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Monday, April 3, 1944

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The Haifa battle, in which two policemen were wounded, one fatally, occurred when police raided a house in which they had been informed a wounded man was hiding. When they broke in they found four men, one of whom was wounded. The latter threw a small grenade at the police officers, and he and his accomplices escaped in the subsequent confusion. He was arrested later when he sought treatment for his wounds at the Hadassah Hospital.

The police found a duplicating outfit, some arms and ammunition and twelve military uniforms in the raided house. The dead policeman is Itzhak Polany, 39, a Polish-born Jew who joined the police force in 1927. The other officer wounded was a British inspector named Cole. He is reported recovering. Early today the Stern Gang distributed leaflets in Tel Aviv setting forth a nine-point program for which, it said, it is fighting.

Jewish Leaders Ask Lifting of Curfew; Resent Collective Punishment

Resenting the fact that collective responsibility has been imposed upon all the Jews in Palestine for the criminal acts of a small group of desperadoes, Jewish leaders today asked that the curfew be lifted. They reiterated their argument that the twelve-hour curfew which starts at 6 p.m. is affecting Jewish trade and industry and is causing tremendous economic dislocation. The collective punishment is considered especially unfair in view of the fact that the Government is well aware that

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the small group of terrorists does not recognize the authority of the leaders of the Jewish community.

At a meeting of leaders of central Jewish bodies, including the rabbinate, it was decided to do everything possible to combat the small terrorist groups. Religious sanctions against terrorists were among the measures adopted. The meeting also authorized the Jewish Agency and the Jewish National Council to take further moral sanctions against the terrorist groups in order to deprive them of any possible assistance from individual members of the community.

How much further Jewish leaders can go in assisting the authorities to check terroristic activities is a question still to be solved. Are they supposed to organize vigilante bands operating outside the law to fight crime? This seems to be the only possible step beyond moral sanctions. But there is little doubt that the first effect of vigilante action would be to widen the present terrorist activity into civil war between Jews. In addition, the Palestine Government, which does not admit any breakdown in law enforcement, would react most vigorously if the Jewish Agency, or any other body, tried to take the law into their own hands.

(It was unofficially reported in Washington last night that President Roosevelt has cabled Emir Abdullah of Transjordan assuring him that no action will be taken on the Palestine questions prior to consultations with both Arabs and Jews. The Roosevelt message was sent in reply to a recent cable from Emir Abdullah in connection with the Palestine resolution in Congress.)

Ben-Gurion Condemns Terror, But Scores Police Inactivity

David Ben-Gurion, chairman of the executive committee of the Jewish Agency, addressing a mass-meeting in Tel Aviv, one of several held throughout the country today to discuss the rescue of European Jews, condemned the recent outbreaks of terror, but expressed wonderment at the fact that the police have not "searched more earnestly" for the terrorists. He added, "maybe the Administration wants to show that the entire Yishuv is guilty?" Ben-Gurion stated that the Jews are fighting against the White Paper policy - which he described as "the fruit of the opportunism of present British policy" - but "are not at war with British policemen or clerks."

Urging Palestine Jews to remain calm, he asserted that terror only bolsters the proponents of the White Paper policy. He expressed confidence that after the war, the democratic world will not be oblivious to the plight of the Jews. The Agency chairman also urged that the Jews of Europe not only be supplied with bread, or means of escape, but also with arms to defend themselves.

VICHY ORDERS ARREST OF ALL JEWS IN NORTHERN FRANCE; WILL BE SENT TO CONCENTRATION CAMPS

LONDON, April 2. (JTA) -- The Algiers radio today reported that the French Government in Vichy has issued an order for the arrest of all Jews in Northern France and for their incarceration in concentration camps.

A report reaching Belgian circles here today reveals the existence in occupied Belgium of a secret Jewish committee engaged in anti-Nazi activities as part of the Belgian underground movement. The report says that German anti-Jewish propaganda in Belgium is ridiculed by the Belgian population.

WAR REFUGEE BOARD USING ALL U.S. FACILITIES TO SAVE REFUGEES, PEHLE TELLS JDC PARLEY

CHICAGO, April 2. (JTA) -- The War Refugee Board is using all the power and prestige of the United States Government to save the victims of Nazi persecution who can still be rescued, John W. Pehle, the Board's executive director, today told 600 Jewish leaders attending the Mid-West Conference of the Joint Distribution Committee at the Hotel Stevens here. He said the diplomatic, fiscal and military agencies of the Government as well as the facilities of the Office of War Information, War Shipping Administration, and other agencies have been marshaled for the job.

"The present military situation in the Balkans presents the greatest challenge to the Board in changing the attitude of the enemy," Mr. Pehle declared. "President Roosevelt's recent warning to Germany and her satellites of the consequences of further persecutions in their territories, and the subsequent British endorsement of that warning have provided heavy ammunition on the psychological warfare front. Cooperating with the War Refugee Board, the Office of War Information and the British Broadcasting Company have carried and will continue to carry that message in every language to every land."

Mr. Pehle emphasized that the Board was using all methods in its rescue work-- formal and informal, direct and indirect, conventional and unconventional. All of these methods, he said, have as their goal the rescue of human beings, particularly Jews, from the barbarism of the enemy.

