

# JTA

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### JEWISH TELEGRAPHIC AGENCY MARKS TWENTY-FIFTH ANNIVERSARY

NEW YORK, Feb. 6. (JTA)-- The Jewish Telegraphic Agency, the only world-wide system devoted to the gathering and distribution of Jewish news from all parts of the world, today marked the twenty-fifth year of its existence.

Founded during World War I, the Jewish Telegraphic Agency started functioning 25 years ago today in The Hague under the name of Jewish Correspondence Bureau. It has since developed into an internationally-recognized news agency collecting and disseminating swiftly, accurately, comprehensively and impartially all news of importance to Jewry and serving as a protective instrumentality for the Jewish community.

As a link between the Jews of the world, the Jewish Telegraphic Agency is now playing an important role in keeping public opinion informed concerning the life and the sufferings of the Jewish communities in Nazi-occupied countries. For this purpose the JTA maintains special correspondents on the European continent who gather information on the persecutions and the needs of the Jews in Germany, Austria, occupied Poland, Rumania, Czechoslovakia and other territories where the Jews are isolated by the Nazis from the rest of the world and exposed to brutal mistreatment, humiliation and starvation.

The Jewish Telegraphic Agency also maintains large offices in London and Palestine and has correspondents in every one of the Latin American countries. The Jewish situation in the Middle East is watched and reported by JTA correspondents from Jerusalem and Cairo, while the Jewish situation in Soviet Russia during the present war is graphically described in JTA dispatches from Moscow and Kuibyshev by such eminent writers as Ilya Ehrenburg, Valentin Katayev and V. Panferov, whose reports are being featured in many American newspapers.

### Press, Leaders, Organizations Acknowledge Value of JTA

Jewish newspapers in America have on many occasions acknowledged the fact that if not for the service of the Jewish Telegraphic Agency they would now carry as little news of Jewish life all over the world as they did during the last World War when there was no Jewish news agency in existence. Jewish leaders similarly acknowledge the fact that the JTA is the main source of Jewish news for them, while Jewish organizations do not hesitate to state that the JTA news is very helpful to them in mapping out their plan of activities.

The Jewish Telegraphic Agency, in supplying information about Jewish life to the Jewish and non-Jewish press in the United States, England and other countries, maintains a variety of services. They include the sending of news by wire and wireless to newspapers in the United States, South America, Palestine, England and other countries; the publication of a daily news bulletin mailed to subscribing Jewish leaders and institutions; and a feature-and-news service for the Anglo-Jewish press.

Organized by Mr. Jacob Landau, twenty-five years ago, the JTA is today an important communal enterprise of great value to the Jewish community. In 1935 Jewish

leaders in America transformed the JTA into a communal, non-profit institution with Mr. Landau as Managing Director. The reorganization of the JTA, symbolizing the integral role which it had attained in the Jewish community, did not affect its basic policy - to report Jewish news objectively, swiftly, without color or bias.

### A Potent Force in Dispelling Ignorance About Jews

The JTA is also recognized by Jewish leaders as a potent force in dispelling the ignorance and misapprehensions about Jews which have always been the greatest weapon of the anti-Semite. It is constantly at work checking on libels and false reports damaging to the Jews, and revealing their falsity. Frequently it has been instrumental in supplying information that enabled action to be taken to prevent some of the disasters that have faced Jews in various countries since the First World War.

Established originally to gather information on the Jewish problem, which was expected to come up at the peace conference after the First World War, the JTA's role in this respect will undoubtedly be even more important when the Jewish question is raised at the peace conference which will follow the present war.

With Mr. George Backer as president and Mr. Jacob Blaustein as chairman, the JTA has during this war extended its services to South America in such a way as to strengthen the fight against Nazi propaganda there. It has also instituted a service for foreign language newspapers in this country with a view of familiarizing the foreign language groups in the United States with conditions now prevailing in their native lands. In this manner the JTA helps to cement unity among the various foreign language groups in America as it does among the American Jewish groups.

