

# NEWS

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## by the JEWISH TELEGRAPHIC AGENCY

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### BRITAIN, AGENCY MAP PLANS FOR NEW JEWISH LEGION TO DEFEND PALESTINE

PARIS, Aug. 27. (JTA)-- The British Government is negotiating with the Jewish Agency for Palestine for creation of a new Jewish Legion, particularly to defend Palestine in the event of war, it was learned here today. Palestinian Jewish youths would play the leading role in such a force, but Jewish youths from other lands might also be considered.

The discussions were started by the British Government, which offered certain concessions, including immediate release of all interned Jewish illegal immigrants in Palestine. It was for these discussions that Moshe Shertok, head of the Jewish Agency's political department, flew to London after conclusion of the Zionist Congress in Geneva instead of returning to Palestine.

More than 22,000 Jews in Palestine already have authorization to carry arms. Creation of a Jewish Legion under the sponsorship of the Jewish Agency would release British troops for service on other fronts.

(More than 10,000 Jews, recruited from Palestine, United States, Canada and Europe, served in the Palestine Jewish Legion during the World War as a part of Marshal Allenby's forces in the Near East. Some of the legionnaires were decorated for valor. The Jewish battalions garrisoned Palestine until 1920.)

### Emergency Measures Enacted In Jerusalem

JERUSALEM, Aug. 27. (JTA)-- The Government today enacted a series of measures designed to conserve food supplies and other essential commodities in the event of war. The ordinances provide, among other things, for control of prices and consumption.

High Commissioner Sir Harold Alfred MacMichael, meanwhile, decreed a bank holiday for three days ending Tuesday. This step was stated to have been taken in the public interest and in view of the grave international crisis.

Wartime censorship was imposed on telegrams from abroad. Use of code was prohibited for the time being, wires being confined to English, French, Arabic and Hebrew.

The Government is working out plans for an emergency regime which will take power the instant it becomes necessary, it was learned.

The German and Italian consulates here have ordered non-Jewish nationals to register for an emergency, while the American Consulate has thus far received no instructions with regard to American residents, who are not returning home in unusual numbers.

It is reported that all political prisoners, both Arab and Jewish, will be released in the event of war, with the exception of course of the suspected agents of hostile powers.

### 2 British Detectives Killed In Bombing

JERUSALEM, Aug. 27.(JTA) -- Two British officers of the Criminal Investigation Department were killed yesterday in a bomb explosion near the Bezalel Museum, in midtown Jerusalem. An Arab band of 200 yesterday raided the Druze village of Sheferam near Haifa and fought a pitched battle with inhabitants in which two Druzes were killed two wounded and three abducted. The raiders suffered ten casualties.

### CRUISER TO EVACUATE ZIONISTS UNABLE TO GET PASSAGE HOME, U.S. ENVOY PROMISES GOLDMAN

PARIS, Aug. 27.(JTA) -- An American cruiser will be provided to evacuate American delegates to the recently-concluded World Zionist Congress at Geneva if private navigation fails, the United States Embassy today assured Dr. Solomon Goldman, president of the Zionist Organization of America.

On the Embassy's advice, a large part of the 100-odd American Zionists who arrived here yesterday from Geneva left on chartered buses for Cherbourg to seek accommodations on the Canadian liner Empress of Australia, which was to have sailed for Quebec last night. The group had bookings for the Cunard liner Queen Mary next Wednesday but decided to attempt to depart before then since other sailings of British liners have been cancelled. Among those in the party, besides Dr. Goldman, were Judge Harry M. Fisher, Chicago; Mendel Fisher, New York; Morris Margulies, New York; Rabbi Wolf Gold and Miss Pearl Franklin. Also in the group was Dr. Maurice J. Karpf of New York, non-Zionist member of the Jewish Agency.

Rabbi Abba Hillel Silver, Cleveland, succeeded in sailing Friday on a Dutch liner. Rabbi Israel Goldstein, New York, was reported to have sailed yesterday on the United States liner President Roosevelt, thanks to the intervention of Postmaster General James A. Farley, a passenger on the ship.

Efforts to charter a steamship at Marseille for approximately 200 Palestinian delegates stranded in Geneva failed at the last minute. No company was willing to navigate the Mediterranean during the present war crisis.

David Ben Gurion, Eliezer Kaplan and Ben-Zion Mossinsohn, Palestine Zionist leaders, arrived in Marseille after futile attempts to obtain airplane passage from Geneva to Jerusalem and hoped to obtain accommodations on a British steamship to Port Said, whence they would proceed to Palestine.

