

JEWISH TELEGRAPHIC AGENCY

108 EAST 41st STREET, NEW YORK CITY

VOL. X. NO. 12

Friday, January 15, 1943

CARDINAL REJECTS NAZI OFFER ON JEWS; GHETTOS FOR JEWS IN FRANCE PLANNED

LONDON, Jan. 14. (JTA) — Nazi authorities in France visited Cardinal Gerlier, Archbishop of Lyon, and told him that they would not interfere with the Catholic Church in France providing the Cardinal and the other clergy did not oppose the anti-Jewish laws in the country and discontinued protecting Jews, it was reported here today by Allied circles.

The reply of the Archbishop was: "The French clergy has never engaged in political activities, but is obeying the Pope." In order to indicate that the audience was terminated, Cardinal Gerlier rose and said: "You no doubt know that the Holy Father has condemned the anti-Semitic laws and all anti-Jewish measures." The Nazi delegation was led by the German commandant of Lyon.

Other reports reaching here today indicate that with the aid of Darquier de Pellepoix, notorious French anti-Semite and Vichy Commissioner for Jewish Affairs, the Nazi administration in France has embarked on a policy of gradual but complete liquidation of all the 120,000 Jews still living in the country. "Already plans are being made to place all alien Jews in special camps and all Jews of French nationality in ghettos," one of the reports stated.

It was emphasized in Allied circles that despite the protests by the churches in France and the opposition to the anti-Jewish measures displayed by a large part of the French non-Jewish population, Laval plans to carry out Hitler's orders and will allow the Jews in France to be exterminated. Sacrifice of the Jews to the Nazis will be another concession by Laval to strengthen his position with Hitler, it was declared.

The possibility of French Jews being deprived of their citizenship as part of the new anti-Jewish campaign which the Nazis are now mapping out, was similarly predicted in Allied circles today. Despite the incensed anti-Jewish propaganda from Berlin, Paris and Vichy, there is less anti-Jewish feeling in France now than ever before, one of the reports indicated. It was explained that this was due not only to the fact that the French population mistrusts the Nazis and their French satellites, but also to their fear that after the Nazis make France "judenrein" they will take similar action against Frenchmen.

25,000 JEWS DEPORTED FROM BELGIUM BY NAZIS WITHIN FOUR MONTHS

WASHINGTON, Jan. 14. (JTA) — About 25,000 Jews were deported from occupied Belgium by the Nazis between July and November of 1942, it was reported here today by Belgian Ambassador Georges Theunis.

The Belgian diplomat estimated that in the last three months of 1942 more than fifty thousand Belgians were similarly deported by the Nazis. The present rate of deportation of Jews and non-Jews from Belgium "exceeds 20,000 per month," he stated.

BRITAIN WILL ADMIT JEWS ESCAPING FROM NAZI LANDS; PARLIAMENT TO HEAR STATEMENT

LONDON, Jan. 14.(JTA)-- The British Government will soon make a statement in Parliament regarding the admittance into Britain of Jewish refugees escaping from Nazi-held countries, it is reported in the press here today. The report says that at present the Government is considering the question of whether or not to place any limit on the number of people to be admitted.

An appeal to all Poles forming the Polish Government-in-Exile "to shake off the millstone of past mistakes" in order to gain confidence of both the Polish people and the Allied Nations in the future, is published prominently in the *Wiedomosci Polskie*, which was formerly the organ of the Polish Ministry of Propaganda. The article is directed to the members of the government who are still displaying anti-Jewish prejudices.

Pointing out that anti-Semitic propaganda hindered the development of pre-war Poland, the article says that the world has not forgotten the anti-Jewish campaign started by certain sections of the Poles soon after Poland gained its independence in the last war. It urges Polish leaders "not to repeat the mistakes of the past." The article concludes: "Our Government of today has issued more declarations about the Jews than, say, the Dutch or the Norwegian governments. Yet nobody on that account censures the Dutch or the Norwegians for their attitude towards the Jews half as much as people blame us. This is all because of our past mistakes."

