

# NEWS

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## JEWISH TELEGRAPHIC AGENCY

1560 BROADWAY, N.Y.C.

VOL. VI. NO. 120.

Thursday, December 28, 1939.

### ALL AGREED ON PEACE COURSE, ADLER STATES AFTER TALK WITH ROOSEVELT

WASHINGTON, Dec. 27. (JTA) -- Dr. Cyrus Adler, president of the Jewish Theological Seminary, together with Dr. George A. Buttrick, president of the Federal Council of Churches of Christ in America, today conferred with President Roosevelt for a half hour and afterward Dr. Adler said that all parties involved were in complete agreement on a course to be followed in coordination of peace efforts.

Any further statement, Dr. Adler said, would have to be issued by the White House. He and Dr. Buttrick will return to Washington at some future date for further discussion, he added.

Dr. Adler and Dr. Buttrick were chosen as the Jewish and Protestant representatives, respectively, in President Roosevelt's move to bring together these and the Catholic faiths for organized efforts toward restoration of peace and alleviation of war suffering.

Messages continued to come from Jewish organizations in support of the President's move. The Rabbinical Assembly of America, comprising 300 Conservative rabbis, wrote to Mr. Roosevelt commending the choice of Dr. Adler as "religious representative of American Jewry to cooperate with you in your sacred efforts for world peace."

"May God bless you and sustain you for what you are doing to revive the hopes of all men of goodwill," said the letter, which was signed by Rabbi Max Arzt, president of the assembly.

Dr. Arzt also wrote to Dr. Adler expressing gratitude for his appointment as the Jewish representative and assuring him "that the members of the Assembly will follow your leadership." It added: "We pray that God may uphold you in the great responsibility which has been placed in your hands."

Moses H. Hoenig, president of the National Council of Young Israel, orthodox lay organization, sent this telegram to President Roosevelt: "We joyously hail your superb initiative in calling upon religious leaders to unite in effort to achieve world peace. May the Lord crown your noble efforts with success."

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Precedent Believed Set in Selection of Adler

NEW YORK, Dec. 27. (JTA) -- President Roosevelt's selection of Dr. Cyrus Adler to cooperate in inter-faith efforts for peace represents the first time within the memory of informed persons that one man was acknowledged by the head of the American Government as the representative of the Jewish religion in the United States.

The President's action came as a complete surprise to Jewish leaders here. At the Jewish Theological Seminary it was said that no one here had had any advance inkling of Mr. Roosevelt's intention and it was thought that even Dr. Adler, who has not been participating actively in public affairs because of his ill health, may have been taken by surprise when he received the President's message.

Jewish leaders compared the peace action to the President's proposal for the Evian refugee conference in 1937 in the way it apparently had originated with Mr. Roosevelt himself and burst upon them without warning. How the Chief Executive came to choose Dr. Adler as the representative of the Jewish religion was similarly not known, but it was the consensus of Conservative, Orthodox and Reform Jews alike that no better choice could have been made.

In view of the lack of unity in Jewish religious affairs, Dr. Adler's recognition by President Roosevelt was seen as significant as setting a precedent in the acknowledgment of a single representative of the Jewish religion in this country. This is all the more interesting in view of the fact that Dr. Adler, although president of the Jewish Theological Seminary, is not a rabbi, his training having been in the field of scholarship rather than in theology.

ZIONIST LEADER SLAIN IN WARSAW FOR SHIELDING RABBI FROM INSULTS

COPENHAGEN, Dec. 27. (JTA) -- Details of the murder in Warsaw of the Zionist leader Avigdor Friedman while trying to protect a rabbi from insults were received here today.

On Saturday, Rabbi Jacob Silberstein and 60 worshippers were dragged out of the Praga Synagogue during services and taken to the market place for compulsory labor. All were forced also to smoke cigarettes, a violation of the Sabbath. When an Endeck hooligan spat in Rabbi Silberstein's face, Friedman intervened. The Nazi foreman of the work gang thereupon shot Friedman dead.

The Jewish community of Lodz in Nazi Poland has been forced to cooperate with the Reichsministry of Propaganda in filming two anti-Semitic propaganda movies, it was learned here today.

One of the films seeks to show that kosher slaughter is a barbarous practice. The Jewish slaughterers were obliged to go into an abattoir in the Balut quarter and play humiliating roles in scenes having no connection with the real methods of kosher slaughter. In the other picture, the entire congregation of the Vilker synagogue on Zachodnia Street was forced to participate in the filming of holiday prayer, wearing prayer shawls and phylacteries.

Meanwhile, the Jewish cemetery in Lodz was desecrated. All trees and tombstones were removed.

In Warsaw, after the introduction of ration cards for bread, sugar and salt, non-Jewish shopkeepers were receiving unlimited supplies of these commodities, but Jewish retailers were unable to obtain any before submitting a list of 200 Jewish customers.

