

Jewish Telegraphic Agency

Latest Cable Dispatches

220 FIFTH AVENUE, N. Y. C.

Phone: ASHland 4-3093

NEW YORK, N. Y.

VOL. 1 No. 250.

Sunday, June 7, 1936.

PALESTINE ASKS JEWISH AGENCY'S APPROVAL OF MARTIAL LAW

JERUSALEM, June 5, (JTA) -- The Government has completed arrangements for martial law and has asked the Jewish Agency for Palestine if it will agree to its proclamation, it was learned today.

The Agency was understood to have replied that it opposed such measures in principle but would not oppose martial law in certain districts if the Government thought it necessary.

One Jewish watchman was gravely wounded and another less seriously injured when police shot them by mistake in attempting to rout Arab snipers at a Jewish grove in a Tel Aviv suburb.

The watchmen, Schmuuel Hirschberg and Israel Ben Yehuda were taken to Hadassah hospital at Tel Aviv. They had been guarding the grove when Arabs opened fire on them and fled. Police rushed to the scene and shot the watchmen, mistaking them for Arabs.

Hirschberg's condition was graver tonight. The official version of the shooting was that Hirschberg and Ben Yehuda were shot by police patrols when they ignored an order not to run away.

Railway Bridge Blown Up

Earlier, a railway train on the Haifa-Tel Aviv line narrowly escaped derailment at Hedera when the conductor noticed in time that a section of the track had been removed. A railway bridge between Haifa and Lydda was blown up.

Government forces dispersed a demonstration that occurred in Jaffa when Ibrahim el Shanti, Arab youth leader and publisher of the Arab daily, El Adifaa, was exiled to a concentration camp in the Sinai desert.

The right-wing Hebrew newspaper, Hayarden, appeared with its front page blank because the Government censor had not permitted publication of the texts of addresses delivered by Rabbi Uziel and Moshe A. Amiel, chief rabbi of Tel Aviv, at "Blue-White" Day at the Levant Fair earlier in the week.

Fifty tons of wheat were destroyed by fire at Hedera. The Hebrew daily, Haaretz, reported that two cases of dynamite of a quantity of ammunition stolen from the Government arsenal near Jerusalem yesterday were recovered, and that five more cases of dynamite in addition to seven sacks of gunpowder were still missing.

One of two Arabs arrested in connection with the murder of three Jews as they left the Edison Cinema the night of May 16 was sentenced to nine months in jail for possession of arms. The second was acquitted.

\$500,000 BELIEVED SPENT BY ARABS ON STRIKE

JERUSALEM, June 5. (JTA) -- Well-informed economic experts expressed the opinion today that the Arab Strike Committee has distributed \$500,000 in the past six and a half weeks to support the strike against Jewish immigration and sale of land to Jews.

Bills of many Arab merchants were said to have been paid although their stores are closed. Experts believe that 17,000 are receiving strike benefits totaling \$15,000 a day.

Quiet prevailed throughout Palestine today, judging from an official communique issued this evening, which for the first time in a fortnight reported no new disorders.

The communique confirmed that explosives had been stolen yesterday from an arsenal belonging to the Public Works Department, adding that four Arabs were arrested.

Clarifying conflicting reports published abroad on the strength of Palestine's military garrison, the Government informed the Jewish Telegraphic Agency that in addition to air forces, wartanks and armored cars, the Holy Land is garrisoned by five battalions including about 4,700 soldiers.

SEPHARDIC CHIEF RABBI PLEADS FOR PEACE

JERUSALEM, June 5. (JTA) -- A moving plea for peace with the Arabs was voiced today by 87-year-old Jakob Meir, Chief Sephardic Rabbi of Palestine, in a statement to the Arab nation in Arabic.

Calling attention to his advanced age, Rabbi Meir said that during the sixty years he has served in the rabbinate, he has met Moslems intimately.

For many centuries, he declared, Jews and Moslems lived in brotherly fashion and helped each other in Palestine as well as in other Moslem countries.

Pleading eloquently for peace, he concluded: "We come from the same parents and have maintained many common customs."

PREMIER BLUM SEES WEIZMANN ON PALESTINE SITUATION

PARIS, June 5. (JTA) -- Premier Leon Blum has met with Dr. Chaim Weizmann, president of the Jewish Agency for Palestine, and discussed the situation in Palestine, it was learned today by the Jewish Telegraphic Agency.

