

JTA

DAILY NEWS BULLETIN

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

VOL. IX. NO. 50

Monday, March 2, 1942

PROTEST DEMONSTRATIONS CONTINUE IN PALESTINE OVER DEATH OF STRUME REFUGEES

JERUSALEM, Feb. 27, Delayed by Censor, (JTA)-- Jewish institutions throughout Palestine, including the municipality of Tel Aviv, are flying the Jewish national flag at halfmast, draped in black, as expression of the Yishuv's mourning over the tragic death of more than 750 Jewish refugees from Rumania who were drowned in the waters of the Black Sea last week when the Strume, in which they were being returned to Rumania after having been refused admission into Palestine, exploded and sank.

Only two of the passengers on the Strume were saved and are now in a hospital in Turkey, according to information reaching here from Ankara. The Chief Rabbinate of Palestine today visited the Palestine authorities and submitted a protest over the refusal of the administration to admit the refugees into Palestine under the immigration quota, charging the Palestine Government with the responsibility for the death of the victims.

The Jewish National Council of Palestine, the Tel Aviv municipal council, and other leading Jewish institutions in the country yesterday proclaimed a country-wide work stoppage in all enterprises except those engaged in war industries. The stoppage was carried out as a peaceful demonstration against the Palestine administration for refusing haven to the Jewish refugees who were entitled to enter the country under the labor schedule.

Traffic Suspended in Six-Hour Protest Demonstrations; Theatres Closed

Urban and inter-urban traffic in Palestine was suspended yesterday for six hours when the Jews of Palestine proclaimed a self-imposed curfew which lasted until 7 P.M. All Jewish places of entertainment are closed in Jerusalem, Tel Aviv and Haifa. Peaceful streetdemonstrations continue to take place in Tel Aviv.

The municipality of Tel Aviv issued a proclamation calling upon the population of the all-Jewish city to mourn the death of the Jewish refugees. Similar proclamations were also issued by Jewish institutions in other cities in Palestine. Some of the proclamations called for a general strike and demanded a change in the Palestine administration as the agency responsible for the Strume disaster. Other proclamations called for the return of the Jewish refugees who are interned on the island of Mauritius for the duration of the war after being deported from Palestine as "illegal entrants." In making this demand, the proclamations asked that the Jewish internees be returned to Palestine "before they are menaced by Japanese aggression against Mauritius."

At a special mourning session of the Tel Aviv municipal council, Mayor Rokach eulogizing the Strume victims, said: "Let the Strume tragedy be another symbol in the long Jewish martyrdom. Our foes are murdering us on one side, while the other side is lending a deaf ear to those who are trying to reach the shores of Palestine." The Tel Aviv municipality published a special leaflet in English addressed "To All Allied Troops in the City" explaining why all entertainment and amusement places were ordered closed by the municipal administration.

NEED FOR JEWISH UNITY STRESSED AT CENTRAL CONFERENCE OF AMERICAN RABBIS

CINCINNATI, March 1. (JTA)-- The need for Jewish unity in America was stressed today in a report adopted by the convention of the Central Conference of American Rabbis which is holding its sessions here with over 200 rabbis from the United States and Canada attending.

The report, submitted by the Committee on Contemporary History, presented a picture of Jewish life in Europe, Asia and America. Outlining a course of action for Jews, it stated: "Our first and most important problem is to do everything that lies in our power to help win this war; the second is to help our fellow Jews abroad, who are the outstanding victims of Nazi cruelty. And this help can be brought to our fellow Jews only if we are truly united and intelligently organized."

The Committee also called the attention of the Conference to the needs of a "democratic, representative American Jewish congress." The report continued: "It is not too early to call it now; once we have assembled and have formulated our demands, we shall then have the right and the duty to ask the United Nations engaged in this great conflict to state their war aims specifically with respect to the Jews." The Committee asked that this proposed congress be based on the local community councils.

The Committee on Synagogue and Community suggested the establishment of Institutes of Judaism for ministers in various communities; special tracts of information for men in the service; and the holding of an Academic Conference of selected groups of intellectuals at one of the leading universities in the East.

