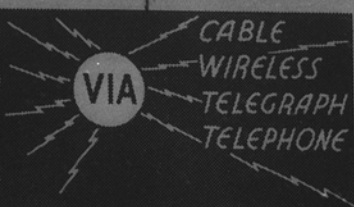


NEWS

from all over the world



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PALESTINE JEWS STRIKE; SILENT PARADE IN TEL AVIV; ARABS HAIL EDICT

JERUSALEM, Feb. 29. (JTA) -- Jews throughout Palestine stopped work today in protest against the newly-announced measures restricting their right to purchase land, while Arabs hailed the regulations by dancing in the streets of Jaffa, predominant Arab port city.

An impressive silent demonstration was staged in Tel Aviv, all-Jewish city neighboring Jaffa, where large crowds of worshippers thronged the Great Synagogue for special services.

After the services, the Jews paraded to the Municipal Hall, led by members of the central committee of the Histadruth, Palestine labor federation, and municipal councillors with the exception of Mayor Israel Rokach. The paraders carried placards denouncing the land ordinance.

There were no speeches at the Hall and the police were conspicuous by their absence.

Haifa Jews Declare Curfew

HAIFA, Feb. 29. (JTA) -- Jews of this city today observed a self-imposed curfew from 2 p.m. to midnight in protest against the land ordinance.

Commons to Debate Land Ban Wednesday

LONDON, Feb. 29. (JTA) -- A motion censuring the British Government for its newly-announced measures restricting Jewish land purchases in Palestine will be submitted to the House of Commons next Wednesday by Philip Noel Baker on behalf of the Labor Party, it was announced today.

The motion bases its censure of the Government on the grounds that issuance of the regulations was in disregard of the League Mandates Commission and the Council and constituted unjust discrimination against the Palestine Jews.

"The House regrets," the motion states, "that, disregarding the express opinion of the Mandates Commission that the policy contained in the White Paper on Palestine

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is inconsistent with the terms of the Mandate, and without the authority of the Council of the League, His Majesty's Government have authorized issue of regulations controlling the transfer of land which discriminate unjustly against one section of the inhabitants of Palestine."

The last time a Palestine issue came up for debate, the Government won the verdict by the narrow margin of 89 votes. That was May 23, 1939, following issuance of the White Paper setting forth the British Government's intention of establishing an independent Palestine State in which the Jews would be crystallized as a one-third minority. To obtain the decision, however, the Government was forced to use a three-line whip, making the vote a question of confidence.

How the Government will fare in Wednesday's vote was a matter of conjecture today, with some observers expressing the belief that many Government supporters will vote with the Labor Opposition.

The political correspondent of the Laborite Daily Herald said the ordinance had aroused intense indignation among parliamentarians of all parties. He said a considerable number of Government supporters were strongly opposed to any policy further weakening the Jewish position in Palestine and probably would vote with the Laborites on the motion of censure.

Meanwhile, announcement of the ordinance was greeted with indignation by leading newspapers, with only one notable exception.

The Daily Herald charged the Government with adding "another first class blunder to the long record of mishandling and vacillation" on the Palestine problem and warned that the ordinance would "increase mistrust all around."

The Liberal News-Chronicle saw in the measures a possible "new hornets' nest," declaring: "It is indeed a grave step to override the opinion of a League authority, particularly at a time when there is a widespread feeling that the mandates system offers the best solution of the colonial problem. It remains to be seen whether the new policy will maintain the present state of tranquillity or stir up a new hornets' nest."

The Liberal Manchester Guardian, declaring Commons must have been "shocked and astonished" at the land ordinance, said:

"Since almost half of the members voting in Commons condemned the White Paper (of May, 1939), since the majority of the Mandates Commission members declared it a violation of the mandate and since the whole Commission found it inconsistent with earlier interpretations of the Mandate, is not all this reason why nothing should have been done by the British Government without League approval? What has the Government told us since the war began to justify such a step? What is the Government about, to handle national unity in so strange a way?"

