

# JEWISH TELEGRAPHIC AGENCY

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## NAZIS IMPOSE 25,000,000 FRANC FINE ON JEWS IN TUNIS; EXECUTE LEADERS

LONDON, Jan. 8.(JTA)-- Radio stations in Italy today reported that special anti-Jewish measures have been taken by the Axis military authorities in Tunisia, without indicating the nature of these measures. At the same time, however, the London press reports that a number of Jewish leaders in Tunis have been executed and a fine of 25,000,000 francs has been imposed upon the Jews of the city on the pretext that Jews have been using their lights to indicate targets to American bombers.

According to press reports here, the jails in Tunis, Bizerte and other Tunisian cities are crowded with Jews charged with helping the Allies. The Nazis are constantly terrorizing the Jewish population and looting Jewish homes and enterprises. Jews are prohibited to attend synagogues and all Jewish communal offices and institutions have been closed.

Reuter's, a British news agency, today reported from the Italian frontier that the Axis radio is conducting violent anti-Jewish propaganda in Arabic, pointing out that the Axis powers are favoring the Arabs over the Jews and emphasizing that preferred treatment is given to the Moslems by the Axis in all Arab-populated countries.

## MASS-DEPORTATION OF JEWS FROM LWOW STARTED; POLISH JEWRY FEARS COMPLETE ERADICATION

GENEVA, Jan. 8.(JTA)-- With the mass-deportation of Jews from the Warsaw ghetto reported to be almost completed, the Nazis have now started large-scale deportations of Jews from the ghetto of Lwow, capital of Eastern Galicia, according to reliable information from occupied Poland reaching here today. The ghetto in Lwow will soon become completely "judenrein," the reports predict.

Several travelers arriving here from Poland declare that the protests by the democratic world against the Nazi annihilation of Jews have had no effect. They confirm the reports of the mass-killing and mass-deportations of Jews and they add that the Jews in Poland are losing the hope of surviving until the country is liberated from the Nazis. Unaware of the activities on their behalf, Polish Jews are under the impression that the Jews in the Allied countries have taken a "passive attitude" towards the barbarities inflicted upon them by the Nazis. They are afraid that they will be exterminated before the war is over.

Aggravating the situation of the starving Jews in the ghettos is an order just issued by the Portuguese authorities prohibiting the sending of food parcels from Portugal to German-occupied countries and no parcels of any kind to persons living in the Jewish ghettos in Poland. The measure was apparently taken after it had been established that many thousands of Jews in the ghettos have been deported from the ghettos to "unknown destinations" so that the parcels no longer reach them.

WARNING BY ALLIED NATIONS HAS NOT HALTED NAZI KILLING OF JEWS, POLISH COUNCIL SAYS

LONDON, Jan. 8. (JTA)-- The Polish National Council in a resolution adopted today stressed that the warnings issued by the Allied Nations with regard to post-war punishment of the Nazis guilty of torturing and killing innocent civilians in occupied territories have brought no relief to the Jews in Poland.

Not only does the merciless annihilation of Jews in Nazi-held Poland continue, but the Nazis there have also started to exterminate Poles on a large scale, the resolution says. It emphasizes that "only through active measures would it now be possible to halt the destruction of the people in Poland and in other occupied countries."

It was disclosed here today that the number of Jews in the Polish Army has increased recently with the enlistment of many hundreds of Polish Jews from South America who lived there for many years. These Jews all joined the Polish Army as volunteers. A contingent of Polish Jews serving in the Polish armed forces has also arrived from Russia. The actual number of Jews serving in the Polish Army cannot be disclosed for military reasons, but it was stated here today that the number is increasing every month and that the Jewish servicemen constitute an important part of the Polish land and air units.

CONFERENCE OF JEWISH SCIENTISTS APPEALS TO WORLD TO PROTEST NAZI POGROMS

NEW YORK, Jan. 8. (JTA)-- An appeal to "all people of learning, individuals and organizations" to raise their voices in protest against the Nazi massacres of Jews, was issued here today by the 17th annual conference of the Yiddish Scientific Institute at its opening session at Hunter College auditorium, attended by several hundred delegates and guests.

