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U. N. PALESTINE COMMISSION ESTABLISHES BODY TO DEAL WITH STATUS OF JERUSALEM

LAKE SUCCESS, Feb. 18. (JTA) -- United Nations Secretary-General Trygve Lie today announced that the U.N. Palestine Conciliation Commission has set up a special sub-committee to deal with the problem of Jerusalem. This is the first major decision announced by the Commission since its arrival in Palestine.

(Reuters today reported from Cairo that the Egyptian newspaper Al Ahram published details of a plan for dividing Jerusalem among the Jews and Arabs which the U.N. Conciliation Commission purportedly has under study. The plan, Al Ahram said, calls for the Jews to keep the new city, while the Arabs would get the Old City. It is also said to provide for a joint council of Arab and Jewish representatives and delegates of the U.S., Britain and France to administer the city as a whole.)

SHERTOK REITERATES ON ISRAEL'S CONTACTS WITH ARAB STATES; SPEAKS OF JERUSALEM'S FUTURE

JERUSALEM, Feb. 18. (JTA) -- There are no contacts of any importance between Israel and the Arab states, except for Egypt, Foreign Minister Moshe Shertok stated at a press conference here last night.

He said there had been some sporadic contact, but it was unimportant and did not obligate any party. However, he stressed that the Israeli Foreign Office is preparing for the time when such contact will be of significance in paving the road to peace.

The Foreign Minister also emphasized that no negotiations will be undertaken with Transjordan or any other Arab state until the Rhodes armistice talks are concluded. In reply to a query whether Israel will accept Transjordan's rule over the non-Jewish parts of Palestine, Shertok declared: "We would like to have a Palestine Arab state in the non-Jewish parts of the country, but we will not fight for its establishment."

Turning to the future of Jerusalem, he asserted that Israel will never give up the Jewish part of the city, but that it is ready to discuss the internationalization of the Holy Places. He also said that the Jews will not overlook any attempt to solve the Jerusalem problem, "but we will not retreat from a clash if a solution is imposed on us."

Speaking of Israel's foreign policy, he said that like other peace-loving nations it does not want and does not intend to interfere in the struggle among the various states. He revealed that Israel is prepared to negotiate with France concerning French property throughout Israel, including Jerusalem, just as it is now doing with the Soviet Union.

Shertok disclosed that immediately after President Weizmann's inauguration the members of the Cabinet handed in their resignations, but the President asked them to continue to function until a new government is formed. Summing up the results of the Assembly's session in Jerusalem, he said that it laid down the foundations of a parliamentary, republican regime and marked the end of the Jewish community's maintenance of national institutions on a voluntary basis.

PRESIDENT TRUMAN SENDS MESSAGE TO PRESIDENT WEIZMANN CONGRATULATING HIM ON ELECTION

WASHINGTON, Feb. 18. (JTA) -- President Truman sent a message of congratulations to President Dr. Chaim Weizmann of Israel on the occasion of his election as first President of the new state, the State Department announced today. The message was sent to Dr. Weizmann in Tel Aviv, the announcement said. The message follows:

"I send you my heartiest congratulations upon your election as first President of Israel. You have my best wishes for a happy and successful administration."

LEADING NEW YORK NEWSPAPERS PAY TRIBUTE TO DR. WEIZMANN AS ISRAEL'S FIRST PRESIDENT

NEW YORK, Feb. 18. (JTA) -- High tribute is paid today in leading New York newspapers to Dr. Chaim Weizmann following his inauguration yesterday as President of Israel. The New York Times, in an editorial reviewing the role of Dr. Weizmann in the establishment of the Jewish state, emphasized that "few men of our time have dreamed a dream so long and lived to see it fulfilled" as did Dr. Weizmann.

The N.Y. Herald-Tribune said that while shadows still remain over Israel "as its first President is being inaugurated, none of these can loom large in contrast with the positive achievement which that inauguration symbolizes. Israel is a nation, recognized by its friends and grudgingly acknowledged even by its enemies. The broad basis for statehood has been laid."

The N.Y. Sun declared that Weizmann has become the embodiment of Zionism. "One probably knows better than he that the ship of which he holds the helm is aflloat on very stormy seas," the editorial said. "But he has not bowed his head before any gale thus far. The extent to which his passengers forgot their differences in demanding that he become the pilot must give him added confidence to face whatever may be in store."

