

Sunday, May 11, 1947

JTA

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PUBLISHED BY THE JEWISH TELEGRAPHIC AGENCY

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

LAST MINUTE NEWSZIONISTS SEE "CRITICAL TURN" IN U.N. DELIBERATIONS; HIT PROPOSED TERMS OF REFERENCE

LAKE SUCCESS, May 9. (JTA) — Apprehensive Jewish Agency officials said tonight that the joint resolution on the terms of reference of the inquiry committee proposed today by an 11-man sub-committee of the Political Committee, and the amendments offered by Soviet delegate Andrei Gromyko, represented a "critical turn" in the U.N. deliberations as far as the Zionists were concerned.

A Jewish Agency spokesman said that the terms of reference as drafted prejudged the entire issue, especially the point referring to the independence of Palestine. "To speak of Palestine independence without referring to previously guaranteed Jewish rights means ignoring these rights," he emphasized.

The Jewish Agency delegation was also concerned about the paragraph in the terms of reference relating to the "interests of all inhabitants of Palestine" without making any reference to the Jews outside of Palestine who must emigrate from refugee camps.

The Jewish Agency spokesman drew attention to that part of today's statement by Moshe Shertok before the Political Committee which read: "We should not like to find ourselves in a position where the danger of our fundamental rights being prejudged in advance by the terms of reference should militate against our full and effective cooperation with the inquiry commission."

(See earlier story on following pages)

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U.N. GETS SHARPLY DIVERGENT VIEWS ON PALESTINE ISSUE FROM ZIONIST AND ARAB SPOKESMEN

LAKE SUCCESS, May 9. (JTA) -- Sharply divergent views on the Palestine problem were voiced at the U.N. Political and Security Committee this afternoon when Moshe Shertok, chief of the political department of the Jewish Agency, and Henry Katan, of the Palestine Arab Higher Committee, were heard. It was the first time since the issuance of the Mandate that the Arabs and Jews had met face to face at an international tribunal considering the fate of the Holy Land.

Their testimony came after submission of a sub-committee report on the proposed instructions to the inquiry committee which revealed a difference of opinion between the American and Soviet concepts as to the terms of reference, with Soviet delegate Andrei Gromyko suggesting that among other proposals the committee draft one "on the question of establishing without delay the independent state of Palestine."

While Shertok emphasized that it was the sincere desire of the Jewish Agency and of the Jewish community in Palestine to cooperate fully with the U.N. inquiry committee, the Arab representative, who was seated at the same place from which Dr. Abba Hillel Silver spoke yesterday, insisted on a declaration of Palestine's independence and demanded the abrogation of the Mandate. Mr. Katan charged that the Balfour Declaration was the root of all the disturbances in Palestine and said that the U.N. inquiry committee must investigate the legality of the Declaration and study the validity of the Mandate. He also requested the inquiry commission to study the question of halting Jewish immigration, alleging that the entry of Jews into Palestine has led to the present tension there. He strongly opposed the admission of displaced Jews.

The Arab spokesman said there is no basis for denying Palestine its independence now since the cultural level of both the Jews and the Arabs has reached such a high point as to permit self-determination. He told the 55 members of the Political Committee that prior to the issuance of the Balfour Declaration Jews and Arabs maintained the most friendly relations. He quoted at great length British pledges to the Arabs and said that the fact-finding commission must study the promises which the British made simultaneously to the Jews and the Arabs.

Sub-Committee Proposes Six-Point Terms of Reference for Inquiry Group

The sub-committee, which had been charged with creating a single working draft from the three resolutions on the proposed terms of reference introduced by the United States, Argentina and El Salvador, proposed the following six-point resolution:

1. That the inquiry committee shall have the widest powers to ascertain and record facts.
2. That it shall receive testimony, by whatever means it considers appropriate in each case, from the Mandatory Power, from representatives of the population of

Palestine, and from such other governments, non-governmental organizations and individuals, as it may wish to consult.

3. That the committee shall bear in mind the principle that independence for the population of Palestine should be the ultimate purpose of any plan for the future of that country.

