

BRITISH SUBMIT REQUEST TO U.N. FOR SPECIAL ASSEMBLY SESSION ON PALESTINE ISSUE

LAKE SUCCESS, April 2. (JTA)--The British Government today submitted to the United Nations secretariat a request that a special session of the U.N. General Assembly be summoned to discuss the Palestine question.

The British move, which had been expected for several days, was announced this morning by Acting Secretary-General Victor Hoo. It came after France, China and the Soviet Union had indicated, in reply to an informal query by the secretariat, that they had no objections to a special session. The U.S. Government announced last Friday that it would support the British proposal.

Although the British are known to prefer restricting the work of the session to the setting up of an inquiry commission to study the Palestine problem and to make recommendations to the next regular Assembly meeting, Mr. Hoo said that the session itself would determine the scope of its activities.

He added that he did not know how large a meeting would be held, since it was up to the member governments to determine how many delegates they wished to send. It has been suggested in some quarters that each nation restrict its delegation to one member to keep down the expenses of the meeting. Whether the session is to be held at Lake Success or in the Assembly chamber at Flushing Meadows will be determined by the number of delegates.

Mr. Hoo said that the U.N. secretariat would begin immediately to poll the 55 member nations on whether they favored calling the special meeting. He added that little opposition was expected. The only nations that have so far indicated that they would be opposed are the five Arab states.

Text Of British Note To United Nations

The text of the British note to Mr. Hoo, which was submitted by Sir Alexander Cadogan, chief of the United Kingdom delegation, read as follows:

"His Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom request the Secretary-General of the United Nations to place the question of Palestine on the Agenda of the General Assembly at its next regular Annual Session. They will submit to the Assembly an account of their administration of the League of Nations Mandate and will ask the Assembly to make recommendations, under Article 10 of the Charter, concerning the future government of Palestine.

"In making this request, His Majesty's Government draw the attention of the Secretary-General to the desirability of an early settlement in Palestine and to the risk that the General Assembly might not be able to decide upon its recommendations at its next regular Annual Session unless some preliminary study of the questions had previously been made under the auspices of the United Nations. They

therefore request the Secretary-General to summon, as soon as possible, a special Session of the General Assembly for the purpose of constituting and instructing a Special Committee to prepare for the consideration, at the regular Session of the Assembly, of the question referred to in the preceding paragraph."

(Several high Soviet diplomats will arrive in Palestine shortly to make an on-the-spot study of the Jewish-Arab dispute here, it was reported today from Jerusalem. The Soviet interest is believed motivated by the fact that Russia, as one of the leading members of the U.N., will be obliged to take a definite stand on the question one way or the other when the Assembly meets.)

#### IRGUN DEFIES BEN GURION THREAT OF FORCE; CHARGES HE COOPERATED WITH BRITISH

JERUSALEM, April 2. (JTA)--Replying tonight to David Ben Gurion's blast against the terrorists yesterday, the Irgun Zvai Leumi declared that it was prepared to fight and charged Ben Gurion with cooperating with the British in the campaign to suppress the dissidents.

An announcer on the Irgun's underground radio, "Voice of Fighting Zion," said: "Ben Gurion wants to fight us, all right let him. We're ready." He charged that two years ago the chairman of the Jewish Agency executive had set the Haganah against the dissidents, but that this had only resulted in strengthening the extremists. Ben Gurion was also accused of ordering "his forces to cooperate with the White Paper government and the British Gestapo was provided with lists of our comrades who were arrested, kidnaped and tortured."

An open clash between the Irgun and the Haganah is not expected to take place until after the Passover holidays, although it is known that the Haganah is ready to place a 24-hour guard around threatened points; if the police agree not to molest the guards or attempt to disarm them.

Dov Gruner and four other condemned Palestinian Jews have written to the Tel Aviv municipality asking that it cease its activities to obtain clemency for them as long as the British refuse to recognize them as "prisoners of war," it was learned today. The other four men are Eliezer Kashani, Mordechai Alkushi, Dov Rosenbaum and Moshe Barazani.

It has been learned that responsible Jewish organizations are considering abandoning efforts to obtain clemency for the five and any other extremists condemned in the future as a measure to suppress terrorism. The anti-clemency feeling is growing not only in the Histadruth but also in the Jewish National Council. It is expected that the Rabbinate will continue to press for mercy on humanitarian grounds.

Mrs. Helen Friedman, Gruner's sister, who flew to Palestine in an attempt to save her brother from the gallows, is preparing to return home. High Commissioner Sir Alan G. Cunningham has refused to see her as long as the case is under the jurisdiction of the courts.

