

OVERSEAS NEWS IN BRIEF

RECEIVED BY AIR MAIL

PRESIDENT OF LITHUANIA EXPRESSES SYMPATHY WITH JEWISH ASPIRATIONS

Kovno, April 20th.

A DECLARATION expressing sympathy with Zionism was handed by M. Antonas Smetona, President of Lithuania, to Mr. Leib Jaffe, Director of the Keren Hayesod. The declaration reads as follows:

"For over 500 years, ever since Vytautas the Great invited the Jews to settle in Lithuanian towns, the Lithuanian and Jewish people have lived and worked in harmony on Lithuanian soil. Therefore the Lithuanian people have followed the endeavours of the Jewish people to establish a national home in Palestine with great interest and sincere admiration for the immense constructive work accomplished. May I convey to the Jews of the world my deep sympathy with their aspirations to re-found a national homeland for Israel, and my own and the Lithuanian nation's heartfelt wishes that the Jewish people may have every success in their great undertaking."

DEPORTATION OF JEWS FROM PORTUGAL

Paris, April 21st.

RUMOURS and reports about deportation of German-Jewish refugees from Portugal were again received here by the Hicem, in spite of the fact that the Portuguese authorities recently assured the League's High Commissioner for Refugees from Germany that no such deportations would take place.

The Hicem have therefore again requested that the High Commissioner intervene, pointing out that their information regarding the deportation emanated from reliable sources.

Previously the High Commissioner had been compelled to intervene as a result of alarming reports, but he had at that time received the assurance from the Portuguese Government that "no negative tendencies exist in Government circles with regard to the Jews."

The information now received by the Hicem indicates, however, that unless further effective intervention is made by the High Commissioner, the position of a number of Jewish refugees will become serious because the police authorities are zealously deporting refugees as "undesirables" and "suspected elements."

THE LEBANESE AND THE JEWS

Beirut, April 22nd.

AT a reception given to the Maronite Patriarch, Monseigneur Arida, under the auspices of the Jewish congregation in Beirut, the Arab Bishop Mubarrek, head of the Catholic Maronite Church in Beirut, stated that the Jews and the Lebanese have a common destiny. He referred to the fact that both the Catholics and the Jews were being persecuted in Germany.

The Bishop also said that they favoured the Zionist work in Palestine and hoped that the Jewish aspirations there would be fulfilled. Leading members of the Catholic clergy, and Arab journalists were present when the declaration was made, and it was generally interpreted as a public affirmation of sympathy on the part of the Lebanese with the Zionist work in Palestine.

JERUSALEM GOVERNOR'S APPRECIATION OF ZIONISM

Article in London "Sunday Times"

London, April 19th.

DEEP appreciation of Zionist ideals and work is expressed by Sir Ronald Storrs, Military Governor of Jerusalem, and recently Civil Governor of Jerusalem and Judea, in a long article in yesterday's "Sunday Times."

Replying to the criticism that the Zionist movement was financed by millionaires who were "prepared to pay another Jew to go and live in Palestine," Sir Ronald points out that the upkeep of Zionist institutions is dependent upon the yearly Shekel of the uncounted poor.

"Who, again," he goes on, "had ever heard of those sedentary stockbroking Jews really consenting to the dull physical toil of labouring on the land? — as if a race debarred for 2,000 years from holding one acre could be expected without opportunity to give proof of deep love of the soil; as if the thousand deaths by malaria of the pioneers in marshes and dunes had no significance, any more than the young European graduates ploughing the plain of Sharon or breaking stones on the parched high-roads of Galilee."

Sir Ronald also pays tribute to Jewish courage during the war in Palestine.

"A British general commanding one of the detachments which took Jerusalem told me at the time that the most reckless bravery he had ever seen was shown by a young Jewish lance-corporal of a London regiment, who mounting over a ridge into sudden sight of Jerusalem, seemed to be transported and transformed, rushed alone against a Turkish machine-gun, killed the entire crew, and captured the gun.

"Equally unfair, indeed wilfully blind," Sir Ronald declares, "is the tendency even now of those who concentrate upon Arab grievances or the mistakes of individual Zionists, and ignore the magnificent dedication of heart and brain, of strength and strain, of time and treasure lavished by world Zionism upon the land of their soul's desire."

Sir Ronald further points out that Zionism is a world movement, but that there is no real unified Arabism; Arab demands and grievances are only local in character.

OXFORD UNIVERSITY AND GOETTINGEN CELEBRATIONS

London, April 22nd.

