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J.F.W.F. ASSEMBLY ASKS FOR I.R.O. REFUND; DECIDES TO PREVENT UNAPPROVED CAMPAIGNS

PHILADELPHIA, Jan. 16. (JTA) -- The 17th annual General Assembly of the Council of Jewish Federations and Welfare Funds concluded here tonight after adopting a number of resolutions providing for centralized planning and direction of Jewish communal services and for checking multiple uncoordinated campaigns for Israel and Europe.

Commending the actions and policy of the United States Government with regard to participation in the administration of the International Refugee Organization, the general Assembly adopted a resolution strongly criticizing the I.R.O. for having failed "to meet the full responsibilities for the feeding, clothing, education and the general care of Jewish displaced persons," and for refusing to participate in the transportation of displaced Jews to Israel. The resolution urged:

1. That President Truman and appropriate committees of Congress request a study to be made of the extent to which "unjustifiedly heavy burden has been thrown upon the Jewish philanthropic agencies for the care of displaced persons" as a result of the I.R.O. policy.
2. That appropriate refunds be made to the voluntary philanthropic agencies for the basic responsibilities of the I.R.O. which they have carried since July 1, 1948, particularly the payment of transportation costs for Jewish displaced persons emigrating to Israel since May 15, 1948. Millions may be involved, experts said.
3. That the appropriation for the fiscal year, 1949-50, for the International Refugee Organization be enacted under such conditions as will "assure the appropriate policies with regard to expenditures of funds for the primary purpose of the I.R.O."

Multiple Drives Held Threat to U.S. Jewry's Capacity to Meet Tasks

The Assembly also adopted a resolution declaring that the growing multiplicity of uncoordinated fund-raising campaigns in the United States, constitutes a serious threat to the capacity of the American Jewish community to meet local and overseas needs for which it is responsible. This multiplicity of drives, the resolution said, is also harmful to local and central Jewish community organizations upon which continuing successful fund-raising must depend.

The resolution urged local welfare funds to see to it that prospective contributors check with their local welfare fund leaders before contributing to independent drives and said that leaders of local communities, specifically leaders of the welfare funds, should not undertake sponsorship of such independent drives without previous clearance and approval by the welfare fund.

The resolution also recommended that no community act on appeals made to it until it has received authentic information from the Council of Jewish Federations.

A resolution was adopted concerning "stable and unified national fund-raising," including proposals concerning the establishment of a National Jewish Welfare Fund. The resolution reads: "In view of the desire expressed by the communities for a stable and more unified national fund-raising for Jewish needs, and in view of the desire expressed for greater community participation in the policies governing such fund-raising, this General Assembly resolves that the Council, through an appropriate committee, be instructed to explore, in consultation with the agencies involved, the desirability and feasibility of various proposals suggested at the Assembly for achieving these objectives, including proposals for a National Jewish Welfare Fund." The resolution provides that the Council report on the results of these explorations to the General Assembly next year, or to an earlier meeting of the communities.

The Assembly recommended that the C.J.F.W.F. continue and intensify a study it has undertaken which calls for central Jewish agencies in each city to plan, coordinate, finance and budget all community service programs. The study was drafted by a cross-section of top lay and professional leaders. It contains a number of recommendations aimed at strengthening Jewish programs in the United States "which will embrace centralized planning and direction of every type of Jewish communal service."

The text of the study, delivered to the 1,200 delegates at the Assembly, emphasizes that since individual social service agencies carry specialized programs and serve the entire community, they are responsible not only to their specific membership but to the entire Jewish community.

It also emphasizes representations of community interest in relationship to national organization programs and to "participation of the central community agency." It calls for a recognition that the central body is "more than a fund-raising agency" and defines its powers and limitations.

Stanley Myers Re-elected C.J.F.W.F. President; \$465,000 Budget Adopted

Stanley C. Myers, of Miami, was re-elected president of the Council. Harold Goldenberg, of Minneapolis, Robert J. Koshland, of San Francisco, Lillian Rosefeld and Samuel S. Schneirson, both of New York, were elected vice-presidents. Milton Kahn, of Boston, was named secretary, and Sylvan Gotshal, of New York, was elected treasurer. The Assembly adopted a 1949 budget of \$465,024 for the activities of the C.J.F.W.F.

Mr. Myers, addressing the afternoon session of the General Assembly, told the delegates that the "changes and upheavals" of the last 20 years have caused the "center of gravity of Jewish life" to shift from Europe to America. "Tremendous responsibilities have been placed upon American Jewry," he declared, "and thus, in effect, upon our American Jewish community. Upon our community agencies has fallen the burden of rebuilding the shattered Jewish communities of Europe for those who will remain, of moving hundreds of thousands of others out of Europe to new lands, of making possible the absorption of immigrants into Israel and providing for the economic stability of the new state.

Emphasizing that these responsibilities can only be fully met by "re-dedication" to the principles of voluntary, cooperative planning, and coordination on the community and national level, Mr. Myers urged that the Council become "the instrument

of the communities" in fulfilling this objective. He pointed out that "1949 will bring problems that call for enormous work and great wisdom."

