

Published by the Jewish Telegraphic Agency

106 East 41st Street, N. Y.

VOL. X. NO. 108

Sunday, May 9, 1943

GOEBBELS SAYS JEWS MUST BE EXTERMINATED WITHOUT MERCY; ARRESTS IN RUMANIA

ZURICH, May 7.(JTA)-- Dr. Paul Goebbels, Nazi Minister of Propaganda, today told the world that local Nazi authorities have been given orders to annihilate "without any mercy" the Jews in Germany and in occupied countries. He added that the Jews all over the world will similarly be exterminated if the Nazis lay their hands on them.

"Germany must destroy the Jews and there can be no mercy," Goebbels says in an article under his signature published in Das Reich, official organ of the Ministry of Propaganda. "The slightest weakness in the solution of the Jewish question might endanger Germany as well as the whole of Europe."

"The extinction of the Jewish race is of historic importance," Goebbels continues. "It cannot be stopped. The day will come when the Jews all over the world will receive the same punishment which the Jews under Germany are now undergoing. The Jews want the defeat of the Axis, therefore it is nothing more than obvious that we should first get rid of our enemies at home in order to effectively fight our enemy outside our borders."

Reports from Rumania reaching here today state that all synagogues in Bucharest were raided by the police during the Passover services. Hundreds of Jewish worshippers were arrested and taken from the synagogues to labor camps.

ARABS SEEK AMERICAN SUPPORT FOR WHITE PAPER CLOSING PALESTINE TO JEWISH IMMIGRATION

JERUSALEM, May 7.(JTA)-- Palestine Arab nationalists made it known today that they wanted American support of the British Government's White Paper of 1939 which "freezes" the Jewish population of Palestine as of March, 1944.

Their desire was expressed in a memorandum signed by former leaders of the outlawed Arab Higher Committee, which had been disbanded in 1937 as responsible for Arab disorders, addressed to Prime Minister Nuri Pasha es-Said of Iraq.

The memorandum stated the Palestine Arab nationalists' willingness to support the forthcoming Cairo conference on formation of an Arab Federation on condition that the British and United States governments jointly undertake to give effect to the White Paper, under which 75,000 Jews were to be admitted to Palestine in the five-year period expiring next March, with any further immigration subject to Arab approval. All but 29,000 of this quota have already entered Palestine.

Signatories of the memorandum, which was handed to the Iraqi Consul here for transmission to Nuri Pasha, include Auni Bey Abdul Hadi, extremist leader who had been exiled in 1937 and returned two years later; Ahmed Hilmi Pasha, and Rashid Saji Brahmin.

SWISS PARLIAMENTARIAN SAYS JEWS MUST HAVE COUNTRY OF THEIR OWN AFTER THE WAR

BERNE, May 7.(JTA)-- A plea for the creation of a Jewish national home somewhere, so that the Jews may have a country of their own as a "base of their existence," is suggested today in a front page article in the liberal Swiss weekly, Die Nation, written by Sonder Egger, a prominent member of the Swiss parliament. The article, which has aroused great interest here, reads:

"If a Swiss or an Italian or a Frenchman goes to America he will find friends but no home. The Jews find homes wherever they go and wherever they find other Jews. This fact is of the greatest importance if the Jewish problem is to be solved. The Jews must have a country to which they belong. The base of their existence must not be dispersion throughout the world, but a gathering in one Jewish national home. Only such a home will give Jews what they lack most; a feeling of belonging somewhere, of having a country which will lend them support. They will thus be freed of a 'world citizenship' which makes them at home everywhere and nowhere.

"From such a home Jews may go to other countries as do Germans, Frenchmen, Britons and Italians, but they no longer will be strangers, who, with a sort of bad conscience, fear that they will be thrown out of the country, and who suffer as a result of being strangers. They will be men belonging to a country, to a people, men who can return whenever they please, simple moral human beings.

"It is a misinterpreted sense of humanity to deny the existence of a Jewish problem. It is better to recognize facts and seek a human solution. Only to be detested is the terrible and cowardly way in which the present times try to solve the Jewish problem. The Jews themselves realize that the most important aim is to close the sad chapter of European persecutions. Jews are indeed 'the people at war.' We hope that future and better world planning will allow them to be what they most long for, 'the people of peace.'"

