

NEWS

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CONGRESS HEARS J.T.A. REPORTS ON ATROCITIES IN POLAND; READ BY DICKSTEIN

WASHINGTON, Jan. 24. (JTA) -- Eleven dispatches of the Jewish Telegraphic Agency in which the horrors of the Nazi occupation of Poland are described by JTA correspondents abroad were read to the House this afternoon by Representative Samuel Dickstein (Dem., N.Y.). It was the first time that the enormity of conditions in Poland has been presented to the Congress.

Today, the State Department still insisted that it had no official knowledge of the authenticated stories of wholesale murder and rapine and of the reduction of Poland to slavery.

Later this afternoon Dickstein said that he would soon introduce into the House a resolution calling upon the President to ask the German Government to have mercy on Poland.

"So far as any real news items from Poland are concerned," Dickstein said, "Poland, whether occupied by the Soviets or by the German Army, is a great blank spot. It was, therefore, with great interest that I was able to collect material from news items gathered by the Jewish Telegraphic Agency and I feel that it is of interest to the House to submit this material to you." The Congressman then read the dispatches.

Dickstein pointed out that the United States was responsible for creating the Polish State at the end of the last war and that the country should still feel responsibility for Poland. He charged that the Nazis have slain 100,000 Jewish men, women and children in Poland.

Nazis Defer Lodz Expulsion On Payment of 9,000,000 Zlotys

GENEVA, Jan. 24. (JTA) -- The Jews of Lodz, Nazi Poland, have been forced to pay a "ransom" of 9,000,000 zlotys (\$1,800,000 at pre-war rates) to secure postponement to the spring of an expulsion order, it was reliably learned here today.

The expulsion order affected 50,000 Jews concentrated in a number of streets. It was intended by the Nazi authorities as the first step toward realization of a program completely to "dejudaeize" the largest Polish city annexed by the Reich.

The Jews were already preparing to leave the city, many of them being on their way out when the order was temporarily revoked after the community had paid the "ransom."

Nazi vandalism in Poland was again demonstrated by an order to wreck the apartment of Elias Mazur, former president of the Warsaw Jewish Community. Some 35 Jewish women were seized on the streets, brought to the apartment and forced to break furniture, destroy valuable paintings, tear books in the library, rip curtains, linen, clothes, bedding and even wall paper, and break mirrors and china while Nazi guards looked on. The incident was climaxed by the violation by the Nazis of two young women before the eyes of all present, including men and women.

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Expulsion of 40,000 Reported Under Way

PARIS, Jan. 24. (JTA) -- The Nazi authorities in Poland have begun the expulsion of 40,000 Jews from Kalisz and the neighboring towns of Begun and Sandomierz, according to information reaching Paris today.

Entire Jewish populations have already been driven out of Wloclawek, Cierpż near Warsaw and other localities in the German-occupied territory, it was reported. Many of those expelled were said to have been killed by Nazi guards when they halted because of exhaustion. Synagogues were destroyed in the towns from which the Jews had been driven, it was declared.

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Nazi Paper Prints Edict on Forced Labor

PARIS, Jan. 24. (JTA) -- The Krakauer Zeitung, official Nazi newspaper in occupied Poland, has published the text of a decree subjecting Jewish males to two years' forced labor, subject to extension, and confiscating tools and machinery in their possession. The decree follows:

"The supreme chief of the Schutz Staffel (German elite guard) and of the police for the governorship of Poland, the S.S. leader Herr Kruger, has issued the following regulations regarding the introduction of forced labor for the Jewish population in the governorship:

- "1. All Jewish inhabitants from the ages of 14 to 60 are basically subject to forced labor.
- "2. The term for this compulsory labor is to be two years but will be extended if the educational purpose is not achieved.
- "3. The compulsory laborers will be held in camps and used in connection with the vocations which they may master. Those who are not fully fitted for labor will be used for the kind of work for which they may be fitted.
- "4. All Jews from the age of 14 to 60 will be publicly called by the local mayors or other local authorities to fill out, through their Judenrat (Jewish communal council) special registration cards. The mayor and the Judenrat will be held responsible for the completeness and correctness of the information contained in these cards.

