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WEIZMANN OPENS WORLD ZIONIST CONFERENCE; APPEALS TO BRITAIN AND ALLIES FOR JEWISH STATE

LONDON, August 1. (JTA)--The first world Zionist conference since the outbreak of the war opened here today with a dramatic address by Dr. Chaim Weizmann, president of the World Zionist Organization, in which he appealed to the British Government to adopt a new policy with regard to Palestine based on the acceptance of Jewish statehood and recognition of Jewish rights to free immigration and settlement in Palestine. He urged the carrying out of a practical program of political and economic activities in order to achieve a speedy transformation of Palestine into a Jewish State.

The leader of the world Zionist movement also appealed to the United Nations, particularly to the United States and the USSR, "to give their approval and support to the righting of an ancient wrong" and to secure for the Jewish people their place in the family of nations.

The Jews, Dr. Weizmann said, with their 6,000,000 victims, their 1,000,000 fighters and 35,000 Palestine volunteers, were relegated to corridors at the San Francisco Conference, while states were admitted which had just signed declarations of war. "Continuation of this anomaly is intolerable," he continued. "The Jewish people must be given their rightful place in the family of nations, Palestine as a Jewish State must be one of the fruits of victory. By God - it shall be!"

Emphasizing that the primary responsibility for enunciation of a "new policy with regard to Palestine is Britain's, Dr. Weizmann recalled the declarations by the American political parties and the endorsements given to the Zionist cause by the late President Roosevelt and President Truman. "Our appeal," he declared, "goes out to all the United Nations, especially to the two major allies of Britain - the United States and the USSR - who in this very hour must mould the world's destinies."

The Zionists will not swerve and will not depart from the original aim of developing Palestine into a Jewish State as intended by the Balfour Declaration, Dr. Weizmann stated. He demanded that the new British Government take definite steps "at the present historic juncture" to implement the Declaration's original purpose. "To do not claim in Palestine what belongs to others," he said. "But we want an opportunity to create new things. Important development schemes are ready, but their execution depends on new political dispensations."

Pledges Cooperation With Arabs In A Jewish Palestine

The world Zionist leader pledged that the Arabs in Palestine will retain their possessions and their linguistic, cultural and religious identity, as well as complete equality of rights and natural ties with their brethren in the neighboring countries where Arab nationalism, he said, has ample scope.

"The Arabs," he pointed out, "have gained tremendously in the last war and in this war. Is this struggle to bring to the Arabs fulfillment of all their hopes, and to the Jews nothing? We are vitally interested in cooperating with our Arab neighbors,

but we can do so effectively only if we ourselves are firmly established in our own country and on a footing of equality with the neighboring countries."

Dr. Weizmann revealed that he had had good reason to believe that revision of the Palestine policy would be undertaken by the British Government "as soon as the European war was over." The tendency towards postponement, he said, may not be surprising in view of urgent questions on the international agenda.

"But we cannot wait," he continued. "Delay means the prolongation of the agony of the Jewish survivors in Europe, the growing of tension, and finally a crisis. Unless there is a clear lead, the position is bound to deteriorate. Our people in Europe are going under, while in the Middle East new facts are being created calculated to prejudice the issue. It cannot be expected that people should look with equanimity upon the agony of their brothers and to the liquidation of their national home, the foundations of which were laid with so much devotion, effort and sacrifice. I am speaking as a person for whom cooperation with His Majesty's Government has been a fundamental article of faith and who for twenty-eight years has preached forbearance in relations to Britain."

Wants 100,000 Certificates; Urges All Governments to Permit Emigration

Stressing the question of Jewish immigration to Palestine as "the most urgent problem," the leader of the World Zionist Organization asked the British Government for a speedy decision on the Jewish demand for 100,000 certificates as a first installment on post-war Jewish immigration to Palestine. At the same time, he appealed to all governments to grant free exit to all Jews in their countries willing to emigrate to Palestine. "I appeal to the conscience of the world: Let my people go!", he said.

Referring to the Labor Government, Dr. Weizmann emphasized that the Zionist movement had never been linked up with any one political party. He paid tribute to Winston Churchill, terming him a sincere friend of the Zionist movement and crediting him with the formation of the Jewish Brigade. He recalled the solid vote of the British Labor Party against the White Paper and its pro-Zionist resolutions, emphasizing that Herbert Morrison, one of the leaders of the Labor Party, and present Lord President of the Council, had stated at the time the White Paper was adopted that it would not be binding upon subsequent governments.

Dr. Weizmann concluded with an appeal to the Jews in Palestine "not to lose heart, to stand fast and continue with set face against attempts by a handful of irresponsible men to distort the legitimate political struggle by suicidal resort to terrorism." Clear-headed determination must be the Zionist watchword, he declared.

Dr. Stephen S. Wise and Prof. Selig Brodetsky, who also addressed the conference, demanded the immediate cancellation by the British Government of the White Paper. They insisted that free Jewish immigration to Palestine, which has been restricted by the White Paper, must resume now.

Dr. Wise conveyed to the gathering the greetings of the Zionists of America. He attacked the Pan-Arab League's anti-Zionist efforts and assured the delegates that "American Zionists will not rest until Palestine is established as a free and democratic Jewish Commonwealth." Other speakers at the opening session were Chief Rabbi Leo Baeck of Berlin, Elisha Dobkin, head of the immigration department of the Jewish Agency, and David Remes, leader of the Histadruth. Speaking in Hebrew, Remes emphasized that every Jewish family in Palestine is ready to take a new immigrant from Europe into its home.

