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JEWISH AGENCY ECONOMIC SPOKESMEN TELL U.N. COMMITTEE PALESTINE CAN ABSORB MILLIONS MORE

Jerusalem, July 6. (JTA) -- Debunking the "legend" of land and water scarcity in Palestine, Eliezer Kaplan, treasurer of the Jewish Agency, today told the United Nations Special Committee on Palestine that "this little country contains enough land and water to feed not only its present population but twice and thrice the number."

Continuing the second day of the presentation of the Agency's case before the committee, Kaplan declared that during the past quarter of a century the Jews of Palestine have increased the irrigated area of the country more than ten times--from 40,000 dunams (10,000 acres) to 450,000 dunams. "We are confident that it is possible to increase the irrigated area further, at least eight times as much as is now irrigated," he continued, adding: "In this direction lies the future of Palestine's agriculture."

Kaplan asserted that his predictions on the future of Palestine's agriculture was based on Jewish colonizing experience during the past three generations and on the basis of scientific research carried out on the land during the last 35 years. Land which was given up by the government as "uncultivable," he pointed out, proved cultivatable when skill and experience was applied to it. He asserted an expansion agricultural policy was possible with large-scale immigration and a broad development program designed and executed with vision, courage and a pressing sense of duty on the part of the responsible authorities.

Sums up Agency Economic Program in Six Points

The Agency's economic spokesman summed up his position in six points: 1. Jewish immigration has created new economic absorptive capacities in Palestine and has given a great impetus to the economic progress of the country as a whole, to the benefit of all inhabitants. 2. The Jewish community has established an economic entity which is sound and self-supporting. 3. This economic structure is still at the beginning of its development. 4. Palestine can absorb additional millions of people. 5. The Agency plan for the absorption of 1,000,000 Jews in the next decade, as presented to the Anglo-American inquiry committee last year, is a practical one. 6. Given a reasonable amount of international cooperation, the means can be found to finance a large number of immigrants.

Continuing with his plan for the expansion of agriculture, based on irrigation, Kaplan referred to the Hays-Savage plan to develop water resources in various regions of Palestine in eight stages. The plan, which was developed by American engineers who had worked on the TVA and other large American engineering projects, was formally presented to the Anglo-American committee and differs from the Lower Merim Valley Authority plan in that it calls for the independent development of irrigated areas before the major Jordan Valley project is begun.

Kaplan stated that the Hays plan, as presented to the Anglo-American committee, provided for the irrigation of some 2,500,000 dunams. Since then, he reported,

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the Agency's research department has come to the conclusion that an additional 800,000 dunams could be irrigated from the same reserves.

### Says Govt. Restrictions Are Major Obstacles to Development

He rejected the government's assertion that there are "great obstacles" in the way of rapid agricultural development. He maintained that the major obstacles were governmental restrictions, citing a recent government ordinance controlling all water sources which can be used for irrigation. "We were amazed by the government's decision to introduce such legislation at a time when the whole question of Palestine is sub judice," he declared.

In summation, he charged the government with a "basic lack of understanding" of the nature of Jewish work in Palestine when it accuses the Jews of setting up an exclusively racial economic organization. It is impossible to understand the Palestine problem if one does not understand that the Jews are trying not only to find a home in Palestine for refugees, but also to reestablish the Jewish nation, he continued.

Kaplan's testimony followed that of Fritz Bernstein, director of the Agency's industrial department, who made a number of serious charges against the Mandatory. Pointing out at Britain's control of Palestine's dollar reserves and of its exports, Bernstein accused the Mandatory of "exploiting Jewish Palestine."

He said that during the period of 1940 to 1946 Palestine earned a total of \$165,000,000 - \$98,000,000 so-called gift dollars from American Jews and \$66,000,000 from exports - which went into the United Kingdom dollar pool. Allocation of dollars to neighboring countries was far in excess of what they had earned, he said. "In fact Jewish dollar earnings were transmitted to Arab countries which are boycotting Jewish products," Bernstein declared. He expressed the hope that the United Nations would be in a position to end this exploitation of Jewish Palestine.

### Charges British Interests Placed Before Mandate Objectives

Continuing his indictment of Britain, Bernstein stated that "the determining element in the history of the British Mandate in Palestine has been a vast discrepancy between the ascertainable purposes of the British Palestine policy and those of the Jewish community." The Jews have accepted as valid only those objectives laid down in the Balfour Declaration and the Mandate, while the Mandatory has often placed its own national and imperial policies to the forefront, he claimed.

He charged that various investigating commissions have come to Palestine to prove that the absorptive capacity of the country could not be increased to a considerable extent and that Jewish immigration ought to be severely limited. He also said that Britain was seeking to smother the young, developing industry in Palestine. "It should not be forgotten," he concluded, "that the Jews' effort to build their national future is a fight 'for life in the most primitive sense,' while all others who claim to the country 'are at best fighting for power.'"

