

DAILY NEWS BULLETIN

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TERRIBLE FLOOD CATASTROPHE IN VILNA DISTRICT: WORST SINCE 1888:
IMPOVERISHED POPULATION NOW COMPLETELY RUINED: RELIEF
COMMITTEE FORMED IN WARSAW: MINISTER OF SOCIAL WELFARE GOES
TO VILNA TO TAKE CHARGE OF RESCUE WORK: OFFICIAL STATEMENT
SAYS 1550 SOULS EVACUATED IN VILNA.

Warsaw, April 25th. (Jewish Telegraphic Agency).

A terrible catastrophe is feared in the entire Vilna district as a result of the heavy floods. The city of Vilna itself and practically all the towns standing on the banks of the Rivers Vilja, Vilejka, Niemen, and Dzwina, are menaced.

Such high floods have not been known since 1888, and the water still continues to rise. The Red Cross is organising an extensive rescue campaign. The Minister of the Interior has sent 20,000 zlotys to be used for sanitary purposes and to put a stop to looting. M. Hubicki, the Minister of Social Welfare, has gone to Vilna to take charge of the rescue activities.

A Relief Committee for the victims of the floods in the Vilna District has been formed in Warsaw, headed by the President of the Warsaw City Council, M. Slominski. The Warsaw Jewish Community has made a grant of 1,000 zlotys for the relief of the victims. An appeal for help is being sent to the Joint Distribution Committee of America.

The electric station in the city of Vilna has been flooded and the entire town is in darkness. The historic Vilna cathedral is menaced. The Archbishop of Vilna has ordered prayers to be said in all the churches of the diocese.

An official statement says that 372 families, consisting of 1,550 souls, have already been evacuated, and five houses in Vilna have been swept away.

In the township of Druz, in the Vilna district, 140 houses have been flooded, and the entire population has been evacuated. In the township of Leonpol, the River Dzwina has broken its bounds over an area of two kilometres. The bathing resort of Druskieniki is flooded out. At Oszmiany the electric station is submerged.

The township of Dzisna, near Vilna, is completely submerged by the overflowing of the Riva Dzwina. The population, the great majority of them Jews, have been evacuated. The houses are completely flooded. The furniture and household goods are wrecked and the waters still continue rising.

The Jewish population of the area, for long impoverished and suffering great distress, has now been reduced to complete ruin and destitution. The Rabbis and the Jewish Communities of the district are begging urgently for aid to be sent to succour the victims.

27/4/31.

DISASTROUS FLOODS IN JEWISH TOWNS OF LATVIA: INHABITANTS OF
FRIEDRICHSTADT TAKEN REFUGE IN SYNAGOGUE: JEWISH CEMETERY
OF KRESLAVA UNDER WATER: BIG CITIES OF DWINSK AND MITAU
MENACED.

Riga, April 25th. (Jewish Telegraphic Agency).

The floods in some of the Latvian towns with big Jewish populations are assuming the dimensions of an immense disaster. The town of Ryszhitsa is now completely under water. The towns of Friedrichstadt and Kreslava, too, are inundated. In Kreslava over 100 houses are under water. The Jewish cemetery is flooded. People are going about in boats trying to save their possessions. In Friedrichstadt the people have fled from their homes and have taken refuge in the synagogue.

The big cities of Mitau and Dwinsk are also menaced. The Dwinsk suburb of Griwe is already flooded.

MINSK AND OTHER TOWNS IN SOVIET WHITE RUSSIA STILL IN GRIP OF
FLOODS: GOVERNMENT RUSHING AID TO VICTIMS: MOSCOW ALSO BEING
FLOODED: THOUSAND HOUSES ALREADY EVACUATED.

Moscow, April 25th. (Jewish Telegraphic Agency).

The heavy floods at Minsk, the capital of White Russia, have not yet subsided, and the population, Jewish and non-Jewish alike, is suffering immense hardship. The newspapers are still unable to appear.

Bobruisk, Mوزير, Ossipovich and other towns in White Russia are still in the grip of the floods.