FRENCH ROYALIST PAPER ASSAILS NEW PREMIER

PARIS, June 5. (JTA) -- The Royalist newspaper, Action Francaise, today greeted the accession of M. Blum as Premier with a violent editorial attack on him entitled, "France Under a Jew."

The anti-Semitic councillor, D'Arquier de Pellepoix, submitted to the general council of the Seine Department a motion to cancel all naturalizations since the end of the World War in order to set up a special status for Jews, limiting their right to vote.

TENSION ABATES IN POLISH TOWN AFTER NIGHT OF TERROR

WARSAW, June 5. (JTA) -- Tension abated today in the town of Minsk Mazowieck thirty miles from here after a night of terror during which five Jewish houses were burned down.

Physicians arrived in the town to give first aid to 41 Jews injured in disorders that broke out following the arrest of a Jew for the murder of a Polish army sergeant, Deputies Joshua Gottlieb and Emil Sommerstein and Senator Moses Schorr also visited the town.

One of the injured Jews is 75-year-old Ephraim Furmanski, whose condition was reported serious. Reports that Jews had been killed in the disorders were ascertained to be incorrect. Several anti-Semites have been arrested in connection with the disorders.

Anti-Jewish excesses and incendiarism broke out in Minsk despite the presence of police reinforcements. The sergeant's funeral was followed by disorders. Efforts of police and the more moderate elements of the population to calm rioting Nationalists were unavailing.

The district governor of Warsaw visited Minsk and ordered stern measures taken to restore order. A fire brigade from Warsaw was stationed in the town to fight incendiary blazes. A synagogue and many Jewish homes and shops were damaged by fire.

With 5,000 of the 6,000 Jews seeking refuge in Warsaw from rioters, a delegation of Warsaw Jewish leaders who visited the town returned with a report that the situation there was critical. As a result the Jewish Relief Committee cancelled arrangements for the return of several hundred of the refugees.

A gang of 100 Naras, members of the outlawed anti-Semitic political party, were reported to have headed for Minsk from Warsaw. The Endeks (Nationalists) were attempting to spread the anti-Jewish disorders to neighboring towns.

Many attacks on Jews were prevented by police in Wilno, where tension was high as the result of a self-defense slaying by a Jew of a Pole.

Following a political battle between Ukrainians and radicals, anti-Semitic outbreaks occurred in Skola, East Galicia, and many Jews were injured, at least one of them seriously. Jewish shops were demolished in the attacks.

Premier Skladowski, outlining his Government's policy in an address to the Sejm, declared he would follow a center course. He said the Government was determined to maintain order and would not permit attacks on Jews.

WITNESS AT PRZYTYK TRIAL RECOGNIZED AS SLAYER OF JEWS

RADOM, Poland, June 5. (JTA) -- The trial of 56 persons on charges arising from the anti-Semitic disorders March 9 in Przytyk was interrupted today when a Jewish defendant recognized a witness on the stand as one of the murderers of two Jews.

Lazar Feldberg leaped from the dock in District Court and shouted at M. Ragulski, landlord of the house in which two Jews were killed: "You are one of those who murdered Joseph Minkowski and his wife!"

Feldberg then fainted and the court called a recess.

Fourteen Jews and forty-two Poles are being tried on various charges -- including murder, manslaughter and carrying firearms -- growing out of the disorders in which two Jews and a Pole were killed and scores of Jews injured. The trial is in its fourth day with more than 350 witnesses yet to be heard.

Earlier, it was testified that before the outbreak the Jews had approached the Governor of Radom and requested protection but the Governor refused, asking, "Have any Jews been killed yet?"

Witnesses said that during the disturbances Jews called for help while peasants shouted, "Beat the Jews!" Two Gentile teachers from the Przytyk public school testified that Jews had been aggressive

and had bought 200 toy guns. They said the disturbances resulted from Jewish provocation.

A verbal duel was fought between attorneys yesterday to establish whether the Jews or Poles were responsible for the riots. Nationalist lawyers attempted to show that the disturbances had been provoked by the shooting of Stanislaw Wiesniak, the Christian, while counsel for the Jews contended that the riots had been in progress before Wiesniak was shot.

