

# JEWISH TELEGRAPHIC AGENCY

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## ENGLAND HOPES BRITISH-AMERICAN PARLEY ON RESCUE OF JEWS WILL BE "WIDE IN SCOPE"

LONDON, March 10. (JTA)-- Foreign Secretary Anthony Eden announced in Commons today that the British Government hopes that the forthcoming Anglo-American parley in Ottawa to study means of saving Jewish and other persecuted persons in Nazi Europe would be wide in scope. He declared that the Government is already discussing the selection of the British representatives to the Ottawa conference.

Asked whether it would not be more practical to hold the conference in London rather than in Ottawa, Eden replied that the British Government "is ready to meet the representatives of the United States at any place." He emphasized that "the massacres of Jews in Poland are continuing."

Captain Oliver Stanley, Colonial Secretary, speaking in Commons today, indicated that the British Government does not intend to admit into Palestine more than the approximately 30,000 Jews still entitled to enter under the terms of the White Paper, which provides for the halting of Jewish immigration to Palestine after March, 1944. Some of the members declared such limited immigration is not adequate to cope with the Jewish tragedy in Europe.

## JEWISH AGENCY OPPOSES INCREASED TAXATION IN PALESTINE; ASKS FOR MODIFICATIONS

JERUSALEM, March 10. (JTA)-- The Jewish National Council of Palestine today submitted to the Palestine Government a memorandum setting forth the objections of the Jewish population here to the increased taxation which both Jews and Arabs consider detrimental to the economic development of the country.

The memorandum points out that the burden of taxation falls primarily upon the Jews who pay seventy-five percent of the total income tax. It emphasizes that "it is inconceivable to burden the population with new taxes in order to release the British Government from participation in meeting the budget of the Palestine administration." It also complains that while the Palestine Government derives three-quarters of its income from taxes paid by Jews, the bulk of the Palestine budget is not being spent for undertakings beneficial to Jews.

The Jewish Agency today announced that it objects to the proposed increase in taxes suggested by the Palestine Government in their present form. The Agency urges that the proposed taxation be amended so as "to obviate any adverse effect on the Jewish economy and ensure an equitable distribution of the fiscal burden among the various sections of the Palestine population."

Jewish and Arab property owners held a joint conference here and decided to send a delegation to the Palestine Government to plead against the proposed increase in income tax.

## EGYPTIAN PREMIER QUERIES U.S. AUTHORITIES ON PRO-PALESTINE ACTIVITIES IN AMERICA

CAIRO, March 10. (JTA)-- The Egyptian Prime Minister, Mustapha Nachas Pasha has officially queried the American authorities regarding the pro-Palestine activities conducted in the United States by members of Congress who advocate the establishment of a Jewish Commonwealth in Palestine after the war, it was reported in the press here today.

75,000 JEWS IN TRANSISTRIA IN IMMINENT DANGER OF DEATH; DISEASE, STARVATION RAMPANT

SOMEWHERE IN EUROPE, March 10.(JTA)-- Of the more than 200,000 Rumanian Jews who have been deported to the barren stretches of Transnistria, the Rumanian-occupied section of the Ukraine, only about 75,000 still remain alive, and they are in imminent danger of death, a desperate appeal reaching here today reveals.

Most of the internees are mortally ill, as a result of starvation and complete absence of medical care. Highly contagious skin diseases have swept the entire region and many of the women are suffering from venereal diseases contracted as a result of mistreatment by the Rumanian troops. The deportees sleep either out in the open or in the ruins of wrecked houses despite the searing cold. No clothing, medicine or other essential supplies are available. Their only food is a daily allowance of a pound of bread for adults and half as much for children. The children - about 5,000 of them - are in the worst condition of all.

"If effective assistance does not come immediately, all of these miserable people will die," the appeal states. (A recent alleged offer by the Rumanian authorities to release the Transnistrian internees, if the United Nations would provide a haven for them and pay "transportation expenses" of about \$50 per head, has never been confirmed. Exhaustive inquiries in Washington and London have so far produced no concrete evidence that such an offer was ever made.)

