

# PALESTINE ZIONISTS FIND OUTLOOK DARK

## They See Little Hope Now for the Thousands of Refugees Barred From Holy Land

### DISAPPOINTED AT BERMUDA

By **JULIAN MELTZER**

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JERUSALEM, May 22—Zionism today faces its most acute and baffling deadlock since the contemporary political Zionist movement began fifty years ago. The recent Anglo-American Conference on Refugees, held in Bermuda, brought about that deadlock.

The Bermuda conference had been widely hailed as a golden opportunity, likely to bring a large-scale refugees' settlement in Palestine within bounds of practical possibilities. But it speedily became evident that this was not feasible, owing to the British Government's special political reservations regarding further Jewish immigration into the Holy Land.

#### Refugee Outlook

Undoubtedly Palestine Jewry, too, has been bitterly disappointed by the outcome of the Bermuda conference. It is stated among Jews here, first, that the recommendations by American and British delegates as finally adopted by those governments were likely to be of insufficient scope to provide for the rescue of any large number of the hundreds of thousands of European Jews still surviving the Nazi holocaust. Second, they foresee that Palestine will have only a minor place among practical resettlement considerations owing to the British Government's obviously unalterable decision to adhere to its White Paper of May, 1939, under which less than 3,000 additional Jewish immigrants would be admitted to Palestine by the end of March, 1944. When this quota is completed next year, a total of 75,000 Jewish refugees will have actually arrived in this country during the five years since April, 1939. It will stabilize the Jewish population at about 600,000 to 650,000, against one million non-Jews.

About two-thirds of Palestine's Jewish population came here at different times in the past twenty years from Poland, Germany, Rumania and other countries where Jewry is today being obliterated beneath the Axis heel.

#### Family Ties to Europe

Jewish inhabitants of this land have kinsfolk back there and it is natural that they have a deep personal concern for their fate. They are consequently often less engrossed with the broader world conception of this problem than with the more intimate family relationships.

Therefore the knowledge that any rescue efforts can only be a drop taken from the wide ocean of Jewish misery is producing a profound sense of bitter frustration among the hundreds of thousands of Zionists here.

Well-informed quarters here were greatly interested in an unconfirmed report that Dr. Chaim Weizmann, among other Jewish leaders in America, had submitted a plan to the State Department in Washington proposing the immediate admission of a half million Jews to Palestine, with thereafter another two million by progressive stages. This would bring the total Jewish population, with the present-day half million, to an eventual three million.

#### Post-War Considerations

Recent pronouncements by high Palestine administration officials concerning post-war reconstruction plans introduced another controversial element into the skein of these perplexing issues. Zionist leaders contend no effective post-war construction and development of Palestine is possible unless there is a further large-scale influx of capital plus manpower to energize existing apital.

But the Palestine administration holds the view that it is committed to a set policy, determined by the British Government and endorsed by Parliament, and must make its plans only within that framework.

The Arabs, who have all along been somewhat skeptical about the British Government's genuine intention to adhere strictly to that White Paper commitment suspending immigration after next March, have now drawn more confidence from the statements made at the Bermuda Conference and by responsible Ministers in Westminster.

Meanwhile, Arabic newspapers have been reiterating that they expect the British Government, as soon as it can, to proceed with the undertaking to develop local independence as a prelude to Palestine's adherence to wider Arab federation within the Middle East.

Wartime exigencies prevent a more abrupt expression among Jews here of their growing sense of defeat over the Palestine question, but there is guarded talk of the political controversy which must be fought out when circumstances permit.