

# NEWS

*from all over the world*

VIA

CABLE  
WIRELESS  
TELEGRAPH  
TELEPHONE

*by the*

## JEWISH TELEGRAPHIC AGENCY

1560 BROADWAY, N.Y.C.

VOL. VIII. NO. 86

Friday, March 21, 1941.

### NAZIS USE POLISH JEWS TO BUILD FORTIFICATIONS ON SOVIET FRONTIER

LONDON, March 20. (JTA) -- Several thousand Polish Jews have been taken from concentration camps and sent by the Nazi military authorities to the Soviet frontier to construct fortifications there, it was reliably reported here today.

Compelled to work under severe conditions, many of the Jews, when reaching the frontier zone, seek to smuggle themselves into Soviet territory. Soviet soldiers detain them, however, and turn them back to the Nazis.

Most of the material which the Nazis use to construct their fortifications on the Soviet-Polish frontier has been shipped from the Maginot Line, which the Germans are destroying. The fortifications are expected to be completed by the end of this year, the report asserts.

### Cracow Jews Ordered to Give Up Homes

ZURICH, March 20. (JTA) -- Jews ordered to move into the Cracow ghetto must turn over their former homes in good order to the official caretaker, according to a decree of Governor Waechter published in the Krakauer Zeitung. Violation will be punished by immediate expulsion from the Cracow area.

Permission for a number of Jews to remain in the ghetto instead of being ousted from the city should be considered by the Jews as a "favor", the Nazi Governor said. The majority of the Cracow Jews have already been expelled.

### WAR SLOWS UP YOUTH ALIYAH; PALESTINE URGED TO ADMIT BALKAN REFUGEES

LONDON, March 20. (JTA) -- Only 255 of the 1,570 persons who received Palestine immigration certificates from the Youth Aliyah organization have succeeded in leaving Europe in recent months, the Youth Aliyah disclosed today. Fifty-five of them are still en route to Palestine.

Those who reached the Holy Land included many children orphaned by the sinking of the refugee steamship *Salvator* off the Turkish coast on Dec. 11. To rescue these children, who were stranded in Turkey, the Youth Aliyah cabled the last certificates available.

Among the youths who have arrived in Palestine there are also many Polish refugees from Lithuania and boys and girls from Rumania and Yugoslavia. Many others are to follow soon.

(Continued on reverse side)

Meanwhile, Col. Josiah Wedgwood, Laborite M.P., appealed to the Government to open Palestine's gates to Balkan Jewish refugees, declaring that 600,000 could be saved and brought to the Holy Land to "fight with us for a better and saner world."

"All we have done is ship some twelve hundred victims of Nazi persecution to Mauritius and only some fifty Bulgarian Jews have been given certificates," he wrote in The Zionist Review. Demanding drastic revision of the Palestine policy in view of the Balkan tragedy, he said that "American Jewry would not forget the generous gesture in the face of a great enemy."

Before leaving London for the United States, Dr. Chaim Weizmann issued a message to Anglo-Jewish youth in which he paid tribute to the steadfastness and determination with which they were carrying on Zionist work, arranging mass meetings amid the ruins of air raids and braving every danger.

"I leave for my task in America with a heavy heart, but strengthened by the picture of the Jewish community which has shown, through the grim days and nights of bombing, fire and strength of mind and heart which serve to fortify our hopes for the Jewish future," Dr. Weizmann said.

#### ARMY TO INSTALL "SIFREI TORAH" IN 604 CHAPELS THROUGHOUT COUNTRY

WASHINGTON, March 20. (JTA) -- The army will provide arks and "Sifrei Torah" (Scrolls of the Law) for Jewish soldiers in 604 inter-denominational chapels to be constructed in training centers throughout the country, under an unprecedented program announced by the War Department today.

The program, which will cost \$12,816,000, will give each regimental unit a chapel of its own. The chapels will be used at different hours of the day by chaplains of the Jewish, Catholic and Protestant faiths, all of whom will be assigned office space in the structures.

The Arks of the Law will be an innovation in Army chapels. It is expected that the scrolls will be purchased by the Army through the Quartermaster's office of the Chief of Chaplains. The construction of these chapels will, for the first time, obviate for Jewish soldiers the necessity of going to nearby towns with synagogues in order to worship in a proper atmosphere.

#### VIRGIN ISLANDS REFUGEE PLAN REVIVED IN WASHINGTON

WASHINGTON, March 20. (JTA) -- Dr. Rupert Emerson, director of the Interior Department's Division of Territories and Island Possessions, yesterday visited the Sosua refugee colony in the Dominican Republic. Officials said today Dr. Emerson, on his return to Washington, would make a further report on the possibility of refugee settlement in the Virgin Islands.

It was indicated that Secretary Ickes has not dropped his plan to give temporary shelter to political exiles in the Virgin Islands, despite the opposition of the State and Navy Departments.

