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Telegrams: Jewcorrau London.  
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PALESTINE UNEASINESS SPREADING: GOVERNMENT OFFERS REWARD FOR  
CAPTURE OF YADJUR MURDERERS: GROWING BELIEF IN POLITICAL  
CHARACTER OF CRIME: SUSPICION FALLS ON ARAB MURDER GANG  
WHICH OPERATED ROUND SAFED AFTER 1929 MASSACRE.

Jerusalem, April 8th. (Jewish Telegraphic Agency).

The Palestine Government has offered a reward of £200 for the capture of the murderers of the three Jewish workers of Yadjur. The authorities are now inclining to the belief, the J.T.A. understands, that the crime was of a political character, probably carried out by hired assassins, though it is not altogether clear by what political group they were hired, or what was the motive of the murders. Suspicion has fallen in some quarters on the Arab murder gang which was very active in the neighbourhood of Safed after the massacre of August 1929. The telephone stations were demolished and the telephone wires cut between the Arab village of Shefaram, to which the tracks led from the scene of the murders, and the town of Acre, apparently to cover the retreat of the assassins. A new act of brigandage near Beersheba where an Arab merchant has been killed, has created a feeling of uneasiness in the country.

POLICE BELIEVED TO BE IN POSSESSION OF NAMES OF MURDERERS: THREE  
LEADERS OF ARAB GREEN-HAND GANG: PALESTINE ARAB ORGAN CON-  
DEMNS MURDERS AS HORRIBLE AND DESPICABLE.

Jerusalem, April 9th. (Jewish Telegraphic Agency).

About 50 Arabs are detained in Haifa prison pending the police investigations into the Yadjur crime, but the clues found appear to lead more or less definitely to a village near Safed, from which the so-called "green-hand" Arab murder gang operated after the riots of August 1929. The police, who continue to believe that the assassins were hired, are understood to be now in possession of the names of three of the leaders of the gang, who fired the actual shots which killed the three Jewish victims.

The general uneasiness caused by the outrage is giving rise to many groundless rumours of fresh attacks in various parts of the country, the latest being of a supposed ambush of a Jewish party near Ramatakim, in the Valley of Sharon.

The Polish Consul in Palestine has visited the Yadjur wounded in the Hadassah Hospital in Haifa, his visit giving rise to a report that the Polish Government may claim an indemnity for the victims who were Polish citizens.

The Palestine Arab organ, the "Felestin", denounces the Yadjur murders as horrible and despicable. It makes no difference, it says, whether the crime is due to personal antagonism or was an act of sporadic brigandage. We are shocked by the outrage.

ANOTHER SHOOTING OUTRAGE IN PALESTINE: JEWISH WATCHMAN WOUNDED  
BY ARAB ROBBERS.

Jerusalem, April 9th. (Jewish Telegraphic Agency).

Moses Palewitz, a watchman at the Jewish colony of Nahalal, was shot in the leg when he detected a band of Arab robbers in the colony about midnight and raised an alarm. Owing to the lack of surgical facilities Palewitz has been brought to the Hadassah Hospital in Jerusalem. His condition is not serious.

Police who arrived on the scene shortly after tracked the footprints of three of the raiders to the Arab village of Maloul, where several arrests have been made.

There is no connection, the J.T.A. is assured by a representative of the Nahalal colony, between the shooting of Palewitz and the Yadjur shooting outrage.

ARAB-JEWISH CONFLICT ALSO AT Kfar JOSHUAH.

Jerusalem, April 9th. (Jewish Telegraphic Agency).

An Arab-Jewish conflict broke out about noon to-day at the Jewish colony of Kfar Joshua, when an Arab shepherd from the adjoining squatters' camp allowed his cattle to graze on land belonging to the colony. A Jewish shepherd alarmed the colonists, who resorted to the sealed armoury of the colony, but did not fire. The Arab fled, abandoning his herd. The Jews afterwards sorted out their own cattle and returned to the colony, leaving the Arab herd behind.