Editorials lauding President Weizmann also appeared in the Yiddish daily newspapers. The Jewish Daily Forward compared Weizmann to George Washington, stating that "Washington devoted his whole life to the liberation of America from British rule and to the establishment of a democratic state." The Day said Weizmann was "the last of a generation of giants who belongs to the heroic figures of our history, like Barak, Mordecai, Jabotinsky and the others who gave their lives that the people of Israel might live." The Jewish Morning Journal said: "Weizmann as President does not represent any more a faction, a party, but the entire Jewish people."

Drs. Abba Hillel Silver and Emanuel Neumann today cabled felicitations to Dr. Weizmann at Rehovoth upon his election as Israel's President.

PRESIDENT WEIZMANN TENDERED RECEPTION AT SCIENTIFIC INSTITUTE IN REHOVOTH

REHOVOTH, Israel, Feb. 18. (JTA) -- Appearing at a public function for the first time since his inauguration as President of Israel, Dr. Chaim Weizmann--in his dual capacity as the first President of the Jewish state and as one of the world's leading scientists--was tendered a modest but impressive reception here today at the Weizmann Institute of Rehovoth.

David Bergman, scientific director of the Institute, and Mayer Weisgal, executive director of the American Friends of the Institute, were among those who paid tribute to the Israeli President's achievements in the fields of statesmanship and science.

NEW YORK, Feb. 18. (JTA) -- The 48-man executive committee of the United Palestine Appeal will meet here on Tuesday to decide whether or not to support the decision of the Jewish Agency executive under which Henry Morgenthau, Jr. is to be invited to head the 1949 campaign for the United Jewish Appeal on the same basis as in the previous two years, it was announced here today.

Meanwhile, it was reported today that the Jewish Agency executive has invited leaders of the United Palestine Appeal and of the Zionist Organization of America to confer on the decision which resulted in the resignations of Dr. Abba Hillel Silver and Dr. Emanuel Neumann from the Agency executive.

Dr. Jonah B. Wise, one of the three national chairmen of the United Jewish Appeal, who represents the J.D.C., said yesterday that the resignations of Silver and Neumann will not alter plans for the U.J.A.'s 1949 fund-raising campaign. Mr. Morgenthau, who is now vacationing in Florida, refused to make any comment on the resignations of Dr. Silver and Dr. Neumann. Reached at Boca Grande, Fla., he said he would be in New York next Wednesday.

Editorials in the Day and in the Jewish Morning Journal on the Silver and Neumann resignations call for peace in American Zionist ranks because of the present needs of Israel. The Day says: "Regretting deeply the resignation of Rabbi Silver and Dr. Neumann, we can only express the hope that the last word has not yet been said and that a path of understanding will be found." The Morning Journal says that "Dr. Silver certainly went far enough in compromising and the Jewish Agency Executive certainly should have taken this fact into consideration and not led to a situation where Morgenthau should insist upon unconditional surrender. The stubbornness on the part of Morgenthau--probably a result of the encouragement he received from those who saw here an opportunity to force Silver and Neumann to resign--is as inconceivable as it is unjustified. Let us hope that now will be found the path to peace."

ISIDOR COONS RETIRES FROM HIS POST IN UNITED JEWISH APPEAL; LAUDED BY U.J.A. LEADERS

NEW YORK, Feb. 18. (JTA) -- Isidor Coons, executive vice-chairman of the United Jewish Appeal since it was established in 1939, and director of fund-raising for the Joint Distribution Committee for 19 years, made known today his retirement as an officer of the national campaign on behalf of the Joint Distribution Committee, the United Palestine Appeal and the United Service for New Americans.

At the same time, Rabbi Jonah B. Wise, William Rosenwald and Herman L. Weisman, national chairmen of the U.J.A., praised Coons' outstanding service to the organization. The three national chairmen revealed that Coons had originally requested retirement from his post as of Dec. 31, 1948, marking completion by him of a decade of U.J.A. executive leadership. At their urging, however, Coons continued his duties in order to assure successful completion of the final aspects of the 1948 campaign, and to assist in the inauguration of the 1949 campaign.

A statement lauding Coons' service was made by Edward M.M. Warburg, chairman of the Joint Distribution Committee, which Coons represented in the United Jewish Appeal. The Joint Distribution Committee, Warburg said, "and the millions of distressed Jews it has aided, owe Isidor Coons a great debt of gratitude for the enormous labors he undertook in their behalf and for the successful manner in which he helped to raise the vital funds which fed the hungry and rescued the stricken. To thousands of communities throughout the United States and particularly to community leaders, it was 'Dor' Coons who symbolized the U.J.A. and especially the J.D.C. and their responsibilities to the distressed and needy Jews overseas. His is a proud and outstanding record of years of life-saving activity. In his work he has been a prime architect of the present U.J.A. fund-raising structure through which millions of human beings have been given hope and a new chance in life."

