

# JTA

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### AMERICAN JEWS HAIL ROOSEVELT'S ABOGATION OF NAZI-INSPIRED LAWS IN NORTH AFRICA

NEW YORK, Nov. 19, (JTA)-- The General Jewish Council, in a telegram sent today to President Roosevelt, expressed its gratification at the President's statement announcing the abrogation of all Nazi-inspired decrees in Northern Africa and the liberation of all political prisoners of the Vichy regime.

Speaking on behalf of the General Jewish Council's constituent agencies - the American Jewish Committee, B'nai B'rith and the Jewish Labor Committee - Mr. Edgar J. Kaufmann, chairman of the Council, stated that the President's action "will be regarded by the entire civilized world as the beginning of the realization of the ideals of the great Atlantic Charter which we all hope will soon be ushered in victoriously by the Allied armies of liberation."

The telegram which was signed by Mr. Kaufmann reads: "The General Jewish Council on behalf of its constituent member agencies - the American Jewish Committee, the B'nai B'rith and the Jewish Labor Committee - joins all freedom-loving people the world over in expressing gratification upon the promptness of your action regarding the abrogation of all laws and decrees inspired by the Nazi Government or Nazi ideologists in Northern Africa, and the liberation of all persons who have been imprisoned because of their opposition to Nazism. This action will be regarded by the entire civilized world as the beginning of the realization of the ideals of the great Atlantic Charter which we all hope will soon be ushered in victoriously by the Allied armies of liberation."

### VICTORY IN NORTH AFRICA MARKED IN PALESTINE; JEWS TENDER LUNCHEON TO U.S. CONSUL

TEL AVIV, Nov. 19, (JTA)-- The American victory in North Africa was marked here today at a luncheon tendered by central Jewish institutions to Lowell C. Pinkerton, United States Consul-General in Palestine. The luncheon was attended by representatives of the Palestine Government, by members of the Jewish Agency for Palestine and by the diplomatic corps.

Speaking on behalf of the Jews of Palestine, David Ben-Gurion thanked the U.S. Government and the American people for their "real and sincere interest in Palestine and in the Jewish National Home." He recalled that a group of American Christians came to Palestine a century ago trying to create "a kernel of Jewish independence in Palestine." Mayor Israel Rokach of Tel Aviv, greeting the American Consul, appealed to the Anglo-American world to secure independence for the Jews in their homeland "when the day of armistice comes."

Jewish organizations here today communicated to American authorities in North Africa their desire to establish contact with the Jewish communities of French Morocco and Algeria and with the Jewish refugees who were deported from France for forced labor on the Trans-Saharan railway.

NAZIS DECIDE TO MAKE LATVIA "JUDEHREIN"; DEPORT ALL JEWS FROM RIGA GHETTO

LONDON, Nov. 19.(JTA)-- Jewish relief organizations here today received information that all Jews living in the ghetto in Riga, Latvia, are being deported to Nazi-held Russian territory and that the Nazi administration has decided to make Latvia "Judenrein" within the next few weeks.

Jews from Holland, Belgium and Germany who were deported to the Riga ghetto are among those being sent further east. Neutral non-Jews who visited the Baltic States recently attempted to ascertain to where the Jews from the Riga ghetto were being exiled, but no information could be secured from the local non-Jewish population which is afraid to furnish any information about the fate of their former Jewish neighbors. Letters sent to Jews in the Riga ghetto from neutral countries have been returned recently stamped with a notice from the postal authorities that the recipient has "left for the East."

The Manchester Guardian publishes a comprehensive survey of the Jewish situation in Latvia revealing that large transports of Jews were sent to the Riga ghetto from Berlin, Cologne, Dusseldorf and other German cities. "The fate of these German Jews is not known since they were also deported recently from the ghetto in Riga to some unknown destination," the English paper writes. It estimates that only 4,000 Riga Jews were still left in the ghetto after the terrible massacres carried out by the Nazis in the Latvian capital. Before the Nazi occupation there were about 50,000 Jews in Riga, constituting one-half of the entire Jewish population in Latvia.

