

Published by the Jewish Telegraphic Agency

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

VOL. X. NO. 215

Wednesday, September 15, 1943

MOSCOW JEWISH COMMUNITY TO RETURN HOME; WILL MAINTAIN CONTACT WITH JEWS ABROAD

TASHKENT, U.S.S.R., Sept. 14.(JTA)-- The Moscow Jewish Community's headquarters, which were evacuated to Tashkent when the German armies were near the gates of the Russian capital, will soon move back to Moscow, it was stated here today by Samuel Chobrutsky, its president.

In a statement to the Jewish Telegraphic Agency, Mr. Chobrutsky emphasized that Jews from various parts of Russia who had been evacuated from the front to the interior are now beginning to return to their homes in the towns liberated from German occupation.

"Our voice, the voice of the Jewish community, will be heard in the near future from Moscow, the city which surprised the world by its heroic struggle and victory," Mr. Chobrutsky said. "It is from the heart of the U.S.S.R. that we shall, with God's help, again soon represent the religious Jews of Soviet Russia and maintain contact in their name with Jewry all over the world."

RABBIS IN NAZI TERRITORIES RECEIVE MAURITIUS VISAS; SPANISH JEWS LEAVE PARIS

LONDON, Sept. 14.(JTA)-- The British Embassy in Lisbon has notified the Hias-Ica office there that as result of intervention by the Chief Rabbi of England, the British Government has granted entry permits for the island of Mauritius, which is in the Indian Ocean, east of Madagascar, to a number of rabbis living in occupied European territories.

The Portuguese authorities, according to a telegram received here today from Dr. James Bernstein, Hias-Ica director in Lisbon, have agreed to grant transit visas to these rabbis for Lourenco-Marques in Mozambique, the nearest harbor to Mauritius that Portuguese steamers touch. These transit visas will be granted on the basis of a guarantee by the Hias-Ica office in Lisbon that transportation from Lourenco-Marques to Mauritius will be secured.

"It is still unknown whether the German occupational authorities will give the necessary exit permits to these rabbis," Dr. Bernstein emphasized in his telegram.

Another report from Dr. Bernstein says that 130 Spanish Jews and 32 Portuguese Jews have been permitted by the German authorities to leave Paris for their native lands. The Spanish Jews arrived last week in Spain where they were sent to forced residence in provincial regions despite their Spanish nationality. The Portuguese Jews arrived at Lisbon and were not molested by the Portuguese authorities.

GERMANS ROUNDING-UP JEWS IN BELGIUM SINCE INVASION OF ITALY, GOVERNMENT REPORTS

LONDON, Sept. 14.(JTA)-- "Violent measures" have been taken against the Jews of Belgium since the invasion of Italy by the Allied forces, the Belgian information service reported today. All Jews, including those born in Belgium, are being rounded-up, taken to German police headquarters for finger-printing and then sent to unknown destinations, the report said.

PALESTINE JEWISH ASSEMBLY OPENS TODAY TO DISCUSS RESCUE OF EUROPEAN JEWS

JERUSALEM, Sept. 14.(JTA)--- A special session of the Assefath Haniivcharim, the Jewish National Assembly of Palestine, will open here tomorrow to discuss measures for rescuing the Jews of Europe by utilizing the presence of Allied troops in territories hitherto under Axis control. The Assembly will also consider other practical forms of aid for European Jewry.

Editorials in the Hebrew press today vigorously deny the charges in the London Spectator, political weekly, that "totalitarian methods are increasingly favored by Jewish politics" in Palestine. The criticism of Jewish leaders in Palestine appeared in an article by Eustace Gordon in the current issue of the magazine. Replying to the charge by Gordon that "totalitarian methods" were to be noted particularly in the recruitment campaign, Davar writes: "If Palestine enlistment is totalitarian, how must Australian and South African enlistment in the first stages of the war be regarded?"

