

NEWS

from all over the world

by the

JEWISH TELEGRAPHIC AGENCY

1560 BROADWAY, N.Y.C.

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Friday, December 27, 1940.

UNITED JEWISH APPEAL DISSOLVED; U.P.A. ANNOUNCES \$12,000,000 GOAL FOR 1941

NEW YORK, Dec. 26. (JTA) -- The agreement for a United Jewish Appeal, through which approximately \$30,500,000 was raised for the three constituent agencies in the past two years, will not be renewed for 1941, it was announced today, following the failure of negotiations extending over the past several months.

The joint chairmen, Rabbis Abba Hillel Silver and Jonah B. Wise, announced in a statement that the Joint Distribution Committee, United Palestine Appeal and National Refugee Service would conduct separate campaigns during the coming year, but stressed that "cordial relations and generous cooperation" would continue.

The United Palestine Appeal immediately announced an unprecedented goal of \$12,000,000 for 1941, with Chairman Silver declaring in a statement that next year would be a decisive one for the Jewish national home in Palestine and asserting that "American Jewry cannot...let down those Jews in Palestine who are our front-line soldiers in the war for the liberation of mankind."

A last-minute effort to obtain continuation of the united appeal had been made by Sidney Hollander, president of the Council of Jewish Federations and Welfare Funds, who telegraphed the heads of the three agencies urging them to meet with the Council on Dec. 27. The JDC and NRS agreed to attend, but Chairman Silver of the UPA replied that "we have already announced independent campaigns for 1941."

Hollander's telegram, addressed to Rabbi Silver, William Rosenwald, president of the NRS, and Paul Beerwald, chairman of the JDC, said: "In view of mounting protests on the part of welfare funds and of representatives of UJA agencies and hazards to 1941 campaigns, consider it essential that representatives of agencies meet with Council for reconsideration and for joint conference and planning. Will you appoint three representatives to meet at Council office, New York, Friday, December 27 at 2:30 p.m.?"

Statement on Dissolution of UJA

The joint statement announcing dissolution of the UJA pointed out that the appeal would continue to collect and distribute outstanding funds from the 1939 and 1940 campaigns. The statement follows:

"We herewith announce that as of Dec. 31, 1940, the United Jewish Appeal will cease to function as the agency for the collection and distribution of new funds for the 1941
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programs of the Joint Distribution Committee, the United Palestine Appeal and the National Refugee Service. The United Jewish Appeal will continue to collect and distribute all funds outstanding in the 1939 and 1940 campaigns on the basis of the agreements of 1939 and 1940 and the decisions of the Allocations Committee of 1939 and the Allotment Committee of 1940.

"The campaigns of 1939 and 1940 yielded substantial sums for the three causes. It is the firm belief of the undersigned that the de facto dissolution of the common fund-raising national organization will not impair the cordial relations and generous cooperation now existing among the three beneficiary agencies of the 1939 and 1940 United Jewish Appeal. They are further convinced that the three agencies will cooperate with all communities and with one another in our primary task of finding adequate funds to meet the needs of reconstruction, relief and refugee service required today.

"We are grateful to the leaders of the communities all over the United States of America who have given their unstinting confidence and generous support. Every consideration will be given by the previous beneficiary agencies to the promotion of our common enterprise and to the most adequate assistance to the causes of the Joint Distribution Committee, the United Palestine Appeal and the National Refugee Service."

The UJA, which was widely hailed as a forward step in coordinating of fund-raising when it was first formed, collected approximately \$16,250,000 in 1939 and \$14,250,000 in 1940.

Palestine Drive Announced

Dr. Silver announced the decision of the UPA Administrative Committee to inaugurate a nationwide war emergency campaign for \$12,000,000 in 1941 to rally the widest possible support behind Palestine as a major haven of refuge for the oppressed and homeless Jews of European lands and as a vital point in the defense of the British Commonwealth and democracy in the Mediterranean zone. This is the largest campaign for Palestine aid in the history of American Jewry.