The Soviet Government is rushing aid to the flood victims.

In Borisov about 200 houses are under water, and seven houses have been completely swept away. Telegraph communication with Mوزير has been destroyed. In many parts of White Russia there are no trains running because the tracks are flooded.

In Moscow itself the lower parts of the city are flooded, the River Moskva having broken its banks. Several factories and about 1,000 houses in Moscow have been inundated. The British Embassy in Moscow is now unapproachable without wading.

England Too.

.. The recent heavy rainfall has caused serious alarm also in the whole of the Thames Valley. Many acres of farmland are flooded through the abnormal height of the river. At Abridge, Essex, even the main street is deeply covered with water. And at Lingfield, the Surrey and Burstow Punt Steeplechase had to be abandoned owing to many parts of the course being flooded, it is stated. Roads are submerged and cars had to be hauled out of the mud with the aid of horses belonging to gypsies.

Anxious watch is being kept by residents on the banks of the River Roding along the Woodford Valley, Essex. They are alarmed by the rapid rise in the water after the heavy rain. At Noak Hill the main road is flooded, and timber from partly constructed houses is floating about in the water. The Thames rose several inches yesterday at Chertsey, Surrey, and is now a considerable height above its normal summer level. Parts of London like the Twickenham district, are also menaced.

DID PALESTINE GOVERNMENT BLOCK WAY TO ARAB-JEWISH PARLEYS?:

MR. BEN AVI'S PUBLICATION OF LETTER TO DR. WEIZMANN WARNING HIM IT WOULD NOT BE RESPONSIBLE FOR HIS SAFETY IN TRANS-JORDAN CAUSES STIR IN PALESTINE JEWRY: PALESTINE GOVERNMENT CAN SUE "DOAR HAYOM" IF ITS INFORMATION IS FALSE SAYS LABOUR DAILY "DAVAR" OTHERWISE IT MUST BE CONDEMNED "WORLD OVER FOR HYPOCRISY."

Jerusalem, April 24th. (Jewish Telegraphic Agency).

The allegation that the Palestine Government blocked the way to Arab-Jewish parleys which was made by Mr. Ittamar Ben Avi, the editor of the "Doar Hayom" in his paper on Wednesday (reported in the J.T.A. Bulletin of the 24th. inst.) has caused a stir in Palestine Jewry, and the entire Hebrew press here has created a precedent to-day in quoting from the "Doar Hayom" the text which it gave of the letter addressed by the Chief Secretary to the Palestine Government, Mr. Young, to Dr. Weizmann telling him that the Government would not be responsible for his personal safety if he went to Transjordan to see the Emir Abdullah.

The Government can sue the "Doar Hayom", the Hebrew Labour daily "Davar" says, and thus prove that the information given by the paper is false; otherwise it must be condemned the world over for hypocrisy in talking airily of a Round Table Conference, while it is busy destroying the basis of an understanding.

ARE ARAB LEADERS IN PALESTINE PARTICIPATING IN DISCUSSIONS WITH HIGH COMMISSIONER?: PUZZLEMENT OVER COLONIAL OFFICE ANNOUNCEMENT: HIGH COMMISSIONER IN HAIFA AND PROCEEDING THIS WEEK TO ENGLAND FOR A MONTH: ARAB EXECUTIVE STATEMENT DENIES ARABS CONSENTED TO DISCUSSIONS: NONE POSSIBLE IT SAYS UNLESS ARAB CONDITIONS ACCEPTED.

Jerusalem, April 25th. (Jewish Telegraphic Agency).

In connection with the statement issued in London by the Colonial Office (given in the J.T.A. Bulletin of the 24th. inst.), that while discussions on the development scheme for Palestine have been started in London with the Jewish Agency by the Inter-Departmental Committee appointed by the Government, discussions have also been started on the same matter in Jerusalem by the High Commissioner with the Arab leaders, considerable puzzlement exists in Jewish quarters here over the fact that the High Commissioner, Sir John Chancellor, has for some days now been at Haifa, and therefore could not be conducting discussions with the Arab leaders in Jerusalem, and on Wednesday will be leaving Palestine for England for a month in connection with his daughter's forthcoming wedding there.

