

# JEWISH TELEGRAPHIC AGENCY

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## VATICAN ASSURES CHIEF RABBI OF PALESTINE OF AID FOR JEWS IN NAZI LANDS

JERUSALEM, Feb. 5, (JTA)-- The Vatican today cabled Chief Rabbi Herzog, assuring him that it is doing everything possible for all the victims of Nazi persecution, including the Jews.

The Vatican's message came in response to an appeal addressed to the Pope by Chief Rabbi Herzog, presenting detailed facts on the Nazi massacres of Jews and the extermination of the Jewish population in Nazi-occupied countries through deportations and mass-executions.

The Vatican's representative in Jerusalem is kept informed of all reports on Jewish atrocities which reach Jewish organizations in Palestine from Nazi-held territories. It is understood that he transmits this information to Vatican City together with his observations on the reputation of the Jews in Palestine to the fate of the Jews in Nazi Europe.

## RUMANIA ORDERS AUTHORITIES TO HUNT FOR FUGITIVE JEWS; AUCTIONS OFF JEWISH PROPERTY

ZURICH, Feb. 5, (JTA)-- Rumanian newspapers reaching here today report that the authorities throughout Rumania have received orders to start hunting for Jews who have escaped deportation from Bessarabia and Bukovina and are allegedly hiding in the ruins of villages destroyed by the war.

Legal advertisements carried by Argus, a financial newspaper published in Bucharest, reveal that wholesale deportations of Jews recently took place in the districts of Campolung, Radauti, Suceava and Dorohoi. The paper announces public auctions of property left by Jews in these districts "as a result of well-known events." The announcement points out that the auctions are necessary "because of the danger of deterioration of good essential for Rumania's national economy." Payments at these auctions will be accepted in cash only, the paper warns.

An order published by the Rumanian Governor General of Bessarabia in the Bucharest newspaper Curentul, reveals widespread looting of Jewish property in Bessarabia. The order instructs the local authorities "to take steps for the identification and collection of all movable Jewish property which has passed into the possession of the state, but is still retained by individuals."

The Bukarester Tageblatt, Nazi paper published in the Rumanian capital, reports that 1,450 lawyers have been struck off the register as "non-Aryans" and are no longer permitted to practice law in Rumania.

## THREE TOWNS IN CZECH PROTECTORATE MADE "JUDENREIN" BY THE NAZIS

LONDON, Feb. 5, (JTA)-- The Czechoslovak Government-in-Exile today received reports that the last few remaining Jews have been deported by the Nazis from the Czech towns of Melnik, Mlada and Bolslav.

POLES ATTACK JEWS IN PALESTINE; POLISH PAPER QUESTIONS JEWISH LOYALTY TO POLAND

LONDON, Feb. 5, (JTA)-- A violent attack on the Jews in Palestine, who have been praised by members of the Polish Cabinet for their hospitality to Polish refugees, is published today in *Mysl Polska*, organ of Polish extremists issued in London.

(Private information from Palestine which reached New York this week reveals that Polish residents in the all-Jewish city of Tel Aviv have provoked anti-Jewish riots which forced the mayor of the city to issue an order forbidding Polish soldiers to appear on the streets of Tel Aviv for three days. During the disturbances, the brother-in-law of Berl Katznelson, noted Jewish labor leader and editor of the daily newspaper "Davar," was killed by a Polish soldier. Other private reports from Palestine reveal that a Polish school-boy in Tel Aviv stabbed a Jewish boy and that Poles made an attempt to set fire to the Beth Am in Tel Aviv, which is the largest Jewish public gathering place in the city, but were caught by the police.)

Taking issue with a recent statement made by Wladyslaw Banaczyk, vice-president of the Polish National Council, who lauded the Jews in Palestine for their loyalty to Poland and the hospitality extended by the Yishuv to Polish refugees who are now living in Jerusalem, Tel-Aviv, Haifa and other Palestine cities, the writer in *Mysl Polska*, attempts, in a two-page article, to discredit the pro-Polish feelings of the Polish Jews there. "I have been to Palestine and found no such feelings," he declares. "The Jews there speak Polish for commercial reasons only."

