

JEWISH TELEGRAPHIC AGENCY

106 EAST 41st STREET, NEW YORK CITY

VOL. X. NO. 63

Wednesday, March 17, 1943

GIRAUD DECREE ABOLISHING SIXTY ANTI-JEWISH ORDERS EXPECTED

LONDON, March 16. (JTA)-- An official decree abolishing more than sixty anti-Jewish regulations issued by the Vichy regime will be published this week by Gen. Giraud as a result of his announcement on Sunday that the racial laws proclaimed by the French Government under Nazi pressure are no longer considered valid.

Interested Jewish organizations here are disappointed at Gen. Giraud's announcement coupling nullification of the Vichy anti-Jewish laws with abrogation of the Cremieux law of 1870, which gave full French citizenship to the Jews of Algeria. Jewish leaders here are awaiting the text of Giraud's official decree invalidating Vichy's anti-Jewish legislation.

The first Vichy order repealing the legal equality of the Jews in France, which they had enjoyed since the French Revolution, was issued on October 3, 1940. Since then numerous orders have been issued eliminating Jews from various fields of social and economic life, including the decree of October 7, 1940, which abrogated the Cremieux law. All these orders are expected to be annulled by Giraud at the same time that he formally cancels the Cremieux law in the name of his administration.

Summary of Anti-Jewish Laws Issued by Vichy

A summary of the anti-Jewish laws issued by the Vichy regime shows that Jews have been barred from all public offices, the civil service and the Army. They have also been eliminated from banking, stock brokerage firms, advertising agencies, real estate agencies, the moving picture industry, radio and theatrical industries and every branch of newspaper work.

A numerous clausus was introduced by the Vichy administration for Jewish students restricting their number to three percent of the total student body. Similarly, only two percent of the doctors and lawyers allowed to practice could be Jewish. All Jews were forced to register their possessions and the most important Jewish-owned factories and enterprises were placed under "Aryan" administration. All these anti-Jewish measures applied to France as well as to her empire.

MERE SUGGESTION FROM GEN. GIRAUD CAN NULLIFY ANTI-JEWISH LAWS IN MOROCCO

WASHINGTON, March 16. (JTA)-- A mere suggestion from Gen. Giraud to Gen. Nogues, resident general in Morocco, will be enough to end the anti-Jewish laws in that French Protectorate, informed sources said here today.

Gen. Giraud's announcement of the nullification of the anti-Jewish legislation in Algeria does not apply to either Tunisia or Morocco since both areas are nominally under the control of native rulers. However, the person who exercises real power in French Morocco is Gen. Nogues. It was he who forced the Sultan of Morocco to sign the anti-Jewish decrees against his will, and it is he who can, therefore, easily revoke these decrees if ordered by Gen. Giraud to do so.

In Tunisia, Sidi Ahmed Bey, the native ruler, similarly objected to the anti-Jewish laws drawn up by the French resident general, Admiral Phillipe Esteva. Most of Tunisia, however, is still occupied by the Nazis.

NAZI PRESS ADMITS "LIQUIDATION" OF WARSAW GHETTO; GOEBBELS SPEAKS OF "JEWISH STATE"

ZURICH, March 16.(JTA)-- Nazi newspapers reaching here today admit for the first time that the German administration in occupied Poland has "liquidated" the Warsaw ghetto. Nothing is reported as to the fate of the Jews who were living in the ghetto. ✓

The Donau Zeitung, a Nazi newspaper published in Belgrade, says that "extraordinary sanitary measures had to be taken by the German authorities in order to make the streets of the liquidated Warsaw ghetto accessible to the general population." The condition of the houses in the ghetto in which the Jews lived defies all description, the paper writes.

The Vichy radio in a broadcast last night quoted Nazi Propaganda Minister Josef Goebbels as stating that "Germany is not against a Jewish State." He is alleged to have made this statement while addressing a group of foreign journalists in Berlin. "We may solve the Jewish problem in a humanitarian manner," Goebbels is quoted as having said. "The German government is not opposed to the establishment of a Jewish State."

