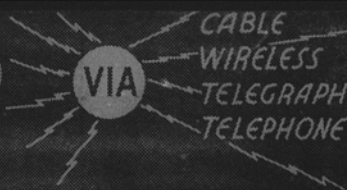


NEWS

from all over the world



by the JEWISH TELEGRAPHIC AGENCY

1560 BROADWAY, N.Y.C.

VOL. VI. NO. 149.

Thursday, February 1, 1940.

JUSTICE BODY CLARIFIES COUGHLIN ROLE IN 'FRONT' PROBE; AIM TO SEEK INCITERS STRESSED

WASHINGTON, Jan. 31. (JTA) -- The Department of Justice issued a statement today clarifying the relationship of Charles E. Coughlin to the investigation of the Christian Front, 17 of whose members are being held for Grand Jury action on sedition charges, and reiterating its decision to investigate the activities of any person or group backing or inciting the alleged plotters.

The statement was issued, it was explained, in connection with "stories in the New York press intimating that the Department of Justice has, on the complaint of a particular organization in that city, instituted an investigation of Father Charles E. Coughlin."

Although former Attorney General Frank Murphy less than a month ago specifically denied that he had received any complaints concerning Coughlin, the statement declared that many complaints similar to that filed by the organization in question (the Jewish Peoples' Committee) had been received "over a period of several months."

These complaints, the Department of Justice asserted, had in each case been acknowledged with replies containing the following "form" paragraph: "Kindly be advised that the matters mentioned in your communication are receiving the attention of the department."

"This is a form reply," the statement continued, "customarily made to complainants bringing to the attention of the department alleged violations of federal law of this particular kind. Over a period of several months many identical replies have been made to many complainants about the same matter. It appears that one of the organizations receiving such form of response has for reasons best known to itself made the reply public and given the erroneous impression that this department has taken action in special response to the complaint of this particular organization."

"As already announced to the press, Attorney General Jackson recently instructed Assistant Attorney General Rogge to proceed to Brooklyn to cooperate with the United States Attorney, Harold M. Kennedy, in connection with the sedition charges against 17 defendants arrested there on Jan. 15 as a result of evidence gathered by the Federal Bureau of Investigation under J. Edgar Hoover."

"Mr. Rogge was instructed to include in the Grand Jury probe an examination 'of the activities of any individual or group wherever located who may have aided, abetted, directed, financed or incited these unlawful ends.' These instructions were made public on Jan. 21 at the time Mr. Rogge was assigned to the matter. They further provided: 'Out of this investigation should come a clear identification of any persons or groups who have provoked or financed or otherwise conspired with these defendants. They should be held responsible for their conduct if they have violated or induced the violation of any federal law. If, on the other hand, these defendants have acted independently of any others, the public should be assured of that fact so that there may be no exaggerated anxiety caused by the incident.'

"These instructions do not constitute an accusation against any persons involved but only call for a thoroughgoing inquiry in accordance with our traditional grand jury system. The department is engaged in the gathering of evidence and the analysis of evidence. Who may become involved in the investigation depends entirely upon the evidence developed."

Dies-Pelley Link Charges Stir Storm in Congress

WASHINGTON, Jan. 31. (JTA) -- The controversy raging around the allegedly forged letters linking Representative Martin Dies, chairman of the House Committee Investigating un-American Activities, with Silver Shirt leader William Dudley Pelley, exploded on the floor of the House today.

Representatives Eugene Cox and Frank Keefe demanded that Representative Frank Hook expunge from the Congressional Record the speech in which he introduced the letters. The office of the Dies committee announced yesterday that David Mayne, Pelley's Washington agent who had purportedly received the letters from Pelley, had testified in an executive session of the committee yesterday that the letters were forgeries.

Hook, who did not appear on the House floor, was accused by Keefe of being the tool of a group of conspirators attempting to assassinate the character of Dies. Later Hook's secretary released a statement in which the Michigan Congressman said that he had an affidavit from Mayne asserting that the letters were genuine.

The Dies committee met in executive session again today, questioning Gardner Jackson, attorney for labor's Non-Partisan League, who gave the allegedly forged letters to Hook, and Harold Weisberg, former LaFollette Committee investigator who purportedly persuaded Mayne to give the letters to Jackson.

Representative Joe Starnes, acting committee chairman, in a statement today said that the committee had numerous affidavits "showing that certain parties in New York City had offered large sums of money for the purpose of obtaining documentary evidence showing a connection or collusion between Chairman Dies and the Christian Front."

Jackson, in a counter statement, charged the committee's statement was "an attempt to distract attention from Dies' participation in meetings promoted and attended by the Christian Front and his active working with Merwin K. Hart, prominent collaborator of the Christian Front."

RED ORGAN TERMS BRITISH RULE IN PALESTINE "UGLIEST VERSAILLES CREATION"

MOSCOW, Jan. 31. (JTA) -- Trud, organ of the Central Trade Union, today published an article denouncing the British administration in Palestine as "one of the ugliest creations of the Versailles system."

The article said that more and more Palestine Arabs had been thrown into concentration camps for expressing views contrary to the "British imperialist war aims." These aims, it declared, were "foreign to the interests of the Palestine working masses."

Zionist leaders were termed "agents of the City of London" and Palestine's Jewish working population was declared to be "united with the industrious Arabs against imperialist war and its fomentors." The article said: "Jewish workers and peasants know that British imperialism intends to use them for cannon fodder."

Palestine, the trade union organ said, "is the home of disorders and riots. The Arabs cannot understand why they have to leave places in which they have been living for centuries in favor of the Zionist newcomers."