Through the assistance of American Jews during the past two decades, Dr. Silver pointed out, the Jewish community of Palestine has grown from 55,000 to 550,000 souls and now represents, next to the Jews in the United States, the largest free Jewish community in the world. The material support made available through the United Palestine Appeal which combines the Palestine Foundation Fund and the Jewish National Fund has made possible the immigration into Palestine of 24,000 Jewish refugees during the first year of the war and a total of 280,000 Jews from Germany, Austria, Poland, Rumania, Czechoslovakia and other lands since the advent of Hitler in 1933.

Funds raised in the \$12,000,000 campaign of the United Palestine Appeal will be administered by the Jewish Agency for Palestine and the Jewish National Fund, the land purchasing and land reclaiming agency of the Jewish people.

Emphasizing that the role of small countries may prove decisive in the present struggle for the preservation of democracy, Dr. Silver said the "ability of Palestine to defend itself and to give manpower for its security may help determine the outcome of this struggle."

With the aid of the UPA more than 270 towns and villages were established in Palestine and within the last four years 60 new agricultural settlements have been founded. A total of 157,000 Jews make their living from the soil, the majority of whom are located in the 257 agricultural colonies established by the Palestine Foundation Fund in the past twenty years.

FRANCE NAMES GROUP TO EXEMPT 'MERITORIOUS' JEWS FROM DISCHARGE ✓

VICHY, Dec. 26. (JTA) -- The Government has appointed a special committee to discover Jewish officials with "outstanding merits" exempted from discharge under the anti-Jewish law of Oct. 18, it was disclosed today.

This measure became necessary because the Jews affected were reluctant to make voluntary applications stressing their merits, resulting in mass dismissals which were especially harmful to the field of higher scientific research.

It is unofficially estimated that more than 250 Jews have been eliminated from the legal service under the anti-Jewish law, including judges, justices and prosecutors. More than 1,500 have been dismissed from the education system, about two-thirds of them being teachers in elementary and secondary schools.

Since promulgation of the anti-Jewish statute, the Official Journal daily carries a number of Jews' applications for change of name from Jewish-sounding to more Gallic names. The anti-Jewish press comments ironically on these applications, while Jewish community leaders unanimously condemn this "lack of dignity."

2,000 JEWS OUSTED FROM RADOM ARE EXILED TO VILLAGES

GENEVA, Dec. 26. (JTA) -- The 2,000 Jews expelled from Radom in Nazi-occupied Poland have been exiled to provincial localities, the Jewish organ, Gazeta Zydowska, reveals.

The Jews were included in three categories-- (1) persons who arrived in Radom during the current year, (2) jobless persons and (3) "elements dangerous to society."

They were brought to Dzikos near Sandomierz and to Chmelnik near Pusk from where they were directed to places in the neighborhood. The deportees were visited there by Joseph Blumand, president of the Radom Jewish Community, and Falk, a delegate of the Joint Distribution Committee, who distributed relief.

SLOVAK JEWS TO BE BARRED FROM LIVING ON STREETS NAMED FOR HITLER, HINKA

BUDAPEST, Dec. 26. (JTA) -- The Bratislava newspaper Grensbote reported today that Jews will soon be forbidden by a decree of the Central Economic Office of Slovakia to live on streets named in honor of either Adolf Hitler or the late Father Andreas Hinka.

Commenting on the forthcoming measure, the Hinka organ Gardista observed that it signified that the "Jewish problem is being tackled according to plan."

"The hopes of those who want to help the Jews and save for them what is still left to be saved are useless," Gardista warned. "Jewish money invested in the form of 'relief' has not helped the Jews in the past and will not help in the future." Gardista added: "The Jews will gradually be made to withdraw into that part of town whence they emerged into the center--that is, the ghetto."

LONDON JEWS OBSERVE CHANUKAH IN SHelters

LONDON, Dec. 26. (JTA) -- Large congregations are assembling nightly in many East End and West End shelters to observe Chanukah. Regular services will be held throughout the week.

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During a Chanukah party in the home of Lord Redesdale, where about 40 bombed out Jewish East Enders are staying, Lord Redesdale's daughter distributed valuable presents. The Lord Mayor and Lord Mayoress of Westminster distributed funds for the party.

