

NEWS

from all over the world

VIA

CABLE
WIRELESS
TELEGRAPH
TELEPHONE

by the
JEWISH TELEGRAPHIC AGENCY

1560 BROADWAY, N.Y.C.

VOL. VI. NO. 115.

Thursday, December 21, 1939.

LODZ JEWS FORCED TO SUPPLY 400 WOMEN DAILY AS SERVANTS FOR NAZI TROOPS

COPENHAGEN, Dec. 20. (JTA) -- The Jews of Lodz, Nazi Poland, are being forced to supply 400 women daily for various cleaning and kitchen services for the German military forces, it was learned here today.

The Nazis have confiscated the headquarters of the Lodz Jewish Community for use of the military board. The Community offices have been moved into a few rooms of the Jewish Hospital. All funds of the Community have been confiscated and expenses incurred by it are defrayed by the Nazis from property confiscated from Jews.

Two Poles and one Jew were hanged by the Nazis in the market place in the Balut quarter, which is inhabited by the poorest Jews in Lodz. The corpses, identity of which could not be learned, hung in the square all day long. No reason for the execution was forthcoming.

The Great Synagogue was put to the torch and destroyed by the Nazis; it was also ascertained. According to the Lodzer Zeitung, Nazi organ, firemen sought only to prevent damage to adjacent buildings.

Lodz Jews are permitted to ride only in special "Jim Crow" cars.

In areas annexed to the Reich, including Lodz, the population was given until Dec. 9 to exchange Polish for German currency. Germans, Poles and Jews formed separate lines at the banks where the exchanges were to be effected. The Jewish lines were constantly dispersed by storm troopers, so that a majority of the Jews were unable to obtain marks for zlotys.

In Warsaw, pawnshops have been ordered henceforth not to pay Jews more than 250 zlotys regardless of the value of articles pawned.

It is learned that Vice-Mayor Mastbaum of Brest-Litovsk, brother of the writer Joel Mastbaum, has been arrested by the Soviet authorities in that city.

PALESTINE ARMY COURT OPENS TRIAL OF 38 YOUNG JEWS HELD FOR DRILLING WITH ARMS

ACRE, Palestine, Dec. 20. (JTA) -- A military court today opened trial of 38 young Jews, four of them girls of 17, on charges of drilling with arms in violation of the Palestine emergency regulations. The youths were arrested near Rosh Pina on Nov. 19.

The Acre military court last October convicted 43 Jews on similar charges, imposing heavy jail terms which later were reduced by the General Officer Commanding to five-year terms for all but one, whose life sentence was commuted to ten years.

LITHUANIA NOW ISSUING PASSPORTS IN WILNO DISTRICT

COPENHAGEN, Dec. 20. (JTA) -- Lithuanian authorities have commenced issuance of Lithuanian passports in Wilno, city which was occupied by Soviet Russia and then ceded to Lithuania.

The Government considers as Lithuanians all those who were Lithuanian citizens on July 20, 1920, and resided in Wilno on Oct. 27 of this year, and also natives of the city. Those who took up residence in Wilno while it was part of Poland are considered as foreigners and will be permitted to remain in Lithuania under regulations governing the rights of foreigners.

BIRO-BIDJAN GROUP HERE TURNS FUNDS OVER TO ORT AS IT SUSPENDS ACTIVITIES

NEW YORK, Dec. 20. (JTA) -- Marking formal suspension of the activities on behalf of Biro-Bidjan, autonomous Jewish territory in the Soviet Far East, the American Biro-Bidjan Committee (Ambidjan) has decided to turn over all of its funds to the American ORT Federation, it was announced here today.

The first instalment of the Ambidjan funds has already been turned over to the ORT. The remainder will be transferred as soon as technical formalities have been arranged.

Transfer of the money was arranged at several meetings of leaders of both groups. The funds, it was announced, will be used for the ORT's various activities in retraining East European Jews in artisanship.

A spokesman for the Ambidjan said that the action did not mean the committee was being liquidated. He explained that the committee, which was organized in 1935 "to study and facilitate" settlement of Jews in Biro-Bidjan, would remain in a "state of suspension" until such time as it might be needed again. Lord Marley is honorary president of the committee; former Congressman William W. Cohen is president and Max Levin is chairman of the Board.

PALESTINE BUYING HERE INCREASED SINCE WAR, U.S. CONSUL REPORTS

WASHINGTON, Dec. 20. (JTA) -- Palestine importers are filing a large number of orders in the United States for goods which they obtained before the war from other countries, Consul Albert W. Scott in Jerusalem informed the State Department today. The exchange control will restrict imports, however, he said.

SWEDEN, HOLLAND CUT ORANGE PURCHASES FROM PALESTINE

JERUSALEM, Dec. 20. (JTA) -- Sweden and The Netherlands are reported to have reduced their purchases of Palestine oranges, the latter buying only half of last year's quota, or six boatloads. Sweden's curtailed purchases are the result of increased transportation costs. Norway and Denmark have decided not to make any purchases this year.

