

JTA

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FLASH

CABINET COMMITTEE CONFERS WITH TRUMAN ON REPORT OF ANGLO-U.S. EXPERTS

WASHINGTON, July 26. (JTA)-- Secretary of State Byrnes, Secretary of War Patterson and Secretary of the Treasury Snyder held a twenty-five minute conference late this afternoon on the proposals of the British and American experts who have been conferring in London.

Immediately after they adjourned, they went to the White House to discuss the report with President Truman.

(As the Bulletin went to press, the three Secretaries were still meeting with the President and no announcement had come from the White House.)

(See earlier story on following page.)

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BYRNES SAYS PARTITION PLAN IS OF BRITISH ORIGIN; NO FINAL DECISIONS REACHED BY U.S. GOVT.

WASHINGTON, July 26. (JTA) -- The partition plan for Palestine which has been recommended to the American and British governments by the Anglo-American conferees, who have just completed their discussions in London, is of British origin, Secretary of State James F. Byrnes said today. He indicated that no final decision has been reached by this government.

Mr. Byrnes said that he would meet this evening with the Cabinet Committee on Palestine, consisting of himself and Secretary of War Patterson and Secretary of the Treasury Snyder, to discuss the report, and would confer with President Truman either tonight or tomorrow morning before he leaves for Paris to attend the Peace Conference.

He disclaimed knowledge of authorship of the idea, but emphatically said that no direction of any kind was given by anybody in the United States Government to the American representatives in London to suggest any such plan.

The Secretary said that the plan has the approval of the British Cabinet. He added that he considered it necessary to point out that the report is not a joint one, but has the unanimous support of the three American as well as the three British representatives.

Asked whether it would be fair to infer that no final decision by this Government would be reached until the Secretary reached Paris, Mr. Byrnes said this was a fair assumption. He added that he was not in a position to say anything until he had discussed the subject with Secretaries Patterson and Snyder.

To a question as to whether the plan actually proposes partition, Mr. Byrnes replied that he did not want to be secretive, but that he had not read in full the last installment received by the State Department, which presumably contains the crucial recommendations.

Says Admission of 100,000 Jews to Palestine Mentioned in Report

The Secretary of State said that the admission of 100,000 European Jews to Palestine is mentioned in the report of the conferees. However, whether this question is to be considered together with the partition plan or separately depends on what the Cabinet Committee and the President will say, he added.

Mr. Byrnes did not know, he said, whether this government would be represented at the Arab-Jewish conference which the British Government has called to take place in London for further Palestine discussions. He doubted, however, that the United States would participate. If it did, he declared, it would only be by sending observers, and not representatives.

He announced that he has asked the Cabinet Committee deputies in London, Henry F. Grady, Herbert E. Gaston and Goldthwaite E. Dorr, to meet him in Paris

Monday morning to confer about the proposals which have been recommended.

Mr. Byrnes expressed regret that the State Department had announced yesterday that it had received two alternative plans, attributing the error to the fact that the recommendations had arrived in sections.

PARTITION PLAN IS "ACT OF TREACHERY" DOOMING JEWS OF EUROPE, SILVER CHARGES

NEW YORK, July 26. (JTA) -- Dr. Abba Hillel Silver, Chairman of the Executive Committee of the American Zionist Emergency Council and President of the Zionist Organization of America, today attacked the "federalization plan" recommended by the Anglo-American experts as a "conscienceless act of treachery, dooming the helpless Jewish survivors in Europe to further death and humiliation and driving the Jews of Palestine to further desperation."

Speaking for the entire Zionist movement in the United States -- the Zionist Organization of America, Hadaassah, Mizrahi and Poale Zion -- Dr. Silver denounced as "revolting" and "immoral" the Cabinet Committee's recommendation that the admission of 100,000 homeless European Jews to Palestine, first urged almost a year ago by President Truman and unanimously recommended as an immediate step by the Anglo-American Committee of Inquiry, be made "conditional" on the adoption of the "federalization" proposal.

