

VOL. IX. NO. 120

Thursday, May 28, 1942

WEDGWOOD URGES PALESTINE MANDATE BE TRANSFERRED TO U.S.; CENSOR REBUKED

LONDON, May 27. (JTA)-- A B.B.C. broadcast to America by Lord Wedgwood last night, in which the Laborite member of the House of Lords urged that the United States take over the mandate for Palestine from Britain in order to assure justice to the Jews, has provoked great commotion in England, causing the British Broadcasting Company to issue a statement today explaining that the censor did not properly scrutinize the script.

Lord Wedgwood, who visited the United States several months ago, stated in his broadcast that America could convert Palestine "into another free land with open doors and open hearts." He openly accused the British administration in Palestine of being biased against Jews.

Replying to criticism by the London Daily Mail, which expressed dissatisfaction with Wedgwood's address, the pro-Zionist peer stated: "The broadcast represents my considered opinion. The manuscript was passed by the censor in the usual way without any comment. Our mandate over Palestine is hopeless and should be transferred to the United States. America will run it much better. She cannot run it worse."

The statement issued by the British Broadcasting Company said that the censor made a slip in passing the suggestion about transferring the Palestine mandate. "Owing to a serious error in judgment on the part of the official whose duty it was to scrutinize the script, the regulations were not properly interpreted," the statement asserted.

NAZIS OUST ALL JEWS FROM BELGRADE RESIDENCES; MUFTI "NEGOTIATES" IN BERLIN

LISBON, May 27. (JTA)-- All Jews in Belgrade were ordered by the Nazi authorities to vacate their residences in order to make room for German soldiers who are now being billeted in the Yugoslavian capital in preparation for their departure for the Mediterranean front, the press here today reports.

The German radio today announced that "important negotiations" are being carried on in Berlin between the ex-Mufti of Jerusalem and the German government. The negotiations follow conferences between the ex-Mufti and Fascist officials in Rome, the Nazi broadcaster stated.

The Novoye Slovo, a pro-Nazi Russian newspaper published in Berlin, reached here today with violent anti-Jewish articles aimed at inciting the Russian population in Nazi-occupied territories. The paper is being distributed among Russians in France as well as in the occupied Soviet territory and in the Baltic states.

RED ARMY SOLDIERS REPORT JEWISH BRAVERY AND NAZI ANTI-JEWISH ATROCITIES AT FRONT

MOSCOW, May 27. (JTA)-- Tales of Jewish heroism and Nazi atrocities on the Soviet front were told here today by the Soviet Jewish colonel Faivel Michlin and the poet Aaron Kushnirov, both of whom came from the front lines to address the Jewish conference against Fascism which took place in Moscow on Sunday. Kushnirov, who fought behind the German lines, is one of the most prominent Jewish writers in Soviet Russia.

"I have come from the front where the heroic Red Army is sweeping the Nazi filth from our land with a fiery broom," Kushnirov said. "Eleven months ago I, and many other Jewish and Russian writers and poets, volunteered to defend our native land. We took rifles in our hands but did not forsake our other weapon - the pen. We fought with bayonets and with propaganda.

"In the Fall of last year, when Hitler's divisions were nearing Moscow, I, together with other Jewish and Russian fighters, was far behind the enemy's lines. Our group moved through the German rear. We made our way with bayonets and hand grenades. Those were grim and hard days. But surrounded by the enemy, we remained well-organized and disciplined Soviet soldiers. Over the bodies of the enemy we forced our way through the German lines. We continued to strike at the enemy and stood up before German tanks until they all turned back. In this battle we lost our beloved Jewish major Salman Osterov who with great skill directed the artillery fire on the German positions. In this great patriotic war there are many Jews among the gallant soldiers and heroes who are defending our land."

Jewish Colonel Tells of Nazi Massacre of Vitebsk Jews

Col. Faivel Michlin, who participated in many battles on the Soviet-German front, related how guerrilla fighters who broke through the Nazi lines reported to him the horrible scene witnessed by them in Vitebsk, where thousands of Jews were driven into one building by the Nazis and burned alive.

