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A reply and indictment, 1946.

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THE New Palestine

NEWS REPORTER ISSUE

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ZOA Victorious In Congress Elections

With 95 per cent of the vote counted, the results of the elections of American delegates to the World Zionist Congress are as follows:

ZOA	63,377
Poale Zion	45,886
Mizrachi	27,925
Revisionists	7,360
Hadassah	45,709

There are yet some 12,000 votes to be tabulated by the U. S. Central Shekel and Election Board. It is not expected that the apportionment of these final votes will materially alter the results.

The Battle of Haifa

The gallant British Navy and the mighty land and air forces of the British Army concentrated in and around Palestine, have closed in on the "enemy" and scored a decisive victory in a battle with pregnant women, babes in arms and other groups of survivors of Nazi concentration camps who tried to reach a haven in the homeland which was promised them by Great Britain and the nations of the world. This battle which was fought out in Haifa harbor was officially described under the term "Operation Igloo" in a war dispatch issued by the Chief of Staff of the First Infantry Division in Haifa. The astounding dispatch, reminiscent of war communiqués issued from front lines in the last war during bloody battles in the western and eastern theatres reads as follows:

His Majesty's Government has announced its intention of allowing no further illegal immigrants to land in Palestine. A statement to this effect was made at 3:30 this morning, August 13th.

In accordance with this policy, the First Infantry Division initiating Operation Igloo at 4:45, Aug. 13th, to transfer to Cyprus recent arrivals who were arrested by the Royal Navy on board the two vessels Meshek Yagour and Henrietta Szold.

Representatives of the Jewish Agency were informed of the operation by Brig. P. St. Clair-Ford, commanding the First Infantry Division in the presence of the District Commissioner of Haifa and were asked to give their cooperation.

Inside the Haifa harbor area was at least a full division of troops, equipped with light and heavy equipment, in battle order. All work in the harbor was stopped and no civilians were allowed inside except press correspondents.

Against what sinister power was the gallant fleet and the British army concentrated? Was it against well-armed and well-trained troops of an enemy country which threatened to invade England? Were the armored divisions and the big British battleships lined up to fight against divisions and fleet units of another enemy country?

The British navy and army scored a victory and repulsed 1,300 men, women and children who dared to risk their lives and undergo untold privations to reach the shores of the Jewish National Homeland, to find a bit of happiness and the right to exist as human beings in this era of so-called peace and justice. Three Jews, including an 18-year-old girl, were killed and nine seriously wounded including a 14-year-old boy, in the great battle which the British military forces in Palestine waged so successfully under "Operation Igloo" against the dangerous "enemy".

Subdued by brutal force, 1,500 Jewish refugees were dragged into wire cages on other prison vessels and under escort of the British Navy sent to Cyprus and herded into concentration camps there.

According to a dispatch by the United Press, "the Royal Navy, sea division of the Palestine police and probably eight regiments of troops were guarding all the land and sea approaches to Haifa." These forces in battle formation, were all set to repulse the "enemy".

What a travesty of the principle of brotherhood of man, equality and justice, on which the so-called labor-socialist British government was elected! We cannot believe that the British people, if and when apprised of the true facts, can remain silent in the face of such outrages on the part of Attlee and Bevin. It is the intention of Attlee and Bevin to break the spirit of the Yishuv, to destroy its positions which have been built up with so much sweat and labor, to prevent the surviving remnants of our people from reaching their promised homeland — but they will not succeed. The spirit of the Yishuv will never be broken and Jewish immigration into Palestine will never be stopped!

Convention Set For Atlantic City On October 25

MEMBERSHIP 190,000

The 49th annual convention of the Zionist Organization of America will convene in Atlantic City beginning October 25th according to a decision passed at the last meeting of the National Executive presided over by Dr. Abba Hillel Silver.

