

# JTA

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### JEWISH LOYALTY TO POLAND STRESSED BY POLISH PREMIER AT OPENING OF NATIONAL COUNCIL

LONDON, Feb. 24. (JTA)-- Free political, cultural and social development for all national minorities in post-war Poland was pledged here today in a declaration adopted at the opening session of the Polish National Council, which is the Parliament-in-exile of the Polish nation.

The plight of the Jews in Poland under the Nazi regime and their loyalty to the country were emphasized by Gen. Wladyslaw Sikorski, Polish Premier, in his address to the Council. "The Jewish sufferings," he said, "must evoke sympathy in every civilized man, while the faithful attitude of the Jews to Poland will never be forgotten."

The "declaration of principles" presented by the Polish Premier to the Council provides that after Poland is liberated from the Nazis, the country must "stand by Christian principles of culture." The declaration repudiates all forms of totalitarianism and dictatorship. It guarantees liberties to "all loyal citizens regardless of their national, racial or religious differences." It pledges "free political, cultural and social development to national minorities." It provides the "right to work at a livelihood of one's own choice."

Dr. Ignacy Schwartzbart, one of the two Jewish members of the Polish National Council, in a statement today pointed out that only eight of the 31 members of the Council are definitely committed to anti-Semitic political programs, while 17 members, including the leaders of the Polish Socialist and Peasant parties, have endorsed a special government proclamation which promised "equal rights and equal obligations" for Jews. Dr. Schwartzbart urged closer cooperation between Polish and Czechoslovak Jews in view of the Polish-Czechoslovak agreement. He also suggested that Sunday, March 29, preceeding Passover, should be proclaimed a "Day for Polish Jewry" with special meetings to be held in all countries of the United Nations.

### VICHY GOVERNMENT BANS JEWISH TELEGRAPHIC AGENCY NEWS FROM UNOCCUPIED FRANCE

VICHY, Feb. 24. (JTA)-- News bulletins of the Jewish Telegraphic Agency were banned today by order of the French authorities who furnished the explanation that "their contents do not correspond to the interests of the French people."

Subscribers to the JTA news service were notified by the censor's office here and in Marseilles that the postal authorities will no longer deliver the news bulletin to them. The notification was given by the censor after some of the subscribers complained to the post office in Marseilles that they had been receiving empty JTA envelopes.

A census of Jewish children in the municipal and state schools throughout unoccupied France was completed today. In ordering this census, the French authorities indicated that Jewish children, with some few exceptions, may be ousted from the school system in the very near future.

BRAZILIAN GOVERNMENT REPRESENTED AT FUNERAL OF STEFAN ZWIG AND WIFE IN RIO DE JANEIRO

RIO DE JANEIRO, Feb. 24. (JTA)-- The Government of Brazil was represented to-day at impressive funeral services for Stefan Zweig, the 60-year old world-famed Austrian-Jewish writer, who, stricken by Austria's spiritual death and exhausted by "long years of peregrination as one without a country," died with his wife yesterday in a suicide pact at their home in Petropolis, the Brazilian summer capital outside Rio.

President Getulio Vargas, who was among the thousands who silently passed before the bodies today, ordered that the funeral be held at state expense. He also ordered that the autopsies be performed at the Zweigs' home instead of at the morgue as a mark of respect.

Born of Jewish parents in Vienna on Nov. 28, 1881, Zweig received an excellent education. He had published two volumes of verse before his university career was completed. For the next decade he wandered around the world. The shock of the first World War changed all this. Zweig sought new values. Deserting his beloved Vienna, he settled in Salzburg and began a serious literary career. He was often referred to as "the most translated author in the world," and was considered one of the most important writers in modern German literature.

When the Nazis occupied Austria in 1938, Zweig fled to England where he was welcomed and given British citizenship. Nazi hordes in the meantime were burning his books all over Austria. Not politically minded, Zweig always advocated the idea that a writer should be above politics. He at first seemed to be little affected by his exile and continued his writing and lecturing. He also participated in aiding his fellow emigrants. Within the last few years, however, he began to show signs of despair. In statements which he made during his visit in America in 1940, and later during his stay in South America he constantly emphasized that there can be no spiritual development under dictatorship and complained that the war had upset all his literary work.