"In this war," the Jewish colonel said, "it has been my lot many times to pass through land scorched and devastated by the Germans and to see corpses of tortured men, women and children. But the story of the burning of those thousands of Jews in Vitebsk was the most terrible that a human being could ever imagine. The partisan who reported it to me was burning with vengeance as he related the facts. 'Listen, colonel,' he said excitedly, 'in Vitebsk the Germans drove thousands of Jews into the Red Army club and set fire to the building. Do you understand? All of them. Men, women and children. And all perished. Many thousands. Do you hear me, colonel?'

"I heard him. And to hear the details of his report was more terrible than to wait for death. I know Vitebsk and I have visited the Red Army club there on several occasions. I know that the building could hold thousands of people. I listened to the horrible tale told by the partisan and in my mind I saw a picture of fire and heard the shrieks of burning children. The fire in Vitebsk has long since died down, but it still burns in my heart. I have never been to a synagogue, but now every time I read that the Nazis have burned down a synagogue, I feel hurt. Hitler reminded me that I am a Jew."

Col. Michlin, who is 40 years old, has been serving in the Red Army for twenty-one years. He is a graduate of a Soviet military school. He fought against the Nazi armies on the Minsk front and was later encircled on the Vyasma front, but managed to break through the German line. He is now fighting on the Kharkov front.

GERMANY INTENSIFIES PRESSURE UPON HUNGARY TO "SOLVE THE JEWISH PROBLEM"

ZURICH, May 27. (JTA)-- The German minority in Hungary will not rest until the last Jew is expelled from Hungarian territory, Karl von Ferbach, the Hungarian commissar for the Bachka province of occupied Yugoslavia, declared addressing a meeting in the territory over which he now rules, it is reported in the Donau Zeitung, the Nazi paper for the Balkan countries reaching here today.

Von Ferbach, who is of German descent, asserted in his speech that "it is the German minority in Hungary which is the driving force behind the recent anti-Jewish measures." He called upon the Serbian population in the Hungarian-occupied Bachka province "to follow the European spirit of fighting the Jews."

Reports from Hungary reaching here today confirm the fact that against the will of many Hungarian statesmen, a Gestapo chief is now intensifying German pressure upon Hungary "to solve the Jewish problem" by making the anti-Jewish laws an integral part of Hungary's national policy. His helpers are the Hungarian Nazis, whose leader is Bela Imredy, the former Hungarian premier, and the German minority which feels itself in a privileged position due to the backing it receives from Berlin.

Despair among the 900,000 Jews in Hungary is growing from day to day, the report states. It estimates that during the last two years Hungary's borders have been extended to envelop 155,000 Jews in Carpatho-Russia and other territories annexed from Czechoslovakia, 180,000 Jews in the part of Transylvania annexed from Rumania, and 20,000 Jews in the territory taken from Yugoslavia. All of them are now subject to the "Jewish Laws" in Hungary which limit Jewish participation in commerce, industry and the professions and eliminates them from agriculture.

HORRORS OF WARSAW GHETTO RELATED BY JEWISH WOMAN WHO ESCAPED TO PALESTINE

LONDON, May 27. (JTA)-- An eye-witness account of the terror and starvation that is decimating the Jewish population of Poland, as related by a Jewish woman who succeeded in escaping, by a devious route, from Poland to Palestine, appears in a dispatch from Jerusalem in today's News Chronicle, one of London's largest newspapers.

The Jewish refugee woman, who formerly resided in the town of Kaluszyn in central Poland, reports that immediately after the Germans entered the city all of its 2,000 Jewish inhabitants were driven out. That same night the women and children were allowed to return but the men remained under German guards on the outskirts of the town. The next morning the roads surrounding Kaluszyn were littered with the bodies of the men and youths who had been murdered by the Nazis during the night.

