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JEWISH TELEGRAPHIC AGENCY

1560 BROADWAY, N.Y.C.

VOL. VIII. No. 132

Friday, May 16, 1941.

BRITISH PLAN ACTION AGAINST NAZI BASES IN SYRIA; GERMAN PLANES REACH IRAQ

LONDON, May 15. (JTA) -- The menace to Palestine reached a new climax today as Foreign Secretary Anthony Eden announced in Commons that the French were permitting the Germans to use Syrian air bases and asserted that the British Government had authorized "full action" against German planes in Syrian airdromes.

At the same time a British communique in Cairo disclosed that German planes have reached Iraq, bringing "propagandists, agitators and similar specialists."

Eden's statement was the first official announcement that Germany had received military rights in French-mandated Syria, which had been rumored for several days since Vichy and the Nazis concluded a new agreement containing secret concessions to Berlin.

Captain Eden said "there is certainly strong force" in a suggestion voiced by a member of Commons whether France's withdrawal from the League of Nations did not abrogate the Syrian mandate. The reply led to speculation that Britain might ask the remaining League members to nullify French control over Syria, thus opening the way to British action against the Germans there.

A Free French broadcast to France on the British radio denounced Vichy's action in allowing Germany entry into Syria as a breach of Marshal Henri Petain's word of honor and the Armistice conditions.

There was also discussion in Commons yesterday of Nazi-inspired Arab agitation in the Middle East. Replying to a question from David Adams, Laborite, Colonial Under-secretary George H. Hall said Jamal el Hussein, Palestine Arab extremist, who was in closest association with the exiled ex-Mufti of Jerusalem, was still in Iraq. (Jamal is the ex-Mufti's cousin.) He added that George Antonius was still in Palestine but was not suspected of undesirable dealings with the ex-Mufti.

Internal Fight Among Palestine Jews

TEL AVIV, May 15. (JTA) -- Long standing opposition against the Vaad Leumi (Jewish National Council) and Jewish Agency Executive burst into open revolt today at a conference of center and rightist groups, including local Jewish communities, the Manufacturers' Association, the Maccabi and the Zionist-Revisionists.

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The conference sent an ultimatum to the Vaad Leumi and Agency Executive that separate institutions would be established unless an agreement was reached by Sunday.

Greek Refugees Reach Haifa

JERUSALEM, May 15. (JTA) -- Nine Jewish refugees from Greece, without immigration certificates, arrived at Haifa on a small boat yesterday and were interned in the Atlit concentration camp. Earlier, 130 previous arrivals were released from Atlit.

A leader of the Athens Jewish community, Victor Meir, who has reached Alexandria after a narrow escape, reported that almost the entire Jewish population of 3,000 remained in the city when the Germans entered, according to the newspaper Davar.

Chief Rabbi Isaac Barzilai and the president of the Jewish community, Vitalis, represented the Jews in dealings with the Nazi-controlled Greek Government. Jewish refugees from Germany, Czechoslovakia and Poland, assisted by the Greek and British authorities, escaped and are now somewhere in the Middle East. The fate of Jewish property, estimated at £500,000, is not yet known.

VICHY TO ISSUE NEW ANTI-JEWISH STATUTE; LAWS TO BE COORDINATED WITH NAZI LEGISLATION

VICHY, May 15. (JTA) -- A second "Jewish statute" will be shortly promulgated for unoccupied France, it was disclosed today after a Cabinet meeting. Exemptions will be provided for former front-fighters and also for persons converted to Christianity before June 25, 1940.

The office in Paris for settlement of the Jewish problem in occupied France has declared that in the future German and French laws about the Jews will be coordinated, the Swiss radio reported.

(At the same time the Nazi-controlled Hilversum radio, heard in London, reported that 20,000 foreign Jews had been arrested in unoccupied France. In addition, it was reported in Geneva that 5,000 foreign Jews had been arrested in Paris and interned in concentration camps.)

The new law will class Jews as foreigners, the Propaganda Ministry said. Its intention will be to remove Jews "from every job where they have had a hand on the lever of any French activity--banks, industry, commerce, press, radio, cinema, publishing and the theater, as well as public administration."

The first French anti-Jewish law was issued last Oct. 18 and barred Jews from Government positions and key posts in such professions as the press and cinema, and limited lesser public positions to Jews with war service.

MORE EXPROPRIATIONS IN RUMANIA

ISTANBUL, May 15. (JTA) -- The Rumanian press publishes a decree expropriating Jewish manufacturers of wines, spirits and medicines and also Jewish mining and forest property.

HUNGARY ARRESTS JEWS

LONDON, May 15. (JTA) -- Radio Lyons reports that hundreds of Jews have been arrested in Hungary on charges of "spreading false rumors."

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NAZIS PLANNING TO FORCE 70,000 MORE JEWS INTO WARSAW GHETTO

ZURICH, May 15. (JTA) -- The Warsaw Jewish community has been officially ordered by the Nazi authorities to make room for 70,000 more Jews in the ghetto, according to reports reaching here today.

Thousands of Jews from provincial townships are being driven into Warsaw it was said. They include Jews who had already been driven once from their homes in various villages to neighboring towns.

