

Published by the Jewish Telegraphic Agency

106 East 41st Street, New York 17, N. Y.

VOL. X, NO. 157

Thursday, July 8, 1943

DEPORTATION OF JEWS FROM POLISH CITIES CONTINUES; BELGIAN JEWS HELD IN LUBLIN DISTRICT

SOMEWHERE IN EUROPE, July 7.(JTA)-- Hundreds of thousands of Jews concentrated in Eastern Galicia, between the cities of Rawa-Ruska and Przemyśl, are now being organized by the Nazis into groups which are to be deported to unknown destinations, it was reliably reported here today in a message from the underground movement in Poland.

The message also stated that practically all Jews of central Poland are now interned in three "Jewish concentration camps" near Lublin, Birkenau and Oswiecim from where they are being sent to forced labor. Because of insufficient nourishment, mortality among them is very high.

"Many Jews deported from Belgium are interned in camps near Dublin-Irena and Konska-Wola, in the Lublin district," the message said. It also reports that the Nazis massacred all Jews in Kosow-Poleski and at the end of June deported about 3,000 Jews from the town of Strzemieszyce.

RUMANIA TAKES LABOR LICENSES FROM JEWISH ARTISANS; 14,900 JEWS OUSTED FROM JOBS

ZURICH, July 7.(JTA)-- The Rumanian Government, in accordance with its policy of ousting Jews from industry and commerce, this week deprived 779 Jews of their "master's labor license," thus forcing them to close their shops. The persons affected are shoemakers, tailors, and other self-employed handicraft workers.

Figures on the wholesale dismissal of Jews from Rumanian commercial and industrial enterprises carried out between November, 1940, and May, 1943, have been published by the Rumanian Minister of Labor, according to a German broadcast.

The Minister's statement says that out of a total of 8,126 firms, 3,702 have exchanged all their Jewish employees for Rumanians. In Bucharest alone the number of Jewish employees has decreased from 17,906 to 3,018.

J.D.C. Receives Report on Jewish Life in Rumania

NEW YORK, July 7.(JTA)-- A first-hand report of the conditions under which the Jews in Rumania live was made public today by the Joint Distribution Committee here. It is based upon information supplied by Rumanian Jews who succeeded in reaching Palestine.

"Every Jew," the report states, "must go to a camp for compulsory work for a certain period. This is officially restricted to one to three months but actually there are people who have already been in camp a year or more. With regard to compulsory labor, as in everything else, there are no regulations. Without any reason whatsoever, and with no system at all, every Jew can at any hour of the day or night be dragged from his house and sent to camp to work. Above all, the fate of every Jew lies in the hands of the nearest police official. The latter, not infrequently -- particularly in the provinces -- abuses his power. It is not rare to

find cases where the police commissioner makes purely personal demands which are settled by a monetary exchange beneficial to the official himself."

Every Jew is "Suspect" Liable for Deportation to Transnistria

"Jews, especially from Bessarabia, Bukovina and Moldavia, have been deported en masse to Transnistria. From Bucharest itself, at one time, about 1,200 Jews were summoned to police headquarters and, with the explanation that their earlier wish to go to Bessarabia would be fulfilled, were shipped to Transnistria. No one is sure that he will not share the same fate. Actual reasons for the deportations are immaterial. Every 'suspect' is deported, and a 'suspect' is every Jew with whom any Rumanian is angry or who is not sufficiently liked by a neighboring porter or ex-worker or simply is not able to give the required 'bakshish' demanded from him by any police commissioner. In October, 1942, 800 persons were deported from Bucharest in one batch.

The report discloses that only about 16,000 Jews remain in Bukovina, living crowded together in the city of Cernauti. Among the deportees are such prominent Jews as Dr. Sam Mosner, former vice-president of the Central Bank in Czernowitz, Bukovina; Dr. Meyer Teich, former president of the cooperative in Suceava, Bukovina; E. M. Trachtman, former representative of the Jewish Colonization Association in Rumania, and his brother-in-law, L. Grushman, former manager of the Hicem in Bucharest, all of whom worked closely with the J.D.C. The latter pair were deported with their families. Only one of the family, Grushman's daughter, survives. All the others have either been murdered or have died of the dreaded typhus in Transnistria. The Head Office for Jews in Rumania (replacing the former Union of the Communities) has recently been allowed to send help to Jews in Transnistria in the form of clothes and foodstuffs.

