

JTA

DAILY NEWS BULLETIN

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

VOL. IX. NO. 68

Monday, March 23, 1942

WAVE OF JEWISH MASS-SUICIDES REPORTED FROM PRAGUE; JEWS ROTTING IN DUNGEONS

LONDON, March 22. (JTA)-- A wave of Jewish mass-suicides is reported today to be taking place in Prague and other cities of the Czech Protectorate as a result of the expulsion of Jews to the fortress town of Theresin where the victims are held in dungeons under the most inhuman conditions.

The report, which reached Czechoslovak circles in London, discloses that many Jews declared that they would prefer to be isolated in ghettos rather than thrown into the Theresin prisons where the inmates are literally rotting.

Coming through neutral channels, the report confirms the information that more than 10,000 Czech Jews have already been transferred by the Nazis from Prague and other Czech cities to the Theresin prisons. The Gestapo night raids on Jewish homes in Prague continue unabated. Every night Jews are dragged out of bed for transportation to Theresin, the report informs.

Jews Ordered to Submit Inventory of Their Property to Gestapo

Parallel with the deportation of Jews to the fortress town, the Gestapo authorities have ordered the Jewish communities in the Czech Protectorate to submit, within the next few weeks, lists of all Jews in each community. The lists are to contain the names and addresses of the Jews and are to be supplemented with an inventory of the property which each Jew possesses.

The Nazi-controlled Prague radio today announced that "the Czech population is receiving with enthusiasm the news that Jews are being interned in the fortress of Theresin." The broadcast, however, is considered to be the usual Nazi propaganda, since all reports reaching the Czechoslovak Government-in-Exile emphasize that all sections of the Czech population in the Protectorate are manifesting great sympathy for the Jews.

300 RABBIS AND JEWISH RELIGIOUS LEADERS REPORTED DEAD IN NAZI CONCENTRATION CAMP

STOCKHOLM, March 22. (JTA)-- More than 300 rabbis and Jewish orthodox leaders have died in the Nazi camp in Oswiecim, Poland, according to a reliable report reaching here today. In Warsaw alone ashes of 14 rabbis were received by the families of the victims.

Estimating that there are at present 5,000 Jews interned in the Oswiecim camp, the report states that the majority of the rabbis and Jewish religious leaders who perished there were killed by the Nazi administration of the camp. The remainder died of the inhuman treatment to which they were subjected. Nazi newspapers published in Poland report that the German governor in Warsaw issued an order providing the death penalty for any Pole who gives shelter to Jews leaving the ghetto illegally. Recently, Jews have been trying to smuggle themselves out of the ghetto for the sole purpose of securing food which is becoming more and more scarce within the ghetto walls.

RUMANIA EXECUTES THREE JEWS; REVOKES ALL DRIVERS' LICENSES HELD BY JEWS

ZURICH, March 22. (JTA)-- Three Jewish men in Bucharest have been executed by the Rumanian military authorities on the charge that they were distributing Communist propaganda, the Bucharest radio reported today.

The Rumanian government, meanwhile, continuing its drive to completely eradicate all Jews from any positions they may still hold, today ordered the driving licenses of Jews revoked.

N.R.S. GRANTS SPECIAL PASSOVER ALLOWANCES TO JEWISH REFUGEES

NEW YORK, March 22. (JTA)-- Jewish refugees receiving financial assistance from the National Refugee Service will be granted an additional allowance in order that they may properly observe the Passover, it was announced here today. The supplementary allowance will enable thousands of refugees to buy the basic Passover foods.

The War Department and the Navy Department have granted permission to employers to hire more than 99 percent of the many thousands of alien workers they have sought to employ on "classified" government contracts of a secret, confidential or restricted nature, the N.R.S. reported today.

This has been true despite the fact that there is great difficulty in prevailing upon employers to file the complicated forms which are necessary if this permission is to be granted. While Army and Navy procedures under which approval can be secured for the employment of aliens are roughly similar, the forms used are different.

At the present time, the N.R.S. is informed, there is no way in which an alien worker can obtain blanket permission in advance to work on any classified job. This means that the employer must be sufficiently interested in having the services of an alien worker to file the required forms in his behalf. The fact that an alien worker has been granted permission to work on a classified contract for one Department does not mean that he is eligible for work ordered by another Department. New permission must be obtained for each job that is under a classified contract.