Lord Beaverbrook's newspaper, the Evening Standard, so far is the only paper welcoming the land regulations.

"MacDonald has courageously fought for his policy," the Standard said. "He is determined to carry it through. Let those criticize him who would like to propose that Britain, fighting for freedom in this hour, be saddled with another Ireland."

'Malarial Mosquito' Seen Lone Beneficiary of Ban

LONDON, Feb. 29. (JTA) -- Only the "malarial mosquito" stands to gain from the restrictions on Jewish land purchase in Palestine, it was asserted editorially today by the Zionist Review, official organ of the British Zionist Federation.

The Review charged that Colonial Secretary Malcolm MacDonald's land ordinance stood "between the land and the people" because Arabs might be anxious to sell part of their land to get capital to develop the remainder.

"The land is doomed to rot and the Jew to homelessness," the editorial said, adding: "Who gains then from MacDonald's land restrictions? None but the malarial mosquito."

The Review questioned whether the Colonial Office's Palestine policy was "compatible with the fight against injustice and persecution" proclaimed by Prime Minister Neville Chamberlain. "Is it just," the editorial asked, "to go back on solemn promises, strangle the Jewish national home and prevent Palestine from giving shelter to victims of Hitler's oppression? Is it just to destroy the main hope of the Jewish people?"

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J.N.F. Cables \$250,000 For New Land Purchases

NEW YORK, Feb. 29. (JTA) -- While Zionist groups were planning demonstrations in protest against the Palestine land restriction ordinance, the Jewish National Fund of America today cabled \$250,000 to Jerusalem, as a first remittance to be followed by others, to make possible conversion of "land immediately available into a foothold for homeless Jews."

The cable accompanying the remittance said that it was intended as "an expression of our solidarity in this trying hour and confidence in the future of the Jewish National Home." In making public the cable, Dr. Israel Goldstein, president of the J.N.F., said further funds will be made available while the struggle against the restrictions continued.

Dr. Goldstein also made public a cable received from Menachem M. Ussishkin, world president of the J.N.F., in Jerusalem which said only: "Read Jeremiah Chapter 32, Verse 44." This verse is as follows: "Men shall buy fields for money, and write it in deeds, and seal it and certify it by witnesses, in the land of Benjamin, and in the environs of Jerusalem, and in the cities of Judah, and in cities of the mountain, and in the cities of the lowlands, and in the cities of the south; for I will cause their captivity to return, saith the Lord."

The J.N.F. board met tonight to consider further action regarding the Palestine ordinance. Last night the J.N.F. had joined the Emergency Committee on Palestine Affairs in protesting against the ordinance. The committee's statement said that "the Jewish people will employ all the legitimate means at its disposal to combat the new restrictions, which are a violation of the letter and spirit of the Palestine mandate."

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The committee announced that a protest rally will be held on Monday evening, March 11, at the Hotel Astor. This Sunday evening Dr. Chaim Weizmann, president of the Jewish Agency, will speak at Symphony Hall, Boston, at a rally sponsored by all Zionist groups, and it is expected that the meeting, although scheduled for some time, will be turned into a protest against the ordinance.

The American Friends of a Jewish Palestine held a protest rally tonight at the Hotel McAlpin. The organization made public a statement sent to the League of Nations, Secretary of State Cordell Hull, Colonial Secretary MacDonald and British Ambassador Lord Lothian, declaring that the land restrictions "can only be compared with the rape of Czechoslovakia and Poland."

7,000,000 POLES FACE STARVATION UNLESS RELIEF IS SPED, HOOVER TELLS HOUSE BODY

WASHINGTON, Feb. 29. (JTA) -- Former President Herbert Hoover, an organizer of the Commission for Polish Relief, told the House Foreign Affairs Committee today that 7,000,000 Poles face starvation unless help is forthcoming immediately. The committee is considering bills calling for a Government appropriation of \$10,000,000 to \$20,000,000 for Polish relief.

