

JTA DAILY NEWS BULLETIN

Published by the Jewish Telegraphic Agency

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

VOL. X. NO. 302

Friday, December 31, 1943

GOEBBELS OFFERS PEACE ON CONDITION THAT ALL WARRING NATIONS KILL JEWISH CITIZENS

STOCKHOLM, Dec. 30. (JTA) -- The people of Germany were told today by Dr. Goebbels' organ "Der Angriff" that Germany would be ready to offer peace "to all nations" provided they follow its example and exterminate all their Jews.

"The Jews are the greatest obstacle to peace and must be eliminated," the article in the Angriff said. "As the final aim of the present struggle, we Germans offer to all nations brotherly collaboration and peace with the warning that all nations must annihilate their Jews. The day will come when all nations will accept our offer and will take up arms not against each other, but to kill the Jews."

ANTI-SEMITISM IN POLISH ARMY DISCUSSED AT CLOSED SESSION OF POLISH PARLIAMENT

LONDON, Dec. 30. (JTA) -- A closed session of the Polish National Council today was devoted to a discussion of the anti-Jewish propaganda which is being spread in the ranks of the Polish army. The session was addressed by Dr. Ignacy Schwarzbart, Jewish member of the Council who expressed the hope that at least part of his speech would be released by the Council.

Emanuel Szerer, the other Jewish member of the Council, today abstained from voting for the budget of the Polish Government-in-Exile as an expression of his opposition to the present composition of the Polish cabinet and to its inaction with regard to checking anti-Semitic propaganda among Polish refugees and in the Polish armed forces. Mr. Szerer was the only member of the Council who abstained from voting on the budget.

Acting on a proposal by Dr. Schwarzbart, today's session included in the government budget the sum of \$460,000 as emergency credit to meet urgent needs of Polish Jews.

JEWS IN RUMANIA SUCCEED IN FLEEING COUNTRY, GERMAN RADIO COMPLAINS

ZURICH, Dec. 30. (JTA) -- The German radio asserted today that Jews in Rumania are now securing forged passports of neutral countries and are succeeding in escaping from the country.

The broadcaster quoted Rumanian newspapers as stating that the Rumanian authorities are taking measures to discover the organization which is engaged in producing the passports for the Jews. So far no trace of the organization has been found.

At the same time, it was learned here that a group in Istanbul is negotiating with Turkish shipowners to send a ship to a Rumanian port to transport from Rumania to Turkey a number of Jews for whom Palestine visas can be secured. The Turkish Government is willing to grant visas to any Jew in the Balkan countries for whom the British Consulate in Istanbul will hold a Palestine visa in reserve to be issued as soon as the refugee reaches Turkey.

MILAN JEWS STARVED BY GERMANS BEFORE DEPORTATION; SENT TO POLAND IN CATTLE-TRAINS

GENEVA, Dec. 30. (JTA) -- Dispatches to Italian-language newspapers published in Switzerland disclose that the Germans in the large industrial city of Milan are mercilessly exterminating and deporting the Jewish population.

A report published today says that before being deported to Poland, the Jews are jammed into small empty rooms, where there is hardly standing room, and left there for several days without food and with no sanitary provisions. One report declares that the Milan Jews are on the verge of starvation before even being loaded into the deportation trains which take them to Poland.

JEWISH COMMISSION PERMITTED TO VISIT TRANSNISTRIA SUBMITS GLOOMY REPORT

NEW YORK, Dec. 30. (JTA) -- A report on the situation of the Jews in Transnistria, the section of the occupied Ukraine administered by Rumania, was made public here today by the World Jewish Congress on the basis of official findings of a Jewish commission which toured Transnistria.

Emphasizing that of the 185,000 Jews who were deported by the Rumanian authorities from Bessarabia and Bukovina to Transnistria, only 65,000 have survived, the World Jewish Congress says that "there is some hope of a definite improvement" of the Jewish situation in Transnistria. The Jewish commission was permitted by the Governor of Transnistria, Prof. Alexianu, to visit some of the 101 localities where the deportees were "permitted" to settle.