#### Palestine To Suffer Oil Famine As Result Of Haifa Refinery Bombing

The Palestine Government announced that as result of the blowing up of the Shell Oil Company Refineries in Haifa, where fires were still raging today, the domestic oil supply would be sharply curtailed for an indefinite period, perhaps years. Oil company officials and government authorities were conferring today on contemplated rationing measures.

A government press officer, who said the damage now totalled \$4,000,000, added that the demands of European countries would preclude the importation by

Palestine of the machinery needed to rebuild the installations which were destroyed. It was indicated that the acute shortage of petroleum products is the punishment with which the community was threatened in an ambiguous statement issued by Richard Stubbs, the Government's press director, immediately after the blast took place.

Meanwhile, the 6 p.m. to 6 a.m. curfew in Jerusalem was lifted this morning, exactly three weeks after its imposition on March 12. It was clamped down following an Irgunist attack on a military headquarters in the area of the city under martial rule.

#### Deportation Ship Blasted In Cyprus Harbor After Debarking Refugees

HAIFA, April 2. (JTA)--The British deportation ship Ocean Vigor was today damaged in the harbor of Famagusta, Cyprus, where it had disembarked a party of visaless refugees intercepted aboard the blockade runner Moledeth. An explosion tore a hole in the ship's bottom.

The Palestine Information Office released a communique on the bombing stating: "At 5:15 a.m. an unknown man was seen swimming and at 7:30 a.m. the explosion occurred." However, government officials refused to state whether there was any connection between the two incidents.

It was also reported from Cyprus that there was a disturbance in the Karaolos camp today which was quieted without the use of force. A few of the Jews who had managed to escape from the camp were rounded up. A party of 750 internees returned to Palestine where they will await their turn to be released under the monthly quota.

#### RUDOLF HOESS, "GREATEST MASS MURDERER IN HISTORY", SENTENCED TO HANG BY POLISH COURT

WARSAW, April 2. (JTA)--Rudolf Hoess, former commandant of the Oswiecim death camp, was today sentenced to be hanged by the highest Polish military tribunal.

Hoess, who has been described as the "greatest mass murderer in history," was charged with responsibility for the torture and murder of some 4,000,000 persons. He accepted responsibility for everything that happened at Oswiecim, but differed with the court on the number of persons he had killed--his estimates were closer to 2,000,000. He agreed with the testimony of Jewish witnesses that 1,500,000 Jews had perished at the camp.

#### TWO OF FIVE DP JEWS ACQUITTED ON RIOTING CHARGES; THREE RECEIVE SIX MONTH SENTENCES

SALZBURG, April 2. (JTA)--Two of the five displaced Jews who have been on trial here on charges of rioting, assault and interference with traffic were today acquitted by an American military court. The two were Rabbi Moses Weiss and Pinkus Hoggraf, a member of the Riedenburg camp committee.

The remaining three defendants were sentenced to six months each. Lipa Skolski, former chief of the Jewish police at the camp, was cleared of the charges against him but the court sentenced him for failure to report persons sought by the military police. Jerzy Morgenstern and Josef Cehanowski were found guilty of participating in a riot on Feb. 19.

Two months of Skolski's sentence was suspended and, in addition, it was ordered that the remaining four months run from Feb. 19. Four months of Morgenstern's sentence and two months of Cehanowski's were also suspended.

#### 2,600 JEWS SAIL FROM FRENCH PORT REPORTEDLY HEADED FOR COLOMBIA

PARIS, April 2. (JTA)--More than 2,600 Jewish refugees, whose official destination was issued as Colombia, were reported to have sailed today from a small southern French port aboard the 1,700-ton ship "Guardian," flying the Honduran flag.

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JEWISH LEADERS DENY REPORTS OF PLANNED EXODUS OF DP'S FROM REICH DURING SPRING

FRANKFURT, April 2. (JTA)--Rabbi Philip Bernstein, advisor on Jewish Affairs in the European Theater, and the Central Committee of Liberated Jews today denied recently published reports that more than 100,000 displaced Jews in the American zone of Germany planned a mass migration to Palestine.

"No responsible Jewish leader or organization is advocating or organizing a mass crusade of Jewish displaced persons to Palestine," Rabbi Bernstein stated. "In my personal opinion it would be catastrophic to send 100,000 men, women and children out on the road without food or shelter or transportation which could not conceivably be provided for such numbers."

