

# JEWISH TELEGRAPHIC AGENCY

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## 3,000 TRIPOLI JEWS LIBERATED BY FIGHTING FRENCH; 5,000 JEWS IN NORTH AFRICAN CAMPS

LONDON, Jan. 22 (JTA)-- About 3,000 Jews from Tripoli who were interned by the Axis in a concentration camp in Fezzan have been liberated by the Fighting French troops who are now reported to have made contact with the British Eighth Army in their drive from Libya, the London press stated today.

The Tripoli Jews were sent to the concentration camp soon after Rommel's armies were defeated by the British at El Alamein. The Jews were charged by the Axis military authorities with pro-British sentiments and their presence in Tripoli was declared to be "dangerous for the Axis cause."

At least 5,000 Jews are still held in forced labor camps in North Africa, it was estimated today in a statement issued here by the International Brigade Association. The statement says that 65,000 anti-Fascist prisoners in North Africa, including the Jews, are being held in eight camps in Algeria and in nine camps in French Morocco.

Speedy release of these civilians could be accomplished by including representatives of the refugee organizations in the British-American-French commission recently formed to investigate the camps, the statement declares. It also urges that relief organizations establish central offices in Algeria and Morocco, in order to facilitate the release of the internees, many of whom are being freed only when lodgings are secured for them before they leave the camps.

## Jews in North Africa Did Not Seek to Retard Abolishment of Vichy Laws

Polish circles today reported that the majority of the four hundred Polish citizens released from camps in North Africa are Jews. One of the released Polish Jews who reached London today told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency that in the smaller towns in North Africa the Arabs ignored the anti-Jewish propaganda disseminated by pro-Vichy elements and Nazi agents.

This Polish Jew ridiculed the reports that Jewish leaders in North Africa asked that the anti-Jewish laws not be abolished immediately because of fear of antagonizing the Arab population. He said that there was general rejoicing when the American forces landed in North Africa, but that people there are astonished that officials of the Vichy regime are still permitted to occupy their positions as if nothing had happened.

The Polish Jew, who is planning to join the Polish Army, said that he was recruited into the French Foreign Legion in Marseilles soon after the war broke out. He then served with the French forces in Syria and was later transferred to Algeria. He lived in Sidi Belabbes where, he said, there was no tension between the Jews and the Arabs. There are many Libyan Jews in Algeria, he stated, and they are being cared for by the local Jewish communities.

LIBERAL PARTY SENDS CHURCHILL FIVE-POINT PROGRAM ON RESCUE OF JEWS FROM NAZIS

LONDON, Jan. 22.(JTA)-- A program for saving the Jews from Nazi extermination in Europe was submitted today to Prime Minister Churchill by the executive committee of the Liberal Party. The program provides:

1. Warnings should be broadcast repeatedly announcing that those responsible for atrocities against Jews will be punished.
2. Political and financial aid should be given by the British Government and other members of the United Nations to Jews who succeed in escaping from the Nazis.
3. An open door policy should be adopted in England, Palestine and the British colonies for those escaping from Nazi-held and Nazi-dominated territories.
4. Neutral countries should be asked to grant visas for Jews escaping from Hitler's executioners; Such visas to be valid for a period of two years.
5. The Allied Nations should send food to neutral countries, such as Turkey, Switzerland and Sweden, if they agree to grant asylum to Jewish refugees from Nazi lands.

Polish Government Plans New Memorandum to Allied Nations

Polish Government circles today stated that the Polish Government-in-Exile will address a new memorandum to the Allied Nations on the intensified Nazi atrocities against Jews and Poles in occupied Poland. The Polish Cabinet, it was indicated, is now meeting in connection with the latest reports reaching it from Poland on the increased Nazi deportations and executions of Jewish and Polish civilians.

