

VOL. IX. NO. 242

Tuesday, October 20, 1942

THOUSANDS OF GERMAN JEWS BEG FOR BREAD IN SHANGHAI STREETS; MORTALITY MOUNTING

LONDON, Oct. 19. (JTA)-- Reporting that mortality among German-Jewish refugees in Japanese-held Shanghai is very high and that "street begging is frequent among them," Isaac Lederman, chairman of the Shanghai Eastern Jewish Committee, who reached London under the exchange arrangement between England and Japan covering nationals of the United Nations, today gave a pathetic picture of the hardships being suffered by thousands of Jewish refugees from Europe now in Shanghai under Japanese administration.

Lederman, who was a prominent industrialist in Warsaw, succeeded in escaping from Poland soon after the outbreak of the war and reached Shanghai by way of Russia, where he assumed leadership of the work of organizing relief for the hundreds of stranded Polish Jews. He arrived in London together with 42 other Polish and Czech Jews who were permitted by the Japanese to leave Shanghai in exchange for Japanese released in England.

"The position of the German Jews in Shanghai is even worse than that of the Polish Jews," Mr. Lederman reported. "This is because they are not so well organized as the Jewish refugees from Poland. Of the 16,000 German-Jewish refugees still stranded in Shanghai there are at least 3,600 who are without any means. They live in conditions worse than the poorest Chinese. They are not able to find any work because they cannot compete with the cheap Chinese labor. They are seen begging in the streets and are actually dying of starvation. The other German Jews who have adjusted themselves to life in Shanghai by doing small trading are also not certain of what tomorrow will bring."

American Marines' Club Converted Into Shelter for Jewish Refugees

"The building of the American Marines' Club, one of the best in Shanghai, was handed over to the Jewish community by the American authorities prior to the complete occupation of the city by the Japanese and is now used as a home for needy Jewish refugees," Mr. Lederman stated. The refugees also receive aid from the local Jewish cooperatives and are given free treatment in the local Jewish hospital. Nazi agents are trying to stir up anti-Jewish propaganda among the local population, but they find no fertile ground."

Mr. Lederman also reported that the Jewish Community Council in Shanghai is officially recognized by the Japanese authorities and so far has been allowed to continue its activities. Only a few Jews have been interned by the Japanese as enemy aliens. They were charged with conducting pro-British activity. About 900 Jewish refugees from Poland are still stranded in Shanghai, including several hundred talmudic students and rabbis from the yeshivas of MEr and Lublin in Poland, he said.

JEWISH COMMUNITIES URGED TO CONSIDER INCLUSION OF WELFARE FUNDS IN LOCAL WAR CHESTS

BUFFALO, Oct. 19.(JTA)-- A resolution urging Jewish communities "to give full and favorable consideration to the possibility of inclusion of their welfare funds and federations in their local war chests for the duration of the war" was adopted here yesterday at the regional conference of the Council of Jewish Federations and Welfare Funds in which delegates from the New York and Ontario region participated.

The resolution was carried after a review by Sidney Hollander, national president of the Council of the war chest movement and its implications to the Council's 224 Jewish federations and welfare fund member agencies throughout the country. Mr. Hollander reiterated the position of the Council's Board of Directors that welfare fund affiliation with local war chests was a local issue that should be determined locally. He urged the assembled Jewish welfare leaders from Buffalo, Rochester, Syracuse, Niagara Falls, Utica, Schenectady, Hamilton and Toronto to give the question of joining their respective war chests every consideration.

Mr. Hollander also reported on the efforts of the Council of Jewish Federations and Welfare Funds to attain co-ordination in the civic protective field by bringing the four major defense agencies together for a series of conferences looking towards the creation of a single, central organization to direct and operate civic protective activities in this country.

"The duplication of activities in the civic protective field is unnecessary and too costly," Mr. Hollander said in calling for a unified defense program. The conference adopted a resolution which read: "We, as representatives of Jewish communities in Western New York and Canada, strongly urge that the plan of the CJFWF for a single, central operating organization in the civic protective field be vigorously and promptly pursued to a successful conclusion."

U.S. Government Utilizes Material Collected by Jewish Agencies

Isaiah Makeoff, executive secretary of the General Jewish Council, reporting on the activities of the defense agencies, disclosed that Government agencies have utilized material collected by the defense groups to track down subversive elements engaged in un-American activities. He emphasized the need of a defense program to counteract Nazi propaganda.

Milton Weill, chairman of the Army and Navy Public Relations Committee of the Jewish Welfare Board, described the work of the War Records Bureau of the JWB and the role it is playing in informing the country of the participation of Jews in America's war effort. He declared that the JWB is resisting successfully rumors spread by Axis agents to the effect that Jews are not doing their part in the war.

At the session devoted to the overseas agencies, Nathan Weisman of the Joint Distribution Committee reported that the JDC program of feeding, clothing, sheltering and financing the transportation of refugees to countries offering asylum is continuing. Baruch Braunstein of the United Palestine Appeal stressed Palestine's part in the United Nations war effort. Jack Berger of the National Refugee Service stated that NRS, in addition to its regular activities, is cooperating in the program to bring 5,000 refugee children from Europe to the North American continent.

Edward H. Kavinoky of Buffalo was elected president of the New York-Ontario Region; Alexander Holstein of Syracuse, vice-president; Jack H. Rubens of Rochester, treasurer; and Benjamin B. Goldman of Buffalo, secretary.

BRITISH GOVERNMENT ASKED TO PREVENT COMPLETE EXTERMINATION OF JEWS, POLES BY GESTAPO

LONDON, Oct. 19.(JTA)-- The British Government will be asked in the House of Lords what measures it is prepared to take to prevent the extermination by the Gestapo of Jews, Poles and Czechs "before this extermination has gone beyond repair," it was announced here today. Notice that this question will be asked in the form of a motion was given today to the Government in order to facilitate an answer.