The Chief Secretary to the Palestine Government, Mr. Young, tells the J.T.A. in response to an enquiry, that no information is possible as yet with regard to the Government conversations here with the Arab leaders.

The Palestine Arab Executive, however, has published a statement tonight flatly denying that the Arab leaders have consented to official parleys, and insisting that none can be held unless the Government accepts the conditions which the Arab Executive has submitted to the High Commissioner.

By a great majority, the Arab organ "Felestin" writes, a mandate has been given to the Arab Executive to enter into negotiations with the Government in order to present the Arab point of view and to defend the Arab interests in the development scheme to be initiated by the Government, provided that such a participation should not in any way mean the recognition, in any sense, of the policy of the Jewish National Home. It has also been laid down that the MacDonald letter or any other statement supporting its policy, should not form the basis of the negotiations. At the same time it was agreed that the discussions should take place in Palestine and the Arab delegates should not join the Jewish delegates in these discussions.

The Arabs, the "Felestin" says, have said their word; it is for the Government to say its word.

THE YADJUR MURDERS IN PALESTINE: THIRD SUSPECT ARRESTED: ALSO ARAB BELONGING TO ASSASI VILLAGE.

Jerusalem, April 25th. (Jewish Telegraphic Agency).

A third Arab has been arrested on suspicion of having been concerned in the shooting outrage during Passover in which three members of the Jewish Labour settlement of Yadjur were killed. He, like the others, is an Arab belonging to the village of Aassasi, near Safed, and is named Saleh Shubani.

NEW ROUMANIAN GOVERNMENT APPOINTS MINISTER FOR MINORITIES AFFAIRS: EX-DEPUTY BRANDSCH LEADING REPRESENTATIVE OF GERMAN MINORITY SWORN IN: CONGRATULATED BY KING CAROL AS FIRST MEMBER OF MINORITIES IN ROUMANIAN GOVERNMENT.

Bucharest, April 24th. (Jewish Telegraphic Agency).

Ex-Deputy Rudolph Brandsh, one of the leaders of the important German Minority in Roumania, took the oath to-day to King Carol as Under-Secretary of State for Minorities Affairs. The King warmly congratulated Herr Brandsch as the first representative of the Minorities in Roumania, who has become a member of the Government.

The German Minority Party is not altogether satisfied with the appointment on general grounds, but it welcomes in principle the inclusion of a representative of the minorities in the Government of the country.

JEWISH DEPUTIES IN ROUMANIA ASK PREMIER TO CREATE JEWISH DEPARTMENT IN MINORITIES MINISTRY UNDER DIRECTION OF ELECTED JEWISH REPRESENTATIVE.

Bucharest, April 25th. (Jewish Telegraphic Agency).

Senator Dr. Meyer Ebner, the President of the Club of Jewish Deputies, and Deputy Theodore Fischer, one of the members of the Club, visited to-day the Prime Minister, Professor Jorga, in order to convey to him the congratulations and good wishes of the Jewish population on his assumption of the Premiership. The deputation preceded to lay before the Premier the views held by the Jewish population on the present situation in the country and their wishes in regard to specific Jewish questions, especially on national and religious matters and the organisation of the Jewish schools.

Professor Jorga, in thanking Senator Ebner and Deputy Fischer for their good wishes, assured them that his Government, though it would primarily be occupied with urgent economic ques-

tions, would devote its greatest attention, however, also to the problem of the minorities. It would respect the principle that the minorities have equal rights in the country and must receive grants out of the State funds which are raised by means of taxation to which they, too, contribute.

The deputation in again thanking the Prime Minister, expressed its satisfaction at the appointment of Herr Brandsch to the Government, and added the hope that the Government would set up within the framework of his Secretariat of National Minorities a special Department for Jewish affairs which would be under the direction of an elected representative of the Jewish population.

