

# JTA

## DAILY NEWS BULLETIN

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

VOL. IX. NO. 284

Thursday, December 10, 1942

### MEMBERS OF BRITISH PARLIAMENT HEAR REPORT ON NAZI DESTRUCTION OF JEWS

LONDON, Dec. 9. (JTA)—Members of the British Parliament representing all political parties today heard reports of Nazi massacres of Jews in Europe, presented to them by Prof. Selig Brodetsky, president of the Board of Deputies of British Jews, by Dr. Ignacy Schwarzbart, Jewish member of the Polish National Council and by other Jewish leaders.

The meeting of the parliamentarians, called on the initiative of six members of Parliament, was not an official gathering. It decided to consider plans for definite action after the British Government makes an announcement of the measures which it intends to take in connection with the mass slaughter of Jews in Nazi Europe. Such an announcement is expected soon.

Foreign Secretary Anthony Eden announced in Parliament today that the British Government is "prepared to consider special representations" to be made to the United Nations on facilitating the rescue of Jews and others from Poland and other Nazi-held territories. Asked whether the British Government would be prepared to issue visas for those who may succeed in escaping from the Nazi lands, Eden replied that the possibilities of admitting victims from Nazi Europe to British overseas territories have been examined most carefully and accommodations have been offered to the fullest practical extent. In certain cases, he added, more visas have been issued than utilized, in view of the difficulties which the refugees face in securing exit visas from the countries where they reside.

The Board of Deputies of British Jews at its session today adopted a resolution recording the deep grief of British Jewry at "the indescribable sufferings and martyrdoms of our brethren under the Nazis." The resolution stated that "British Jewry in community of feeling of kinship with its tortured fellow-Jews will leave nothing undone to help in the appeals to the governments of the United Nations and of neutral countries in order to assure asylum for all able to escape." A minute of silence was observed by the Board following the adoption of the resolution.

Jan Masaryk, Czechoslovak Foreign Minister, in a broadcast from London to the people of Czechoslovakia today urged them to emulate the Frenchmen who sheltered Jewish children in churches and monasteries in order to save them from being deported to Nazi territory. "Those of you who are handing over defenseless victims to the powerful murderers of the Gestapo are blenching the record of our nation and will not be forgiven," he said, warning that punishment will be meted out after the war to every person in Czechoslovakia "who supports bestiality and helps to send other fellow citizens to certain death."

SWEDEN MAY ADMIT ALL JEWS RESIDING IN NORWAY, "VIOLENT DEATHS" IN HOLLAND

STOCKHOLM, Dec. 9.(JTA)-- Swedish newspapers today indicated that the authorities here, in an effort to prevent further deportation of Jews from Norway to Nazi-held territories, may be ready to admit the few Norwegian Jews who are still held in Norway.

The papers appeal to Vidkun Quisling, pro-Nazi premier of occupied Norway, to permit the Jews of his country to emigrate to Sweden. It is estimated that about 300 Norwegian Jews have already reached Sweden during the past few weeks.

The Jewish community of Malmo today held a special meeting in the local synagogue commemorating the Jews killed by the Nazis in Europe and praying for the Jews of Norway.

The Joodsche Weekblad, organ of the Jewish Council of Amsterdam which was received here today from occupied Holland, reports numerous cases of "violent deaths." Among those listed in the paper as having died of "violent death" in the Jewish concentration camp of Westerbork is a mother of 85, her daughter aged 37, her son-in-law aged 40 and her grandson aged 13.

NEW ANTI-JEWISH ACTIONS REPORTED FROM RUMANIA AND SLOVAKIA

ZURICH, Dec. 9.(JTA)-- Nazi newspapers reaching here today report that Jews in Rumania will receive permits allowing them to practice their professions for only six months.

In Slovakia, the Nazi papers disclose, a two-day conference was held at the Ministry of the Interior for the purpose of "formulating a final solution of the Jewish problem."

HEBREW UNIVERSITY ADVISES UNIVERSITIES THROUGHOUT WORLD OF NAZI KILLING OF JEWS

JERUSALEM, Dec. 9.(JTA)-- The Hebrew University in Jerusalem has issued a call to all universities throughout the world informing them of the Nazi massacres of Jews and urging them to voice their protests, it was announced here today by Dr. J. L. Magnes addressing a meeting called at the university to mourn the death of the Nazis' victims.

At a meeting of Polish Christians held in Tel Aviv to protest against the Nazi slaughter of Jews and Poles in Poland, a resolution was adopted demanding that two German aliens in democratic countries be killed for every Jew or Pole killed by the Nazis in Poland.

Miss Henrietta Szold cabled to the Hadassah organization in America urging it to appeal to Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt to help save the Jewish children in Europe from extermination. Prof. Stanislaw Kot, member of the Polish Cabinet, today visited the Hebrew University and expressed his profound sympathy with the sufferings of the Jews in Europe. "This war," he said, "is directed particularly against the Poles and the Jews and common sufferings will lead for closer cooperation between both all over the world."

UNION OF PROGRESSIVE JUDAISM PREPARES STATEMENT FOR PEACE CONFERENCE

LONDON, Dec. 9.(JTA)-- The World Union of Progressive Judaism today announced the appointment of a commission of fifteen to consider the preparation of a statement on religious freedom to be presented to the peace conference after an Allied victory.

GESTAPO EXTORTS MONEY FROM JEWISH VICTIMS FOR GIVING THEM "EASIER DEATH"

NEW YORK, Dec. 9.(JTA)-- Gestapo men are utilizing the Nazi massacre of Jews in Europe to extort money from the Jewish victims for "quicker deaths," the World Jewish Congress office here was informed today in a cable from Dr. Ignacy Schwarzbart, Jewish member of the Polish National Council. Jews are told by Gestapo officials that they will be given "an easy death" if they pay for it, the cable said.

