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## JEWISH TELEGRAPHIC AGENCY

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### SUICIDES, ARRESTS MARK ANTI-JEWISH DRIVE IN NEW NAZI AREA; PRAGUE SHOPS SEIZED

LONDON, March 16. (JTA) -- A sweeping anti-Jewish drive was under way today in Germany's newly occupied territories of former Czecho-Slovakia, as Chancellor Adolf Hitler added Slovakia to his previously-acquired "protectorates" of Bohemia and Moravia.

Appointment of Nazi commissars for Jewish shops, a wave of suicides and arrests and extension of Germany's Nuremberg Laws to the new "protectorate" marked the campaign against the Jewish population of the former Republic, estimated between two and three hundred thousand. A radio broadcast in Prague announced that special commissars had been placed in charge of Jewish shops in the city -- as was done in Vienna a year ago after Austro-German Anschluss -- carrying with it the implication that the shops might be taken from Jewish control.

An undetermined number of suicides of Jews and anti-Nazis was reported from Prague as the Gestapo opened a drive to round-up elements hostile to the new regime. A Gestapo officer arriving in Prague indicated that at least 10,000 arrests would be made before German occupation was completed.

Jewish relief work in Prague was halted by seizure of the Jewish community's funds, reports asserted. The Prague office of the HIAS-ICA Emigration Association was said to have been among the other Jewish organizations and institutions closed down. Panic-stricken Jews were in hiding or making frantic efforts to emigrate.

A group of 500 Jews en route to England via Gdynia, Poland, and Scandinavia were cut off from the Polish-Bohemian frontier by the German occupation, reports said. They have credentials to emigrate, but will require Nazi permission. Hundreds of persons gathered outside the British Consulate in Prague, shouting, "We want to get away!"

Extension of the Nuremberg Laws was indicated in Chancellor Hitler's decree this morning formally announcing incorporation of Bohemia and Moravia as a "protectorate" in the German Reich. The decree, broadcast by German Foreign Minister Joachim von Ribbentrop, said that "German-blooded residents of the protectorate will become German citizens subject to the laws protecting German blood and German honor."

A few hours later the Fuehrer announced that at the request of Slovak Premier Josef Tiso "I.....hereby assume protection of the Slovak State," and it was expected that the anti-Semitic laws would be applied in Slovakia as well. Hitler's decree did not preclude occupation of further territory because it referred to territory "occupied by German troops in March, 1939," mentioning no territories by name.

As hundreds seeking to emigrate besieged the British consulate in Prague, Prime Min-

to assure the security of refugees from former Czecho-Slovakia, but pointed out that there was no way for them to get out or for outside aid to reach them.

The problem of refugees from the partitioned Republic was also reported to have been discussed by Myron C. Taylor, America vice-chairman of the Intergovernmental Refugee Committee, with officials of the committee.

#### U.S. Expects Refugee Body to Act in Czech Situation

WASHINGTON, March 16. (JTA) -- United States officials look to the Intergovernmental Refugee Committee to see what steps can be taken in behalf of the Jews of former Czecho-Slovakia. The German absorption of Bohemia, Moravia and Slovakia politically will mean that the committee's mandate will cover the refugees, either in German territory or those obliged to leave German territory.

If the Reich does not actually annex these areas, the 8,000 Jews now in former Czecho-Slovakia who fled from Germany and Sudetenland will come under the committee's mandate. The United States itself can give little direct aid to the refugees, it was said. The Czecho-Slovakian quota is now 99 per cent filled. The quota totals only 2,874 annually.

American officials say that little can be done for these Jews until the Intergovernmental Committee selects a new homeland for refugees. Then American financial assistance to settle Jews there will follow.

#### Congress Acts to End Trade Pact With Conquered Area

WASHINGTON, March 16. (JTA) -- A bill which would abrogate the reciprocal trade treaty signed with Czecho-Slovakia last Spring and make Germany responsible for repayment of Czecho-Slovakia's \$165,229,000 national debt to the United States was introduced in the House today by Edith Nourse Rogers (Dem.Mass.). Abrogation of the trade agreement would remove the duty reductions allowed on certain classes of goods from former Czecho-Slovakia and would be a step toward placing on the trade "blacklist" of the United States those areas now under German control, as was done in the case of Sudetenland.

#### BRITAIN TO GET JEWS' REJECTION OF PLAN TODAY; PARLEY PANEL BREAKS UP

LONDON, March 16. (JTA) -- The Jewish panel for the Palestine conference, rejecting Britain's new proposals for establishment of an independent state, decided today to dissolve itself and leave any further negotiations in the hands of the Jewish Agency Executive. The Palestinian delegates left for home tonight.

