

# NEWS

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## FRANKFURTER HELD SANE AS TRIAL OPENS; FACES MAXIMUM PENALTY, 18 YEARS

CHUR, Switzerland, Dec. 9. (JTA) -- The Grisons Cantonal Court, trying David Frankfurter for the murder of Wilhelm Gustloff, Nazi leader, heard a medical expert's testimony today that he was entirely responsible when he committed the assassination.

Before five judges in a courtroom jammed with 250 correspondents, 24 of whom are Germans, and spectators from many countries, Dr. Jaegger, psychiatrist, stressed that the medical student's determination to commit suicide led him to plan the slaying of a Nazi leader to aid the Jewish people. Dr. Jaegger is head of the Grisons Psychiatric Institute.

The 27-year-old student was preoccupied with the wrongs against his people and persecutions in Germany had made a terrible impression on him, the report said.

Under questioning by the court, Frankfurter, who has confessed all details of the assassination, denied having discussed his intention to kill Gustloff in advance with any member of his family or acquaintance.

Sitting during his testimony by permission of the court -- he is suffering from bone tuberculosis -- he said under examination by Presiding Justice Antoine Rodolphe Ganzoni that he had bought a revolver and intended to commit suicide after the assassination, but his courage failed him.

Guarded by two policemen, he replied to questions in a firm clear voice, outlining his life in Germany before he left there to study in Berne, his financial affairs and political interests.

The judge asked Frankfurter why he had renounced his confessed earlier project to kill Chancellor Hitler, Gen. Wilhelm Goering or Dr. Paul Joseph Goebbels. Frankfurter replied that he felt such an act would only make the plight of the Jews in Germany worse.

The judge remarked that Gustloff had not been responsible for the acts of the Nazis in Germany and therefore had been killed as an innocent man.

As the trial opened this morning in this little Alpine town, heavy police detachments struggled with a huge crowd of villagers and pro-Nazi and anti-Fascist adherents from other towns and countries who flocked here.

Public Prosecutor Friedrich Bruegger demanded the maximum penalty, eighteen years' imprisonment, for Frankfurter. The defense is being conducted by Dr. Eugen Curti, who is expected to plead moral justification for the assassination.

A 23-page indictment presented to the court demanded, in addition to the prison sentence, loss of civil rights, exile, payment of court costs and compensation for Gustloff's widow.

The indictment recalled how last Feb. 4 Frankfurter entered the hotel in Davos where Gustloff was living, a total stranger, and fired his revolver at the leader of the Nazi organization in Switzerland. He later surrendered to the police.

Investigation has failed to substantiate the German claim that the shooting was the result of a "Judaeo-Marxist-Communist" plot, the indictment said. It made allusion to the fact that Frankfurter had acted without accomplices and dwelled on the student's preoccupation with committing an act of vengeance against the Nazi regime.

The assassination resulted in international repercussions, including a German protest to the Swiss Government, suspension of Jewish cultural activities in the Reich, statements of Jewish organizations concerning the act and banning of the Nazi organization in Switzerland.

Gustloff was buried as a national martyr in his native town of Schwerin, with Chancellor Hitler delivering the funeral oration.

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### Nazi Press Bitter Over Trial

BERLIN, Dec. 9. (JTA) -- Nazi newspapers were bitterly critical today of the 18-year sentence asked by public prosecutor in the Chur, Switzerland, trial of David Frankfurter, young Jewish medical student, for the slaying last February of Wilhelm Gustloff, Swiss Nazi leader.

Der Angriff, mouthpiece of Propaganda Minister Paul Joseph Goebbels, voiced its anger under a banner headline:

"Only Eighteen Years' Imprisonment Demanded for Frankfurter."

The paper was enraged by Swiss newspaper criticism that German coverage of the trial was for propaganda purposes. It referred to the American, British and other correspondents covering the trial as "partisans of World Jewry."

German coverage of the trial is taking the form of the most violent anti-Jewish propaganda, the Voelkischer Beobachter, Chancellor Hitler's paper, even attacking Zionism for "sympathizing with Moscow." (Soviet Russia bans all Zionist activities.)