Rabbi Bernstein added, however, there probably would be "increased exfiltration" from the American DP camps to European ports where the Jews hope to get aboard illegal transports to the Holy Land. This exodus, Rabbi Bernstein said, would be in an "unauthorized and disorganized fashion."

Speaking for the Central Committee headquarters in Munich, Vice-Chairman Abram Blumovitz asserted that his committee was neither instigating nor endorsing any mass migration.

TOP OFFICIALS OF AUSTRIAN GOVT. OPPOSE FULL RESTITUTION FOR RELIGIOUS PERSECUTEES

VIENNA, April 2. (JTA)--A memorandum drawn up by top officials of the Chancellery for the guidance of Foreign Minister Karl Gruber, who heads the Austrian delegation at the Council of Foreign Ministers in Moscow, states that the Government cannot accept a joint Russian-British-French suggestion that a stipulation be included in the peace treaty under which full compensation would be paid by Austria for the property seized by the Nazis on racial or religious grounds, it has been learned authoritatively.

The French-Russian-British proposal, which was projected at the meeting of the Foreign Ministers' deputies in London last month, opposes the U.S. proposal which provides merely for the return of confiscated property, regardless of its present condition. The memorandum says that acceptance of this clause would set up Jews and other racial and religious persecutees as a privileged group.

CZECH MINISTER DENIES ANTI-SEMITISM, BUT REPEATS CHARGES AGAINST CARPATHIAN JEWS

PRAGUE, April 2. (JTA)--Minister of Information Vaclav Kopecky, speaking before a Socialist meeting here, protested against the recent charge by the official Social Democratic newspaper that he was an anti-Semite, but repeated his previous attacks against the Sub-Carpathian Jews.

Kopecky claimed that the Carpathian Jews had entered the Czech Army only towards the end of the war, spoke Hungarian or German and had fled from the Carpathian area--which was ceded to the Soviet Union last year--because they feared "bolshivism." He claimed that only Czechs or Slovaks living in the Carpathian region could apply for Czechoslovak citizenship, not persons who had registered in the 1930 census as Jews.

The Information Minister criticized the Jewish Community Council for protesting to the government against the nationalization of a factory owned by a Jewish industrialist, Emil Bear, asserting that by so doing it was defending a "capitalist."

EUROPEAN JEWS GET 5,000,000 POUNDS OF PASSOVER FOOD; MOST CONTRIBUTED BY AMERICAN JEWS

PARIS, April 2. (JTA)--Gifts of over 5,000,000 pounds of Passover foods and nearly 100,000 religious articles--mostly from America--were distributed this week among Europe's 1,500,000 surviving Jews in an effort to afford them something like a normal Passover observance.

The Joint Distribution Committee announced at its European headquarters here that 3,318,000 pounds of matzo's and 1,060,000 pounds of matzo flour had been shipped to Jewish communities in virtually every country in Europe. In addition, 200,000 bottles of sacramental wine from Palestine were being distributed in Austria, Germany and Italy, where there are no local wine sources for the Jews in the DP camps. Twenty thousand Hagodahs, 53,000 prayer shawls, phylacteries and other religious objects as well as 10,000 prayer books have been gathered from all over the world for the European Jews.

At one time adverse weather conditions threatened to disrupt the JDC's arrangements for distributing Passover supplies. As the holidays drew near, frantic telegrams from William Bein, JDC director in Poland, warned that matzo's for his area were icebound in Copenhagen harbor. Ragnar Gottfarb, JDC director in Stockholm, moved swiftly. A Swedish icebreaker was sent down the Gulf of Gdynia, breaking through the Baltic ice ahead of her convoy of twenty carloads of matzo's for Poland's 100,000 Jews.

When the ship carrying supplies for Germany arrived in Genoa, the harbor was clogged with shipping which had been delayed by rough seas and a limited available land transport. To beat the delay, Ben Kaplan, supply chief in Germany, rushed to the Italian port, assembled a fleet of small boats and succeeded in unloading the Matzo's in time to make his distribution deadline. The shipment to famine-ridden Rumania was held up a whole week by snow-drifts blocking rail movements in Austria. In Rumania, after two successive years of crop failure, JDC shipments will be doing double duty--fending off starvation as well as making possible religious observance.

In the occupation areas, UNRRA and the US Army worked in close cooperation with the JDC in order to gather all the foods and necessities for the Passover. In the U.S. Zone of Germany, for example, the Army has made available to displaced Jews 150,000 eggs above the normal ration.

