

# NEWS

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## JEWISH TELEGRAPHIC AGENCY

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### SENTENCES OF PALESTINE SCHOOL OFFICIALS REDUCED BY ARMY COMMANDER

JERUSALEM, May 7. (JTA) -- The General Officer Commanding today reduced the sentences of seven officials of the Ben Shemen school who had been convicted by a military court of illegal possession of arms, and reversed the sentence of an eighth official.

Dr. Siegfried Lehman, who had been sentenced to seven years imprisonment, was ordered instead to pay a fine of £400. The five-year sentences imposed on Akiba van Hotzker and Dr. Dogoulaisky were reduced to fines of £200 each. Five-year terms of Hanoeh Vardi and Haim Goldstein were reduced to two years each. Israel Frankel's seven-year term was cut to four years and Israel Frankenstein's three-year sentence reduced to one year.

A three-year sentence imposed on David Barzilai was reversed and Barzilai was released.

### THORKELSON'S ANTI-SEMITIC STATEMENTS STIR DISPUTE IN HOUSE

WASHINGTON, May 7. (JTA) -- A heated outbreak between Rep. Adolph Sabath (Dem., Ill.) and Jacob Thorkelson (Rep., Mont.) upset the House today as Sabath charged that certain letters inserted in the Congressional Record yesterday by Thorkelson contained falsehoods.

Thorkelson flooded the Congressional Record with anti-Semitic propaganda yesterday in an attempt to show that a Jewish conspiracy existed to discredit the Christian Front. He succeeded in inserting in the Record, while only eight members were present on the House floor, a speech he delivered to the Christian Mobilizers in New York on March 6.

At noon today Sabath rose to denounce Thorkelson's statements as "false." Rep. Clare Hoffman (Rep., Mich.) came to Thorkelson's defense and said Sabath was violating House rules by making such charges against a fellow member. Sabath agreed to withdraw the word "false" from the Record, but Rep. Taber (Rep., N.Y.) insisted that Sabath withdraw his whole statement concerning Thorkelson.

Sabath agreed to do so, but not until after he had promised to prove that the Thorkelson letter inserted in the Record yesterday, as well as others placed in the Record by Thorkelson, were falsehoods at a later date. Thorkelson directed his attack largely at the Non-Sectarian Anti-Nazi League.

BROOKLYN POSTMASTER ACTS TO BLOCK ANTI-SEMITIC POSTAL WORKERS' GROUP

NEW YORK, May 7. (JTA) -- An attempt to establish an anti-Semitic organization of Brooklyn postal workers has been uncovered in its early stages with the result that it has probably been frustrated, Frank J. Quayle Jr., Brooklyn Postmaster, told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency today.

About six weeks ago a few postal workers began approaching others with a proposal to form an association excluding Jews, Quayle said. The move was brought to his notice promptly, he said, and he denounced it as un-American in addresses at two meetings of postal employes. The first occasion was the annual convocation of Jewish postal workers at the Brooklyn Jewish Center, April 12, when Quayle said, he announced that "such an organization will not be permitted." The second was at the annual communion breakfast of the Post Office Holy Name Society at the Hotel St. George, when he declared: "I am quite sure those of us who are members of the Catholic faith, particularly of the Holy Name Society, under no circumstances would countenance a move of that kind."

There are 4,200 Post Office Department employes in Brooklyn, of whom 1,400 are Jews. The number of persons involved in the scheme was "apparently negligible," Quayle said, and no overt anti-Semitic incidents have occurred in the Brooklyn postal organization. He said he did not know whether the organizers had any affiliation with outside anti-Semitic groups.

Postmaster Albert Goldman of New York said that no such situation exists in his jurisdiction.

METHODISTS HIT ANTI-SEMITISM AS 'RALLYING CRY OF UN-AMERICAN FORCES'

ATLANTIC CITY, N.J., May 7. (JTA) -- The first general conference of the Methodist Church yesterday adopted a resolution condemning anti-Semitism as "un-Christian" and as a rallying cry for essentially un-American forces. The resolution said that anti-Semitism was "widespread in the United States," but asserted that "a denomination of 8,000,000 can stand as a bulwark against the racial hatred now manifested in anti-Semitism."

"Anti-Semitism is one of the banners around which the anti-democratic forces are being rallied in the United States," the report said. "We therefore call upon our fellow Christians and our church organizations to expose the un-Christian character of this propaganda, its nature and its source, from pulpit and platform and on the air, in printed matter and by passage of resolutions."

