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June 3, 1935

LEAGUE OF NATIONS GETS ANNUAL REPORT ON PALESTINE

Geneva, June 3 (Palcor Agency) - An increase in Palestine's Jewish population during the year of 55,000, the importation of Jewish private capital in excess of \$50,000,000 and an acute labor shortage which "has dislocated the labor market and checked economic enterprise in every field" is reported in the "Annual Memorandum on the Development of the Jewish National Home," a report of stewardship to the League of Nations, that was today placed in the hands of the members of the Permanent Mandates Commission of the League of Nations, for their session opening here today, by the Jewish Agency for Palestine, which is recognized under Article 4 of the Palestine Mandate granted to Great Britain as the supreme Jewish authority in the reconstruction of the Holy Land.

Accompanying the Memorandum, which is a comprehensive review of all phases of rebuilding activity in Palestine during 1934, is a letter from Dr. Nahum Sokolow, President of the Jewish Agency for Palestine, in which he declares that "the introduction of new capital, technical skill and economic initiative" has expanded Palestine's absorptive capacity far beyond what the Government has estimated it to be in previous years.

A plea for a larger Jewish immigration into Palestine was directed to the Mandates Commission by Dr. Sokolow, who said that "the new situation requires a fundamental readjustment of the earlier conceptions as to the admissible size of Jewish immigration -- a readjustment which appears all the more urgent in view of the political persecutions and economic distress from which large numbers of the Jewish people suffer at present in the Diaspora."

The memorandum stresses the prosperous condition of Palestine and declares that "the expansion of the last three years is, it is submitted, much more than a transitory boom phenomenon. A far-reaching change in the whole economic structure of the country is taking place, the effect of which will be many times to increase the country's economic capacity, and to create new standards of living, and new and wider social and political horizons, for all its inhabitants."

The highlights of the report showed that Palestine had a Jewish population at the end of 1934 of 300,000, which constitutes 25 per cent of the total population; that the Palestine Government has a surplus of £4,000,000 (\$20,000,000), derived from the prosperity brought to the country by Jewish immigration; that the Jews of the world contributed for national reconstruction activities during the year amounts totaling £650,000 (\$3,250,000), and that the shortage of labor has prevented the planting of many farms, the building of many houses and the launching of new industrial enterprises.

Arabs as well as Jews have benefited from Jewish reconstruction activities in Palestine it is stated in the Memorandum, which declares that "there has been a very striking increase in Arab production as a whole, and a marked rise in the Arab standard of living."

How Jewish immigrants entered Palestine from fifty countries, but mostly from Poland and Germany, during 1934 and how they became absorbed in the agricultural, industrial and general economic life of the country is described in the Memorandum.

The Jewish population was 300,000 at the close of 1934, as against 245,000 at the end of 1933. One fourth lives in the villages and three fourths reside in the towns. There are now 160 different Jewish villages. The remarkable growth of the towns is illustrated in figures of contrast which show that the all-Jewish city of Tel Aviv, which has a population of 105,000, had 15,190 in 1922. Jerusalem had 33,970 Jews in 1922 and has 65,000 today. Haifa had 6,230 in 1922 and 33,000 at the end of 1934.

The vital statistics show that the natural increase in Jewish population was 5,247 or 20.7 per thousand, as compared with an increase of 21,185 or 18.9 per thousand among the non-Jewish population. The high Jewish birth rate is held to be due to the comparatively youthful character of the Jewish population.

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During 1934 the total immigration was 46,474, consisting of 42,359 who had entered as immigrants and 4,115 travelers who were allowed to settle in the land.

A warning of a "serious peril" that confronts Jewish resettlement of Palestine is sounded by Dr. Sokolow in his letter, which is addressed to the High Commissioner of Palestine for transmission to the Secretary-General of the League of Nations, for the information of the Permanent Mandates Commission. He declares that the shortage of labor in Palestine has created "a discrepancy between wage levels in town and country, to cause Jewish labor to concentrate in urban occupations at the expense of agriculture. I submit that no more serious peril could threaten the Jewish National Home than if the one-sided predominantly urban, occupational composition of the Jewries of the Diaspora were to be reproduced in Palestine."

The letter also contains criticism of "the unlawful influx" into Palestine "of large numbers of indigent inhabitants of Transjordan, Syria, Egypt and other countries in search of work. This influx is attracted by the plentiful opportunities of employment and the higher standards of wages which prevail in Palestine and is further stimulated by the void created in the Palestinian labor market through the inadequacy of Jewish labor immigration.

"It seems difficult to reconcile with the terms of the Mandate," Dr. Sokolow says, "a condition of affairs under which non-Jewish immigrants from the neighboring countries are allowed to infiltrate relatively unchecked while Jewish immigration is not admitted to the full extent of the country's absorptive capacity."

