

# NEWS

*from all over the world*

*by the*

## JEWISH TELEGRAPHIC AGENCY

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### PALESTINE BEGINS CONTROL OF SOME COMMODITIES; AIR RAID PRECAUTIONS PRESSED

JERUSALEM, June 4. (JTA) -- No rationing scheme is expected to be introduced in Palestine for the present, it was stated in reliable quarters today as the Government and private agencies pressed emergency preparations to cope with possible spread of the European conflict to the Near East.

The deputy controller of supplies in the Jerusalem district has, however, taken preliminary measures enabling control of distribution of commodities, supplies of which may become limited at any time. Retailers of flour, butter, sugar, rice, butter substitutes and edible oils and fats have had to register the names of the wholesalers from whom they obtain their supplies. Should rationing of any of the listed commodities become necessary, the retailers will have to obtain their supplies from the wholesalers with whom they have registered.

Preparation of the Palestine civilian population to meet any contingencies is proceeding rapidly. A Haifa local committee has been established to deal with evacuation should that measure become necessary. The Tel Aviv municipality has set up a committee for the same purpose. It is understood that almost half of the Tel Aviv civilians would be evacuated to Jerusalem, while the Haifa population would be distributed in the Jezreel Valley.

The Haifa Town Planning Committee has approved a scheme for construction of Air Raid Precautions (A.R.P.) shelters. With the assistance of the district administration, a Haifa firm has imported more than 10,000 gas masks. Young Jewish men and women in Jerusalem have volunteered in large numbers for A.R.P. duties. A number of instruction courses have been arranged.

A report has just been issued by the Jewish Agency on its A.R.P. activities. A Haifa lawyer has been sent by the Agency to study the art of anti-gas measures. Volunteer A.R.P. societies have been established in Jerusalem and Haifa and are working in close cooperation with the Red Mogen David (Jewish Red Cross) and volunteer fire brigades.

The Tel Aviv municipality assigned £76,000 for the city's defense.

The Government arranged special lessons in schools to instruct pupils in air raid precautions.

Large Land Tract Acquired

JERUSALEM, June 4. (JTA) -- The Jewish National Fund announced today its largest single acquisition since the Palestine land restriction ordinance--2,800 dunams in the "free zone," connecting Emek Hefer and Hedera.

The tract forms the head of a bridge between two areas, 30,000 and 27,000 dunams, and includes a small harbor used by the Crusaders. The land will be used for maritime and semi-urban development, including fisheries and coastal resorts.

The recently ended citrus season saw exports cut to 7,547,402 cases from last season's total of 14,490,053 cases. The sharp drop is directly attributable to the war, which has both reduced the number of outlets and limited the tonnage available for shipment.

Meanwhile, oblivious to grim war preparations going on all around them, a group of Jews and Arabs began fishing operations on the beach of Caesarea. The fishermen, who come from the Haifa Bay area, are being aided by Yugoslavian experts brought here by the Jewish Agency for Palestine. The first results of their fishing with nets was described as satisfactory.

HUNGARY BARS PASSAGE OF JEWISH EMIGRE GROUPS TO STOP REFUGEE SMUGGLING

BUDAPEST, June 4. (JTA) -- The Hungarian Government, it was learned today, has just passed a decree prohibiting group migration of Jews from or through Hungarian territory or waters. The purpose of the new law, which is acclaimed by the local Jewish community, is to put a stop to smuggling of Jewish refugees down the Danube to the Black Sea, where they are being dumped without resources and without possibility of further emigration. ✓

The Greek Government passed a similar law against refugee smuggling several weeks ago and other Balkan countries are expected soon to follow suit.

Since the start of the war, when it became next to impossible for Jewish refugees to obtain transit visas from Balkan countries, certain shipping organizations have been demanding fantastic sums from Jews in Slovakia and the Protectorate in return for promises to smuggle them into Palestine.

These clandestine shipping agents, many of whom are understood to be Greek subjects, took thousands of Jews down the Danube on barges and steamboats and barges and then dumped them in Bulgarian or Yugoslav ports without funds and without visas, instead of carrying them to Palestine as promised.

