

JTA**Daily News Bulletin**

PUBLISHED BY THE JEWISH TELEGRAPHIC AGENCY

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

WHITE HOUSE TERMS BEVIN'S ATTACK "UNFORTUNATE AND MISLEADING"; REJECTS INSINUATIONS

WASHINGTON, Feb. 26. (JTA) -- Foreign Secretary Bevin's presentation of American interest in the Palestine problem was termed "unfortunate and misleading" by the White House today.

In a statement issued late this afternoon, the White House pointed to America's "long and continuing" interest in Palestine and declared that the Presidential statement of October 4, 1946, referred to by Bevin, "merely reaffirmed the attitude toward Palestine and Jewish immigration into Palestine which the United States Government has publicly expressed since the summer of 1945."

The text of the statement follows:

"The impression that has arisen from yesterday's debate in the British Parliament that America's interest in Palestine and the settlement of Jews there is motivated by partisan and local politics is most unfortunate and misleading.

"The President's statement of October 4, 1946, which was referred to in the debate, merely reaffirmed the attitude toward Palestine and Jewish immigration into Palestine which the United States Government has publicly expressed since the summer of 1945. This attitude was and is based upon the desire of the President to advance a just solution of the Palestine problem.

"Our position on this subject was communicated to the British Government by the President in his letter to Prime Minister Attlee on August 31, 1945, which was publicly released by the President on Nov. 13, 1945, when he announced the establishment of the joint Anglo-American Committee of Inquiry. The statement of Oct. 4, 1946, reiterated this Government's position, which was already fully known to all parties to the Palestine negotiations.

"America's interest in Palestine is of long and continuing standing. It is a deep and abiding interest shared by our people without regard to their political affiliation."

BRITISH CONSULT U.N. ON CALLING SPECIAL SESSION TO DEAL WITH PALESTINE ISSUE

LAKE SUCCESS, Feb. 26. (JTA) -- The feasibility of bringing the Palestine issue before a special session of the U.N. General Assembly prior to the regular session in September was discussed today by Sir Alexander Cadogan, British delegate to the United Nations Security Council, with Secretary General Trygve Lie.

Both the Secretariat of the United Nations and the British delegation refused to reveal the nature of the discussions between Sir Alexander and Mr. Lie. British sources admitted, however, that such a meeting took place and added that Sir Alexander was merely seeking advice "and nothing more." It is understood that Mr. Lie had indicated on a previous occasion that the calling of a special session of the General Assembly would involve an expenditure of about \$1,000,000.

BEVIN ATTACK ON TRUMAN EVOKES SHARP CRITICISM IN SENATE BY DEMOCRATS, REPUBLICANS

WASHINGTON, Feb. 26, (JTA) -- Foreign Minister Bevin's attack on President Truman yesterday was sharply criticized in the Senate today by five Senators, both Democrats and Republicans.

They pointed out that the President's original statement calling for admission of 100,000 Jewish refugees into Palestine came fourteen months before the 1946 elections and even then, was a much more modest statement than pro-election commitments made by the British Labor Party.

Senator Owen Brewster, Republican of Maine, said that "the amazing statement of Mr. Bevin regarding Palestine apparently reveals the workings of a deeply distressed conscience. In seeking a sacrificial goat in America, Mr. Bevin looks too far afield. There should be honor even among politicians. Mr. Bevin should tell his constituency that his difficulties stem not from American politicians but from his own Labor Party."

He expressed the suggestion that the Jews of New York - with reference to Bevin's remarks about pressure by Jews in that city - are undoubtedly glad they were raised under the American Government rather than in Great Britain.

Senator Alben W. Barkley, Democrat of Kentucky, and minority leader of the Senate, expressed his regret that Bevin "for frustration or any other reason," had made his statement about the President. He said that the United States has gone a long way to help Britain with her military, economic and social problems.

Palestine Interests All Nations Because Affects World Peace

All nations, he pointed out, have an interest in the Palestine problem because of its effects on world peace. "Never at any time," he declared, "have any aspersions been cast on the head of the British Government," even though at times the U.S. may have disagreed with British policies.

Senator Taft, Republican of Ohio, pointed out what he called "another inconsistency" in Bevin's attack. He said that the partition plan proposed by the British Government was repudiated by Bevin in his speech yesterday. "Bevin has repudiated the basis for discussion with the Jewish Agency," Taft declared.

