

VOL. IX, NO. 239

Friday, October 16, 1942

TRAIN CARRYING 20,000 JEWS DEPORTED FROM FRANCE ARRIVES IN BESSARABIA; MANY DEAD

LISBON, Oct. 15, (JTA)-- Twenty thousand Jews who were deported from France in filthy, sealed cattle cars without adequate supplies of food and water, have arrived in Rumania, according to a reliable report received here today from Bucharest. They were immediately sent to the "Jewish reservation" in Transnistria, the Nazi-occupied part of Ukraine which is at present under Rumanian administration.

German and Rumanian officials were awaiting the arrival of the Jewish deportees at the railway station in Kishinev, capital of Bessarabia, to supervise their further transportation to Transnistria. They were amazed at the state of the Jewish victims when they opened the sealed carriages in which the deportees were held for more than two weeks en route from France. They found a large number of the Jews dead, their corpses already in a state of decomposition. The corpses tumbled from the cattle cars as soon as the sealed doors were opened.

Those of the deportees who reached the Kishinev station still alive were starved and sick and horrified from traveling with corpses for many days. Many of them were dying of exhaustion. The train arrived with a sign posted on each car reading: "Explosive war materials - transit to Russia." At no time during the entire trip were any of the cars unsealed to permit the unfortunate deportees to get fresh air or see the light.

BOLD POLICY ON PALESTINE OUTLINED BY LEVINTHAL AT CONVENTION OF AMERICAN ZIONISTS

NEW YORK, Oct. 15, (JTA)-- The establishment of Palestine as "an independent and unfettered Jewish Commonwealth bound only by those reservations which the post-war world may determine to apply to all nations," was demanded today by Judge Louis Levinthal, president of the Zionist Organization of America, in his presidential address to the delegates of the 45th annual convention of the ZOA, meeting at the Hotel New Yorker.

Judge Levinthal opposed the idea of making Palestine a bi-national state. He advocated a policy of cooperation with the Arabs "in the spirit of the understanding laid down in the Feisal-Weizmann agreement and in the Feisal-Frankfurter correspondence." He demanded that Jews have control over Jewish immigration to Palestine after the war and called for boldness in land acquisition.

Deploing the fact that the British Government rejected the plan for a Jewish Army, Judge Levinthal demanded a Jewish Fighting Force for Palestine "composed of Jews, of as large a number as wish to serve, free from artificial restrictions, bearing their own insignia and fighting under their own flag in the common interests of Great Britain and the United Nations, wherever the military high command deems their presence necessary." He emphasized his dissatisfaction with the "bolatedly offered" Arab-Jewish regiment. "It is painful for me, a sincere admirer

of the British people and of British ideals of law and justice, to be compelled to record our keen disappointment at the humiliating manner in which the British Government has rejected our sincere and persistent demand for the right to organize a distinct Jewish military force," he declared.

America's Role in Shaping Palestine's Future Emphasized

Reviewing Palestine's contribution to the war-effort, Judge Levinthal said that its record "has already been written in sweat and blood, and substantiates anew Israel's rightful claim to live the normal life of a normal people in its ancestral home." He urged the Zionist Organization of America to give serious consideration to the role which America will play in shaping the future of Palestine and to concentrate its activities on securing the endorsement by all Americans, regardless of creed or race or nationality, of the Jewish aspirations in Palestine. He concluded by criticizing Jewish "escapists" in America who try to deny their Jewishness and attacked the group of Reform rabbis who disavow Zionism.

Rabbi James G. Heller of Cincinnati, in his address, warned American Zionists that a mighty effort would be necessary to awaken the world to the desperate status of the Jew. He stressed the urgency of arousing the United Nations to the truth regarding the disfranchised Jews in Europe and the part Palestine must play immediately after victory is won.

HADASSAH CONVENTION DECIDES TO INTENSIFY INVESTIGATION OF ARAB-JEWISH PROBLEMS

NEW YORK, Oct. 15. (JTA)-- An intensified investigation of Arab-Jewish problems, under the leadership of Mrs. Edward Jacobs, honorary vice-president of the Hadassah and the only woman member of the executive of the Jewish Agency for Palestine, was decided upon today at a closed session of the Hadassah convention at which post-war political questions were discussed.

The convention heard a report asking for participation by the United States in the problems of the Near East. In a statement made public today, Mrs. Jacobs said that the solutions of the Arab-Jewish problems offered so far have not been able to satisfy all parties concerned.

"We Zionists must come prepared with facts on our achievements, on our vision for the future, on the potentialities of absorption for millions of our people by Palestine after the war, with economic, social and political guide-posts, which will put the Zionist case clearly and accurately before the democratic peoples who will determine the future international relationship of the victorious nations after the struggle is over," Mrs. Jacobs said.

Emanuel Neumann, member of the Emergency Committee for Zionist Affairs, addressing the closed convention session, surveyed the possible methods of United States cooperation in the Near East. He asserted that there is more confidence in American justice and disinterestedness than in that of any other power.

"In the Near East today there are some twenty-million people now subsisting largely in poverty and squalor, but there will be room for a hundred million there in the future, once a plan of development is undertaken on an American scale, with American methods," Mr. Neumann said. "There is room and to spare for Arabs and their descendants, for millions of Jews in Palestine, and for the Christian groups in Lebanon and Iraq."

WELLES CONFIRMS REFUGEE CHILDREN FROM FRANCE WILL BE ADMITTED TO AMERICA

WASHINGTON, Oct. 15.(JTA)-- Under-Secretary of State Sumner Welles today emphasized that the refugee children whom the State Department has agreed to admit to the United States, from France, are not of any particular race or nationality. He made this statement following a report from Vichy that the French Government has agreed to permit the emigration of Jewish children from France whose parents have been deported to Nazi-occupied territories.