U.S. ARMY FORMS BATTALION OF REFUGEES FROM AUSTRIA

WASHINGTON, Nov. 19.(JTA)-- The formation of an Austrian battalion in the U.S. Army was announced here today by Secretary of War Stimson who stated that refugees from Austria have appealed for an opportunity to serve together as a unit in liberating their homeland and other nations now under Nazi yoke.

The Austrian battalion, Secretary Stimson said, will be an infantry unit. "It will demonstrate to Austrians all over the world the determination of the United States to free Austria and her people from oppressive Axis control," he added. The battalion's officers at first will be Americans of Austrian extraction, who will be replaced later by Austrians qualifying for commission in officer's schools.

MASS-ARRESTS OF JEWS IN AXIS COUNTRIES; HUNGARY DECREES FORCED LABOR FOR JEWS

ZURICH, Nov. 19.(JTA)-- Mass-arrests of Jews on the charge of spreading "false and alarming information" continue in all Nazi-held and Nazi-dominated countries as a result of the American victories in North Africa.

Reports reaching here today from Hungary, Slovakia and the Czech Protectorate state that hundreds of Jews are being arrested in the capitals of these countries on the pretext that they are disseminating news of American and British successes in North Africa picked up from London broadcasts. The fact that all Jews were obliged to surrender their radios months ago is completely ignored by the police authorities carrying out the arrests.

The Berlin radio announced last night that all Jews in Hungary between 18 and 45 years of age have been ordered to register immediately for forced labor. The order also includes "half-Jews" of whom there are about 1,000,000, the Nazi radio estimates.

NAZIS TRANSPORT LOOTED JEWISH PROPERTY FROM HOLLAND TO GERMANY IN SPECIAL CARS

LONDON, Nov. 19.(JTA)-- Strings of railway cars piled high with confiscated Jewish furniture and other articles are leaving daily from Holland for Germany, according to a report published here today by the Netherlands Government-in-Exile. The trains carry placards reading: "Gifts from the Netherlands people to the poor Germans who were bombed out of house and home by the English."

Information reaching London from the underground movement in Holland reveals that all Dutch railroad men, from conductors to high officials, are disregarding the Nazi laws governing Jewish travellers on the basis that their own regulations, which do not differentiate between Jews and non-Jews, must take precedence over the anti-Jewish rulings of the Nazi administration.

The Dutch Nazi weekly, De Storm, attacking the railroad personnel because of their "uncooperative" attitude, gives the following instances: When a Dutch Nazi boarded a train at Utrecht, he found a Jew seated in a third-class compartment, while all seats were occupied. He ordered the Jew to give up his place, but the latter refused. The train guard, when appealed to by the Nazi, "immediately got a fit of stupidity," said the paper. He declared he knew of no regulation compelling Jews to give up their seats.

Another example cited by De Storm concerned a Jew who was seated in a second-class compartment of a train from The Hague to Utrecht. When a traveller complained to the conductor: "I believe Jews are not allowed to travel second-class," he replied that he had no instructions to that effect. On arrival in Utrecht the traveller carried the matter to a high railway official who answered: "I am unaware of such an order. I do not know that Jews need travel permits, must give up their seats, or are obliged to travel third-class only. Under the rules of the Netherlands railways, a Jew is one of our clients and will be treated as such. What is decreed by the Reich's Commissioner does not concern me. That's the responsibility of the directors."

Jews in Holland Try to Help Themselves

Despite the bitter persecution to which they are subjected by the Germans, Jewish organizations in Holland are doing everything in their power to lighten the burden of their coreligionists, a report issued by the Netherlands Information Office states. The organ of the Amsterdam Jewish Council, Joodsche Weekblad, which is still permitted to appear fairly regularly, contains a column of letters from deported Dutch Jews as well as long lists of committees set up to help Jews, especially those who are to leave shortly for eastern Europe. The weekly appeals to its readers to aid such "travellers" with clothing, blankets, draperies and linens.