Senator Hawks, Republican of New Jersey, expressed himself in favor of referring the Palestine matter to the U.N. "If the Jewish people cannot get a square deal there, then I ask what hope is there for any other minority group to get a square deal from the U.N.," he said. "I am not in favor of giving Jews any better treatment than any other minority, but I am in favor of keeping sacred obligations."

Senator Warren Magnusson, Democrat of Washington, pointed out that American participation in the Anglo-American Inquiry Committee represented American assumption of responsibility in the Palestine question.

Senator Claude Pepper, Democrat of Florida, declared that the action of Great Britain in referring the question of Palestine to the U.N. was "already a year late. It affects the whole world," he said. "We have not tried to throw stones, but we have seen the wretched conditions of the people in the DP camps."

SHERTOK DENIES BEVIN CHARGE THAT TRUMAN WRECKED IMMINENT PALESTINE AGREEMENT

WASHINGTON, Feb. 26. (JTA) -- Moshe Shertok, chief of the political department of the Jewish Agency for Palestine, and representative of the Agency's executive in Washington, said today that there was "no real prospect of an agreed solution" of the impasse in Palestine last October, as Foreign Secretary Bevin asserted in his House of Commons speech yesterday.

Declaring himself "baffled and bewildered by the version of the October negotiations" presented by Bevin to Commons, Shertok said that "I do not see how anything could have interfered with the chances of an agreed solution which, to my mind, were non-existent. It is not surprising," he declared, "that Bevin thinking as he does and advised as he is, cannot solve the problem. What is odd is that he should blame his failure on others."

Recently returned from London where he participated in the informal Jewish Agency talks with Bevin and Colonial Secretary Creech-Jones, Shertok will leave next Wednesday for Jerusalem to attend a meeting of the executive and the Zionist Actions Committee. In the meantime he was conferring here today with Dr. Abba Hillel Silver and Dr. Emanuel Neumann on matters concerning the effect of Bevin's address.

Doubts Whether Jewish Agency Will Renew Talks with Bevin

Referring to Bevin's hint of a possibility of further talks looking toward a solution, outside the United Nations, Shertok said that in his personal opinion, and without formally committing the Executive, he sees "very little likelihood of the Executive re-engaging in any talks, and thereby lending itself to a game of procrastination, so long as there is no tangible change in the position on Palestine."

The Agency has no quarrel whatever with the new departure of the British Government in deciding to lay the Palestine problem before the U.N., Shertok declared. He added that if the matter is referred to the U.N., the Agency "will do everything in its power to uphold and defend the internationally recognized rights of Jews in Palestine."

Shertok emphasized the "crucial urgency" of an interim policy pending referral to the U.N. and subsequent U.N. action. He specified immediate admission of the 100,000 refugees, and abrogation of the land laws as "no more than an act of restitution" by the British. "They cannot in one and the same breath flout international authority by violating the mandate and swear allegiance to it by submitting to the judgment of the U.N.," he said. "If Britain desires to lay its trust before the high international body, it must restore it intact and undistorted by all the violations contained in the White Paper of 1939 and enforced today."

Agency Would Defer Claim to Statehood if Mandate Observed

The Agency would defer its claim to statehood, Shertok said, if the British would return to the "status quo ante-1937," when, he declared, they first began violating the mandate. He sees little hope however, "that those of the British Cabinet who are in effective control of Palestine policy will easily be persuaded to effect these changes. Playing for time has been their guiding principle, pursued with inexhaustible ingenuity, at the expense of the peace of Palestine and the rescue of our European remnants."

Bevin's assertion that the Arabs might agree to admission of the 100,000 if the Jews abandoned their claim to statehood was characterized by Shertok as "quite a revelation." Irrespective of whether the Arabs might or might not agree, he said, "the Jews will never accept the position that their return to Palestine should be subject to Arab consent."

GOLDMANN CHALLENGES BEVIN; SAYS THERE WAS NEVER POSSIBILITY OF AGREEMENT

LONDON, Feb. 26. (JTA) -- Foreign Minister Bevin's charge that American interference wrecked the chances of an accord among Britain, the Arabs and the Jews was denied here today by Dr. Nahum Goldmann, member of the Jewish Agency executive, who participated in all the recent discussions between Bevin and the Zionists, and who presented the Jewish Agency partition plan to the U.S. Government.

