

Published by the Jewish Telegraphic Agency

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

VOL. XI. NO. 89 (26th year)

Wednesday, April 19, 1944

HUNGARY PLANS GHETTO FOR JEWS IN BUDAPEST, COMMISSIONER FOR JEWISH AFFAIRS ANNOUNCES

ZURICH, April 18. (JTA) -- The Jews of Budapest will shortly be segregated within a ghetto "to prevent Jews residing with non-Jews," it was announced today by Laslo Endre, Under-Secretary of the Hungarian Ministry of the Interior who has been named Commissioner for Jewish Affairs.

In a broadcast by the Budapest radio, Endre is quoted as stating that all Jews in the Hungarian capital will be concentrated within a separate "Jewish quarter." In the meantime certain houses will be reserved for occupancy only by Jews, while Jews will be barred from others.

Meanwhile, leaders of the Jewish community in Budapest are faced with the problem of re-housing Jews who have been ousted from their apartments which have been taken over for Hungarian and Germans whose homes have been destroyed in Allied air raids. In an attempt to cope with this problem, the "Central Jewish Council," the government-controlled body which was established to replace all other Jewish organizations, which have been dissolved, is placing two or more families in whatever apartments are available.

The Ministry of the Interior also announced today that property owned by Jews must be registered by April 30. According to a decree issued over the week-end, the "registration" is a prelude to confiscation of all valuables in the possession of Jews.

The Federation of Jewish communities in Switzerland today organized a special committee "to coordinate the salvation of the remnants of European Jewry, especially the Jews of Hungary." The committee is headed by Rabbi Brom of Lucern. The liberal Swiss newspaper Basler National-Zeitung, in an article today asks whether dignitaries of the Hungarian churches who are ex-officio members of the Hungarian Upper House, will speak out in Parliament against the anti-Jewish measures adopted by the puppet government.

Sixty Concentration Camps in Hungary Being Filled With Jews

ISTANBUL, Turkey, April 18. (JTA) -- Sixty concentration camps in Hungary, established since the German occupation, are rapidly being filled with Jews, according to eye-witness accounts of travellers arriving here from Hungary today. They confirm that deportations of Jews to Poland are proceeding.

Deportations are confined at present to prominent Jewish industrialists, well known members of the Jewish community who have incurred the enmity of pro-Nazi Hungarians, and Jews active in anti-Nazi political parties. Other Jews are being sent to the concentration camps, although it is expected that they, too, will be deported when transportation facilities are available. Among those arrested is Baron Alphonse Weiss, a member of the upper house of the Hungarian Parliament.

Laslo Endre, who was appointed Commissioner for Jewish Affairs last week, is known as a pathological anti-Semite, the travellers say. He has imposed restrictive measures upon the Jews which are more vicious than the usual German Nuremberg laws. At present, he is concentrating on ousting Budapest Jews from their homes to make room for Hungarians and Germans bombed out by Allied air raids.

TURKISH SHIP WILL CARRY 1,500 JEWS FROM RUMANIA TO PALESTINE, HIRSCHMANN REVEALS

WASHINGTON, April 18. (JTA) -- Ira A. Hirschmann, special representative in Turkey of the War Refugee Board, revealed today that negotiations have been completed with the Turkish Government for the use of a Turkish passenger boat to take 1,500 refugees from the Rumanian port of Constanza to Haifa. He called it the largest single evacuation of the war.

Hirschmann, just returned from Turkey, told a press conference today that the "S.S. Tari" would make the trip as soon as safe conduct has been granted for the voyage by the Germans. He disclosed that the Soviet Government granted a safe conduct for the Tari yesterday, and that the Turkish Government has already announced its agreement to the refugee mission.

Asked about possible Russian aid in rescuing Jews from the Balkans, Hirschmann declared that Soviet diplomats in Ankara had been very helpful and had further expressed a desire to do everything they could to assist in the current efforts. Hirschmann quoted Russian officials as having given full assurances that the USSR would do everything to assist those refugees who came into their hands in the course of the Red Army advances. He described the condition of refugees in the Balkans as "indescribably bad and bordering on the catastrophic."

