

Published by the Jewish Telegraphic Agency

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

VOL. XI. NO. 94 (26th year)

Tuesday, April 25, 1944

MEMBERS OF BRITISH PARLIAMENT RESENT SENTENCING OF JEWS BY POLISH COURT MARTIAL

LONDON, April 24. (JTA) -- Members of Parliament representing all parties today expressed indignation at the conviction by a Polish court martial of thirty Jewish soldiers who left the Polish Army because of anti-Semitic mistreatment and came to London to join the British forces. They were sentenced on Saturday to terms of imprisonment ranging from one to three years.

Reporting the reaction of the MP's, the London Daily Express today adds that the British Government is likely to be asked to take action with regard to the sentences issued by the court martial. "It is believed in Polish quarters that the sentences might be revised by a higher authority," the London paper adds.

Dr. Emanuel Szerer, one of the two Jewish members of the Polish National Council, who was permitted to attend the sessions of the court martial, today told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency that "many of the convicted men were veterans - some of them wounded - of the battles of Poland and France. All had amply demonstrated their desire to fight Hitler and his hangers-on."

"That these men were driven to the desperate step of leaving their units to join the British army must impress everyone having an open heart for human distress," Dr. Szerer continued. "During the trial I looked beyond the accused soldiers to the real guilty ones who had caused the trouble by spreading and tolerating anti-Semitism in the army and elsewhere."

Dr. Szerer demanded the immediate court martial of persons either spreading or tolerating anti-Semitism in the Polish armed forces. He said he did not blame the Polish people, whose democratic movements were fighting anti-Semitism, but emphasized that it was the "elementary duty of all responsible for the army, from the commander-in-chief and the government to the last officer and soldier to fight anti-Semitism."

"All officers and non-commissioned officers guilty of fomenting or tolerating anti-Semitism should be deprived of their rank and quickly and severely punished," he urged. He expressed the view that Jewish soldiers should remain in the Polish army, contending the army belonged to all of Poland and not to the officers and that "we must fight anti-Semitism by staying and not leaving any sphere of Polish life."

Jewish Labor Committee Cables London Protesting Verdict

NEW YORK, April 24. (JTA) -- Emphasizing that it speaks for 500,000 organized American workers, the Jewish Labor Committee today cabled a strongly-worded protest to the labor members of the Polish Cabinet in London, expressing resentment at the sentences imposed by a Polish court martial on Jewish soldiers who, because of anti-Semitism, were compelled to leave the Polish Army and seek admission into British units.

The protest said that the Jewish soldiers were not guilty of "desertion" as charged by the Polish authorities. "We well know of the heroism of the Jewish soldiers in the armies of all the United Nations," it states. "We are well acquainted

with the self-sacrifice and bravery of the Jews in the Polish armed services, at the beginning of the war, as well as during the days of the valiant defense of Warsaw. We, therefore, resent and categorically reject the slur upon the Jewish people, by saying that Jewish soldiers in the Polish Army have been guilty of 'desertion.'

"Though we are not fully acquainted with all details of the case at hand, our general knowledge of the situation leads us to believe that life of the Jews in the Polish Army had, because of the widespread anti-Semitism, become so intolerable and unbearable that the Jewish soldiers had no alternative but to seek a transfer from the Polish Army to the armed services of another member of the United Nations, where they could continue their struggle as equals against our common enemy," the protest continues. "We note, with deep concern, that the Polish soldiers and officers who had been guilty of anti-Semitism and anti-Semitic demonstrations in the camps have not yet been tried publicly, whereas, those who had resisted this mistreatment, those who had refused to be subjected to anti-Semitism, have been condemned to imprisonment.

"Our organization has stood for an independent, free, and democratic Poland, in the postwar world, with all remnants of anti-Semitism, bigotry, and persecution of minorities, inherited from pre-war Poland, eradicated forever. We have hoped for a Poland where the Jewish population could live peacefully on the basis of equality with their non-Jewish neighbors. The court martialing of the Jewish soldiers, however, points the opposite way. Jewish blood, toil, and tears have, it seems, not yet succeeded in stamping out anti-Semitism and those who are supposed to represent a democratic Polish rebirth have not yet drawn the proper lesson from past experience," says the cable, which was signed by Adolph Held, David Dubinsky, and Joseph Baskin, chairman, treasurer and secretary, respectively, of the Jewish Labor Committee.

