

Published by the Jewish Telegraphic Agency

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

Vol. XI, No. 17 (26th year)

Friday, January 21, 1944

WAR DEPT. PONDERES PLAN FOR WAR PRISONERS' STATUS FOR JEWS IN OCCUPIED LANDS

WASHINGTON, Jan. 20. (JTA) -- The Nazis are not discriminating against American prisoners of war who happen to be Jews, Secretary of State Cordell Hull, has made clear in a letter to Rep. Emmanuel Celler of New York.

"The Department is exercising special vigilance," Secretary Hull wrote, "to prevent discrimination by the German authorities against American prisoners of war on a racial or religious basis, and is happy to report that it has so far obtained no evidence of the existence of such discrimination."

The letter, inserted in yesterday's Congressional Record, was an answer to one from Rep. Celler which suggested that the Allies seek favored prisoner of war status for European civilian Jews in Nazi hands. Secretary Hull indicated his agreement that something should be done, but did not say when he would be ready to seek action.

"The barbarous treatment accorded by the German authorities," he told the congressman, "to certain categories of civilians under their control, indicates the desirability of some international instrument similar to the Geneva Convention (on prisoners) to set forth the duties of belligerents in respect of all victims of war and oppression and to provide appropriate neutral and international machinery for their protection and relief."

"This and other proposals looking toward the revision of existing international agreements to meet needs brought to light by the present war, are being coordinated in the Department with a view to their presentation for discussion and consideration at an appropriate time."

FUNDS AND CLOTHING FOR LABOR SERVICE MEN DEMANDED OF JEWS IN HUNGARY

ZURICH, Jan. 20. (JTA) -- The Jewish Servicemen's Committee in Budapest was instructed by the Ministry of Interior to launch a campaign for the collection of funds and clothing for needy Jews in the Hungarian labor service, it was reported here today from Hungary.

In response, the committee has issued an appeal to the Jews of Hungary appealing for contributions. "This is a matter of honor for Hungarian Jewry," the appeal says. "We must help those who are unable to provide for themselves." Barred from combat divisions, the Jews of Hungary, are conscripted for labor service only.

FASCIST ITALIAN PRESS DENOUNCES AMERICAN JEWS; SAY JEWS WILL "ENSLAVE" ITALY

BERN, Jan. 20. (JTA) -- Italian newspapers reaching here today from the German-controlled part of Italy carry violent attacks on the Jews of America. The Gazzetta del Popolo which is the most vitriolic in its abuse of the Jews warn the Italian people that "American Jews will enslave Italy for generations" after the war is over.

COMMITTEE TO SAVE JEWS OF EUROPE FILES CHARGES AGAINST DR. WISE BEFORE RABBINICAL BODY

NEW YORK, Jan. 20. (JTA) -- The Emergency Committee to Save the Jewish People of Europe today announced that it is arraigning Dr. Stephen S. Wise before the tribunal of the Union of Orthodox Rabbis of the United States and Canada, accusing him of seeking to undermine the efforts of the Committee for the rescue of Jews of Europe.

The charges, filed against Dr. Wise as an individual and as president of the American Jewish Conference and leading member of the American Zionist Organization, were made by Peter H. Bergson, co-chairman of the Emergency Committee, in behalf of himself and his colleagues. Wise is charged specifically with:

1. Inaugurating a campaign of slander against Mr. Bergson and his colleagues, casting doubt on their honesty in managing public funds, "with the purpose of undermining confidence in the Emergency Committee."
2. Campaigning to influence American statesmen by the "most unscrupulous means" to stop giving support to the movement of rescuing European Jews.
3. Attempting to kill the Gillette-Baldwin-Rogers resolution which was introduced in both Houses of Congress, asking for the establishment of a governmental body to effectuate the speedy rescue of Jews of Europe.

As evidence, supporting his charges, Mr. Bergson submitted to the Union of Orthodox Rabbis the memorandum of the Interim Committee of the American Jewish Conference of which Dr. Wise is one of the leaders, as well as Dr. Wise's testimony before the House Committee of Foreign Affairs on the question of rescuing Nazi victims.

