

Published by the Jewish Telegraphic Agency

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

VOL. X. NO. 125

Friday, May 28, 1943

EXPULSION OF JEWS FROM SOFIA STARTED; BULGARIAN OFFICIALS MOVE INTO JEWISH HOMES

ZURICH, May 27.(JTA)-- Disregarding the demonstrations by non-Jews in Sofia protesting the deportation of 25,000 Jews from the city, Bulgarian authorities today reiterated their determination to make the capital of Bulgaria "judenrein" within the next few days and reported that two trains carrying Jewish residents left Sofia yesterday.

A report from Budapest describing the departure of the "Jewish trains" from the Bulgarian capital quoted "authoritative Bulgarian circles" as saying that Jews who are Bulgarian citizens would not be sent abroad. "Only those who tried to evade the statutory regulations will be sent to Poland," the report added.

The trains with the expelled Jews are proceeding in the direction of Southern Bulgaria, the Nazi news agency DNB said today. A Hungarian news agency, reporting that every Jew is allowed to take thirty kilograms of baggage, but no money, asserted that "from this fact it can be concluded that the Jews will be placed in public buildings in provincial towns until adequate concentration camps are available."

Jews Flee in Panic to Albania; Pogrom in Sofia Reported

Nazi reports reveal that Jews in other parts of Bulgaria, fearful of deportation to Nazi-occupied Poland, are fleeing to Italian-held Albania, and are being helped by non-Jews to cross the Bulgarian-Albanian frontier at Boyanovo. Measures have been taken by the Bulgarian authorities to stop Jews from illegally crossing the border, the reports emphasize..

The Nazi newspaper, Grenzbote, published in Slovakia, which reached here today, reports that a pogrom took place in Sofia "carried out by the Branik youth organization and members of other patriotic groups." Jewish shops were demolished in various parts of the city, the Nazi paper states.

Bulgarian officials have taken over 400 homes vacated by the first contingent of deported Sofia Jews and have moved into them together with their families, information from Bulgaria indicates. The same report reveals that Jewish capital amounting to 50,000,000 levas has been blocked by the authorities in Sofia.

The Italian news agency Stefani today tries to create the impression that the demonstrations in Sofia yesterday were organized by Jews. The agency adds that some of the Jews were injured and that the police had to "protect several of the Jews from the legitimate indignation of many Bulgarian citizens."

(The New York Times, in a cable from Bern, Switzerland, today reported that the demonstrations in Sofia were carried out by non-Jews. The demonstrations started shortly after 6 o'clock in the morning yesterday, when the first group of 4,000 Jews was being marched off to the station to entrain for the east. The column was blocked by a large throng singing the Bulgarian national anthem and protesting against the "cruel and inhuman measures" taken by the government against the Sofia Jews, the report said.)

PRESS IN RUMANIA STARTS CAMPAIGN TO COUNTERACT PRO-JEWISH SENTIMENTS

GENEVA, May 27.(JTA)-- Attempting to counteract the feeling prevailing in many non-Jewish circles in Rumania that anti-Jewish persecutions must be stopped as an indirect concession to the United Nations, Nazi-financed Rumanian newspapers this week renewed their campaign against the Jews demanding that "not a single Jew be allowed to remain in Europe."

The Porunca Vremii, organ of the anti-Semitic Iron Guards, which has set the keynote for the campaign, writes that "the only possible solution of the Jewish problem is the expulsion of the last Jew from the European continent." Other papers carry articles in a similar vein assuring their readers that there will be no Jews left in Europe "regardless of the outcome of the war." The articles in these papers try to present a picture of "increased anti-Semitism" throughout the world and attempt to give their readers the impression that anti-Jewish feelings are gaining ground in Anglo-Saxon countries.

