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National Conference for Palestine, 1941.

U. P. A. REPORT

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National Conference for Palestine Will Be Held January 25-26 at Hotel Willard, Washington, D. C.

Midwest Meets in Chicago, December 14-15

Recognizing that the Jews, as a people, are making their most significant contribution to the successful outcome of the present struggle against Hitlerism through the valiant efforts of Palestine Jewry, hundreds of community leaders in the states of Michigan, Indiana, Illinois, and Wisconsin will meet at the Palmer House, Chicago, on Saturday evening, December 14, and Sunday, December 15, for the Midwest Conference of the United Palestine Appeal.

Mr. Benjamin R. Harris, Chicago industrial leader, is chairman of the Conference Committee which has arranged impressive agenda, including reports on the present status of Palestine and also interpretations of the events that have been front-page news in recent weeks.

Goldman, Angell Speaking

Dr. Solomon Goldman, national co-chairman of the United Palestine Appeal, who has been closely associated with Mr. Harris in the planning of the conference, will be the principal speaker at the opening session of the conference on Saturday evening, December 14, together with Sir Norman Angell, brilliant writer, lecturer and Nobel Peace Prize winner, well known for his accurate predictions on international affairs.

Mr. James G. McDonald, Chairman of President Roosevelt's Advisory Committee on Political Refugees, will be another of the distinguished speakers, as will Dr. Nahum Goldmann, member of the Jewish Agency Executive, formerly of Geneva, and Kurt Blumenfeld, of Palestine, Director of the Palestine Foundation Fund. Others who will participate include Henry Montor, executive director of the United Palestine Appeal; Daniel Frisch, of Indianapolis; Simon Shetzer, of Detroit; and Nathan M. Stein, president of the Milwaukee Welfare Fund.

Pittsburgh Leader Named U.P.A. Treasurer

Charles J. Rosenbloom, one of America's foremost Jewish philanthropists, and outstanding communal and business leader of Pittsburgh, was named treasurer of the United Palestine Appeal by the Administrative Committee at a meeting on November 13. The associate treasurers are Abraham L. Liebovitz and Jacob Sincoff, prominent New York businessmen, active for many years in Palestine fund-raising.

Mr. Rosenbloom, who succeeds the late Arthur M. Lamport, is identified with every sphere of general civic and Jewish interest. He is treasurer of the Pittsburgh United Jewish Fund; president of the Board of Directors of the Federation of Jewish Philanthropies; president of the Hebrew Institute; president of the Tree of Life Congregation; member of: Board of Governors



Charles J. Rosenbloom

of Hebrew University, executive committee of United Jewish Appeal, Board of Directors of the Council of Jewish Federations and Welfare Funds, Board of Trustees of Carnegie Institute and Carnegie Institute of Technology, and the Pittsburgh Symphony Society.

Dr. Silver Calls for Mobilization of American-Jewish Leadership as Token of Comradeship with Yishuv

American-Jewish leadership in every section of the land was called upon this week by Dr. Abba Hillel Silver, National Chairman of the United Palestine Appeal, to mobilize in Washington, D. C., on January 25 and 26, 1941, in an impressive demonstration of encouragement and support for the Jewish community in Palestine through the sessions of the National Conference for Palestine.

CALLS CONFERENCE



Dr. Abba Hillel Silver

Officers of United Jewish Appeal campaigns, leaders of Welfare Funds, outstanding contributors and workers in the 1940 fund-raising effort are among those being invited to participate in a conference of unprecedented significance in determining the extent to which the war-shadowed Yishuv may count upon the five million Jews of America to sustain their morale and their resources in this most critical period in Jewish life.

To Review Yishuv's Work

Acknowledged as the most impressive gathering of the year of American Jews concerned with the upbuilding of the Jewish National Home, the National Conference will hear from a series of distinguished speakers a factual and analytical review of accomplishments in Palestine during the past year and of prospects that lie immediately ahead. The dominant theme is expected to be the rôle that Palestine Jewry is now playing in its stand by the side of Great Britain as the largest Jewish community in the world engaged in that task.

The method by which the United Palestine Appeal is to conduct the 1941 fund-raising program on behalf of the Palestine Foundation Fund and the Jewish National Fund will be announced at the Washington conference.

With virtually all of continental Europe a Nazi stronghold, and the consequent elimination of support for Palestine upbuilding; with the rest of the world gravely affected by war and its repercussions, it is to American Jewry pri-

Jewish Agency Spurs Flying Instruction

Typical of the broad range of its activities is the stimulus which the Jewish Agency for Palestine is now giving to the extension of flying instruction for young Jews. The Aviron Company, which is affiliated with the Jewish Agency Executive, has just opened branch offices in Jerusalem with the assistance of the Palestine Foundation Fund.

