

Published by The Jewish Telegraphic Agency

106 East 41st Street, New York, N. Y.

VOL. IX. NO. 75

Tuesday, March 31, 1942

JEWISH ORGANIZATIONS COMPLETE ARRANGEMENTS FOR OBSERVANCE OF WAR-TIME PASSOVER

NEW YORK, March 30. (JTA)-- Preparations for America's first war-time Seder since 1918 were completed today in all sections of the country by major Jewish religious, philanthropic and social welfare organizations. Passover observances have been arranged for soldiers, sailors and marines, for the inmates of countless Jewish institutions, and for the sick and the needy wherever they may be. Everywhere the same note is being struck - dedication of this year's Passover to the struggle for the liberation of all mankind from the yoke of fascism.

In New York the observance of Passover, which starts at sundown on Wednesday, will be made possible for 50,000 sick and needy men, women and children through the facilities of the 116 affiliated institutions of the New York and Brooklyn Federations of Jewish Charities.

Increased allowances from the Jewish Social Service Association and the Jewish Family Welfare Society will enable more than 7,000 families to observe the Seder in their own homes.

In the ten Federation hospitals, matzo and other Passover foods will be served throughout the eight-day holiday period. At the Montefiore Hospital and Beth Israel the services will be carried over the central radio system to bed-ridden patients. At the Hospital for Joint Diseases, patients who desire to attend services, will be wheeled into the synagogue.

More than 3,500 orphan and dependent children will take part in Seder services in private foster homes throughout the city, where they reside under the supervision of the New York Association for Jewish Children and the Brooklyn Hebrew Orphan Asylum.

Soldiers, Sailors, Marines Invited to YMHA Seder

Jewish soldiers, sailors and marines have been invited to be the guests of the residents of the Young Women's Hebrew Association at a community Seder, patterned after the home ceremony. A number of refugees from the European war zone will also be guests of the "Y" group. Community Seders for members and neighborhood residents will be held in all 16 Federation community centers.

A unique Seder service to be observed Thursday night will be that sponsored by the Society for the Welfare of the Jewish Deaf. The entire service will be conducted in the sign language, under the leadership of Mrs. Tanya Nash, director of the Society.

BULGARIA ARRESTS JEWS ON CHARGE OF VIOLATING RACIAL LEGISLATION

ZURICH, March 30. (JTA)-- With Bulgaria entirely under Nazi domination, the authorities there have started stricter enforcement of racial legislation and, for the first time, have arrested a number of Jews in Sofia on the charge of "rassenshende," according to the Nazi newspaper Donau Zeitung reaching here today.

The paper also reports that a drive to still further reduce the number of Jewish enterprises has been started in Bulgaria. All Jewish firms, as well as businesses with partly Jewish capital, were ordered to report in detail the nature of their business. They must also submit to the Ministry of Commerce a full list of names of the owners or shareholders. Firms which do not comply with this order will be liquidated, the Donau Zeitung states.

PALESTINE GOVERNMENT WILL REQUISITION ENTIRE GRAIN HARVEST

JERUSALEM, March 30. (JTA)-- The Palestine government announced today that it will requisition "at a fair price" the entire grain harvest, leaving growers enough for themselves and their families and for seed. Broadcasting to all Palestine Sir Harold MacMichael, the High Commissioner, declared that this action has been decided upon to ensure an equitable distribution of grain to all the populace.

"Although these are drastic measures," Sir Harold said, "the times call for such. I believe the government will have general support since these measures are for the population's own protection. The only alternative would be victimization of some people and a great shortage of food and other essentials." Praising the manner in which Palestine's farmers have greatly increased agricultural production to meet war needs, Sir Harold urged intensified efforts in order to make the country as self-sufficient as possible.

GOVERNMENT ACTION SOUGHT AGAINST SEDITIONARY PROPAGANDA OF "SOCIAL JUSTICE"

NEW YORK, March 30. (JTA)-- Government action against the anti-Semitic publication Social Justice, the mouthpiece of Father Coughlin, was demanded today from various sources on the charge that it carries seditious propaganda into the armed forces and war factories.

The Non-Sectarian Anti-Nazi League addressed a letter to J. Edgar Hoover, national director of the F.B.I., asking him to investigate evidence of "connections between Father Coughlin's Social Justice and the German-American Bund." The League announced that it sent Hoover documentary material in support of its contentions.

PM, a New York daily newspaper, after assigning a number of reporters and correspondents in five American cities to find out who buys Social Justice and to what extent the anti-Semitic and defeatist articles in the publication influence its readers, published a number of serious charges. Declaring that it "denounces Charles Coughlin as a live and immediate threat to our national security," PM called for a government investigation and urged its readers to petition the Attorney General "to take the knife and cut out the cancer."

(The line followed by Social Justice was emulated today by the Italian Propaganda Ministry which announced over the Rome radio the publication of a pamphlet, intended for mass distribution, entitled "The Jews Wanted the War.")

JEWISH CONTRIBUTIONS TO NATION'S WAR EFFORT DISCUSSED AT CHATTANOOGA CONFERENCE

CHATTANOOGA, Tenn., March 30. (JTA)-- The part which Jewish communities are to play in the nation's all-out victory effort was the major subject of discussion at the two-day Southeastern Regional conference of the Council of Jewish Federations and Welfare Funds which concluded here yesterday.

