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TRUMAN EXPRESSES ALARM AT RACIAL AND RELIGIOUS BIGOTRY IN U.S.; SAYS IT MUST BE CHECKED

WASHINGTON, Jan. 15. (JTA) -- President Truman expressed alarm today at "a latent spirit" of racial and religious bigotry in the United States and warned against development of Ku Klux Klanism "unless we do something tangible to prevent it."

Speaking informally to the first organizational meeting of his Committee on Civil Rights, which conferred in an all-day session at the White House, the President urged implementation of the Bill of Rights and promised the assistance of the Attorney General and the Office of the President in getting "tangible results."

"I don't want to see any race discrimination," the President declared. "I don't want to see any religious bigotry break out in this country as it did in 1922." Without mentioning the K.K.K. by name the President recalled its upsurge in 1922 in Missouri.

"I want our Bill of Rights implemented in fact," he said. "We have been trying to do this for one hundred and fifty years. We are making progress, but we are not making progress fast enough. This country could very easily be faced with a situation similar to the one with which it was faced in 1922. That date was impressed on my mind because in 1922 I was running for my first elective office--county Judge of Jackson County--and there was an organization in that county that met on hills and burned crosses and worked behind sheets. There is a tendency in this country for that situation to develop again, unless we do something tangible to prevent it."

The President said that he wanted the Attorney General to be informed exactly "how far he can go legally from the Federal Government's standpoint" in enforcing the law. He said that "none of us are entirely familiar with just how far the Federal Government under the Constitution has a right to go in these civil rights matters."

Authorizes A "Very Broad Inquiry" into Problem of Civil Rights

The President reiterated, in his concluding remarks, his concern at the growth of bigotry and discrimination. "I have been very much alarmed at certain happenings around the country," he declared, "that go to show there is a latent spirit in some of us that isn't what it ought to be." He pointed to the difficulty in some places of enforcing "even local laws." While opposed to exercise by the Federal Government of "dictatorial powers locally," the President asserted "there are certain rights under the Constitution of the United States which I think the Federal Government has a right to protect."

C.E. Wilson, chairman of the committee, and president of the General Electric Company, issued a statement declaring that the President had authorized him to announce that Mr. Truman wishes the committee to make "a very broad inquiry" into the problem of civil rights.

"Our immediate task will be to review the present civil rights statutes and to look into the possibility and advisability of strengthening them through new legis-

lation. However, the President wants us to go beyond the immediate problem of enforcement and get at the basic causes of civil rights violations and the occasional breakdown of local law enforcement," Wilson said.

Attorney General Tom Clark met with the committee and outlined difficulties facing the Department of Justice in enforcement of the present Federal civil rights statutes.

President's Committee Asks Groups and Individuals to Submit Their Views

At a press conference held by the President's Committee following the conclusion of the meeting at the White House, Wilson indicated that the Committee will maintain the widest possible contact with organizations and individuals interested in helping to stamp out bigotry in the United States. He said:

"The President's Committee on Civil Rights can only accomplish the objectives outlined in the President's directive if it truly represents the wishes of all the people of the country. No group is capable of interpreting the rights of a free people without adequate expression from all who constitute our democracy. To that end, the committee earnestly requests that all individuals and groups having a concern with civil rights address to the Committee in Washington written communications indicating their activities and views."

Asked if the Committee would recommend a constitutional amendment to provide for the better protection of civil rights, Wilson would not comment, except to say the Committee's assignment was very broad.

REPORTS OF A BRITISH PLAN FOR PARTITIONING PALESTINE TERMED "PURE SPECULATION"

LONDON, Jan. 15. (JTA) -- Authoritative sources today told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency that all talk of the British Government having prepared a plan, or several plans, for the partitioning of Palestine is "pure speculation." They stated that no dramatic developments should be expected when the conference on Palestine is resumed next Tuesday.

The same sources, however, saw significance in the presence in London of David Ben Gurion, Moshe Shertok and other leading members of the new world Zionist executive when the parley opens. They indicated that Britain would be ready for parallel talks with the Zionist leaders while the London parley goes on, but emphasized that no final arrangements have been made for such talks.

Asked whether the British Government still expects the Jewish Agency to attend the London conference, the same sources declared: "Officially the government is still hopeful; however, it has reconciled itself to realities."

Separate informal talks between the British Government and representatives of the world Zionist executive are likely to start here next week. The Jewish Telegraphic Agency learns the talks will be conducted by representatives of the world Zionist executive only, without participation of representatives of other Jewish organizations.

