

Friday, June 27, 1947

JTA

Daily News Bulletin

PUBLISHED BY THE JEWISH TELEGRAPHIC AGENCY

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

U.N. COMMISSION VISITS NEGEV; IMPRESSED BY JEWISH OASIS IN PALESTINE DESERT

KIBBUTZ REVIVIM, Palestine, June 26. (JTA) -- The United Nations Special Committee on Palestine today visited this settlement, one of the fourteen Jewish colonies in the Negev, the southern desert of Palestine, and were visibly impressed by the fruits that the 35 settlers have wrung from the arid soil.

The committee spent a full day visiting the Negev, which covers almost half of Palestine, and their observations here may have a significant influence on their ultimate decisions, since if the committee is convinced that the Jews are able to colonize the Negev, the Zionists' claim that they can bring in tens of thousands of immigrants without displacing any Arabs will bear great weight.

The probers were shown the green patches of vegetables growing in orderly rows, the fruit trees and the asphalt-lined reservoir which catches rain water channeled into it from nearby wadis (river beds) during rainy seasons and stores it until needed for irrigation during dry seasons such as the present.

Joseph Hipner, 29-year-old German Jew who manages the plantation, welcomed the committee members. He made no attempt to slur over the hardships involved in establishing a colony such as this, but pointed with pride to the settlers' achievements, and stressed their desire to bring in thousands of young people from all parts of the world.

Hipner told the committee that the colonists had had no difficulty with their Bedouin neighbors. They have supplied the Bedouins with nurses and sold them eggs, receiving in turn advice on local conditions. At the entrance to Revivim the committee found a tent set aside for Bedouin visitors, with a sign reading: "Welcome Friends. What's Ours is Yours." Inside a lone Bedouin was drinking coffee.

In a brief speech Emil Sandstroem, chairman of the committee, said that they had been much impressed. "You have created an oasis from desert. We understand your pride. We wish you success in your further work."

PALESTINE CENSOR BANS MARSHALL'S STATEMENT ON MUFTI; LIFTS BAN AFTER PROTEST

JERUSALEM, June 26. (JTA) -- Palestine censorship banned publication of a statement made yesterday by Secretary of State George C. Marshall at a press conference in Washington, revealing that an American-British-French team of historians is examining documents concerning the war-time pro-Axis activities of the ex-Mufti of Jerusalem.

Following a protest by the Palestine Post, which argued that this was an official statement and therefore could not be suppressed, the ban was lifted. However, the same paper was prohibited by the censor from printing a summary of an editorial which appeared yesterday in the New York Post, describing as "impudence" the note written by Sir Henry L. Gurney, chief secretary of the Palestine Government, to the U.N. inquiry committee on Palestine, rebuking it for intervening on behalf of the three Irgunists who were sentenced to death for taking part in the Acre prison break.

6/27/47

GROUP PROTESTS AGENCY DECISION TO BAR PARTIES FROM APPEARANCE BEFORE U.N. COMMITTEE

JERUSALEM, June 26. (JTA) -- The Hashomer Hatzair today published a statement protesting the Jewish Agency's decision not to permit the various political parties in Palestine to make separate appearances before the United Nations Special Committee on Palestine. The statement added that the party would continue to oppose the Agency's solution of the Palestine problem.

At a meeting last week, called by the Agency to explain its forthcoming testimony before the inquiry committee, the left-wing Tenua L'Achduth Avoda and the Hashomer Hatzair parties and the rightist Revisionists and Aliya Hadashah were informed of the decision to bar separate appearances.

The delegates replied that they would not join in the Agency's line, nor express their opinions, unless permitted to participate in all Agency meetings between now and the end of the September session of the U.N. General Assembly. They did not request voting rights at the meetings. The Agency rejected this demand, declaring that the opposition would have every opportunity of expressing its opinion at the meeting of the Zionist Actions Committee which has been scheduled for Aug. 24 in Paris.

PALESTINE "PHANTOM POLICE FORCE" REPORTEDLY BROKEN UP BECAUSE OF FARRAN CASE

LONDON, June 26. (JTA) -- The special squads set up by the Palestine police force to suppress terrorism are in the process of being broken up as a result of the publicity given the case of Maj. Roy Farran, who escaped from the Allenby barracks where he was being held in connection with the kidnapping and murder of a Jewish youth, Alexander Rubovitz, it was reported today by the Daily Express.