Commemorating the fifth anniversary of the formation of the Auxiliary Territorial Service, Britain's equivalent of the WAC, military and recruiting authorities here have appealed for more Jewish recruits. They stressed the need for more members in the ATS in view of the projected large-scale invasion of Europe.

ARAB PAPER DEMANDS SURRENDER OF PALESTINE ADMINISTRATION TO "PALESTINIANS"

JERUSALEM, Sept. 14.(JTA)--- A demand that the British Government prepare to turn over the administration of Palestine to "Palestinians" is made in the Arab newspaper, "Adiffa," today.

Pointing out that the White Paper expires in the Spring of next year, the paper asserts that "undoubtedly the London Government has made preparations for elections to a parliament, for larger participation by Palestinians in the higher Palestine administration, and for the handing over of responsibility for Palestine affairs to Palestinians, so that British officials will only remain as advisers and instructors."

The White Paper, which was issued on May 17, 1939, contains, in addition to the more publicized clauses which virtually bar Jewish immigration after next March and halt land purchases by Jews, provisions for the admission of Palestinians to administrative posts in larger numbers looking towards the creation of an independent state in about 1949 or later if circumstances necessitate a postponement. Under the immigration restrictions Jews would comprise only one-third of the country's population.

FOOD PACKAGES SENT TO STRUMA VICTIMS ARRIVE IN PALESTINE AFTER TWO-YEAR DELAY

TEL AVIV, Sept. 14.(JTA)--- Packages of non-perishable food sent from Rumania about two years ago for delivery to passengers on the ill-fated S.S. Struma upon their arrival in Palestine, have just been received here. The Struma sank in the Black Sea in February, 1942, as a result of a mysterious blast, taking 781 Jewish refugees from Rumania to their death.

Relatives of the Struma victims in Palestine will receive some of the packages, while the bulk of them will be sold at public auction. The reasons for the two-year delay in delivery of the parcels are not known. They were mailed while Rumania was still at peace with England.

CONGRESS RECEIVES PLEA TO WAIVE IMMIGRATION RESTRICTIONS FOR RELIGIOUS REFUGEES

WASHINGTON, Sept. 14.(JTA)-- Immediate admission to the United States of bone fide political and religious refugees was urged in a resolution introduced in the House of Representatives by Rep. Samuel Dickstein of New York when Congress reconvened today.

The resolution urged that "an administrative policy be adopted to admit to the United States for a period not exceeding six months after hostilities have ceased between the Allied and Axis nations such persons now residing in continental Europe who desire to come to the United States and who can establish to the satisfaction of any American consul before whom they may appear that they are bone fide political or religious refugees."

It further urged that "as time is strictly of the essence in the success of the purpose of the joint resolution, the Secretary of State and Attorney General are urged to issue their joint regulations to carry into effect the purpose of this joint resolution as soon as it is possible following its passage."

In a statement to the press, Rep. Dickstein explained that "it is not the intention of the resolution to grant permanent admission to anyone. As a matter of fact, it is expressly stated that the people will be permitted to remain here for the duration only and that they will have to leave the country at the latest six months after hostilities have ceased between Allied and Axis nations."

U.A.H.C. CALLS EXECUTIVE MEETING TO CONSIDER AMERICAN JEWISH CONFERENCE RESOLUTIONS

CINCINNATI, Sept. 14.(JTA)-- The attitude of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations toward the resolutions adopted by the American Jewish Conference at its sessions in New York will be considered by the executive board of the U.A.H.C. at a special meeting here on Oct. 3, it was announced today by Adolph Rosenberg, president of the Union.

This meeting is in accordance with the resolutions adopted by the Union's executive board when it resolved to adhere to the Conference "with the reservation that the Union of American Hebrew Congregations shall not be bound by the conclusions of the Conference without ratification by the executive board of the Union." The resolution provided that a special meeting of the executive board be called as soon as possible after the meeting of the Conference.

