

NEWS

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RUSSIA ALLOWS TRANSIT TO POLISH REFUGEES IN LITHUANIA

WASHINGTON, April 9. (JTA) -- Russia and Lithuania have completed an agreement by which upward of 40,000 Jewish refugees may leave Lithuania through Soviet-occupied Poland and Russia proper, if they can find permanent homes elsewhere, it was learned today.

Lithuania, cooperating with Germany, has completed a census of all refugees within its borders and many have been persuaded to return to Nazi Poland. Few Jews agreed to leave Lithuania to return to Poland, however.

The Lithuanian legation has made representations to the State Department asking that refugees in Lithuania be permitted to enter the United States as soon as possible under present quotas. The Lithuanian Government, in order to facilitate emigration of its refugees, made the agreement with Russia by which Jews may be transported through the Soviet Republic provided they have a destination.

Urgent Need to Evacuate Refugees Seen

WILNO, Lithuania, April 9. (JTA) -- Dr. James Bernstein, European director of the HIAS-ICA Emigration Association, visiting here, said in an interview today that the plight of Polish Jewish refugees in Baltic countries outshadowed the World War refugee tragedy and declared that action to resettle them was urgently necessary.

"I am familiar with war victim tragedies," Dr. Bernstein said. "I saw thousands of them after the Great War, in 1920, 1921 and 1922. Warsaw, Lwow and Bucharest had daily to cope with scores of wanderers. But I feel sure there is no comparison between those and the actual pathetic tragedies and hopeless position of the refugees whom I happened to meet in Riga, Kaunas and especially Wilno.

"In Wilno I met hundreds of people of whom every one formerly occupied a distinguished position in Polish Jewry's social and economic life and who are now uprooted by the war tornado. Whatever may happen to these people, they cannot remain here indefinitely.

"American Jews must not forget that the largest Jewish community in the world, whose leading spiritual importance was denied by nobody, is now destroyed and many thousands, including the best men of Polish Jewry, live in unspeakable misery, without hope, exposed to every danger and misfortune.

"HIAS-ICA headquarters have delegated me to Lithuania and Rumania to get acquainted on the spot with the position and do everything possible to further the work of reuniting separated families. The organizations in this part of Europe affiliated with HIAS-ICA are doing their utmost to improve the tragic position and their services are inestimable.

"The wonderful endeavors and energies of these agencies and their skilful exertions to remove the immense difficulties, of which American Jews do not have the slightest idea, deserve the highest admiration. One of my tasks here is to advise HIAS-ICA representatives on the general position regarding the possibilities and requirements for emigration."

SIMPLE FUNERAL SERVICE HELD FOR ADLER, ATTENDED BY 50 RELATIVES AND ASSOCIATES

PHILADELPHIA, April 9. (JTA) -- A simple private funeral service in the Sephardic tradition, attended only by about 50 relatives, friends and intimate associates, was held at noon today for Dr. Cyrus Adler, who died on Sunday night at the age of 76. The service was held at his home with Rabbi Abraham Neuman of Congregation Mikveh Israel officiating and burial was in the congregation's cemetery.

The service lasted about 20 minutes. There was no eulogy. Newspapermen were not admitted. The simple black coffin was not opened.

The pallbearers, all graduates of the Jewish Theological Seminary, of which Dr. Adler was president, were Rabbis Simon Greenberg, Solomon Grazel, Morris Rubin, Morris Doctor, C. David Matt, Samuel Litis, Maxwell Farber and Max C. Forman.

Relatives attending the funeral included his widow, Mrs. Racie Friedenwald Adler; his daughter, Mrs. Sarah Adler Wolfensohn, and his sister, Mrs. Belle Herzog. (Mrs. Herzog's name was accidentally omitted from the obituary in yesterday's JTA News.)

Further Tributes to Adler

NEW YORK, April 9. (JTA) -- President Solomon Goldman of the Zionist Organization of America made the following statement today: "The officers and members of the Zionist Organization of America record their profound sorrow at the passing of Dr. Cyrus Adler, a great leader in American Israel, whose labors for the Jewish people in many fields of endeavor have won for him the universal esteem and admiration of his fellow men. Dr. Adler has made a lasting contribution to the cause of building the Jewish homeland in Palestine by his advocacy and continuous support of the enlarged Jewish Agency for Palestine. His wise counsel and unflinching help will be sorely missed in the many tasks which still confront the Jewish Agency."

