

Jewish Telegraphic Agency

Latest Cable Dispatches

220 FIFTH AVENUE, N. Y. C.

Phone: ASHland 4-3093

NEW YORK, N. Y.

VOL. 1 No. 195.

Sunday, March 29, 1936.

SURVEY BY GEORGE BACKER, J.T.A. CHAIRMAN, REVEALS TERRORISM RAMPANT IN POLAND

By the Jewish Telegraphic Agency

WARSAW, March 27. (By Wireless) -- Details of anti-Jewish terrorism throughout Poland were revealed today by George Backer, of New York, chairman of the board of directors, of the Jewish Telegraphic Agency, after a survey of provinces in which anti-Semites are most active.

"My survey," he declared, "reveals that anti-Semitism in Poland functions as an organized program, directed from the Sejm (Parliament), where anti-Jewish attacks are applauded, and ensures their authors popularity in the smallest village.

"Anti-Jewish propaganda is assuming the character of vicious incitement to physical attacks and is directed by paid agitators and an insistent assault is being made upon the Jewish position."

Mr. Backer continued:

"In Poland today, the pro-Semite is defined as a person who does not endorse bloody pogroms. In the smaller towns the two bulwarks against physical violence are the older peasants and the church. These two forces insist upon 'respectable' anti-Semitism -- use of the blockade and the boycott to drive the Jews from Poland. However, their influence and authority are being undermined rapidly.

"The police power of the Government is broken down almost completely in the smaller communities. The Government is either indifferent or criminally negligent. The Jewish position is desperate. The Government does not consider the following facts

as sufficient evidence of the need of additional police protection in the smaller centers.

Situation 16 Miles From Warsaw

"Sixteen miles from Warsaw, capital of the Republic and centre of learning, culture and the humanities, lies the town of Karczew, inhabited by 2,000 families, of which 120 are Jewish. An evening visit to this town finds Jews barring their doors and windows and extinguishing their lights, for if a Jew should be seen at night his life is in danger.

"The anti-Jewish boycott in Karczew is completely effective and Jewish business, trades and occupations are gone. The financial state of the community can be judged from the fact that \$40 enables a family to leave the town, yet not a single family is in a position to leave.

"That the fears of the Karczew Jewish community about physical attacks were fully justified is shown by the fact that twelve hours after our visit homes were plundered and Jews attacked."

Mr. Backer asserted that "a more serious situation exists in the Radom and Czenstochow districts, where Jews live in constant and permanent fear of pogroms."

"In Truskolas, a half hour from Czenstochow, the entire Jewish population has been undergoing an economic blockade for more than two months. Yet no Jews can leave the town because pickets are stationed at the roads to prevent Jews from communicating with other communities. Jews seen leaving the town are attacked.

"A group of six who dared to leave the town were attacked and three seriously injured. The local synagogue was bombed and partly demolished. A Jew summoned to court in a neighboring town as a witness was attacked by pickets and prevented from leaving the town.

"The Jews of Truskolas do not have any police protection whatsoever. Their appeal to Warsaw for a police station was rejected, the authorities demanding 2,000 zlotys before sending the police. The authorities similarly refused to install a telephone with which Jews could telephone for help. There is still no telephone in Truskolas.

"The boycott is proceeding vigorously, with no peasants permitted to enter Jewish shops and no Jews allowed to appear at market days. Every Jew of the town has been attacked at least ten times, the mobs not even having spared women and children. Cut off from the world, the Jewish population is having difficulty in obtaining food, and the position of the Jews there is most desperate.

"A similar situation exists in Pajenczna," Mr. Backer continued, relating that Jews are attacked so often that they do not bother to replace windows smashed by anti-Semites.

"We are not people of the world," they told the J.T.A. head. "We cannot tell the story of our lamentations. Please help us and tell others what you have seen and heard here."

POLISH SENATE PASSES SHECHITA BILL; BECOMES LAW JAN. 1

WARSAW, March 27. (JTA) -- The Polish Senate today adopted the bill restricting kosher slaughtering after rejecting amendments offered by Jewish senators. The proposal was passed by the Sejm (lower house) last week.

The measure was sent to President Ignacy Moscicki for his signature, and will then be published in the official gazette. The law will go into effect Jan. 1, 1937.

The bill, which was introduced into the Sejm by Deputy Janina Prystor, wife of the Senate's president, originally provided for a complete ban on kosher slaughtering. After Government spokesmen had warned the Sejm a complete ban would violate constitutional rights of religious practice, an amendment was added permitting sufficient kosher slaughtering to meet religious requirements under a system of Government concessions.

Despite the amendment, Jewish organizations have continued opposing the measure on the grounds that it would deprive Jewish communities of the revenue they previously obtained by taxing kosher slaughtering and that it would throw thousands of persons engaged in slaughtering and retailing the kosher meat out of work.

- - -

Dr. Adler Letter on Shechita Written Before Amendment

NEW YORK, March 27. (JTA) -- Dr. Cyrus Adler, president of the American Jewish Committee, explained today that his letter to the Polish Embassy protesting against the Polish shechita bill, the answer to which was reported in today's despatches, was written before the bill had been amended to permit sufficient kosher slaughtering for religious needs.

In his letter, written March 9, Dr. Adler declared that the result of adoption of the original bill "would be to prevent Jews who adhere to their religious doctrines from eating meat altogether on the pain of violating conscientious belief."

COL. BECK PLEDGES POLAND WILL CURB EXCESSES

LONDON, March 27. (JTA) -- Colonel Josef Beck, Polish Foreign Minister, assured a delegation of Jewish leaders today that his Government would take "adequate precautions" to prevent recurrence of anti-Semitic excesses.