Dr. Sokolow also criticizes the inadequate share of public works granted to Jews, the inequitable conditions which do not permit Jews in sufficient numbers to enter Palestine's Police Force and the railway services and the inadequate allocation to Jewish public health institutions and educational system of funds from the Government treasury.

Finally, the President of the Jewish Agency expresses the hope that the Permanent Mandates Commission will do something to remedy the situation by which Palestine, though a British Mandated territory, is not considered a part of the British Empire, so that its orange exports, half of the economic life of the country, do not obtain the benefits of Imperial Preference in tariffs.

The immigration during 1934 was formed of 63 per cent men and the balance women. Children under 16 formed 23 per cent of the total. The Memorandum to the Mandates Commission pointed out that the proportion of labor immigration has been on the decline. In 1934 it was 52.1, while in 1933 it was 64.5. The immigrants with £1,000 and more constituted 22.9 per cent of the immigration. Those having between £250 and £990 were 3.1 per cent of the total. The balance were dependents (16.2 per cent) and students, clergy, etc. The Government has granted less than two fifths of the total number of certificates asked for by the Jewish Agency, the Memorandum states.

The net total of lands acquired by Jews in 1934 was 62,114 dunams, for which was paid £1,647,836. The total area under citrus cultivation by Jews is now 145,000 dunams as compared with 11,000 in 1920. Citrus exports for the 1934-35 season were in excess of 7,000,000 cases, valued at about £3,000,000. Of the total, slightly more than half the oranges came from Jewish groves. Nearly three fourths of the total product was shipped to England.

The expansion in agricultural colonization and urban development was also reflected in industry and commerce, the Memorandum states. During 1934 approximately 170 new industrial undertakings were established by Jews. There are now in Palestine 25,000 owners and workers engaged in industry, as compared with 10,968 in 1930 and 1,900 in 1921. There are 40,000 engages in agricultural work on a total Jewish area of 1,300,000 dunams, which support a total agricultural population of 70,000.

Other figures in the Jewish Agency Memorandum show the following:

The Palestine Electric Corporation had 35,397 consumers in 1934 as against 21,934 in 1933. The Dead Sea potash refinery is now capable of producing 30,000 tons of potash per annum. It supplies 75 per cent of the total bromine requirements of the United Kingdom.

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Jewish public health institutions in Palestine spent £196,000 during 1933-34. Hadassah, Women's Zionist Organization of America, was responsible for £70,226 of this amount. The Government grant to these health services was £4,245.

There are 44,829 pupils in the Jewish schools of all grades, with a total school budget of £194,242.

The educational division of the Memorandum revealed that the Italian Government had made a contribution to the Hebrew University in Jerusalem enabling it to establish a lectureship in Romance languages and an Italian language class.

The report on the financial growth of Palestine declares that approximately £10,000,000 of new Jewish capital was brought into the country during the year for investment in various enterprises, including construction, industry and agriculture. In addition, the Memorandum states, there have been considerable investments by Jews resident in the country and also substantial investments by Arabs.

The sum of £650,000 expended by Jewish national institutions during the period under review covered the activities of the Jewish Agency for Palestine, the Palestine Foundation Fund, the Jewish National Fund, the Hadassah Medical Organization, the Women's International Zionist Organization and the Central Bureau for the Settlement of German Jews in Palestine and the Hebrew University.

Excerpts From Sokolow Letter

In his letter, Dr. Sokolow said in part:

"Jewish immigration in 1934 increased substantially beyond the total of the preceding year. The Jewish Agency notes with satisfaction the rise in particular of the figures of immigrants admitted under the labor schedules granted for the last three half-yearly periods. It finds itself, however, constrained to urge the inadequacy even of the increased schedules to meet the ever-growing needs of the Palestinian labor market. The number of certificates granted fell in each case considerably below that for which the Jewish Agency had applied, without any specific reason being stated for the reduction of the estimates submitted by it. The acute labor shortage which has now lasted for nearly three years proves beyond doubt that in assessing the absorptive capacity of the country Government has considerably under-estimated actual needs, and that the applications submitted by the Jewish Agency were not based on merely transitory requirements. The effect of that shortage has been not only to dislocate the labor market and to check economic enterprise in every sphere but, by creating a discrepancy between wage levels in town and country, to cause Jewish labor to concentrate in urban occupations at the expense of agriculture. I submit that no more serious peril could threaten the Jewish National Home than if the one-sided, predominantly urban, occupational composition of the Jewries of the Diaspora were to be reproduced in Palestine. The data recorded in the enclosed Memorandum offer some indication of the fundamental nature of the transformation which the economic structure of Palestine is undergoing at present. As a result of the introduction of new capital, technical skill and economic initiative, the country's capacity to absorb new immigrants has expanded on a far larger scale than was considered possible by Government in previous years. It is the submission of the Jewish Agency that the new situation requires a fundamental readjustment of the earlier conceptions as to the admissible size of Jewish immigration -- a readjustment which appears all the more urgent in view of the political persecutions and economic distress from which large numbers of the Jewish people suffer at present in the Diaspora.

