

Palestine Question In House Of Assembly

SPEECH BY MORRIS KENTRIDGE

Yesterday's "Zionist Record" we published a statement made by the Minister, Dr. Malan, in the House of Assembly last week on the subject of Palestine. The statement was made in reply to a speech in the House of Assembly by Mr. Kentridge during the debate on the Prime Minister's vote. The following are the main points of Mr. Kentridge's speech to Palestine:

I would like to refer to another point, the credit of UNO, I refer to the Government had received from all sections of the people. There has been a desire that the ideal of two thousand would be carried into effect, that by 15 that ideal was carried into effect—I am sure not only gratification of the overwhelming majority of the people of the country, but more particularly gratification of the Afrikaans who are imbued with the spirit of the Old Testament.

There is the proclamation of the State of Israel is something which has been received with great interest and is receiving the support of all sections of the people.

In regard I wish to make a point. First, South Africa has not committed, without any party support, to the establishment of the State of Israel, which has its roots in the Balfour Declaration. The Prime Minister, the premier of the Opposition, was a participant in that Balfour Declaration, as a member of the War Cabinet. Following the Government of General Smuts, of which the present Prime Minister and the Minister of Finance were distinguished members, issued a declaration to the late Mr. Soko, expressing not only their approval but their anxiety to do everything they could to assist in the realization of that idea. We have witnessed its realisation. The Hon. Leader of the Opposition, just before the election, was Prime Minister, and the Union's de facto recognition of the State of Israel. It is only fair to say that the Prime Minister a few days before the election, on behalf of the National Party, now the Government, issued an official declaration that if they came into office they would recognize the State of Israel.

Voted for Partition

Chairman, this afternoon I was stopped under the time I was dealing with the question of Palestine and the State of Israel which will form a subject for discussion at the next meeting. I want to put two questions to the Hon. Prime Minister. I want to remind him that when Britain handed Palestine for consideration to UNO the Hon. Leader of the Opposition then the Prime Minister, the delegation of South Africa which was so ably led by the member for Salt River (Mr. ...), what attitude they took at that meeting. They were instructed, and carried out that instruction to vote for Partition, and the fact that Britain was not to it. I would point out,

to show the independence of the members of the Commonwealth of Nations that South Africa voted for Partition in spite of the fact that Britain abstained from voting. On the second occasion when the matter came up, and the United States wanted to revise the position, again the Right Hon. Leader of the present Opposition instructed our South African delegation definitely to oppose any alteration in the decision that had been arrived at in regard to partition.

"At the coming session of the General Assembly two questions will arise affecting Palestine and the State of Israel. One will be an attempt that will be made, supported by the Arab States and by India and Pakistan, to limit the sovereignty of the State of Israel. I would ask the Prime Minister to consider the desirability of instructing our delegation at UNO definitely to oppose anything in the nature of the limitation of the sovereignty of that small new state so recently established.

Membership of UNO

"The second question which will be dealt with there will be an application which is being put forward by the State of Israel to the United Nations for acceptance as a member of the United Nations Organisation. I hope the Hon. Prime Minister will instruct our delegation at UNO to support that application, as it is already being supported by a

considerable number of other States. A further point which I wish to put to the Prime Minister is this. Particularly in the light of the statement which was made by the Minister of Lands just before the election, I would like the Prime Minister to consider the desirability at the earliest possible date of converting our *de facto* recognition of the State of Israel to *de jure* recognition, and also to consider the establishment at the earliest possible date of diplomatic and trade relations between the Union and the State of Israel.

"Such an act will not only benefit the State of Israel, but will prove to the great advantage of the Union and will redound to the credit of the Union of South Africa," concluded Mr. Kentridge.

TO OFFICIATE AT HIGH FESTIVALS



Mr. Fishel Fogelman, the well-known tenor will officiate at the services arranged by the Jewish Centre, which will be held at the Skyline Hotel during the High Festivals.

Founder Of Holiday Camp



MR. HENRY ISAACS

SOMEWHERE in the hilly convolutions of Natal's South Coast, stands a Jewish holiday camp. A father's tribute to the memory of an 18-year-old son, the Alan Isaacs Camp is the favourite hobby of Henry Isaacs. Speaking of the camp, Mr. Isaacs said:

"If the children can afford it, they pay £8 for their holiday—if not, they pay a nominal 2s. 6d., so as to eliminate any sense of charity about the place. We make no distinction on the basis of the 'haves' and the 'have-nots.' You speak to anyone who has been to our camp and they'll tell you."

Henry Isaacs' interest in child welfare was aroused by his late mother, who was one of the founders of the South African Jewish Orphanage. After serving an endless apprenticeship at meetings and com-

mittees, he found himself elected president of the South African Jewish Orphanage, in 1939. His presidency of the United Jewish Reform Congregation, and his services on the committees of the United Hebrew Congregation and the United Hebrew Schools, figure among his periods of public service. He is also a past president of the Institute of Estate Agents and Auctioneers of the Transvaal.

The Isaacs family rallied to the colours in both World Wars, Henry Isaacs having served in the 1914/1918 War, and his son, Wilfred, as a pilot in No. 2 Fighter Squadron of the Second World War. Henry Isaacs is a Life Member of the S.A. Legion of the B.E.S.L.

For relaxation from work and his social conscience, he plays down to a golf handicap of 10.

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EX-SERVICEMEN TO HOLD HIGH FESTIVAL SERVICES

Among the many High Festival services to be held in Johannesburg this year will be one arranged by the S.A. Jewish Ex-Servicemen's League, to be held at the Jewish Guild. This innovation was decided upon in response to the desire of a number of ex-soldiers to spend the religious holidays with former army comrades.

"It is certainly not regarded as an excuse to wax all nostalgic," said one of the members of the committee which has been responsible for the organisation of the services. "It is hardly likely, however, that the men will refrain from recalling those High Festival holidays which were held in between and during the fighting in Italy and North Africa."

A few former Army Chaplains are associated with the venture and are attending to the numerous technical details.

The response to the initial notice of the service has been encouraging, and all Jewish ex-servicemen wishing to attend are asked to write to: Ex-Servicemen's Minyan, Box 2013, Johannesburg, or to book at the Jewish Guild. Accommodation will be arranged for those men who come from out of town.

It is hoped that as many men as possible will bring their families to the services.

Rabbi Neufeld Delivers Lecture at Wits University

"The Oriental Background of the Classical Culture" was the subject of a lecture delivered by Rabbi Dr. E. Neufeld at the University of the Witwatersrand. Prof. Haarhof, who described the lecturer as an outstanding Oriental scholar, presided, and Dr. Jeffreys proposed a vote of thanks.

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