

# NEWS

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by the

## JEWISH TELEGRAPHIC AGENCY

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### HOUSE BODY BACKS \$15,000,000 POLISH RELIEF BILL

WASHINGTON, March 28. (JTA) -- A bill providing for the appropriation of \$15,000,000 for Polish relief, drawn up by Rep. John Kee (Dem., W.Va.) was approved by a subcommittee of the House Foreign Affairs Committee, meeting in executive session today.

The bill stipulates that any relief distributed in Poland must be under the supervision of Americans.

The whole Foreign Affairs Committee will meet at 11:30 o'clock tomorrow morning to act on the measure, which is a consolidated bill containing all the features of six other bills which had been introduced. The chances of its adoption by the Committee are considered promising.

If the Kee bill is approved tomorrow it must then go to the House Appropriations Committee for hearing.

### Matzoth to Be Shipped Into Nazi Areas From 3 Border Lands

PARIS, March 28. (JTA) -- The American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee plans to purchase approximately 1,500,000 pounds of matzoth in Hungary, Rumania and Yugoslavia for shipment to Jews in German territory, it was disclosed today.

Permission to send the unleavened bread into Nazi Poland as relief supplies, exempt from duty and with free transportation within Poland guaranteed by the Nazis, has been obtained by the American Red Cross in Geneva. The Nazi authorities in the Protectorate have also permitted the Prague Jewish Community to import 44,000 pounds of matzoth, which will be brought in from Yugoslavia.

For Jews in Germany and Poland, the J.D.C. intends to purchase 770,000 pounds in Hungary and 660,000 pounds in Rumania. The Rumanian authorities have already given permission for the export, on condition payment be made in American currency. The Hungarian authorities have so far refused an export license, but B. Jacobson, representative of the J.D.C., now in Budapest, has secured the intervention of the American Legation there and it is believed permission will be forthcoming.

All shipments to Poland must be addressed to German Red Cross headquarters in Cracow for delivery to the J.D.C., which will arrange for their distribution to local communities.

The Krakauer Zeitung, Nazi organ in Poland, reports that more than 8,000 Jews in Cracow are being fed from Jewish soup-kitchens, receiving only soup and bread, and more than 4,000 Jews are without shelter.

The only Jewish institutions remaining in Cracow are a 110-bed hospital and a home for the aged, the Nazi paper says. The Nazis have imposed a "religious tax" on the wealthier Jews for the maintenance of the starving, the paper adds. The paper declares that "reports abroad of atrocities are all without foundation."

#### ousting of Refugees by Lithuania Denied in London

LONDON, March 28. (JTA) -- Reports that the Lithuanian Government was ordering refugees from Poland to return to territories occupied by the Germans and the Russians were denied here today by the Lithuanian Legation.

The Lithuanian Government, it was stated, had approached both the Russian and German governments, asking them to permit interned refugees to go back on the express condition that the refugee himself wishes to return to Polish territory and that nobody was to be returned against his will.

It was stated categorically that the question of return to occupied territories was a matter entirely subject to the free will and choice of the individual and that no one would be returned against his desire. It is understood that a number of Polish soldiers, mostly peasants, asked to be sent back to their former homes.

There have been some cases of deportation of Jewish refugees who entered the country illegally, it was learned. These deportations were ordered, the Lithuanian authorities asserted, in order to prevent a mass influx of refugees entering the country illegally.

#### Bright Picture of Jewish Life in So. America Painted by Nahum Goldmann

NEW YORK, March 28. (JTA) -- South America is one region in the Jewish world where the scene is almost uniformly bright and serene, Dr. Nahum Goldmann, chairman of the administrative committee of the World Jewish Congress, said today after a flying tour of the continent.

South American Jewry, economically comfortable, enjoying good relations with its non-Jewish neighbors and peace within its own ranks, and with a strong Jewish tradition, is beginning to realize its importance to world Jewry and to take on responsibilities commensurate with its stature, Dr. Goldmann said in an interview at the St. Moritz where he is stopping over for a few days before returning to Geneva.