The Jews' decision, which will be communicated to the Government tomorrow, was adopted after the Jewish delegates and advisers had heard reports from Dr. Chaim Weizmann, head of the Jewish delegation, and Moshe Shertok, head of the Jewish Agency's political department.

The Jewish view is that the new proposals do not differ in any fundamental respects from the tentative British suggestions which the Jews had previously rejected. It is believed that the Palestine Arabs will also reject the proposals at tomorrow's meeting with the British representatives.

On the Jewish side strong objection is taken to the introduction of the principle that Arab consent is necessary for Jewish immigration after the proposed entry of 75,000 in five years. This, it is held, destroys the foundations of the Jewish national home, violates the

Balfour Declaration and the mandate and contradicts the statement of policy by Winston Churchill when Colonial Secretary that Jews come to Palestine by right and not by sufferance.

The Jews object strongly also to the contemplated development of government apparatus on the existing population ratio (about two Arabs to one Jew), interpreting this as the first step toward establishment of an Arab state. They hold that government bodies would be overweighted by the Arab majority and the principle of non-domination would be shattered.

In outlining the plan to the Jews last night Colonial Secretary Malcolm MacDonald declared he could not fix the length of the proposed transition period, which might be ten years, depending on the amount of Arab-Jewish cooperation developed. He outlined three stages in establishment of the independent state:

(1) Appointment of Arabs and Jews, in the ratio of two to one, to the Palestine Government's advisory and executive councils, with Palestinians outnumbering the British in the advisory body and equalling them in number in the executive body;

(2) Establishment of a legislative council, possibly within two years, to which Palestinians would be elected, and the handing over of certain Government departments to the Palestinians;

(3) The turning over of other departments and eventual establishment of an independent state linked by treaty to Britain.

Mr. MacDonald indicated that the consent of all parties was required for termination of the transition period, but did not give convincing assurance that the state would not be established without Jewish consent.

In view of the expected rejection of the plan, it is expected that Britain will prepare its unilateral decision for announcement next week. The final plan is subject to Parliamentary approval. If it entails alteration of the mandate, it will also require approval of the League of Nations Mandates Commission. It is officially stated that the United States Government's consent is not necessary, but that the British Government is conscious of the importance of American public opinion.

#### British Gird For Trouble in Palestine; U.S. Groups Protest to Hull

JERUSALEM, March 16. (JTA) -- The British authorities are apparently preparing for grave developments in Palestine in connection with the forthcoming announcement of policy on the country's political future. Curfew, it was learned today, will be imposed by the authorities throughout Palestine for a period of 24 hours or longer at the first sign of disorder. Government officials, however, denied to Mayor Israel Rokach of Tel Aviv that curfew will be imposed in advance as a possible precaution against violence.

Meanwhile, the police arsenal at Tel Aviv, an all-Jewish city, has been transferred to neighboring Arab Jaffa, leaving Jewish constables with only 25 cartridges each. The Hadassah Hospital at Tel Aviv has prepared extra beds, but the city authorities informed the Jewish Telegraphic Agency they had no knowledge of such preparatory measures. Normal relations are continuing between the authorities and Jewish special policemen.

American Jewish colonies, organizations and business firms in Palestine today protested to Secretary of State Cordell Hull that Britain's plan to halt development of the Jewish homeland would endanger an \$80,000,000 American Jewish investment in the Holy Land.

A message cabled to Washington said that American Jews in Palestine were gravely apprehensive over the British Government's patent intention of repudiating the Balfour Declaration and the Palestine mandate and establishing an Arab Government controlled by "the authors of a three-year deliberate campaign of murder and destruction."

The new plan, the message said, endangers American Jews' livelihoods, large investments, substantial holdings and important corporate interests and cancels the guarantees contained in the Anglo-American Convention of 1924, relying on which 10,000 American Jews had settled in the Holy Land and \$80,000,000 had been invested here.

The cable was signed by Julius Simon, president of the Palestine Economic Corporation; the Hadassah Medical Center, operated by the American women's Zionist organization; the American Porcelain Tooth Company, the American-Zion Commonwealth, the American Economic Committee for Palestine, the American Settlers' Association and a number of American-financed Jewish colonies, including Nathania, Affuleh, Balfouria, Ein Hashofet (named for ex-Supreme Court Justice Louis D. Brandeis), Herzliah, Raanana and Gan Yavneh.

The Hebrew laborite daily Davar said editorially today that the British proposals meant "war against Zionism" and also "Zionist war against the proposals." Since the mandate, the newspaper said, the Jews had regarded England as a natural ally and even during disputes had not envisaged disobedience and non-cooperation. "Now, however," the editorial added, "the previous approach is inconceivable."