PALESTINE ARAB DELEGATION PROCEEDING TO LONDON THIS WEEK SAYS  
UNCONFIRMED PALESTINE REPORT: SUGGESTED PARTICIPATION IN  
NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN GOVERNMENT AND JEWISH AGENCY.

Jerusalem, April 9th. (Jewish Telegraphic Agency).

A Palestine Arab delegation is proceeding to London this week, according to a report current here, of which no confirmation is obtainable, however. It is not explained for what purpose the delegation will go to London, whether to participate in the second part of the negotiations between the British Government and the Jewish Agency, or to protest against Mr. MacDonald's letter containing the authoritative interpretation of the White Paper.

PALESTINE GOVERNMENT LOSES IN LAND DISPUTE WITH LAURENCE OLIPHANT'S  
WIDOW: HEAVY COMPENSATION INVOLVED IN SUCCESSFUL CLAIM TO  
LAND ON WHICH HAIFA RAILWAY STATION STANDS.

Jerusalem, April 9th. (Jewish Telegraphic Agency).

The Land Court has ruled that an area of 15 dunam of land, on which the Haifa railway station stands, belongs to Mrs. Templeton, the widow of Laurence Oliphant, the famous English novelist and forerunner of Zionism, who died in 1880, the J.T.A. learns, although the land in question was registered in 1898 in the name of the Turkish Government.

Mrs. Templeton claims a large sum as compensation in the case, which has been the subject of a long-standing dispute.

LEASEHOLD CONTRACTS BETWEEN JEWISH NATIONAL FUND AND SETTLERS: RENTS  
FOR FIRST FIVE YEARS NOMINAL AND AFTERWARDS FIXED AT 2 PER CENT.  
OF LAND VALUE.

Jerusalem, April 8th. (Jewish Telegraphic Agency).

The process of concluding leasehold contracts between settlers on Jewish National Fund land and the Fund, which was recently commenced in the district of Rehoboth, is being continued, for the time being, in settlements on Jewish National Fund land in the plantation region. The settlers of the two colonies of Beth Hanan and Vatikim, both new plantation settlements near Rehoboth, have already concluded their contracts.

According to the terms of the lease, which have only recently been finally decided upon after much negotiation between settlers and the Fund, leasehold rent for the first five years after establishment is purely nominal; after that period the rent is fixed at 2 per cent. of the value of the land. In addition, all leases are considered hereditary, that is to say, they automatically revert to the descendants of the settlers.

ENGLISH POALE ZION CONFERENCE INTERPRETS MACDONALD LETTER AS REAFFIRMATION OF BALFOUR DECLARATION.

London, April 7th. (Jewish Telegraphic Agency).

This Conference heartily approves of the steps taken by the National Executive of the Party and of the London Political Office of the Poale Zion Confederation to draw the attention of the Labour Government and of the Labour Party to the glaring contradiction between the White Paper and the declared policy of the Party as reaffirmed in the Palestine Resolution in Llandudno, says one of the resolutions adopted by the annual conference of the Poale Zion Organisation in Great Britain, which was concluded at Manchester yesterday.

The Conference interprets the Prime Minister's letter as a reaffirmation on behalf of the British people of the Balfour Declaration and of the rights of the Jewish people internationally guaranteed under the Mandate relating to immigration, settlement and the employment of Jewish labour, the resolution proceeds, adding that it is confident that the questions still outstanding will be dealt with by the Labour Government in the same spirit and with the recognition of the needs and rights of the Jewish people and that the necessary steps will be taken to adjust administrative practice in Palestine to this policy.

The Conference, it is further said, affirms the necessity of making a decisive advance in the economic activities in Palestine and expects the Party delegation to the forthcoming Zionist Congress to place them in the forefront of the programme of the Jewish Agency. The Conference expressed its satisfaction that the Berlin Congress for a Workers' Eretz Israel obtained the enthusiastic support of the Jewish masses, and instructed the branches to collaborate with the British League which has been established to further its work and to make the Palestine Workers' Fund an efficient instrument of Jewish labour in Palestine. The Conference pledged itself to support the Jewish National Fund in all its activities.

