

# NEWS

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## JEWS TELEGRAPHIC AGENCY

1560 BROADWAY, N.Y.C.

VOL. V. NO. 74.

Thursday, March 2, 1939.

### MYSTERY BROADCAST URGES JEWS TO REVOLT; STRIKE CALL AUTHORIZED AS UNITY IS EFFECTED

JERUSALEM, March 1. (JTA) -- Tension mounted sharply today as Palestine Jewry, in a mysterious radio shortwave broadcast, was called upon to revolt against British plans to set up an Arab-controlled state in which the Jews would have a minority status.

The anonymous announcer declared a military organization of 10,000 Jews existed in Palestine and the Diaspora which was prepared to fight to the last. He said there would be no retreat though many might be arrested and many others hung.

The startling broadcast, which the authorities immediately set about tracing, came after a 24-hour session of Jewish leaders from all parts of the country had proclaimed a new policy of unity, threatened "non-cooperation" with Great Britain, authorized the Jewish National Council to call a general strike at its discretion and decided on mobilization of the Jewish community's economy and manpower to meet any emergency.

Meanwhile, arrests of Jews in connection with recent outbreaks of violence assumed a wholesale character, with eight arrested at Hadera, eight at Tel Aviv and six at Haifa. A majority of those seized are Revisionists (extremist Zionists). Those arrested at Tel Aviv were immediately committed to the Government concentration camp for three months. Three of those seized at Hadera were sent to Acre prison to serve three-month terms.

In Jerusalem, a Revisionist youth distributing an illegal leaflet bearing the imprint of "The National Military Organization of Palestine," was arrested by British police. The youth made a dash for liberty, was fired at without being hit and recaptured.

In Haifa, meanwhile, the military authorities acted to suppress an Arab strike called in protest against Monday's bombings there. Threatening severe measures Brig.-Gen. Bernard Montgomery declared in a proclamation that striking railway workers had dislocated essential services and had prescribed condition for resumption of work. "I am not," Gen. Montgomery said, "accustomed to have conditions dictated to me. I shall act most severely against striking persons and organizations."

The February disorders, it was revealed today, took a toll of 110 killed and 153 wounded, including 13 Jews dead and 53 wounded. A majority of the remaining casualties were Arab terrorists slain in clashes with British troops. The figures were compiled from official communiques issued during the month. Eliahu Bagin, a Jew wounded Feb. 21, died here today.

After a full day and night of deliberation, the meeting of Jewish leaders, convoked by the Jewish National Council, adopted a series of resolutions as follows:

(1) Calling for mobilization of the Palestine Jewish community's economy and manpower to meet any emergency, and renewing the Kofar Hayishub, Jewish defense and redemption fund; (2) authorizing the Jewish National Council to call a general strike at its discretion; (3) ordering a census of the adult Jewish population to prepare for emergency national service; (4) recommending enlargement of the Jewish National Council to permit inclusion of the Revisionists, the Jewish Farmers' Association, the non-Zionist religious Agudath Israel and other groups, and (5) urging the Jewish delegation at the London conferences on Palestine to call upon world Jewry not to despair.

The proclamation issued in conjunction with the resolutions, while threatening non-cooperation with Britain if a minority status for the Jews is enforced, called upon the Jewish community not to commit irresponsible acts. A proposal by representatives of the Jewish State Party, to recall the Jewish delegation from London and to call upon Dr. Chaim Weizmann and other officials of the Jewish Agency for Palestine to resign as a protest against the British proposals, was rejected by the meeting.

The authorities suspended two Revisionist dailies, the newly-founded Hamashkif for a fortnight and Hayarden, which has suffered frequent suspensions before, for three months.

The Jewish National Council announced receipt of the following cable, sent in Hebrew, from American Zionist leaders: "The Jewish public follows with deep concern what is happening in London. It has yet the strength and courage to resist, to help and to act. Your stand in the years of bloodshed have conferred honor on our people and served as a source of confidence for the entire house of Israel. The final triumph is with us." The cable was signed by Rabbi Solomon Goldman, president of the Zionist Organization of America; Mrs. Judith Epstein, president of Hadassah; Leon Gellman, president of the Mizrahi Organization and David Wertheim, secretary of the Poale Zion-Zeire Zion Organization.

#### Palestine Arabs Seek Better British Offer

LONDON, March 1. (JTA) -- A surprising turn was given to the Palestine conferences today when the Palestine Arabs made known to the Government that its suggestions for establishment of an independent state in the Holy Land were unsatisfactory and submitted counter-proposals.

The British plan, which remains unmodified, and the alternative suggestions put forward at this afternoon's Anglo-Arab meeting will be discussed tomorrow afternoon at a smaller meeting, with the Arabs represented by two or three Palestinians and one delegate each of the five Arab states attending the conference, and Britain represented by Foreign Secretary Viscount Halifax, Undersecretary Richard A. Butler and Colonial Secretary Malcolm MacDonald.

