

JEWISH TELEGRAPHIC AGENCY

106 EAST 41st STREET, NEW YORK CITY

VOL. X, NO. 55

Monday, March 8, 1943

NEGOTIATIONS TO TRANSFER 4,500 JEWS FROM BULGARIA TO PALESTINE REPORTED BROKEN DOWN

ISTANBUL, March 7. (JTA)-- The negotiations between the Bulgarian and the British Governments for the emigration of 4,000 Jewish children and 500 adults from Bulgaria to Palestine have broken down, it was reported here today.

The report was carried by the Nazi Transocean news agency in the form of an official communique issued by the Bulgarian authorities in Sofia on Thursday. (A statement issued by British official quarters in Washington on Thursday said that "information has just come through that 4,000 Jewish children and 500 adults are to leave Bulgaria for Palestine.")

According to the report distributed here today by Transocean, the Bulgarian authorities stated in their communique that "technical details have arisen which preclude the possibility of realizing the plan for the emigration of 4,500 Jewish children and adults to Palestine." The negotiations with the Bulgarian Government were carried on by Swiss diplomats who represent British interests in Bulgaria.

DEPORTED NORWEGIAN JEWS WORKING IN MINES IN POLAND; HALF OF DUTCH JEWS IN CAMPS

STOCKHOLM, March 7. (JTA)-- About 600 Norwegian Jews who were deported on a Nazi prison ship to Germany, from where they were subsequently transferred to Poland, have arrived in Upper Silesia, according to reliable information reaching here today.

The report stated that most of the men among the deportees have been sent to work in the coal mines near Katowice. A second transport carrying 120 Jews left Oslo last month, but no word has been received here concerning the vessel.

The Swedish press today carries reports that as a result of the desperate shortage of man-power the German occupation authorities in the countries of Western Europe have halted the deportation of Jews to Poland and occupied Russia and, instead are using them to build fortifications in coastal regions where an Allied invasion is feared.

The German radio heard here today reported that nine Jews were executed in Berlin last Thursday on the charge of "making preparations to commit high treason." The Berlin radio also broadcast that one half of all the Jews in Holland have been sent to forced labor and are being held in special "Jewish camps."

Nazi commissar Schmidt, addressing a public meeting in Utrecht, Holland, severely attacked the Dutch Catholic Church for the active resistance which it displays against the persecution of Jews. "Why do the churches pray for Jews, when hundreds of thousands of Germans are being killed?" he asked, according to a report appearing in a pro-Nazi Dutch paper received here.

BRITISH GOVERNMENT REPORTED TO HAVE AGREED TO JOINT PARLEY WITH U.S. ON REFUGEES

LONDON, March 7.(JTA)-- The British Government has accepted the United States proposal for a preliminary conference to discuss ways and means of facilitating the emigration of thousands of Jews facing extermination in Nazi or Nazi-held territory, it was reliably learned here last night.

In the American note, sent by Undersecretary of State Sumner Welles last week, it was suggested that the conference be held in Ottawa, but as far as could be learned here today, the place of the meeting and the composition of the British delegation are still under consideration.

GEN. GIRAUD PROCLAIMS EQUAL RIGHTS FOR JEWISH WOMEN IN CIVIL SERVICES

LISBON, March 7.(JTA)-- "France knows not racial prejudices," the radio stations in Algeria and French Morocco commented today in broadcasting the decree issued by Gen. Giraud during the week-end giving equal rights to Jewish women in North Africa in certain branches of the French civil service.

"It has been reported to me," the decree read, "that some women and girls of the Jewish religion have been for that reason eliminated by the employment office from the nursing services, the telegraph services and the automobile services. That is a situation that is inadmissible at a time when the army has need for the help of all. The Commander-in-Chief thereby orders that any woman or girl capable of serving, be engaged within the limits of the necessary needs and without any question of race or religion."

(The New York Times today reported from Algeria that the Giraud government has issued an order declaring that there is to be no religious or racial discrimination in North Africa.)

SOVIET GOVERNMENT ASKED ALTER AND ERLICH TO LEAD JEWISH ANTI-NAZI CAMPAIGN

LONDON, March 7.(JTA)-- The Soviet Government, prior to executing Victor Alter and Henryk Erlich, the two Jewish labor leaders from Poland, negotiated with them to organize and lead the Jewish anti-Fascist Committee now in existence in Russia, it was disclosed today in a statement issued by Samuel Zygelboim, Jewish labor member of the Polish National Council.

