

JTA

VOL. XI. NO. 113 (26th year)

Wednesday, May 17, 1944

*Daily News Bulletin*

PUBLISHED BY THE JEWISH TELEGRAPHIC AGENCY

106 EAST 41st STREET, NEW YORK 17, N. Y.

ALL HUNGARIAN JEWS WILL BE IN GHETTOS BY END OF MAY, OFFICIAL ANNOUNCES

ZURICH, May 16: (JTA) -- All of Hungary's 800,000 Jews will be in ghettos by the end of this month; it was stated in Budapest today by Laszlo Bakj, Under-Secretary of State in the Hungarian puppet government. The final result of the Hungarian treatment of Jews "will be a Jewish exodus from Hungary," Bakj said. At the same time, Hungarian newspapers reveal that many Jews have been arrested and jailed for attempting to flee to Slovakia or Rumania.

Twenty-two ghettos, in which 60,000 Jews will be confined, have already been established in the Pest area, according to a dispatch from the Nazi Transkontinent Press. The Hungarian MTI agency, meanwhile, sent out a dispatch admitting that Budapest Jews have been forced to settle near war factories threatened by enemy raids.

Laszlo Endre, Hungarian Commissioner for Jewish Affairs, in a broadcast today reviewing the anti-Jewish regulations which have been introduced, revealed that a "provisional executive" has been named to head the Association of Hungarian Jews, to which all Jews must belong. The association, under government direction, will be compelled to arrange the transfer of Jews to ghettos, furnish lists of Jews for transportation and; in general, carry out all the anti-Jewish measures decreed by the authorities.

Jews Shorn of Possessions, Says Commissioner for Jewish Affairs

Endre said after completing a tour of 34 cities to check on the "problem of the Jews," he found the situation "satisfactory." Jews have already been placed in ghettos in many of these cities, and they have been shorn of their possessions, he said. Endre alleged that many Jews burned bank notes in preference to surrendering their funds to the pro-Nazi government.

The police, meanwhile, are continuing to arrest Jews found in the streets without a yellow star on their clothing. In the future, such persons will be sentenced to a short prison term and then interned. At the same time, Hungarian newspapers further attack non-Jews who fraternize with persons wearing the yellow badges.

One paper complains that many Hungarians in the sub-Carpathian town of Ungvar liberally ignored the order providing for the internment of all Jews there and hid them in their homes. Many Christians, the paper said, have been arrested for concealing valuables belonging to Jews.

The Ministry of the Interior has made public new decrees affecting Jews. Included is one listing the categories of Jews exempt from the anti-Semitic regulations. These are mostly war veterans and their families and nationals of certain friendly countries. Another decree names commissioners for Jewish-owned industrial and mining enterprises. Still another provides that licenses to conduct schools, colleges or kind of classes which are held by Jews are revoked as of June 30.

COMMISSION TO PROBE ANTI-SEMITISM IN POLISH ARMY MEETS TODAY

LONDON, May 16. (JTA) -- The first meeting of the commission appointed by the Polish National Council to look into the mistreatment of Jews in the Polish armed forces will take place tomorrow, it was announced today on the heels of a bitter debate in the Council on the question of Polish anti-Semitism.

At an evening session of the body yesterday, Dr. Ignacy Schwarzbart, Jewish deputy, charged that despite his protests to army authorities, the anti-Semitic publication "Walka," which is published in England, has been distributed among Polish troops for the past four years.

At a meeting here last night, arranged by the Jewish Socialist Bund to mark the first anniversary of the death of Samuel Zygielbojm, Jewish deputy who committed suicide in protest against the failure of the democratic countries to aid the Jews in Poland, Premier Stanislaw Mikolajczyk decried the disputes that have arisen between Poles and Jews and voiced the belief that "the bond tied by the blood which has been shed in a common cause will be stronger than all differences and all disputes."

The Daily Herald today publishes excerpts of a letter sent to Tom Driberg, independent member of Parliament who has been fighting for the right of the Polish Jews to transfer to the British forces, in which nine of the Jewish soldiers who were arrested, after being sentenced to imprisonment by a court-martial, threaten suicide unless they are permitted to join the British Army and are not compelled to return to the Polish units.

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT SECURED TRANSFER OF JEWISH REFUGEES FROM FINLAND TO SWEDEN

STOCKHOLM, May 16. (JTA) -- Intercession by the American Government with the Swedish and Finnish foreign offices was responsible for the transfer of 100-odd Jewish refugees from Finland, it is reported today by the Stockholm newspaper Nya Dagligt Allehanda. Many of the refugees have already arrived here. It is understood that they will be permitted to remain in Sweden until they can secure permanent residence elsewhere.

A prominent Finn who has just arrived here told the newspaper Dagens Nyheter today that Finnish Jews are in no danger and their treatment up to now has given no grounds for fearing that they will be persecuted. The Finnish spokesman is quoted as stating that "Jews have been considered worthy citizens." He alleged that the German authorities have been told that Finland will not tolerate anti-Jewish laws.

