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JEWISH TELEGRAPHIC AGENCY

1560 BROADWAY, N.Y.C.

VOL. VI. NO. 134.

Monday, January 15, 1940.

NAZIS DRAFT JEWS TO BUILD BERLIN-MOSCOW HIGHWAY THROUGH POLAND

PARIS, Jan. 14. (JTA) -- German decrees drafting all able-bodied Jews in Nazi Poland and 30,000 Jews in Berlin were declared by well-informed quarters here today to be connected with a project for construction of a Berlin-Moscow automobile highway through Poland.

Plans for the road have been completed, it was said, and the highway will be important in accelerating shipment of Soviet commodities to Germany by truck, supplementing Russia's inefficient railway system.

An official announcement broadcast by German radio stations said all able-bodied Jews in Nazi Poland would be liable for two years' service in labor battalions to be set up to carry out special tasks. (The decree authorizing the draft was issued by Dr. Hans Frank, Governor-General of Nazi Poland, from his headquarters in Cracow, according to advices reaching Amsterdam.)

A second Nazi radio announcement said: "Of the 100,000 Jews still in Berlin, 30,000 will be organized for public works." (Twenty-two thousand Jews have already been put to work in Berlin at snow removal and street cleaning, according to a British news broadcast and other sources. It is understood they are being paid at a small hourly rate. Laborers include Jews between the ages of 16 and 55. A special office was opened to register them.)

To ensure the effectiveness of the draft, Nazi newspapers announced that Jews in the Reich who did not work would not be permitted to receive relief. Relief for Jews is financed by the Berlin Jewish Community.

Nazi newspapers also took occasion to deny reports of discrimination against Jews in issuance of rationed foods. However, it has been established that the special ration cards for Jews, stamped with a "J", have the word "invalid" stamped over meat and rice coupons.

(The Belga News Agency in Brussels reported that rice coupons were detached from Jews' ration books, and also said that grocers frequently refused to sell food to Jews, saying they were sold out.

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(The Associated Press reported from Berlin that the Jewish ration cards for the period of Jan. 15 to Feb. 11 have been invalidated with regard to "coupons for a total of 125 grams (almost four and a half ounces) of meat and all coupons for podded vegetables, such as peas, beans and lentils." The dispatch, which confirms JTA reports dated from Paris and neutral cities in recent weeks on discrimination practised against Jews in rationing, adds that Jews have also been denied certain general ration cards recently issued to Germans enabling them to obtain extras when the Nazi regime is able to make allotments beyond the regular daily ration.)

Polish sources in Paris reported that in Radom, Poland, where Poles and Jews were imprisoned in camps, a system of four categories for distribution of food had been set up, with Jews in the last group and receiving virtually no food at all. Those in the first category received less than half a pound of bread and a soup mixture per day, it was said.

Reliable information received by this correspondent from Warsaw said the Jewish community of Lublin, principal city of the Jewish "reservation" in Poland, was unable to construct barracks for 15,000 Jews as had been ordered by the Gestapo and feared the consequences if the barracks were not ready at the end of the time allotted.

In Warsaw, the Jewish community was ordered by the Gestapo to submit a report on the present situation of the Jewish population and on the activities of workshops where Jews are being trained for new vocations. The Gestapo has also demanded of this community a report on the Zionist movement in Poland.

Nazi Troops Shoot 83 Jews in Driving 400 Out of Polish Town

PARIS, Jan. 14. (JTA) -- German troops have driven some 400 Jews out of the Polish town of Hrubiesz, near Lublin, shooting down 83 who were not able to flee quickly enough, it was reported here today. The expulsion was ordered by the new military commander of the town, who previously had carried out a mass execution of Jews in the public square of Kalisz.

The commander ordered all Jewish males of Hrubiesz between the ages of 16 and 60 to gather in the public square. Many of them, fearing such a massacre as occurred in Kalisz, instead fled from the town, and only 400 appeared in the square. These were then driven by German troops to the outskirts of the town and from there into the fields. Eighty-three who did not run fast enough were shot and the remainder hid in the woods.

Local Polish Christians, horrified by the event, sent a delegation to the commander to appeal for mercy for the Jews, but he replied that he considered the expulsion and slayings as a warning to the town's Jews to hasten their departure.

