

JTA

DAILY NEWS BULLETIN

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

VOL. IX. NO. 151

Friday, July 5, 1942

AMERICAN ZIONIST LEADERS APPEAL TO CHURCHILL FOR IMMEDIATE ARMING OF ALL PALESTINE JEWS

NEW YORK, July 2. (JTA)-- Emphasizing that the annihilation of 550,000 Palestine Jews is threatened by the advance of the Nazi armies towards the Suez, leaders of all Zionist groups in America today cabled a joint appeal to Winston Churchill asking for the immediate mobilization of "all available Jewish manpower in Palestine" and reminding the British Government that Britain will be held responsible before history for denying the Jews of Palestine the right and means of self-defense.

The cable was signed by Dr. Stephen S. Wise, Chairman of the American Emergency Committee for Zionist Affairs; Judge Louis E. Levinthal, President of the Zionist Organization of America; Mrs. David de Sola Pool, President of Hadassah; Leon Gellman, President of Mizrahi, and David Wertheim, General Secretary of the Poale Zion.

"The advance of the Nazi armies towards Suez brings with it the threat of invasion to Palestine and therewith the possible annihilation of the whole of Palestine Jewry," the cable read. "For more than two and a half years the Jews of Palestine have demanded the right to defend their country and to fight the mortal enemy of their people and of humanity alongside the armies of the United Nations. This elementary right, denied to no other people, was denied to them. The precious time during which a force of 50,000 to 60,000 Palestinian Jews ready to do and die for their country might have been raised, trained and equipped, has been lost.

"At this twelfth hour we urge most earnestly that without a moment's further delay their plea be granted and all available Jewish manpower in Palestine be immediately mobilized, and if they go down they should be enabled to go down fighting. We solemnly affirm that if this is not done and should catastrophe befall, it will be Britain's responsibility before history that the Jews of Palestine were denied by the mandatory power the right and means of self defense. In appealing to the conscience of the British people, we appeal also to you personally who have so often shown your sympathy and understanding for the cause of the Jewish people. We know you will give the matter consideration in the light of the supreme danger and urgency of the hour."

JEWISH LEADERS IN PALESTINE DISCUSS DEFENSE PROBLEMS WITH GOVERNMENT

JERUSALEM, July 2. (JTA)-- With the danger to Palestine becoming more and more acute as a result of the military situation on the Egyptian front, Jewish leaders today conferred with Palestine High Commissioner Sir Harold MacMichael and presented to him a number of problems concerning the defense of the country and the safety of the population.

The Jewish delegation received by the High Commissioner was composed of Moshe Shertok, representing the Jewish Agency for Palestine, Isaac Ben-Zvi, representing the Jewish National Council of Palestine, and Mayor Rokach of Tel Aviv, representing the population of the all-Jewish city.

NAZIS ERASE THE ENTIRE JEWISH SECTION OF THE CITY OF LUBLIN

GENEVA, July 2. (JTA)-- The German press reaching here today reports that the entire Jewish quarter in the city of Lublin, with the exception of a few houses, has been demolished by the local occupational authorities.

"A public park will now be planted on these grounds," one of the Berlin newspapers states. It boasts that "with the erasing of the Lublin ghetto, an important center of European Judaism has disappeared." The city of Lublin had the largest Jewish orthodox seminary in Europe. All the students of the seminary were deported from the city when the entire Jewish population was expelled from Lublin.

NAZI POLICE PUBLICLY DROWN THIRTY JEWISH CHILDREN IN WARSAW GHETTO

NEW YORK, July 2. (JTA)-- Nazi policemen in Warsaw have publicly drowned thirty Jewish children in the water-filled marl-pits near Okopowa Street, according to a report released here today by the American Friends of Polish Democracy.

The children had been caught trying to escape from the ghetto into the "aryan" section of the city. "Homeless children are the scourge of the Warsaw ghetto," the report says. "Gangs of them swarm in the streets, begging, stealing. They live and die in doorways, in abandoned ruins, in the streets."

DR. EMIL SOMMERSTEIN LOCATED IN HOSPITAL NEAR SARATOV IN RUSSIA; IS REPORTED GRAVELY ILL

LONDON, July 2. (JTA)-- Dr. Emil Sommerstein, former Jewish deputy in the Polish Sejm, has been located in a hospital near Saratov, on the Volga, the Polish Ambassador Stanislaw Kot cabled today from Kuibyshev.