The newspaper asserts that the "Phantom Police Force" consists of 12-man squads of supposedly crack commandos and anti-terrorist specialists who frequented cafes in Tel Aviv and the Jewish quarters of Jerusalem and Haifa. They were given wide powers and great freedom in dealing with suspects who, the Express says, were picked up in "lightning arrests" and carried off to the British fortified security zones for interrogation.

A dispatch from a Palestine correspondent in the Tribune declares that there is much uneasiness in official circles over the Farran case. It suggests that a full, open inquiry is needed because of the "rumors" linking Farran with fascism and anti-Semitism.

An editorial in the same newspaper charges that the Palestine Government blundered in its sharp reply to the United Nations Special Committee on Palestine on the issue of commuting the death sentences of the three condemned Jewish youths. Warning of the danger of giving the impression that the inquiry is a farce, it declares that the government's attitude is that of an "independent, rather unfriendly" government, and not of a branch of the British administration.

FRENCH AUTHORITIES START PROCEEDINGS AGAINST TWO JEWS ALLEGED TO BE STERNISTS

PARIS, June 26. (JTA) -- The French authorities have started proceedings against two Jews charged with illegal possession of arms, it was reported here today. The men, who were arrested last month, are alleged to be members of the Stern Group.

6/27/47

ATTEMPT TO PROVOKE POGROM IN SLOVAKIAN TOWN THWARTED BY PROMPT POLICE ACTION

PRAGUE, June 26. (JTA) -- An attempt to provoke a pogrom in the Slovakian town of Nove Zamky was thwarted this week by the prompt action of police, who dispersed angry mobs.

The incident arose when a nine-year-old girl complained to her teacher that she had been assaulted. The teacher led the child and her school mates to a home for indigent Jews in search of the attacker. Rumors immediately spread through the town that a Christian child had been murdered by a Jew, and a mob gathered before the institution, but were persuaded by police to return home. The following day the rumor had grown to a report that three Christian children had been slain by Jews, and again a mob gathered, but were scattered by the police.

Finally, the alleged victim confessed that she had not been molested, but had been instructed by an unknown man to spread the report that she had been attacked.

HUNGARIAN PARLIAMENT SHOUTS DOWN DEPUTY WHO DENIES NATION'S GUILT IN MISTREATMENT OF JEWS

BUDAPEST, June 26. (JTA) -- Leftist deputies yesterday shouted recriminations at opposition deputy Endre Reicher when he told Parliament that not the Hungarian people, but only their former leaders, were responsible for the brutal mistreatment and murder of hundreds of thousands of Jews.

Parliament was thrown into an uproar when Reicher took the floor to challenge a statement by Anna Kethly, Social Democratic leader and vice-president of the body, that the anti-Jewish atrocities were "an unobliterable stain on Hungary's honor."

HUNGARIAN VICE-PREMIER SAYS JEWS FREE TO EMIGRATE; CHARGES OPPOSITION IS ANTI-SEMITIC

PRAGUE, June 26. (JTA) -- The Hungarian Government will place no obstacles in the way of Jews desiring to emigrate to Palestine or any other country, and emigrants will be permitted to take along all their valuables, Vice-Premier Matyas Rakosi of Hungary told a press conference here today.

Rakosi charged that the opposition group in Hungary, which was allegedly headed by former Premier Ferenc Nagy, had among its aims re-introduction of racial laws.

ARMY ACTS TO FACILITATE DP'S LEAVING CAMPS FOR SCHOOLING OR EMPLOYMENT

MUNICH, June 26. (JTA) -- The U.S. military authorities announced today that special certificates will be issued to displaced persons who voluntarily leave camps to attend schools or accept employment which necessitates living away from the camps.

The certificates will preserve the DP's status, allowing them to re-enter the camps whenever they so desire and will permit them to retain their eligibility for emigration. The measure is designed to encourage the DP's to leave the camp and seek employment.

The Jewish Central Committee of Germany today sent a cable directly to the United Nations Special Committee on Palestine urging it to visit the DP camps of Europe before writing its report on the Palestine issue. This is the second such request dispatched by the Central Committee. Last month it cabled to the U.N. secretariat, pointing out that the "overwhelming majority of the 160,000" displaced Jews in Germany wish to resettle in Palestine and should be given an opportunity to express their views before UNSCOP.

6/27/47.

NAZI OFFICER WHO EXTORTED GOLD RANSOM FROM ROME JEWISH COMMUNITY TO BE TRIED

ROME, June 26. (JTA) -- The commander of the German police force in Rome during the Nazi occupation of Italy will be placed on trial here shortly on charges of having extorted 50 kilograms in gold from the Jewish community as ransom for 100 Jewish leaders who had been seized as hostages.

