

VOL. X. NO. 166

Monday, July 19, 1943

PALESTINE LABOR CONVENTION PROTESTS AGAINST SENDING JEWISH UNITS ABROAD

JERUSALEM, July 18.(JTA)-- A resolution protesting the sending of Jewish military units from Palestine to other countries was adopted here today at the concluding session of the 50th convention of the Histadruth, the Palestine Federation of Labor.

The resolution was introduced by David Ben-Gurion, chairman of the executive of the Jewish Agency and one of the leaders of the Histadruth. He declared that Jews recruited into the British armed forces in Palestine should not be sent to other parts of the world.

The convention was marked by long and heated discussions on the question of whether the majority could impose political decisions on the minority since the Histadruth is a labor organization composed of members holding various political views. A sharp exchange of opinion took place between the delegations of the Jewish Labor Party who form the majority, and the delegates of the Hashomer Hazair and the Poale-Zion.

Mr. Ben-Gurion, speaking on behalf of the Jewish Labor Party, announced that if any of the groups of which the Histadruth is composed would propose the dissolution of the various political factions within the organization, this proposal would receive the fullest support of the Jewish Labor Party.

FRENCH, BELGIAN, BULGARIAN JEWS ARRIVE AT LODZ

GENEVA, July 18.(JTA)-- Groups of Jewish deportees from France, Belgium and Bulgaria have recently arrived in Poland and been confined in the ghetto at Lodz, according to reports received today from the Polish underground.

A report reaching here from Rumania states that in the ghetto in the town of Zhmerinka, in Transnistria, there are 3,274 Jews at present, of whom 1,200 are natives of the city and the remainder are deportees from Bukovina, Bessarabia and Germany. Because a section of the original population has been allowed to remain there, the living conditions of the Jews residing in Zhmerinka are somewhat better than in other towns in Transnistria, the report says. The Jewish community has organized a communal kitchen where 600 plates of soup are handed out daily - which represents the only food available to a majority of the deportees. The city also has a Jewish hospital with 12 beds, a home for aged invalids which houses 22, a school with facilities for 310 pupils, and an orphan asylum which cares for 200 children.

These facilities, however, are only a fraction of what is required to meet the needs of the Jewish population and there is a great shortage of living quarters, medicine and clothing. Most of the able-bodied Jews are forced to work in ten shops in the Jewish quarter which are producing goods for the German army. Despite the sub-standard conditions under which they live, the Jews of Zhmerinka are attempting to send aid to 300 deportees in the neighboring towns of Cazaciiovka, to 200 in Stenislaviv, to 1,500 in Zatisu and to 1,200 in Catmazow, the report disclosed.

ALLIES TO ABOLISH ALL RACIAL LEGISLATION IN SICILY, LONDON HEARS

LONDON, July 18.(JTA)-- All Italian legislation discriminating against persons because of race, creed or color will be annulled in the sections of Sicily held by the Allied forces, the press here reports today on the basis of dispatches from Allied headquarters in North Africa.

Abolition of racial laws will be one of the first steps taken by Gen. Sir Harold R.L.G. Alexander, who has been named military governor of Sicily, according to these dispatches, which also state that freedom of religious worship for all people will be upheld and the position of all religious institutions will be respected.

AMERICAN JEWISH CONFERENCE ALLOCATES 125 SEATS TO MEMBERSHIP ORGANIZATIONS

NEW YORK, July 18.(JTA)-- The executive committee for the organization of the American Jewish Conference today announced the allocation of 125 seats reserved for delegates of national membership organizations participating in the Conference. It also announced that organizations to which four seats had been granted tentatively, will receive only three each.

Among the organizations which received three seats are the American Jewish Committee, the American Jewish Congress, the B'nai B'rith, the Zionist Organization of America, the Free Sons of Israel, Independent Order Brith Abraham, Independent Order Brith Shalom, Jewish National Workers' Alliance, Jewish War Veterans, Mizrahi, Organization of America, National Council of Young Israel, National Federation of Temple Brotherhoods, Order Sons of Zion, Poale-Zion - Zeire-Zion, Union of American Hebrew Congregations, Union of Orthodox Congregations, United Synagogue of America.