JEWSH OFFICER APPOINTED VICE MARSHAL OF R.A.F.; FIRST JEW TO HOLD POST

LONDON, May 7.(JTA)-- Air Commodore R.L.G. Marix has been appointed an Air Vice Marshal of the Royal Air Force, the first Jew to ever hold that post, it was announced here today. Vice Marshal Marix, who is 54, is a holder of the Distinguished Service Order. He is a veteran of the last war, during which he was decorated by the British and Belgian governments.

Another Jewish officer, Col. Edmund Myers, was also promoted today. Col. Myers was raised to the rank of Brigadier at the same time that he was awarded the Distinguished Service Order for gallant service in the Middle East. Captain Arthur Mackler, 27, a Jewish physician attached to Gen. Alexander's forces in Tunisia, is cited in the London press today for continuing to direct treatment of wounded men after having been mortally wounded during the assault on the Mareth Line. He died in a military hospital.

ORDER OF PURPLE HEART AWARDED POSTHUMOUSLY TO SGT. MEYER LEVIN; FOURTH CITATION TO HERO

NEW YORK, May 7.(JTA)-- The Order of the Purple Heart "for military merit and for wounds received in action resulting in his death" has been awarded posthumously to Sgt. Meyer Levin, Brooklyn's bombardier hero.

The award was received today by Levin's parents, Samuel and Leah Levin, at their home in Brooklyn. This is the fourth citation won by Sgt. Levin. He had previously won the Distinguished Flying Cross; the Oak Leaf Cluster for his part in sinking the Jap battleship Haruna, and the Silver Star for sinking a 15,000-ton transport in the Coral Sea battle.

JEWISH AGENCY MAY NAME SHERTOK PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE IN AMERICA

LONDON, May 7. (JTA)-- The possibility of appointing Moshe Shertok, head of the political department of the Jewish Agency, as a permanent representative of the Jewish Agency, to head a Zionist political office in Washington, is now being discussed in Palestine, the London Jewish Chronicle reported today from Jerusalem.

Rabbi Irving Miller of New York, representing the American and World Jewish Congresses, was received today by the Archbishop of Canterbury with whom he discussed the plight of the Jews in Nazi Europe.

DR. CHAIM ZHITLOWSKY, JEWISH AUTHOR AND PHILOSOPHER, DEAD

NEW YORK, May 7. (JTA)-- Dr. Chaim Zhitlowsky, 78, prominent Jewish writer and philosopher, who was one of the founders of the Social Revolutionary Party in Russia under the Czar, died last night in a hospital at Calgary, Canada. He was on a lecture tour.

Dr. Zhitlowsky had been living in New York since 1908, where he played an important role in the cultural development of the immigrant Jews in America. He was the author of books on Jewish national problems and published many works in Yiddish on the history of philosophy. He is credited with laying the foundation for the idea of Jewish local autonomy which later served as a basis for the minority rights program in central and eastern European countries.

Born in Russia, he joined the Russian revolutionary movement in Tula in his youth. He later became the chief theoretician of the Russian Social Revolutionary Party and was the first to publish its program. In 1885 he also composed a program for Jewish Socialists built on the concept of Jewish nationalism on a Socialist basis with Yiddish as its national language. He was compelled to leave Russia in 1888, but managed to return and take an active part in the revolution of 1905. He later came to the United States where he became one of the leaders of Jewish nationalism and of the Zionist Laborites. He was a member of the editorial staff of The Day, Jewish daily newspaper, and recently became honorary chairman of the Jewish Council for Russian War Relief.

ABOLITION OF IMMIGRATION RESTRICTIONS DEMANDED BY JEWISH LABOR CONVENTION

NEW YORK, May 7. (JTA)-- The abolition of immigration restrictions in all countries and unlimited Jewish immigration into Palestine is demanded in a declaration adopted last night at the closing session of the 43rd convention of the Workmen's Circle, largest Jewish fraternal labor organization in the world. The declaration also demands the outlawing of anti-Semitism and urges punishment for individuals and groups found guilty of spreading anti-Jewish propaganda.

