

NEW POGROMS ON JEWS THROUGHOUT POLAND; NAZIS "LIQUIDATE" GHETTOS IN MANY CITIES

LONDON, May 18.(JTA)-- Practically all the remaining Jewish ghettos in Nazi-occupied Poland are now being "liquidated," following the procedure used in Warsaw, and tens of thousands of Jews are being mercilessly slaughtered while others are attempting to flee into the neighboring woods in the hope of escaping extermination.

Information reaching the Polish Government here today from the underground movement in Poland reveals that massacres of Jews are now being carried out in every city, town and village on an unprecedented scale. In some places the Jews, having nothing to lose, are putting up heroic resistance killing Germans with whatever arms they can manage to secure. More than 20,000 Jews are estimated to be wandering about in the forests along the Bug River in an effort to save themselves from annihilation.

There is hardly a Jew left in the Lublin district, except for a few hundred skilled Jewish workers whom the Nazis have confined in a concentration camp near Lublin, where they are used in war industries, the report said, adding that even the number of Jews in this camp is dwindling.

Not a single Jew remains in the townships of Lukov, Miedzyrzecz, Parczewa, Wlodawa, Piaskow - Lubelski, Konska-Wola, Izbica and Zaklikow, where Jews were hitherto permitted to live in special quarters. In the city of Czenstochowa, several thousand Jews were executed and more than 35,000 deported "to unknown destinations." The 5,000 Jews who still remain in the ghetto there are in despair, expecting to be killed or deported any day.

Jewish War Prisoners Executed; Jewish Miners Slaughtered

The ghettos in the cities of Bialystock, Grodno, Brest-Litowsk, Hrubieshov, Grajew and Zambrowa have all been "liquidated" by the local Nazi authorities. Several hundred Jewish war prisoners, former soldiers in the Polish Army, have been executed in a camp in Kruszyna. More than 150 Jewish mine workers who, as a result of mistreatment, were no longer fit for work were killed in the camp where they were confined near the Izabelina peat bogs.

The ghettos in the cities of Chelm and Rawa-Russka have also been "liquidated." About 12,000 Jews who lived in the Rawa-Russka ghetto have "disappeared." Not a single Jew has been left in Chmielnik, Bodzentyn and Suchedniow. All Jews have been deported from Staszow. Massacres of Jews have also taken place in the cities of Siedlice and Kaluszyn. In Krynki, near Bialystock, Jews defended themselves, and after killing about twenty Germans, succeeded in escaping into the neighboring woods. In Minsk-Mazowiecki the Nazis drove 320 Jews into a local school and set fire to the building. The Jews battled the German guards, and about thirty of them succeeded in jumping through the windows of the burning building and fled to the woods. The others were burned alive.

Dziennik Polski, official organ of the Polish Government-in-Exile, today reports that Bishop Brizgis of Lithuania has excommunicated all Lithuanians participating in or assisting Nazis in the persecution of Jews and Poles. The paper says that the Gestapo recently massacred 6,000 Jews in the Vilna district while Nazi photographers filmed the mass-execution.

JEWISH AGENCY DRAFTING POST-WAR PLAN PROVIDING FOR LARGE-SCALE IMMIGRATION, SETTLEMENT

JERUSALEM, May 18.(JTA)-- The Jewish Agency for Palestine is preparing an extensive post-war reconstruction plan based on large scale immigration and colonization, which is aimed at raising the economic, social and cultural standards of the Palestine population, it was learned here today. The plan will shortly be submitted to the British and Palestine governments.

Meanwhile, the central committee of the World Mizrahi Organization adopted a resolution expressing its determination not to cooperate in carrying out the post-war reconstruction plan announced several months ago by the Palestine administration. Jewish opposition to this plan is based on the fact that it assumes that the conditions provided for under the White Paper of 1939 will prevail in the country after the war. At the same time, the Mizrahi went on record demanding a post-war blueprint founded on unlimited immigration and settlement.