At the same time, leaders of the Jewish delegation, who have categorically rejected the Government's plan, were maintaining private and personal contacts with the British representatives and reiterated the hope that the Government would inform them by Friday whether it was prepared to offer new suggestions as a basis for further Anglo-Jewish talks.

With the discussion entering their fourth week, their status can be summarized as follows:

On the British side there is impatience at the failure to make headway in finding a common ground on which to base a solution of the Palestine problem acceptable to the three parties and a feeling that the talks have gone on long enough for a definite scheme to emerge.

On the Jewish side it is felt that the suggestions so far submitted are completely unacceptable as a basis for discussion and unless new suggestions are advanced which meet the major Jewish objections, there is no further purpose in continuing the discussions. If the independent state plan represents the Government's policy, it is felt that there is no purpose to any further discussion because the Jews could not agree to it and the plan could only be put into effect if imposed by the Government without the Jews' consent.

On the Arab side there is insistence on compliance with the maximum demands of the ex-Mufti of Jerusalem, an independent Arab state and cessation of Jewish immigration immediately, and there is objection to the British suggestions on the ground that they do not go far enough in meeting the Arab demands.

The Jewish Agency Executive met again this afternoon to consider the situation and adjourned until Friday, by when it is hoped that a reply will be received from the Government to the demand for a new plan. If the reply indicates that new suggestions will be forthcoming, then formal talks will be resumed without delay, but if it reveals that the suggestions which the Jews have already rejected must be taken as the basis for discussion, it is understood that the Executive and the all-party Jewish conference committee will decide to withdraw from the conference.

Many of the Jewish delegation are impatient at the delay and are anxious to return to their homes. The American delegates, Dr. Stephen S. Wise, Louis Lipsky and Robert Szold, will sail on the Queen Mary on Saturday unless a favorable reply is received.

The British representatives and certain Jewish leaders met informally tonight. Tomorrow at 5:30 p.m. Dr. Chaim Weizmann, Dr. Wise and possibly other Jewish leaders will call on Prime Minister Neville Chamberlain to discuss the situation. United States Ambassador Joseph P. Kennedy is keeping in close touch with the conference and is being informed of all developments.

#### Polish Zionists Ask Withdrawal

WARSAW, March 1. (JTA) -- A conference of all Zionist parties adopted a resolution today asking the Jewish delegation at the London conferences to withdraw if the British proposals were final. The resolution emphasized that Polish Jewry was prepared for any sacrifice in the cause of a Jewish national home under the Balfour Declaration.

#### U.S. Zionists Pledge "Resistance"; Post Sees "Victory for Terrorism"

NEW YORK, March 1. (JTA) -- A joint statement pledging to resist Britain's plan for a Palestine state "with every means at their command" was issued last night by representatives of Zionist organizations at a special conference. The national officers of the Zionist Organization of America, Mizrahi, Hadassah and Poale-Zion participated in the meeting.

The New York Post today editorially termed the British proposals "another victory for terrorism" which, it declared, "will be callous preparation for a period of murder and oppression, perhaps without parallel in recent memory."

POLISH BAN ON SHECHITA TO BE PUT INTO EFFECT BY DEGREES

WARSAW, March 1. (JTA) -- The bill banning shechita, adopted by the Sejm yesterday, provides that the quota of kosher meat permitted the Jews under the present law shall not be changed during 1939 but is to be reduced by one-third in each of the following three years, with complete prohibition becoming effective at the end of 1942. A proposal by Agriculture Minister Poniatowski that the ban be deferred until the end of 1943 was rejected.

The bill was passed by the lower house over the protests of Jewish deputies Emil Sommerstein and Simon Zeidenman, who declared the measure was contrary to the constitution, violated Jewish civil and religious rights and would harm Polish agriculture. The measure, which must be approved by the Senate and signed by President Moscicki before becoming law, also empowers the municipal and communal authorities to take over kosher slaughter, as well as wholesale and retail trade in kosher meat, thus ousting Jews from the meat trade.

RUMANIA TO PERMIT EMIGRANTS TO TRANSFER CAPITAL; PUSHES MASS COLONIZATION PLAN

BUCHAREST, March 1. (JTA) -- Salient points in the Rumanian Government's policy on Jews, including emigration of many thousands who have already been deprived of their citizenship or will be by March 31, were outlined to a special J.T.A. correspondent today by a high Government official.

The official made two important disclosures. Of major interest is the fact that the Government will permit emigrating Jews to transfer to the country of immigration their capital and property, despite existing currency regulations. Secondly, the Government has worked out in collaboration with another power a plan for mass colonization of a territory outside of Palestine, with at least 8,000 Jews to be settled in the first year.