This illegal traffic in human contraband has done untold damage to the Jewish cause in the Balkans, to say nothing of the suffering it caused the individual refugees who have been the victims of the racket.

The Yugoslav Government a few days ago ordered the return of several hundred Jewish refugees to Slovakia. They were discovered on board a steamer tied up in a lower Danube port and were interned when the leader of the group was unable to prove that they had visas.

Another group of refugees numbering almost 1,000 is stranded in the Yugoslav port of Kladovo, where its members are suffering great privations. The Yugoslav author-

ities have detained them in a concentration camp pending their return to Slovakia and the Protectorate, but to date the Slovakian Government has refused to readmit them. What disposition will ultimately be made of these unfortunates is not yet known but it is certain they will not be allowed to proceed to Palestine as they expected.

Another group of refugees from the protectorate is interned in Bratislava, Slovakia. They arrived there two months ago after paying for passage down the Danube to a certain Black Sea port. But their passage never materialized and they were detained by the Slovakian police. They are living under the most difficult conditions, since the Slovakian Government provides them with very little food and the once wealthy Jewish community of Bratislava is now so impoverished that it cannot afford to give them any assistance.

#### ENTRY BUREAU TO BE SHIFTED JUNE 14; PLAN COORDINATING DRIVE ON 5TH COLUMN

WASHINGTON, June 4. (JTA) -- President Roosevelt today signed the Congress-approved order transferring the Bureau of Immigration and Naturalization from the Labor to the Justice Department on June 14.

Federal Bureau of Investigation Agents will hold regular conferences with intelligence units of the Army, Navy and State Department to integrate the work of running down fifth columnists, it was announced today.

The Government is particularly disturbed by reports that a violently pro-Nazi and anti-Semitic newspaper, Diario Aleman, has begun publication in Mexico City, intensifying apprehension of Nazi activities in that country prior to the July election.

#### Writer Sees Fifth Column Entrenched Here

NEW YORK, June 4. (JTA) -- The New York World-Telegram today began publication of a series of articles on fifth column activities in the United States in which the writer, George Britt, asserts that a Nazi fifth column "at this moment is strategically occupying vital points throughout United States territory."

The article declares that the fifth column is "camouflaged, vigorously sniping at American interests and adding recruits to its strength." The aim, Britt says, is to help Hitler win the war "and after that the next step is to help him dominate this hemisphere."

#### 500 REFUGEES ORDERED TO LEAVE EGYPT

NEW YORK, June 4. (JTA) -- The Associated Press reports from Alexandria that 500 German refugees, mostly Jews, who have enjoyed full liberty in Egypt since the outbreak of the war, have been ordered to leave the country within eight days or be interned.

#### BOMBING OF PARIS SEEN "IN CHARACTER" WITH NAZI ACTS AGAINST JEWS

NEW YORK, June 4. (JTA) -- The World-Telegram declared editorially today that the German aerial bombardment of Paris was "in character," recalling "the unspeakable reprisals against German Jews for the mad misstep of one Jewish boy" and other events in Nazi history.

BORDEAUX CROWDED WITH REFUGEES; JEWISH GROUPS PLAN EMERGENCY OFFICES

BORDEAUX, France, June 4. (JTA) -- This Atlantic seaport, not far from the Spanish frontier, is the center of thousands of Jewish refugees from Belgium and evacuees from France, as well as thousands of non-Jewish French and Belgian refugees. As a result, the city looks like a huge camp.

The influx has resulted in severe overcrowding. The Jewish community is trying its best to give shelter to arriving Jewish refugees. Individual Jews are taking refugees into their homes, converting parlors into sleeping quarters. Nevertheless, many are still unable to find lodgings and some sleep in any public building to which they can gain entrance for the night.

Central Jewish organizations in Paris have reserved offices here to be used in case of emergency. These organizations include the Joint Distribution Committee, the HIAS-ICA Emigration Association, the Jewish Colonization Association, the World Jewish Congress and the French Federation of Jewish Societies.

