

NEWS

VIA

CABLE
WIRELESS
TELEGRAPH
TELEPHONE

JEWISH TELEGRAPHIC AGENCY

VOL. II. NO. 110

Monday, December 14, 1936.

DRIVE ON RUMANIAN JEWS LAUNCHED BY POLITICIANS, STUDENTS, ENGINEERS

BUCHAREST, Dec. 13. (JTA) -- Politicians, engineers and students joined today in a renewed anti-Jewish campaign in which everything from outright confiscation of property to exile of all Jews to a remote island guarded by warships was demanded.

A delegation from the Association of Rumanian Engineers, most powerful group of its kind in the country, called on Dr. Valeriu Pop, Minister of Commerce and Industry and demanded that all industrial enterprises in Rumania be administered by persons of "pure Rumanian" origin. The delegation also suggested that capital owned by non-Rumanians be confiscated.

At the same time, Prof. Alexander Cuza, head of the National Christian Party, rose in the Senate to demand that Jewish property be confiscated, that Jews be prohibited from earning a living in Rumania and that all Jews be shipped to a remote island which would be surrounded by warships to prevent anyone from leaving.

Prof. Cuza, among the most outspoken of anti-Semitic leaders in the country, accompanied his demands with an attack on the Jewish religion. He charged that every Jew is taught from childhood to "get the better of Christians" and to commit murder. Rumanian Jews have poisoned the rest of the population with alcohol and bad food, he asserted, in order to enable them to rule supreme. He denied that Jews have done anything for the country and consequently had no right to expect equality of rights.

Addressing a rally of 8,000 students celebrating the fourteenth anniversary of anti-Jewish riots in Rumanian universities, Serban Milgoveanu, president of the Union of Rumanian Students announced that a

strong united front had been formed to fight the "Jewish danger."

The meeting sent a telegram to the Iron Guard, anti-Semitic terrorist organization, which said: "Comrades, you won't be long in jail."

UNIFORMED ARABS INVADE JEWISH QUARRY IN RENEWED DISORDERS

JERUSALEM, Dec. 13. (JTA) -- A large band of Arabs, in military formation and wearing uniforms, invaded the stone quarry at the Jewish settlement of Migdal Zedek today, capturing the watchmen and demolishing machinery on the premises.

The raid marked a renewal of disorders which had abated with the end of the six-month Arab general strike last October. A police patrol was fired on near Balha in the vicinity of Jenin. Residents of Hebron were roused from their sleep at an early hour this morning by intensive shooting on the main streets lasting half an hour.

Tension between Moslems and Christians continued to mount, meanwhile, with each group demanding a boycott against the other.

3 HURT, 11 ARRESTED IN DEMONSTRATION AGAINST SABBATH VIOLATION

TEL AVIV, Dec. 13. (JTA) -- Three persons were wounded and eleven others arrested yesterday when police dispersed a demonstration organized by the Shomrei Shabos, organization to enforce observance of the Sabbath, against Jewish workers at the Tel Aviv railway station.

FRANKFURTER TO HEAR VERDICT TODAY IN SLAYING OF NAZI LEADER

CHUR, Switzerland, Dec. 13. (JTA) -- David Frankfurter, incurably ill Yugoslavian Jewish medical student who last February assassinated Wilhelm Gustloff, Swiss Nazi leader, will know on Monday what penalty he must pay for the crime.

His four-day trial before five judges, attended by 250 newspaper correspondents, ended yesterday after the 27-year-old student refused to make a final statement in his own defense because Presiding Justice A. R. Ganzoni would not allow him to recount anti-Semitic experiences he underwent while a student in Germany.

Frankfurter faces 18 years in prison for the assassination, which he confessed and which he alleged was motivated by a desire to avenge Nazi persecution of Jews.

In his concluding speech, Dr. Eugen Curti, defense attorney, said the murder was an error and had been committed while in a state of extreme mental excitement. He accused the authorities of failing to provide the proper medical examination for the defendant in fear of the results.

Friedrich Grimm, summing up for Gustloff's widow, admitted that persecution of Jews in Germany motivated Frankfurter's act but pleaded that the court had no right to consider Nazi treatment of Jews because

this was a political matter. He declared that political murder should be treated as common murder.