To speed the expulsion of Jews from the Polish provinces, apparently to make place for repatriated Baltic Germans being sent into occupied Poland, the Nazi authorities have ordered Jewish small traders and artisans to apply to the economic department of the Gestapo for renewal of their licenses.

While in Warsaw some Jews succeed in obtaining licenses if they can prove that they have stocks of merchandise, the issuance of permits to Jews in the provinces is much more restricted.

NAZIS ORDERED WARSAW JEWS TO SET UP 2 ARMY BROTHELS, SZOSZKES CHARGES IN AFFIDAVIT

NEW YORK, Jan. 14. (JTA) -- An affidavit charging that the Nazi authorities in Warsaw ordered Jewish leaders to set up two military brothels, one for officers and the other for soldiers, and to supply Jewish girls for them, has been made out by Dr. Henryk Szoszkas, one of the leaders to whom the order was issued.

Dr. Szoszkas, former vice-president of the Warsaw Jewish Community Council and a banker, succeeded in escaping from the former Polish capital within two weeks after a Gestapo official had given him the order. He arrived in New York last month for a visit here prior to continuing to Palestine, where he has been appointed honorary Polish Consul in Tel Aviv.

According to the affidavit, a copy of which was made available to the Jewish Telegraphic Agency today, both Dr. Szoszkas and the Jewish Community president categorically refused to comply with the Gestapo demands, informing the authorities that they would prefer death.

The order was served upon Dr. Szoszkas, he stated in his affidavit, on Thursday, Nov. 2, 1939, by a Gestapo Unit Leader named Wende. Wende, the affidavit asserts, came into Dr. Szoszkas' office and, without preliminaries, made the following declaration:

"As you know, we have in Warsaw quite a large garrison of young, healthy men, who are suffering from a lack of sexual relations. Casual meetings with women of the streets have already resulted in many cases of venereal diseases. This is a situation which we cannot allow to continue. You are, therefore, in the name of the Gestapo, ordered to indicate to us the persons in your community who will be responsible for the organization of a brothel (he expressed it in German as a "puff," the affidavit states) to serve the needs of our army." . . .

Wende, waving aside indignant protestations by Dr. Szoszkas and a declaration that the command would never be carried out by any member of the Jewish Community, went on:

"As a matter of fact, we will need two brothels: one for officers and a separate one for privates. We will indicate to your representatives how to assemble and segregate the girls. We are planning to arrange the officers' brothel quite comfortably. We will furnish you with the best of linen and furniture. Incidentally, this will not be a bad business venture--perhaps the best in present-day Warsaw. The Jewish Community will be able to draw a nice profit from it."

The same order was delivered on the same day to the 60-year-old president of the Community, a chemist by profession, by the chief Unit-Leader of the Gestapo, Capt. Botz, the affidavit charged. The president also indicated his preference for death rather than to comply with the order.

Copies of the affidavit will be submitted by Dr. Szoszkas to the Polish Embassy, the American Jewish Committee and the American Jewish Congress.

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Nazi Troops Rape 40 Jewish Girls in Warsaw

PARIS, Jan. 14. (JTA) -- Authenticated reports of rape of Jewish girls by German soldiers and officers in Nazi-occupied Poland were received here today. The seizure of Jewish girls was carried out despite the Nuremberg racial laws, which prohibit relations between "Aryans" and "non-Aryans."

One incident, details of which have been checked, occurred in Warsaw. German Army officers took over an apartment at 8 Piusa Street which had belonged to M. Szereszewski, prominent Warsaw Jew who is now a refugee outside Poland. Officers and soldiers then carried out a raid, in broad daylight, on Jewish houses in a nearby street and seized about 40 girls, most of them between the ages of eighteen and twenty, and transported them to this apartment. The girls were then stripped and were ordered to perform nude dances. Afterwards all of them were violated and they were held in the apartment until the early hours of the morning.

Reports said this was only one incident of many occurring in Warsaw daily. It has become dangerous for a Jewish woman to be seen on the streets of the former Polish capital, it was said. Similar accounts were received from the Polish provinces.

