

JTA DAILY NEWS BULLETIN

Published by the Jewish Telegraphic Agency

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

VOL. X. NO. 262

Friday, November 12, 1943

PALESTINE GOVERNMENT ALLOWS 3,000 JEWS TO ENTER COUNTRY BY END OF 1943

JERUSALEM, Nov. 11.(JTA)-- With more than 31,000 Jews still entitled to enter Palestine within the next five months under the terms of the White Paper, the Palestine Government today granted 1,380 immigration visas under the immigration schedule for the three months ending Dec. 31, which will allow 3,000 Jews to enter.

At a conference of Jewish engineers and architects held in Tel Aviv today to discuss post-war housing problems, it was revealed that 25,000 additional Jewish workers will be needed to erect the housing projects planned by Jewish organizations. The financing of the projects has already been "successfully discussed by financial experts," it was disclosed. It was estimated that the Jews in Palestine need 100,000 more rooms and it was suggested that contact be established with Russia in order that necessary building materials may be imported from there.

Addressing the conference, Eliezer Kaplan, a member of the executive of the Jewish Agency, who is himself an engineer, pointed out that Palestine is now in the transition period between war and peace. Jewish industry in Palestine, he said, is now being systematically reduced. Care must be taken, therefore, to secure employment for dismissed workers. The Jewish Agency, he reported, has established a special committee to centralize all efforts in this direction in order to prove to the world Palestine's unlimited capacity for absorbing new arrivals.

JEWS LEADERS DISAPPOINTED OVER BRITISH GOVERNMENT'S STATEMENT ON WHITE PAPER

LONDON, Nov. 11.(JTA)-- Dr. Chaim Weizmann, president of the Jewish Agency for Palestine, today refused to comment on the statement made yesterday by Colonial Secretary Col. Oliver Stanley in the House of Commons in which he indicated that Britain intends to stand by the terms of the White Paper which closes Palestine to Jewish immigration at the end of March 1944.

Other Jewish leaders here noted with satisfaction the fact that the Colonial Secretary emphasized in his statement that those Jews who were entitled to enter Palestine under the terms of the White Paper but were prevented by war circumstances from doing so will be admitted even after March 1944. At the same time, they did not conceal their disappointment at the fact that the principle of the White Paper remains in force.

The Zionist Review, official organ of the British Zionists, commenting on the Stanley statement declares that the extension of the immigration period is welcome, but does not change the general situation. It emphasizes that the fight for the complete abrogation of the White Paper must continue unabated.

The Manchester Guardian, in an editorial today, says that the Arabs know that "the noose of the White Paper will be pulled tight next Spring on the Jewish National Home". This knowledge, says the article, impels the leaders of Arab countries to push their plans at Cairo for the formation of a pan-Arab federation. They are also encouraged by the belief that the British Government is open to intimidation and is practicing appeasement, the paper says.

CALL FOR MORE RECRUITS FOR JEWISH UNITS ON ITALIAN FRONT ISSUED BY JEWISH AGENCY

TEL AVIV, Nov. 11.(JTA)-- A call to the Jews of Palestine to strengthen the ranks of the Jewish military units now fighting on the Italian front against the German army was issued here today by Moshe Shertok, head of the political department of the Jewish Agency.

Addressing a press conference, Shertok emphasized that the Jewish soldiers in Italy are the first to make direct contact with the remnants of the Jews in Europe. He revealed that Jewish soldiers are rendering valuable assistance to Jews in the liberated part of Italy and are contributing funds to aid Jewish refugees there. He also disclosed that Jewish chaplains are now reorganizing the Jewish Community Councils in Naples and other liberated Italian cities.

Mr. Shertok, who is also the head of the Central Jewish Recruiting Office, at the same time announced that the Jewish Agency has succeeded, after long efforts, in securing war service grants for Palestinian Jewish soldiers and their families.