The Jews in Bucharest fare better, the report declares, although "practically all of the Jewish houses have been confiscated and given to Rumanians. The Jews who are allowed to remain in their homes have to pay extraordinarily high rents. For residences assessed at a rental of from 50,000 to 60,000 lei for Rumanians, Jews have to pay from 400,000 to 800,000 lei."

Rumanians Display Sympathy for Jews; Government Remains Anti-Semitic

Sympathy for the harassed Jews is occasionally evidenced by Rumanians, the report reveals, but conditions for the Jews have been made more burdensome by regulations which require Jews to obtain special permission to practice their professions. Large fees are exacted for the necessary licenses. Jews must contribute, too, to the Rumanian Welfare Work presided over by the wife of Rumania's dictator Antonescu. A state loan to which Jews must subscribe has had a catastrophic effect. Their quota, four times as large as their taxes in 1940, cannot be met since the state has deprived them of their source of income.

The anti-Semitic policy of the government extends as well to Jewish youth. Although scholars and students are exempted from compulsory labor -- the report calls this one of the "incomprehensible miracles of the present situation" -- schools for Jewish youngsters are not always permitted in the provinces. Jewish youth has no possibility of receiving training in any way, although in Bucharest a network of Jewish elementary and intermediate schools and even one high school, with about 800 students, operates.

STATE DEPT. URGED TO NEGOTIATE FOR EMIGRATION OF JEWS FROM NAZI-DOMINATED COUNTRIES

WASHINGTON, July 7.(JTA)-- Congressman Emanuel Celler of New York, in a statement issued here today, called on the State Department and the British Government to open negotiations with Rumania, Hungary, Bulgaria and France to secure the emigration of Jews from those countries.

POST-WAR RECONSTRUCTION PLAN OF PALESTINE GOVERNMENT OPPOSED BY JEWS

JERUSALEM, July 7.(JTA)-- A resolution voicing the determination of the Jews in Palestine not to cooperate with the Government in its post-war reconstruction plan, which is considered to be pro-Arab and opposed to the interests of the Jewish population, was under discussion today at the session of the Small Zionist Actions Committee, following a three-hour address by David Ben-Gurion, chairman of the executive of the Jewish Agency.

Outlining his opposition to the plan, Ben-Gurion simultaneously appealed to the Jews of the United States to lend their maximum support to securing the revocation of the British White Paper which provides for the complete cessation of Jewish immigration to Palestine after the Spring of next year.

The post-war reconstruction plan of the Palestine Government is aimed at helping only the Arabs, and merely supplements the White Paper, which freezes the Jewish population in Palestine, preventing any further Jewish development, Ben-Gurion said. He emphasized that the Zionist movement will insist on the provisions formulated in the Biltmore Declaration, which demanded the creation of a Jewish Commonwealth in Palestine, and will not cooperate in the post-war plan which the Palestine Government announced without prior consultation with Jewish representatives. "Any cooperation with this Government plan, as well as participation in the preparation of plans for the future of Palestine on the basis of the White Paper, actually means reconciliation with the White Paper policy," Ben Gurion pointed out.

Jewish Agency Prepares It's Own Reconstruction Plan

The resolution, as proposed at today's session, reveals that a Jewish delegation in London has already informed the British Government that the Jews will not participate in the preparation of the post-war reconstruction plan of the Palestine Government, or in any other plan based upon the White Paper. The resolution, at the same time, emphasizes that the Jews in Palestine will continue to cooperate on the various projects connected with the war effort and will insist on receiving a share of the budget of the Palestine Government for education, health activities and public works.

Today's session heard with satisfaction an announcement by leaders of the Jewish Agency that the Agency is preparing its own post-war reconstruction plan which includes the development of the Negeb area and the colonization of uncultivated and waste lands.

