

Renewed Plea for Creation of Jewish Army

LONDON, Wednesday.—A renewed plea for the creation of a Jewish Army was made by Lord Strabolgi when the question was raised in the House of Lords on Tuesday.

Lord Strabolgi asked that in addition to the 1,000,000 Jews already serving in the armed forces of the United Nations, facilities should be given for the formation of a Jewish army under a British or United Nations command to fight on any battlefield.

This army, he said, should be composed of volunteers not at present liable to compulsory military service such as stateless, refugee and Palestinian Jews, together with volunteers from neutral countries and liberated territories.

He maintained that between 100,000 and 150,000 Jews are ready to fight Hitler and reminded the House of Dr. Weizmann's offer to Mr. Chamberlain at the outbreak of war to mobilise Jewry for the fight against the common enemy.

Jewish Contribution

He pointed out that the lack of equipment which had been offered as the Government's reason for rejecting the project, no longer held good.

He referred to the heroic contribution of Jews to the Red Army, the latest triumph of a Jewish General at Minsk, the outstanding services rendered by the late Brigadier F. H. Kisch to the British army, the distinction achieved by Palestinian Jewish units, and the valiant Jewish fighters in Marshal Tito's army.

He did not ask for Jewish soldiers to be transferred to the proposed army, but for the creation of an ad-

ditional force. He added that the War Office could increase the Jewish battalions now serving in Italy, and mentioned that the project had wide support in the United States.

Lord Melchett

Lord Melchett, supporting Lord Strabolgi, said that Jews throughout the world desired to join the fight against their greatest enemy, but they wanted to do so in some identifiable Jewish unit.

Jews serving in Palestine and Libya, he continued, felt that they were wasting their time on guard duties because they were not allowed to take part in the fighting. They felt that they had not received the deal they had expected.

Agency's Requests

He also emphasised the repeated requests made by the Jewish Agency for the formation of a Jewish brigade on the basis of the battalions serving with the Palestine Regiment.

Replying for the Government, Lord Croft, Joint Under-Secretary for War, said that the United Nations would welcome ten or twelve extra divisions. He, however, emphasised the difficulty of forming battle divisions with all their ancillary corps for maintenance, supply and communications.

These difficulties were increased by diverse backgrounds, different languages and the question of transporting the men from four continents to one central place. It would take a long time even, if practicable, to assemble all the Jews to whom Lord



Lord Melchett

Strabolgi had referred. Lord Croft hoped that by then Germany would have been defeated.

Specific Jewish Units

Referring to Lord Melchett's suggestion, he pointed out that similar difficulties arose in the formation of a Jewish division out of Palestine regiments. Palestinian Jews were engaged in essential war work in different spheres, and it was therefore undesirable that they should be removed.

Nevertheless, he added, the question of specific Jewish units on a smaller scale—a brigade or brigade groups—was now being carefully considered.

PALESTINE FACTORY IN MASS PRODUCTION

Unskilled Workers are Trained to Make Gasoline Containers

NEW YORK, Monday.—A Detroit assembly line in miniature is operated by the United States Army Service Forces in Palestine in a 1,000,000 dollar plant that produces gasoline containers.

A serious problem was to transplant Western ideas of mass production to the indolent East. Before the factory began to rise peasants from surrounding villages and unskilled urban workers were engaged and put through a training course. By the time the machines were installed hundreds of welders and machinists were at the benches.

The plant is devoted exclusively to producing four-gallon gasoline containers copied from the Germans' leak-proof cans. The plant and machines were shipped from the United States. Even the corrugated steel factory building was knocked down, crated and shipped.

One welding machine is operated by a Bulgarian Jew who six weeks before his employment here was working at a similar machine in Sofia, Bulgaria, at forced labour for the German war effort.

Anti-Jewish Demonstration in Prague

GENEVA, Monday.—An anti-Jewish and anti-Russian demonstration was staged in Prague by the Czech Fascist pro-Nazis.

According to reports in the Nazi press, about 20,000 people took part and the demonstrators displayed banners with anti-Semitic and anti-Soviet slogans.

Rumanian Jews Rejoice

ISTANBUL, Monday.—The organ of the Nazis in Rumania, the "Bukarester Tageblatt," reported that when the news of the Allied invasion reached the Rumanian Jews they recited prayers for its success and rejoiced at the Allied victories. The Jews, the report added, now openly express the hope that Rumania would be the next country to be invaded by the Allies.

