

NEWS

from all over the world

VIA

CABLE
WIRELESS
TELEGRAPH
TELEPHONE

by the

JEWISH TELEGRAPHIC AGENCY

1560 BROADWAY, N.Y.C.

VOL. VI. NO. 108.

Wednesday, December 13, 1939.

LUBLIN REGION SLATED FOR CESSION TO RUSSIA, PARIS HEARS

PARIS, Dec. 12. (JTA) -- Polish official circles today received information that the Lublin Jewish "reservation" might pass from the hands of Germany to Soviet Russia as a result of a Nazi plan to cede some of the German-occupied Polish territory to Russia in exchange for Soviet food supplies.

At the same time, French newspapers reported that the Soviet authorities might use their influence with the Nazis to secure the transfer to Soviet Galicia of machinery from Jewish textile factories in Lodz confiscated by the Germans in order to re-establish these factories in one of the Soviet-occupied Galician cities.

The Polish information, reporting on general developments in Poland, said: "The terror conducted by the Nazis is directed most severely against the Jews, who are not only being forced to do the hardest physical labor but are being humiliated and starved while their belongings are being confiscated by the Nazis."

The report spoke of Nazi executions of Jews and declared that "slaughter of Jews en masse occurred in Blowie, near Warsaw, and other places."

According to this report, Berlin has made up its mind to convert German-held territory in Poland into "an agricultural factory" and to liquidate all industrial enterprises there, concentrating commerce in the hands of the Germans. Until this scheme is carried out the Nazis feel it would be advantageous for them to revise their boundaries with the Soviet and offer the Russians more Polish territory in compensation for food.

Nazis Slay 170 Jews in Polish Town

WILNO, Lithuania, Dec. 12. (JTA) -- Massacre of some 170 Jews by Nazis in various Polish towns was reported here today. Forty were shot down in one instance when a German soldier accidentally shot another and blamed Jews for the killing. Seventy-four were executed in the town of Konskie, Kielce province, after a slain soldier was found in the vicinity. Some 60 were massacred in Chmelnik, in the same district, when a few of them tried to save the Scrolls of the Law from a synagogue set afire by the Nazis.

Approximately 10,000 Jews fled from the town of Kalisz, it was learned, after German troops were billeted there. Some 2,000 of them were without food for four days.

Jews of all ages in the Lodz and Kalisz districts have been ordered to wear broad yellow armlets under an ordinance issued by the provincial army chief, Colonel Uebelhoer.

A rigid curfew has been imposed in the same districts for Jews and Gentiles. Jews must remain off the streets between the hours of five p.m. and eight a.m., while Gentiles are under curfew from 8.30 p.m. to five a.m. The death penalty is provided for Jews who violate the curfew. Non-Jews are subject to unlimited fine, imprisonment or both.

All Jewish textile factories and wholesale stores have already been Germanized in Lodz. Sixty per cent of Jewish retail shops have also been Germanized, with the remainder to be closed by Dec. 31. Jews in Lodz are permitted only to work as cab drivers or porters.

The formerly wealthiest Jew in Lodz, the famous industrialist Oskar Kohn, was driven from his own villa in Lodz. He is now living in the flat of his former factory watchman.

- - -

Poland Seen Faced by Worst Famine Since Middle Ages

CERNAUTI, Dec. 12. (Havas) -- The most disastrous famine since the middle ages was predicted for German-occupied Poland tonight on the basis of reports from German sources across the border that the land was even more terribly ravaged by war than had previously been believed.

The worst devastation was said to exist precisely in that part of the country where 100,000 Germans evacuated from Russia are to be settled. Despite wholesale evictions of Polish inhabitants not enough homes are available, it was said, to shelter all the incoming Germans.

Around Cieszanow, it was reported, more than 60 percent of the horses -- formerly the principal wealth of this section -- were slaughtered. In the same district 70 percent of the cows and 90 percent of the pigs were destroyed. Fodder was reported so scarce that it was doubtful if even these small quantities of livestock could be kept alive through the winter.

2 J.D.C. OFFICIALS, 60 POLISH REFUGEES ON STEAMER CAPTURED BY NAZI WARSHIP

KAUNAS, Lithuania, Dec. 12. (JTA) -- Two representatives of the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee, one of them an American citizen, were passengers on the Estonian steamship Estonia which has been captured by a Nazi warship, it was learned here today. Sixty Polish refugees were also on board the vessel, which was seized off the coast of Sweden.