PATRIA TOLL REACHES 118 AS 24 MORE BODIES ARE FOUND

JERUSALEM, Dec. 26. (JTA) -- The death toll in the S.S. Patria tragedy mounted to 118 today when divers who penetrated to the ship's hospital brought up 24 more bodies. Only one of the bodies brought up today was identified. It was that of Jacob Sternberg, 24, of Prague.

DAN FROHMAN, NOTED PRODUCER, DEAD AT 69

NEW YORK, Dec. 26. (JTA) -- Daniel Frohman, dean of American theatrical producers, died this morning of pneumonia at the age of 69 in the Leroy Sanitarium. He had been ill since last month, when he fell in his hotel apartment, and broke his hip.

"Uncle Dan," as he was universally known, discovered many of America's most famous actors and was a leading figure in the theater for three-quarters of a century. Born in Ohio, the son of immigrants from Germany, he came to New York as a youth and ran a soap factory and cigar store and worked as a reporter for Horace Greely's New York Tribune before he entered the theatrical profession.

He joined the theater as advance man for a minstrel show. Later he became business manager of the Madison Square and then installed his own show in the Lyceum Theater, with David Belasco as stage manager. It was in the old and new Lyceum that Frohman produced most of the plays which made him a great name in the American theater.

Frohman founded and for many years directed the Actors' Fund of America, which assists aged and impoverished actors. In 1903 he married Margaret Illington, an actress, but they were divorced in 1908. He retired from producing in 1912, but continued as president of the Actors' Fund and his other varied activities.

JUSTICE HUGHES TO BE HONORED TONIGHT BY INTERFAITH BOY

NEW YORK, Dec. 26. (JTA) -- The National Conference of Christians and Jews will present a citation to Chief Justice Charles Evans Hughes tomorrow evening in recognition of his contribution toward the improvement of human relations, President Everett R. Clinchy announced. The Chief Justice will receive the citation at a private ceremony at his residence in Washington in the presence of Dr. Arthur H. Compton and Roger W. Straus, co-chairman of the NCCJ; Basil O'Connor, who will represent Prof. Carlton J. H. Hayes, also a co-chairman; and Dr. Clinchy.

PALESTINE GROUP TO MEET MONDAY

JERUSALEM, Dec. 26. (JTA) -- The Palestine commission of the Zionist General Council will meet next Monday, it was announced today, to discuss the general and internal situations.

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PALESTINE OMITTS NEW ENTRY SCHEDULE AS TRAVEL SNAGS BAR USE OF 8,000 OLD VISAS

JERUSALEM, Dec. 27. (JTA) -- The Palestine Government announced today that it will not issue an immigration schedule for the period from October, 1940, to March, 1941, because more than 8,000 certificates under the previous six-month quota had not yet been used as a result of travel difficulties and the impossibility of reaching Palestine during the schedule period.

In a statement explaining its action, the Government said many holders of certificates were unable to bring capital to Palestine and that unemployment was now a serious pre-occupation of the Government. However, the Government is allowing a limited number of replacement certificates for immigrants able to leave for Palestine within the next six months.

HISTADRUTH, NOW LARGEST BODY IN PALESTINE, MARKS 20TH BIRTHDAY

JERUSALEM, Dec. 27. (JTA) -- The Histadruth Haovdim, Palestine Jewish labor federation, which was founded on the fifth day of Chanukah, 1920, will celebrate its 20th anniversary on Sunday.

Its membership has risen from 4,000 men and women in 1920 to more than 120,000, making it Palestine Jewry's largest organization. Nine thousand members have enrolled since the outbreak of the war. Of these, more than 5,000 are immigrants and refugees who arrived during the war and the remainder include youths who have reached the age of 18 and middle men declassed by war conditions.

An anniversary report published by the Histadruth stresses the part it has played in maintaining working conditions and providing employment. It notes the extension of activities during the war by Hamasbir, Thuva and Yakhin cooperatives and the extension of vegetable growing resulting from the irrigation of the Zebulun Valley undertaken by the Nir.

A hundred thousand small homes have been established in rural areas and 400 urban centers by Histadruth agencies, in addition to the workers' suburb of Kiryath Avodah near Haifa. Ten to fifteen thousand pounds monthly have been expended for house building.