In the afternoon the U.N. committee met in a private session and agreed to hold hearings to the Chief Rabbinate, Church of England, Church of Scotland, Council of Jewish Womens Organizations and League for Jewish-Arab Rapprochement and Cooperation. Later they visited Tel Aviv and other places. It was learned that chairman Carl Sandstrom has prepared a list of written questions to be put to David Ben-Gurion, Agency spokesman who opened the Jewish presentation Friday, at tomorrow's press-examination.

ZOA 50TH CONVENTION CLOSES; DEMANDS JEWISH STATE, ASKS U.S. TAKE ACTIVE ROLE ON PALESTINE

NEW YORK, July 6. (JTA) -- Reaffirmation of the principles which have guided the Zionist movement for the past half-century was embodied in a resolution adopted prior to the closing of the Zionist Organization of America's 50th annual convention here, which called for international assistance to re-establish Palestine as a Jewish state and insisted upon Britain carrying out the spirit and letter of the Mandate and vesting the Jewish Agency with full powers to organize the immigration of Jews and the development of the land.

At the same time, the delegates called upon the United States Government to immediately place on record before the United Nations its traditional policy that Palestine be reconstituted a Jewish Commonwealth and to fight vigorously for that program. The convention also went on record as repudiating and condemning acts of violence committed by dissident groups in Palestine, but at the same time it expressed its "earnest desire" that all possible steps be taken to avert the danger of civil strife within the Jewish community. Another resolution approved the administration of Dr. Abba Hillel Silver and thanked him for his services.

A rally at the Manhattan Center tonight ending the four-day Golden Jubilee party was addressed by Senators James E. Murray of Montana and Owen Brewster of Maine. Murray told the 5,000 persons attending the meeting that President Truman "is fully in accord" with the American policy on Palestine and desires to see it applied. He stated that Secretary of State George C. Marshall also wanted to see the policy put into effect, but, he charged, there is a "tendency to postpone taking a clear position" within the State Department.

Brewster insisted that the problem of Palestine "will eventually be dealt with in accordance with the conscience of the world." He urged the delegates "to continue your struggle" until the day "when Palestine shall be added to the number of free and democratic United Nations."

40,000 Reached Palestine Since 1945; Immigration Slowed by Lack of Cash

Earlier, at the session on Palestine Funds, Dr. Israel Goldstein, chairman of the United Palestine Appeal, revealed that some 40,000 Jewish immigrants had been brought to Palestine since the end of the war, in addition to the 15,000 interned on Cyprus. He declared, however, that the flow of immigrants was slowed down by a critical lack of cash and appealed for further support for the United Jewish Appeal.

He reported that the Jewish Agency, Palestine Foundation Fund and the Jewish National Fund were laboring under a \$45,000,000 deficit, \$15,000,000 of which was incurred during the current fiscal year. He said that the J.N.F. had spent nearly \$2,000,000 in 1946 to purchase land and that nearly \$10,000,000 was spent for veterans' settlement.

Louis Lipsky, former ZOA president, who also spoke at the closing rally, reviewed the history of the organization and asserted that "the whole American Jewish community with very few exceptions are now allied in spirit and devotion to the Zionist movement." To support this contention he cited a resolution adopted at the formation of the American Jewish Conference in 1943 at which delegates from all walks of Jewish life almost unanimously demanded the establishment of a Jewish Commonwealth in Palestine.

At an earlier session, Rudolph G. Sonneborn, national co-chairman of the J.T.A. attacked Foreign Secretary Ernest Bevin as the head and front of a conspiracy

to sentence "the last remnants of European Jewry to suicide or living death." He called the Haganah "the Number One priority of the Zionist Movement."

#### Frisch Asks Clear Directive for New ZOA Administration

Daniel Frisch, newly-elected vice-president of the ZOA, who presided at last night's political session which thrashed out the major resolutions to be presented to the convention, declared that Zionism "again stands at the perpetual crossroads of Jewish destiny." He pointed out that at a time when the U.N. inquiry committee on Palestine is due to report on its investigations the new administration must receive "a clear directive which should guide it in its work."

In a cabled message read to the delegates yesterday Field Marshal Jan Christian Smuts, Prime Minister of South Africa, who together with President Wilson was one of the co-authors of the Balfour Declaration, expressed his conviction that the U.N. Commission of Inquiry on Palestine will give "due regard to the policy of the Jewish National Home embodied in the Balfour Declaration and the Palestine Mandate which was adopted by the League of Nations in an international treaty." He further urged that "means must and will be found to continue that policy and that this can be done with justice to the legitimate Arab interests also."

#### ARAB HIGHER COMMITTEE LEADER URGES HAIFA RALLY TO BOYCOTT "EVERYTHING ZIONIST"

JERUSALEM, July 6. (JTA) -- Jamal Husseini, vice-chairman of the Arab Higher Committee, today urged an Arab rally in Haifa to tighten the boycott of "everything Zionist." Three thousand persons attended the meeting which was called by the Higher Committee. Husseini asked the Arabs to hold fast to their lands and preserve the Arab aspect of Palestine.

The Reuter news agency reports that British Army medical authorities are co-operating with the Haifa municipality in fighting an outbreak of the bubonic plague. The same report says that seven cases of the disease have been discovered.

