

NEWS

from all over the world

VIA

CABLE
WIRELESS
TELEGRAPH
TELEPHONE

by the

JEWISH TELEGRAPHIC AGENCY

1560 BROADWAY, N.Y.C.

VOL. VI. NO. 114.

Wednesday, December 20, 1939.

NAZIS BURN 30 JEWS IN SYNAGOGUE AT PRZEMYSL, EXPEL OTHERS TO SOVIET SIDE OF CITY

PARIS, Dec. 19. (JTA) -- Polish sources reported today that Nazis in the city of Przemyśl burned down a synagogue in which they had locked 30 Jews and then forced the rest of the Jewish inhabitants, including women, aged and ailing, to cross the San River to the Soviet side.

"The Jews in Przemyśl, when brought to the San, were forced to cross it not over the bridge but in the waters of the river," one of the reports said.

It had been reported that Przemyśl was part of Soviet-occupied territory, but the Polish Embassy and Polish Telegraphic Agency here explained that the city is divided by the San and a suburb on the left bank is held by the Nazis, where the synagogue destruction and expulsion presumably occurred.

Official Polish circles also reported that Nazis were confiscating Jewish and Polish property in Posen and other parts of Poland which Chancellor Adolf Hitler has proclaimed as an integral part of Germany. In Posen, no Pole is permitted to trade any longer, it was said. "Liquidation of the entire Polish commerce is practically completed in Posen and everything is passing into German hands."

Information about mistreatment of Jews in Nazi Poland was also received by British circles here.

"Reports continue to pour in describing the inhuman treatment of Jews in Nazi Poland," the British sources said. "Epidemics, of which typhoid and pneumonia have been the most widespread, are said to be raging in Warsaw and Lublin. The epidemics have spread particularly rapidly among the Jews as a result of overcrowding, lack of food and of adequate clothing for protection against the intense cold."

"Little medical aid is available and the Jews are excluded from all public hospitals. They are also forbidden to buy clothes, boots or white bread. No coal is supplied to them, with the result that they are obliged to use for firewood what furniture they may be fortunate enough to possess."

- - -

3 Polish 'Reservations' Planned

PARIS, Dec. 19. (JTA) -- French newspapers said today it had been announced in Berlin that three "reservations" for Poles would be set up in the districts of Cracow, Warsaw and Radom, in addition to the Jewish "reservation" in the Lublin area. Chancellor Hitler has adopted the four-reservation plan instead of his previous program of establishing a nominally independent Polish State, it was said.

Poles will not be allowed to reside in the Jewish territory and neither Poles nor Jews will be permitted to move from their "reservations" to any other part of German-held land, the Berlin announcement was quoted as stating. Whether Jews would be forced to move to Lublin from the projected Polish "reservations" was not specified.

NEW POLAND TO ENSURE RIGHTS FOR 'LOYAL' MINORITIES, EXILED REGIME ASSERTS

PARIS, Dec. 19. (JTA) -- The exiled Polish Government, in a proclamation of its war aims tonight, predicted that the liberated Poland would be based on Christian and democratic principles and would ensure "national and cultural liberty" for those minorities which remained loyal to Poland in its struggle for liberty.

The proclamation, issued by the Polish Telegraphic Agency, said that the Polish nation itself would decide what would be the political structure of the new nation, with the Government executing the people's will.

Margoshes Asks Deeds as Proof Anti-Semitism is Abjured

NEW YORK, Dec. 19. (JTA) -- Commenting on appointment of Jews to the new Polish National Council and various consular posts, Dr. Samuel Margoshes said today in his column in The Day that the Polish Government-in-exile should be made to understand "that the inclusion of a few Jews in the Government machinery is not sufficient to satisfy the Jewish masses that a new spirit has come over the Polish Government with regard to Jews."

"If the Polish Government-in-exile wishes the wholehearted cooperation of the Jews throughout the world," he concluded, "it will have to prove by deeds that it has abjured anti-Semitism and that it has definitely resolved to give a fair deal to all inhabitants of Poland, regardless of race and creed."

LITHUANIA DENIES OUSTER OF REFUGEES, UNDER SOVIET PRESSURE, IS PLANNED

COPENHAGEN, Dec. 19. (JTA) -- Vice-Premier Kazys Bizauskas of Lithuania, Chief Commissioner for the Wilno District, today categorically denied in Kaunas the rumors of possible deportation of refugees to Poland.

