

Published by The Jewish Telegraphic Agency

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

VOL. IX. NO. 80

Friday, April 10, 1942

ARREST OF ALL OUTSTANDING JEWISH LEADERS IN SLOVAKIA ANNOUNCED IN NAZI PRESS

STOCKHOLM, April 9. (JTA)-- All officers and employees of the Jewish Central Committee in Bratislava, which is the only existing central Jewish body in Slovakia, have been arrested and sent to a labor camp, according to the Nazi newspaper Grenzboten which reached here today from Slovakia.

The Grenzboten, which is published in Bratislava, carries an official communique stating that the arrest of the Bratislava Jewish leaders was ordered because "the authorities have discovered that members of the Jewish Central Committee warned a number of Jews that they were going to be sent to labor camps, thus giving them time to hide."

The arrest of the Jewish leaders in Bratislava leaves the Jews in Slovakia without any representation, since the Jewish Central Committee was the only representative body left after the dissolution last week of all Jewish community councils by the authorities. A number of Slovakian "aryans" were also arrested on the charge that they enabled Jews to avoid deportation to labor camps.

The Swedish newspaper Social Demokraten today reports from Berlin that Sano Mach, the Slovakian Minister of Interior, announced in Bratislava that all Jews in Slovakia who have been deprived of their citizenship will be deported to Nazi-occupied Poland and to the occupied parts of Soviet Russia, and will not be permitted to take along more than hand baggage. The Donsu Zeitung, a Nazi newspaper for the Balkan countries reaching here today, reports that Jews in Slovakia who are being taken from their homes and deported to labor camps are considered to be "anti-social and criminal elements" and are being treated as such in the camps.

JEWISH AGENCY STARTS PUBLICATION OF ZIONIST LITERATURE IN RUSSIAN

TEL AVIV, April 9. (JTA)-- Expecting a more favorable attitude on the part of the Soviet Government towards Jewish aspirations in Palestine, the Jewish Agency, the Jewish National Fund and the Keren Hayesod have started propaganda publications in the Russian language, including a book on Jewish achievements in Palestine, it was reported in the Hebrew press here today.

The Palestine Official Gazette, in an extra edition, announced today that Sir Harold MacMichael, the High-Commissioner for Palestine, left for Egypt "on official business." It is understood that he is to confer there with the British General Headquarters on the expected war developments in the Mediterranean.

An Axis broadcast today in the Arab language boasted that "the Arab countries will soon become the next battlefield." The broadcast, addressed to the Arab in Palestine, Syria and Iraq, said that "there is no doubt that a decisive blow will be struck at Britain in the Mediterranean" and added that the present lull "is a prelude for gigantic activities which will develop within the next few weeks."

JEWS CELEBRATE PASSOVER IN SOVIET RUSSIA HOPING FOR HITLER'S DEFEAT

MOSCOW, April 9. (JTA)-- Although a large number of Moscow Jews were evacuated to safety in Uzbekistan in the days when the Nazi armies were near the gates of the Soviet capital, the Moscow Choral Synagogue was crowded this Passover week with Jewish men and women, the majority of them parents who have children at the front fighting for victory over Hitler.

In the narrow street which leads to the synagogue, which is the largest in Soviet Russia, groups of Jews could be seen every morning this week on their way to the huge synagogue building which dominates the street. Inside the synagogue hundreds of Jews were delivering their usual Passover prayers dominated, however, by one desire - the desire for Soviet victory over the Nazi hordes. An aged Jew among them attracted my special attention by his fervent praying. I waited until he finished his prayers and then decided to interview him.

"How does it feel after Passover prayers?" I asked.

The Jew - I later learned that his name was Israel Ziskind, a bookkeeper - gave me a mild fatherly look. "This," he said, "is no ordinary Passover, my son. This is a wartime Passover. All the Passover prayers which I have been saying ever since childhood are today combined in my heart and soul into one prayer. The prayer for the victory of the Soviet troops. The prayer for the defeat of Nazism. The prayer for which three of my sons are now fighting on the Soviet front. This was my prayer in the synagogue, this was also my prayer during the Seder. When I broke my matzoth I was thinking not only of the Pharaoh of ancient Egypt, but also of the modern bloodthirsty Pharaoh who will end up even worse than his predecessor because I am certain that the sea will spit out Hitler's body and the earth will reject it.