The conference, which will last three days, will hear a number of addresses on national minority problems and on problems concerning Jewish culture, emigration, history and economics. Prof. Haldan Koht, Norwegian Minister of Foreign Affairs, will be the principal speaker on "National Minorities After the War."

Emphasizing that "the Nazi persecutions of the Jews surpass in their inhumanity all the pogroms and sufferings of the Jewish people throughout their history," the appeal expresses "firm faith that the United Nations will rescue from the bloody hands of the Nazis all the stricken countries and peoples."

"We ask all people of learning, individuals and organizations, not to remain coldly indifferent to this horrible and deliberate annihilation of a whole people, but to awaken the conscience of the world to organize protest against the inhuman bestialities of the Nazis, to find the means to let each and every German know what the Germans are doing and warn the German people that for generations these mass-murders will hang over them unless the hands of the murderers are stayed," the appeal reads. We ask the governments now waging war against the Axis as soon and as effectively as possible to apply hitherto unused methods to stop the hangman."

Jewish School Children in Chicago Demonstrate Against Nazi Massacres of Jews

CHICAGO, Jan. 8. (JTA)-- Jewish school children crowded the city council chambers yesterday to protest the massacre of Jewish children by the Nazis in Poland and other occupied countries. They requested that Mayor Kelly transmit their demand to President Roosevelt that the United Nations take steps to save Jewish children in other countries from Hitler's systematic extermination. The demonstration was sponsored by the Jewish Labor Committee of Chicago.

MASS-EXECUTIONS OF JEWS BY NAZIS IN ROSTOV AND ON STALINGRAD FRONT

KUIBYSHEV, Jan. 8. (JTA)-- As the Russian Army advances toward Rostov, the Nazi military authorities there have started mass-executions--by electricity-- of Jews in the city. Major Krasotkin, a Russian commander, reported today.

The executions are carried out in one of the buildings on Engels Street, in Rostov, the Russian commander stated. Jewish families, including persons of all ages, are brought to this building where they are electrocuted, German war prisoners captured by Major Krasotkin's troops reported.

On the Stalingrad front also Jews are being executed by the Nazis before they retreat. A list of twenty-one Jews massacred by the Nazis in the village of Jutkovo, on the Stalingrad front, before the village was recaptured by the Russian forces, was published here today. Similar executions of Jewish families have taken place in many other townships which the Nazis were compelled to evacuate.

Jewish Lawyer Delivers Anti-Nazi Speech, Defying German Commander

The dramatic story of how a heroic Jewish lawyer in the town of Kupishak in Lithuania was shot dead, as, in defiance of a Nazi order, he pleaded with the Jewish population of the town to continue to resist the Germans, was told here today by the Jewish Anti-Fascist Committee, which received the information from the only Jew to escape the town alive.

This is his story as reported by the Committee: "Shortly after the Germans entered Kupishak they rounded up fifteen of the prominent citizens of the town, including a forty-year-old Jewish lawyer, Meyer Davidson. One morning a few weeks later the Nazi soldiers came to summon the entire population - Jews and non-Jews - to gather in an old Jewish synagogue. Most of the hundreds of people who assembled there were Jews, as Kupishak had a very large Jewish population. When they entered the synagogue they saw the fifteen hostages surrounded by Nazi guards. The Nazi commander then told the assemblage that several hundred meters of telegraph wire had been destroyed the previous evening and that unless the perpetrator of the sabotage surrendered the hostages would be shot. He gave the people ten minutes to decide.

"As the minutes sped by and the silence remained unbroken, the commander turned to Davidson and said: 'You're a good lawyer and orator, speak to them and save your life.' Thereupon, Davidson ascended to the pulpit of the synagogue and speaking with great difficulty, because most of his teeth had been broken by the Nazis, told his audience: 'Brothers, the fate of all oppressed nations is always and everywhere bound up with the fate of the struggle for democracy and freedom. We will die, but our people shall live because freedom shall live. I don't want to buy my life at the expense of treason....' At this point a bullet from the commander's gun cut short Davidson's address and he dropped to the floor, dead.