"In plain English, this means that 100,000 helpless refugees are to be used as hostages by Britain and the United States in order to extort from the Jewish people acceptance of a political formulation which clearly repudiates every international commitment made to the Jewish people with respect to Palestine -- a formulation which the governments concerned surely know the Jews cannot accept," Dr. Silver said. His statement continued as follows:

"The unfairness of the 'plan' itself can best be illustrated by quoting directly from the dispatch in this morning's New York Times, which reported the facts: 'The Zionist district would include 1,500 square miles, compared with the 2,600 recommended by the Peel Report proposing partition in 1936, and the 45,000 in the area constituting Palestine when it was originally promised as a Jewish national home.' Forty percent of the present population of Palestine, then, would be offered three percent of the land internationally pledged to the Jewish people.

"This is a plan for the ghettoization of the Jews in their own Homeland. Even that small portion of the country remaining for Jewish settlement under the 'plan' would be controlled almost completely by the same British Colonial Administration, whose only right to be in Palestine in the first place is the duty assigned to it by the Balfour Declaration and the Palestine Mandate: facilitation of the development of the Jewish National Home. We quote again from the New York Times dispatch: 'Under such a constitution, Palestine's provinces would have considerably less autonomy than was enjoyed by Britain's American colonies in the 18th Century.'

"But, like those American colonists, the Jews of Palestine -- and Jews throughout the world -- will not submit to this evil decree. For the Jews of Europe it is now Palestine or death; for the Jews of Palestine it is now liberty or death. The Zionist Movement of this country will be actively identified in this historic struggle. The Jewish people will not be destroyed!"

BRITISH OPEN "SECOND PHASE" OF MILITARY OPERATIONS IN PALESTINE; HUNDREDS ARRESTED

JERUSALEM, July 26. (JTA) -- British police and military raiding squads swept through Palestine today, arresting hundreds of Jews, in what was apparently the "second phase" of operations which began on June 29.

Preliminary reports said that about 1,000 persons were arrested, although an official communique issued this afternoon said that "376 suspected terrorists" had been seized, including men and women who had been under police supervision.

More than 500 persons were detained in Tel Aviv and the vicinity in raids that began before dawn. Many were arrested in Jerusalem when troops cordoned off the main streets and searched and questioned passersby.

In Haifa, about 50 men and women who had been released from internment camps in Eritrea earlier this year were re-arrested and sent to Latrun prison. Former Eritrean internees were seized in other parts of the country, as were Jews who had been released from Latrun several months ago. They were either arrested by patrols which came to their homes, or when they reported to police stations.

Arabs Demonstrate in Protest Against "King David" Bombing

While the raids were in progress, Arabs in Jerusalem, Jaffa and other cities and towns demonstrated to protest the King David Hotel bombing. In Jaffa a nationwide conference of the "Alnajada," the Arab Boy Scout organization, met in Jaffa and was addressed by Jamal Hussein, vice-chairman of the Arab Higher Committee. Later the young Arabs paraded through the streets of the city.

According to reliable sources, Hussein hopes to convert the "Alnajada" into the Arab equivalent of the "Palmach," the Haganah's shock troops.

The Higher Committee announced tonight that it has cabled to the Arab delegation now in Rome, asking it to seek the Pope's intervention "to put an end to the crimes which the Jews commit against the government, in order to save the lives of Arabs and the holy places."

The entire Hebrew press joins today in criticizing the newspaper Haaretz for its demand earlier in the week that the executives of the Jewish Agency and the Jewish National Council resign. The papers state that although the government has not succeeded in setting up a quisling Agency, Haaretz is coming to the aid of the authorities.

The Agency has, perhaps, never found such wide support among all sections of Palestine Jews as at the moment, but, nevertheless, responsible circles feel that the forthcoming Paris conference of Agency leaders must take steps to reorganize the Agency's machinery, which has been badly disrupted by the continued detention of three of the body's key officials. There is also considerable sentiment here for convocation of a World Zionist Congress as soon as possible.

