

JEWISH TELEGRAPHIC AGENCY

106 EAST 41st STREET, NEW YORK CITY

VOL. X. NO. 60

Sunday, March 14, 1943

TORTURED JEWS IN POLAND APPEAL FOR RETRIBUTION AGAINST GERMANS IN ALLIED COUNTRIES

NEW YORK, March 12.(JTA)-- An appeal from the Jews of Nazi-held Poland to the Allied Nations urging them to take "extraordinary steps" against Germans residing in their countries in order to force the Nazis in Poland to discontinue their extermination of Jews was received here today by the Jewish Labor Committee.

The appeal reveals that "tens of Germans and a few hundred Jews" were killed in a battle in the Warsaw ghetto when Nazi units entered to "liquidate" the remaining Jews in the ghetto. Three Jewish leaders, Marmelstein, Cholodenko and Giterman were among those killed.

Emphasizing that only a "few hundred thousand Jews" are now left in Poland, the appeal says that they are threatened with "immediate annihilation" and asks the Jews of America to approach the Pope and the United Nations for action to save them. The appeal, which left Poland on February 7, is signed by two persons well-known to the Jewish Labor Committee in New York. It reads:

"In January the Germans started the liquidation of the remnants of the Warsaw ghetto. The Jews resisted, resulting in the killing of tens of Germans and of a few hundred Jews, among them Marmelstein, Cholodenko and Giterman. For three days after this fight, the Germans stopped their action. The liquidation of the Jews is now going on all over Poland. The Germans intend to have all Jews in the Warsaw ghetto liquidated by the middle of February. Alarm the world. Appeal to the Pope for official intervention. Also to the Allies that they take extraordinary steps against Germans residing in the Allied countries. We suffer terribly. The remaining few hundred thousand Jews in Poland are threatened with immediate annihilation. Only you can rescue us. The responsibility is thrown upon you."

In making public this message, which came out of Poland through underground channels, the Jewish Labor Committee here was not in a position to verify whether the Jewish leader, Giterman, mentioned as among those killed in the clash with the Nazis in the ghetto was Isaac Giterman, the Joint Distribution Committee director in Poland, or a Jewish labor leader by that name.

The office of the Jewish Labor Committee at first believed that the victim was the J.D.C. director who represented the American relief organization in Poland for more than twenty years. Later, however, it expressed the opinion that in all probability the dead man was the labor leader, since the other two victims mentioned, Marmelstein and Cholodenko, were also leaders of the Jewish labor movement.

GERMAN SOLDIERS SET BRUSSELS SYNAGOGUE AFIRE; CAUSE CONSIDERABLE DAMAGE

LISBON, March 12.(JTA)-- German soldiers this week broke into a synagogue in Brussels, Belgium, and, threatening the caretaker with their revolvers, set the building afire, it was reported in Belgian circles here today. Considerable damage was caused but no casualties, since the Nazis invaded the synagogue late in the evening when no worshippers were present.

NAZIS EXECUTED 100 JEWISH INTELLECTUALS IN POLISH CONCENTRATION CAMP

LONDON, March 12.(JTA)-- More than a hundred Jewish intellectuals and spiritual leaders were executed by the Nazis in the concentration camp of Oswiecim, Poland, on the charge that they participated in subversive anti-Nazi activities and distributed anti-Nazi underground Jewish publications, the Polish Government-in-Exile reported today.

Among those executed were six rabbis and more than twenty Jewish journalists and writers. The other victims were lawyers and doctors, the report stated.

Fourteen Jews, including three women, were also hanged by the Nazis from a balcony in the city of Tarnopol, Galicia, the report said. The victims were charged with conducting guerrilla activities. Their bodies remained hanging for three days under a large sign in Polish and in Ukrainian on the balcony reading: "The same fate is reserved for all others who act as these Jews acted."