Dr. Wise Says Charges Don't Interest Him; Terms Them "Moral Blackmail"

In a statement to the press, Dr. Stephen S. Wise declared that the charges brought against him are "moral blackmail."

"The step taken by the so-called Emergency Committee and its rabbinical partners does not interest me," Rabbi Wise said. "Moral blackmail is a weapon which deserves nothing but contempt. It is a weapon firing with poisoned bullets. I believe that this step can do me no harm. The allegation that I wanted to kill the Gillette-Baldwin-Rogers resolution is a lie, and its authors know that it is a lie. I suggested an amendment to the resolution that the Palestine doors remain open for Jewish immigration."

JEWISH REFUGEES FROM ALGERIA AND CENTRAL EUROPE REACH PALESTINE

JERUSALEM, Jan. 20. (JTA) -- A group of 187 Jewish refugees arrived in Palestine today. They include Jews from Algeria and from central European countries. The latter came through France and Spain to Morocco where they waited for a considerable time until permitted to leave for Palestine.

Following severe criticism of the efficiency of the Central Committee to Rescue Jews of Europe, Isaac Gruenbaum has resigned the chairmanship of the body, it is reported in the Palestine press today. Gruenbaum has been repeatedly attacked for his statements that the upbuilding of Palestine should be given priority over the rescue of European Jews in the various efforts made by Jewry throughout the world.

JEWISH NATIONAL FUND ISSUES SPECIAL STAMP IN MEMORY OF PROF. STRUCK

JERUSALEM, Jan. 20. (JTA) -- The Jewish National Fund today decided to issue a special "Struck Stamp" in memory of the noted Jewish painter Prof. Herman Struck who died last week at his home on Mt. Carmel, Palestine.

ROLE OF PALESTINE'S COOPERATIVE MOVEMENT DISCUSSED AT WASHINGTON CONFERENCE

WASHINGTON, Jan. 20. (JTA) -- The role which the Jewish cooperative movement has assumed in the development of Palestine was discussed here today at the international reconstruction conference of the Cooperative League of the United States. Representatives of nineteen countries are attending the sessions.

Dr. James P. Warbasse, president emeritus of the Cooperative League, speaking of the achievements of Jewish cooperatives in Palestine, emphasized that "the Jews are building up a national economy in Palestine on a cooperative basis and the Arabs are beginning to emulate the Jewish example."

Israel Mereminsky, speaking for the General Cooperative Association of the West Bank, reviewed the activities of the Palestine labor cooperatives. He said that the Jews in Palestine, working in a country still subject to feudalism, are transforming the desert into fertile land through the cooperative idea. The cooperative, he added, is bringing a higher standard of living. Palestine, he said, may be regarded as the first instance where the cooperative idea has been successfully applied to colonization.

Maurice Columba, director of the cooperative section of the International Labor Office, predicted there will be 110,000 cooperative distribution outlets available in Europe for handling relief. At the conference are Government and cooperative representatives of China, Belgium, Czechoslovakia, Denmark, France, England, Greece, Iceland, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Scotland, Sweden, Switzerland, Yugoslavia, Brazil, Canada, Palestine, the Philippines and New Zealand.

GEN. MONTGOMERY ACCEPTS HONORARY CHAIRMANSHIP OF MEMORIAL COMMITTEE FOR BRIGADIER KISCH

LONDON, Jan. 20. (JTA) -- Gen. Montgomery, the noted British commander, has accepted the honorary presidency of the memorial committee which has been formed here to honor the late Jewish Brigadier Frederick H. Kisch who fell in the fighting in Tunisia, it was announced here today.

Brigadier Kisch was the chief engineer of Gen. Montgomery's Eighth Army. His name will be commemorated by the founding in Palestine of a settlement for Jewish war veterans. The land for the settlement will be acquired by the Jewish National Fund.

David Lloyd George and Gen. Jan Christian Smuts are patrons of the Committee of which Lord Herbert Samuel is chairman. Dr. Chaim Weizmann, Sir Arthur G. Wauchope, former High Commissioner of Palestine, and a number of members of both houses of the British parliament are members of the committee.