Attacking the prosecution's thesis that Frankfurter personally had not been persecuted by the Nazis, Dr. Curti declared that his client's health and mind had been broken by the Nazi anti-Semitic campaign.

Testimony of psychiatrists regarding the complex personality of Frankfurter proved that the young student was not responsible for the murder, Dr. Curti declared. Gustloff was the victim of his hatred because he represented Nazism in Switzerland, he said.

Berlin Sees Frankfurter Acting 'Under Orders'

BERLIN, Dec. 13. (JTA) -- Chancellor Hitler's Voelkischer Beobachter today declared that David Frankfurter had acted under the orders of other persons, according to the Havas News Agency.

The newspaper demanded answers to the questions of "who pronounced the sentence of death against Gustloff?" and "who are the persons for whom the assassin Frankfurter acted?"

Dr. Eugen Curti, defense attorney, was asked to state whom the "little tool" Frankfurter took his orders from.

The German press as a whole said it was futile to view the trial as a conflict between Germany and Switzerland or between international Nazism and Jewry. The crime was purely and simply one committed by a Jew against the person of a Nazi leader, it was emphasized.

ANTI-SEMITIC LEAFLETS DISTRIBUTED AT PRAHA UNIVERSITY

PRAHA, Dec. 13. (JTA) -- Anti-Semitic leaflets were distributed today among the juridical, philosophical and natural science faculties of the German University here. The leaflets demand a purge of Jews from those faculties and appeal to "decent professors" to shun those professors who associate with Jews. The university has been the scene of recent anti-Semitic disorders.

PORTUGUESE SOCIALIST URGES ADHERENCE TO BIBLICAL SPIRIT

LISBON, Portugal, Dec. 13. (JTA) -- In an interview with the Jewish Telegraphic Agency today, Dr. Ramada Curto, leader of the Portuguese Socialist Party and former Minister of Finance, Commerce and Employment, declared:

"To be faithful to their destiny, Jews must keep the lamp of justice alight and be willing to suffer for their devotion to ideals. It is of the uttermost importance to the world that the spirit of the Torah and the prophets be kept alive."

\$2,649, 557 PLEDGED IN JDC CAMPAIGN, NATIONAL CONFERENCE HEARS

NEW YORK, Dec. 13. (JTA) -- Gross pledges of \$2,649, 557 in the \$3,500,000 campaign for overseas reconstruction and aid were reported at a national gathering today of 500 leaders of the Joint Distribution Committee by Rabbi Jonah B. Wise and Isidore Coons, co-chairman and director of the drive.

Other speakers at the conference, held in the Hotel Astor, included Governor Herbert H. Lehman, whose address was broadcast over an NEC network, Felix M. Warburg, reporting as national chairman of the 1936 campaign; Paul Baerwald, chairman of the J.D.C.; Joseph C. Hyman, executive director; Prof. Joseph P. Chamberlain, ex-member of the League of Nations High Commission for Refugees; Prof. Oscar I. Janowsky and George Backer, president of the Jewish Telegraphic Agency.

In his report, Dr. Wise said that "as the Joint Distribution Committee did not surrender to the depression in America, so it refuses to surrender to the crisis abroad. The Joint Distribution Committee will continue to sustain the Jewish communities in Poland, Rumania and other parts of Europe," he declared.

"It is our belief that now, more than ever, people are alive to the need for aiding the disadvantaged. The improved business conditions in our land have been reflected in the contributions made for the work of the Joint Distribution Committee in 1936. And we are confident that there will be an increased measure of generosity to meet the severe crisis and the dark days that lie ahead for millions of our fellow-beings."

He said that cash on hand totalled \$1,744,000, adding that substantially more pledges were expected since some of the largest communities had not been heard from yet. The quota for next year was referred to an executive meeting with a recommendation that a much larger quota be adopted for next year.

Mr. Backer was added to the executive committee. Five new vice-chairmen were named: James H. Becker, David M. Bressler, Alexander Kahn, William Rosenwald and Rabbi Wise.

A resolution was adopted gratefully recording "the cooperation given it by Christians, both individually and in groups, who have so generously practiced the principal of brotherly love and who have unhesitatingly voiced their vigorous protest against the persecutions and horrors which our people have undergone and are still enduring."