"5. The time when the Jews have to report to work will be conveyed by the German authorities through special announcement. The registered Jews are then to appear punctually at the specified place and bring with them food for two days and two clean blankets.

"6. Artisans must come to the gathering place with all their tools. The transportation of the tools will be announced at the appropriate time through the Judenrat.

"7. All Jews subject to compulsory labor are prohibited, as of today, from selling or pawning or otherwise disposing of their tools or machinery or parts thereof without written permission from the accredited authorities.

"8. Violation of this order is punishable by a term of hard labor up to 10 years and confiscation of all the property of the offending Jew.

"9. All Jews who can prove that they come under the Soviet-German arrangement for transferring those born in the Ukraine or White Russia to Soviet territory will be partially exempted from the provisions of this order."

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268 Palestinians, 74 Britons in Poland

LONDON, Jan. 24. (JTA) -- The British Government has information on the presence in occupied Poland of 268 Palestinians and 74 British subjects, it was announced in Commons today by Prime Minister Neville Chamberlain. They are equally divided among the Nazi and Soviet areas of Poland, he said.

Mr. Chamberlain, replying to a query by E.H. Keeling, declared that all were believed to be suffering considerable hardship and that efforts had been made to supply those in the German area with food parcels through the British Red Cross Order of St. John but the German Government had refused the necessary facilities.

With regard to those in the Soviet territory, the Red Cross was stated by Mr. Chamberlain to be examining the possibility of relief. The Prime Minister said that the British Ambassador at Moscow had sent members of the Embassy staff to organize and assist the withdrawal of the Britons and Palestinians and had made funds available for their relief.

CZECH REFUGEE AID BILL ADVANCES IN COMMONS

LONDON, Jan. 24. (JTA) -- Having passed its second reading in Commons yesterday, a bill for utilization of the unexpended balance of British loans and gifts to former Czechoslovakia to meet financial claims and in settlement of Czech refugees entered the committee stage today and was expected to achieve final passage by Friday.

According to the terms of the bill, which was introduced last Wednesday, two gift accounts totalling £3,573,200 will be paid over by the Treasury to the Czechoslovakia Refugees Fund after deduction of sums already advanced by the Treasury. The advances total £500,000, according to an explanatory memorandum accompanying the bill.

The bill specifies that the refugee fund will be under the control of the Treasury. The memorandum states that payments will be made from this fund to trustees for the purposes of the trust.

The gift accounts include the balance of £427,000 remaining from the £500,000 transferred to London by the Czech Government following the Sudetenland occupation for the transportation of 2,500 Jews to Palestine. The sum of £75,000 was paid over to the Jewish Agency for Palestine prior to the Nazi seizure of Prague.

As a result of the German Government's refusal to permit the Czech National Bank to agree to further transfer of funds, the balance has been blocked here. Following protracted negotiations, the Jewish Agency last August received a further advance of £133,000 from funds advanced by the Treasury to the Czech refugee trust, to be repaid by the trust when the present bill is enacted. The remaining £392,000 was to be paid to the Agency when the immigrants reached Palestine.

The last group of these immigrants have now arrived in Palestine under arrangements approved by the Colonial Secretary, according to which 1,200 Czech and 1,700 German and Austrian Jews who had received immigration certificates before the outbreak of war were permitted to proceed. The balance of £292,000, consequently, is now due to the Agency and is to be paid through the Czechoslovak Refugee Fund. The negotiations with the Czech Government for the original £500,000 allocation and the subsequent negotiations here for the release of the funds were conducted on behalf of the Jewish Agency by Leo Hermann, director of the Palestine Foundation Fund.

The balance of the British loan to Czechoslovakia, totalling £3,478,900, will be paid to the Czechoslovak Financial Claims Fund and will be used for the satisfaction of obligations incurred here by the Czech Government and persons conducting business in Czechoslovakia before March 15, 1939.

