

Monday, June 27, 1949

JTA *Daily News Bulletin*U.S. CONCILIATION COMMISSION ANNOUNCES TWO-WEEK ADJOURNMENT OF LAUSANNE PEACE PARLEY

LAUSANNE, June 26. (JTA) -- The United Nations Conciliation Commission for Palestine this week-end announced that it would adjourn the Arab-Israeli peace parley here from July 1 to July 18. The members of the Commission will remain here during the recess, but the Israeli and four Arab delegations will return to their respective capitals for discussions and new instructions.

The Commission's official statement was as follows: "The Palestine Conciliation Commission has decided after consultations with the Arab and Israeli delegations to hold its next meeting beginning July 18 at Lausanne. The Commission plans, however, to hold two separate meetings with the Arab and Israeli delegations before this short interruption. Meanwhile, the committees created by the Commission will continue functioning on the basis of projects which have been submitted for consideration."

The Commission met with the Arabs for three hours Saturday before issuing the statement. It is understood that the U.N. body plans to meet the Israelis next Tuesday for the last time prior to the "interruption." It will meet the Arabs from Egypt, Syria, Lebanon and Transjordan the next day. The purpose of these meetings will be to ask the delegates to get specific instructions from their governments on the main issues--refugees and territory.

Israel, Arab States Asked for More Specific Stands on Refugee Issue

The Israelis will be asked to clarify their position in more specific terms on the subject of the refugees. The Arabs will be requested to state specifically how many Arabs each country is prepared to accept for resettlement. The Commission, it appears, has information from Washington and Tel Aviv which indicates that the recent exchange of views between Israeli and United States representatives was designed to establish Israel's definitive policy regarding the refugees.

Also unresolved is the major territorial problem. United States policy is still urging Israel to give territorial compensation for holding on to Western Galilee. The American view is that any territorial compensation is acceptable, but in order to appease the Arabs and the British, concessions in the Negev would be advisable. The latest Arab proposal made in this connection is held here to reflect the British views--and also the American--as to the final territorial settlement.

Arab statesmen argue that the road from El Anja, on the Egyptian frontier, through BeerSheva and Hebron is the traditional strategic link between Egypt and Transjordan and other Arab states. The Arabs propose that the Negev be partitioned, with the BeerSheva-El Anja road and the region east of it to be equally divided between Transjordan and Egypt. The region west of it (including the Gaza coastal strip, with several hundred thousand Arab residents and refugees) would go to Israel. Surrender of the Gaza strip to Israel has not yet been mentioned openly by the Arabs, but Egypt and Transjordan have been saying that they would gladly give up the strip if the Negev partition as proposed by them is accepted by Israel.

Raymond Hare, U.S. representative on the Commission, will return to Washington next Friday and it is not expected here that he will return to Lausanne. It is believed that President Truman will nominate a new representative for the Commission.

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NEWS OF SUSPENSION OF LAUSANNE PARLEY NOT RECEIVED IN TEL AVIV; ISRAEL OPPOSES MOVE

TEL AVIV, June 26. (JTA) -- The Israeli Government has not yet received official notification of the U.N. Conciliation Commission's decision to adjourn the Lausanne peace parley, it was learned here tonight. It was pointed out in informed circles here that Israel still opposes the suspension of talks, asserting that full responsibility for this move rests with the Commission and the Arabs.

Financial negotiations between Israel and Britain will open here July 1. The British delegation is expected here early this week and the Government has already assigned a special official to deal with problems allied to the negotiations.

ISRAEL WILL NOT RESUME WAR AGAINST ARABS, EVEN IN TERRITORIAL DISPUTE, BEN GURION SAYS

TEL AVIV, June 26. (JTA) -- Israel will not resume the war against the Arabs even over a territorial dispute, Premier David Ben Gurion declared at Ramat Hakovesh last night. At the same time, he warned that the Arabs may reopen the war which, he said, would be more severe this time than last.

