

JTA

DAILY NEWS BULLETIN

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

VOL. IX. NO. 143

Wednesday, June 24, 1942

90,000 JEWS MASSACRED BY GESTAPO IN EASTERN EUROPE DURING LAST THREE MONTHS

LONDON, June 23. (JTA)-- More than 90,000 Jews have been massacred by the Gestapo in Poland, the Baltic countries and the occupied part of Russia during the last three months, according to a report received here today by the Polish Government-in-Exile through underground channels. The report estimates that the Gestapo is executing at least 1,000 Jews daily in these occupied territories.

The report confirms the Nazi slaughter of 60,000 Jews in Vilna last month which was reported last week from Sweden. It also informs the Polish Government that mass-executions of Jews have taken place in the camp at Belzyce, near Lublin, which is the largest "Jewish camp" in Nazi-occupied Poland, and where 12,000 Jews are reported confined.

Many of the Jews massacred by the Gestapo in the Belzyce camp were deportees from Germany, Austria, Holland and the Czech Protectorate, the report from the underground informants stated. The Nazis are deliberately transporting Jews to Poland and killing them in camps there, in order to avoid the stigma of having pogroms take place in the Reich, the report emphasized.

BULGARIAN GOVERNMENT ORDERS EXPULSION OF ALL JEWS FROM FIVE MAJOR CITIES

ZURICH, June 23. (JTA)-- The expulsion of the entire Jewish population of the Bulgarian cities of Sofia, Varna, Plovdi, Rustchuk and Burgas, where the majority of the 50,000 Bulgarian Jews reside, is reported here today from Sofia.

The report states that the Bulgarian government has ordered the deportation of all Jews from these cities, the five largest in the country, on the charge that they were allegedly communicating with the enemy. Earlier reports from Berlin and Rome stated that Jews in Sofia have been ordered "to vacate their apartments" and that the Bulgarian government is considering the introduction of segregated areas for Jews as well as the introduction of yellow badges.

The expulsion of the Jews from the Bulgarian capital and from the major ports is interpreted here as indicating that Germany is concentrating more forces in Bulgaria for use either as a threat to Turkey, or in Syria, which might become vulnerable to attack by German air-borne forces if British troops should be transferred from Palestine and Syria to the Egyptian frontier on the Libyan front. The Jewish population is always expelled from localities where the Germans concentrate large reserves, it is pointed out here.

Information reaching here from Bucharest indicates that the expulsion of Jews from certain Rumanian cities is expected, although they probably will not be ousted from Bucharest. The German military authorities in Rumania are especially desirous of removing the Jews from Constanza and other harbor cities situated on the Black Sea.

POLISH GOVERNMENT DENIES DISCRIMINATION AGAINST JEWISH REFUGEES IN RELIEF DISTRIBUTION

LONDON, June 25. (JIA)-- The Polish Telegraphic Agency today carries an authorized statement denying the reports that anti-Jewish discrimination is practiced by Polish relief officials in Russia.

The charges that such discrimination exists were made by Jewish leaders from Poland now in Palestine on the basis of information which reached them from Russia. It was admitted in a report from Polish circles in Moscow that certain Polish relief officials in remote parts of Russia may be prejudiced against Jews; and it was added that the Polish embassy, though instructing its officials to distribute the relief from abroad among Polish citizens without any distinction as to religion, is not in a position to exercise control over the relief distribution in the distant parts of Siberia and Uzbekistan where Jewish refugees from Poland are concentrated.

In its statement today, the Polish Telegraphic Agency says that the Polish embassy in Kuibyshev has officially explained that all relief transports which reach Russia for refugees from Poland are directed by the transportation department of the embassy to the various districts where refugees are located. The relief is distributed there solely in accordance with the needs of the recipients, and all Polish citizens are treated alike, the explanation stated. Polish Jews are adequately represented in the regional relief offices, it added.

"It should be carried in mind that the gifts coming especially from Jewish organizations represent only a small percentage of the total gifts," the statement carried by the Polish Telegraphic Agency says. It, however, omits any reference to the fact that the basic relief which the Polish Government-in-Exile is giving to Polish citizens in Russia has been arranged through lend-lease funds received from the U.S. treasury.

Jewish Deputy Takes Exception to Polish Statement

Taking exception to the Polish statement, Dr. Ignacy Schwartzbart, Jewish member of the Polish National Council, today stated that according to cabled advices received by him from the representative body of Polish Jews in Palestine as well as from the Federation of Polish Jews in Canada, the position of the Polish Jews now in Russia is "very grievous and unbearable." The survival of hundreds of thousands of Jewish refugees from Poland is at stake, the cables said.

Dr. Schwartzbart pointed out that the relief work for Polish refugees in Russia is financed primarily by the Polish Government, and that the relief coming from private organizations is only of a subsidiary nature.

"But," Dr. Schwartzbart continued, "Jewish institutions the world over are actively participating in the relief work for the refugees from Poland now stranded in Russia without stipulating that their contributions are intended for Jews only. The relief activities for these refugees now conducted by Jewish organizations in America, Canada, Palestine and England are certainly not smaller than those conducted by private Polish relief groups in the United States."