Appearing before a congressional committee for the first time since he left the White House, Hoover told a room packed with spectators, newsreel cameramen and reporters that the situation in Poland has become desperate.

Ordinarily, he said, the Poles were a self-sustaining people, but since the Nazi invasion so much of their foodstuffs had been confiscated and removed to Germany and the economic life of the country had been so disrupted, that the population was reduced to misery. He estimated that \$40,000,000 would be needed to relieve the situation.

Rep. Hamilton Fish (Rep., N.Y.) asked Hoover: "Several people have testified about the work the Polish Red Cross is doing. I understand that the Polish Red Cross has been merged with the German Red Cross."

Hoover replied: "It is my understanding that the Polish and German Red Cross have both been integrated into a German Government relief set-up. You will find people wearing the Red Cross emblem but to all practical purposes it is no longer the Red Cross."

Fish said: "Then in other words these people talking about the Polish Red Cross are talking about something that doesn't exist." Hoover nodded.

A spokesman for the American Red Cross later denied Hoover's statement that the Polish and German Red Cross have been integrated into the Nazi relief setup. The spokesman said the Polish Red Cross was still operating, although under adverse conditions, and that the German Red Cross was functioning as a parallel but not allied organization to the Nazi relief agency. The German Red Cross, it was emphasized, cooperates with the International Red Cross with headquarters at Geneva and is concerned principally with overseeing treaty obligations and not direct relief.

Hoover denied that Polish relief embraced any threat of involvement in Europe's wars, and said: "As far as I am concerned, I am prepared to feed women and children and I don't care of what race they are."

He insisted that the Allied Governments must have assurances that foodstuffs do not fall into German hands or not one pound of food could reach Poland. Negotiations between a group of people he called together and the German Government were continuing, he said, adding: "I have no doubt an agreement will be reached in a few weeks."

He said he was sure the President would have no objection to sending surplus American food to Poland under the terms of the agreement now under discussion.

Hoover was closely questioned by Rep. W.O. Burgin (Dem., N.C.) on the ex-President's recommendation that America should ship its surplus supplies to Poland under the aegis of an international committee. Burgin asked whether cotton shipped to Poland would reach "all the people." Hoover said it would have to be regulated completely by Americans.

Burgin pumped questions at Hoover concerning the Jews and Poles who have been segregated in the Lublin "reservation" and elsewhere. Hoover said he did not think the segregated portions of the population could ever adjust themselves to a new life and therefore relief in Poland would have to be a continuing process.

Asked whether, in his opinion, the Nazis would let the Poles and Jews perish, Hoover declined to answer categorically, but said that the German reply to starvation would be citation of the Allied blockade.

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Senate Gets Polish Relief Bill

WASHINGTON, Feb. 29. (JTA) -- Senator James M. Mead (Dem., N.Y.) today introduced a bill calling for federal expenditure of \$15,000,000 for Polish relief, to be administered by an agency to be selected by the President.

POLISH GOVERNMENT LISTS NAZI ACTS AGAINST JEWS IN CONQUERED AREAS

PARIS, Feb. 29. (JTA) -- The Polish Government-in-exile today issued its first comprehensive statement on anti-Jewish excesses in Nazi-occupied Poland, charging that 2,000,000 Jews had been subjected to treatment "of brutality unprecedented in human history" and asserting that the persecution had aroused the sympathy of the Polish population.

The 16-page document recounted details of mass executions, expulsions, destruction of Jewish property, confiscation, rape of Jewish women and the enforced wearing of yellow badges.

"The situation of the Jewish population there may be described in one phrase--the Jews are outside the law," the statement said. "The Jews in the Nazi-occupied area are in fact a body of 2,000,000 human beings without means of defense, completely subjugated by the forces of occupation. No matter how respectable a position a Jew may have held before, any Volksdeutsche--any simple German--is now his absolute master."

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Although the non-Jewish population is also maltreated, "the barbarism practiced against the Jewish population has no equal," the document asserted.