The American, Moses W. Beckelman, 34, of New York, was reportedly released after the passengers and crew were landed at Memel, Baltic port which was taken over by Germany from Lithuania last Spring.

Isaac Giterman, the other J.D.C. representative, and all the Polish nationals are reported to have been interned at Memel. Giterman, a Polish citizen, formerly was head of the Warsaw office of the J.D.C. He had succeeded in escaping to Wilno after harrowing experiences in the early days of the German bombardment of Warsaw.

Both Giterman and Beckelman were on their way from Wilno to a meeting in Amsterdam. Beckelman, who is unmarried, is a member of the European staff of the J.D.C. and has recently been organizing refugee-relief work in the Wilno district. He has been with the relief agency about nine months.

6 KILLED, MANY WOUNDED AS BOMB-DAMAGED HOUSES COLLAPSE IN WARSAW

PARIS, Dec. 12. (JTA) -- Many houses damaged in the German bombardment of Warsaw are continuing to crumble, causing heavy casualties, it was reported today by the Polish Telegraphic Agency. Six persons were said to have been killed in the collapse of a building on Bonfrasterska Street on Nov. 29. Several other streets have been closed to traffic because of the danger.

NAZIS PLAN 22,000,000 KRONEN 'FINE' ON CZECH JEWS

PARIS, Dec. 12. (JTA) -- Reports from Prague and Vienna reaching here today through neutral countries brought news of intensification of the Nazi terror against Jews there.

In Prague, preparations are being made to impose a collective "fine" of 22,000,000 kronen upon the Jewish population of Bohemia and Moravia. Pretext for the levy is that "this sum was spent by the Czechoslovak Government from 1923 to 1939 for various Jewish cultural needs.

Jews in Vienna, meanwhile, are forbidden to appear in the streets after four p.m. and are permitted to shop only between the hours of two and four p.m. At the same time all Jews have been ordered to move from certain streets, with the result that four to five Jewish families are being crowded into one tiny room in buildings where they are still permitted to reside.

Mass arrests of Jews is continuing in the former Austrian capital. Gestapo guards on trains carrying the prisoners to the Dachau concentration camp are reportedly forcing youths among them to leap from the speeding cars to their death.

Benes Optimistic

LONDON, Dec. 12. (JTA) -- Czechoslovakia will live again and will bar discrimination against any of its citizens, ex-President Eduard Benes today told a delegation from the Federation of Czechoslovakian Jews in Britain.

The delegation consulted with Dr. Benes regarding relief for Czechoslovak Jewish refugees in border countries. He assured them of cooperation and expressed the belief that the victory of democracy would come earlier than many thought.

Declaring he fully understood the Jewish problem, Dr. Benes assured the deputation that the wishes of the Czechoslovak Jews had been given the greatest sympathy. He asserted that Czechoslovakia would again become a fortress of democracy and freedom in Europe.

CORPORATION FORMED HERE TO AID DOMINICAN REFUGEE PROJECT; ROSEN SET TO SAIL

NEW YORK, Dec. 12. (JTA) -- Formation of a New York corporation to aid settlement of refugees in the Dominican Republic under a plan approved by the Inter-governmental Refugee Committee was announced today by George L. Warren, secretary of the President's Advisory Committee on Political Refugees.

Organizers of the corporation were listed in the announcement as James N. Rosenberg, chairman of the Agro-Joint (American Jewish Joint Agricultural Corporation); Arthur M. Lamport, the investment banker; Mr. Warren, "and others."

Dr. Joseph A. Rosen, president of the Agro-Joint, will sail on Thursday for the Dominican Republic, where he will complete practical plans for establishment of a colony of 500 German-Jewish families and several hundred unmarried persons. He will be followed next month by Mr. Rosenberg.

The Corporation, Mr. Warren said, has been formed to aid settlement of refugees in the Dominican Republic "pursuant to the generous offer made by the Dominican Government through its representatives, General Rafael L. Trujillo, former president of the Dominican Republic, and Dominican Minister to the United States Andres Pastoriza."

Announcement of the refugee settlement project was made last October following the White House conference of the Intergovernmental Refugee Committee. Preliminary surveys of the territory to be settled have been made under the auspices of the President's Advisory Committee and the Refugee Economic Corporation.

