

# NEWS

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## JEWISH TELEGRAPHIC AGENCY

1560 BROADWAY, N.Y.C.

VOL. VI. NO. 30.

Wednesday, September 6, 1939.

### REPRISALS AGAINST REICH JEWS FEARED OVER AID TO BRITAIN IN PALESTINE

AMSTERDAM, Sept. 5. (JTA) -- Jewish circles today feared serious reprisals against the Jews in Germany, particularly Zionist leaders, as a result of the formation of a Jewish legion in Palestine to aid Britain.

Indications of serious developments were seen in:

- (1) German broadcasts last night and today emphasizing an alleged nation-wide wave of serious indignation in the Reich;
- (2) The prohibiting of telephone communication between Berlin Jewish organizations and other countries.

A broadcast from Cologne this afternoon reported outbreaks of violence by Jews against Germans in Palestine. The broadcast asserted that mobs from the all-Jewish city of Tel Aviv destroyed the whole German colony of Sarona and that the leader of the colony, Whertemberg, was forced to escape in an Italian airplane.

The Berlin telephone exchange, while accepting ordinary calls from the Netherlands, although subject to delay, officially confirmed that telephone connections with Jewish organizations were not allowed. Such contacts had been possible until last night.

Efforts to communicate with the Reichsvereinigung des Juden in Deutschland, central organization of Reich Jews, and with Jewish individuals in various German cities by mail and telegraph have been fruitless since Sunday. The Netherlands press carries no news of the situation of the Jews in Germany.

(The above dispatch was sent from Amsterdam directly to New York by radio. Telephonic and telegraphic communications between Amsterdam and London and Paris having been disrupted, the dispatch had to be relayed from New York to London for distribution to other points.--Editor)

### CHAMBERLAIN WELCOMES AGENCY'S WAR AID; SAYS IT WILL BE "KEPT IN MIND"

LONDON, Sept. 5. (JTA) -- The Jewish Agency for Palestine has placed "Jewish manpower, technical ability and resources" at the disposal of the British Government and has received a reply from Prime Minister Neville Chamberlain stating that the "public-spirited assurances are welcome and will be kept in mind."

A letter from Dr. Chaim Weizmann, president of the Agency, dated Aug. 29, and the Prime Minister's reply, dated Sept. 2, were made public today. Dr. Weizmann's letter follows:

"In this hour of supreme crisis the consciousness that Jews have a contribution to make to the defence of sacred values impels me to write this letter. I wish to confirm in the most explicit manner the declarations which I and my colleagues have made during the last month and especially in the last week: that the Jews stand by Great Britain and will fight on the side of the democracies.

"Our urgent desire is to give effect to these declarations. We wish to do so in a way entirely consonant with the general scheme of British action and, therefore, would place ourselves, in matters big and small, under the coordinating direction of His Majesty's Government. The Jewish Agency is ready to enter into immediate arrangements for utilizing Jewish manpower, technical ability and resources, etc.

"The Jewish Agency recently had differences in the political field with the Mandatory Power. We would like these differences to give way before the greater and more pressing necessities of the time. We ask you to accept this declaration in the spirit in which it is made."

Chamberlain's reply follows:

"I should like to express my warm appreciation of the contents of your letter of Aug. 29 and the spirit which prompted it. It is true that differences of opinion exist between the Mandatory and the Jewish Agency as regards the policy in Palestine but I gladly accept the assurances contained in your letter.

"I note with pleasure that in this time of supreme emergency, when those things which we hold dear are at stake, Britain can rely upon the wholehearted cooperation of the Jewish Agency. You will not expect me to say more at this stage than that your public-spirited assurances are welcome and will be kept in mind."

#### MacMichael Warns Palestinians Against Exploiting Conflict

JERUSALEM, Sept. 5. (JTA) -- A warning to "weak peoples" not to expect "selfish advantage from Europe's turmoil" was sounded today by High Commissioner Sir Harold Alfred MacMichael in a broadcast to the country in which he defined the issue of the war as civilization against brute force.

"I have received many protestations of loyalty," Sir Harold declared, "but to the many hoping for selfish advantage from Europe's turmoil I point out that weak peoples cannot rely on a brutal clique whose watchwords are force and faithlessness."

Sir Harold appealed to all peoples in Palestine to sink their differences. He said steps had been taken to safeguard the interests of all communities.