"The Nazi administration in Poland seems to have no definite plan for a solution of the Jewish problem. Not even the Nazi doctrines are being applied to the Jews in Poland. The Nazi rulers are simply persecuting a people who have no means to defend themselves--persecutions which are carried out sadistically, without reason, stimulated by the narrow-minded policy of profiting from looting."

The statement asserted that the persecutions, in addition to seeking the annihilation of the Jews, were intended to demonstrate to the Polish population that mistreatment of Jews was a "free-for-all" in which Poles might participate.

"The result of this Nazi policy, however, is exactly the opposite of what the Germans anticipated," the Polish Government said. "The Polish population is manifesting a very clear tendency of Christian sympathy towards the even more maltreated Jewish population."

Discussing expulsion of Jews to the Lublin "reservation" without being permitted to take their belongings, the statement declared: "The Germans, when expelling Polish peasants from their land to make place for the Jews, try to make the peasants believe the Jews are stealing their soil. Nevertheless, there have not been any anti-Jewish demonstrations by peasants, which proves that they are well aware of who is really responsible."

Among the cases of anti-Jewish persecution cited by the report are the following:

In Cracow, headquarters of Nazi Governor-General Hans Frank, a three-day pogrom occurred during which 180 Jews were massacred "with abominable cruelty" and Jewish houses and stores were looted. Similar massacres took place in Bendin, Sosnowiec, Nowo-Miasto, Lodz, Czestochow, Kielce, Zyradow, Kattowice, Ostrow-Mazowiec, Zdunskawola and other localities. In certain cities, among them Siedlce, sale of bread and flour to Jews has been completely prohibited. Rape of Jewish women has occurred in Warsaw, Lodz and other cities.

In Bendin, all Jews were locked up in the Jewish quarter, which was then set afire. "Hundreds of Jews perished in the flames. Those who escaped fell under Nazi bullets."

In Sosnowiec, Nazis set three synagogues afire and then arrested 250 Jews on charges of having caused the fires. Later 25 Jews and Poles were executed when four German soldiers were found dead. In Nowo-Miasto, Jews were executed without any reason being given, the majority of them picked up on the streets. In Grojec, Nazis ordered Jews to set a synagogue afire and then executed many Jews for the act. In Wolclawek, Nazis burned down two large synagogues and forced Jews to sign a statement assuming responsibility for their destruction. Jews were executed in the public square of Zdunske-Wola.

Enumerating anti-Jewish decrees and ordinances issued by the Nazi authorities the statement pointed out that they showed the lack of a unified policy. As regards

the distinguishing mark which Jews are forced to wear, the badge varies from locality to locality in size and shape and the sanctions imposed for not wearing it. In Warsaw, Cracow and Czestochow the Jews must wear a white armband with a blue six-pointed star, while in Lodz, Wloclawek and Lublin Jews must wear yellow armbands. In certain localities, Jews must wear yellow patches on their backs and sleeves.

Punishment for not wearing the badges varies from unspecified "severe punishment" in Warsaw to death in Lodz.

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8,000 Jews in Bratislava Face Exile

BUCHAREST, Feb. 29. (JTA) -- Deportation to the Lublin "reservation" in Nazi Poland faces 8,000 Austrian and Czech Jews concentrated in Bratislava, Slovakia, it was revealed today by Rudolf Storfer, prominent former banker in Vienna, upon his arrival here. Only transit visas enabling them to emigrate overseas can save the Jews from their threatened fate, Storfer said. Storfer is here to investigate the possibilities of transporting Jewish emigrants via Rumania.

JEWISH COUNCIL HITS 'LEAGUE' THAT CALLED PRO-FRONTIST MEETING

NEW YORK, Feb. 29. (JTA) -- The General Jewish Council today issued a statement condemning the "irresponsible action" of an organization calling itself the American League to Combat Anti-Semitism, Inc., "in presuming to prejudge the case of the 17 members of the Christian Front who have been indicted for conspiracy in the Brooklyn Federal Court."