### 1,800 JEWS EXECUTED BY NAZIS IN VILNA REGION; 30,000 JEWS "MISSING" IN VILNA

LONDON, Feb. 6. (JTA)-- Polish circles here last night received a report stating that 1,800 Jews have been shot by the Nazis in mass-executions in three townships in the vicinity of Vilna and that 30,000 Jews in the city of Vilna have "disappeared without any trace" since the German occupation of that city last summer.

The report states that of the 1,800 about 1,000 were executed within one week in the township of Troki, twenty miles from Vilna. 600 Jews are reported to have been shot in the township of Niemonszyn and 200 in the township of Eisyszok.

The number of Jews in the city of Vilna has declined from 70,000 in July, 1941, to about 40,000 at present, the report reveals. Various rumors are current with regard to the fate of the missing 30,000, of whom nothing has been heard by their relatives. It is believed that some 15,000 Vilna Jews are now doing forced labor somewhere on the Eastern front, while many others are thought to be in concentration camps, and some executed.

### Nazis Publish Names of 2,000 Jews Wanted for Sabotage in Poland

The report received by the Polish circles here also reveals that the Nazi administration in Poland has published a "blacklist" containing more than 2,000 names and photos of Jews wanted for sabotage.

The "blacklist" is published in book form for the benefit of the Gestapo agents searching for saboteurs. A special Gestapo unit has been assigned to this task and is now operating all over Poland with the object of tracing the Jews and also some twenty thousand Poles listed in the book, the report says.

ALL JEWS EXPELLED FROM ZGIERZ; NAZIS INTRODUCE GHETTO FOR JEWS IN ROVNO

ZURICH, Feb. 6. (JTA)-- The expulsion of all Jews from the Polish industrial city of Zgierz near Lodz, and the segregation of all Jews in the city of Rovno, Wolhynia, in a ghetto is reported in news reaching here today from Nazi-occupied Poland.

The Nazi paper *Litzmannstadter Zeitung* which reports the Jewish expulsion from Zgierz adds that the ghetto there, which existed for two years, has been demolished by order of the local Nazi authorities. It describes how the Jews were driven to the neighboring localities and says that when the last group of Jews left the city, the Nazi authorities ordered the population to decorate each building with white flags and arrange for a special celebration "on the occasion of the city becoming Judenrein."

The segregation of the Jews in Rovno in a ghetto was explained in the reports reaching here by the fact that the Nazis have made Rovno their central headquarters for disseminating propaganda among the Ukrainians in the German-occupied Ukraine. There were about 60,000 Jews in Rovno prior to Nazi occupation of that city.

Despite continued and increasing persecution, the Jews in occupied Poland are reported to be organizing their religious and cultural life to the best of their abilities. The Shomrei Shabos, a Sabbath-observing society, has resumed its activities and held a meeting in Warsaw at which the Jews of the ghetto were called upon for stricter observance of the Jewish holidays. A special appeal was made to the Jewish barbers who were found breaking the Sabbath regulations. Similar appeals were issued by the Jewish Kehilla of Piotrkow and other towns in Poland. There are now 24 Jewish bookshops open in the Warsaw ghetto and three such shops in the Cracow ghetto, supplying religious books to the Jewish communities.

PALESTINE STRIKES CAUSED LOSS OF 15,565 WORKING DAYS IN THREE MONTHS

JERUSALEM, Feb. 6. (JTA)-- Strikes by Jewish workers in Palestine caused the loss of 15,565 working days during the third quarter of 1941, it was reported today in the Palestine Government's Statistical Bulletin. This compares with 4,417 days lost through strikes in the same period in 1940. There were no strikes in Arab enterprises during this time, the Bulletin states.

As of last November, deposits in Palestine banks totalled £20,786,472, a 2.6 percent increase over the previous month, the statistical publication shows. Palestine's industrial facilities were increased by the establishment of 300 new industrial enterprises, 60 of which are contributing to the British war effort.