Dr. Goldmann cited the decision of Argentine Jewry to raise 5,000,000 pesos (\$1,250,000) this year in a joint drive for relief of Jewish war victims and up-building in Palestine. Inauguration of the drive was the chief purpose of his visit to South America. The sum is more than six times the amount raised in the last such campaign, two years ago. Jewish populations in other South American countries are undertaking similar drives for amounts proportionate to their numbers, he said.

"Argentine Jewry can be taken as more or less typical of South American Jews," Dr. Goldmann said. "It numbers 400,000, none very rich but many quite wealthy and the majority of comfortable middle class position. Eighty to eighty-five percent are from Eastern Europe. There is a comparatively small but economically important Sephardic group from Turkey and North Africa and another important minority of German Jews, increased in the past few years by refugees.

"Since the immigration does not go back more than forty years, and most of the Jews in South America came over fifteen to twenty years ago, assimilation has not yet made any headway, and the Jewish populace is strongly East European in religious and cultural character. On the other hand, the factionalism of Europe have died out, and the degree of unity is striking. Reform Judaism plays no role. Zionism is very strong, and while there may be non-Zionists, there is no anti-Zionist faction. There is a small left wing group, but in general the Jewish population is quite homogeneous economically so that there is comparatively little cause for friction in that sphere.

"The central organization of Argentine Jewry, called the 'DAJA', represents practically the entire Jewish population. The organization is thoroughly democratic. Argentine Jewry, like all Argentina, is democratic-minded."

Anti-Semitism has practically been liquidated in South America since the beginning of the European war, Dr. Goldmann said. The governments of the southern continent, he explained, anxious to preserve strict neutrality, clamped a lid on all foreign propaganda as soon as the war started, thus ending the intensive Nazi anti-Semitic agitation which for a time had threatened to make real inroads. Without this artificial stimulus, anti-Semitism rapidly waned, Dr. Goldmann said. Leading members of various South American governments, including the Argentinian Foreign Minister, assured Dr. Goldmann that anti-Semitism in their countries was negligible or non-existent.

"Their statements can be taken as more than formal assurances," Dr. Goldmann said. "They are true. The populations down there are of such mixed origin that they cannot be anything but tolerant."

On the other hand, Dr. Goldmann said, South American governments tend to encourage Spanish culture, to some extent at the expense of Jewish culture. Public addresses in Yiddish, for instance, are forbidden in Buenos Aires, he said, but the ban is not discriminatory, since it applies to all foreign languages. In spite of it, Dr. Goldmann obtained permission to speak in Yiddish, and addressed a mass meeting attended by 25,000 Jews.

The most distinctive center of Jewish culture, and in other ways one of the most interesting Jewish developments in South America, Dr. Goldmann said, is the group of agricultural colonies founded by Baron de Hirsch in the large and rich area around Mosesville, "the Jerusalem of the Argentine."

"When I arrived there a police escort--not Jews--met me," he said. "The police band was there. They played 'Hatikvah' and the policemen shouted 'Viva Dr. Goldmann!'"

The people in the de Hirsch colonies are even less assimilated than the city dweller, Dr. Goldmann said. A Yiddish culture movement is strong among the young people. While a large part of the younger generation drifts into the cities, enough remain on the land to perpetuate the colonies. The population is stable at about 3,000. The settlers have developed their lands well and live comfortably.

South American Jews, Dr. Goldmann said, are very much interested in everything that concerns the Jews of this country, and would welcome opportunities to establish closer links with their brethren in the north.

#### LORD SAMUEL SEES LAND ACT PROBLEM SETTLED CONSTITUTIONALLY

LONDON, March 28. (JTA) -- Newly returned from a tour of the Eastern Mediterranean, Viscount Samuel, Liberal peer and former Palestine High Commissioner declared in a radio broadcast last night that there was "vehement opposition" in Palestine to the new land-sale restrictions, but the problem would probably be settled by "constitutional means as the Jews will be the last to embarrass the British Empire in its struggle."