Some 1,500 Czech Jewish ex-servicemen have been called to report to the Czech consul general here in connection with the world-wide preparation to raise a Czech army to fight Germany.

MANY JEWISH CHILDREN AMONG DEAD AS GERMANS BOMB POLISH TOWNS

WARSAW, Sept. 5. (JTA) -- Despite Nazi assurances that open towns would not be bombed, a number of towns in the Warsaw district have been subjected to repeated aerial bombings by the Germans.

Among towns suffering heaviest damage from the Nazi air raids are the resorts of Podkowa, Lesna, Brwinow and the township of Pruszkol, all of which have large Jewish populations. A number of villages outside the Warsaw district have also been raided by German warplanes.

Many children have been killed in the raids. A hospital train loaded with wounded was also bombed from the air.

The city of Czeszochowa, in southwestern Poland, which was captured by the German forces and reportedly recaptured by the Polish army, has a Jewish population of 27,000. Thousands of Jews and non-Jews fled the city before the German occupation.

Two hundred Jews who were to emigrate to Palestine today cancelled their departure.

ANTI-JEWISH VIOLENCE REPORTED IN PRAGUE

NEW YORK, Sept. 5. (JTA) -- Anti-Jewish violence was reported from Prague today by the Associated Press in a dispatch which said 20 Jewish shops there had been raided and damaged by crowds. The dispatch added that police later guarded the stores while crowds shouted anti-Jewish slogans.

U.S. STOPS ISSUING VISAS TO REFUGEES IN PARIS; PREOCCUPIED WITH STRANDED AMERICANS

PARIS, Sept. 5. (JTA) - The American Consulate today practically discontinued issuance of immigration visas to refugee applicants, while the number of refugees and other aliens registering as volunteers for the French Army mounted to such proportions that the recruiting offices begged some of the applicants to return in three or four days.

At the American Consulate it was explained that discontinuance of visas stemmed from the fact that under the present circumstances the Consulate was chiefly interested in having American citizens secure places on steamers to the United States. It was emphasized to this correspondent at the Consulate that women and children will be the first aided by the consular authorities to return to America. Next will come American males and only when the Consulate is sure that all Americans who want to return to the United States have been enabled to do so, will issuance of quota visas be resumed on a normal pre-war basis.

The Consulate estimated that it may take a minimum of two months before all Americans who desire it are back in the United States. Thus, for the next two months there are hardly any chances for immigration visas.

Today's French newspapers report the rush of alien volunteers to the recruiting offices. Le Matin especially draws attention to the "innumerable aliens who are besieging the recruiting stations as candidates for uniforms."

Active in organizing Polish Jews in France for defense is the Federation of Polish Jews. The Federation issued a communique announcing that many aged Jews, including a septuagenarian, have put themselves at the Government's disposal. While other aliens are obliged to purchase gas masks, the French authorities have informed the Federation that Polish Jews in Paris will be given the masks without charge. The Federation is also mobilizing Jewish women for passive defense activities, especially for work in factories where the man power has been mobilized.

WAR OFFERS CHANCE TO STRENGTHEN PALESTINE POSITION, DECLARE RETURNING ZIONISTS

NEW YORK, Sept. 5. (JTA) -- The war offers new opportunities to the Jews for consolidation of their position in Palestine, it was declared today by Dr. Israel Goldstein, president of the Jewish National Fund, and Dr. Abba Hillel Silver of Cleveland, co-chairman of the United Jewish Appeal, arriving on the United States liner President Roosevelt.

They comprised the second contingent of American delegates to the Geneva Zionist Congress to arrive from Europe after considerable difficulty in arranging steamship passage. Other delegates are expected to arrive later on the French liner Ile de France and other ships. The President Roosevelt enforced a blackout for the first few nights of its voyage, while in European waters.

Dr. Silver, in an interview, voiced the belief that "for the time being, life in Palestine will move along normally. After all," he said, "Palestine is not in the war zone. Italy is neutral and the Mediterranean is clear, so the Yishub is safe.

"As to the political situation, there is a hope for enlarged opportunities for the Jewish homeland. However, the situation should not be over-simplified. The Jews are on Britain's side, but so are the Arabs. One thing is sure -- the war throws the White Paper into the limbo. Now we must watch developments in the world situation.

"The Jews in Palestine must remain united. They must also strengthen themselves in a military sense, not only to aid Britain but to look after their own interests....American Zionism will have to be strengthened, and enlarged funds will have to be placed at the Yishub's disposal.