Dr. Goldmann said that the Foreign Secretary's claim that President Truman's Yom Kippur statement had blasted the possibility of an imminent agreement with the Jews and Arabs was inaccurate, since there had never been any basis for agreement between the Jews and the British.

At the time the Truman statement was issued, the Jewish Agency was not even discussing long-term policy with Bevin, but only the conditions for participation in the Palestine Conference, Goldmann stated. The Agency would not have joined in the conference talks, even if Truman had refrained from issuing the statement, he added.

The basis for the Agency's rejection of all British proposals was the fact that they were predicated on the fundamental assumption that Jews should remain a minority in any Palestinian state, Goldmann declared. He termed misleading Bevin's statement that there were three alternative solutions: A Jewish state, an Arab state and a unitary state, since a unitary state would mean one with an Arab majority. The real alternatives, he continued, are a state with an Arab majority, or one with a Jewish majority, or partition. Recalling that Bevin's objection to partition was that it would place certain Arabs under a Jewish majority, Goldmann pointed out that the Foreign Minister was quite ready, however, to place all 600,000 Jews in Palestine under an Arab majority.

Reveals Details of Jewish Agency Negotiations with Bevin

He vigorously denied that the Agency had made establishment of a Jewish state the only basis for negotiations, as Bevin alleged. Goldmann said the Agency had submitted three proposals: A Jewish state, return to the mandate without the White Paper, or partition. He challenged Bevin's assertion that partition was not within the scope of the mandate, citing the ruling of the League of Nations Mandates Commission, in 1937, which said that partition was permissible under the mandate.

It was the White Paper, not partition, which the Mandates Committee termed illegal, he stressed. He also pointed to the fact that Britain had not hesitated to declare the independence of Transjordan - which was also included in the mandate - and then went to the United States to secure endorsement of the move.

Goldmann said he found it amazing that "after twelve long talks with us between August and September, the most elementary notions of the mandate should be strange to the thinking of Mr. Bevin. He has suddenly discovered that the Jewish people are a 'religion.' This shows lack of understanding of the ABC's of the problem and makes the whole mandate nonsense. The mandate speaks of a national home for the Jewish people, not of a religious home."

Referring to Bevin's statement that other nations were also unwilling to admit Jewish refugees, Goldmann said that that was the precise reason why the drafters of the mandate had promised Palestine as a Jewish national home, where Jews would have a legal right to enter.

Attacking as "fantastic" Bevin's insistence on carrying out the terms of the White Paper, the Agency leader charged that the White Paper was not an international obligation, only a unilateral statement of policy. The mandate, which was more of a commitment than the White Paper was not being carried out, he added.

VIENNA JEWISH COMMUNITY SUBMITS MEMORANDUM TO "BIG FOUR" ON PEACE TREATY PROVISIONS

VIENNA, Feb. 26. (JTA) -- A memorandum outlining the demands of the Jews in Austria in connection with the peace treaty was submitted by the Jewish Community to the deputies of the Council of Foreign Ministers who yesterday concluded meeting in London, it was learned here today.

One of the basic demands is the transfer of heirless Jewish property to a fund to be administered by the Jewish Community under the supervision of the state and which would be used only for Jewish needs. The memorandum also asks for the restoration of rights to Jews as provided in the Treaty of St. Germain signed in 1919.

Other demands include a request that Austria assume responsibility for protecting the life, freedom, social and economic existence of all citizens without discrimination with regard to race or religion; also that Austria be obligated under the provisions of the peace treaty to prosecute as crimes and punish by law any direct or indirect violation of the rights of national minorities.

The Jewish Community also asks that the stipulations concerning the protection of national minorities be issued by the United Nations, and that any member of the United Nations be entitled to draw the attention of the U.N. to any violation, or any threat of violation, of the obligations which Austria has undertaken under the peace treaty with regard to the protection of the basic human rights of her national minorities.

VALUABLE GOLD AND SILVER ORNAMENTS STOLEN BY NAZIS RETURNED TO FLORENCE SYNAGOGUE

ROME, Feb. 26. (JTA) -- Thirty-five cases containing many gold and silver ornaments and art objects stolen by the Nazis from the synagogue of Florence were today returned to the congregation. The cases were guarded by an armed escort of 100 men.

The ornaments, whose estimated value runs into millions of dollars, were discovered by Italian partisan forces near the Brenner Pass on the Austrian border. They were brought to Italy many centuries ago by Jews fleeing Spain.