A mass meeting was held in connection with the Conference, at which the speakers included Mr. J. Toole, M.P., Mr. A. W. Haycock, M.P., and Mr. S. Kaplansky. A reception was also given to the delegates, at which Mr. Ben Tillet, M.P. greeted them on behalf of the British Labour Party.

PASSOVER FIRE CAUSES DESTITUTION IN LITHUANIAN JEWISH TOWNSHIP:  
1,500 JEWS HAD TO EAT CHOMETZ: 250 HOUSES GUTTED OF WHICH  
220 WERE OCCUPIED BY JEWS: SYNAGOGUE JEWISH SCHOOLS RABBI'S  
HOUSE AND OTHER JEWISH INSTITUTIONS DESTROYED.

Kovno, April 8th. (Jewish Telegraphic Agency).

More than 1,500 Jews were compelled to eat chometz in the village of Plungiani, in the district of Telshi, which (as reported in the J.T.A. Bulletin of the 2nd. inst.) was burnt down on the eve of Passover. The J.T.A. representative who visited the village to-day found the population in a terrible state of destitution. About 250 houses were completely gutted in the fire, of which 220 had been occupied by Jews. All the Jewish institutions, the synagogue, the Jewish school, the Rabbi's house, were destroyed. There was a storm raging at the time, and the strong wind made it impossible for the fire-fighters to localise the conflagration, and made it also difficult to rush up relief supplies to the village from the railway station, which is about 35 kilometres away.

The Jewish population, deprived by the fire of everything they possessed, are suffering hunger and cold, and they begged the J.T.A. representative to make their position known to the Lithuanian Jews, especially from their own district, who are now living in America or elsewhere abroad, so that they should come to their assistance.

MUSSOLINI PROMISES NEW SCHOOL BOOKS FOR JEWISH CHILDREN IN ITALIAN SCHOOLS TO AVOID SUBJECTING THEM TO CATHOLIC INFLUENCE: LONG INTERVIEW WITH ROME CHIEF RABBI: PROMISES ALSO DOME WILL NOT BE REMOVED FROM ROME GREAT SYNAGOGUE.

Rome, April 7th. (Jewish Telegraphic Agency).

Dissatisfaction with the existing system of education of Jewish children in Italy was expressed to Signor Mussolini today by the Chief Rabbi, Dr. Sacerdoti, in an interview lasting about three-quarters of an hour. The text books whose use is compulsory in the Italian elementary schools are permeated with Catholic teachings, the Chief Rabbi complained, tending consequently to instill Catholic beliefs in the minds of the Jewish children who attend the schools. Signor Mussolini agreed that special editions of the school books should be prepared for the use of the Jewish children, in order to avoid this danger of subjecting them to Catholic influence.

The Chief Rabbi also raised the question of the dome of the Great Synagogue, whose removal has been recommended by the Rome Planning Commission. Signor Mussolini promised the Chief Rabbi that the dome will not be removed, and will only be modified to improve the skyline of the city, but in such a way that it should not offend the religious sentiments of the Jewish population.

.. The complaint that Jewish children in the Italian schools are subjected to Catholic religious influence has been made by the Jewish representatives for years. The Italian State schools are Catholic schools. Before 1923 the State schools were secular schools, so that Jewish children were able to attend them without the religious question being involved. But in 1923, the then Fascist Minister of Education, Professor Gentile, carried through an Education Reform Law, which has transformed the schools into Catholic institutions. Article 3 of the Gentile Law states that "the teaching of Christian doctrine, according to the accepted form received by Catholic tradition, is the basis and the aim of elementary education in all its states". Consequently, Jewish parents who send their children to State schools subject them to conversionist influence. Mere exemption from attendance during the hours specially devoted to religious teaching, does not meet the problem. Under the Gentile law, the hours devoted to singing lessons are given up to religious music. The teaching of Italian is utilised for the purpose of extolling the heroes and martyrs of the Catholic faith. The teaching of history lends itself to holding up for admiration the outstanding personages and events of Catholic civilisation. In most other subjects, such as essay-writing, reading, etc., the teachers are required to make use of religious themes as much as possible. The whole of the teaching in the State schools is impregnated with the Catholic spirit.

