Europe. He said he would submit a written report to President Truman on his fact-finding trip. Mr. Javits predicted that the 80th Congress will be called upon to deal with the Palestine issue.