

NEWS

from all over the world

VIA

CABLE
WIRELESS
TELEGRAPH
TELEPHONE

by the

JEWISH TELEGRAPHIC AGENCY

1560 BROADWAY, N.Y.C.

VOL. VI. NO. 89.

Monday, November 20, 1939.

MASS ARRESTS, EXECUTION OF JEWS REPORTED IN BOHEMIA; DRIVE TO 'RESERVATION' PRESSED

PARIS, Nov. 19. (JTA) -- Mass arrests and executions of Jews in Bohemia, together with an order of the Nazi Protector in Prague for dismissal of all Jewish employees from private enterprises in Bohemia-Moravia, were reported today via neutral countries.

The number of arrested Jews was given as "many hundreds" and the number of those executed in the last few days was estimated in the dozens.

The order to dismiss Jews from employment invalidates all labor contracts with Jewish employees and provides that no severance compensation be paid to those dismissed for being Jews.

The arrested Jews were said to be interned in concentration camps for exile to the Lublin "Jewish reservation" in Poland, where the number of Jews from Prague, Vienna and Danzig has risen from 22,000 to 45,000 in ten days.

Transported in cattle trains, the Jews are no longer delivered to the city of Lublin, which is overcrowded, but are ordered to leave the train many miles before the city and to reach Lublin on foot. They are given 24 hours to establish themselves in deserted and almost demolished towns and then are taken away by storm troopers to repair roads and drain marshes.

Males up to the age of 70 and women up to 55 are compelled to do the most difficult physical labor, many falling sick from exhaustion and starvation.

The French press devotes much space to describing the situation in Lublin, which is termed "something which the human mind cannot imagine." The newspaper Le Journal advises the French Government to concentrate its fight against Hitler by increasing propaganda against the Nazi racial theory.

"Hitler's downfall," Le Journal prophesies, "will be due to his racialism. Therefore we must concentrate our entire propaganda on anti-racialism. In this way we shall soon have the majority of the world against him, especially the Moslem world."

"All human peoples which strive to a life of liberty are against Nazi racialism. England and France should proclaim slogans to ridicule Hitler's racial theory as well as his basic theory. They will then be certain to win."

Jews Evacuate 4 Polish Cities

COPENHAGEN, Nov. 19. (JTA) -- The newspaper Politiken reports from Berlin that trains carrying Jews from the Bohemia-Moravia Protectorate were continuously proceeding to Lodz en route to the projected Jewish "reservation" in the Lublin area of Poland.

Gdynia, Radomsk, Poznan and Kattowice in Poland have already been completely evacuated by Jews, the paper said, and it is reported that evacuation has started in Frankfort-am-Oder and Breslau in the Old Reich, with removal of Jews from Berlin scheduled to start shortly.

The "reservation" will be completely isolated by barbed wire, particularly towards the Soviet Frontier, the dispatch declared. Jewish communities are compelled to organize the migration and pay for it by liquidating the Jews' property left behind.

650,000 Jews Slated For 'Reservation'

STOCKHOLM, Nov. 19. (JTA) -- The Berlin correspondent of the Stockholms-Tidningen Stockholms Dagblad reported today that 650,000 Jews will be established in the "reservation" being set up by the German Government in the Lublin area of Nazi Poland.

Of the total, he said, 240,000 will be Jews from the Old Reich, 65,000 from Austria, 150,000 from Bohemia-Moravia, and 30,000 from Poland.

NEVILLE LASKI RESIGNS AS PRESIDENT OF BOARD OF DEPUTIES; HELD POST SINCE 1935

LONDON, Nov. 19. (JTA) -- Neville Laski today announced his resignation as president of the Board of Deputies of British Jews, a post which he has held since January, 1935.

Mr. Laski told today's meeting of the Board that he was resigning for professional reasons. He is a prominent attorney, holding the rank of King's Counsellor. The resignation will take effect at the next meeting of the Board, scheduled for two weeks hence.

Mr. Laski's stewardship of the Board, which is British Jewry's central representative body, coincided with the most critical period in the history of modern Jewry. He took office in the same month and year that Adolf Hitler became Chancellor of Germany and the drive against the Reich's half million Jews was launched.

FINANCIAL AID TO PALESTINE LOCAL UNITS MUST CLEAR THROUGH VAAD LEUMI, OFFICIAL HOLDS

TEL AVIV, Palestine, Nov. 19. (JTA) -- Grants of financial assistance to Palestine Jewry by the Government will be made exclusively through the Jewish National Council (Vaad Leumi), Robert E.H. Crosbie, District Commissioner for Lydda, has informed the Rishon-le-Zion local council, which had asked financial aid to cope with unemployment and other difficulties.