The statement declares that after Alter and Erlich were released in September 1941, they were visited by a high Soviet official, Col. A. Wokowysky, who, in behalf of the Commissariat for Internal Affairs, assured them that their arrest had been a mistake. They were given rooms in a Moscow hotel and it was proposed that they organize, in Russia, a Jewish committee to fight Hitlerism which would have branches in other countries.

Alter and Erlich agreed to this proposal. It was arranged that Erlich should be the chairman of the committee, Alter the secretary and S. Michaels, the famous Russian-Jewish actor, the vice-chairman. The plan was approved by the Commissar for the Interior, L.P. Beria, who personally conferred with the two Polish-Jewish Socialist leaders, and was submitted for Stalin's personal approval at the request of Alter and Erlich. While awaiting Stalin's sanction, the two men were evacuated from Moscow to Kuibyshev on October 15, 1941 together with foreign diplomats and government offices. On December 4, while sitting with friends in the Grand Hotel in Kuibyshev, Alter was called to the telephone. He informed his friends that he and Erlich had been invited to come at once to the offices of the Commissariat for Internal Affairs. They left at 12:30 stating that they would return soon. They were never seen again.

UNITED JEWISH APPEAL COLLECTED \$50,300,000 DURING PERIOD FROM 1939 TO 1942

NEW YORK, March 7.(JTA)-- From the date of its inception as the unified, fund-raising instrument of American Jews to the end of 1942, the United Jewish Appeal collected in cash a total of \$50,300,233.08, it was announced here today by U.J.A. headquarters. This sum was distributed as follows among the three constituent agencies: the Joint Distribution Committee received \$25,458,227.50; the United Palestine Appeal, \$13,617,005.58; the National Refugee Service, \$10,975,000.

In making public the figures of the contribution of the Jews of the United States toward meeting the problem of Jewish survival during the four-year period of the greatest devastation and distress for Jewish communities in many parts of the world, the United Jewish Appeal emphasized that much larger funds will be needed in 1943 for overseas rehabilitation and war relief, increased immigration to and defense of Palestine and for assistance to refugees in the United States.

HIAS CONVENTION PROCLAIMS \$1,000,000 DRIVE; ASKS ACTION TO SAVE JEWS IN EUROPE

NEW YORK, March 7.(JTA)-- A plea to the U.S. Government and to leaders of the United Nations and of neutral lands to take speedy action to save the Jews in Europe from Nazi extermination was voiced here today in a resolution adopted by the 58th annual convention of the Hias, the Hebrew Sheltering and Immigrant Aid Society, attended by 2,500 delegates representing 1,000 religious, labor and fraternal organizations.

The convention also adopted a resolution pledging itself "to raise the sum of \$1,000,000 for the conduct of Hias activities at home and abroad during 1943 and to prepare plans and an apparatus for the solution of Jewish emigration problems after the war." A pledge to "give their all to the cause of America's and the United Nations' victory" was given by the delegates in a resolution which saluted President Roosevelt "with reverent affection."

Impressive memorial exercises for the Jews massacred by the Nazis were held during the meeting which was addressed by U.S. Senator James M. Mead, Congressman Emanuel Celler and other prominent speakers. Mr. Abraham Herman, president of the Hias, moved the audience to tears when he told of the plight of the Jews in Nazi countries and how the Hias was responsible for helping thousands of them to reach the United States and other countries of safety. Isaac L. Asofsky, executive director of the Hias, reported on the activities of the Hias here and abroad.

Decides to Call Conference on Post-War Emigration

A conference of interested and qualified organizations to consider the problems of Jewish emigration that will arise after the war, will be called by Hias according to a resolution adopted by the convention in which the "formulation of a suitable and effective program of action and undertaking the training and equipment of the necessary apparatus which is to commence its large scale rescue work when the hour of victory and deliverance strikes," were urged.

The role which Hias machinery will be called upon to play in the solution of the post-war Jewish emigration problems was discussed in a paper submitted to the convention by Mr. Max Gottschalk, director of the Research Institute on Peace and Post-War Problems of the American Jewish Committee and president of the Hias-Ica Emigration Association. He emphasized that the Hias will have an extensive organization in readiness to step in immediately after the war is won. Hias committees, he said, are still in existence in some countries now under Nazi domination. "We know they exist in Poland, Rumania, Hungary, Belgium, France, Shanghai and probably in some other countries also," he declared.