The League, headed by one D. Selig Margolies, had yesterday issued a public release to the press announcing its decision to call a mass meeting to "take action favorable" to the Frontists. The release, which was ignored for the most part by the press, also said the League had sent a telegram to Charles E. Coughlin stating that "we are 100 per cent for acquittal" of the Frontists and asking the radio priest's "valued cooperation" by assigning a speaker to the meeting.

The Council, declaring it expressed no opinion regarding the "guilt or innocence" of the Frontists, "except its conviction that they have a right to a fair and impartial trial, with the protection of all our traditional legal safe-guards," said:

"The Council believes, however, that after the men have been indicted by a grand jury and while they are awaiting trial, no private individual or group should attempt to prejudge their case, or to influence its outcome. It is particularly regrettable that an attempt to do so should be made by an individual who purports to act as a Jewish organization--for the League is essentially a single individual, D. Selig Margolies. Such action is open to serious misunderstanding.

"As a result of numerous inquiries, the General Jewish Council has investigated the American League to Combat Anti-Semitism. The Council had already reached the conclusion that the League is essentially an irresponsible agency, -- a conclusion which is amply confirmed by its most recent action. The Council deems it necessary to issue this statement in order to prevent the creation of any misconception that Mr. Margolies speaks for any substantial group of Jewish people."

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HADASSAH TERMS LAND ORDINANCE 'APPALLING'

NEW YORK, Feb. 29. (JTA) -- A special meeting of Hadassah's national board today "condemned and rejected" the Palestine land restrictions as "destroying both the letter and spirit of the Balfour Declaration and the mandate." The resolution said the ordinance was "especially appalling at a time when the British people are engaged in a war against oppression and demagoguery in Europe."

500 STEAMSHIP TICKETS FOR REFUGEES SET AS DRIVE GOAL BY MEXICAN JEWS

MEXICO CITY (JTA--By Airmail). -- A meeting of Jewish leaders and welfare workers has decided to launch a campaign for the purchase of 500 steamship tickets to transport Jewish refugees from various countries to Palestine. Many persons have already offered to contribute the cost of one ticket. Manuel Graiver, representative of the Palestine Foundation Fund who is touring Mexico, will conduct the campaign.

NAHUM GOLDMANN ARRIVES IN ARGENTINA

BUENOS AIRES, Feb. 29. (JTA) -- Dr. Nahum Goldmann, chairman of the administrative committee of the World Jewish Congress, arrived here today and was given a warm welcome by Argentine newspapers. He will address a mass meeting on Sunday at which a 5,000,000-peso campaign for overseas relief needs will be launched.

TEL AVIV ADOPTS RECORD \$522,000 BUDGET FOR 1940

TEL AVIV, Feb. 29. (JTA) -- The Municipal Council has approved a budget of \$522,000 for the coming fiscal year, the largest budget in Tel Aviv's history. The expenditures include a \$50,000 first payment on an expected Government loan.

A Jewish Community tax of $2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent was abolished by the Council and the general tax increased from $6\frac{1}{2}$ to $7\frac{1}{2}$ per cent.

MRS. WEIZMANN HONORED BY PIONEER WOMEN'S GROUP

NEW YORK, Feb. 29. (JTA) -- Mrs. Vera Weizmann, wife of Dr. Chaim Weizmann, was given a reception last night by the Pioneer Women's Organization at the Hotel Pennsylvania, attended by several hundred persons. She was presented with an inscription in the Weizmann Golden Book of the Jewish National Fund.

PALESTINE VISAS OBTAINED FOR POLISH TALMUDISTS

NEW YORK, Feb. 29. (JTA) -- Certificates permitting immigration to Palestine of deans of Polish Talmudic colleges who are now in Wilno, Lithuania, have been secured through the efforts of Rabbi Meir Berlin, president of the World Mizrahi Organization, it was announced here today. Among those emigrating immediately are Rabbi Cutler of Kleck and Rabbi Finkel of Mir. A certificate has also been reserved for Rabbi Chaim Oser Grodziensky, dean of the orthodox rabbinate.