Dr. Stephen S. Wise, president of the American Jewish Congress, sent the following telegram to Dr. Adler's family: "American Jewish Congress offers you its deepest sympathy upon the passing of your distinguished husband, who devoted his life to the service of his people and its spiritual life."

WASHINGTON, April 9. (JTA) -- President Henry Monsky of B'nai B'rith issued the following statement today: "To the world and to his people, the loss of Dr. Cyrus Adler is a bitter blow for today we have need of his mature judgment, his broad learning and rich experience. Dr. Adler was that rare combination of brilliant scholar, successful administrator and willing leader.

"Intimately identified with virtually every worthwhile cause and movement in Jewish life for two generations he had an exemplary career of unselfish and devoted service. He was a tried and tested leader who rendered immeasurable service to humanity and the Jewish people in every crisis that confronted them in his time. B'nai B'rith everywhere mourns the passing of one of the distinguished American Jews."

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LONDON, April 9. (JTA) -- The Times today published a lengthy obituary on Dr. Cyrus Adler, declaring he was "perhaps the most noteworthy American-born Jewish scholar that the new world has yet produced."

The Jewish Agency for Palestine today cabled the American Jewish Committee in New York: "Deeply mourn irreparable loss of Cyrus Adler whose profound Jewish scholarship, love, devotion to his people, dignified courageous leadership of American Jewry, active contribution to work of upbuilding Jewish national home will ensure him permanent place in Jewish history and hearts of Jews. Please convey our deepest sympathy to his family."

Dr. Chaim Weizmann, president of the Agency, sent a personal message of condolence to Dr. Adler's family.

ENDEK ATTACKS JEWISH CONGRESS AT POLISH COUNCIL SESSION

PARIS, April 9. (JTA) -- The Polish National Council at Angers last week heard a bitter attack against the American Jewish Congress delivered by Vice-Chairman Tadeusz Bielecki, who was a leader of the anti-Semitic Endek party in pre-war Poland.

Dr. Bielecki assailed the Congress and its president, Dr. Stephen S. Wise, and Dr. Nahum Goldmann, chairman of the administrative committee of the World Jewish Congress, for speeches they made at the February 10 session of the American Jewish Congress in Washington.

He took particular exception to an address by Dr. Goldmann in which, outlining post-war Jewish policy, Dr. Goldmann urged limitation of sovereignty of certain countries after the war by placing them under control of the League of Nations as a guarantee of better protection for national minorities. Although Dr. Goldmann did not mention Poland or any other country in his speech, but spoke in general terms, Dr. Bielecki interpreted it as aimed at the sovereignty of a restored Poland.

Dr. Bielecki's attack is published in full in the current issue of *Głos Polski*, official organ of the Polish Government-in-exile. Replying to the attack, Dr. Ignacy Schwarzbard, Jewish member of the Council, expressed surprise that Dr. Bielecki had made a parliamentary issue of Dr. Goldmann's speech since it had made no mention of Poland.

1,000-ACRE TRACT CHOSEN FOR HONDURAS REFUGEE PROJECT

NEW YORK, April 9. (JTA) -- A 1,000-acre tract in the Cayo district, in the west-central part of British Honduras, has been selected by Kalman I. Weisz for the refugee industrial project which the firm of Weisz-Budapest intends to establish, the Refugee Economic Corporation, which is granting a loan to finance the project, announced today.

Weisz arrived in Belize, British Honduras, on March 25 to complete arrangements for purchase of the land and construction of houses. As soon as the contracts are concluded, Weisz will return to the United States and shortly afterward will leave for Europe by Clipper.

By the time he has arrived in Europe, preliminary selection of the settlers will have been made under the direction of the general secretary of the Budapest Jewish Community and Dr. James Bernstein, director of the HIAS-ICA Emigration Association. The HIAS-ICA is making arrangements for transportation of the group to Honduras.