"The President's action setting up the War Refugee Board," Hirschmann said, "came at about five minutes to twelve. But it had an electrifying effect on both the victims of Fascism and the people who are trying to deal with the problem."

Before the conference got under way, John W. Pehle, director of the WRB, praised Hirschmann for the tremendous contribution he had made toward easing the tragic situation in the Balkans. Pehle said that Hirschmann's leave of absence from Bloomingdale Bros., New York department store, is up and he is reporting back to his firm, but he indicated that every step possible is being taken to see that Hirschmann stays with the War Refugee Board.

Hirschmann listed as a major accomplishment of the Board, the safe removal of about 48,000 refugees from what he described as horrible, plague-ridden concentration camps in Transnistria to the interior of Rumania, where they would at least be free to shift for themselves and where the conditions were vastly improved. He expressed the belief that the mechanism which has been set up and put to work in recent weeks would result in the rescue of many thousands of more people, provided military events did not throw present plans completely out of gear.

POLISH COURT MARTIAL CHARGES FEW JEWS WITH DESERTION; MAJORITY ACCUSED OF ABSENTEEISM

LONDON, April 18. (JTA) -- The trial of thirty or more Jewish soldiers who left the Polish Army because of anti-Semitism and came to London to secure a transfer to the British armed forces opened before a Polish military court today "somewhere in the British Isles," and is expected to last several days.

It is understood that only a small number of the men are now charged with desertion. The charge against the majority of the accused has been reduced to "wanton absenteeism which carries lighter penalties."

STETTINIUS REPORTED DISCUSSING PALESTINE QUESTION WITH BRITISH OFFICIALS IN LONDON

LONDON, April 18. (JTA) -- The belief that the Palestine question was touched upon by Assistant Secretary of State Edward R. Stettinius in the course of his conferences with British statesmen here, was expressed today in well-informed circles. The problem of Palestine will also come up for discussion at further talks between Stettinius and British officials; it was predicted. The final communique which will be issued as a result of these talks, however, is not likely to include any mention of Palestine, it was stated.

SEDITION TRIAL IN WASHINGTON USED BY DEFENSE ATTORNEY FOR ANTI-SEMITIC PROPAGANDA

WASHINGTON, April 18. (JTA) -- A plan by defense attorneys to utilize the sedition trials, which opened here yesterday, for wide-scale anti-Jewish propaganda was seen today in the charge made by attorney Ira Chase Koehne that the trial is "a Jewish plot." The 30 alleged seditionists are charged by the government with conspiracy to inspire disloyalty and incite mutiny among members of the U. S. armed forces.

Mr. Koehne, designated by the court to serve four of the defendants who took a "pauper's oath," was the first to inject an anti-Semitic note into the trial with an attack on the Anti-Defamation League of the B'nai B'rith. He said that the League had investigated the jury panel to determine whether prospective jurors had connections with the anti-Semitic, Fascist, and pro-Nazi groups in America.

"The Anti-Defamation League has a more efficient secret service than the FBI," Koehne said. "The Anti-Defamation League is responsible for bringing this indictment and has been responsible for bringing this investigation. This is an imitation of the mass Moscow trials."

The government is anxious to begin selecting the jury and to begin calling its 125 witnesses to prove its charges that the thirty defendants conspired with Nazi agents to undermine the morale of American soldiers and sailors with seditious literature, advocating the creation of a Nazi government in the United States. According to the indictment the government hopes to prove that the use of anti-Semitism by the defendants was part of the alleged plot to spread mutiny in the armed forces.

The government has charged that part of the alleged collaboration of the defendants with the German government consisted of issuing the following types of anti-Semitic propaganda:

- 1) That the government, Congress and public officials are controlled by international Jews.
- 2) That the Democratic and Republican Parties are tools of international Jewry.
- 3) That President Roosevelt is a warmonger, a liar and a pawn of the Jews, Communists and plutocrats.
- 4) That President Roosevelt is a Jew and is working with international Jewry against the interests of the U. S.
- 5) That the cause of the Axis powers is the cause of justice and morality; that they have committed no aggressive act and are fighting a solely defensive war against British imperialism, American capitalists, the desire of American public officials to rule the world, and to free the world from domination by international Jewry.

