

PALESTINE JEWS DENY INSINUATION THAT RECRUITMENT BY JEWISH AGENCY IS ILLEGAL

JERUSALEM, Sept. 7.(JTA)-- The question of whether it is lawful for the Jewish Agency to supervise the recruitment of Jewish volunteers in Palestine for the British armed forces was again raised today at the military tribunal which is conducting the "arms trial."

This time the question was raised by Dr. Philip Joseph, counsel for the defense. While examining Golda Meirson, one of the leaders of the Histadruth, the Jewish lawyer referred to the statement made yesterday by the president of the court, in which he questioned the legality of the Jewish Agency's recruiting activities.

"There can be no doubt that these activities are lawful," Miss Meirson testified. "We were asked and encouraged by both the civil and military authorities to conduct these activities. In fact, high military officers came to me personally asking that we assist in the recruiting. The representative of the Jewish Agency was until recently in Sarafand at the military barracks there and was recognized by the military command."

Cross-examined by the prosecutor, Major Baxter, the witness said that the Histadruth embraces forty-five percent of the entire Jewish population in Palestine and its manifold activities are concentrated on organizing labor for agriculture, road-building, colonization and other activities aimed at developing the country. The Histadruth has always opposed violence and has, since 1936, called on the Jewish population in Palestine to exercise self-restraint, Miss Meirson stated. "Our policy is self-defense only," she declared. "We never wanted war with our neighbors and the policy remains unchanged today."

Witness Cross-Examined Concerning Jewish Defense Organizations

Questioned concerning the Jewish labor sport organization, "Hapoel," Miss Meirson stated that it never engaged in scouring arms illegally.

"Did you ever use firearms yourself?", Major Baxter asked.

"No," the witness replied.

"Were you trained to use them?"

"No. I was never trained."

"Has the Histadruth its own intelligence service?"

"No."

"Have you ever heard about the organization called Haganah?"

"Yes."

"Have they any arms?"

"I don't know."

"Have you ever heard about an organization called Machneh?"

"Yes. The first time I heard of it was when the German army was at the doors of Palestine, and if the worst would have happened, the Machneh was supposed to have been ready for any assignment."

"Does this organization still exist?"

"I don't know."

"Do you know that it is illegal?"

"I know that the authorities knew about its existence at the time when it

was organized and that it was organized with the help of the British Army and for the above purpose only."

"Are there any members of the Histadruth in the ranks of the Haganah and the Maachneh?"

"Possibly. There have been many attacks against Jews in this country. The entire Jewish community of Hebron was wiped out in 1929, and the Jewish communities in Safad and in Tiberias suffered severely in 1936. If we did not defend ourselves, no trace would be left of what we have created here. We are proud of the resistance shown by the Jews in the Warsaw ghetto and I think that they learned the spirit of resistance from the Jews in Palestine."

Asked about the recruiting activities of the Histadruth and of the Jewish Agency, Miss Meirson said: "We are deeply interested in this war. We have been at war with Hitler since 1933."

1,800 JEWS TRANSFERRED TO NICE FROM FORCED RESIDENCE IN MEGEVE

GENEVA, Sept. 7.(JTA)-- French authorities have suddenly transferred 1,800 Jewish men, women and children from Megeve, on the French-Swiss frontier, to Nice, which is on the Riviera, the Gazette de Lausanne, a Swiss newspaper, reports today.

The order for the transfer was issued last week, the paper says. The Jews affected had been held in forced residence at Megeve after having been ordered to leave Vichy and other larger French cities. Nice is in the section of France occupied by Italian troops.

ARABS AND JEWS JOIN IN CEREMONIES MARKING ESTABLISHMENT OF EDUCATIONAL COMMITTEES

HAIFA, Sept. 7.(JTA)-- Better Arab-Jewish relations are expected here as a result of the formation of Jewish and Arab educational committees at ceremonies in the city hall in the presence of high government officials.