ACCORDING to a report in today's "News Chronicle," Oxford University is the only English university which has so far decided to send a delegate to the Goettingen University Centenary Celebrations, in June. Practically all the other universities in Great Britain and Ireland will confine themselves to sending formal letters of congratulation.

At Heidelberg last year not one British University was represented, though delegates came from the Dominions.

TO CONDUCT PALESTINE SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

Dr. Malcolm Sargent, Noted British Musician

London, April 18th.

DR. MALCOLM SARGENT, the famous English conductor, has accepted an invitation to conduct the Palestine Symphony Orchestra in a series of concerts in Jerusalem, Tel-Aviv and Haifa. Dr. Sargent will leave England for Palestine on May 6.

"The concerts," Dr. Sargent said, "are in connection with the Palestine Coronation celebrations, and will be under official patronage. I am giving the first concert in Jerusalem, and repeating it in Tel-Aviv and Haifa. I shall be in Palestine from the 8th to the 20th of May. I think the Tel-Aviv and Haifa concerts will have to be repeated because they are expected to be sold out after the first concert.

"I am very happy to be going to work with this orchestra, which has already made itself famous. Toscanini is amazed at its playing. Of course, the whole of the string section is practically made up of leaders — and they've got all the best players that have left Germany. Even the back desks are filled by leaders of some of the best orchestras in Germany. I shall enjoy my visit very much."

ITALIAN GOVERNMENT TO CHECK ANTI-SEMITISM IN THE PRESS

Paris, April 20th.

ASSURANCES that the anti-Jewish tone taken by some of the Fascist newspapers in Italy does not represent the sentiment of the Italian Government were given to-day by the Italian Embassy here.

Uneasiness is felt in Italian diplomatic circles in Paris because the French press is now beginning to pay special attention to the anti-Jewish articles published by the Fascist press in Italy.

It is feared that the British and the American press too, may follow the lead of the French newspapers and utilise the Italian anti-Jewish propaganda as an issue against Fascism and against Mussolini's present policy.

Foreign correspondents were therefore given to understand that the Ministry of Press and Propaganda in Italy may in future check Fascist newspapers in the anti-Jewish utterings.

REVISIONIST PETITION TO THE LEAGUE

London, April 20th.

A STATEMENT issued by the Executive of the "New Zionist Organisation" declares that the Permanent Mandates Commission has decided to give consideration at its next session to a petition on the meaning of the Mandate, as being synonymous with the Jewish State.

The petition was submitted by the N.Z.O. last summer. Previously the Mandates Commission refused to consider such a petition on the ground that its purport went beyond the provision of the Mandate.

THE BRITH TRUMPENDOR CERTIFICATES

Statement by Lithuanian Palestine Office

Kovno, April 16th.

AN important statement has been issued here by the Palestine Office in connection with the recent disorders perpetrated by members of the Brith Trumpendor organisation who broke up a meeting which was to have been addressed by Mr. Leib Jaffe.

The statement points out that even chalutz organisation, even if it is not Zionist, such as the chalutz organisation of the Agudah, which agrees to put its Hachsharach centres under the control of the Palestine Offices, obtains immigration certificates in proportion to the numbers of its chalutzim.

The statement further emphasises the point that in the matter of distribution of certificates, the Palestine Offices are not influenced by any party considerations.

In Lithuania, the statement declares, 7 per cent. of all the Palestine certificates has been allocated to members of the Brith Trumpendor Organisation in strict proportion to their numerical strength. Between April, 1935, and September, 1936, this is to say, two-and-a-half years after the withdrawal of the Revisionists from the Zionist Organisation, 4 Betarim were given certificates in Austria, 28 in Latvia, 24 in Czechoslovakia, 23 in Germany, 21 in Lithuania, 81 in Poland and 51 in Galicia, making a total of 232. Two certificates were allocated by the Kaunas Palestine Office for Betarim from the last schedule, but only one Betarim applied for a certificate.

The Lithuanian Keren Hayesod has also issued a statement protesting vigorously against the disorders organised last week by the Betarim.

THE NEW POLISH GOVERNMENT PARTY

Party Chief Makes a Statement on the Jewish Problem

Warsaw, April 22nd.

A SIGNIFICANT utterance regarding Jews in Poland was made by Colonel Kowalewski, the Chief organiser of the new Government Party of the National Union, in an interview with the press to-day. Colonel Kowalewski said: "I adhere to the point of view that the Jewish problem in Poland which is one of the most important problems, chiefly because there are so many Jews in Poland, can be solved principally by emigration of Jews."

He continued by saying that they would try to solve the Jewish problem by emigration, but that they could not wait too long and they would first have to find work for the Polish people in commerce, industry and trades in order that those branches of economic life should become entirely Polish.

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