

# JEWISH TELEGRAPHIC AGENCY

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## UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT URGED TO TAKE INITIATIVE IN PROVIDING HAVEN FOR REFUGEES

WASHINGTON, March 30.(JTA)-- The United States Government was urged tonight to take the initiative in providing sanctuary for refugees from Nazi-occupied countries, in an address delivered by Senate majority leader Alben Barkley at a meeting here called to demand action to rescue Jews and other persecuted peoples in Nazi-held Europe. Sen. Barkley also demanded that Palestine be opened to "as many as the country can safely absorb."

Religious and labor leaders also heard a report by Dr. Stephen S. Wise on a program for rescue of refugees submitted to the State Department on behalf of the newly formed Joint Emergency Committee for European Jewish Affairs, which represents the American Jewish Committee, the American Jewish Congress, B'nai B'rith, Jewish Labor Committee, Synagogue Council of America, Agudas Israel, Union of Orthodox Rabbis, and the American Emergency Committee for Zionist Affairs.

Following addresses by Dr. Wise, Rep. Joseph Martin, Republican leader in the House, Brig. Gen. William Arnold, chief of Army chaplains and other public figures and church leaders, the meeting adopted a resolution associating itself with the following proposals made to the State Department:

1. Establishment of sanctuaries in Allied and neutral nations, and Palestine for a substantial number of Jews.
2. Revision of administrative procedure in the United States to permit entrance of thousands of refugees under the present immigration quotas.
3. Setting up of a special inter-governmental agency to carry out the program.
4. Action by the United Nations to organize a system of feeding victims of Nazi oppression unable to leave Europe.
5. Appointment of a commission to assemble evidence for the eventual prosecution of war criminals.

## BULGARIA DECIDES NOT TO DEPORT JEWISH CITIZENS; HUNGARY CALLS JEWS FOR ARMY SERVICE

ISTANBUL, March 30.(JTA)-- Bulgarian Commissioner for Jewish Affairs Belef has resigned in protest at the decision of the Government not to deport 45,000 thousand Jews who possess Bulgarian citizenship, according to reports reaching here today.

The announcement that these deportations would be stayed was made in the course of a debate in the Sobranje, the Bulgarian Parliament, by Premier Bogdan Filoff following strenuous protests by more than 100 liberal members of Parliament who criticized the recent deportation of more than 10,000 Jews from occupied Thrace to Germany for use as slave labor in the Reich and in Poland.

Reports from Hungary reaching here today disclose that the country is so desperate for soldiers that it has decided to call up Jews for military service. Jews born in 1916, 1917 and 1918 will join Hungary's armed forces some time next month.

ADOPT \$680,000 BUDGET FOR JEWISH NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PALESTINE.

JERUSALEM, March 30.(JTA)-- The Assefath Hanivcharim, Jewish National Assembly of Palestine, today approved a budget of \$680,000 to finance the activities of the Jewish National Council for the 1943-1944 fiscal period.

The Supreme Council of the New Zionist Organization today called upon the Yishuv to adopt a policy of "severe non-cooperation" as regards the new taxes announced by the Government and "any reconstruction based on the White Paper."

HUNDREDS OF JEWS RETURNING TO STALINGRAD AND KURSK TO AID IN REBUILDING CITIES

KUIBYSHEV, March 30.(JTA)-- Three-hundred Jewish families who were evacuated from Stalingrad about a year and a half ago are now en route to that destroyed city to help in the task of reconstruction, according to information reaching here today. They are travelling together with 2,000 Russian and Ukrainian evacuees who will also help to rebuild the demolished buildings and restore the city to normalcy.

Only adults without children and people with trades whose skills are needed to rebuild the town and farmers who will be able to cultivate the fields of Stalingrad province for Spring plowing are returning now. Among the Jewish families are not only former residents of Stalingrad, but also many who were driven from their homes in Moldavia, the Ukraine and Lithuania by the German troops and who were evacuated to towns along the Volga which subsequently also fell to the Nazis.

In Kursk, which was liberated from the Nazis during the Russian offensive which took Kharkov, and which is now again under attack by German troops, hundreds of Jewish men and women are working at repairing the ravages left by the Nazis, another report says. Communal restaurants to feed the emaciated population have been opened and two Jews who escaped from German-held territory have started manufacturing soap. Many Jews who were evacuated to the Saratov province along the Volga have now returned to Kursk.