More Jews have now been mobilised for slave labour in Rumania, this time those aged 16 and 17 and 51 to 55. The only Jews exempted under these categories are those in possession of University degrees.

Church's Appeal

NEW YORK, Wednesday.—The Federal Council of the Church of Christ has issued an appeal to the Christian world to do all in its power to save the Jews of Hungary.

Cantor S. Mandel Appointed to Berea Congregation

CANTOR S. MANDEL has been appointed as Chief Cantor of the Berea Hebrew Congregation, a from August 1.

Before coming to South Africa about six years ago as cantor of the United Hebrew Institute, Adonai, Benoni, he was Cantor of the Moriah Synagogue, Warsaw, and at the A'Avath Synagogue in Cracow.

Cantor Mandel is the possessor of a fine lyrical tenor voice and an excellent interpreter of the Liturgy.

GOVERNMENT CITRUS LOANS CRITICISED

(From Our Jerusalem Correspondent)

JERUSALEM, Wednesday.—The Government's allocation of £771,000 for citrus loans, at last year's rate of £5 per dunam, has evoked much criticism from both Jewish and Arab growers.

The growers had asked for twice the amount on the grounds that cultivation costs had considerably increased and that last year's loans had proved totally inadequate. They also maintain that loans are rather belated as cultivation should have commenced early in spring and not in mid-summer.

FINANCIAL INNOVATIONS

JERUSALEM, Wednesday.—Two innovations in the Government's financial policy were announced this week. £50,000 Treasury Bills will be issued, apparently with the object of absorbing some of the huge bank deposits which have now reached a record total of £60,000,000. In addition, the Government will issue £10 Premium Bonds for which there will be quarterly drawings, with prizes up to £1,000.

SPUDS PLENTIFUL

JERUSALEM, Monday.—As a result of expanded potato production and better crops, Palestine has this year for the first time an abundant potato crop of her own. The difficulty is the problem of storage, as cold storage is necessary (and available only in part) both for seed potatoes and for potatoes for consumption after July.

The Zionist Record, Friday, July 7, 1944

£1,250,000 SPENT ON EDUCATION IN YISHUV

JERUSALEM, Wednesday.—It was announced by the Vaad Leumi that £1,250,000 pounds had been spent by the Yishuv on education during the past year. Of this amount £1,000,000 was derived from tuition fees and levies, and the balance was contributed by the Jewish Agency and the Government.

FROM CONCENTRATION CAMP TO PALESTINE ORCHESTRA

JERUSALEM, Wednesday.—Mr. Leo Mirski, the well-known musician, who recently arrived in Palestine from the refugee camp at Ferramonte, Italy, conducted the Palestine Symphony Orchestra at Tel Aviv, on July 7, with brilliant success.

Mirski escaped from Yugoslavia and made his way to Italy.

"AMPHIBIOUS MACHINE" FOR HULEH

TIBERIAS, Monday.—A new machine for cutting the papyrus reeds in the swamps of Lake Huleh, in Northern Palestine, made at the Solel Boneh workshops in the Keren Hayesod village of Givath Rambam, has now come into operation. It is amphibious, as it can function in water, cutting the reeds and then transporting them to dry land.

JERUSALEM, Monday.—The corner-stone for Ittamar House, the central building at Ittamar, a village near Nathanya established by the Sons of the Yishuv Association in memory of the late Ittamar Ben-Avi, was laid recently. The village will consist of 43 farm units.

DR. JOSEPH SCHWARTZ IN PALESTINE

JERUSALEM, Wednesday.—Dr. Joseph Schwartz, representative of the Joint Distribution Committee, is now on a visit to Palestine en route from Italy.

Funds for National Shipping Company

TEL AVIV, Monday.—Plans are being made to raise £1,000,000 as the capital for the proposed Jewish National Shipping Company, which is being organised by the Jewish Agency Executive. The national institutions and funds have promised to contribute £300,000 towards this amount, and it is intended to sell £700,000 shares.

RACIAL PREJUDICE CONDEMNED

WASHINGTON, Wednesday.—Senator M. Dickstein introduced a resolution in Congress expressing the sentiments that persons spreading anti-Semitic and other racial propaganda are playing Hitler's game.

The resolution was referred to the Judiciary Committee of the House.

RABBIS ADOPT COMMONWEALTH RESOLUTION

NEW YORK, Wednesday.—The Rabbinical Assembly Convention of America passed a resolution favouring the creation of a Jewish Commonwealth in Palestine.