

# NEWS

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## JEWISH TELEGRAPHIC AGENCY

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Friday, March 31, 1939.

### PRAGUE JEWISH LEADERS RELEASED, BUT MASS ARRESTS GO ON; EMIGRATION ACTIVITIES RESUMED

PRAGUE, March 30. (JTA) -- All Zionist and other Jewish leaders arrested in Prague since the German invasion have now been released with the single exception of Marie Schmolka, head of all refugee work in Prague, it was ascertained today. Mme. Schmolka is expected to be released this week.

The Palestine Office and the Zionist Organization have received official permission to resume their activities and 200 Jews possessing Palestine immigration certificates will be permitted to leave for the Holy Land at an early date. The Palestine Foundation Fund and the Jewish National Fund, Zionist colonization and land-purchasing agencies, are still forbidden to function.

The headquarters of the Jewish Community and the Supreme Council of Czecho-Slovak Jews have been reopened but all Jewish relief organizations, societies and schools continue closed. The official organ of the Jewish Community, Zidovske Spravy, is still not appearing.

Meanwhile, wholesale arrests of Jews by the Gestapo are continuing, but they are usually released after a few days. The head of the Palestine Office, Prof. Solomon Lieben, who was among those arrested, has been released by the Gestapo on condition that he leave the country within a fortnight.

Violent anti-Semitic excesses are reported daily from Slovakia. The Jewish inhabitants of the town of Nitra were reportedly loaded into lorries by the Fascist anti-Semitic Hlinka Guards, taken to the countryside, brutally beaten up and left helpless in the open fields. Advices from Bratislava declare that Slovakian Jews are being robbed of all their belongings and money by Hlinka hoodlums.

### World Jewish Congress Cites "Martyrdom" in Message to Powers

GENEVA, March 30. (JTA) -- The "unspeakable martyrdom" of the Czecho-Slovakian Jews since the German occupation was drawn to the attention today of the United States, Great Britain, France and Soviet Russia in identical messages by the executive committee of the World Jewish Congress.

The message, addressed to President Roosevelt, Lord Halifax, Georges Bonnet and Maxim Litvinoff, declared: "The executive committee draws the attention of your Government to the unspeakable martyrdom undergone by the Jews of Czecho-Slovakia since its occupation by Germany in violation of international treaties guaranteeing the equality of rights of all Czech citizens."

The committee also dispatched a telegram to Joseph Avenol, secretary-general of the League of Nations, recalling that the League had guaranteed the rights of Czech Jews. Another cable was sent to Dr. Eduard Benes, pre-Munich president of the former republic who is now in Chicago, expressing the hope that the Czechs would soon regain their national independence.

#### MANY FOREIGN JEWS GIVEN 2 DAYS TO LEAVE ITALY

ROME, March 30. (JTA) -- The authorities served notice today on many foreign Jews who remained in Italy after the March 12 expulsion deadline that they must leave the country within the next two days. Jews in Rome, Florence, Milan, Naples, Ancona and other cities were officially notified that their applications for permission to remain longer have been rejected.

Arrests and deportations, however, have not yet been reported. It is believed the new action was taken to press foreign Jews more effectively to leave the country voluntarily. Practically all who have been ordered expelled are trekking to the French border, hoping to cross clandestinely as did many hundreds in the days before March 12. An estimated 150 of the March 12 refugees are reported to be still waiting in the vicinity of the Italo-French frontier for an opportunity to cross into France.

#### Belgium Closes Doors to Illegal Immigrants

BRUSSELS, March 30. (JTA) -- The Justice Ministry announced today that illegal immigrants henceforth will be turned back at the Belgian frontier, although regulations with regard to political refugees will be maintained.

It was stated in official circles that the measure was motivated by the fact that nearly 7,000 Jewish illegal immigrants from central Europe had entered Belgium since the Government decided not to turn back refugees not having proper credentials. The authorities were said to fear that in the event of international complications those refugees who are now being supported by relief committees would become public charges.

Dr. Max Gottschalk, head of the Jewish Refugee Committee, declared that the committee had not been consulted prior to the Government's new decision. He pointed out, however, that the order was understandable since overpopulated Belgium had already received more than 6,000 Jewish illegal immigrants compared with 8,000 admitted by France, with its far larger population, less than 5,000 by Holland and under 3,000 by Switzerland. Nevertheless, he said, the decision to send back new illegal immigrants was regrettable. He expressed the hope that it would not be applied to refugees already in Belgium.

