

# JEWISH TELEGRAPHIC AGENCY

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## GESTAPO ROUNDING-UP ALL JEWS IN FRANCE; MANY THOUSANDS DEPORTED EASTWARD

LONDON, March 31,(JTA)--- A country-wide drive to round-up and deport every Jew in France - whether of French or of foreign birth - has been launched by the Gestapo, and Nazi raiding units are pulling people off the streets, raiding homes and communal offices and threatening non-Jews with dire punishment for concealing Jewish children or adults, according to reliable reports reaching Jewish organizations here today through diplomatic channels.

A constant stream of Jewish deportees is leaving France for extermination centers in eastern Europe, according to these reports. The most recent transport of Jews, consisting of about 3,000 persons, left the last week in February. At the same time, German searching parties are attempting to find thousands of Jewish children who are being sheltered by non-Jews. It is believed that there are several thousand of them hidden in the Paris area alone. The searches have spread to what was formerly unoccupied France where a large number of Jews are reported to be hiding at the homes of friendly peasants.

In Paris aged Jewish men and women are being dragged off the streets and sent to the internment camp at Drancy from where they are deported eastward. In Lyon, the offices of the General Union of French Jews was raided by the Gestapo last month and all the officials were sent to concentration camps and subsequently deported. Many Jews are attempting to flee to the Italian-occupied section of France, where the anti-Jewish restrictions are less severe, the reports say. It is estimated that ten to twenty thousand Jews have already succeeded in reaching there.

Meanwhile, the Germans have informed all foreign consulates in France, including those of Sweden and Turkey, that all Jews of foreign nationality, including citizens of the neutral nations, must leave the country before the end of March, otherwise they will all be treated as Jews, indiscriminately.

## Jews Beginning to Participate in Local Government in North Africa

Jews are beginning to participate in the municipal governments in North Africa for the first time since the collapse of France, according to information reaching here today. The municipal committee of Casablanca recently met with Jewish, Moslem and French members in attendance. The Pasha of Casablanca presided.

Speaking today at a meeting of the Federation of Czechoslovakian Jews, Jacques Soustelle, Fighting French National Commissioner for Information, declared that "wherever De Gaulle went, freedom for the Jews followed." He urged Jews in North Africa to be patient "because the moment is near."

(A more pessimistic view of the situation of the Jews in North Africa - especially Morocco - is given in a dispatch from Algiers appearing in the New York Times today. Reporting what he found in Morocco, the Times correspondent writes that: "German anti-Semitism, strongly insulanted in the French and Arab population after the armistice, remains definitely widespread. Jews still have a difficult time obtaining such jobs as have theoretically been opened to them by the latest decrees, and, by and large, whenever there are insufficient rations available in any district, they are forced to do without.")

NEW PALESTINE INCOME TAX RATES LOWERED SLIGHTLY AS RESULT OF JEWISH, ARAB PROTESTS

JERUSALEM, March 31.(JTA)-- Strong protests by both Jews and Arabs against the proposed sharp increases in the Palestine income tax have resulted in a slight moderation of the new rates, it was disclosed today with the publication in the Palestine Official Gazette of the amended tax schedule.

Taxpayers, who are obliged to file their returns by tomorrow will pay five percent on the first \$1,200 of their income and graduated rates on all income above \$1,200, ranging up to fifty percent of all taxable income over \$10,400. A special war revenue surtax on incomes over \$24,000 provides for a levy up to seventy-five percent.

It was also revealed today that High Commissioner Sir Harold MacMichael has departed for Teheran where he will remain for several weeks. The purpose of his visit was not announced.

NAZIS HANG THREE AGED BROTHERS WHO REFUSED TO EXPOSE JEWISH FAMILIES

KUIBYSHEV, March 31.(JTA)-- A Jewish family named Gorelik, rescued from Nazi-occupied territory recently when the Red Army began its offensive in the Smolensk region, today told how three elderly Jewish brothers in the town of Pukhovich, near Minsk, sacrificed their lives in an attempt to save the relatives of Jewish Red Armymen who were threatened with death by the Nazis.

The Goreliks, who are now recuperating in a convalescent home near here, said that shortly after the Nazis entered Pukhovich they massacred most of the 3,000 Jews in the town, leaving only about 90 families alive. This winter when the Russian offensive in Stalingrad reached its height, the three brothers, Boris, Solomon and Benjamin Soloveichik were summoned to Gestapo headquarters and told that within 24 hours they must expose all Jews in the town who had relatives fighting with the Red Army.

