

# NEWS

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### REFUGEES IN PORTUGAL FACE INTERNMENT POSSIBILITY; 20,000 IN SPANISH JAILS

ZURICH, April 22. (JTA) -- Possibility that Jewish and political refugees stranded in Portugal will be interned has arisen to add a new difficulty to the already desperate situation of refugees from Central Europe, it was learned here today.

With the new strain created in Lisbon by reports of a prospective German offensive against Gibraltar through the Iberian peninsula, the Portuguese authorities are considering establishment of camps for the hundreds of exiles who entered Portugal in transit but have not yet been able to emigrate overseas, according to reports reaching here.

Because of the congestion existing on the regularly operated trans-Atlantic vessels between Lisbon and the American continent, Portuguese consulates abroad have been instructed not to issue Portuguese transit visas more than twelve days before sailing time. Portuguese transit visas are now secured only after shipping companies inform the Lisbon authorities of definite steamship booking.

The Portuguese consulates, in addition to other instructions, are also instructed not to grant any transit visas unless they receive in each case the approval of the International Police in Lisbon. The headquarters of the International Police require definite evidence that passage has been booked on a specific steamer with a definite sailing date. It takes about a month to secure a decision from the International Police headquarters and it takes about two weeks to secure a Spanish transit visa for which the Portuguese visa is a necessary preliminary.

Meanwhile, it is reported that there are at present more than 20,000 refugees interned in jails in Spain. The French Government in Vichy is turning over more and more refugees to the Nazi authorities and the police in Marseille have started expulsion of all Jews, French and foreign-born, from the city on the pretext that this French harbor city is overcrowded.

The report indicates that the American consulate in Marseille is making it increasingly difficult for political refugees to secure visas to the United States. Each refugee for whom an American visa is asked must now answer 13 special questions before the visa is granted.

The Jews expelled from Marseille must take up residence in places assigned to them

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in other towns. They will not be permitted to leave these towns, except on special occasions.

Writer, Chess Expert Sent to French Town

VICHY, April 22. (JTA) -- The writer, Poliakov-Litovtzev, and Ossip Bernstein, a chess champion, who were in Marseille preparing to emigrate to the United States, have been sent to compulsory residence at Ciotat, near Marseille, it was learned here today.

Poliakov-Litovtzev was one of those arrested in the police round-up of foreign Jews, but was released last week after a brief period of detention. He is of Russian origin and has a Nansen "stateless" passport.

(A dispatch of an American news agency incorrectly reported that Vladimir Poliakov, foreign affairs expert who writes under the name "Angur," had been sent to Ciotat.)

Troper Leaves for Lisbon Today

NEW YORK, April 22. (JTA) -- Hurrying back to his post in Lisbon to resume direction of overseas relief operations for the Joint Distribution Committee, Morris C. Troper leaves on the Atlantic Clipper Wednesday. Troper's departure was hastened because of the news of the critical situation of millions of victims of war and persecutions. He is chairman of the JDC European Executive Council.

NAZIS BAR WHITE BREAD FOR POLES AND JEWS; GHETTO FILM SHOWN IN BERLIN

ZURICH, April 22. (JTA) -- Nazi newspapers reaching Switzerland today report that the Nazi administration in Poland have issued an order prohibiting Jews and Poles from acquiring white bread and wheat flour.

"White bread is a luxury, and we are not going to provide the Jews and the Poles with luxuries," the Deutsche Rundschau declares in attempt to justify the order.

The same issues of the Nazi newspapers report the showing in Berlin of an anti-Semitic film containing scenes taken in the ghettos in Warsaw, Lodz and other cities. Jews in these ghettos were forced to pose for the Nazi camera men, it is indicated by the comments in the newspapers that "the pictures were taken not in studios, but in the actual ghettos, representing the daily life of the ghetto Jews."

The anti-Semitic scenes showing the Jews in the ghetto streets, in crowded dwellings and in synagogues, are accompanied by captions giving data as to the number of Jews in various Polish towns prior to the Nazi occupation which are now "judenrein." The film concludes with a march of brownshirt battalions over the streets of the ghetto, aimed at impressing the audience with the difference between the depressed Jews and the "victorious" Germans.

FORCED JEWISH LABOR INTRODUCED IN BULGARIA

ZURICH, April 22. (JTA) -- Compulsory Jewish labor has been introduced in Nazi-occupied Bulgaria, it was reported today. The German radio announced that Jewish labor gangs had been formed in Bulgaria for construction of new railway lines and roads.

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BRITAIN DELAYS DECISION ON JEWISH ARMY; NEGOTIATIONS IN WASHINGTON

WASHINGTON, April 22. (JTA) -- The British Government is still delaying action on formation of a Jewish army in Palestine.

With the situation in the Near East becoming more menacing, the British Embassy said today it had "nothing new to report" on London's reaction to the formation of a Jewish army to fight alongside General Wavell's army of the Nile.

