

JTA News Bulletin

PUBLISHED DAILY BY THE JEWISH TELEGRAPHIC AGENCY
106 EAST 41st STREET, NEW YORK, N.Y.

VOL. VIII. NO. 158

Wednesday, June 18, 1941.

VICHY PLANS INTERNMENT OF FOREIGN JEWS IN NORTH AFRICA; ROUND-UP INTENSIFIED

LISEON, June 17. (JTA)-- Huge concentration camps are already being constructed by the Vichy Government in French North Africa to which foreign Jews in France will be deported unless they are able to emigrate soon, according to information received from Vichy today.

Almost a week before the new French anti-Jewish decrees were published, Vichy's Ministry of Interior circularized prefects of departments informing them of the impending measures and instructing prefects of departments with large numbers of foreign Jews to clear them out. These Jews were given four days to leave their homes and move to Department Correze in central France, which apparently is to serve as a concentration center pending their transportation to Africa.

This circular, which was in the hands of the Marseille prefecture by June 9, resulted in intensification of the mass round-up of Jews in the streets which had previously been in progress. The former practice of taking them to the steamship Massilia, where they were medically examined and those found fit transported to Africa for work on the trans-Sahara railway, has been discontinued recently. It is reliably reported that only a few hundred Jews were transported to the Sahara.

Special provision has been made for certain classes of foreign Jews who will not be interned in Africa but will be required to take up residence in small villages.

Although seeking to accelerate Jewish emigration from unoccupied France, the authorities intend to close down Camp Les Milles, which was especially established for refugees about to emigrate. The inmates will be transferred to Camp Le Vernet, which is one of the worst of the camps. Intervention by refugee-aid agencies succeeded in postponing this development for the time being.

It is learned authoritatively that the French anti-Jewish decrees had been prepared for publication by Xavier Vallat, Vichy's Commissioner for Jewish Affairs, at least ten days before their appearance in the Official Journal on Saturday but were held up because of the Syrian situation, which alarmed and shocked the population. The reaction of the French population to the Levant developments was of such an unfavorable nature that the Government announcement was delayed for fear it would aid further to the popular dissatisfaction. When the decrees were published, they aroused considerable criticism, particularly in the Marseille and Nice districts.

HUNDREDS FROM TEL AVIV, HAIFA VISIT JERUSALEM FOR DELIVERANCE PRAYERS

JERUSALEM, June 17. (JTA)-- Many hundreds of inhabitants of Tel Aviv and Haifa, after undergoing air raids during the past week, are visiting the Wailing Wall to pray Birkath Hagomel--the prayer after deliverance from danger. Some 8,000 persons have come to Jerusalem for a short rest after nights made sleepless by raids and alarms.

(Continued on reverse side)

The survivors of the bombing of an invalids' home in Tel Aviv last Thursday, in which five inmates were killed, have been moved to new premises. Three of the wounded remain in the hospital, where their progress is reported satisfactory.

Meanwhile, it is announced that more than 500 Yemenite Jews in Palestine have enlisted in the armed forces.

All except 70 of the 1,500 survivors of the explosion and sinking of the refugee ship Patria in Haifa harbor last November and all the refugees who arrived here on the S.S. Libertad last June have now been released from the Athlit internment camp.

Three hundred children are attending nine classes in the camp's school. Three additional teachers who have been engaged are giving instruction in Hebrew and the regular course of subjects. The youths have arranged flower and vegetable gardens covering 30 dunams and various workshops.

Most of the Youth Aliyah immigrants in the last four months have been absorbed on Jewish National Fund land, according to figures just made available which show that of 1,000 youths and children, 800 are being trained on J.N.F. land, including one-third in agricultural schools, such as Ben Shemen and Ahavah. Of 1,150 youths graduated as trainees in the same period, 950 were trained on J.N.F. land and 640 of them have already been absorbed as settlers in J.N.F. areas.