MICHAEL HASKELL LEAVES \$100,000 ESTATE IN ENGLAND FOR JEWISH PURPOSES

LONDON, Jan. 20. (JTA) -- Michael Haskell, South African Jewish philanthropist, who died in February 1942 in Johannesburg, left an estate in England appraised at over \$100,000. The proceeds of the estate are to be spent for the following purposes:

- 1) To establish a Jewish school of aviation in Palestine,
- 2) To combat anti-Semitism and create good-will between the Jewish people in Palestine and their neighbors,
- 3) To promulgate the idea of a Jewish state among non-Jews in Britain and elsewhere,
- 4) To establish an institute in Palestine for the training of Jewish civil servants.

The will, which was made public today, also contains legacies for the World Union of the Zionists-Revisionists, for Jewish charities in Johannesburg and for international Jewish charitable institutions.

1/21/44

ALLIANCE ISRAELITE RE-CONSTITUTED IN ALGERIA; INCLUDES MEMBERS FROM LONDON AND NEW YORK

NEW YORK, Jan. 20. (JTA) -- The Alliance Israelite Universelle, leading organization of French Jewry which was in existence from 1860 to the German occupation of France, has been re-constituted in Algeria, a report reaching here today from Algiers dated.

The president of the provisional central committee of the Alliance Israelite is Prof. Rene Cassin, former Minister of Justice in De Gaulle's committee in London, and vice president of the Comite Juridique, the Supreme Court of the French Committee of National Liberation. The vice-presidents are Robert Levi and Dr. Machtou. Other members include Rene Mayer, Commissioner of Communication, Grand Rabbi Eisenbeth, Grand Rabbi Nahoum of Cairo, Bernard Melamede, head of the French Bureau of Disabled Veterans, and L. Kahn. Albert Confino is the secretary of the organization and Samuel Lebar is treasurer.

The provisional committee of the Alliance Israelite has also chosen a number of Jewish leaders residing abroad as members, including M. Montefiore, president of the Jewish Colonization Association and J. Philippsch, member of JCA board, both of London, and P. Dreyfus, Max Gottschalk, Louis Oungre, Maurice Stern and G. Wildenstein, all now in New York.

NEW YORK GOVERNOR WILL OFFER LEGISLATION TO OUTLAW RACIAL DISCRIMINATION

NEW YORK, Jan. 20. (JTA) -- Governor Dewey will soon offer specific legislation to outlaw all forms of racial and religious discrimination in housing, education and employment in the state of New York, it was learned here today.

One proposal being considered would make the State Committee on Discrimination a permanent organization, with a greatly expanded budget, and power to act, as well as to investigate discriminatory practices. At present the committee operates on an emergency budget provided by the State War Council. During 1943-44 it received \$44,000. The committee chairman is Dr. Alvin Johnson.

In response to Anti-Defamation League charges of widespread anti-Semitic activities in Rhode Island, Gov. McGrath today promised to "leave no stone unturned to bring to punishment" any offenders.

"I believe the overwhelming opinion of the people of Rhode Island," Gov. McGrath said, "would be to leave no stone unturned to bring to punishment any one in this state who would deliberately plan and execute acts of religious or racial persecution. I know personally every police chief in Rhode Island. I feel that not one of them would tolerate incidents of a bigoted nature being perpetrated in their communities. I think that our courts should deal without mercy in any case coming before them where the essence of the crime is rooted in intolerance."

HILLEL FOUNDATION ESTABLISHES FELLOWSHIPS IN HONOR OF KINGS OF DENMARK AND SWEDEN

WASHINGTON, Jan. 20. (JTA) -- As a token of appreciation for the humane action of the Kings, governments and peoples of Denmark and Sweden in aiding the Jews of Denmark to find a sanctuary of safety in Sweden when they were threatened with annihilation by the Germans, B'nai B'rith, through its National Hillel Commission, has established permanent inter-faith student fellowships in the name of King Christian of Denmark at the University of Wisconsin and in the name of King Gustaf of Sweden at the University of Minnesota, it was announced here today by Henry Monsky, president.