The statement is regarded as having some political importance since the local councils of Jewish villages, generally representing middle-class farmers, had refused to send representatives to the Jewish National Council, thus blocking President Pinchas Ruttenberg's efforts to establish political solidarity in the Jewish community. The local councils had demanded much greater representation than was offered them.

Crosbie pointed out that a recent Government grant of £5,000 for assistance to industry and employment had been turned over to the national council for distribution. He added that future financial assistance, which would necessarily be restricted in wartime owing to curtailed grants-in-aid from the United Kingdom, would also go through this main channel.

CHIEF RABBI NIEMIROWER DEAD AT 67; LEADER OF RUMANIAN JEWRY MANY YEARS

BUCHAREST, Nov. 19. (JTA) -- Chief Rabbi Jakob Isaac Niemirower, a Rumanian Senator and principal leader of Rumania's 900,000 Jews, died yesterday of a heart attack. He was 67 years old.

The Jewish community was plunged into mourning over the death of Dr. Niemirower at a time when he was active in organizing relief for war refugees from Poland and was slated to head a new central Jewish body planned by the Government as the legal representative of the Rumanian Jews.

Venerated by the Jews and respected in Government circles, Rabbi Niemirower was fearless in protesting against anti-Semitic restrictions and he frequently intervened with the Government against contemplated anti-Jewish measures.

His position as the outstanding leader of the Rumanian Jews made him the target of a would-be assassin's bullets on Jan. 11, 1936, when a religious fanatic named Aurel Jonescu, said to have been incited by anti-Semites, fired three shots at him outside his home, wounding him slightly in the hip.

Besides serving as Chief Rabbi, Dr. Niemirower was for many years president of the Rumanian Zionist Federation, in which capacity he headed a delegation to Palestine in April, 1938, to seek enlarged immigration of Rumanian Jews to the Holy Land. He was also head of the Rumanian lodge of B'nai B'rith, international Jewish fraternal order with headquarters in Washington.

Born in Galicia in 1871, Dr. Niemirower was a rabbi in Jassy between 1899 and 1913, when he came to Bucharest as a rabbi of the Sephardic community. He had been Chief Rabbi of the Sephardic Community since 1921.

In 1927, Rabbi Niemirower was elected to the Rumanian Senate as representative of the citizens of the Jewish confession. Last July he was elected a member of the Senate's Committee on National Education and Religious Affairs.

He was the author of several books on Jewish religion.

40 REFUGEES ON SIMON BOLIVAR, DUTCH LINER SUNK IN NORTH SEA

AMSTERDAM, Nov. 19. (JTA) -- It was reported here today that about 40 Germans, practically all of them refugees from Nazi persecution, were aboard the Netherlands liner Simon Bolivar which was sunk by a mine in the North Sea yesterday with a reported loss of 100 lives.

SURVEYS 7 REFUGEE CENTERS IN RUMANIA

BUCHAREST, Nov. 19. (JTA) -- Elsley Zeitlin, representing the Polish Jewish Refugee Fund and the Federation of Polish Jews in America, is now surveying seven refugee centers throughout the country with a view to effecting coordination of committees

11/20/39.

The German News Agency published a report here, datelined Krakow, which described sanitary conditions among the Jews there as appalling.

ESPIONAGE FEAR RESULTS IN REFUGEE CURBS IN FRENCH PART OF SHANGHAI

SHANGHAI, Nov. 19. (JTA) -- The French Municipal Council here has decided to refuse building permits or trading licenses to all persons in the French concession with German passports pending an investigation aimed at making a distinction between Bonafide refugees and German agents.

The action was taken, it was stated, because of reports that German agents here had sought to avoid suspicion by having their passports stamped with the red "J" used by the German authorities to designate Jews. The council promised that licenses would be issued later to genuine Jewish and political refugees able to offer sufficient guarantees of their responsibility.

19 REFUGEES MAKE OCEAN TRIP IN FRAIL BOAT; BARRED BY SWEDEN

STOCKHOLM (JTA--By Mail). -- Nineteen Jewish refugees of Latvian, Estonian and Polish nationality, arrived at a Swedish port aboard a frail, unseaworthy motor boat, were permitted to remain two days for provisioning and then were escorted to the limit of territorial waters by a Swedish coast guard vessel.