Although yellow armbands are compulsory for Warsaw Jews on the left bank of the Vistula, Jews in the Praga suburb, which is on the right bank, were voluntarily wearing them as a gesture of solidarity. Since introduction of the armbands Jewesses have been constantly molested on the streets of non-Jewish quarters of Warsaw. Those caught without them were dragged to the police and fined 500 zlotys. It was understood that the armband order followed protracted negotiations by Jewish representatives anxious to avoid imposition of identifying badges similar to those used in Lodz.

#### NAZI MAIL POSTMARKED WITH SLOGANS LINKING JEWS AND BRITAIN

PARIS, Dec. 26. (JTA) -- The German postal authorities over the weekend began postmarking letters bound for neutral countries, including the United States, with the yellow-inked slogans, "Great Britain Means Israel" and "Abraham Is the Father of the English," it was learned here today.

The practice was said to be in line with the new policy of Paul Joseph Goebbels, Reichsminister of Propaganda, to identify the Jews with Britain, since the former identification with Communism and Soviet Russia had been dropped after conclusion of the Soviet-German non-aggression pact. Informed sources in Paris expressed doubt whether the United States would permit mail bearing the new postmarks to be delivered, on the ground they were a violation of international postal regulations.

However, envelopes bearing these postmarks began to pour into the Netherlands, Belgium and other small European neutral countries in large quantities over the Christmas weekend. Even Jewish refugees in these countries received Christmas greeting cards bearing the yellow postmarks on the envelopes. In most cases the cards were sent anonymously, leading to the supposition here that they might have been mailed by Nazi sources in order to spread German propaganda through the mails.

#### PROPERTY SEIZURE PRESSED IN WEST PRUSSIA; TEMPLES WRECKED

PARIS, Dec. 26. (JTA) -- Reports reaching here today told of continued confiscation of Jewish property in West Prussia, occupation of Jewish homes in Vienna by Nazis and demolition of synagogues in various parts of the Reich.

The Danziger Vorposten, Nazi organ in the former Free City, reports that all bank deposits and safe deposits of Jews in West Prussia have been sequestered by the Nazi authorities and Jews in this territory, which includes the Corridor, Posen and Pommern districts, are ordered to submit by Dec. 31 all cash and valuables in their possession. They will be permitted to draw from the blocked accounts not more than 500 zlotys weekly. The order also applies to non-Jews entrusted by Jews with capital.

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The Vienna newspaper Weltblatt, reporting that Nazis in Vienna move into houses although Jews still live there, advises them first to obtain the necessary permits from the local authorities in order to avoid complaints that they have acted illegally.

Die Zeit, Nazi organ in the Bohemia-Moravia Protectorate, reports that the last synagogue in the town of Almutz, where 3,000 Jews had resided, has been demolished, and also that the synagogue in Znaimern, "which was the fortress of Asiatic culture," has been razed.

According to a list published in Paris, 463 synagogues have been destroyed by the Nazis in Germany, Austria, Sudetenland, the Protectorate and Danzig; most of them by fire during the pogroms of Nov. 9 and 10, 1938, following the assassination of a German Embassy official in Paris by a Polish Jewish youth.

#### 21,321 JEWS ENTERED PALESTINE IN 11 MONTHS

JERUSALEM, Dec. 27. (JTA) -- A total of 21,321 Jews entered Palestine in the 11 months ending November 30, official compilation revealed here today. Of this number, 12,321 came as legal immigrants. The remainder entered the country without having the requisite immigration certificates.

Among the legal immigrants were 3,511 who entered in the capitalist category under which possession of £1,000 is required and 3,294 who came as students. A total of 5,748 tourists arrived and left during the 11-month period.

#### LARGER EXECUTIVE, AUDIT BUREAU AIRED BY ZIONIST PARLEY

JERUSALEM, Dec. 27. (JTA) -- Broadening of the Zionist executive body and establishment of an audit department were among subjects scheduled to be discussed today as the Palestine branch of the Zionist General Council convened.

#### PALESTINE LABOR GROUP TO RAISE \$500,000 FOR EMERGENCY PROJECTS

JERUSALEM, Dec. 26. (JTA) -- A decision to raise \$500,000 among its members for constructive emergency projects was adopted today at the mid-winter convention of the Histadruth, Palestine Jewish labor federation. The drive, it was stated, will be used as a springboard for a world campaign by Jewish national institutions for the same purposes.

#### MURPHY TO ADDRESS PALESTINE PARLEY IN WASHINGTON

WASHINGTON, Dec. 27. (JTA) -- Attorney General Frank Murphy will address the National Conference for Palestine, which will be held at the Hotel Mayflower here on Jan. 6 and 7, it was announced today. Other speakers will include Dr. Chaim Weizmann, Dr. Kurt Blumenfeld and Dr. Georg Landauer.

#### YIDDISH DAILY RESUMES PUBLICATION IN WILNO; FIRST SINCE WAR BEGAN

WILNO, Lithuania, Dec. 27. (JTA) -- The first Jewish daily to resume publication in Wilno since the outbreak of the war is the Wilner Tagblatt, which began publication after a three-month interruption. The paper is edited by Dr. Jacob Wygodski, leader of the Wilno Jewish community. Two other newspapers have received publication permits from the authorities and will begin publishing soon.