

# J T A   D A I L Y   N E W S   B U L L E T I N

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## DUTCH GOVERNMENT CHARGES NAZIS WITH USING POISON GAS ON JEWS IN HOLLAND

LONDON, May 17.(JTA)-- The Netherlands Government-in-Exile today charged the Nazi authorities with using poison gas to kill Jews deported from occupied Holland.

The charge was made on the basis of reports reaching here from the underground movement in Amsterdam. Underground newspapers state that the Jewish "deportees," who are usually reported sent "to unknown destinations," actually are gassed by the Nazis.

One of the clandestine Dutch publications carries the details of the recent "evacuation" of the Jewish asylum at Apeldoorn. It reveals that the premises of the asylum have been taken over by the Ministry of Education which was moved from The Hague. The patients were supposed to be deported to Germany, but most of them, the underground paper says, died from suffocation in the crowded cattle cars in which they had been packed before they reached the border.

Other underground newspapers report the death in Amsterdam of Chief Rabbi J. Vredenburg who was 76 years old. They state that the Dutch press carried an insignificant obituary, and failed to mention that the rabbi was an officer in the Order of Orange-Nassau. Also that he was one of the moving spirits in the evacuation of underfed German, Austrian and Belgian children to Holland during the first World War.

Evidence of pressure upon baptized Jews is revealed in one of the issues of Storm, the Dutch Nazi Storm Troop organ, reaching the Netherland Information Office here. The paper demands that baptized Jews be segregated in special churches "to prevent their contact with Aryans."

## ONLY 200 RECEIPTS REACH ORGANIZATIONS WHICH SENT 10,000 PARCELS TO JEWS IN POLAND

ZURICH, May 17.(JTA)-- Jewish relief organizations in neutral countries which have sent about 10,000 individual food packages to Jews in Poland during the last few months, have received only 200 acknowledgements of receipt from the persons to whom the parcels were addressed, it was reliably learned here today.

The food parcels were sent from Portugal and Switzerland. At the same time that the packages were dispatched, the Jews to whom they were addressed were notified that no more packages would be sent to them unless a signed receipt was received.

Information from Berlin reaching here reveals that with the Jewish ghetto in Warsaw completely liquidated by the Nazis, the German authorities there are mapping out plans for isolating in the ghetto premises several hundred thousand Poles classified as "non-productive elements."

INDIFFERENCE OF WORLD TO JEWISH FATE IN POLAND CAUSED ZYGELBOJM'S SUICIDE

LONDON, May 17.(JTA)-- Samuel Zygelbojm, the Jewish member of the Polish National Council who committed suicide here last week, took his life in protest against the indifference of the democratic world to the fate of the Jews in occupied Poland who are being exterminated by the Nazis without mercy, it was reliably learned today.

Letters explaining the motives for his act were left by him and will be released by the authorities after tomorrow's inquest. They were addressed to the Polish President Raczkiewicz and to the Polish Prime Minister Gen. Sikorski. In these letters Zygelbojm is reported to have stated that he decided to take his life not for any personal motives, but solely as a means of protesting against the fact that nothing is being done to save Polish Jews from Nazi slaughter.

Zygelbojm's funeral will take place on Friday and his body will be cremated. Members of the Polish cabinet will be among the speakers at the funeral. The speakers will also include Stanislaw Grabski, president of the Polish National Council. A joint statement of mourning issued here by leaders of the labor movement in France, Holland, Belgium and Czechoslovakia expresses grief over "the loss of a comrade and co-worker."

Earlier reports that Zygelbojm's wife and daughter were killed in the Warsaw ghetto are baseless, judging from the letters Zygelbojm left. He reveals in these letters that he recently learned that his family is safe "somewhere in Europe."

A list of prominent Jewish poets, writers, journalists, social workers, youth leaders and leaders of the cooperative movement who perished during the liquidation of the Warsaw ghetto reached the Polish Government here today through underground channels. Among those killed was the noted Orthodox writer and philosopher Hillel Zeitlin. Additional lists of well known Jewish figures who were murdered in the ghetto are expected to be received soon.

JEWISH LABOR COMMITTEE JOINS AMERICAN JEWISH CONFERENCE

NEW YORK, May 17.(JTA)-- The Jewish Labor Committee today announced that it will participate in the American Jewish Conference, but not in the local elections to that body.

The announcement states that as a result of a decision adopted at a session of its executive committee during the week-end, the Committee has entered into negotiations with the organizers of the American Jewish Conference to secure proper representation. About 150 delegates from all over the country participated in the session at which the decision was adopted.

2,740 COMMUNITIES PARTICIPATE IN UNITED JEWISH APPEAL CAMPAIGN THIS YEAR

NEW YORK, May 17.(JTA)-- Three hundred more communities than participated last year have been brought into the United Jewish Appeal 1943 spring campaign, it was announced here today by U.J.A. headquarters. The total of Jewish communities engaged in the campaign is now 2,740, the announcement said, adding that "many thousands of American Jews are being brought into more direct and intensive participation in community activity than ever before."

PALESTINE JEWS PRAISED IN MOSCOW PRESS FOR SENDING MEDICAL AID TO RUSSIAN ARMY

MOSCOW, May 17.(JTA)-- The Jews of Palestine are praised in the Moscow press today as being first among the Jews of the democratic countries to respond to the call for aid for the Russian Army.

An article in Pravda, reports that a delegation of the Palestine Victory League, from Jerusalem, has arrived in Teheran and brought with it a number of ambulances and a portable hospital as a gift of Palestine Jews to the Red Army.