LEHMAN PASSOVER BROADCAST URGES AMERICA TO GIVE REFUGE TO NAZI VICTIMS

NEW YORK, April 2. (JTA)--Broadcasting over a nationwide hookup of the Mutual Broadcasting System on a special Passover program presented in cooperation with the American Jewish Committee, former Governor Herbert H. Lehman tonight called for temporary emergency measures which would admit a "fair share of the victims of Nazism" to the United States.

As "a nation of immigrants" built by the contributions of immigrants of all countries and faiths, the United States has a special responsibility to maintain its historic policy of affording sanctuary to the oppressed, Governor Lehman said. "We, as inheritors of the tradition of human liberation which the seder service of Passover commemorates, must see to it that for those who survived the Nazi war of extermination, the tradition of human liberty is made real and living," Governor Lehman declared.

In urging assignment of unused immigration quotas as an emergency step, the former Director General of UNRRA stressed that the problem is a non-sectarian one and that "for the past fifteen years the annual immigration quota of our country has not been filled."

ADL AND JEWISH LABOR COMMITTEE TO COORDINATE EFFORTS WITH UNIONS IN FIGHT ON BIAS

NEW YORK, April 2. (JTA)--An agreement between the Jewish Labor Committee and the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith to coordinate their efforts with organized labor in promoting better group relations in fighting racial and religious bigotry was outlined today at a press conference held at the ADL offices here.

The two agencies have heretofore carried out independent programs through the trade union movement and each has had the cooperation of the A.F. of L. and C.I.O. and their affiliates. Under the new agreement, announced jointly by William Sachs, chairman of the Anti-Defamation League Labor Committee, and Charles Zimmerman, vice-chairman of the Jewish Labor Committee, the two agencies will use each other's facilities, distribution channels and educational materials to carry out a program of democratic education in the labor field, and to cooperate with labor in combating organized un-American elements, and racial and religious bigotry.

RESURGENCE OF PRO-GERMAN SYMPATHY IN U.S. CHARGED BY ANTI-NAZI LEAGUE HEAD

NEW YORK, April 2. (JTA)--The most powerful tool now possessed by the Nazi and fascist enemies of democracy is their "appeal to the unthinking sympathy of the American people" which is sometimes "extended without sufficient attention to considerations of justice and safety," Prof. James H. Sheldon, administrative chairman of the Non-Secretarian Anti-Nazi League, warned last night. He charged a renewed outbreak of pro-German sympathy propaganda by "virtually the entire German-American press," the Stephen Society, bund-like underground organizations, and "such sympathy fronts as an outfit calling itself American Relief for Germany, Inc."

"Such newspapers as Der Wanderer openly say that the death of a few million Jews is a small matter and nothing to be worried about as compared with the inconveniences which many more millions of Germans are suffering today," Prof. Sheldon declared. Speaking at the League's 14th anniversary dinner, he cited the discovery among the papers of Columbian leader Homer Loomis Jr. of anti-Semitic material from Einar Aberg, Swedish quisling, as evidence "that we are fighting the same evil whether we are fighting the Columbians in Georgia, the Ku Klux Klan, Gerald L.K. Smith or the followers of Sir Oswald Mosley."

Among the other speakers was Senator Harley M. Kilgore, West Virginia Democrat, who called for a curb against the "innumerable hate-mongers feeding the fires of ignorance and bigotry."

HENRY FORD 2ND DISAVOWS "INTERNATIONAL JEW"; URGES FIGHT ON BIAS BY ALL AMERICANS

NEW YORK, April 2. (JTA)--Henry Ford 2nd, president of the Ford Motor Company, has completely disavowed the publication of "The International Jew," reprinted from the Dearborne Independent, where it first appeared after World War I, and presently being circulated by Gerald L.K. Smith, it was learned here. A letter to the Council Against Intolerance in America declared that "the publication of the book is entirely without the sanction, authorization or approval of Mr. Henry Ford, the Ford Motor Company or himself." "It is the policy of the Ford Motor Company and the members of the Ford family to urge all American citizens to combat any movement, the purpose of which is to foster hatred and prejudice against any group," the letter concluded.

BELGIAN GOVERNMENT AWARDS HIGH DECORATION TO JEWISH WELFARE WORKER

PARIS, April 2. (JTA)--The Belgian Government has awarded one of its highest decorations to Laura L. Margolis, a welfare worker who followed the Allied armies into Belgium before V-E Day to organize the JDC's emergency program of assistance for the thousands of surviving Belgian Jews who were desperately sick and destitute at the time of their liberation, it was announced here today.