4. That it shall prepare a report to the General Assembly and shall submit such proposals as it may consider appropriate for the solution of the problem of Palestine.

5. That its report shall be communicated to the Secretary-General if possible by August 15, 1947, but in any event not later than September 1, 1947, in order that it may be circulated to the member states of the United Nations in time for consideration by the second regular session of the General Assembly.

6. That it shall give most careful consideration to the interests of all inhabitants of Palestine and also to the religious interests in Palestine of Islam, Jewry and Christendom."

Shertok Welcomes Questioning of Britain; Scouts Immediate Independence

Commenting on the terms of reference, Shertok said that the Jewish Agency approved the recommendation by the sub-committee which provides for testimony by the Mandatory. He declared that Britain had submitted the Palestine problem to the General Assembly because of the crisis which had arisen in the administration of Palestine as a result of Britain's policy on immigration, which conflicts with the Mandatory's obligation to the Jewish people. He emphasized that the rights and interests of Jews who wish to enter Palestine are involved as well as those already in the country.

Shertok warned that the point in the sub-committee's resolution dealing with the future independence of Palestine was open to misunderstanding and might militate against cooperation by the Jews of Palestine. "We agree that independence must be the ultimate goal of the political evolution of Palestine and its people," he said, but stressed that the establishment of the Jewish National Home is the primary purpose of the Mandate and that independence must be considered in that context.

The Jewish Agency, he said, does not object to point six of the sub-committee's resolution, on the interests of Jews, Moslems and Christians in Palestine, but proposed to modify it to read "careful consideration to the interests of the Jewish people and of all inhabitants of Palestine" as well as the three religions. Shertok concluded his observations by pointing out that the Jews will cooperate with the inquiry commission and that they will "lend their fullest support and place their experience and knowledge freely at the disposal of the commission."

Gromyko Suggests Amendment Highlighting Question of Ending Mandate

Gromyko, emphasizing that he had no objection to the spirit of the proposed six-point resolution, suggested amending the first, second and third points of the terms of reference to read as follows:

1. To study in detail the situation in Palestine by carrying out investigation on the spot.

2. To assemble, analyze and collate all data relating to the question; to receive written and verbal testimony from interested governments and such non-

governmental organizations and individuals who will wish to give the testimony and whom the commission will deem appropriate to grant a hearing; to study various other issues connected with the problem of Palestine.

"3. To prepare and submit to the next regular session of the General Assembly proposals on the solution of the problem of Palestine which the commission will consider useful, including a proposal on the question of establishing without delay the independent state of Palestine."

Norwegian Delegate Says Inquiry Committee Must Study Question of DP's

Finn Moe of Norway expressed the hope that the sub-committee's resolution meant that the problem of the homeless Jews in Europe would be investigated by the inquiry committee, pointing out that it was the problem of immigration, limited by the British White Paper, which had made the problem of Palestine so acute and brought it before the United Nations. He concluded by saying that to make this clear he favored the Soviet amendment which instructed the committee "to study various other issues connected with the problem of Palestine." H.T. Andrews of South Africa endorsed the position of the Norwegian delegate.

Faris El-Khoury of Syria took issue with the Norwegian delegate's insistence on the connection between the problem of Palestine and that of the homeless Jews in Europe. Mr. El-Khoury reminded the committee of a clause in the constitution of the proposed International Refugee Organization, which stipulates that resettlement of refugees shall not take place in any non-self-governing territory without the consent of its population. Mr. El-Khoury questioned why the Jewish refugees should come to Palestine. Why did not Norway take them, he asked, or other countries with "wider space or better means?"

Katan, during his testimony, demanded that the British immediately stop all Jewish immigration to Palestine whether legal or illegal, charging that all such immigration was illegal. He also said that the refugee and Palestine problems are two distinct questions, that the matter of refugees is not limited to any race or nationality, but is a humanitarian question for settlement by the countries of the world as was evidenced by the establishment of the I.R.O. Linking the two problems, he said, would make solution of both infinitely more difficult, "if not impossible."