SPECIAL MINORITIES STATUTE WOULD BE MISFORTUNE DR. FILDERMAN PRESIDENT OF UNION OF ROMANIAN JEWS SAYS: EXPRESSES CONFIDENCE IN JORGA GOVERNMENT: ASSURED IT WILL SAFEGUARD PEACEFUL EXISTENCE AND CIVIL RIGHTS OF JEWISH POPULATION AND IF DISTURBANCES SHOULD NEVERTHELESS OCCUR WILL NOT HESITATE TO SUPPRESS THEM.

Bucharest, April 24th. (Jewish Telegraphic Agency).

Professor Jorga has since the war repeatedly and emphatically declared that he is opposed to antisemitism, and when he took office as Prime Minister he reiterated this in his statement to the representatives of the press, ex-Deputy Dr. William Filderman, the President of the Union of Roumanian Jews, said in discussing the new Government with the J.T.A. representative here. Taken together with the presence of M. Constantin Argetoianu as a member of the new Cabinet, Dr. Filderman went on, this is an assurance that the present Government will safeguard the peaceful existence and the civil rights of the Jewish population. If any disturbances of the peace should, nevertheless, occur, I am hopeful and confident, he said, that the Government will not hesitate to suppress them, and I believe that it will be in a position to do this.

Speaking of the appointment of ex-Deputy Brandsch, of the German Minority Party in Roumania, to be Under-Secretary of State for National Minorities in the new Government, Dr. Filderman said that M. Brandsch's person is a guarantee that he will engage in a proper and beneficial policy towards the minorities. Dr. Filderman added, however, that he is definitely opposed to a special minorities statute, which he would regard as a misfortune. The rights of the minorities, he said, can be very well maintained within the framework of the existing laws, and develop with them, while to fix them in the form of a special statute would cause dissatisfaction among all sections, and for the minorities it would be a hindrance to their development.

The "Bukowinaer Volkszeitung", the organ of the Union of Roumanian Jews in the Province of Bukovina, welcomes the declaration which Professor Jorga has made in his statement to the Press that his Government will put down all antisemitic manifestations and excesses, and goes on to recall an interview which Professor Jorga gave to a representative of the Jewish Telegraphic Agency last October, in the course of which the present Premier said:

One would have expected the Roumanian intellectuals to place themselves at the head of a movement against antisemitism, and to stand for a policy of far-reaching tolerance and humanity, which would allow the various nationalities to develop freely within the framework of the Roumanian State, and would secure for the Roumanian people its untrammelled development and prosperity. I myself,

unfortunately, cannot assume the leadership in the fight against antisemitism. Any initiative which I might take in this regard would only encounter the closed front of the professional politicians, and it would be either totally ignored, or it would be subjected to calumny.

This, the paper says, is how Professor Jorga spoke last October. To-day Professor Jorga has broken down the closed front of the professional politicians and has taken control as the Prime Minister of the country. That the Jews must behave as human beings, as he said, no one will question. But the Jews are also Roumanian citizens, and they have a right to obtain from their fatherland not only human treatment, but also equal treatment as is due to citizens. As the Prime Minister of the country, the paper concludes, Professor Jorga can no longer decline the leadership in the fight against antisemitism, and in this spirit we welcome the stand taken by the new Premier towards the Jewish problem in Roumania.

ANTISEMITISM IN SOVIET RUSSIA: JEWISH WORKER SUBJECTED TO TORTURE BY FOLLOW-WORKERS BECAUSE HE EARNED DISTINCTION FOR CAPABLE AND HONEST WORK.

Moscow, April 25th. (Jewish Telegraphic Agency).

Because he was turning out capable and honest work in the factory Izpolit No. 2., in the Minsk district, where he was employed, and thereby gained the title of "Industrial Shock Trooper", a young Jew named Nevelsky, has been subjected to torture at the hands of three non-Jewish workers in the factory. One day his tormentors got drunk and attempted to hang Nevelsky. As they tightened the rope he fainted, whereupon they loosened the rope. The management of the factory pretended ignorance of the whole affair. The matter came before the trade union to which Nevelsky and the others belonged, and the trade union officials immediately took the matter to the District Attorney, with the result that the three antisemites were arrested to-day and will be put on public trial as a big demonstration against antisemitism. The trade union authorities also changed to-day the management of the factory.

