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JTA Daily News Bulletin

SIX ZIONIST LEADERS. ONE NON-JEW SENTENCED IN HUNGARY FOR AIDING MIGRATION TO ISRAEL

BUDAPEST, June 19. (JTA) -- Six Zionist leaders and one non-Jew were last night convicted of organizing and promoting the illegal mass emigration of Israel-bound Hungarian Jews and were sentenced by a Hungarian court to varying sentences ranging from six months to three years. The other defendants were acquitted and the tenth was not tried at the same time because he was Orthodox and preferred not appearing in court on the Sabbath.

During the 15-hour trial the largest court room in Budapest was jammed with Jews who followed the proceedings attentively. No witnesses, other than the defendants, were heard. Three of the nine withdrew earlier confessions made to the police and two of the men who withdrew their confessions were acquitted. The other defendants pleaded guilty, either fully or partially.

The chief defendants, Dr. Bela Denes, former vice-president of the dissolved Zionist Federation and a Mapai leader, and Sandor Kertesz, Mapam leader, were sentenced to three-year terms. Magda Weiss, 19 year old Zionist youth leader, received a two-year-and-two-month sentence; Menyner Ferd, two years and six months; Sandor Denes, the non-Jew, and Miklos Frankfurter, two years and eight months each; and, Aladar Felkai, two years and six months. Sandor Fleischmann and Dr. Bela Schwartz were acquitted. Jenoe Fraenkl, a Mizrahi leader, was the defendant who was not tried with the others.

The prosecution, headed by Gyula Alapy, chief of the Budapest office of the Attorney General, charged that the defendants had violated a law passed in 1948 which was aimed at protecting the Hungarian people from "Anglo-Saxon propaganda." Alapy also declared that the defendants were "tools in the hands of the imperialists" and asserted that the funds used in organizing mass migration came from the same sources abroad which support "Ferenc Nagy, Zoltan Pfeiffer and the Voice of America." (Mr. Nagy is a former Hungarian Premier who fled the country and Mr. Pfeiffer was head of the Independence Party before he, too, fled.

Finally, the prosecution pointed out that the Zionists had been in contact with "foreign emissaries," which he said was a serious situation because it gave the foreigners an "easy" source of information. The prosecutor, who called the defendants "misled," pointed out that Zionism was not the issue of the trial.

Counsel Cites History of Nazi Terror to Explain Defendants' Actions

The defense asserted that the law under which the ten were being tried was aimed not at them but at "hostile, anti-democratic elements" and was not applicable in the case of any of the defendants. Defense counsel also analyzed the background of the defendants and the recent history of the Jews of Hungary as well as the history of the Zionist movement.

Under the lead of the leftists among them, the defendants pointed out that they wished to go to Israel to build socialism in the Jewish state and that the migration movement was organized for this reason. They denied being "tools of imperialism."

Dr. Denes, who was specifically charged with aiding the illegal flight of over 100 persons of military age, pleaded partially guilty to aiding the illegal migration movement through the "spiritual leadership" of the Mapai youth movement. He denied

6/20/49

that any Joint Distribution Committee funds had been used to organize the youth movement, as had been alleged. He pointed out that until the middle of last December passports had been issued to applicants headed for Israel and that after that date an extended legal discussion had left the status of these people unsettled, presenting them with no alternative but illegal flight.

Defendants Explain Reasons for Their Actions

Mr. Kertesz, a survivor of the Mauthausen death camp, declared in his defense that the Jewish youth could not be restrained, "so we endeavored to act as traffic police by organizing the groups and giving them advice." He added that he was convinced that it would have been of no use, even harmful, to have attempted to restrain the young migrants.

Both Dr. Denes and Mr. Kertesz insisted that they were unaware that they were committing an offense because of the "tacit toleration" of the authorities for several weeks after the voluntary dissolution of the Zionist Federation. They also pointed out that they understood that a list of some 800 Zionist functionaries who had been promised visas to leave the country had been drawn up. The discussion of this list was alleged by the court to be another illegal act.

Miss Weiss pleaded guilty, in one of the most dramatic speeches heard during the lengthy trial day. She told the court of her arrest by the Nazis, at the age of 13, and of her loss of both parents in concentration camps. She also disclosed that she had been imprisoned in the same camp as Chana Szenes, the Jewish heroine executed by the Nazis during the war. Pleading guilty only in the sense of having violated the Hungarian law, Miss Weiss asserted that her future lay in Israel alone.

Conviction of Zionist Leaders in Hungary Scored at Bnai Zion Convention

ATLANTIC CITY, June 19. (JTA) -- A resolution calling on the State Department to intervene in behalf of Seven Hungarian Zionist leaders sentenced to prison terms yesterday in Budapest on charges of aiding "illegal emigration" of Jews from Hungary to Israel was adopted today at the 40th annual convention of Bnai Zion, fraternal Zionist Organization of America. The resolution condemned the action of the Hungarian Government, describing the convictions as "persecution of Zionists as Zionists."

