

Tuesday, April 29, 1947

JTA Daily News Bulletin

PUBLISHED BY THE JEWISH TELEGRAPHIC AGENCY

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

JEWISH AGENCY UNLIKELY TO GET U.N. REPRESENTATION; COMMITTEE WILL RULE TODAY

FLUSHING MEADOWS, April 28. (JTA) -- The Jewish Agency is unlikely to secure representation at the United Nations General Assembly on Palestine, which opened here today, it was indicated by various delegations, following the election of Oswaldo Aranha, chief Brazilian delegate, as president of the Assembly. Dr. Aranha received 45 of the 50 votes cast.

He announced that the Steering Committee, which was elected today, and which will act on the Agency request for participation and the Arab demand that the agenda be enlarged to include an item on termination of the Mandate, will meet tomorrow and report back to the Assembly on Wednesday. Dr. Aranha said that the requests of the Jewish Agency and the Hebrew Committee for National Liberation for representation had been referred to the committee.

The decision to postpone the plenary session of the Assembly until Wednesday came after the Syrian delegate, Faris el Khouri, who is the chief Arab spokesman, protested an original ruling by the president that the Steering Committee would have one hour tomorrow to come to some decision and would then report to the plenary session.

The Steering Committee is composed of the seven vice-presidents of the Assembly and the chairmen of the six principal committees all elected today by the Assembly. The vice-presidents are the representatives of the Big Five: Alexander Farodi of France, Warren R. Austin of the U.S., Sir Alexander Cadogan of the United Kingdom, Dr. Kuo Tai-chi of China and Andrei A. Gromyko of the USSR, plus Asaf Ali of the Indian delegation and Dr. Neftali Ponce, Ecuadorian delegate.

The six committee chairmen are Lester B. Pearson of Canada, for the Political and Security Committee; Dr. Jan Papanek of Czechoslovakia for the Social Committee; Mahmud Hasan Pasha of Egypt for the Economic Committee; Herman G. Eriksson of Sweden, for the Trusteeship Committee; Josef Winiewicz of Poland, for the Budgetary Committee; and Dr. Tiburcio Carlas of Honduras for the Legal Committee.

Both Agency Demand, Arab Request for Agenda Enlargement Seen Doomed

The feeling here that the Agency's chances of getting a non-voting seat are slight are predicated chiefly on the fact that the U.S. delegation is reportedly very cool to the Zionist request. The Arab demand for additions to the agenda is also believed to be doomed. The majority of the delegates seem determined to prevent anything which might lead to a full-dress debate on the basic aspects of the Palestine issue, and want a fact-finding commission appointed with as little discussion as possible.

Last minute efforts were made by the Agency to secure U.S. support. However, the State Department takes the attitude that there is no legal basis for the Agency to be given representation. The question was thoroughly studied by Department experts, some of whom came to the conclusion that from a purely legalistic viewpoint

any Agency presentation should be made through the British Government, as the Mandate, which was the procedure followed at the League of Nations.

Agency Boycotts Session Pending Decision on Its Plea for Seat

Meanwhile, the Agency announced that pending a decision on its demand for a non-voting seat, none of its representatives would attend the Assembly sessions. Earlier, Joseph M. Proskauer, president of the American Jewish Committee, conferred with Warren Austin, chief U.S. delegate, and voiced support of the Zionist plea.

Following the election of Dr. Aranha, the Agency submitted to him a formal memorandum reiterating its request for participation. It asked for the right to take part in all discussions, receive all Assembly documents and have its own memoranda and communications circulated by the secretariat. "This will afford at least a partial remedy for an otherwise grossly inequitable situation," the memorandum stated.

In his inaugural address, Dr. Aranha declared that the problem which had brought the Assembly together had most decisively challenged, through the ages, the minds and sentiments of individuals and peoples. Now, he said, "time has brought forth an hour of decision for our consciences." Declaring that the existence of an organization such as the United Nations "with the capacity... of endeavoring to solve the gravest human problems" was evidence of the wisdom of those who preceded us in the task of ensuring world peace, the president reminded delegates that they would be called upon to decide questions which were not theirs individually but were the burden of all.

"It is within our choice to make the U.N. the balance of justice, security and peace," he said, "or to allow it, through our lack of wisdom, to be transformed into one more sword to be blindly wielded by force and instinct." He told the Assembly that it had no warrant to postpone or to allow confusion to cloud the issues of the task entrusted to it by the peoples of the world.

