

# NEWS

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## JEWISH TELEGRAPHIC AGENCY

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### BRITAIN REFUSES TO OPEN PALESTINE'S DOORS TO BALKAN REFUGEES

LONDON, March 19. (JTA) -- Except for a few veteran Zionists in Yugoslavia, no Jewish refugees from the Balkans other than those who already hold immigration certificates will be admitted to Palestine, Colonial Undersecretary George H. Hall made clear in the Commons today.

Col. Josiah Wedgwood, Laborite, had asked whether progress could be reported regarding proposals to allow some of the Jews driven out of Rumania to enter Palestine and also whether similar permission would be extended to the Jews in Bulgaria and Yugoslavia before it was too late.

Hall replied that the Jewish Agency had been informed that the Jews in Rumania who had received certificates before Feb. 15 would be admitted, provided that satisfactory arrangements were made to prove their identity and bona fides. He added that practical arrangements to apply these safeguards were now being worked out.

Colonial Secretary Lord Moyne has not received any representations regarding the position of certificate holders in Bulgaria since the German occupation, Hall said, but in the event this question arises, consideration will be given to the possibility of making similar arrangements. Regarding Yugoslavia, the Palestine High Commissioner has proposed, at the Jewish Agency's request, that a limited number of "replacement certificates" be issued for veteran Zionists, he declared.

### 9,997 Entered Palestine in 1940

JERUSALEM, March 19. (JTA) -- At the Jewish Agency's request, the Palestine Government has allocated 50 immigration certificates for prominent Zionists in Yugoslavia and Hungary, it was announced today. Meanwhile, 51 immigrants arrived here today.

Jewish immigration during February totalled 278. Immigration during 1940 totalled 4,547, plus 5,450 refugees, 2,000 of whom are now interned at Athlit.

### AMERICANS IN PALESTINE PETITION CONGRESS AGAINST CANCELLATION OF CITIZENSHIP

JERUSALEM, March 19. (JTA) -- Some 3,500 naturalized Americans living in Palestine, facing loss of citizenship unless they can return to the United States by October are petitioning Congress for a respite until the end of the war, it was disclosed today.

(Continued on reverse side)

Under the U. S. Nationality Act of 1940, naturalized citizens residing abroad face cancellation of their citizenship unless they return to the United States to confirm their status. The petition cites the following reasons for asking an extension of time:

- (1) War conditions have severely restricted currency exportation and have made extremely difficult the liquidation of property, businesses and other assets.
- (2) Travel to the U.S. from Palestine is presently very difficult. Transportation rates have been raised and there is risk of life in traveling through belligerent areas.
- (3) Many American citizens married to aliens are unable to secure non-quota visas for their spouses, yet do not wish to be separated from their families, particularly in wartime.

A special committee has been organized in the United States to seek assistance for American citizens in Palestine, it was reported.

WEIZMANN DUE IN NEW YORK FRIDAY; SAW CHURCHILL BEFORE LEAVING

LISBON, March 19. (JTA) -- Dr. Chaim Weizmann and his wife left for New York yesterday on the Dixie Clipper. (The Clipper is scheduled to reach LaGuardia Field on Friday morning.) It was learned that before leaving London, Dr. Weizmann was received by Prime Minister Winston Churchill.

LONDON, March 19. (JTA) -- Dr. Chaim Weizmann's negotiations with the Government on urgent Palestine questions are deadlocked, at least for the time being, and he left for the United States after deciding that no useful purpose could be served by postponing his departure, the New Zionist Organization reported today.

The political correspondent of The Jewish Standard, NZO organ, said: "It would appear that Dr. Weizmann's negotiations, although conducted with various Government personalities, had been the whole time more or less under the influence of the Colonial Office. Weizmann found himself time and again confronted by complex objections in which the Colonial Office, making good use of political and military circumstances in the Middle East, played a part."

GOERING REPORTED CONSULTING JEWISH SCIENTISTS ON WAR AID

LONDON, March 19. (JTA) -- Several German Jewish scientists were recently consulted by Field Marshal Hermann Goering regarding questions connected with prosecution of the war, it was learned here today from a source which is reliable but cannot be disclosed for obvious reasons.

The scientists were freed from concentration camps in order to meet Goering.

FRENCH EX-DEPUTY FREED FROM INTERNMENT CAMP

VICHY, March 19. (JTA) -- Solomon Grumbach, former Socialist deputy, has been released from an internment camp, it was disclosed today. He was placed under administrative detention last September.

Meanwhile, 25 more Jewish judges and State attorneys were retired under the anti-Jewish law.

NAZIS CURB SENDING OF PACKAGES TO JEWS IN POLAND

ZURICH, March 19. (JTA) -- The Nazi authorities in Poland have announced that parcels sent to Jews in the Government-General by relatives abroad will be delivered to addressees only when their value is not more than 25 reichsmarks (about \$10), it was reported here today.