Polish Jews in Palestine are "cheating and profiteering," the author of the anti-Semitic article, Alexander Zawisza, says. All assertions of alleged friendly relations between Jews and Poles "are mere official talk," he asserts. He warns that the Polish Jews in Palestine are awaiting the opportunity of returning to Poland. The same issue of *Mysl Polska* also carries another anti-Semitic article stating that "it is high time to put an end to the legend of unhappy Jewish life in pre-war Poland."

GERMANY "INVITES" HALF-JEWS TO RETURN FROM NEUTRAL COUNTRIES TO THE REICH

STOCKHOLM, Feb. 5, (JTA)-- German refugees now in neutral countries who were classified as half-Jews under the Nuremberg Laws and who escaped from the Reich to avoid anti-Jewish regulations, were asked today to return to Germany as a result of the shortage of manpower following the heavy losses suffered by the Nazi armies on the Russian front.

The "invitation" to return to the German "fatherland" was extended to the refugees through the German consulates in Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey and Portugal.

HUNGARIAN LITERARY SOCIETY REFUSES TO EXPEL JEWISH MEMBERS

ZURICH, Feb. 5, (JTA)-- Hungarian newspapers reaching here today from Budapest report that the leading Hungarian literary society, Petofi, went on record as refusing to expel its Jewish members in spite of strong pressure by anti-Jewish elements.

As a result of this policy, Jozef Erdelyi, famous Hungarian poet, resigned from the society making public a letter which reads: "I have been induced to resign from the society as a result of the fact that it does not take seriously my suggestions, especially those concerning the elimination of Jewish members. The chairman went so far as to term my proposals 'childish.'"

JEWISH CONTRIBUTIONS TO RUSSIAN VICTORY HALLED BY MOSCOW PRESS

MOSCOW, Feb. 5.(JTA)— Jewish contributions to the Russian war effort on the front and in the rear are lauded today in the Soviet press which tells how a noted Jewish composer in Russia has been decorated for his activities among the troops on the front lines and how a Jewish shepherd boy from Biro-Bidjan became a crack pilot and received his second decoration, the Order of the Red Banner, for heroism during an aerial attack on the Nazis.

The Moscow press also reported today that a small group of Jewish collective farmers in the Saratov region along the Volga, under the direction of two brothers, Aron and Pinya Levin, have contributed 135,000 roubles to the fund to purchase tanks and bombers for the Red Army. Aron Levin donated personal savings of 15,000 roubles, while his tractor brigade contributed another 60,000 roubles. A similar sum was also given by the tractor drivers with whom Pinya Levin works.

The Jewish shepherd who became an aviator is Zalmen Elishev. At one time he tended the herd of a collective farm in Biro-Bidjan and later worked in a sewing machine factory there. He joined the army at the outbreak of the war and became one of Russia's best pilots.

The decorated Jewish composer is Isakiel Scheinin. When war broke out he was working on an opera depicting the role of Jewish heroes during the Civil War twenty-five years ago. He immediately joined the Red Army, where he organized dance and song ensembles. All of the performers were regular Red Armymen who were trained by Scheinin. Between battles he taught them to sing and dance. The correspondent who wrote the story appearing in today's newspapers reports how on one occasion he was present at a rehearsal in the Darnitsa Woods near Kiev where a group of soldiers were grouped under a pine tree and Scheinin was teaching them to sing. This lesson was interrupted by a Nazi raid, and the correspondent did not see the composer again until several months later.

By then Scheinin had organized a touring troupe which traveled from unit to unit giving performances, using a truck as an improvised stage. They sang Jewish, Georgian, Russian and Ukrainian folk songs. When the Red Army was forced to retreat, Scheinin went everywhere with his troupe encouraging the men and helping to keep up their morale. Now that the Russians are advancing, his ensembles hurry to newly liberated towns to entertain the soldiers and townspeople. As a token of appreciation for their work the groups have been invited to Moscow to give several concerts.

