

JEWISH TELEGRAPHIC AGENCY

106 EAST 41st STREET, NEW YORK CITY

VOL. X. NO. 48

Sunday, February 28, 1943

ARABS ORGANIZE "TO ACHIEVE NATIONAL INDEPENDENCE" IN PALESTINE

JERUSALEM, Feb. 26.(JTA)-- Emir Abdullah, ruler of Transjordan, who aspires to become the ruler of a united Arab state comprising Transjordan, Palestine and Syria, today issued an invitation to Arab leaders here to come to his winter residence for "consultations" on Arab post-war problems, including the future of Palestine.

The move by the Emir coincides with the disclosure here by Palestine Arab leaders that they intend to establish an Arab political representation in Jerusalem and in London "in order to defend the political rights of the Arabs, and to achieve national independence." Leading this movement is Rashid Haj Ibrahim of Haifa who convoked a conference of Arab spokesmen in Haifa before whom he outlined a program of action. The conference, it was reported today, approved the program but could not reach any agreement as to the composition of the representation.

Meanwhile, the Palestine Government was asked today by the Arab members of the Haifa municipality to replace the Jewish chairman of the Haifa Municipal Committee, Shabbatai Levi, with an Arab. The municipal committee which performs the functions of a municipal council, is composed of four Jews, four Christians, and two Moslems. The population of Haifa is now 100,000 of whom nearly seventy percent are Jews.

An official announcement today discloses that the term of office of Sir Harold MacMichael, Palestine's High Commissioner, has been extended for one year, beginning with March 3. Sir Harold has been in office since December, 1937.

JEWISH GUERRILLAS APPEAR IN POLAND; ATTACK NAZI TRAIN AND RELEASE ENSLAVED POLES

LONDON, Feb. 26.(JTA)-- Jewish guerrilla fighters in Nazi-occupied Poland held up a train carrying Poles to slave labor in Germany, killed three Nazi guards and liberated 60 Poles, it was reported by Polish Government circles here today on the basis of information received through neutral countries.

The report revealed that Jewish guerrilla units are operating in the Lublin area. A list of 5,000 Jewish names has been published by the Gestapo, which is offering a reward for the disclosure of the whereabouts of any of the Jews, the Polish information said.

The attack by the Jewish guerrillas on the Nazi train took place on the Lublin-Warsaw line. The partisans emerged from a forest forty miles from Lublin, killed the engineer, stopped the train and released the Poles after an exchange of fire with the German guards. They then disappeared into the woods. None of them were captured although Nazi units immediately searched the entire area. A reward of 100,000 marks was announced by the Nazi authorities for any information leading to the capture of the Jews who participated in the attack.

LIBERALS, JEWS, POLES IN LONDON STIRRED BY SOVIET EXECUTION OF ALTER AND ERLICH

LONDON, Feb. 26.(JTA)-- The news of the execution by the Soviet authorities of Victor Alter and Henryk Erlich, the two internationally-known leaders of the Jewish Socialist Party of Poland, has created a painful impression here among British liberals and Jews, as well as in Polish Government circles.

Immediately upon being informed of the executions today by the Jewish Telegraphic Agency, Count Raczynski, Polish Foreign Minister, cabled to the Polish Embassy in Kuibyshev to ascertain the details of the trial reported to have been held by a Soviet court. He also declared that he will ask the British Foreign Office to have its diplomatic representatives in Russia investigate the case.

The official Soviet charges alleging that the two Jewish labor leaders spread propaganda among Soviet troops for the conclusion of a separate peace with Germany were termed "ridiculous" by all circles here where the two executed Polish-Jewish Socialists have been known for many years as ardent fighters against Fascism. The real reason for their tragic death is believed to be that fact that for many years they had opposed the Communist movement in Poland and were the leaders of a Jewish labor party which combatted Communism.