VIENNA JEWS HELD IN OPEN SPORTS FIELD; MANY DIE OF EXPOSURE

BUCHAREST, Jan. 14. (JTA) -- Several thousand Jews in Vienna are being held in an open-air sports stadium, where many are dying of exposure and ill treatment, according to reliable reports reaching Bucharest. Most of these Jews are Polish citizens or stateless.

Their families are informed, at an average rate of 50 weekly, to call at the stadium, where they are given the prisoners' corpses on payment of 300 marks each.

It was also reported that 1,700 Jews had been transferred from Vienna to the Lublin Jewish "reservation" in Poland during December, of whom only about 300 remained in Lublin and the rest fled, barefoot and half-naked, across the Soviet border. Another transport waited in Vienna for several days for shipment to Lublin but instead its members were interned in a concentration camp in Vienna where the Jewish community was obliged to feed them.

Ghetto Edict in Vienna

AMSTERDAM, Jan. 14. (JTA) -- The Nazi authorities in Vienna have issued a new order to concentrate the city's Jews in a few ghetto districts, it was reported here today. These districts are the Leopoldstadt, Alsergrund and Brigittenau. Jewish owners of flats in these districts were ordered to accept as lodgers Jews evicted from apartments in other districts. No room in a Jewish flat may be occupied by fewer than two persons, except for the owner of a flat, who is allowed to have a room for himself.

NAZI RACE THEORY HELD "QUINTESSENCE OF TYRANNY"

GLASGOW, Jan. 14. (JTA) -- The Nazi theory that nothing matters but the development of the race and the success of the state was described by Sir John Simon, Chancellor of the Exchequer, as "the quintessence of tyranny." Sir John spoke at St. Andrew's Hall here yesterday.

TOTAL 1939 IMMIGRATION TO U.S. 82,998; ONLY HALF LISTED AS HEBREWS

WASHINGTON, Jan. 14. (JTA) -- Immigration Commissioner James L. Houghteling reported total immigration of 82,998 for the fiscal year ending last June 30 and a relatively slight increase in visitors and transients, which, he said, discounted "sensational stories" of a "flood of alien visitors." Slightly more than half of the total were listed as Hebrews by the Immigration Bureau.

In his annual report, Houghteling said the number of visitors and transients in 1939 was only a few hundred over that in 1938. "This very small increase," he declared, "is clear evidence that sensational stories appearing in newspapers and magazines to the effect that a flood of alien visitors are being admitted to this country on any sort of excuse are not based on cold facts nor on the conscientious records of a responsible government agency."

The figure of 82,998 for permanent immigration was the largest since 1931, Houghteling said. "It is necessary to call attention to the phenomenon of a steady increase in immigration from Central Europe since the German annexation of Austria in March, 1938. The increase in quota immigration from 27,762 in 1937 to 62,402 in 1939 has been largely attributable to the pressure imposed by certain European governments to drive into exile elements of their population uncongenial to the ruling group."

This increased immigration has become an added burden, the report said, because "it is necessary to check with particular care the travel documents of aliens whose departure from their home countries has been practically an expulsion and whose likelihood of becoming public charges if admitted to the United States must be considered dispassionately in spite of the tragic circumstances."

Of the 82,998 immigrants, the Immigration Bureau listed 43,450 as Hebrews, of whom 30,096 came from Germany.

Of German immigration the bureau said: "The fact that 32,759 immigrants were admitted from Germany does not mean that the German quota of 27,370 was over-issued. Immigration visas are valid for actual admission within four months of their date of issue."

WEIZMANN SET FOR 6-WEEK SPEAKING TOUR; STRESSES U.S. JEWRY'S REFUGEE-AID ROLE

NEW YORK, Jan. 14. (JTA) -- Dr. Chaim Weizmann, who arrived here on the Rex on Friday evening with a message stressing American Jewry's responsibility to provide opportunities for immigration of tens of thousands of refugees into Palestine, planned today a program of speeches to major Jewish communities throughout the country.

Dr. Weizmann will address a rally at Mecca Temple on Tuesday night and a dinner of the American Friends of the Hebrew University on Wednesday, and is then expected to open a tour of six weeks or more which will begin with an address in Detroit on Jan. 27 or 28 at the General Assembly of the Council of Jewish Federations and Welfare Funds.

