

Published by the Jewish Telegraphic Agency

106 East 41st Street, New York, N. Y.

VOL. X. NO. 98

Tuesday, April 27, 1943

BERMUDA CONFERENCE WILL CLOSE THIS WEEK; DECISIONS WILL BE KEPT SECRET

HAMILTON, Bermuda, April 26.(JTA)-- The Anglo-American parley on refugees, which went into its second week today, is now drafting a joint report to be submitted to the U.S. and British Governments. The conference is expected to close on Wednesday or Thursday.

The American delegation at a meeting today with Mr. George Backer and the other American advisers, reviewed the week's discussions with the British. Dr. Harold W. Dodds, head of the American delegation, at a press conference announced that the final report of the Bermuda Conference will definitely not be made public here. Instead, a general statement will probably be issued after the conference is over. He emphasized that the recommendations of the conference must remain confidential for some time because they may involve military matters.

Queried as to what action the conference has decided to take on the recommendations submitted by Jewish organizations, Dr. Dodds stated that the proposals of the Joint Emergency Committee for European Jewish Affairs, representing American Jewish organizations, have been discussed extensively. However, he refused to commit himself as to what the decisions of the conference may be with regard to these proposals.

GEN. GIRAUD ISSUES ORDER AIMED AT POST-WAR STATUS OF JEWS IN FRANCE

NEW YORK, April 26.(JTA)-- Documentary evidence came to light today betraying the designs of General Henri Giraud to reduce the Jews of France to a condition of inferior citizenship in violation of the laws of the French Republic.

A copy of a memorandum issued by Giraud's High Command at Algiers in January was produced here, containing these hitherto unpublished clauses: "1) Jewish commissioned and non-commissioned officers and men in the reserve will generally be assigned to special non-combatant work units; 2) This measure appears necessary in order to avoid having the entire Jewish population gain the title of war veteran, which might prejudice the status given these people after the war."

This memorandum, the above clauses of which, on orders of Giraud, were kept confidential, was signed by Major General Prioux, of Giraud's command, and General Louchet, director of personnel, and issued for the generals commanding French troops in North Africa. It is dated Algiers, January 30, 1943; is entitled "The Use of Jews in the Army," and bears the code numbers "40 C--NGJ--CAB."

Paul Jacob, secretary general of the French Republican Committee, a new organization of Frenchmen in the United States, produced the text of the memorandum and declared: "This measure, and the reasons invoked, are the proof that General Giraud and his staff envisage a new status for the French population of Jewish faith after the war; and thus, the abrogation of the liberty and equality established for all citizens as a result of the French revolution."

Charges Giraud With Carrying Out Theories of Anti-Semitic Leader

Mr. Jacob is a reserve officer in the French Army who saw service on the Maginot Line and was a prisoner of the Germans in France for three months, before

escaping. He was an attorney in Mulhouse, Alsace, and is now assistant professor at the Institute of Comparative Law in the New School for Social Research here. He charged that General Giraud, high commissioner of North Africa under the American occupation, was putting into practice the philosophy of Charles Maurras, a leader of the totalitarian Action Francaise and a propagandist of anti-Semitism. "During Giraud's stay in Vichy," Jacob said, "he was constantly in the company of Charles Maurras and it is the ideas of that reactionary which the General is now applying in North Africa."

Another order by Giraud was cited to demonstrate that his policy aims not alone at stripping the Jews of Algeria of their equality, as had been indicated by abrogation of the Cremieux law of 1870 last month, but at a permanent discriminatory status for Jews in post-war France. This order, promulgated Dec. 30, 1942, provided that French officers of the Jewish faith, including those born in France, would be reinstated into the French army--having been dropped by Vichy in June, 1940--only on two conditions. These were: 1) They had been wounded or cited for bravery either during the first World War, the present war of 1939-40, or in some other theater of operation; 2) Their reinstatement was agreed to by the higher authorities. This order applied to commissioned and non-commissioned officers alike, active and reserve. It is numbered 582--MGP--CAB.

