

NEWS

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NAZIS REPORTED OFFERING MADAGASCAR PLAN TO JEWISH LEADERS

STOCKHOLM, April 29. (JTA) -- Jewish leaders from the Reich, Austria, Nazi-held Poland and the Protectorate were summoned by the Nazi authorities to a conference in Berlin at which the plan to have all Jews from Europe "evacuated" to the French Island of Madagascar was offered to them, it is reported in Judisk Kronika, a Jewish publication here.

The Jews who participated in the conference were warned against disclosing its details, the report said. Depression is growing among German Jews as result of the conference. They fear they may soon face the same fate as the Jews of Baden who were deported by the Nazi authorities to unoccupied France, reportedly for eventual transportation to Madagascar, and are now held in French isolation camps since the British blockade prevents their transportation to French Africa.

The American immigration quota for Germany for the fiscal year is still not exhausted. American consulates in Germany continue to issue visas, provided that evidence is produced that passage has been booked on a specific boat and confirmed by the steamship companies.

In view of the shortage of steamship accommodations, it is difficult for the prospective immigrants to comply with the request of the consuls and many who have their American visas ready for them in the consulates fear that it may be too late to use them, in view of the rumored impending occupation of Lisbon, the only port in Europe open for sailings to the United States.

Jews in Germany and Austria can still leave for Lisbon by special trains running twice a week from Berlin to Portugal via Paris, Hendaye and Irun. It is becoming, however, more and more difficult to make this trip because the Franco-Spanish border is frequently closed for unexplained reasons. It is assumed that the closing of the frontier takes place each time the trains are busy carrying German soldiers and supplies into Spain in preparation for an attack on Gibraltar.

ANTI-JEWISH "SANITARY" DRIVE IN POLAND

ZURICH, April 29. (JTA) -- A sanitary campaign, under the slogan "the Jews are like typhus," has concluded in Warsaw and will be started soon in other parts of Nazi-occupied Poland, according to the Krakauer Zeitung.

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CONTINUOUS PRAYERS FOR VICTORY STARTED IN PALESTINE

JERUSALEM, April 29. (JTA) -- Continuous prayers for a British victory have been inaugurated in all Palestine synagogues. There are three shifts daily. A special prayer for Winston Churchill was recited before his speech on Sunday.

On the occasion of Anzac Day a group of Australian officers planted 120 trees in Tel Aviv's Gan Meir, the public park named for the late Mayor Meir Dizengoff.

Confident that the Axis drive in the Near East will be a failure, the Palestine Potash Company has announced it has begun construction of a five-kilometer dam along the shores of the Jordan River. The dam is to protect the company plants from floods when the Jordan overflows its banks in the rainy season.

Simultaneously, the company announced completion of a factory on the shores of the Jordan to produce bromine. The first Palestine-produced bromine will soon be put on the market. The Dead Sea has almost inexhaustible deposits of bromine, which is especially needed in time of war.

A threat to Palestine was seen here in the Nazi seizure of some of the islands lying near the Dardanelles. It was admitted that the seizure of Samothrace and other small Greek islands, together with the Dodecanese Islands of Italy and French-controlled Syria, opened up the seaway to Palestine, sidestepping Turkey. The British naval announcement that the whole eastern Mediterranean is dangerous to shipping was taken here to imply that the British Government had taken far-reaching precautions to prevent Nazi tanks from reaching Syria as they reached Libya.

BARKLEY PRESIDES AT PALESTINE DINNER TONIGHT

WASHINGTON, April 29. (JTA) -- Senator Alben W. Barkley, Senate majority leader, will preside and deliver the keynote address at the inaugural dinner of the American Palestine Committee tomorrow evening, it was announced today. Barkley was one of the first to join the Committee, which now numbers more than 500 members, including Senators, Congressmen, Governors, clergymen, writers and civic leaders.

In a letter accepting the invitation to preside and deliver the keynote address, Senator Barkley said: "When the forces of democracy have prevailed over their enemies, hundreds of thousands of Jews in Europe will still be homeless. They must be rehabilitated, and obviously Palestine offers the most promising and logical solution to the pressing refugee problem with which the world will be faced."

RABBI HERZOG CONFERS WITH ROOSEVELT

WASHINGTON, April 29. (JTA) -- Chief Rabbi Isaac Herzog of Palestine conferred with President Roosevelt for nearly a half-hour today. He stated later: "I was inspired by this great man. It was a wonderful privilege and one which I will never forget."

EQUALITY FOR REFUGEE DOCTORS IN ARMY URGED

BUFFALO, N.Y. April 29. (JTA) -- The annual meeting of the New York State Medical Society last night approved a report urging that refugee physicians be placed on a basis of equality with American doctors regarding commissions in military service. "Otherwise, it would be an injustice to our native graduates of American colleges, as they would be called to duty and their practice would be left to the alien physician and graduates from foreign medical schools," the report said.

JEWS FORGET SPIRITUAL HERITAGE IN STRESSING ANTI-SEMITISM, DETROIT PARLEY TOLD

DETROIT, April 29. (JTA) -- Jews have forgotten the meaning of their spiritual heritage in their emphasis on the "gruesome reality" of anti-Semitism, Rabbi Julius Gordon of St. Louis declared tonight at a supper meeting of the National Advisory Committee of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations, which is holding its 37th council at the Hotel Statler.

"We have forgotten the meaning of our spiritual heritage," Rabbi Gordon declared. "There is only one reality in Jewish life today and that is anti-Semitism. All our pleas and protests, all our dreaming and doing are centered around this gruesome reality.