ROOSEVELT ORDER ALLOWS "ENEMY ALIENS" TO APPLY FOR NATURALIZATION

WASHINGTON, March 22. (JTA)-- German, Italian and Japanese nationals, technically classified as "enemy aliens" may now apply for naturalization, after a Justice Department investigation has established their loyalty, under the provisions of an Executive Order signed yesterday by President Roosevelt.

The statutory provision normally permits aliens who were born in a country with which the United States is at war to continue their citizenship quest only if the declaration of intention was made at least two years prior to the beginning of the war. However, the law authorized the President to make exceptions for those whose loyalty had been established by an investigation.

IMMIGRATION AUTHORITIES RELEASE 26 LUXEMBURG REFUGEES IN HIAS CARE

NEW YORK, March 22. (JTA)-- The Federal immigration authorities released a group of 26 Jewish refugees from Luxemburg in the care of the Hebrew Sheltering and Immigrant Aid Society, it was announced here today by the Hias. The refugees, who arrived here on a Portuguese steamer, were among the last Jews in Luxemburg permitted to proceed to Spain by the Nazi authorities. Some 900 Jews who had no opportunity to leave for Spain were deported from Luxemburg to Poland for forced labor.

NEW HUNGARIAN PREMIER COMMITTED "TO SOLVE THE JEWISH PROBLEM," BUDAPEST PRESS REPORTS

BERNE, March 22. (JTA)-- The new Hungarian Premier, Nicholas von Kallay, has pledged himself to consider the "solution of the Jewish problem in Hungary" as one of his major tasks. It is reported in the Budapest newspaper, reaching here today.

All Jewish farmers in Hungary were ordered to register their livestock within two days, as a result of the steps taken by the new Hungarian Cabinet to confiscate Jewish agricultural possessions. The order also instructs Jewish land owners to submit to the authorities a detailed inventory of their agricultural property.

Pending the adoption of a bill which was introduced last week in the Hungarian parliament, the Hungarian government has sequestered all Jewish agricultural holdings. The bill would prohibit Jews from selling or transferring forest, arable land, farm buildings and agricultural equipment. Jews having more than five acres of vineyards will also be affected by this act.

LONDON SEES DIFFICULTIES IN SENDING FOOD TO JEWS IN NAZI-HELD POLAND

LONDON, March 22. (JTA)-- While shipments of food, clothing and medicine sent from America to be distributed among refugees from Poland reached Soviet Russia this week, doubt was expressed here today as to whether Jewish efforts to send similar shipments to the Jews in Nazi-held Poland will be successful.

The attitude taken by Jewish organizations here interested in securing British permission to send food and medicine to the starving Jews in Poland is that the Jewish position in the ghettos is no less precarious than the position of the starving population in Greece to whom the shipment of food is permitted by the British authorities. British experts are reported, however, to have advanced the argument that the Greek example cannot be applied to the suffering Jews in Nazi-Poland. Whereas Greece is considered by the Nazis to be an "occupied country," Poland is considered by Berlin as "a territory partly incorporated into the Reich," they say. Hence, prior to consenting to the delivery of foodstuff to Poland, the British government must be assured that the food will be distributed among Jews and Poles exclusively, the experts are reported to have declared.

TEL AVIV PRESENTS THREE AMBULANCES TO BRITISH ARMY; AMERICAN DELEGATION WANTED

TEL AVIV, March 22. (JTA)-- Three fully equipped military ambulances were turned over to British military authorities here today as "Tel Aviv's gift on the occasion of the mayor's birthday." The ambulances were built in Palestine.

An exchange of greetings between Mayor Israel Rokach and Col. Wilson of the British General Staff marked the ceremony. The British colonel, in accepting the gift of the municipality, stated that the Army considers this gift the best proof of the cordial relations between the Jewish population of the city and the British armed forces in Palestine.