JEWIS IN POLAND ASK GOVERNMENT TO GIVE RECOGNITION AND AID TO THEIR SCHOOL SYSTEM

WARSAW, Feb. 26. (JTA) -- A delegation of the Central Committee of Polish Jews today submitted a memorandum to the Polish Minister of Education asking full recognition of the Jewish school system in Poland.

There are 32 Jewish schools located in principal cities. None of them receive any subsidy from the government. The delegation asked that the privileges granted Polish teachers and students be extended to teachers and students in the Jewish schools.

Efforts to secure financial assistance from the government have been made since 1945. However, the Ministry of Education stated that recognition cannot be given the Jewish schools because their curriculum had not been approved by a professional body. This problem has now been eliminated. The first Jewish teachers' convention, which was held recently in Lodz, adopted a unified curriculum. The leaders of the Central Committee, therefore, expect a favorable reply from the Ministry.

JEW IN ARGENTINA THANK PERON FOR ADMITTING REFUGEES WHO WERE REFUSED ENTRY IN BRAZIL

BUENOS AIRES, Feb. 26. (JTA) -- A letter thanking General Peron for allowing 47 Jewish refugees from Italy to land in Argentina after they had been refused entry into Brazil was sent today by the DAIA, central representative body of Argentine Jews.

Permission for the refugees to enter Argentina was given by the Government following intervention by the DAIA. The 47 Jews had Brazilian visas, but were denied entry into Brazil because they arrived four days after expiration of the visas.

J.W.B. GETS NAVY DEPARTMENT AWARD FOR SERVICE TO NAVAL PERSONNEL DURING WAR

NEW YORK, Feb. 26. (JTA) -- A Certificate of Achievement to the National Jewish Welfare Board "in grateful recognition of outstanding service to naval personnel during World War II," was awarded by the U.S. Navy Department this afternoon at the Office of the Commandant, 3rd Naval District.

The certificate was presented by Rear Admiral Monroe Kelly, U.S.N. Commandant, 3rd Naval District, Milton Wooll, chairman, JWB Army-Navy committee, accepted the award on behalf of the agency. A letter accompanying the citation, signed by Admiral Kelly, stressed JWB services in World War II, noting "these were freely extended, with love and gladness of spirit, to all fellow-Americans." The letter added: "In its stewardship as representative of the Jewish community to the armed forces, the JWB exemplified the highest tradition of Americanism and lived up to the highest standards of our armed forces."

U.S. JEWS NEGLECTING JEWISH EDUCATION, SAYS LEHMAN, OPENING DRIVE FOR NEW UNIVERSITY

NEW YORK, Feb. 26. (JTA) -- "Meaningful and constructive education in Judaism," is being neglected because of lack of teachers, facilities and modern educational techniques, former Gov. Herbert H. Lehman said tonight, in an address opening the local drive for the \$15,000,000 University of Judaism sponsored by the Jewish Theological Seminary.

Lauding the activities of the Seminary, Mr. Lehman said that it has been hampered by the inadequate support given it by the American Jewish community. "The responsibilities facing us today as Americans and as Jews are urgent," he added, "and the penalty, if we fail to solve such problems as that of getting our children to accept themselves as Jews, is severe. The time is not for recrimination but for rededication for service--to our God and to our people, and to ourselves--in the same spirit that activated the founders and the incorporators of the Seminary."

CANADIAN HADASSAH PARLEY SAYS END TO WHITE PAPER PREREQUISITE TO PALESTINE SOLUTION

NIAGARA FALLS, Ont., Feb. 26. (JTA) -- Abolition of the White Paper as a prerequisite to any solution of the Palestine problem was urged today at the closing session of the 12th national convention of the Canadian Hadassah. The 178 delegates voted to expand the organization's activities in all parts of the dominion and to intensify its aid for survivors in Europe and the rehabilitation of Palestine. Mrs. Harry Singer of Montreal was elected president.

AMERICAN-PALESTINE PLAN TO AID DOCTORS, NURSES, SOCIAL WORKERS UNDERTAKEN BY HADASSAH

NEW YORK, Feb. 26. (JTA) -- A plan to assure an "unbroken flow" of the latest hospitalization, nursing, public health, social service, nutrition and recreation techniques and research from the United States to Palestine has been placed in operation by Hadassah, it was disclosed here today by Dr. Haim Yassky, director of the Hadassah Medical Organization, who has just arrived by air from Jerusalem.