Denying Palestine is an Arab-Jewish problem, Katan claimed that Arab opposition to immigration and establishment of a Jewish National Home is not based on racial prejudice, but would be equally strong against any group which tried to force immigration. He likewise challenged the contention that Palestine is an economic problem and that European Jews make better colonizers than the Arabs. He said this was not only an unacceptable and immoral concept, but would justify aggression by a more advanced people against a less advanced one.

Polish Delegate Questions Arab on Composition of Higher Committee

Poland, India, Guatemala, Colombia and India asked Katan questions similar to those submitted yesterday to the Jewish Agency, all of which will be answered in writing. Poland asked for information about the organization and functions of the Arab Higher Committee and whether there have been any attempts at collaboration between the Arab Higher Committee and the Jewish Agency.

The Indian questions added one about the reported interest of "many outsiders" in the estimated three trillion dollars worth of chemicals and metals in the Dead

Asaf Ali, the Indian delegate, also asked whether the immigrants entering Palestine speak "Arabic, Hebrew or Yiddish" and whether Yiddish is not a mixture of Russian, Lithuanian, Polish, Rumanian and Hebrew and also whether these immigrants are easily assimilable. The Colombian asked for the views of the Arab Higher Committee on the composition of the inquiry committee.

British Delegate Again Hedges on Promise to Carry Out U.N. Solution

During the debate on the sub-committee's resolution, Sir Alexander Cadogan, the British delegate, was again asked--this time by Charles Malik of Lebanon--to state whether his country would carry out the recommendations of the U.N. when they are finally arrived at. Replying, Cadogan expressed Britain's interest in finding a "just" solution of the Palestine problem, but added that "we should not have the sole responsibility for enforcing a solution which is not acceptable to both parties and not reconcilable with our conscience."

The five-man sub-committee which this morning considered requests from additional groups which have asked for a hearing before the Political Committee reiterated that only the Jewish Agency and the Arab Higher Committee be recognized as the bonafide organizations entitled to express their views and announced that it had rejected the pleas of the following groups: Agudat Israel Organization; Palestine Communist Party Central Committee; Institute of Arab American Affairs; Young Egypt Party; League for Peace with Justice in Palestine; Union for the Protection of the Human Person; United Israel; Church of God, Faith of David, Inc.; Catholic Near East Welfare Association, of which Cardinal Spellman is president. All these groups can testify before the inquiry committee, the decision provided. This holds good also for the Hebrew Committee of National Liberation and other groups whose requests were rejected by the same sub-committee several days ago.

Delegates Amused When Ben Gurion is Mistaken for Head of Arab Committee

LAKE SUCCESS, May 9. (JTA) -- A wave of laughter swept the crowded committee room this afternoon at the opening of proceedings when Argentine delegate Jose Arce mistook David Ben Gurion for the head of the Palestine Arab delegation.

The incident occurred when the committee began discussion of the sub-committee's resolution on the terms of reference. The Egyptian delegate, supported by Gromyko, insisted that the discussion should not take place until the Palestine Arab delegation was heard. Whereupon the Argentinian delegate, looking toward Ben Gurion, who was seated among the distinguished political guests, said "I understand that the head of the Palestine Arab delegation is already here in the room, thus the Palestine Arabs can now be heard."

Chairman Lester Pearson laughingly explained that Ben Gurion was not the head of the Arab delegation, but the head of the Jewish Agency delegation. All the delegates, including the Argentinian, roared. Arce said he mistook Ben Gurion for the Arab, because of the great fuss made by the photographers when the Zionist leader entered.

EN-NUFI REPORTED TO HAVE DISPATCHED ORIGINAL ARAB COMMITTEE DEMAND FOR HEARING BY U.N.

JERUSALEM, May 9. (JTA) -- The cable which the Palestine Arab Higher Committee sent to the United Nations, (which they later withdrew) requesting permission to attend the Lake Success sessions as a body representing the Arab population of the

date, was sent by the ex-Mufti of Jerusalem, from his exile headquarters at Cairo, reports here state.