AMERICAN COLONISTS HELP EMIR ABDULLAH BUILD CITRUS PLANTATION

JERUSALEM, Dec. 20. (JTA) -- Members of the American Jewish colony Raanana helped establish a private citrus plantation for Emir Abdullah near the Transjordan border, it was learned today.

The Americans cleared the land and dug a well for the plantation. Machinery was supplied by a Jewish engineer from Jerusalem and another Jewish engineer found the exact spot best suited for the well, which is already supplying 300 cubic meters of water hourly. The ruler of the Transjordan has always maintained excellent relations with the Jews.

NEW RELIGIOUS FEDERATION LAUNCHED IN BALTIC REGION

LONDON, Dec. 20. (JTA) -- The Agudath Israel, orthodox Jewish organization, announced today the formation of a Federation of Agudist organizations in the Baltic region, including Latvia and Lithuania, with Chief Rabbi Chaim Oser Grodzien-ski of Wilno as honorary president and Deputy I. Dubin of Riga and Rabbi Schub of Wilno as the executive officers. The federation will shortly hold a conference in Wilno. The Lithuanian Government is affording facilities to the federation, which intends, by strengthening religion, to combat Communism.

YUGOSLAV OFFICIAL, CONVERTED JEW, SLAIN IN BELGRADE

NEW YORK, Dec. 20. (JTA) -- The New York Times reported from Belgrade yesterday that Edo Markovitch, converted Jew who was director general of the Yugoslav grain export monopoly, was killed by a detective. According to the official account, Markovitch fired at detectives who visited his house in search of his son, suspected of being involved in recent student riots.

SHARP RISE NOTED IN JEWS SEEKING JOBS THROUGH OFFICIAL BERLIN OFFICES

NEW YORK, Dec. 20. (JTA) -- The Associated Press reported from Berlin today that the number of Jews hunting jobs in the German capital through official employment offices had trebled since the beginning of the war. About 20,000 of the city's 95,000 Jews were officially said to be employed as manual laborers in the building trades, trucking, forestry, gardening and clothing work.

REPORTS OF NAZI RUTHLESSNESS IN POLAND SEEN CONFIRMED IN BERLIN COMMUNIQUE

NEW YORK, Dec. 20. (JTA) -- A Berlin dispatch to the New York Times today interpreted a communique regarding a conference between German military and civil authorities in Poland as confirmation of reports that friction had arisen between the Army and the Nazis over the Gestapo's ruthless treatment of the population.

The Nazi administration's efforts to subjugate the Poles have erected an atmosphere in which "acts of violence appear to be increasing rather than decreasing," the dispatch said. It quoted reports that members of the Elite Guard were found dead in ambush and that the Nazis in retaliation executed many Poles, creating new hatreds that led to new acts of violence.

The dispatch added that the Nazi Party authorities have remained dominant in all internal affairs.

ALLIES MUST RECOGNIZE 'DAN TO BEERSHEBA' JEWISH STATE, JABOTINSKY HOLDS

LONDON, Dec. 20. (JTA) -- The Allies will have to recognize a Jewish State "from Dan to Beersheba and on both sides of the Jordan," it was declared here last night by Vladimir Jabotinsky, head of the New Zionist Organization.

Addressing a memorial meeting at the Anglo-Palestine Club for Solomon Jacobovitch, Revisionist leader who died in Paris last month, the world Revisionist leader declared the Allies were fighting for noble aims and they "will have to make room among their war aims for the restoration of a destroyed people." He said the Jews wanted to help in the fight and that it would be a "great day of pride and rejoicing and a useful day for the Allies if a Jewish army were formed."

6
rites for martyred Polish Yeshiva leaders held in Jerusalem

JERUSALM, Dec. 20. (JTA) -- Chief Rabbi Isaac Herzog yesterday conducted memorial services at the Hurva Great Synagogue in the Old City and prayers at the Wailing Wall for the "martyred heads" of Jewish religious institutions in Poland.

In a statement to the Jewish Telegraphic Agency later, Dr. Herzog appealed to Great Britain to facilitate transplanting of leading religious schools throughout the world to Palestine in order to "prevent dimming of the Torah." He urged American Jews to insist that an adequate share of Palestine funds raised in America be allotted for the schools.

ITALIAN FIRM IN LISBON SEEKS RACE DATA FROM EMPLOYEES

PARIS, Dec. 20. (JTA) -- Jewish organizations here today received advices from Lisbon that the Italian Cable Company there has ordered all its Portuguese employees to undergo registration and to state their racial origin. As a retaliatory measure, Lisbon Jews have decided to use the British telegraph company, Eastern.

Jews of Morocco, Tangier Pledge Loyalty to Franco

NEW YORK, Dec. 20. (JTA) -- The New York Times reported today from Madrid that a delegation representing the Jewish communities of Spanish Morocco and Tangier presented to the Foreign Minister pledges of "unshakable loyalty" to Generalissimo Francisco Franco. The visit coincided with the publication of the seventh volume of the "The Protocols of Zion."