

# JTA

## NEWS BULLETIN

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### ANTI-JEWISH TERROR INCREASING IN NAZI-HELD POLAND; TYPHUS EPIDEMIC RAGING

LONDON, Dec. 15. (JTA)-- Anti-Jewish terror is increasing in the sections of Nazi-held Poland and Russia where Jews are concentrated, according to information reaching Polish Jewish circles here today.

Jewish labor camps in the Lublin area now number thirty-four. Confined in these camps are 10,000 Jewish laborers, including 2,000 boys who are about sixteen years old. Some 2,000 Poles are employed at the camp as specialists and supervisors according to the reports. At the Oswiecim concentration camp three degrees of flogging have been introduced, the Polish sources reveal. For minor offenses such as failure to salute a Nazi guard or failure to remove one's hat in his presence, the punishment is twenty-five strokes. The next punishment for a slightly more "serious" breach of regulations is fifty strokes. The most severe flogging inflicted is seventy-five strokes, from which very few prisoners survive.

In the Garwolin district, a short distance from Warsaw, all the Jews have been rounded up and placed in a special Jewish section of the city, it is reported here today, allegedly in a German drive to control the severe typhus epidemic which is reported to be raging in all of Nazi-held Poland, the Ukraine, White Russia and the Baltic area. Many of the Jewish residents in Garwolin have been housing and feeding hundreds of Jews who were evicted from their homes in the large cities and deported to the Garwolin area.

Living conditions in the ghettos which the Nazis have set up in the newly-conquered sections of Russian-held Poland and Russia proper are now even worse than those in the Warsaw ghetto, the reports disclose.

### 1,000,000 JEWS IN HUNGARY BEING GRADUALLY ELIMINATED FROM ECONOMIC, CULTURAL LIFE

STOCKHOLM, Dec. 15. (JTA)-- The more than 1,000,000 Jews in Hungary are slowly being eliminated from the economic, cultural and social life of the country, it was stated today by Premier Laslo De Bardossy in a report reviewing the situation of Hungarian minorities in other countries and the condition of national minorities within Hungary. ✓

Other information reaching here from Budapest, discloses that under the new law depriving the Jewish community of its autonomy not only will collection of communal taxes be prohibited but also Jewish parochial schools will have to close down.

Meanwhile, it is reported here that confiscation and "aryanization" of Jewish enterprises and property in Hungary continues. Rigid decrees adding businesses and professions to the list of those from which Jews are barred are being introduced. Confiscation of Jewish land holdings in urban and rural areas also continues.

J.D.C. WILL CONTINUE OVERSEAS RELIEF WORK ON A WARTIME BASIS, WARBURG STATES

NEW YORK, Dec. 15. (JTA)-- Continuation of all the overseas relief activities of the Joint Distribution Committee as well as the organization of aid to a half million Polish Jews in Russia and the augmentation of J.D.C. work in Central and South America was announced here today by Edward M. M. Warburg, chairman of the J.D.C.

Pointing out that all relief work must now be placed on a wartime basis, Mr. Warburg stated: "The officers of the Joint Distribution Committee have been in continuous session since the declaration of war. We have been in telegraphic and telephonic communication with most of our offices abroad, including Shanghai, effecting the necessary arrangements for continuance of vitally needed relief work and refugee assistance.

"Over a year ago, anticipating the possibility of an emergency situation, such as we now face, which would cut communications between our office and the overseas committees, the J.D.C. made plans to insure that the work of relief would not be abruptly and seriously curtailed. At a recent Executive Committee meeting, an appropriation of \$1,500,000 was confirmed to be utilized for this purpose. Local Jewish committees overseas have been notified that they may borrow from local sources, with the assurance that we will reimburse these loans when feasible without aiding the enemy. This procedure follows the pattern set during the first World War when the Joint Distribution Committee operated in the face of identical conditions.

