

# NEWS

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## JEWISH TELEGRAPHIC AGENCY

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### 300 SLAIN IN WEST GALICIAN MASSACRES, WILNO HEARS; ENTIRE COMMUNITIES WIPED OUT BY NAZIS

WILNO, Lithuania, Dec. 3. (JTA) -- The destruction of Jewish life in the Nazi-occupied sections of West Galicia is assuming greater proportions than in other Polish provinces -- accompanied by verified accounts of the massacres of some 300 Jews -- according to reliable reports received here today.

The Nazi depredations were particularly severe in the Cracow, Rzeszow and Sanok districts, where entire Jewish populations were virtually wiped out and only charred ruins of synagogues and overcrowded cemeteries remained to attest the former existence of Jewish communities.

A massacre was reported in Dynow in which 300 Jews were killed by the Nazis. At least 40 were slain in Usciesolno near Cracow. Nineteen were shot in Limanowa. A number were slain in Sondowa and Wisnia, but the exact figures were unascertainable.

In the town of Sanok, 900 Jewish families were expelled and 300 allowed to remain. Two Sanok synagogues and a religious school were set afire and three Jews were shot while trying to save the Holy Scrolls. All Jews were expelled from the town of Blazowa.

All Jews were expelled from the industrial town of Krasno. Their factories and other property were confiscated. Almost all the Jews were expelled from the towns of Rozwadow, Rymanow and Dukla and only a few Jews were permitted to remain, the largest group being 50 in Dukla.

Almost everywhere synagogues were burned down. In Belz, the residence of a famous dynasty of "wonder rabbis," all synagogues were destroyed except one -- an ancient edifice built by Schalom Rokeach, founder of the dynasty, which was saved after intervention by the Christian communities. A number of prominent West Galician Jews found refuge in the Soviet Ukraine.

Conditions were also desperate in other parts of Poland. Nazis set fire to the two largest synagogues in Otwock, near Warsaw, and shot dead three Jews. Warsaw Jews who had previously taken refuge in Otwock because of relatively safer conditions began to flee because Gestapo agents, Nazi storm troopers and Hitler Youth sections were sent into the town.

In Wolomin, in the Warsaw district, six orthodox Jews were shot dead for refusing to tear up Holy Scrolls. In Radionz, in the Plonsk District, the entire Jewish population of more than 200 families was expelled.

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Meanwhile, in the former Polish city of Wilno life has returned to normal after a month of Lithuanian rule. The shortage of bread and other foods, prevalent during October, has been overcome and an effective food supply arranged. The Government's satisfactory exchange of Lithuanian currency for Polish zlotys won for Lithuania the gratitude of Wilno's population, especially Jewish refugees from the war-stricken areas of Poland.

Thousands of refugees were particularly grateful for the Government's liberal treatment and consideration of their problems, and the Jewish press reflects this feeling.

### Starvation Menaces Warsaw Jews Held Behind Barbed Wire

PARIS, Dec. 3. (JTA) -- Reports reaching Paris said today that a half million Jews in Warsaw, isolated in a ghetto behind barbed-wire, were dying of slow starvation.

Hemmed in by Nazi patrols, Jews watched the food supplies within the ghetto disappear, with no food permitted to enter so far and knowing that to seek food outside the ghetto gates meant to be shot by the German patrols, according to the reports.

The starvation was accompanied by a housing shortage since the section assigned to the Jews was unable to house the half million, especially when a large number of the houses had been damaged or demolished during the German siege.

A report received here by the Federation of Jewish Societies from Jews who risked death to leave the ghetto and escape from Poland said that as many as 20 people would be crowded in a room in houses of the Warsaw ghetto. Many Jews, before being forced into the ghetto from other Warsaw streets, had given their business enterprises to Polish friends and acquaintances as they were not permitted to take merchandise with them into the segregated area. The ghetto district was described as a vast camp of misery and poverty.

Although the official reason for introduction of the ghetto was to prevent spread of a typhus epidemic said to be raging in the Jewish quarters, reports said that uniformed Nazi storm troopers did not hesitate to enter the quarter and raid Jewish houses in the hope of finding valuables and clothing which they could take away.

### Few Doctors Helpless to Check Epidemics in Lublin Area

AMSTERDAM, Dec. 3. (JTA) -- Eye-witness reports of conditions in the Lublin Jewish "reservation" which reached here today said pneumonia, typhoid and dysentery were spreading rapidly and the few physicians on hand were unable to check the epidemics.