Jewish Circles Fear Latin-American Delegations Will Line Up With Arabs

The 20 countries of the Latin American bloc were highly pleased with the election of Dr. Aranha. They hope to play a decisive role at the session. "The Palestine case," one of the Latin American delegates said, "provides the Latin American nations with an excellent opportunity to make a vital contribution to world peace by sitting in impartial judgment on a crucial case. None of us has a serious Jewish problem, and we are far enough removed from the whole situation to take an objective view of it."

Jewish circles were not too hopeful today with regard to some of the Latin American countries, since it is known that the Latin American bloc is inclined to vote with the Arab bloc on certain issues. On the other hand, they expressed the hope that the French delegation might support the Jewish request in view of the growing friction in North Africa between France and Arab dependencies.

The postponement of the plenary session until Wednesday will give the Agency a breathing spell during which it can attempt to contact the various influential delegations and urge them to support its demand for representation. The Arabs will also, undoubtedly, use the period to strengthen their forces. They are determined to put up a bitter fight on the Assembly floor if the Steering Committee turns down the petition for inclusion of their item on the agenda.

The U.N. secretariat distributed the texts of the Palestine Mandate and the Balfour Declaration, while the British delegation distributed copies of a memorandum the British Government submitted to the League of Nations before the Mandate was confirmed by the League, in which it said that it did not aim at making Palestine "as Jewish as England is English."

JEWISH AGENCY CHARGES BRITISH, ARABS AT U.N. ATTEMPTING TO DELAY PALESTINE SOLUTION

JERUSALEM, April 28. (JTA) -- Palestine Jews are "not optimistic" over the outcome of the special U.N. session, a Jewish Agency spokesman today declared at a press conference today.

Charging that the British and Arabs are conducting a parallel strategy at the U.N., he stated that the former are trying to achieve a delay in the solution of the problem by the appointment of an inquiry committee, while the latter are seeking a similar delay by demanding a full discussion of the issue.

The Arab-Jewish Democratic Student Organization, a Communist youth group, today called an appeal to the U.N. asking its assistance in abrogating the Palestine Mandate. The group urged that the British administration be withdrawn from the country and that British troops be ordered to evacuate. It also requested U.N. aid in establishing an independent democratic state.

A 21-year-old Jewish youth and a small boy were wounded today when a hand grenade was thrown at a military vehicle in Jerusalem. Police and troops cordoned off the area and searched for the assailant, but he escaped. However, two unexploded bombs were found in the vicinity.

The dusk-to-dawn curfew was partially lifted in Jerusalem tonight. The Mea Shearim quarter, where a great number of the city's Jewish population reside, however, will remain under curfew. It is this area which recently was under martial law. The military authorities, in announcing the lifting of restrictions, said that soldiers had been ordered to behave courteously toward the Jews, but he also cautioned the populace not to run away when challenged by a sentry.

A high government official, explaining why martial law was not imposed on Tel Aviv immediately after the bombing of the Saron police barracks Friday, said that the government would not enforce "control" because of the U.N. session on Palestine unless the terrorists "force it" by their actions. Jewish circles, however, believe that Tel Aviv will be placed under martial rule if another outbreak occurs. It is expected that the city will be divided into 12 districts, each separated from the others, and that the economic as well as the social and political activities of the community will be paralyzed.

Joseph Shechter, Chief Rabbi of Ireland, today called on High Commissioner Sir Alan G. Cunningham. Following a 90-minute visit, Rabbi Shechter declared that Cunningham was optimistic that terrorism would be suppressed within the next few weeks. Despite Rabbi Shechter's explanation that he and Cunningham were old friends, some circles here insist that he is acting as liaison man among the government, the Jewish Agency and Anglo-Jewish circles.

The Palestine Government denied a report circulating here that new detention camps for intercepted visaless Jewish immigrants are under construction at Tobruk, Cyrenaica. The report said that the African camps would be used when the number of refugees interned on Cyprus passes 20,000, which is expected to occur early this summer.

N.J.C. EUROPEAN PARLEY URGES U.N. TO ADMIT DISPLACED JEWS TO PALESTINE IMMEDIATELY

PRAGUE, April 28. (JTA) -- The European conference of the World Jewish Congress today called on the United Nations to recommend immediate unrestricted immigration of displaced Jews to Palestine. It pointed out that Palestine was the only nation willing to admit the refugees and give them the opportunity of permanent resettlement.