The demand for the ransom was made by S.S. Colonel Hans Kappler on September 27, 1943, and the gold was turned over to him in October. Since the Jewish community was unable to raise the amount demanded, Pope Pius personally contributed 12 kilograms of gold to make up the required total. Many of the hostages were subsequently deported, despite payment of the ransom.

In a brief filed as "a friend of the court," the Jewish Community Council today charged that in addition to extorting the gold, Kappler directed the pillaging of the library of the Rome Rabbinical Seminary. Kappler is also implicated in the Ardeatine Caves massacre, during which more than 300 persons, including a large number of Jews, were murdered in reprisal for the shooting of German soldiers.

GESTAPO OFFICER WHO MURDERED 16 JEWS SENTENCED TO DEATH BY AMERICAN MILITARY COURT

FRANKFURT, June 26. (JTA) -- Karl Schoepperle, a Gestapo officer convicted of having flogged 16 Jews to death and having murdered a number of other concentration camp prisoners, has been sentenced to death by an American military court here.

Schoepperle was commandant of a section of the Mauthausen death camp known as "Linz Three." Four other camp officials were also ordered hanged. Three S.S. men were sentenced to life for torturing prisoners.

CONFERENCE OF GERMAN JEWISH EMIGRES ASKS RESTITUTION LAWS, IMMIGRATION OPPORTUNITIES

LONDON, June 26. (JTA) -- Action to restore to German Jews property stripped from them by the Nazis and pensions granted them by pre-Hitler governments was among the demands voiced here in a series of resolutions adopted at the closing session of the first world conference of the Council for the Protection of Jews from Germany. The Council consists of representatives of emigre Jews from 16 countries in Europe, Asia and the Americas.

The resolutions included a demand that the 200,000 Jews still in Germany be enabled to rebuild their lives and that those who wish to enter Palestine be allowed to go there. The conference denounced the "intolerable state of affairs" which allows Germans to hold unlawfully property taken from Jews, and urged early promulgation by the Allied Control Council of a restitution law, a draft of which has been prepared for the American zone.

The delegates called for resumption of payment of pensions and annuities to German Jews living abroad, the use of heirless Jewish property for resettlement of Jews under Jewish auspices and full representation on any body formed for that purpose. They also asked that property abroad belonging to German Jews be exempt from enemy property controls.

The delegates at the conference represented German Jews living in the United States, Palestine, France, Belgium, Sweden, Switzerland, Portugal, Italy, Australia, South Africa, India, Cuba, Uruguay, Chile and the Dominican Republic.

6/27/47

CENTRAL CONFERENCE OF AMERICAN RABBIS OPPOSES "RELEASED TIME" IN PUBLIC SCHOOLS

MONTREAL, June 26. (JTA) -- A statement expressing strong opposition to "released time" by public schools for religious instruction was adopted at today's session of the 50th annual convention of the Central Conference of American Rabbis now being held here.

The statement emphasized that "to participate in any form of cooperation of this type--mild, or even harmless as it might seem--positively means to consent to a compromise on the principle of separation of church and state, which may finally jeopardize the very basis of American life, for no principle is more fundamental to the maintenance of a free democratic American life than this principle."

The movement in America for creating good will between Jews and Christians, was re-evaluated at today's session by Rabbi B. Benedict Glazer of Detroit and Rabbi Abraham L. Feinberg of Toronto. Rabbi Glazer criticized the Jewish defense agencies for "competition, conflicts and duplication." He said that they are using "a scare technique" for fund raising purposes and make "excessive claims" of success in fighting anti-Semitism.

His major criticism was directed against the National Conference of Christians and Jews. This organization, he said, "does not involve itself in any social action and takes no sides on questions which deal with legislative action and efforts to eliminate prejudice and discrimination, such as fair employment practices, restrictive land covenants and discriminatory quotas in our educational system."

Rabbi Feinberg agreed with this criticism, but said that to be cynical about the good will movement, despite all signs of weakness and omission, is "to acknowledge the bankruptcy of prospects for a healthy, extroverted American Judaism." He argued that the good will movement "embodies the hope of constructive rapprochement with Christianity."

RABBINICAL ASSEMBLY CONVENTION SUPPORTS BILL FOR ADMISSION OF DISPLACED PERSONS TO U.S.

NEW YORK, June 26. (JTA) -- A resolution supporting the Stratton Bill which urges the annual admission of 100,000 displaced persons to the United States for a period of four years, was adopted today by the Rabbinical Assembly of America at the concluding session of its 47th annual convention, held at the Jewish Theological Seminary.

