

JTA

DAILY NEWS BULLETIN

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

VOL. IX. NO. 59

Thursday, March 12, 1942

NAZIS FORCED TO EMPLOY OUSTED JEWISH WORKERS; DR. LIEBERMAN'S PROPERTY CONFISCATED

ZURICH, March 11. (JTA)-- The acute shortage of labor throughout Germany has resulted in the fact that the Nazi authorities in Lodz and the surrounding district have been compelled to re-admit thousands of Jewish textile workers into local factories from which they had been ousted, according to information received here today from Nazi-held Poland.

It is estimated that about 60,000 qualified Jewish industrial laborers are now working in German factories in the Warthegau province which includes the city of Lodz. The Jewish workers are paid less than the non-Jews and must return to the ghetto after their day's work.

The official Nazi gazette for occupied Poland which reached here today announces the confiscation of all the property of Dr. Herman Lieberman, late Minister of Justice in the Polish Cabinet in London. The confiscated property of the Jewish minister consists of movable objects, which he left in Przemysl and in Warsaw.

JEWISH AGENCY WILL SEEK DIRECT NEGOTIATIONS WITH ARABS, PALESTINE ASSEMBLY HEARS

JERUSALEM, March 11. (JTA)-- The Jewish Agency for Palestine will directly approach Arab leaders for negotiations with a view of reaching an agreement satisfactory to both sides, it was announced here today at the session of the Jewish Constituent Assembly (Assefath Hanivcharin) by Moshe Shertok, head of the Agency's political department.

"We believe in an agreement between a strong Jewish Community which is to be created in Palestine and the Arab people who have always been living in the Middle East," Shertok stated. His announcement provoked exceptional interest among the more than 100 members of the Assembly, many of whom posed questions which were clarified by Shertok in subsequent replies.

Representatives of the enslaved Jewish communities of Poland, Germany, Greece, Czechoslovakia, Rumania and Holland addressed the session of the Assembly describing the Jewish sufferings in their respective countries. The Assembly eulogized the "tens of thousands of known and unknown brothers and sisters" who have perished in Nazi-dominated Europe as well as the Jewish victims who sank on various "wandering steamers," including the Struma.

Assembly Sends Blessings to Soviet Jews and to the Red Army

Greetings to the Jews of Soviet Russia and to the Red Army were read from the Assembly platform by Isaac Ben-Zvi, president of the Jewish National Council of Palestine. "Russian Jewry was for years cut off from us," the greetings stated, "but during all these years the Jews in Palestine did not lose sight of this far-near Jewry. We were hoping that the wall separating us would fall and that brotherly union would be re-established for the common building of Zion. From the platform

of the Assefath Hanivcharim we send our deep brotherly blessing to our Jewish brethren on the front lines and in the rear. We are with you in your sufferings from the Nazis and we are proud of the prominent part which you are playing in the front lines. We also send our blessings to the Russian people and to the glorious Red Army."

800 Jews from Rumania and Bulgaria Interned

In his report to the Assembly on the political situation, Shertok dealt at length with the Struma disaster and said that "no one knows whether the Struma was the last tragedy." He disclosed that about 800 Jewish refugees from Rumania and Bulgaria are at present held by the Palestine authorities in the Athlit camp "with the sword of deportation still over their heads." He added that the Jewish Agency is anxious over the fate of the several hundred Jews who were deported for the duration of the war from Palestine to the island of Mauritius as "illegal immigrants." While from a humanitarian point of view there is a difference between Mauritius and the Nazi concentration camp of Dachau, there is no such difference among those concentrated from a national point of view, he said.

Reporting on the Jewish industrial war efforts, Shertok stated that during 1941 Jewish industry in Palestine delivered to the British Army \$16,000,000 worth of commodities. This will be doubled in 1942, he assured. Twenty-one members of the Assembly who participated in a discussion which followed Shertok's report urged the Jewish Agency not to remain silent on the Struma case. Some criticized the Agency for "showing weakness" while others demanded that the Agency resign. All, however, welcomed the fact that Jewish enlistment in Palestine is constantly increasing and that the conditions of the Jewish soldiers and their dependents are improving.

Five Jewish Internees Driven Insane in Athlit Camp

LONDON, March 11. (JTA)-- The constant threat of deportation that threatens the 795 Rumanian and Bulgarian Jewish refugees confined in the internment camp at Athlit has driven five of the internees insane and has led to increasing attempts to escape, it was reliably reported here today.

Y.M.C.A. CONDEMNS NAZI PERSECUTION OF JEWS; EXPOSES ANTI-ALIEN PROPAGANDA IN USA

NEW YORK, March 11. (JTA)-- Nazi persecutions of Jews and the Nazi racial theory is condemned in a survey on "scapegoats in history" published here today by the Y.M.C.A.

The survey, issued in the form of a booklet entitled "They Got the Blame," is to be distributed to religious, civic, cultural, educational, and labor organizations in America, with a view "of helping Americans counter divisive pressures in our democracy." It shows that Hitler's trick of making the Jew a scapegoat is not new and that dictators have always worked up unreasoning prejudice against innocent scapegoats to provide an outlet for the grievances of their people and to divert the blame from themselves. It relates how the Jews for more than 1,000 years have been the favorite scapegoats in various countries, and how the early Christians were martyred by Roman emperors who hoped to hide their own incompetence from the public.

The survey also deals with the agitation which American fascist groups are conducting against aliens. It proves that there is less crime among foreign-born than among natives, that the states having the greatest concentration of foreign-born actually rank highest in per capita income and lowest in illiteracy, and that refugees create more jobs than they take.