A few weeks ago, the Arab Higher Committee shifted its headquarters from Jerusalem to Cairo. When the Committee decided to send the cable to the United Nations, Dr. Hussein Khalidi, the Committee's Secretary-General, was in Jerusalem -- which led to some confusion, for when reporters in Jerusalem queried him on "your cable," he replied in all good faith, "I know nothing about it."

He knew more shortly thereafter, however, when on May 4 the Mufti telephoned him from Cairo and informed him that the cable had been sent to Lake Success in the name of the Secretary-General.

PALESTINE ISSUE IS MAJOR TEST OF DEMOCRACY, NEW ENGLAND CHRISTIAN ZIONIST SAYS

WASHINGTON, May 9. (JTA) -- "The present problem of Palestine now before the United Nations is the first severe post-war test of democracy, for Palestine holds the key to economic democracy in the Middle East," The Rev. David R. Hunter, chairman of the New England American Christian Palestine Committee, told a luncheon gathering of leading Washington churchmen today.

Palestine, he warned, may become the first event -- like Manchuria -- in a series of steps leading to World War III. The two factors, he said, which make the Middle East the "world's greatest tinderbox" are its oil resources and the presence there of "millions" of feudal slaves. Democracy and Communism are forced "by the tensions of our day, to compete for the right to free both the oil and the slaves," he warned.

The Minnesota State Legislature has adopted a resolution calling upon the U.S. Government to press a program at the U.N. based on our "officially declared policy" favoring the establishment of the Jewish National Home and large-scale immigration into Palestine. The resolution was inserted in today's Congressional Record by Republican Senator Edward J. Thye of Minnesota.

PALESTINE JEWS LIVING UNDER MILITARY RULE, DENIED LEGAL RIGHTS, ATTORNEY CHARGES

NEW YORK, May 9. (JTA) -- The Jewish community of Palestine is living under a military regime and is even denied recourse to the courts to defend its civil rights, Max Seligman, prominent Palestinian attorney who defended Dov Gruner and other members of the Jewish underground, declared here today. He told a press conference that there was no point in going to the courts, since the emergency defense regulations under which military courts have jurisdiction do not allow for appeals.

Mr. Seligman said that he had a two-fold purpose in coming to the United States at this time. He will appeal to prominent legal circles here to bring pressure to bear on the British Government to restore some measure of legal justice in Palestine. He will also participate in a campaign to raise funds for the dependents of several hundred members of the underground who are illegally detained without charges being filed against them and without hope of trial. He alleged that the families of detainees receive no assistance from the welfare bodies of the Jewish Agency.

PANDUS SCULPTOR ARRAIGNED IN FEDERAL COURT FOR MAILING ANTI-SEMITIC MATERIAL

NEW YORK, May 9. (JTA) -- William Hunt Diedrich, internationally known sculptor, was today arraigned in Federal Court here on charges of sending anti-Semitic material through the mails.

Judge Vincent L. Leball adjourned the hearing until May 21 and ordered Diedrich examined by a psychiatrist. Some of the postcards which the sculptor mailed to England, bearing the stamp "Censored by the Jewish Press," came to the attention of the Manchester Guardian which published a story concerning them.

HOLLAND WILL ACCEPT 500 DISPLACED JEWISH CHILDREN; W.J.C. SUBMITS MEMO TO I.R.O.

LAUSANNE, May 9. (JTA) — Holland has agreed to admit 500 displaced Jewish children for whom Dutch Jewish organizations have assumed responsibility, the Netherlands delegate today told the Preparatory Commission for the International Refugee Organization. Referring to the problem of adults, he declared that his government would continue to limit immigration to relatives and dependents of residents of the country.

In a letter submitted yesterday by Gerhart Riegner, director of the Geneva office of the World Jewish Congress, the WJC urged the I.R.O. to establish a special Jewish department within the organization. It also suggested that the department work in close cooperation with a consultative body composed of the representatives of all international Jewish organizations and of the central committees of the Jewish DP's in various countries of Europe.