ROOSEVELT TALKS WITH CHURCHILL ON PALESTINE; BOTH OPPOSE COMMONWEALTH, SAYS REPORT

WASHINGTON, April 24. (JTA) -- President Roosevelt recently had a lengthy discussion with Prime Minister Churchill (presumably by transatlantic phone) during which the Palestine question was threshed out "with very beneficial results," it is revealed here today by Drew Pearson, well-known Washington columnist.

Pearson states that President Roosevelt advised a close friend of this discussion and disclosed to him that in his talk with Churchill, he expressed strong opposition to the British White Paper, which stopped Jewish immigration to Palestine. He said that the British Prime Minister gave him no argument, but on the contrary, was wholly in accord with his views.

"However, both Roosevelt and Churchill are opposed to making Palestine a Jewish commonwealth after the war - namely, an independent State run by a Jewish government," Pearson adds. "That, the President feels, is unnecessary."

AUSTRALIAN PREMIER SAYS HIS COUNTRY WANTS IMMIGRATION NOW AND AFTER WAR

WASHINGTON, April 24. (JTA) -- Prime Minister John Curtin of Australia told a press conference today that his country was eager to see the widest possible immigration to Australia both during and after the war.

The Prime Minister made his statement in response to a question as to his attitude toward proposals that the Kimberly Region of Australia be thrown open to Jewish refugees. Curtin declared that the Kimberly Region could not be developed now without great planning and the spending of public funds. He said, however, that the defense of Australia made it essential to encourage the settling of sparsely populated sections of the country. Curtin declared that his government was not taking any steps "at the present time" to amend statutes which would expedite immigration into Australia.

BRITISH LABOR PARTY URGES EXTENSION OF PALESTINE BORDERS; WANTS TRANSFER OF ARABS

LONDON, April 24. (JTA) -- The extension of Palestine's frontiers into Syria and Transjordan, "with the support of the governments of the United States and Russia," is recommended to the British Government by the national executive committee of the Labor Party in a report made public here today.

The report, which will be submitted to the annual convention of the Labor Party at the end of this month, says that "there is neither hope nor meaning in Palestine becoming a Jewish National Home unless we are prepared to let the Jews, if they wish, to enter this tiny land in such numbers as to become a majority."

"There was a strong case for this before the outbreak of the present war, and there is an irresistible case now, after the unspeakable atrocities of the cold and calculated German plan against the Jews in Europe," the report continues. It urges the British Government to encourage the transfer of Palestine Arabs to neighboring Arab countries and their settlement elsewhere under a plan carefully organized and generously financed.

"The Arabs have many wide territories of their own," the report points out. "They must not claim to exclude Jews from the small area of Palestine which is less than the size of Wales. The possibility of re-examining the present Palestine boundaries for the purpose of extending them in agreement with Syria and Transjordan must be looked into. The British Government should seek to win the full sympathy and support of the American and Russian governments for the execution of the Palestinian policy."

JEWS IN ENGLAND WILL SEEK CLOSE CONTACT WITH RUSSIAN JEWS, BOARD OF DEPUTIES ANNOUNCES

LONDON, April 24. (JTA) -- The Board of Deputies of British Jews, leading Jewish body in England, today announced that it desires "closest contact with the Jews in Russia and will do its utmost to put this into effect." The announcement was made by Prof. Selig Brodetsky, president of the organization.

The Board of Deputies criticized the Palestine Government for applying the land regulations even more rigidly than provided by the White Paper. Several cases will be taken to court and even to the Privy Council as test cases, the Board revealed.

The question of whether Jews and Arabs can cooperate in Palestine will be discussed here at a special conference called for this purpose by the International Center. The Zionist viewpoint will be given at the conference by Norman Bentwich, former Attorney General of Palestine and a member of the faculty of the Hebrew University. The Arab attitude will be outlined by Bahaudin Toukan. The conference will take place early next month.