In another resolution the 500 delegates attending the convention urged the U.S. Government to aid in the initiation of direct Israeli-Arab peace talks. The State Department was also asked to support the Israeli Government's position of not considering any territorial changes in the present peace negotiations. The Bnai Zion convention, which will continue through tomorrow, extended greetings to President Truman and voiced its thanks to the President for his continued support of the new state.

Principal speakers at today's sessions included Rep. Emanuel Celler, chairman of the House Judiciary Committee; Judge Morris Rothenberg, a national chairman of the United Palestine Appeal and acting national chairman of the United Palestine Appeal; Dr. Israel Goldstein, treasurer of the Jewish Agency who just arrived here from Jerusalem; and Louis Lipsky, veteran Zionist leader. Last night, Harry A. Pine, president of the organization, in a message to the convention, urged American Jewish youth to "go East" and "come to the aid of the young republic of Israel by volunteering for technical service" in Israel.

TWO ISRAELIS KILLED BY ARABS; ARMISTICE COMMISSION MEETS ON JERUSALEM PROBLEMS

JERUSALEM, June 19. (JTA) -- One Israeli soldier was killed and two were wounded near here this week-end by a group of Arab infiltrators, it was announced here today. The incident took place when a jeep carrying a four-man Israeli mobile patrol was ambushed in the vicinity of Abugosh. The fourth man managed to bring his killed and wounded comrades to Jerusalem.

It was reported that an "underground train" has apparently uncovered a loop-hole in the Israeli-Arab armistice demarcation line in the vicinity of Abugosh through which a considerable number--estimated at five thousand--of Arabs have infiltrated. In an endeavor to halt the infiltration Israel had increased patrols, one of which was the party ambushed.

Two more Israelis, watchmen in the former Arab village of Zarnuka, between Tibneh and Givat Brenner, were killed yesterday by mounted Arabs, who were reported to have infiltrated from the Gaza area. The two victims were Yeshaiahu Farkash and Asher Grossman.

A special committee of the mixed Transjordan-Israeli armistice commission met today after a deadlock of two weeks. They considered Israeli demands for access to Mount Scopus and the Latrun area and other important problems.

Four Red Cross trucks passed through Israeli lines this morning from the Old City carrying gift parcels from the United States to Christian religious institutions in Israel. Returning, the trucks carried Israeli gift parcels for Jewish prisoners of war in Syria.

TWO MONTHS SUSPENSION OF LAUSANNE PEACE TALKS MIGHT COST PALESTINE TWO YEARS OF PEACE

LAUSANNE, June 19. (JTA) -- Hope of peace in Palestine would be deferred for at least two years, if Mark Ethridge's proposal for an adjournment of about two months were accepted by the United Nations Palestine Conciliation Commission, sources close to the present United States members of the Commission said this week-end. French and Turkish members of the body also reject the stand taken by Mr. Ethridge.

The Commission fears that resumption of its work just before the General Assembly meets--as Mr. Ethridge suggests--would make it the central scene of all Assembly lobbying which might stultify its conciliation efforts. Also, as a Commission member put it today, there will be lots of "inflammable stuff flying around," and the odds that it will not catch fire if no attention is paid to it for some time are very small. The Israelis have greatly improved their army, he said. The Egyptians are spending \$250,000,000 this year on their army and are getting considerable quantities of armor and planes from Italy and elsewhere.

The Syrians are getting \$12,000,000 worth of supplies from France. Transjordan and Iraq are obtaining fresh arms from Britain. The member estimated that there would be 20 times more arms available in Palestine and its vicinity by the end of this year than there was when the Palestine war broke out in May of last year. The same source said he was convinced that there would be a renewal of fighting within the year if the present conference here should fail.

SWISS GOVERNMENT ACCEPTS NOMINATION OF ISRAELI CONSUL GENERAL AT ZURICH

BERNE, Switzerland, June 19. (JTA) -- The Swiss Government has accepted the designation of Samuel Telkowski to act as Israeli consul general at Zurich, with jurisdiction over the whole of Switzerland, it was announced here this week-end.

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GREEK FOREIGN MINISTER DEFENDS APPOINTMENT OF JEW AS NATION'S ENVOY TO TEL AVIV

ATHENS, June 19. (JTA) -- Criticism of the appointment by Greece of a Greek Jew to represent this country as its envoy at Tel Aviv, has been warmly answered by Foreign Minister Constantin Tsaldaris in the Chamber of Deputies.

