

NEWS

from all over the world



JEWISH TELEGRAPHIC AGENCY

1560 BROADWAY, N.Y.C.

VOL. VII. NO. 82.

Sunday, July 14, 1940.

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The situation paralleled the one that arose in Poland after the German occupation when the American Red Cross refused to distribute supplies in the stricken area until it could obtain American supervision, in order to ensure impartial and non-sectarian issuance of the supplies.

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Henceforth any person desiring to leave Nazi-occupied areas either by way of the Franco-Spanish border or one of the Nazi-controlled French harbors must report with his passport and French exit visas to the local Nazi authorities and obtain a special exit visa from the German occupation forces.

This measure, added to the fact that the Spanish frontier with unoccupied France is closed, has trapped all those who still hoped to escape from Nazified France, particularly Jews and refugees from the Reich.

A report received here by the HIAS-ICA Emigration Association from Bordeaux expresses doubt whether Jewish organizations in France will be permitted to continue their activities in a manner corresponding to the pre-occupation period.

The report emphasizes that starvation is growing among the thousands of Jews who fled from various parts of France to Bordeaux, especially from Paris, in the belief that the Nazis would not reach Bordeaux. Among those said to be starving are many who left fortunes in Paris but are afraid to return, fearing they would be denounced to the Nazis as Jews or for anti-Nazi activities.

In a similar plight are about 1,000 non-Jewish political refugees who are still in Bordeaux despite the French order that every French refugee return to his home.

Jewish relief organizations here estimated, meanwhile, that hardly one per cent of the 450,000 Jews in France have succeeded in leaving the country. Of the estimated 2,000 Jews who were fortunate enough to cross into Portugal through Spain, or who found their way to England, the majority are of the richer class. Of the Jews who remained in France the majority are in the unoccupied areas but are affected by the order of the French authorities to return to their homes in the occupied zones.

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It was explained officially that following the registration some "reactionary bodies" voluntarily discontinued their activities while others were closed by order of the Interior Ministry.

Closed newspapers included Lithuanian, Polish, Russian and Jewish, the last including the daily Wort and the weekly Moment. Among the Zionist organizations shut down was the Palestine Office, organization that facilitated emigration to Palestine.

On the other hand, the Wilno Jewish Community and all "progressive" Jewish organizations are continuing their activities.

The entire population is actively preparing for the general elections to the Sejm (lower house of Parliament) scheduled for July 14. One of the major electoral issues is a fight against chauvinism and race hatred. Jews are among the candidates in various districts, while the former Sejm did not have a single Jewish member.

The franchise has been extended to all inhabitants of the country aged 21 and over, including those living in the Wilno region, formerly part of Poland, provided they resided on Lithuanian territory on Sept. 1, 1939. Under the former electoral ordinance nearly half of the Wilno population had been disfranchised.

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Officers are: president, Jacob Blaustein, of Baltimore, director of Pan-American Petroleum and Transport Co.; vice-presidents; George Backer, publisher of the New York Post, and Harold K. Guinzburg, president of Viking Press; secretary and managing director, Jacob Landau; chairman of the board of directors, Herbert Bayard Swope, former executive editor of the New York World; vice-chairman of the board, William Allen White, publisher of The Emporia Gazette.

Members of the board, who include representatives of the three leading religious denominations, are Dr. Frank Aydelotte, ex-president of Swarthmore College and head of the Institute for Advanced Studies, Princeton; the Rev. Father Robert I. Gannon, president, Fordham University; John Francis Neylan, of San Francisco; William Jay Schieffelin; Prof. James T. Shotwell, of Columbia University; Dr. Abba Hillel Silver, of Cleveland, and Hendrik Willem van Loon, the author.

Although an outgrowth of the long-established Jewish Telegraphic Agency, the O.N.A. will be general in scope and wholly separate from the J.T.A., which will continue to function. Brought into being by a need of which the J.T.A. covered only a small section, the O.N.A. will concern itself primarily with covering the tribulations and triumphs of minorities, reporting all important developments affecting their national, political and religious life.

It will cover accurately and objectively the type of news which today, because of the pressure of spot war news, is either crowded out or forgotten. It will in no sense attempt to compete with existing news services, to which it will regard itself as supplementary. It will devote itself exclusively to reporting facts. It will indulge in no propaganda, preach no theory or philosophy.

Offices of the O.N.A. have been established at 165 West 46th Street.

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NEW YORK, July 12. (JTA) -- The Jewish Theological Seminary today announced establishment of the National Academy for Adult Jewish Studies, with the stated aim of creating a more informed Jewish laity which will recognize the vast significance of religious traditions for the preservation of liberty in our time.

Dr. Israel M. Goldman, rabbi of Temple Emanuel, Providence, will be national director. Dr. Louis Finkelstein, president of the Seminary, will be president of the Academy. In a statement issued after the organization meeting of the Board of Governors, Dr. Finkelstein said:

"The National Academy for Adult Jewish Studies will seek to strengthen the faith in God and in human dignity, by spreading information regarding the Jewish religious tradition. Jewish learning has always been the foundation of the Jewish faith. It is particularly important that this foundation be strong in our time when the great Jewish centers of learning in Europe have been so ruthlessly destroyed."

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