

# NEWS

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by the

## JEWISH TELEGRAPHIC AGENCY

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### BRITAIN'S PALESTINE POLICY, SET FOR WEDNESDAY, EXPECTED TO CURB ENTRY, LAND SALES

LONDON, March 19. (JTA) -- The British Government is expected to issue on Wednesday a white paper setting forth its decision for settlement of the Palestine question, with indications pointing to drastic restriction of Jewish immigration and land purchase and the limiting of Jews to a ratio of one-third of the population.

It was learned today that Colonial Secretary Malcolm MacDonald told Arab delegates to the Palestine conference that the British Government's obligations to the Jews under the Balfour Declaration would be discharged when Palestine's Jewish population reached one-third of the total. (There are at present about 45 Jews to every 100 Arabs.) The statement was made in the course of Britain's final proposals for an agreement. As far as can be learned, Mr. MacDonald did not present this viewpoint to the Jews.

The Colonial Secretary was understood to have told the Arabs also that with the admission of 75,000 Jewish immigrants over a five-year period, as envisaged in the final proposals, Palestine would have done all that could be expected by the country towards a solution of the problem of Jewish homelessness. Arab circles expect that these views will be incorporated in the British unilateral policy to be announced on Wednesday.

As indicated to both the Jews and Arabs, the Government will take strong measures to prevent illegal immigration. Deductions will be made from subsequent immigration schedules for illegal immigrants who cannot be deported.

Last week's British proposals set a maximum Jewish immigration of 10,000 annually for five years, with possible admission of an additional 25,000 refugees, dependent on the country's absorptive capacity. In view of the Colonial Secretary's assertion that in the event of non-agreement the Government would withdraw its "concessions," it is expected that the new immigration quota will be somewhat less than that suggested in the final proposals. The new policy is also expected to give the Palestine High Commissioner control of land sales or establish a zoning system based largely on the report of the Woodhead Commission.

In view of the rejection of the British plan with which the conference culminated, informed circles gravely doubt that the Government will be able to enforce a policy providing for constitutional development, which requires a large measure of cooperation from both other parties. While such cooperation might be forthcoming from the Arab moderates, providing the terror is completely crushed, it is considered most unlikely that the Jews will cooperate to implement any policy aiming at eventual establishment of an independent Palestine state in which they would be a minority. Should the new policy, as expected here, contain the principles of the final proposals, the Palestine Jews are expected to organize a wide campaign of passive non-cooperation with the Government.

Measures to stamp out terrorism will be taken in connection with proclamation of the new policy, it is indicated. The Palestine authorities are reported to be taking all precautions against terroristic demonstrations upon issuance of the white paper.

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Jewish Strike in Palestine Put Off

JERUSALEM, March 19. (JTA) -- The Jewish National Council of Palestine today called off for the present a one-day strike scheduled for tomorrow. An Arab strike against the British plan spread to Haifa after Arabs in Tiberias and Nazareth had yesterday closed their shops and stopped work. A conference of parliamentarians of Arab countries will be held next month in Cairo to discuss the Palestine problem, the Arabic daily Falastin reported. Scattered disorders continued.

JEWISH SUICIDES, ARRESTS MOUNT IN REICH "PROTECTORATE"; BANK FUNDS SEIZED

PRAGUE, March 19. (JTA) -- Suicides and mass arrests of Jews by the Gestapo (German secret police) continued today in the wake of Nazi occupation of former Czecho-Slovakia.

Jewish merchants are selling their businesses to "Aryans" as quickly as possible, practically giving them away. The Chamber of Lawyers has decided to ban all Jews from legal practice, ordering all Jewish advocates to find "Aryan" substitutes within 24 hours or see "Aryans" installed in their offices by the Chamber.

Payment was stopped on all Jewish accounts in Prague banks. Foreign Jews who came here to attend the Prague Fair have departed.

(The New York Times reported that Bruenn's largest synagogue was destroyed by a fire assumed to be incendiary. The dispatch said a decree had been issued in Prague forbidding individual action toward private property, which was believed to be aimed at unauthorized requisitioning of Jewish property.)

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MORAVSKA-OSTRAVA, Moravia, March 19. (Havas) -- The anti-Semitic crusade started here immediately following German occupation of Chancellor Hitler's Czech "protectorate" had by tonight almost completely remodelled this Moravian city along typical Nazi lines. Most of the cafes have blossomed out with such signs as "Jews not wanted here!" Stores have been instructed to placard their windows with signs announcing, "Czech Business."

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Seek Release of HIAS-ICA Head

PARIS, March 19. (JTA) -- Completely cut off from Prague, where Jewish emigration offices have been closed by the Gestapo, central Jewish relief organizations here were seeking today to obtain through Sir Herbert Emerson, director of the Intergovernment Refugee Committee and League of Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, the release of Marie Schmolka, head of the HIAS-ICA Emigration Association in Prague, who was arrested by the Gestapo.

It was understood here that a list of all German and Austrian Jewish refugees registered for emigration had been confiscated by the Gestapo together with other documents in the HIAS-ICA office.

