

# NEWS

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## JEWISH TELEGRAPHIC AGENCY

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### GREEK INVASION SEEN BLOW TO PALESTINE TRADE; EXPORTS DROPPED IN '40

WASHINGTON, Nov. 1. (JTA) -- Palestine, already severely pinched economically by the war-born curtailment of commercial traffic in the Mediterranean, is likely to sustain further commercial losses through the extension of the area of conflict to Greece, according to reports received by the Commerce Department.

"Shipments to Greece and through it to the Balkans constituted one of the few foreign trade outlets left to Palestine and additional business setbacks will undoubtedly be suffered because of the extension of war in that direction," a foreign trade expert declared.

Reports from the Near East say little optimism is being felt over the prospect of action in the immediate future on negotiations of a new trade agreement with Syria and the feeling here is that the extension of the war, coupled with closer relations between France and Germany, will make trade talks more difficult than before.

Trade with Syria, representing about 10 per cent of Palestine's exports and imports, has been at a standstill since the collapse of France in June. Curtailment of imported materials has hampered many Palestine industries, adding to unemployment and causing marked price advances in many commodities, Commerce Department officials reported. Credits are severely restricted and all current transactions are for cash.

Exports in the first six months of 1940 were valued at only L1,834,000, in contrast to the valuation of L4,061,000 placed on exports in the same period of 1939. Reduced shipments of citrus fruits, normally comprising about 80 per cent of exports, were held primarily responsible for the decline, but severe losses were also felt in potash and bromine shipments.

Imports, totaling L7,468,000, were only a little less than the valuation of L7,701,000 placed on imports of the first six months of 1939.

Hope is felt that special efforts directed toward expansion of agricultural production will bring the trade balance into a little better alignment by reducing imports of foodstuffs somewhat, but it is not believed that any immediate result will have any

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considerable effect on the general situation. The Palestine Government recently allotted £100,000 for loans to farmers for purchase of seed and fertilizer, tractor hire and extension of cultivation and irrigation facilities.

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Expansion Program Under Way

NEW YORK, Nov. 1. (JTA) -- Extension of educational and hospitalization facilities in the Palestine settlements, broadening of the defense system and acceleration of the refugee absorption process are primary indications that the 1940-1941 expansion program of the Jewish Agency is moving on schedule, according to reports issued today by the United Palestine Appeal. About 10,000 refugees per month are undergoing training which employs more than 400 instructors, it was stated.

BRITISH EMBASSY VOICES GRATITUDE FOR HADASSAH AID IN PALESTINE

CINCINNATI, Nov. 1. (JTA) -- A message from the British Embassy expressing gratitude for Hadassah's work in Palestine was read today to Hadassah's 20th annual convention, being held at the Hotel Gibson here.

The message, sent by Charge d'Affaires Neville Butler on behalf of Ambassador Lord Lothian, voiced appreciation to Hadassah for helping "the British Commonwealth of Nations in their struggle to keep open for the world the highways to peace, to toleration and to the good life.

"The admirable work which you have done for public health in the Jewish national home, without regard to race or creed, is a source of real admiration to all who care for that ancient and ever youthful land," the message continued. "By placing at the disposal of the British military authorities the 300 beds of your fine new Rothschild Hadassah-University Hospital you are helping in Palestine's defense in war as you have in her development in peace."

The convention adopted a Jewish National Fund budget of \$200,000. In the current year Hadassah raised \$184,000 for the J.N.F., it was announced. A J.N.F. Golden Book dedication in honor of Miss Henrietta Szold's 80th birthday was voted.

Palestine, now threatened by extension of the war into the Near East, has from the beginning of history been a "path for invading armies," Dr. Nelson Glueck, director of the American School of Oriental Research in Jerusalem, declared tonight at a Sabbath dinner.

Palestine's freedom, he said, "is jeopardized by the same forces that attempted then (in the past) and are attempting now, in their lust for domination, to smash their way from Berlin to Baghdad. Their onrush will surely be stayed, for the same reason that they lost last time--because their strength did not suffice to obtain final victory in the first push, while ours is gathering and growing, and because Satan cannot be lastingly victorious."

LONDON SYNAGOGUE HIT BY INCENDIARY BOMB

LONDON, Nov. 1. (JTA) -- A West London synagogue was damaged in a recent air raid by an incendiary bomb, it was disclosed today. The building will be unusable for some time. The synagogue's old and new cemeteries were hit by bombs and tombstones destroyed.

LEWIS'S APPEAL TO 'CHRISTIANS' IN SPEECH EXPLAINED

NEW YORK, Nov. 1. (JTA) -- An explanation of CIO President John L. Lewis's cryptic appeal to "members of the Christian Church" in his pro-Willkie radio address last Friday night was forthcoming today from local headquarters of the Willkie campaign and from the New York office of the CIO.

F.F. Greenman, assistant to the Eastern campaign manager of the Willkie campaign, wrote to Dr. S. Margoshes, editor of The Day, who had published a column condemning Lewis for his speech:

"...Mr. Lewis was importuned by prominent Jewish leaders, some of them voting for Roosevelt and some for Willkie, to omit from his speech any appeal to the Jews or any reference to the synagogue. I was one of those who did so. We succeeded in having him omit any such appeal, and it now appears that as a result of this omission his speech has been construed by some to be anti-Semitic. If the reference to the Jews, which he desired to make, had been retained, the speech could have borne no such construction."

The New York CIO office said in a statement that Lewis had planned to include "a friendly appeal" to the Jews but that this appeal had been withheld at the request of Rabbi Stephen S. Wise. The statement made public an exchange of telegrams between Dr. Wise and Lewis in which the rabbi urged that the Jewish question not be raised and the labor leader replied: "Surely you know that I have been and am a friend of the Jewish people and a defender of their rights. I regret that you have been disturbed by the miscellaneous rumors that are current concerning my address tonight. I am confident that you will be satisfied with my address."

Lewis had been asked by the J.T.A. bureau in Washington, shortly after his speech, to clarify that portion of the address, but his daughter, Miss Katharine Lewis, said that "Mr. Lewis will not clarify his speech; he sees no need for doing so."

NAZIS TAKE OVER JEWISH FIRMS IN OCCUPIED FRANCE

NEW YORK, Nov. 1. (JTA) -- The German Military Governor in occupied France has issued a second anti-Jewish decree, requiring that all "Jewish" firms be placed under "French" administrators, the United Press reports from Paris.

Jewish firms, according to the decree, are all those "whose owners are Jews or... with a Jewish manager or that have more than a third of the members of the board of directors who are Jews," the dispatch said. All such firms, under an earlier order, were obliged to register with the authorities by the end of October.

JEWISH LEADER NAMED POLISH CONSUL IN HAVANA

WASHINGTON, Nov. 1. (JTA) -- Carol Sachs, former Warsaw Jewish leader and industrialist, has been named Polish Consul-General in Havana, Cuba, the Polish Embassy announced today.

WOMEN'S ZIONIST UNIT SET UP IN PERU

LIMA, Peru, Nov. 1. (JTA) -- A Lima branch of the Women's International Zionist Organization was founded yesterday by a mass meeting of Jewish women after hearing an address by Dr. S. Yuris, Jewish Agency representative who is now visiting this country.