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JEWISH TELEGRAPHIC AGENCY

1560 BROADWAY N.Y.C.

VOL. V. NO. 88.

Sunday, March 19, 1939.

JEWS IN "PROTECTORATES" FEEL FULL FORCE OF NAZI DRIVE; U.S. ASSAILS "WANTON LAWLESSNESS"

LONDON, March 17. (JTA) -- The anti-Jewish campaign in German-occupied parts of former Czecho-Slovakia gained momentum today, to the accompaniment of increasing arrests and suicides.

Escape by emigration was prevented as German troops closed the borders, as was done in Austria a year ago. Various reports told of border riots as Jews and others sought to escape, the halting of 300 Jews at Maerisch-Ostrau and 100 at Lobositz, and the detention of 200 Jews who sought to emigrate to San Domingo with an equal number of poorer Jews.

Jewish suicides were said to be reaching great proportions, but no figures were available. Four Jews in one house were reported to have killed themselves by leaping from the window. Newspapers reported 20 suicides of Jews, including Eugen Zucker, retired director of the Anglo-Bank; Rudolph Wahle, a retired judge, and Paul Donner, former director of the Czech radio system.

The ousting of Jews from the country's economic life went forward rapidly. Jewish physicians and lawyers were forbidden to practice. The Prague Merchants' Association expelled all Jewish members, their shops already taken over by Nazi commissars. It was announced that all Jewish employees in the film industry had "resigned."

Arrests of Jews and anti-Nazis were estimated at various figures, the highest being 12,000, as Nazis searched Jewish homes for "Communist arms caches." In Slovakia, Hlinka guards confiscated Jewish money and valuables and took over Jewish-owned automobiles and trucks. In Bratislava, sentries were posted in front of apartment houses to prevent Jews from leaving with parcels. The few Bratislava Jews permitted to cross the Danube into Hungary were allowed to take only 500 crowns (\$17).

Welles Condemns Use of "Arbitrary Force"

WASHINGTON, March 17. (JTA) -- The United States Government today sharply condemned Germany's occupation of Czecho-Slovakia as an "act of wanton lawlessness and of arbitrary force."

Under-Secretary of State Sumner Welles, after a conference with President Roosevelt, declared in a statement that "it is manifest that acts of wanton lawlessness and of arbitrary force are threatening the very structure of modern civilization. Following is the text of the statement:

"The Government of the United States has on frequent occasions stated its conviction that only through international support of a program of order based upon law can world peace be assured.

"This Government, founded upon and dedicated to the principles of human liberty and of democracy, cannot refrain from making known this country's condemnation of the acts which have resulted in the temporary extinguishment of the liberties of a free and independent people with whom, from the day when the republic of Czecho-Slovakia attained its independence, the people of the United States have maintained specially close and friendly relations. The position of the Government of the United States has been made consistently clear.

"It has emphasized the need for respect for the sanctity of treaties and of the pledged word and for non-intervention by any nation in the domestic affairs of other nations; and it has on repeated occasions expressed its condemnation of a policy of military aggression.

"It is manifest that acts of wanton lawlessness and of arbitrary force are threatening world peace, and the very structure of modern civilization.

"The imperative need for the observance of the principles advocated by this Government has been clearly demonstrated by the developments which have taken place during the last three days."

160 Jews Fled Prague 2 Hours Before Occupation

PRAGUE, March 17. (JTA) -- A transport of 160 Jews en route to Palestine got across the frontier shortly before the Germans occupied Prague, it was ascertained today. Two hours after the occupation, a telegram was received here announcing they had crossed the frontier safely. The transport included the famous poet, Max Brod; the journalist, Dr. Felix Weltsch and a number of other prominent Zionists. All held Palestine immigration certificates in the capitalist category.

Meanwhile, many Jews have fled from Bohemia-Moravia to Slovakia, hoping for better treatment there because Slovakian Jews had been among the supporters of Dr. Josef Tiso, Premier of the new Nazi protectorate.

234 Czech Jewish Children Get Palestine Visas

NEW YORK, March 17. (JTA) -- Hadassah, American women's Zionist organization, announced today that it has completed arrangements by cable for the immediate transfer of 234 Jewish boys and girls from Prague to Palestine. The transfer, under the auspices of the organization's Youth Aliyah movement, will be effected by the end of next week.

PALESTINE JEWS CALL ONE-DAY GENERAL STRIKE AS LONDON PARLEY ENDS

JERUSALEM, March 17. (JTA) -- The Jewish National Council today proclaimed a 24-hour general strike by Palestine Jewry in protest against the British Government's proposals to set up an independent state in which the Jews would be fixed as a one-third majority. The strike will start Monday morning and continue until Tuesday morning. Jews throughout the Holy Land will stop work, close schools and shops, and suspend all traffic and trade.