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Representations Made to British Government

LONDON, March 19. (JTA) -- The Joint Foreign Committee of British Jews has drawn the British Government's attention to "the even grimmer tragedy of the 350,000 Jews now in the toils of the ruthless oppressor" involved in the "catastrophe which has overwhelmed the brave Czecho-Slovak people," it was announced today. The representations were announced to the

Board of Deputies of British Jews by its president, Neville Laski, who said: "The mercilessness and brutality with which the Jews have been treated are directly symptomatic of the policy and intention to deal in the same way with all sections and peoples who are either defenseless or whose attachment to the ideals of religion, mercy, decency and brotherliness have made them appear weak in the eyes of bestiality not having such scruples and moral qualities."

#### JEWISH RELIEF AGENCIES SEEK INTERNATIONAL AID AS FUNDS DWINDLE

PARIS, March 19. (JTA).-- Jewish relief organizations, faced with a rapidly mounting refugee problem and fast decreasing funds, today sought international assistance to avert an impairment in refugee aid. Latest complication in the refugee situation was the addition of 80,000 Jews in Bohemia-Moravia and 85,000 in Slovakia to the source of potential refugees. Thousands more were expected from Rumania and Hungary.

Relief agencies in Paris and London, believing they would eventually be unable to cope financially with the entire refugee situation, decided to bring it officially to the attention of Sir Herbert Emerson, both as director of the Intergovernment Refugee Committee, and League of Nations High Commissioner for Refugees. The matter has also been discussed, it was learned, with Myron C. Taylor, American vice-chairman of the Intergovernmental Committee, at a private interview before his departure for the United States, with a view to interesting him in the problem of raising international funds.

The burden of maintaining tens of thousands of refugees is exhausting the resources of relief organization, which are engaged not only in caring for refugees outside the Reich but for Jews within Germany. The situation is especially precarious in countries like Switzerland, Holland, Belgium, England, France and Luxemburg, where refugees must be cared for in refugee camps and elsewhere by funds of Jewish organizations, principally the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee, pending their emigration overseas, the chances for which are slim.

Conviction was expressed that the Portuguese Government might consider favorably the opening of one or two of its colonies to 10,000 Jewish families. Investigations and various steps regarding this were started some time ago by a group in Paris which is now seeking to attract the interest of central Jewish organizations.

Leaders of this group today outlined details of the plan as follows: (1) The Portuguese Government would give preference to German and Austrian Jews, would also receive Czecho-Slovakian and Hungarian Jews, and eventually some from Hungary, but would accept none from Poland, apparently fearing Polish colonial claims. (2) Those admitted would have to keep out of politics, after three years, could speak no language but Portuguese and in the interim would have to establish schools with Portuguese as the only language of instruction. They would have to pledge to join the Legion to defend the empire in case of foreign invasion and would be obliged to pay taxes. (3) The colonists could become farmers, cattle-raisers and craftsmen, but other economic activities would be restricted to citizens, except where special permission was granted.

Violation of any of these provisions would lead to immediate expulsion of the settler and his family. Jewish organizations would be required to invest capital for creation of industries, development of irrigation facilities, combating of malaria and establishment of hospitals. Whether the Intergovernmental Committee is aware of the Portuguese plan is not known, but it is recalled that a similar plan in connection with Angola was dropped when the Spanish civil war broke out.

25% U.S. PENALTY DUTY ON REICH GOODS SPURS BOYCOTT

NEW YORK, March 19. (JTA) -- Spurred by the United States Government's action in raising duties 25 per cent on dutiable German goods -- virtually halting German exports to this country -- the anti-Nazi boycott surged forward today on the crest of a wave of American resentment at the Reich's occupation of former Czecho-Slovakia.

The Volunteer Christian Committee to Boycott Nazi Germany announced that 366 prominent Americans in 117 cities and 39 states had signed a pledge to join the movement to isolate Nazi Germany through economic boycott as an expression of their abhorrence of the Reich's "violation of religious freedom, racial persecution, glorification of war and the inculcation of race hatred into the minds of little children."

The Government's action, effective April 22, imposed the penalty duties on German imports on the dutiable list until it is shown they are not subsidized. An opinion endorsing the step, under the Tariff Act of 1930, was rendered by Attorney-General Frank Murphy yesterday. Although the action was technically only an economic measure, it recalled President Roosevelt's statement, in his message to Congress on Jan. 4: "There are many methods short of war, but stronger and more effective than mere words, of bringing home to aggressor governments the aggregate sentiments of our own people."

The boycott has been extended by the Joint Boycott Council to the areas of former Czecho-Slovakia now under Hitler's control. Dr. Joseph Tenenbaum, chairman of the council, said the boycott automatically applied to "all lands where the swastika flag flies" and "now we shall have to treat goods from Bohemia, Moravia and Slovakia as Nazi goods." The boycott against these areas was supported by the Association of Beads, Stone and Glass Importers, which decided at a luncheon to try to bring Czech workers here to found these industries in the United States.