B'NAI B'RITH SENDS \$3,000 TO AID CHILD REFUGEES IN ENGLAND

WASHINGTON, Nov. 19. (JTA) -- A draft for \$3,000 to help maintain German-Jewish child refugees in Great Britain has been cabled by B'nai B'rith to London as another step in its overseas refugee aid work, it was announced here today. The draft was dispatched to Julius Schwab, president of District Grand Lodge No. 15, comprising the lodges and auxiliaries in England, Scotland, Wales and Ireland, which initiated the program of refugee child care in England and committed itself in the care of 900 of the 5,000 children brought into the British Isles.

NEW SETTLEMENT FOUNDED IN PALESTINE FOR 60 REICH FAMILIES

JERUSALEM (JTA--By Mail). -- A new settlement of smallholding farms for 60 German Jewish middle-class families has been established by the Palestine Rural and Suburban Settlement Company (Rassco) on 2,000 dunams of land owned by the Jewish National Fund near Nathanya. The settlers received a loan from the endowment of \$10,000 by Isaac Feuering, for whom the settlement has been named.

HISTORIAN PREDICTS SOVIET WILL SOON START PERSECUTING JEWS

PHILADELPHIA, Nov. 19. (JTA) -- Dr. Carleton J.H. Hayes, noted historian and professor of history at Columbia University, declared before the American Philosophical Society Friday night that persecution of Jews by Soviet Russia and oppression of Christians by Germany was imminent.

"In Russia, they are getting prepared to persecute the Jews, while in Germany all indications are that the Christians will be next," Prof. Hayes said. He attributed the rise of despotism to economic changes in Europe.

BRITISH ARMY BROADENS ENLISTMENT BASIS IN PALESTINE

JERUSALEM, Nov. 19. (JTA) -- The military authorities have announced increased opportunities for Arabs and Jews to enlist in the various branches of the British military forces. Men of 20 to 32 may enlist as drivers, nursing orderlies and tradesmen of certain categories. All volunteers must undertake to serve outside of Palestine if needed.

ITALIAN UNIVERSITIES FORCE JEWS TO TAKE EXAMS AFTER "ARYANS"

ROME, Nov. 19. (JTA) -- Jews in Italian universities have been segregated for examinations, taking them after the "Aryans" have completed theirs.

2,700 COMMUNITIES COMPLETE DRIVES FOR UNITED JEWISH APPEAL; RECORD RESPONSE REPORTED

NEW YORK, Nov. 19. (JTA) -- More than 2,700 communities in every section of the country have to date completed their drives in behalf of the coordinated nationwide campaign of the United Jewish Appeal for Refugees and Overseas Needs and several hundred others will conduct similar drives during the closing weeks of 1929, it was reported today by Rabbi Abba Hillel Silver and Rabbi Jonah B. Wise, national chairmen of the United Jewish Appeal which combines the fund-raising efforts of the Joint Distribution Committee, the United Palestine Appeal and the National Refugee Service, Inc.

Declaring that the results thus far achieved represent the most intensive coverage of the American Jewish community in its history, the chairmen pointed out that the successful outcome of campaigns such as in Philadelphia, Baltimore, Cincinnati, Rochester, Toledo, Denver, Providence, Schenectady and other centers would be a decisive factor in maintaining the high level of generosity and leadership established in the past eleven months of unprecedented effort in behalf of relief, rehabilitation and refugee aid overseas, Palestine settlement, and refugee integration in the United States. Hundreds of communities which had hitherto not participated in campaigns for the rescue and resettlement of oppressed and homeless Jews abroad were among the most enthusiastic supporters of the United Jewish Appeal, the leaders stated.

1,500 DELEGATES OF 300 REFORM GROUPS ATTEND NINTH ANNUAL RELIGIOUS PARLEY HERE

NEW YORK, Nov. 19. (JTA) -- More than 1,500 representatives of about 300 Reform groups participated today in the ninth annual religious convention, held at Temple Emanu-El, of the northeast region of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations. The theme of the convention was "The Synagogue and the American Way," with speakers emphasizing the vital role of the synagogue in maintaining and carrying forward the principles and ideals of democracy and religious freedom.

Speakers included Prof. Salo Baron of Columbia University, who discussed problems facing American Jewry; Harold K. Guinzburg, of the American Jewish Committee, who led the discussion on "The Synagogue and the Status of the Jew;" Dr. Julian Morganstern, president of the Hebrew Union College, who spoke of the effect on religion of the totalitarian states; Dr. Everett R. Clinchy, executive director of the National Conference of Christians and Jews, who led the discussion on "The Synagogue and Christian Relations and others. Dr. Leo Franklin, of Detroit, delivered the theme sermon.