

NEWS

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MANY JEWS HOMELESS, CHRONICLE OFFICE DESTROYED IN RAID ON BRITAIN

LONDON, Dec. 30. (JTA) -- Many Jews were homeless today and others already evacuated had again lost their homes as a result of last night's German air raid on London, believed to be the heaviest to date. Thousands of incendiary bombs and many explosives were showered on a wide area.

The premises of The Jewish Chronicle, leading Jewish weekly in Britain, were destroyed in the raid. The Chronicle, which owned its own printing plant, employed nearly a hundred persons. Founded in 1841, it is the oldest Jewish publication in existence.

Jewish Historical Collection Ruined

NEW YORK, Dec. 30. (JTA) -- An appeal will be launched in America to duplicate through gifts of friends and collectors the historical works lost when the entire library, records and collections of the Jewish Historical Society of England was destroyed in a recent air raid, it was announced at the 42nd annual meeting of the American Jewish Historical Society at the Jewish Theological Seminary yesterday.

Dr. A.S.W. Rosebach, who was reelected president of the society, said that Dr. Cecil Roth, president of the British group, had written from Oxford that "nothing whatsoever was left of the society's headquarters, its museum, above all its priceless library." Dr. Roth added: "As you know, this represented the results of three-quarters of a century of devoted labor. But the society is not lying down under this blow, which would clearly be to play the Nazi game."

ROOSEVELT WARNS AGAINST AXIS RACIAL AGITATION SEEKING TO DESTROY OUR UNITY

WASHINGTON, Dec. 30. (JTA) -- A warning against Axis agents seeking to "destroy our unity" by stirring racial and religious strife, with the unwitting aid of some Americans, was sounded last night by President Roosevelt in his speech on defense to a vast radio audience in the Americas and abroad.

Roosevelt's speech recalled his last "fireside chat" on defense, on May 26, in which he also warned against racial and religious agitation by the fifth column. At that time he spoke of racial and political discord as an "undiluted poison" and asserted that "our moral and mental defenses must be raised as never before against those who would cast a smokescreen across our vision."

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In his speech last night the President said: "Let us no longer blind ourselves to the undeniable fact that the evil forces which have crushed and undermined and corrupted so many others are already within our own gates. Your Government knows much about them and every day is ferreting them out."

"Their secret emissaries are active in our own and in neighboring countries. They seek to stir up suspicion and dissension, to cause internal strife. They try to turn capital against labor, and vice versa. They try to reawaken long slumbering racial and religious enmities which should have no place in this country. They are active in every group that promotes intolerance. They exploit for their own ends our own natural abhorrence of war."

"These trouble-breeders have but one purpose. It is to divide our people, to divide them into hostile groups and to destroy our unity and shatter our will to defend ourselves."

"There are also American citizens, many of them in high places, who, unwittingly in most cases, are aiding and abetting the work of these agents. I do not charge these American citizens with being foreign agents. But I do charge them with doing exactly the kind of work that the dictators want done in the United States."

"These people not only believe that we can save our own skins by shutting our eyes to the fate of other nations. Some of them go much further than that. They say that we can and should become the friends and even the partners of the Axis powers. Some of them even suggest that we should imitate the methods of the dictatorships. But Americans never can and never will do that...."

"The history of recent years proves that the shootings and the chains and the concentration camps are not simply the transient tools but the very altar of modern dictatorships. They may talk of a new order in the world, but what they have in mind is only a revival of the oldest and worst tyranny. In that there is no liberty, no religion, no hope."

NO PROPOSAL ON MINORITIES CONTAINED IN REPORTED NAZI PEACE PLAN

WASHINGTON, Dec. 30. (JTA) -- The German Government made no mention of readjustment of the present status of the Jews and other minorities in a secret peace conference agenda assertedly forwarded to the United States Government shortly after the conquest of Poland, Verne Marshall, Iowa editor and chairman of the Keep-America-Out-of-Foreign-War Committee, said at a press conference here today.

The "agenda," which Marshall said was carried to this country by W.R. Davis, multi-millionaire international oil operator, offered a basis for a "just, honorable and permanent peace through the solution of the economic difficulties that are the underlying causes of the war," he declared.

He declined to reveal any details of the agenda, referring reporters to Assistant Secretary of State Adolph A. Berle, but said that in his opinion the proposals were sound and could still be used as a basis for peace negotiations. He added he believed the Germans were sincere in offering them.

Marshall was asked: "Did the Germans offer any plan for the solution of the problems of racial and religious minorities in Europe as part of the basis for peace discussions?"

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He replied: "No, they did not."

(While this alleged peace plan was drawn up after the conquest of Poland—more than a year ago—Germany is since reported to have prepared a plan to deport Europe's approximately five million Jews to Madagascar. According to an article by Max Nussbaum in the Contemporary Jewish Record, the Gestapo informed Jewish officials last July that the plan provides for self-administration, cultural and religious autonomy, under the rule of a German Government for the Jews in Madagascar.)

He added, however, that he was convinced the creation of a sound world economic basis would cause the problems "to solve themselves, and God knows they need solving."

Davis, Marshall said, went to Europe to sound out peace sentiment after a White House conference with President Roosevelt and Berle. He declined, however, to call Davis an "ambassador" of the President. After encountering difficulties with the British authorities at Bernada, Marshall continued, Davis reached Europe and secured a peace parley offer "initiated by high officials of two belligerent powers."