Polish official sources in Paris had reported that Soviet Russia was bringing pressure to bear on Lithuania for expulsion of all refugees considered harmful to Moscow's interests and that the Kaunas government would probably be obliged to yield.

Bizauskas stated that no Polish or Jewish refugees would be ousted and that all would be afforded the opportunity to remain in Lithuania, although part of them would be transferred to the provinces, where it would be easier and cheaper to supply them with food.

12/20/39.

Additional assurance of the favorable attitude of the Lithuanian Government to the Jews in the Wilno district was given by President Antanas Smetona and Premier Antanas Merkys when interviewed by Rabbi Isaac Rubinstein, former Polish Senator now living in Wilno.

Estonian ships have discontinued acceptance of Polish subjects, leaving airlines as their only means of communication from the Baltic area to western Europe. The action followed the capture of the Estonian steamship Estonia by a German warship last week and the internment of 60 Polish refugees who were found on board.

JEWISH PROPERTY IN SUDETENLAND TO BE SEIZED AS 'REPARATIONS'

PARIS, Dec. 19. (JTA) -- Jewish property in the Sudetenland will be "legally" confiscated by the Nazis, it was disclosed here today, as "reparation for the damages Jews inflicted upon Sudeten Germans by supporting the former Czechoslovakian Government."

An announcement published in the official Nazi organ Die Zeit, received here through neutral countries, orders all Sudeten Germans to file applications for damages against the Jews with local mayors or other local authorities.

As virtually all the Jews have been forced out of the Sudetenland, they are considered "political emigrants" and the property they left behind, including houses, furniture and banking accounts, will be divided among local Nazis as "reparations."

BELGIUM ALLOTS 8,000,000 FRANCS FOR REFUGEE AID IN 1940

BRUSSELS, Dec. 19. (JTA) -- The Belgian Government will include in its 1940 budget an allotment of 8,000,000 Belgian francs for refugee relief, it was announced today by Catholic Senator Hanquet, rapporteur on budgetary questions. The sum represents an increase of 2,000,000 francs over last year's allocation for maintenance of refugees from the Reich in special centers established under the joint supervision of the Government and Jewish relief organizations.

Mayor M. Huysmans of Antwerp, during the budget debate in Parliament, sharply criticized the Government for failing to take sufficient measures to combat anti-Semitic propaganda being spread by Nazi agents in Belgium. He said the propaganda was having an adverse effect on the Antwerp diamond market since the Jews, who had done so much to develop the market, were being frightened away from the city.

VAN ZEELAND HOPEFUL ON OUTCOME OF NEGOTIATIONS FOR REFUGEE PROJECTS

BRUSSELS, Dec. 19. (JTA) -- Ex-Premier Paul van Zeeland, president of the Coordinating Foundation for refugees, who has just returned from the United States, declared today in an interview with L'Independence Belge that negotiations for settlement of refugees in certain countries were well advanced and gave good hope of results. Immigration can be started immediately in the Dominican Republic and the island of Mindanao in the Philippines, he said. Van Zeeland intends to go to England and later probably to South America. He said he regarded the recent Washington conference on refugees as useful but not as offering any definite solution of the problem.

CZECH LEGION PLAYS ROLE IN CHANUKAH FETE "SOMEWHERE IN FRANCE"

PARIS, Dec. 19. (JTA) -- The tones of the Marseillaise, the Czech national anthem and "Hatikvah," Zionist anthem, mingled at a celebration of Chanukah, the Feast of Lights, arranged for Jewish soldiers in the Czech Legion by the Federation of Czechoslovak Jews in France. More than 800 Jewish soldiers and many French and Czech high military officers participated in the ceremonies, held "somewhere in France," according to a communique issued today.

Chanukah candles were lit. The field rabbi of the Czech Legion spoke of the heroism of the Maccabais and expressed the hope that Czechoslovakia would be liberated from the Nazis just as the Maccabais liberated Palestine from the Syro-Greeks.

B'NAI B'RITH GIVES \$1,000 TO FINNISH RELIEF FUND

WASHINGTON, Dec. 19. (JTA) -- B'nai B'rith, international Jewish fraternal order, today announced a \$1,000 contribution from its Emergency Relief Fund to the Finnish Relief Fund, Inc.

Henry Monsky, president of B'nai B'rith, stated: "The violation of Finland is another act in the tragedy being written by the Nazi-Fascist-Communist dictatorships, a tragedy in which the Jews in Germany were cast as the first victims. As a concrete token of its sympathy with and desire to be of assistance to the suffering Finnish non-combatant victims of aggression, B'nai B'rith, representing a cross section of the American Jewish community, is contributing \$1,000 to the Finnish Relief Fund, Inc., for the purchase and shipment of food, clothing and medical relief supplies to Finland."