SOVIET GOVERNMENT CENSURES ITS JEWISH SETTLEMENT COMMISSION FOR FAILURE OF CAMPAIGN TO PLACE YOUNG JEWS IN FACTORY SCHOOLS.

Moscow, April 24th. (Jewish Telegraphic Agency).

The Government Commission for Jewish Settlement (Comzet) was severely censured to-day by the Central Executive Committee of the Soviets for its failure in the campaign for placing young Jews from the Jewish townships in the factory schools, and has been ordered not to repeat the mistakes that have been made when the new campaign is started in the autumn.

The resolution adopted by the Central Executive Committee calls upon the Ministries of Industry, Transport and Internal Affairs to work out proper policies for the welfare of the Jewish youths coming into the new industries. It emphasises the need of providing for their physical requirements, especially in the matter of housing and sleeping accommodation.

The resolution then goes on to instruct the Comzet and its related bodies to start immediately a census of Jewish youths available for the factory schools next autumn, and to submit their findings at an early date to the Council of Nationalities to enable this body to take such action as will ensure the efficient carrying out of the ghetto-to-factory campaign for Jewish youths in the coming year.

JEWISH DEPUTIES IN POLAND VOTE WITH GOVERNMENT ON RATIFICATION OF FRENCH LOAN: STAND AGAINST OPPOSITION TACTICS: FLOW OF CAPITAL INTO COUNTRY MUST IMPROVE ECONOMIC POSITION OF WHOLE POPULATION INCLUDING JEWS SAYS JEWISH SPOKESMAN.

Warsaw, April 25th. (Jewish Telegraphic Agency).

The Club of Jewish Deputies voted with the Government to-day in favour of the ratification of the milliard franc French loan for Poland, which was carried at the special sitting of the Sejm, against the votes of the opposition parties.

Deputy Rothenstreich, the spokesman of the Club of Jewish Deputies, said that the Club was voting with the Government because, although the loan was hedged round with difficult conditions, they were convinced that the flow of capital into the country could have only a good effect on the economic situation, benefiting the entire population, including the Jewish inhabitants.

GRAVE CONCERN OVER MR. HARRY SACHER'S CONDITION: BLOOD TRANSFUSION BEING CONSIDERED.

Jerusalem, April 25th. (Jewish Telegraphic Agency).

Mr. Harry Sacher's condition is giving rise to grave concern. Although the family is satisfied with the treatment he is receiving, they have nevertheless called in a consultant from Egypt to give his advice. Internal hemorrhage is suspected. The possibility of blood transfusion is being considered, the J.T.A. understands.

DID NOT INTEND BLOW AT DR. SUKENIK PERE VINCENT EXPLAINS: MY PUPIL AND I HAVE KNOWN HIM EIGHT YEARS AS GOOD WORKER AND SCIENTIST.

Jerusalem, April 24th. (Jewish Telegraphic Agency).

Pere Vincent, the famous archeologist who complained here this week about Dr. Sukenik's lecture in Berlin a few months back on the Jewish graves in Jerusalem at the time of Jesus, urging that "the returners from exile should caution their young archeologists to exercise more care in their announcements and to pay more respect to things sacred to Christians", explained to-day that he had not intended to make a blow at Dr. Sukenik. Dr. Sukenik is my pupil, he said, and I have known him for eight years as a good worker and a sound scientist. But it was wrong, he added, to suppose that the words he spoke of came from an ossuary of the time of Jesus.

MILLION DOLLARS BEQUEATHED TO JEWISH CHARITIES BY NEW YORK JEWISH MERCHANT.

New York, April 25th. (Jewish Telegraphic Agency).

Almost a million dollars have been bequeathed for Jewish charities by Morton Meinhard, the President of a New York textile firm, who died on board ship on April 15th. while on his way to Japan.