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U.N. INQUIRY COMMITTEE GETS JEWISH AGENCY TESTIMONY AT PUBLIC HEARING IN JERUSALEM

JERUSALEM, June 17. (JTA) -- The United Nations Special Committee on Palestine held its first open hearing today, receiving testimony from Moshe Shertok, chairman of the political department of the Jewish Agency.

The 11-member committee sat around a huge horse-shoe table in the main hall of the \$1,000,000 American-built YMCA building, with Shertok seated next to Indian delegate Sir Abdur Rehman. A surprising lack of public interest was indicated by many empty seats in the unreserved section. Only slightly more than 100 of the 450 seats were filled.

Mr. Shertok spoke for more than an hour on various aspects of the Palestine situation, tracing the historic connection of the Jews with Palestine and emphasizing that Jewish immigration to Palestine was "a movement of mass return." He denied that Jewish land purchases in Palestine had created a class of landless Arabs.

The Jewish Agency spokesman revealed that of the 640,000 Jews living in Palestine today, about 230,000 were native-born. He outlined at great length the role Jews have played in the economic development of Palestine, and sharply criticized the White Paper restrictions and their effect on Jewish life, and on the growth of the country.

Indian Delegate Irritated Chairman by Pointless Questions

The Indian delegate asked whether Shertok wanted immigration regulations lifted in every country in the world. He also asked how much money was being sent to the Jews in Palestine from abroad; how much money they made on the Palestine potash concession and how many non-Jews were converted to Judaism. His frequently pointless questions irritated Judge Emil Sandstrom, chairman of the committee who cut him short, while Shertok promised to get the necessary figures.

Questioned by other delegates on the extent of cooperation between the Palestine Government and the Agency, Shertok replied that relations between the two are abnormal and haphazard. They have become "extremely strained" as a result of the White Paper policy, which the Agency regards as a deliberate violation of the Palestine mandate, he explained.

The Netherlands delegate, Dr. Nikolas Blom, wanted to know who was legally considered a Jew by the Jewish Agency. Shertok replied that any person declaring that he is a Jew is accepted as a Jew, but the religious test was definitive. The same delegate asked for examples of Arab-Jewish cooperation. Shertok cited a number of instances, including the activities of Arab members of the Haifa municipality under the Jewish mayor of the city, the joint economic efforts on the part of Jewish and Arab orange growers, and the joint strikes of Jewish and Arab workers. "Were these strikes caused by economic or racial reasons?" Chairman Sandstrom asked. Shertok emphasized that the reasons for the strikes were purely economic. "From the point of view of racial cooperation the strikes went off with remarkable smoothness," he added.

"Did the examples of Arab-Jewish cooperation mean the possibility of Palestine

independence?" the delegate from India interjected. Shertok replied that in paramount issues, such as Jewish immigration, Arabs and Jews are diametrically opposed. "While practical cooperation exists in day-to-day life, this does not mean that the two sides are ready to pull together politically within one unitary state," he declared.

In his presentation, Shertok stressed the fact that the Jews come to Palestine with the primary mission of preparing land for other Jews. "We take away no livelihood from others," he pointed out, "we create it ourselves. We are a new society built up by immigration, and our outstanding feature is that this new society absorbs itself."

Irgun, Sternists Tell Probers They Reject Truce Because of Govt. Stand

The Irgun Zvai Leumi and the Stern Group today submitted memoranda to the committee, declaring their refusal to accede to the U.N. request for a truce unless the Palestine Government ceases deporting visaless immigrants, stops street searches and military activities and abolishes military courts.

The Irgun asked the probers to intervene with the government to halt such activities. The Sternists asserted that "if the occupying authorities evade a response to the appeal of the U.N. and continue to practice cruel methods of repression, we will be compelled to react to such acts of provocation."

COMMITTEE MEMBERS FAVOR PARTITION; CONSIDER CANTONIZATION NEXT BEST SOLUTION

JERUSALEM, June 17. (JTA) -- The majority of the U.N. Palestine committee is inclined at the moment to favor partition, cantonization or a U.N. trusteeship, in that order, as the best solution for the Palestine problem, the Jewish Telegraphic Agency learns. However, it must be stressed that this is only a preliminary decision, based on first impressions and exchanges of bits of information at informal talks.

It is learned from excellent authority that the oral and written material submitted to the committee yesterday in closed session by the Palestine Government included the following statements:

There is not a single dunam in the Negev which is not being cultivated. (There are thousands of barren acres in the Negev. In recent months Jewish colonists have established 14 settlements there and piped water from distant sources, despite obstacles placed in their way by the government.) All of the 1,600,000 dunams in the northern part of the Negev are occupied by Bedouins, who are excellent agriculturists, whose use of tractors is increasing yearly.

The Lowdermilk Plan for electrification and irrigation based on exploitation of the Jordan River and the Dead Sea is unworkable because of a prior concession for use of the Jordan for hydro-electric power given to the Ruthenberg interests in the early '20s, and because it is dependent on the goodwill of the neighboring Arab countries.

