

THE LEVANT DISPUTE—WILL PALESTINE BE INCLUDED IN TALKS?

(From Our London Correspondent)

LONDON, Tuesday.—General De Gaulle's suggestion that the Big Five should deal not only with Syria and Lebanon but with the Middle East as a whole has given rise to a great deal of political speculation in local Zionist quarters.

The question is asked whether Palestine would be included in the proposal (if accepted), and whether, from a Zionist angle, such an eventuality would be more advantageous than an isolated settlement of the dispute in the Levant States by the three powers.

Official French spokesmen in their remarks on the Syrian affair referred to Palestine where, they said, the British Government "has established fortifications and intends to maintain a hold on the country and a sphere of influence in Syria."

"The Times" in a leading article repudiates the allegation that Britain desires a sphere of interest in Syria. The paper points out that the burden of responsibility in connection with the Palestine question "was quite enough," and that Britain was not seeking further spheres.

It is certainly true, however, that Sir Edward Spears who, by the way, is rumoured to be of French-Jewish origin, helped to aggravate the tension with his pro-Arab propaganda.

Stronger Position

Some people believe that after a settlement of the dispute in Syria and Lebanon, Mr. Churchill will enjoy the friendship of certain sections of the Arab peoples, and he will be in a stronger position to make definite and comprehensive proposals regarding Palestine.

So far there is, however, no conclusive proof of the intention of the present "Caretaker Government" to

take up a big issue such as Palestine. It seems that the Government intends to distribute the major portion of the certificates left under the White Paper and thus equip the Colonial Office with the argument that it is showing sympathy to refugees. Such a seemingly benevolent action will create an erroneous impression of the Government's generosity.

The Government may admit the refugees now in Switzerland with certificates under the White Paper and will thereby make a gesture and counteract the criticism to which the Government had been exposed.

Will Resist Physically

This criticism has been particularly strong in view of the removal of some of the refugees from Switzerland to camps in Italy, despite the fact that the largest number insisted on going to Palestine.

The remaining refugees in Switzerland declared that they will even physically resist any attempt to move them to "new concentration camps" in Italy. For the time being, the Swiss Government extended the time limit of those who await certificates. The position of the rest is not yet clear.

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Soviet Attitude to Mandates: New Deadlock at San Francisco

Jewish Telegraphic Agency Correspondent.

SAN FRANCISCO, Tuesday.—The sudden request by the Soviet Delegation that the existing rights of Mandatory Governments should not be safeguarded in the Trusteeship system has presented new difficulties to the Trusteeship committee. Britain and America are opposed to the Soviet request.

Multiple Trusteeship

The British feel that the Mandates constitute a contractual relationship between the people of the Mandated territories and the Mandatory Governments, and can therefore not be abrogated by an international organisation, whilst the status of the Mandates remain unchanged.

Jewish Agency representatives at San Francisco were assured by high American officials that they need have no concern over the matter: it will be straightened out.

Mr. Stassen, of the American delegation, told me that the U.S.A. does not agree to the Soviet request, but she may agree to a change in the wording, whereby the status of the Mandated territories will be retained during the transition periods when the mandates are being transferred to the trusteeship system.

In the meantime, Egypt, supported by Iraq, demanded that the trusteeship plans should be modified so as to allow multiple trusteeship, i.e., that a country should be entrusted to several powers.

The plan was discussed by the committee on Friday and has met with opposition from Lord Cranborne, who declared that experience has shown that control of an area by two or more powers does not work well.

On Sunday, however, the committee adopted the Egyptian amendment without dissent. It is believed that this amendment paves the way for Egypt or other Arab States to petition the World Security Organisation at a later date and ask for a share, together with Britain, in the trusteeship of Palestine.

Nahum Goldmann and Louis Lipsky are now back in San Francisco after a short return to New York. They arrived here immediately after the Soviet proposal was announced.

President Truman Receives War Veterans' Delegation

(From Our Own Correspondent)

WASHINGTON, Monday.—President Truman received a delegation from the "Jewish War Veterans of the United States," headed by their national Commander Archie Greenberg.

The delegation assured the President of the continued Jewish support of the war-effort and urged that Mr. Greenberg be given permission to tour the European battlefields, cemeteries and hospitals. His presence in these theatres, stated the Committee, would symbolise American unity.

Victory Thanksgiving Service in Moscow Synagogue

MOSCOW, Monday.—The principal synagogue in Moscow was crowded to overflowing when a special thanksgiving service was held by the Jewish community to commemorate Allied victory in Europe. An atmosphere of deep solemnity prevailed, and there were many sad scenes.