Anti-Jewish leaflets alleging that refugees were taking jobs from Belgians were widely distributed here. Placards showing Jews cutting prices were posted in many parts of the city. A Rexist candidate named Hainaut was arrested for the second time today for "insulting anti-Jewish behavior."

#### SECRET SERVICE GATHERING DATA ON NAZI ACTIVITIES, MURPHY REVEALS

WASHINGTON, March 30. (JTA) -- The Federal Bureau of Investigation is now gathering information on specific cases of Nazi activity, at his direction, Attorney-General Frank Murphy stated at his press conference today. The results will be released when completed, he said. Referring to the bill of Representative Martin Dies to compel the Justice Department to make public the results of its investigation last year into the German-American Bund and similar

organizations, Mr. Murphy said a member of the Dies Committee was examining these findings at the time the resolution was introduced. He added that the report, consisting of numerous volumes of writing and pictures, was on a desk in the anteroom of his office.

TEST CASE MAPPED HERE TO RECOVER \$100,000,000 FROM NAZI BANKS

NEW YORK, March 30. (JTA) -- A test case opening the way for refugees here to recover from German banks more than \$100,000,000 in foreign securities is now in course of preparation, according to B.H. Lewinski, former Berlin attorney.

Interviewed at the Hotel Marie Antoinette, Mr. Lewinski pointed out that in the last two years the Nazi government, through its banks, has been forcing German Jews to sell securities held in the United States, Great Britain, Belgium, Holland, Switzerland and other countries.

"A close study of international law indicates that the methods pursued by the Nazis in forcing such sales, and the 'blocked mark' system of payment used by them, amount to virtual confiscation," Mr. Lewinski said. "Under such conditions the property is recoverable according to American law."

QUAKERS ASSAIL "VILIFICATION" DRIVE AGAINST JEWS IN PHILADELPHIA

PHILADELPHIA, March 30. (JTA) -- The Friends Committee on Race Relations reported last night that "a deliberate, underhand campaign of vilification against Jews" is under way in Philadelphia which "has progressed to the extent that attacks have been made on property held by Jewish residents in Philadelphia."

The report was read to the annual meetings of two local Quaker groups by Mrs. Ruth Verlander Poley, co-chairman of the committee, who said the anti-Semitic campaign is being "promoted by the distribution of scurrilous leaflets and handbills handed out in subways and on street corners."

"Our horror at injustices to Jews in Europe must not stop with fighting anti-Semitism at home, increasingly important as that is," the report said. "It must force us to look at America and Quakerdom and see also the beam in our own eye. We must not stop until our contemporary membership is freed of the evil of racial discrimination as expressed in our schools, our hospitals, our business enterprises."

Albert P. Martin, of the American Friends Service Committee, suggested that the Race Relations Committee organize "a counter campaign of truth." Stephen Raushenbush, who was chief investigator of the Senate Munitions Committee, declared anti-Semitism in America was following the technique used in Germany. Dr. Leon Solis-Cohen, chairman of the local Anti-Defamation Committee, asserted that underlying the activities of anti-Semitic groups was "an attempt to destroy liberties and the rights guaranteed to all under the Constitution."

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Legion Leader Condemns Moseley

PHILADELPHIA, March 30. (JTA) -- Major-General George Van Horn Moseley's anti-Semitic attack before the sixth annual National Defense Meeting here Tuesday night calls for unanimous condemnation of the 70 groups participating in the meeting, Frank E. Gwynn, Pennsylvania Department Commander of the American Legion, declared in a statement today. Mr. Gwynn accused the retired army officer of a "scurrilous attempt" to foster "class hatred and religious bigotry."

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"This man who mistakes freedom for license; who is so viciously biting the hand that fed him for many years; who under the guise of anti-Communism preached the most violent doctrines of the Fascist-Nazi program, certainly did not express the opinion of the American women under whose auspices he spoke," the Legion leader said.

"Sincere groups must be constantly on the alert to prevent a recurrence of such displays. The Moseleys of America cannot be gagged, but they can and must be out-talked and the range of their voice limited. They most certainly must be kept from poisoning the minds of American youth, from organizing the army which Moseley advocated for the overthrow of the American Government."

#### ANTI-SEMITISM IN N.Y. SEEN AS "OPEN INSTRUMENT OF DEMAGOGUERY"

NEW YORK, March 30. (JTA) -- A warning that "anti-Semitism in New York has ceased to be whispered and has become an open instrument of demagoguery, a vast outlet for idle energies" is sounded by George Britt, who is collaborating with Heywood Brown on a new book on anti-Semitism to be published this Spring, in an article in the current issue of The Nation.