VICTORY IN NORTH AFRICA RELEASES SHIPPING TO TRANSPORT REFUGEES, BISHOP SAYS

LONDON, May 18.(JTA)-- On the eve of the debate in Commons on the results of the Bermuda Conference, which is scheduled for tomorrow, the Bishop of Chichester, one of the leaders of the Anglican Church, stated today that the victory in North Africa has made it possible to bring immediate practical aid to the oppressed Jews in Nazi-occupied Europe.

Writing in the London Times, the Bishop says that "if the English and American governments are determined to achieve a program of rescue commensurate with the vastness of the need, they can do it now, since shipping difficulties have been greatly reduced as a result of the victory in Africa." He adds that "it will be impossible to escape the blame, if we fail to act swiftly."

The London News Chronicle ridicules the explanation by Richard K. Law, head of the British delegation at Bermuda, that "the British Empire is overcrowded," pointing to the "wide open spaces" in Canada, Australia and Africa. It also takes issue with the conclusion by influential spokesmen that nothing can be done for the refugees except to wait for victory.

BELGIAN FASCIST PAPER DEMANDS PUBLIC RELIEF GROUPS HALT ASSISTANCE TO JEWS

LONDON, May 18.(JTA)-- A violent attack on public relief committees throughout occupied Belgium for continuing to extend assistance to Jews is contained in a recent issue of the Belgian Rexist organ, Le Pays Reel, a copy of which was received here today.

Demanding that "Aryan money be kept for Aryans," the paper writes that Jews must be assisted solely by the Jewish Council of Belgium, "one of whose aims is to help Jews." The Jewish Council is the Nazi-dominated central Jewish body which was formed at the time the occupation authorities liquidated all then existing Jewish groups.

SECRETARY KNOX WARNS AXIS LEADERS WILL BE PUNISHED FOR ATROCITIES AGAINST JEWS

BOSTON, May 18.(JTA)-- Secretary of the Navy Frank Knox last night warned the leaders of the Axis that their crimes against the peoples of the world will not go unpunished. Speaking at the sixth annual "Good Will" dinner of the Massachusetts Conference of Christians and Jews, Sec. Knox stated that "there will be strict accountability for the bloody crimes against charity and humanity which is the basis of every great religion." He also voiced a plea for unity which will be free of all religious intolerance.

GERMAN-JEWISH REFUGEE CREDITED WITH SUGGESTING BLASTING GERMAN DAMS

LONDON, May 18.(JTA)-- A German-Jewish refugee doctor, now practicing in London, first suggested that the great Eder and Mohene Dams be destroyed by the Royal Air Force, it is revealed in the Daily Mail today by Guy Bettany, former Reuter correspondent in Berlin.

He discloses that some months ago, the physician, whose name cannot be revealed because of the fear of reprisals against his relatives in Germany, asked him why the two dams had not been touched, pointing out that they were key factors in German war industry. Bettany was so impressed by the suggestion that he forwarded it to the Air Ministry. He was assured that it would receive careful consideration and that was the last he heard of it until yesterday's announcement that the RAF had breached the dams.

The refugee doctor, Bettany continues, was elated to hear the news and explained that the blasting of the dams will have a three-fold effect: It will bring devastation to the Ruhr, Weser and Fulda valleys. It will cut off the power supply of vital war industries in those regions. It will paralyze the inland waterways upon which Northern Germany depends greatly for transportation of heavy industrial products and fuel.

Bettany also disclosed that the German-Jewish specialist has suggested another vital objective which is now being studied by the Air Ministry.

ZYGELBOJM INQUEST ADJOURNED FOR THREE WEEKS

LONDON, May 18.(JTA)-- British officials today opened the inquest into the tragic death of Samuel Zygelbojm, Jewish member of the Polish National Council who committed suicide as a protest against the indifference of the democratic world to the Nazi massacres of Jews in Poland. After the body had been identified by close friends, the inquest adjourned until June 8. The letters which Zygelbojm left, addressed to the Polish President and to the Premier of Poland, explaining his act, as well as the draft of a cable which he was about to send to friends in New York, have been detained by the authorities and will not be made public before the inquest is over.