The Jewish Agency office here learned that some Jewish organizations offered to participate in the London conference, and brought the matter to the attention of the Agudat Israel in Palestine. Jewish Agency circles expressed the belief that as a result of its protest the Palestine Agudah will not only abstain from participation, but will also oppose participation by certain leaders of the Agudah in London who are willing to attend the parley despite the refusal of the Jewish Agency to join it.

JEWISH AGENCY MEETS TODAY TO DISCUSS PRACTICAL MEASURES AGAINST TERRORISM

JERUSALEM, Jan. 15. (JTA) -- Practical measures to combat terrorism in Palestine will be discussed at tomorrow's meeting of the Jewish Agency under the chairmanship of David Ben Gurion, who is leaving for London Friday.

Meanwhile, the Irgun Zvai Leumi announced today in a broadcast that it would not recognize any authority of groups which are not prepared to fight the British. The announcer insisted that "we would not surrender, even to the majority" in matters affecting "our conscience." He attacked "defeatist parts of the new Zionist executive" which, he said, are showing no signs of undertaking a struggle against the administration either on the military or civil front.

A garbage can containing arms and hand grenades was discovered on the outskirts of Jerusalem today, it was officially reported. Another official announcement said that Tiberias police had discovered three suitcases crammed full of gelignite near a Jewish school. A count revealed 492 sticks of explosive.

An Arab constable wounded in last Sunday's blasting of the Haifa police station died last night. This brings the total to five dead, three Arabs and two Britons. Sir Evelyn Barker, British military commander in Palestine, today remitted a sentence of twelve strokes of the lash imposed by a military court on an Arab found in possession of a gun.

The first group of demobilized Jewish soldiers has been settled on land of the Jewish National Fund near Michmar Hayarden, in the Jordan Valley. The new settlement has received the name of Irgun Wedgwood, after the late British statesman, Lord Wedgwood, who was a great friend of the Zionist movement.

ROME POLICE RECEIVE ANONYMOUS THREAT TO BLOW UP BUILDING HOUSING BRITISH TROOPS

ROME, Jan. 15. (JTA) -- The Rome police today received an anonymous phone call threatening to blow up a building housing British and American military personnel.

The structure was immediately evacuated and searched, but no explosives were found. Police here suspect that the caller was a member of the Irgun Zvai Leumi in Italy. A similar hoax was perpetrated on the police a few days ago when the Milan Hotel here was threatened.

SMARTENKO FLIES TO BRITAIN IN DEFIANCE OF BAN; WILL BE DEPORTED TO FRANCE TODAY

LONDON, Jan. 15. (JTA) -- Prof. Johaz J. Smartenko, vice-president of the American League for a Free Palestine, who was publicly banned from entering Britain, today landed at Croydon air field where he was met by immigration officials and policemen.

It was announced later that Prof. Smartenko will be deported to Paris from where he came in the same private chartered airplane which brought him across the English Channel. He was questioned for two-and-a-half hours by Scotland Yard detectives and then driven to a police station where he will spend the night. No formal charges were filed against him. He was accompanied on his plane trip by two American newspapermen.

(Immediate intercession by the United States Government to avert a two-week delay in Prof. Smartenko's deportation from Britain was urged today in New York by former Senator Guy M. Gillette, of Iowa, League president.)

POLISH PRESIDENT SAYS GOVERNMENT DOING "EVERYTHING POSSIBLE" TO HELP JEWS

WARSAW, Jan. 15. (JTA) -- Polish President Boleslaw Bairut last night declared that the government is doing "everything possible to help" Polish Jews and create conditions which will keep them in the country, at his first press conference for foreign correspondents. His statement in full was:

"We are doing everything possible to help the Jews to find a means of livelihood and we are attempting to spread them equally through all branches of life. We want to create such conditions that the Jews will not want to leave the country. But this naturally depends largely on the Jews themselves."

MOROCCAN SULTAN RULES IN DISPUTE OVER JEWISH BOY ADOPTED BY ARAB AGAINST PARENTS' WILL

RABAT, Morocco, Jan. 15. (JTA) -- The case of a nine-year-old Jewish boy who preferred to become a Moslem is attracting such nation-wide attention in Morocco among both Jews and Arabs that the Sultan himself has taken a hand in it.