ARCHBISHOP OF CANTERBURY SCORES GERMAN CHURCH FOR SILENCE ON PERSECUTION OF JEWS

LONDON, Jan. 14.(JTA)-- The Christian Church in Germany was criticized here today for failing to voice any protest against the Nazi persecution of Jews, in an address delivered by the Archbishop of Canterbury at a special service in honor of the birthday of the imprisoned German pastor, Martin Niemöller.

"While Christians in Holland and France took great risks in condemning the treatment of the Jews, German Christians failed to protest the extermination of the Poles and the massacre of the Jews," the Archbishop stated.

JEWS IN PALESTINE WIN STRIKE; RECEIVE SALARY INCREASE

JERUSALEM, Jan. 14.(JTA)-- The strike of the teachers in the Jewish school system in Palestine which was proclaimed yesterday, was called off today after the Jewish National Council of Palestine yielded to the demand of the teachers for a salary increase.

ZIONISTS IN BRITAIN DEMAND INTERNATIONAL GUARANTEES OF POST-WAR JEWISH RIGHTS

LONDON, Jan. 14.(JTA)-- Effective international guarantees of post-war Jewish rights, the outlawing of anti-Semitism and the opening of Palestine for Jewish refugees escaping from the Nazis will be the three major demands voiced at the two-day conference of the Zionist Federation of Great Britain which opens here on Saturday.

Expressing indignation at the Nazi massacres of Jews, the gathering will send a message of encouragement to the Jews in Nazi lands. It will also hail the declaration of the United Nations which promised retribution for the Nazi atrocities committed against civilians in occupied countries. The conference will also endorse the Biltmore Declaration, adopted last year by American Zionists, which asks that Palestine be proclaimed a Jewish Commonwealth.

FIRST GROUP OF JEWISH REFUGEES IN NORTH AFRICA RECEIVES U.S. IMMIGRATION VISAS

NEW YORK, Jan. 14. (JTA)-- A number of Jewish refugees in North Africa have received immigration visas for the United States under the existing quota regulations and are making preparations to sail to America, Dr. James Bernstein, European director of the Hias-Ica Emigration Association, cabled to his New York headquarters here today.

The cable also states that a number of Jewish internees in North Africa who are still detained in Camp Berghent have expressed their desire to enlist in the Jewish battalions of Palestine to serve under the British flag. They have appealed to Jewish organizations in North Africa for intervention with the proper authorities.

THREE-DAY ASSEMBLY OF JEWISH FEDERATIONS AND WELFARE FUNDS OPENS TOMORROW

CLEVELAND, Jan. 14. (JTA)-- Leaders of Jewish federations, welfare funds and community councils in the United States and Canada will gather at the Hotel Statler here Saturday night for the opening of the 10th annual General Assembly of the Council of Jewish Federations and Welfare Funds.

The three-day conference, dedicated to victory on the home front in 1943, will hear reports on the war-time experience of Jewish social welfare groups in 1942 and will formulate policies which will guide the Council's 230 member agencies in 195 cities in mobilizing their resources to further America's war effort. In the interests of war-time economy, the 1943 Assembly will be stripped of all non-essential activities and all meetings will be business sessions with attendance limited to delegates officially named by local communities and the representatives of national agencies.

James Marshall of New York, chairman of the Assembly Program Committee, in announcing final arrangements for the conference, expressed the belief that the 1943 Assembly would be the most vital in the ten-year history of the Council. He voiced the hope that the 1943 Assembly would clarify such dominant war-time issues as the spreading war chest movement, the effects of the new tax program on private philanthropic campaigns, the expansion of local functional services to cope with increased demands on the home front, and other problems now confronting Jewish communities.