AUSTRIAN JEWS RETURN FROM THERESIENSTADT TO VIENNA; JEWISH POPULATION REACHES 8,000

VIENNA, August 1. (JTA)—With the arrival here today of 360 Jews from the Theresienstadt concentration camp, the Jewish population of Vienna, which once numbered 180,000, totals slightly more than 8,000. Of these, about 6,000 are married to non-Jews and 1,300 returned in recent weeks from camps.

A JTA correspondent who witnessed the arrival of the Theresienstadt victims today was struck by the fact that they were mainly middle-aged and elderly. There were no children among them. One of the arrivals told the correspondent that the Nazis had given high priority to the extermination of all Jewish children up to the age of fourteen.

Despite the fact that half of them were ill, the 360 laughed and chattered like children when they reached the Vienna railroad station. They called greetings to the few fellow-Viennese who were on hand to greet them.

Everyone questioned said that they wanted to emigrate from Europe, where their wives and children and husbands had been killed and where they themselves had suffered horrors which they find impossible to describe. They want to go to Palestine, Australia, Africa, England, America, anywhere off this continent.

Although their citizenship rights have been restored, these Jews have heard tales of mistreatment and anti-Semitism in Poland, Slovakia and elsewhere, and they do not wish to entrust their future to Europe. They pleadingly expressed the hope that somebody would help them flee.

BRITAIN AND U.S. CHARGED WITH FAILURE TO MEET RESPONSIBILITY TO DISPLACED PERSONS

LONDON, August 1. (JTA)—The British and American governments are failing in their duty to the survivors of Nazi terror, a London News Chronicle correspondent writes today, describing the plight of the inmates of the camps in Germany.

An atmosphere of "imprisonment, of being unwanted and unloved is still there," he says. "A maze of red tape stronger than barbed wire is encircling the camps. It is not known whether there is a deliberate policy to make things sufficiently unpleasant so that the internees will be ready to go anywhere, rather than remain, but that is certainly the feeling of many of the internees as well as competent social workers to whom I have talked."

In an editorial commenting on the dispatch, the paper says that what happens to these people is the responsibility of the Allies. Common humanity and justice, it adds, demands that responsibility should not be shelved. The Chronicle says that future relations with liberated Europe will depend on a sympathetic, constructive attitude toward these internees.

Dr. Israel Goldstein, president of the Zionist Organization of America, who returned here yesterday after a week's tour of camps in Germany, said today that among the non-repatriable persons are 100,000 Jews, half of whom are in the American zone. This problem, he declared, must be approached not as a nuisance, but as a challenge of human rehabilitation. He pointed out that among the displaced Jews are many from countries like Poland where anti-Semitism flourished before the war and was intensified during the Nazi occupation. These people, Dr. Goldstein said, will find it difficult and, in many cases, dangerous to return home.

PORTUGAL LIFTS RESIDENCE RESTRICTIONS ON REFUGEES, ALLOWING THEM TO LIVE ANYWHERE

LISBON, August 1. (JTA)--The Portuguese Government today announced the lifting of war-time restrictions on residence of refugees, who had been required to live only in designated communities outside of Lisbon to which they were assigned.

The entire refugee population is gratified by the new development and officially expressed its thanks to the Portuguese authorities.

EX-SENATOR GILLETTE ACCEPTS PRESIDENCY OF AMERICAN LEAGUE FOR A FREE PALESTINE

WASHINGTON, August 1. (JTA)--Former Senator Guy M. Gillette of Iowa today announced his acceptance of the presidency of the American League for a Free Palestine and the post of chief political adviser to the Hebrew Committee of National Liberation.

Declaring that he considers the "so-called Jewish problem not as a Jewish or a Hebrew question, but as an urgent problem of the United Nations and of the decent portion of mankind," Gillette urged that the Allied Control Commission in Europe recognize the "Hebrew national status" and permit "stateless or Axis Jews" to decide their own status as Hebrew nationals, or stateless, or nationals of Germany, Rumania or Hungary. He also recommended:

1. Freeing of all Jews from Axis concentration camps.
2. Extension of UNRRA relief operations to the Balkan countries where, he charged, hundreds of thousands of Jews in Rumania and Hungary, particularly, are starving and have not yet received any UNRRA aid.
3. Addition of Jewish representatives to the United Nations War Crimes Commission.
4. Consideration by the Reparations Commission now meeting in Moscow of the "claims and rights" of surviving Jews, and inclusion of compensation for the losses of the Jewish people.

Gillette said that every Jew in Europe should be authorized "to apply to the nearest British consulate and receive his first papers of Palestinian citizenship." He also suggested the creation of an Anglo-American-Russian committee with adequate powers to effect the speediest repatriation of all such applicants to Palestine. These steps, Gillette asserted, are "essential for the commencement of a solution of the entire problem." Annulment by the new British Government of "discriminatory laws against Jews in Palestine" was likewise demanded by Gillette.

JEWISH ORGANIZATIONS DECIDE TO SUBMIT JOINT PROPOSAL TO UNRRA ON LIAISON OFFICERS

LONDON, August 1. (JTA)--Representatives of the American Jewish Conference, the Board of Deputies of British Jews and the World Jewish Congress met here yesterday and agreed to submit a memorandum to the UNRRA proposing the appointment of Jewish liaison officers to assist military occupation authorities in handling the problems of displaced and stateless Jews in Germany. The memorandum will be submitted in connection with the session of the UNRRA Council opening here on Aug. 7.

The Anglo-Jewish Association today submitted to the Foreign Office a resolution adopted at the last meeting of its council urging that the work of finding permanent homes for Jewish victims be expedited and that early settlement in Palestine of survivors desiring to immigrate there be facilitated.