The session also adopted a resolution favoring the establishment of a Jewish homeland in Palestine and supporting the demand for free immigration of Jews to Palestine. Other resolutions urged congregations to make their institutions synagogues--centers and recommended reactivating the Social Justice Committee of the Assembly "to the fullest measure of its responsibility" in dealing with social problems.

Rabbis Isyael Goldman of Providence, R.I., and David Aronson of Minneapolis, Minn., were re-elected president and vice-president for the coming year.

HOUSE AUTHORIZES U.S. PARTICIPATION IN INTERNATIONAL REFUGEE ORGANIZATION

WASHINGTON, June 26. (JTA) -- The House today passed, 124 to 43, the joint resolution authorizing American participation in the International Refugee Organization and an appropriation of \$73,000,000 as the American share in the international program for the care and resettlement of displaced persons. Budget hearings will begin next week before the Appropriations Committee on the enabling legislation but it is expected there will be no opposition to granting the funds.

6/27/47

FEDERATION OF WOMEN'S CLUBS VOTES AGAINST ADMISSION OF DISPLACED PERSONS TO THE U.S.

NEW YORK, June 26. (JTA) -- A resolution urging approval of the Stratton Bill was defeated 556 to 341 yesterday by the annual convention of the General Federation of Women's Clubs. The vote came after a heated debate during which leaders of the organization pleaded for approval of the resolution, citing the country's obligations to the displaced persons of Europe. A solid bloc of Middle Western delegates were instrumental in securing the resolution's defeat.

ADMISSION OF 400,000 DP'S TO U.S. AND 100,000 JEWS TO PALESTINE URGED AT ILGWU PARLEY

CLEVELAND, June 26. (JTA) -- Resolutions urging the admission of 400,000 displaced persons to the United States within four years and the immediate opening of the doors of Palestine to 100,000 displaced Jews were adopted at the convention of the International Ladies Garment Workers Union now in session here.

The resolution on Palestine also urged that the White Paper be revoked and that Jews be given complete freedom to acquire land in any section of Palestine. The resolution condemned the activities of the extremists and strongly criticized British policy. It was announced that the resolution avoided any reference to the question of the establishment of a Jewish state in Palestine because of differences of opinion on that subject among the membership of the union.

AMERICAN JEWISH LABOR GROUPS LAUNCH DRIVE TO BUILD HOSPITAL IN NEGEV

NEW YORK, June 26. (JTA) -- A campaign to raise \$50,000 for the construction of a Red Mogen David hospital in the Negev, Palestine's southern desert region, was launched here last night at a conference of the Jewish Labor Committee and the Workmen's Circle.

Former Gov. Herbert H. Lehman, the featured speaker, declared that Palestine must be kept open to "free and untrammelled immigration" and that it would be "tragic" if at this time the "sacred rights recognized in the Palestine Mandate were repudiated" and the doors shut on Jewish immigration. He paid tribute to the pioneers of Palestine whose activities, he said, had benefitted all peoples, regardless of religion or nationality, alike. Other speakers were Ephim H. Jeshurin, president of the Workmen's Circle, and Adolph Held, chairman of the Labor Committee.

CARDINAL SPELLMAN MAKES PERSONAL CONTRIBUTION OF \$1,000 TO GREATER NEW YORK U.J.A.

NEW YORK, June 26. (JTA) -- Cardinal Spellman has made a personal contribution of \$1,000 to the 1947 campaign of the United Jewish Appeal, it was announced today by Edward M.M. Warburg, chairman of the U.J.A. of Greater New York. The gift was transmitted through Charles H. Silver, vice-chairman of the campaign and a personal friend of the prelate.

KRAFT NAMED TO J.W.B. NATIONAL COUNCIL; LEAVES EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR POST

NEW YORK, June 26. (JTA) -- Louis Kraft, who has just completed 30 years of service with the National Jewish Welfare Board, the last eight as executive director, has been named to the newly-created position of general secretary of the National Council of JWB, effective Oct. 1st, 1947, it was announced here today by Frank L. Weil, JWB president.

Mr. Kraft will be succeeded as executive director of JWB by Samuel D. Gershovitz, who is now executive director of the Jewish Community Centers Association of Chicago. Mr. Gershovitz was formerly head of the field service and associate director of the Jewish Center Division of the National Jewish Welfare Board.

THE CONTENTS OF THIS BULLETIN ARE NOT FOR PUBLICATION WITHOUT SPECIAL AUTHORIZATION