

NEWS

from all over the world

VIA

CABLE
WIRELESS
TELEGRAPH
TELEPHONE

by the

JEWISH TELEGRAPHIC AGENCY

1560 BROADWAY N.Y.C.

VOL. VI. NO. 164.

Tuesday, February 20, 1940.

NAZIS EXECUTE 200 IN WARSAW IN RETALIATION FOR SLAYING OF GESTAPO AGENT

COPENHAGEN, Feb. 19. (JTA) -- Highly reliable sources reported today the ruthless execution by the Nazi authorities in Warsaw of 200 Poles, 100 of them Christians and 100 Jews, in revenge for the slaying of a Nazi agent. The execution occurred on February 1.

Murder of the Nazi agent took place in a Polish workers' quarter of the former capital, not far from the main Jewish cemetery. The victim was a Polish agent provocateur in the service of the Gestapo, Nazi secret police. The reason for and the circumstances behind the slaying are not known, but it is believed to have happened while the agent was carrying out some act of provocation among the Polish workers.

As soon as the murder was discovered, the Gestapo organized a pogrom in the Zytin quarter of the section, which was cordoned off. Everyone in the street at the time, including women and children, was beaten up. Flats and shops were demolished.

Later it was officially announced that 100 Jews and 100 Christians had been shot in expiation of the murder. The 200 victims were rounded up at random in streets and homes and executed without trial. An official announcement warned the population that henceforth murder of an official would be punished by the execution of not less than 100 Jews and 100 non-Jews.

While, according to reliable reports, the morale of the Jewish masses in Warsaw is still unbroken, the Jewish population is enduring unspeakable sufferings inflicted by the Nazis with unexampled bravery. The Jewish professional classes, which constitute the more assimilated part of the Jewish population, is going through a state of deep despondency which is finding expression in an ever growing number of suicides. Among the latest suicides are the well known neurologist, Dr. Meisner, and the prominent industrialist, Wertheim.

The Nazis have recently taken to raiding the homes of Jewish social workers in Warsaw with the apparent aim of paralyzing the remnants of Jewish charitable activities. Among the many Jewish social workers arrested is Advocate Bransk, acting president of Centos, Jewish child welfare institution. Relatives of Bransk are concerned over his fate since all efforts to ascertain the place of his detention have thus far proved vain.

Latest reports from Lodz reveal that the law for compulsory labor has already been put into effect. Although the law clearly specified that only Jews between the

ages of 14 and 65 are liable to forced labor, it is being applied in Lodz indiscriminately to all men and women from the age of 12 to 76. In some instances, entire Jewish families have been conscripted.

- - -

Surface Normalcy Hides Terror; Poles Now Friendly to Jews

COPENHAGEN, Feb. 19. (JTA) -- Life in Warsaw under Nazi domination outwardly has become more "normal," according to reliable information received here today through private channels.

This deceptive normalcy stems from the fact that the populace is becoming more used to the prevalent nightmare conditions. To some extent this is also true of the Jews in Warsaw, particularly since in recent weeks there have been no developments of great importance while the previous anti-Jewish "discipline" has lost its initial sting by the very fact of its continued existence. In short, the Jews have grown accustomed to the cruelties and the barbarities of the Nazi regime.

The latest anti-Jewish measure for compulsory labor has not yet been enforced in Warsaw, although it is certain that enforcement of this measure will be the cruelest of all blows the Jews have yet suffered. The Jews have become inured to suffering to such an extent that they react very slowly to the prospect of more suffering to come.

Furthermore, Warsaw Jewry feels a certain relief as a result of the changed attitude on the part of the "Pole in the street." The effects of the anti-Semitic regime of the Skladkowski-Beck Government continued to be felt in the early days of the Nazi occupation. The average Pole sought to console himself in some measure for the disasters which had overtaken Poland by exercising his greater freedom in respect to treatment of Jews.

Polish mobs at first, therefore, greatly assisted the Nazis in their anti-Semitic measures. The attitude of the ordinary Pole towards Jews in trolley cars or queues was, as a rule, far from friendly and many Poles either participated in or displayed enjoyment at Nazi torture of Jews. This attitude recently, however, has undergone a change for the better. Even the least discerning Pole today realizes the real purpose of the Nazi Jew-baiting.