D.A.R. ASKS BAN ON IMMIGRATION FOR FIVE YEARS AFTER WAR

NEW YORK, April 18. (JTA) -- The National Congress of the Daughters of the American Revolution unanimously passed today a resolution urging Congress to suspend immigration almost completely for five years after the war.

LIFTING OF BAN ON JEWISH IMMIGRATION TO PALESTINE URGED BY SIGRID UNDETSET

NEW YORK, April 18. (JTA) -- The lifting of the present ban on Jewish immigration to Palestine so that Jews succeeding in escaping from German-occupied territory can find a haven there, was urged today by Sigrid Undset, Norwegian novelist and Nobel Prize winner, at a press conference arranged by the Emergency Committee to Save the Jewish People of Europe. The United Nations, she said, must act immediately to facilitate the escape and rescue of all Jews in occupied Europe who can still be saved.

BATTLE OF WARSAW GHETTO COMMEMORATED TODAY BY JEWS THROUGHOUT THE UNITED STATES

NEW YORK, April 18. (JTA) -- The first anniversary of the heroic resistance of the Jews in the Warsaw ghetto, which the Germans were not able to suppress for more than a month, will be commemorated tomorrow by Jews throughout the United States with memorial meetings, a fifteen-minute work stoppage, and the issuance of a proclamation by the American Jewish Conference to the democratic world pleading for the rescue of those Jews who can still be saved.

The proclamation will be read at a mass-meeting tomorrow evening at Carnegie Hall here, addressed by Jewish leaders. Earlier in the day a procession of Polish Jews will march to City Hall where Mayor LaGuardia is expected to deliver a brief address on the Nazi annihilation of the Jews in Europe and on Jewish resistance in the ghettos of Poland.

Jewish workers and employers, excepting those in war plants, will cease work tomorrow at 11 a.m. for fifteen minutes in honor of the Jews who fell in the battle of the Warsaw Ghetto which started on April 19, 1943. More than 4,000 Jewish grocery stores in New York have also announced that they will close their doors for fifteen minutes at the same hour, as will many other Jewish stores. Special memorial services for the fallen Warsaw heroes will be held in all synagogues - Orthodox, Conservative and Reform - at the request of the Synagogue Council of America. The American Federation of Labor and the C.I.O. have both approved the 15-minute cessation of work in all factories, except those engaged in war production.

Germans Suffered Heavy Losses During Warsaw Jews' Resistance

The liquidation of the ghetto began suddenly at dawn on April 19, 1943, shortly before Passover. The large ghetto bounded by Leszno, Nowolipie, Bonifraterska, the forts of the Citadel, and Smocza Street was surrounded by SS men, German police, and Latvians, Ukrainians, and Lithuanians. In the morning, units of the German police, heavily armed with machine guns, grenades, and armored trucks, proceeded through Zamenhof Street to the ghetto. The manner of the German attack showed that they expected armed resistance. The struggle began and the Germans suffered relatively large losses. There was talk of several killed, a large number of wounded, and the loss of ammunition and military equipment. A number of ambulances were seen passing through the streets of Warsaw carrying wounded and killed Germans.

The first German attack was repulsed within a few hours. The Germans retreated to the borders of the ghetto and brought reinforcements of tanks and artillery, which began to break through the first defense line. Heavy artillery attacked the corner of Bonifraterska and Nowolipie Street and Franciszanska. The defenders fought back with machine gun fire, causing further losses to the Germans. In the first attacks, the defense had great success; the tanks were recalled, two are said to have been burned, the inner part of the ghetto was cleared of the enemy, and the Germans were forced to use more powerful means - artillery directed by airplane observations, setting fire to houses - and they were compelled to manoeuvre only in the ruined and burned parts of the ghetto.