Lehman Sees Task Challenging Jews' Generosity

Governor Lehman reviewed the record of the J.D.C. in providing relief

for Jews and others since the World War and outlined the "critical intensification of Jewish distress and disability" in Germany and other parts of Europe.

Describing as "black indeed" the future facing the 400,000 remaining Jews in Germany, he declared that helping them was a task "that challenges everything we have of resourcefulness and generosity."

"In many countries," he said, "there are aspects of such suffering and deprivation as, even in our long history of vitality and courage, our people have rarely if ever been called upon to endure....."

"How we can best assist them to become more productive citizens is a problem of deep interest to them and to us. The immediate problem is one of sustaining them through the crisis through which they are going, a crisis which is not of their own making and in which they are helpless victims"

Must Build While Others Destroy, Says Warburg

Mr. Warburg sketched the highlights of the organization's 23 years of activity in behalf of Jews abroad.

"Today we are in the very midst of the greatest emergency of all," he said. "The Joint Distribution Committee must rebuild even while others are destroying. It is helping Jews in Germany, in Poland, in Rumania, and in dozens of other countries to recast and redirect their lives, and to build for the future.

"Without hesitation, I say that unless we continue to help, many thousands of these individuals face extinction. How far we can go with our plans and our assistance depends upon contributions of the public. Based on the performance of the past and what must be done in the immediate future, we must expect much larger contributions than ever before. Though the Jews of America have given generously they have not given enough to meet the needs."

In citing the help extended German-Jewish refugees here, Mr. Warburg paid warm tribute to the role of the Rockefeller Foundation. He emphasized that precautions had been taken against "dumping of unemployables or undesirables in this country" under the newly strengthened Coordinating Committee directed by Prof. Joseph P. Chamberlain, William Rosenwald, Jacob Billikopf and Miss Cecilia Razovsky.

Mr. Warburg warmly praised the activities of Dr. Bernhard Kahn, European director of the J.D.C., and Dr. Joseph Rosen, of the Agro-Joint.

Backer Sees Germany at War in Two Years

Mr. Backer declared that the solution of the German Jewish problem must be hastened because the Jews of the Reich feel the certainty of war within two years. He said there was one theory that war would bring

lessening of oppression of Jews because they would be made to help in efforts to obtain victory, and another that the burst of nationalism on the outbreak of war would result in pogroms.

"But even the first solution, which seems to offer some temporary respite for the Jews, has a dark picture at its conclusion, for what would a defeated Germany do to its Jewish population?" he said.

Mr. Rosen asserted that Russia did not need or desire outside help for Biro-Bidjan. He declared that Russia had the possibilities of becoming a country of immigration, but owing to the present complicated situation in Europe was not opening her doors to immigrants and would not until conditions in Europe became more nearly normal.

Mr. Hyman described the J.C.C.'s activities abroad and its cooperation with other organizations, such as the Council for German Jewry, the High Commission for Refugees and Jewish-aid organizations in the various countries. He told of sudden emergencies which arise requiring J.D.C. financial aid, as aiding 600 refugees to enter South Africa before the Nov. 1 deadline on immigration.

In respect to Poland, he urged private agencies and groups to help find markets for goods being manufactured by Polish Jews in projects opened with the J.D.C.'s participation. Because of cheapness of work and raw material the products can be sold abroad in non-competitive fields, he said, and the Government has given assurance it may advance \$200,000 to \$300,000, of which a \$100,000 payment has already been authorized, to find new fields where Jews do not compete with Poles.

Alexander Kahn presided at a large luncheon meeting -- committees were holding separate luncheon meetings -- and Carl J. Austrian, head of the New York campaign, presided at the morning session.

KING GEORGE VI'S FIRST MESSAGE SENT TO CHANUKAH FETE

LONDON, Dec. 13. (JTA) -- King George VI today issued his first message in the form of an expression of thanks to Jewish members of His Majesty's forces for a loyal address. The message was sent to a celebration of the Chanukah festival.

Rabbi Dayan M. Gellop, senior chaplain to His Majesty's forces, conducting the thirty-third Chanukah service of the naval, military and air forces at the Cricklewood synagogue, said: "We give our whole-hearted allegiance to the new king as we did to his predecessor, and in doing so we identify ourselves with the cause of justice."

Among those in the crowded synagogue were Field Marshal William Birdwood, General Hamilton and the Mayor of Willesden.