The Transjordan Arab Legion has begun training thousands of Arab youth for early resumption of the hostilities against Israel, it was reported here today. Further evidences of Transjordan's hostile intent were the construction of pillboxes along the Israeli-Transjordan border and spot announcements over the Transjordan-controlled Ramallah radio repeating the slogan: "Guard Your Guns!" This slogan was coined by John Glubb Pasha, British-born former commander of the Arab Legion, who recently warned villagers not to sell arms to "foreigners who might infiltrate Arab territory."

Also reported was a decision by a conference of Arab Palestine leaders near Ramallah to conscript Palestine Arabs between the ages of 18 and 45 into a "Palestine Defense Corps." Other decisions of the conference include placing strong armed forces along the Israeli border, distributing arms to villages and swearing unwavering allegiance to King Abdullah "who has graciously promised to support the Palestine Arab movement."

Meanwhile, the mixed Israeli-Transjordan United Nations armistice commission met today. Brig. Gen. William E. Riley, assistant to Palestine mediator Dr. Ralph J. Bunche, repeated his demand that armed forces of both sides in the Jerusalem area be reduced.

ISRAEL AGREES TO PAY REPARATIONS FOR WAR DAMAGE TO CATHOLIC CHURCHES, CHECK LOOTING

NEW YORK, June 26. (JTA) -- Tension between Israel and the Vatican was lessened recently because of Israel's indication of willingness to pay reparations for war damage to religious property and to check looting of Church premises, the New York Times reported today. The report, emanating from Jerusalem, was based on a letter from Magr. Thomas J. McMahon, national secretary of the Catholic Near East Welfare Association, to U.N. Secretary-General Trygve Lie. The letter reads:

"On Aug. 20, 1948, we asked you to make an inquiry regarding criminal acts against Christian persons and places during the progress of the Palestine warfare. The undersigned is happy to report that he personally, after an extended journey in that area, can testify to a genuine desire of the Government of Israel to repair damage done and to maintain proper relations with the religious institutes within its boundaries."

HUNGARIAN MIZRACHI LEADER ACQUITTED OF CHARGES OF AIDING MIGRATION OF JEWS TO ISRAEL

BUDAPEST, June 26. (JTA) -- Jence Fraenkl, Mizrahi leader charged with aiding illegal Jewish emigration from Hungary to Israel, was today acquitted by a Budapest court. Fraenkl was the only one of ten defendants charged with the same crime who was not tried last Saturday when six Zionist leaders and one non-Jew were convicted.

The prosecutor has already appealed the court's decision in the Fraenkl case. Mr. Fraenkl pleaded not guilty and told the court that he had no knowledge of the plans to migrate because the youth arranged these matters by themselves, having "no confidence in their elders." He said that he only knew of a list of 800 Zionist leaders which was to be submitted to the government with a request that the persons on the list be given passports to go to Israel.

SOVIE WRITERS UNION HEAD CHARGES JEWISH THEATRE PLAYS PRAISED U.S. AS "PROMISED LAND"

MOSCOW, June 26. (JTA) -- "Rootless cosmopolitanism kowtowing before elements abroad has found direct expression in the productions of the Jewish theatre," Petrus Brovka, secretary general of the Bielorrussian Writers Union charged at the Writers Congress now in session at Minsk.

Mr. Brovka asserted that the plays of the Jewish Theatre "praised bourgeois America as the promised land." He stated that "Bielorrussia has successfully liquidated the influence of rootless cosmopolitans, bourgeois nationalists and formalists who had kowtowed before the bourgeois West."

NEW PRESIDENT OF BRITISH JEWISH DEPUTIES PLEDGES TO PROMOTE COMMUNAL UNITY

LONDON, June 26. (JTA) -- Unity within the British Jewish community and the prevention of a schism in the community "at all costs" was urged here today at a meeting of the Board of Deputies of British Jews by its newly-elected president Rev. Dr. A. Cohen. Dr. Cohen also declared that the Board must promote friendly relations between the community and the present government of Britain and between Jews and their Christian neighbors.