Preceding exactly by one month the opening of the World Zionist Congress in Switzerland, the forthcoming convention will be truly the most significant and decisive in the history of American Jewry. With the ZOA sending the largest single delegation to the World Zionist Congress headed by Dr. Silver, the proceedings and decisions of the convention will assume historic importance as they will reflect the stand of American Zionists toward the great issues that will confront the World Congress.

The ZOA will come to its convention with a record-breaking membership. As this issue goes to press, the ZOA membership has reached a new high exceeding 190,000 which includes 52,000 newly enrolled members.

This total would have been even larger but for the fact that for practically three months, the entire ZOA personnel and resources were concentrated upon the shekel and election efforts. These efforts are responsible for the overwhelming success of the ZOA slate in the election of American delegates to the Congress.

Nationwide Effort

In order that the forthcoming convention shall represent the greatest possible organized Zionist constituency, the ZOA has launched an intensive nationwide effort to enroll additional thousands of new members within its ranks. An urgent call has been addressed by Dr. Silver to all regional and district presidents and key workers asking them to exert every effort to place in good standing all delinquent members for the current fiscal year which ends with Rosh Hashanah, and to enlist large numbers of new members.

Under the direction of Dr. Sidney Marks, executive director, and Yale Goldberg, national membership director, plans have been mapped for carrying out a special campaign effort through the month of September. During the High Holy Days, arrangements are being made to have membership applications placed on the seats in synagogues and for rabbis in hundreds of communities to speak from the pulpit on the need of mobilizing maximum

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A REPLY AND INDICTMENT

Statement by Dr. Silver

Dr. Abba Hillel Silver, Chairman of the Executive Committee of the American Zionist Emergency Council, which speaks for the entire Zionist movement in the United States, issued the following detailed comment on the British Government's official statement announcing the halting of Jewish immigration to Palestine.

(1) The British Government, seemingly intent on demonstrating that it will stop at no measure of suppression — however extreme and costly — in its current war against the helpless Jewish survivors of Europe, has now begun to deport to the Island of Cyprus and elsewhere those Jewish refugees who have succeeding in reaching Palestine. At the same time Britain has mobilized its fleet and air force in the Mediterranean and great numbers of troops in Palestine to blockade the Palestine coast against the entry of these remnants of European Jewry.

What a glorious page in British military history is now being written by these men and ships and guns whose mission it is to close the gates of the Jewish National Home against the despairing survivors of the Nazi holocaust!

(2) It behooves us to point out to the British Government that the arrival of these boatloads of refugees at Palestine is a direct consequence of the policy of delay pursued by the British Government on President Truman's year-old request for the immediate admission of 100,000 Jewish refugees into Palestine. The Jews of Europe cannot and will not remain on the scene of their degradation and suffering. They are willing to take every conceivable risk and undergo any hardship to reach Palestine, which to them spells salvation.

We must warn that if Britain continues to deport these refugees, unprecedented catastrophes reminiscent of the tragedies of the Patria and the Struma are inevitable.