The Tel Aviv newspaper Haaretz, representing the General Zionists, today carries an article demanding that American Zionists send a representative to Palestine "to strengthen the political department of the Zionist executive in Jerusalem." The paper complains that "the Yishuv has been left alone for the last three years and feels isolated." The article was inspired by the fact that American Zionists have sent Dr. Abba Hillel Silver to London. Closer cooperation between American Zionists and the Jewish Agency offices in London and Jerusalem is urgently needed in order to secure better Zionist representation both inside and outside Jewish life, the article argues.

RUMANIA EXECUTES THREE JEWS; REVOKES ALL DRIVERS' LICENSES HELD BY JEWS

ZURICH, March 22. (JTA)-- Three Jewish men in Bucharest have been executed by the Rumanian military authorities on the charge that they were distributing Communist propaganda, the Bucharest radio reported today.

The Rumanian government, meanwhile, continuing its drive to completely eradicate all Jews from any positions they may still hold, today ordered the driving licenses of Jews revoked.

N.R.S. GRANTS SPECIAL PASSOVER ALLOWANCES TO JEWISH REFUGEES

NEW YORK, March 22. (JTA)-- Jewish refugees receiving financial assistance from the National Refugee Service will be granted an additional allowance in order that they may properly observe the Passover, it was announced here today. The supplementary allowance will enable thousands of refugees to buy the basic Passover foods.

The War Department and the Navy Department have granted permission to employers to hire more than 99 percent of the many thousands of alien workers they have sought to employ on "classified" government contracts of a secret, confidential or restricted nature, the N.R.S. reported today.

This has been true despite the fact that there is great difficulty in prevailing upon employers to file the complicated forms which are necessary if this permission is to be granted. While Army and Navy procedures under which approval can be secured for the employment of aliens are roughly similar, the forms used are different.

At the present time, the N.R.S. is informed, there is no way in which an alien worker can obtain blanket permission in advance to work on any classified job. This means that the employer must be sufficiently interested in having the services of an alien worker to file the required forms in his behalf. The fact that an alien worker has been granted permission to work on a classified contract for one Department does not mean that he is eligible for work ordered by another Department. New permission must be obtained for each job that is under a classified contract.

ROOSEVELT ORDER ALLOWS "ENEMY ALIENS" TO APPLY FOR NATURALIZATION

WASHINGTON, March 22. (JTA)-- German, Italian and Japanese nationals, technically classified as "enemy aliens" may now apply for naturalization, after a Justice Department investigation has established their loyalty, under the provisions of an Executive Order signed yesterday by President Roosevelt.

The statutory provision normally permits aliens who were born in a country with which the United States is at war to continue their citizenship quest only if the declaration of intention was made at least two years prior to the beginning of the war. However, the law authorized the President to make exceptions for those whose loyalty had been established by an investigation.

IMMIGRATION AUTHORITIES RELEASE 26 LUXEMBURG REFUGEES IN HIAS CARE

NEW YORK, March 22. (JTA)-- The Federal immigration authorities released a group of 26 Jewish refugees from Luxemburg in the care of the Hebrew Sheltering and Immigrant Aid Society, it was announced here today by the Hias. The refugees, who arrived here on a Portuguese steamer, were among the last Jews in Luxemburg permitted to proceed to Spain by the Nazi authorities. Some 900 Jews who had no opportunity to leave for Spain were deported from Luxemburg to Poland for forced labor.

LIEUT. GOVERNOR POLETTI ASSAILS EMPLOYERS WHO ADVERTISE FOR "CHRISTIANS ONLY"

NEW YORK, March 22. (JTA)-- Employers who place advertisements in newspapers asking for "only Christian" workers were vigorously condemned here yesterday by Lieut. Governor Charles Poletti, addressing the "Victory Through Unity Conference" held by the Council Against Intolerance in America at the Hotel Edison. Mr. Poletti stated that three bills were being supported in Albany to abolish this type of discrimination.

Jonathan Daniels, newly appointed assistant director of the Office of Civilian Defense, assailed intolerance in defense employment, declaring that "a Niagara of potential power is being shunted aside in the labor markets because of intolerance and discrimination."

A resolution adopted by the Conference urged the War Department to organize a "League of Nations Division" composed and officered by men of all colors, religions and beliefs, as a means of aiding the war effort and combatting the racial propaganda being disseminated by our enemies.