"Yes," the old Jew continued, "my prayers today were prayers for victory, prayers for an eleventh plague to smite the enemy of nations. At the same time I feel happy this Passover over the fact that not all of my people are under the Germany of today which is worse than the Egypt of thousands of years ago, and that millions of Jews are living in the U.S.S.R. where they enjoy equality with all other citizens. I am also proud of the fact that my children are among the defenders of our country."

Thousands of Jews Celebrate Passover in Uzbekistan for the First Time

Reports reaching Moscow from Tashkent state that tens of thousands of Jews celebrated Passover in Samarkand, Tashkent, Alma-Ata and other cities in Uzbekistan where Seders were held for the first time by European Jews, including Jews from Poland.

One of the reports tells the dramatic story of a wonder-rabbi who was evacuated to Uzbekistan from a small town in the Ukraine before the Nazis occupied the town. On the road he was especially impressed by the sympathetic treatment he received from Red Army soldiers. When reaching Uzbekistan he asked for a copy of the Soviet constitution and had the paragraphs dealing with freedom of religion translated to him. On Passover night, during the Seder, he spoke to his followers of the Constitution and added: "This book is important not only because our equality is guaranteed there in printed words, but also because its text is printed on the heart of every Soviet soldier."

PUNISH NAZI LEADERS, BUT NOT THE ENTIRE GERMAN NATION, CHIEF RABBI URGES

LONDON, April 9. (JTA)-- Chief Rabbi Hertz, in a broadcast today over the BBC network, predicted that anti-Semitism will lose its influence in the new world after the war, and urged that post-war punishment for the atrocities committed on civilians and soldiers should be confined to the Nazi leaders only, and should not be imposed upon the entire German nation.

"Wholesale condemnation of any race, of any people, is inconsistent with a rational approach to the great human problem of how to deal with the enemy peoples, that will face us after the war," the Chief Rabbi said. "It is true, we cannot in justice condone and we shall not condone the stubborn inhumanities of the Nazis, or the unspeakable cruelties of the Japanese, in Hong Kong and after Hong Kong. But punishment must be confined to the bloodstained leaders who conceived, and the dehumanized agents who carried out these devilish crimes. The argument, that, for example, millions of German nationals have long approved those doings of their rulers does not justify vengeance upon the entire German nation.

"We must remember that the Germans have gone through the greatest school of brutality in the world - the German army. The task therefore facing us is nothing less than their systematic reschooling for membership in human, as opposed to military society. It is a hard task and it will prove a weary task, remedies have been proverbially slower than diseases but it is the only road that will lead to enduring peace," Rabbi Hertz concluded.

200 AMERICAN LEADERS OF PUBLIC OPINION CABLE BLUM ON HIS 70th BIRTHDAY

NEW YORK, April 9. (JTA)-- Two hundred writers, journalists, physicians, radio commentators, lawyers, playwrights, college presidents, clergymen, educators, editors, artists, publishers and government officials sent a cable message yesterday to Leon Blum, former leader of the French Popular Front, who has spent nearly two years in prison as one of the accused in the "war-guilt" trial at Riom. He is 70 years old today.

"The undersigned Americans, on the occasion of your seventieth birthday," the message read, "wish to express to you their sympathetic greetings, and their admiration of your courageous stand in the cause of freedom and democracy."

The signers included Governor Lehman, Albert Einstein, Louis Bromfield, John Dewey, Edna Ferber, Dorothy Canfield Fisher, Fannie Hurst, Marquis James, Dorothy Thompson, Christopher Morley, Vincent Sheean, Upton Sinclair, Archibald MacLeish, Sigrid Undset, Arthur Garfield Hays, George Gordon Battle, the Rt. Rev. Edward L. Parsons, Bishop Frank J. McConnell, Major George Fielding Eliot, Professor Franz Boas, Raymond Gram Swing, Walter Dammrosch, William Green, and John Haynes Holmes.