Palestine Post-War Plan Discussed in British Parliament

LONDON, July 7.(JTA)-- Assurances that any plan for post-war reconstruction of Palestine will not interfere with the industrial development of the country "essential to an expanding livelihood and the absorption of new immigrants," was demanded in the House of Commons today by David Adams, Laborite.

Colonial Secretary Oliver Stanley replying stated that the population of Palestine may be certain that any post-war reconstruction scheme would be "designed to encourage rather than interfere with sound industrial development."

Mr. Adams also drew the attention of the Colonial Secretary to the fact that the Haifa municipality has reported that at least 10,000 inhabitants of the city are living under unhealthy and unsanitary conditions due to the housing shortage. He urged that the Palestine Government be instructed to remedy the situation. Mr. Stanley replied that the Palestine Government is alive to its responsibilities and though no substantial progress is possible during the war, plans are being prepared for the time when such improvements will be possible.

U.S. WILL NOT USE SERVICES OF POLISH ANTI-SEMITES IN POST-WAR EUROPE, SAYS STIMSON

WASHINGTON, July 7.(JTA)-- Secretary of War Henry L. Stimson has emphasized that Major Michael Grazynski, anti-Semitic Polish officer, who is now a student at the School of Military Government at Charlottesville, Virginia, will never be employed by the United States Government. The school is training military administrators for countries liberated from the Nazis.

"It is not contemplated that Major Grazynski will ever hold any position in our own government," the Secretary of War assured Congressman Emanuel Celler. "Upon his leaving the school, he will revert to whatever status he occupied before entering it." Secretary Stimson also added that "energetic steps will be taken to determine Major Grazynski's fitness to continue as a student at the School." At present the Provost Marshal General, under whose direction the school is operated, is conducting an investigation of the Grazynski case. The Polish major was admitted to the school at the request of the Polish Government-in-Exile.

JEWISH DELEGATION FROM RUSSIA MET WITH DR. WEIZMANN PRIOR TO HIS RETURN TO LONDON

NEW YORK, July 7.(JTA)-- Dr. Chaim Weizmann, president of the World Zionist Organization, met with Prof. Solomon Mikhoels and Itzik Feffer, the two delegates of the Jewish Anti-Fascist Committee of Russia, and invited them to visit Palestine on their return trip, it was reported today by the Committee of Jewish Writers and Artists which is sponsoring the visit of the delegation to the United States.

The meeting, the announcement says, took place in New York prior to Dr. Weizmann's return to London. It lasted more than two hours during which various questions concerning Jewish life in Russia and in Palestine were discussed. The delegates emphasized that they were impressed by the "heroic war effort" of the Jews in Palestine and that the Jews in Russia are grateful for the medical aid which Palestine Jewry is sending to the Russian army. The delegation also expressed the hope that the friendship between the Jews of Russia and Palestine "will continue and will grow in the future." Dr. Weizmann wished the cultural delegation success in their mission here.

DR. WEIZMANN, JEWISH AGENCY, NATIONAL COUNCIL MOURN SIKORSKI AND CAZALET

LONDON, July 7.(JTA)-- Dr. Chaim Weizmann, president of the Jewish Agency for Palestine, today conveyed his personal condolences and those of the Agency to Polish Acting Premier Stanislaw Mikolaczuk on the death of General Sikorski and the members of his staff who died with him when their plane crashed into the sea off Gibraltar. Dr. Weizmann said that the "Polish Government and the Polish people have suffered an irreparable loss."

The Agency headquarters in Jerusalem sent cabled messages of sympathy to the Polish Government here and also to the family of Major Victor Cazalet, M.P., who was travelling with Gen. Sikorski. A message from Isaac Ben-Zvi, president of the Jewish National Council in Palestine, received today by the Speaker of the House of Commons, expressed "Palestine Jewry's heartfelt condolences to the British nation and to his family on the death of Major Cazalet." A session of the Zionist Actions Committee meeting in Jerusalem was interrupted when the news of the crash reached there, and eulogies of Gen. Sikorski and Major Cazalet were delivered, the Agency office here was informed today.