Editorial

THE U. N. COMMISSION

Somewhat more than a month remains before the United Nations special committee on Palestine is to submit its report to the general assembly. The evidence it heard while taking testimony in Jerusalem was as deeply convincing as the testimony presented before the Anglo-American Committee of Inquiry. However, there was one factor which this committee could not have failed to notice—that the passage of time not only has not healed or alleviated the plight of the remaining Jews in Europe but that their situation is worsening from day to day.

Palestine and the Jewish situation in Europe cannot be separated into two distinct issues. While it is true that the ultimate political decision must rest on larger principles, it is indisputable that the immediate solution must rest on the thesis of saving Europe's remaining Jews from physical, cultural and spiritual decay. If the committee has an understanding of the problem, it must not fail to do what the Anglo-American committee did—visit the displaced persons camps for Jews in Europe and get an eye-witness impression of the Jewish situation.

Unfortunately there are indications that the U.N. group does not intend visiting Europe. To be sure, the facts of the Jewish tragedy are so well known that further data may not be needed to prove the Jewish contention for the transference of all, or most, of Europe's Jews to the Holy Land. But what the eye can see cannot be fathomed by the human mind from mere documents of facts and figures. For that reason alone the investigators ought to make an on-the-spot study while on the way to Switzerland, where they will make their final decision.

The commissions on Palestine have been plentiful and all of them failed because the mandatory either mocked them or utilized them as a tactic of delay and procrastination. Britain has given no indication of intention to abide by any ultimate United Nations decision. This is a disheartening omen, for if the masters of 10 Downing Street were even reasonably sure of a favorable decision, they would not have taken a course that is so patently violative of every concept of decency. Yet, there is no indication that the committee is inclined toward acceptance of the Jewish point of view, even the most moderate one.

The United States will, no doubt, be the determining factor in the ultimate United Nations decision on Palestine. But the situation is such that the matter cannot be left hanging on the thread of uncertainty. It is imperative that our government take cognizance of the traditional American attitude toward Palestine and that it restate the position in no uncertain terms. From all indications the U.N. committee is groping in the dark. A firm American reiteration of principle would dissolve the committee's doubts. Such a course would not prejudge the issue since the American position is an open book. American presidents since Wilson have all committed themselves on the Palestine question, and so have both major political parties. Silence at this late hour can only serve to nullify all past solemn pronouncements.

MASKED STERNIST EXPLAINS POLICY

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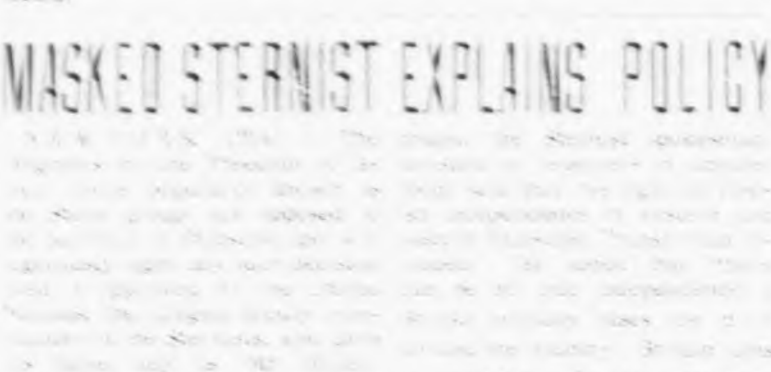

He's come of age

POLISH JEWS' LOT

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remain in the country and to participate in its development. No efforts will be spared by Jewish leaders to check emigration tendencies among Jews.

Another session of the Council heard the first anti-Jewish sentiments expressed officially in Poland since the end of the war by Deputy Ziegmunt Zulawski, a former leader of the Polish Socialists, who broke with the party and is the only "independent Socialist" member of parliament.

Criticizing the present regime, the aged Socialist also attacked the Jews. He said that "the Jews in Poland today are a privileged element" and blamed them for the anti-Semitic tendencies in the country, asserting that "anti-Semitism is a reaction to Jewish behavior." He particularly criticized the fact that "Jews are occupying high positions in government offices."

Prof. Joseph Sack, one of the Jewish deputies, replying to Zulawski's charges that the Jews received special treatment in the government budget, pointed out that the sum which the Jewish Central Committee receives from the government is less than one per cent of the committee's budget. Ninety-nine per cent of the budget, he asserted, is covered by Jewish contributions from abroad. "The largest part of our budget is being spent on constructive work which also serves the interests of the country," he added.

Another substantial development was the news that the Warsaw city council has voted a grant of $1,200,000 to the Jewish school system. The announcement highlights the rebirth of Jewish educational activity in Poland which has been progressing rapidly during the past year.

The education department of the Jewish Central Committee announced that the Yiddish Scientific Institute (YIVO) in America is preparing a series of Yiddish textbooks for use in Jewish schools in Poland. Spelling, history and geography books are included in this group.