Dr. Cohen deplored the fact that the Portuguese and Spanish and the Liberal Spagoques had withdrawn from the Board and promised to make every attempt to restore unity in the organization. He also pledged himself to evolve new methods to deal with the Fascist movement in Britain. Israel, he asserted, is giving Anglo Jewry "Jewish inspiration."

Dr. Cohen was elected this morning. Barnett Janber, leading Zionist and a Labor M.P.; and A. Moes, Alderman of the city of Manchester, were named vice-presidents of the Board. All standing committees will continue, but the name of the Palestine Committee has been changed to the Eretz Israel Committee, while the Defense Committee will become the Public Relations Committee.

CENTENIAL ANNIVERSARY OF MAX NORDAU'S BIRTH MARKED AT SOURBOINE MEETING

PARIS, June 26. (JTA) -- The centenary of the birth of Max Nordau, the late Zionist leader and co-worker of Theodor Herzl, was celebrated this week-end at the Sorbonne by the Society of Friends of Max Nordau. Marcel Bernfeld, president of the Society, recalled that Nordau and Herzl helped in the mass immigration to Palestine. Max Jarblum, president of the French Zionist Federation, said that Nordau and Herzl were the last of the great prophets.

CENTRAL CONFERENCE OF AMERICAN RABBIS PARLEY ASKS INCLUSION OF JERUSALEM IN ISRAEL

BREITON WOODS, N.H., June 26. (JTA) -- The inclusion of Jerusalem within the boundaries of Israel was asked by the Central Conference of American Rabbis in a resolution adopted this week-end following the report of its Commission on Justice and Peace to its 60th anniversary convention.

The Reform rabbis urged that "Jerusalem should be incorporated with the boundaries of Israel where it belongs by virtue of history and population." They rejected the suggestion of some that Jerusalem be internationalized and expressed confidence that under an Israeli administration the "Holy Places will enjoy peace and security."

The conference also went on record in opposition to "Federal or state aid to educational institutions maintained by religious groups, Jewish or Christian." The action was taken following the report of its Committee on Church and State, headed by Dr. Joseph L. Fink of Buffalo. Dr. Fink said that the problem of separation of church and state "is growing in vehemence as well as in interest. There are signs that the people of America are becoming increasingly aware of the far-reaching implications of the issue." The report expressed "absolute devotion to the principle of religious freedom in America and an unbreachable wall of separation between church and state."

In the annual conference lecture, Rabbi Abram M. Grahson of New York, assistant to the president of the Jewish Institute of Religion, attacked both the National Conference of Christians and Jews and the Council of Judaism, declaring that Jewish support of both of them is an evidence of Jewish group inferiority complex. Rabbi Grahson said that Jewish dignity should demand "something more from the good will movement than the make-believe brotherhood, at which Jews rub elbows with Christians at round-tables under the auspices of the national conference of several Christians and a few Jews--just to get some sweet nothings in the form of pious and innocuous platitudes."

In the annual conference sermon, delivered by Dr. Bernhard J. Bamberger of New York, it was pointed out that Judaism is more than "a valuable phase of Jewish national culture, that it has a prophetic message of the universal good to all mankind."

MIRACHI CONVENTION ASKS U.S. TO URGE ARAB ACCEPTANCE OF DIRECT NEGOTIATIONS WITH ISRAEL

ATLANTIC CITY, June 26. (JTA) -- A resolution urging the United States Government to reconsider its present attitude toward Israel and to urge the Arabs to accept Israeli offers of direct peace negotiations was adopted here this week-end by the 29th convention of the Mizrahi Organization of America, which concluded today. The resolution also criticized U.S. pressure on Israel to make concessions on admission of Arab refugees and on territory.