The campaign of the Zionists to form a separate Jewish army was transferred from London to Washington two weeks ago when Dr. Chaim Weizmann conferred with State Department and British Embassy officials. Thus far there have been no concrete results from these conversations, it was learned.

One month ago there were 7,500 Palestine Jewish volunteers in the British forces, according to official advices from American observers in Palestine, but the British had carefully refrained from placing them in separate fighting units, for fear that this might offend Arab opinion.

Of the 7,500, 600 are now serving with the East Kent regiment in the field. The British High Command was careful to see that 600 Arabs also serve with the regiment, according to official reports from American observers on the spot.

Most of the other Jewish volunteers were used in engineer and other auxiliary services. The reports from American observers show that while the Arabs in Palestine outnumber the Jews two to one, the Jewish volunteers outnumber the Arabs by more than two to one. There are 3,000 Palestine Arabs in the British forces.

The numbers of both Arabs and Jews have increased since March 16, when another plea was made for volunteers. According to word received here, Jewish and Arab volunteers are estimated at another 2,000.

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Wounded Jews Reach Palestine

LONDON, April 22. (JTA) -- Palestine censorship authorities today permitted the first disclosure of the arrival of wounded Jewish soldiers in the Holy Land from the battle-fronts of General Wavell's army. There are some 8,000 Jews in the British forces, many of whom are serving in the North African desert campaign and others in the British expeditionary force in Greece.

A Jerusalem dispatch, dated Monday, said that Sephardic Chief Rabbi Ben-Zion Uziel had visited the Jewish wounded in military hospitals. The number was not given.

ARABS IN SOUTH AMERICA HIT ZIONISM

BUENOS AIRES, April 22. (JTA) -- A congress of Arab communities in South American countries today proclaimed Syria, Leganon, Palestine and Transjordan as "indivisible" and asserted that they had never agreed to the British or French mandates or to the idea of a Jewish national home.

DR. GOLDMAN TO ADDRESS ARGENTINE ZIONISTS

BUENOS AIRES, April 22. (JTA) -- Preparations were completed here today for a reception to be given to Dr. Solomon Goldman, former president of the Zionist Organization of America, who will be the principal speaker at the 17th Convention of the Zionist Federation

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of Argentina. This is the first time that a convention of the Federation will be addressed by a U.S. Zionist leader. Dr. Goldman is scheduled to reach Argentine by airplane from the U.S. in time to deliver his address to the convention, which opens on Saturday.

#### REFUGEE PROGRAM SABOTAGED IN WASHINGTON, EX-SECRETARY OF INTERGOVERNMENTAL COMMITTEE CHARGES

WASHINGTON, April 22. (JTA) -- A charge that official Washington bureaucracy is deliberately sabotaging American refugee work and thereby hampering the nation's announced program of "all-out aid" to England will be made in The New Republic magazine this week by Alfred Wagg III, former Secretary of the Intergovernmental Committee on Refugees.

The article says that refugee work "has been at best a step-child in Washington, to be beaten and buffeted, and at worst a football for anti-Semitism and for petty bureaucrats, including those who delight in sabotaging the President's program just because it is his."

"As this is written," the article continues, "there is even a move afoot to discontinue the Intergovernmental Committee, which has provided the sole stimulus for official effort on behalf of the refugees. Its office in Washington has already been virtually closed and it is questionable whether it will be provided with the small sum necessary to maintain what is left of it through the next year."

Demanding that this country adopt a definite refugee program to halt "Hitler's war by refugee," The New Republic declares:

"'Refugee' in Washington today means 'alien' to the bureaucrat, 'secret agent' to the military man. For the sake of all we mean when we talk about democracy, the refugee should be clothed with human dignity once more."

The magazine asserts that the resettlement of refugees from the British Isles in the Western Hemisphere is "chapter and verse of our aid to the democracies."

"England, heavily burdened with the job of feeding her own people, is being forced to care for tens of thousands of refugees from the continent of Europe who are of little help--often the reverse--in her war effort. The U.S., through the Intergovernmental Committee on Refugees, is pledged to assist England in resettling these people, but Washington officialdom refused to do its part and will continue to refuse unless it can somehow be jolted from its lethargy."

#### BRITAIN BARS SPECIAL NATIONALITY STATUS FOR JEWISH REFUGEES

LONDON, April 22. (JTA) -- Home Undersecretary Osbert Peake today rejected a suggestion for conferring special "Jewish nationality" status on German, Austrian and Italian Jews.

He made the statement in Commons, replying to David Adams, Laborite, who asked whether the Home Secretary, in view of the fact that among the internees and other "enemy aliens" the overwhelming proportion were Jews officially classified as German, Austrian and Italian, would consider the possibility of renunciation of such nationalities in cases where so desired by Jews, permitting classification as of "Jewish nationality" pending clarification of their status at the end of the war.

In a written reply, Captain Peake said: "Renunciation by a foreigner of nationality is a matter governed by the law of his own country and it is not within the Home Secretary's competence to sanction such renunciation. Regarding the second part of the question, nationality has meaning only by reference to a sovereign state."