

THE ZIONIST RECORD

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It Is Happening Now

IN this week's issue of the "Zionist Record" we devote considerable space to a reproduction of extracts from the report submitted to President Truman by Mr. Earl G. Harrison. We feel that this report written by a prominent American official deserves the widest publicity because in and around it there is much that concerns the present political crisis in Zionism.

Ever since the announcement was made about President Truman's endorsement of the Jewish Agency's request for 100,000 certificates, there have been obvious and veiled efforts to divert the issue, to attach ulterior motives to the American move and on the whole to establish a case that Jews in Europe would be in no need of Palestine once conditions in the camps for displaced persons had improved. Publicity was also given in the press to a statement by a correspondent in Germany in which he attempted to discredit Mr. Harrison's report.

The Zionist case does not rest on Mr. Harrison's report. We asked for 100,000 certificates long before he was sent to Germany by President Truman. We asked for a Jewish Commonwealth in Palestine long before the term "displaced persons" or "displaced Jews" came into being. Yet it is essential that those who try to establish a new conspiracy of silence regarding the true position of European Jewry, should be exposed. It is necessary—and this point is well made by Mr. Harrison—not only for the sake of Jewry, but for the sake of humanity as a whole, to see that this time the victims of Hitlerism are not forgotten or neglected by the liberating powers.

Unfortunately we cannot say that there has been a completely fair treatment of the position of displaced Jews or of the Palestine issue by news agencies and by reporters. The ridiculous announcement by the BBC last week that "there has been no fresh news about Moslem-Jewish clashes in the past 24 hours" is very typical. Somehow, it seems as if certain circles are disappointed at the delay in the Holy War which they kept on predicting. Similarly, there is a very clear tendency to shun the issue of the displaced Jews by saying that the position would soon be ameliorated and that the pressure of emigration from Europe will not be as great as "the Zionists" are trying to make out.

We have no doubt that a change for the better is bound to come and is already taking place. We have no doubt that General Eisenhower, as well as the authorities in the British zones are doing their best to improve the position, but if any one intends to suggest that these improvements, no matter how extensive, will solve the main problem, let him read Mr. Harrison's report. If anyone thinks that the report is out of date, let him read, together with it, the cable news published in the "Manchester Guardian,"—and quoted in our news columns this week—about the thousands of Jews from Poland and Hungary who are flocking to Austria in the hope of reaching Palestine, via Italy or Yugoslavia.

This is not something which happened at the end of July when the Harrison report was written. It is happening now and it is tragic to reflect that we again have to use the term "Jewish refugees" in October, 1945. Yet here they are—a new flood of refugees in Europe to-day. Some observers even speak of 100,000 who are expected to arrive in Austria and Italy. What does this figure mean? It comprises a very large proportion of all the survivors in Poland and Hungary. Should Zionists be described as crazy if they speak of mass evacuation? Was Mr. Harrison exaggerating—is he out of date, when he said "they want to be evacuated to Palestine now?" It is essential that these facts should be considered when estimating the poignancy and the urgency of the Zionist demands.

Even our enemies—the enemies of Zionism—do not fail to refer to the tragedy of European Jewry. But let it be known that there will be further repetition of that tragedy if scores of thousands of people in Austria, Italy, Germany, Hungary and Poland who cannot and will not remain in the lands of slaughter, are allowed to drift and to deteriorate, if the people who for close on six years lived in fear of death will now be made to live in fear of life; if they are to remain homeless and hopeless—to be branded as a community of camp-dwellers on the roads and shores of Europe:

Gathering The People

AT the time of writing the political situation hangs fire and there are many predictions that by the time our Journal is published a statement in the House of Commons will have been made. In the meantime Zionists must be on the alert and must mobilise its forces in face of fateful events.

The Yishuv has displayed its unity and its courage during the first tests in connection with free Jewish entry into Palestine. The messages

Record Number of Delegates Will Attend S.A. Zionist Conference

Will be preceded by Special Meeting of S.A. Zionist Council

A record number of delegates, representing societies and institutions throughout the sub-continent, will attend the 20th biennial South African Zionist Conference which will commence in Johannesburg on Thursday, November 1. Conference will meet all day Thursday, November 1, all day Friday, November 2, and on Saturday evening, November 3, and on Sunday, November 4.