"The Jewish Agency notes that as a result of the reorganization of the Immigration Department its business has been greatly expedited and a long-standing cause of friction thereby removed. It is also gratified to record that a more liberal policy has been initiated in the matter of the admission of fiancées and old parents. On the other hand, it cannot but note with regret that the admission of members of the liberal professions possessing not less than £500 (Category A2) and of persons possessing a capital of from £500 to £1000 (Category A5) has practically ceased, only three families of the first and thirty-three of the last named category having been admitted during the period under review.

"While the present period of progress has

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benefited to a very marked degree the Arab population of Palestine by raising its standards of life and practically wiping out unemployment among Arab wage-earners, a new disturbing feature has been introduced by the unlawful influx of large numbers of indigent inhabitants of Transjordan, Syria, Egypt and other countries in search of work. This influx is attracted by the plentiful opportunities of employment and the higher standards of wages which prevail in Palestine and is further stimulated by the void created in the Palestinian labor market through the inadequacy of Jewish labor immigration. It takes the form not merely of seasonal migration, but of the entry of a growing number of persons who remain indefinitely in the country and who bring their families over to settle with them. The attention of Your Excellency has repeatedly been drawn to the economic and social dangers involved in this mass infiltration, and I would take the opportunity of urging that effective measures be taken to arrest the process which is steadily growing in magnitude. It seems difficult to reconcile with the terms of the Mandate a condition of affairs under which non-Jewish immigrants from the neighboring countries are allowed to infiltrate relatively unchecked while Jewish immigration is not admitted to the full extent of the country's absorptive capacity.

"As a result mainly of the labor shortage, the hopes expressed on a previous occasion that a more adequate share of the labor employed in public works would be found to have been allotted this year to Jewish workers, have not been fulfilled. I am glad to note that with Your Excellency's approval one important contract of public works has been assigned to Jewish labor by special arrangement and that other minor works have been similarly secured through the ordinary channels. These contracts do not, however, amount in the aggregate to anything remotely approaching the ratio of 30%--33% which was fixed by Your Excellency as the share of Jewish labor for the year 1933-34 and which is regarded by the Jewish Agency as merely a minimum. It would appear that the allowance made for employment on public works in the assessment of the absorptive capacity of the country, as submitted by the Jewish Agency, is not being taken into consideration when the size of the labor schedule is fixed by Government. In view of the assurances given in the past that a fair share of public works would be allocated to Jewish labor I would venture to urge that due provision under this head should in future be made in determining the labor schedules, so as to enable the Jewish population, by means of an adequate supply of immigrant labor, to derive the benefits due to it from Government expenditure on public works. The point is of particular importance in view of the comprehensive programme of public works scheduled to be undertaken by Government in the course of the current financial year, both under the Annual Estimates and with the proceeds of the Palestine Loan.

"The instability in the labor market caused by inadequate immigration has been responsible for the resignations of Jewish members of the Police Force and of the railway personnel. Of late special efforts have been made by the Jewish Agency to recruit additional Jewish members for the Police Force, and I am glad to record my appreciation of the helpful attitude of the authorities in this matter. Similar efforts have been made in regard to the recruitment of Jewish personnel for the railway services. It is clear, however, that these efforts cannot be successful unless the rates of pay in the services are brought into some measure of conformity with the actual conditions in the labor market. The Executive of the Jewish Agency was glad to learn that committees had been appointed by Your Excellency to investigate the conditions of pay in the Services, and it hopes that their findings will be conducive to an increased employment of Jews.

"The problem of the place occupied by Jews in the Civil Service has in general been causing concern to the Jewish Agency in view of the fact that while the Jewish population has increased at a marked pace, the relative strength of the Jewish personnel in the employ of Government has practically remained stationary. I would draw special attention to this need in the composition of the Judiciary and would beg leave to remind Your Excellency that no Jewish judge has yet been reappointed to the Bench of the Haifa District Court, which serves a town with a rapidly growing Jewish population and a large area of Jewish agricultural development.

"It is generally realized that during the present period of development it is essential to provide against possible set-backs and to consider in advance solutions for the economic problems which are likely to arise in the future. Among these the question of the marketing of the rapidly growing orange crop occupies a foremost position. The Jewish Agency is aware of the plans engaging the attention of Government for the provision of additional rolling stock, new feeder roads and better unloading facilities at the ports to meet the

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increasing requirements for the transport of citrus fruit. While hoping that these efforts will produce beneficial results, the Jewish Agency would also urge the early initiation of the proposed scheme for the deviation of the main railway line to the close proximity of Tel Aviv and Jaffa and the speedy completion of the direct road from Tel Aviv to Haifa. It would, furthermore, stress the need for effective action on the part of Government to promote closer coöperation between orange growers, Jewish and Arab, to secure for the trade the best shipping facilities available and to assist it in the exploration of new markets. Recent developments have invested the problem of marketing with growing urgency. In addition to the limitations imposed on Palestine by its character as a mandated country, new obstacles have been created for the marketing of citrus fruit by the restrictions imposed on the export of capital from countries which figure prominently as potential purchasers. It is submitted that since some of these countries record greatly increased exports to Palestine, the question should be considered whether Palestine could not adopt a system of import quotas based on reciprocal benefits on lines compatible with Article 18 of the Mandate. I would, further, reiterate the plea previously made that every available avenue be explored for securing to Palestine the benefits of Imperial Preference.