LITHUANIA STARTS LISTING REFUGEES DESIRING REPATRIATION; 3 GROUPS SET UP AID FUND

KAUNAS, Jan. 31. (JTA) -- The authorities today began registration of refugees from Poland desiring to return to the German-occupied region, with Jews generally declaring they would be unable to return because of racial persecution in the Nazi-held area.

Meanwhile, three organizations have joined to establish a fund providing constructive relief and emigration possibilities for refugees. They are the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee, which has allocated 100,000 lits to the fund, the Polish Relief Fund of England, 50,000 lits, and a local relief organization, 50,000 lits.

With British money, a boarding school housing 300 Jewish children will be established in Wilno. It will be named in memory of the Anglo-Jewish philanthropist Mordecai Schalit.

- - -

Wilno Jews Get Formal Recognition

KAUNAS, Jan. 31. (JTA) -- The Lithuanian Government has granted formal recognition to the Wilno Jewish Community, it was announced here today.

Rector Birziska of Wilno University announced that the university's senate had agreed in principle to the creation of a chair of Yiddish, provided the necessary funds, are furnished. Noah Prilucki, former Warsaw Jewish leader and writer, is expected to be appointed lecturer in Yiddish.

- - -

Beliackin Heads Lithuanian Lawyers

KAUNAS, Lithuania, Jan. 31. (JTA) -- Prof. Simon Beliackin has been elected president of the All-Lithuanian Congress of Lawyers.

FARM BODY BLOCKS MEASURE FOR ARMISTICE ON LABOR DISPUTES

JERUSALEM, Jan. 31. (JTA) -- The Jewish National Council's proposed labor statute, providing for peaceful settlement of labor disputes, was delayed today by the last-minute action of the Jewish Farmers' Association in declaring that it would accept no decision made without its cooperation.

Settlement of problems of fair distribution of work and relations between employers and workers has been made difficult by persisting differences of opinion among the interested parties. The farmers moreover insist that they will participate in negotiations regarding the labor statute only if the workers in advance renounce strikes and picketing.

- - -

Education Budget Held Up

JERUSALEM, Jan. 31. (JTA) -- The director of the Government Education Department today refused to approve the Jewish National Council's education budget, demanding a reduction of £5,000 from the £73,525 total on the ground that local councils will be unable to contribute to the extent provided for in the estimates.

- - -

Bigger Trade With Syria Sought

JERUSALEM, Jan. 31. (JTA) -- A delegation of executive members of the Jewish Industrialists' Association left today for Beirut to investigate marketing possibilities and purchase of raw materials. Before leaving, the delegation expressed itself as most optimistic about the possibilities for development of Syrian-Palestinian trade.

An industrial exhibition to demonstrate the achievements of Jewish industrialists and the possibilities of Jewish industry will be opened in Tel Aviv on April 28, in accordance with a decision of the Central Committee of Jewish industrialists. The Jewish Agency has assigned £5,000 for preparations for the exhibition.

FARBSTEIN HEADS JERUSALEM KHEILLA

JERUSALEM, Jan. 31. (JTA) -- H. Farbstein, former president of the Warsaw Jewish Community, was today elected president of the Jerusalem Jewish Community.

DEPOPULATION OF CONQUERED AREAS, ANTI-CHRISTIAN DRIVE LONG PLANNED BY NAZIS

NEW YORK, Jan. 31. (JTA) -- Hermann Rauschning, former president of the Danzig Senate and one-time confidant of Chancellor Adolf Hitler, in a new book "The Voice of Destruction" to be published by G.P. Putnam's Sons on Feb. 16, declares that Walter Darre, a high Nazi chieftain, in 1932 laid down a policy of systematic depopulation of territories conquered by Germany, and Hitler in 1933 announced a policy of annihilating Christianity in the Reich.

The book is cited by Dorothy Thompson in her New York Herald Tribune column today in which she states: "Hitler believes that the world can be conquered and ruled by terror. He believes, as reported in the conversations with Rauschning, that fear is the most potent force that can be used. He has never minded the revelation of atrocities. He believes that they are valuable."

(Continued on reverse side)

In a conversation in 1933, Rauschning said Hitler had quite casually told him of his plan to annihilate Christianity in Germany. Hitler described Christianity as a "Jewish swindle," Rauschning declared, and said: "One is either a German or a Christian. You cannot be both. We need free men who feel that God is in themselves."

DANZIG JEW DOOMED TO DIE FOR LIVING WITH 'ARYAN' WOMAN

AMSTERDAM, Jan. 31. (JTA) -- A 49-year-old Jew, Max Cohen, has been sentenced to death by a Danzig court for "continuous Rassenschande" in living with an "Aryan" woman, it was reported here today. The woman, Paula Neihardt, was sentenced to 18 months' imprisonment and a large fine, with loss of civil rights for three years, for assisting Cohn to pose as an "Aryan."

VON WIESNER, AUSTRIAN MONARCHIST LEADER, DEAD IN VIENNA

AMSTERDAM, Jan. 31. (JTA) -- The death in Vienna of Baron Friedrich von Wiesner, Austrian monarchist leader, who has been under arrest since the Anschluss, was reported here today. He was 69 years old.

Monarchist circles here said the Baron, who advocated restoration of the Hapsburg monarchy with the Archduke Otto on the throne, had for some time after the Nazi occupation of Austria been kept in a German jail but had been returned to Vienna, where he was confined to his home under Nazi guard.

The Baron, who was a Catholic of Jewish origin, was one of the most prominent diplomats in the old Austria. Educated at Vienna University, he entered the judicial service in 1896 and later was Judge of the Baden and Vienna tribunals. In 1911 he was Secretary of the Austro-Hungarian Foreign Office and six years later he became its press chief. At the time of his arrest, in March, 1938, he was acting president of the Iron Ring, the Austrian monarchist organization.