PALESTINE MEN'S AND WOMEN'S MILITARY UNITS PARADE IN TEL AVIV

TEL AVIV, April 9. (JTA)-- For the first time in the history of modern Palestine military units of Jewish women marched together with Palestine Jewish soldiers yesterday, in a parade marking "Soldiers Day" here. Messages of greetings both to the Jewish soldiers and to the women of the Auxiliary Territorial Service were read by representatives of the Tel Aviv municipality and the Jewish community.

A reception for more than 200 Jewish soldiers from South Africa was given here today by the Association of Lithuanian Jews in Palestine, under the auspices of the Lithuanian Consul, Gershon Volkauskas. The majority of the soldiers are either Lithuanian-born or come from families who emigrated from Lithuania to South Africa since World War I..

ARREST OF EGYPTIAN EX-PREMIER AROUSES GREAT INTEREST AMONG ZIONISTS

LONDON, April 9. (JTA)-- The arrest of Ali Maher Pasha, former Prime Minister of Egypt, for "reasons relating to the safety of the state" has aroused great interest in Zionist circles here since the former prime minister was a leading spokesman for the Arabs in connection with Palestine.

In 1938 he headed the Egyptian delegation to the Palestine conference held at St. James Palace here and in 1939 he was active in negotiating for the return to Palestine of exiled Arab leaders. He resigned as prime minister in June, 1940 reportedly as a result of British dissatisfaction with Egypt's attitude towards the war against Italy. His arrest recalls the flight last May of General Azis el Mazri Pasha who fled Egypt with two aides and presumably established contact with the Germans and Italians in Libya. It has not been established yet whether Maher was directly involved in pro-Axis intrigues since the Egyptian government has not issued any details concerning his arrest.

WASHINGTON CONSIDERING PLAN FOR EMPLOYMENT OF LOYAL ALIENS, LEHMAN ANNOUNCES

ALBANY, April 9. (JTA)-- The Federal government is considering a plan to facilitate employment of loyal aliens in war industry jobs, Gov. Lehman has announced.

Lehman made public a letter from President Roosevelt declaring that the National Committee on Fair Employment Practice, the War and Navy Depts. and other government agencies were investigating the problem thoroughly. The Governor had previously submitted to the President a resolution on the subject adopted by the Committee on Employment Discrimination of the State Defense Council.

VICHY GOVERNMENT CONFISCATES THREE ROTHSCHILD WINE ESTATES

VICHY, April 9. (JTA)-- The Petain government today announced the confiscation of three great wine estates owned by the Rothschild family. The estates will be used as agronomical schools and experimental stations, according to the announcement.

ALIENS FROM AXIS COUNTRIES TO PRESENT FIGHTER PLANE TO U.S.

NEW YORK, April 9. (JTA)-- A fully-equipped fighter plane to be presented to the United States Government is the goal of a nationwide drive launched here by the Loyalty Committee of Victims of Nazi and Fascist Oppression, which is appealing to immigrants driven from Europe by the Axis for the necessary funds to purchase the war plane. The plane is to be called "Loyalty."

Organized by prominent immigrants from Axis countries and countries under Axis domination, including former cabinet members, scientists, writers, artists and businessmen, the Loyalty Committee is sponsored by a group of prominent American citizens including Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt and by the leading immigrant organizations. The immigrants who are members of the Loyalty Committee are all declarants for American citizenship.

HEADSTONES IN JEWISH CEMETERY SMASHED BY ANTI-SEMITIC VANDALS

HARTFORD, Conn., April 9. (JTA)-- Police disclosed today they were investigating an act of vandalism at a Jewish cemetery where twenty-three headstones were tipped over, some of them being smashed, either Sunday or Monday night.