"Concurrently with such measures for promoting the interests of the orange industry, the Jewish Agency would urge that active steps be taken to encourage and support the development of mixed farming in all the irrigable parts of Palestine, not excluding the orange belt, with a view to enabling the country to escape the dangers of monoculture and providing for an all-round increase of its productive capacity.

"The growth of Jewish immigration and the need to provide for its permanent and productive absorption have brought to the fore the problem of widening the agricultural basis of the Jewish National Home by providing new areas of land for Jewish agricultural settlement. As emphasized by the Jewish Agency on many occasions, the continued acquisition of land by Jews has not resulted in an increase of the landless element among the Arabs, but has on the contrary been the direct cause of the rising prosperity of the Arab agricultural population in the districts where Jewish settlement has been in progress, Arab farmers having been enabled to improve their holdings with the proceeds of the sale of their available surplus of land. It is clear, however, that the haphazard purchase of small and scattered tracts at prices continuously driven up by the action of land speculators cannot meet the requirements of the situation. It is necessary that special arrangements be made with the coöperation of Government for placing larger areas at the disposal of the Jewish colonizing agencies for the purposes of close settlement in accordance with Article 6 of the Palestine Mandate, subject always to the satisfaction of the land requirements of the existing Arab agricultural population.

"The Executive of the Jewish Agency welcomes the transfer during the period under review, with the approval of the Secretary of State, of the Huleh Concession to Jewish interests as an important step in this direction. I would take the present opportunity of expressing grateful appreciation of the helpful attitude of Your Excellency in authorizing the acquisition of the Concession by the Palestine Land Development Company. The transfer paves the way for a work of reclamation which will be of high economic and sanitary value for the country. It opens up a new area for Jewish close settlement with marked advantage to the local Arab cultivators who, instead of their present swampy holdings, will receive reclaimed and irrigable agricultural land. The Jewish Agency hopes that the Government of Palestine will on its part take the necessary steps for ensuring the success of the drainage and reclamation both of the concession area and of the lands adjoining it. It further trusts that the proposals which it hopes to submit for the utilization of other areas for purposes of close settlement will meet with favorable consideration by Government and that they will result in a considerable expansion of the agricultural basis of the Jewish National Home and in increased prosperity for the whole population of Palestine."

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4,000 JEWS ENTERED PALESTINE IN MAY

Jerusalem, June 3 (Palcor Agency) - A total in excess of 4,000 Jews entered Palestine during the month of May, according to provisional figures issued today by the Executive of the Jewish Agency for Palestine. This brings the total of 1935 Jewish immigration for the first five months to more than 24,000.

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KING'S AMNESTY DOES NOT RELEASE ORPHALI

Jerusalem, June 3 (Palcor Agency) - Disappointment was felt in Jewish quarters last night when it was officially announced that Orphali, one of the two Jews sentenced for participation in the 1929 riots, would not be released from prison until August, 1936.

The failure of Orphali to get full advantage of King George V's amnesty is due to the decision not to free for the present those prisoners who were sentenced to death after the 1929 riots but who were reprieved later by the High Commissioner. Hinkis, who was also sentenced to death, had his sentence commuted by the Court.

In addition to the 37 prisoners of the 1929 riots who are eligible to the King's amnesty, there will be 79 ordinary prisoners who will be released from jail, including one Jew who still had approximately two years to serve.

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HINKIS PLEADS FOR ORPHALI

Jerusalem, June 3 (Palcor Agency) - Simcha Hinkis was a free man today and his first thought was for the man with whom he had spent five years in jail on account of their participation in the 1929 riots which caused the jailing of 35 Arabs and 2 Jews. Hinkis left jail under King George V's amnesty. Immediately he visited the offices of the Executive of the Jewish Agency for Palestine and expressed his gratitude to Moshe Shertok, member of the Executive, who had been largely responsible for securing Hinkis' pardon. But Hinkis took the occasion to plead with the Agency Executive that they use their best efforts to secure a release for Orphali before August, 1936, the date set for the latter's emergence from prison.