FULL TEXT OF CRUEL NAZI DECREE AGAINST JEWS AND POLES REHEARD IN WASHINGTON

WASHINGTON, March 11. (JTA)-- The full text of the special Nazi decree governing Poles and Jews, which provides the death penalty for a wide range of minor offenses, was made public here today by the Polish Embassy.

The decree, issued by the Council of the Ministers for the Defense of the Reich on December 16th, is considered the most cruel, arbitrary law ever issued by any government, even under war-time conditions. The full text reads:

"I -- 1. Poles and Jews in the annexed eastern territories are obliged to behave in accordance with German law and with the orders given to them by the German authorities. They are obliged to avoid everything which might prejudice the sovereignty of the German Reich and the authority of the German nation.

"2. Their punishment is death if they commit any violence against a German citizen on account of his belonging to the German nation.

"3. Their punishment is death or imprisonment in less grave cases, if by spiteful or provocative behavior they demonstrate a mentality hostile to Germany-- and especially if they make anti-German statements or tear down or damage proclamations of German authorities or public institutions or if by their general attitude they disparage or prejudice the authority and the welfare of the German Reich or the German people.

Capital Punishment for Minor Infractions

"4. Their punishment is death, or imprisonment in less grave cases:

"A) If they commit any violence against a member of the German army or its auxiliaries, of the German police including its auxiliary staff, of the Reich labor service, of German officialdom or public service or of any member of the National Socialist (Nazi) party.

"B) If they deliberately damage establishments of German authorities or public institutions, or any object contributing to the work of these authorities or to the public welfare.

"C) If they encourage or provoke disobedience to any ordinance or regulation issued by German authorities.

"D) If they conspire to commit an act punishable under Paragraph 2 or 3 or the first three clauses of Paragraph 4, enter into serious deliberation on the subject, offer to commit such an action or accept an offer of this kind or if they have reliable information about an action or an intention of this nature at a time when the danger can still be averted, and fail to inform in time the authorities or the threatened person.

"E) If they are found in illicit possession of firearms, hand grenades, bayonets, explosives, ammunition or any other weapon of war, or if they have reliable information that a Pole or a Jew is in illicit possession of such objects and have failed to make immediate representation to the authorities.

Nazi Definition of "Imprisonment"

"II -- Poles and Jews are also punished when they violate German penal laws or when they commit an act punishable under the basic principle of a German penal law in accordance with the special political exigencies prevailing in the incorporated eastern territories.

"III -- 1. Penalties imposed on Poles and Jews are imprisonment, fines and confiscation of property. 'Imprisonment' means confinement in a prison camp from

three months to 10 years. In grave cases severe prison camp confinement from two to 15 years is imposed.

"2. Capital punishment is invoked whenever it is provided by the law. Even in cases where the law does not provide for it, capital punishment is to be imposed when the criminal action committed indicates especially base character or when it is particularly grave for other reasons. In these cases capital punishment is also permissible against juvenile offenders; in serious cases, less than 16 years old.

"3. The minimum term of sentence provided by a German penal law or a penalty decreed as compulsory may not be reduced with exception of cases where the criminal deed was directed exclusively against the offender's own nation.

"Any fine which cannot be collected will be replaced by imprisonment for one week to one year."

MEDALIE RE-ELECTED FEDERATION PRESIDENT; HEXTER, WILLEN ARE EXECUTIVE VICE-PRESIDENTS

NEW YORK, March 11. (JTA)-- The re-election of George Z. Medalie, welfare leader and former United States Attorney, as president of the Federation for the Support of Jewish Philanthropic Societies of New York City, was announced here today following a meeting of the Board of Trustees. Dr. Maurice B. Hexter, assistant to the executive vice-president of the Federation, and Joseph Willen, director of the Business Men's Council, fund-raising arm of the Federation, were elected executive vice-presidents, and will direct the activities of the organization, it was also announced.

Dr. Hexter was born in 1896 in Cincinnati, Ohio, and was graduated from the University of Cincinnati in 1912. He received his Doctorate in the department of economics at Harvard University in 1924 and was instructor and tutor in Social Ethics at Harvard from 1921 to 1929, and lecturer in Simmons College School of Social Work during the same period. From 1919 to 1929 he was executive director of the Boston Federation of Jewish Charities. He gave up his post in Boston to travel in Europe on behalf of the Jewish Agency for Palestine, and he served as American non-Zionist representative on the Executive of the Jewish Agency in Jerusalem until 1938, when he returned to America to assume the post of assistant to the executive vice-president of the New York Federation.

Joseph Willen was born in 1897 and was educated in the public schools of New York and in the City College of New York. For twenty-one years he has been director of the Business Men's Council, which is charged with the responsibility for organizing financial support in the community for the 91 agencies affiliated with the Federation, and is credited with developing its organization and methods of fund-raising through trade and professional groups, which has been a model for similar philanthropic organizations elsewhere. He is a member of the executive committee of the American Jewish Committee, and of the executive committee of the American Friends of the Hebrew University. He is also a member of the board of trustees of the Jewish Education Committee, of the board of directors of the Council of Jewish Federations and Welfare Funds and of the board of directors of the Jewish Telegraphic Agency.

Monroe Goldwater was named vice-president, and Ralph E. Samuel was elected secretary. The following officers were re-elected: Mrs. Sidney C. Borg, Mrs. Arthur Lehman, Paul Felix Warburg, vice-presidents; Percy S. Straus, chairman of the Board; Henry Ittleson, associate chairman of the Board; Louis J. Grumbach, treasurer; John Rosenthal, associate treasurer; John A. Sherman, assistant treasurer; and Jacob M. Frankel, assistant secretary.