On being questioned on the appointment, Tsaldaris upheld the selection of Dr. Joseph Mallah, adding: "this appointment was dictated by special reasons aiming at the better service of our interests in the new state." Mr. Tsaldaris praised Dr. Mallah's experience and recalled many services rendered by him to Greece. "Our long-standing liberal traditions of avoiding any religious or racial discrimination could not be ignored at this moment."

Mr. Tsaldaris went on to say that the mission of Dr. Mallah was only temporary and defined these points as its objectives: one, the establishment of diplomatic relations with the new state; two, the development of trade between the countries; three, the protection of Greek subjects, in Israel, most of them Jewish. He added that the settlement of the future status of Palestine was not a matter to be examined within the framework of Greek-Israel relations. As a matter of international interest, the question should be decided by special international bodies, he suggested.

The New Party, a bloc which has opposed the present Greek Government since its leader was ousted from the coalition cabinet, and its newspaper, Estia, have been conducting a violent attack on Mr. Mallah ever since his name was first mentioned for the post. Estia described the former Greek representative at the League of Nations as a "Jew merchant of Salonika who will give orders to our Christian diplomatic employees."

TEN PERCENT OF JEWS IN BRITISH ZONE OF GERMANY EXPECTED TO EMIGRATE IN SIX MONTHS

LONDON, June 19. (JTA) -- Nearly ten percent of the Jews in the British zone of Germany will emigrate within the next six months, officials of the Jewish Committee for Relief Abroad estimated today. Of the present total of 4,934 Jews in the British zone, the Committee estimated emigration figures as follows:

From Cologne, whose Jewish community has a population of 680, a total of 60 are expected to emigrate; the North Rhine area, which has a Jewish population of 1,050, will lose 100 by emigration; Westphalia, with a current population of 920, will emigrate 90; Niedersachsen, whose Jewish community now numbers 290, will lose 20 by emigration, Braunschweig, with 146 Jews, will lose 20; Hamburg, with 1,300, will see the departure of 130; and Schleswig-Holstein, with a Jewish population of 475 will lose 50 by emigration.

The Committee also disclosed that a restitution law in the British zone was signed by the military government and went into effect June 12, containing some proposals suggested by the Committee's legal adviser. Because of the intervention of the adviser, the British authorities agreed that persecutees who were resident in Hamburg on Jan. 31 last, and who are about to emigrate, will receive compensation of approximately 300 to 500 Deutschemarks, thus enabling them to buy clothing and other essential articles.

This compensation was obtained under the law providing pensions for victims of Nazi persecution which had previously applied to claimants living in the British Zone but not to those intending to emigrate. The committee said it now hoped to obtain the transfer of those pension rights to the emigrants, particularly in the case of older people who are in financial difficulties in the country to which they are emigrating.

FIRST NATIONAL ASSEMBLY FOR LABOR ISRAEL OPENS TODAY; 1,000 ATTEND THREE-DAY PARLEY

NEW YORK, June 19. (JTA) -- The first National Assembly for Labor Israel will open here tomorrow evening under the auspices of the Labor Zionist Organization of America. More than 1,000 persons are expected to attend the three-day session.

Principal speakers at the assembly will be Robert Nathan, noted economist; Aubrey S. Eban, Israeli representative to the United Nations; Rabbi James G. Heller; Baruch Zuckerman, national president of the Labor Zionist Organization of America; Arthur Lourie, Israeli consul general at New York; Dr. Mordecai Kaplan, well-known theologian; Dr. Louis Kraft, president of the International Conference of Jewish Social Workers; and Hayim Greenberg, Labor Zionist leader and head of the Cultural Department of the Jewish Agency.

Meanwhile, Isaac Hamlin, general secretary of the Israel Histadrut Campaign, who this week-end returned from a five-week tour of Israel, yesterday told a press conference that the cost of living in Israel dropped 12 percent in the last week alone. Mr. Hamlin pointed out that the immigrants must be guided to those trades which are essential to a general balance of the nation's economy--agriculture is the first, in order of importance, he stressed. "On the industrial front, cooperatives have been found to be a splendid media for training and employing immigrants," he pointed out. He also disclosed that the Histadrut has spent \$350,000 for maintaining employment bureaus for the immigrants.

ISRAEL MUST BECOME MARITIME NATION, HEAD OF HAIFA MERCHANT MARINE ORGANIZATION SAYS

NEW YORK, June 19. (JTA) -- "It is a geographical, economic, political and strategic necessity" that Israel become a maritime nation, Matthew Hindus, president of the Haifa Council of the Israel Maritime League, declared here today upon his arrival from Israel. He stated that he is not visiting this country on a government mission, nor is he seeking to raise funds since his organization participates in the American Fund for Palestinian Institutions.

Mr. Hindus pointed out that the Jewish state was on its way to developing the two major factors which make for a maritime power--shipping and trained seamen. The beginnings of a Jewish merchant fleet are already in existence, he declared, pointing to the ZIM shipping company, which is sponsored by national institutions, and ATID, the private corporation. He quoted David Remez, Minister of Communications, as being vitally interested in the entrance of private interests into the maritime field.