The British liberal press continued today to press the government to admit more Jewish refugees to England and Palestine. The Manchester Guardian reveals that a statement from the British Government on the question of admitting refugees from Nazi countries will soon be forthcoming. The paper urges that the statement should clearly indicate that Jews escaping from Nazi territories will be admitted into Britain and Palestine. The liberal magazine Spectator writes in a similar vein.

WOMAN JAILED FOR SMUGGLING JEWS OUT OF NAZI-HELD CROATIA

ZURICH, Jan. 22.(JTA)-- A non-Jewish woman who was caught smuggling Jews from Croatia into Hungary was fined 4,000 pengoes and sentenced to three months imprisonment by the district court at Novi-Sad, it is reported in the Donau Zeitung, which the Nazis publish in Belgrade, the former Yugoslav capital.

The prosecutor, who charged that the woman was a "professional smuggler of Jews," protested to the court that the sentence was too mild.

ORGANIZED ARAB LABOR OPENS CONFERENCE IN PALESTINE

JERUSALEM, Jan. 22.(JTA)-- A conference of delegates of 3,000 Arab workers in all sections of Palestine opened here today, with representatives of the Palestine Government's newly-formed Department of Labor in attendance.

A report of the proposed unification of all Arab labor groups into one federation which would represent more than 8,000 workers will be made at the conference. Working conditions of civilian labor, internal organization and policy, means of increasing the cooperative movement and the establishment of a worker's bank and sick fund will also be discussed.

POST-WAR IMMIGRATION TO U.S. MAY BENEFIT FROM N.R.S. ACCOMPLISHMENTS, SAYS ROSENWALD

NEW YORK, Jan. 22.(JTA)-- The program by which the National Refugee Service has sought to aid America by aiding its newcomers may well become a pattern for post-war handling of immigration. William Rosenwald, president of NRS, declared in a message prepared for delivery before the special meeting of the members and directors of the National Refugee Service at the Astor Hotel tomorrow evening.

Mr. Rosenwald related how refugees from Nazism are contributing to America's war effort. "Today," he said, "refugee boys who once benefited from America's assistance are serving valiantly in the United States Army. Refugee workers, including many elderly persons, are serving on our war production lines. Refugee scientists and inventors are contributing the products of their talents to the winning of the war. Hundreds of refugee physicians are helping to maintain civilian health at a time when our country faces a severe shortage of doctors to attend to the civilian population. Finally, most of these new Americans are meeting their war duties in the same patriotic fashion as other Americans, serving where they can in the civilian defense effort, donating their blood to the Red Cross, buying war bonds and working for victory."

In a report on the NRS activities in 1942, prepared for the meeting, Albert Abrahamson, executive director, stated that the status of about 130,000 of the more than 200,000 Jewish refugees in this country underwent a drastic change following the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor when nationals of Japan, Germany and Italy were declared "enemy aliens." The report recounts the many improvements which the NRS brought about by helping to secure a more uniform interpretation of enemy alien regulations for the entire country, by making it possible for refugees to obtain work and by expediting the process of naturalization for many of the refugees.

Mr. Abrahamson in his report estimated that approximately 7,000 refugees entered the United States during 1942. He also revealed that in 1942 the NRS spent \$2,216,700, as compared to \$3,070,000 spent in 1941.

CLEVELAND CELEBRATES 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF DR. SILVER'S MINISTRY

CLEVELAND, Jan. 22.(JTA)-- With Dr. Chaim Weizmann as principal speaker, the Cleveland community will pay tribute on Sunday to Dr. Abba Hillel Silver on the occasion of his twenty-fifth anniversary as rabbi of The Temple here.

At Rabbi Silver's request, because of the war situation, the celebration will be limited to an Anniversary Service held in the Temple edifice which was built during his leadership. Among the speakers at the service will be the Mayor of Cleveland, Frank J. Lausche, who will speak for the community. Rabbi Silver was installed as rabbi of The Temple on September 9, 1917. The celebration of his twenty-fifth anniversary was delayed a few months in order that it might coincide with Dr. Silver's fiftieth birthday which will occur on January 28. During his ministry the congregation has more than doubled its membership and is now the largest liberal congregation in the United States.