Eighty-five per cent of last year's newcomers have been absorbed by the Histadruth. A high percentage of Histadruth members are among the 6,500 Palestine Jews serving in the British forces. Aviators and seamen have been trained by the Histadruth, and its transport cooperative has proved increasingly valuable to the British war effort in the Near East.

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DUTCH PROTESTANT GROUPS DEMAND END OF ANTI-JEWISH LAWS

LONDON, Dec. 27. (JTA) -- Leaders of the six Protestant church groups in Holland have sent a manifesto to German Governor Arthur Seyss-Inquart demanding withdrawal of the anti-Jewish laws in Holland as contrary to Christian ideals, the newspaper Frij Nederland reported today. Opposition to the anti-Semitic restrictions is growing, the paper said.

JUSTICE HUGHES TERMS BIGOTRY 'DEADLY ENEMY' AS HE GETS INTERFAITH AWARD

WASHINGTON, Dec. 27. (JTA) -- Chief Justice Charles Evans Hughes, accepting a citation from the National Conference of Christians and Jews for his contribution toward the improvement of human relations, declared today that "rancor and bigotry, racial animosities and intolerance," were the "deadly enemies of true democracy."

The Chief Justice spoke at a private ceremony at his residence. Present were Dr. Arthur H. Compton and Roger W. Straus, co-chairmen of the National Conference of Christians and Jews; Basil O'Connor, who represented Prof. Carlton J.H. Hayes, also a co-chairman; and Dr. Everett R. Clinchy, president of the National Conference.

Expressing himself as "deeply grateful that I had the opportunity to join in this organized effort to promote a continuous and effective expression of the sentiment which vitalizes our democracy," Justice Hughes said:

"Liberty cannot be conserved by majority rule unless the majority hold sacred basic individual rights regardless of race or creed, so that, along with our differences of view, political and religious, we have a deep and abiding sense of human dignity and worth and hence of our capacity for friendly cooperation in pursuit of common ideals of justice.

"Rancor and bigotry, racial animosities and intolerance, are wholly incompatible with that cooperation. They are the deadly enemies of true democracy, more deadly than any external force because they undermine the very foundation of democratic effort."

Justice Hughes praised the work of the National Conference of Christians and Jews which, he said, "is devoted to the promotion of national unity -- the unity of a free people with that respect for individual rights which makes possible the attainment of our common ends."

The citation described the Chief Justice as "eminent among those whose influence has encouraged Americans of all religious faiths not to hold aloof from one another but through conference and cooperation, to sustain the spiritual and ethical standards of the nation."

UPA, JDC ISSUE STATEMENTS ON UNITED JEWISH APPEAL

NEW YORK, Dec. 27. (JTA) -- The United Palestine Appeal today issued the following statement regarding an invitation addressed to it by the Council of Jewish Federations and Welfare Funds to attend a meeting on Dec. 27 for the purpose of further consideration of a United Jewish Appeal for 1941:

"In the statement attributed to Mr. Sidney Hollander in the Jewish Telegraphic Agency Bulletin of Dec. 27 it is not pointed out that the United Palestine Appeal accepted the invitation of the Council of Federations to participate in a meeting on Dec. 17 at which time representatives of the United Palestine Appeal, the Joint Distribution Committee and the Council were present. There was a prolonged discussion lasting several hours during which the United Palestine Appeal made a substantial concession for the sake of unity, which was not accepted.

"The Council of Jewish Federations and Welfare Funds, although recognizing that negotiations were in progress between the United Palestine Appeal and the Joint Distribution Committee, waited two months, during which negotiations dragged on, without doing anything in the situation. This was unlike the attitude which the Council adopted in previous years.

"When negotiations finally broke down, the Council stepped into the picture and asked for a conference. In the meantime the position originally taken by the Joint Distribution Committee at a meeting with the United Palestine Appeal on Oct. 31 had not changed. Despite that fact, however, the United Palestine Appeal accepted the invitation of the Council to participate in a final session. When no other proposals were forthcoming the Administrative Committee of the United Palestine Appeal adopted its decision to undertake an independent campaign. The fact that no agreement could be reached was fully demonstrated in the joint statement issued on Dec. 24 by Rabbi Jonah B. Wise and Dr. Abba Hillel Silver announcing the dissolution of the United Jewish Appeal.

