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JEWISH TELEGRAPHIC AGENCY

1560 BROADWAY, N.Y.C.

VOL. VII. NO. 31

Sunday, May 12, 1940.

NAZI INVASION TRAPS THOUSANDS OF REFUGEES IN LOW COUNTRIES

LONDON, May 10. (JTA) -- Great anxiety was expressed here today over the fate of German-Jewish refugees interned at Camp Drente in the Dutch-German frontier town of Westerbork.

Efforts to learn from Amsterdam whether there had been time to evacuate the camp before the German invasion have been unavailing. It had been understood that the Dutch authorities would evacuate the camp as soon as it was found necessary to evacuate the civilian population from the district. According to unconfirmed reports published here, the Nazi invaders have penetrated the district in which the camp is located.

In Luxemburg, which has been occupied by the Nazis, the position of the few hundred Jewish refugees there must be considered desperate, while the local Jewish community of 3,000 is entirely at the mercy of the Germans.

Holland has 25,000 refugees from the Reich and Belgium has 14,000, whose position is precarious. Efforts are expected here to evacuate as many as possible from the immediate war zones. The Youth Aliyah (immigration) movement is trying to rush transportation of 150 children now in Holland.

Holland's native Jewish community totals 150,000, residing mainly in large cities which are Nazi bombing targets. The 70,000 Jews in Belgium are similarly distributed.

Escape Chances Held Slim

WASHINGTON, May 10. (JTA) -- The chances of the trapped refugees escaping the Nazi invasion of the low countries were regarded by State Department officials today as non-existent barring a swift Nazi victory.

Some Government officials were bitterly disappointed at the delay in effecting the evacuation of refugees from neutral countries of refuge. Six months ago the Inter-governmental Refugee Committee recommended the speediest possible evacuation of refugees from the small neutral nations.

Included among those trapped in Belgium and Holland are several hundred refugees who had hoped to find homes in the Dominican Republic settlement and whose path to safety is now blocked.

267,000 Jews in Invaded Lands; Refugees Put at 44,500

NEW YORK, May 10. (JTA) -- There are 267,000 Jews, including 44,500 refugees, in the three countries invaded by Germany today, according to figures obtained from the Joint Distribution Committee. These figures, based on Jan. 1 statistics, give the distribution as follows:

	<u>Resident Jews</u>	<u>Refugees</u>
Belgium	70,000	23,000
Netherlands	150,000	21,000
Luxemburg	2,500	500
Total	222,500	44,500

In Switzerland, there are 18,000 local Jews and another 18,000 German refugees.

Several thousand of the refugees in Belgium and the Netherlands are interned in camps. These camps and their populations, according to latest available figures, are as follows:

<u>Belgium</u>	<u>Netherlands</u>
Merxplas.....600	Oostelijke-Handelskade (Amsterdam)...123
Wortel.....200	Koninginnehoofd (Rotterdam)..... 94
Marneffe.....500	Westerbork.....331
Marchin.....150	Hook-of-Holland.....318
Eksaerd.....150	(According to recent reports, this
Areppor.....200	camp was being liquidated and its
	inhabitants being moved to Westerbork.)

These camps do not include the youth training farms, such as Wieringen, on territory reclaimed from the Zuyder Zee, where there were approximately 200 young refugees.

FINLAND OPENS DOORS TO JEWISH REFUGEES FROM NORWAY, DENMARK

LONDON, May 10. (JTA) -- The Finnish Government was reported today to have opened its frontiers to Jewish refugees from Norway and Denmark and to be particularly eager to admit Jewish doctors, dentists, engineers and skilled artisans. Refugees from Norway state that most of the Jewish homes in Bergen were destroyed by bombardment or requisitioned by Nazi soldiers.

At the same time, the secret broadcasting station of the German opposition, "Freedom Station," reported that the Nazis were introducing anti-Jewish measures in Denmark. The Gestapo has appointed a special commission to prepare introduction of racial laws in Scandinavian territories, the broadcast said.

Meanwhile, the Nazi occupation authorities have already forbidden Danish Jews to engage in banking and the jewelry business. Prohibition of mixed marriages and segregation of Jewish from non-Jewish children are expected shortly.

Thus far the Nazis have not yet permitted youths training in Denmark for agricultural settlement in Palestine to leave the country. Letters received by relatives

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in Holland indicate that the youths expect the training farms to be allowed to continue functioning.

Despite an avalanche of anti-Jewish incitement by the Nazi-controlled papers in Denmark, the Danes are rejecting the propaganda as they are everything else advocated by the Nazis. It is reported that the relationship between Danes and Jews has never been better.

POLISH LEADERS SEEK VIEWS OF JEWISH GROUPS ON FUTURE STATUS IN POLAND

LONDON, May 10. (JTA) -- Polish authorities are anxious to ascertain the views of responsible Jewish organizations the world over regarding the future of the Jews in Poland following restoration of the Polish State, it was understood here today.