The conference will be preceded by a special meeting of the S.A. Zionist Council. This meeting has been called since it is considered that the present political situation affecting Palestine and the Jewish people is such that the leaders of the movement in the various provinces and in Rhodesia should come together before the conference in order to prepare, in intimate discussion, the ground for discussion and the plan of action at the main conference. The meeting will commence on Tuesday evening, October 30, and will last all day Wednesday, October 31.

Women's Conference

The South African Women's Zionist Conference, which was to have taken place on Tuesday and Wednesday, October 31, will now take place on Monday and Tuesday, October 29 and 30. All women's societies have been advised of the change of date.

Youth Conference

The South African Zionist Youth Conference will commence on Saturday evening, October 27, and will continue all day Sunday, October 28.

Habonim

The eighth meeting of the Moatan Habonim will take place on Tuesday and Wednesday, October 30 and 31.

PALESTINE AT SOCIALIST CONFERENCE

PARIS, Monday.—The Executive of the newly founded World Trade Union Federation intends to despatch delegates to Palestine to investigate the position there.

Mr. Vincent Talenado, the well-known Mexican Trade Union leader, may lead the delegation. The Executive is also sending a letter to the British Government supporting Jewish immigration to Palestine.

A memorandum from the Histadruth delegation at the International Socialist Congress in Paris explains the latest events in Palestine. It requested the Socialist Executive, in accordance with the resolution adopted by the Trade Union Conference held in London last February to use its influence with the British Government not to violate the resolutions adopted by the Labour Party Conference and International Trade Union Conference. It should ask the Government to open the gates of Palestine to Jewish immigration. The memorandum was submitted by Mr. Zalman Rubashov and by Mr. Marc Jarblum.

The memorandum was approved unanimously, amongst those voting in its favour being the Russian delegate.

JERUSALEM MUNICIPALITY

LONDON, Tuesday.—Mr. Daniel Auster, former acting Mayor of Jerusalem, told a press conference that the commission appointed to examine the conflict about the mayoralty of the Jerusalem City Council will recommend the division of Jerusalem into three separate municipalities. There would be an inner Holy City with a Christian mayor and a Council composed of the heads of the religious community and two other sections, Jewish and Arab. They will have separate mayors, but each of them would be appointed in rotation. The Mayor of the whole city for one year.

PALESTINE ORCHESTRA'S NEW SEASON

JERUSALEM, Tuesday.—The Palestine Orchestra opened its 11th season in the Jerusalem Edison Hall on Thursday under the baton of Bernardino Molinari, famous Italian conductor.

The High Commissioner, Lord Gort, attended the performance and was given a loud ovation at the entrance of the hall. The festive atmosphere recalled the orchestra's birth in 1935, when Toscanini conducted.

from Palestine received during the past ten days, indicate a sense of national responsibility and the attainment of a spirit of national honour for which we have been praying for thousands of years. Unwilling to provoke bloodshed, the settlers—the men, women and schoolboys—defended the new arrivals with their bare fists and with sticks. They placed themselves in such a position that the police were quite powerless to interfere with the moral purpose of their actions. Every self-respecting Jew wherever he may be, is in complete solidarity with these efforts to prevent deportation of Jewish martyrs from the Jewish National Home. Because we come to Palestine as of right and not of sufferance, we can never accept the term "illegal" immigrant. The Yishuv appreciates it to the full and is rising to the greatness of the occasion.

Zionists throughout the world must stand by them at this great hour. We must help them to provide the homes for those newcomers whom they embrace so selflessly and with so much courage. At no other time was the need for closing the Zionist ranks so great as it is to-day. Hence the Conference of South African Zionists due to open on the first of next month must become the greatest demonstration for Zion our community has ever displayed. We expect a record attendance of delegates and a spirit of constructive and earnest deliberation. We have no doubt that it will be forthcoming.