Truman Lauded for Leading Fight to Liberalize DP Law

The General Assembly also adopted a resolution commending President Truman for leading the fight for liberalization of the Displaced Persons law and for his "sympathy, understanding and help towards Israel." The resolution urged the President to intensify his efforts in this direction. Another resolution appeals to Congress "to enact legislation which will eliminate all the discriminatory provisions in respect to religion, occupation and nationality" from the present DP law and urges that the "fatal cut-off date" of Dec. 22, 1945 be eliminated.

Harry L. Lurie, executive director of the Council, reported to the Assembly on the 1948 activities of the Council in behalf of its 255 member agencies in almost 100 communities. He emphasized the "practical" nature in servicing community needs in all areas of welfare work. He stated that the Jewish communities in the United States have grown in strength, in standards of services, in their capacity for fund-raising, in their maturity of judgment, and in their availability for constructive efforts.

The delegates honored William J. Shroder, of Cincinnati, founder and first president of the Council, at a testimonial dinner. Sidney Hollander, of Baltimore, also a past president, made the presentation. Meetings on increased participation of women in communal service and American Jewish culture were also held here.

JEWS EVACUATE VILLAGES HELD IN LEBANON FOLLOWING AGREEMENT; RETAIN SECURITY STRIPS

TEL AVIV, Jan. 16. (JTA) -- Israeli forces today evacuated four villages they held in Lebanese territory in accordance with an agreement reached last week between Jewish and Lebanese representatives providing for the release of the villages but stipulating that the Jews would retain small strips inside Lebanon required for Israel's security in that area, it was learned here. The agreement was reached after two meetings held on the Israeli-Lebanese frontier.

Reports that Israel and Lebanon are preparing to negotiate on the question of the Israeli-Lebanese frontier were denied here today by Foreign Minister Moshe Shertok who said the "reports are baseless."

Earlier, Israeli Army Chief of Operations Col. Yigal Yadin and Elishu Sassoon, of the Foreign Ministry, returned here from Rhodes to report to the Cabinet on the present stage of armistice negotiations being conducted between Israel and Egypt on the Greek island under the chairmanship of acting U.N. Palestine mediator Dr. Ralph Bunche. Col. David Shaltiel, Army Inspector-General and former commander in the Jerusalem area, went to Rhodes yesterday to substitute for Yadin while the latter is in Israel.

The only agreement reached to date between Israel and Egypt at the Rhodes armistice talks, it was reported here over the week-end, stipulates that Dr. Bunche is authorized to issue communiques on the Rhodes conferences.

Meanwhile, informed circles said here today that recent British moves have apparently not had any effect whatsoever on the contact which the Israeli Government maintains with Transjordan. These same quarters indicated that Israel, in addition to the armistice talks proceeding with Egypt on Rhodes, is maintaining contact with Lebanon and Transjordan.

It is understood here that the temporary return of Elishu Sassoon to Tel Aviv from Rhodes was a result of the progress being made by the Jews in their talks with the Lebanese. On the whole, informed circles here are optimistic over the progress made to date at the Rhodes conferences.

BEVIN SHARPLY ATTACKED FOR PALESTINE POLICY; FACES STORMY PARLIAMENTARY SESSION

LONDON, Jan. 16. (JTA) -- The sharp criticism leveled against Foreign Secretary Ernest Bevin for his Palestine policy over the week-end foreshadows a stormy parliamentary session on Tuesday when the Palestine case is brought to the floor by M.P.'s from all parties, it was indicated here today.

The Sunday Observer, after noting speeches made here yesterday by Clement Davies, Liberal Party leader, and Harold MacMillan, Conservative M.P., in which they scathingly attacked Bevin's Palestine policy, "denounced the British Foreign Secretary's policies as "evil and foolish." The paper dismissed charges of pro-Soviet tendencies in Israel, declaring that "it is Bevin who is now playing straight into Russian hands by sharpening the conflict to a point where even British-American unity may become strained."

Terming as "hypocrisy" the British Foreign Office's claim to support the U.N. Security Council's resolutions while "implicitly annulling the basic General Assembly resolution" by labelling reconquest of the Negev "aggression," the Sunday newspaper stated that "all this makes it hard to believe that Bevin is generally working to help bring about a peaceful settlement."

Most newspapers here featured reports of a Liberal Party meeting last night in Westminster at which immediate British recognition of Israel and admission of the Jewish state to the U.N. were urged. The Sunday Pictorial, in a front-page article by Richard Crossman, M.P., headlined "I Accuse Bevin," said the entire present crisis will lead to a "humiliating British climb-down, unless we get a new foreign secretary who will restore our shattered Middle East prestige by recognizing Israel."

CUBA RECOGNIZES ISRAEL; CHANCES FOR JEWISH STATE'S ADMISSION TO U.N. HELD ENHANCED

LAKE SUCCESS, Jan. 16. (JTA) -- The extension of recognition by the Cuban Government to the state of Israel--which was announced over the week-end in Havana by Minister of State Carlos Hevia--was hailed here today as the first major cleavage in the pro-Arab bloc at the United Nations.