One of the highlights of the Jewish welfare conclave will be a report on Sunday afternoon by the Committee on Civic-Protective Organizations, which has begun negotiating with the major Jewish defense agencies in the United States, with a view toward establishing a single centralized body for the direction of Jewish defense work. Sidney Hollander, president of the Council, said that a complete report would be made to the membership at the Assembly.

The fund-raising prospects of Jewish campaigns for local, national and overseas needs will be analyzed and discussed from the point of view of both Jewish communities which have affiliated with local war chests and communities which will conduct separate fund-raising campaigns. Monday will be crowded with meetings of the major national and overseas agencies supported by Jewish welfare funds. A discussion of the overseas and refugee programs will be held in the morning, and will be followed by a meeting on the place of Jewish education in the war-time planning of the Jewish community. The afternoon and evening sessions will be devoted to a review of the Army and Navy work of the Jewish Welfare Board and to an analysis of post-war problems which will be led by the research institutes of the American Jewish Committee and American Jewish Congress.

CONGRESS GETS BILL TO BAR ANTI-SEMITIC PROPAGANDA FROM U.S. MAILS

WASHINGTON, Jan. 14.(JTA)-- Literature designed to incite racial or religious hatred would be barred from the United States mails under a resolution proposed in Congress by Rep. Samuel Dickstein, New York Democrat.

The bill has been referred to the Committee on the Post Office and Post Roads of the House of Representatives, which failed to take action on a similar proposal Dickstein introduced two years ago, when the 77th Congress was getting under way.

The brief resolution would brand as unmailable "all papers, pamphlets, magazines, periodicals, books, pictures or writings of any kind, and every article or thing designed or adapted or intended to cause racial or religious hatred or bigotry or intolerance." It provides a maximum penalty of \$5,000 fine and five years imprisonment for offenders.

HUNGARIANS IN UKRAINE GIVEN BLANKET ORDERS TO EXECUTE ALL JEWS

KUIEYSHEV, Jan. 14.(JTA)-- Hungarian soldiers serving with the Axis occupation forces in the Ukraine have blanket orders to execute all Jews found living in the villages they seize, it is revealed in letters and documents captured when the Russian forces routed a Hungarian infantry division, which were made public here today. Where no Jews are found in a village the Hungarian officers even resort to executing peasants whom they declare to be "Jews," the documents disclose.

The matter-of-fact routine to which the Hungarian officers reduced their mistreatment and execution of Jews is indicated by a diary found on the body of Lieut. Berechwami of the 6th Company of the 32nd Infantry Regiment. He writes: "Raided the village of Makashin. Executed 13 Jews. Nothing special to report." Further exploits of this Lieutenant are related in a diary found on Sr. Lieut. Herendi of the 32nd Regiment who wrote: "Our Berechwami, who has become a 'New export' was sent to the village of Terecoga. Insofar as the Germans had been there a week previously there was nothing left for him. Only a few peasant families remained. Berechwami was determined not to come back emptyhanded. When the soldiers returned with the report that there were no Jews left in the village, he ordered three bearded Ukrainian peasants brought before him and (appointed) them Jews. Then he ordered them shot and sent in a report of the execution of 'three Jews.'"

On the body of another dead Hungarian, Johan Kovacz, a non-commissioned officer of the 5th Company of the same regiment, were found four beautifully bound Jewish prayer books and copies of a report he had sent to his commander, which indicated where he obtained the prayer books. The report reads: "We raided Shmilyanka and executed 25 Jews. We captured much booty and then destroyed the village."

A.F. OF L. CABLES GREETINGS TO PALESTINE LABOR CONFERENCE IN AUSTRALIA

NEW YORK, Jan. 14.(JTA)-- The American Federation of Labor which is sympathetic to the Jewish labor movement in Palestine today cabled greetings to a Palestine Labor Conference in Australia to be held in Melbourne this Sunday for the purpose of forming a League for Labor Palestine, with which the Australian Labor Federation and other liberal groups have promised to cooperate. Greetings to the conference were cabled also by the American National Labor Committee for Palestine.