SWEDISH JEWS IN NAZI-OCCUPIED COUNTRIES WARNED TO RETURN TO SWEDEN

STOCKHOLM, March 12.(JTA)-- Swedish Jews in Nazi-occupied countries now face the alternative of either returning to Sweden or being deported by the Nazis to unknown destinations for slave labor, the Swedish press reported today.

While non-Jewish citizens of Sweden are treated as neutrals in Nazi-held territories, Jewish holders of Swedish passports have been informed that if they do not leave for Sweden within a few weeks, they will be ordered to don a Mogen Dovid and will be sent to labor camps in occupied eastern lands where they will be treated as are the Jews of the conquered countries.

The Swedish newspapers also report that all Jews still alive in the Baltic countries are being drafted by the Nazi administration for work in factories.

The Svenska Dagbladet, in a report from Oslo, states that the pro-Nazi Norwegian administration has decided to introduce lectures on racialism in the schools of Norway with particular emphasis on the "detrimental influence of the Jews on Nordic culture."

LEADING CATHOLICS APPEAL TO UNITED NATIONS TO HELP JEWS ENTER NEUTRAL LANDS

LONDON, March 12.(JTA)-- An appeal to the governments of the United Nations to give immediate pledges to neutral countries guaranteeing the maintenance of as many Jews as are able to reach these countries from Nazi-held territories, was made public here today by leading Catholics from France, Belgium, Poland, and Czechoslovakia now in England.

The joint appeal also calls upon all Catholics in the United Nations to pray for the suffering Jews in Europe, especially in Poland, and "to enlighten the minds and touch the hearts" of the people in the countries in which they live with regard to the Jewish tragedy in Europe. The appeal voices criticism of the fact that the United Nations "hesitate to take practical steps of mercy" which would rescue the Jews from the Nazis.

The London press today reports that L'Osservatore Romano, the Vatican city newspaper, has denounced racialism in an article which declared that a true New Order cannot be evolved from a social order based on racial privilege and force.

BRITISH GOVERNMENT REFUSES PARLIAMENTARY DISCUSSION ON RESCUE OF JEWS

LONDON, March 12. (JTA)-- The British Government is not inclined at the present moment to have a full discussion in Parliament on the question of rescuing Jews from Nazi-Europe, it was indicated today by Home Secretary Herbert Morrison and Foreign Secretary Anthony Eden.

"Though in principle I am not opposed to such a discussion, we must wait for a more convenient moment to hold it in order to produce the maximum good," Mr. Eden declared in Commons, reiterating the government's refusal voiced by Mr. Morrison earlier in the day.

The demand for a full parliamentary discussion on measures to save Jews in Nazi territories was voiced at today's session of Commons by a number of members, some of whom also demanded that Britain revise its immigration regulations in order to enable more Nazi victims to find refuge here.

In replying to these demands, Mr. Morrison stated that "action cannot be taken which might impede the successful prosecution of the war." The vital thing, he said, is to win the war and bring those guilty of the massacres of Jews to account. Morrison's reply was termed "gravely unsatisfactory" by Miss Eleanor Rathbone, Independent Conservative, who announced from the floor that she will seek an early opportunity to again raise the question before Parliament adjourns.

The attitude of the British Government on the question of immediate action to help Jews in Europe is criticized today in an editorial in the News-Chronicle, leading London newspaper. "Twelve weeks," the paper writes, "have elapsed since the declaration on the Jewish sufferings in Nazi countries was made and nothing has been done to implement the brave words. Morrison's answers suggest that the Government's attitude is one of sheer inaction. Meanwhile, the slaughter continues. Sanctuary under any terms would be better than certain death. The quibbles put forward by Morrison are repugnant to the conscience of humanity. Doesn't Parliament care enough for its good name to do all that is possible to give practical effect to its resolutions of sympathy?"

PALESTINE JEWISH INDUSTRIES PRODUCED \$40,000,000 WORTH OF WAR ORDERS IN 1942

JERUSALEM, March 12. (JTA)-- Two-hundred Jewish-owned industrial enterprises in Palestine, employing approximately 20,000 workers, produced about \$40,000,000 worth of military orders in 1942, according to official statistics released here today.