Evolution of this process was much more rapid in the provinces than it was in Warsaw, where the effects of the ruthless policy of extermination directed against the Poles were less apparent than, for example, in the western districts of Poland. Complete suspension of the Polish press and the ban on owning radio sets were responsible for the fact that the process of enlightenment was somewhat delayed.

The atrocities committed by the Nazis against the Poles in Warsaw itself, however, speeded up the enlightening process considerably, unmasking the real aims of the Nazis in Poland. The most barbarous of these atrocities perpetrated recently was the mass execution of 200 Poles, including many women and children, in the Warsaw suburbs of Grochow and Wawer. In addition, the Poles in Warsaw have had many opportunities to see with their own eyes Polish victims of Nazi barbarities in the western districts of the country, including women and children, who have been expelled from their native towns at an hour's notice under terrible conditions.

The average Pole now sees quite clearly that there is no difference between the Nazi treatment of Poles and Jews. Another reason for this change in the attitude

of the average Pole towards the Jews was the recent wave of arrests of prominent Poles, some of whom had refused to collaborate with the Nazis. Many well-known Polish lawyers were among those arrested, including Nowodvorski, prominent member of the anti-Semitic Endek party and former president of the Polish Lawyers' Association.

Still another reason behind the changed attitude is the illegal propaganda being disseminated by the Polish Socialists through proclamations and leaflets which unmask the real intentions and aims of the Nazi anti-Jewish campaign.

The common suffering endured by Poles and Jews under the unspeakable Nazi terror has contributed towards mutual understanding, the chief feature of their present relationship being the consciousness of the common source of their misfortunes. There are daily manifestations of this new relationship. For example, Jews and Poles meeting in the streets smile encouragingly at each other and exchange a greeting such as this: "Let's persevere and endure the present hard times. Better times are sure to come."

15 RADIO STATIONS DROP COUGHLIN TALKS; MORE TO CANCEL BY SEPT. 1

WASHINGTON, Feb. 19. (JTA) -- Five large radio stations and a number of small ones have quit the Coughlin radio chain since the National Association of Broadcasters promulgated its code last November, the N.A.B. has been informed, and the Coughlin chain has dropped from a peak of 60 stations to 45 in the last year.

Coughlin has acquired several small stations, not members of the N.A.B. however. Stations which no longer carry the Coughlin broadcasts include WTMJ in Milwaukee; WIRE, Indianapolis; WCAO, Baltimore, and large stations in Erie, Pa., and Lowell, Mass.

By Sept. 1, 1940, Coughlin's contracts with all stations holding membership in the N.A.B. will expire and nearly all of them have indicated to the N.A.B. that the contracts will not be renewed. A notable exception is Detroit's WJR, where the Coughlin broadcasts originate.

The N.A.B. has estimated, according to an authoritative source, that when the code was established Coughlin was spending \$350,000 annually on his broadcasts.

One of his greatest outlets, the entire Colonial network in New England plans to cancel its contract with Coughlin when it expires, and some stations of the network which had individual short term contracts have already cancelled them. The Colonial network is contributing all the money received from Coughlin since the N.A.B. code was established to charity. It has already donated \$5,000 to charitable causes.

RED CROSS, HOOVER GROUP PRESS FOR LIFTING OF NAZI BAN ON U.S. DISTRIBUTION

WASHINGTON, Feb. 19. (JTA) -- James T. Nicholson, American Red Cross representative in Berlin, has gone to Geneva to consult with Wayne Chatfield Taylor, head of the Red Cross delegation abroad, on difficulties arising in the distribution of relief in Poland, according to cables received here today.

The Red Cross is attempting to bring pressure on both the British and the Germans so they can continue to bring into Poland supplies of medicine and clothing.

An attempt will be made to persuade the Germans to modify their prohibition on American supervision of the distribution of Red Cross supplies in Poland. The British Ministry of Economic Warfare has issued orders that no more supplies for Poland be allowed through the blockade until American supervision is assured with proper guarantees.

- - -

Proposed American Body of 15 to Direct Relief on World War Lines

NEW YORK, Feb. 19. (JTA) -- The Commission for Polish Relief today was still awaiting an official answer to a proposal submitted to the German Government on Jan. 7 for organization of relief in Poland on World War lines, with 15 Americans setting up a non-sectarian distribution system and the Germans giving safe conduct to relief ships and waiving tariffs.