The article, entitled "Poison in the Melting Pot," reviews recent incidents of anti-Semitism, including the stabbing of two Jews in February, the picketing of Station WMCA and activities of such organizations as the Bund, the predominantly Irish "Christian Front," the "Christian Crusaders" and Italian Fascist groups.

"This account of anti-Semitism in New York City today could not have been written a year ago," the writer concludes. "These things now in abundant open manifestation were not happening then. But in 1939 anti-Semitism in New York has ceased to be whispered and has become an open instrument of demagoguery, a vast outlet for idle energies. If a few stabbings occur after all this poison of hatred has been poured into the ears of dissatisfied small people, who can be surprised?"

#### FRICK DEMANDS "RIGHT TO LIVE" FOR GERMAN MINORITIES EVERYWHERE

BERLIN, March 30. (Havas) -- Interior Minister Wilhelm Frick tonight demanded for German minorities everywhere the "right to live" outside the Reich's guaranteed frontiers, both in Europe and in "the most distant countries beyond the seas."

While Dr. Frick did not say so, Reich spokesmen have on numerous past occasions made it clear that in their view the "right to live" includes the right to profess fealty to Nazi doctrine, even in cases where racial Germans are citizens of other countries.

The Interior Minister discussed the minorities question at length in a lecture before a group of Nazi leaders. Although his topic was "non-German ethnic groups living within the Reich," actually he devoted most of his talk to German minorities in other countries.

Frick was careful to emphasize the fact that, not counting the "protectorates" of Bohemia and Moravia, there are far fewer non-Germans in this country than there are Germans in other countries.

"It is evident," he declared, "that the treatment accorded to German groups in other countries cannot be without reciprocal effect on the treatment given to corresponding non-German groups living in the Reich."

EX-PREMIER KAROLYI QUILTS HUNGARIAN SENATE OVER ANTI-JEWISH BILL

BUDAPEST, March 30. (JTA) -- Count Karolyi, former Premier of Hungary, has resigned as a member of the Upper House because amendments to the anti-Jewish bill now before it had been rejected. The bill, which would drastically limit Jewish participation in Hungarian cultural and economic life, has been passed by the Lower House.

POLISH JEWRY URGED TO BACK DEFENSE LOAN; PALESTINIANS VOLUNTEER FOR ARMY

WARSAW, March 30. (JTA) -- All Jewish organizations, communities and rabbinical unions today published appeals to Polish Jewry to support the national defense loan that is being floated by the Government.

JERUSALEM, March 30. (JTA) -- Aroused by the German threat to Poland, large numbers of Polish Jews in Palestine have visited the Polish consulates in Jerusalem, Tel Aviv and Haifa to volunteer for army service.

BERLIN JEW SLAIN IN HAIFA

JERUSALEM, March 30. (JTA) -- A Berlin Jew named Max Alexandrowith, 27, was fatally wounded today when he was shot near the British Club in Haifa.

Holds Outside Agitation is Bar to Palestine Solution

LONDON, March 30. (JTA) -- Removal of outside "agitating influences" is a prerequisite to solution of the Palestine problem, it was declared today by Sir Wyndham Deedes in an address before the Public Schools Business Society. Sir Wyndham, who was Civil Secretary to the Palestine Administration in 1920, said he was convinced that when the promise was made to the Jews to facilitate establishment of a Jewish National Home in Palestine "we really know what we were doing."

VAST SUMS NEEDED TO SOLVE REFUGEE PROBLEM, TROPER ASSERTS ON ARRIVAL

NEW YORK, March 30. (JTA) -- Solution of the German Jewish refugee problem depends upon exploration of all planned emigration channels and the placing of vastly greater sums at the disposal of the private organizations concerned with this problem, declared Morris C. Troper, European director of the Joint Distribution Committee, who arrived today on the Normandie on the eve of the opening of the New York Campaign of the United Jewish Appeal for Refugees and Overseas Needs.

"On the continent, Holland, Belgium, Switzerland and France are all doing their utmost but the potentialities of these communities are reaching a point where more help must come from abroad if refugees are not to go without the barest necessities in keeping bodies and souls together," Mr. Troper said. "It will be possible to make much greater headway toward solution of the problem once people realized that the assets among the refugees far outweighed their possible liabilities - that they will be a bonus to many countries and not an onus. It is a well-known fact that enterprising refugees have created employment possibilities in several countries and that experience with settling them in the depressed areas in England indicated some very promising results."