One of the chief functions of the Israel Maritime League, Mr. Hindus stated, is the training of Israeli youth who follow the sea. For this purpose, the League has established a training center and underwrites the major portion of the budget of the Haifa Nautical School. The organization also operates two sailors' homes, one in Tel Aviv and the other in Haifa.

AMERICAN ORT ADOPTS SIX-MONTH DEPARTMENTAL BUDGET; \$1,500,000 AVAILABLE FOR ACTIVITIES

NEW YORK, June 19. (JTA) -- The American ORT Federation has adopted a departmental budget of \$49,000 for the second half of 1949, it was announced here today by Edward L. Sard, executive director.

The departmental budget covers the administrative expenses and overhead of the ORT's offices in this country. The Joint Distribution Committee has made available \$1,500,000 for the ORT's overseas activities, Mr. Sard said. He also quoted a report by Alexander Dolowitz, chairman of the Federation's finance committee, which pointed out that over the last 11 years the American ORT has used 94 percent of its funds for its overseas rehabilitative work and only six percent for overhead and administration in the U.S.

49TH ANNUAL CONVENTION OF RABBINICAL ASSEMBLY OF AMERICAN OPENS TODAY; 200 ATTEND

KIAMESHA LAKE, N.Y., June 19. (JTA) -- The development of a program to strengthen Jewish religious and communal life in this country will be the main theme of the 49th annual convention of the Rabbinical Assembly of America, which opens here tomorrow. The three-day parley will be attended by 200 members of the Assembly.

The convention will also give final instructions to its four-man delegation to Israel. Among the reports to be heard at the convention will be the report of the organization's progress during the past year and the effects of contemporary technological problems on the American rabbinate.

AIDE TO SPEAKER OF ISRAELI PARLIAMENT ADDRESSES ANNUAL DINNER OF AMERICAN MIZRACHI

NEW YORK, June 19. (JTA) -- Dr. David Zvi Pinkas, deputy assistant to the Speaker of Knesset and chairman of its finance committee, today reaffirmed the desire of Israel to make peace with her Arab neighbors. He spoke before the annual dinner of the Mizrahi Organization of America, opening its celebration of "Israel Week" which precedes its twenty-ninth annual national convention to be held from June 22-26 at Atlantic City.

Dr. Pinkas declared that although Israel "fervently hopes" that the Arab nations will not stir up the war again, he warned that "if forced to fight Israel will keep what it conquers. Stating that Jerusalem will "remain the glory of the Jewish state" Dr. Pinkas declared that access will be guaranteed to the Holy Places. Speaking on the Arab refugee problem, Dr. Pinkas said that the only solution would be through an exchange of Arab refugees with those Jews who reside in poverty and abject terror in Arab lands.

J.D.C. TO PROVIDE SUMMER VACATIONS FOR 12,000 EUROPEAN, AFRICAN JEWISH CHILDREN

NEW YORK, June 19. (JTA) -- A grant of approximately \$90,000 has been made by the Joint Distribution Committee to provide three and four-week vacations for some 12,000 needy Jewish children in Europe and North Africa, it was announced here today by Moses A. Leavitt, executive vice-chairman of the J.D.C. The children will come from Belgium, Greece, Hungary, Italy, Poland, Algeria, French Morocco and Tunisia.

There will be fewer European Jewish children receiving J.D.C. vacations this year, Mr. Leavitt said, as local groups in a number of European countries will this year be able to finance vacations for thousands of additional children over and above those receiving J.D.C. support. In North Africa, however, Mr. Leavitt pointed out, the J.D.C. program is being greatly expanded because of the continuing deterioration of the position of Jews in the Moslem lands.

HIAS TO ESTABLISH IMMIGRANT SHELTER IN AUSTRALIA; AIDED BY LOCAL JEWISH GROUP

NEW YORK, June 19. (JTA) -- The purchase of a building to be used as an immigrant shelter in Melbourne, Australia, has been approved by the board of directors of HIAS, it was announced this week-end by HIAS president Samuel A. Telsey. The building will be used to feed and quarter newcomers to Australia until they are resettled, he said. The purchase and establishment of the shelter will be effected through the cooperation of the Australian Jewish Welfare and Relief Society, he added.

LESSING ROSENWALD CONTRIBUTES \$40,000 TO NON-SECTARIAN DP RESETTLEMENT PROGRAM

NEW YORK, June 19. (JTA) -- A \$40,000 contribution to the non-sectarian DP resettlement program of the International Rescue Committee has been made by the Lessing Rosenwald Foundation, it was announced this week-end by L. Hollingworth Wood, the committee's chairman.

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