The use of the term "negotiations" in connection with conversations between representatives of the Polish Government and responsible Jewish organizations is "obviously out of place" in regard to such questions as evacuation of "surplus" Jewish population, it was learned from authoritative Jewish quarters.

While the Angers Government has made no official statement of policy on the question, the subject of reduction of "surplus" Jewish population, it is understood, has been raised informally in Polish Government circles.

(Count Jerzy Potocki, Polish Ambassador in Washington, replying to a protest by the American Jewish Congress against the revival of the Jewish emigration issue, said: "I am not aware of any such negotiations which you mention.")

The Jewish view, which has been made clear on numerous occasions, it is pointed out here, is that the Jews of Poland should enjoy the same status as all other of the State. This equality of status would, it is emphasized, preclude consideration of a section of the Jewish population as "surplus" and responsible representatives of the Jewish community could not consider any proposals derogating from full equality for Jewish citizens.

Polish Jewish circles, which have been keenly disappointed by the Polish Government's failure so far to issue an official declaration of policy pledging full equality for the Jews in Poland, are disturbed by the raising of the evacuation issue by official quarters. Polish Jewish circles report attempts to secure Jewish approval of a policy providing for Jewish emigration from Polish territories.

Meanwhile the Jewish Chronicle reports the likelihood that a Zionist-Revisionist will be added to the Polish National Council "in view of the fact that the Revisionists are believed willing to support a policy of Jewish emigration which is favored by the Polish Cabinet, to whom a solution of the Jewish problem lies still, as it was thought to be under Col. (Josef) Beck and company, in getting rid of the Jews."

Reporting that the Jewish question had been lengthily discussed in last week's Cabinet meeting, the Chronicle states that it was decided to leave in abeyance for the time being the question of taking an open, clear attitude with regard to the Jews and try to deal with the problem slowly.

The paper further reports that the Cabinet had sent out a number of trustworthy representatives to put out feelers and approach various Jewish bodies in France, England

and the United States with a view to obtain information on their attitude and to try to establish contacts between these bodies and Polish official circles.

FINKELSTEIN NAMED TO ROOSEVELT'S INTERFAITH PEACE COMMITTEE

WASHINGTON, May 10. (JTA) -- While no official announcement will be forthcoming from the White House, the appointment of Prof. Louis Finkelstein, president of the Jewish Theological Seminary, to replace the late Dr. Cyrus Adler on the President's interfaith peace committee, is nevertheless certain.

Prof. Finkelstein was offered the post yesterday and verbally accepted. At the conclusion of his conference with the President he declined to comment pending the receipt of a letter from the White House.

(At the Jewish Theological Seminary it was stated that the expected letter from the White House had not yet been received.)

ALLIES REJECTED AGENCY'S OFFER OF MILITARY UNIT. SHERTOK TELLS PRESS PARLEY

JERUSALEM, May 10. (JTA) -- The Allies rejected an offer by the Jewish Agency for Palestine to provide a Jewish military unit and to organize Palestine Jewish industrial resources on a war basis, a press conference was told today by Moshe Shertok, head of the Agency's political department. Despite the rejection, Shertok said, the Agency had nevertheless assisted in recruiting a number of Jews for British technical units but declined the responsibility of advising Jews to enter a Palestine labor corps as a form of assistance incompatible with the Jewish position as a people.

2 'FRONTISTS' FREED OF SEDITION CHARGES AS DEFENSE OPENS CASE

NEW YORK, May 10. (JTA) -- Charges against two of the 16 defendants in the seditious conspiracy trial in Brooklyn Federal Court were dismissed today by Judge Marcus B. Campbell on defense counsel's motions. Those released are George Kelly, 24, and Edward Walsh, 23. Judge Campbell made the announcement after listening to arguments on the motions, which followed the resting of the Government's case yesterday.

Replying to an argument by counsel for Defendant John T. Prout Jr. that the defendants had merely discussed the overthrow of the Communists if they gained control of the Government, Judge Campbell said: "You may overthrow a Government by direct or indirect action, but you must remember the defendant William Gerald Bishop said in his statement that the scheme was to incite the Communists to revolt and then take over the Government. It has the same effect as a direct action. It's overthrowing the Government, no matter what the forces employed are."

This afternoon the defense case began its case, with Captain Prout as the first witness.

50 FAMILIES TO BE SETTLED AS FARM WORKERS ON ISLAND IN SOUTH CHILE

SANTIAGO, CHILE, May 10. (JTA) -- Preparations to colonize 50 Jewish refugee families on the Isle of Chiloe in South Chile have been completed, according to Leon Arensburg, director of the Colonisation Committee of the Circulo Israelita of Chile, which is sponsoring the project. The settlers, most of whom have had agricultural training, have already been selected. They will leave for South Chile in the middle of May.