With the finding of four more bodies in the ruins, the King David death toll reached 70 today. Searchers were forced to don masks, because of the overpowering stench which rose from the rubble. One of the bodies found today was that of Julius Jacobs, a British Jew, who was Under-Secretary for Finance.

BRITISH WILL NOT ACT ON EXPERTS RECOMMENDATION UNTIL ROUND-TABLE CONFERENCE CONCLUDED

LONDON, July 26. (JTA) -- The British Government will probably not attempt to act on the recommendations of the Anglo-American conferees until after conclusion of the projected round-table discussions among the British, the Jews and the Arabs, which will probably be held here within the next four or five weeks, it was reported today.

It is learned reliably that no "automatic invitation" to attend the conferences will go out to the Jewish Agency, and it is considered doubtful in informed quarters that the Agency will be invited. However, that probably depends on events of the next few weeks.

A full-dress debate on Palestine is scheduled to be held in the House of Commons and the House of Lords on Wednesday and Thursday. Prime Minister Attlee is expected to participate and Foreign Minister Bevin may return from Paris for one day to join in the debate. Winston Churchill and former Colonial Secretary Col. Oliver Stanley will lead the speakers for the Conservatives,

The Arab Office here today issued a statement reiterating Arab opposition to any solution based on partition. The statement said the recommendations of the U.S.-British experts were not satisfactory.

The Paris radio said today that several Jews have been arrested in Pnasscus after a police raid on the Jewish quarter. They will be tried for maintaining "illegal relations" with Zionists, the broadcasts said.

In a welcoming address to the delegates to the international conference of the World Union for Progressive Judaism, Rabbi Israel Mattuck, chairman of the organization's governing body, said today that all Jews "condemn emphatically" the terrorism perpetrated in Palestine by a small band of Jews." However, he continued, "at the same time, we voice our sympathy and solidarity with the large majority of our fellow Jews in Palestine who seek a just and peaceful solution of the Jewish problem."

AMERICAN TROOPS BREAK UP DISPLACED JEWS' DEMONSTRATION WITH BAYONETS; WOUND SEVEN

MUNICH, July 26. (JTA) -- Seven displaced Jews at the Fohrenwald camp at Wolfrathausen, 15 miles from here, were injured last night by bayonet-wielding American troops who broke up two demonstrations protesting the killing of a Jew, Isaac Feldberg, during an earlier clash between German police and Jews, it was learned here today.

A military government statement said that the DP's "marched out of the camp 16 abreast" as an infantry company was being relieved of guard duty. Major Philip Steers, an AMG official at the camp, said that when the DP's came out of the camp, "the tactical troops jumped from their trucks and with fixed bayonets walked slowly toward the crowd."

SLOVAK NAZI RESPONSIBLE FOR DEATH OF 50,000 JEWS SENTENCED TO DEATH IN BRATISLAVA

BRATISLAVA, Czechoslovakia, July 26. (JTA) -- Anton Vasek, former head of the department of Jewish affairs in the pro-Nazi puppet Slovak state, was today sentenced to be hanged by a People's Court here.

He was convicted of responsibility for the deportation of 50,000 Czechoslovakian Jews to German death camps,

THREE SENTENCED TO DEATH FOR INSTIGATING KUNMADARAS POGROM; THREE OTHERS GET LIFE

BUDAPEST, July 26. (JTA) -- Three persons were sentenced to death and three received life terms today after being convicted of having instigated the pogrom at Kunmadaras on May 26, during which three Jews were killed and more than 20 injured.

Two other defendants were sentenced to 15-years imprisonment at hard labor, confiscation of their property and expulsion from Kunmadaras; a policeman who took part in the outbreak received six years and four youths were sentenced to long terms in reform schools. Several other defendants were acquitted.

Laszlo Sebestyen, a Jew who obtained "Aryan" identity papers during the Nazi occupation, was sentenced to ten years today for having joined the S.S.