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NEW COLONIZATION GROUP LAUNCHED

Jerusalem, June 3 (Palcor Agency) - A new colonization center was started yesterday when sixty families, constituting the Kibbutz Hashomer Hazair, took up quarters on the Hartieh land belonging to the Jewish National Fund and named their new settlement Shaar Haemek. Previously this group had been living for five years in Ain Hasharon, situated in Magdiel, which is between Tel Aviv and Herzliah.

The families of Shaar Haemek are from Rumania and Jugoslavia. They were given 1,250 dunams of land by the Jewish National Fund. They will work in Haifa and the neighborhood until their farms become self-supporting. They are also working in the King Alexander of Jugoslavia Forest.

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JEWS JOIN IN PALESTINE BIRTHDAY FETES FOR KING

Jerusalem, June 3 (Palcor Agency) - Palestine was the scene of many colorful functions today as the country joined in celebrating the 70th birthday of King George V of England. Representative Jews attended the King's birthday celebrations held in a number of cities.

This morning Jerusalem marked the occasion with a military review and Sir Arthur Wauchope gave a garden party in the afternoon at Government House, which overlooks Jerusalem and Talpioth.

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3 PALESTINE JEWS IN KING GEORGE BIRTHDAY HONORS

Jerusalem, June 3 (Palcor Agency) - The names of three Palestinians were today included in the honors distributed by King George V of England on the occasion of his seventieth birthday. Abraham Goldwater, General Manager of the Palestine Corporation, which is headed by Sir Robert Waley Cohen, was named an Officer of the British Empire. Mrs. Shoshanna Persitz and Isaac Eleazar-Volcani were named as members of the Order of the British Empire. Mrs. Persitz, noted communal worker, is a member of the Tel Aviv Municipal Council. Mr. Volcani is director of the Jewish Agency Agricultural Research Station at Rehoboth, whose research activities have benefited all of Palestine.

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JEWS, ALARMED BY MALARIA PERIL, APPEAL TO WAUCHOPE

Jerusalem, June 2 (Palcor Agency) - Alarmed by the growing possibilities of a malaria epidemic in the Wadi Hawareth area of Palestine, the Jewish Agency for Palestine yesterday invited Sir Arthur Wauchope, High Commissioner of Palestine, to visit Hedera and to inspect the pumping works which have been installed by the Jewish settlement to drain swamps that were formed as a result of the recent floods which threaten malaria. The High Commissioner seemed impressed with what he observed. The Jewish Agency is demanding special Government assistance for a large-scale malarial swamp drainage program to counteract the dangers of disease.

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MRS. FREIMAN GETS \$50,000 FUND AT 50TH BIRTHDAY

Ottawa, Canada, June 3 (Palcor Agency) - The Hadassah Organization of Canada last night honored its President, Mrs. Archibald J. Freiman, on the occasion of her fiftieth birthday by presenting her with a fund of \$50,000 to be used for Canadian Hadassah activities in Palestine.

Twelve hundred men and women Zionists from all parts of Canada journeyed here for a dinner at which each city which had raised \$1,000 and more for the fund was entitled to light a candle on Mrs. Freiman's huge birthday cake. The devoted manner in which the unusual birthday present was raised was typified by a small Jewish farming community in Western Canada which had raffled a sheep to raise its quota toward the \$50,000.

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CHAPLIN SAYS HE IS "INTERNATIONALIST" BUT NOT JEW

Hollywood, California, June 3 (Palcor Agency) - Charlie Chaplin, most famous of all screen comedians, has not been anxious to emphasize that he is not a Jew because of a feeling that such a denial might be misunderstood it was stated here to Palcor Agency by Mr. Alfred Reeves, General Manager of the Charles Chaplin Film Corporation, in commenting upon a story sent by the Berlin correspondent of the Palcor Agency in which Chaplin is said to have denied his Jewishness and courted Nazi favor.

Mr. Reeves, who is the personal confidant of the film comic, made a statement on Mr. Chaplin's behalf, in which he said:

"Mr. Chaplin has no racial or religious prejudices of any kind and has made it a principle never to enter into any action or controversy of a political or religious nature that might antagonize. As a matter of fact Mr. Chaplin is not Jewish, but owing to his international views he has never wished to publicize this statement."

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MANDATES COMMISSION MEETS UNDER THEODOLI

Geneva, June 3 (Palcor Agency) -- The Permanent Mandates Commission of the League of Nations met here today under the chairmanship of Marquis A. Theodoli, formerly Italian Under-Secretary of State at the Colonial Ministry, and now an Italian Senator.

It was learned here that Prof. Selig Brodetsky, member of the Jewish Agency Executive, had left London today to represent the interests of the Jewish Agency during the sessions of the Mandates Commission.

The Rapporteur on Palestine is Edouard Benes, Czechoslovakian Foreign Minister.

An Account of the Events Leading up to the Passing of the American Resolution on Palestine, Based on Documents Until Now Unavailable.