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Consistory Asks Aid for All Refugees

PARIS, June 4. (JTA) -- An appeal to French Jews to aid all refugees, regardless of creed or origin, was issued today by the Israelite Consistory in its organ, *Univers Israelite*. Expressing sympathy with refugees from the French northern and eastern provinces, as well as those from Belgium and Luxemburg, the appeal states:

"Israel, which has many times before been submitted to the trial of evil, has deep sympathy with all human beings brutally uprooted and driven away from their native soil. Although for French Jewry these sufferings are a matter of the distant past, we have seen our coreligionists in eastern and central Europe endure them only recently and we understand the desolation which could befall the souls of hundreds of thousands of refugees had they not been comforted with quick aid.

"France is by tradition a country of asylum. From the beginning of the catastrophe generous initiative has been taken and work done in order to alleviate the plight of the unfortunates who left their homes and positions and many of whom even lost on the road the meager luggage which they took along in their hurried exodus. Their children are hungry; the old people and sick people have no blankets.

"Everybody must do his duty to help and assist, to facilitate their provisional establishment on this soil. Every one of us must remember his people facing danger at the front and consider that in helping the refugees he helps to preserve the humanitarian values for which the others give their lives on the battlefield.

"French Jewry, to whose generosity no appeal was ever made in vain, will wholeheartedly fulfill its duty of hospitality and solidarity towards all the victims of the invasion."

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Gottschalk Safe in France

PARIS, June 4. (JTA) -- Max Gottschalk, prominent Belgian Jewish leader, who had not been heard from since the German invasion of Belgium, has reached French soil, it was learned here today by the HIAS-ICA Emigration Association, of which he is president. Gottschalk is an officer in a Belgian force which retreated into France.

(Continued on reverse side)

INTERFAITH PARLEY SEES SOLVING JOB PROBLEM AS FACTOR IN DEFENDING DEMOCRACY

WASHINGTON, June 4. (JTA) -- Dedicated to the solution of the unemployment problem as a basic factor in making democracy work, Jewish, Catholic and Protestant leaders convened in Washington today in the Interfaith Conference on Unemployment and heard outstanding leaders in Government and religion call for a "united will" to put men back to work.

Jewish groups represented were the Social Justice Committee of the Rabbinical Assembly of America and the Social Justice Commission of the Central Conference of American Rabbis. Rabbis Edward L. Israel, Baltimore, and Samuel H. Goldenson, New York, participated in the discussion.

America has nine million unemployed, it was estimated by Dr. Leonard Kuvin, of the National Industrial Conference Board. He estimated that business would have to be stepped up 45 per cent above present levels to absorb all the unemployed. He said it could be done under the present system, "which is the basis of tolerance, democracy, liberty and freedom."

Arthur Dunn, president of the "Realists' Group," organized last September as a protest against the Neville Chamberlain type of "wishful thinking," said of Hitler: "He is the world's greatest industrialist--the premier manufacturer of death and the most successful butcher of all times." He said that without "wishful thinkers" mass murder by Hitler could not have been."

Dunn said: "The majority of those sponsoring the interfaith conference claim to be Christian. They call the United States a Christian country. And almost the last words of Christ were, 'Go ye unto all nations.' Christ was no isolationist and if we ever meet him face to face we will have a hard time explaining why, until our own hides were threatened, we fail to give any real help to our unfortunate brothers in other lands."

Rabbi Goldenson called unemployment the supreme indictment of our intelligence and common sense and said unemployment was "not unrelated" to the tragedies in Europe. "For many the cause of war is certainly the circumstance that vast numbers of men during the last generation or so have been unable to find gainful occupation. The effect of unemployment has been to create in every country large armies of dissatisfied, troubled, discontented, disgruntled men and women. These unhappy persons have naturally become resentful of and rebellious against the status quo."

MONTREAL JEW HONORED IN BRITAIN FOR AIR EXPLOITS

MONTREAL, June 4. (JTA) -- A young Montreal Jew, William Henry Nelson, was among a group of Canadian and British airmen who were honored on Saturday for heroic exploits in the war, it was learned here today.

Nelson, who is 22 and has been with the Royal Air Force since 1936, was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross. Leader of a bombing squadron of five ships, he has been twice personally congratulated by King George for his role in raids on Sylt and Stavanger. Nelson's father is a Montreal life insurance agent.