U.N. officials voiced the opinion that Israel's chances for admission to the international family of nations have now been enhanced by the Havana Government's action, since Cuba--a member of the Security Council--now becomes the sixth nation in the Council which can be counted on to support the Jewish state's U.N. membership application. Previously, Cuba--which voted against the Nov. 29, 1947, Palestine partition resolution--sided with the Arabs in most U.N. deliberations.

(From Havana it was reported earlier that a brief ceremony marking Cuba's recognition of Israel was held at the offices of the Ministry of State, with Salvador Rosenthal, an auxiliary Israeli delegate to the United Nations, representing the Israeli Government.)

BRITISH SECTION OF WORLD JEWISH CONGRESS ADOPTS RESOLUTION DEPLORING ISRAELI CRISIS

LONDON, Jan. 16. (JTA) -- An emergency resolution deploring the present crisis in British-Israeli relations was adopted here today at the national conference of the British section of the World Jewish Congress, attended by 350 delegates from all sections of England. The meeting went on record as stating that "good will and friendship between Britain and Israel are essential to the stability and peace of the Middle East" and urged all nations to abide by the decisions of the U.N. General Assembly, including recognition of the state of Israel.

Other resolutions adopted at the parley expressed concern over the deterioration of the Jewish situation in the Arab states and voiced the hope that the British Government, in association with other countries, will exercise their influence to bring about the restoration of the rights and freedoms of the Jews in these countries.

ISRAELI MINISTER TO ROMANIA PRESENTS CREDENTIALS; DIRECT ROMANIA-ISRAEL SHIPPING RESUMED

BUCHAREST, Jan. 16. (JTA) -- Reuven Rubin, Israeli Minister to Rumania, presented his credentials over the week-end to Prof. Constantin Parhon, President of the Praesidium of the Rumanian Republic. The ceremony was attended by members of the Israeli legation and Rumanian Government officials.

Direct shipping between Israel and Rumania will be resumed, following a six-months interruption arising out of the Palestine fighting, it was learned here today. A vessel owned by a Soviet-Rumanian firm which ceased calling at Palestine ports last year has now resumed regular stops at Haifa following the intervention of the Israeli legation here.

ISRAEL-BOUND SHIP WITH 500 JEWISH PASSENGERS PERMITTED TO LEAVE CRETE PORT FOR HAIFA

ATHENS, Jan. 16. (JTA) -- The "S.S. Tampa," carrying 500 Israel-bound Jewish refugees, was permitted to leave Heraklion, Crete, today for Haifa by the port's control board, it was announced here.

The vessel had anchored in the port to refuel but had been detained by the Greek authorities on orders from Athens, until port officials could determine that there were no "regular Israeli troops" aboard.

POPULATION OF ISRAEL EXPECTED TO REACH 1,000,000 IN 1949; HOUSING PROJECT LAUNCHED

TEL AVIV, Jan. 16. (JTA) -- There will be 1,000,000 Jews living in Israel before the end of 1949, Itzhak Werfel, of the Jewish Agency immigration bureau, declared over the week-end in a statement to the press. The immigrants who will bring the population to this total will arrive from the DP camps, Africa, North and South America and the Eastern European countries, he added.

Werfel revealed that a \$20,000,000 housing project has just been launched to relieve the acute housing shortage which thus far has kept some 30,000 immigrants in transit camps. Housing accommodations to the extent of 1,000 rooms are already under construction, he said. The cost of the major housing effort which has just been launched, Werfel stated, will be borne by the Agency, the Jewish National Fund and local housing companies. The Agency will provide \$10,000,000, the J.N.F. \$4,000,000 while the remainder will come from several local companies, he said.

FIRST AIR EVACUATION OF JEWISH REFUGEES FROM SHANGHAI TO ISRAEL ANNOUNCED BY J.D.C.

NEW YORK, Jan. 16. (JTA) -- The first Jewish refugees to be flown from Shanghai to Israel have left by chartered plane, it was announced here today by Moses A. Leavitt, executive vice-chairman of the Joint Distribution Committee. The J.D.C. aided the International Refugee Organization to meet the costs of the air evacuation--involving 60 persons--and worked closely with I.R.O. in arranging the flight. An additional 140 Shanghai DP's are awaiting air passage to Israel under the evacuation schedule, Leavitt noted.

A total of 1,792 Shanghai Jews are en route to Genoa aboard the I.R.O.-sponsored ships, the J.D.C. official disclosed. He said that J.D.C. would provide passage for this group from Genoa to Israel. Approximately 3,000 European Jewish refugees still remain in Shanghai, awaiting evacuation before the war in China reaches the city, Leavitt stated.

PROF. BRODETSKY RETIRES FROM POST AT UNIVERSITY OF LEEDS; STUDENTS PAY TRIBUTE TO HIM

LONDON, Jan. 16. (JTA) -- Prof. Selig Brodetsky, president of the Board of Deputies of British Jews, has retired from his post at the University of Leeds, it was reported here today in the university's official publication, which paid warm tribute to Brodetsky, stressing the great esteem in which he is held by the student body.