HADASSAH LAUNCHES DRIVE TO SETTLE 6,000 JEWISH REFUGEE CHILDREN IN PALESTINE

NEW YORK, Jan. 22.(JTA)-- A countrywide emergency campaign to provide funds for the rescue and rehabilitation of 6,000 Jewish child refugees from Europe, for whom certificates of entry into Palestine have been granted by the British Government, was launched here today by Hadassah. A tentative emergency goal of \$500,000 in addition to Hadassah's already accepted 1943 budget of \$360,000 for this work has been announced.

RABBINICAL ASSEMBLY OF AMERICA CRITICIZES AMERICAN COUNCIL OF JUDAISM

NEW YORK, Jan. 22.(JTA)-- The Rabbinical Assembly of America, comprising 335 rabbis throughout the United States, today issued a statement declaring that it "responds with indignation to the creation of the American Council for Judaism" which opposes political Zionism.

The statement which was unanimously adopted by the Assembly's executive council, accuses the founders of the American Council for Judaism of being carried away by their fear that efforts to achieve majority status for Jews in Palestine would be resented as unpatriotic by American Christians. "Such fears are not only groundless, but are an insulting reflection on the fairness, understanding and genuine democracy of our Christian neighbors," the resolution reads. It emphasizes the need of Palestine as a Jewish National Home capable of absorbing mass immigration of Jews from Europe after the war.

Refuting the charge that the effort to establish a Jewish commonwealth in Palestine was irreligious because it was secular, the statement said: "If interest in the survival of the Jewish people and its right to a national life in Palestine is secularism, then the prophets, rabbis, saints and martyrs of Israel and the authors of its traditional liturgy were all of them secularists. The Zionist movement is for us a religious movement." The Rabbinical Assembly is headed by Rabbi Louis M. Levitsky of Newark.

CANADIAN ZIONISTS LAUNCH \$125,000 DRIVE FOR 5,000 DUNAMS TO SETTLE SOLDIERS

MONTREAL, Jan. 22.(JTA)-- The Canadian Jewish National Fund's 1943 campaign to raise \$125,000 to purchase 5,000 dunams of land in Palestine on which demobilized soldiers will be settled after the war was launched here at the second annual dinner of the JNF Council.

Rev. J.K. Goldbloom, executive director of the Canadian JNF, told the gathering that in 1942 Canadian Jewry raised over \$100,000 for the Ussishkin Fund of the JNF, far surpassing all previous collections for Palestine land purchase. The previous high had been \$29,000 raised in 1940. Rev. Goldbloom revealed that thirty-three percent of these funds were raised by the Hadassah, which made the greatest contribution of any single organization. He paid tribute to the Jewish community of Canada and its support of Zionist activities.

BLIND WRITERS WIN JEWISH BRAILLE REVIEW AWARDS FOR LITERARY WORK

NEW YORK, Jan. 22.(JTA)-- The annual literary awards of the Jewish Braille Review, given for the best poetry and short stories written by blind persons of any religion in any part of the world were announced here today.

First prize went to Mr. R.J. Vine of London for his poem "The Middle Watch." Manuscripts were received from Australia, South Africa, Canada, Great Britain and the United States. A second and third prize and twelve honorable mentions were also awarded.

MICHAEL G. APPEL ELECTED PRESIDENT OF BROOKLYN JEWISH FEDERATION

NEW YORK, Jan. 22.(JTA)-- Michael G. Appel has been elected president of the Brooklyn Federation, largest Jewish welfare organization in that borough. With 25 affiliated institutions, it was announced today following the 34th annual meeting of the board of directors. Mr. Appel succeeds Hugh Grant Straus, who served as president of the Brooklyn Federation during the past four years.