

NEWS

from all over the world

VIA

CABLE
WIRELESS
TELEGRAPH
TELEPHONE

by the

JEWISH TELEGRAPHIC AGENCY

1560 BROADWAY N.Y.C.

VOL. V. NO. 148.

Wednesday, May 31, 1939.

10 SLAIN IN PALESTINE DISORDERS; BRITISH PUNISH JEWS FOR BOMBING OF ARAB CINEMA

JERUSALEM, May 30. (JTA) -- The British administration today retaliated for acts of terrorism, ascribed in official circles to Jews, in which five persons were killed and 23 wounded. The death total for two days was 10.

In reprisal for the bombing yesterday of the Arab-owned Rex Cinema with a toll of 18 injured, the military commander for the Jerusalem district closed indefinitely Jerusalem's four Jewish cinemas, imposed curfew on all Jewish cafes from 8 p.m., banned a scheduled performance of the Palestine Symphony Orchestra on June 1 and prohibited all future performances without special permission.

Two bombs exploded in the Rex Cinema and a third unexploded bomb was found in the balcony. The casualties included three British constables, three Palestinian constables, 10 Arab civilians and 2 Jews. The motion picture house had just reopened after being closed for a long time because of Arab terrorism and was showing the picture "Tarzan's Revenge." The proprietors had been warned by Arab terrorists not to reopen.

Although police cleared the streets immediately after the bombing, one Jew was killed and another fatally-wounded by gunfire on a sidestreet off King George Avenue. The fatally wounded one was Arieh Polonsky, 28, a sergeant of the Criminal Investigation Department, who died today.

The other act of violence attributed to Jews was the shooting at the Arab village of Biyaradas in which five persons were killed and five wounded. British police, after searching nearby Jewish colonies, arrested four boys at the Kfar Saba settlement and the local council was ordered to billet a military detachment in punishment. An official communique earlier said the assailants spoke Hebrew and wore European clothing.

Another attack on Arabs occurred today when an Arab bus passing the riachne Yehuda quarter of Jerusalem was fired upon and one passenger was injured. Later, a Jew was injured when Arabs stoned a Jewish bus.

Three Arabs were killed and three others wounded when a detachment of British troops rounded up an armed band near Safed.

Twenty Jews were reported injured when a watchtower collapsed during the secret building of a new colony in the Haifa bay area. Police headquarters instructed forces stationed in Jewish colonies not to assist in establishment of new settlements by guarding and accompanying the settlers. Attempts to establish settlements must be reported to headquarters immediately, the order said.

Establishment of a "Jewish High Committee" with semi-dictatorial powers to conduct the campaign against Britain's plan was demanded by a delegation of Jerusalem Jews dissatisfied with the tactics of national institutions in regard to British policy which visited the Jewish Agency Executive. The demand was rejected by David Ben Gurion, chairman of the Executive, who stated that existing institutions were competent to conduct the campaign.

The Palestine Central Committee of the Group "B" General Zionists adopted a resolution demanding that the Jewish Agency establish an emergency committee to conduct the campaign against the British policy with L1,000,000 annually taken from national funds. The resolution warned that if the Agency did not assent, the Group "B" would withdraw its representatives from the activities of Jewish national institutions until the Zionist Congress.

As resistance to the British policy mounted, the Government press officer, on behalf of the High Commissioner, warned the local Jewish press against inciting to civil disobedience in editorials or articles and against inflammatory accounts of meetings on pain of punishment. Simultaneously, the Jewish National Council and the Agudath Israel submitted memorandums to the High Commissioner for transmittal to the Mandates Commission in opposition to the British policy.

Jewish members of Jerusalem's Municipal Council, except for the Agudath Israel Councillor, visited District Commissioner Sir Edward Keith-Roach and demanded that the present Arab mayor be replaced by a Jew. They warned that Jewish tax payments would cease if the demand was not met within two weeks.

A Jewish auxiliary policeman, Hans Joachim Fechtner, 18, who was arrested Saturday at Ataroth with a non service revolver, was sentenced to a month's imprisonment by a military court.

Arab Extremists Reject British Policy; Moderate Slain

JERUSALEM, May 30. (JTA) - The exiled Palestine Arab High Committee, led by the ex-Mufti of Jerusalem, today published a manifesto rejecting Britain's plan for an independent Palestine state, as a reply to a group of 150 Arab moderates, headed by Ragheb Bey Nashashibi, who yesterday voted approval of the British White Paper. Nashashibi was received by High Commissioner Sir Harold A. MacMichael and submitted the moderates' resolution.