Instead of complying, the three aged men warned their neighbors to flee. That night a few families succeeded in escaping. When the Nazis discovered this, they hanged the three Soloveichik brothers on gallows at the outskirts of the town. Several days later all the remaining Jews were brought to a church situated near the gallows and shot. The Gorelik family were the only ones who managed to escape.

SOME JEWS IN RUMANIA EXEMPT FROM ANTI-JEWISH RESTRICTIONS

ZURICH, March 31.(JTA)-- Certain classes of Jews in Rumania have been exempt from the anti-Jewish restrictions, according to reports in Berlin newspapers reaching here today.

The property of Jews who have "proved of value in the past or have been volunteers in the armed forces" has not been confiscated. Similarly the property of Jewish women who have married non-Jews is not being expropriated, the papers say.

FINNISH PAPER PUBLISHING SERIES OF ANTI-SEMITIC ARTICLES

STOCKHOLM, March 31.(JTA)-- The Finnish paper, Kansalli Sosialisti, received here today, carries the first of a series of anti-Semitic articles, which, the editor writes, will be published weekly. The article deals with Martin Luther and his attitude towards the Jews.

POSSIBILITY OF EIRE AS HAVEN FOR EUROPEAN REFUGEES DISCUSSED IN WASHINGTON

WASHINGTON, March 31.(JTA)-- Considerable interest has been aroused here in Eire as a sanctuary for refugees, following a recent little-publicized suggestion by the Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr. William Temple.

Although neither State Department officials nor Irish Minister Robert Brennan would comment on the proposal, the forthcoming Anglo-American refugee conference in Bermuda is expected to give it a prominent place in its considerations. In the course of a speech in the House of Lords, urging quicker action on the refugee problem, the Archbishop asked if his government has considered Eire's possible willingness to take refugees, especially children. Viscount Cranborne replied for the government that the proposal would be fully considered.

It was pointed out here that Eire, one of the few European neutrals, is in a good position to care for immigrants and to benefit from their talents. Compared with the rest of Europe, Eire's food situation is very good indeed. Since Eire depends on the United States for much of its imports, the Dublin Government might be responsive to suggestions from Washington. Vatican interest in refugee problems should also find reflection in Eire, which has the strongest ties with the Roman Catholic Church.

HEBREW THEATERS IN PALESTINE NEGOTIATING FOR VISIT BY RUSSIAN TROUPE

TEL AVIV, March 31.(JTA)-- Local Hebrew theaters are negotiating with representatives of the Soviet embassy in Teheran concerning the possibility of a Russian dramatic troupe coming to Palestine for a series of guest performances at some of the theaters here, it was revealed today. If these negotiations are successful, it is hoped that a Jewish theatrical group from Palestine might visit Russia.

Four travelling libraries containing material in Hebrew and Russian concerning Jewish life and achievements in Palestine, including a series of photographs of Jewish rural and urban activities, are being prepared here for immediate shipment to Russia. A similar exhibit featuring photographs of various aspects of Russian life has just been received here and will shortly be placed on view.

YEHUDI MENUHIN ACCLAIMED AT CONCERT IN ENGLAND FOR JEWISH NATIONAL FUND

LONDON, March 31.(JTA)-- An enthusiastic audience in Leeds tonight acclaimed the world famous American violinist, Yehudi Menuhin, at a benefit concert for the Jewish National Fund. This was the only concert in behalf of a Jewish cause that Menuhin will be able to give while in England, since his main purpose in coming here is to play in the various United States army camps throughout Great Britain. At the conclusion of tonight's concert, Menuhin was presented with a certificate attesting to the fact that his name will be inscribed in the JNF Golden Book in Jerusalem.

LAUNCH \$100,000 "ADOPT A CHILD" CAMPAIGN TO AID REFUGEE CHILDREN IN PALESTINE

NEW YORK, March 31.(JTA)-- The Women's League for Palestine today announced the launching of a \$100,000 "Adopt A Child" campaign to provide care and maintenance for refugee children coming to Palestine, 150 of whom are already living in the Jerusalem center of the League. The organization has other centers in Tel Aviv and Haifa.

Junior Hadassah today announced that it has sent \$4,500 to the Henrietta Szold School of Nursing in Jerusalem, which is training young women to meet the nursing shortage in Palestine.