AMERICAN ZIONISTS ASK CHURCHILL TO RE-EXAMINE BRITISH POLICY IN PALESTINE

NEW YORK, May 27.(JTA)-- Utilizing the visit of Prime Minister Winston Churchill to the United States, the American Emergency Committee for Zionist Affairs today sent him an appeal, in behalf of all Zionist groups in the United States, asking him for a statement containing a promise that the British Government "will re-examine its present policy in Palestine so that the victory of the United Nations will insure also the re-establishment of the Jews as a nation in their ancient homeland."

The appeal, which was signed by Rabbi Stephen S. Wise, chairman of the Emergency Committee, was made jointly by the Zionist Organization of America, the Hadassah, the Mizrahi organization of America and the Zionist Laborite groups. It read:

"We address ourselves to you, Mr. Prime Minister, at a time when the sacrifices and the efforts of the United Nations have at last brought nearer the prospect of victory over the forces of a ruthless and terrible barbarian, and when on the other hand the agony of the Jewish people of Europe approaches a tragic climax unexampled in Jewish history. To the Jews of Europe, tortured and facing yet unimagined horrors, Palestine still offers the one hope of immediate rescue and of ultimate survival as a people.

"We appeal to you in behalf of those no longer in a position to appeal for themselves for that word of reassurance which will make that hope a reality. We cannot accept and do not believe that a policy conceived in wholly different circumstances as part of a program of appeasement, now discredited and discarded, can prevail in the face of the compelling necessities of the unprecedented situation which now confronts the Jewish people. We cannot accept and do not believe that Britain's great Prime Minister who has led his own people through the valley of the shadow, and who has in the past so valiantly and truly expressed the conscience of Britain in insisting on the full discharge of its solemn obligation to the Jewish people, will fail in this grave hour to utter the word which will restore hope to millions now in despair.

"We ask you, Mr. Prime Minister, to say that Great Britain, true to its obligations, will be true to its promise to the Jewish people and in the light of that promise will reexamine its present policy in Palestine, so that the victory of the United Nations will insure also the reestablishment of the Jews as a nation in their ancient homeland."

NAZIS "CLEARING" UPPER SILESIA OF LAST GROUPS OF JEWS

ZURICH, May 27.(JTA)-- Practically all Jews have been deported by the Nazis from the Polish part of Upper Silesia, it is reported in the Krakauer Zeitung reaching here today from Nazi-occupied Poland.

The Nazi paper says that "small groups" of Jews still reside in a few townships south of Katowice, but adds that even these Jews, who were permitted to remain because they were needed in German war industries, "will be deported soon."

Private information from occupied Poland reaching here today discloses that the notorious concentration camp at Majdanek has been enlarged by the Nazis to hold 80,000 internees. Jews and Poles are being delivered to this camp daily from all parts of Poland. Most of the victims are treated with such brutality that they do not live long in detention. The mortality rate at the camp is termed "horrible."

ARGENTINA URGED TO OPEN DOORS TO LARGE-SCALE IMMIGRATION AFTER THE WAR

BUENOS AIRES, May 27.(JTA)-- A campaign to convince the Argentine people that the admission, after the war, of immigrants who will aid in the development of commerce and industry will benefit the country as a whole, has been launched here following an appeal by Dr. Carlos Saavedra Lamas, former foreign minister, in which the opening of Argentina to large-scale post-war immigration from Europe was urged.

Dr. Saavedra, who is now the rector of the National University, is being mentioned as a possible candidate in the coming Presidential elections. He is opposed to the regime of President Castillo and enjoys the support of liberal-minded men in the country. In his plea for permitting post-war immigration of urban elements, in addition to agricultural workers, Dr. Saavedra emphasized that the destiny of Argentina may well depend on large-scale immigration from Europe.

JEWISH AGENCY CLARIFIES RELIGIOUS STATUS OF REFUGEE CHILDREN FROM TEHERAN

NEW YORK, May 27.(JTA)-- The American Emergency Committee for Zionist Affairs today received a cable from the executive of the Jewish Agency in Jerusalem clarifying the religious status of the 839 children who recently arrived in Palestine from refugee camps in Teheran. There has been much public controversy concerning charges by some religious groups that the Agency was placing these children in homes and settlements where they would not receive religious training.