PRIME MINISTER CHURCHILL SEES GEORGE BACKER

LONDON, June 17. (JTA)-- George Backer, editor and publisher of the New York Post and President of the Jewish Telegraphic Agency, was received by Prime Minister Winston Churchill today.

Last night, Backer attended an informal meeting with Polish, Czech and Jewish leaders at the home of Ignacy Schwartzbart. Those present included Polish Interior Minister Kott, Information Minister Stronski, Labor Minister Stanczyk and Minorities Director Paprocki; Czechoslovak Propaganda Minister Ripka, Minister Nemeo and Minorities Director Winter; Berl Locker of the Jewish Agency and Dr. Barou of the World Jewish Congress. A lively discussion of topical matters was held.

DUTCH OMIT 'NOT' FROM 'JEWS NOT WANTED' SIGNS

LONDON, June 17. (JTA)-- A striking example of how the Dutch population flouts anti-Semitic orders by the occupation authorities is given in a report reaching Dutch circles here today.

After cards with the words, "Jews Not Wanted," were delivered to all seaside hotels in Noordwijk, the local Nazi paper commented: "Strange, indeed, is the attitude of many owners of hotels on the seafront who inadvertently deleted the word 'not' so that the cards read 'Jews Wanted'."

NUREMBERG LAWS BETWEEN POLES AND JEWS

STOCKHOLM, June 17. (JTA)-- The Nuremberg laws will not be applied in relations between Jews and Poles in Nazi-annexed Poland, according to a Svenska Dagbladet report. The German authorities are quoted as stating that the legislation was introduced for protection of the German race only and that intercourse between Poles and Jews is not considered "racial disgrace" even if the Poles are German subjects.

NEGOTIATIONS CONTINUE ON LOUISVILLE PLAN TO BAR SERVICES TO UNAFFILIATED

LOUISVILLE, Ky., June 17. (JTA)-- Negotiations are continuing regarding the proposal to deny religious services to financially-able Jews who decline to join a congregation, following the action of the board of trustees of Congregation Adath Israel in refusing to ratify the plan, already approved by Louisville's five other Jewish congregations. Execution of the plan is contingent on approval by all six congregations.

In a letter to the Intercongregational Committee of Louisville, which drew up the proposal, Melvin S. Meyers, president of Adath Israel, declared that while the temple appreciated the goal of the committee, it would not join in any action leading to a denial of services for any reason. Rabbi Joseph Rauch of Adath Israel stated: "I will not deny my services to anyone, even though they are not members of a congregation."

The Intercongregational Committee, in a statement supporting its proposal, declared: "The time has come when each and every Jew should recognize his responsibility as a member of the world Jewish community. We feel that the best way of demonstrating and putting into effect one's willingness to be a part and parcel of his community is by affiliating himself with some congregation."

Clarifying its position, the committee stated that (1) its aims "are much more concerned with the civic morale of this Jewish community than about any profit motive," (2) non-membership in congregations by adults sets a bad example for their children, (3) visitors to Louisville would not be barred from religious services under the plan.

HOFFMAN REELECTED HEAD OF BRITH ABRAHAM AS PARLEY CLOSES

ATLANTIC CITY, June 17. (JTA)-- The closing session of the three-day 54th annual convention of Independent Order Brith Abraham today elected Herman Hoffman, president of the New York County Criminal Courts Bar Association, to a second one-year term as Grandmaster. There was no opposition.

Other officers elected include Max L. Hollander, New York, Grand Secretary for the 29th year; Harold Frankel, New York; Samuel Kalesky, Boston; Morris Wurgaft, Newark; A.W. Heller, Philadelphia; Louis O. Sobel, Chicago; Jacob Schwartz, Hartford; Julius Lending, St. Louis; Samuel A. Doctorow, New York, and Michael Lee, New York, deputy grandmasters; and Murray April, New York, grand treasurer.

Dr. Israel Goldstein, president of the Jewish National Fund, yesterday was presented with a \$5,000 check for land purchased in Palestine by Independent Order Brith Abraham. The presentation was made by Grandmaster Hoffman. Dr. Goldstein made a strong plea for Jews to have faith in the future of Palestine.