A red-letter banner on page one of the paper urges Germans to "lower their flags in honor of a martyr of the Nazi movement, murdered by Jewish hatred."

The paper asserts that Frankfurter, being religious, did not kill Gustloff on the Sabbath, but "waited until Tuesday, which is the Jewish lucky day."

Newspaper correspondents here understand that the authorities are closely watching the reporting of the German reaction to the trial and stringent measures may be taken against those whose dispatches are not considered satisfactory.

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#### Berne Paper Asks Mild Sentence

BERNE, Switzerland, Dec. 9. (JTA) -- The semi-official Berner Bund demanded in an editorial today that the Chur trial of David Frankfurter for the slaying of Wilhelm Gustloff, Swiss Nazi agent, be not allowed to take a political form and stressed the necessity for a mild sentence.

#### ZURICH SYNAGOGUE IS BOMBED

ZURICH, Switzerland, Dec. 9. (JTA) -- A bomb thrown by unknown persons during the night did considerable damage to the Zurich Synagogue.

#### REICH DEFINES "SUSPECTS" UNDER LAW TO HALT TAXLESS FLIGHT

BERLIN, Dec. 9. (JTA) -- Detailed conditions under which individuals may be suspected of intending to leave the country without paying the required flight tax were published today by the Exchange Control Office. Under a new law, passports and property of such suspects may be seized by the currency officials to ensure payment of the tax.

The conditions, embodied in instructions to currency officials, are listed as follows:

1.--When a person liquidates his holdings and does not invest the cash proceeds in a new enterprise;

- 2.-- When he withdraws large sums from bank accounts for a non-ascertainable economic reason;
- 3.-- When he purchases large quantities of jewelry and other valuables;
- 4.-- When he ships merchandise abroad on credit for a longer period than the usual credit limits;
- 5.-- When he exports merchandise on a credit basis although formerly such transactions were for cash.

When any or all of the above conditions are present, the currency authorities are empowered to remove the suspect from control of his realty, bank accounts, securities, mortgages, or any form of credits. They may, however, leave him in unhampered control of his business.

Persons registering formal declarations of intention to emigrate are not included as suspects, since their registration indicates an intention to leave legally, according to the instructions.

#### REICH JEWISH CHARITIES BODIES LOSE TAX EXEMPTION

BERLIN, Dec. 9. (JTA) -- All Jewish philanthropic organizations are deprived of customary tax exemptions under a new law published today which restricts exemptions to institutions benefiting "Aryans."

#### RUPPIN URGES PALESTINE TO SPUR CLOSE SETTLEMENT OF JEWS

JERUSALEM, Dec. 9. (JTA) -- Government facilitation of close Jewish settlement of Palestine, as provided in Article 6 of the League of Nations Mandate, was urged before the British Royal Commission today by Dr. Arthur Ruppin, head of the special economic department of the World Zionist Organization.

Dr. Ruppin said there were great possibilities for energetic development, even if the land reserves in Beer Sheba and the Transjordan were not considered.

Referring to the fact that the Government has greatly aided agriculture in other parts of the British Empire, he voiced the belief that a solution could be found in Palestine where the position obtained that Jews possessed money and Arabs land.

In reply to a question by Sir Laurie Hammond on the policy of not employing Arabs on land owned by the Jewish National Fund, Dr. Maurice Hexter, of the Jewish Agency's Jerusalem executive, replied:

"I measure every word. When the Arabs open their market to Jewish labor, we will reconsider this decision."

Dr. Hexter went on to criticize the Government definition of cultivable land, asserting that marshes could easily be drained and rocky areas be made fertile by skill and labor.

Declaring that the Government underestimated the cultivable land area Dr. Hexter urged that since no soil survey had previously been made, judgment on that score be reserved.

Lord Peel, chairman of the commission, stated at this point:

"According to you, very little Palestine land may be described as uncultivable."

Dr. Hexter replied:

"Yes, although that is not to say that every inch of land is cultivable. Of our 600,000 dunams (about 150,000 acres) under cultivation, the Government considers only 150,000 dunams cultivable."

