

NEWS

from all over the world

VIA

CABLE
WIRELESS
TELEGRAPH
TELEPHONE

by the

JEWISH TELEGRAPHIC AGENCY

1560 BROADWAY, N.Y.C.

VOL. VIII. NO. 95

Sunday, March 30, 1941.

ITALIANS SEIZE JEWISH LEADERS IN TRIPOLI IN REPRISAL FOR 'PRO-BRITISH ACTIVITIES'

LONDON, March 28. (JTA) -- The Italian authorities in Tripoli, thrown into panic by British victories in North Africa, have assigned large numbers of secret police, acting under the guidance of the German Gestapo, to harass and arrest Jews, Greeks and Arabs charged with espionage for Britain, it was reported here today.

Reprisals against Jews accused of pro-British activities were particularly severe, culminating in arrest of all members of the Tripoli Jewish Community board, it was said.

Meanwhile, a correspondent of the London Jewish Chronicle who recently had the opportunity of conversing with wounded Italian officers in Salonika, quoted them all as declaring that anti-Jewish laws in Italy had been introduced under German pressure, contrary to the desires of the Italian people.

The officers asserted 50 per cent of the Italians had never seen a Jew and did not understand Fascist talk of a "Jewish menace." Others, especially those with Jewish friends, agreed with the Vatican that anti-Jewish discrimination was contrary to the principles of the Church.

300 REFUGEES, BARRED FROM JAPAN, STRANDED IN VLADIVOSTOK

TOKYO, March 28. (JTA) -- More than 300 Jewish refugees from Poland who were permitted by the Soviet authorities to proceed in transit from Lithuania to Japan are now stranded in the Soviet harbor city Vladivostok, it is reported here today.

Despite the fact that all of the refugees have Japanese transit visas, the Japanese authorities refuse to admit them into Japan since they possess no visas for countries of final destination. The Japanese Government is reluctant to admit any more refugees into the country, even in transit, claiming that some 2,000 Polish-Jewish refugees are now congregated in Kobe.

The refugees stranded in Vladivostok are held in trains and are not permitted by the Soviet authorities to visit the city. They lack food and have no funds to buy any. They also lack fare to return to Kaunas, from where they arrived. Should the Japanese authorities not revoke the order barring their admission into Japan, the refugees will be sent by the Soviet officials to remote parts of Siberia, where thousands of Polish citizens have been sent for refusing to accept Soviet citizenship in the Soviet occupied Poland.

(Continued on reverse side)

Captains of Japanese steamers sailing from Vladivostok declare they have been instructed to examine the visas of passengers when embarking. Hitherto the control of the visas was carried out by the Japanese only when the steamers from Vladivostok reached the Japanese harbor of Tsuruga.

Representatives of the Joint Distribution Committee and of the HIAS-ICA Emigration Association who have reached Kobe and are making an effort to contact the stranded refugees in Vladivostok and render them any aid possible.

POLISH COUNCIL COOL TO GOVERNMENT'S EQUAL RIGHTS PLEDGE TO JEWS

LONDON, March 28. (JTA) --Little enthusiasm for the Polish Government's policy of rights for Jews in a post-war Poland was shown by the Polish National Council when the exiled Government's general policy was reviewed at a plenary session last night for the first time since the Nov. 3 declaration on Jewish rights.

The declaration was welcomed only by representatives of some factions such as the Socialist Party, the Peasants Party of Wincenty Witos and Paderewski's Christian Democratic Party, while members of right-wing groups refrained from any statement on the Jewish problem, apparently in order to avoid embarrassing the Government. An exception was Gen. Zeligowski, who took the opportunity of lecturing the Jews on the necessity of abandoning the desire for "hegemony" and of creating a state and army of their own.

The Socialist, Cielkosz, rapporteur on the Government budget, referred to Labor Minister Jan Stanczyk's declaration on behalf of the Government as "one of the three major political steps" taken by the Government in its recent history.

Kwiatkowski of the Paderewski party declared his group was opposed to anti-Semitism. Socialist Adam Czyk declared for his party that Poland's future was possible only in a country of freedom, equal rights and duties for all, regardless of religion and race. Banacyk of the Peasants Party praised the declaration as an act of political maturity and declared the Government was under obligation to judge its citizens only according to their devotion to the fatherland. He said his party would fight to transform the Stanczyk declaration into reality in Polish life.