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On his arrival, delayed by inability to obtain trans-Atlantic airplane passage from Lisbon, the Zionist leader was greeted by a delegation including Dr. Stephen S. Wise, Dr. Israel Goldstein, Judge Morris Rothenberg, Sholem Asch, Dr. Kurt Blumenfeld, and Dr. Georg Landauer. Hundreds thronged the pier, and some rushed forward to kiss his hand.

In a statement issued on shipboard Dr. Weizmann said:

"The cruel havoc wrought in the lives of hundreds of thousands of Jews in Poland constitutes one of the major human tragedies of the present conflict. Large sections of the European population come within the category of war sufferers, but for the Jews of Central and Eastern Europe there has been added to the hardships and devastation of war, the onslaught of a merciless anti-Semitism which has immeasurably aggravated the plight of large numbers of defenceless men, women and children.

"My mission to the United States at this time has for its chief purpose the enlistment of American Jewry's united support for the continued development of Palestine as a haven for tens of thousands of Jews who have been uprooted and driven from their homes by the overwhelming wave of destruction now sweeping over Central Europe. The tragedy of these Jews, faced in large part with the alternatives of expulsion or extinction, is heightened by the fact that no new doors have been opened to the homeless and no new territories have been found to receive them. For nearly all of them, hope is concentrated on the possibility of finding anchorage and new opportunity in Palestine, which in its turn is prepared to meet the task of providing new homes for many thousands of refugees, if adequate resources are made available for a comprehensive program of immigration and settlement.

"While Palestine's economy has felt the repercussions of the war in Europe, our colonization and immigration activities continue undiminished and thousands of Jews have arrived on our shores since the outbreak of hostilities. In the past year Palestine absorbed more than 30,000 Jews from Germany, Poland, Austria, Czechoslovakia and other lands. This brought to a total of 225,000 the number of Jews who have found a permanent home in Palestine since 1933.

"This large influx of refugees is being absorbed by the systematic development of agriculture and industry and the constantly broadening economic possibilities of the country. This, together with an extension of the frontier of Jewish settlement to outlying districts of the country, hitherto derelict, has materially increased the absorptive capacity of Palestine.

"There is room in Palestine for the immediate absorption of many tens of thousands of Jews who must emigrate overseas to rebuild their lives. But the war, which has so greatly added to the problem of Jewish homelessness, has at the same time compelled a number of Jewish communities to withdraw from active participation in a program of Jewish refugee settlement. So much greater, inevitably, becomes the responsibility which will devolve upon the Jews of the United States in 1940. It is my earnest hope that American Jewry, which has supported Palestine rebuilding with understanding and sympathy in the past, will recognize the unparalleled opportunities for a solution of the Jewish problem which lie in the further reconstruction of the Jewish homeland."

ROOSEVELT LAUDS U.J.A. GIFT TO CHRISTIAN REFUGEES

NEW YORK, Jan. 14. (JTA) -- President Roosevelt, in a letter to Chairmen Abba Hillel Silver and Jonah B. Wise of the United Jewish Appeal, made public today, hailed the U.J.A.'s \$250,000 allocation for Christian refugees as "an example in good will which could be widely copied with happy results." The President's letter, dated Jan. 8, follows:

"Dear Friends: I desire to extend hearty congratulations upon the spirit of brotherhood and universal good will which prompted allocation from the funds of the United Jewish Appeal for Refugees of generous sums for use through other agencies in relieving suffering among non-Jewish refugees.

"I heard with peculiar satisfaction of the gift of \$125,000 to the Catholic Church for its refugee work, as a memorial to George Cardinal Mundelein, and of the allocation of a like amount to the Protestant Churches, through Rev. Dr. George A. Buttrick, President, Federal Council of the Churches of Christ in America, for their refugee relief work.

"This action bears eloquent witness to the spirit of tolerance and true charity and affords an example in good will which could be widely copied with happy results."

HOOVER LAUDS RABBI'S WORK IN FINNISH AID CAMPAIGN

NEW YORK, January 14. (JTA) -- Rabbi Frederick A. Dopplet of Temple B'nai Israel, Elmira, N.Y., was cited today by former President Herbert Hoover as not only one of the most active workers for the Finnish Relief Fund in upper New York State but as being ready to endure hardship himself in the drive for funds for the aid of Finland.