MENACE OF TUBERCULOSIS STRESSED AT JEWISH CONSUMPTIVES RELIEF SOCIETY'S 18th CONFERENCE

NEW YORK, March 22. (JTA)-- The rising death rate from tuberculosis and its potential menace to national defense if allowed to go unchecked were stressed at the opening of the thirty-eighth annual convention of the Jewish Consumptives Relief Society here. All of the speakers lauded the Society, which conducts a non-sectarian sanitarium for needy tuberculosis patients at Denver, for the contributions it has made to the fight against the "white plague."

Messages greeting the Society were received from Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt, Governor Lehman, Mayor LaGuardia and other prominent persons. Present at the convention, which will continue through Wednesday, are delegates from all parts of the country.

STUDY OF JEWISH SOCIAL WORK PERSONNEL UNDERTAKEN BY SPECIAL COMMITTEE

NEW YORK, March 22. (JTA)-- A study of the personnel needs and resources in the Jewish social work field will be undertaken as the latest step in the development of a project, promoted by the late Dr. Solomon Lowenstein, to provide for competent personnel in Jewish social work, it was reported here today. Philip Bernstein, assistant director of the Jewish Welfare Federation of Cleveland, has been engaged to make the study.

Following the closing of the Graduate School of Jewish Social Work, Dr. Lowenstein invited a small committee to evaluate the situation with regard to the personnel needs and facilities for developing and training competent workers in Jewish social work. The committee, headed by Kurt Peiser, executive director of the Jewish Charities of Philadelphia, recommended that an intensive study be made to determine what action is necessary to cope with the problem.

30th ANNIVERSARY OF YOUNG ISRAEL MOVEMENT CELEBRATED IN NEW YORK

NEW YORK, March 22. (JTA)-- Two-thousand delegates and guests from all over the United States today attended the celebration of the 30th anniversary of the founding of the Young Israel movement, held at the Commodore Hotel here.

A report on the activities of the Young Israel movement for the past year was presented by Mr. Samuel H. Fromberg, president. "Our main work, of course, has been in connection with the war ever since Pearl Harbor," Mr. Fromberg said. "The war did not find us unprepared to do our bit, for ever since its founding, the watchword of Young Israel has been Americanism."

NEW HUNGARIAN PREMIER COMMITTED "TO SOLVE THE JEWISH PROBLEM," BUDAPEST PRESS REPORTS

BERNE, March 22. (JTA)-- The new Hungarian Premier, Miklos von Kalley, has pledged himself to consider the "solution of the Jewish problem in Hungary" as one of his major tasks. It is reported in the Budapest newspaper reaching here today.

All Jewish farmers in Hungary were ordered to register their livestock within two days, as a result of the steps taken by the new Hungarian Cabinet to confiscate Jewish agricultural possessions. The order also instructs Jewish land owners to submit to the authorities a detailed inventory of their agricultural property.

Pending the adoption of a bill which was introduced last week in the Hungarian parliament, the Hungarian government has sequestered all Jewish agricultural holdings. The bill would prohibit Jews from selling or transferring forest, arable land, farm buildings and agricultural equipment. Jews having more than five acres of vineyards will also be affected by this act.

LONDON SEES DIFFICULTIES IN SENDING FOOD TO JEWS IN NAZI-HELD POLAND

LONDON, March 22. (JTA)-- While shipments of food, clothing and medicine sent from America to be distributed among refugees from Poland reached Soviet Russia this week, doubt was expressed here today as to whether Jewish efforts to send similar shipments to the Jews in Nazi-held Poland will be successful.

The attitude taken by Jewish organizations here interested in securing British permission to send food and medicine to the starving Jews in Poland is that the Jewish position in the ghettos is no less precarious than the position of the starving population in Greece to whom the shipment of food is permitted by the British authorities. British experts are reported, however, to have advanced the argument that the Greek example cannot be applied to the suffering Jews in Nazi-Poland. Whereas Greece is considered by the Nazis to be an "occupied country," Poland is considered by Berlin as "a territory partly incorporated into the Reich," they say. Hence, prior to consenting to the delivery of foodstuff to Poland, the British government must be assured that the food will be distributed among Jews and Poles exclusively, the experts are reported to have declared.