In the city of Odessa, the commission visited the ghetto and found 54 Jews there. They were all artisans working for the Odessa population. They included 31 men, 19 women and 4 children.

In Smerinka, the commission found in the ghetto 3,274 Jews, of whom about 1,200 were local residents. The remainder were deportees from various sections of Rumania. All those able to work were employed either by the Rumanian or the German military and civil authorities at forced labor and paid two "occupation" marks a day for skilled work and one mark for unskilled work.

The commission also found thousands of deported Rumanian Jews in the ghettos of Crasna, Moghilev-Podolsk, Jaruga, Copaignorod, Shargorod, Balta, Bershad and other localities. All these cities have hundreds of Jewish orphans. The report of the commission estimates that there are in Transnistria about 8,000 Jewish orphans, at least 5,000 of whom have lost both parents.

The report establishes that in many places 50 Jews live in one room. "There are numerous cases where children are forced to spend their days in bed (5 to 6 in one bed) for want of clothing," the report states. It concludes with the information that "for the last four months nobody has received mail from Rumania. Neither is there any communication by mail between deportees in Transnistria proper, although in many instances members of the same family are located in different places."

In making public the above report, the World Jewish Congress stated that "the latest news about the Jews in Transnistria is contradictory. On the one hand, there are tales of their imminent extermination; on the other, there are reports of struggles being waged to rescue the 65,000 still surviving of this unfortunate community. However, there is some hope of a definite improvement in the situation."

STATUS OF PALESTINIANS IN AMERICA CHANGED; NOW LIABLE TO INDUCTION

WASHINGTON, Dec. 20. (JTA) -- The National headquarters of the Selective Service System today announced that it has removed Palestine from the category of neutral countries and included it among the co-belligerents. Under this order all Palestine citizens residing in the United States are liable to induction into the armed services of the United States.

Under Selective Service regulations a neutral alien may file a special Selective Service Form and request relief from service in the armed forces of the United States. If a neutral alien files such a request he is forever barred from becoming a citizen of this country under existing law. Revised regulations provide, however, that if a neutral alien becomes a co-belligerent, a form formerly filed becomes ineffective. They also provide that while an alien who has filed such a form may not withdraw it, he may volunteer for induction and if he is accepted for service, the subsequent determination of his privilege of becoming a citizen will be determined by the courts.

ACTIONS COMMITTEE APPROVES SENDING THREE-MAN DELEGATION TO LONDON TO AID WEIZMANN

JERUSALEM, Dec. 30. (JTA) -- A meeting of the Zionist Actions Committee here has approved the Jewish Agency's decision to send a three-man delegation to London to aid Dr. Weizmann, who is engaged in important Zionist political negotiations, and to attempt to reconcile the differences between Dr. Weizmann and David Ben-Gurion. The delegation chosen by the Agency consists of Moshe Shertok, political chief of the Agency, Rabbi Jacob Fishman, representing the Mizrachi, and Dr. Emil Schmorak, a member of the Agency executive who represents the General Zionists.

It is understood that the Agency is anxious to have the delegation leave for London as soon as transportation can be arranged. The Actions Committee session also reiterated its approval of the "political line" followed by the Agency executive, which is based on the "Biltmore Declaration," which calls for the creation of a Jewish Commonwealth in Palestine. The next session of the Actions Committee will be convened on Monday to discuss activities in connection with the rescue of European Jewry. It was also announced today that the Assefath Hanivoharin, the Jewish National Assembly of Palestine, will meet on January 12 to discuss various political problems.

AUSTRALIAN STATESMEN COOL TO JEWISH DEMAND FOR NATIONAL HOME IN PALESTINE

MELBOURNE, Australia, Dec. 30. (JTA) -- Premier Frank A. Cooper of Queensland today stated that the question of the establishment of a Jewish national home "was one for the Jews to settle for themselves." He added that for centuries the Jews had an opportunity to build a nation for themselves and had failed to do so, "apparently preferring to live with other people."