Mr. Rosenberg emphasized in his call to the executive board that October 3 was chosen in order to give ample time to the members of the board to study fully the resolutions adopted by the Conference.

NON-JEWISH BODY TO INVESTIGATE POSSIBILITIES OF JEWISH IMMIGRATION TO AUSTRALIA

SYDNEY, Australia, Sept. 14.(JTA)-- A Council for Jewish Rights, formed here by prominent non-Jewish intellectuals and labor leaders, issued a statement today pointing out that "the Jewish tragedy in Europe concerns not only the Jews but equally the Christian world and all of civilized mankind."

The Council announced that it will take steps to combat anti-Semitic agitation here and will investigate the possibilities of post-war immigration to Australia and press for the opening of Palestine to unrestricted Jewish immigration. At the same time, it was announced in Perth, Western Australia, that a Pro-Palestine Committee has been formed there, headed by Chancellor Murdoch of the University of Western Australia. The Lord Mayor of Perth and other notables are members of the Committee.

ZOA CONVENTION GREETES JEWS IN RUSSIA; LAUDS THEIR EFFORT TO CONTACT JEWS ABROAD

COLUMBUS, Ohio, Sept. 14.(JTA)-- The 46th annual convention of the Zionist Organization of America, at its closing session here last night adopted a resolution greeting the Jews of Russia and expressing satisfaction at the fact that efforts are being made to establish contact between the Jews of Russia and the Jews in democratic countries.

Governor John W. Bricker of Ohio, in an address of greeting at the closing session, expressed confidence that "great good will come from the movement of which you are a part." Further messages of greetings asking for the immediate rescue of the European Jews and voicing sympathy with the movement for the rebuilding of Palestine were received from Secretary of the Interior Harold L. Ickes, and Philip Murray, president of the C.I.O.

OBSERVANCE OF HIGH HOLY DAYS FACILITATED FOR JEWISH DRAFTEES

NEW YORK, Sept. 14.(JTA)-- Major T.A. Daly, Adjutant of the Second Service Command, has advised the Synagogue Council of America that a two-day deferment of call to duty has been authorized for Jews who were to be inducted on the High Holy Days, in order to permit them to observe these days with proper devotion, it was announced today.

Those draftees who are scheduled to be called to active duty on the 30th of September and on the 1st and 9th of October will be called instead on the 2nd, 4th and 11th of October respectively. This provision was made by the recruiting authorities in response to the Synagogue Council's request and in recognition of the importance of religious observance in military as well as in civilian life.

RELEASE TIME PLAN FOR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION APPROVED IN CHELSEA; JEWS VOTE AGAINST IT

CHELSEA, Mass., Sept. 14.(JTA)-- After debates and conferences with the local clergy which extended over a period of months, the Chelsea school committee went on record favoring the one-hour release time plan, whereby pupils in the public schools will be released from their classes to receive religious instruction in churches or synagogue religious schools.

The vote was 5-2 with Aaron Cohen and Julius Alpert, the two Jewish members of the board, opposing the measure. The issue occasioned wide comment in the community. The local press carried letters, editorials and comments on the question. Early in the discussions the school committee conferred with members of the Protestant, Catholic and Jewish clergy. The controversy was especially interesting from the Jewish viewpoint since Chelsea has a Jewish population of some 18,000 in a total population of about 40,000.

FINKELSTEIN RE-ELECTED PRESIDENT OF CONFERENCE ON SCIENCE, PHILOSOPHY, RELIGION

NEW YORK, Sept. 14.(JTA)-- Dr. Louis Finkelstein, president of the Jewish Theological Seminary of America, was re-elected yesterday president of the Conference on Science, Philosophy and Religion, which concluded its fourth annual session at Columbia University.

During the five-day meeting 200 historians, philosophers, economists, scientists, educators and other scholars discussed the role that scholarship and letters must play in laying the foundations for an enduring peace.