Kot stated that Sommerstein is gravely ill, and that the Polish authorities are attempting to have him transferred to Kuibyshev. The Polish ambassador also revealed that although Sommerstein was officially released as of Nov. 19, 1941, he was not actually freed until last April 9.

JEWISH WRITERS IN ENGLAND SUPPORT APPEAL OF RUSSIAN JEWS FOR TANKS AND PLANES

LONDON, July 2. (JTA)-- Jewish writers in Great Britain will help to fulfill the appeal of Russian Jewry for funds to purchase 1,000 tanks and 500 planes for the Red Army, it was stated today by Morris Meyer, editor of the London Jewish Times, addressing a meeting of Jewish journalists and writers. The meeting adopted a resolution greeting Russian Jewry. A committee to help organize the appeal for the tanks and planes was set up at the gathering.

Prof. Hymen Levy, noted British mathematician, who addressed the writers, declared that the Jews of the world are facing the greatest crisis in their history. "We must strain every nerve and make every effort to survive as individuals and as a nation. To help Russia means to help win the war and to help the Jewish people among the other peoples."

CZECH MINISTER PLEDGES EQUAL RIGHTS FOR JEWS IN POST-WAR CZECHOSLOVAKIA

LONDON, July 2. (JTA)-- A pledge that Jews will enjoy all rights in post-war Czechoslovakia was made today by Hubert Ripka, Minister of State in the Czechoslovakian Foreign Ministry, in a message sent to the Federation of Czechoslovakian Jews.

"Whenever I have the opportunity of expressing an opinion concerning the future peace," Mr. Ripka wrote, "I stress the necessity of restoring equal rights to Jews. As far as Czechoslovakia is concerned, no doubt can exist that the Jewish population in our republic, in the western half as well as in Slovakia and sub-Carpathian Russia, will enjoy all the rights it enjoyed before the German occupation."

EYE-WITNESS REPORTS NAZI MASSACRE OF 5,000 JEWS IN KERCH, IN THE CRIMEA

KUIBYSHEV, July 2. (JTA)-- An eye-witness report of the Nazi massacre of 5,000 civilian Jews in the city of Kerch, in the Crimea, was brought here today by a Jewish fisherman, Josef Weingarten, who succeeded in escaping from the city.

Weingarten was left for dead by the Nazis after being machine-gunned together with hundreds of other Kerch Jews in a ditch eight kilometers from the city, which was covered with sand by the executioners after the mass-slaughter. He regained consciousness, however, after nightfall, and crawled out of the mass-grave stealing into town through the darkness. For thirteen days he was hidden, but finally succeeded in reaching the Russian Army's lines where he was given medical treatment.

Completely grey-haired as a result of his experiences under the Nazis, although he is but 40, the Jewish fisherman told the gruesome story of how the Nazis rounded up Jews in Kerch every day, herded them into trucks, and transported them to their death under the pretext that they were being sent to work in the fields.

Clothes and Shoes of Murdered Jews Appropriated for Nazi Use

"In one of these raids, they arrested me and my wife, together with other Jews, and took us in trucks to an unknown destination," Weingarten said. "Approaching the village of Bagrow, eight kilometers from Kerch, we saw open trenches filled with bodies of well-known Kerch Jews. Piles of shoes and clothing lay near the huge graves. It was obvious that we were being taken to meet the same fate as these victims."

"The trucks stopped at one of the trenches and we were ordered to completely undress and get into the pits. I shall never forget the lamentations of the women and children begging the murderers for their lives. Merciless laughter was the reply of the Nazis. Their machine-guns rattled and I lost consciousness."

"The coolness of the night revived me. I was wounded and felt severe pain. Like a madman I scratched at the sand around me and to my horror touched the dead body of my wife lying among the bodies of many of my friends. Weakened from loss of blood, I crawled out of the grave and reached Kerch after dodging the Nazis on the road."

Hidden by neighbors until he was able to smuggle himself to the Russian lines, the Jewish fisherman learned from them that the Nazis had wanted to kill his four-year-old boy. The baby, however, was spared when the Russian neighbors assured the murderers that he was not Jewish. "There were no less than 5,000 Jews massacred in Kerch by the Nazis," Weingarten reported.