He declared to a deputation from the Joint Foreign Committee, headed by Neville Laski, president of the Board of Deputies of British Jews, that in recent declarations to the Sejm (Parliament) on the position of the Jewish community, Premier Kosciakowski and Minister of Interior Raczkiwicz had expressed the Government's unanimous opinion in condemning anti-Semitism.

He added that the Polish authorities had taken firm measures to suppress anti-Jewish disorders and would take greater precautions in the future.

Col. Beck admitted that the bill restricting kosher slaughtering passed by the Sejm would result in the Jewish communities suffering economic loss, but declared he hoped that a means would be devised for suitable compensation to enable Jewish communities to carry out their duties and charitable activities. Until now, the communities have levied taxes on cattle slaughtered according to the Jewish ritual.

The Joint Foreign Committee includes the Board of Deputies and the Anglo-Jewish Association.

GESTAPO WARNS EMIGRES NOT TO RETURN FOR HOLIDAYS

BERLIN, March 27. (JTA) -- Jews who left Germany after Fuehrer Hitler's accession were today threatened with arrest by the Gestapo, secret State police, if they attempt to return for the Passover holidays.

The threat was conveyed in a communication to the Jewish Community of Berlin advising it to inform emigres of the Gestapo's decision.

Another Gestapo order advises central Jewish organizations which desire to bring Jewish leaders from abroad to help in their work, to secure Gestapo permits first or the visitors would likely be deported as undesirable aliens.

Deprived of the right to study music in State and private non-Jewish conservatories, Jewish leaders today announced the formation of the first "ghetto" conservatory under the supervision of the Jewish Cultural Union.

The conservatory, it was stated, will include a special school for cantors.

Reports that Georg Karoski, Nazi-appointed president of the cultural body, had been appointed commissar for the Jewish Community were denied today. He is only one member of a praesidium of seven directing the Community's activities.

STUERMER SIGNS REMOVED IN BERLIN

BERLIN, March 27. (JTA) -- Sudden disappearance of posters advertising the luridly anti-Semitic and pornographic Stuermer, weekly published by Julius Streicher, evoked general satisfaction in Jewish and foreign circles today.

The displays, apparently under personal orders by Fuehrer Adolf Hitler, have been replaced by large signs reading: "Our Desire Is Peace."

There is considerable conjecture as to whether the removal of the offensive posters is merely a pre-election maneuver or designed as the first step toward elimination of all outward appearances of anti-Semitism in preparation for the Olympic Games. It was recalled that prior to the Winter Games, all anti-Semitic signs in Garmisch-Partenkirchen were ordered removed so as not to offend foreign visitors.

2 GET JAIL TERMS FOR WAUCHOPE DEMONSTRATION IN TEL AVIV

TEL AVIV, March 27. (JTA) -- A Jewish engineer, M. Schluger, and Mrs. Giladi were sentenced to two months in prison today for participation in a demonstration against High Commissioner Sir Arthur Grenfell Wauchope on Tuesday during which he was showered with leaflets protesting against the proposed legislative council.

The two were in a crowd of right-wing Zionists who shouted protests against the Government's policy as Sir Arthur left the home of Mayor Meier Dizengoff after a visit. It was the second hostile demonstration against Sir Arthur to be staged in this all-Jewish city within a month.

2 SOVIET GIRL B RACHUTE JUMPERS KILLED

MOSCOW, March 27. (JTA) -- Two of Russia's most famous parachute jumpers met death yesterday afternoon while practicing delayed parachute jumps from great heights, it was learned today. They were the Jewish girls Luba Berlin, 19 years old, and Tamara Maslova, 20.

Only ten days before, Miss Berlin had broken the all-Soviet record for parachute jumping by landing safely after having stepped out of an airplane at a height of 3,000 meters.

PALESTINE ALLOCATES \$10,000,000 FOR PUBLIC WORKS

JERUSALEM, March 27. (JTA) -- The Palestine Government today allocated \$10,000,000 for public works in its budget for the fiscal year 1936-1937. One of the chief projects will be construction of a road between Palestine's two principal seaports, Haifa and Jaffa.

PALESTINE GOES ON THE AIR MONDAY

JERUSALEM (JTA) -- Palestine's first permanent radio station will hold its long-delayed first broadcast on March 30. It will include an inaugural address by High Commissioner Sir Arthur Grenfell Wauchope, followed by an Arab and a Hebrew address.

The first evening's program will consist of musical selections. Next evening tri-lingual programs will commence in Hebrew, Arabic and English. The station will broadcast five hours daily and will use chiefly local talent.

Officials of the broadcasting service have invited persons desiring to lecture in Hebrew or Arabic to submit manuscripts. Speeches are sought on popular scientific subjects, agriculture and literature. Children's programs are also in demand.

The station is Government-owned and will be operated by the Palestine Broadcasting Co. It will operate on a 668-kilocycle wavelength.

The station was built by the Marconi Co. under a Government contract. The control room and studios are in Jerusalem and the transmitter, powerful enough to reach any point in Palestine, is located in nearby Ramallah. Last Summer Marquis Marconi himself visited Palestine in his yacht, Electra, to advise on construction.

JOHANNESBURG BARS AID TO OLYMPIC TEAM

JOHANNESBURG, South Africa (JTA) -- The Johannesburg City Council has turned down the application of the South African Olympic and Empire Games Association for financial assistance to send a team of forty to the Olympic games in Berlin next Summer at an estimated cost of \$650 a person.

The action was taken without a vote after members of the General Purposes Committee, which passes on such applications, had vigorously opposed financing a team if the games are held in Nazi Germany. The City Council had allocated funds for the South African team in the 1932 Olympics in Los Angeles.