HIAS VOTES \$1,000,000 CAMPAIGN TO EXPAND EMIGRANT AID

NEW YORK, March 19. (JTA) -- A \$1,000,000 nation-wide campaign to expand the work of the Hebrew Sheltering and Immigrant Aid Society was voted today at its 54th annual convention in the Hotel Astor attended by 1,500 delegates. Resolutions were adopted urging the adoption of the Wagner-Rogers Bill for admission of 20,000 refugee children in 1939 and 1940 and expressing appreciation of President Roosevelt's effort in behalf of refugees.

In his presidential address, Abraham Herman reported that during the past year HIAS in cooperation with the Jewish Colonization Association had aided 3,854 German refugees to settle in 34 countries and has also aided about 10,000 Jews from other European countries to migrate. He praised the work of the Intergovernmental Refugee Committee.

Declaring that "in another decade we may be crying out loud for more consumers", Immigration Commissioner James L. Houghteling asserted that at present "the temper of our people appears to be unfavorable towards any increase of immigration quotas" and that although he would like a "liberalization" of the immigration laws, members of Congress did not agree with him. The Commissioner said that the work of the Intergovernmental Committee would "have to go unrewarded for the present because of the events of the past week," but he declared the greatest hope of the Jews was still in international cooperation.

Isaac L. Asofsky, executive director, reported that 590,184 Americans sought advice from HIAS during the past year regarding immigration of their relatives and that 210,208 meals were served to emigrants prior to their being united with their relatives in the United States. Other speakers included Alexander Kahn, manager of the Jewish Forward, Assistant District Attorney Samuel Goldstein, grandmaster of the I.O.B.A., Dr. Samuel Margoshes, editor of the Jewish Day,

Rabbi A.D. Burack, vice-president of the Union of Orthodox Rabbis, and the Rev. Z.H. Masliansky, Assistant District Attorney Murray I. Gurfein, Herman J. Greenhut and Harry Lang were added to the Board of Directors.

#### SMALL NATIONS HELD LEARNING ANTI-SEMITISM LINKED WITH THEIR DESTRUCTION

NEW YORK, March 19. (JTA) -- Adolf Hitler is "educating the smaller peoples of Europe to the fact that the cause of the Jews is bound up with their own national preservation," it was declared today in the New York Times unsigned editorial column, "Topics of the Times."

The fact that the subjugator of Czecho-Slovakia is the implacable enemy of the Jews cut the ground from under anti Semites in Czecho-Slovakia who had called the Jews the enemies of the nation, the commentator said. Hitler's thesis that the Jews are the enemies of mankind "will lose its appeal as the neighbors begin to take notice that victory for Hitler's ideas means the loss of their national existence," the writer asserted.

The role of the Jew and anti-Semitism in the world today is discussed at length in magazine articles by Prof. Alfred North Whitehead, noted mathematician and philosopher of Harvard University, and Demaree Bess, well-known journalist and foreign correspondent. Prof. Whitehead writes on "An Appeal to Sanity" in the current number of Atlantic Monthly, while Mr. Bess discusses "Jewish Pawns in Power Politics" in the March 18 issue of the Saturday Evening Post.

#### Z.O.A. PLEDGES REDOUBLED ZIONIST ACTIVITY IN REPLY TO BRITAIN

NEW YORK, March 19. (JTA) -- The Zionist Organization of America's administrative committee today resolved to intensify doubly Zionist activities in the United States as an answer to Britain's proposal to restrict the Jewish homeland, after hearing reports of the London conference by the American delegates, Dr. Stephen S. Wise, Louis Lipsky and Robert Szold. Judge Louis Levinthal was elected chairman of the administrative committee to succeed the late Judge William Lewis.

#### REICH HELD BREAKING PROMISE ON JEWS' TREATMENT

LONDON, March 19. (JTA) -- The German Government is not abiding by its promises regarding the Jews made in its memorandum to George Rublee, former director of the Intergovernmental Refugee Committee, it was indicated today by a report of the Anglo-Jewish Joint Foreign Committee to a meeting of the Board of Deputies of British Jews. The category of wage-earning Jews, between the ages of 15 and 45, which the German memorandum said would emigrate first, is now being conscripted for manual labor in Germany, while the promise of reasonable treatment of the aged has not been fulfilled, the report said.

#### 160,000 JEWS CHANGE NAMES IN BERLIN

BERLIN, March 19. (JTA) -- A total of 160,000 Berlin Jews have altered their names or added to them the first names of Israel or Sarah in compliance with a Nazi decree, according to Volk und Rasse, organ of the State Department of National Health and the German Society for Racial Hygiene. The newspaper also reported that a new decree will be introduced under which Jews will be compelled to change such "Aryan" surnames as Deutschmann, Preuss and Berliner to their former Jewish names.

Der Angriff, organ of Propaganda Minister Paul Joseph Goebbels, reports that a synagogue at Coblenz will be converted into a Nazi kindergarten and Hitler Youth home.