

JTA

DAILY NEWS BULLETIN

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

VOL. IX, NO. 259

Tuesday, November 10, 1942

POLISH MINISTERS ADDRESS NATIONAL COUNCIL ON SITUATION OF POLISH JEWS IN RUSSIA

LONDON, Nov. 9.(JTA)-- The charges that Jewish soldiers have been dismissed from the Polish Army in Russia prior to the departure of their units for the Middle East, and that some of them have even been ejected from Polish military transports at Russian frontier stations near the Iranian border were denied today by the Polish Minister of War, Gen. Marian Kukiel, in a statement made in the Polish National Council.

At the same time, Count Raczynski, Polish Foreign Minister, announced at the Council session that "long and difficult negotiations" are going on between the Polish and the Soviet governments in an effort to induce the latter to recognize the Polish citizenship of Jews who never requested Russian citizenship but who are considered Soviet citizens by the Russian authorities and are consequently prevented from leaving Russia.

The statements by the two members of the Polish Cabinet came in reply to an interpellation signed by Dr. Ignacy Schwarzbart and Samuel Zygelboim, the two Jewish members of the Council, as well as six Socialists, four members of the Paderewski Party, two members of the Peasant Party and three non-partisans. The interpellation read:

"1. The press has again reported that the government of the U.S.S.R. continues to consider Polish citizens of Jewish nationality or Jewish religion as well as Polish citizens of other national minorities now on Soviet soil, as Soviet citizens and is treating them accordingly.

"2. The press also reported that the Polish authorities in Russia have eliminated hundreds of Polish-Jewish officers and soldiers, as well as their wives and other members of the family, from the plan under which Polish troops are being evacuated from Russia to Iran. In some cases, Jewish soldiers have been removed from troop transports while already on their way to Iran. Such incidents are reported to have taken place at Guszar, Kermine, Dzailabad.

"We, the undersigned, therefore, beg to ask, firstly, whether the Polish Government is aware of these facts and what is the real state of affairs, and secondly, whether the Minister for Foreign Affairs is willing to give a suitable explanation."

In answering the first part of the interpellation, Count Raczynski declared that some Polish Jews in Russia have voluntarily assumed Soviet citizenship. As regards the others who are considered Soviet citizens by the Russian authorities despite the fact that they prefer to retain their Polish citizenship, the Polish Government considers them Polish citizens in accordance with existing international laws, and is disputing the Soviet attitude.

Gen. Kukiel, answering the second part of the interpellation, stated that only 120 Jews were among 350 soldiers so far released from service in the Polish army in Russia. These were released either for military reasons or at their own request, he stated.

CONFERENCE OF JEWISH WELFARE LEADERS DISCUSSES FUND-RAISING PROBLEMS

SPRINGFIELD, Mass., Nov. 9.(JTA)--- Problems of fund-raising for Jewish local, national and overseas agencies occupied the attention of more than 60 Jewish community leaders from 10 New England cities at the two-day executive conference of the New England Region of the Council of Jewish Federations and Welfare Funds, held here over the week-end. The conference heard a report on national developments in the war chest movement delivered by Sidney Hollander, president of the Council of Jewish Federations and Welfare Funds.

Michael Appel, president of the Brooklyn Jewish Family Welfare Society and chairman of the accountants' division of the New York Federation Business Men's Council, reviewed the probable effects of the new Federal tax program on contributions to Jewish philanthropic agencies, discussing both the advantages and disadvantages. He discussed also the likely results, as far as philanthropic causes are concerned, of the recent executive order limiting individual incomes to \$25,000 after deductions for taxes and "customary" charitable donations.

Milton Kahn, co-chairman of the Boston Combined Appeal, which last week concluded its record-breaking campaign, raising close to \$1,500,000 for local, national and overseas Jewish needs, reported that the tax program had been a beneficial factor in the campaign. He said that Boston found that the tax program prompted givers to increase rather than decrease contributions since the Government now absorbs a greater proportion of the net cost to a contributor of his gift.

Sidney Wernick, chairman of the budget committee of the newly-organized Jewish Federation of Portland, Me., which recently entered the war chest for local services only, reported that active Jewish participation in the Portland war chest has promoted good-will throughout the community. The Federation will conduct a separate drive for national and overseas Jewish needs next Spring, he said. Other subjects discussed included services to Jewish men in the armed services, war-time problems of child care and family welfare agencies, Jewish education and Jewish youth in New England universities.

PROF. EUGENE MITTWOCH, FAMOUS GERMAN-JEWISH ORIENTALIST, DIES IN LONDON

LONDON, Nov. 9.(JTA)--- Professor Eugene Mittwoch, one of the most prominent Orientalists in the world, who for years occupied an important advisory position in the Eastern Department of the German Foreign Office while lecturing at the University of Berlin on Semitic languages and literature, including Arabic, Aramaic and Ethiopian, died here last night at the age of 66.

Outstanding in his field, Prof. Mittwoch, who was compelled to leave Germany in 1938, had been an advisor to the Eastern Division of the British Ministry of Information for the last eighteen months. Between 1933 and 1938 he was the head of the Berlin office of the Joint Distribution Committee. Despite his being a Jew, the Nazis permitted the German Foreign Office to use his services for many months after Hitler came to power since in all of Germany no "Aryan" professor could be found who could master all the Semitic languages with which Prof. Mittwoch was conversant.

In 1924 Prof. Mittwoch, who was the author of many books on Arab culture, was invited by the Hebrew University in Jerusalem to organize the Semitic Department there. He lectured at the University of Berlin from 1906 until after the Nazis came to power. He was born in Posen and traveled widely in the Orient, completing his studies there.