The project was hailed by The Daily Clarion of Belize, which said in an editorial on March 28: "....British Honduras has much to gain from the establishment of this settlement and Government should lend its encouragement, taking precautions that settlers who may be dissatisfied cannot drift into the towns in search of work."

NAZIS USE ANTI-SEMITES FOR ESPIONAGE IN NEUTRAL LANDS, PARIS CHARGES

PARIS, April 9. (JTA) -- Agence Radio (French news agency) reported today the existence in Berlin of a special department which conducts espionage activities in neutral countries through anti-Semites.

Contact with the anti-Semites is made through apparently innocuous letters which seek information on the activities of local Jews. Eventually, the anti-Semites are invited to visit the Reich where, upon their arrival, they are given a warm reception.

Many of those who visit Germany in this manner, the agency said, return to their countries with instructions not only on how to improve their anti-Jewish propaganda but also for general espionage activities.

RIGID RULES GOVERN IDENTITY CARDS FOR GERMANS IN NAZI POLAND

AMSTERDAM, April 9. (JTA) -- Details published in the Beuthen Oberschlesischer Kurier about identification cards issued to members of the German race in the Government General of Poland reveal that the prerequisites for obtaining such certificates are more stringent even than the Nuremberg racial laws.

No applicant having a single Jewish grandparent, the paper reports, will be recognized as a German, whereas under the Nuremberg laws "quarter Jews" enjoy political rights if they are not of the Jewish faith. Applicants for the cards must also prove that they have never been connected with any national or cultural Polish organization or movement.

(Continued on reverse side)

BRITISH FARM LEADER HAILS JEWISH REFUGEES' AID

LONDON, April 9. (JTA) -- More than 1,000 Jewish refugees are helping to beat the Nazis by growing food on British farms, an official of the National Farmers' Union declared today.

Refugees make good farm workers and the farmers like them, the official said. "British farm workers take to them, giving them all the help they can. The majority of refugee farm workers are between the ages of 15 and 20 and had begun agricultural training in Germany. But they include also older people, doctors, lawyers, manufacturers and salesmen."

JEWS VISIT HEBRON FOR FIRST TIME IN 5 YEARS

JERUSALEM, April 9. (JTA) -- For the first time since 1935, several hundred Orthodox Jews yesterday went to Hebron, situated in the Arab section of Palestine, to offer prayers at the Cave of Machpela, legendary burial place of the Patriarchs and Matriarchs of Israel. The pilgrims were led by Chief Rabbis Isaac Herzog and Ben-Zion Uziel and the Rabbinical Court.

SUCCESSOR TO NIEMIROWER NAMED FOR BUCHAREST SYNAGOGUE

BUCHAREST, April 9. (JTA) -- A general meeting of the Jewish community today ratified the appointment of Dr. M.A. Halevy as rabbi of the Great Synagogue succeeding the late Dr. Jakob I. Niemirower.

ROTH'S "JEWISH CONTRIBUTIONS TO CIVILIZATION" PUBLISHED

CINCINNATI, April 9. (JTA) -- "The Jewish Contribution to Civilization," by Cecil Roth, English Jewish historian, has just been released by the Union of American Hebrew Congregations. The book covers Jewish contributions to Voyages of Discovery; Letters; Art, Music and Stage; European Thought; Scientific Progress; Medicine; the Economic Sphere; Public Life; and Charity.

RECORDS OF PASSOVER MELODIES ISSUED

NEW YORK, April 9. (JTA) -- Passover melodies, especially recorded for home use by observing Jews, have been issued by the Women's League of the United Synagogue. The series of five melodies were recorded by singers of the Glee Club of the Jewish Theological Seminary with the piano accompaniment for the entire series provided by Rabbi Ira Eisenstein of the Society for the Advancement of Judaism in New York.

PLAN PUBLICATION OF CANTORIAL ANTHOLOGY

NEW YORK, April 9. (JTA) -- The second volume of a cantorial anthology by Gershon Ephros, entitled "Yom Kippur," will be published shortly by Bloch Publishing Co., it was announced today. The 300-page volume will contain selected works by synagogue composers from the 16th century Solomon Rossi to the contemporary Joseph Achron.