After being interviewed by Miss Henrietta Szold and a corps of social workers and teachers, the children were distributed to private homes and colonies on the following basis, the cable states:

One-hundred and twenty-three children joined their parents here; 21 were placed in children's homes; 35 were taken by relatives; 16 have been hospitalized or are still to be placed; 40 were placed under the supervision of the Agudas Israel, 278 with the Mizrahi and 36 with the conservative Ahavan and Beth Jenoshua groups; and 290 were placed in non-orthodox institutions or settlements. All children over 14 years of age were given the right to choose where they wished to go, while others were placed according to the customary religious life of their parents or according to the parents' specific wishes where such were known. Doubtful cases will be given religious training.

MILITARY AUTHORITIES FORBID WAR INDUSTRIES TO CHECK ON RELIGION OF APPLICANTS

WASHINGTON, May 27.(JTA)-- Following investigation of charges that some of the biggest war plants in the New York area have been checking on the race, creed and color of applicants for employment through private investigating firms, the Office of the Provost Marshal-General has inserted in war contracts, at the request of the President's Committee on Fair Employment Practice, a clause forbidding any inquiries into or report of the race, creed or color of any investigated person, except with the permission of the FEPC, it was announced here today.

It was charged that through a number of private investigating firms the plants were able to check on the race and religion of job seekers in direct violation of the provisions of the President's Executive Order 8802, which outlaws any consideration of a person's race, creed, color or national origin as a factor in giving war industry employment.

RUSSIAN PRESS SAYS JEWISH REFUGEES HELPING PRODUCE BUMPER CROP IN VOLGA AND CAUCASUS

KUIBYSHEV, May 27.(JTA)-- Tens of thousands Jewish evacuees from Poland and occupied sections of Russia are tilling the fields on state and collective farms in the Volga districts, in the Caucasus and in the republics of central Asia, according to reports reaching the Jewish Anti-Fascist Committee here.

Local agricultural papers report that as a result of the planning by Jewish agronomists and the efforts of Jewish settlers, the Spring sowing in many places was completed far ahead of time and a bumper crop is expected. On many of the farms entire refugee families, from grandparents to youngsters of school age, have pitched in to increase the production of food needed by the armed forces and the civilian population.

HEBREW UNIVERSITY MARKS 400TH ANNIVERSARY OF COPERNICUS' THEORY

JERUSALEM, May 27.(JTA)-- The 400th anniversary of the publication of Copernicus' theory that the sun is the center of the universe and not the earth, was marked at the Hebrew University today at ceremonies presided over by Dr. Judah L. Magnes, president of the university. Papers were read concerning the philosophical implications of Copernicus' theory and also its influence on astronomical discoveries.

DR. LOUIS NUSBAUM ELECTED PRESIDENT OF NATIONAL FARM SCHOOL

PHILADELPHIA, May 27.(JTA)-- The election of Dr. Louis Nusbaum as president of the National Farm School, Bucks County, where Jewish youths receive agricultural training, was announced here today. Dr. Nusbaum was formerly Associate Superintendent of Schools in Philadelphia.

The National Farm School also announced today that in order to conform to the latest restrictions of the OPA, it has cancelled its traditional Founder's Day program which has been observed by the School on the first Sunday in June for the past 46 years.

FOUR-DAY CONVENTION OF LEAGUE FOR LABOR PALESTINE OPENS TODAY IN NEW YORK

NEW YORK, May 27.(JTA)-- The ninth annual convention of the League for Labor Palestine opens tomorrow at the Hotel Edison for a four-day series of discussions on the development of Palestine as a Jewish homeland, the fate of European Jewry, and the relationship of American labor to the Palestine labor movement, it was announced here today.