#### 15 CARS HELD UP BY ARABS; SNIPERS WOUND 2 ON TRAIN

JERUSALEM, Dec. 9. (JTA) -- Passengers of 15 cars were held up and robbed near Jenin today by Arab bandits who escaped. The bandits fled as a passing military patrol opened fire and sent radio calls for reinforcements.

Two Arabs, including the local chieftain of Beisan, were seriously wounded yesterday when a railway train was fired upon near Beisan.

#### NEW JEWISH ATTORNEYS BARRED IN RUMANIAN CITY

BUCHAREST, Dec. 9. (JTA) -- The Bar Association of Braila, city of 67,000 population, today banned Jews as members, thus barring prospective Jewish attorneys from practicing law in that city since membership in the association is required for admission to the bar. The decision does not affect Jews already members of the association.

#### ANTI-SEMITIC STUDENT STRIKE CLOSES RUMANIAN MEDICAL SCHOOL

BUCHAREST, Dec. 9. (JTA) -- A strike of anti-Semitic Nationalist students forced the closing today of the University of Cluj (correct) medical school. The students demanded the exclusion from the school of Jews.

#### EDEN PLEDGES CONTINUED AID TO LEAGUE REFUGEE BODY

LONDON, Dec. 9. (JTA) -- Foreign Secretary Anthony Eden promised in the House of Commons today that His Majesty's Government will continue to give the League of Nations High Commission for Refugees from Germany all the assistance it possibly can. The statement was made in reply to a question by Lieut.-Commander R. J. Fletcher, Laborite.

JEWISH WORKERS' ALLIANCE SEEKS TO POPULARIZE PALESTINE PRODUCTS HERE

NEW YORK, Dec. 9. (JTA) -- The general executive of the Jewish National Workers' Alliance has decided on a campaign to stimulate sales of Palestinian products in the United States, it was announced today. A propaganda campaign will be launched through its branches and a special committee will contact Jewish firms and appeal to housewives to use Palestinian goods.

Louis Segal, general secretary of the Alliance and head of the committee, called attention to the disparity between Palestine's imports from and exports to the United States. He said that the Arab boycott made it now more important to help equalize the ratio, adding that to Palestine "it is a matter of grave importance when it must pour out its hard-earned money without an adequate return in trade."

JEWISH MINISTERS ASK AID FOR CHRISTIAN REFUGEE CAMPAIGN

NEW YORK, Dec. 9. (JTA) -- The New York Board of Jewish Ministers has adopted a resolution urging the support of people of all faiths in the campaign of the American Christian Committee for Refugees, it was announced today. The resolution was signed by Rabbi Samuel Levinson, president, and Rabbis William F. Rosenblum and Moses Hyamson.

"Not alone because of the Christian help, both spiritual and material, which has been extended to the Jewish organizations, which have been working for the relief and assistance of the Jewish refugees from persecution, but because of our natural interest in the preservation of liberal ideals and in defending those who espouse them, as well as in the alleviation of all suffering, the New York Board of Jewish Ministers will be glad to cooperate with you, in so far as it is within the power of its members to help," the resolution said.

NAZI ORGAN SEES ZURICH BOMBING AS JEWISH ACT

BERLIN, Dec. 9. (JTA) -- Propaganda Ministers Goebbels' Der Angriff, reporting the bombing of a synagogue in Zurich, said the bomb was evidently thrown by Jews "to poison the atmosphere surrounding the trial" (of David Frankfurter) and to give newspapers an opportunity to headline a Nazi attack on a synagogue as an act of terror against innocent Jews.

BULLETINReich Reported Planning Anti-Jewish Measures After Trial

BERLIN, Dec. 9. (JTA) -- Jewish circles were agitated tonight by report that the Ministry of Interior was considering proclaiming new anti-Jewish restrictions after the conclusion of the Frankfurter murder trial in Chur, Switzerland.

Jewish reaction abroad to the outcome of the trial will be important in determining whether such laws will be issued and how far they will go, it was stated.