

Published by the Jewish Telegraphic Agency

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

VOL. X. NO. 179

Tuesday, August 3, 1943

ITALIAN JEWS HAIL END OF FASCIST REGIME AS OPENING DOOR TO ABOLITION OF RACIAL LAWS

BERN, Aug. 2.(JTA)-- Letters from leaders of large Jewish communities in Italy hailing the downfall of the Fascist regime as opening the doors to the abolition of racial legislation in Italy were received here today.

(Stefani, the official Italian news agency, reported today that Marshal Badoglio had issued a decree in Rome cancelling the anti-Jewish laws, restoring Italian citizenship to persons deprived of it on racial grounds and ordering the liberation of Jews confined in camps or jails because they were Jewish or because they refused to divorce their Jewish spouses.)

These letters, which stated that the anti-Semitic legislation had never had much influence on the Italian people, also disclosed that shortly before he was forced to abdicate Mussolini moved 16,000 Jews from labor camps in southern Italy to the northern part of the country to prevent their liberation by invading Allied armies.

The Italian racial laws were introduced on July 14, 1938, after Mussolini had established close relations with Hitler. Previous to that leading Fascist spokesmen, including Mussolini himself, had ridiculed the concept of "pure races" and had disclaimed all connection between the philosophy of Fascism and anti-Semitism.

Italian People Never Liked Anti-Jewish Laws, Refugee Reports

BUENOS AIRES, Aug. 2.(JTA)-- The Italian people never liked the Fascist racial laws, a newly arrived German refugee who had lived in Italy said today. He related instances of kindness by officials as well as ordinary Italians toward refugees affected by Mussolini's adoption of Hitler's anti-Semitic legislation.

"I know of cases," this man said, "in which poor refugee families, obliged to live in the south of Italy near the internment camp I was at, received help from the villagers, who collected money to buy clothes for them. I know of policemen who informed refugees in advance that they had orders to detain them, so that they could move on and escape being sent to a concentration camp. Some police authorities gave advice to refugees on how to avoid expulsion.

"There were cases of Italian officials who deliberately falsified the ages of refugees in documents so that they might comply with a Spanish regulation permitting only men of non-military age to enter Spain." He said he could not remember a single soldier or officer at his camp who had not behaved with "the utmost correctness and courtesy."

FORTY JEWS ARRESTED IN BUCHAREST CHARGED WITH ANTI-AXIS ACTIVITY

ZURICH, Aug. 2.(JTA)-- Forty Jews were arrested in Bucharest over the weekend on the charge that they had engaged in anti-Axis activities, it was reported today by DNB, the official German news agency.

"JEWISH PROBLEM IN PALESTINE" BAR TO ARAB FEDERATION SAYS IRAQULAN PREMIER

ALEXANDRIA, Egypt, Aug. 2.(JTA)-- "The Jewish problem in Palestine" is one of the major obstacles to the plan of Arab leaders to "re-unite" Palestine, Transjordan and Lebanon in a greater Syria as a prelude to the formation of a confederation of Arab states, it was stated here today by Premier Nuri Pasha es-Said of Iraq after a week-end conference with Egyptian Premier Nahas Pasha.

Nuri Pasha told a press conference that he had talked with Arab leaders in Palestine, Transjordan and Lebanon and had found "general agreement that the first essential is reunion in a united Syria as existed before the first World War." He asserted that obstacles to this development were "the Jewish problem in Palestine" and the French mandate in Syria, which, he said, must first be settled by agreement with the United Nations.

Up to the first World War, Syria embraced Palestine. Under the Sykes-Picot treaty of 1916, Britain and France agreed upon the partition of Syria, and in 1918 French troops occupied northern Syria, and British troops southern Syria, or Palestine. Syria had been part of the Turkish empire.

POLISH GOVERNMENT ASKED TO ACT TO AID JEWS IN OCCUPIED HOMELAND

LONDON, Aug. 2.(JTA)-- Action by the various ministries of the Polish Government-in-Exile to aid the Jews in Poland was requested today by Dr. Ignacy Schwartzbart, Jewish deputy in the Polish National Council, in interviews with Polish President Wladyslaw Raczkiewicz, Premier Stanislaw Mikolajczyk, Minister of Information Stanislaw Kot and Minister of Labor Jan Stanczyk. Dr. Schwartzbart also submitted a memorandum to Defense Minister Marjan Kukiel on the position of the Jews in the Polish armed forces.