"There is a great opportunity for constructive upbuilding. We must develop the colonies which were established in the past year, some of which are only outposts so far. The Yishub has to digest the large influx of recent immigrants. A real homogeneity has to be developed."

Dr. Goldstein said: "The Jews may have an unusual opportunity in Palestine as a result of the crisis. There are 500,000 in Palestine who are in a position to render great service to Britain and to receive the recognition for this which is their due. It is not yet possible, however, to predict what will develop. War produces a state of flux and we don't know yet how the situation will crystallize.

"On American Jewry falls the responsibility of aiding the Yishub to consolidate its position. The center of gravity in Zionism is bound to move to America now. It is not beyond the realm of probability that a branch of the Executive will be established in the United States."

Dr. Goldstein expressed the belief that Palestine's Jewish economy could withstand the present crisis, provided it would have support of the Jews in other countries, especially the United States. "After all," he said, "the Yishub's economy has been through a form of war for the past three years. It has developed an amazing amount of self sufficiency."

3 GROUPS SPONSOR PILGRIMAGE TO LOUIS MARSHALL'S GRAVE SEPT. 11

NEW YORK, Sept. 5. (JTA) -- A pilgrimage to the grave of Louis Marshall at Salem Field Cemetery, Long Island, on Sept. 11 was announced today to mark the 10th anniversary of the death of the noted Jewish leader. The call for the pilgrimage was signed by Lewis L. Strauss, president of Temple Emanu-El; Dr. Cyrus Adler, president of the Jewish Theological Seminary, and Sol M. Strock, chairman of the executive committee of the American Jewish Committee.

MILLIONS OF JEWS STARVING, PERSECUTED IN CENTRAL EUROPE, REPORTER FINDS IN SURVEY

AMSTERDAM, Sept. 1. (J.T.A. Air Mail) -- The agonies of war-time suffering are already a reality for millions of Jews in Central Europe. Germany today is tightening its belt in preparation for wartime food shortage, but in the Carpathian provinces of Upper Hungary scores of thousands of Jewish men, women and children are already starving. Border populations of a dozen European countries are preparing for the horrors of military invasion, but in Slovakia the Jews are already living through pogroms. Innocent civilian residents of regions close to a dozen frontiers are preparing to flee, but large numbers of the Jews in Bohemia and Moravia are already on the march to unknown destinations. The people of Hungary and Germany are anxious about the future, but the Jews of those two countries who have justly been proud for generations of their useful and patriotic citizenship, look forward with resignation or fear to almost certain intensification of persecution.

On journeys during the past ten days which took me twice across Slovakia and Hungary and thrice across Germany, I never once stopped in a railway station -- until I arrived in Holland -- where I did not see weeping Jewish men and women. For the Jews from the Western and Southern frontiers of Germany all the way across Central Europe to Russia and the Balkans the catastrophe of war had already begun, and for all but a small number of them, there is no escape. The suffering is worst not in Germany, but in what was until last Spring Czechoslovakia. Conditions as bad as the worst found in wartime famine areas now exist in Ruthenia, whose farms and agricultural riches brand the situation in such places as Munkacs, Chust and Ungvar as deliberate murder of the Jews. The commonest, coarsest bread is already such a luxury that when a loaf or part of a loaf is obtained, it is kept for the Sabbath.

Forbidden by the Hungarian authorities to do any gainful work whatsoever, once hardy men lie day and night on the floors of tumble-down houses to husband their ebbing physical resources. They are so weak that in many cases they lie in roofless hovels, unable to protect themselves from wind and rain. And within the view of many of them, laborers brought from other parts of Hungary work long hours on new roads and fortifications. The fate of non-working class Jews is only relatively better; it is a question of time, for they, too, are being deprived of their livelihoods and forced to eat up their dwindling capital.

To the west of Ruthenia, in Slovakia, the torture of the Jews is more direct. The tragedy which the Jewish Community of Bratislava expected with dread -- the occupation of the whole of Slovakia by German troops -- has taken place. And since the Germans came over the Danube Bridge, the savage F.S. men of the Slovakian German Party, responsible for the big pogrom of August 11, have the upper hand. Sano Mach, Propaganda Chief of the puppet Slovak Government, told me there would be no Nuremberg laws, no "illegal" persecution, no pogroms. But within 72 hours, the man of the hour was not Mach but Franz Karmasin, local Fuehrer and disciple of Julius Streicher.