Data made public today by the Polish Government-in-Exile reveals that 300 district offices to administer relief for refugees from Poland are functioning in Russia, all manned by Polish citizens. They have already received for distribution 700,000 pairs of shoes, 700,000 pairs of socks, 400,000 blankets, 500,000 overcoats, 300,000 sweaters, 500 tons of concentrated food purchased in the United States and substantial quantities of tea, coffee, sugar, cereals, cocoa, rice and soap and medical supplies. The relief came from the Polish Government as well as from private Jewish and Polish relief organizations in various parts of the world, the report says.

POLISH GOVERNMENT DENIES-DISCRIMINATION AGAINST JEWISH-REFUGEES IN RELIEF DISTRIBUTION

LONDON, June 23. (JTA)-- The Polish Telegraphic Agency today carries an authorized statement denying the reports that anti-Jewish discrimination is practiced by Polish relief officials in Russia.

The charges that such discrimination exists were made by Jewish leaders from Poland now in Palestine on the basis of information which reached them from Russia. It was admitted in a report from Polish circles in Moscow that certain Polish relief officials in remote parts of Russia may be prejudiced against Jews; and it was added that the Polish embassy, though instructing its officials to distribute the relief from abroad among Polish citizens without any distinction as to religion, is not in a position to exercise control over the relief distribution in the distant parts of Siberia and Uzbekistan where Jewish refugees from Poland are concentrated.

In its statement today, the Polish Telegraphic Agency says that the Polish embassy in Kuibyshev has officially explained that all relief transports which reach Russia for refugees from Poland are directed by the transportation department of the embassy to the various districts where refugees are located. The relief is distributed there solely in accordance with the needs of the recipients, and all Polish citizens are treated alike, the explanation stated. Polish Jews are adequately represented in the regional relief offices, it added.

"It should be carried in mind that the gifts coming especially from Jewish organizations represent only a small percentage of the total gifts," the statement carried by the Polish Telegraphic Agency says. It, however, omits any reference to the fact that the basic relief which the Polish Government-in-Exile is giving to Polish citizens in Russia has been arranged through lend-lease funds received from the U.S. treasury.

Jewish Deputy Takes Exception to Polish Statement

Taking exception to the Polish statement, Dr. Ignacy Schwartzbart, Jewish member of the Polish National Council, today stated that according to cabled advices received by him from the representative body of Polish Jews in Palestine as well as from the Federation of Polish Jews in Canada, the position of the Polish Jews now in Russia is "very grievous and unbearable." The survival of hundreds of thousands of Jewish refugees from Poland is at stake, the cables said.

Dr. Schwartzbart pointed out that the relief work for Polish refugees in Russia is financed primarily by the Polish Government, and that the relief coming from private organizations is only of a subsidiary nature.

"But," Dr. Schwartzbart continued, "Jewish institutions the world over are actively participating in the relief work for the refugees from Poland now stranded in Russia without stipulating that their contributions are intended for Jews only. The relief activities for these refugees now conducted by Jewish organizations in America, Canada, Palestine and England are certainly not smaller than those conducted by private Polish relief groups in the United States."

Data made public today by the Polish Government-in-Exile reveals that 300 district offices to administer relief for refugees from Poland are functioning in Russia, all manned by Polish citizens. They have already received for distribution 700,000 pairs of shoes, 700,000 pairs of socks, 400,000 blankets, 500,000 overcoats, 300,000 sweaters, 500 tons of concentrated food purchased in the United States and substantial quantities of tea, coffee, sugar, cereals, cocoa, rice and soap and medical supplies. The relief came from the Polish Government as well as from private Jewish and Polish relief organizations in various parts of the world, the report says.

RUSSIA DECORATES MORE THAN 200 JEWS FOR BRAVERY ON ANNIVERSARY OF NAZI INVASION

KUIBYSHEV, June 23. (JTA)-- More than 200 Jews are included in a list published in the press today of heroes who have been awarded decorations for personal sacrifices for the Russian war effort and for fighting on the front against the enemy.

Among the recipients of the Order of the Red Banner and of the Order of Lenin are numerous Jewish captains of steamers, a number of Jewish fliers, 67 Jewish engineers working in tank factories, a number of Jewish technicians working on ship-building, and 62 Jewish engineers and construction workers employed in armament factories. Included in this list are more than 50 Jewish doctors, including women, decorated for bravery and for fighting epidemics. The awards were announced in connection with the anniversary of the Nazi attack on Russia which was observed yesterday throughout the USSR, with Jews taking a special oath in all parts of the country to fight the enemy until he is destroyed.

Agreements with United States and Britain Hailed by Russian Jewry

An article hailing the agreements concluded by the Soviet Premier Vyacheslav Molotov with the United States and Britain is published in *Einikeit*, organ of the Jewish Anti-Fascist Committee. "The agreements are of enormous significance not only for the people of the three powerful states, but also for all of mankind," the article says, expressing the conviction that "a second front in 1942, as provided by the agreements, will spell a speedy and final victory over fascism."