Corporation Forms Here For Palestine Housing

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"Between You and Me"

By BORIS SMOLAR

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"M-PROJECT":

It can now be revealed that the late President Roosevelt had a "top secret" plan for securing the admission of displaced persons to the United States and other countries which was known as "M-Project" (for migration). . . The details of this plan are of special importance now that President Truman and the members of the Cabinet are attempting to impress Congress with the necessity of speedy action on legislation permitting the entrance of a substantial number of displaced persons to this country . . . Roosevelt had foreseen the DP problem as early as 1942 . . . He therefore established a special commission in the fall of that year to study the refugee problem and the possibilities of settling refugees in various countries . . . The work of the commission was financed from Roosevelt's unvouchered "Executive Emergency Fund" and the total cost of the commission's two years of research was about $180,000 . . . The group was headed by Dr. Isaiah Bowman, president of Johns Hopkins University . . . Dr. Henry Field, archeologist of the Field Museum of Chicago, was placed in immediate charge of "M-Project" . . . Dr. Robert Strausz-Hupe of the University of Pennsylvania acted as director . . . John Franklin Carter, diplomat, served as the President's confidential aide . . . Soon after the commission was formed, Dr. Field called me at my home, together with a member of his staff and confidentially discussed with me various aspects of the project which was at that time treated as a military secret . . . Some of the material gathered by the commission and the results of its two-year study are now buried in President Roosevelt's personal files . . . Other sections have been destroyed . . . In its report the commission emphasized that the United States—especially Alaska—Argentina, Brazil, Bolivia, Venezuela, Australia and Canada could easily absorb millions of refugees . . . Roosevelt was about to act on the body's recommendations when he died . . . One of the recommendations provided for the creation of an International Settlement Authority with sweeping powers over all refugee activities at an initial cost of $25,000,000 . . . Zionist leaders will be especially interested to learn that the members of the commission reported that the Negev, desert area of Palestine, could accommodate large numbers of Jewish refugees despite British and Arab protests to the contrary . . . On the other hand they found that the Dominican Republic was unable to absorb refugees although the government expressed a willingness to do so.

* * *

IMMIGRATION TRENDS:

President Truman is determined to convince Congress in more ways than one that immediate legislation for the admission of displaced persons to this country is desirable . . . His written appeal to Congress to this effect last week is only one of many steps in this direction . . . The American Jewish Conference has completed a survey which concludes that there is little hope that Central and South American countries will open their doors to Jewish immigrants . . . The survey found that Argentina is practically closed to Jews while the country has recently concluded a formal agreement with Italy to admit approximately 200,000 Italians and is also ready to accept Poles . . . In Bolivia the government is inclined to deny entry permits to Jews . . . Brazil has made generous statements concerning the entry of displaced Jews, but immigration classifications there exclude all but a very small number.

Cuba's doors have been closed since September, 1946, and it is becoming increasingly difficult to extend six-month tourist visas after they expire . . . Jews are finding it difficult to get visas to Chile, Colombia and Venezuela . . . Things are easier with regard to visas for Mexico, Paraguay, Guatemala and Honduras.

Palestine Communists Ask Arab-Jewish State

(Continued from page 1)

those the Communist spokesman said they spoke for the masses, and why there were separate Jewish and Arab Communist parties. Mikunis replied that the problem of separate parties was an internal organizational one, which was not connected with the present problem. He added that the Communists were entitled to speak for the masses because they know their needs and aspirations.

Meanwhile, the nature of political thinking taking shape among members of the inquiry committee can be seen from the federalization plan being considered by a group of delegates which has been exceedingly active in the committee's work.

The plan envisages division of Palestine into seven Jewish and seven Arab cantonments, with a temporary 10-year federal government vested in a council composed of one representative from each cantonment and an equal number of non-Palestinian councillors appointed by the United Nations, presided over by a United Nations governor.

This program would call for immediate evacuation of the British, giving the Jews complete authority over immigration, education, health, and development and similar problems in all Jewish; giving the Jews complete pipelines and other improvements, under jurisdiction of the federal government.

After ten years a plebiscite would be held in each cantonment to determine whether it wishes to continue the plan, unite more strongly, or desire partition into separate Arab and Jewish states.

Committee members will see representatives of the Arab states in Beirut next Monday and will then fly to Switzerland to draw up their report. It was learned . . . This quashes . . . UNSCOP members . . . the Arabs' argument . . . where it was felt . . . of the ex-Mufti . . . would be considerable.

The reason that the Lebanese capital was selected . . . from its proximity . . . that city is regarded . . . political . . . fore UNSCOP invited the Arab states to present their case, a member of the committee had informal contact with a representative of the Arab states and he learned that if they were invited to appear they would accept. UNSCOP considered . . . ing the Arab states in . . . but the question arose . . . whether the atmosphere was propitious.

Sweden Opens Gates To Many Displaced Jews

STOCKHOLM (JTA)—The immigration of displaced Jews to Sweden is expected to be facilitated under a recently announced order permitting the entrance of skilled DP's from central Europe.

Swedish authorities have announced that they will give priority to skilled technicians needed in the country, regardless of race or religion. Priority within this category will be given to persons having relatives in Sweden. Neither affidavits nor a specified amount of cash will be needed.