Together with her four-year-old daughter, the Jewish woman managed to flee the city and finally reached Warsaw where she secured employment in one of the ghetto soup kitchens. But in spite of what the Jewish relief groups are able to do to alleviate the suffering, 10,000 Jews die monthly in the ghetto, she estimates. She saw undertaker vans scour the city all day long collecting emaciated bodies from which all clothing had been stripped and transporting them to cemeteries where they were buried three deep in mass graves.

Orphaned children with spindly legs and famine-swollen bodies roam the ghetto streets begging food, but nobody has much to give them. It has become almost commonplace to see children and adults fall dead in the streets from starvation. Scores of people commit suicide every day. There are very few means of earning a livelihood, although several thousand workers are employed by the German military authorities as tailors and shoemakers for the Nazi army.

The News Chronicle, in an editorial comment on the story, states: "Although means of sending food to the ghetto are difficult, there is one way in which everyone can answer this cry for help - redoubling efforts to speed the day of victory. Only then will the grim walls of the ghetto enclosing the worst hell on earth be razed."

EIGHT WAR PLANTS ORDERED TO END RACIAL DISCRIMINATION IN EMPLOYMENT

WASHINGTON, May 27. (JTA)-- Eight New York and New Jersey firms holding war contracts were ordered by the President's Committee on Fair Employment Practice yesterday to cease discriminating against Negroes or Jews. The committee said the firms were found, after public hearings in New York City, to have violated an executive order which outlawed discrimination against workers in war industries and government because of their "race, creed, color or national origin."

The eight firms are Carl Norden, Inc., of New York City; the Fairchild Aviation Corporation, of New York City; the Titeflex Metal Hose Company, of Newark, N.J.; the Wright Aeronautical Corporation, of Paterson, N.J.; Becton, Dickinson & Company, of East Rutherford, N.J.; Babcock & Wilcox, of Bayonne, N.J.; the Continental Can Company, of East Rutherford, N.J., and Isolantite, of Belleville, N.J.

JEWISH NATIONAL FUND IN PALESTINE RECEIVES ONE OF LARGEST GIFTS IN ITS HISTORY

JERUSALEM, May 27. (JTA)-- One of the largest gifts ever received by the Keren Kayemeth has just been donated to the head office here by an anonymous donor, it was announced here today. The gift is a plot of land valued at more than \$50,000. Under the provisions of the bequest, the present owner of the land who is seventy years old and his wife who is sixty-six, are to receive an annuity from the Jewish National Fund which will terminate at their death. The JNF, however, will be able to immediately utilize the land for any purpose.

FIFTY YESHIVA COLLEGE STUDENTS, INCLUDING FIVE RABBIS, DONATE BLOOD TO RED CROSS

NEW YORK, May 27. (JTA)-- Fifty students of the Yeshiva College and the affiliated Rabbi Isaac Elchanan Theological Seminary, including five ordained rabbis and two refugees from Germany, yesterday went to the Red Cross blood donor center here in a group and donated a pint of blood, each, for use by the armed forces of the Allies. Another group of 100 students at the College will contribute blood some time next month.

DR. ALVIN JOHNSON TO BE HONORED AT DINNER IN NEW YORK

NEW YORK, May 27. (JTA)-- Tribute will be paid to Dr. Alvin Johnson, director of the New School for Social Research, who has taken a great interest in the rescue of refugee scientists from Europe, at a dinner on June 2 in the Waldorf-Astoria Hotel, it was announced here today. Dr. Johnson will be honored for his life-long devotion to public welfare. The dinner is under the auspices of the League for Fair Play of which Dr. Johnson is president. The speakers will include Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt, Herbert Agar and Dr. Frank Kingdon.

NATIONAL CONFERENCE OF JEWISH SOCIAL WELFARE WILL MEET IN ROCHESTER

ROCHESTER, N.Y., May 27. (JTA)-- The National Conference of Jewish Social Welfare, which is the central body for Jewish social workers in the United States and Canada, will meet this year in the Seneca Hotel here, it was announced today.

More than 600 social workers from every part of the country are expected to participate in the three-day session which will open on June 6.