Supported Jewish Activities in South America; Was Loved in Brazil

Although not active in Jewish affairs, Zweig started to display interest in Jewish life in South America by attending Jewish gatherings. He was one of the principal speakers at a number of dinners arranged by Jewish groups in Argentina collecting funds for Palestine as well as at functions arranged by the B'nai B'rith. Despite the fact that he lived in Brazil for only 16 months, he was regarded as the most popular European writer in all the South American countries. Six years ago when he first visited Brazil, he was the guest of the Brazilian Government.

Zweig is the second German-Jewish writer of importance to commit suicide since the Nazis came to power. The other one was the famous playwright Ernst Toller. Zweig left a letter explaining the suicide pact, addressed to Claudio de Souza, president of the P.E.N. Club of Brazil. The letter said: "Before I depart from life by my own free will, I want to do my last duty, which is to thank this marvelous country - Brazil - which so hospitably received me. Each day I spent here I loved this country more, and in no other could I have had such hopes for reconstructing my life.

"After I saw the country of my own language fell, and my spiritual land - Europe - destroying itself, and I have reached the age of 60, it would require immense strength to reconstruct my life, and my energy is exhausted by long years of peregrination as one without a country. Therefore, I believe it is time to end a life that was dedicated only to spiritual work, considering human liberty and my own as the greatest wealth in the world. I leave an affectionate goodbye to all my friends."

MIZRACHI YOUTH TO WEAR YELLOW BADGE AS SYMBOL OF UNITY WITH OPPRESSED JEWRY

LONDON, Feb. 24. (JTA)-- The proposal by Dr. Judah L. Magnes that all Jews wear a yellow badge as a symbol of solidarity with the Jews in Nazi-held territories who are forced to wear such badges was adopted here today by the Bnei Akiba section of the British Mizrahi Youth Organization.

The badge which will be worn by members of the group is in the shape of the symbols of the Torah-Avodah movement: the tablets of the ten commandments and a hammer. The yellow color was chosen "to express solidarity with our brethren who are suffering under the yoke of Nazi oppression."

ALL JEWS OUSTED FROM ALGERIAN COMMUNICATION SERVICES; LOSE CITIZENSHIP

VICHY, Feb. 24. (JTA)-- All Jews have been ousted from the telephone, post and telegraph services in Algeria, it was reported here today, in accordance with a new decree that rescinds the citizenship of all Algerian Jews, whether Algerian-born or French-born.

Only exceptions to the new citizenship law are Jews who fought for France in this war, members of the Legion of Honor, holders of the Medaille Militaire, families of men killed while fighting for France and "those who have rendered prominent service to the country."

SOVIET AUTHORITIES TRACE THE GRAVE OF CHIEF RABBI SCHORR TO A CEMETERY IN UZBEKISTAN

LONDON, Feb. 24. (JTA)-- Soviet authorities have traced the grave of Prof. Moses Schorr, chief rabbi of Poland, to the prison camp cemetery in Pistry, Uzbekistan, according to information received here today by the Polish government-in-exile. Prof. Schorr, who was arrested and interned by the Soviet authorities when they occupied Eastern Poland in 1939, died in the prison camp at Pistry on July 8, 1941.

The Polish government is expected to intervene soon with the Soviet authorities to secure exit visas for Polish Jews for whom immigration certificates to Palestine have been granted by the Palestine administration.

PALESTINE WOMEN'S CONVENTION HOPES SOVIET WILL ABANDON ANTI-ZIONIST POLICY

TEL AVIV, Feb. 24. (JTA)-- A demand that all available Palestinian Jewish women be mobilized for work in factories or farms connected with the war effort was made here today at the fifth Palestine Conference of Jewish Working Women. Opening the conference, Ada Fishman, head of the organization, paid tribute to "the millions of our persecuted sisters and brothers" and to the Red Army and the millions of Russian workers. She expressed the hope that after the war the Soviet Union will change its policy toward Zionism.

The 351 delegates and 1,000 guests who attended the parley heard Miss Fishman report that 53,694 Jewish women workers are now organized of which 13,000 are in kvutzoth and kibutzim, 5,000 are on farms and 5,000 are in industry. The Moatzeth Hapaloeth, the Working Women's Council, has established nine women's farms and will soon set up another in the Huleh region, Miss Fishman stated. The Council has a total investment of over \$2,000,000 in its farms and other institutions.