The appeal discloses that the Jews are located in the following sections of Transnistria: 40,000 in the Mohilev region; 15,000 in the Balta district; 5,000 in the Jogastru region; 4,000 around Tulcin and 3,000 in the Bersawka district. An additional few thousand are scattered in the same general area.

DEPORTATION OF JEWS FROM FRANCE RESUMED; JEWISH COMMUNITY OFFICIALS ARRESTED

GENEVA, March 10.(JTA)-- Resumption of the deportation of Jews from France to Nazi-held eastern territories is reported here today together with information from Marseilles concerning raids on Jewish homes and on the building of the local Jewish community.

The raid on the Jewish community office was carried out by the Gestapo, the information reveals. All Jews who were present in the office, including the officials of the Jewish community, were arrested.

Intensified round-ups of Jews are being conducted throughout France by Gestapo units. Frenchmen mistaken for Jews are taken by the Gestapo to police headquarters and held there until they can identify themselves.

A report reaching here today from Slovakia states that the pro-Nazi government there has issued an announcement that the deportation of Jews to Nazi-held territory will be resumed this week and will continue "throughout March and April." According to the 1941 census there were 135,000 Jews living in all of Slovakia. At present there are no more than 20,000 Jews left there, the Slovakian report stated.

HUNGARY "ARYANIZED" \$125,000,000 WORTH OF JEWISH PROPERTY IN FIVE YEARS

ZURICH, March 10.(JTA)-- In the past five years Jewish property valued at approximately \$125,000,000 has been "transferred" to Christian owners by the Hungarian ministries of Finance and Commerce, it was revealed at a general meeting of Christian merchants in Budapest, the Budapest newspapers reaching here today report. The chairman of the meeting demanded that more severe measures be taken against Jews and that they be completely barred from all trading corporations and from representing any commercial enterprises.

INVESTIGATION ESTABLISHES ACTUAL SITUATION OF POLISH JEWS IN RUSSIA

TEHERAN, March 10. (JTA)-- Large shipments of food and clothing sent from the United States and other foreign countries for distribution among Polish refugees in Russia are now piled up here awaiting transportation to their destination. Thousands of individual parcels addressed to Polish Jews in Russia are among the shipments awaiting transportation, priority for which must be given to war materials.

It has been established beyond any doubt that all individual parcels addressed to Polish Jews in Russia eventually reach their destination. Not a single shipment sent by welfare groups has been lost. Individual standard parcels are also being sent from Teheran to Polish Jews in Russia at a cost of twenty-eight dollars in foreign currency, which also covers the Russian custom duty. Such individual packages of food and clothing are of great help to the refugees in the various parts of the U.S.S.R.

An investigation into the actual situation of the Jewish refugees from Poland scattered throughout Asiatic Russia has now established the fact that the majority of the Jews from Poland in Turkestan, Kazakstan and Uzbekistan consist of aged men, women and children. Only five percent of all the Polish Jews in Russia are fit for work in the collective farms and in factories. They, therefore, depend on relief to a much larger extent than Poles, who have taken to agricultural work, since many of them were agricultural laborers at home before the outbreak of the war.

Refugees Receive a Pound of Bread Daily; Shortage Hampers Distribution

The Polish relief authorities in Russia, some of whom have discriminated against Jews in distributing food and other relief received from abroad, are now carrying out their duties in a more satisfactory manner. But Polish Relief Headquarters does not have sufficient food and clothing to help every needy refugee from Poland. Whereas Russian citizens receive bread only when they work, refugees from Poland receive about a pound of bread daily whether they are working or idle. This is in accordance with the provisions of the Polish-Russian pact. Local Soviet authorities in various districts tried to refuse to give bread to the refugees, but the Moscow authorities ordered them to abide by the pact. However, since there is a general bread scarcity in Russia, it is obvious that this also affects the distribution of bread to the refugees from Poland.