The case started last April in the Mellah (ghetto) of Safi, an important port in Southern Morocco, when the boy ran out of a Jewish religious school in tears following a dispute with his teacher. An Arab living nearby saw him crying and asked sympathetically: "What is the trouble? Don't you want to study?" The boy answered: "No." The Arab told him that he should continue to study, if he wanted to grow up "a good Jew." To this the boy replied that he did not wish to be a Jew. "I prefer to be a Moslem," he said:

The Arab took the angry child's statement at face value and went to the local Moslem religious leader to inquire whether he could adopt the boy. He was told that the Moslem religion accepts any persons who wants to join. The Arab then took the boy home. The child is apparently happy to remain with the Arab who is rich because his own parents are poor.

Efforts by the parents to regain their son were opposed by the Arab, with the backing of local Arab authorities. The Jewish community appealed to the local French administration, but was told that because of the religious nature of the case the French would not interfere.

As a last resort, the case was appealed to the Sultan who ruled that the boy is to remain with the Arab family until he reaches the age of 13, after which he will decide for himself which religion he desires. As a result of the decision the Jewish parents have been prevented from seeing the boy except that his mother was permitted to meet him once in a government office.

BARON LOUIS DE ROTHSCHILD RETURNS TO VIENNA TO RECLAIM PROPERTY

LONDON, Jan. 15. (JTA) -- Baron Louis de Rothschild, head of the Austrian branch of the famed banking family, has returned to Vienna to reclaim his property, a report from the Austrian capital received here today stated. His fortune was once estimated at \$60,000,000.

BUDAPEST SOCCER TEAM TO PLAY MATCH AT TEL AVIV; WILL TOUR PALESTINE LATER

BUDAPEST, Jan. 15. (JTA) -- The Budapest soccer team will shortly depart for Tel Aviv where it will play the first in a series of matches with Palestinian teams, it was announced here today.

IOWA SCHOOL BOARD BANS DISTRIBUTION OF NEW TESTAMENT FOLLOWING PROTEST BY RABBI

DAVENPORT, Iowa, Jan. 15. (JTA) -- The Davenport school board yesterday halted distribution of the New Testament to school children following a protest by Rabbi Abram V. Goodman of the local Temple Emanuel.

In a letter to the school board, Rabbi Goodman pointed out that "the distribution of sectarian literature violates the historic separation between church and state" in this country. He added that although acceptance of the New Testament was voluntary, children who did not take it were embarrassed.

Permission for school children to accept copies of the New Testament on a voluntary basis offers a precedent for the dissemination of literature by other groups, the letter pointed out. "The Knights of Columbus might distribute Catholic catechisms, and the B'nai B'rith Jewish prayer books," Rabbi Goodman argued. "This opens the door to even more fantastic operations in the name of religion. Since the school system is nonsectarian, there is no justification for the division of children according to religious backgrounds in the classrooms."

720 REFUGEES EXPECTED TO LAND IN NEW YORK TODAY; 328 ARRIVE ON GRIPSHOLM

NEW YORK, Jan. 15. (JTA) -- Seven hundred and twenty survivors of German concentration camps, including 92 Jewish orphans, are expected to arrive here tomorrow on the Ernie Pyle, first immigration ship to leave Bremerhaven for the United States this year, it was announced today by the United Service for New Americans. The vessel has been delayed four days by heavy storms raging in the Atlantic.

A total of 328 refugees from all parts of Europe, including 75 whose passage and documents were arranged by HIAS, arrived here yesterday on the Gripsholm. Friends and relatives met some of the passengers and the remainder of the HIAS wards were taken to the organization's shelter.

The U.S.N.A. provided corporate affidavits for 219 of the Ernie Pyle's passengers, many of whom were delayed at Bremen because of shipping shortages. The 92 children are under the sponsorship of the United States Committee for Care of European Children, and reception care for the Jewish children will be provided by the European-Jewish Children's Aid, an affiliate of U.S.N.A., which will also arrange to place them in foster homes throughout the country.

The Joint Distribution Committee handled the immigration arrangements of the Ernie Pyle's Jewish passengers and advanced travel costs in cases where the immigrants had no American kin to help them.

ARRANGEMENTS FOR BAKING ALL MATZOS NEEDED BY DP'S IN GERMANY PROCEEDING WELL

MUNICH, Jan. 15. (JTA) -- Arrangements to have an estimated 800,000 pounds of matzohs needed by the displaced Jews in the American zone baked in Germany in preparation for the coming Passover holidays are proceeding smoothly with Army co-operation, the Joint Distribution Committee revealed here today.

Under present plans the Army will provide the J.D.C. with the necessary amount of flour which the J.D.C. will exchange with the Germans for wheat. The wheat will then be converted into holiday flour by the Jews. Five pounds of matzohs per person will be distributed to all Jews in Germany.