PEACE TREATIES WITH ENEMY COUNTRIES DO NOT PROVIDE ENFORCEMENT OF EQUAL RIGHTS

NEW YORK, July 26. (JTA) -- The draft of the peace treaties with Bulgaria, Hungary, Rumania and Italy, which are to be discussed at the Peace Conference opening in Paris on Monday, contain several provisions calling for observance of human rights and fundamental freedoms, but do not contain any provisions for enforcement, Dr. Max Gottschalk, director of the Foreign Affairs Department of the American Jewish Committee, said today on the basis of information obtained from authoritative quarters in London and Paris.

Dr. Gottschalk, who has just returned to the United States after an extended tour of Europe, told a press conference that it is necessary that all groups interested in the establishment of the principle of equality press for enforcement provisions in the treaties with former enemy countries.

"Another basic task," Dr. Gottschalk stated, "is to accelerate the restitution to Jews of property looted by the Nazis. While most countries have adopted restitution laws," he said, "actual return of property proceeds very slowly, due to unsatisfactory provisions for enforcement of these laws. In Germany, Jewish property confiscated by the Nazis is part of the assets blocked by the Allies. Its release depends on decisions as yet not made by the military governments."

In order to create some basis for the future existence of the Jewish communities in Europe and to decrease the pressure for emigration to overseas countries, including Palestine, it is imperative that human rights guarantees and restitution of property should be speedily insured, Dr. Gottschalk emphasized.

Another major factor affecting European Jews, he reported, is the question of assets in neutral and allied countries belonging to many of the six million Jews massacred by the Nazis, who left no heirs.

JEWISH LEADERS IN ITALY VISIT LAGUARDIA; ASK UNRRA SUPPORT TRANSFER OF 100,000 JEWS

ROME, July 26. (JTA) -- A delegation of Jewish leaders today visited UNRRA Director-General Fiorello H. LaGuardia who is here on an inspection tour and asked that UNRRA support the proposal for the immigration of 100,000 displaced European Jews to Palestine.

The Jewish Refugees Organization, represented by Leon Garfunkel, its chairman, also submitted a memorandum asking that UNRRA increase its aid so that the prospective immigrants would achieve physical and social rehabilitation previous to their transfer to Palestine. The other members of the delegation were Jacob Trobe, Joint Distribution Committee director in Italy, and Dr. Raffaele Cantoni, chairman of the Union of Jewish Communities in Italy.

ARMY HALTING LARGE TRANSPORTS OF JEWS FROM BRITISH ZONE; ACCEPTING SMALL GROUPS

BERLIN, July 26. (JTA) -- The U.S. Army has begun halting large transports of Jewish refugees arriving from the British zone, although permitting the entrance of small groups, it was learned here today. It is known that Army officials feel that the British are failing to shoulder a fair share of the refugee burden and are seeking a clarification of the entire problem.

This new policy may explain the halting and turning back of a train with 600 Jewish refugees from Eastern Europe at Giessen, 40 miles east of Frankfurt, earlier this week. When the Jews learned that they were being sent back to the British zone, a number of them abandoned their baggage and fled the train making their way to Frankfurt independently. After the train arrived at a British depot another group fled and headed for the American zone.

The office here of Rabbi Philip Bernstein, adviser on Jewish affairs to Gen. McNarney, is investigating the Giessen incident, it was reported today.

Meanwhile, the Army has opened another displaced persons camp at Mariendorf, a suburb of Berlin, to relieve the congestion at the Duppel camp here. The new camp at which the first group of 500 displaced Jews arrived today, consists of more than a square block of three-story apartment houses with a capacity of 4,000 persons. An additional group of DP's is expected to arrive from Duppel tomorrow.

A personal inspection by a Jewish Telegraphic Agency correspondent established that the Mariendorf center, which formerly housed American occupation troops, is one of the most comfortable camps in the entire U.S. zone of Germany. The first group of DP's were delighted to find that the rooms at the new camp were standard sized with large windows and, in some instances, large balconies, permitting them to enjoy normal family life.

At present it is planned to billet four people in a room, but this figure is expected to vary in proportion to the arrival of other refugees from the East. An UNRRA team is administering the camp.