Jewish Officers Discharged When They Refuse Non-Combatant Posts

Jacob said that two of his friends had been mobilized as reserve officers in Morocco, but when it was established they were Jews, and they refused to join the special non-combatant units, they were discharged on orders of Giraud. One of them was a French Jew born in Paris, with the rank of captain in the reserve, and the other, a lieutenant, a French Jew from Alsace, whose great-grandfather had fought under Napoleon and his grandfather in the Franco-Prussian war of 1870.

Jacob accused Giraud of making professions of democracy in order to mask his true intentions and to gain the favor of his American supporters. "The new status of French Jews to be proposed by General Giraud after the war can easily be imagined, since he wishes to prevent them from fighting for the liberation of their country as do other French citizens--in order that they may not have the honored title of war veterans," he declared.

Explaining that it was possible, after examination of individual cases, for French Jews assigned to non-combatant labor units to be transferred to fighting outfits, Mr. Jacob pointed out, however, that a numerus clausus had been established in the army. "General Lascroux, high commander of the troops in Morocco," he said, "ordered that the number of Jews in the 22nd Army Medical Corps could not exceed 3 percent of the total number of men in that corps. The number of Jewish physicians and pharmacists in the troops stationed in Morocco must be maintained at 3 percent of the total medical personnel."

NORWEGIAN JEWS PUT TO WORK IN NAZI MINES; WOMEN AND CHILDREN DIED OF STARVATION

STOCKHOLM, April 26.(JTA)-- Reports from Oslo said today that most of the Norwegian Jewish women and children deported from the country by the German-controlled Quisling government had died of starvation.

Ships carrying deportees that left Oslo in November and February were removing them toward an ultimate destination in the Silesian mining region around Katowice it was learned. Able-bodied men in the group were put to work in the mines. One of the deportees, who escaped via Germany recently, said the miners received sufficient rations, but old men, women and children obtained almost nothing.

350 JEWS BURNED TO DEATH IN BERDICHEV SYNAGOGUE; ROWNO, CHERNIGOV ARE "JUDENREIN"

KUIBYSHEV, April 26.(JTA)-- Three hundred and fifty Jews were burned to death by the Nazis in a synagogue in Berdichev, where they had been assembled at the order of the German commander, it was reported here today by Hirsch Giterman, a Jewish carpenter from the city, who fled after the Nazis seized Berdichev. The Jews were instructed to appear at the synagogue with their prayer shawls in order "to pray for forgiveness for their sins against the Germans." When all the worshippers were inside, the Nazis bolted the doors and set fire to the building, Giterman disclosed.

Several partisans who were fighting in the Volhynia district of Poland and who are now in Kuibyshev hospitals recuperating, report that not a single Jew remains in the Polish city of Rowno, which had a large Jewish population. They said that shortly after the Nazi capture of Rowno, the Jews were removed to two isolated sections of the city. During this past winter, however, these districts were destroyed by the Nazis and most of the residents perished, with the exception of a handful of Jews who succeeded in escaping to the neighboring township of Kostopol.

The Ukrainian city of Chernigov has also been made "Judenrein," a Jewish refugee Israel Vesioli, who escaped from the city, reports. After several months of bloody massacres by the Nazis, only two Jews were left in the city, Vesioli stated. They were two doctors, Ginsberg and Hoffman, who were needed by the Germans. However, when a virulent typhoid epidemic swept the city and the two physicians, handicapped by lack of medicine and adequate facilities, were unable to check it, the Nazis publicly announced that they were responsible for the epidemic, and executed them.

AMERICAN JEWISH CONFERENCE URGES COMMUNITIES TO PREPARE FOR ELECTION; ANNOUNCES AGENDA

NEW YORK, April 26.(JTA)-- A call to American Jewry to prepare for the elections to the American Jewish Conference which is scheduled to convene July 1, 1943, was issued here by the executive committee for the organization of the American Jewish Conference with the endorsement and approval of 35 national Jewish organizations.

The executive committee announced that the Conference will meet on July 1, 1943, place to be determined later. Elections are to take place in the local Jewish communities or regions not later than June 14, 1943. The agenda of the Conference reads as follows: 1. Action on problems relating to the rights and status of Jews in the post-war world, to be considered and recommended; 2. To implement such action with due consideration of the Jewish rights in Palestine; 3. To elect a committee to carry out the program of the American Jewish Conference in close cooperation with representatives of Jews throughout the world. National Jewish groups shall be represented in the American Jewish Conference by 125 delegates; communities or regions by 375.