"The United Palestine Appeal is conducting a campaign for \$12,000,000 in 1941. It trusts that these needs will be met. It is the function of the Council of Federations, representing all points of view in the community, to share with the United Palestine Appeal and the Joint Distribution Committee in the task of impressing upon the Jews of America that greater generosity must be forthcoming in 1941 to meet our common requirements."

Paul Baerwald and Edward M.M. Warburg, chairman and co-chairman of the Joint Distribution Committee, telegraphed the following message to key Jewish leaders throughout the country:

"We of the Joint Distribution Committee are anxious to present the picture of our needs and our general campaign problems, but not until the expiration of the 1940 United Jewish Appeal. Thereafter we can consider all the facts, together with colleagues and community leaders throughout the country, in ample time to meet our responsibilities in these critical days both as Americans and as Jews. We urge that no one commit himself or his community to programs or budgets until the American Jewish responsibility can be studied and appraised as a whole."

RED CROSS OFFICIAL DESCRIBES OUSTING OF 6,000 GERMAN JEWS TO FRANCE

NEW YORK, Dec. 27. (JTA) -- Some 12,000 refugees, including 6,000 Jews uprooted on one hour's notice from their German homes, are existing on rations sufficient only for about 9,000 persons in the Gurs concentration camp in unoccupied France, according to F. Sahlman, a Portuguese Red Cross official who inspected the camp and was interviewed by a United Press correspondent while en route to the United States.

"When 6,000 German Jewish refugees arrived from the Palatinate, Baden and Wurtemberg the commander of the camp received no increase in his food allowance," Sahlman said. "If this situation continues many of the older refugees, as well as the sick and some 500 children, will die for lack of nourishment."

Sahlman had obtained a letter smuggled out of the camp, telling of the plight of the Jewish refugees. It said:

"On the morning of Oct. 22 Jews from the Saar-Palatinate, the Palatinate, the Grand Duchy of Baden and the Wurtemberg Province were awakened by the Gestapo and warned to be ready to leave Germany within one hour.

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"They were informed they would be allowed to carry with them 100 Reichsmarks and 110 pounds of luggage. The great majority took with them the bare necessities, fearing they would have to carry their own luggage. Aged persons, some 80 and 90 years old as well as sick and feeble men and women, were among those deported.

"Due to the great number of exiles it took many trains, which left at short intervals between the 22nd and 23rd of October. After crossing the Rhine bridge there was no possible doubt that our final destination would be French soil. After a 54-hour train ride, during which soup was given us only once, we arrived at Oloron, in the Basses Pyrenees Department. From there we were taken to the Gurs camp in trucks, which also took our meager luggage.

"Owing to the fact that the French commander of the Gurs camp had not been advised as to our number and was taken by surprise by our mass arrival, it is not astonishing that he lacked food at the beginning. Despite the fact that the French administration are doing all it can to help the internees, it is understandable that old people and the sick cannot resist the hardships of camp life.

"During the few weeks of our stay here at Gurs the camp cemetery has grown in an anguishing proportion."

HARRISON WARNS AGAINST HARRASSING OF ALIENS

WASHINGTON, Dec. 27. (JTA) -- With the deadline for alien registration past, Director E.G. Harrison today warned "local officials, employers and others" that there was no Federal regulation requiring aliens to produce registration cards at the behest of anyone save Federal officers. He also pointed out that fewer than half of those registering have received cards from Washington and that distribution will not be completed for about six weeks.

PROF. BRODETSKY UNDERGOES OPERATION

LONDON, Dec. 27. (JTA) -- Prof. Selig Brodetsky, president of the Board of Deputies of British Jews and Zionist leader, was taken to a nursing home today for a minor operation. He will be unable to attend to public business for three weeks.

TIBERIAS SPRINGS MADE INTERNATIONAL RESORT

JERUSALEM, Dec. 27. (JTA) -- At the opening of the Tiberias hot springs Winter season, Dr. Aron Barth told newspapermen that the springs had now been converted into an international health resort for rheumatic and similar diseases. The springs company has so far invested £55,000 and is now planning to issue debentures for another £30,000.

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