

Published by the Jewish Telegraphic Agency

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

VOL. X. NO. 200

Friday, August 27, 1943

GESTAPO SQUADS HUNTING FUGITIVE POLISH JEWS; 30,000 EXECUTED SINCE APRIL

LONDON, Aug. 26.(JTA)-- Gestapo squads are engaged in a large scale man-hunt for fugitive Jews who succeeded in escaping from many of the ghettos in Poland during the chaos resulting from liquidation of the ghettos and the execution and deportation of most of the residents, according to a report from the underground received by Polish-Jewish circles here today through Polish Government channels.

The report states that the number of executions have lessened recently because only few Jews remain. When a fugitive Jew is caught outside the ghetto walls he is immediately executed, the report discloses. It says that since April of this year 30,000 Jews have been executed during liquidation of the ghettos. Among those killed were all members of the various ghetto councils, teachers, lawyers and other intellectuals.

The ghettos in Lwow, Radomsk, Ujazd, Radzimin, Ostrow-Mazowieck, Sokolow, Bialystok, Luck, Dzydlowiec, Wloszczowa and Dzezere, near Lwow, have already been demolished, the report said, although there are a few Jews left in Lwow. They are employed in Nazi war industries.

Many Jews are trying to save themselves by posing as "Aryans," the underground information discloses, but the German police are systematically hunting them down. A Jew who is discovered attempting to masquerade as a Christian is executed on the spot. One hundred and fifty such Jews were murdered in the Siedlece district within the last few weeks, the report asserts. Poles are punished severely if they assist the fleeing Jews in any way. A baker, together with his wife and sixteen-year-old son were recently executed for selling a roll to a Jew.

Poles Forced to Seek Jews Hiding in Warsaw Houses

In an attempt to ferret out every fugitive Jew and to prevent Poles from sheltering Jews, the German authorities have appointed committees of Poles for every block of houses in Warsaw and are holding them responsible for seeing that no Jews are hidden in any of the apartments. The safest hiding place left to the Jews is the woods and many have fled to the forests in eastern Poland.

The report says that there are about 20,000 Jews still left in Vilna, where the only remaining ghetto in Lithuania is located. It adds that recently many truckloads of Jews were brought to the Vilna ghetto, but were taken from there after a short time and executed near Ponary. All Jews in the Tatra district have been deported or killed and the only survivors are about 100 who work under appalling conditions in the quarries at Zakopane. In Tarnov, the report continues, the Nazis have assembled 5,000 Jewish tailors who were brought there without their families to work in clothing factories manufacturing uniforms.

Revealing further details concerning the Warsaw ghetto battle, the underground report estimates that 5,000 Jews perished during the hostilities. The Tlomackie Synagogue, a half-mile outside the ghetto confines, was blown up by German troops. Whole streets lay in ruins, the report discloses, and quotas Poles as stating that the fire that raged in the ghetto was the worst in the history of Poland

POLISH JEWS BATTLING GERMAN EXECUTION SQUADS; YOUTHS FLEEING TO GUERRILLA BANDS

STOCKHOLM, Aug. 26.(JTA)-- Jews in Upper Silesia, in Poland, have been offering armed resistance to German execution squads which have been sent to round them up for deportation to "unknown destinations," which are usually execution camps, according to reliable advices reaching here today.

In the towns of Sosnowitz and Bendzin, violent street fighting broke out between the German soldiers and resisting Jews and both sides suffered casualties. As far as could be learned, in no cases were the Jews able to maintain resistance for any length of time. Some of the younger Jews, who succeeded in escaping from the Nazis during the outbreaks, have joined guerrilla bands operating in the Lublin and Warsaw districts, the reports said.

BRITISH TRADE UNION CONGRESS WILL DEMAND REPRISALS FOR PERSECUTION OF JEWS

LONDON, Aug. 26.(JTA)-- A resolution demanding punishment for war criminals, and for persons responsible for the persecution and massacre of hundreds of thousands of European Jews, will be introduced at the forthcoming annual meeting of the British Trade Union Congress which is slated to open on September 3, it was learned here today.