JEWISH BODIES BOOED AT RED MEMORIAL RALLY FOR OLGIN

NEW YORK, Dec. 19. (JTA) -- More than 16,000 persons last night attended a memorial meeting for Moissaye J. Olgin, editor of the Jewish Morning Freiheit who died Nov. 22, which was held by the Communist Party at the Madison Square Garden. William Weiner, treasurer of the party, devoted much of his speech to arguing that American Jews who had been sympathetic to Communism were renegades if they permitted the Nazi-Soviet pact to affect their loyalty. The crowd booed the American Jewish Congress and Jewish Labor Committee, the organizations which sponsored a rally at the Garden last week protesting against the invasion of Poland.

REFUGEE QUESTION CHRISTIAN PROBLEM, EDUCATOR TELLS HIAS DINNER

NEW YORK, Dec. 19. (JTA) -- Dr. Frank Kingdon, president of the University of Newark, tonight told about 1,000 persons attending a dinner of the Women's Division of HIAS at the Hotel Astor that the refugee question is a Christian problem "in a sense so profound that it cannot be measured."

The purpose of the dinner was to raise funds for the HIAS "rescue through emigration" program for refugees. Members of the sponsoring committee included Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt and Henry Morgenthau Sr. Among those on the speakers' list were Abraham Herman, president of HIAS, and Mrs. Leon Kamaiky, head of the Women's Division.

'ARYAN' MAIDS WORKING FOR JEWS IN REICH FORCED TO USE 'J' RATION CARDS

PARIS, Dec. 19. (JTA) -- The Schwarze Korps, organ of Hitler's Elite Guards, discloses in the current issue that the new Nazi system of stamping with the letter "J" the ration cards held by "Aryan" servant maids of over 40 who are employed by Jews has provoked something like a revolution.

"These ladies," the periodical declares, "whose number turns out to be not as small as some may think, are protesting most severely and consider the measure an insult. However, the fact that they as 'Aryans' serve Jews, clean Jewish dirt and take Jewish money does not bother them at all." (Under the Nuremberg race laws, "Aryans" under 40 are not permitted to work as servants for Jews.)

According to the Schwarze Korps, stamping of food cards held by Jews will mean that they will henceforth meet with difficulties not only in getting rationed foods but also in obtaining the cards, since these will no longer be delivered to Jews as hitherto. "Henceforth," the paper reports, "each Jew will have to appear personally for his card, as will the Aryans who are in the employ of Jews."

The introduction of specially marked food cards for Jews is being looked upon by German Jewry as a signal to storekeepers not to sell them any food, since every grocer will now be able to distinguish between "Aryan" and Jewish customers. Already Jews are meeting with difficulties in certain parts of the Reich in obtaining food on their cards. While in some cities they must buy only at certain limited hours and only in specified shops, it is considered certain that with the specially marked cards they will henceforth be met in most groceries with the announcement that "everything is sold out."

HEBREW PRESS HAILS BRODETSKY ELECTION AS ZIONIST VICTORY OVER ASSIMILATIONISM

JERUSALEM, Dec. 19. (JTA) -- Hebrew newspapers today welcomed the election of Prof. Selig Brodetsky as president of the Board of Deputies of British Jews, hailing it as a victory for Zionism over assimilationism. The laborite Davar said the election symbolized the victory of democracy in Anglo-Jewish leadership and aroused the hope that the Board would increase its assistance in Palestine upbuilding work. Haaretz said it marked the triumph of Eastern European and the East End Jew.

NAZIS EXPAND RACIALISM TO 'DIVINE RIGHT' TO RULE ALL RACES

NEW YORK, Dec. 19. (JTA) -- The Nazi theory of racialism has now been broadened into a belief in the Germans' "divine right" to rule other races, it is indicated in a speech made yesterday by Dr. Robert Ley, Reich Organization Director and head of the German Labor Front, in Lodz, Poland.

As quoted by a New York Times Berlin dispatch, Dr. Ley declared: "The German race, that is our faith! It has higher rights than all others. A German laborer is worth more than an English lord. We have the divine right to rule and we shall assure ourselves of that right....It is not true that the nations of Europe are equal. It is nonsense to maintain that all nations have equal rights...Not every people is capable of forming a State and not every people has the right to its own State."