The United Nations are asked in the declaration "to find a modus which would enable the Jews in Palestine to develop their cultural and national life in peace and harmony with the other peoples." Gratification was expressed at the fact that the British Army has succeeded in driving the Nazi armed forces from the gates of Palestine. At the same time the declaration demanded that Jews in exile be enabled to return to their homes after the war and that they receive financial assistance from their governments to rebuild their life, under a system guaranteeing their national and cultural development.

Reuben Guskin, prominent Jewish labor leader, was elected president of the organization for the coming two-year term. The convention took a vow "to fight for the freedom of the Jewish people and for the liberation of all countries and peoples" now enslaved by the Nazis. It decided to buy \$2,000,000 worth of war bonds and pledged all its 72,000 members to maximum support of the war effort.

STATE DEPARTMENT'S ATTITUDE ON ABOGATION OF CREMIEUX DECREE TERMED SURPRISING

NEW YORK, May 7-(JTA)-- Surprise that the State Department "should be seeking to excuse and justify" the abrogation by Gen. Giraud of the Cremieux Decree is expressed in an article published in the current issue of the New Republic in which it is pointed out that Giraud's action has placed the Jews of Algeria "on an even lower basis than the Arabs."

Analyzing the present status of the native Jews in Algeria, the author of the article, Varian Fry, who directed refugee work in France at one time, comes to the conclusion that the "unbiased specialist" of the State Department to whom the Undersecretary of State referred in his reply to Baron Edouard de Rothschild's criticism of Gen. Giraud's action, either missed important points or was trying to evade them.

"Before the adoption of the Cremieux decree, the Jews, like the Arabs, had their own laws, their own courts, their own marital and inheritance customs," Mr. Fry writes. "With the adoption of the Cremieux decree these disappeared. The Arabs still have these privileges but the Jews do not. Thus General Giraud's decision places the Jews of Algeria on an even lower basis than the Arabs, for it deprives them of French citizenship without granting them even limited self-government, such as the Arab community enjoys.

"It has not yet been announced, if it has been decided, under just what conditions the Jews of Algeria may again become French citizens. Constitutionally, the law of 1919 ought now to apply to them. If it did, in theory at least, they would be able to resume their citizenship in three months by fulfilling certain conditions. But Mr. Welles' informant says that 'in the near future a procedure will be established whereby native Algerian Jews who desire to become citizens may acquire citizenship.' This can only mean that the law of 1919 has also been abrogated, at least insofar as it concerns the Jews of Algeria. In that case, the General's decision deprives Jews of even the right enjoyed by the Arabs to become French citizens. If, later, the Jews are placed under the naturalization law of 1927, as modified in 1935 - the only other existing naturalization law available - it will be five years before they can resume full French citizenship and ten years before they can hold public offices open to French citizens.

Status of Jewish Members in Elected Bodies Remains Obscure

"Furthermore," the article continues, "while the Arabs enjoy limited representation in the Municipal and General Councils and the Financial Delegations, the Jews have no representation in these bodies as Jews. Those who were elected to these bodies were elected as French citizens. When Vichy's abrogation of the Cremieux decree deprived them of their citizenship, they automatically lost their seats. Today they presumably have no representation at all, for although Giraud is said to have restored all public officials who were ousted because they were Jews, we have not been told even by Mr. Welles that he has restored the Jewish members of the elected bodies. Thus, in this respect also, General Giraud's decision apparently places the Jews on an even lower footing than the Arabs.

"But what is perhaps most alarming of all is the assumption of legislative power implied in the decision. General Giraud might logically have announced that the territories under his control would return to the laws of the Republic. By announcing that some of those laws will be in effect and others not, he has arrogated to himself the powers of the French Parliament. And his decision to abrogate the Cremieux decree represents precisely the solution sought by the reactionary local administrators and planters, in defiance of Parliament. Furthermore, the fact that the native Jews of Algeria were the backbone of the Republican movement in North Africa and that depriving them of their citizenship may very well give the anti-Republicans a majority there, can hardly have been absent from the minds of those responsible for Giraud's announcement," Mr. Fry concludes.