A conference of Jewish mayors and heads of local councils held today at Petach Tikvah declared that there is a severe housing shortage in Palestine and that at least 5,000 rooms will be needed by Jews immediately after the war. The conference discussed various building plans and came to the conclusion that while cheap land for housing projects could be obtained after the war from the Jewish National Fund, the Palestine administration would have to finance the erection of new buildings with government credit.

BELGIANS WARNED AGAINST PURCHASING JEWISH PROPERTY CONFISCATED BY NAZIS

LONDON, March 12. (JTA)-- The Belgian Government-in-Exile is warning the population of Belgium by radio against acquiring private property, where ownership has been affected by acts of the German occupation authorities.

Belgian Justice Minister Antoine Dolfosse declared in a broadcast that when the occupation ends, the rightful owners, whether they be Jews or others, would resume title to their property.

STILL MUCH DISCRIMINATION AGAINST JEWS IN WAR INDUSTRIES, FEPC OFFICIAL CHARGES

NEW YORK, March 12.(JTA)-- Despite governmental decrees and efforts by private and official agencies, there still exists a great deal of discrimination against Jews, Negroes and other minorities by employers in war industries, it was charged yesterday by Lawrence Cramer, executive secretary of the President's Committee on Fair Employment Practice, addressing the National Conference of Social Work which is now in session here.

Citing the fact that there are 5,000,000 Jews in the United States, Cramer stated that failure to fully utilize their manpower was hindering the war effort. Discrimination against other minorities, to an even greater extent, is having equally harmful effects, he said. Speaking specifically on the problem of anti-Jewish discrimination, Cramer stated:

"Slightly less than 10 percent of complaints (received by the F.E.P.C.) allege unequal treatment because of creed. Most of these are from Jews. The pattern of discrimination against Jews varies greatly in different sections of the country and is strongest in the Eastern and Northeastern Seaboard states. Want ads specifying 'Gentiles only' and the requirement contained in application forms, calling for the disclosure of the applicant's race and religion, have served as effective means for excluding Jews. In this connection it may be observed that the Government has taken the lead in eliminating the question of race and religion from its own application forms and is ready to require its removal in all war industries."

ANNUAL MIZRACHI CONVENTION OPENS TODAY; WEIZMANN, SHERTOK, BERLIN AMONG SPEAKERS

NEW YORK, March 12.(JTA)-- A three-day annual convention of the Mizrahi Organization of America will open on Sunday at the Commodore Hotel here. More than 1,500 delegates from all parts of the country are expected to attend. Dr. Chaim Weizmann, Moshe Shertok, Rabbi Meyer Berlin and other leaders of the world Zionist movement will address the meeting.

The convention, delayed for almost a year by the war, will formulate plans for the rescue of Jews from Europe. Rabbi Berlin, who is president of the World Mizrahi Organization, flew from Palestine to America in order to present to the convolve a report on the situation in Palestine.

MANITOBA LEGISLATURE ADOPTS RESOLUTION ASSAILING NAZI PERSECUTION OF JEWS

WINNIPEG, Manitoba, March 12.(JTA)-- A resolution condemning the "expressed policy of the determined extermination of the Jewish people in Nazi-occupied countries," was adopted here yesterday by the Manitoba Legislature, following an address by M. A. Gray, a Jewish member of parliament. Mr. Gray pointed out to the House that the Jewish people have been at war with Hitlerism for the past ten years.

The resolution, which was adopted unanimously, read: "Taking cognizance of the atrocities being perpetrated against the Jewish and other oppressed groups of Nazi-occupied countries, this House condemns the expressed policy of determined extermination and declares that these offenses against humanity can only strengthen our will to overcome the Axis threat to civilization, bring freedom to all, liberation to all oppressed and persecuted peoples and result in an eventual and universal reign of justice. And towards the attainment of this goal this House reaffirms the high resolve to go forward wholeheartedly until victory will crown our efforts."