NCCJ BACKS ROOSEVELT IN DRIVE ON DISCRIMINATION IN DEFENSE

NEW YORK, June 17. (JTA)-- Support of the President in ending religious or racial discrimination against workers, not only in defense industries but in every section of American business, was voiced today, by the National Conference of Christians and Jews in a wire sent to the White House by Dr. Everett R. Clinchy, president of the national Conference.

The telegram said: "Your request for an end to discrimination against workers seeking jobs in defense industries by reason of religion, race or nationality is heartily endorsed by the National Conference of Christians and Jews. Not only does such discrimination flaunt basic American ideals but it violates cardinal religious principles among all Protestants, Catholics and Jews. Your continued support for liberty in employment opportunities, not only in defense industries but in all sections of American business, is necessary to maintain allegiance to our way of life in the United States."

NEW ENTRY POLICY ADOPTED AT JUSTICE DEPARTMENT'S REQUEST

WASHINGTON, June 17. (JTA)-- While no Government department would officially admit the new policy existed, it was learned today the immigration policy barring admission of refugees who have relatives remaining in Germany or other Nazi-occupied territories was adopted at the request of the Justice Department as an anti-espionage and anti-fifth column measure.

Justice Department representatives feared Gestapo agents in the U.S. could find a useful weapon to compel immigrants to betray this nation if the immigrants still had relatives in occupied Europe, it was said. That such coercion has been used in other countries there could be no doubt and the move was made as a preventive measure.

FIRST USO CLUBHOUSE OPENED NEAR FORT DIX

WRIGHTSTOWN, N.J., June 17. (JTA)-- Members of the three major religious faiths played a prominent part yesterday in ground-breaking ceremonies here, a mile from Fort Dix, launching the first of the more than 560 clubhouses which United Service Organizations agencies will operate near army camps, naval bases and defense industries. Lieutenant Bernard Segal, Jewish chaplain, spoke briefly on the spiritual aspect of U.S.O.

NEW ENGLAND GROUP AIDS BRITISH WAR RELIEF

BOSTON, June 17. (JTA)-- A gift of \$20,000 for British War Relief from the Jewish Section of the Interfaith Committee to Aid Great Britain, New England Division, was a highlight of the committee's open meeting at Faneuil Hall on Sunday night. Presentation of the check was made by Casper M. Grosberg, treasurer, to Stuart C. Rand, co-Chairman of the Boston committee of the British War Relief Society. The committee previously had given \$8,277.75.

CHANIN GOES TO BRAZIL TO AID RELIEF DRIVE

NEW YORK, June 17. (JTA)-- At the invitation of a group of leaders of the Jewish community of Sao Paulo, Brazil, Nathan Chanin, educational director of the Workmen's Circle and a member of the board of directors of the Joint Distribution Committee, left for that city last week on a mission in behalf of aid to Jewish victims of war and persecution in Europe it was announced today.

JEWISH EDUCATION MAGAZINE MARKS ANNIVERSARY

NEW YORK, June 17. (JTA)-- The 15th anniversary of the quarterly journal, Jewish Education, is being celebrated by the National Council for Jewish Education. At the recent convention of the Council in Atlantic City, Bea Rosen of Philadelphia was reelected editor-in-chief of the publication. Dr. Alexander M. Dushkin, Dr. Jacob S. Golub and A.P. Schoolman are associate editors.

JEWS BARRED FROM CZECH LOTTERY

ZURICH, June 17. (JTA)-- Jews are excluded from participating in the State lottery in the Czech Protectorate, according to the newspaper Die Zeit of Prague.

NAMED MAYOR OF WILNO

STOCKHOLM, June 17. (JTA)-- A Jew, B. Vit, has been elected chairman of the city executive committee of Wilno, Lithuania, according to the Lithuanian press. The position corresponds to mayor.