FORTY-FOUR JEWISH WRITERS IN RUSSIAN ARMY REPORTED KILLED AND MISSING

MOSCOW, April 24. (JTA) -- Of about 160 Jewish writers who have joined the Russian Army, 24 have been reported killed and 20 missing, it was announced here today. The majority of them enlisted. Among the missing are the well-known Jewish novelist S. Gadinier, the literary critics A. Gurstein and M. Wiener, and the poets S. Rossin, Plevsky, Zeldin and Vergelis. The Jewish historian, A. Brachman, is reported missing.

DEFENSE IN SEDITION TRIAL FILES SUBPOENAS FOR FORD AND LINDBERGH

WASHINGTON, April 24. (JTA) -- James J. Laughlin, attorney for Edward James Smythe, one of the 30 alleged seditionists on trial here, filed a motion in District Court today for the subpoenaing of Charles A. Lindbergh and Henry Ford as defense witnesses on the grounds that their utterances "against the Jews are 100 times more vicious" than those of the defendants. Judge Edward E. Bohrer, who is presiding, did not indicate whether he would issue the subpoenas requested by Laughlin.

RACIAL AND RELIGIOUS RELATIONS NO PROBLEM IN U. S. NAVY, SAYS CHIEF CHAPLAIN

CAIRO, April 24. (JTA) -- Racial and religious relations are no problem in the United States Navy, Capt. Robert D. Workman, chief of naval chaplains, declared here today. Capt. Workman, accompanied by Catholic chaplain Commander John R. Boslet of Pittsburgh, and Jewish chaplain Lieut.-Com. Joshua Goldberg of New York, is touring naval installations throughout the world.

Stressing the fact that his mission represents the Protestant, Catholic and Jewish faiths, Capt. Workman described it as an example of the American way of life. He discussed the cooperation of chaplains of all faiths in meeting the needs of the men, and reported that he had attended a Passover service in North Africa.

CONFERENCE OF 250 MASS. EDUCATORS DISCUSSES PLANS TO FIGHT ANTI-SEMITISM

BRIDGEWATER, Mass., April 24. (JTA) -- Plans for wiping out anti-Semitism and other racial and religious prejudices through cooperation by teachers and school heads were discussed here over the week-end at the 30th annual meeting of superintendents of schools throughout Massachusetts. About 250 superintendents attended the conference.

Prior to separating into several panels, each of which discussed different phases of the problem of educating children against anti-Semitism, the meeting heard an address by Dr. Margaret Mead, Columbia University anthropologist, who stressed that educators must inculcate in children "a sense of acceptance of themselves" which will not make it necessary for them to disapprove of their neighbors.

It is expected that when the conference's sessions are concluded, a "Massachusetts Plan" to combat racial antagonisms in the schools will be drafted. Such a plan has been suggested by Dr. Julius Warren, Commissioner of Education in Massachusetts, and a member of Governor Saltonstall's committee to investigate racial outbreaks in the state.

REFUGEES FROM HUNGARY AND RUMANIA TO BE SETTLED IN "MASSACHUSETTS COLONY" IN PALESTINE

BOSTON, April 24. (JTA) -- Six hundred refugee families from Hungary and Rumania will be settled on 6,000 dunams of land in Palestine acquired by the Jewish National Fund of New England, which will comprise a colony to be called the "Commonwealth of Massachusetts," it was announced here last night at a dinner attended by 1,300 persons who have contributed towards purchasing the tract.

Speakers, including Senator Guy Gillette, Iowa Dem., Gov. Leverett Saltonstall of Massachusetts, Mayor Daniel Tobin of Boston and Judge Morris Rothenberg, president of the JNF, expressed the hope that Britain would lift the White Paper immigration ban, and allow as many Jews as possible to enter from Rumania and Hungary.

MANY INJURED DURING COLLAPSE OF STAND AT PALESTINE CHORAL FESTIVAL

JERUSALEM, April 24. (JTA) -- Twenty-four performers are in hospitals today as the result of the collapse of a stand during the first all-Palestine Choral Festival yesterday. Twenty-three choirs, whose total membership was over 1,000, participated in the event, which was heard by 8,000 persons gathered in an open-air auditorium between Ain Harod and Beth Yosef. It is not believed that any of the persons injured in the accident suffered serious harm.

A drapers firm here today received the stiffest fine ever imposed for violation of the price regulations. The proprietors paid \$20,000 for overcharging 1,000 percent on a bed-sheet.