FOUR FOREIGN MINISTERS ASKED TO STUDY COMPENSATION FOR NAZI VICTIMS IN AUSTRIA

LONDON, Feb. 18. (JTA) -- A meeting of the Board of Deputies of British Jews decided to ask the Big Four foreign ministers to consider "certain problems concerning compensation for victims of Nazi oppression." The foreign ministers have resumed discussions of an Austrian treaty.

The Board, in consultation with the Anglo-Jewish Association and the British section of the World Jewish Congress, also decided on joint action to secure adequate compensation for victims of the Aden pogroms last year and assurances that the lives and property of the Aden Jews would be safeguarded.

The Board also said it welcomed the cooperation of the British Central Fund and the American Joint Distribution Committee "in providing relief for the Jews of Tripolitania, as well as the fact that migration facilities from Tripolitania to Israel now exist."

CHILE IS ASKED TO ADMIT JEWISH IMMIGRANTS AS VICTIMS OF RACIAL PERSECUTION

NEW YORK, Feb. 18. (JTA) -- The World Jewish Congress today reported that it addressed a letter to the Chilean Ambassador at Washington in which fear was expressed that the provision in the recent Chilean immigration decree providing for the admission of "races related by affinity" may tend to exclude Jewish immigrants.

Recognizing the right of any state to set up certain criteria in the selection of immigrants, the World Jewish Congress urged that "victims of racial, religious or political persecution be granted equal status with preferential categories."

TOTAL OF 266 JEWISH STUDENTS NOW ENROLLED IN VIENNA UNIVERSITIES

VIENNA, Feb. 18. (JTA) -- A total of 266 Jewish students are now enrolled in Vienna universities, it was reported here today. About one-fourth of these students are preparing for careers in medicine while another fourth are non-Austrians who do not contemplate practicing in Austria.

Many of the Jewish students--particularly the medical students--have announced that they plan to emigrate from this country to Israel as soon as they complete their courses. Before the Anschluss in 1938, there were about 7,000 Jewish students in schools of higher learning in Vienna.

25,000 JEWS CROWD ISRAELI MISSION IN BUENOS AIRES TO WITNESS HOISTING OF ISRAELI FLAG

BUENOS AIRES, Feb. 18. (JTA) -- More than 25,000 Jews--about one-tenth of this city's Jewish population--jammed the streets near the Israeli mission here last night to witness the hoisting of the Israeli flag. Diplomatic representatives from the Soviet Union, Poland and France were present when Rabbi David Maler pronounced the traditional "Shehecheyanu" blessing during the flag-raising ceremony. Carlos Gruenberg, Israeli liaison official, delivered a brief address.

After the Jewish state's emblem was raised, hundreds of young Zionists danced in the streets near the mission and later paraded with Israeli flags through the Jewish quarter of the Argentine capital. Credit for the tremendous turnout despite the non-publication of daily newspapers here was attributed to the extensive radio broadcasts on the event.

JEWS SETTLERS IN ARGENTINA DEMAND MORE LAND FROM JEWISH COLONIZATION ASSOCIATION

Buenos Aires, Feb. 18. (JTA) -- Serious differences of opinion have developed here between the Jewish Colonization Association and the Jewish settlers in Moisesville, a Jewish colony in the province of Santa Fe, which was founded in 1890 during the first years of the Baron Hirsch colonization project in Argentina, and today has a population of more than 5,000 which is almost entirely Jewish.

The Fraternidad Agraria, a cooperative of Jewish colonists, published a statement asserting that the situation in Moisesville is precarious. The statement charges that the Jewish Colonization Association takes no interest in the welfare of the settlers. It reported that due to a drought in the province of Santa Fe, the small landholders in Moisesville are in a difficult position. Although they negotiated with representatives of the Jewish Colonization Association for more soil in order to alleviate their situation, their appeal remains unanswered, the statement asserts. It blames the J.C.A. administration for the fact that the colonies' youths are abandoning the project and are moving to urban centers.

The statement of the Fraternidad reveals that the organization of Jewish colonists sent an investigating committee to Moisesville to institute an inquiry into the situation there. As a result, the organization sent a cable to London to Lord Reading, president of the Jewish Colonization Association, asking for urgent intervention with a view to partitioning the J.C.A. land reserves among the suffering colonists. The reply received by the Fraternidad from Lord Reading is considered "not satisfactory."