TEL AVIV PRESENTS THREE AMBULANCES TO BRITISH ARMY; AMERICAN DELEGATION WANTED

TEL AVIV, March 22. (JTA)-- Three fully equipped military ambulances were turned over to British military authorities here today as "Tel Aviv's gift on the occasion of the mayor's birthday." The ambulances were built in Palestine.

An exchange of greetings between Mayor Israel Rokach and Col. Wilson of the British General Staff marked the ceremony. The British colonel, in accepting the gift of the municipality, stated that the Army considers this gift the best proof of the cordial relations between the Jewish population of the city and the British armed forces in Palestine.

The Tel Aviv newspaper Haarets, representing the General Zionists, today carries an article demanding that American Zionists send a representative to Palestine "to strengthen the political department of the Zionist executive in Jerusalem." The paper complains that "the Yishuv has been left alone for the last three years and feels isolated." The article was inspired by the fact that American Zionists have sent Dr. Abba Hillel Silver to London. Closer cooperation between American Zionists and the Jewish Agency offices in London and Jerusalem is urgently needed in order to secure better Zionist representation both inside and outside Jewish life, the article argues.

LIEUT. GOVERNOR POLETTI ASSAILS EMPLOYERS WHO ADVERTISE FOR "CHRISTIANS ONLY"

NEW YORK, March 22. (JTA)-- Employers who place advertisements in newspapers asking for "only Christian" workers were vigorously condemned here yesterday by Lieut. Governor Charles Poletti, addressing the "Victory Through Unity Conference" held by the Council Against Intolerance in America at the Hotel Edison. Mr. Poletti stated that three bills were being supported in Albany to abolish this type of discrimination.

Jonathan Daniels, newly appointed assistant director of the Office of Civilian Defense, assailed intolerance in defense employment, declaring that "a Niagara of potential power is being shunted aside in the labor markets because of intolerance and discrimination."

A resolution adopted by the Conference urged the War Department to organize a "League of Nations Division" composed and officered by men of all colors, religions and beliefs, as a means of aiding the war effort and combatting the racial propaganda being disseminated by our enemies.

MENACE OF TUBERCULOSIS STRESSED AT JEWISH CONSUMPTIVES RELIEF SOCIETY'S 18th CONFERENCE

NEW YORK, March 22. (JTA)-- The rising death rate from tuberculosis and its potential menace to national defense if allowed to go unchecked were stressed at the opening of the thirty-eighth annual convention of the Jewish Consumptives Relief Society here. All of the speakers lauded the Society, which conducts a non-sectarian sanitarium for needy tuberculosis patients at Denver, for the contributions it has made to the fight against the "white plague."

Messages greeting the Society were received from Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt, Governor Lehman, Mayor LaGuardia and other prominent persons. Present at the convention, which will continue through Wednesday, are delegates from all parts of the country.

STUDY OF JEWISH SOCIAL WORK PERSONNEL UNDERTAKEN BY SPECIAL COMMITTEE

NEW YORK, March 22. (JTA)-- A study of the personnel needs and resources in the Jewish social work field will be undertaken as the latest step in the development of a project, promoted by the late Dr. Solomon Lowenstein, to provide for competent personnel in Jewish social work, it was reported here today. Philip Bernstein, assistant director of the Jewish Welfare Federation of Cleveland, has been engaged to make the study.

Following the closing of the Graduate School of Jewish Social Work, Dr. Lowenstein invited a small committee to evaluate the situation with regard to the personnel needs and facilities for developing and training competent workers in Jewish social work. The committee, headed by Kurt Peiser, executive director of the Jewish Charities of Philadelphia, recommended that an intensive study be made to determine what action is necessary to cope with the problem.

30th ANNIVERSARY OF YOUNG ISRAEL MOVEMENT CELEBRATED IN NEW YORK

NEW YORK, March 22. (JTA)-- Two-thousand delegates and guests from all over the United States today attended the celebration of the 30th anniversary of the founding of the Young Israel movement, held at the Commodore Hotel here.

A report on the activities of the Young Israel movement for the past year was presented by Mr. Samuel H. Fromberg, president. "Our main work, of course, has been in connection with the war ever since Pearl Harbor," Mr. Fromberg said. "The war did not find us unprepared to do our bit, for ever since its founding, the watchword of Young Israel has been Americanism."