The shot from the commander's pistol was the signal for the soldiers to turn their machine guns on the crowd. When they had finished practically every one in the synagogue was dead. That night, after dark, I and three others who had only been wounded, slipped out of town and crept into the woods. My three companions died of hunger and loss of blood, but I managed to reach a guerrilla detachment."

WEIZMANN EULOGIZES DR. RUPPIN AT ZIONIST MEMORIAL SERVICES IN NEW YORK

NEW YORK, Jan. 8. (JTA)-- Memorial services for Dr. Arthur Ruppin, the Zionist scientist who died last week in Palestine, were held here today under the auspices of the American Emergency Committee for Zionist Affairs. Many leaders of the American Zionist movement attended. Addresses were delivered by Dr. Chaim Weizmann, president of the Jewish Agency for Palestine; Dr. Stephen S. Wise and Nahum Goldmann, a member of the executive of the Jewish Agency.

Eulogizing Dr. Ruppin as one of the great figures of Zionism, Dr. Weizmann said that he made "one of the most momentous contributions to the up-building of Palestine." The land development of the country, Dr. Weizmann stated, was based on a system of colonization which was developed by Dr. Ruppin. Its three fundamental principles were self help, with no hired labor; limited land allotments; and cooperative buying and selling. In addition to these fundamentals, Dr. Ruppin laid great stress on the leaders of each colonization venture. He came to identify every new settlement with some person in the settlement. Dr. Ruppin died as he probably wished, said Dr. Weizmann, "with a spade in his hand."

Nahum Goldman declared that Dr. Ruppin was unique among the Zionist leaders in his aloofness from all partisan groups. He succeeded in doing this, said Dr. Goldman, though he was a man of sharply individual views with a definite program. Dr. Stephen S. Wise, who presided, also extolled Dr. Ruppin as "one of the foremost builders of Zion."

CONTRIBUTION OF CANADIAN JEWS TO THE WAR EFFORT LAUDED AT MONTREAL CEREMONY

MONTREAL, Jan. 8. (JTA)-- The Jews of Canada have contributed to every phase of the Dominion's war effort, from enlistment in the armed forces to such auxiliary services as furnishing all the recreational quarters of the army, navy and air force, Samuel Bronfman, national president of the Canadian Jewish Congress, stated at a ceremony at which Miss Ellen Ballon, a concert pianist, placed a scroll of greetings from American service men, which was also signed by Mayor LaGuardia, in the Servicemen's Center, opened here today by the Canadian Jewish Congress.

The ceremony marked the inauguration of a series of centers across Canada, including Halifax, Moncton, St. John, Toronto, Brandon, Winnipeg and Kingston at which Canada's Jews will be hosts to men off duty. The Montreal center is located in a house given by the Ballon family. All centers are operated and maintained by the Jewish Congress on a non-sectarian basis. Mr. Bronfman cited the recruiting campaign of the Canadian Jewish Congress and added that it has sent millions of cigarettes to Canadians overseas, as well as thousands of "comfort boxes." He stated that over 8,000 Jewish volunteers are on active service out of the total Jewish population of 165,000.

C.I.O. DENOUNCES RACIAL DISCRIMINATION IN WAR INDUSTRIES

WASHINGTON, Jan. 8. (JTA)-- The Committee on Racial Discrimination of the Congress of Industrial Organizations today denounced restrictions against minority groups in war plants and called for additional facilities for the President's Committee on Fair Employment Practice.

The Committee, whose chairman is Secretary-Treasurer James B. Carey of the C.I.O., said: "The existence of discrimination against Negroes and other minorities is not only a continuing blot on American democracy, but even more seriously a drag on the total mobilization of all our people needed to win the war against Axis slavery."