Forty pilots have already graduated from the Aviron Flying School and have received their certificates from the Government Department of Civil Aviation. Additional airplanes have been ordered for the school, which now is working with eleven. There is a cost of about \$400 in training each pilot in a course lasting three months. The gliding section of the school has 15 machines, some of them made by the members of the Aviron Flying Club.

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ON THE THRESHOLD OF 1941

What are the tasks to which American Jews are summoned in order to strengthen the Jewish National Home in the coming months? This article of review at the close of 1940, taking its starting point from the ill-fated Patria, stresses the highlights.

RECENTLY 1,903 Jewish refugees from Central Europe, 1,771 of whom had arrived in Palestine without immigration certificates on the battered hulks *Pacific* and *Mylos*, were placed aboard the ship *Patria* in Haifa harbor and prepared for deportation. Just before their craft was to weigh anchor, an explosion in the hold tore the vessel apart. Most of the passengers were on deck undergoing inspection at the time, so that casualties were comparatively few. At the moment of writing, some 1,592 men, women and children—uninjured survivors—are in the internment camp at Athlit. If precedent is followed they will soon be released into the custody of the Jewish Agency and their support will become the responsibility of that body, which receives its funds from the United States through the United Palestine Appeal. The remaining immigrants—most of whom are not seriously injured—will likewise become a charge of the Jewish Agency until their integration within Palestine's economy is effected.

* * *

RESPONSIBLE leaders of American Jewry are enabled to draw certain conclusions from the episode of the *Patria* which should be valuable in rounding out the entire picture of the current situation in Palestine. These facts stand out:

(1) The pressure upon Jews for emigration from Europe has reached a new intensity. By tortuous routes, on the most unseaworthy of craft, under the most unspeakable conditions of overcrowding, Jews from every land where Nazi rule or Nazi philosophy holds sway are forcing their way, by sheer weight of necessity, out of torment and persecution to freedom. By the thousands they make long overland journeys to harbor cities or river ports. There they literally roam the docks until they find a captain willing to take them—at any price—to Palestine. Soon the word spreads that a new opportunity for escape has come, and all who are near grasp at this final hope of rescue.

(2) The voyages of the *Pacific* and the *Mylos* are not isolated cases. There are other ships with additional refugees on the way to

Palestine. The hazards of these journeys—the chaos sweeping the Balkan countries through which the refugees must pass, plus the perils of wartime which lurk before all shipping—do not obscure the fact that immigration routes are still open.

Immigration Lanes Open

(3) The fact that non-certificated immigrants like those on the *Pacific* and the *Mylos* find their way to Palestine by the thousands emphasizes the corollary that certificated, or so-called "legal," immigration is proceeding without interruption. There are today some 7,500 certified immigrants, their credentials issued by the Jewish Agency and approved by the British Government, en route to Palestine from various lands of Europe. The entry of 24,000 refugees during the first year of the war, even after the belligerency of Italy had presumably closed the Mediterranean to shipping, is itself proof that channels of escape are open, and—for certificated migrants—comparatively free.

(4) A nationwide upsurge of joy was the reaction of Palestine Jewry to the admission of the passengers of the submerged *Patria*. The Yishuv is ready, willing, and eager to welcome newcomers by the hundreds and the thousands. Every boatload of the castaways of Hitler's Europe is a source of strength to the democratic bastion which is Palestine today. Penniless, hungry and worn though they are, the new arrivals bring strong hands and glad hearts to the task of upbuilding the one land in which Jews are wanted and Jews are needed.

* * *

AS 1941 approaches, the United Palestine Appeal desires to take counsel with representative Jews active in communal life, better to map out the tasks and the opportunities for constructive action which will mark the months ahead. For this purpose a National Conference will be held at Washington, D. C., on January 25 and 26, 1941. American Jewry, faced with the collapse of the continent of Europe as a center of creative Jewish life, finds itself practically alone in determining the degree of support which shall

ON GUARD



A Jewish soldier in the Czech Legion in Palestine

be forthcoming to the heroically self-sacrificing community in Palestine. It is therefore most appropriate that a general survey be made regarding not only the accomplishments which the Yishuv has carried through in a year of war, but also the requirements for enlarged economic and cultural development in the year to come.

The three essentials for 1941—defense, self-sufficiency, and continued upbuilding—are all facets of the same all-embracing problem growing out of the war: the problem of buttressing Palestine as a vital outpost of resurrected Jewish life and a citadel of defense against attack by the Axis.