In order to enable stranded American Jews to secure information permitting the speediest possible return to the United States, the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee has established a special department headed by the New York travel agent, Emanuel Rosen.

Telephone communication with all Jewish news centers was becoming more and more difficult. In Warsaw, the J.D.C. was the only Jewish institution permitted to talk by telephone with Paris, for three minutes, during which it advised that there was no tension in Poland.

#### REICH JEWS INCLUDED IN DISTRIBUTION OF RATION CARDS

PARIS, Aug. 27.(JTA)-- The Havas News Agency reported from Berlin today that German, foreign and "stateless" Jews, as well as all foreigners living in Germany, are being included in distribution of rationing cards to the entire civilian population.

#### 4,000 FOREIGN JEWS IN ITALY SEEK ESCAPE TO FRANCE OR SWITZERLAND

ROME, Aug. 27.(JTA)-- Intense anxiety among the nearly 4,000 foreign Jews in Italy because of the international crisis led today to spurring of efforts to escape to France or Switzerland. Reports from frontier points indicated that at least 500 Jews were concentrated there awaiting an opportunity to cross the frontier, but their attempts were made extremely difficult by the vigorous border control.

Most of those attempting to cross the frontier were refugees from Germany who were living in Milan. Some of them were understood to have arrived in Italy with the express aim of attempting to enter France, such entry being apparently less difficult than from Germany.

Italian Jews intending to emigrate were also seeking to speed up their departure wherever possible. More than 100 left on the Italian liner Conte di Savoia on Thursday.

Meanwhile, the agricultural training center at Allano sul Piave, near Padova, which was preparing Jewish youths for emigration to Palestine, was winding up its affairs as result of the closing of the Jewish Refugee Committee which maintained the center.

#### USE OF REFUGEES IN BRITISH FORCES TO BE URGED ON PARLIAMENT

LONDON, Aug. 27. (JTA) - A proposal to allow "trustworthy and valuable" refugees to join the British forces will be made to the Government when Parliament reassembles next Thursday.

#### JEWS SHUN CITY STREETS AS MONTH-LONG TERROR REIGN CONTINUES IN SLOVAKIA

BRATISLAVA, Slovakia, Aug. 27.(JTA)-- Terror stalks through the streets of the Jewish quarters of Bratislava and other Slovakian towns swept by a wave of violence against the Jewish population which began early this month, was climaxed on Friday, Aug. 11, with six hours of systematic destruction in Bratislava and is continuing throughout the "protectorate" in the form of personal assaults on Jewish pedestrians and sporadic attacks on Jewish shops.

The violence, by all accounts, appears to be organized and conducted by the German Slovak Party--the F.S.Men--with little participation by Slovaks. The attacks coincide with the rapid identification of Slovakia with direct German influence.

No Jews venture into the streets outside the Jewish quarters. There, special patrols of Slovakian police are on duty to prevent attacks, which occur most frequently on the eve of the Sabbath. So great has the terror become, that a Jew seeing a man wearing a swastika dodges into a doorway, turns and walks or even runs away.

Though Slovaks have participated in attacks on Jewish property, their general attitude is indicated by the fact that policemen on guard outside the sealed doors of two wrecked synagogues in Bratislava commented briefly and eloquently to this correspondent: "The German Party! -- I" A synagogue was saved from destruction on Aug. 19 when Slovaks living nearby climbed out of their beds and ran to inform officials of the congregation that their synagogue was burning.

The wave of violence began the first week in August, with bombing of a synagogue at Nitra. On Friday, Aug. 4, the "normal" amount of insults to Jews on the streets of various cities, spitting on them and pushing them off the sidewalks, suddenly increased. Then there was a lull until the following Friday, Aug. 11. At nine o'clock on that evening, a crowd of 600 or 800 persons appeared in front of the "Progress" Synagogue situated on the corner of Zidovska Ul and Dlha Ul and began chanting in German, "Cut With the Jews," and shouting anti-Semitic slogans, most of which were in German with a sprinkling of Slovakian words. Policemen stationed nearby either could not or would not interfere with the mob which, according to eyewitnesses, included many Germans who had crossed over the Danube bridge from Germany.