In the House of Commons Sir William Davidson today asked whether it is true that German and Italian war prisoners interned in England are not allowed, under instructions from their officers, to play gramophone records of music written by Jewish or British composers. Sir William also wanted to know whether the Red Cross accepts this situation and whether it is true that the firms supplying the Red Cross with gramophone records for war prisoners have been told not to include the music of any British or Jewish composers, singers and orchestras.

BOARD OF JEWISH DEPUTIES CURBS ANTI-ZIONIST TALKS WITH BRITISH GOVERNMENT

LONDON, Oct. 19.(JTA)-- A resolution urging that no member of the Jewish community in England carry on any negotiations with the British Government regarding Palestine unless he is authorized to do so was adopted here today by the Board of Deputies of British Jews by a vote of 61 to 2.

The decision was taken after Major Gluckstein, a member of the British Parliament for eleven years, announced that he and his friends who are opposed to Zionism intend to present their anti-Zionist views to the Government and to influential members of Parliament. Major Gluckstein has been a member of the Board of Deputies for the last fourteen years.

The resolution adopted by the large majority of the Board states that "unauthorized intervention with the Government with regard to Palestine by members of the community endangers the status of the community on a problem which is of vital importance to the Jewish people."

PALESTINE GOVERNMENT FREEZES WAGES OF WAR WORKERS; HISTADRUTH PROTESTS

JERUSALEM, Oct. 19.(JTA)-- Wages of Palestine workers may not be increased in the future without the approval of the War Supply Board, under a regulation announced today by the Palestine Government.

In a move designed to prevent inflation and to rationalize the use of manpower, the government decreed that wages are to be frozen at their present levels and that enterprises failing to comply with the regulations will be barred from receiving war contracts.

The Histadruth, Palestine Labor Federation, immediately issued a statement vigorously protesting the wage freezing.

ROOSEVELT TRANSFERS TITLE OF HIS NEW YORK HOUSES TO B'NAI B'RITH HILLEL FOUNDATION

NEW YORK, Oct. 19.(JTA)-- Transfer of title to the Roosevelt town houses in New York by President Roosevelt to B'nai B'rith Hillel Foundation was recorded yesterday in the New York County Register's Office. Revenue stamps on the deed confirmed the reported purchase price of \$50,000. The aggregate assessed valuation of the properties is \$189,000. The residences will be turned over to Hunter College for use as a community house to be known as Sara Delano Roosevelt Interfaith House.

ZOA CONVENTION PLEDGES JEWS IN EUROPE THAT PALESTINE WILL RECEIVE THEM AFTER WAR

NEW YORK, Oct. 19.(JTA)-- A pledge to the Jews of Nazi-held Europe that "there will be a Jewish Palestine" ready to receive them after the war, was given last night by the Zionist Organization of America at the closing session of its 45th annual convention in a message of encouragement adopted by the delegates.

The convention also adopted a resolution pledging full support to the war effort of the United States and called upon the members of the ZOA to intensify their participation in all branches of civilian defense. Other resolutions adopted at the concluding session demand:

1. The creation of a Jewish Army based on Palestine.
2. The surrender of all State and Crown lands in Palestine to the Jewish Agency for settlement.
3. The support by American Jews of the United Jewish Appeal.
4. The support by the Zionists of America of the \$2,500,000 loan floated by the Jewish National Fund; also support of the United Palestine Appeal and the activities of the United Jewish War Effort which is raising funds for Russia, Britain and China.

RUSSIAN JEWISH VIOLINIST SACRIFICES LIFE TO DESTROY GROUP OF NAZI OFFICERS

KUIBYSHCHEV, Oct. 19.(JTA)-- A Jewish violinist who sacrificed his life to destroy a group of Nazi officers is listed in the Soviet press today as one of the heroic partisans who continue to make the position of the Nazis in occupied territory extremely insecure.

Mendel Harb was the first violinist and conductor of the orchestra in the leading motion picture theatre in a small town on the Bug River. The first day following the Nazi capture of the village, the German officers, who had established themselves in a hotel adjoining the theatre, announced the showing of a film, "Germany Conquers." All musicians in the town were ordered to appear, but Harb and his pianist, Sokolko, were the only two left. When the showing of the film was completed, tables were arranged in the lobby of the theatre and the officers held a celebration.

To the festivities they summoned Harb and Sokolko and ordered the two musicians to entertain them. While playing the "Blue Danube" for the German officers, Harb whispered to Sokolko, who was accompanying him, that he had planted dynamite under the piano. At a signal from Harb the accompanist jumped from the window and the Jewish violinist touched his cigarette to the fuse attached to the dynamite, blowing up the theatre, the Nazis and himself.

Other Jews decorated for valor this week are also cited in the press today. Colonel Michail Lerner received the Order of Lenin, Brigade Commissar Axelrod and Battalion Commissar Dischman received the Order of the Red Banner, Commissars Israel Obuchowsky and Lzar Schwartz and Lieut. Joseph Berezowsky, all attached to artillery units, were also decorated. Sima Grabovsky, a Jewish nurse with the Red Army, received the Order of the Red Star, for rescuing scores of wounded soldiers at the front.

The following Russian Jewish writers, who have died fighting at the front in recent battles, are mentioned in an article appearing in the press today on the large number of intellectuals who have abandoned their artistic pursuits to take up arms: film-writer J. Seltzer; Prof. Orest Tselkhnovitzer, author and authority on Russian literature; the young novelist Eugene Sobolevsky; the poet Vladimir Lifshits and the publicist and critic Leonid Radischev.