Pointing out that the new anti-Jewish campaign started by Hitler for the purpose of justifying his defeats on the Russian front will obviously cost much Jewish blood, the article appeals to the Jews in America and other democratic countries to contribute to the fund which the Jewish Anti-Fascist Committee in Russia is now raising for the purpose of presenting 1,000 tanks and 500 bombers to the Russian army as a special Jewish gift. "In paying this homage to the Red Army and its heroes, every Jew helps to sound the death knell of the fascist murderers and saves the Jewish people and its culture for generations to come," the article states.

ZOA PRESIDENT HOPES RUSSIA WILL AID IN REESTABLISHING NATIONAL HOME IN PALESTINE

WASHINGTON, June 23. (JTA)-- A message from Judge Louis E. Levinthal, president of the Zionist Organization of America, hailing the "unexampled heroism" of the Russian people in their battle against the Nazis and expressing the hope that Russia "with all the United Nations will extend a friendly hand to the Jewish people in its effort to reestablish the Jewish Commonwealth in Palestine," was received here today by the Soviet embassy.

Addressed to Ambassador Maxim Litvinoff, the ZOA greeting stated: "The Zionist Organization of America respectfully requests that you transmit to your government and to the Russian peoples our high regard on this first anniversary of their epic resistance to the Fascist invader. Your people are today making a major contribution in blood and substance to the attainment of ultimate victory. Their unexampled heroism and their fiercely passionate determination to defeat the enemy of mankind will be recorded in history as the noblest manifestations of a free people's will to remain free. All Americans rejoice that the bonds of mutual understanding and reciprocal aid between our country and yours are daily being strengthened.

"Our hearts have been stirred by the proffer of aid extended by the Jewish community of Palestine to Russia. We look with faith to the triumph which will bring a better world for men everywhere. We pray that your great country with all the United Nations will extend a friendly hand also to the Jewish people in its effort to reestablish the Jewish Commonwealth in Palestine as a home for its disinherited and for the unhampered flowering of its culture and traditions."

CONVENTION OF ORTHODOX RABBIS MOBILIZES MEMBERSHIP FOR WAR BOND CAMPAIGN

ATLANTIC CITY, N.J., June 23. (JTA)-- The Union of Orthodox Rabbis of the United States and Canada, holding its 36th annual convention in the Hotel Ostend here, today adopted a resolution obligating every orthodox rabbi in the country to conduct a campaign in his congregation for the purchase of war bonds. The rabbis attending the convention immediately subscribed to \$100,000 worth of bonds. Rabbi Hersh Manishevitz, who was the first to subscribe, pledged he would buy \$10,000 worth of bonds.

The convention also adopted a resolution to draft all orthodox rabbis and spiritual leaders in the country for canvassing local Jewish communities in America for the Vaad Haazalah, the emergency fund for war-torn yeshivahs, which is resettling and maintaining refugee orthodox rabbinical students and yeshivahs in America, Palestine and other countries. A resolution expressing thanks to the Ezras Torah Fund for aiding hundreds of rabbinical families, scholars and students in European countries was similarly adopted by the convention.

B'RITH SHOLOM CONVENTION PLEDGES AID TO PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT'S WAR PROGRAM

ATLANTIC CITY, N.J., June 23. (JTA)-- Terming President Roosevelt "the champion of the rights of minority peoples throughout the world," the independent order of B'rith Sholom last night adopted a resolution pledging its members and resources to his guidance in the nation's crisis. The fraternal organization is meeting at the Ritz Carlton Hotel here in its thirty-seventh annual convention.

Other resolutions called on the members to support the USO; to foster the aims of the American Jewish Congress for the advancement of humane and Jewish causes; to give aid to the Jewish National Fund, the agency for acquisition and reclamation of land in Palestine, and to intensify religious and educational activities among American Jewry.

SONS OF ZION ASK CHURCHILL FOR JEWISH NATIONAL HOME IN PALESTINE

ATLANTIC CITY, N.J., June 23. (JTA)-- The order of the Sons of Zion, meeting at their thirty-third annual convention here at the St. Charles Hotel, today wired greetings to Winston Churchill in Washington and appealed to him not to forget "his expression of faith in the Zionist ideal."

The plea asked that "an early triumph and a just peace also include realization of Palestine as a Jewish State and an internationally recognized and legally secured homeland for the Jewish people."

ORT LAUNCHES PLANS FOR BOLIVIAN SCHOOL TO TRAIN REFUGEES

NEW YORK, June 23. (JTA)-- Initial steps in the establishment of a technical training school by ORT - Organization for Rehabilitation through Training - for refugees in La Paz, Bolivia, are announced in a communication received today from the Latin-American ORT Federation by the American ORT Federation. The steps include the formation of a committee of engineers and instructors to plan the school, the purchase of machinery and other equipment, and the enlistment of cooperation from Bolivian authorities.

In a conference with ORT leaders, Dr. Rados Egiño, Bolivian Minister of Education, indicated his familiarity with the ORT program and said ORT courses would be of great help in the country's industrial progress. He offered full support to the project. Cooperation with the Bolivian ORT was also promised by Dr. Montero Chustinianna, Secretary of the Ministry of Justice.