The interview was given by the official in connection with a session of the Cabinet at which the Jewish question was thoroughly discussed. Reporting to the Cabinet on revision of citizenships, which has been in progress for several months in accordance with a royal decree issued last Winter, Justice Minister Victor Iamandy announced that 45,000 Jews had been deprived of their citizenship. He said another 100,000 would lose their citizenship by March 31, when the revision is scheduled to end. Estimates of previous regimes that Rumania's Jewish population totalled 2,000,000 were refuted by Mr. Iamandy who told the Cabinet that the revision process had established that the number of Jews did not exceed 900,000.

Jewish leaders will be consulted on all emigration activities and machinery will be set up by the Government to intensify emigration and to establish conditions of transfer of property, the official revealed in the course of the interview. Denationalized Jews who are unable to emigrate, he said, will be regarded as "stateless" and will not be permitted to work or to engage in trades or professions and will have to be supported by the 750,000 Jews whose citizenship has not been revoked.

Jews whose citizenship is not withdrawn, the official declared, will be accorded liberal treatment for "tactical reasons," but will not be admitted to the totalitarian National Regeneration Party and to certain professions for several years. New anti-Jewish economic measures might be expected, he added, since the Jews were considered economically too strong. "Anti-Semitism is over," the official added, "but the Jewish question still exists in Rumania and will be solved in a legal, logical manner in the interests of the country as well as Jews recognized as citizens. Violence will not be tolerated under any circumstances."

Meanwhile, the Black Sea port of Constanza resembles a refugee camp, with hundreds of young Jews and Jewesses forming queues in front of travel offices. Allured by agents of racketeering shipping companies, hundreds drift to Constanza with the hope of finding means to emigrate and find themselves penniless and stranded after paying their transportation fares. Faced with the problem of hundreds of hungry and desperate Jewish youths, the Constanza Jewish Community is warning Jews not to be misled by false emigration propaganda. A delegation of Jewish leaders has left Bucharest for Constanza to investigate the situation. The Palestine Office at Czernowitz and the Zionist Revisionist party have also issued statements warning against racketeering travel agents.

#### NON-SECTARIAN BODY FORMED HERE, SPONSORED BY QUAKERS, TO PLACE REFUGEE CHILDREN IN HOMES

NEW YORK, March 1. (JTA) -- A nation-wide organization called the Non-Sectarian Committee for German Refugee Children has been formed, it was announced today, to assume responsibility for placing children in foster homes of their own faith throughout the country.

The announcement was made by Clarence E. Pickett, executive secretary of the (Quaker) American Friends Service Committee and temporary executive director of the new committee, who said that offers had already been received from persons in 41 states to receive German children. One agency alone, he said, has on file 2,500 requests to adopt refugee children which have so far been turned down because of this country's failure to admit more than a handful.

The non-sectarian committee will implement the Wagner-Rogers Bill which would permit admission of a maximum of 10,000 German children under the age of 14 in 1959 and the same maximum in 1940, depending on the number which can be adequately cared for. "We have guarantees of adequate financial backing from responsible organizations and substantial private sources to assure that the refugees will not become public charges," Mr. Pickett said.

Heading the committee as co-chairmen are George Cardinal Mundelein, represented by Bishop Bernard J. Sheil; the Rev. Anson Phelps Stokes, dean of Washington Cathedral; Governor Herbert H. Lehman, William Allen White, Dean Helen Taft Manning of Bryn Mawr College, President Frank Porter Graham of the University of North Carolina and Mr. Pickett.

#### Chile Last Hope of 68 Refugees Turned Back by Uruguay

BUENOS AIRES, March 1. (JTA) -- Jewish organizations still had hopes today that Chile would admit 68 German-Jewish reuees who were on board the Italian liner Conte Grande after having been refused admission to Uruguay, Bolivia and the Argentine. The liner left this port yesterday, with its cargo of refugees destined to be returned to Germany unless they are permitted to land at Rio de Janeiro. Meanwhile, 30 more refugees from Germany arrived at Montevideo on the German steamer General San Martin and were refused admission to Uruguay on the grounds that their visas were illegally issued.

#### ORT TO TRAIN MEMBERS OF POLISH UNIONS AND "NO-MAN'S-LAND" REFUGEES

NEW YORK, March 1. (JTA) -- The World ORT Union, which redirects Jewish occupational life through vocational and agricultural training, has undertaken two new activities -- training of some 50,000 Jewish members of Polish unions who are not fully qualified in their trades and training of refugees in camps in "no man's lands," it was announced today by the American ORT Federation. The Polish project, which will start shortly, resulted from an agreement between ORT and the Central Bureau of Jewish Trade Unions of Poland under which ORT training will help save the jobs of the union members who now face the risk of dismissal because of insufficient skill.