Other Hebrew newspapers voiced similar sentiments. Haaretz declared Palestine Jewry's reply to the proposals would be "complete non-cooperation" with the new Government, and with immigration and colonization restrictions. Haboker and Hazofe both published headlines stating "No! No! No! to the British plan."

The Jerusalem branch of the "Group B" General Zionists adopted a resolution calling on the Jewish Agency Executive to resign and summon a world Jewish congress with the participation of the Jewish Agency, the Zionist Organization, the New Zionist Organization and the Agudath Israel to elect an emergency national executive committee to direct the struggle against liquidation of the Jewish national home. The resolution also called upon the Palestine Jewish National Council to announce new elections for the Jewish National Assembly based on universal suffrage and without discrimination.

#### ANTI-JEWISH BILL ADOPTED BY HUNGARIAN PARLIAMENT

BUDAPEST, March 16. (JTA) -- While the attention of the entire country was concentrated today upon the international situation, the Chamber of Deputies adopted a second reading of the anti-Jewish bill. The measure, which calls for restriction of Jewish participation in Hungary's economic and cultural life to seven per cent, was passed after a half-hour debate and was sent to committee for final drafting.

More than 100 deputies voted for the measure, which was introduced by the Government of former Premier Bela Imredi and had the backing of Premier Paul Teleki. The opposition mustered 27 votes, including Social Democrats, National Liberals, Independent Agrarians and some independents.

Because of the international situation, the Chamber adjourned until March 20. Meanwhile, a delegation of Jewish leaders called upon Count Teleki to discuss the anti-Semitic bill.

DAILY NEWS URGES ADMISSION OF REFUGEES TO U.S.

NEW YORK, March 16. (JTA) -- The New York Daily News today urged editorially the adoption of the Wagner bill to sanction admission of 10,000 refugee children into the United States and relaxation of immigration regulations to admit "as large a proportion of these people (refugees) as we can be fairly called upon to receive -- if not a larger."

Contrary to popular impression refugees help diminish unemployment and should on that account be admitted on a generous basis, Sir Norman Angell, noted pacifist and author, declares in an article in the current issue of Ken magazine. In support of his contention, Sir Norman cites the economic progress made by the United States and other countries during periods of free immigration and quotes the British Home Secretary, who said in the House of Commons recently that settlement of 11,000 German refugees in England had been the direct cause of providing 15,000 British workers with jobs. The article is entitled, "Why Not Take Refugees?"

Refugees from political, racial and religious persecution were among beneficiaries of \$187,560 disbursed by the Golden Rule Foundation, it was announced by Charles V. Vickrey, president. The funds were administered by an aggregate of 254 carefully selected institutions and agencies, according to a booklet just issued by the Foundation.

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Britain Asked to Support 50,000

LONDON, March 16. (JTA) -- The British Government was urged today by Sir John Hope Simpson, director of the Refugee Survey of the Royal Institute of International Affairs, to support and house 50,000 refugees. Sir John expressed the belief that there was room in the British Dominions for an additional million people. Addressing the National Liberal Club, Sir John declared recent events may result in the flight of hundreds of thousands from the former Czecho-Slovakia. He said the refugee problem was not insoluble provided the Governments could be made to realize that it was not a problem of humanitarianism or charity but political.

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Commission to Study Dutch Guiana Possibilities

AMSTERDAM, March 16. (JTA) -- The International Jewish Colonization Association, founded by Daniel Wolf, Netherlands Jewish banker and philanthropist, announced today that a Dutch expert committee will leave in a few weeks to study the possibilities of large-scale settlement of refugees in Dutch Guiana.

ALEXANDER KAHN REPORTED SLATED FOR STATE SUPREME COURT

NEW YORK, March 16. (JTA) -- It was reported from Albany today that Governor Lehman has decided to appoint Alexander Kahn, general manager of the Jewish Daily Forward and a leader of the American Labor Party, to the vacancy in the Supreme Court in Brooklyn. Mr. Kahn told the J.T.A. that "this is news to me, although I have known that it was brewing." Mr. Kahn is vice-chairman of the Joint Distribution Committee and a leader of the National Labor Committee for Palestine.

SO. AFRICAN PHILANTHROPIST GIVES \$100,000 TO UNIVERSITY

JOHANNESBURG, March 16. (JTA) -- Witwatersrand University announced today a gift of \$100,000 by Wolf Hilman, Jewish merchant and philanthropist, for erection of a new civil engineering building. Mr. Hilman is president of the South African Jewish Orphanage.