There are 54,000 Jews from Bohemia-Moravia and other Nazi dominated lands now in the Lublin area, the reports said. When thousands reached Lublin they were told there were no accommodations for them and they were sent back 25 miles, forced to spend days and nights in the fields in a temperature of 8 degrees above zero. Sometimes even women and children were forced to sleep in the open in near-zero cold. Consequently there were many deaths from pneumonia.

Jewish men, including doctors and scientists, were put to work at carpentry, road-building and menial tasks connected with the camp, while women and children were forced to work in the fields 12 hours daily under armed guard.

"Inattentiveness at work" and other alleged offenses were punished as in German concentration camps -- by flogging, solitary confinement and a semi-starvation diet. Several men were shot while trying to escape and others were severely punished when captured, the reports said.

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Halifax Gets Report on Nazi Atrocities in Poland

LONDON, Dec. 3. (Havas) -- Count Edward Raczyński, Polish Ambassador to Great Britain, today submitted to Foreign Secretary Lord Halifax a memorandum drawn up by the Polish Government established in France on the horrors existing under the German regime in Poland. Lord Halifax manifested deep indignation at the reported atrocities and promised to give the memorandum full attention.

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U.S. Envoy Visits Wilno to Study Refugees' Plight

KAUNAS, Dec. 3. (JTA) -- Owen J.C. Norem, United States Minister to Lithuania, has made an unofficial visit to Wilno, it was disclosed today, to study the situation of refugees from Poland, including distribution of relief and housing conditions, and to report to President Roosevelt.

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EDWARD WARBURG NAMED J.D.C. CO-CHAIRMAN AT CHICAGO PARLEY; LABOR LEADERS GET POSTS

CHICAGO, Dec. 3. (JTA) -- The American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee concluded its two-day 25th annual meeting today with election of Edward M.M. Warburg as co-chairman of the J.D.C. and chairman of the relief organization's administration committee, both newly-created offices, and the naming of a number of prominent leaders of labor and orthodox religious groups to various posts. More than 600 Jewish community leaders from all sections of the United States and Canada attended the conference, held at the Standard Club here.

Among labor leaders appointed are David Dubinsky, president of the International Ladies Garment Workers Union, named to the executive committee; Adolph Held, president of the Amalgamated Bank and the Forward Association, publishers of the Jewish Daily Forward, and Joseph Baskin, general secretary of the Workmen's Circle.

Others named to the J.D.C. board include the noted screen and stage stars, Paul Muni and Eddie Cantor, and Henry Monsky, president of B'nai B'rith.

Paul Baerwald of New York was again elected to head the J.D.C. as chairman; James N. Rosenberg of New York was named chairman of the Executive Committee, James H. Becker of Chicago became chairman of the National Council, a post formerly held by Mr. Rosenberg, and Albert H. Lieberman of Philadelphia was named vice-chairman of the National Council.

Speakers heard during the meeting, which opened last night with a banquet, included Mrs. Herbert H. Lehman, who read an address by Governor Lehman, who was prevented by State duties from attending; James G. McDonald, chairman of the President's Advisory Committee on Political Refugees; Mr. Baerwald; Rabbi Wise; Mr. Warburg, Clarence E. Pickett, executive secretary of the American Friends Service Committee (Quakers); Joseph C. Hyman, J.D.C. executive vice-chairman; Mrs. David M. Levy, chairman of the United Jewish Appeal's women's division; Harold F. Linder of New York and Mrs. Myron F. Falk, honorary chairman of the J.D.C. junior division.

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Mr. McDonald, addressing today's session, declared that government assistance on an international scale for refugees from persecution and war was nearer today than at any time since the refugee problem arose.

The intergovernmental conferences of the past two years, he said, had served to "educate" the democratic governments of the world.

"Governments," he asserted, "are beginning to display a degree of interest which they did not do in the early years. The governments have brought into the picture new, powerful, dynamic personalities, and have increasingly come to see that the refugee problem reaches beyond the limits of private charity and must be treated accordingly."

Commenting on the effects upon the Jewish position of recent European developments, Mr. McDonald said: "The German-Russian alliance, followed in these later days by the Russian encroachment on the Baltic provinces, and culminating in the attack on Finland, must end for our period, at least with all thinking men and women, that false propaganda about the intimate interrelation of Judaism and Communism. Surely now and henceforth, no man or woman of intelligence, even if he lacks good will, can any longer believe that the Jews and Communists have anything in common."