Refusing to confirm the figure of 5,000 children which the Vichy report said will leave for America, Mr. Welles said that he wanted to make it clear that the group includes not only Jewish children, but also natives of many countries. "The children, left destitute by their parents' deportation, appeal to our deepest humanitarian instincts," he said. He added that the United States Government is doing everything it can to facilitate the efforts of private organizations to bring them to this country.

Mr. Welles explained that the State Department would grant the young refugees visas under the present immigration laws. After they arrive here, private charitable institutions will be responsible for their care and maintenance. It is estimated that there are about 8,000 Jewish children in France today whose parents have been delivered to the Nazis. A representative of the international YMCA, Mr. Don Lauric, will arrive in Vichy at the end of this week from Geneva to arrange for the formalities connected with the departure of the first group of children. He will work in close cooperation with representatives of the Joint Distribution Committee and the American Friends Service Committee in Europe.

DIPLOMATS, MILITARY LEADERS ATTEND FIRST YIDDISH PERFORMANCE IN KUIBYSHEV

KUIBYSHEV, Oct. 15.(JTA)-- The first Jewish drama ever to be given in this city was presented here last night in one of the largest theatres, attended by many foreign diplomats, Russian officials and high military officers, who greeted the play very enthusiastically.

The performance, in Yiddish, attracted the attention of the Jewish settlers in the neighboring collective farms and was arranged by the Jewish Anti-Fascist Committee to spur the buying of defense bonds. Clara Young, who is known to Jewish theatre-goers in America from her performances on the Yiddish stage in New York, starred. She has been residing in Russia for more than ten years.

MEXICAN CONFERENCE HEARS REPORT ON NAZI TERROR AGAINST JEWS IN EUROPE

MEXICO CITY, Oct. 15.(JTA)-- The Nazi persecution of Jews in Europe was described here today by Professor Maximo Kahan addressing the three-day conference called by Mexican liberal organizations to condemn Nazi atrocities in occupied countries.

The conference was opened last night by the Mexican Minister of Interior, Sr. Miguel Aleman, who strongly condemned the Nazi terror against the civilian population. At the same time the Archbishop of Mexico, Monsignor Luis Martinez, issued a statement severely criticizing the Nazi brutalities and declaring that the Catholic Church in Mexico will fully support the present anti-Nazi policy of the Mexican Government.

FIRST GROUP OF JEWS FROM JAPANESE-OCCUPIED TERRITORY REACHES ENGLAND

LONDON, Oct. 15.(JTA)-- The first group of Jewish refugees to reach England from Japanese-held territory arrived here today. Included in a group of Czechoslovakian and Polish civilians who arrived from Shanghai by way of Lorenzo Marques in Portuguese East Africa, under the scheme providing for the exchange of British and Allied citizens in the Far East, were 29 Polish and 14 Czechoslovakian Jews.

The refugees reported that the situation of the 900 Polish Jews remaining in Shanghai is precarious. Their only source of support is the East Jewish Committee which provides them with three-and-one-half dollars monthly, with which very little food can be purchased because of the high prices.

DANGER FOR PALESTINE OVER TEMPORARILY; AXIS TROOPS WITHDRAWN FROM AEGEAN ISLANDS

NEW YORK, Oct. 15.(JTA)-- A report from Smyrna, Turkey, carried by the New York Times today states that Palestine, Syria, Cyprus and Turkey are believed to be safe from Axis aggression this autumn and early winter because the German and Italian troops have been withdrawn from the Aegean Islands.

"Allied military and naval circles say the enemy committed their gravest error since the German failure to attempt an invasion of Britain following the collapse of France in the summer of 1940 when the Germans and Italians failed last May to attack the weak defenses of Syria and Palestine simultaneously with their Libyan offensive," the report states. "Only the Turks were ready last May and an operation aimed across Syria at Iraq's oil and into Palestine to sever Allied communications was feasible, according to leading foreign military experts. Fewer than twenty divisions would have sufficed to give the Germans a critical, perhaps fatal, foothold in Syria and Palestine and perhaps even in Cyprus whose defenses early last spring were something that Allied military air experts would rather not talk about."

JEWS SOLDIERS FROM BRITAIN REGISTER FOR SETTLEMENT IN PALESTINE AFTER WAR

JERUSALEM, Oct. 15.(JTA)-- Though still in uniform, Jewish soldiers from England, attached to the British forces in Palestine, have registered as prospective settlers in the colony of Kfar Haritzachon (Victory Village), which will be the first settlement established after the war, it was announced today at a conference at Nahalal called to discuss the expansion of Jewish settlements in Palestine.

A girls' trade school was opened here today in the eighty-year-old building which formerly housed the Hadassah-Rothschild Hospital. Speaking at the dedication exercises, Dr. Judah L. Magnes, president of the Hebrew University, pointed out that the opening of the school, which was made possible by funds sent by the Hadassah, coincided with the Hadassah convention now being held in New York.

Dr. Magnes also spoke today at the opening of the Pharmacological Institute of the Hebrew University here, stressing that without such an institute no complete medical faculty can exist. He stressed the role the Institute can play in the development of Palestine's pharmaceutical industry, which is of vital importance to the war effort. It was also reported here today that after years of experimentation at the Agricultural Station in Rehoboth and in various settlements, the cultivation of medical plants has begun on a commercial scale at a number of settlements in Palestine.