A strong anti-Jewish attack was made by Gen. Zeligowski, who insisted that the Jewish people, scattered the world over, were inspired by the idea of "domination," but that this aim had failed to materialize. Now, he said, the time had come for final settlement among races and nations and the Jews would have to make up their minds whether they wanted to create somewhere their own state and army.

Ignacy Schwartzbart, Jewish member of the Council, in a two-hour speech, expressed regret that the right-wingers had not indicated any change in attitude towards the Jews. He stressed Jewish support of the Polish cause the world over, the patriotism of Polish Jewish organizations and the heroic deeds of Polish Jewish soldiers.

Schwartzbart declared that not only the Government, but the Polish people had to renounce definitely the policy of Jewish mass emigration, which had been rejected by 99 per cent of the Polish Jews and supported only by anti-Semites and by the Zionist-Revisionists, who were an insignificant minority of the Polish Jews.

The necessary occupational redistribution of Polish Jews after the war should be "accompanied by the opening to them of all manual and intellectual occupations from which

they were hitherto barred, including state and municipal services," he said.

Replying to Zeligowski, the Jewish member pointed out that the Zionist movement had been striving for 50 years for establishment of a Jewish state, but this aim was indissolubly bound up with the rights of Jews in the countries in which they now lived.

COMMITTEE ACTION ON LIBERALIZED HOBBS BILL HELD UP

WASHINGTON, March 28. (JTA) -- Efforts to bring the liberalized Hobbs bill, designed to adjust administration of immigration laws to wartime conditions to the floor of the House for immediate action, was stymied in the Rules Committee today by opposition within the committee to the liberalization of the measure and the discretionary powers which would be vested in the Attorney General.

Committee opposition was led by Martin Dies of Texas. Four witnesses were heard in opposition to reporting the bill--Rep. Joe Starnes, Alabama, and J. L. Allen, Louisiana; Col. J. T. Taylor of the American Legion and John B. Trevor of the American coalition.

Committee Chairman Adolph Sabath said another effort to report out the measure would be made Tuesday with some Justice Department representatives probably appearing in support of the legislation. If the Rules Committee does not authorize immediate House consideration of the measure a vote on it will be held up another three months.

The Hobbs bill originally called for the confinement of deportable aliens where deportation orders could not be carried out because of wartime conditions.

On the recommendation of Attorney General Robert Jackson, the bill was amended to permit an independent board to judge which deportees should be confined as dangerous criminals and which should be released on parole. In addition, the measure was further amended to increase the discretionary authority of the Attorney General to waive deportation in order to avoid hardship cases and to grant haven to illegally-entered refugees of good character whose deportation would place them in danger because of their political beliefs, religion or race.

One of the important provisions of the amended bill is that the Attorney-General would have authority to grant a change of status from "non-immigrant" to "immigrant" for permanent residence to any alien admitted before Jan. 1, 1941, who applied for such change of status within two years after the effective date of the act and who would have fulfilled other requirements of existing laws, if there is "substantial reason to believe that he would be subject to political, racial or religious persecution were he to return to the country of his nativity, citizenship or last permanent residence."

The opposition at the hearing centered largely on the belief that the Justice Department would not be stringent enough in its policies to suit the opponents of the measure.

INCOME TAX LEVIED IN PALESTINE FOR FIRST TIME

JERUSALEM, March 28. (JTA) -- The first income tax in Palestine's modern history has been announced by the Government. There will be a flat levy of ten per cent annually on the income of companies, payable each midyear. The rate of individuals has not yet been announced.

A special Government officer is preparing a draft schedule of tax provisions and the necessary administrative and collection machinery.

(Continued on reverse side)

they were hitherto barred, including state and municipal services," he said.

Replying to Zeligowski, the Jewish member pointed out that the Zionist movement had been striving for 50 years for establishment of a Jewish state, but this aim was indissolubly bound up with the rights of Jews in the countries in which they now lived.

COMMITTEE ACTION ON LIBERALIZED HOBBS BILL HELD UP

WASHINGTON, March 28. (JTA) -- Efforts to bring the liberalized Hobbs bill, designed to adjust administration of immigration laws to wartime conditions to the floor of the House for immediate action, was stymied in the Rules Committee today by opposition within the committee to the liberalization of the measure and the discretionary powers which would be vested in the Attorney General.

