

JTA News Bulletin

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

VOL. VIII. NO. 161

Sunday, June 22, 1941.

WAVE OF SUICIDES AMONG REFUGEES IN FRANCE FEARED FOLLOWING U.S. ORDER ON VISAS

VICHY, June 20. (JTA)-- A wave of suicides among refugees in France was feared today as a result of the United States order barring visas to aliens with close relatives in totalitarian countries of Europe.

As announced by the consulate in Marseille, the order applies to persons possessing relatives of the "first and second degrees" in the Reich, German-occupied countries, including northern France, and also Soviet Russia.

This means effective suspension of immigration into the U.S. of German, Austrian, Czech, Polish, Rumanian, Russian, Belgian, Dutch and some French refugees. Refugee circles here said the order would result in virtual closing of the last avenue of escape from the "war hell of Europe" for thousands of Jewish refugees in France.

A desperate situation is created for refugees interned in French camps, who are for the most part Central Europeans with relatives in Germany or German-occupied areas. One of the first consequences of the order in France is expected to be a great increase in the number of interments.

- - -

Capt. Roosevelt Gets Petition from Refugees in Portugal

LISBON, June 20. (JTA)-- Captain James Roosevelt will take to President Roosevelt an appeal from a delegation of refugees here who face imprisonment because they are unable to obtain visas under the new United States regulations barring visas for aliens with close relatives in German territory.

The delegation visited the American Legation here in an effort to see Captain Roosevelt. They were received by Hibbard, first secretary of the Legation, who said Captain Roosevelt would be glad to carry their petition to the President.

NAZIS COMPLAIN OF RESISTANCE OF RUMANIANS TO ANTI-SEMITISM

ZURICH, June 20. (JTA)-- The Bukarester Tageblatt, leading Nazi paper in Rumania, complains that anti-Semitism is not making headway among the Rumanians.

The paper asserts that despite introduction of a Nazi regime, the anti-Semitism of Rumanians remains only superficial and declares that in many towns scenes of fraternization of Jewish and Rumanian students can be witnessed, often assuming "a provocative character against the German liberators."

Twelve prominent Jews were arrested in Alba Julia after they had been denounced for listening to London broadcasts.

Porunca Vremii demands creation of ghettos on the Polish model. According to the Tageblatt, a typhus epidemic is raging in Jewish quarters in Bucharest, Jassy, Botosani and other towns. The paper admits the epidemics are largely due to congestion caused by the influx of large numbers of Jews after last January's pogroms.

(Continued on reverse side)

New Press Campaign in Protectorate

LONDON, June 20. (JTA)-- The press in the Czech Protectorate has received official instructions to launch a new anti-Jewish campaign, as one of the measures to combat Czech hostility to anti-Semitism, it was reported here today.

Readers are told that the Reich measures the genuineness of the Czech population's adherence to the "new order" according to their attitude to the Jews.

"Whoever frees himself from the fetters of the old spirit is filled with an anti-Jewish spirit," the paper Venkov declares. "Anti-Jewish measures must not only be carried out thoroughly, but must be animated by the right spirit. Let us solve the Jewish question in our hearts."

27,000 JEWS AT FORCED LABOR IN POLISH AREA

LONDON, June 20. (JTA)-- Twenty-seven thousand Jewish forced laborers are now employed in the Sosnowice and Bendin areas of Poland, mainly at road construction, it was reported here today. Many Jews have also been drafted for work in the Silesian coal mines.

The Gestapo has carried out widespread raids in ghettos, arresting many Jews on charges of listening to foreign broadcasts and spreading the news among Poles, it was reported.

DR. SCHNIRER, PIONEER ZIONIST LEADER, DEAD IN VIENNA

LONDON, June 20. (JTA)-- Dr. Moritz Tobiss Schnirer, a pioneer leader of the Zionist movement, has died in Vienna at the age of 81, it was learned here today.

Dr. Schnirer was vice-president of the Zionist Executive elected by the First Zionist Congress in Basel in 1897 and was a member of the Zionist delegation which accompanied Dr. Theodor Herzl to Palestine in 1898 to see Kaiser Wilhelm. He was born in Bucharest.

BACKER, LEAVING FOR U.S., LAUDS BRITISH O.R.T.

LONDON, June 20. (JTA)-- Before leaving for the United States, George Backer, publisher of the New York Post and president of the American ORT Federation, today telegraphed a message to Col. J. H. Levey, acting chairman of the British ORT promising continued support from America and declaring "the ORT brings hope and life to those who were doomed to despair and extinction." He expressed regret at his inability to pay an intended visit to the ORT school and vocational courses in Leeds.

HUGE BIBLIOGRAPHY OF JEWISH SUBJECTS ISSUED

NEW YORK, June 20. (JTA)-- A guide to the study of world Jewish affairs prepared by Prof. Salo W. Baron of Columbia University has just been issued under the title "Bibliography of Jewish Social Studies, 1938-1939." The 291-page volume, published by the Conference on Jewish Relations, contains an annotated list of more than 4,000 books, pamphlets and articles on Jewish subjects from the dawn of Hebrew history to the end of 1939. The number of languages represented is the largest ever included within a volume of this type. It is arranged according to subject and indexed.

"MODERN VIVENDI" BETWEEN JEWS, NON-JEWS IN U.S. URGED BY NOCK IN ATLANTIC MONTHLY

NEW YORK, June 20. (JTA)-- The demand that a "modus vivendi" be established between Jews and non-Jews in America is advanced by Albert Jay Nock in his second article on "The Jewish Problem in America," published in July issue of Atlantic Monthly. Nock bases his demand on a theory he develops that American Jews, no matter how long they have been living in the United States, are still Orientals "settled in an Occidental civilization."