The Italian Jews have repeatedly endeavoured to obtain some measure from the Government which would remedy this situation, but hitherto without success. Wherever possible they have opened special schools for Jewish children, retaining the ordinary educational programme of the Government, but substituting Jewish religious ideas for the Catholic. They have asked the Government to grant financial subsidies to these schools, which are doing work properly belonging to the State, but so far these requests have been refused, although in 1925 Professor Gentile, as Minister of Education, promised the late Jewish Senator Polacco (who died in 1926) that this would be done.

The situation was graphically described at that time by Senator Polacco in a speech in the Senate. You are making the schools centres of religious proselytism, he cried, or else you are causing the mind of the child to wander confusedly between the two opposing elements of his home teaching and his school teaching, with the probability that he will finish up by falling into that religious indifference which the Government is so anxious to combat.

This elementary education, he proceeded, is compulsory for all citizens. The consequence is that in Rome and in all Italy hundreds of Jewish children are compelled to attend schools which are designed to cripple their religious conscience and to alienate them from their families.

JEWISH SUICIDE WAVE IN GERMANY: AGED MOTHER AND TWO WIDOWED DAUGHTERS COMMIT SUICIDE BECAUSE OF FINANCIAL DIFFICULTIES: ECONOMIC COLLAPSE OF GERMAN JEWRY.

Berlin, April 9th. (Jewish Telegraphic Agency).

The economic collapse of German Jewry which has driven many one-time prosperous Jewish businessmen and industrialists to suicide, claimed three fresh victims to-day in the person of Anna Goldschmidt, 75 years of age, and her two widowed daughters, Martha Valentin, 55 years of age, and Toni Weissman, 52 years of age. The late Herr Valentin, the husband of the elder daughter, was one of the proprietors of Messrs. Jacob and Valentin, a famous Berlin firm of carriers, while Herr Ferdinand Weissman, who died last year, was the head of a big confectionary business, which at one time held a commanding position in the Berlin business world. When he died, the business was found to have more liabilities than assets, and his widow had been going about in dread of a creditors' meeting which had been called for to-day. She had sacrificed her entire personal fortune to pay off as much as possible of the liabilities, but she saw no way of escaping bankruptcy and ruin, and so decided, together with her mother and sister to put an end to their lives.

.. The growing impoverishment of German Jewry is fast assuming catastrophic dimensions, it was stated by the Welfare Office of the Berlin Jewish Community in December. Things have gone so far, it said, that not only the workers and the middle-class, but even the wealthiest Jews have been reduced to poverty and their once-stately homes in the finest streets of Berlin's West End are now haunted by misery and despair. People who once were directors of banks and of big insurance companies, important merchants, and professional men of high standing, who were accustomed to give away large sums in charity, have been reduced to pauperism and to the level of the proletariat, and would be glad to do any manual labour or the humblest of menial tasks to be able to keep body and soul together.

So many one-time wealthy men have applied to the Berlin Jewish Community for help to obtain any kind of situation to enable them to earn a livelihood, it was announced, that the Jewish Community's Welfare Office had decided to open a special Labour Employment Bureau in the fashionable Kurfuerstendamm district, solely for people who were formerly well-to-do.

BARONESS JAMES DE ROTHSCHILD DIES IN PARIS AGED 84.

Paris, April 9th. (Jewish Telegraphic Agency).

Baroness James de Rothschild, a cousin of Baron Edmond de Rothschild, and mother of Baron Henri de Rothschild, has died here at the age of 84. The Baroness was famous for her philanthropies and during the war did important Red Cross work.