"Only a year ago a meeting like the present was just a dream," the Jewish mayor of Haifa, Shabbatai Levi, said addressing the ceremony. "There are thousands of poor children exposed to the great danger of vagrancy. They are the future citizens of our city and it is the duty of the community to educate them."

District Commissioner A. N. Law welcomed the formation of the committees as an historic event and expressed the hope that their work would benefit the entire population. W. J. Farrell, director of the Palestine Government's department of education, discussed the deficiencies of the Education Ordinance and said that his department hopes to bring about closer cooperation between the Government, the municipalities and the population in educational matters.

The Arab News Agency reports from Jaffa that Arab young men are making arrangements for a series of lectures about the aspects of Arab life in Palestine to be delivered to members of the armed forces in the country as well as to Polish and other refugees now living in Palestine.

U.S. CONGRESSMAN URGES ALLIES TO ADMIT REFUGEES TO LIBERATED ITALIAN TERRITORY

LONDON, Sept. 7.(JTA)-- The British and American Governments were urged last night to make preparations to receive Jewish refugees who flee from Axis-occupied territories to the section of Italy now held by Allied forces.

Speaking at a press conference here, on the eve of his returning to New York, Congressman Will Rogers Jr. stressed the importance of making such preparations. He revealed that he had conferred with Undersecretary for Foreign Affairs Richard K. Law while in London to discuss measures to aid the Jews of Europe.

GERMAN SOLDIER TELLS OF NAZI METHOD OF MASS-GASSING JEWISH CHILDREN IN BELGIUM

NEW YORK, Sept. 7. (JTA)-- Inbel, news agency of the Belgian Government-in-Exile, today released a report containing the testimony of a German soldier who witnessed the mass-gassing of Jewish children in occupied Belgium by the Nazi authorities.

The soldier who gave his testimony to his Belgian landlady, was later arrested by the Gestapo. His statement reads: "I cannot bear it any longer. For weeks now I have been present at the most horrible scene imaginable. I work at Brasschaet, near Antwerp, and at regular intervals I see very young Jewish children massacred there. They are assembled in a nice room and given everything they could want: sweets, and toys of all kinds. But in the evening gas is introduced into the room, and in a few minutes all these innocents are dead. Afterwards you find them in the same attitudes in which they were when you left them. They still appear to be laughing, eating or playing, but they are all dead. I do not feel equal to going to Brasschaet any longer."

SIMPLE RIGHTS MARK FUNERAL OF JUDGE MACK IN NEW YORK

NEW YORK, Sept. 7. (JTA)-- Leaders in all walks of Jewish life gathered at the Free Synagogue here today at funeral services for the late Judge Julian W. Mack, prominent jurist and Zionist leader who died here on Sunday.

Rabbi Stephen S. Wise officiated at simple ceremonies. Standing beside the coffin, Rabbi Wise spoke briefly of Judge Mack's contribution to American Jewish life and to the Zionist cause. The Zionist Organization of America was represented at the funeral by Rabbi Wise, Dr. Abba Hillel Silver, Dr. Solomon Goldman, Judge Morris Rothenberg, Dr. Israel Goldstein, Robert Szold and Judge Louis E. Levinthal.

Judge Levinthal, president of the Z.O.A., issued a statement declaring that "the passing of Judge Mack has brought to a close a chapter in American Jewish history from which the present Jewish leadership has drawn valuable experience and guidance." He announced that special memorial services for Judge Mack will be held at the opening session of the 46th annual convention of the Zionist Organization of America which opens on Saturday evening in Columbus, Ohio.

The New York Herald-Tribune, in an editorial on the passing of Judge Mack said: "When Judge Julian William Mack retired two years ago, from the United States Circuit Court he brought to a close a distinguished career on the bench, which had begun thirty years before with his appointment by President Taft. However, fully as important as his judicial career was his participation in Jewish affairs. He was the first president of the American Jewish Congress and a leader in more than a half dozen other organizations. Jews the world over had cause to be grateful for his wisdom, his forthrightness and his unflagging zeal. He was a man of sound scholarship, unquestioned probity and a many-sidedness that demonstrated itself in his whole-hearted interest in the life of his community."