CARTOON DEPICTING HITLER'S CRUSHING OF MINORITIES GETS PULITZER PRIZE

NEW YORK, May 7. (JTA) -- Edmund Duffy of the Baltimore Sun yesterday was awarded the Pulitzer Prize for the distinguished cartoon of 1939 for his cartoon "The Outstretched Hand," which depicted Hitler standing in smoking ruins about a group of smaller figures, "Minorities," and stretching to them a hand dripping with blood labelled "Peace Offer" while holding in the other hand crumpled papers entitled "Broken Promises."

REPORTS HERE CONFIRM PERSECUTION OF JEWS IN SPAIN

NEW YORK, May 7. (JTA) -- The 1,000 Jews who remain in Barcelona under the Franco regime have been subjected to complete throttling of their religious life, according to first-hand accounts given to the J.T.A. today by travellers arriving from the Spanish seaport. Their accounts confirmed previous reports by the J.T.A. from Geneva (See JTA News April 21) and from Santiago, Chile, (JTA News April 2) regarding the situation of the Jews in the Catalonian capital.

The city's one synagogue has been closed, Jewish worship prohibited, Jewish marriage, circumcision and burial banned, and Jewish children required to attend Catholic religious instruction in the schools or go without schooling, according to these eyewitnesses. Driven by fear, some Jews have become converts to Catholicism, they added.

The persecution is entirely religious, or at least was so up to the time the J.T.A. informants left Spain, they said. All republican sympathizers among Barcelona Jews left the city before it fell to the Franco forces, they said, and those who remained were mostly merchants, generally prosperous, and many of them Franco sympathizers who felt they had nothing to fear from the new regime.

Nevertheless, the J.T.A. informants related, immediately after the Franco forces took the city their police chief ordered the synagogue closed and locked, and took possession of the keys. Appeals to the military and civil governors to reopen the house of worship have been fruitless, they said. Vandals entered the locked synagogue, they added, defiled it, tore up the Scrolls of the Law and holy books and strewed them on the floor, and stole silver ornaments.

The Jewish cemetery, which adjoins a Catholic cemetery, was closed to Jews, they said, and Catholics were required to bury their dead there although the land is, by Catholic tenets, unconsecrated. Jews are required to use a Protestant cemetery.

GERMANS TO GET HOMES OF 2,000,000 IN "ANNEXED POLAND," PARIS HEARS

PARIS, May 7. (JTA) -- The monthly Revue de Paris, in an article by Stefan Wlocewski, reports that the homes of 2,000,000 Poles and Jews driven from "incorporated Poland" will be distributed to Germans from the Baltic, the South Tyrol, from overpopulated German agricultural districts and from the evacuated Western Front area. The settlers from western Germany have already made their appearance in Gniezno, whose former population has been interned in concentration camps, the writer says.

According to the articles, the Polish "Gouvernement General" is destined "to serve as a jail for the population which was emptied out of the annexed territories," and the people will be transformed into "a mass of ruined, starved, terrorized individuals who--driven mad and undermined by illness and privation--are driven to despair and finally to death."

The article quotes a circular letter of Governor-General Hans Frank, dated Feb. 12, authorizing confiscation of food for German troops and limiting the bulk of the Polish population to "a strict minimum" of food for the duration of the scarcity.

Paris newspapers reported today that during the week ending May 5, Germans in Poland were allotted five eggs, Poles three and no indication was given of whether Jews received egg rations. A Nazi decree prohibited sale of butter and margarine to Poles between May 6 and 12.

#### PERLZWEIG STRESSES ROLE OF U.S. JEWS IN PEACE SETTLEMENT

LONDON, May 7. (JTA) -- The Rev. Maurice L. Perlzweig, chairman of the British section of the World Jewish Congress, recently returned from a tour of the United States, urged in an article in The Zionist Review today that American Jews be given partnership in the leadership of the Jewish people during the common struggle for Jewish rights.

Despite differences on many things, American Jews are as one in demanding that Jewish preparations for the eventual peace conference must not be made without the cooperation of Americans, Perlzweig said.

He declared that American Jews would play a greater part than it did after the last war, "not only because its number and influence will entitle it to do so, but because, not being hidebound by convention, it will be able without difficulty to adapt its communal machinery and political strategy to the new situation."

Praising the Americans' "superabundance of youth, life and vision," Perlzweig said that "American Jewry boasts as great a group of leading personalities as any in the world. Brandeis and Frankfurter exercise an influence in the life of America which is not surpassed by Jewish statesmen anywhere. Great Jewish thinkers and scientists--it is necessary only to mention Einstein--gravitate increasingly towards America. Great Jewish writers and interpreters of Jewish life--Sholem Asch is a conspicuous example--feel themselves at home in America. And of all men who have devoted themselves to service of the Jewish cause there is none that makes a more powerful appeal to the public mind than Stephen Wise."