There has been no illegal Arab immigration into Palestine. Not a single Sudanese has entered the country since 1936 and only one Arab entered annually from Iraq. (According to figures available from reliable sources an increasing number of Arabs from Transjordan, Syria and other Middle East countries have been entering Palestine illegally since the end of the war. Photographs of Arabs crossing the Jordan from Transjordan without any border check have been published abroad.)

The government presentation devoted 60 pages to describing the Palestine Constitution, but made no mention of the Mandate. The Jewish war effort was minimized (30,000 Palestinian Jews were in the Allied forces, and Palestine was an arsenal for the Middle East theater) and the Arabs were described as profoundly anti-Axis. They were said to have been very much perturbed at the Italian bombing of Tel Aviv in 1942.

SECRETARY OF STATE RECEIVES ARAB LEAGUE SECRETARY; CONFER ON PALESTINE, OTHER ISSUES

WASHINGTON, June 17. (JTA) -- Abdul Rehman Azzam Pasha, secretary of the Arab League, had a 35-minute discussion with Secretary of State Marshall today on Palestine and other problems of interest to the Moslem world.

Loy Henderson, chief of the Division of Near Eastern and African Affairs of the Department, who participated in the discussion, said that Palestine was touched on very lightly, and that there was no great amount of discussion of the subject.

Azzam Pasha told reporters before entering the Secretary's office that he planned to point out to him the importance of "our world" as a buffer between the East and West. He said that the Arabs have very little resources and money to further their case, in contrast with "world Jewry." He further said that the Zionists were using the "sentimental upheaval about the displaced persons" to advance their political aims in Palestine.

U.N. INTERNATIONAL LAW BODY ADJOURNS AFTER FAILING TO ACT ON GENOCIDE DRAFT

LAKE SUCCESS, June 17. (JTA) -- The U.N. Committee on International Law adjourned its first session today, after refusing to act on a convention outlawing genocide.

In a 90-minute debate during which most of the 17 members admitted the urgency of the problem, the committee referred back to the U.N. secretariat a draft convention on genocide which the secretariat had prepared. The members declared that in the absence of instructions from their governments, they could take no action. For once, the U.S., Britain and the Soviet Union were in agreement, all three opposing immediate action.

Replying to a query by the J.T.A., most of the delegates expressed confusion as to the fate of the genocide draft. A spokesman for the secretariat said, however, that it would be circulated among the 55 member nations, but he expressed doubt that sufficient replies would be received in time for the Economic and Social Council to act on it at the Council's meeting next month, which was the original intention.

FIRST POST-WAR CONFERENCE OF JEWISH REFUGEES FROM GERMANY OPENS IN LONDON

LONDON, June 17. (JTA) -- The first post-war world conference of German Jews opened here today with representatives from various countries, including the United States and Palestine, attending. The meeting, which was called by the Council for the Protection of the Rights of Jews from Germany, will discuss legal and economic problems, including restitution, statelessness and naturalization.

Dr. H.E. Fabian, a district court judge in Berlin, told the conference that anti-Semitism is as strong in Germany as it ever was. Dr. Fabian, who is a member of the Berlin Jewish Community Council, said that Nazis are firmly entrenched everywhere, and denazification courts are passing "ridiculously mild" sentences. He disclosed that 50 percent of the judges in the British zone are former Nazi Party members.

Dr. Herman Muller and Dr. Hugo Emmerich, representatives of the American Federation of Jews from Central Europe, complained of the continued delays in the carrying out of the Truman directive for the admission of DP's to the U.S. They suggested that the scheme be extended to the British and French zones. Dr. Siegfried Moses, ed that the scheme be extended to the British and French zones. Dr. Siegfried Moses, ed that the scheme be extended to the British and French zones. Dr. Siegfried Moses, ed that the scheme be extended to the British and French zones. Other speakers including Prof. Martin Buber, Dr. Leo Baeck, former Chief Rabbi of Germany, and delegates from Switzerland, France and Belgium.

CONGRESSIONAL IMMIGRATION GROUP MAY GO TO EUROPE TO INSPECT DISPLACED PERSONS CAMPS

WASHINGTON, June 17. (JTA) -- Rep. Frank Fel lows, Republican, of Maine, and chairman of the House Immigration Sub-Committee, said today that a proposed trip of members of the sub-committee to inspect displaced persons camps in Europe was still "just in the talking-about it stage."

He said that there had been considerable discussion among committee members about making the trip, because there seemed to be so considerable a difference of opinion among those who had already made reports on the advisability of admitting DP's to this country.

Fellows said that he did not see the necessity for making the trip, declaring that it would be a difficult task to visit the three hundred camps in the American zone alone, and that probably no new information would result. He said, however, that he would "probably" go, if the sub-committee voted to make the trip. He expressed the hope that all members of the sub-committee would make the trip if the decision was made to go. "I wouldn't want to see only the opposition members go over," he said.