5,000 RUSSIAN JEWS DECORATED SINCE OUTBREAK OF WAR, MOSCOW PRESS REPORTS

MOSCOW, Nov. 9. (JTA)— On the occasion of the twenty-fifth anniversary of the Russian revolution the Soviet press today publishes a list of persons who have been decorated since the beginning of the present war, revealing that more than 5,000 Jews have received awards for gallantry in action at the front.

Other articles, reviewing the opportunities that have been offered the Jews of Russia by the Soviet Government and their accomplishments in various fields of endeavor in the twenty-five years since the October revolution, are also published today.

One article cites the fact that of all the persecuted nationalities in Czarist Russia the Jews were the greatest sufferers, being forced to live inside the pale of settlement in constant fear of pogroms and massacres. Today, the writer points out, "Jewish sons and daughters are among those at the front lines at Stalingrad, in the mountains of the Caucasus, and at the gates of Leningrad, and elsewhere along the far-flung battle lines, defending the country that has given them freedom." Another article discusses the role played by Jews in the Civil War which followed the overthrow of the Czar. It cites many Jews who have played and still play an important part in the defense of Russia.

Government Praised for Fostering Development of Jewish Culture

At the same time, leading Jewish scientists, artists and engineers today paid tribute to the Soviet Government for fostering the development of Jewish culture in Russia and for facilitating the work of Jewish scientists and men of letters.

Ali Spivak, a member of the Ukrainian Academy of Science and head of its Jewish Scientific Research Department, relates in detail his achievements in the field of Jewish culture which have been made possible by the Government. He reviews the books on Jewish literature he has written including one on the development of the Jewish language in Russia since the revolution, another on the founders of the contemporary Jewish language and his most recent work which assails the "Fascist language madness."

David Gorfein, a professor at the First Moscow Medical Institute, tells how he was barred from institutions of higher education under the Czar and was forced to go abroad, and live in poverty, to secure his education. "It was only the October Revolution which enabled me to become a professor and a doctor," he writes. "In the eleven years that I have headed the department at the medical institute we have turned out 6,000 doctors, many of whom are working today with the Red Army."

Prof. P. Stolarsky, a well known music teacher who has been honored with the title of "People's Artist of the Republic" and who was recently awarded the Order of the Red Banner, describes himself as "the son of a Jewish klezmer who has been enabled to realize the dreams of his youth with the aid of the revolution."

B. Yofan, a member of the Academy of Architects, reviews the growth of Soviet architecture in the past twenty-five years and the contributions to its development by Jewish architects. At present, he reveals, many of them are occupied in drawing up plans for new homes for the thousands of people who have been evacuated from territory captured by the Nazis.

AMERICAN JEWS WILL HAVE TO RAISE \$100,000,000 FOR POST-WAR JEWISH SETTLEMENT

SYRACUSE, N.Y., Nov. 9.(JTA)— Estimating that it would cost three billion dollars to settle three million Jews from the devastated parts of Europe after the war, Hayim Greenberg, leader of the Zionist Laborite movement in America, warned that no money will be forthcoming for this purpose from other sources, unless American Jews raise the first hundred million dollars.

Mr. Greenberg made this statement addressing the 24th conference of the Zionist Laborite Party of America which concluded here last night after adopting a resolution to call an extraordinary convention early next Spring for the purpose of discussing methods of immediate post-war relief for impoverished European Jewry and to outline a program for a post-war Jewish Palestine.

Suggesting the establishment of "an International Administration in Palestine which, together with the Jewish Agency, would supervise settlement of Jews there," Mr. Greenberg said: "A Provisional Condominium over Palestine should be set up, including representatives of the Jews in Palestine, the Arabs in Palestine, the Jewish Agency and the International Mandate. It is to be clearly understood that this Provisional Condominium must get into Palestine enough Jews to constitute a majority and thereafter turn the government over to the inhabitants of the country themselves. An Arab Federation is practically out of the question, as the Arabs themselves will not set one up without outside force. The Jews cannot do it for them. The concept of bi-national state is meaningless, especially as applied to Palestine, where the question not only involves the people living there but also millions who must come in."

I. Mereminsky, representative of the Palestine Federation of Labor, addressing the conference, expressed the hope that "a really democratic England" will fulfill its promise to the Jews and make Palestine a Jewish Homeland. He also expressed the belief that Russia, after this war, will not ignore the need for a Jewish Homeland. He predicted that some Jews may return after the war from Palestine to Germany, Poland and other European countries, but this will only be a natural development which will not affect Jewish activities in Palestine, he said.

CONVENTION OF MIZRACHI WOMEN'S ORGANIZATION PRESENTS AMBULANCE FOR PALESTINE

NEW YORK, Nov. 9.(JTA)— An ambulance for Palestine was presented here today at the 17th annual convention of the Mizrahi Women's Organization of America, as a gift of the organization to the Red Mogen David, the Palestine equivalent of the Red Cross.

The convention, which closes tomorrow, received greetings from President Roosevelt and Dr. Chaim Weizmann. Rabbi Israel Goldstein, president of the Jewish National Fund of America, and Mrs. Abraham Shapiro, president of the Mizrahi Women, in addressing the opening session of the gathering stressed the part Palestine is playing in the Near East warfare and called for the establishment of a Jewish Commonwealth there after the war.

COL. CHURCH RESIGNS AS HONORARY CHAIRMAN OF COMMITTEE FOR A JEWISH ARMY

PITTSBURGH, Nov. 9.(JTA)— Colonel Samuel Harden Church, president of Carnegie Institute, announced yesterday that he has resigned as honorary chairman of the Committee for a Jewish Army because he feels that a separate Jewish army now "does not conform with the British policy" in the present situation. "I believe that no one of us should strive further to add to the responsibilities of England in the vast and heroic service she is performing in the world struggle for liberty," Col. Church declared in a letter to Gabriel Wechsler, national secretary of the Committee.