William J. Shroder, chairman of the Council's board, addressing the conference pointed to the important obligations which the war situation is imposing upon Jewish communal organizations. He stated that the activities of Jewish communal institutions in war time are infinitely more important than in peace time. He called for a maximum of sacrifice, emphasizing that the United States is now facing formidable enemies both in the Atlantic and the Pacific. He urged support of the Chinese, Russian and British relief campaigns in addition to increased aid to Jewish agencies meeting local, regional, national and overseas needs. A resolution adopted by the conference pledged the organizations represented at the gathering to carry out the recommendations contained in Mr. Shroder's address.

Oscar R. Strauss Jr. of Atlanta, regional director of the OPA, speaking at the opening session, stated that "America is not only the arsenal of Democracy, but also its pantry and supply house." He warned that many shortages, rationings and sacrifices are coming, and expressed his belief that Americans will support the OPA if they understand that its purpose is to avoid war inflation and post-war deflation.

Lively sessions on Army and Navy services, on campaign work, on budgeting, on overseas relief work, and on refugee aid marked the conference. Myron J. Rothschild was elected president for the new term. Donald Oberdorfer and Baron de Hirsch Meyer were elected vice-presidents and Mrs. Louis Kaufman, secretary.

JEWISH WELFARE BOARD WILL CELEBRATE ITS 25th ANNIVERSARY, WILL HONOR FOUNDERS

NEW YORK, March 30. (JTA)-- The Jewish Welfare Board, the Jewish communal organization in closest contact with our armed forces, will mark its twenty-fifth anniversary here on April 18-20, at a three-day conference, which will be climaxed by a dinner honoring the men who founded the J.W.B. three days after the United States entered World War I, it was announced here today.

Various sessions at the conference will review the Board's quarter-century of service in war and peace and will discuss the organization's role in furnishing morale and religious guidance to the thousands of Jewish men now serving in all branches of America's military machine.

The J.W.B., which now has 34 of the leading Jewish national bodies in its membership, was created in April of 1917 to meet the need for one unified Jewish body to serve the interests of the soldiers and sailors fighting for the United States. At its formation it had fifteen national affiliated bodies. Today, in addition to having mobilized more than 200 Jewish communities for its welfare work, the Board is the directing force of 352 Jewish centers scattered throughout the country.

The J.W.B.'s Army and Navy Committee has initiated extensive programs for servicemen in the fields of religion, recreation and culture. Its workers can be found in far-flung posts from Newfoundland to the Philippines. In addition to its own specialized activities, the J.W.B. functions as part of the U.S.O. and participates in the wide morale-building program of that organization.

EIGHT YOUTHS IN MONTREAL FACE TRIAL ON CHARGES OF ANTI-SEMITIC RIOTING

MONTREAL, March 30. (JTA)-- The trial of eight youths charged with participating in the anti-conscription and anti-Jewish riots in Montreal last Tuesday will open here on Thursday, it was announced today by the police officials.

The riots, the second such demonstration to take place here within the last two months, started when a group of youths inflamed by anti-conscription addresses they had heard at a meeting called by the "League for the Defense of Canada" left the gathering and paraded down the main streets of the Jewish quarter of the city. Their anti-conscription slogans soon changed to anti-Semitic ones and shouting "A Bas Le Juifs" -- "Down with the Jews" -- the rioters broke storewindows of Jewish shops, stopped street-cars and assaulted pedestrians. After the marchers had proceeded for fifteen blocks the demonstration began to assume serious proportions and squads of police were sent to break it up.

The Jewish press here, pointing to the similarity between the tactics of these youthful rowdies and those used by the Hitler hoodlums in pre-Nazi Germany, is demanding that the authorities take stronger action to insure that such anti-Jewish demonstrations are not repeated.

UNITED NATIONS AND LATIN-AMERICAN COUNTRIES URGED TO FREELY ADMIT REFUGEES

NEW YORK, March 30. (JTA)-- Terming the sinking of the ill-fated refugee ship Struma a "black and bloody spot" in the diary of the fighting democracies, and declaring that it is "impelled to say that what happened in the Black Sea is unworthy of the spirit of freedom," Free World, a monthly magazine devoted to democracy and world affairs, appeared today with an editorial appealing to all the United Nations and to the Latin-American countries to freely admit all refugees from Axis-dominated Europe.

"No nation has the moral right today to close its frontiers to these victims," the editorial says. "There are no longer any aliens; there are only friends or enemies. We must regard every refugee as a potential soldier and worker in the struggle for freedom. Within the bounds of precaution that will prevent the infiltration of the enemy, we must welcome and include without distinction the men of every race to aid us in this conflict. This must be proclaimed as a definite policy of the United Nations."

Asking the governments of the Allied Powers "to settle once and for all this question of refugees," the editorial concludes with a call to labor groups, farmers' associations, women's organizations, and the congregations of all churches "to express the popular will in support of this measure which will wipe from the pages of contemporary history a shameful indictment of our indifference to human suffering."

CAMPAIGN FOR RELIEF OF WAR VICTIMS OVERSEAS LAUNCHED BY SOUTH AFRICAN JEWS

JOHANNESBURG, March 30. (JTA)-- A South African Jewish War Aid Committee for relief and rehabilitation of war victims overseas and in East Africa, was decided upon today by 400 delegates attending a conference called by the Board of Deputies of South African Jews.

In a resolution adopted by the conference, the delegates expressed the belief that "the cardinal aim of constructive endeavor must be directed towards the upbuilding of Palestine which is the only country providing an immediate and permanent home for uprooted Jews."