Already nearly 6,000 Jews have joined the British forces and are active in all branches of the service. The Jewish Agency is continuing to press its demand for the right to mobilize a Jewish army with which to protect Palestine against any eventuality, and it is fully anticipated that substantial enlargement will soon be made of the Jewish units now forming part of the British army. The national registration of 135,000 Jews conducted by the Jewish Agency at the outbreak of the war, plus the new immigrants who are eager to join in the struggle against Hitlerism, which is the common cause of all democratic forces throughout the world, represent a vast reservoir of potential manpower upon which the government can draw in building a strong Palestinian army to serve in the crucial Near Eastern zone.

The present war, more than any other in history, is a war of entire economies and not of guns alone. Therefore, whatever bolsters the

economic position of Palestine also improves its defensive position. The constriction of international markets, the shortage of commercial shipping, and the increased dependence of all nations upon local production, all testify to the soundness of the policy which has characterized the upbuilding effort conducted by the twin arms of the United Palestine Appeal during the past two decades, the policy of actively encouraging a native Jewish agriculture and a strong Jewish industry.

Agriculture Vital

Today, with 137,000 Jews out of the population of 500,000 directly dependent upon farming for their livelihood, the relation of agriculture to the position of the nation as a whole assumes a new importance. The extension of farm production for more food is a primary necessity. Substantial progress toward this end has been achieved. The country's production of wheat has now exceeded domestic requirements, having reached the figure of 150,000 tons against consumption of 144,000. Vegetable production is rising sharply, with area planted to vegetables now five times the acreage devoted to truck gardening only three years ago. Milk and egg production has moved sharply upward, and consumption of eggs continues high, although imports, formerly representing half of the Yishuv's needs, have now practically disappeared.

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PLANS of the Palestine Foundation Fund for the coming months call for the establishment

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Palestine Jewry Produces New "Pioneers"

In Palestine the word "Pioneer" has had a special significance for the last fifty years. It always brought to mind one of the new Jewish settlers on the land, sometimes tall, usually bearded, always bronzed and brawny—a man looking very much like the plainsman who trekked across America in covered wagons during the last century, yet with a certain added spirituality coming from his longing to help build the new Zion.

The word "Pioneer" now bears a different meaning. It now means one of the young fellows who enlisted in the "Auxiliary Military Pioneer Corps" at the beginning of the year and who were sent out to France. Their duties consisted of all kinds of labor, trench-digging, etc. They were not expected to do actual fighting. However, when the British retreated from France, these "Pioneers" were among the rearguard, taking ship for England at St. Malo in Brittany. So bravely had they acted in the emergency that they were specially cited and were granted the right to bear arms, which means they are now full-fledged soldiers.

The "Pioneers" have returned to Palestine. The great majority of the Corps are Jews. Their stay in Europe and England has toughened them and broadened them. They no longer look like carefree boys, as most of them did when they left. Recently they returned to their homes for a fortnight's leave, celebrating the furlough with their communities and families.

They were undoubtedly happy to be home. Sons made their mothers' eyes shine. Out on the farm it was a pleasure to go about one's regular farming duties again, establishing friendly relations with the new live stock, lambs, kids, calves, or just chickens. Young fathers going on walks wanted their kiddies closer at hand, so up the little ones went on the shoulders of their daddies. Young boys breathlessly asked details of army life of their older brothers or uncles. In the kvutzh less fuss was made as a rule; the homecomer was made at ease with a minimum of demonstration and a maximum of quiet affection. In the synagogues the "Pioneers" were heroes of the hour, being called up to the Torah to say the "Gomel" blessing, recited by those who have been in danger and are safely delivered therefrom.

They have now gone back to their camps.

THE BOYS COME HOME ON FURLOUGH



Some 6,000 Palestine Jews now serve with the British forces in the Middle East. These furlough scenes show, left column, top to bottom: Wife and child proudly accompany father; feeding the new calf; father reviews son's progress. Right column, top to bottom: A festive welcome to a young "Pioneer"; this father and son are both in the Corps—they spend their holiday studying maps; the kvutzh celebrates the return of one of its members; a "Pioneer" recites: "And this is the Law that the Lord gave by the hand of Moses. . . ."

ON THE THRESHOLD OF 1941

(Continued from page 2)

of 15 additional colonies and the expansion of the rôle of the 257 present settlements in speeding the growth of food.

The extension of agriculture under the direction of the Palestine Foundation Fund — which, during the fiscal year ending September 30, 1940, represented more than one-third of its budget—goes hand in hand with the program of land purchase now being actively pursued by the Jewish National Fund. During the past year the Jewish National Fund, which carries on purchase of 85 per cent of all land now sold to Jews, obtained more than 40,000 dunams, or 10,000 acres, in scattered sections of the country. Continuance of land-buying is essential not only for food but for improvement and consolidation of the Jewish position within Palestine.