In Bratislava, the wrecked hulks of the two principal synagogues, the Jewish poor hostel and several schools, the broken windows and smashed doors of sacked shops in the narrow streets of the Jewish quarter under the towering Hrad (Castle), explained why there were so few people out of doors. As I walked through the Zidovska Ulica (Jew Street), wandering into courtyards and byways, scores of pairs of eyes watched me through closed shutters. I did not imagine them. With the permission of the Slovak authorities -- permission which today would no longer be granted -- I went indoors and saw aged men and women sitting in the dark in terrified silence. Three two-men patrols of Slovak policemen walked up and down outside.

In one inner courtyard, I found myself within perhaps a score feet from the open windows of a Hebrew school. There were ten or more classes in progress, the boys chanting their lessons, the teacher of each class sitting on a small raised platform, dressed in the

traditional garb of his calling. I stood, watching and listening. A boy close to an open window on my right saw me. Word passed from one boy to another and then to the teacher. The room fell silent. One by one, every room in the building became silent. Everybody watched. No one moved. Who was I? A stranger -- perhaps an F.S. man. I retreated in embarrassment, in shame and pity, too.

In another courtyard, or rather a steep inner street, flanked by small stone houses, sloping upward towards the edge of the towering Castle Hill, I found women washing clothes. They, too, stopped, watched and waited. No one in Bratislava's Jewish quarter ever spoke to me. Many did not answer when I spoke. Twice, men turned and ran when I addressed them. Finally, I managed to convince one man that it was safe to talk to me. He conducted me to the rabbi of the Orthodox Synagogue, an elderly man who had refused to run away when the F.S. mob marched towards the synagogue after destroying the Reformed Progress Synagogue 150 yards away. He had waited in his house next door to the synagogue while the F.S. men approached and while they systematically smashed everything smashable within the edifice. From officers of the synagogue I obtained the full story of the pogroms. Two men watched at the windows for the approach of any suspicious person. The story was quietly, simply told. "But what good does it do?" the narrator asked. "Karmasin says we have no right to live."

It seems true that the Jews in Central Europe who suffer most are not those who stay to face terror, injury, perhaps death, but those who leave. On the platform of the railway station the night I arrived in Bratislava from Budapest, there were Jews there, waiting and weeping. I do not know where they were going; I do not even know whether they were going anywhere, but they were on the platform and their clothing told me they were Jewish even though they did not speak and were huddled in groups away from the lights. The night I left Bratislava, again for Budapest, I saw a white-haired patriarch, who must have been nearly 80, standing alone, facing a closed newspaper kiosk. He rocked slowly back and forth, saying his prayers; and as I passed close to him, I heard him sobbing. Later, two younger men helped him to a bench, and he sat alone in the cruel glare of a large electric bulb, breaking a dry roll of bread to crumbs and eating them slowly.

In Budapest, in Vienna, in Berlin, and in border stations in Slovakia, Hungary and Germany, I have also seen weeping Jewish men and women, mostly women, and mostly in Germany. On two separate occasions in Vienna, I spent more than an hour walking along train platforms. In Berlin, during the height of the exodus from the capital to towns in the Rhineland and to Holland and Denmark, I spent several hours at four different railway stations to note the attitude of the departing crowds. Here it was not easy to distinguish Jews from non-Jews, but in some cases it was possible, and in general it appeared that the non-Jews were the more emotional. But it was clear again that scarcely a train leaves a station anywhere in Central Europe without some Jewish passengers: a wandering people escaping to unknown destinies, and yet always the ones leaving were the closer hysterical grief than the ones who remain.

#### COLEMAN, HISTORICAL SOCIETY LIBRARIAN, DIES AT 48

NEW YORK, Sept. 5. (JTA) -- Edward D. Coleman, for the past eight years librarian of the American Jewish Historical Society, died on Sunday of a heart attack at Miami Beach, Fla., where he was spending his vacation, it was announced here today by Dr. A.S.W. Rosenbach, president of the society. Coleman, who was 48, was born in Lithuania and was educated at Harvard University. He contributed to publications of the Society and was the author of "The Bible in English Drama," "A Bibliography of the Writings and Addresses of Cyrus Adler," "Plays of Jewish Interest on the American Stage," "Bibliography of George Alexander Kohut" and, his latest book, "The Jew in English Drama," which is being published by the New York Public Library.