Michael Alexandrovich, the well-known Cantor, conducted the Mincha service, and also intoned the "Haskarah" in memory of the countless martyrs of European Jewry. His chanting of the "Mishebeirach" for Marshal Stalin was greeted with thunderous applause. At the conclusion of the service the large gathering recited mass Kaddish.

In a brief address, Samuel Chohutsky, President of the Moscow Kehillah, dealt with the enormity of the Jewish tragedy, mentioning that nearly one-third of world Jewry had been exterminated by the Nazi murderers. He voiced the deep gratitude of the survivors to their liberators, especially to the heroic Red Army and Marshal Stalin.

Chief Rabbi's Address

"There are no words in any language adequate enough to describe our present feelings," declared Rabbi

bi Solomon Shiliefer, Chief Rabbi of Moscow.

"It is impossible to visualise the fate of all freedom-loving people, especially the Jews, would have had the Nazis been victorious. The Nazis had failed to completely terminate the Jewish people. Victory had come to the freedom-loving people. Among them the Soviet people and the heroic Red Army occupy the most honoured place. They triumphed not only by force of arms, but also in the cause of truth and justice. But while we are celebrating the great victory we should remember that there are still tens of thousands of Fascist villains who are alive. Their poison can still do incredible harm. It is our sacred duty to root them out to the last man. Only then shall there be real peace on earth and we shall be able to sing Hallelujah!"

Meyer Pevzner, Secretary of the Kehillah, also delivered an address.

QUESTIONS ON PALESTINE IN UNION HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

(From Our Own Correspondent)

CAPE TOWN, Tuesday.—In the House of Assembly Dr. P. J. van Nierop (Nat. Mossel Bay) asked Mr. J. H. Hofmeyr, the acting Prime Minister, certain questions arising from a report published in a Cape Town newspaper in connection with Palestine as a Jewish State.

Dr. van Nierop wanted to know whether the policy of the Government corresponds with that of the New Zionist Organisation which has as its aim the withdrawal of the British mandate over Palestine; whether the matter had been or would be discussed at the San Francisco Conference; whether the Minister would make a full statement on the attitude of the Government in connection with the establishment of Palestine as a Jewish State, whether the request of the New Zionist Organisation for representation at the San Francisco Conference as the representative or-

ganisation of all homeless Jews in the world had been brought to his notice and whether he would state the policy of the Government, or its representatives at San Francisco, on the question of granting or rejecting such a request.

Replying, Mr. Hofmeyr said that his attention had been drawn to the report about the establishment of Palestine as a Jewish State. It was the policy of the Union Government to support the demand of the World New Zionist Organisation for the withdrawal of the British mandate over Palestine. No official indication as to whether this matter would be discussed at San Francisco had been received. As the question was still receiving attention he did not consider that a full statement of the Government's attitude towards the creation of a Jewish State in Palestine was desirable.

Mr. Rivlin Arrives in Johannesburg

Mr. M. Rivlin, general secretary of the Palestine Maritime League, has arrived in Johannesburg.

Mr. Rivlin is a well-known public figure in Eretz Israel. He was a delegate at several Zionist Congresses and a member of the Editorial Board of "Hapoel Hatzair." At present he devotes himself entirely to the promotion of maritime activities in Palestine.

Mr. V. Rosenstein, K.C.

CONGRATULATIONS are extended to Mr. V. Rosenstein on his appointment as King's Counsel. Mr. Rosenstein received his early education at the Jewish Government School and obtained the degrees of M.Sc. and LL.B. at the Witwatersrand University. He went to the Bar in 1925.

Mr. Rosenstein has taken a keen interest in Jewish communal affairs, particularly in Jewish education, being a former president of the S.A. Jewish Board of Education. At one time he was a member of the Editorial Board of the "Zionist Record."

Musical and Dramatic Evening

"THE Man Who Went To Hell," a one-act comedy by Lewis Sowden was the leading item on the programme of the Musical and Dramatic evening held at the Selborne Hall in aid of Reb Moshel's Kindergarten and a number of charitable institutions in Jerusalem. This sketch proved most amusing and it was gained much by the novel way in which it was produced. The author himself chose the cast from the audience. It consisted of Sidney Witham, Minna Schneier, F. Zygelbaum, Y. Bregman, Zeldi Kagan, Frank Roy, Lewis Sowden and Alex Kassman.

Cantor S. Backon made a deep impression with his rendering of the Juive, and a number of Hebrew and Yiddish songs. Fivel Zygelbaum gave a number of dramatic recitations and Eugenie Palca Shapshak played some piano pieces.

A large audience was present at the function, and the artists were most enthusiastically received.