The Council's proclamation called on the country's 400,000 Jews to avoid demonstrations in the streets and to dedicate their minds to remembrance of the victims of three years of terrorism. The action was taken under mandate of an emergency conference March 1 of the representatives of all Jewish parties and national institutions.

In a manifesto preceding the proclamation, the Council declared that the British Government's proposals were aimed at liquidation of the policy to facilitate establishment of a Jewish National Home, pledged in the Balfour Declaration of 1917. Proposals to limit Jewish immigration to 75,000 in five years were characterized by the manifesto as implying "coagulation of Palestine Jewry into a permanent minority and turning over of the national home to the Mufti."

Continuing, the manifesto declared: "Palestine Jewry's reply was clearly expressed in the manifesto of March 1 that it could not cooperate with the regime that was to be established and could not accept its authority. That answer still applies. Adherents of that manifesto are urging its implementation. In the coming days, the Palestine Jewish community will have a great political fight for the fate of the people of the homeland, which will be defended as befits Hebrews in the land of the Hebrews. United, responsible and disciplined, the community will be prepared for orders."

Earlier, the first Jewish act of non-cooperation with the Palestine Government was taken when Vice-Mayor Daniel Auster of Jerusalem notified the authorities that the Jewish members of the City Council would not participate in further council meetings until Jewish national institutions had decided on their line of action. With the four Arab councillors alone present, the City Council failed to hold a meeting for lack of a quorum.

Conference Ended as Jews, Arabs Reject British Plan

LONDON, March 17. (JTA) -- The British Government announced today the conclusion of the Palestine conference after Arab and Jewish rejection of Britain's final proposals for an agreement had signified the failure of the five-and-a-half week efforts to find a compromise solution of the Palestine problem. The Government accordingly will announce next week a unilateral solution, which will be imposed regardless of the attitudes of the Arabs and Jews.

The Palestine Arabs' rejection of the British proposals for establishment of an independent state after a transition period of indefinite duration was communicated to the Government representatives at a final session this afternoon at the St. James Palace. The Jews' rejection of the plan was announced earlier in a letter signed by Dr. Chaim Weizmann, president of the Jewish Agency for Palestine and head of the Jewish delegation. The letter cited the following resolution of the Agency and the delegation:

"After having carefully considered the proposals communicated to them by His Majesty's Government on March 15, they regret that they are unable to accept them as a basis for agreement and have decided, accordingly, to dissolve."

George Antonius, secretary of the Palestine Arab delegation, said in a statement that the immediate cause of the break-up of the Anglo-Arab discussions was the British Government's refusal to fix a time limit for the transition period before establishment of an independent state and Britain's insistence that termination of the transition would be decided when full cooperation was established between Arabs and Jews.

The Palestine Arab delegation felt, the statement said, that this would give the Jews or any minority the opportunity to obstruct the smooth working of the transitional arrangement and a virtual veto of the independent state. On that, he said, the conference broke up, without even entering into discussion of the British proposals regarding immigration, land sales and a constitution.

In his oral presentation of the British proposals Wednesday night, Colonial Secretary MacDonald had allayed none of the fears held by the Jews, although he declared that the ultimate aim was an independent Palestine state and not an Arab or a Jewish state, and asserted

that provisions would be made to safeguard the Jewish national home in its special position. He did not give any indications of the ultimate form of the state or of the safeguards that would be made for the Jewish national home beyond remarking that the state might be federal.

Mr. MacDonald was also understood to have declared that the proposals would be put into operation only after order had been restored in Palestine. With respect to termination of the transition period, he declared that this would depend upon success of the experiment and the possibility of cooperation between Arabs and Jews if a state is established. The statement left considerable doubt as to whether he really meant that the transition period would be terminated only with Jewish acquiescence.

London Times Urges Reconsideration of Peel Plan

LONDON, March 17. (JTA) -- Declaring it was clear that the Palestine conference had failed, The Times urged editorially today that the British Government "atone for earlier failures" by framing a sound policy of its own. The Times suggested that the policy take into account the report of the Peel Royal Commission, which in 1937 recommended partition of Palestine, and that eventual union of Palestine and Syria be considered.

Polish Jews Ask Britain to Keep Faith

WARSAW, March 17. (JTA) -- A cable urging the British Government "not to betray the confidence of the Jewish people" with regard to Palestine was dispatched today by a conference of all Zionist parties together with the Agudath Israel, religious non-Zionist organization. The cable said: "In the darkest and most tragic hour of Jewish history, 3,500,000 Polish Jews appeal to the British Government not to betray the confidence of the Jewish people in Great Britain and not to destroy the sacred hopes of the Jewish people by adoption of a policy bound to drive them to despair."