#### FIRST WORLD CONGRESS FOR JEWISH STUDIES OPENS AT HEBREW UNIVERSITY IN JERUSALEM

JERUSALEM, July 6. (JTA) -- The first World Congress for Jewish Studies opened at the Hebrew University tonight with Jewish scientists and educators from many countries attending.

The conference was opened by Prof. Nahum Torchiner, dean of the Faculty for Jewish Studies at the University, under whose auspices the congress was called. Dr. Magnes, president of the University, who addressed the delegates, stated that the basic problem facing Jewish students was the answer to the question: "What is Judaism?" He called for the development of the study of Judaism which, he asserted, is still in its infancy.

Sir Leon Simon, chairman of the University's board of governors, suggested the institution should create a general humanitarian culture rooted in "Israel's cultural values." David Ben Gurion and David Remez greeted the delegates in the name of the Jewish Agency and the Jewish National Council.

#### ZIONISTS MAKING PREPARATIONS FOR EUROPEAN ZIONIST CONFERENCE NEXT MONTH

PRAGUE, July 6. (JTA) -- Preparations for a European Zionist conference to be held at Karlovy Vary between Aug. 9th and 14th are in full swing, it was revealed here.

The Czech Zionist federation has invited prominent Czechoslovak political and cultural leaders to attend the opening session. A large number of delegates are expected. It is believed that David Ben Gurion, chairman of the Jewish Agency executive, will attend.

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CITIZENS COMMITTEE ON DISPLACED PERSONS ENDORSES BILL TO ADMIT REFUGEES TO U.S.

NEW YORK, July 6. (JTA) -- The Citizens Committee on Displaced Persons today announced its support of a bill to admit an unspecified number of DP's to the United States which was introduced in the Senate last week by Sen. Homer Ferguson of Michigan. Other sponsors of the measure are Sens. Joseph H. Ball, H. Alexander Smith, John W. Bricker, John S. Cooper, Leverett Slaton Stall, Wayne Morse, Carl A. Hatch and J. Howard McGrath.

CANADIAN GOVERNMENT SENDS SENIOR OFFICIALS TO SPEED EMIGRATION OF EUROPEAN DP'S

OTTAWA, July 6. (JTA) -- The Canadian Government has dispatched two senior officials to Europe to survey and expedite the movement of displaced persons who will be permitted to enter the Dominion as immigrants under a recent Order-in-Council authorizing the admission of up to 5,000 persons, it was reported here during the week-end.

The officials will consult with the organization already set up in Europe for the emigration of DP's to Canada. Beside considering the admission of 2,000 needle trade workers, the government is also planning to admit 2,000 women domestic workers and is said to have made arrangements for the migration of 1,500 woodworkers. It is believed here that the program will gradually be expanded to include many other DP's. The 5,000 will be subtracted from any future quota which the International Refugee Organization may ask Canada to assume.

8,000 DISPLACED JEWS IN GERMANY, AUSTRIA REGISTERED WITH HIAS FOR EMIGRATION TO U.S.

NEW YORK, July 6. (JTA) -- Approximately 40 percent of the Jewish DP's in Germany and Austria, registered by HIAS for emigration to the western hemisphere, want to join friends and relatives in Australia and Latin America. Abe Grossman, director of HIAS activities in Germany and Austria, said during the week-end following his return to the United States.

Grossman, who spent 15 months in the occupied zones, said that while 18,000 Jewish DP's have indicated to HIAS a desire to immigrate to the U.S., 12,000 others hope to become residents of other Western Hemisphere countries. He said that during the past six months HIAS had sent 1,682 persons from Bremerhaven to the United States, and contrasted this figure with that of 1,902 brought to this country by HIAS during 1946. He pointed out that an additional 500 persons have already been processed for emigration to the U.S. by HIAS and are now in Germany, awaiting quota numbers.

B'NAI B'RITH YOUNG MEN'S SECOND ANNUAL CONVENTION OPENS TODAY; DEDICATED TO MONSKY

ST. LOUIS, July 6. (JTA) -- The second annual convention of the B'nai B'rith Young Men will open here tomorrow at the Hotel DeSoto. The parley, which is dedicated to the memory of the late Henry Monsky, former president of B'nai B'rith, is the first of four conferences to be held this summer by the organization's affiliated youth groups which have a membership of 30,000.

In Washington, Dr. A.L. Sachar, Hillel director, announced the names of recipients of nine Inter-Faith Fellowship and Scholarship awards for 1947. The awards were made to college students on campuses throughout the nation.

\$28,000 WORTH OF LABORATORY EQUIPMENT SHIPPED TO HAIFA INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY

NEW YORK, July 6. (JTA) -- Twenty eight thousand dollars worth of laboratory machinery and major accessory equipment, presented to the Hebrew Institute of Technology in Haifa by Alexander Konoff, New Jersey industrialist and manufacturer, were shipped to Palestine last week on the S.S. Exporter, it was announced today by Judah Wattenberg, executive director of the American Society for Advancement of the Institute.

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