"The Joint Distribution Committee has experienced and competent local committees operating in many sections of the war zone. We expect that the leaders of these local organizations will carry on the necessary work of assistance with the devotion and self-sacrifice which they have exhibited heretofore. Our 27 years of experience will now come into play. It is expected that, when the first shock of the present situation wears off, conditions will stabilize themselves sufficiently to enable the local committees to function effectively. Meanwhile, in other areas, such as unoccupied France, Portugal, Spain, Switzerland, Turkey, North Africa and elsewhere, the programs of the Joint Distribution Committee are continuing as heretofore.

"In Central and South America where the J.D.C. has been working in 18 countries, our program will need to be very considerably augmented.

"It need hardly be emphasized that now, as in the past, all J.D.C. work will be carried on subject to the policies and regulations of our Government. In no way will any funds be allowed to benefit the enemy either directly or indirectly. In addition, there are large new responsibilities in areas of Jewish need which the J.D.C. has now been called upon to meet, particularly in Russia. The terrible plight of a half million Polish Jews in Russian Siberia calls for immediate American help. We have worked out plans for the inception of such a program, for which we are ready to make an initial grant of \$100,000."

SECTION OF POLISH SOCIALIST BUND PLANNED FOR LONDON

LONDON, Dec. 15. (JTA)-- A section of the Polish Socialist Bund will shortly be set up here, it was reported today. It will consist of Polish Jewish Socialists who arrived in London before and during the war.

It is understood that efforts are being made to enable Henryk Ehrlich and Victor Alter, two Bund leaders who are now in Kuibyshev on the staff of the Polish Embassy there, to come here.

POLISH JEWS IN BELGIUM BEING DEPORTED TO POLISH GHETTOS

LONDON, Dec. 15. (JTA)-- Jews of Polish origin who are now living in Belgium are being deported to Poland in connection with the compulsory organization of a central Jewish body under Nazi control, it is learned in Belgian circles here today.

The first group of eighty-three families have already been deported from Antwerp to the Krasznik ghetto, these Belgian sources report. Even naturalized Polish Jews who have children born in Belgium will be affected by the new regulations.

MOST JEWISH PROFESSIONALS OUSTED FROM POSITIONS IN BULGARIA

STOCKHOLM, Dec. 15. (JTA)-- Further severe anti-Jewish restrictions in line with the Bulgarian government's plan to oust Jews from the economic life of Bulgaria, were reported today from Sofia.

Under a law limiting the activities of Jews in the professions, the authorities have decreed that there should be only 56 Jewish lawyers, 59 physicians, seven obstetricians, 17 dentists, five chemists, 10 engineers and two architects in Bulgaria.

JEWISH GROUPS ORGANIZE MEMBERSHIP TO AID NATION IN WAR

NEW YORK, Dec. 15. (JTA)-- Pledges of support to the President as the leader of the United States in the war against the Axis, and instructions to their membership to cooperate to the fullest in aiding the defense of America, were issued today by several more Jewish groups.

All branches of the American Jewish Congress, throughout the country, are being instructed to cooperate with all other Americans to make a maximum contribution to the country's war effort, it was announced by Dr. Stephen S. Wise, President of the American Jewish Congress. Instructions to the branches of the Congress in all cities are in fulfillment of a previous pledge made to President Roosevelt last Monday by the Governing Council of the organization.

The National Administrative Council of the Zionist Organization of America last night unanimously approved a message addressed to President Roosevelt pledging him "as the leader of our united American nation, in this hour of crisis, the unlimited devotion, support and fealty of the hundreds of thousands of men and women enrolled in the Zionist movement."

An urgent call to participate to the fullest extent in civilian defense services in their local communities has also been addressed to the entire membership of the Pioneer Women's Organization by its national secretariat, Sara Feder and Dvora Rothbard.