GESTAPO TERROR AGAINST JEWS IN ROME DESCRIBED BY RETURNING SWEDES; THOUSANDS DEPORTED

STOCKHOLM, Nov. 11.(JTA)-- Details of the German terror against the Jews of Rome are published in the Swedish press today, revealing that most of the Jews in the Italian capital, including women and children, have been arrested by Gestapo units and deported to an unknown destination.

Based on reports by Swedish citizens who reached Stockholm this week from Rome, the newspapers confirm that the German authorities last month imposed a collective fine of fifty kilograms of gold on the Jewish Community of Rome and that Pope Pius personally contributed twelve kilograms of gold to meet the fine which was demanded as ransom for prominent Jews seized by the Nazis.

Although it was assumed that by paying the ransom, the Jews in Rome would be spared further persecutions, mass-raids on Jews soon followed. Thousands of them were taken from their homes and transported in Gestapo trucks to deportation centers. The Italian population is highly indignant over the German terror, but is helpless to intervene, the arriving Swedes said.

CZECHS WHO ASSIST NAZIS IN PERSECUTING JEWS WILL BE PUNISHED, MINISTER WARNS

LONDON, Nov. 11.(JTA)-- Czechs and Slovaks who have assisted the Nazis in persecuting the Jews will be punished for actions contrary to the laws of the Czechoslovakian Republic, it was stated last night by Hubert Ripka, Minister of State in the Czechoslovakian cabinet, addressing a meeting marking the 25th anniversary of the Czechoslovakian Republic.

Mr. Ripka also told the meeting, which was arranged by the Council of Czechoslovakian Jews, that his government would continue to manifest "full understanding" of Zionist efforts. Lieut.-Col. Itzik Feffer, one of the Soviet Jewish delegates who are now visiting England, disclosed at the meeting that many Jews are fighting in the ranks of the Czech Division of the Red Army and have earned numerous decorations.

Emanuel Szerer, one of the Jewish deputies in the Polish National Council, speaking last night at a rally celebrating the 25th anniversary of the Polish Republic, expressed the opinion that the Germans would not succeed in exterminating all the Jews of Poland. Praising the heroism of the Polish Jews, he said that many of them will survive to help build a democratic Poland after the war.

ATTORNEY GENERAL BIDDLE CALLS ON PUBLIC TO HELP GOVERNMENT TO COMBAT ANTI-SEMITISM

NEW YORK, Nov. 11.(JTA)-- A call to the American people to help the government in the work of combatting anti-Jewish activities in the United States was voiced here today by U.S. Attorney General Francis Biddle addressing a dinner of the Jewish Theological Seminary of America at the Waldorf-Astoria Hotel.

It is profoundly shocking, Mr. Biddle said, that anti-Semitism should have developed among school children, who, left to themselves, could hardly have turned against other children merely because they were Jewish. "The desecration of Jewish cemeteries is hideously like what we have seen in those countries which have been conquered by the Germans," he stated. "As Americans we must not tolerate this outbreak of the Axis pattern in our own country. It must be met, as it occurs, by firm law enforcement, at the same time that efforts are directed towards the eradication of its underlying causes."

The Attorney General emphasized that "the approach of all of us to the troublesome problems of minorities cannot any longer be local or provincial, or in terms even of the difficulties facing any particular group, or involving the traditions or the tenets of any single race or any one religion. For the war has shown that at least certain of the more acute minority problems are national in their scope, and, what is even more important, national in their effect on our American integrity. Not any longer, then, can the difficulties of any particular minority be the sole concern of that minority."

Axis propaganda in this country, which took the form of vicious anti-Semitic teachings, has been checked, but the fruit of this propaganda is still with us, Mr. Biddle pointed out. Under different labels of patriotism or Americanism certain groups still advocate hatred and violence directed against one minority group or another, he said.

The Attorney General spoke against the suggestion that the administration should establish a council to deal with minority problems. "I suggest that what is greatly needed is a broader and more intelligent use of the moral and educational influence of the community," he stated.

AMERICAN RED CROSS OFFICIAL ASKS LIFTING OF BAN ON SENDING FOOD TO OCCUPIED EUROPE

WASHINGTON, Nov. 11.(JTA)-- Fear that food for the children of German-occupied Europe would be diverted by the Nazis was called unfounded today by Maurice Pate, director of the Prisoners War Relief of the American Red Cross.