Other resolutions adopted by the convention included one calling for a Pan-American conference of Jewish religious leaders to strengthen Orthodox Judaism in the United States and Canada. The convention also established a Rabbi Meir Berlin scholarship for American Jewish youth to study for a year at the Mizrahi youth school in Israel.

David Zvi Pincas, deputy speaker of the Israeli Parliament, who was one of the featured speakers at the convention, urged the Mizrahi and the Labor Mizrahi to become "equal partners" in the common tasks of the two wings of the Orthodox Zionist movement. He also advocated the education of Israeli youth along spiritual lines. Dr. Bernard Bergman urged that steps be taken to prevent confusion between Zionist parties outside of Israel and Israeli parliamentary parties.

THE SHOLON CONVENTION HEARS PLEA FOR GREATER EFFORTS IN BEHALF OF CIVIC PROTECTION

ATLANTIC CITY, June 26. (JTA) -- American Jews were this week-end urged to invite the large part of their organizational activities to the field of civic protection by Samuel E. Kratoch, grandmaster of Brith Sholon, Jewish fraternal organization, which is holding its 43rd annual convention here. One thousand delegates from all parts of the United States are attending the parley.

A plea to American Jewry to "refrain from participation in the political affairs of Israel," was voiced last night at the convention's opening session by grand secretary Louis I. Gilgor. "Our people must be confined to economic support to a destitute people until the Jewish state is able to deal with these problems on its own. When that point is reached," he added, "there will be no need for support from American Jewry on either a political or economical level."

Meanwhile, the executive board has prepared for presentation to the convention a resolution asking President Truman to oppose the admittance of Franco Spain to the United Nations and to veto any proposed loans to Spain. Other resolutions call for abolition of the poll tax, enactment of fair employment practices legislation and education for all Americans without regard to race, color or creed.

COUNCIL OF ORGANIZATIONS OF NEW YORK U.J.A. ACTS TO SPEED UP ISRAELI HOUSING PROGRAM

NEW YORK, June 26. (JTA) -- Action to speed up a campaign by New York Jewry to provide 50,000 homes for immigrant families in Israel was undertaken by 1,500 representatives of 7,500 Jewish groups, at a luncheon meeting today of the Council of Organizations of the United Jewish Appeal of Greater New York.

Dr. Israel Goldstein, treasurer of the Jewish Agency for Palestine warned the delegates that the number of newcomers to Israel now living in temporary reception centers would increase to 120,000 by October unless the U.J.A. helps provide permanent homes for the immigrants. Dr. Goldstein declared that the "DP's who have come to Israel and found only another variety of DP camps waiting for them are in as much danger to their physical and mental well-being as front-line soldiers."

WORK MAY BEGIN ON JORDAN VALLEY AUTHORITY SOON, POWER CONSULTANT TO ISRAEL SAYS

NEW YORK, June 26. (JTA) -- Work may shortly begin on the multi-million dollar Jordan Valley Authority project for harnessing the waters of the Jordan for power and irrigation purposes, John L. Savage designer of Boulder and Grand Coulee Dams revealed at a luncheon given here this week-end in his honor by the Jewish Agency.

Mr. Savage is leaving this week for the Jewish state at the invitation of Israeli water resources authorities. He will advise Israeli authorities on immediate development possibilities of that part of the Jordan Valley Authority plan aimed at bringing water to the Negev.

NEW HAYESOD GIFT FOOD SERVICE SHIPPED 2,000,000 POUNDS OF FOOD TO ISRAEL LAST YEAR

NEW YORK, June 26. (JTA) -- Almost 2,000,000 pounds of food has been sent to Israel in the past year by Service for Palestine, official gift food service to Israel headed by the American Keren Hayesod, Charles Ross, president, announced this week-end. He also stated that in addition to bringing this large quantity of vital food into the new state, the organization had used its frozen assets in European countries for the purchase of food.