JTA REPORTS ON AMERICAN JEWISH CONFERENCE LAUDED IN PALESTINE

JERUSALEM, Sept. 7. (JTA)-- The entire Hebrew press here is gratified at the substantial coverage of the proceedings and decisions of the American Jewish Conference given by the Jewish Telegraphic Agency to newspapers in Palestine.

The reports of the Jewish Telegraphic Agency always reached this country a day ahead of any other cabled reports from the Conference. The JTA reports were featured in all the papers and served as basis for editorial comment.

NRS ANNOUNCES NEW STEP TO SPEED NATURALIZATION OF ENEMY ALIENS.

NEW YORK, Sept. 7. (JTA)-- Naturalization of loyal aliens of enemy nationality will be speeded by a Presidential order of August 30 empowering the Commissioner of Immigration and Naturalization and District Directors under him, under certain conditions to grant exception from enemy alien regulations for naturalization purposes, the National Refugee Service announced today.

The new order is expected to hasten naturalization proceedings by three to six weeks. Under the provisions of the Nationality Act of 1940 the President had empowered the United States Attorney General to authorize naturalization of any aliens of enemy nationality whose loyalty was proven. That power has now been extended to the Commissioner and District Directors of Immigration and Naturalization. Formerly the Commissioner or District Director, after satisfying himself of the applicants' loyalty, referred the case to the Attorney General. This step has now been eliminated.

Although all natives and citizens of countries at war with the United States are designated as "enemy aliens" under the terms of the Nationality Act of 1940, the law permits certain categories of "enemy aliens" to proceed to completion of their naturalization. This privilege is extended specifically to those who (1) have filed declaration of intention more than two years prior to the beginning of the state of war; (2) have petitions for naturalization pending; or (3) were not required under the law to make a declaration of intention. The law also provides that enemy aliens not covered by these exemptions can be permitted to apply for naturalization after investigation by the Department of Justice fully establishes their loyalty. The new regulation will hasten naturalization procedure for the latter group.

The new order issued by the President states that for the purposes of carrying out the naturalization provisions of the law, "I hereby exempt from the classification 'enemy alien' all persons whom the Attorney General, the Commissioner of Immigration and Naturalization or any District Director of the Immigration and Naturalization Service shall, after investigation fully establishing their loyalty, certify as persons loyal to the United States."

NORMAN S. GOETZ CHOSEN TO HEAD JEWISH FEDERATION CAMPAIGN IN NEW YORK.

NEW YORK, Sept. 7. (JTA)-- Norman S. Goetz, long a leader in the civic and philanthropic life of this city, will head the 1943 und-raising appeal of the New York and Brooklyn Federations of Jewish Charities, George Z. Medalie, president of the Federation for the Support of Jewish Philanthropic Societies of New York City, announced today.

This marks the second successive year in which Mr. Goetz will lead the annual drive on behalf of the two Federations, now in merged operation since last April. Samuel Hausman, Mrs. Arthur Lehman, Oscar A. Lewis and Milton Weill will serve as associate chairmen of the drive, which will seek funds for the support of 116 affiliated medical and social welfare agencies, serving more than 300,000 men, women and children throughout the metropolitan area.

Warm praise for Mr. Goetz' "vigorous, experienced and inspiring leadership" was expressed in Mr. Medalie's announcement. He stated:

"Mr. Goetz, as chairman of last year's appeal, led the most successful effort in Federation history. The Federation campaign chairmanship is exacting and exhausting in its demands on labor and devotion. That Mr. Goetz is undertaking the task again is in the best spirit of the times that sees all of us trying to be good 'soldiers' in whatever capacity the community calls upon us to serve."