The statement is considered here as a move to "appease" the Christians in Allied, neutral and even Nazi-dominated countries who are continuing their protests against the Nazi extermination of Jews. No importance is attached to it in Allied circles.

PALESTINE SENDS EXHIBITION TO RUSSIA; JEWS SEND AMBULANCES AS GIFT TO RED ARMY

JERUSALEM, March 16.(JTA)-- A delegation representing the Jewish Agency for Palestine and other Jewish bodies here is leaving for Teheran to present to Russian diplomatic authorities there an exhibit containing all the articles that Palestine can supply to Russia. The exhibition will be transported by the Russian authorities from Teheran to Kuibyshev.

Leading the delegation is David Remez, one of the leaders of the Histadruth. Participating in the delegation are - in addition to the Jewish Agency and the Histadruth - the Palestine Industrial Association and the Palestine League for Victory. The delegation is also taking along twelve modern ambulances which will be presented as a gift from the Jews of Palestine to the Russian Army. The ambulances will be filled to capacity with Palestine-made medicaments and medical instruments.

FRENCH JEWISH OFFICER HONORED POSTHUMOUSLY FOR HELPING AMERICAN LANDING IN NO. AFRICA

LONDON, March 16.(JTA)-- Lieutenant Jean Dreyfus, a Jewish officer in the French Army, today was awarded the Cross of Liberation posthumously by Gen. Charles de Gaulle for helping to pave the way for the landing of the American Army in North Africa last November.

Dreyfus left France to join the Fighting French forces. While in North Africa he worked against collaboration with the Axis. He was killed, together with another French officer, Captain Pilefore, while carrying out an important mission on the night of the American landing.

AUSTRALIA WILL ADMIT 150 JEWISH REFUGEE CHILDREN FROM FRANCE, GOVERNMENT ANNOUNCES

SIDNEY, Australia, March 16.(JTA)-- The Australian Government today announced that 150 Jewish refugee children from France will be admitted to Australia as soon as the French authorities in Vichy grant them exit visas.

HOUSE COMMITTEE APPROVES RESOLUTION CONDEMNING NAZI ATROCITIES AGAINST JEWS

WASHINGTON, March 16. (JTA)-- The Foreign Affairs Committee of the House of Representatives today unanimously approved the Senate resolution condemning the perpetrators of atrocities against Jews in the occupied countries of Europe and calling for their punishment.

The resolution is expected to be approved on the House floor within a few days. The Senate adopted the resolution on March 9.

ARAB LAND-OWNERS IN PALESTINE TAKE OATH NOT TO SELL LAND TO JEWS

JERUSALEM, March 16. (JTA)-- A conference of Arab land-owners held in Jaffa today took an oath on the Koran "not to sell land and to prevent other Arabs from selling their land, except to Arabs."

An article in the leading Arab newspaper, Falastin, today emphasizes that "the Arabs do not want any industrialization of Palestine." The paper argues that "the industrial development of Palestine Arabs is only resulting in anarchy and in creating tense relations between Arab employers and employees."

Another article in the same paper demands the abolition of the Palestine Mandate. "Twenty-five years of the mandatory system have made the Arabs in Palestine fit to conduct their own political life," the article states.

A Nazi radio broadcast heard here today reported that "two Arabs killed a notorious Jewish informer in Palestine." Investigation has established that the report is untrue. It is evidently part of the Nazi propaganda aimed at inciting the Arab population in Palestine against the Jews.

MIZRACHI STIPULATES CONDITIONS FOR COOPERATING WITH AMERICAN JEWISH ASSEMBLY

NEW YORK, March 16. (JTA)-- The American Mizrahi Organization will cooperate with the newly organized American Jewish Assembly only on condition that "no compromise be permitted on the Jewish Commonwealth idea or on the rights of Jews outside Palestine," the three-day annual Mizrahi convention decided today at its closing session.