American organizations engaged in war relief work overseas have taken "the splendid and consistent position" that "no man will be denied sustenance and aid because of race, creed or origin," Governor Lehman declared in the address read last night by Mrs. Lehman at the dinner meeting, at which Max J. Epstein of Chicago presided.

Discussing war relief problems, the Governor pointed out that "it is not a Jewish problem nor a Christian problem."

"It is a problem," he said, "for humanity and for civilization. In the common task, the Joint Distribution Committee has proved tremendously effective. Its record of non-sectarian aid, the millions of dollars which it has disbursed in collaboration with such agencies as the American Relief Administration, The Red Cross, the Y.M.C.A., The Quakers, The Near East Relief Commission, and other non-sectarian bodies have won for it the respect and good will of Christians the world over.

"We are greatly encouraged in all of our discussions, by the splendid and consistent position taken by the American Red Cross, the American Friends Service Committee, the Commission on Polish Relief to believe that truly democratic and humanitarian principles will be observed in the conduct of their work and that no man will be denied sustenance and aid because of race, creed, or origin."

Despite the fact that the situation is appallingly complicated the Governor warned against a defeatist attitude. "The question is often raised as to the wisdom of our attempting to grant aid in the face of problems so huge and so overwhelming. Some of us can recall the time when, during the famine of 1921, a group of American Welfare Agencies including the Joint Distribution Committee, fed many millions of children and adults daily. And yet, clearly, not all who needed help could receive it. But it was the help of those agencies which alone stood between the suffering millions and starvation. Certainly our help is more sorely needed today than ever before. We cannot permit ourselves to become discouraged no matter how dark the outlook or how great the difficulties. We do not dare to fail at this time."

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HIAS COUNCIL PARLEY PLEDGES TO AID RESCUE PROGRAM; ROOSEVELT LAUDED

NEW YORK, Dec. 3. (JTA) -- Resolutions pledging every effort to maintain and extend the "rescue through emigration" program of the Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society and praising President Roosevelt's efforts in behalf of refugees were adopted today at the tenth annual convention of the HIAS Council of Organizations. The meeting was attended by more than 2,000 delegates representing Jewish religious, fraternal and labor organizations in the metropolitan area.

The convention, after hearing City Council President Newbold Morris condemn the Nazi-Soviet axis as a menace to American institutions and to the American workers' standard of living, adopted another resolution condemning aggressor nations.

The resolution on Roosevelt, which drew prolonged applause, declared the President had "proven himself to be the greatest humanitarian leader of our time," expressed the convention's "profoundest gratitude" for his refugee-aid efforts and also voiced appreciation of all the countries represented at the White House conference of the Intergovernmental Refugee Committee. The resolution also expressed the hope that the President would persuade the British Government to open the doors of Palestine to Jewish refugees.

Morris C. Feinstone, secretary of the United Hebrew Trades, presided at the conference. Other speakers included Judge Jacob Panken, President Abraham Herman of HIAS, Joseph Schlossberg, Albert Rosenblatt, Dr. Arie Tartakower, Rabbi A.D. Burack, Louis Siegal and Isaac Asofsky, executive director of HIAS.

GENEVA BODY TO MAP JEWISH PEACE AIMS PLANNED BY WORLD JEWISH CONGRESS

LONDON, Dec. 3. (JTA) -- The World Jewish Congress is planning to establish a special department at Geneva to study the question of Jewish peace aims and to prepare a detailed survey of the Jewish position from the Versailles Treaty to the outbreak of the present war, it was stated today in congress circles.

The survey will particularly take stock of the machinery set up for safeguarding of minority rights and its functioning in order to establish a basis for suggestions for settlement of the Jewish question in Europe at the conclusion of the war.

The congress believes that a central organization and common policy are necessary to deal with the problem of Jewish war aims and is seeking to bring together the parties interested in this problem with a view to establishing a central organization.

It is stressed in congress circles that the problem of relief is highly complicated and that important political issues enter into such questions, for instance, as supplying food to Jews in the occupied areas of Poland.

Meanwhile, the Rev. Maurice L. Perlzweig and Dr. M. Kleinbaum will visit the United States in January at the invitation of the American Jewish Congress to inform American Jews regarding European Jewish problems. The world congress has also sent Dr. Hellmann, former Warsaw editor, to South America on a mission connected with the congress's relief activities.