Committee opposition was led by Martin Dies of Texas. Four witnesses were heard in opposition to reporting the bill--Rep. Joe Starnes, Alabama, and J. L. Allen, Louisiana; Col. J. T. Taylor of the American Legion and John B. Trevor of the American coalition.

Committee Chairman Adolph Sabath said another effort to report out the measure would be made Tuesday with some Justice Department representatives probably appearing in support of the legislation. If the Rules Committee does not authorize immediate House consideration of the measure a vote on it will be held up another three months.

The Hobbs bill originally called for the confinement of deportable aliens where deportation orders could not be carried out because of wartime conditions.

On the recommendation of Attorney General Robert Jackson, the bill was amended to permit an independent board to judge which deportees should be confined as dangerous criminals and which should be released on parole. In addition, the measure was further amended to increase the discretionary authority of the Attorney General to waive deportation in order to avoid hardship cases and to grant haven to illegally-entered refugees of good character whose deportation would place them in danger because of their political beliefs, religion or race.

One of the important provisions of the amended bill is that the Attorney-General would have authority to grant a change of status from "non-immigrant" to "immigrant" for permanent residence to any alien admitted before Jan. 1, 1941, who applied for such change of status within two years after the effective date of the act and who would have "fulfilled other requirements of existing laws, if there is 'substantial reason to believe' that he would be subject to political, racial or religious persecution were he to return to the country of his nativity, citizenship or last permanent residence."

The opposition at the hearing centered largely on the belief that the Justice Department would not be stringent enough in its policies to suit the opponents of the measure.

INCOME TAX LEVIED IN PALESTINE FOR FIRST TIME

JERUSALEM, March 28. (JTA) -- The first income tax in Palestine's modern history has been announced by the Government. There will be a flat levy of ten per cent annually on the income of companies, payable each midyear. The rate of individuals has not yet been announced.

A special Government officer is preparing a draft schedule of tax provisions and the necessary administrative and collection machinery.

(Continued on reverse side)

TWO BRITISH JEWS GET DECORATIONS FOR BRAVERY

LONDON, March 28. (JTA) -- The Order of the British Empire medal for outstanding bravery was awarded today to a Salford first-aid section leader, Nathan Dantzig. During an air raid he cleared away wreckage with his bare hands and saved four persons. Afterwards, during the same raid, he volunteered to enter a burning building and rescued an injured woman a few minutes before the house collapsed.

At a recent investiture in Buckingham Palace, a Jewish air-raid warden named Shonner received the OBE medal. He is the only Stepney warden to have been personally presented with the decoration by the King.

Among the sheriffs appointed by the King is Sir Edward William Meyerstein for Kent.

Dr. Joseph Myoffey, former vice-president of the British Zionist Federation, has been appointed to the chair of anatomy at Bristol University. He went to the United States in 1937 as a Rockefeller Foundation fellow and spent nearly two years in research at Harvard.

RITUAL MURDER LIBEL REVIVED IN PROTECTORATE

LONDON, March 28. (JTA) -- The "ritual murder" libel has been revived by Nazi agents in the Czech Protectorate for pre-Passover anti-Jewish propaganda, it was reported here today.

Nazis are flooding the country with posters warning Czech mothers to guard their children "because Jews are accustomed to use the blood of Christian children in their Passover food."

4,000 TO ATTEND DENVER SANITARIUM PARLEY

NEW YORK, March 28. (JTA) -- More than 4,000 delegates and visitors will attend the three-day 37th Annual national convention of the Jewish Consumptives' Relief Society of Denver, popularly known as the Denver Sanatorium, which will be held at the Hotel Astor, beginning March 29. The convention will be featured by a dinner at \$100 per couple. Messages from President Roosevelt, Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt, Governor Lehman, Mayor LaGuardia, and William Green, president of the American Federation of Labor, will be read. Addresses will be delivered by Lieut.-Gov. Charles Poletti and City Council President Newbold Morris.

ROMANIA TO SEIZE JEWS' PROPERTY

ZURICH, March 28. (JTA) -- Rumanian Premier Ion Antonescu has issued a decree expropriating all property owned by Jews in cities. A clause in the decree that "suitable residence will be found for dispossessed Jews" was interpreted as raising the possibility of ghettos.

JEWS BARRED FROM HOTELS IN DUTCH TOWN

LONDON, March 28. (JTA) -- The mayor of the Dutch town of Boeuninghausen has issued a decree barring Jews from hotels, restaurants and bathing establishments, according to the Niederlanden Zeitung.