Khalil Shanin, a leader of Nashashibi's Arab Defense Party and a participant in the meeting which adopted the resolution, was assassinated at his home in Bethlehem last night.

Entry Quota Dwindles as 400 More Illegals Are Deducted

HAIFA, May 30. (JTA) -- The 400 refugees captured yesterday off Nathania aboard the salvage tug Atrato and brought to Haifa were released today and their number will be deducted from the Jewish immigration quota. Deductions for illegal immigrants so far total 1,200 and Jews feared that it would cancel the entire entry quota for the month. The Government applied to the courts for confiscation of the Atrato.

ZIONIST CONGRESS OFFICE OPENED IN GENEVA

GENEVA, May 30. (JTA) -- An office to handle arrangements for the 21st World Zionist Congress, beginning here Aug. 16, has been opened under the management of Aaron Mechner of Tel Aviv. Dr. Franz Kahn, who headed the Zionist Congress office for years, was unable to leave the Palestine office in Prague.

U.S. TO GUARD RIGHTS IN PALESTINE, BUT CANNOT PREVENT MANDATE CHANGE

WASHINGTON, May 30. (JTA) - The State Department, replying to Congressmen's inquiries on the American attitude toward Britain's new Palestine policy, has reaffirmed the position that the United States cannot prevent changes in the Holy Land mandate but will take all necessary measures for protection of American rights and interests. A letter sent by the Department over the weekend to 150 members of Congress referred to the statement made by Secretary Cordell Hull last Oct. 14 as representing the administration's present attitude and also reiterated American interest in the Jewish homeland.

The Oct. 14 statement declared that the Government intends to present to Britain its views regarding any changes in the mandate affecting American rights, and while the United States cannot prevent modification of the mandate, it can refuse to recognize the application of such changes unless assented to by Washington. It also emphasized American interest in the Jewish homeland in Palestine, "a project in which American intellect and capital have played a leading role," and cited the expressions of sympathy with the homeland made by all presidents since Woodrow Wilson and by Congress. The statement was made after a Jewish delegation had asked intercession with Britain to prevent a radical revision in Palestine policy which would harm the Jewish homeland.

Vatican Favors International Rule

VATICAN CITY, May 30. (JTA) -- Pope Pius XII is expected shortly to present his views privately to the British Government on the Palestine question. While the Vatican hitherto would not comment on Britain's new Palestine policy and the papal organ Osservatore Romano even restricted its routine reports on Palestine to a skeleton form, the Vatican organ now for the first time reviews the White Paper and expressed anxiety over the holy places, doubting that an Arab-Jewish government is possible since even Arab-Jewish co-existence has proved difficult.

The Vatican apparently prefers British control to independent statehood, and favors even more international control with the Vatican's participation. It is understood from Vatican circles that the failure to comment hitherto resulted from orders from above to await "factual consequences." It is believed that the Vatican expects Britain to change its Palestine policy with the developing international situation.

British Labor Party Demands Rescinding of Policy

SOUTHPORT, England, May 30. (JTA) -- The annual conference of the Labor Party today adopted an emergency resolution, with only two dissenting votes, demanding that the British Government rescind its Palestine policy and reopen the gates of the Holy Land to immigration in accordance with absorptive capacity.

CZECHS INDIGNANT OVER BOMBING OF HISTORIC JEWISH BUILDING

LONDON, May 30. (JTA) -- Explosion of a German-made infernal machine in the historic Prague building at Parisergasse 17 has aroused indignation among the Czech populace, it was reported here today, but the Czech police have not been allowed to take action although reportedly aware of the culprits' identities. The building forms a block with the Hoeheschul synagogue and the Jewish Town Hall opposite the Altneu Synagogue, which were not damaged. A synagogue at Witkowitz near Maerisch-Ostrau was completely destroyed by an incendiary fire.

Meanwhile, following an interview between President Emil Hacha and Baron Konstantin von Neurath, Reich Protector for Bohemia-Moravia, in regard to the anti-Jewish bill now under consideration, the National Union Party's commission on the Jewish question has been dissolved and a new commission appointed.

Marie Schmolka, leader of refugee aid work in Prague has been released by the Gestapo after intervention with the German authorities by the Czech Minister of Social Welfare.

In Sudetenland, "Aryan" lawyers have been forbidden to represent Jews in courts and two Jewish "consultants" have been named to represent Jews in courts. Die Zeit, organ of Governor Konrad Henlein, reported that the latest town to become "free of Jews" was Falkenau, whose Jewish population of several hundred was forced to leave the town. The local synagogue was burned down, 28 Jewish-owned houses were taken over by Germans and 30 Jewish shops were "Aryanized."