The memorandum pointed to the nomination of Jewish advisors to several military and governmental units in Central Europe as well as UNRRA practice and resolutions as precedents for the proposed Jewish department. Citing its record as reason for its interest and right to cooperate with the international relief agency, the Congress recalled that it had received consultative status from the U.N. Economic and Social Council, whose rules of procedure the Preparatory Commission had adopted, and stressed that the WJC represents a number of central Jewish DP organizations in the occupied zones and in Italy.

HUNGARIAN JEWISH FARMERS CONFERENCE DEMANDS RESTITUTION AND COMPENSATION FOR LOSSES

BUDAPEST, May 9. (JTA) — A conference of Hungarian Jewish farmers, convened under the auspices of the Jewish Central Board, has adopted resolutions demanding full property restitution and compensation for expropriated Jewish farm owners.

The delegates demanded that land confiscated by pro-Nazi regimes be returned to Jews regardless of whether they are now eligible to hold the land under the current agricultural reform legislation. They also called for guarantees that there would be no discrimination against Jews in enforcing all agricultural decrees.

In the matter of restitution, they asked that all property be returned and where this is impossible compensation should be paid. Compensation was also demanded for losses in profits and rents suffered during the period between the expropriation of property and its eventual return.

2,000 GERMAN NON-JEWS AND JEWS PROTEST MILD SENTENCES GIVEN NAZIS WHO MURDERED JEW

BREMEN, May 9. (JTA) — A meeting of Germans and Jews was held here yesterday to protest the mild sentences imposed on two former storm troopers convicted of having murdered a Jew during the November, 1938, pogroms in Germany. The demonstration was called by German left-wing parties in the British zone and the Jewish community of Bremen.

Although the sponsors had expected 30,000 persons to participate, only 2,000 Germans turned out. Speakers condemned the German courts as still being in the hands of Nazis and demanded the death sentence for the two convicted storm troopers and another 20 awaiting trial on similar charges.

REPORT COVERING ALL ASPECTS OF JEWISH CENTER WORK PRESENTED TO JWB ANNUAL CONFERENCE

PITTSBURGH, May 9. (JTA) -- A comprehensive report covering all aspects of Jewish center work and the present and future activities of the National Jewish Welfare Board will be presented tomorrow night to the opening session here of the annual meeting of the JWB.

The report, which summarizes the result of a year-long survey of JWB's aims, goals, services, programs and relationships to Jewish community centers, other national Jewish organizations and Jewish schools and synagogues, was prepared by Dr. Oscar Janowsky, professor of history at the College of the City of New York, under the auspices of a 35-man survey commission headed by Dr. Salo Baron of Columbia University. Among its recommendations are the following:

"Membership and participation in the Jewish center would be open to all inhabitants of the local community without distinction as to race, color or creed. However, it should be clear that the Jewish center is an agency maintained for the specialized needs of the Jewish spiritual-cultural group, and that the primary emphasis of its program is upon Jewish content. Non-Jewish membership is highly desirable, particularly for the promotion of inter-cultural understanding. But the presence of non-Jews must not divert the center from its distinctive purpose. To abandon the Jewish emphasis because of non-Jewish participation as members would be to sacrifice the very reason for the existence of the institution as a Jewish agency."

"The JWB, as the national association of Jewish community centers, is concerned with all of the functions of the center in the local community. To the extent that the center is a force toward community organization, the JWB is involved. However, since the other national organizations provide service in this field, the JWB should not regard community organization as one of its major functions."

"The JWB is recognized by the American Government and the Jewish community as the qualified agency for service to the armed forces. For three decades it has provided for the religious and welfare needs of Jewish military personnel and for veterans aid. This service has been a war duty, and remains as a permanent responsibility -- an enlarged peace-time responsibility, because the American military establishment has been greatly augmented."

"The JWB should continue its efforts to reach an understanding with the Zionist Youth organization, the Zionist Youth Commission and similar bodies, to the end that the activities of their local branches might be integrated into the center program, without disturbing their organizational or ideological integrity."