#### UNTERMYER WILLS \$100,000 TO HEBREW UNIVERSITY

NEW YORK, March 28. (JTA) -- A bequest of \$100,000 to the Hebrew University, subject to compliance with unnamed conditions, is contained in the will of Samuel Untermyer, lawyer and philanthropist, who died on March 16. A 70-acre tract of Untermyer's Greystone estate in Yonkers was bequeathed to New York State, but has been rejected because the cost of upkeep would be too great.

#### THOMAS MANN SEES JEWS SURVIVING, PLAYING VITAL ROLE IN WORLD REBUILDING

NEW YORK, March 28. (JTA) -- Thomas Mann, the self-exiled German author, declares in an article on "Culture Against Barbarism" in the Contemporary Jewish Record that hatred against Jews "is aimed against Europe and all that is higher in Germanism itself," but predicts that the Jews will survive and "play an important part in the upbuilding of the new humanity struggling slowly out of its crises."

"These people look into our world with the dark intelligent eyes of former ages and with the knowledge which is theirs by their suffering, their spirituality and reason," Mann asserts. "They form a secretly corrective element against our passions...the Jews have to suffer. But they will suffer and survive."

#### YOUNG JABOTINSKY SENTENCED TO YEAR IN ACRE CAMP

NEW YORK, March 28. (JTA) -- Vladimir Jabotinsky reported today receiving a cable which disclosed that his son, Eri, had been administratively sentenced to one year's internment in the Acre concentration camp. He had been arrested last month when he arrived in Palestine with a large group of illegal immigrants and was being detained at Acre.

U.S. UNITY MENACED BY GROUPS STIRRING RACIAL ANTAGONISMS, BOSTON PARLEY TOLD

BOSTON, March 28. (JTA) -- America's national unity is being threatened by disruptive forces seeking to create racial and religious antagonisms, speakers at the third annual dinner of the Massachusetts Committee of the National Conference of Christians and Jews declared last night, pleading for inter-faith cooperation based on traditional American standards of good will.

Governor Leverett Saltonstall urged Americans not to allow "a foreign-born spirit of hatred to destroy our American unity." Six hundred Catholics, Jews and Protestants attended the dinner, held at the Boston Chamber of Commerce under the chairmanship of Chief Justice John P. Higgins of Massachusetts Superior Court.

MARIE SCHMOLKA, PRAGUE LEADER, DIES IN LONDON; HAD BEEN JAILED BY NAZIS

LONDON, March 28. (JTA) -- Mme. Marie Schmolka, former head of the HIAS-IOA Emigration Association in Prague and of the Prague Refugee Relief Committee, died here yesterday after an illness of several months.

Mme. Schmolka was one of the first Jews arrested after occupation of Prague by the Germans a year ago. She was released, after being held more than two months, upon intervention with the Gestapo of the Czech Social Welfare Minister who acted at the instance of many international organizations. Mme. Schmolka came to London for conferences just before the outbreak of the war and was unable to return to Prague.

NEW YORK, March 28. (JTA) -- Dr. Bernhard Kahn, honorary European chairman of the Joint Distribution Committee, said in a statement today on the death of Mrs. Marie Schmolka that "the passing away of this great Jewess will be a great loss for all Jewish organizations."

Mrs. Schmolka first became active in Jewish work in 1933, he said, and devoted her life to the cause.—Becoming head of the Central Czechoslovakian Committee for Refugees, she represented her country on the first advisory committee of the League of Nations High Commissioner for Refugees. She gave her time and advice to general Jewish activities, helping to reorganize child care and training work in Sub-Carpathia on behalf of the J.D.C. She frequently went to Germany to get first-hand information useful to Jewish organizations and the High Commissioner in organizing refugee assistance.

LEO STERNBACH, PHILOLOGIST, DEAD IN CRACOW; KNEW LATE POPE

LONDON, March 28. (JTA) -- The Polish Press Bureau today reported the death in Cracow, Nazi Poland, of the noted scholar and philologist Prof. Leo Sternbach. Prof. Sternbach, who was 76, reportedly died as a result of hardships endured while he was detained in a concentration camp following the German occupation. He was well known in Catholic Church circles and, as president of the Patristic Commission of the Polish Academy, had come into personal contact with the late Pope Pius XI. He was an authority on Greek language and literature from Homer to the Byzantine era.