By William Stern

Today the expressions of approval that emanate from American public officials have become monotonous. It is taken for granted that a Senator or Congressman is in full agreement with the rebuilding of the Jewish homeland in Palestine. But there was a time when the fate of Jewish aspirations rested on a nod of assent from that very source. And not so long ago either. Just ten years back. Many Jews can hardly recall now the bitterness, the fervid struggle, the danger which provided the tense atmosphere in which American Jewry witnessed a civil war. The forces were rather uneven in that battle. But the outcome was nevertheless uncertain.

Ten years ago this Passover there was introduced into the United States Senate a resolution expressing the government's approval of the establishment of a Jewish national home in Palestine. The year was 1922. The Council of the League of Nations was then considering the ratification of the Mandate over Palestine to be awarded to Great Britain. The Zionists, despite the assurance contained in the Balfour Declaration and the decisions of San Remo of 1920, were fearful lest any member of the Council raise its voice in opposition to the form in which it was proposed that the Palestine Mandate be drawn. Only one adverse vote would have sent all dreams crashing.

It was imperative that the influence of America be brought to bear on the situation, even though the country in which the League idea originated was not represented on the Council. The United States was then at the pinnacle of its international influence. Its monetary dominance was respected. Cables were sent by Dr. Chaim Weizmann to the Zionist Organization of America requesting that some action be taken to indicate to the League that America was friendly to the proposal which it was considering.

American Zionists proposed that a letter be obtained from Secretary of State Charles Evans Hughes, who would express sympathy with the rebuilding of Palestine through the Jewish people. Woodrow Wilson, through Stephen S. Wise and others, had already given public evidence of his understanding of Jewish aims in Palestine, but it was held essential that a high government official of the day utilize his influence. The customary methods of reaching public men were launched. Louis Lipsky, then head of the American Zionists, knew of the friendly relationship between Elihu D. Stone, a Boston Zionist, and Senator Henry Cabot Lodge, who was then undoubtedly the most important figure in the government, his influence probably exceeding that of President Harding himself. Lodge was not only Chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee but was also Republican majority leader in the upper House. Stone was requested to come to New York City to consider with Zionist leaders the best means of obtaining the desired document from Secretary Hughes.

At that preliminary conference there were in attendance Nahum Sokolow, Prof. Otto Warburg, Louis Lipsky, Emanuel Neumann, Abraham Goldberg, and Stone, among others. It was upon Stone that the duty developed to interview Hughes at Washington. But Stone was a Massachusetts man -- a designation which should mean much to those who know the political history of that State. He expressed the view that the Hughes letter would be helpful but that much more could be accomplished.

He urged that an effort be made to secure an official resolution in the Senate. Amused grins greeted his proposal. It was pointed out to Stone that he was a very good Zionist and had high aspirations but that he was quite naive. It was impossible to think of realizing such a purpose, he was informed.

Back to Boston went Stone. Recognizing the political character of his mission he worked according to a formula. From each Congressional district he picked one representative. Sixteen men were gathered for his entourage to Washington. But in order to fortify himself for the objective, he decided that it would be important to get the imprimatur of the State of Massachusetts. He was supposed to go to Washington that night. At noon there was introduced into both branches of the Legislature a resolution expressing high satisfaction with the reestablishment of the Jewish National Home. Massachusetts was the first State to go on record. That very day the Secretary of State affixed his signature, the Governor signed, and Stone had a certified copy to take to the Capitol.

In the meantime the Zionists had written to Lodge requesting his help to reach Hughes. When Stone arrived with his impressive delegation, he informed his Senator that things had changed in the meanwhile. He wanted a resolution introduced. Lodge, famous for his aversion to entangling alliances, considered the matter carefully, decided that the proposal was in complete harmony with his political views. He approved of it personally. Being a man of quick action, Lodge demanded if the delegation had brought any form of resolution that they had in mind. Stumped at such impetuosity, Stone wrote down this phrase: "Resolved that the United States of America favors the establishment of the national home for the Jewish people in Palestine."

Lodge indicated that he would take up the matter of Secretary Hughes and President Harding. He later informed Stone that both had approved. He inquired as to when it would be most opportune to introduce the resolution, to which he had added several restrictive clauses based on the Balfour Declaration. Stone replied that Passover seemed the most opportune time. It was the season when Jews celebrated their redemption from bondage, when they gloried in the entry into a new freedom. Thus it was that the resolution was introduced into the Senate on the very eve of Passover. The symbolism was perfect.

But the story had only begun. The New York Times laid down a heavy barrage. But the first one to protest was Rabbi Edward N. Calisch, then President of the Central Conference of American Rabbis. Senator McCormick of Illinois indicated that Julius Rosenwald was also opposed. Later this was denied, but rumor has it that it was as a result of Louis Marshall's suggestion that it was made to appear that McCormick had misinterpreted his constituent's wishes. From all over the country anti-Zionist resentment poured into Washington.