The Jewish press here is supporting the colonists in their request and calls upon the representative Jewish bodies to intervene in the conflict. The "Yiddische Zeitung," leading Jewish newspaper in Argentina, pays tribute to the historic role played by the J.C.A. in the development of Jewish community life in Argentina, but demands that the Jewish community be represented on the administration of the J.C.A.

Commenting on the statement of the Fraternidad and the request of the Yiddische Zeitung, the J.C.A. here issued a statement to the Jewish Telegraphic Agency declaring:

1. The drought which is responsible for the grave situation in Moisesville affects also those Jewish colonists who have large tracts of land; it would therefore be unfair to associate the plight of the colonists with the demand for more land.
2. The Jewish Colonization Association asked the Fraternidad to submit complete proposals but no such proposals were submitted.
3. The J.C.A. sent a commission to Moisesville to study the situation, but the work of this commission was hampered by the local cooperative of the settlers.
4. The colonies have violated their contracts with the J.C.A. and consider themselves owners of land which they have only rented.
5. The J.C.A. is ready to give to the colonists an additional 4,500 hectares of land but only after the contracts between the J.C.A. and the tenants have expired.
6. The J.C.A. cannot submit the conflict to a decision of any Argentine Jewish body because it is a foreign private organization. It considers it necessary that the colonies should send a delegation to London to solve the problem with the headquarters of the J.C.A. there.

MAN URGES NATION TO OBSERVE "BROTHERHOOD WEEK" SPONSORED BY CHRISTIANS AND JEWS

WASHINGTON, Feb. 18. (JTA) -- Nelson A. Rockefeller, general chairman of Brotherhood Week which opens throughout the country on Sunday, called this week on President Truman with a report on the nationwide activities scheduled to take place through the cooperation of educational, religious and community organizations with a view to improving relations among religious and racial groups.

A statement issued by President Truman emphasizes that "in this age, when science has tapped the atom's nucleus, man must tap the nucleus of understanding." Calling upon the American people to participate in Brotherhood Week, which is sponsored by the National Conference of Christian and Jews, the President said:

"I urge a personal rededication to the principles of equality and justice which have made our country great, and I hope that all institutions of education, religion, civic betterment and the media of communications will engage in community activity to make brotherhood a living reality."

An appeal to the American people to join in the observance of Brotherhood Week was issued today by Dr. Everett R. Clinchy, president of the National Conference of Christians and Jews. He charged that "there are powerful and relentless forces in the world seeking to destroy human and religious rights" and emphasized that "American democracy is founded upon moral principles that derive from the nature of man as created in the image of God."

FOUR-DAY CONVENTION OF ASSOCIATION OF ENGLISH-JEWISH PRESS OPENS IN WASHINGTON

WASHINGTON, Feb. 18. (JTA) -- The four-day annual convention of the American Association of English-Jewish Newspapers opened here today at the Willard Hotel under the chairmanship of Philip Slomovitz, president of the organization. The delegates will discuss various problems concerning the development of the English-Jewish press in the United States.

The convention, which marks the 100th anniversary of the establishment of the Anglo-Jewish weekly press in America, will be addressed at a luncheon session on Sunday by Rep. Sol Bloom of New York, chairman of the House Foreign Affairs committee, and by Rep. A.J. Sabath of Illinois, Dean of the House.

Eliahu Epstein, Israeli envoy to the United States, in a message to the convention, emphasized that "not many Jewish institutions in the United States can look back on an unbroken record of activity spanning a hundred years." He stressed the fact that Israel recalls "the yeoman service which has been rendered by the English-Jewish press in the U.S.A., especially within the past few decades, in our struggle for independent statehood" and expressed the hope that the English-Jewish press "will continue to play a great role in Jewish life in America and will serve as one of the vital links between our two countries."

BRITISH COLONIAL SECRETARY LAUDS J.D.C. FOR WELFARE WORK ON CYPRUS

LONDON, Feb. 18. (JTA) -- Colonial Secretary Arthur Creech-Jones, speaking in Commons last night, emphasized that the transfer of the Cyprus detainees to Israel "was achieved with the full cooperation of the detainees and the Israeli authorities." He also paid special tribute to the Joint Distribution Committee and its Cyprus director, Morris Leub, who "neither spared pains nor expense to provide welfare staffs for the detainees."

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