Parcels valued at more than 25 reichsmarks will be returned to their senders, the announcement said. It added that exceptions would be made only in cases where special permission was secured from the special commission governing the currency regulations in Nazi-held Poland. Such exceptions will, however, be made only in rare cases, the report indicates.

The new order supplements the currency regulations which the Nazi authorities issued for the Government-General on Jan. 15. These regulations provide that no Jew is permitted to have more than 2,000 zlotys in cash. The balance must be deposited in a saving bank, from which he is permitted to draw not more than 250 zlotys weekly. Severe penalties are provided for not complying with these regulations.

Ing. Cherniakoff, president of the Jewish community in Warsaw, appeared before the Nazi authorities of Warsaw District with a petition asking permission to establish in the ghetto a Jewish loan kassa to provide small loans to Jews who could secure a meager livelihood as artisans if only granted loans up to 100 zlotys, for repayment in weekly sums. Action on this petition is expected shortly.

In connection with the Nazi order prohibiting Jews in Warsaw to move within the ghetto from one dwelling to another without special permission, data which reached Switzerland today from Poland discloses that more than 100,000 Jews were compelled to change their dwellings and to move from the sections outside the ghetto into the segregated area. On the other hand, approximately 80,000 non-Jews were compelled to evacuate the ghetto sections. Altogether 180,000 Jews and Poles were shifted.

REFUGEE SHIP FROM FRANCE REACHES MARTINIQUE

WASHINGTON, March 19. (JTA) -- The French steamer Ipanamea arrived at Fort-de-France, Martinique, from Marseille on Sunday with a number of Spanish and Jewish refugees from unoccupied France, it was learned here today. The ship was the first to reach the island from the unoccupied area. The refugees are now awaiting transportation to the United States.

On March 24 another French ship will sail from Marseille with a group of Jewish refugees for the United States.

RUMANIA TO STAMP JEWS' PASSPORTS

ZURICH, March 19. (JTA) -- The Rumanian authorities have ordered the stamping of Jews' passports with the word "Jew," it was reported today from Bucharest. A police order said that Jews who did not report immediately to have their passports stamped would suffer confiscation of their papers.

TEL AVIV'S POPULATION NOW 200,000

TEL AVIV, March 19. (JTA) -- The population of this all-Jewish city has now reached 200,000, it was announced today.

CONDITIONS REPORTED IMPROVED IN BRITISH INTERMENT CAMPS

LONDON, Feb. 24 (JTA-By Mail) -- Conditions in alien interment camps have now vastly improved, according to the leader of one of the biggest refugee organizations, quoted in The Daily Herald, who said the officials in charge of the camps are now "administering the new, humanized system admirably, and with the full cooperation of the internees."

"Camps which were cause for complaint when they were under the War Office are now running smoothly under the Home Office," said this informant. "This is partly due to the fact that the wholesale, indiscriminate interment of anti-Nazis is being remedied."

"Ceaseless inquiry has led to the systematic release of bona fide anti-Nazis. Many have been released on grounds of ill-health, but there is no suggestion that when they recover they will be reinterned. The attitude of the Home Office is 'Good health -- and good luck!'"

"Some of the camps have excellent playing-fields and a good deal of land has been taken over for the growing of vegetables and other produce. Cooks, orderlies and clerical staff have been recruited from among the internees. Excellent libraries are available and students and others are encouraged to continue their studies and to equip themselves for their careers. Recently the British Council has undertaken the supply of specialized text-books for this purpose."

"The morale of the internees is excellent now. This is mainly due to the announcement by the Under-Secretary of Home Affairs that no stigma attaches to internment, and to the visit of Sir Herbert Emerson, High Commissioner for Refugees."

19 PER CENT OF PALESTINE JEWS ARE FARMERS

LONDON, March 4. (JTA-Airmail) -- It is interesting to compare the occupational distribution of Palestine Jewry with that of the Jews in the Diaspora, writes The New Judea in commenting on the figures issued by the Statistical Department of the Jewish Agency. The statistics are very incomplete, but the estimate at least show the direction in which things are moving and the kind of development that is taking place.

The most striking item is agriculture. The figure for Palestine is 19 per cent; for world Jewry 3 per cent. The higher percentage of agriculture among Jews in Palestine mainly accounts for their lower share in industry, workshops and buildings (25 per cent in Palestine as compared with 36 per cent for world Jewry), and in trade, insurance and transport (16 per cent in Palestine as against 39 per cent in world Jewry).

But the combination of categories is somewhat misleading. The New Judea comments. A detailed classification would have revealed that in the more productive activities, such as transport and industrial work, the share of Palestine Jewry by far exceeds that of Jews in the Diaspora. As for public services and liberal professions, the figure given is 15 per cent for Palestine as against 8 per cent for Diaspora; for offices, finance and miscellaneous, the estimate is 25 per cent for Palestine as against 14 per cent for Diaspora.