The London Jewish Chronicle, in an editorial, appeals to the Jews to work out tentative proposals for shaping their own future in the post-war Europe, pointing out that the Jewish question will be an important item in the peace conference's deliberations, since peace would be impossible so long as millions of men and women were outlawed and tortured.

THOUSANDS PAY LAST TRIBUTE TO REUBEN BRAININ AT MONTREAL RITES

MONTREAL, Dec. 3. (JTA) -- The Jewish community of Montreal, thousands strong, paid final tribute to the memory of Reuben Brainin, noted Hebraist, author and Zionist pioneer, who died in New York last Thursday at the age of 77.

From ten a.m. to one p.m., his body lay in state at the Hebrew Educational Institute. The Jewish Peoples Library, which Brainin founded, supplied the guard of honor.

The funeral service was conducted by Rabbi Herman Abramowitz, of the Shaar Hashomayim Congregation, and funeral orations were delivered by Michael Garber, I. Rabinowitch, editor of the Canadian Jewish Eagle, a post once held by Brainin, and Dr. Samuel Margoshes, editor of the New York Jewish Day, who spoke in the name of the Zionist Organization of America. Burial took place in the Shaar Hashomayim Cemetery.

750 REFUGEES IN SHANGHAI REGISTER FOR MIGRATION TO MINDANAO

SHANGHAI, Dec. 3. (JTA) -- The Shanghai Committee for German Refugees has started organizing groups of prospective settlers for the Philippine island of Mindanao, where colonization is to be launched under a plan approved by the Intergovernmental Committee on Refugees.

So far, 750 applicants, including both single men and heads of families have registered with the committee for settlement in Mindanao. The committee began the registration after receiving a statement from the World Jewish Congress.

Dr. Kurt Marx, secretary of the committee, has left for Manila to discuss the plan with the Jewish Refugee Committee there, and also possibilities for exporting to the Philippines goods manufactured by Jewish refugees in Shanghai. A large collection of samples has already been shipped to Manila.

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Labor Parley Urges Action on Refugees

HAVANA, Dec. 3. (JTA) -- A resolution urging international labor organizations to consider the European refugee problem was adopted yesterday at the closing session of the Inter-American Labor Conference here. A proposal to include in the resolution a specific reference to Spanish refugees from France was voted down.

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NEW YORK, Dec. 3. (JTA) -- The New York Times reported from Havana today that deliberations of the immigration committee of the labor conference had revealed the American countries as willing to consider orderly immigration in preparation for the expected post-war flood of immigrants.

"However," the dispatch added, "the conference was reluctant to consider the immediate problem of European refugees on the grounds that the problem was of a political nature and that the nations here represented were only discussing the permanent, agricultural-settler type of immigrant."

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Australian Notables Back Kimberley Project

MELBOURNE, Dec. 3. (JTA) -- Newspapers today published, with favorable comment, a manifesto supporting a plan for Jewish settlement in the Kimberley region of Australia, signed by the Lord Mayor of Melbourne, university professors, judges, industrialists, politicians, religious leaders and the Australian Council of Trade Unions. The Federal Government, however, is still opposed to the principle of mass settlement, it was stated by Minister of Interior H.S. Foll at Canberra.

The manifesto appealed for support of Dr. Isaac N. Steinberg, head of the Freiland League for Territorial Colonization, which is advocating the scheme, on the grounds that such colonization would be in the interests of Australia and general humanity.

"Settlement of empty North Australia is a necessary duty," the statement said. "We consider Jewish communities in Europe, bereft of hope, as the most likely to have the courage and optimism to overcome the difficulties involved."

CHAMBERLAIN AIRS PALESTINE SITUATION IN TALK WITH LABORITES

LONDON, Dec. 3. (JTA) -- Prime Minister Neville Chamberlain was understood today to have discussed the present situation in Palestine when he received Major Clement R. Attlee and Arthur Greenwood, Labor Party leaders, in the presence of Colonial Secretary Malcolm MacDonald. However, no new development was expected.

SURVEY REVEALS WAR HAS LIFTED LIVING COSTS IN PALESTINE; TEL AVIV RISE 9.1%

TEL AVIV, Dec. 3. (JTA) -- The rising cost of living in Palestine is indicated by a survey showing that living costs in Tel Aviv, largest city in the land, increased by 9.1 per cent since the outbreak of the war.