U.S., BRITAIN URGED TO WARN NAZIS ON MURDER OF JEWS IN FIRST YIDDISH TALK ON B.B.C.

LONDON, July 2. (JTA)-- An appeal to the governments of Great Britain and the United States to warn the Germans of retaliation for the mass-murder of Jews by the Nazis in the occupied countries was voiced today by a speaker on the first Yiddish program ever broadcast by the British Broadcasting System.

After summarizing the accounts of the massacre of hundreds of thousands of Jews in Poland, the Yiddish speaker, who particularly stressed that the Nazis are now using poison gas to suffocate their victims, read a letter sent by a Jewish woman in one ghetto in Poland to her sister in another ghetto. In the letter, which reached England through underground channels, the Jewish woman wrote: "My hands are trembling as I write this. Our minutes are numbered. Only the Lord knows whether we will ever see one another again. If you do not receive any more letters from me, you will know that we are no longer alive."

INTERNATIONALIZATION OF PALESTINE URGED AT AMERICAN FORUM ON NEAR EAST

CHICAGO, July 2. (JTA)-- Internationalization of Palestine and international control of the strategic waterways of the Near East, not only would resolve many of the rivalries in that area but also would be an important contribution to world peace, according to Quincy Wright, Professor of International Law at the University of Chicago.

Speaking on "The Future of the Near East" today in the final public lecture of the University's Harris Foundation Institute, Dr. Wright examined the background of Near-Eastern diplomacy and projected future plans for that area on the basis of a United Nations' victory and implementation of the Atlantic Charter.

"The policy of the United Nations as declared in the Atlantic Charter and other documents," Dr. Wright said, "is to make universal the principles of the League of Nations and establish more effective machinery of control. Their victory will give them the power to initiate such a course of development. By the first article of the Atlantic Charter, the United Nations renounce aggrandizement, territorial or other. This implies the renunciation of imperialism in the Near East and elsewhere. If the strategic and commercial advantages accruing from the control of narrow waterways and strategic islands are to be eliminated, such controls might be transferred to an international organization."

Despite the emphasis upon self-determination of peoples contained in the Atlantic Charter, Dr. Wright pointed to important arguments for internationalizing Palestine. "While such a solution would disappoint the hopes of both Zionists and Arabs," he said, "it is doubtful whether in view of the rivalry of the two and the force of Christian interest in the Holy Land, either of these hopes was ever achievable. Palestine is perhaps the outstanding area of the world in which self-determination is inapplicable because of the greater weight of external, as compared with internal, political forces in shaping its destiny."

RABBINICAL ASSEMBLY PROCLAIMS CAMPAIGN TO RAISE \$250,000 FOR JEWISH THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

NEW YORK, July 2. (JTA)-- A campaign to raise a quarter of a million dollars for the Jewish Theological Seminary next year, above the present endowment of the institution, was decided upon last night in a resolution adopted by the closing session of the 42nd annual convention of the Rabbinical Assembly of America, meeting at the seminary here. The funds would be used by the seminary to expand its activities to include a graduate summer school, a preparatory school for the seminary, and a publication for laymen which would present the teachings of Judaism authoritatively and attractively.

The following officers were elected last night by the 200 delegates at the convention: Rabbi Louis Levitsky, president; Doctor Robert Gordis, Professor of Biblical Exegesis at the seminary, vice-president; Rabbi Harry E. Schwartz, treasurer; Rabbi Lewis B. Grossman, recording secretary; Rabbi Maxwell B. Farber, corresponding secretary.

RABBI LOOKSTEIN RE-ELECTED PRESIDENT OF RABBINICAL COUNCIL OF AMERICA

NEW YORK, July 2. (JTA)-- Rabbi Joseph Lookstein of New York was re-elected president of the Rabbinical Council of America last night at the closing session of the Council's annual convention. Other officers chosen for the coming year are: vice-presidents: Rabbis Albert Mandelbaum of New York, Israel Tabak of Baltimore, Isaiah Rackovsky of Omaha and M. Lederman of Denver. Dr. Lederman, who is president of the Rabbinical Association of the Hebrew Theological College in Chicago, became vice-president of the Council as a result of the merger of the two groups.