Advertisements assert that "out of your old smoking jacket or lounge coat we can make caps for travellers," and that "we make from an old coat a lumber-jacket, mittens and a cap, while from draperies we make sleeping bags." A picture of a cap with earflaps, similar to those worn by Polish Jews, accompanies the appeal for old jackets.

RUSSIA PERMITS MORE REFUGEE RABBIS TO LEAVE FOR PALESTINE

LONDON, Nov. 19.(JTA)-- Acting on representations made by the Chief Rabbi's Religious Emergency Council, Russian authorities have issued an additional number of exit visas to refugee rabbis in the U.S.S.R., permitting them to proceed to Palestine, the Council reported here today.

100TH ANNIVERSARY OF SYNAGOGUE WILL BE CELEBRATED TODAY IN EASTON

EASTON, Pa., Nov. 19.(JTA)-- Celebration of the 100th anniversary of the Temple "Covenant of Peace" in this city will start here tomorrow with a rededication service in the temple and will continue for the next week.

The anniversary program, announced today by Rabbi Joshua Trachtenberg, includes concerts and special lectures for every evening of the anniversary week. An exhibit of documents, books, pictures and ceremonial objects dealing with Jewish life in Easton has been arranged by the Easton Public Library.

Four former rabbis of the Temple "Covenant of Peace" will participate in the rededication service. They are Rabbi Gabriel Schulman, of New York City, who was in Easton about 35 years ago; Rabbi Ralph B. Hershon, of Brooklyn; Rabbi Solomon Landman, of Kew Gardens, N.Y. and Rabbi David V. Alpert of Boston, Mass. Rabbi Jonah B. Wise, of New York City will deliver the sermon, speaking on "The Next One Hundred Years." The principal speaker at the centenary banquet will be Rabbi James G. Heller of Cincinnati, Ohio. Greetings will be brought to the congregation by county and city officials and pastors of Catholic and Protestant congregations.

JUNIOR HADASSAH RAISES \$91,000 FOR PALESTINE PROJECTS

NEW YORK, Nov. 19.(JTA)-- Junior Hadassah, the Young Women's Zionist Organization of America, raised \$91,000 this year for the support of education, social service and settlement projects for youth in Palestine, it was announced today in connection with the four-day convention of the organization opening here on November 26 at the Hotel Plaza.

Delegates to the convention will be asked to adopt a plan for the enlargement of the Children's Village of Meier Shfeyah, near Haifa, where underprivileged children are trained in essential rural occupations, and also will be asked to plan more extensive participation by Junior Hadassah in the Youth Aliyah project, which settles and trains European refugee children in Palestine. One of the convention sessions will be devoted to plans for the coming year's civilian defense work of the organization's members. More than 1,000 delegates and alternates, representing Junior Hadassah's 20,000 members in 265 cities, are expected to attend the convention.

STUDY OF JEWISH LIFE UNDER THE NAZIS IN POLAND PUBLISHED HERE IN YIDDISH

NEW YORK, Nov. 19.(JTA)-- A volume presenting authentic information on the position of the Jews in Poland under the Nazis was published here today in Yiddish under the title "The Jews in Nazi-Poland." The author is L. Spiesman, noted Polish-Jewish writer who is now in this country.

The 500-page book contains photos, charts and a map of occupied Poland. It presents an extensive picture of what has happened to the Jews of Poland since the Nazi occupation, the material being based on official documents, testimony of victims, German newspapers, the Gazeta Zydowska, which was the organ of the Jewish Council in the Warsaw ghetto, and other verified reports. Detailed information is given on the situation of the Jews in each Polish town under the Nazi administration. The book is published by Farlag Yiddisher Kempfer, which is the publishing company of the Zionist Laborites in America.