RELIEF WORKERS IN BERLIN APPEAL TO STATE DEPT. TO REVISE IMMIGRATION DIRECTIVE

BERLIN, July 26. (JTA) -- Relief agency workers here are appealing to the State Department to treat Berlin as an entity and permit Jewish refugees living in all sectors of the city to apply for entrance to the United States under President Truman's directive which at present limits immigration to persons residing in the American zone.

The U.S. consul here admitted today that it has become almost impossible to find enough German Jewish refugees in the American sector who can comply with the rigid requirements of the immigration directive, especially the clause which demands that the prospective immigrants should have been in that section of Berlin before Dec. 22, 1945.

Another factor which is disqualifying large numbers of German Jews is that after World War I the areas in which they were living were transferred to Poland and, although they soon returned to German soil and lived there, they are still classified as Polish nationals and come under the minute Polish quota.

Relief workers point out that most people desiring to emigrate at this time fall into the classification of "borderline cases," and that the consulate generally bends backwards to disqualify the applicants, while a fair share of the monthly allotments remain unfilled and are lost.

BRITISH DETERMINED TO DESTROY JEWISH AGENCY AND HAGANAH, BARTLEY CRUM CHARGES

SAN FRANCISCO, July 26. (JTA) -- The British Government is determined to eliminate the Jewish Agency, destroy the Haganah and establish in Palestine "a so-called democratic commonwealth, which in reality will be an Arab state, the head of which will be the notorious Grand Mufti," it was charged here last night by Bartley Crum, a member of the Anglo-American Committee of Inquiry on Palestine.

Mr. Crum asserted that the basis for his charges is information "furnished to me during the course of my membership on the Anglo-American inquiry committee. It was repeatedly suggested to us by British members of the committee, and by representatives of the British Foreign Office that the Jewish Agency be eliminated," he declared.

President Truman was urged in a wire from Mr. Crum to refuse to cooperate any further with the British Government on Palestine "so long as Britain persists in its plot to destroy the Jewish national home." The President was also asked to file charges against Britain before the World Court on charges of violating the Anglo-American convention on Palestine signed in 1924.

JEWS OF AMERICA IDENTIFY THEMSELVES WITH PALESTINE JEWRY, SA'S HENRY MONTOR

JERUSALEM, July 26. (JTA) -- The Jews of America are keeping a close watch on the situation in Palestine and "identify themselves with the Yishuv as never before," Henry Montor, executive vice-president of the United Palestine Appeal and the United Jewish Appeal in the United States, said here today.

Mr. Montor told reporters that American Jewry is prepared to provide all the funds needed to transport 100,000 European Jews to Palestine, if the large nations are unwilling to finance the transfer. The Jews of the United States, he said, are not interested in Palestine merely for philanthropic or humanitarian reasons, but because they are aware that what happens to Palestine is a touchstone of what Jewry everywhere may expect from civilized society.

The Jews in the displaced persons camps and those in Poland are determined to reach Palestine, Mr. Montor stated. He described the "tragic situation" of the Polish Jews, disclosing that prominent members of the Jewish community go armed at all times, even when they are in bed.

AMERICAN COUNCIL FOR JUDAISM CALLS ON U.S. JEWS TO REPUDIATE PALESTINE TERRORISM

NEW YORK, July 26. (JTA) -- The American Council for Judaism today condemned the dynamiting of the King David Hotel and other activities of terrorists in Palestine, and called upon Jews to "repudiate the perpetrators of those outrages and those leaders of Jews, in and out of Palestine, whose incitement is equally responsible."

A statement issued here by Lessing J. Rosenwald, Council president, demanded the end of violence and asserted "that we seek cooperation among all elements of Palestine in the great liberal tradition of equality for all, without discrimination or privilege on the grounds of race or religion. American Jews," the statement said, "have aided the Jewish community in Palestine generously in the past. They must, if need be, condition further help to that community upon the adoption of pacific, moderate measures."