26 JEWISH REFUGEES ALLOWED TO LAND IN ARGENTINA EN ROUTE TO CHILE, COLOMBIA

BUENOS AIRES, Dec. 15. (JTA)-- Of the thirty-one refugees who were not permitted to land when the Portuguese steamer Nyassa docked here on Dec. 7, twenty departed today for Paraguay, six will leave for Colombia, three are detained in the Hotel des Immigrantes, Argentina's Ellis Island and two are on their way back to Europe.

The two who are bound for Europe are Susanna Romero and her husband. The Jewish couple were not allowed to land because the wife had contracted trachoma. Among the group of six which is leaving tomorrow for Colombia is Bedru S. Borowitz, a Jewish Czechoslovakian shoe manufacturer who plans to establish a business in Bogota.

THOUSANDS GATHER IN CHICAGO AT DEDICATION OF WASHINGTON-MORRIS-SALOMON MONUMENT

CHICAGO, Dec. 15. (JTA)-- Thousands of people led by Governor Dwight Green, Senator Scott Lucas, Mayor Edward Kelly, religious and military leaders, gathered in this city today at the ceremonies marking the erection of the George Washington-Robert Morris-Haym Salomon monument.

A message from President Roosevelt lauding Salomon as "the forgotten man of the American Revolution whose name will live forever in the annals of history," was read to the assembled throng. Formal presentation of the monument was made by Barnett Hodes, co-chairman of the Patriotic Foundation of Chicago, who carried on a five-year struggle to raise the necessary funds. Leaders of three religions, participated in the ceremonies. They were: Catholic Bishop Bernard Shiel, Protestant Bishop Wallace Conkleag and Rabbi Morris Teller. Also present was Rabbi Abraham Neuman, of the Congregation "Mikveh Israel" in Philadelphia who came here to express the sentiments of the Jewish community of which Haym Salomon was once a member.

The dedication ceremonies commenced early this morning with a "Bill of Rights" celebration and a speech by Mayor Kelly pointing out "that it behooves us to celebrate knowing that people in other parts of the world are enslaved. This realization encourages us to fight for a free world."

NAZIS BAR JEWS IN WARSAW FROM BINDING "MEIN KAMPF" FOR FEAR THEY WILL DEFILE IT

LONDON, Dec. 15. (JTA)-- An amusing incident resulting from the Nazis' use of skilled Jewish labor in the Warsaw ghetto is revealed here today.

The German officials some days ago rounded up 1,000 Jewish book-binders and set them to binding copies of "Mein Kampf." Suddenly, after the Jews had been working on the volumes for several hours, a Nazi officer rushed into the work shops and ordered all the books taken away from the book-binders. He explained later that he was afraid the Jews "might defile the Nazi bible."

POLISH NON-JEWISH WOMEN TRAINED BY RED MOGEN DAVID

JERUSALEM, Dec. 15. (JTA)-- A group of 100 non-Jewish Polish women who fled Poland after the Nazi invasion of that country recently completed first-aid courses here under the auspices of the Red Mogen David, it was announced here. The women are the wives of former high officials in the Polish Government.

It is also reported that 40 Polish non-Jewish doctors are now serving with the Polish Red Cross at Tel Aviv in conjunction with the Red Mogen David.

DOROTHY THOMPSON TO SPEAK AT "RESCUE THROUGH EMIGRATION" DINNER TODAY

NEW YORK, Dec. 15. (JTA)-- Dorothy Thompson, columnist, and outstanding leader in the fight against Nazism, will be the guest of honor and principal speaker tomorrow night at a "Rescue Through Emigration" Dinner sponsored by the Women's Division of the H.I.A.S., at the Hotel Astor, for the benefit of the victims of Nazism.

Hon. Newbold Morris, President of the City Council, Murray I. Gurfein, Assistant District Attorney, and former Supreme Court Justice Mitchell May, will be among the speakers at the dinner. The Chairman of the evening will be Judge Morris Rothenberg. Mayor LaGuardia, who is Honorary Chairman of the Committee, is also expected to address the gathering.