Members of the synagogue's congregation were driven out and chased in the streets while the mob sacked the three-story building for two hours. Doors were torn from their hinges, stones were hurled through all windows and every bit of furniture was smashed into kindling. Lamps were broken and the canopy as well as everything else made of cloth was cut into shreds. Sacred books were torn, including ancient parchment documents and historically valuable archives. The Holy Scrolls of the Law were ripped to shreds and their remnants hung from the chandeliers. Finally, the water locks were opened and the water pipe smashed. The mob didn't leave until the synagogue was under several feet of water.

From the synagogue, the mob marched at 11 p.m. into the Jewish quarter of the city, throwing stones into Jewish shops along the way. It paraded almost in military formation to the orthodox synagogue, Zamoka Besta, which is the most important house of worship in the 400-year-old Jewish community of Bratislava.

The large three-story building, erected in 1861 with 2,000 pew-holders and serving a community of 12,500, met an even worse fate than the "Progress" Synagogue. Nothing that could be broken, torn or mistreated was left whole. When there was nothing left to be destroyed, the mob surged across the street to Zidovska Ludova Kuchyna and stormed a two-and-a-half story concrete building erected last year for indigent Jews. Some 800 dishes, plates and other utensils which were used to provide free meals for the poor were broken in the kitchen and everything usable was wrecked.

Similar treatment was given a rabbinical school and a number of shops in the same and adjoining streets. Groups broke into private houses and smashed furniture. At 2:30 a.m. a large motor car suddenly appeared and forced its way slowly through the crowd. A man in

8/28/39.

the car, standing on the back seat with his arms outstretched in the Nazi salute--which is the normal greeting in Slovakia--again and again repeated in German and Slovak: "That's enough . . . . Go home." The crowd immediately obeyed.

A few minutes after the mob broke up, street sweepers appeared and removed the evidence of its work. Then policemen officially sealed the doors of the destroyed synagogues. In the opinion of eyewitnesses, there was no doubt that the entire procedure was planned and organized in advance. During the next few days, groups of Germans again appeared in the Jewish quarter, chasing pedestrians and throwing stones, but reports of a second violent organized outbreak in Bratislava are not true.

However, on the following Friday, Aug. 18, a large crowd of Germans appeared in the Jewish quarter, beat up a number of passersby and late the same night an effort was made to destroy a synagogue at Topolcany by fire. Gasoline-soaked rags were found by members of the congregation, who were summoned in time by non-Jewish neighbors to be able to extinguish the blaze. Similar incidents have taken place--and are still taking place--in other towns. One of the worst occurred at Sered, from which four Jews whose ribs were broken by attackers have been brought here for treatment.

LONDON, Aug. 27.(JTA)-- Newspapers reported today that two synagogues were wrecked in Bratislava during a mass meeting held to demand return to Slovakia of territories ceded to Poland.

➤ U.S. GROUP SET UP TO NAME ZIONIST EXECUTIVE MEMBER

GENEVA, Aug. 27. (JTA)-- A committee of American Zionists has been set up to name an American representative to the World Zionist Executive, it was announced today. The committee will comprise Dr. Solomon Goldman, Dr. Stephen S. Wise and Louis Lipsky, who will have the right to coopt representatives of the General Zionists, the Hadassah and labor Zionist groups.

WORLD YOUTH ALIYAH PARLEY IN AMSTERDAM IS CALLED OFF

LONDON, Aug. 27. (JTA)-- The third world Youth Aliyah (immigration) conference scheduled to be held Sept. 2 to 4 in Amsterdam has been cancelled because of the international situation, it was announced today.

➤ JEWISH COLONIAL TRUST OPENS COURT MOVE TO GET PART OF ALBERT NATHAN ESTATE

JOHANNESBURG, Aug. 27.(JTA)-- Argument has commenced before the Pietermaritzburg Supreme Court in an action brought by the Jewish Colonial Trust against the administrators of the estate of the late Albert Solomon Nathan for an order authorizing the administrators to pay to the trust the part of the estate not required for legacies and annuities under Nathan's will.

Nathan, who died in 1924, provided in his will for payment of certain legacies and annuities for a period of 50 years, after which the estate would be wound up and its net revenue turned over to a trust for establishment of a "Solomon Nathan Family Fund" to be used for restoration of the Jews to their ancient home in Palestine. The Jewish Colonial Trust's declaration claims that while the estate now stands at more than £ 403,000, the outstanding 36 annual payments only require £ 116,000 and therefore £ 287,000 not required for payment of annuities should be turned over to the trust.