Those who think that anti-Zionists were alone in their opposition do not know the inside story. Stone was immediately called to New York to appear before a meeting of the Zionist National Executive Committee. Almost unanimously the sentiment was furious. One member of the Executive rose and said: "If the Zionist movement were an organized government, you, Mr. Stone, would be shot for the manner in which you have disobeyed instruction. No one authorized you to request or have introduced such a resolution."

In the meantime Abraham Goldberg tried to help. He asked Hamilton Fish to introduce a lengthy resolution into the lower House. But had Goldberg known what impended, it is doubtful if he would have bothered about a House resolution. For whereas the Senate is a treaty-making body, the House has only advisory powers. Lodge was determined to carry through the resolution. Asked whether there would be a hearing, he declared: "I will not give a platform to those Arabs; I know everything that they have to say." No hearing was held, probably the only time in American history when a resolution of that importance was not preceded by a public discussion.

But in Congress things were for different. Stephen G. Porter was Chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee. Not too friendly, either. He called a hearing at once. It was held during Passover week. Then came the blazing sparks. The honors in that hearing were carried off by non-Jews, Congressmen Bourke Cochrane and Cooper of Wisconsin. For the anti-Zionists appeared Rabbis David Philipson, Calish and Isaac Landman, two New York Arabs and a Yale University professor, a Christian.

To Washington had come for the Zionists Louis Lipsky, Abraham Goldberg, Stone, Rabbi Morris Lazaron and Harry T. Kellman of Baltimore and several others.

The night before the hearings were to start, the Zionists were shaky. Sokolow and Vladimir Jabotinsky, who were then in New York on a fund-raising mission, sent a wire to Washington: "Withdraw the resolution, cannot risk the Jewish future." Or words to that effect. But since they had started, Lipsky, Stone and the others felt that they could not withdraw. It was dangerous both ways.

Zionists throughout the country responded in excellent style. They were asked to send letters to Congressmen and Senators. A deluge followed. In fact, at one of the hearings, Congressman turned to a Zionist speaker and implored: "Please call them off with their telegrams, letters and telephone calls. I'm being swamped. My office can't handle all the messages. I'm with you anyhow. No need to convince me with more appeals."

It was thought that Rabbi Stephen Wise would do much at the hearings to offset Philipson and the other Clergymen. But Wise declined. He was opposed to the introduction of the resolution. Thought it contained dynamite. But offered to do anything he could to help. Judge Julian Mack made the same reply.

Those hearings were dramatic, electric. For example when Max Rhoades, of Washington, yelled "Traitor." He was quite a young fellow then, sitting in the rear of the small committee room. His epithet was addressed to Rabbi Isaac Landman, who held the floor. The room was startled. Porter was shocked. He suggested that the interruption be stricken from the record. But Rabbi Landman insisted that it go in. Rhoades was ordered out.

Or when Bourke Cochrane, affable, wise, was cross-examining Rabbi Philipson of Cincinnati. "Do you believe in the Bible, Rabbi?"

"Why.....why.....yes," came the hesitant, querulous reply.

"Doesn't the Bible say that God made a covenant with the children of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob whereby they would inherit Palestine?"

"Oh, well, you take the Bible too literally," Philipson petulant returned.

The hearings were brisk. The defense of the Zionists was brilliant. The help of the Congressmen was enormous. The resolution passed in this form:

"Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled. That the United States favors the establishment in Palestine of a national home for the Jewish people, it being clearly understood that nothing shall be done which may prejudice the civil and religious rights of Christian and all other non-Jewish communities in Palestine, and that the holy places and religious buildings and sites in Palestine shall be adequately protected."

Weizmann later declared that this resolution was more influential than any other factor in contributing to the ratification of the League Mandate. And to this day, the United States is the only government in the world as a government which has given its sanction to the Jewish National Home. Even the Balfour Declaration itself is not a parliamentary act. The approval by other governments

was in the form of personal statements by the heads of the States. America alone gave to its sanction the binding character of an entire people's approval.



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File:
"Pre-1941"

UNITED STATES SENATE
Committee on Interstate Commerce

Montgomery, Ala.
October 17, 1938.

Mr. I. Bauman
Secretary
Congregation, Agudath Israel
Montgomery, Alabama.

My dear Bauman:

I am in receipt of your telegram of the 15th
and am always happy to hear from you.

In reply thereto, permit me to say that while I
was in Washington last week I contacted the President and
the Department of State with reference to their interceding
with Great Britain in an effort to keep open the door in
Palestine to the Jewish people. I assure you this was a
pleasure and I hope you will never hesitate to call on me in
anyway at any time.

With all good wishes to you and the Congregation,
I am,

Sincerely your friend

(Signed) Lister Hill

THE WHITE HOUSE
HYDE PARK NEW YORK
October 19, 1938.