CANADA WILL NOT PARTICIPATE IN BERMUDA CONFERENCE BUT PLEDGES COOPERATION

OTTAWA, March 30.(JTA)-- Canada will not take part in the forthcoming refugee parley which is to be held in Bermuda, it was announced today by a spokesman for the Department of External Affairs.

In making the announcement, the government spokesman emphasized that he did not "want to convey the impression that we are not interested and not prepared to do our part."

TWO-YEAR PERIOD OF COMPULSORY LABOR SERVICE DECREED FOR JEWS IN SLOVAKIA

ZURICH, March 30.(JTA)-- A two-year period of compulsory labor service has been decreed for Jews in Slovakia, according to a broadcast on the Bratislava radio today. This will be similar to the two-year period of compulsory military service for non-Jews. The Jews will be placed in special labor battalions which will serve as auxiliaries to the military units, the broadcaster said.

Gardista, the organ of the anti-Semitic storm troop organization in Slovakia intensifies its campaign against Jews in the current issue, which reached here today. It charges that the Jews remaining in the country (about 18,000 of an estimated pre-war Jewish population of 100,000) have "mysterious" sources of income and demands an inquiry of Jews employed as agents of foreign commercial enterprises.

JEWISH, NON-JEWISH LABOR LEADERS PROTEST EXECUTION OF ALTER, EHRLICH AT N.Y. MEETING

NEW YORK, March 30.(JTA)-- The execution by the Soviet authorities of Victor Alter and Henryk Ehrlich, leaders of the Jewish Socialist Bund in Poland, was assailed here tonight by prominent Jewish and non-Jewish labor leaders at a mass protest meeting at Mecca Temple.

Denying the Russian charges that the two executed men had sought to induce Red Army forces to make a separate peace with the Nazis, David Dubinsky, president of the International Ladies Garment Workers Union, charged that Alter and Ehrlich were executed because they were "opponents of all dictatorships, including the Communistic dictatorship." Adolph Held, chairman of the Jewish Labor Committee, who was associated with both Ehrlich and Alter in Poland, reviewed their activities in behalf of labor in that country and also denied the credibility of the Soviet charges. Abraham Cahan, editor of the Jewish Daily Forward, stated that the "marvelous heroism of the Russian Army in the struggle to destroy Hitlerism should be uppermost in the minds of every friend of liberty and progress," but "my last word on this occasion is a word of protest against the murder of these two great idealists on a charge which is an outrageous fabrication."

William Green, president of the American Federation of Labor, lauded the two Polish-Jewish labor leaders and declared that it was impossible to believe the charges against them. He added, however, that "we must not permit our emotions to cloud our judgement and lead us into actions that will interfere with what is and must be our supreme objective - victory in this war." Other speakers included Senator James Mead, who spoke from Washington, Mayor Fiorello La Guardia, James B. Carey, secretary of the CIO and several others.

THIRTY-EIGHTH CONFERENCE OF UNION OF AMERICAN HEBREW CONGREGATIONS OPENS ON FRIDAY

NEW YORK, March 30.(JTA)-- "Man's Faith and This Crisis" will be the central theme of the three-day thirty-eighth conference of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations which will open at the Hotel New Yorker on Friday, it was announced here today. Twelve hundred delegates from reform congregations in 42 states and Canada will attend the meeting.

In addition to religious and business sessions, symposia on "The Pillars of Our Faith," "The Healing of Humanity" and "Israel's Present and Future" will be held. There will also be a special Chaplain's service with reports by an Army and a Navy chaplain, and a representative lay leader in this field. The symposium on the "Healing of Humanity" will be addressed by three leaders of the Catholic, Protestant and Jewish faith, respectively: Professor Jacques Maritain, noted Catholic educator and Professor of Philosophy at Columbia University; Professor Robert L. Calhoun of Yale University, and Dr. Israel Bettan of the Hebrew Union College.

Meeting concurrently with the Union of American Hebrew Congregations, will be its affiliated units, the National Federation of Temple Sisterhoods and the National Federation of Temple Brotherhoods.

WORKSHOPS IN INTERCULTURAL EDUCATION SPONSORED BY CONFERENCE OF CHRISTIANS, JEWS

NEW YORK, March 30.(JTA)-- Anticipating a growing emphasis in schools on education for understanding and good will among American religious, racial and ethnic groups, courses in Intercultural Education will be held this year at Columbia Teachers College and Harvard Graduate School of Education, it was announced here today. Both workshops will be sponsored jointly by the National Conference of Christians and Jews and the Service Bureau for Intercultural Education, which have arranged such sessions during the past two summers.