AGUDIST LEADERS HERE FOR EXTENDED TOUR; SEEK AID FOR PALESTINE, YESHIVOTH

NEW YORK, Jan. 24. (JTA) -- Rabbi Moshe Blau, head of the Palestine Agudath Israel, and Dr. Isaac Breuer, member of the organization's world executive committee arrived here today on the United States liner Manhattan for their first visits to the United States. They will remain four months or more and will tour the country.

The purposes of their visit, Rabbi Blau told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency in an interview at the Broadway Central Hotel, are "(1) to extend the Agudah organization in the United States in view of the weakening of the Agudah in Europe by the recent catastrophic events, (2) to interest orthodox Jewish elements in aid for the Palestine Jews and (3) to seek financial aid for the Polish yeshivoh now in exile in Lithuania and elsewhere, and assistance for orthodox Jewry generally."

"American Jewry," Rabbi Blau said, "is now the only Jewish community able to extend assistance. One third of the Jews of the world live here, and it almost seems that destiny built this center of Jewish life in preparation for the present catastrophe."

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Their first visit to the United States is sponsored by the Agudath Israel and the Agudath Israel Youth Organization of this country, which are arranging a mass meeting for this weekend or early next week at which they will make their first public addresses. Arriving with Rabbi Blau and Dr. Breuer were William Fisher, general secretary of the Poalei Agudath Israel, orthodox labor movement in Palestine, and Dr. Jacob Hamburg, a leader of the same organization. Mr. Fisher said they were seeking support from America for the launching of Poalei Agudath settlement in the Negeb in southern Palestine to make room for absorption of orthodox refugees who, he said, formed the bulk of illegal immigrants in recent weeks.

DIES REPORTED SET TO RESIGN AS PROBE CHAIRMAN

WASHINGTON, Jan. 24. (JTA) -- The Washington Star said today that Rep. Martin Dies (Dem., Texas), chairman of the Committee on Un-American Activities, would soon resign because of ill health and be succeeded by Joe Starnes (Dem., Alabama), who has been functioning as chairman since December, when Dies returned to his home in Orange, Texas.

Congressmen who called the Dies home yesterday to inform him of the overwhelming vote of the House to continue the investigation were told that Dies is now suffering from influenza.

WOULD CONVOKE SESSION OF LEAGUE REFUGEE LIAISON COMMITTEE

LONDON, Jan. 24. (JTA) -- Sir Herbert Emerson, League High Commissioner for Refugees, has been asked to convene the Liaison Committee to consider the deteriorated position of refugees since the outbreak of the war. The request was made by H.A. Goodman, political secretary of the Jewish religious organization Agudath Israel. Sir Herbert, declaring the request would be given sympathetic consideration pointed out that the war had raised issues not envisaged when the Liaison Committee was formed.

Fraud in Entry to Chile Charged

NEW YORK, Jan. 24. (JTA) -- An Associated Press dispatch from Santiago, Chile said a committee appointed by the President to investigate the entry of Jewish refugees into Chile has reported the "undeniable existence of fraud" in many cases. The committee estimated that between 10,000 and 20,000 Jewish refugees had come to Chile last year, but only 5,167 had been registered.

NORMAL MAIL FACILITIES REPORTED FOR ALL PARTS OF POLAND

GENEVA, Jan. 24. (JTA) -- The International Red Cross announced today that Soviet and German authorities had informed them that normal postal clearance for letters and cards from neutral countries to all parts of Poland had been reestablished.

PALESTINE CITRUS SHIPMENTS ARRANGED, COMMONS TOLD

LONDON, Jan. 24. (JTA) -- Sir Arthur Salter, member of the Economic Advisory Council, told Commons today that arrangements had been made for the shipment of a "substantial portion" of the Palestine citrus crop. He added that the Minister of Shipping would sympathetically consider the possibility of making further tonnage available.