Election rules for the Conference specify: a) All Jewish communities of the United States shall be divided into election districts. Each community shall be entitled to one delegate for every 10,000 of Jewish population, or major fraction thereof. b) Communities of less than 5,000 shall be combined into election regions of 5,000 or more. c) The City of New York shall be entitled to 100 delegates divided among the five boroughs.

LOS ANGELES JEWS APPEAL TO ROOSEVELT TO SPEED AID FOR REFUGEES

LOS ANGELES, April 26.(JTA)-- An emergency meeting of leaders and representatives of the Los Angeles Jewish community over the week-end, called by the local Jewish Community Council, appealed to President Roosevelt and the Bermuda Conference to speed action to save as many Jews in Europe as possible.

CANADIAN JEWS ASK DOMINION GOVERNMENT TO SHELTER REFUGEES, FEED JEWS IN EUROPE

MONTREAL, April 26.(JTA)-- A three-point program under which the Canadian Government and people would undertake to shelter some of the Jewish refugees from Nazi-held Europe and help to feed those who could not flee was put forward here today by the Canadian Jewish Congress.

The program urges the Dominion government to: Grant asylum to a number of Jews, especially children; Take the initiative in organizing a system of feeding Jews in the European ghettos, in view of Canadian experience in providing food for civilians in Greece; Participate in any inter-Allied measures to assist Jews, such as: approaching the Axis powers to allow the Jews to emigrate, providing shipping for refugees, securing havens in other countries, especially Palestine, assuring neutrals that refugees will not become public charges and organizing a system of international passports for refugees.

SIX-WEEK PERIOD OF MOURNING FOR JEWS OF EUROPE STARTED THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY

NEW YORK, April 26.(JTA)-- Memorial services, opening a six-week period of mourning for the Jewish victims in Nazi Europe, were held today in many synagogues throughout the country in accordance with a call issued by the Synagogue Council of America which represents Conservative, Orthodox and Reform Jewry in America - both rabbis and congregations.

A special prayer, distributed by the Council to synagogues in all parts of the country, was delivered during the services. A call issued by the Council to all Jews in the United States urges that the six-week period of mourning be observed by limiting the occasions of amusement during this season; by keeping Mondays and Thursdays as partial fast days; by contributing generously to the United Jewish Appeal, which is engaged in rescue work; by reciting special prayers and observing moments of silence at home and in all public gatherings; by attending synagogues frequently and calling special assemblies, in order to demonstrate the stake of humanity and religion in the salvation of Europe's Jews, and by acting in every way to converge the religious opinion of America to the necessity for prompt action.

JEWS SOLDIERS IN POLISH ARMY MARK PASSOVER AT SERVICES IN SCOTLAND

LONDON, April 26.(JTA)-- Jewish soldiers attached to the Polish Army units stationed in Scotland were excused from their duties to enable them to attend Passover services and sederim, it is reported here today. The largest service was held in Glasgow with representatives of the Polish high command and Jewish leaders present. Dr. Ignacy Schwarzbart, Jewish deputy in the Polish National Council, addressed the soldiers, emphasizing Jewish contributions to the Polish war effort and the common struggle of Poles and Jews in Poland. The services concluded with the playing of Hatikvah and the Polish national anthem.

The Anglo-American Committee for a Jewish Army gave a reception at Grosvenor House here for 750 Jewish soldiers of the British, American and other Allied armies. Prominent speakers including Lady Simon and Viscount Bennet, former premier of Canada, praised the role of Jewish soldiers in all the armies of the United Nations and expressed the hope that freedom and justice for the Jews will be obtained after the war.

London Jewish Community Opens Club for Forces of United Nations

NEW YORK, April 26.(JTA)-- A large service club in the heart of London, equipped to handle several hundred men, was opened on Passover eve by the London Jewish community, it was announced today by Walter Rothschild, chairman of the Army and Navy Committee of the National Jewish Welfare Board. The Board is cooperating with the London Jewish Community in this project.