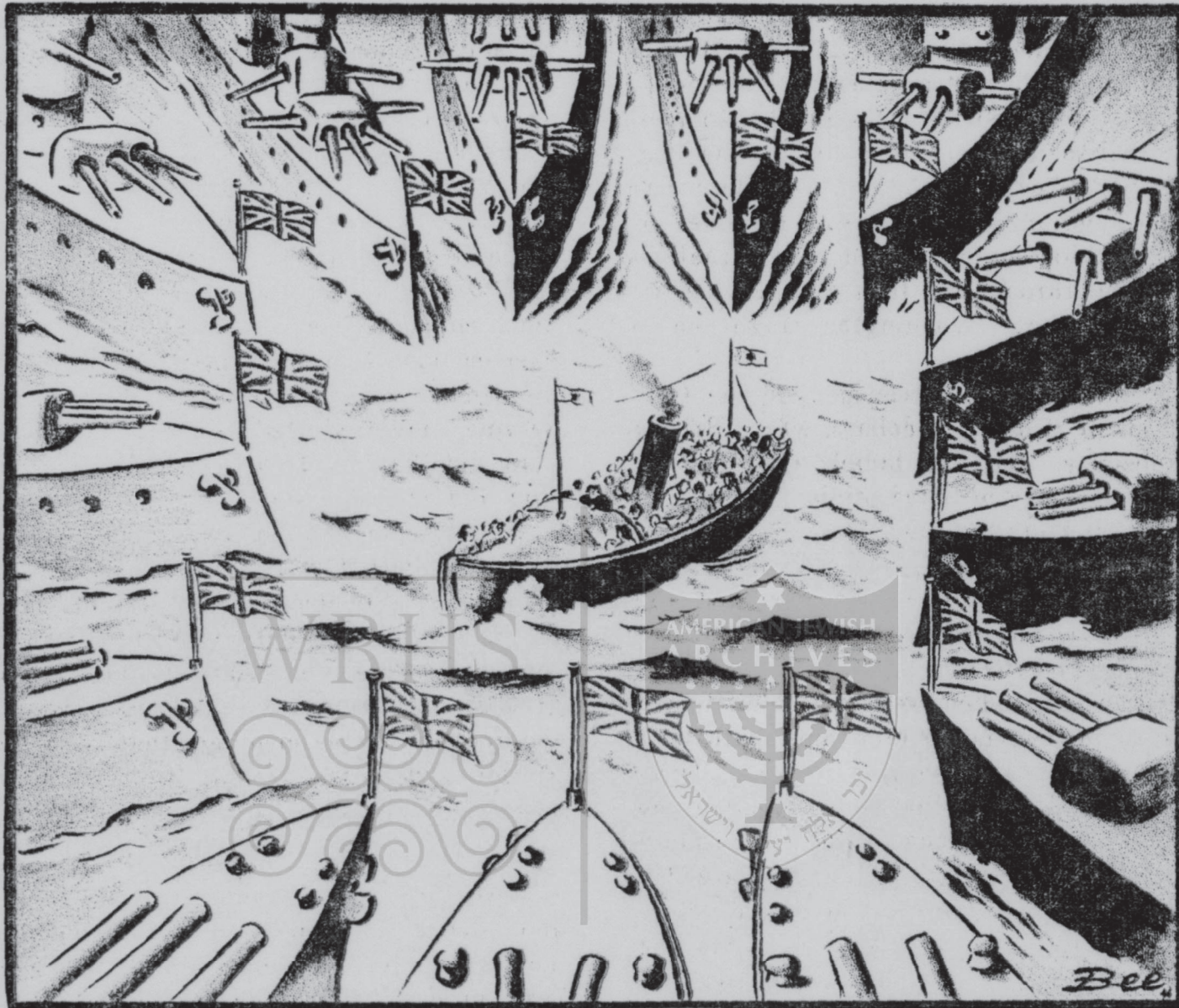
Hyprocritical Excuses

(3) The British Government's official statement on the halting of the Jewish immigration to Palestine is a document exceptional in its hypocrisy. Its repeated protestations of "friendship" for the Jewish people, while in fact condemning these victims of Hitler to linger in a condition which is neither death nor life, are morally offensive.

The statement of the British Government points up the fact that "it was under the British Mandate that nearly 500,000 Jews settled legally in Palestine, where a great Jewish community now exists." The Jewish people will never forget that it was a British

Government which was responsible for the Balfour Declaration, which promised the reconstruction of the Jewish National Home in Palestine. But its bitterness is the greater that the successors of men like Balfour and Lloyd George should drag this noble conception in the dust and seek now to destroy even what the Jews have already achieved in Palestine in the face of every difficulty and discouragement placed in their way by a hostile Colonial Administration. And at a time when the Jews of Europe

now have us believe that the military campaign of General Montgomery in Africa was designed to protect the Jewish community of Palestine against the Nazis and that the interests of the British Empire were perhaps merely incidental at the time. Inasmuch as the memory of British officialdom has proved remarkably short on the true facts of that campaign and on Jewish Palestine's participation in it, we take the liberty of pointing out that the British assertion that "the Jews in Palestine were given arms



Closing in on the "enemy"

were meeting horrible death in the Nazi extermination camp and ghettos, and when many thousands — perhaps millions — could have been saved if they had been permitted to emigrate to Palestine, the British Government kept the doors of the Jewish national homeland sealed to all but a trickle of Jewish refugees.