INTERGOVERNMENTAL REFUGEE COMMITTEE ASSUMES RESPONSIBILITY FOR 11,000 DP'S IN ITALY

LONDON, June 17. (JTA) -- The Intergovernmental Committee on Refugees has signed an agreement with the Italian Government under which the former will assume support for some 11,000 refugees in Italy, most of whom are Jews, it was revealed here. The action was taken with the approval of the Preparatory Commission for the International Refugee Organization.

The refugees are now scattered in some 12 camps and have been under the care of the Allied military authorities. A spokesman for the Committee declared that it may assume responsibility for other DP's in the future. Besides caring for the DP's, the Committee will attempt to repatriate or resettle them.

I.R.O. PREPARATORY COMMISSION HEAD ARRIVES IN ITALY TO MAKE ARRANGEMENTS FOR DP CARE

ROME, June 17. (JTA) -- Arthur J. Altmeyer, executive secretary of the Preparatory Commission for the International Refugee Organization, has arrived in Italy to prepare for the I.R.O. to assume responsibility for the thousands of refugees and DP's in the country.

As soon as he arrived he contacted the Vatican and top government officials. His chief problem will be to arrange for the Italian Government to turn over to the I.R.O. some 2,000,000,000 lire for the I.R.O.'s first two years of operation in the country. The money is part of UNRRA's huge financial resources in the country which will automatically revert to the government when the relief agency is liquidated at the end of this month.

SENATE BODY ASKS CANADIAN GOVERNMENT TO RELAX IMMIGRATION LAWS FOR RELATIVES

MONTREAL, June 17. (JTA) -- The immediate easing of present immigration regulations to make possible the admission of relatives of Canadian citizens was asked this week by the Senate Immigration Committee in a brief to the government.

The decision was made after the committee heard B.K. Sandwell and Miss Constance Hayward, of the Canadian Committee on Refugees, who pointed out that the admission of refugees was an immediate and urgent matter. The government was asked to adopt a broad immigration policy without discrimination as to national origins and religious belief.

BRITISH FASCISTS STEPPING UP ACTIVITIES IN PALESTINE; CIRCULATING ANTI-JEWISH DOGGEREL

JERUSALEM, June 17. (JTA) -- A "hymn of hate" being circulated here by members of the British armed forces and police gives further proof of the extent to which members of Sir Oswald Mosley's British Union of Fascists have infiltrated those organizations.

The poem, consisting of three brief verses, is addressed to the home folks in England, and relates how although the war is over for them "it's just begun" in Palestine. It looks forward to the day when "the Jews will go down on bended knees."

The BUF members have been sent into the police force through recruiting drives in England. The fascist leaders apparently consider Palestine, with all its tension and turmoil, an ideal breeding ground for fascism and a suitable training ground for its strong arm squads. The young army conscripts make good mediums for spreading fascist propaganda, to which they are receptive since they have little idea of what is going on here, except that the Jews are shooting at them.

The first public disclosure of the fascist activities in the police force came with the official admission last week that a high-ranking police officer was connected with the abduction and probable death of a Jewish boy, and had fled to Syria with two associates to escape punishment.

NINTH ANNUAL CONVENTION OF AGUDAS ISRAEL ORGANIZATION OF AMERICA OPENED BY RABBI SILVER

NEW YORK, June 17. (JTA) -- The ninth annual convention of the Agudas Israel Organization of America opened here last night with 700 delegates from 14 states and fraternal delegates from a number of European countries attending. Rabbi Eliezer Silver, president of the organization, opened the parley.

Rabbi Silver declared that his organization is opposed to terrorism in Palestine, but emphasized that it supports immigration to the Holy Land by all possible means. Comparing the closing of the doors of Palestine to various persecutions of the Jewish people, he asserted that it was necessary for the Jews to combat the attempt to choke off immigration, even at a danger to life and limb.

JOSEPH APPEL ELECTED TO HEAD BRITH ABRAHAM; ORGANIZATION CONCLUDES 60TH CONVENTION

ATLANTIC CITY, June 17. (JTA) -- Joseph R. Apfel, of New York, was today elected Grand Master of the Independent Order Brith Abraham as 800 delegates concluded their three-day 60th annual convention here.

Inducted as leader of the organization at special ceremonies following his election, Apfel said: "At this convention we have pledged to work and fight for a Jewish national homeland where thousands of displaced and homeless Jews may go and become rehabilitated. Brith Abraham will not let-up until human justice and peace prevail for these unfortunate victims of Nazi treachery."

ABRAHAM A. REDELHEIM RE-ELECTED PRESIDENT OF BNEI ZION AS 36TH CONFERENCE CLOSES

ATLANTIC CITY, June 17. (JTA) -- Abraham A. Redelheim, member of the Zionist Actions Committee, was re-elected national president of Bnei Zion, Zionist fraternal organization, last night at the conclusion of the organization's 36th annual convention. The delegates adopted a resolution calling for the admission of the Jewish Agency to the United Nations General Assembly during the forthcoming discussion on Palestine at the Assembly's September session.