At the same time, Edward M. Hanlon, Queensland's Home Secretary asked, "What right have the Australian people to complain about the oppression of the Jews in Europe when they have been guilty of the most persistent extermination of the aboriginal inhabitants of Australia?" Hanlon expressed sympathy for the Arabs "whose land has been taken from them without full compensation."

HEBREW UNIVERSITY GRADUATES 55 STUDENTS; 438 GRANTED DEGREES SINCE FOUNDING

JERUSALEM, Dec. 30. (JTA) -- Fifty-five students received academic degrees here yesterday at the annual graduation exercises of the Hebrew University. Five of the graduates were granted the degree of Doctor of Philosophy for researches in Jewish history.

Since the founding of the University 25 years ago, it has graduated 438 students, of whom 37 received PhD degrees.

NEW YORK MAYOR WILL GET REPORT ON OFFICIAL INVESTIGATION OF ANTI-SEMITISM IN CITY

NEW YORK, Dec. 30. (JTA) -- A comprehensive report of an investigation into anti-American and anti-Semitic vandalism in New York will be submitted to Mayor LaGuardia by Commissioner of Investigation William B. Herlands, it was announced today. A statement issued by the Commissioner reads:

"During the last year the Department of Investigation has been conducting a city-wide investigation into all cases of anti-American and anti-Semitic vandalism called to the department's attention. This inquiry was originally ordered by Mayor LaGuardia. A report will be submitted to the Mayor next week, covering a comprehensive and detailed inquiry into most of these cases. The investigation is continuing as to the remaining cases, including the more recent ones. A feature of the report is the presentation of case histories of the individual vandals and offenders, showing their school, family and personal histories for the purpose of determining the motives underlying their acts."

Commissioner Herlands' statement followed yesterday's appeal by the Anti-Defamation League of the B'nai B'rith to public officials "to take immediate and adequate steps" to check the desecration of synagogues and the attacks on Jewish boys by gangs of hoodlums in the Washington Heights area of the city. The League documented its charge with 26 affidavits from Jewish children who had been assaulted and from rabbis of the desecrated synagogues.

Police Commissioner Lewis Valentine, in response to a written question as to whether anti-Semitism "has become a problem in New York in the past few months," replied: "Anti-Semitism is always a problem in a large, heterogeneous city such as New York. The commanding officers of this department are required to be on the alert for manifestations of this deplorable and un-American form of enmity and hatred, and are required to adopt special and extraordinary measures to prevent and suppress vandalism or violence that may result because of this typical 'Nazi-like' bigotry and persecution." He added that "if and when it becomes necessary," special police measures will be adopted.

Inspector Joseph Bannon, transferred only a few days ago to command of the 5th Division, which includes Washington Heights, said last night: "We have five men and the place is well policed. The situation is much exaggerated. Things are very calm and collected in Washington Heights." Deputy Inspector Edward C. Moran, of the 5th Division, said, "We've had one report of anti-Semitism. We investigated, but it didn't turn out. There was a meeting about a month ago, but they (a group of rabbis and ministers) couldn't prove anything. Sure, we hear these complaints now and then, but when we go into it, we've got nothing to work on."

The statement by the Anti-Defamation League yesterday said: "The assault incidents have a uniform pattern. In each case the hoodlum demands to know the religion of his intended victim. If the victim admits he is Jewish, or if the hoodlum concludes that this is the fact, an assault ensues. The age range of the anti-Semitic hoodlums is ten to fourteen. They travel in groups of two to ten. They roam the streets looking for little Jewish boys to assault and for Jewish property to desecrate. Because of the always present anti-Jewish element in the assault, the situation, reasonably, cannot be described as ordinary juvenile delinquency."