A cable from Palestine received by the Congress discloses that of 70,000 Jews deported by the Nazis from Lublin, about 7,000 were interned in a camp at Majdany. No trace remains of the other 63,000 and it is assumed that they were executed. In Cracow there were only 6,000 Jews left at the end of May, the remainder having been deported to unknown destinations where they were probably murdered. In Tarnow, 10,000 Jews were deported of whom 7,000 were machine-gunned to death at the railway station. The cable confirms previous reports that 18,000 Jews were deported by the Nazis from the city of Piotrkow, and many of them were shot by German soldiers. One trainload of deportees was made up entirely of Jewish children torn from their parents.

MEXICO MOURNS FOR JEWS OF EUROPE; LABOR UNIONS IN 13 COUNTRIES PROCLAIM STOPPAGE

MEXICO CITY, Dec. 9.(JTA)-- All Jewish business establishments throughout Mexico were closed this morning from 10 o'clock until noon to protest against the Nazi extermination of Jews in Europe, while the entire month of December was proclaimed as a "month of mourning" by central Jewish organizations here.

Posters all over Mexico City called upon Jews and non-Jews to join in today's demonstration of protest which was sponsored jointly by Jewish groups and Mexican anti-Fascist organizations. The United Women's Organization of Mexico has announced preparations for a special protest demonstration of women.

Vincente Lombardo Toledano, head of the Latin-American Federation of Labor, today announced that workers in thirteen South and Central American countries will stop work for fifteen minutes this coming Friday in protest against the Nazi massacres of Jews. This decision follows an appeal to the Labor Federation by the Jewish community here which has also asked President Camacho to voice the Mexican Government's protest.

The "Free German" organization in Mexico which is backed by all German anti-Fascist groups in Latin America, today called upon the United Nations to broadcast an appeal to the people in Germany urging them to compile lists in factories, homes and in the armed forces of the names of all those guilty of the crimes against defenseless Jews "against the day of reckoning."

SIKORSKI WILL NEGOTIATE WITH MEXICO FOR ADMISSION OF POLES AND JEWS FROM EUROPE

WASHINGTON, Dec. 9.(JTA)-- Polish Premier Wladyslaw Sikorski, who is now on a visit to this country, will soon proceed to Mexico to discuss with President Avila Camacho a plan for admitting Polish refugees to Mexico, it was announced here today by Polish official quarters. The plan provides for the admission of Jews as well as non-Jews as long as they are holders of Polish passports, Polish officials stated.

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JEWISH RADIOMAN GIVES EYE-WITNESS ACCOUNT OF NAZI KILLING OF 10,000 JEWS

KUIBYSHEV, Dec. 9.(JTA)--- The Jewish Anti-Fascist Committee today made public an eye-witness account of the mass-killing of 10,000 Jews in the city of Mariupol, in the Ukraine, given by a Jewish radioman, Arkadi Sorokin, who was one of the few Jews who escaped the massacre and succeeded in reaching the Russian lines. This is Sorokin's story:

"After the Nazis had been in the city for some time, they ordered all Jews to assemble at military headquarters. All told, there were about 10,000 people. We were then jammed into barracks built to hold a few hundred persons. Here we were left for three days without food or water. On the fourth day we were herded out of the barracks and were told that we were being taken to a neighboring village. Able-bodied men were forced to walk while the women, children and aged and sick persons were loaded onto trucks.

"Our tragic caravan proceeded for some miles until we reached our destination - which was not the village but a large anti-tank pit on the outskirts of the town, which we ourselves had built in an attempt to check the Nazi advance. When the trucks halted at the pit, shrieks and cries filled the air as the people realized why they had been brought there. At a barked command from a German officer we were told to take off all our clothes and to get into the pit. Those who did not undress were cruelly beaten, while others who were slow in climbing into the ditch were unceremoniously flung into it.

"Then the Nazis turned their machineguns on us. A hail of bullets literally rained down. I saw my wife and child fall dead before my eyes. To this day I do not know how I escaped being killed. After the shooting stopped the Nazis ordered those of us who were still alive to climb out of the ditch. We were driven into a pig sty and left there, with only our underwear to protect us from the cold. After a few hours a few of us determined to risk escaping. We broke the door of the sty and fled. Several kilometres away I encountered farmers who were digging potatoes. One of them gave me his coat after I told my story. After 34 days of travelling by sideroads and paths to avoid the Germans, I reached the Soviet lines."

SURVEY OF CANADIAN JEWISH POPULATION SHOWS DECREASE IN MEN, INCREASE IN WOMEN

WINNIPEG, Dec. 9.(JTA)--- The Jewish population of Canada, 16 years of age and over, has fallen from 110,340 in 1931 to 109,690 in 1940, according to a study made public here today by Mr. Louis Rosenberg, Director of the Western Division of the Bureau of Social and Economic Research of the Canadian Jewish Congress.

Mr. Rosenberg attributes the decrease in the Jewish population of Canada since 1931 to the low rate of natural increase among Jews in Canada, and to the fact that the total Jewish immigration from all sources during the period from 1931-1940 amounted to only 1,628 while the total Jewish emigration from Canada to the United States during the same period amounted to 1,792.

Among the interesting information brought out by Mr. Rosenberg in his report is the fact that the number of Jewish males 16 years of age and over in Canada has decreased from 55,361 in 1931 to 53,490 in 1940. The number of Jewish females of similar age has increased during the same period. Jewish males 16 years of age and over formed only 1.34% of the total number of males of all origins in Canada in 1940, as compared with 1.53% in 1931. The report is based upon figures issued by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics at Ottawa in connection with the National registration of 1940.

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