The arrival of 70,000 more Jews will aggravate the dwelling problem and the food situation for the 400,000 Jews already isolated in the ghetto. The Jewish Community in Warsaw is hardly able to provide aid for the newcomers, since it cannot even meet the relief requirements of those already in the ghetto.

The growing shortage of food in the ghetto has led the community to organize gardening on every available plot in the ghetto. Many Jews are planting onions, tomatoes and other vegetables on the balconies of their dwellings.

Double postage has been introduced by the Nazi authorities in Warsaw for every letter posted in the ghetto post-office branch. Letters addressed abroad are subjected to a special tax of one zloty, although this is contrary to the international postal regulations. The impoverished Jews in the ghetto, unable to spend an extra zloty, are thus prevented from maintaining correspondence with their relatives outside of Poland.

SCHWARTZBART DEMANDS JEWISH PARTICIPATION IN POLISH-CZECH TALKS

LONDON, May 15. (JTA) -- Ignacy Schwartzbart, Jewish member of the Polish National Council, today criticized the Polish Ministry of Information for not seeking to bring about an understanding between Jews and Poles, both in England and Poland. He declared at a press conference that anti-Jewish propaganda was still stronger than the pro-Jewish, although Jesten Poliakem was forbidden in the army.

Discussing the planned Polish-Czechoslovak federation, Schwartzbart said he would demand that Czecho-Polish discussions about the Jewish problem in Central and Eastern Europe not be conducted without the participation of authorized Jewish representatives. He expressed confidence in the emergency of a harmonious, constructive solution of the Jewish problem in a regenerated Poland and dismissed "defeatist theories" that the Jews would be forced to leave Europe even after an Allied victory.

"The five million Jews suffering under the Hitler yoke and world Jewry are actively participating in the struggle of the Allies, not to the end that the Europe of tomorrow remain a hell for the Jews," he said.

By command of the Bishop for the Polish forces the Polish Government has published a Polish edition of the New Testament, but omitted the Old Testament, although Jewish and Polish soldiers were anxious to have Polish Bibles and reportedly applied to the authorities for them. The Jewish Chronicle expressed regret that Jews were deprived of the benefits of official Polish cultural funds which are financing the edition.

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STRENGTHENING OF ZIONISM, ORTHODOX JUDAISM URGED AT MIZRACHI PARLEY

ATLANTIC CITY, May 15. (JTA) -- A seven-point program for strengthening of Zionism and of orthodox Judaism in the United States during the coming year was outlined tonight by Leon Gellman in his presidential message opening the 24th annual convention of the Mizrahi Zionist Organization of America at the St. Charles Hotel.

The program calls for "maximum support" of Palestine, raising of \$100,000 for the Machlekat Hecheradim Jewish National Fund project, building of new centers of Jewish learning in the United States, creation of a cultural institute "to enrich American Judaism with new religious and literary treasures," organization of Jewish youth, widening of the activities of the Committee for Strengthening Torah and Education and strengthening of Mizrahi's Board of Education.

Gellman criticized Britain as not fulfilling her duty towards the Zionists. "We must make the public declaration that it is absurd to preach democracy and human freedom and the rights of minorities and small nations while the elementary rights of our own heavily-burdened people are openly flouted," he said. He also called for the moving of Zionism's center from London to Washington.

Also on the speakers' list tonight were Chief Rabbi Isaac Herzog of Palestine; Rabbi Jacob Levinson, former president of Mizrahi; Rabbi Wolf Gold, chairman of the Mizrahi World Executive; Rabbi Moshe Shapiro of Atlantic City; Gedalia Bublick, honorary president of Mizrahi; and Rabbi Jacob Hoffman of New York.

MILLIONS LONG FOR FREEDOM IN EUROPE, ZWEIG TELLS PEN CLUB

NEW YORK, May 15. (JTA) -- "Never have so many people longed so passionately for a free world than now, while strangled in the grip of terror," Stefan Zweig declared tonight at a dinner of the European PEN Club in America, held at the Hotel Biltmore. "If but one single word of ours should penetrate their prisons, they will welcome it as a message that their tyrants have triumphed too early, for they will know that there are still free people in free countries who wish to bring freedom to everybody on earth," he said.

Others on the speakers' list were Jules Romains, W. Somerset Maugham, Sigrid Undset, Dorothy Thompson and Henry Seidel Canby.

BIENSTOCK LEAVES FOR EUROPE TO RESUME DUTIES

NEW YORK, May 15. (JTA) -- Victor M. Bienstock, chief of the foreign service of the Jewish Telegraphic Agency and Overseas News Agency, left today for Europe on the Dixie Clipper to resume his duties after a vacation.

HELEN MIRKIN, WIFE OF ICA DIRECTOR, DEAD

LONDON, May 15. (JTA) -- Helen Mirkin, wife of the director of the Jewish Colonization Association, has died at the age of 57. Her only son, Captain Victor Mirkin, co-director of the Palestine Jewish Colonization Association (PICA), is now serving with the British forces in the Middle East.

ANNA KELLNER, WRITER, DIES

JERUSALEM, May 15. (JTA) -- Anna Kellner, well known writer and translator, has died at the age of 78. She was the widow of Prof. Leon Kellner, Bukovinian Zionist leader.