The investigation, made by the statistics department of the Jewish Agency Executive, covered 220 families throughout the country, including 61 in Tel Aviv, but so far only the result for this city has been published. The survey was made in connection with an agreement between the Manufacturers' Association and the Tel Aviv Labor Council to pay industrial workers a cost-of-living allowance.

According to the report, food prices increased 12.4 per cent, clothing and footwear 28.6 per cent, while other categories increased only slightly or not at all.

As a result of prevailing economic conditions, the Union of Schoolchildren's Parents has decided to increase from 2,000 to 5,000 the number of free meals it distributes to needy children in schools. The union appealed to various Jewish institutions for support on the ground that it could not carry out the plan alone. Besides this union, Hadassah provides free meals, but not enough to meet present needs.

PALESTINE SCIENTISTS STUDY NEW USES FOR ORANGE AS WAR HITS CITRUS TRADE

JERUSALEM, Dec. 3. (JTA) -- With a citrus crop estimated at 12,000,000 cases ripening and the shipping season opening, most of the scientific ability and business acumen of Palestine is now concentrated on oranges.

It is feared that 50 per cent of the crop cannot be marketed abroad because of war conditions. The German, Austrian, Czechoslovak and Polish markets, which together

accounted for a million cases a season, is now closed. The United Kingdom, which ordinarily buys 70 per cent of the crop, nowadays consumes less. Similarly, all European countries are conserving their foreign exchange balances for war purposes. Shipping is scarce and freight rates have shot up. The reappearance of the Spanish crop is also an adverse factor.

Efforts are now being made to utilize a great part of the crop in Palestine itself. The Sieff Institute at Rehoboth, headed by Dr. Chaim Weizmann, has devised a process for mass squeezing, establishing a residue which constitutes nourishing cattle fodder. The juice can be converted into alcohol. This is suggested as a possible outlet for 3,000,000 cases, yielding 2,000 tons of alcohol, which is two-thirds more than Palestine's yearly consumption, but it is hoped the surplus will be saleable for war purposes.

Another promising outlet is use of orange peel as raw material for acetone, imported for the making of explosives according to the process devised by Dr. Weizmann during the last war. Other by-product uses include manufacture of insulating material, plastics, medicines and also conversion of peel into a poison gas absorbent for gas masks.

The war has brought to a head the difficulties of the under-capitalized citrus industry so that today hardly any grower is solvent. Optimists say that if the growers and shippers get together and coordinate their activities, the income from the exported portion of the crop would be not far below that obtained in previous years for the entire crop.

An ideal arrangement would be something on the pattern of the California citrus Exchange, pooling the exporting of the entire crop. The Palestine Government is promoting an agreement between Arab and Jewish growers and exporters, but while the Jews demand 67 per cent of the export quota, representing last year's proportion, the Arabs demand 45 per cent.

Disaster to the citrus industry would be more telling to the Jews than to the Arabs. Jewish citrus groves have an estimated value of \$50,000,000, even at present depressed levels. Three thousand growers with their families and 20,000 workers are dependent on the groves.

Edward Warburg Named J.D.C. Co-Chairman  
(Contd from Page 4).

The following elections, in addition to those already listed above, were recorded at the meeting:

Re-elected vice-chairmen were George Backer, David M. Bressler, Alexander Kahn, Gov. Lehman, William Rosenwald, and Rabbi Jonah B. Wise, all of New York. Dr. Solomon Lowenstein of New York, William Shroder of Cincinnati, and Judge M.C. Sloss of San Francisco. Joseph C. Hyman, executive director of the J.D.C., was elevated to the post of executive vice chairman. Abner Bregman of New York was named associate treasurer and Dr. Joseph J. Schwartz, assistant secretary of the committee, was named secretary.

Besides the officers, all members of the board of directors and the executive committee up for re-election were renamed. In addition nine new names were added to the executive committee. They are Mr. Dubinsky, Samuel A. Goldsmith, executive director of the Jewish Charities of Chicago; Dr. J.J. Golub of New York; Mr. Held; Harold F. Linder; Hirsch Manischewitz of Cincinnati, noted leader of orthodox Jewry; Prof. Jerome Michael of Columbia University; Judge Morris Rothenberg of New York and Max M. Warburg of New York.