NAZI MASSACRES CHALLENGE TO BOTH JEWS AND CHRISTIANS, CANTERBURY DECLARES

LONDON, Feb. 5.(JTA)— The Nazi policy of mass-extermination of civilians is a challenge to Jews and Christians alike, the Archbishop of Canterbury declared today, presiding at the first annual meeting of the Council of Christians and Jews.

The Council adopted a resolution welcoming the statement made in the House of Commons recently by Deputy Prime Minister Clement Attlee in which he declared that the British Government is conferring with other of the United Nations on means of rescuing as many Jews in Nazi-held territories as possible. The resolution also expressed appreciation for the recent announcement that 4,500 children from Bulgaria, Rumania and Hungary will be admitted to Palestine. It reiterated the request that temporary asylum for refugees from Hitlerism be found in Britain or elsewhere.

ROOSEVELT'S COMMITTEE TO HALT DISCRIMINATION IN EMPLOYMENT TO GET MORE POWER

WASHINGTON, Feb. 5, (JTA)-- Acting on President Roosevelt's request, administration leaders today drafted plans giving more power to the President's Fair Employment Practice Committee to enforce orders against racial and religious discrimination in employment.

Strengthening of the powers of the Committee was asked by President Roosevelt this week following a conference at the White House with Attorney General Biddle and Chairman of the War Manpower Commission McNutt. Thus far, the Committee's principal weapons against racial and religious discrimination in employment has been publicity. The plans drafted today would provide the committee with other measures believed to be sufficient to cope with discrimination in national defense industries.

NEW YORK LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY GETS BILLS TO CHECK RACIAL DISCRIMINATION

ALBANY, N.Y., Feb. 5, (JTA)-- A series of bills intended to put teeth in the State's anti-discrimination policy and to eliminate any racial issue from labor relations was pending in the Legislature today. One of the bills, introduced by Assemblyman Andrews, would bar closed shop agreements between utilities and labor unions unless the State Labor Relations Board certified that the union admitted members without distinction of race, creed or color.

A proposed amendment to the labor law would deny a union that erects racial barriers the right to be termed a labor organization for purposes of collective bargaining. Under another proposed law, officers of a union having an agreement with a utility who refused union membership on racial or religious grounds would be guilty of a misdemeanor. Another bill of Assemblyman Andrews would require public officers to make sworn certification that candidates on civil service eligible lists were not passed over for racial or religious reasons. Discrimination in the civil service appointments would be a misdemeanor.

Similar bills, introduced by Assemblyman Wachtel make discrimination in employment by banks and insurance companies and utilities a misdemeanor and permit recovery of damages from \$100 to \$500 by aggrieved parties. The State and municipalities could deduct \$5 a day from amounts due on public contracts for every job-seeker discriminated against. A bill of Assemblyman Crews would prohibit insertion of discriminatory ads by employment agencies unless the name and address of the person offering employment were listed. A companion bill has been introduced in the upper House by Sen. Heller. Bills of Assemblyman Gans and Assemblyman Jack would bar publication of legal advertising in newspapers that accepted discriminatory ads.

100,000 CHILDREN IN NEW YORK PUBLIC SCHOOLS RECEIVE RELIGIOUS TRAINING

NEW YORK, Feb. 5, (JTA)-- More than 100,000 Catholic, Jewish and Protestant children in the public schools of New York are being instructed weekly in the faith of their fathers, it was reported last night at a dinner in Town Hall held by Protestant workers on the Interdenominational Committee for Religious Education on Released Time. There are 272 released-time schools in New York, Cleveland Dodge, the committee's chairman, stated.

The work of restoring religion in education was credited by Mr. Dodge to a group of New York businessmen. They found, he said, that "half of the city's children were not coming under any religious influence at all."