The Germans therefore changed their tactics. They did not attack by day, using this time only for observation. At the same time, they started a merciless barrage at night and burned block after block of houses in the outer streets of the ghetto. The Germans were counting on a gradual reduction of the area of the struggle, and on starving out the Jews. Particularly heavy firing occurred during the nights of April 23, 24 and 25. Beginning with April 26, the resistance weakened. The defense was sporadic. The ghetto was terrorized by tremendous fires. The ghetto was

cut through by attacking German groups. The defenders had to retreat to the northern part of the city. Groups of Jews, presumably those who had not participated in the struggle, were seized by the Germans and transported toward the station.

Ghetto Set Afire Street by Street

After their first discouraging experience on the night of April 23, the Germans restricted their use of arms to long range artillery, otherwise confining themselves to burning street after street, and making the escape of the defenders of this flaming inferno impossible. The soldiers on guard shot every person within range whom they noticed at large in the ghetto. There were cases of the wounding or murder of Poles, too. The Germans destroyed the vents of sewers on Plac Krasinski, Leszno, and Bonifraterska Street, through which the Jews attempted to escape. The Germans also patrolled the neighboring streets in the "Aryan" quarter in order to catch escaping Jews. Captured Jews were murdered on the spot. About 3,000 Jews were killed in this manner from April 19 until May 5. At the same time, the Germans posted placards announcing that the ghetto was being liquidated, and those who sheltered Jews would be heavily penalized. A few days later, that is in May, an announcement of the German police commander declared that because the Jews and Communists made a point of resistance in the ghetto, the ghetto had to be liquidated. The announcement also called upon the population to give up any Jews who were in hiding.

The struggle in the ghetto stopped suddenly, and it is hard to tell when it was over. Jewish resistance was broken chiefly by the heavy fires which the Germans started. These fires destroyed hundreds of houses. The following streets were completely destroyed; Nalewki, Nowolipie, Nowolipki, Franciszkanska, Karnielicka, Mla, Niska, Plac Muranowski, Smocza, Gesia and others. Not one house on all these streets was saved and the ruins of the houses were later dynamited by the Germans. The material loss due to these fires was greater than that which occurred during the bombing of 1939. More than 100,000 rooms were destroyed. These fires lasted ten to fifteen days after the actual "conquest" of the ghetto and included areas which were not objectives of the struggle. Among other edifices, the Germans dynamited the Great Synagogue on Flomackie Street which was situated half a kilometer outside the ghetto. The smoke of these fires pervaded all of Warsaw and their light could be seen for several kilometers. No fire fighters were admitted to the ghetto.

In the small ghetto, Zelazna, Ceglana, Prosta, the Germans did not follow the same tactics as they did in the large. They contented themselves with seizing Jews from the workshops (the shop of Toebeens on Leszno Street, Schultz, and others.) Through the early part of May, the Germans succeeded in killing and deporting 12,000 Jews. The liquidation of the small ghetto occurred, without struggle, on May 15-18. The Germans deported and killed all the Jews and burned a number of houses.

KEREN HAYESOD DRIVE FOR 1,000,000 PESOS LAUNCHED IN ARGENTINA

BUENOS AIRES, April 18. (JTA) -- A 1,000,000 pesos drive for the Keren Hayesod was proclaimed here last night by Dr. Michael Traub, Palestine representative of the organization, addressing an enthusiastic mass meeting here. An estimated 5,000 persons heard Dr. Traub deliver an address in Yiddish reviewing the activities of the Jewish community in Palestine and stressing the urgent need for additional financial support from abroad.

ROOSEVELT NAMES KLUTZNICK, PRESIDENT OF ALEPH ZADIK ALEPH, COMMISSIONER OF FPHA

WASHINGTON, April 18. (JTA) -- President Roosevelt sent to the Senate for confirmation the nomination of Philip M. Klutznick, president of the Supreme Advisory Council of Aleph Zadik Aleph, B'nai B'rith youth organization, as commissioner of the Federal Public Housing Authority.