SCIENTISTS, EDUCATORS FORM BODY TO PROMOTE DEMOCRACY, INTELLECTUAL FREEDOM

NEW YORK, March 17. (JTA) -- Formation of a national committee of 53 leading American scientists and educators, including three Nobel Prize winners, to campaign for preservation and extension of democracy and intellectual freedom, was announced today by Prof. Franz Boas.

Prof. Boas, Columbia University anthropologist, is chairman of the group which will be known as the American Committee for Democracy and Intellectual Freedom. The Nobel Prize winners on the committee are Prof. Robert A. Millikan of the California Institute of Technology; Prof. Arthur H. Compton of the University of Chicago, and Prof. Harold C. Urey of Columbia University.

Five college presidents, nine college and university deans, the president of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, Prof. Wesley C. Mitchell of Columbia, and the president-elect, Prof. Walter B. Cannon of the Harvard Medical School, are also among the members.

Prof. Boas said the committee hoped to set up local chapters in hundreds of schools and colleges throughout the country. The committee, he asserted, was an outgrowth of the scientists' committee which organized the nationwide Lincoln's Birthday Program this year.

"We are pledged," Prof. Boas declared, "to protect and extend intellectual freedom, to strengthen our appreciation of the long and glorious heritage of American democracy, to combat propaganda for racial or religious discrimination or intolerance, to make our schools fortresses of democracy."

Citing stands against anti-democratic forces recently taken by such organizations as the American Association for the Advancement of Science, the American Association of University Professors, the American Anthropological Association, Phi Beta Kappa and others, Prof. Boas continued: "We are convinced that these expressions of opinion have been useful, but they are not enough. They must be followed by action. Scientists and educators have a moral obligation to the American people and to the people of the world. In the classroom and lecture hall, in their articles and books, they influence the thinking of millions. Today as never before that influence must be exerted in a positive program for democracy and intellectual freedom."

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Anti-Fascist Magazine Launched by Noted Literary Figures

NEW YORK, March 17. (JTA) -- Noted personalities in literature, stage, screen and science have joined the editorial council of a new monthly magazine, Equality, dedicated to combatting anti-Semitism and racism, it was announced today. The magazine will make its first appearance March 22.

The editorial council includes Bennett A. Cerf, publisher, Dashiell Hammett, author, Moss Hart, producer; Lillian Hellman, playwright, Arthur Kober, author, Donald Ogden Stewart, author; Rabbi Michael Alper of the Hebrew Orphan Asylum; Prince Hubertus Zu Loewenstein, former leader of the Catholic youth movement in Germany; Dorothy Parker, Prof. Franz Boas and Abraham Chapman, managing editor.

LORD HAILEY PRESIDES AT OPENING OF REFUGEE CENTER IN LONDON

LONDON, March 17. (JTA) -- Lord Hailey, chairman of the Refugees' Coordination Committee presided today at the formal opening of the Cultural Center for Austrian Refugees. He expressed the hope that the center might bring back to the refugees something of their own home life and help them regain something they had lost elsewhere. A message was received from Prof. Sigmund Freud, who was too ill to attend.

WISE BIRTHDAY FUND ANNOUNCED TO AID A.J. CONGRESS

NEW YORK, March 17. (JTA) -- Establishment of a nation-wide Birthday Fund in honor of the 65th birthday of Dr. Stephen S. Wise, president of the American Jewish Congress, which occurred today, was announced by the Governing Council of the Congress. The fund will, at the behest of Dr. Wise, be used to maintain the work of the American Jewish Congress. Special committees will be set up for the purpose of establishing this fund in various localities.

BULLETINS ON EUROPEAN SITUATION

Hungarian Troops Loot Jewish Shops in Ruthenia

LONDON, March 17. (JTA) -- Dispatches from Ruthenia said today that Hungarian troops had looted Jewish shops during the occupation of Carpatho-Ukraine. The troops also reportedly dragged Jews from their homes and beat many of them to death.

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Warsaw Crowd Stages Anti-Reich Demonstration

WARSAW, March 17. (Havas) -- Cries of "Down with Hitler!" were raised in anti-German demonstrations here tonight when a crowd of about 1,000 massed before the Foreign Ministry. Several persons were injured as mounted police charged the crowd several times. Mingled with shouts of "Down with Germany!" and "Down with Hitler!" were other cries of "Long live Democracy." The crowd protesting the occupation of Czecho-Slovakia, tried unsuccessfully to break into the Ministry. Plate-glass windows were broken in numerous German shops here. The streets of the capital were patrolled tonight by special police details sent out to enforce order.