BULGARIA LIQUIDATES JEWISH-OWNED COMMERCIAL AND INDUSTRIAL ENTERPRISES

ZURICH, Feb. 24. (JTA)-- Only 761 Jewish industrial and commercial undertakings in Bulgaria will be allowed to continue in operation, it was announced today in a broadcast on the Sofia radio. Over 3,500 will be liquidated or transferred to "Aryans."

NATIONAL REFUGEE SERVICE ADOPTS \$2,600,000 BUDGET FOR 1942

NEW YORK, Feb. 24. (JTA)-- Pointing out that aid to refugees in America in 1942 represents a positive contribution to national defense and welfare since through such assistance loyal aliens are helped to become loyal Americans, the Executive Board of the National Refugee Service adopted a minimum budget of \$2,618,725 to meet the basic needs of the agency in 1942, it was announced here today.

Major war services and normal obligations included in the 1942 budget of the National Refugee Service include: Financial Assistance and Personal Services, \$1,569,640; Employment and Retraining Services, \$106,660; Migration Department, \$70,480; Special Committees Servicing Professional and Other Groups, \$83,460; National Resettlement, Field Service, and Community Relations, \$220,105; Central Loan Fund, \$84,000; Tuition and Resettlement of Foreign Physicians and Dentists, \$84,000; Vocational Retraining, \$100,000; General Administration, including statistical, accounting and related services, \$179,930; Subventions to Other Organizations Aiding Refugees, \$120,750.

The budget reveals that in 1941 the National Refugee Service rendered financial assistance to an average of 6,650 persons monthly, made 6,565 employment placements and 1,583 placements of physicians, musicians, rabbis and other professionals, resettled 3,182 refugees, rendered 101,676 migration services and provided, or directed 29,769 to instruction in English and the principles of Americanism.

WISE, BRONFMAN, TEUBAL ELECTED AS OFFICERS OF INTER-AMERICAN JEWISH COUNCIL

NEW YORK, Feb. 24. (JTA)-- The first meeting of the newly formed Executive Committee of the Inter-American Jewish Council was held this week with delegates representing Jewish communities of Canada, United States, Venezuela and Argentina attending, it was announced today.

Presided over by Dr. Nahum Goldmann, the meeting organized itself to further the resolutions adopted at the Inter-American Jewish Conference and elected Dr. Stephen S. Wise, chairman; Samuel Bronfman, president of the Canadian Jewish Congress, and Ezra Teubal, a leading representative of the DAIA of Argentina, as Vice-Chairmen.

NEW ZIONIST ORGANIZATION URGES FORMATION OF A JEWISH GOVERNMENT-IN-EXILE

NEW YORK, Feb. 24. (JTA)-- The formation of a Jewish Government-in-exile similar to the other governments of the United Nations whose territories are now occupied by the Axis powers, was urged by Col. Morris J. Mendelsohn, president of the New Zionist Organization of America, addressing the annual convention of the organization which closed last night.

Benjamin Akzin, member of the Presidency of NZO, addressing the convention on what the Jewish policy should be "both for the duration and the aftermath of the war" urged that this policy include "the demands for a Jewish Army, unrestricted mass immigration to Palestine, and an independent Jewish State there."

UNITED JEWISH APPEAL NAMES OFFICERS FOR NEW YORK DRIVE

NEW YORK, Feb. 24. (JTA)-- Dr. Jonah B. Wise has been named chairman of the War Emergency Campaign of the United Jewish Appeal in New York City and the Metropolitan area, it was announced today. Governor Herbert H. Lehman, Judge Julian W. Mack, Rabbi Stephen S. Wise and Henry Littleton will serve as Honorary Chairmen. Other officers named are: William Rosenwald, Associate Chairmen; Paul Baerwald, I. Edwin Goldwasser, Monroe Goldwater, George Z. Medalie, Nathan Straus and Paul Felix Warburg, Co-Chairmen; Sylvan Gotshal, Executive Chairman. Mrs. Walter A. Hirsch has accepted the chairmanship of the women's division of the United Jewish Appeal's War Emergency Campaign.