Rabbi Dopplet, it was disclosed at Finnish Relief Fund Headquarters, first made a radio appeal in Elmira which raised \$200. He then wrote Mr. Hoover that he had "underestimated the innate sympathy and regard" that Americans of all faiths had for Finland, and enclosed a check for \$1000 representing further contributions.

He was so successful, in fact, that a committee from the neighboring towns of Van Etten and Spencer -- which contain numerous Finns -- asked the Rabbi to address their mass meeting to raise further funds. The Rabbi, Mr. Hoover disclosed at headquarters here, had to drive through a blinding up-State blizzard to address the meeting.

In a message to Rabbi Dopplet, which was read at the meeting, Mr. Hoover stated: "I want to express my deepest gratitude to you personally and to the people of Spencer and Van Etten for your interest in the Finnish Relief Fund. As a spiritual leader of a race which knows only too well the suffering that follows tyranny and oppression, I find it particularly fitting that you should speak in behalf of the oppressed people of Finland..."

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Jewish War Veterans Purchase Ambulance for Finland

NEW YORK, Jan. 14. (JTA) -- Purchase of an ambulance to be placed at the disposal of the Finnish Government by the Jewish War Veterans of the United States was announced today. The ambulance, purchased out of contributions received from Jewish war veterans throughout the country, will be turned over to Finnish authorities here for dispatch to Finland within the next three weeks.

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1,000 ATTEND CONGRESS DINNER; HEAR SENATORS URGE U.S. AID IN RESTORING JEWS' RIGHTS

NEW YORK, Jan. 14. (JTA) -- Three United States Senators, including the Senate Majority leader, tonight stressed the moral responsibility of the United States, despite its neutrality, in helping bring about the restoration of Jewish rights in Europe. Their views were echoed in messages from Cabinet members, Governors and other American leaders to the American Jewish Congress on the occasion of its dinner at the Hotel Astor, attended by 1,000 persons, marking the twenty-first anniversary of the founding of the organization.

Scheduled speakers included Senators Alben W. Barkley of Kentucky, the Senate Majority leader, Claude Pepper of Florida and Robert F. Wagner of New York. Dr. Stephen S. Wise, president, Louis Lipsky, vice-president, Maurice Levin, chairman of the dinner committee, Father William C. Kernan and Dr. Joachim Prinz were among the other speakers.

The Senators emphasized in their addresses that although America was neutral, as the strongest moral force in the world today it had the obligation to assist in bringing about restoration of the rights of Jews. Such an effort, they indicated, was an obligation to civilization itself.

The speakers, as well as the messages from Government leaders, added that while that task had to await the coming of peace, there should be no delay in undertaking the immediate task of helping refugees who were the victims of racial and political oppression in Europe.

The dinner, which marked also projection of a program intended by the Congress to lay the foundations for the eventual restoration of "the human and equality rights of Jews in Europe after the peace," heard messages supporting that aim by Interior Secretary Harold I. Ickes, Agriculture Secretary Henry A. Wallace, Commerce Secretary Harry L. Hopkins and Attorney General Frank Murphy. Similar messages were sent by 18 Governors, 20 Senators, 25 Congressmen, Mayor LaGuardia, William Green, John L. Lewis, District Attorney Thomas E. Dewey, church and American Legion leaders, educators and many others.

U.S. RELIEF AGENTS PERMITTED TO VISIT WARSAW; REPORT ON CONDITIONS BANNED

ZURICH, Jan. 14. (JTA) -- A delegation of the American Friends' Service Committee and the American Red Cross which arrived in Berlin to negotiate with the authorities on relief activities in German-occupied Poland has received permission to proceed to Warsaw on condition that it do not engage in any political or religious activities and do not send reports abroad on conditions in Poland, it was reported here today.

PROTESTANT MINISTER HOLDS SERVICES FOR JEWISH EVACUEES IN SCOTTISH TOWN

GLASGOW, Jan. 14. (JTA) -- A Protestant minister in a Dumfriesshire town is holding regular services for a group of 15 Jewish evacuees every Saturday, it was learned here today. The services were organized with the consent of Glasgow Jewish leaders. They are held Saturday mornings in the minister's vestry and consist of reading Scripture both in Hebrew and English and recital of prayers from Jewish prayer books.