Stressing the importance of collaboration between the War Refugee Board and private agencies operating in the refugee field, Mr. Pehle asserted that the War Refugee Board offers new opportunities for private philanthropies to operate. Such collaboration, he said, is "the best method of obtaining quick results in a desperate period."

Praises "Magnificent Job" Done by JDC

Paying tribute to the work of the J.D.C., he said: "It has done a magnificent job. Its experience, its personnel, its know-how, and its funds have been of invaluable assistance to the work of the War Refugee Board in rescuing the helpless, homeless and stateless refugees of Europe." He added that the War Refugee Board had received excellent suggestions from the chairman of the J.D.C.'s European committee "who knows the problems first hand."

Joseph C. Hyman, executive vice-president of the J.D.C., told the meeting that Protestant and Catholic leaders, including the Pope, are extending aid to oppressed Jews in occupied countries. "We owe much," Mr. Hyman said, "to Christian organizations and Protestant and Catholic welfare agencies, for genuine sympathy and helpfulness." Mr. Hyman said that as a result of the creation of the War Refugee Board, the J.D.C. "will be able to apply a substantial portion of every dollar to the problem of rescuing and feeding the Jews of Europe."

At a pre-conference dinner, last night, Paul Baerwald, chairman of the J.D.C. revealed that in the first three months of this year the organization allocated \$8,000,000 of its tentative 1944 budget of \$17,000,000 for rescue activities. Speakers at the conference included Rabbi Jonah B. Wise and Judge Ulysses Schwartz of Chicago, who presided.

AUSTRALIAN TRADE UNION COUNCIL REFUSES TO SCRAP RESOLUTION AGAINST ANTI-SEMITISM

MELBOURNE, Australia, April 2. (JTA) -- A move by a number of unions affiliated to the Australian Council of Trade Unions to strike out resolutions condemning anti-Semitism and supporting the Kimberly settlement project, adopted by the Council last year, was defeated here this week.

GEN. ORDE WINGATE IS MOURNED BY ZIONISTS; TAUGHT JEWS GUERRILLA TACTICS AGAINST ARABS

LONDON, April 2. (JTA) -- Maj. Gen. Orde Charles Wingate, leader of an Imperial air-borne Commando force who was killed in an airplane crash in Burma, was mourned here today by Zionist leaders who recalled his activities in Palestine during the 1936 Arab disturbances.

Gen. Wingate, one of the most colorful figures in modern warfare, taught the Jews in Palestine guerilla tactics to counteract the Arab terrorists. He spoke fluent Hebrew and was sympathetic with Jewish aspirations in Palestine.

Writing in the Manchester Guardian, L. Namier, a British Zionist leader, says: "Gen. Wingate was one of the greatest friends who the Jews, particularly the Palestine Jews, had in our time. He seemed predestined to become the leader of the Palestine Jewish fighting force. This was his ambition and dream, as it was the most fervent wish of the young Jews in Palestine to serve under him in this war. He became a legend among Jews and Arabs, but his friendship for Jews was frowned upon both in Jerusalem and in Cairo."

Jewish Agency Flag Flies at Half-Mast for Wingate

JERUSALEM, April 2. (JTA) -- The Palestine Jewish community honored today the memory of Major-General Orde Charles Wingate as a man who helped them protect their lives against Arab terrorists in 1936, and who sympathized with their aspirations here.

The official Jewish Agency's blue-and-white flag floated at half mast and reports of his death in Burma were black-bordered in the Hebrew press. A mass meeting in Tel Aviv departed from its scheduled agenda to hear a tribute to Wingate.

CANADIAN JEWISH CONGRESS GREETS JEWISH CONFERENCE OPENING IN MOSCOW TODAY

MONTREAL, April 2. (JTA) -- The Canadian Jewish Congress today cabled greetings to the third conference of the Jewish Anti-Fascist Committee opening in Moscow tomorrow. Expressing satisfaction with the Committee's decision to foster Jewish activities, the message states that "World Jewry is justly proud of the heroic role being played by Russian Jews." Greetings have also been cabled by a number of local Jewish organizations.

SEN. GILLETTE ATTACKS WHITE PAPER AT DINNER HONORING JUDGE ROTHENBERG

NEW YORK, April 2. (JTA) -- Speaking to more than 1500 persons gathered at the 36th annual dinner of the Order Sons of Zion in the Commodore Hotel tonight, Senator Guy Gillette, co-sponsor of the Palestine resolution in the Senate, demanded the immediate nullification of the White Paper and urged the United States Government to use its legal prerogative and its moral influence to prevent the further violation of the Balfour Declaration which promised the establishment of a Jewish homeland in Palestine.

The Senator was joined in his plea to keep the doors of Palestine open to Jewish immigration by Dr. Israel Goldstein, president of the Zionist Organization of America, Dr. Stephen S. Wise, Louis Lipsky and Harry A. Pine, Grandmaster of the Order Sons of Zion. The dinner was given in honor of Judge Morris Rothenberg, newly elected president of the Jewish National Fund of America.