UFA ANNOUNCES TRANSPORTATION OF 995 REFUGEES FROM WILNO TO PALESTINE

NEW YORK, Dec. 30. (JTA) — The United Palestine Appeal has appropriated \$175,000 for transportation of 995 Jewish refugees from Wilno, Lithuania, to Palestine via the Far East. Chaima Mike Shilal Silver announced today at a press conference at the Hotel Commodore at which he outlined the program of the UPA \$12,000,000 campaign for 1941.

The refugees, all of whom possess immigration certificates, will travel by way of Moscow, Siberia, Tokyo, the Indian Ocean and Basra. They include 60 children up to 14 years of age and 150 between 14 and 17 whose traveling expenses will be paid by the Youth Aliyah; 150 girls up to 22, 80 young men up to 28, 50 student chalutzim, 75 yeshiva students, 120 rabbis and their families, 100 prominent Zionists, writers and social workers, 30 old persons with relatives in Palestine and 150 others.

The 4,000-mile journey is expected to take a month. The refugees have received transit visas from the Soviet and Japanese governments. They include refugees who fled to Wilno and Kovno during the German invasion of Poland, among them German Jews who had found temporary haven in Poland. Dr. Silver added that there were at least 7,100 others in various parts of Europe in possession of Palestine certificates, lacking only funds for transportation.

Dismissing the UPA campaign, Rabbi Silver said the \$12,000,000 was necessary towards the Jewish Agency budget of \$15,640,000 for 1941 for (1) normal processes of rebuilding, (2) mobilization of resources for the war effort and (3) refugee absorption and alleviation of unemployment caused by war dislocation.

The Jewish Agency is now providing relief for 75,000 persons. The Agency is combating unemployment by (1) public works, including roads, water towers, airfields, schools and workers' homes and (2) stimulation of industries, with 51 new industries having been founded in the past year through loans guaranteed by the Agency.

The Agency plans to establish 15 new strategically-necessary settlements in the coming year. In the past year eight were founded. The Zionists have contracted for purchase of 100,000 dunams of land in the coming year. In the past year 44,000 dunams were purchased.

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Dr. Silver stressed the necessity of continuing with land purchase and colonization in order to place Palestine Jewry in the best possible position when the ultimate peace conference comes. "To ask the Zionist movement to liquidate itself for the duration of the war is to ask the Zionist movement to surrender its philosophy," he said.

NAZIS IN FRANCE PLAN TO 'ARYANIZE' JEWISH FIRMS IN MONTH

VICHY, Dec. 30. (JTA) -- "Aryanization" of Jewish trade and industry in occupied France must be completed within four weeks, it was reported from Paris today. Jewish enterprises not essential to French economy will be closed and the others will be handed over to "Aryans," it was said.

SCHOOLS WITH REFUGEE FACULTIES URGED AT SCIENCE PARLEY

PHILADELPHIA, Dec. 30. (JTA) -- Formation of a Preservation of Science Council which would, among other things, establish schools of experimental science with refugee scholars comprising the faculties was proposed by Dr. K.A.C. Elliott, of the Institute of the Pennsylvania Hospital, addressing the Council of the American Association for the Advancement of Science.

"The idea," he asserted, "represents one of the great advantages gained by this country in bringing over foreign scholars. Formerly countless American students went to European universities to supplement their American training by learning the methods and ideas of foreign scientists."

"By bringing foreign scientists here, their teachings become much more conveniently available." He recognized the costliness of such a project, but said the money "must somehow be raised."

Dr. Elliott said that the Rockefeller Foundation, the Carnegie Corporation and interested persons recently guaranteed \$500,000 to bring 100 German refugee scholars to this country, and establish them in American institutions.

EINSTEIN GETS FRATERNITY AWARD, DONATES FUNDS TO REFUGEES

CHICAGO, Dec. 30. (JTA) -- Prof. Albert Einstein has been awarded the Phi Epsilon Pi National Service Award for 1940, it was announced tonight at the fraternity's annual convention, by Grand Superior Samuel J. Sherman, Chicago attorney.

The award was given to Dr. Einstein because of the Jewish contributions he has made during the short period he has been in this country, and is highlighted by his recently acquired American citizenship. It is the first award he has accepted since he became a citizen, it was stated. Einstein immediately applied the check accompanying the award to refugee work.

THREE FAITHS TO JOIN IN NEW YEAR'S DAY BROADCAST

WASHINGTON, Dec. 30. (JTA) -- The War Department announced today that Col. William R. Arnold, Army Chief of Chaplains, will participate in sending a special New Year's Day message to be broadcast to all members of the armed forces by spokesmen of the Protestant, Catholic and Jewish religious faiths. The Jewish speaker will be Rabbi David de Sola Pool, chairman of the Committee on Religious Activities of the National Jewish Welfare Board.

THE JTA NEWS WILL NOT APPEAR WEDNESDAY, NEW YEAR'S DAY

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UPA ARRANGES TRANSPORTATION OF 995 REFUGEES FROM WILNO TO PALESTINE

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The 6,000-mile journey is expected to take a month. The refugees have received transit visas from the Soviet and Japanese governments. They include refugees who fled to Wilno and Kaunas during the German invasion of Poland, among them German Jews who had found temporary haven in Poland. Dr. Silver added that there were at least 7,100 others in various parts of Europe in possession of Palestine certificates, lacking only funds for transportation.

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