The convention also adopted a resolution calling upon the American Emergency Committee for Zionist Affairs to conduct a referendum among the Jews in the United States on the Zionist request that the United Nations proclaim post-war Palestine a Jewish Commonwealth.

The convention concluded with a farewell banquet tendered to Rabbi Meyer Berlin, world president of the Mizrahi organization, who is returning to Palestine shortly. The banquet was arranged by the orthodox branch of the Jewish National Fund, of which Rabbi Berlin is a director. It was announced at the banquet that the American Mizrahi organization will undertake to develop 6,000 dums of land near Jerusalem.

Other resolutions adopted by the Mizrahi convention pledged full cooperation in the war effort of the United States and the United Nations and appealed to the Allied Nations to permit the sending of food to starving Jews in Europe and to take all possible action to save these Jews from Nazi extermination. Leon Gellman was re-elected president of the organization.

ABRAHAM C. RATCHEVSKY, JEWISH LEADER AND FORMER DIPLOMAT, DIES IN BOSTON

BOSTON, March 16.(JTA)-- Abraham C. Ratshevsky, noted Jewish philanthropist and former president of the Federation of Jewish Charities in Boston, died here last night at the age of 78. He was U.S. Minister to Czechoslovakia during President Hoover's administration.

A leader of Boston Jews, Ratshevsky was also a prominent public figure in Boston. He served several terms in the Boston City Council and a number of terms in the Massachusetts legislature. He was a member of the Board of Trustees of Boston University. During World War I he was assistant food administrator under Hoover. He was also chairman of the Boston Metropolitan Chapter of the American Red Cross.

For many years Ratshevsky served on the executive committee of the American Jewish Committee. Two of his most notable donations were \$200,000 for a building for the Beth Israel Hospital in memory of his brother, and \$100,000 for the founding of the Ratshevsky Charity Foundation which supported Jewish and non-Jewish charitable groups in Boston. He also presented the poor boys of Boston with a completely equipped camp in memory of his father. On his initiative, an American Institute was established in Prague to promote better understanding between the people of Czechoslovakia and the United States.

RED CROSS PROMOTES JEWISH FIELD DIRECTOR FOR DEVELOPING EXTENSIVE PROGRAM IN ALASKA

WASHINGTON, March 16.(JTA)-- The promotion of Morris Gross, one of the Red Cross Jewish field workers, to the position of training supervisor of the Red Cross field staff for the Northwest with headquarters at Fort Lewis, Washington, was announced here today. The announcement issued by the Red Cross headquarters here, reads:

"From far-off Nome, Alaska, comes the story of how 'out of thin air,' a resourceful Jewish boy serving as a Red Cross field director, created an extensive recreational program for American troops in the frozen wastes at the top of the earth. When, in June, 1942, Morris Gross, 39, of Oakland, California, arrived in Nome, he found only bleakness and 'plenty of nothing.' With his own hands, ingenuity and rugged pioneering spirit, he not only built a physical plant, but developed a program which today requires the services of the following Red Cross personnel: a club director, an assistant, two recreational workers, a hospital worker and a secretary. In recognition of his services, the Red Cross has just promoted him to the position of training supervisor of the Red Cross field staff for the Northwest with headquarters at Fort Lewis, Washington."

Gross is among many Jewish young men and women serving overseas in the uniform of the American Red Cross. Before coming to the Red Cross, Gross was director of refugee resettlement project of the Oakland Jewish Federation.

J.W.B. SENDS BIBLES AND PASSOVER SUPPLIES TO AMERICAN JEWISH SOLDIERS IN PALESTINE

NEW YORK, March 16.(JTA)-- The Jewish Welfare Board today announced that it has sent 1,000 bibles to Palestine, at the request of Jewish leaders there, to meet the demands by English Jewish soldiers for bibles printed in their own language.

Passover supplies and other religious articles have also been shipped to American Jews serving in the U.S. forces in Palestine. Harry Davidowitz, a former World War Chaplain, has been appointed the representative of the JWB in Palestine.