SHORT HISTORY OF AMERICAN JEWRY PUBLISHED BY ANTI-DEFAMATION LEAGUE OF B'NAI B'RITH

CHICAGO, Feb. 6. (JTA)-- A brochure entitled "Americans All," which gives a concise and compact running account of the history of the Jews in the United States from the days of their first settlement in America to the present, was published here today by the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith.

The scope of the brochure is indicated by the titles of its 17 chapters. These titles are: America - Home of Many Peoples; Participation of Jews in the Discovery of America; The Jews Who Sailed With Columbus; Jewish Settlement in Central and South America; The Jews Come to North America; Jewish Settlement and Worship Before the Revolution; Jewish Contributions to the New Republic; The Spanish-Portuguese Migration to the United States; Early Jewish Settlers in Commerce and Industry; Leading Jews of the Early 19th Century; The German-Jewish Immigrants Come to America; Leading Jewish Personalities in the Second Half of the 19th Century; The Russian Jews in America; Jewish Patriotism in American Wars; The Jew in America Today; Judaism in America.

ALIENS HAVE A PLACE IN DEFENSE PROGRAM, O.C.D. INSTRUCTIONS POINT OUT

WASHINGTON, Feb. 6. (JTA)-- Instructions emphasizing that "all persons, regardless of sex, age, race, creed, color, citizenship or economic status have a place in the defense program," have been sent by Corrington Gill, deputy director of the Office of Civilian Defense, to regional O.C.D. directors, it was learned here today.

Discussing alien participation in national defense activities, Mr. Gill states: "People who are not citizens want to participate in community efforts. Aliens have been registered by the Department of Justice and can be enrolled for many kinds of volunteer work in connection with community services. It is the work of the F.B.I. and other police to apprehend dangerous people and not the function of the Volunteer Office.

The instructions conclude with a statement by Mr. Gill that "if we are to maintain unity in our country and to preserve the ideals of the American tradition, it is important that communities maintain the capacity for thoughtful, balanced judgment. Intolerant public opinion must not be allowed to work to suppress and oppress any minority groups and their effort in the defense program."

CIVILIAN DEFENSE CREATING BETTER FEELING AMONG ALL RACES AND CREEDS, SAYS LAGUARDIA

NEW YORK, Feb. 6. (JTA)-- The present emergency is affording New Yorkers of all faiths and nationalities a "splendid" opportunity to create a new and better spirit of understanding, cooperation and friendliness, Mayor Fiorello H. LaGuardia declared today in a message endorsing Brotherhood Week, which will be observed throughout the country during the week of Washington's Birthday, Feb. 15-22, under the auspices of the National Conference of Christians and Jews.

Noting an "increasing" demonstration of neighborliness on the part of all New Yorkers, the Mayor attributed the increase in part to the auxiliary organizations set up under the civilian defense program. "Men and women of all classes and all races and religious groups are forming new contacts with one another through their voluntary work as air raid wardens, fire wardens, or in any of the numerous other positions under this program," he said.

"This period of national unity under a national emergency is a splendid time for us to increase the mutual understanding and sympathy of the manifold groups within our society, and the National Conference of Christians and Jews is to be congratulated on its foresight in its program to make such gains permanent," the Mayor concluded.

JEWISH SETTLEMENT IN DOMINICAN REPUBLIC FIRST BROACHED SIXTY YEARS AGO

NEW YORK, Feb. 6. (JTA)-- Plans for a Jewish settlement in the Dominican Republic, which became a reality two years ago with the founding of the Sosue colony there, were first broached sixty years back, it is disclosed in a pamphlet on "The Historical Background of the Settlement of Jewish Refugees in Santo Domingo" by Dr. Mark Wischnitzer, which appeared today.

In the booklet, which is a reprint of an article in the January, 1942, issue of the quarterly journal, "Jewish Social Studies," Dr. Wischnitzer relates details of correspondence in 1862 between Jewish leaders and General Gregorio Luperon, Dominican diplomat, looking toward a settlement of Russian Jews in Santo Domingo. The reason for the plan having fallen through, is not yet known, the author states, and will not be known until the time when it will become possible to examine the files of the Alliance Israelite Universelle in Paris, which handled the negotiations.