The article, speaks of a "reciprocal disability" allegedly existing between Jews and the non-Jews in America and says that this disability "is the fundamental thing that any effort to arrange a durable modus vivendi between the two peoples must take into account."

Emphasizing that the Jew became Occidental "only by residence" but not by nature, Nock quotes a prominent American rabbi as having said lately: "I have been an American forty years, but I have been a Jew five thousand years." The author of the article supports the rabbi's utterance, which he says was criticized as injudicious. "The man was right," Nock writes. "He had been a Jew five thousand years, and could no more help it than he could fly. He spoke of something which runs infinitely deeper than any merely political allegiance--his sense of membership in the world's greatest and most powerful tradition. Man does not improvise himself; certainly not by the accident of having been born in an alien political domain, and least of all by taking out naturalization papers."

Referring constantly to the "Occidental mass-man's view on the Jews," Nock asserts that "uneasiness and dissatisfaction is displayed at the part which Jews are playing in our public life." He states that the non-Jews in America estimate that there are 63 per cent Jews among the 959,146 civil employees in Federal executive departments. He alleges that the "Occidental mass-man" in America believes that "despite the letter of our immigration laws, our government is distinctly and specially and reprehensibly squeezable" in the direction of admitting Jewish refugees. He insists that because of the fact that majority Jews live in the largest American cities, "the Occidental mass-man meditates savagely on the chances that a merciful Providence may some day send him a couple of sotnias of Cosseaks to help straighten things out." He also claims that the "Occidental mass-man" in America dislikes "the Jew's economic successes and economic practices."

Nock concludes by saying that he "finds it most disquieting" that there is "a thick fog of silence" over the Jewish problem in America. "It bodes no good," he says. "There is every evidence that the lamentable antipathies which are simmering and festering beneath it are increasing in volume at a rate which I find as terrifying as it is distressing."

IMPORTANCE OF LAND-BUYING STRESSED IN MESSAGES TO BRITISH JNF

NEW YORK, June 20. (JTA)-- Messages from Zionist and non-Jewish leaders to the Jewish National Fund of Britain, stressing the importance of continuing acquisition of land in Palestine, were made public here today. The British J.N.F. is now conducting its fund-raising campaign.

Senator Alben W. Barkley expressed confidence in a cable that "your efforts for redemption ancient soil, associated fondest memories and hopes of your race, will meet with desired success." James G. MacDonald, chairman of the President's Advisory Committee on Political Refugees, said that "in these tragic days it is of the highest importance that there be no retreat in Palestine."

(Continued on reverse side)

Dr. Chaim Weizmann's cable follows: "I send you hearty greetings. I am confident that British Jewry, which though beset with trials of its own, is giving so splendid an example of loyalty and of understanding for Palestine's needs in these crucial times, will respond generously to the Keren Kayemeth appeal. As a people we are passing through most critical hours, but our faith in the ultimate triumph of the forces of freedom and justice remains undimmed. More land for more people must be our answer in meeting our greater responsibilities. Increased land purchases and colonization constitute a keystone of our work for upbuilding Eretz Yisroel. Shalom ulhitraot."

Edmund I. Kaufmann, president of the Zionist Organization of America, said "British and American Jewries now constitute the only Jewish communities that are free and unfettered to extend a helping hand to the sacred cause of Palestine." Dr. Israel Goldstein, president of the American J.N.F., expressed confidence that "your efforts for Keren will provide means for extending" the Palestine bastion of defense. Dr. Stephen S. Wise said "work for Palestine, the defense outpost of British Commonwealth, must be continued and increased."

POLES BREAK DOWN SECTION OF GHETTO WALL IN DEMONSTRATION AGAINST ANTI-SEMITISM

NEW YORK, June 20. (JTA)-- A group of Poles in Warsaw recently broke down a section of the ghetto wall as an "answer to Nazi attempts of spreading racial hatred in Poland," the American Friends of Polish Democracy, headed by Prof. Robert M. MacIver of Columbia University, reported here today.

"This is an extraordinary deed, considering that it had to be achieved during one single night--in fact, under the eyes of the German police," the report said. "To avoid any misunderstandings as to the reasons of the destruction of the ghetto wall, a Polish flag has been placed over its ruins."

The report also quoted a Pole recently arrived in the United States as stating that a League to Fight Anti-Semitism was organized by a group of prominent Polish democratic intellectuals in an important Eastern Polish town. The league's activities were checked when some of its members were arrested, but other groups of the same character have sprung up, the informant said.

"Several secret meetings were devoted to the formulation of the program and discussion of methods to combat anti-Semitism," it was said. "The speakers of these meetings emphasized that friendship among the nationalities of Poland is fundamental to the successful prosecution of the struggle against German and Russian domination and also declared that full collaboration between Gentiles and Jews will provide one of the basic conditions towards the solution of their common problem."

UNITED JEWISH APPEAL CALLS EXTRAORDINARY CONFERENCE

NEW YORK, June 20. (JTA)-- An extraordinary conference of the officers and members of the executive committee of the United Jewish Appeal will be held here on Monday, June 30th, to study the results of the first six months of the unified campaign in behalf of the Joint Distribution Committee, the United Palestine Appeal and the National Refugee Service. The conference will also consider plans for the broadening of campaign operations to meet all possible eventualities in the deepening war crisis in Europe, Palestine and the United States.