The question of who will take Zygelbojm's place in the Polish National Council still remains open. Leaders of the party of which Zygelbojm was a member named a London member of the Jewish Socialist Party of Poland to succeed Zygelbojm, but the Polish Government has not yet considered the nomination. All personal possessions of Zygelbojm have been handed over to his friend Leon Roller.

It was reported here today that just before his death, Zygelbojm received a message from the leaders of Polish Jewry in Warsaw, brought by an underground emissary named Jaczynski. The message expressed doubt that Jewish leaders abroad would do anything to help the Jews in Poland. It suggested that if the Jews in London were interested, they should go to the British Foreign Office and the American embassy and demand action, even if it were necessary to stay there until they were ejected. Zygelbojm conveyed this message to local Jewish leaders, but nothing was done. Jaczynski, it is also reported, saw Foreign Secretary Eden and other high officials.

NZO ASKS CHURCHILL TO "DROP" PALESTINE MANDATE; WANTS U.S. TO TAKE IT OVER

NEW YORK, May 18.(JTA)-- The New Zionist Organization of America today addressed itself to Prime Minister Winston Churchill, who is now on a visit to the United States, asking him to "drop" the Palestine Mandate.

Asserting that "there is nothing the Jews can expect from Britain," the NZO, in its appeal to Mr. Churchill, published as a paid advertisement in the New York Times, says that "acceptance of the mandate by the United States would be greeted with enthusiasm by the Jews the world over." It points out that "Palestine does not belong to Britain" and charges the British Government with failing to discharge the international trust under the mandate to establish a Jewish National Home in Palestine and to facilitate Jewish immigration and close settlement on the land.

"All European nations concerned with the Jewish question would welcome an American Mandate over Palestine," the appeal says. "Or, the Mandate might be turned over to a group of powers as recently suggested by Madame Chiang Kai-shek, If the system of mandates is to be abolished, the Jewish people will be ready to take upon itself the responsibility of governing and upbuilding the country. In either of these cases, Jews desperately in need of refuge would find there 'a land with open doors and open hearts.' This is not alone a Jewish problem. Certainly it is not a British problem. It is a world problem that must be solved for the benefit of all the peoples of the world. In the name of countless Jewish martyrs, in the name of the common interests of humanity, in the name of all ideals for which millions are today shedding their blood - Mr. Churchill, drop the Mandate!"

CONFERENCE OF ZIONISTS IN NEW YORK DEMANDS LIFTING OF PALESTINE BARRIERS

NEW YORK, May 18.(JTA)-- More than 600 delegates representing some 300 branches of the Zionist Organization of America, Hadassah and the Order Sons of Zion in Greater New York, meeting last night at the Hotel New Yorker to discuss the major issues confronting the forthcoming American Jewish Conference, unanimously adopted a resolution calling upon the British Government to abrogate the White Paper by which immigration to Palestine would cease on March 1, 1944, and reaffirming the Zionist program for the establishment of Palestine as a Jewish Commonwealth.

"The forthcoming American Jewish Conference will be the most important and decisive representative gathering of American Jewry since the first World War," the resolution says. "Its agenda, which will be devoted to the formulation of a program with respect to the rights and status of Jews in the post-war world and the right of the Jewish people to Palestine calls for the representation and articulation of the majority will of the American Jewish public."

JEWISH WELFARE BOARD SABBATH PROCLAIMED; SERVICE FLAGS BEFORE ARK OF LAW

NEW YORK, May 18.(JTA)-- Congregations of the metropolitan area will observe next Saturday as Jewish Welfare Board Sabbath, it was announced today by Rabbi Joseph H. Lookstein, president of the New York Board of Jewish Ministers. Service flags of the congregation will be hung in a conspicuous position before the Ark of the Law to symbolize the character of the Sabbath as one devoted to the men and women in the armed forces and to the agencies that serve them.

A proclamation issued by the Board of Jewish Ministers in connection with the Jewish Welfare Board Sabbath, says: "On that day, we shall go to our synagogues and temples, to pray for victory, and for the welfare of the Jews in the armed force and of their Christian comrades-in-arms."