On cross-examination by an attorney for the Gentiles, a police witness said that Jews had been subjected to repeated attacks from Feb. 1 to March 9. He declared that fifteen reports on the attacks had been sent to higher police authorities, adding that on the day of the disorders 4,000 peasants came into the market place and threw terror into the Jewish population of the town.

The Police Commissioner for the Radom district -- in which Przytyk is situated -- testified that he was unaware that the Przytyk Jews had arms.

Heated exchanges between opposing counsel occurred when Jewish attorneys attacked the credibility of witnesses for the non-Jewish defendants, pointing to discrepancies in testimony to the court and in depositions to the public prosecutor.

A number of witnesses said they saw Sholem Lesko -- charged with the murder of Wiesniak -- fire from the window of his parents' home and that the Gentile then fell in the street.

The court refused application of an attorney for release on bail of Eliezer Feldberg, 65 years old, a Jewish defendant. Feldberg denied shooting, declaring to the court that he could not violate the Mosaic commandment, "Thou shalt not kill." He said he had repeatedly asked the authorities to protect the Jews.

144 STATELESS JEWISH FAMILIES GET SPANISH CITIZENSHIP

MADRID, June 5. (JTA) -- The authorities today granted Spanish citizenship to 144 stateless Sephardic Jewish families under a measure recently announced by Premier Manuel Azana. The measure for facilitating repatriation of old Spanish Jewish families, the Premier said, came under Article 23 of the 1931 constitution which provides:

"A law is to be passed to facilitate the acquisition of Spanish nationality by persons of Spanish origin resident abroad."

NEW CHIEF RABBI OF BELGIUM NAMED

ANTWERP, Belgium, June 5. (JTA) -- It was announced today that Samuel Bent of Tomaszow has been elected chief rabbi of Belgium. He succeeds Moshe Avigdor Amiel, who recently left for Palestine to become chief rabbi of Tel Aviv and Jaffa.

U.S. NOT TO PLAY ACTIVE ROLE AT GENEVA REFUGEE PARLEY

WASHINGTON, D.C., June 5. (JTA) -- The State Department informed the Jewish Telegraphic Agency today that the United States would not take an active part at the inter-governmental conference on refugees which will be held in Geneva July 2 under the auspices of the League of Nations High Commission for Refugees.

In reply to an inquiry, Clement C. Dunn, chief of the State Department's Division of Western European Affairs, said that "as the agenda of the conference calls for discussion only of matters pertaining to the legal status of German and other refugees, and as the status of aliens coming to the United States is already regulated by law, whether or not they are refugees, this Government does not contemplate taking an active part in the forthcoming conference."

He added that the United States "does contemplate being represented by an observer and has requested Mr. Prentiss B. Gilbert, American consul at Geneva, to attend the conference as an observer or to designate a member of his staff to act in that capacity."

GERMAN CIRCLES DISMAYED OVER STEEP TARIFF INCREASE

WASHINGTON, D.C., June 5. (JTA) -- German circles expressed dismay today over the action of the Treasury Department in raising duties on various German goods from 22 to 56 per cent to combat Reich discriminatory exchange practices. It was feared in German quarters that most of the Reich's exports would be shut out of this country since an estimated 30 to 40 per cent of its exports to the United States will be affected.

The action was taken under the anti-bounty clause of the 1930 Tariff Act and will become effective July 11. The articles affected are cameras, china tableware, cotton and rayon gloves, leather gloves, surgical instruments, calf and kid leather, glass tree ornaments, metal-covered paper, thumb tacks and toys, dolls and toy figures. It is expected that this list will be expanded.

Germany had already been deprived of "most-favored-nation" treatment because of her discriminatory practices. Reason for yesterday's action was given as the necessity to counterbalance subsidies paid by the German Government to encourage exports of its goods.

J.C. HYMAN NAMED EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF J.D.C.

NEW YORK, June 5. (JTA) -- Joseph C. Hyman, secretary of the Joint Distribution Committee, was named executive director at yesterday's meeting of its executive committee, it was announced today by Paul Baerwald, chairman. Mr. Baerwald said the new office was established in view of the "importance of the many duties which Mr. Hyman has assumed and taken care of in past years with such marked ability and distinction, and because the additional title more accurately corresponds to the functions he has so long discharged."