This, then, was how Britain "mitigated the lot" of European Jewry. The one avenue of escape for the Nazis' Jewish victims was closed to them. Under the circumstances, Britain's current efforts to represent herself as a friend and rescuer of the Jews is little less than revolting.

(4) "When it (Palestine) was threatened with Nazi invasion — a terrible threat to the Palestine Jews" — the British statement continues — "British arms prevented that dread possibility."

British Hindrances

It would almost seem that the British Government would

so that they might be equipped for their own defense... and to enable them to take a part in the common struggle" is one of those half-truths which conceals far more than it reveals. For years the Jews in Palestine begged to be allowed to play a full part in the fight against the Nazi enemy. If, in the end, they sent their young men and women by the thousands to fight and die on the battlefields of the world, it was despite many hindrances and discouragements placed in their way by the British Administration and British officialdom in Palestine.

We have learned enough about the British Government's behavior not to expect any expression of gratitude to the Jews of Palestine for helping to save a crumbling British Empire, while the Arab nations waited to welcome the enemy with open arms — but the least one has a right to expect in the circumstances is that the British Government would not now represent itself in the role of the altru-

istic savior of Jewish Palestine.

Illegal Document

(5) As a further indication of its great-hearted "benevolence," the British Government points to the fact that after the quota of 75,000 Jewish immigrants permitted to enter Palestine under the White Paper of 1939 was exhausted, His Majesty's Government authorized the continuation of Jewish immigration at the rate of 1,500 a month. The British statement fails to mention that the White Paper of 1939 was an illegal document, condemned as such by the Permanent Mandates Commission of the

of the Mandate granted her by the League of Nations, and that that Mandate provides for facilitating, not the exclusion, of Jewish immigration.

Shameless Brutality

(6) With unconscious humor, the British Government describes its Palestine policy, to date as one of "patience, forbearance and humanity." We wonder whether the miserable inmates of the Displaced Persons' Camps of Europe would subscribe to this British self-adulation. We wonder, too, whether the American people will accept these words at their face value, when the Empire which utters them is responsible for acts of shameless brutality which the world now witnesses.

"Patience, forbearance and humanity..." One need only recall the case of the Patria which carried a boatload of refugees to Palestine in the winter of 1940. When it became known that the British Government had refused them permission to land, the desperate people aboard scuttled the boat in the port of Haifa and several hundreds of their number lost their lives. Evidently the British Government intends to apply the same principles of "humanity" to those unfortunate Jewish refugees who are at this moment languishing on boats in Haifa harbor.

President Truman's humanitarian appeal of a year ago that 100,000 displaced European Jews be admitted into Palestine immediately was ignored by the British Labor Government. The Anglo-American Committee of Inquiry's recommendation that these 100,000 men, women and children — a fraction of those for whom it is now Palestine or death — be admitted to Palestine at once, was rejected. Instead the British Labor Government has instituted a long procedure of "consultations" on the question. Thus far, nothing has been done to save these people. Yet Britain takes pride in her "patience, forbearance and humanity."

Campaign of Defamation

(7) His Majesty's Government is "distressed to receive reports of persecution and pogroms against Jews in Eastern and South Eastern Europe." The extent of that distress may be inferred from the renewed campaign of defamation against the efforts of the helpless Jews to reach salvation and safety. These efforts are condemned as "illicit" and the attempts of men of good-will to aid them in reaching their destination as "unscrupulous" and "shameful."

(8) It is clear that Brit-

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