Meanwhile, the Polish National Council adopted a resolution pledging that immediately after the liberation of the country, democratic elections will be held to choose delegates for a constitutional assembly to draw up a new constitution incorporating equal rights for all Polish citizens.

NZO WITHDRAWS FROM AMERICAN JEWISH CONFERENCE; DECRIES "INADEQUATE" REPRESENTATION

NEW YORK, Aug. 2.(JTA)-- The New Zionist Organization today announced that it is withdrawing from the American Jewish Conference. It charged that "instead of aiming to establish a united representation of American Jewry, the Conference is intent upon forming a new body to safeguard the vested interests of all those long-established agencies which have so miserably failed to formulate a program of activities designed to alleviate Jewish misery and to offer a solution to the age-old Jewish problem."

The NZO statement objected to the fact that the organization had not been granted three seats as were other national membership groups and asserted that "only fear on the part of the sponsoring bodies of losing their positions can account for their reluctance to extend to it (NZO) adequate representation."

SPANISH AUTHORITIES ARREST FIVE JEWS IN TANGIERS FOR MAKING "V" SIGN

LONDON, Aug. 2.(JTA)-- Five Jews have been arrested by the Spanish authorities in the international concession of Tangiers, Spanish North Africa, and are being held in prison for making the "V" sign, it is reported here today.

Several weeks ago the Tangiers authorities arrested a number of Jewish youths who had volunteered for work in French North Africa, but released them after vigorous protests by the British consul.

COUNCIL ON AFRICAN AFFAIRS CRITICIZES HOOVER'S PROPOSAL FOR SETTLING JEWS IN AFRICA

NEW YORK, Aug. 2.(JTA)-- In a letter sent to leading New York newspapers today, Dr. Max Yergan, executive director of the Council on African Affairs, condemned as "characteristic of the outworn ideologies of appeasement and imperialism" the suggestion made by former President Herbert Hoover for solving the problem of Fascist oppression of European Jews by providing for their emigration to and colonization in certain upland regions of Central Africa. Mr. Hoover's proposal was made in a speech telephoned from San Francisco to the closing session of the Emergency Conference to Save the Jewish People of Europe, held in New York City last week.

"Hoover's plan," Dr. Yergan declared, "is of the same pattern and cloth as Senator Bilbo's plan for solving the question of Negro rights in America by shipping all American Negroes 'back to Africa.'" Dr. Yergan criticized the former President for regarding Africa, and particularly the mandated areas, as apparently uninhabited land awaiting "development" by "a white civilization."

Negroes are fully sympathetic, because of their own experiences, to the plight of European Jews, the letter stated, and they believe that Africa, as well as all other continents should be open to Jewish emigres. But "Mr. Hoover's proposal for the arbitrary segregation of the Jews at the expense of the Africans," the letter continued, "runs counter to the principle of national self-determination embodied in the Atlantic Charter, and counter to the interests of both the Jewish and African peoples."

Chairman of the Council on African Affairs is the noted Negro singer Paul Robeson. William Jay Schieffelin is vice-chairman and John Hammond, treasurer.

REVIEW OF HIAS ACTIVITIES IN FIRST SIX MONTHS OF 1942 GIVEN HERE

NEW YORK, Aug. 2.(JTA)-- A review of HIAS activities on behalf of arriving and potential immigrants during the first six months of this year was presented here today at a meeting of the Board of Directors of the organization.

The report, which was submitted by Isaac L. Asofsky, executive director, states that HIAS representatives met 163 ships bearing immigrants during the six-month period and aided the incoming refugees to make contact with relatives here, assisted 192,299 persons in all parts of the United States in rescuing their relatives abroad, handled \$632,090 deposited with HIAS by such relatives to partially finance the transportation of refugees, argued the cases of 829 immigrants before government boards and helped thousands of other persons to file naturalization papers, verify their records of arrival in the United States and facilitate the immigration of relatives. In addition, the HIAS fed and sheltered thousands of refugees at its headquarters here.

RABBINICAL COUNCIL ASKS RELAXATION OF IMMIGRATION BARRIERS IN ALLIED NATIONS

CHICAGO, Aug. 2.(JTA)-- Resolutions requesting President Roosevelt and Secretary of State Hull to intervene to secure relaxation of the immigration laws in the United Nations and condemning the failure of the Bermuda Conference to take any concrete action to aid the thousands of Jews in Axis Europe were adopted at the eighth annual convention of the Rabbinical Council of America which just concluded here.

The meeting also voted to endorse the forthcoming American Jewish Conference, condemned the recent race riots and urged that special prayers for the victory of the United Nations be recited in the synagogues every Saturday.