#### BRITISH CATHOLIC PAPER URGES CURB ON FASCIST ANTI-SEMITISM

LONDON, May 7. (JTA) -- The Catholic Times today urged that the "restraining force of law" be invoked against Fascist elements representing the war as a "Jewish war."

"We have no doubt," the newspaper said, "that many Jews are longing for the humiliation of Hitler and the Nazis. They may even have tried to help to get this started, but the fact that their desires coincide with our intentions does not mean that this is just a Jewish war."

Robin Britnell, 17-year-old Fascist, has been sentenced to pay damages of £10 or serve 31 days in jail for poking a flag which he was carrying in a Fascist procession through the window of a Jewish shop.

#### LANSBURY, DEAD AT 81, SAW ECONOMIC CONDITIONS AT ROOT OF ANTI-SEMITISM

LONDON, May 7. (JTA) -- George Lansbury, noted British pacifist, who died tonight at the age of 81, had expressed the belief that economic conditions were at the root of anti-Semitism. He had advocated loans to Poland and other countries for economic development which, he believed, would check anti-Semitism. He had also urged the establishment of a large international colony to absorb European emigrants. In 1933, Lansbury headed the United Polish Appeal's special campaign for Jewish deportees from Germany.

(Continued on reverse side)

#### WOMEN'S ORT CONVENTION STRESSES REFUGEE AID THROUGH RETRAINING

NEW YORK, May 7. (JTA) -- Aid to refugees and poverty-stricken Jews of Europe through rehabilitation and retraining is being stressed by the Women's American ORT, holding its first annual convention at the Hotel Astor, attended by 800 delegates.

Last night, Stanley M. Isaacs, Borough President of Manhattan, likened the work of the organization, in furthering the training of skilled workers in their trades, to the work of the WPA in keeping skilled workers employed in their crafts. Edgar Salinger, chairman of the ORT Plan and Scope Committee and a director of the National Refugee Service, envisioned the establishment of ORT workshops and training schools on this side of the Atlantic, where new immigrants could be trained in non-competitive fields of labor.

#### SEEK \$500,000 FOR REFUGEE EMIGRATION TO PALESTINE

NEW YORK, May 7. (JTA) -- A nation-wide effort to raise immediately \$500,000 has been launched here to finance the large-scale immigration of approximately 60,000 Jewish refugees from several Danubian ports to Palestine, it was announced today by the Tel Hai Fund Inc., of which Vladimir Jabotinsky is World President. The campaign will be known as the "Refugee Rescue Drive" and will be directed by A. Ralph Steinberg.

#### RELIGIOUS FREEDOM TO BE STRESSED AS WORLD'S FAIR REOPENS SATURDAY

NEW YORK, May 7. (JTA) -- Elaborate inaugural ceremonies Saturday at the Temple of Religion at the New York World's Fair 1940 will stress peace and freedom. Representatives of the Catholic, Protestant and Jewish faiths will participate in the opening day ceremony at the Temple of Religion. More than 2,000 guests will attend at the invitation of President William Church Osborn and the board of directors of the Temple of Religion, Inc. Osborn issued a statement stressing the importance of religious freedom.

#### JUSTICE MAY HEADS HIS CAMPAIGN

NEW YORK, May 7. (JTA) -- Justice Mitchell May of the New York State Supreme Court has been named chairman of the \$1,000,000 campaign of the Hebrew Sheltering and Immigrant Aid Society to implement its "Rescue Through Emigration" program of service to emigrants and refugees from the European war zone, President Abraham Herman announced today.

#### PAN-AMERICAN JEWISH CONFERENCE PLANNED

BUENOS AIRES, May 7. (JTA) -- A commission to prepare for a Pan-American Jewish conference in 1940 was selected today at the annual meeting of the Delegation of Argentine Jewish Associations, central representative Jewish body in Argentina. The commission will consult with Jewish communities in other American countries.

#### FORMER NAZI CONSUL IN U.S. SENT TO SLOVAKIA

PARIS, May 7. (JTA) -- The newspaper Paris-Soir repeated today that Baron Manfred von Killinger, former German consul in San Francisco, has been sent to Bratislava to assist the German Minister to Slovakia in the capacity of "specialist." Baron von Killinger has been linked with the assassination of Walther Rathenau, German Foreign Minister during the Republican regime.