There are today, even after a recent upswing in employment, 12,000 individuals in Palestine who are out of work. Many of the thousands of recent refugees who have not yet found productive tasks in the farms or in the cities are the recipients of relief. The Vaad Leumi, with the help of the Jewish Agency, is carrying on a feeding program for 30,000 people daily in the major cities, and, in addition, is feeding 5,000 school children a day. Its average monthly relief budget during the past several months has called for aid of some 60,000 persons.

To American-Jewish leadership in the coming months will be entrusted the truly critical task of transferring through the United Palestine Appeal the more bountiful measure of assistance which can be our most effective means of sustaining and enlarging the capacity of Palestine Jewry to meet the trials which 1941 will bring.

NATIONAL CONFERENCE

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marily that the Yishuv looks—to hold firmly to the structure already erected and to enlarge it for the thousands who continue to stream into the country.

The sessions of the conference will officially open on Saturday evening, January 25, at the Hotel Willard, Washington, D. C., but will be preceded by an Oneg Shabbat on Saturday afternoon. Seminars on specific subjects and committee meetings will be held on Sunday morning, January 26. There will then follow a luncheon session and an afternoon meeting, to be concluded with a banquet in the evening.

NEW HORIZONS IN FARMING

The Story of an Experiment at Rehoboth

Rehoboth, Palestine.

Palestine is seeing the rebirth of the Jewish peasant farmer through the skill of the Jewish Agency's Agricultural Research Station at Rehoboth.

I was shown over the model farm which was created as a result of experiments to determine the smallest economic unit for settling a Jewish family on the land. These experiments, always of vital importance, have taken on a new significance in the light of the land restrictions. Obviously, the smaller the unit, the more people can be settled on the limited amount of land available.

The model farm at Rehoboth is a mixed farm covering an area of 20 dunams. Three dunams are planted with fruit trees, and cereal and fodder crops cover another 15 dunams. Three cows are kept, and the number of poultry is limited to about 60.

The farm is calculated to support the average family of four or five people, of whom two, the farmer and his wife, are working. They live in a small two-roomed house of white concrete. At the back of the house they have a vegetable garden, a strawberry bed, and some experimental petango trees. The farmer was an immigrant who knew nothing of agriculture when he started, and he has been guided by an adviser from the experimental station.

The capital required to start the farm is approximately £600. The net income from the farm averages £60 cash a year, over and above all living expenses, repairs and depreciation, etc. Thus the establishment of such a farm is a practical and economic proposition with the aid of a medium-term loan at a low rate of interest.

Five-Acre Farm

In working the farm, common sense and ingenuity are relied upon rather than elaborate mechanical methods. Mechanization is costly and unnecessary in an intensively farmed agricultural unit. The farmer uses a donkey instead of a tractor for ploughing. His chicken houses are simply constructed of wood and wire, instead of looking like small concrete villas. This allows them to be moved in case of an attack of bugs or tick, and saves the cost of fumigation. Portable fences for the chicken yard are another simple but useful device. The whole enclosure can be transferred to the fields to let the chickens root

about in the stubble after the harvest. Everything on the farm is made use of wherever possible. Cattle manure is collected in a special compartment in the cowshed. Between the rows of fruit trees, a fodder crop is planted, which, besides providing additional cattle food, helps to preserve the soil of the groves. The variety of crops has been extended so that it now includes 13 different kinds which are planted in a six-year rotation.

Many future settlements will be planned according to the pattern of the Rehoboth model farm. The experimental station is, however, not concerned only with the future but with the replanning of existing settlements in the light of painfully gained experience. Numerous settlements have been found to be financially burdened through the purchase of overelaborate equipment. The station helps them to reconstruct their economy on a sounder basis.

In another part of the station I saw several experiments dealing with the substitution of sugar of oranges for sulphuric acid in production of cattle food—important for Palestine economy. R.H.S.

Ten Jewish Fishing Villages Report Growth

Under the auspices of the Maritime Department of the Jewish Agency Executive, there are now ten Jewish fishing villages, apart from Keren Hayesod settlements in the Emek Jezreel and Beisan areas, where carp breeding is carried on in large ponds, it is disclosed in a report of progress made by the Jewish fishing industry in Palestine in 1940.

At Mulata, for example, near Yessod Hamaaleh, northern Palestine, there are fifty young men and women engaged in all branches of fishing. With the aid of the Jewish Agency, they have started breeding carp in the Sea of Meron with satisfactory results. Six tons of fish are now caught monthly in Meron. Ten thousand carp were put into the sea as an experiment, and were followed by 200,000 others.

Deep-sea fishing in the Mediterranean proceeds by night, and the new Jewish vessels have been going out to some distance. In 1940, Palestine Jews have caught about three times as many tons of fish as in 1939. In addition to the special villages, Tel Aviv itself has become a busy fishing center.



Modern overhead irrigation at Rehoboth Agricultural Station



Daniel Sieff Chemical Research Institute at Rehoboth