NEW ARMY POLICY TO HALT ATTEMPTS BY JEWS TO LEAVE GERMANY EN ROUTE TO PALESTINE

MUNICH, April 28. (JTA) -- Leading Jewish circles here today voiced concern over the possibility that the U.S. Army in Germany has been ordered to adopt a new policy to prohibit so-called illegal border crossings such as was attempted near Merchtesgaden during the week-end when 300 displaced Jews were turned back five miles from the Austrian frontier. Military authorities have refused to comment at this time on the reports of a new policy.

Observers assert that such border crossings have been going on for almost two years--with the full knowledge of the military authorities. The Jews point out that military officials, like ourselves, realized that the crossings constituted a safety valve enabling the more militant and aggressive elements to get out of Germany and make their way to Palestine. Should the border closings, which have been taking place during the past few weeks, mean a revised policy," they state, "it could only mean trouble in Germany."

These same sources believe that if a new policy is involved, it was ordered by the State Department acting under pressure from Britain. It is known that the Army favors the border crossings, realizing that they mean less mouths to feed and a lessening of tension in areas under the Army's jurisdiction.

FORMER THERESIENSTADT COMMANDANT ADMITS GUILT IN GASSING OF JEWISH, CZECH PRISONERS

PRAGUE, April 28. (JTA) -- Karl Rahm, former commandant of the Theresienstadt camp, today admitted responsibility for the construction and use of gas chambers to exterminate Jews and Czech political prisoners during his trial on war crimes charges before a Peoples Court in Litomerice.

At first Rahm denied having taken part in the annihilation of Jews, but changed his testimony after prosecution witnesses linked him with the gassing of prisoners. One of the witnesses, a former Nazi guard named Scholz, enumerated various crimes Rahm personally committed against Jews. Several representatives of the Jewish community testified for the prosecution.

HUNGARIAN FASCISTS ATTEMPTING TO ESCAPE EUROPE AS JEWS, BUDAPEST NEWSPAPER REPORTS

BUDAPEST, April 28. (JTA) -- Hungarian Nazis in the French zone of Germany are posing as Jewish refugees and are attempting to emigrate as such to havens in South America, the Sunday newspaper Fuegsetlen Magyarorszag reports.

It charges that the fascists, pressed by French authorities and fearing repatriation to Hungary, have obtained false identity papers and a considerable sum of money from an unnamed organization. Among the "refugees" are former members of the pro-Nazi militia, labor camp guards and special police and storm troopers responsible for the torture of thousands of Jews and democratic Hungarians.

RUMANIAN JEWS DEMAND JEWISH REPRESENTATION AT U.N. SESSION, CONDEMN VIOLATIONS OF MANDATE

BUCHAREST, April 28. (JTA) -- Demanding a voice for the Jewish people at the U.N. session on Palestine, a huge crowd attending a rally called by the Rumanian Zionist Federation here today urged that the 55 member states of the U.N. support the Jews' rights under the Palestine Mandate and rebuke violations of the covenant by Britain.

The meeting also adopted a resolution condemning the killing of three visaless immigrants who recently arrived in Palestine aboard the blockade runner Theodor Herzl and the execution of four Jewish youths. Speakers from various political parties addressed the assemblage.

QUEBEC GOVT. ASKS LEGISLATION TO ENSURE ENTRY OF JEWISH STUDENTS TO PROTESTANT SCHOOLS

QUEBEC, April 28. (JTA) -- Jewish school children in the city of Outremont, in Quebec Province, would continue to be educated in schools run by the Protestant Board of School Trustees for the next five years under a bill introduced in the provincial legislature by the government.

The legislation seeks to solve the problem created by the decision last year of the Outremont Protestant trustees to bar Jewish children from further attendance at their schools, because, they asserted, the funds contributed by the Jewish community in taxes were insufficient to defray the costs of educating the Jewish students. A bill passed by the legislature last Spring provided that the Outremont schools continue to accept Jewish students in the 1946-47 school year, ending this June 30. The new legislation would extend the period through June, 1952.

The problem arose as a result of the parochial education system in Quebec province. Schools are operated either by the Catholic or Protestant communities, with the government furnishing subsidies. Since most Jewish parents do not wish to have their children attend Catholic schools, where they would receive religious instruction, Jewish students have been sent to the Protestant schools.