The Jewish refugees from the Baltic countries and from Bessarabia are classified by the Russian authorities as full-fledged Russian citizens and cannot receive any foreign relief. They are established together with other evacuated Russian refugees on land and in industrial enterprises. They also receive no part of the medical aid sent by the Joint Distribution Committee from the United States which is being distributed among Polish refugees without any discrimination whatsoever.

More medical and other relief for Polish Jews in Russia is urgently needed since there is no hope at present that Polish Jews will be enabled to leave Russia, the investigation established. Jews serving in the Polish Army in Russia were permitted to leave together with their families as part of the Polish armed forces, which were dispatched to the Near East. They were not included, however, in many of the transports which left. Today there are no more units of the Polish army in Russia and no evacuation of civilian Polish citizens is likely. The only civilian Jews who have been promised exit visas by the Russian authorities are twenty-two Polish rabbis.

POLISH GOVERNMENT SENDS PROTEST TO RUSSIA ON EXECUTION OF ALTER AND ERLICH

LONDON, March 10.(JTA)-- The Polish Government today sent a note to the government of Soviet Russia protesting the execution of the two Polish-Jewish labor leaders, Victor Alter and Henryk Erlich.

A memorial meeting for the two executed Jewish Socialist leaders will be held in London the end of this month, arranged jointly by the Polish Socialist Party and by Jewish Socialists who escaped from Poland, it was announced here today. Speakers at the meeting will include representatives from the British Labor Party, the Socialist International and the Trade Unions' International, the announcement said.

BOLIVIAN GOVERNMENT AGREES TO ADMIT 100 JEWISH CHILDREN FROM EUROPE

LA PAZ, Bolivia, March 10.(JTA)-- The Bolivian Government today announced that it has instructed its consulates in Europe to grant immigration visas to 100 Jewish refugee children.

Recently Argentina, Ecuador and Paraguay indicated that they would be willing to admit a limited number of Jewish children from Europe.

NINETY PERCENT OF REFUGEES IN GREAT BRITAIN IN WAR WORK

LONDON, March 10.(JTA)-- The Labor Ministry's investigation into the jobs of Britain's refugee population is nearly complete, the press here reported today.

Able-bodied men and women are now being shifted from non-essential work to jobs of national importance. The authorities estimate that well over 90 percent of those who fled to Britain are now in war work. But the "comb-out" of those still in unessential occupations continues. "We are treating our refugees in exactly the same way as British subjects," a Ministry official told a reporter.

HEBREW UNIVERSITY LIBRARY RECEIVES IMPORTANT COLLECTION ON ORIENTAL JEWS

JERUSALEM, March 10.(JTA)-- The library of the late Dr. Erich Brauer, research fellow of the Hebrew University, who specialized in studies of Oriental Jews, has been presented to the Jewish National Library at the Hebrew University. The presentation was made by Dr. H. Heller of Petach Tikvah on behalf of the family of the deceased.

The collection comprises over 200 books and bound manuscripts on ethnology and ethnography, some of which are described as of the utmost scientific value, and a large number of travel books on Africa and Australia. The gift was particularly welcome since the Library's collection of works on ethnology was not very large. Dr. Brauer was the author of studies on the religions of the Hereros and on the ethnology of Yemenite Jews.

AMERICAN JEWISH ASSEMBLY DECIDES TO INCLUDE FRATERNAL AND YOUTH GROUPS

NEW YORK, March 10.(JTA)-- Acting to broaden the base of the American Jewish Assembly, the executive committee of the Assembly today announced that it has authorized arrangements for bringing into the Assembly the Council of Fraternal Federations of America, representing eight organizations, as well as Jewish youth organizations.

The Council of Fraternal Federations is to hold a special conference to draft its own suggestions with reference to Assembly representation and participation. A conference of youth organizations has been called by the Assembly's executive committee for April 1st for the same purpose.