"The JWB should continue its present efforts to reach an understanding with the organized synagogue bodies, notably the Synagogue Council of America. Such an understanding would serve a two-fold purpose. It would elicit greater participation from the affiliated synagogue centers, and remove much of the tension between synagogues and centers in the local communities."

Says Centers Must Be Agency of Jewish Identification and Integration

The report defined the function of the Jewish centers as follows: to serve as an agency of Jewish identification and Jewish integration, and as an agency of personality development, to provide a dynamic and flexible program of service in the fields of recreation and informal education for the entire Jewish community, to further the democratic way of life and to assist in the integration of the individual Jew, as well as of the Jewish group, into the total American community.

A world-wide campaign to raise funds for the establishment of the first YM-YWHA in Jerusalem under the auspices of the World Federation of YMHA's and Jewish

Community centers was approved in principle today at a meeting of the executive committee of the JWB prior to the opening of the conference.

Representing the 301 Jewish centers and YM-YWHA's in the World Federation, JWB will name a committee to study how and when the campaign should be launched in the U.S. The proposal to establish a YM-YWHA in Jerusalem, which would be the first institution of its kind in Palestine, follows more than a year of conferences, both personal and by mail, among officials of the World Federation, Jewish Welfare Board and leaders of Palestine Jewry.

B'NAI B'RITH TRIENNIAL CONVENTION OPENING IN WASHINGTON; 400 DELEGATES WILL ATTEND

WASHINGTON, May 9. (JTA) -- Preparations were completed here today for the opening Sunday night of the triennial convention of the B'nai B'rith, which will be attended by more than 400 delegates representing 300,000 members of the organization throughout the world. The four day meeting will bring together the largest number of delegates ever to attend a B'nai B'rith convention since the inception of the group 103 years ago.

The opening session on Sunday will be highlighted by addressed by Hon. Gad Franklin, Justice of the Supreme Court of Palestine; M. Gordon Liverman, past president of the B'nai B'rith in Great Britain; and Hon. Meier Steinbrink, Justice of the Supreme Court of New York, chairman of the B'nai B'rith Anti-Defamation Commission. Attorney General Tom C. Clark will deliver the principal address at the convention dinner, Monday night, at the Hotel Statler.

CHRISTIAN COMMITTEES TO RAISE FUNDS FOR U.J.A. ESTABLISHED IN 200 COMMUNITIES

NEW YORK, May 9. (JTA) -- Christian Committees formed specifically for the support of the United Jewish Appeal have been organized in more than 200 cities and towns throughout the nation, it was announced today by Henry Morgenthau, Jr., General Chairman. Each day, as the spring phase of the campaign progresses, reports of additional participation by Christians are received, he said.

"Humanity Knows No Creed and Suffering Knows No Race" is the slogan under which the Christian campaigns are operating, JWB offices reported. They said that these drives have enlisted outstanding sponsorship among business, professional, industrial and civic leaders. Clergymen of all denominations are in the forefront of this activity.

JWB CONFERENCE BACKS BILL TO OUTLAW INTER-STATE DISSEMINATION OF HATE LITERATURE

NEW YORK, May 9. (JTA) -- The New York regional conference of the Jewish War Veterans of the United States has endorsed the Buckley Bill to outlaw anti-Semitism and called for a nation-wide campaign for its passage, it was announced today by the American Jewish Labor Council, which sponsored the legislation. The Buckley Bill would make illegal the dissemination of anti-Semitic propaganda through the channels of interstate or foreign Commerce.

FRENCH JEWISH LEADER ARRIVES IN U.S. TO CONFER WITH AMERICAN JEWISH GROUPS

NEW YORK, May 9. (JTA) -- Jules Braunschvig, vice-president of the Alliance Israelite Universelle, has arrived here to confer with Jewish organizations on safeguards to guarantee Jewish rights in the German and Austrian peace treaties, it was announced today. He will meet with American Jewish leaders and Roland H. Landman, chairman of the European Council of the Anglo-Jewish Association, who is en route to New York from London.