

PM

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Europe's Jews Prefer Palestine, Goldstein Says Conference Head Tells of Their Plight in Camps

Europe's displaced Jews in camps in Germany do not wish to return to their own countries, said Dr. Israel Goldstein of the American Jewish Conference, at a press conference yesterday.

"Seventy-five to 90 per cent make Palestine their first choice," he declared.

Lately returned, with Dr. Israel Lipsky and Meir Grossman, from Europe and consultations in London among the Conference, the Board of Deputies of British Jews and the World Jewish Congress, Goldstein said that the attitude of those in this country who relied upon the Human Rights clause in the San Francisco charter was unrealistic. He said the problem of 100,000 Jews in 20 camps in Germany was "desperate—a matter of today and tomorrow."

To Be Free

In Poland, for example, there had been pogroms; in other countries the return of Jewish property created difficulties. He said, "They want to go to Palestine, they want to be free."

The American Conference, he continued, looked to the Intergovernmental Committee for Refugees to make proposals. "But we think we know the answer . . . It is time to annul the White Paper (the British document which bars immigration to Palestine). The Jews in Germany are ready to leave at a moment's notice.

"It is up to the Labor Government of Britain to make good on the moral loss of the White Paper. We hope they will atone for the crime against justice and humanity.

Will Remember

Lipsky said: "In our view the Labor Government will not so quickly forget what it promised a few months ago."

As to the situation in Germany, Goldstein said he hoped AMG would recognize the problem of displaced persons as quite as important as any other problem. In Occupied Germany he had met many sympathetic commanding officers and others who regarded it as a headache. "I hope that the U. S. Government will reevaluate the personnel of officers having to do with displaced persons," he said.

The Conference welcomed the appointment of Chaplain Maj. Judah Nadich as special adviser to Gen. Eisenhower on Jewish affairs, and also the agreement by the War Dept. to the proposal that a six-man team—four members of the American Conference, and two of the World Congress—should proceed to Germany to investigate the situation and to encourage Jews in camps in the American zone. A similar scheme is in hand for the British zone.

The American Conference has made the suggestion that Jews should be gathered in all-Jewish camps, not only to avoid conflicts with anti-Semitic elements, sometimes terror, but also to promote cultural activity and reunion of families. It also proposed recreation, educational work and simply work which was not up to date provided. Another proposal was that villages or groups of houses should be provided in place of the camps which had connotations of terror for Jews in Germany.

Meir Grossman pointed out that one concern of the conferees in London was that liberated German Jews numbering some 10,000 to 15,000 people were still treated as Germans by the occupational authorities.

Reparations

The London conference had asked UNNRA to bring together those who desired to emigrate, to educate them and to enable emigration to Palestine.

It had been decided in principle to establish a financial instrument to deal with reparation claims by the Jewish people and to take care of deposits outside Axis countries to which there were no heirs.

Summarizing the results of the
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Jews Prefer Palestine

London conference, Lipsky said that what amounted to a "United Front"—with the fullest co-operation of the Jewish Agency of Palestine—upon the whole postwar program, a unified effort, co-ordinated primarily with UNRRA" had been set up.

The three organizations concerned—the American Jewish Conference, the Board of Deputies of British Jews, and the World Jewish Congress—have formed a joint committee which will set up secretariats in London and in New York.

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