War Effects on Marriage, Family and Home Discussed at Convention

The Committee on Marriage, the Family and the Home presented a report in which it declared that "the Synagogue must share with other agencies the task of reducing to a minimum the deleterious effects of war upon family life. Rabbi Stanley R. Brav, reporting for the Committee, proposed the creation of "a joint committee on marriage, the family and the home composed of representatives of the Conference, the Union, the Sisterhoods, Brotherhoods and Youth groups to work in behalf of maintaining home and social contacts for the service men located in the area." It also suggested a course in family consultation service at the Summer seminar sessions of the Hebrew Union College and the Jewish Institute of Religion. The committee stressed the need for more literature on the subject of family and home. It recommended "that the Committee prepare two syllabi for courses in marriage and family life."

Warning of the war-time tendency to neglect spiritual and cultural development, Rabbi Solomon B. Freehof, of Pittsburgh, reporting for the Commission on Jewish Education, urged that "we strengthen our children to endure these years of stress." Rabbi Leon From of Detroit, speaking of a "New Approach to the Teaching of Peace," declared we must continue to teach the ideal of peace so as "to render a third world war in twenty years unnecessary."

In an address on "The Permanent Contributions of Isaac M. Wise," Dr. Allan Tarshish of Hazelton, Pa., stated that "the basic purpose of Dr. Wise was to revitalize and preserve Judaism. To this end he sought to bring about a union of reform and orthodox congregations."

JEWISH JOURNALIST APPOINTED LITHUANIAN CONSUL-GENERAL IN PALESTINE

JERUSALEM, March 1, (JTA)-- G. Volkauskas, Lithuanian Jewish journalist, has been appointed acting Lithuanian consul-general in Palestine and Trans-Jordan, it was announced here today. Mr. Volkauskas was named to his post by M. Balutis, Lithuanian minister in London.

NAZI ORDER PROHIBITING JEWISH BLOOD FOR TRANSFUSIONS CAUSING DEATH OF MANY SOLDIERS

MOSCOW, March 1. (JTA)-- The Nazi racial theory is costing thousands of German soldiers their lives, it was revealed by a German army doctor taken prisoner by the Soviets.

The Moscow press reports that the German doctor, identified as Dr. Paul Schultze of the 68th German Infantry Division, spoke with bitterness over "the senseless racial theory" which makes it difficult to carry out blood transfusions on wounded German officers and soldiers, since an order has been issued that no one in the armed forces may have "Jewish blood" in his veins. The captured doctor is quoted as saying that there is not enough "Aryan" blood in reserve for transfusions, with the result that a large percentage of the wounded die.

JEWS COMPLAIN OF INSUFFICIENT REPRESENTATION IN POLISH NATIONAL COUNCIL

LONDON, March 1. (JTA)-- Jewish circles here today complained that the two seats that have been assigned to Jewish representatives in the Polish National Council, which is the Polish Parliament-in-exile, are "inadequate and incompatible" with the proportion of Jews in the Polish population.

The Polish Mizrahi Organization adopted a resolution urging the appointment of a third Jewish member to the Council. They presented the name of Rabbi Isaac Rubenstein, former member of the Polish Sejm, who is now in New York, as their candidate.

Polish Jewish circles here are disturbed over the lack of news concerning the whereabouts of Zalmen Reizen, famous Jewish journalist who was editor of the Vilna Tag, and his son Saul, both of whom were arrested by the Russians when the Soviets occupied Vilna. Polish authorities in Russia report that they have been unable to locate the Reizens who were deported to Siberia on unspecified charges.

YALE ARCHAEOLOGISTS DISCOVER REMAINS OF ANCIENT CIVILIZATION IN PALESTINE

NEW HAVEN, March 1. (JTA)-- Discovery of the remains of an ancient civilization in Palestine, closing a gap in knowledge about Stone Age men who lived from 7,000 to 8,000 years ago, was announced here today by Miller Burrows, Professor of Biblical Theology at the Yale Divinity School and President of the American Schools of Oriental Research, whose home office is at Yale University.