PRAGUE, May 30. (JTA) -- The protectorate authorities have decreed that no arms permits may be issued to Jews. Applicants for such permits in the future must submit certificates of "Aryan" origin.

CUBAN CABINET MEETS TO DRAFT POLICY ON REFUGEES; 1,240 BARRED

HAVANA, May 30. (JTA) -- The Cuban Cabinet met today under the chairmanship of President Laredo Bru in a special session officially described as being for the purpose of settling the question of "Jews flooding the country." The Jewish population was in a state of alarm as anti Semitic agitation was intensified in a section of the press and over the radio. Last night Jewish organizations met to consider unified defensive action.

A crisis in the Government threatened on the question of refugees, 1,240 of whom were refused permission to land from three ships over the weekend. Col. Fulgencio Batista, military chief, was reported to have favored the admission of the refugees, but President Bru, who has issued a decree banning entry of Jewish refugees, was said to have threatened to resign if they were allowed to enter.

The German steamship San Luis was at sea with 936 refugees aboard, barred from landing. Intervention with the Government by Jewish communal and refugee-aid organizations had so far proved fruitless. Dr. Puchol, presidential minister, received Max Stone, president of the Jewish Center, and promised to do what he could regarding the refugees, but held out little hope for their admission. Meanwhile, it was learned that President Bru called representatives of the Hamburg-American Line and demanded that the San Luis leave Cuban waters immediately and return refugees to Europe.

The steamer Orduna brought 154 more refugees, of whom 50 were permitted to land and the remainder barred. The ship put out for Chile with the 104 still aboard. Another 200 exiles arrived on the French steamship Flandre, which was not permitted to disembark its passengers and proceeded to Veracruz, Mexico.

The Jews aboard the San Luis were desperate. One of them, Prof. Meier Weiler, 63 years old, died on the ship of a heart attack. Others were seeking to commit suicide by throwing themselves overboard.

NAZIS GAIN IN HUNGARIAN ELECTION, BUT GOVERNMENT RETAINS MAJORITY

BUDAPEST, May 30. (Havas) -- Despite a marked increase in Nazi influence, the Government bloc's majority in the next Parliament probably will be 199 as against a maximum opposition strength of 61, late Hungarian election returns indicated tonight. It was predicted, moreover, that in reality the Nazis would be able to count on considerably less than 61 votes, since most of the other opposition parties are totally different from the Nazis in fundamental point of view.

Nevertheless, there was no doubt that the extremist factions had won a marked victory. In the Budapest area alone, for example, the Arrow Crosses and other associated Nazi groups, who previously had no representation, captured 17 parliamentary seats. The Nazi factions will appear in Parliament wearing green-shirted uniforms, with military breeches and boots.

Jews Lose Ground in Polish Municipal Vote

WARSAW, May 30. (JTA) -- Results of the municipal elections in 564 towns show that the Jews, while comprising one-third of the urban population, obtained only 1,737 of a total of 10,000 council seats. In rural districts, Jews obtained barely one per cent of the half million seats. The Camp for National Unity and independents won 48 per cent, the National Democrats 16 per cent, the Socialists 10 per cent and the Ukrainians three per cent of the mandates.

ICKES BARS U.S. GROUNDS TO ANTI-SEMITIC GROUP

WASHINGTON, May 30. (JTA) -- The National Gentile League, Inc., whose director is Donald Shea, was denied permission by Secretary of Interior Harold L. Ickes to use the Sylvan Open Air Theater on the grounds of the Washington Monument here for a three-day rally beginning June 6.

Ickes said: "The Sylvan Theater belongs to all the people of the United States, regardless of race, color or creed and we do not permit its use by an organization that, according to its letterhead and body of its application, is designed to foster, if not create, race prejudice against another group of American citizens."

ARGENTINE NAZIS HELD PLANNING 'CAMOUFLAGE' TO ESCAPE DISSOLUTION

BUENOS AIRES, May 30. (Havas) -- To circumvent Government orders for dissolution of all foreign political organizations, Argentina's Nazis will camouflage their subversive and propaganda activities under the guise of athletic, cultural and welfare societies, Heinrich Jürges, one-time secretary of Reich Propaganda Minister Paul Joseph Goebbels, charged tonight. It was Jürges who several months ago, through a letter to President Roberto Ortiz, disclosed an alleged Nazi plot to annex Patagonia, at the southern tip of Argentina.

12 JEWS INJURED IN NAZI ATTACK IN AMSTERDAM

AMSTERDAM, May 30. (JTA) -- Twelve Jews were injured today when 30 Dutch Nazis wrecked an ice cream parlor in the suburbs frequented by German Jewish refugees. Six Nazis were arrested.