"Despite the terrible persecution of the Jews by the Germans in Poland," he testified, "sixteen percent of \$60,000 worth of medical supplies sent through the International Red Cross in December, 1941, went to Jewish institutions in Poland. The Red Cross has the receipts to prove this." Mr. Pate appeared before a Senate Foreign Relations subcommittee in support of a resolution urging the U.S., Britain, Sweden and Switzerland to set up immediately a relief system "for all stricken and hungry countries where the need is now most acute."

Testifying before the same body, Dr. Howard E. Kershner, former European relief director of the Society of Friends, charged that "a few men in London" are blocking shipment of food to starving European children.

UNITED SYNAGOGUE LEAVES AMERICAN JEWISH COMMITTEE

NEW YORK, Nov. 11.(JTA)-- The United Synagogue of America today announced its withdrawal from the American Jewish Committee because of the latter's withdrawal from the American Jewish Conference.

EUROPE'S UNDERGROUND REVEALS GERMANS CONTINUE TO MURDER DUTCH, POLISH, BELGIAN JEWS

LONDON, Nov. 11.(JTA)-- Eye-witness reports received today from Belgian, Polish and Dutch sources concerning the Germans' continued, methodical extermination of Europe's Jews make "must" reading for any commission that may be set up under the provisions of the statement on atrocities contained in the Moscow Conference agreements.

The underground Belgian newspaper "L'Independence," a copy of which was received here today, carried the report of two Antwerp Jews who succeeded in returning to Belgium from Poland. The two Jews were arrested at Nice, in France, and sent to a labor camp at Sosnowice, Poland. This is what they report concerning their experiences:

When they reached the camp, they were stripped of their clothes and ordered to place Mogen David badges on their breast, back and each knee. Then they were flogged because a few coins were found in their possession. The group of which they were a part was separated according to the employability of the various members. Elderly people, children and those who were incapacitated in any way were shipped to the Oswiecim "death camp" for execution. The others were assigned to forced labor.

The forced laborers are driven to exhaustion and no one dares utter a complaint for fear of being declared unfit for further labor and sent to Oswiecim. Workers died daily. In the town of Chrzanow to which they were transferred they saw the entire Jewish population lined up in the streets while Gestapo officers went up and down the line deciding who was to be used for forced labor and who was to die. Here, a ten-year-old girl threw herself upon the Gestapo chief, shouting: "Look at my muscles, sir. I am able to work. I don't want to die." In a burst of generosity, the Nazi decided she should be included among the laborers.

Jews Tied Back to Back and Flung Into Quarry

Another report, received today by Polish Jewish circles from underground sources in Poland, gives the following description of the liquidation of almost all the Jews in the heavily Jewish-populated town of Brubiesow:

Last June the Jews in the town were ordered to appear in the market place, ostensibly to receive "residence permits." Men and women, fearful of being declared unfit to work, which was a virtual death sentence, dyed their hair and applied cosmetics in order to appear young and healthy. But these artifices were of little use. The Gestapo chief chose people at random. While some were still dyeing their hair, others were being executed in the local cemetery. Many thousands were transported to the town of Solibor where they were executed. Only 4,000 Jews were given "labor permits" which they dubbed "life permits."

The Dutch underground newspaper "Hetparool," which also reached here today, reveals details of the murder of Dutch Jews in the Mauthausen camp in Austria:

"Thousands of Jews were tied back to back and flung from a rock into a quarry below. Those who could not be executed in this manner were taken to neighboring Camp Gussen where they were confined in a small space and blasted to death by dynamite. Using this method, the Germans were able to kill 200 to 400 persons at one time." "Hetparool" also discloses that the gas chambers first used in Polish camps have now been installed in camps throughout occupied Europe. Some of the chambers hold 1,000 persons. Such a one is situated at Neugammen near Hamburg, where many Dutch Jews were executed.