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Grim Reality of New Land Transfers Regulations

MR. SHERTOK'S ADDRESS IN LONDON

LONDON, March 4 (Palcor). — At a meeting held under the auspices of the Jewish Youth Institute, at the Queen Mary Hall yesterday, Mr. Shertok, speaking on the immediate tasks of Jewish youth in their struggle for their National Home, dealt with the new Land Regulations in Palestine.

Mr. Shertok said they were faced with a grim reality to-day which called for grim determination in pursuing the struggle. The position that confronted them to-day was overshadowed by probably the hardest blow that had ever been inflicted upon them. Several major issues were involved in the new Land Regulations.

First, Palestine, as far as the Jewish National Home was concerned, and as far as the will of the English Government was concerned, had suddenly shrunk considerably. Mr. Shertok recalled that in 1922 Trans-Jordan was cut off from Palestine and immigration and Jewish colonization confined to Western Palestine. To-day, of the various areas of Jewish settlement which they had laboriously built up in the course of years, only a part remained a "free zone", where the Jews were permitted to buy land.

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All the other zones, including the Emek, the Jordan Valley, the Huleh region and other places, were to form the so-called regulated zone. So far as the present policy was concerned, in all these zones Jewish land settlement was to be the exception rather than the rule. The bulk of the country, including the hill country and other areas, constituted the prohibited zone, in which it was entirely prohibited to the Jews to acquire land. That meant that they were being robbed of a very large part of their national heritage.

The second aspect of the new Regulations, Mr. Shertok said, was that the Jews were confined in Palestine to a Pale of Settlement, like that which existed under the Czarist regime.