The draft of the resolution reads: "The Congress, after four years of the most terrible war the world has ever seen, a war in which the German nation has perpetrated inhuman crimes against the peoples of all the occupied countries and particularly against the Jewish race, pledges itself to continue the struggle until the unconditional surrender of the Axis. It further demands that after victory is achieved, all those responsible for atrocities, whatever their rank or position, be brought to justice before an Allied tribunal and punished according to the extent of their responsibility. The German people cannot escape the responsibility for starting the war and for the crimes committed by the German armies."

PALESTINE GOVERNMENT ACTS TO ROLL BACK COMMODITY PRICES

JERUSALEM, Aug. 26.(JTA)-- A standing committee to advise the Palestine Government on the utilization of subsidies and the controlled sale of essential commodities in order to roll back living costs has been appointed by High Commissioner Sir Harold MacMichael, it was officially announced today.

The committee has already begun its deliberations and as the first step in reducing the cost of living the government announced today that the ceiling prices of bread, flour, textiles and cotton will be lowered within the next few days.

SWEDISH POLICE ARREST NAZI YOUTHS FOR ATTACKING JEWISH REFUGEE

STOCKHOLM, Aug. 26.(JTA)-- Three youths, one of them a notorious Swedish Nazi, have been charged with "provocative behavior" and will be arraigned in court for attacking a Jewish refugee last Sunday, it is reported today in the Nya Dagligt Allehanda.

The refugee, whose name is not given, was seated in a restaurant when he was assaulted by the three youths. He knocked down two of them and the other one fled. When the victims left the restaurant, however, they threw themselves upon him again and were arrested. One of the three had previously caused a disturbance when selling the Nazis party organ in the streets.

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WORLD-WIDE DAY OF FASTING AND PRAYER FOR MARTYRED JEWS PROCLAIMED FOR MONDAY

JERUSALEM, Aug. 26.(JTA)-- A world-wide day of fasting and prayer for the martyred Jewish communities of Europe has been proclaimed for Monday, August 30, it was announced here today. The observance, which will coincide with the opening of the American Jewish Assembly, which will convene in New York on Sunday night, has been called jointly by Palestine Chief Rabbis Isaac Herzog and Ben-Zion Uziel, Chief Rabbi Joseph Hertz of the British Empire and the Union of Orthodox Rabbis of the United States and Canada.

Prayers will be recited on Monday in all synagogues for both the victims of the Nazis in Europe and Jews who have fallen on the various battlefields of the United Nations. Prayers will also be offered for the rescue of those Jews who survive. The Hebrew press here will issue special memorial editions on Monday and the associations of settlers from various European countries have called upon the Jews in their homelands to participate in the observances wherever possible.

"BALANCE SHEET" OF NAZI EXTERMINATION OF JEWS PREPARED FOR CONFERENCE DELEGATES

NEW YORK, Aug. 26.(JTA)-- On the eve of the American Jewish Conference, the Institute of Jewish Affairs of the American Jewish Congress and the World Jewish Congress published today a "balance sheet" of the devastation wrought by Hitler upon the Jews of Europe in the course of his ten year war on them.

The study asserts that the Jewish population of Europe, totalling 8,300,000, has been reduced by 5,000,000 and that in the whole of continental Europe, embracing twenty-four countries occupied by the Axis, only 3,000,000 Jews remain alive. More than 3,000,000 Jews have been destroyed in the four year period since the outbreak of war in 1939 by planned starvation, forced labor, deportation, pogroms, and methodical murder in the German-run extermination centers of Eastern Europe, it says. One million eight hundred thousand Jews were saved by evacuation into the interior of the Soviet Union, the report points out, while 180,000 succeeded in emigrating. Of the number of Jewish dead only about 8% have fallen in actual warfare.