"This is one of the most significant prehistoric finds in Palestine in recent years," said Prof. Burrows. "It provides archaeologists with valuable information about Neolithic men who lived in caves in the Holy Land ages before the times of the Hebrew patriarchs."

Excavations made under grants from the American Schools of Oriental Research and the Hebrew University by M. Stekelis, resident archaeologist in Palestine, resulted in his finding pottery and household utensils in caves near the seacoast. Flint implements and animal bones were discovered by Stekelis near the seaport of Jaffa. Further north, on the west side of Mt. Carmel, famous in Biblical history for its association with the Prophet Elijah and the 450 prophets of Baal, another cave yielded numerous indications of a civilization just emerging from the Stone Age and of the animals which lived at that time. This second cave is near the Crusader Castle at Atlit and the city of Haifa, important Palestinian terminal of the oil pipe line from Iraq which has been bombed frequently during the war.

AMERICAN ZIONIST LEADERS WARN AGAINST COLLECTION OF FUNDS FOR A JEWISH ARMY

NEW YORK, March 1. (JTA)-- A statement clarifying the attitude of the official Zionist groups in America on the question of the formation of a Jewish Army in Palestine was issued here today by the American Emergency Committee for Zionist Affairs under the signature of Dr. Stephen S. Wise, chairman, and in behalf of the Zionist Organization of America, Mizrahi, Poale-Zion and Hadassah. The statement reads:

1. The American Emergency Committee for Zionist Affairs which is composed of representatives of all parties and groups within the Zionist framework in this country, wholeheartedly supports the stand taken by the Jewish Agency for Palestine in favor of a Jewish Army based on Palestine to fight under their own colors, though under British command, as an ally of the United Nations. The Emergency Committee has conducted and is continuing to conduct an energetic campaign in that behalf.
2. There is no connection whatsoever between the Zionist bodies in this country and the "Committee for a Jewish Army." The latter is a self-constituted body owing responsibility to no one but itself. Connected with the formation of a "Committee for a Jewish Army" are a number of persons formerly associated with an extreme section of the Revisionist Organization.
3. The American Emergency Committee for Zionist Affairs is opposed to the campaign for funds at present conducted by the "Committee for a Jewish Army." Such expenses as must necessarily be incurred in connection with the work of the Zionist Emergency Committee on behalf of the Army cause, are provided from the regular budget at the disposal of the Emergency Committee. Zionists throughout the country will wish to do their share in the movement in behalf of a Jewish Army through their respective organizations all of which are represented in the American Emergency Committee for Zionist Affairs.
4. The campaign on behalf of a Jewish military force which is being conducted by the American Emergency Committee for Zionist Affairs has the wholehearted support of the American Palestine Committee which under the chairmanship of Senator Robert F. Wagner has a membership of nearly 800 including many of the outstanding representatives of American political, religious and intellectual life.
5. In conclusion we would emphasize that in a matter of such fundamental importance as that of the Jewish Army ultimate responsibility must be vested in the duly appointed representatives of the Zionist movement. It cannot be assumed by a body which refuses to recognize the authority of that movement. To accept any other principle is to introduce chaos in Jewish life and to inflict grave damage on the Jewish Army cause itself.

JEWS MUST BE ACCEPTED AS EQUAL MEMBER OF THE UNITED NATIONS, NZO STATES

NEW YORK, March 1. (JTA)-- A resolution urging that "the Jewish people be accepted as an equal member in the community of the United Nations," since they were the first victims of Nazism, was made public here today by the New Zionist Organization of America in the form adopted at the annual convention of the organization held here last week.

Another resolution, dealing with the question of the establishment of a Jewish Army, says that the entry of the United States into the war and the formation of the United Nations "has made the conduct of the war in the Near East, and particularly in Palestine, a matter which is no longer the exclusive concern of Great Britain." Col. Morris J. Mendelsohn was re-elected president of the NZO at the convention. Dr. I. Goldstein was elected executive director.