National women's organizations given three seats include the Hadassah, the Women's Division of the American Jewish Congress, the Women's Supreme Council of the B'nai B'rith, the Mizrahi Women's Organization, the National Council of Jewish Women, the National Federation of Temple Sisterhoods, the Pioneer Women's Organization, and the National Women's League of the United Synagogue of America.

The Jewish Labor Committee and its affiliates were allotted 16 seats. Four seats were allotted jointly to thirteen Jewish youth organizations. Others, mostly orthodox groups, received two seats each while smaller organizations were given one seat each.

The National Election Board stated that approximately 25,000 electors, chosen by organizations and groups representing more than 1,500,000 members of more than 6,000 local Jewish organizations, cast their ballots in the election of delegates. Of the 375 delegates to be chosen by the electors, 374 have been elected. The remaining delegate is still to be chosen in Worcester, Mass., where the election has been delayed because of local conditions.

SIX PERCENT OF POLISH DIVISION IN RUSSIA IS JEWISH

LONDON, July 18.(JTA)-- Six percent of the soldiers in the Polish division being trained in Russia for combat duty on the Soviet front are Jewish, it is reported today by British correspondents in Moscow who this week witnessed a review of the Polish group.

The unit, which is called the Tadeusz Kosciuszko Division, includes members of the army of General Anders, who refused to leave when the Polish forces were evacuated to the Middle East, many persons released from exile in Central Asia, and former guerrilla fighters.

CANADIAN JEWISH CONGRESS ISSUES STATEMENT ON QUEBEC'S EXPROPRIATION OF SYNAGOGUE SITE

MONTREAL, July 18.(JTA)-- A statement challenging the action of the Quebec municipality in expropriating the site on which the Jewish community of Quebec was building a synagogue was issued here today by the Canadian Jewish Congress through H.M. Caiserman, its general secretary.

"In order to prevent the Jews of Quebec City from erecting a synagogue," the statement says, "the majority of the Quebec City Council seeks to expropriate the site which the Jewish community has purchased and upon which it is in the course of building. This action the Jewish community will challenge as an undue interference. The issue involved in the Quebec case is of vital concern not only to every Canadian Jew but to every citizen of this country who wishes to see freedom of worship maintained in Canada.

"The City Council has passed a by-law expropriating this site allegedly because the city requires the land in order to enlarge a near-by park. The hollowness of this motivation was exposed when the Jewish community offered to surrender the lot for this purpose if the city would promise that a permit would be issued to build a synagogue elsewhere in a part of the city suitable to the community. This offer of the Jewish community was not accepted.

"In fact this step by the Quebec Council is the latest in a long series of obstructions and hinderances during the past ten years by means of which the considerable Jewish community has been prevented from erecting a synagogue. It is a most flagrant assault on freedom of worship and the civic right to erect a house of worship for the citizens of the Jewish faith. Never before in the history of our country has this right been so openly or so unashamedly suppressed or challenged.

Jewish Community Explored All Possibilities For a Compromise

"At the present time, the freedom of worship and of faith is one of the Four Freedoms which every section of Canada has girded arms in mortal combat to protect. It is a high civic duty for every individual and every group in the community to exercise that vigilance which is the well-known price of liberty in defence of the freedoms which our constitution and traditions provide. We cannot conceive that our victorious soldiery in which the Jewish servicemen are playing a glorious part shall doff their uniforms to find that we here have lost what they fought so bravely to win for us.

"The Jewish community has explored the possibility of compromise and settlement on the question at issue," the statement continues. "We have sought the conciliatory offices of influential and respected men. We have been patient and considerate of the feelings of those of another faith and of other views. We have acted conservatively within our rights and carefully in fulfillment of our duties. But we have not won the most elementary recognition of our rights from the narrow majority of the Quebec City Council. We would not be doing justice to our civic duties or to our obligations towards our younger generation if we did not exert ourselves to the utmost to establish a synagogue where it will be possible to worship in the ancient and widely respected traditions of our people.

"It would be a thousand pities if this matter should have to be fought out in the courts. One is at once reminded of famous cases of more than fifty years ago involving religious issues which then aroused bitter feeling, and which should not be forgotten. Why not let the dead past bury its dead? We sincerely hope that the wise men of Quebec will prevail upon their minority not to allow this issue to get out of hand, but to settle it in the broad and tolerant spirit so eloquently preached by the civil and religious leaders of Quebec City and Province," the statement concludes.