File:
"PR-1941"

My dear Senator Tydings:

I fully appreciate the concern expressed by you in your letter of October 14, 1938, regarding the Palestine situation. I have on numerous occasions, as you know, expressed my sympathy in the establishment of a National Home for the Jews in Palestine and, despite the setbacks caused by the disorders there during the last few years, I have been heartened by the progress which has been made and by the remarkable accomplishments of the Jewish settlers in that country.

As I have had occasion to inform a number of Members of Congress within the past few days, we have kept constantly before the British Government, through our Ambassador in London, the interest which the American people have in Palestine and I have every reason to believe that that Government is fully cognizant of public opinion on the matter in this country. We were assured, in the discussions which took place in London a little more than a year ago, that the British Government would keep us fully informed of any proposals which it might make to the Council of the League of Nations for the modification of the Palestine Mandate. We expect, therefore, to have the opportunity afforded us of communicating to the British Government our views with respect to any changes in the Mandate which may be proposed as a result of the forthcoming report of the Palestine Partition Commission. I understand, however, that under the terms of our convention with Great Britain regarding the Palestine Mandate we are unable to prevent modifications in the Mandate. The most we can do is to decline to accept as applicable to American interests any modifications affecting such interests unless we have given our assent to them.

You may be sure that we shall continue to follow the situation with the closest attention.

Sincerely yours,

/s/ Franklin D. Roosevelt.

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File
"PR-1941"

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES
House of Representatives
Washington, D. C.

Troy, Alabama
October 27, 1938

Mr. I. Bauman, Secretary
Congregation Agudath Israel
Montgomery, Alabama

My dear Mr. Bauman:

With further reference to my letter of the
fifteenth, enclosed is a letter from the President regarding
the Palestine problem, which is self-explanatory.

I was glad to take the matter up with the
President for you, and please call on me any time I may be
of service or any of our friends.

With kindest personal regards, I am

Sincerely yours,

(Signed) George Grant

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THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

October 25, 1938

My dear Mr. Grant:

I fully appreciate the interest expressed in your letter of October 18, 1938 with regard to the Palestine problem. I have on numerous occasions, as you know, manifested my sympathy in the establishment of a National Home for the Jews in Palestine and, notwithstanding all the difficulties incident to the achievement of that objective, I have been heartened by the progress which has been made, and by the remarkable accomplishments of the Jewish settlers, in that country.

As I have had occasion to inform a number of the Members of Congress these last few days, we have kept constantly before the British Government, through our Ambassador in London, the interest which the American people have in Palestine and I have every reason to believe that that Government is fully cognizant of public opinion on the matter in this country. We were assured, in the discussions which took place in London a little more than a year ago, that the British Government would keep us fully informed of any proposals which it might make to the Council of the League of Nations for the modification of the Palestine Mandate. We expect, therefore, to have the opportunity afforded us of communicating to the British Government our views with respect to any changes in the Mandate which may be proposed as a result of the forthcoming report of the Palestine Partition Commission. I understand, however, that under the terms of our convention with Great Britain regarding the Palestine Mandate we are unable to prevent modifications in the Mandate. The most we can do is to decline to accept as applicable to American interests any modifications affecting such interests unless we have given our assent to them.

You may be sure that we shall continue to follow the situation with the closest attention.

Sincerely yours,

(Signed) Franklin D. Roosevelt

The Honorable
George Grant,
Troy, Alabama

File:
"Pre-1941"

36 W. 44 Street, Room 911
New York, N. Y.
March 4, 1940

Dr. Abba Hillel Silver
The Temple
Cleveland, O.

Dear *Abba*,
~~Dr. Silver~~

Thanks for your note with the interesting enclosure. The reference evidently is to my activities in the matter of Transjordan. Our friend never got over that. In this connection I am sending you a copy of the second memorandum which I prepared at the request of L.D.B. regarding my Palestinian activities. It sheds some light, though little, also on this.

Our friend says that he has had no opportunity of seeing me since he has been here. Well, the fact is I sent him a rather cordial telegram from Cleveland. You will recall I was there the day he arrived in America. To this telegram I received later the usual formal acknowledgment. Shortly after my return to New York I made one or two attempts to communicate with him by 'phone. Once I spoke to one of his secretaries, Mr. Cohen, and on another occasion with another. I simply left word I had 'phoned and desired to pay my respects to him and I would be glad to come in to see him at any time, if he should so desire. Since I heard nothing further, I naturally did nothing more.

Many thanks. If and when you are in New York I would like to see you again. Perhaps you may be able to spend ~~the~~ ^{some} time with us at home.

Have you read the memorandum yet - the first one? If not, please do and let me have your reaction. I am particularly desirous of knowing whether you ~~think~~ the ideas contained therein, arranged and expressed somewhat differently, would appeal to a wider circle.

With kindest regards, I am

Cordially yours,

Samuel

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