Presentation of the proposal was disclosed yesterday by Herbert Hoover, member of the commission's executive committee, who said that if the permission was granted the commission pledged itself to seek funds for the supplies, transport the supplies to ports of entry and see to their distribution. He estimated that at least \$20,000,000 would be necessary to ward off starvation in the Gouvernement-General of Poland until the next harvest.

Acceptance by the German Government of the commission's plan is the one hope of life for hundreds of thousands of innocent victims of the war, Hoover said. The Allied blockade control has refused to permit relief supplies to go to Poland without guarantees of American supervision to preclude diversion of the supplies by the Nazis.

EQUALITY FORMULA OUTSIDE OF MINORITIES PACTS SEEN NEEDED FOR JEWS AFTER WAR

LONDON, Feb. 19. (JTA) -- After the present war a formula will have to be found ensuring complete freedom and equality for Jews as distinct from the minorities guarantees which arose from the last war, Neville Laski, retired president of the Board of Deputies of British Jews, declared yesterday at a reception given by the Anglo-Palestine Club for him and Prof. Selig Brodetsky, his successor.

"We Jews must no longer allow ourselves to be robbed," Laski said. "The whole history of the minorities treaties is a history of ignoble failure, chicanery and treachery. We cannot allow repetition of that period."

Prof. Brodetsky stressed the necessity of Jewish unity and asserted that the problem of the Jewish people required the same high level of statesmanship that needed to be applied to the problems of other peoples. He said the Palestine problem was not whether so many Jews could enter Palestine in this or that year, but whether it was to become a land in which the problem of the Jewish people, or a considerable fraction of it, would find a solution.

All sections of British Jewry were represented at the reception, at which Simon Marks presided and joined with Moshe Shertok, head of the Jewish Agency's political department, and others in praising Laski's services.

(Continued on reverse side)

Earlier, at a meeting of the Board of Deputies, Laski, speaking during the debate on the Joint Foreign Committee report, raised the question of the present Polish Government's attitude toward the Jews, declaring that there were grave doubts as to whether the Polish Government had paid adequate attention to the Jewish aspect of Nazi persecution in Poland.

Leonard Stein, who introduced the report, said that this question was receiving attention but it was an inopportune time to develop the matter further. He said the board should refrain from criticism, but should take a broad view of the very large question which would arise in the future as to the whole problem of Polish-Jewish relations.

Prof. Brodetsky supported Stein, declaring it was necessary to make known the world over what was happening to the Jews in Poland and to bring to the notice of the Polish Government what consequences this would have upon future relations between the Jews and a reconstructed Poland. He assured the board that the Joint Foreign Committee was considering every aspect of the problem of reconstruction of the Jews in Europe when peace came.

RUMANIA WOULD LIFT ZIONIST BAN IF ILLEGAL EMIGRATION AID IS CHECKED

NEW YORK, Feb. 19. (JTA) -- The New York Times reported today from Bucharest that Interior Minister Mikhail Ghelmegeanu had promised to lift the ban on Zionist activities in Rumania if the Rumanian Zionist Organization halted assistance to illegal emigration to Palestine. The United Press said that the Government had acted at the request of the British Government.

RUSSIANS, JEWS, SWEDES WOULD SEND JOINT DELEGATE TO ESTONIAN COUNCIL

TALLINN, Estonia, Feb. 19. (JTA) -- Russians, Jews and Swedes would elect a joint minorities representative to the State Council under a project submitted to the Estonian Parliament. The election committee would be composed of four Russians, two Jews and two Swedes. The election will be held in March if the bill is adopted by Parliament.

DISSOLUTION OF SILVER LEGION ANNOUNCED IN PELLEY ORGAN

WASHINGTON, Feb. 19. (JTA) -- The current issue of Liberation, organ of William Dudley Pelley's Silver Legion, contains a statement by Pelley that he is disbanding the Legion so that the Dies committee can concentrate on exposing "New Dealism."

BRATISLAVA CAFES BARRED TO JEWS

BRUSSELS, Feb. 19. (JTA) -- Bratislava dispatches said today that the anti-Semitic Hlinka Guards have taken measures to prevent Jews from entering cafes. According to Nazi newspapers reaching here, special cafes will be set aside for Jews in Bratislava, with non-Jews forbidden to patronize them.

The same papers report that Jews are being forced to shovel snow throughout Slovakia without pay, the money coming to them for their work being turned over by the Slovak authorities to a special fund for needy non-Jewish families.