It was recalled here today that Alter and Erlich, after being released by the Soviet authorities in September, 1941, under the Russo-Polish pact granting amnesty to all Polish citizens, issued an appeal to all Jewish citizens of Poland residing on Soviet territory to enlist in the Polish Army that was being organized in Russia, urging them to carry on a common fight with the Red Army against Nazi aggression. The Polish Government at the same time invited the two labor leaders to come to London and take part in the work of the Polish National Council as representatives of the Jewish citizens of Nazi-occupied Poland. They were re-arrested, however, in Kuibyshev on December 4, 1941. No reason for the arrest was given and no representative of the Polish embassy in Russia was permitted to communicate with them.

Victor Alter was born in 1890 in Mlawa, Poland and joined the then underground Jewish Socialist movement at the age of 15. Constantly harrassed by the Czarist police, he left for Belgium where he studied engineering. Upon graduation he returned to Poland where he became a labor leader. He was soon compelled to leave Poland as a result of persecution by the Czarist regime. Together with Erlich he returned from exile at the end of 1918 when Poland was granted independence by the Versailles Treaty. Both were then elected to the City Council of Warsaw as representatives of organized Jewish labor.

Henryk Erlich was born in 1882 in Lublin, Poland, and was arrested many times by Czarist officials as leader of the underground Socialist movement. He forsook his personal career as a successful attorney for the precarious and dangerous existence of a revolutionist. After the Czar was overthrown, Erlich represented Russia as a member of a delegation that went to Europe to organize the International Socialist Peace Conference in Stockholm. From 1918 on he lived in Poland and was the recognized head of the Jewish Socialist movement there.

RUMANIAN GOVERNMENT CONFISCATES PROPERTY OF JEWISH COMMUNITIES IN MANY CITIES

ZURICH, Feb.26.(JTA)-- The Office for the "Rumanization" of Jewish Property has confiscated real estate belonging to the Jewish communities in Jassy, Arad, Barlad, Lugos, Campina and a number of smaller cities, it is reported in the Bucharest daily, Universul, reaching here today.

BARTERING OF RUDOLF HESS FOR 100,000 JEWS HELD BY THE NAZIS IS SUGGESTED

LONDON, Feb. 26.(JTA)-- A suggestion that Rudolph Hess be exchanged for 100,000 Jews in Nazi-occupied countries was made today at a mass-meeting in Leicester called to protest the Nazi extermination of millions of Jews in Europe. The suggestion was voiced by Dr. Bernard Grinley, vice-chairman of the Leicester Christian Council.

In the House of Commons today, Home Secretary Herbert Morrison stated that he "was keeping under observation" an anti-Semitic Scottish publication called The Vanguard. Queried as to why he has failed to take action against the magazine, Morrison stated that he felt that it would be better not to take steps against the obscure publication, and thus avoid giving it any publicity.

Eighty Polish and Czechoslovak Jews, who succeeded in escaping from France to a neutral country several months ago, arrived here today.

ITALIAN JEWS IN GERMANY ORDERED TO REPORT TO CONSULATE

BERNE, Feb. 26.(JTA)-- All Italian Jews residing in the Rhineland district of Germany, including women who have assumed Italian citizenship through marriage, and Yugoslav Jews, who previously lived in regions which have been annexed by Italy, have been ordered to report immediately to the Italian consulate in Cologne, the Essener Zeitung reports. No reason for the order is given.

Newspapers reaching here today from the Nazi-puppet state of Croatia, carved out of Yugoslavia, report that all Jews, including foreign and baptized Jews living in Osijek, capital of the province of Slovenia, have been instructed to report to the police. Persons failing to do so will be sent to concentration camps, the paper writes.

UNITED NATIONS ASKED TO APPEAL TO HITLER TO PERMIT EMIGRATION OF JEWS

NEW YORK, Feb. 26.(JTA)-- The World Jewish Congress has submitted a request to the governments of the United Nations asking that they approach the German Government with a proposal that it permit Jews to leave Germany and Nazi-occupied territories, it was disclosed last night at a meeting of the Administrative Committee of the Congress.

