

PALESTINE ISSUE FORCED ON CABINET

Zionist Demand for Immediate Action Is Met by Warning From Arab Office

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By Wireless to THE NEW YORK TIMES.

LONDON, Aug. 4—Both Arab and Jew have been stoking the fire under the Palestine question this week and it does not seem that the flames can be kept in check much longer. Not the least of the problems inherited by the new British Labor Government has been this ancient feud between Arab and Jew for possession of the Holy Land. Circumstances may force the Government to show its hand almost immediately.

The gathering of Jewry's leaders here for the World Zionist Conference, which will sit in private most of next week, was the signal for the polemics to begin.

With Europe finally cleansed of nazism, Zionist leaders are asking first for British permission to allow into Palestine immediately another 100,000 Jews from the remnants of European Jewry. If Palestine is opened to them it will indicate a change in British policy since the 1939 White Paper, which limited Jewish immigration into the Holy Land.

Zionist Program

But the request for another hundred thousand certificates is only a part—a small part—of the Zionist program. Arab authorities made it clear this week that they would oppose this additional immigration with all the strength at their command.

What the Zionist movement called for this week through Dr. Chaim Weizmann's presidential address to the conference was immediate recognition by the United States, Britain and the Soviet Union of the right of the Jews to a national home in Palestine and immediate abrogation by Britain of the White Paper. Arabs in London said either step could only be enforced with armed might.

The Arab office in London, which claims to represent the attitude of the Arab world, issued a declaration shortly before the Zionists opened their conference charging that refugees were being used as a cloak for Zionist political aims in Palestine. What the Arabs admittedly fear is that a Jewish State will be established de facto by allowing European Jewry entry to Palestine whether or not the major powers sanction Palestine as the Jewish national home.

Churchill's Attitude

According to authoritative Zionist sources, Winston Churchill at one time when he was Prime Minister was prepared to challenge this Arab opposition, once the German war was finished, and if the United States supported British action in Palestine. But toward the end of his tenure in office Mr. Churchill, who once described the 1939 White Paper as "a plain breach of a solemn obligation" to the Jews, had reportedly changed his mind.

He is believed to have decided that the Palestine question could only be settled at the peace table. Whether a Labor Government will share this view is something only events can show but, as Dr. Weizmann recalled Labor's leaders are pledged to Zionism's cause and very positively so.

The party voted solidly against the White Paper in the House of Commons debate and Herbert Morrison, who now is Lord President of the Council under Prime Minister Clement R. Attlee, declared the White Paper "would not be automatically binding" on the Labor party "whatever the circumstances of the time" when it took office.

"The circumstances of the present time give poignant force to Mr. Morrison's statement," Dr. Weizmann told the Zionist conference. "Never has the complete abrogation of that policy and the restoration of the Jewish people to its homeland been more imperative than today."

Palestine the Sole Hope

About 1,500,000 Jews are left in Europe outside the Soviet Union. Six million have perished at the hands of the Nazis. Palestine is the only hope for the ones who are left, the Zionists declare, and they must be given the chance to go without delay. "It cannot be expected," Dr. Weizmann said, "that a people should look with equanimity on the agony of their brothers who have survived so fearful a holocaust."

"We cannot wait," Dr. Weizmann declared. "Delay means * * * growing tension and finally a crisis."

Dr. Weizmann asked that the Jews be allowed to go to Palestine as "one of the fruits of victory," as something they have earned by their war effort and sufferings and for the "righting of an ancient wrong." He appealed "to the conscience of the world" as Moses appealed to Pharaoh 4,000 years ago to "let my people go."