7,000 INTERNED REFUGEES RELEASED BY FRANCE

PARIS, Dec. 12. (JTA) -- Gradual release of refugees held in isolation centers in France was promised today by Interior Minister Albert Sarraut, who said they would be freed after completion of examination of each individual case. About 7,000 of the 15,000 refugees interned at the outbreak of the war have already been released, Sarraut told Parliament. He said he was aware of the fact that among those interned were many Jews, but explained this situation as resulting from the fact that the Nazi Government had sent into France many purported Jews or anti-Nazis as spies.

WORK STARTED ON BUILDINGS FOR 3-YEAR GREEK TENT COLONY IN PALESTINE

JERUSALEM, Dec. 12. (JTA) -- Prominent Jewish leaders participated today in ceremonies opening construction of a synagogue and 20 houses in the Greek Jewish settlement of Zur Moshe on Jewish National Fund land in the Sharon Valley. The settlers had been camping on the site since 1936. Taking part in the ceremonies were M.M. Ussishkin, world leader of the Jewish National Fund, Chief Rabbis Herzog and Uziel, and Mayor Israel Rokach of Tel Aviv.

\$500,000 GIVEN BY MIZRACHI WOMEN'S GROUP FOR PALESTINE WORK, PARLEY TOLD

LAKEWOOD, N.J., Dec. 12. (JTA) -- The Mizrahi Women's Organization of America has contributed approximately \$500,000 for the maintenance of its homes and training schools for refugee and Palestinian girls in the Holy Land, the organization's annual Eastern regional conference was told today by Mrs. Simcha Rabinowitz, secretary, who told of plans to expand the work. Other speakers at today's opening sessions were Mrs. Abraham Shapiro, president; Mrs. Samuel Goldstein, vice-president, and Leon Gellman, president of Mizrahi. The conference, which will close tomorrow, is being attended by about 200 delegates from 50 chapters.

(Continued on reverse side of page)

JEWS URGED BY SILVER, AT CHANUKAH FETE, TO EMULATE MACCABEES IN FIGHT ON OPPRESSION

NEW YORK, Dec. 12. (JTA) -- Rabbi Abba Hillel Silver of Cleveland last night urged Jews to launch an offensive against injustice and oppression, in emulation of the Maccabees of old. He addressed some 250 persons attending the 13th annual Chanukah dinner of the Metropolitan Conference of Temple Brotherhoods at the Hotel Commodore.

"The struggle of the Maccabees anticipated with amazing fidelity of detail the elemental struggle now raging in the world," Dr. Silver said. "Israel was the only dissident, non-conforming people in the whole of antiquity. They refused to accept 'Gleichshaltung.' The Maccabees carried on what we would call today an underground movement. Israel has always had as its adversaries the greatest empires of the period, and Israel has survived. Israel has again been singled out for especial fury by pagan imperialism. We again accept the challenge. The victory in the most recent struggle between the sovereignty of the mind and spirit and the tyranny of political culture reinforced by dictatorship belong today, as in the days of old, to those who are not afraid to belong to a minority, to those who are ready to suffer for those things which alone make life worthy of suffering."

TAYLOR TURNED GOODWILL INTO 'EFFECTIVE HELP' FOR REFUGEES, LEHMAN TELLS MEDAL FETE

NEW YORK, Dec. 12. (JTA) -- Governor Herbert H. Lehman tonight praised Myron C. Taylor, vice-chairman of the Intergovernmental Committee on Refugees, for translating goodwill into "effective help" for refugees, in an address prepared for delivery in presenting him with 1939 American Hebrew Medal at a dinner in the Hotel Astor attended by more than 1,000 persons.

In the absence of Mr. Taylor because of illness, the medal was to be accepted by his wife, Frank E. Gannett, the publisher, lauded Mr. Taylor for "leadership in a great humanitarian cause." Henry Morgenthau Sr., who presided, called him "a champion of tolerance" and "exponent of the American way."

Other scheduled speakers included Owen D. Young, former Justice Joseph M. Proskauer, Joseph H. Biben, publisher of The American Hebrew; the Rev. William C. Kerman and Mrs. David de Sola Pool.

BULLETINWarsaw Arm-Band Edict Revoked

WILNO, Lithuania, Dec. 12. (JTA) -- An official order has been issued in Warsaw revoking the decree which obliged Jews to wear white armlets with a blue six-pointed star, it was learned here today.