These facts are set forth in a three-hundred-page survey prepared by the Institute of Jewish Affairs for the use of the 500 delegates who will attend the American Jewish Conference. The Conference will consider as its first order of business on Sunday the problem of the mass extermination of the Jews in Europe and a program which should be inaugurated to save those who remain. The entire evening session of the Conference is to be given over to this discussion.

Tomorrow, at the Hotel Astor, the delegates representing the American Jewish Congress will meet in all-day session to discuss their views as to the program to be undertaken with respect to the rescue of Jewry and the reconstruction of Jewish life abroad. This meeting is preliminary to the presentation of a program by the Congress delegation to the Conference as a whole.

BRITISH JEWS HAIL AMERICAN JEWISH CONFERENCE; ASK POST-WAR GUARANTEES

LONDON, Aug. 26.(JTA)-- The countless Jewish dead in Europe and the whole-hearted participation by Jews in the Allied war effort entitle the Jewish people to a secure future which must be guaranteed by any post-war settlement, it was stated today in a cable sent by the British section of the World Jewish Congress to the American Jewish Conference, which opens on Sunday. The cable stressed that the "foremost of Jewry's post-war claims is recognition of a Jewish Commonwealth in Palestine." The message also emphasized that unity among American Jews is an essential factor in securing a united Jewish representation which will present the claims of the Jews before the peace conference.

POSTPONED BRITISH-AMERICAN STATEMENT ON PALESTINE IS "APPEAL TO REASON"

NEW YORK, Aug. 26.(JTA)-- The postponed joint British-American statement on Palestine about which there has already been much discussion, although there has been no official word on its issuance, is essentially an "appeal to reason" addressed both to Zionists and Arabs, it was reliably learned here today.

The appeal, however, in informed circles is widely interpreted as a setback to Zionist aspirations and pressure has been brought against its issuance, leading to a postponement but not final disposition.

Tenor of the proposed statement, which hangs like a sword of Damocles over the Zionist movement, is a "request" addressed both to Zionist and Arabic extremists for an end to agitation. It calls on both camps not to insist on raising post-war issues relative to Palestine at this time, emphasizes the need of a new effort to reconcile Arab and Jewish interests and assures both parties that an equitable solution of the problem will be achieved after the war.

On the face of it, of course, this would seem a reasonable request. But Zionists and liberals, viewing the statement against the background of recent and not-so-recent developments, see it as something quite different.

Zionist leadership, for example, feels that such an appeal would be an undeserved and unwarranted attempt to interfere with their rights as citizens and would represent a continuation of the appeasement policy towards the Arabs.

They point to the 1939 White Paper, which will "freeze" the Jewish population of Palestine as of March, 1944, which was a concession to Arab agitation and violence. Further, they point to the recent relaxation of the censorship restrictions on the Arab press not only in Palestine but in neighboring countries and charge the British administration with responsibility for whatever increased agitation and unrest exist in the Near East today. They point, too, to the Arab conferences in Cairo on creation of a Pan-Arab Federation, and ask whether it is fair to request silence on their part at such a time.

Another disturbing and hitherto unpublicized factor, in the Zionist view, is the role being played in the entire affair by a former State Department official, who more recently has been associated with another government agency.

He is Harold B. Hoskins, who after an extended stay in the Middle East submitted a lengthy report on the situation there. Hoskins, who was born in Beirut, has always been close to the Arabs, and after his return to Washington he aroused Zionist resentment by lobbying influential Senators and Congressmen against Zionism.

Hoskins, it is learned, has been sent back to the Middle East with the mission of effecting an Arab-Jewish reconciliation, but in the light of his record and known leanings Zionist circles feel that the choice does not augur success.

GOVERNOR BRICKER WILL ADDRESS ZIONIST CONVENTION AT COLUMBUS

WASHINGTON, Aug. 26.(JTA)-- Governor John W. Bricker of Ohio is scheduled to address the opening session of the 46th annual convention of the Zionist Organization of America which will take place on September 11-13 at the Deshler-Wallick Hotel, Columbus, Ohio, national Zionist headquarters announced today. At the same session memorial services will be held for members of the armed forces who died in battle.