HIAS-ICA AIDED 36,000 TO LEAVE GERMANY IN 8 YEARS

LISBON, March 20. (JTA) -- The difficulties which holders of American immigration visas face in Europe when their visas expire due to the shortage of transportation facilities to the United States are emphasized in a report issued today by the European headquarters of the HIAS-ICA Emigration Association.

The report reveals that more than 36,000 Jews were assisted by the Association to emigrate from Germany to various overseas lands since Hitler came to power in 1933.

"Many people," the report states, "reach Lisbon with expired American visas or with visas which are about to expire. The renewal of such visas requires protracted formalities. This creates for many refugees an extremely difficult situation, rendered still more painful by the fact that the Portuguese authorities themselves require earliest departure of the refugees who crowd Lisbon and other Portuguese cities."

The report points out that the problem of emigrants whose visas expire is growing now more and more serious in view of the fact that one has to wait now many weeks, and sometimes months, before he can secure passage. "The communications with North and South America are being served by barely half-a-dozen steamers of small tonnage and places are reserved on them months ahead," the report says.

Reviewing emigration possibilities from Nazi-held Poland, the report states: "Since the occupation of Poland by Germany, all regular emigration from this country has become impossible. However, the American consulate in Warsaw, before closing its offices, accepted new applications for visas through the offices of the JEAS, a committee in Poland affiliated with the HIAS-ICA Emigration Association."

Some 9,000 persons registered for visas through the JEAS during the three weeks prior to the transfer of the American consulate from Warsaw to Berlin, the report discloses. It adds that two months ago the JEAS office in Warsaw was reorganized and incorporated in the Juedische Soziale Selbsthilfe under the name of Abteilung Verwandtenhilfe, the address of the office remaining the same.

ICA PLANS TO INTENSIFY WORK IN CANADA, SOUTH AMERICA

LONDON, March 20. (JTA) -- The work of the Jewish Colonization Association under the present war conditions was reviewed at a recent special general assembly of the Association in London and elections of members to the board of directors were held, it was disclosed today.

The meeting adopted a number of decisions, including one providing for development of ICA work in Canada and South America within the limits of the possibilities for transferring funds from England to these countries.

The members of the ICA board who reside in countries technically considered as enemy territories were omitted from the board for the duration of the war. Elected were: Lord Reading, Lionel Cohen, Max Gottschalk, Wilfred Israel, Leonard Stein and Maurice Stein. Leonard Montefiore was elected president.

MONTREAL, March 20. (JTA) -- The Jewish Colonization Association (ICA) is being reorganized in London with a view to insuring continuance of its activities, Max Gottschalk, member of its central board, reported at the annual meeting of the Canadian ICA here. War conditions have made ICA work difficult in various countries, but the situation has been adjusted and the organization's work will be continued to the fullest possible extent wherever conditions permit, he said.

Rabbi H. Abramowitz, president of the Canadian ICA, and other officers were re-elected.

#### MORGENSTERN HONORED ON 60th BIRTHDAY

CINCINNATI, March 20. (JTA) -- Dr. Julian Morgenstern, president of Hebrew Union College, was honored this week at dinners of the faculty and of the students on his 60th birthday which occurred Wednesday, and the 20th anniversary of his assumption of the presidency. He stressed in a speech that only with the help of religion could a "new, better, happier world be created."

Governor John W. Bricker, President Raymond Walters of Cincinnati University, Archbishop John T. McNicholas, Presbyterian Moderator Jesse Halsey, Bishop Henry W. Hobson and Robert S. Lambert, president of the Council of Churches, were among those who sent messages of congratulation. Dr. Morgenstern has been Professor of Bible at HUC for the past 37 years.

#### METROPOLITAN WELFARE BOARD MEETS SUNDAY

NEW YORK, March 20. (JTA) -- Prof. Max Lerner, of Williams College and Mrs. Anna Rosenberg, Regional Defense Coordinator, will be the principal speakers at the annual meeting of the New York Metropolitan Section of the Jewish Welfare Board on Sunday at Temple Emanu-El, it was announced today by Frank L. Weil, president of the JWB. The theme of the conference will be "The Jewish Center in the National Emergency."

#### PALESTINE PLANS WAR COMPENSATION

JERUSALEM, March 20. (JTA) -- The Palestine Government is considering introduction of a system of compensation after the war for war damage, it was announced today by High Commissioner Sir Harold A. MacMichael in the official Palestine Gazette.

#### POLISH REFUGEES IN EAST INDIES

LONDON, March 20. (JTA) -- A number of Polish refugees, most of them Jews, have found a haven in the Dutch East Indies for the duration of the war, the Dutch Government today notified the Polish Government-in-exile.

#### PALESTINE DOCTORS MEET

TEL AVIV, March 20. (JTA) -- A conference of Jewish physicians, attended by about 1,000 delegates from all parts of Palestine, opened here yesterday, with Arab, British and military doctors also present. The first session was devoted principally to discussion of blood diseases. The meeting will last several days.