In a statement issued here in connection with introduction of the new bill, Michael Garber, president of the Eastern Division of the Canadian Jewish Congress, disclosed that the Congress had made representations to the government concerning the Outremont situation. It asked the following:

"Provisions for equal treatment, no segregation of Jewish children from Protestant children; Jewish students shall not be compelled to study any religious subjects outside their own faith; they shall be excused from attendance on specified Jewish religious festivals and the board shall consider Jewish teachers eligible for appointment to the teaching staff." The committee further stressed "the desirability of having the Outremont agreement coterminous with that of the Montreal School Board which runs until 1955 and that there be no differentiation between Jewish and Protestant proprietors in matters of taxation."

STATE DEPT. OUTLINES PROCEDURE FOR REGAINING CONFISCATED JEWISH PROPERTY IN HOLLAND

WASHINGTON, April 28. (JTA) -- The State Department today announced the procedure for regaining property in the Netherlands which had been seized by German agencies during the Nazi regime.

Persons whose property was seized by Lippmann, Rosenthal and Co., of Sarphatistraat, Amsterdam, an agency used by the Germans to confiscate Jewish property in the Netherlands, may now present claims for that property, the department advised. Custodians of the firm, which was taken over by the Netherlands Government at the time of the liberation, still hold a small part of the confiscated property, which will be restored upon proper identification, it was announced.

Owners of property which was sold, or which cannot be identified, may file claims with the custodians to share in the fund which will be realized from the liquidation of the assets of the agency. Heirs of a person who had an account with the organization and whose death has been officially proved are also authorized to file claims, the Department stated.

RABBINICAL COUNCIL ASKS FAIR TREATMENT FOR LABOR, FEDERAL F.E.P.C., ADMISSION OF DP'S

DETROIT, April 28. (JTA) -- Fair treatment for labor, adoption of a Federal F.E.P.C., the admission of displaced persons to this country and the expansion of public health programs were advocated in a statement of the Social Justice Commission of the Rabbinical Council of America released here today, on the eve of the Orthodox group's 11th annual convention.

The statement declared that religious-minded people "cannot tolerate labor-baiting and red-labelling as a mask for an assault on the honest gains of the trade union movement." Asserting that "the synagogue knows no class distinction," it said that "we believe that every synagogue should serve the worker in a craft or trade or shop along with the employer, the professional worker and the intellectual." The Commission also announced the Council's readiness to "join with other religious agencies in the achievement of a larger measure of social justice."

Rabbi Uri Miller, president of the Council, addressing the opening session of the convention tonight condemned "the brutal Nazism" of the British officials in Palestine and "concentration camps" in Cyprus and Africa. Commenting on the special U.N. session which opened at Flushing Meadows this morning, he declared: "It is our earnest prayer that the deliberations of the statesmen of the world may be characterized by a spirit of justice and righteousness. We welcome the righteous judgment of the statesmen. We expect to be vindicated by their decision."

JEWISH CONGRESS SUPPORTS BILL TO HALT DEPORTATIONS OF ALIENS WITH FIVE YEARS RESIDENCE

WASHINGTON, April 28. (JTA) -- Representatives of the American Jewish Congress, the C.I.O. Maritime Committee, the Polish-American Congress, and various Italian-American groups today urged the House Sub-Committee on Immigration to give a favorable report to a bill to enable the Attorney General to suspend deportation of aliens "of good moral character" who have lived in the United States for five or more years.

Simon Sobolef, City Solicitor of Baltimore, and a representative of the American Jewish Congress, suggested that quota numbers to legalize the entry of certain aliens for whom the Attorney General might wish to suspend deportation, be taken from the quota of the year in which they entered. At present, the bill provides that they be taken from the current year's quota, a practice that would even further limit quota numbers available for displaced persons.

JEWISH WAR VETERANS URGE U.N. TO GRANT JEWISH AGENCY REPRESENTATION AT SPECIAL SESSION

ST. LOUIS, April 28. (JTA) -- A request that the United Nations Special Assembly on Palestine give official representation to the Jewish Agency was voiced in a resolution adopted here today by the regular quarterly meeting of the national executive committee of the Jewish War Veterans of the U.S. The resolution urged the United States representative, Warren R. Austin, to officially plead the case of Jewish representation.

Other resolutions adopted urged the passage of the Stratton Bill on displaced persons which would provide for the admission of 400,000 displaced persons into this country during the next four years, the Klein Bill which would prohibit Federal aid to colleges under the G.I. Bill of Rights if the college or university engages in discriminatory practices, and the bill introduced by four Senators which would establish a Federal Fair Employment Practices Commission.