"Some of us have even reached the conclusion that only anti-Semitism can keep us alive, as if anti-Semitism were some benevolent society for the preservation of Judaism. Now I do not mean to ignore or minimize the tragic reality of anti-Semitism. I fully realize the unprecedented tragedy in Jewish life today.

"But it is my deepest conviction that no power and no force can drive us out of the world...I ask you to realize that Judaism is the source of our life and the length of our days. We sell faith to our people and you are asked to buy immortality. Once we realize this great truth, we shall find that even our suffering will become a challenge to living and greater achievement."

The convention of the National Federation of Temple Brotherhoods this afternoon was devoted to a discussion of the Jewish Chataqua Society. Dean P. Malcolm Guess of University of Mississippi said the society was satisfying a renewed interest in religion on American university campuses. Arthur Strauss, Chicago, chairman of the J.C.S. executive committee, said the society would send speakers on Judaism to an audience of more than 200,000 in 200 universities this year.

Allyn M. Schiffer, New York, advised the brotherhoods to socialize or glamorize their religious programs, without losing dignity or solemnity.

Federal Circuit Court Judge Charles C. Simons, who was elected convention chairman of the UAHC last night, declared that Judaism would survive the present crisis. He declared "our place in America is of right and not of sufferance." Rabbi George Zepin announced his resignation as secretary of the Union after 35 years of service and was elected honorary secretary.

GOLDMAN ADDRESSES 8,000 IN ARGENTINE

BUENOS AIRES, April 29. (JTA) -- Dr. Solomon Goldman, president of the Zionist Organization of America, last night addressed an audience of 8,000 at Luna Park. Meanwhile, the three-day convention of the Argentine Zionist Federation concluded, electing Nachman Gesang as president and announcing a half-million-peso campaign for the Keren Hayesod.

NAZIS SEIZE MORE JEWISH FIRMS IN FRANCE

VICHY, April 29. (JTA) -- The number of Jewish firms expropriated in occupied France reached 2,789 today with publication of a new list of 174.

POLISH ZIONISTS ORGANIZE IN ENGLAND

LONDON, April 29. (JTA) -- A meeting of Polish Zionists here decided today to form an organization of Polish Zionists in Britain, embracing all Zionist parties, within the framework of the Jewish Agency. The new group will be named after the late Nahum Sokolow.

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WARSAW JEWISH LEADER TELLS OF CURBS IN NAZI POLAND

NEW YORK, April 29. (JTA) -- Important information on the latest anti-Jewish restrictions in Nazi-held Poland was brought to this country by Maximilian Friede, former Warsaw judge and Jewish leader, who has reached New York via England and Canada.

In a statement to the J.T.A., Friede declared Jewish life in the ghettos of Warsaw, Lodz and other Polish cities was worse than in the most crowded sections of any Chinese city. Eight to ten persons are crowded in one small room, living under unbearable sanitary conditions. This results in unprecedented mortality. The number of Jews dying in the Lodz ghetto averages 80 a day. Not much better is the situation in the Warsaw ghetto. The Nazis are also contemplating the establishment of regional ghettos for Jews in small towns, he said.

The food situation, Friede said, is precarious. The Jews get only half the rations allotted to Poles. They do not get any meat or fats. They have been compelled by a recent Nazi order to register with the authorities all their belongings, including furniture and clothing, which they now cannot sell without permission of the authorities. Thus, a majority of the Jews in Warsaw, who lived by selling their household furnishings, are now deprived of any source of maintenance and depend on charity.

"The Nazi authorities," Friede declared, "have ordered the Jews to pay their rent to Nazi collectors. This act of robbery yields approximately fifty million zlotys to the Nazis in Warsaw alone."

Judge Friede reported that the Nazis have closed all Jewish elementary schools in Poland so that Jewish children are deprived of education. Similarly, all Jewish libraries have been liquidated. The valuable Jewish library at the main synagogue in Warsaw, on Tlomacka Street, has been closed and the books shipped to Germany. The Warsaw Jewish Historical Museum met the same fate.

Jewish religious life in Poland is being destroyed by the Nazis, Judge Friede continued. Jews are not permitted to hold prayers in synagogues. Most of the synagogues have been burned down by the Nazis or converted into warehouses and stables. The rabbinate has been dissolved by the Nazi authorities and rabbis are prohibited from performing religious functions. Jewish artisans are not permitted to practice their professions, except with Nazi permission. Despite all this, Jews in Poland are not broken spiritually and live in the hope that better times are to come, Friede concluded.

JEWISH MEN'S CLUBS BACK AID TO BRITAIN

SYRACUSE, N.Y., April 29. (JTA) -- The 12th annual convention of the National Federation of Jewish Men's Clubs Sunday adopted resolutions endorsing President Roosevelt's policy of "all-out aid to the democracies" and supporting the Jewish Section of the Inter-faith Committee to Aid the Democracies.

Officers elected are Louis J. Schwartz, New York, honorary president; Abraham J. Leonard, Philadelphia, president; Louis Weinstein, Boston, Bernard S. Cohen, Syracuse, Morris Weil, New York, and Elcanah A. Saulson, Detroit, vice-presidents; Leo Selig, Indianapolis, Joseph Blum, New York, and Bernard M. Klivans, Toledo, O., secretaries, and Milton Berger, Philadelphia, treasurer.

JABOTINSKY BUST SHOWN IN LONDON

LONDON, April 29. (JTA) -- A bust of the late Vladimir Jabotinsky by the sculptor Rustchuk has been accepted by the Royal Academy and will be exhibited beginning next Monday.