"The delegation," Pravda writes, "covered 2,000 kilometers traveling along desert and mountainous regions throughout Arabia and Persia. Jewish workers, colonists and men and women of all professions took an enthusiastic part in collecting the funds in Palestine which made the gift possible. These people have asked their delegation to convey greetings to the Red Army in its fight for civilization."

The Jews of Argentina are next to the Jews of Palestine in rendering aid to the Russian Army, the Jewish Anti-Fascist Committee announced today. The announcement stated that in addition to several shipments of clothing, powdered milk, medicaments, surgical instruments and other important supplies received from the Jews of Argentina, a fifth shipment valued at 1,000,000 pesos is now en route to Russia.

DOCTORS DEMAND BRITISH GOVERNMENT MAKE ANTI-SEMITISM A CRIMINAL OFFENSE

LONDON, May 17.(JTA)-- Echoing the demand voiced by numerous organizations in England that the Government put an end to the increasing anti-Jewish agitation which Fascist elements are fomenting throughout the country, the Socialist Medical Association today adopted a resolution urging that "anti-Semitism, whether conducted in public or in private, be considered a criminal offense."

Speaking at the meeting of the association at which the resolution was adopted, Dr. Alec Bourne, noted surgeon, said that "the growth of anti-Semitism, which is nothing but political agitation inspired by Fascists, must be viewed with alarm." Chief Rabbi Hertz, speaking at the Jews' College here on the spread of anonymous anti-Jewish propaganda, expressed the hope that Parliament will tell the Government to take the lead in "frustrating the foulest crime in human history."

Nazi radio stations, in an effort to divert the attention of their listeners from the Axis defeat in Tunisia, are concentrating on the "success of anti-Jewish propaganda in England." Many broadcasts have been devoted to the "evidence of growing anti-Semitism in Britain."

RABBI WISE GRANTED LEAVE OF ABSENCE FROM FREE SYNAGOGUE

NEW YORK, May 17.(JTA)-- The Free Synagogue announced today that it had granted the request of its founder and rabbi, Dr. Stephen S. Wise, for a leave of absence for the duration of the war. Dr. Wise explained that the pressure of other duties, including his leadership of the Jewish Institute of Religion, was responsible for his move. He said:

"I cannot and will not completely divorce myself from the work and program of the Synagogue which I founded 36 years ago. It will continue to have my deepest interest, and the members of the Council who are prepared to carry on with renewed energy and enthusiasm will be free to call upon me for counsel and cooperation whenever they choose to do so."

NAZI OFFICER TURNS JEWISH WOMAN AND CHILD INTO "STATUE OF ICE"

KUIBYSHEV, May 17.(JTA)-- The story of how a sadistic Nazi officer turned a Jewish woman and infant in Vyazma into a "statue of ice" is told today by a correspondent of the Jewish Anti-Fascist Committee here who heard the details from the woman's husband, a captain in the Red Army.

While the Germans were in Vyazma - in the dead of winter - they slaughtered hundreds of Jews with bayonets and machineguns. Among those assembled in an open place in the city was a young woman, Raya Spirman, and her two-year-old infant. The Nazi officer in charge of the executions ordered that the mother and child, whom she was holding pressed to her breast, be taken aside. When they had completed their butchery, the officer and his staff approached Mrs. Spirman, who stood silent and petrified at the horrors she had been forced to witness.

"She looks like a statue," remarked one of the Nazis, "Indeed, she does," added the officer. "We shall make a statue of her." Mrs. Spirman's coat was taken from her and she was forced to stand in the freezing wind, her child in her arms, as icy water was poured over her. That night, the execution place presented a grim spectacle - hundreds of mutilated corpses lying on the ground, and the frozen body of a woman and child standing over them, as if on guard.

A few days after Mrs. Spirman and the others had been killed, the Red Army recaptured Vyazma. Her husband, Capt. Boris Spirman, was among the first to enter the city. He rushed to his home only to find it in ruins. Inquiring of a neighbor as to the fate of his family, he was led to where the frozen bodies of his wife and child still stood. For days afterwards, he was too stunned to speak.

CONFERENCE OF JEWISH SOCIAL WORKERS CANCELLED AT O.D.T. REQUEST

NEW YORK, May 17.(JTA)-- The annual meetings of the National Conference of Jewish Social Welfare, the National Association of Jewish Center Workers and the National Council for Jewish Education, which had been scheduled to take place in Cleveland from May 28-31, have been cancelled, it was announced here today.

A joint statement issued by the presidents of the three organizations declared that the conference had been called off in response to a request by the Office of Defense Transportation, which has asked that all national meetings be suspended for the duration in order to conserve transportation facilities for war-connected purposes.

"While it is a matter of deep regret to us to have to call off the annual conferences," the statement said, "we are sure that the four hundred Jewish professional leaders who had expected to attend will agree that such a request from a government agency could not but receive our unhesitating assent. Ours is not the only group affected by the shortage of railroad accommodations." Notifications have been sent to the memberships of all three organizations.

MONTREAL RAISES \$200,000 FOR UNITED PALESTINE APPEAL IN CANADA

MONTREAL, May 17.(JTA)-- More than \$200,000 was raised this past year in Montreal for the United Palestine Appeal, it was announced here at a dinner marking the end of the campaign. It was pointed out that Montreal has a Jewish population of only 65,000 persons. In Toronto the sum of \$130,000 has been raised thus far for the U.P.A. quota of 1943.