Addressing the meeting, Dr. Nahum Goldmann, chairman of the Committee, also revealed that the United Nations have been urged to arrange for the shipment of food to starving Jews in Europe. He emphasized that to carry out these and other schemes for saving Jews in Europe, it is essential that a United Nations Commission be set up with wide powers to organize these activities. At the same time, he said, the establishment of a Commission to collect evidence on the Nazi crimes and to prepare the procedure of the trials is also necessary, with proper provision for Jewish representation before such a Commission. In order that the United Nations should be moved to decisive and efficient action, it is essential that the Jewish communities in America should speak up and react properly to this unprecedented danger of extermination of all European Jewry, he declared.

Dr. Goldmann indicated that the Institute of Jewish Affairs, established by the American and World Jewish Congress, is beginning to formulate its proposals for a Jewish post-war program and that the various bodies of the World Jewish Congress will now begin to discuss and formulate this program which will then be submitted to a conference with the participation of all Jewish organizations and communities affiliated with the World Jewish Congress all over the world.

OXFORD UNIVERSITY PROFESSORS ASK AID FOR JEWS IN NAZI-HELD COUNTRIES

LONDON, Feb. 26.(JTA)-- More than 100 members of the faculty of Oxford University and leaders of all the student political clubs today adopted a resolution protesting the British Government's failure to take adequate steps to rescue European Jewry. The resolution also demanded that immigration restrictions on the entry of refugees to Britain and Palestine be eased and that arrangements be made to secure sanctuary in other places also for the Jews fleeing Nazi-held countries. Copies of the resolution were sent to Prime Minister Churchill, Foreign Secretary Eden and Home Secretary Morrison.

The Manchester Guardian reports that great disappointment is felt in Parliamentary circles which have attempted to secure Government action to aid the Jews of Europe. These circles feel that the Government "has thrown in the sponge" although actually the difficulties involved are not insurmountable. They feel that at the very least, the authorities should agree to admit every refugee who is able to reach here, the Guardian writes.

JEWISH CONGRESS WILL ANNOUNCE PROGRAM FOR SAVING JEWS IN RUMANIA, HUNGARY, BULGARIA

NEW YORK, Feb. 26.(JTA)-- A detailed program outlining how the United Nations can save the Jews in Europe, particularly those in Bulgaria, Rumania and Hungary, will be presented to the protest meeting in Madison Square Garden here on Monday, it was announced today by the American Jewish Congress, which, together with the A.F. of L., the C.I.O., the Church Peace Union and other groups, is sponsoring the demonstration.

Simultaneously, the Congress issued a declaration appealing to America and the United Nations to act now to save the Jews of Europe, citing the fact that approximately only 5,000,000 Jews remain alive in Europe. "It is not enough to indict and name the murderers," the declaration said. "It is time for America and the United Nations to act now. Large numbers of the three million remaining Jews can still be saved. Rumania, Bulgaria and Hungary may let the Jews leave their territories before they fall into the hands of the Nazis if havens could be provided for them."

FRENCH JEWISH LEADERS IN U.S. DEMAND RESTORATION OF JEWISH RIGHTS IN NORTH AFRICA

NEW YORK, Feb. 26.(JTA)-- The French Jewish Representative Committee, affiliated with the World Jewish Congress and a recognized representative body in the United States of French Jewry, today issued a statement demanding that "following the precedent of that which was accomplished without delay in other territories liberated from the hands of the enemy, their rights be immediately and completely restored to the Jews of North Africa." The statement declares that there are "innumerable examples which prove that the people of France reject every anti-Semitic policy and make no distinction among French citizens" and asserts that "existing political, social and economic situations in North Africa offer no obstacles to the return to the national traditions of France."

The signers of the statement include the president of the Committee, Henri Torres, prominent lawyer and former member of the French Parliament; Baron Edouard de Rothschild, former Regent of the Bank of France and President of the Central Consistoire of the Jews of France and Algiers; Marc Chagall, internationally-known artist; Andre Spire, the well-known writer; Pierre Dreyfus, son of Alfred Dreyfus of the renowned "Dreyfus Case"; Professor Jacques Hadamard, member of the Institute of France, and others.

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