100 AMERICAN EDUCATORS APPEAL TO ROOSEVELT FOR FREE IMMIGRATION INTO PALESTINE

WASHINGTON, May 16. (JTA) -- A petition signed by 1700 American university professors urging President Roosevelt to act in behalf of free entry of Jews into Palestine, "so that the Jewish people may ultimately reconstitute Palestine as a free and democratic Jewish Commonwealth," was submitted to the White House today, on the fifth anniversary of the issuance of the British White Paper of 1939, which prohibits all new Jewish immigration into Palestine. Faculty members of 250 schools of higher learning in 44 states, including 150 college presidents, have signed the petition.

ITALIAN FASCISTS CONFISCATE 700 FARMS BELONGING TO JEWS

ZURICH, May 16. (JTA) -- The puppet Italian fascist government has already confiscated more than 700 Jewish-owned farms comprising about 75,000 acres of land, was reported today by the German radio.

OPPOSING ARAB GROUPS UNITED IN DEFENSE OF JERUSALEM MAYOR'S ATTACK ON JEWS

JERUSALEM, May 16. (JTA) -- Several opposing Arab political groups in Palestine today united in defending the Arab mayor of Jerusalem, Mustafa Bey Khalidi, for his anti-Jewish remarks at a conference of Arab mayors at which stronger measures against Jewish immigration and land acquisition were demanded of the Palestine Government.

The Arab National Defense Party, led by the Nashashibi family, today issued a manifesto "to the noble Arab people" calling upon all Arabs to unite "for the defense of our threatened homeland." The manifesto contains a pledge by the Defense Party to make sacrifices and to act in accordance with decisions and the interests of the country."

The Hebrew press today continues to support the attitude of the Jewish aldermen who demonstratively walked out of the Jerusalem municipal council in protest against the anti-Jewish remarks of the Arab mayor, and who have not returned since. The Hebrew newspaper Hatzofeh says that the Jews ought to learn a lesson from the conference of the Arab mayors. "These mayors, the paper points out," were unanimous in their resolutions denouncing the Jews as enemies of the Arab people. None of them proposed any agreement with the Jews on the basis of a bi-national Arab-Jewish state. Whereas among us, even the extremists wish Arab-Jewish understanding, cooperation and friendship."

ROOSEVELT ASSURES JEWISH SOCIAL WORKERS OF U. S. ROLE IN POST-WAR REHABILITATION

CLEVELAND, May 16. (JTA) -- President Roosevelt, in a message to the annual meeting of the National Conference of Jewish Social Welfare, which opens here tomorrow, pledged that "America will play its full part in the vast program of rehabilitation of human life and the reconstruction of the institutions of civilized living."

"The trained and experienced social workers of our country will have the opportunity to perform their important and historic function in the vast program that lies ahead," the President said in his message, addressed to Louis Kraft, president of the Conference.

Assistant Secretary of State, Adolph A. Berle, will be one of the principal speakers at the five-day annual meeting here which will be held at the Hotel Statler jointly with the National Association of Jewish Center Workers and the National Council for Jewish Education. More than 1,000 delegates and visitors are expected to participate.

The program planned for the meeting is based on the studies of a number of communities and the discussions will include an examination of common problems. The subjects will be related to economic changes in Jewish life, group work and recreation, cultural and religious activities, community relations, youth, vocational adjustments and recent developments with regard to problems brought about by the war situation.

The National Conference of Jewish Social Welfare is the professional body of Jewish social workers with a membership of 650 individuals and 250 agencies in every state of the union, and in Canada. The National Association of Jewish Center Workers and the National Council for Jewish Education are devoted to the specialized fields of group work activities and Jewish education. Louis Kraft, New York, is president of the conference; Meyer E. Fichman of Los Angeles is president of the Center Workers group; and Rabbi Samuel M. Blumenfield of Chicago, is president of the Educators.

5/17/44

TION ON "FREE PORT" PLAN WILL NEED BACKING OF CONGRESSIONAL LEADERS

WASHINGTON, May 16. (JTA) -- Authoritative circles today stated that whatever may be done about giving refugees from Europe temporary asylum on United States soil will require the backing of House and Senate leaders. This applies equally whether the action is taken by President Roosevelt or by Congress, it was emphasized. The statement was made in connection with the suggestion that the United States establish "free ports" as temporary haven for Jews who can still be rescued from occupied Europe.

In favor of executive action is the fact that the State Department still has, issued, more than ninety percent of the entrance visas authorized under the Immigration Law. Proponents of the "free ports" plan say that it would be entirely within the power of the Executive to issue those visas on a temporary basis. Official circles believe that there is no legal obstacle to executive action. However, affirmative action by Congress would place the matter beyond any question or doubt, they point out.

CHIEF RABBI HERZOG APPEALS TO POPE TO HELP RESCUE JEWS IN HUNGARY

JERUSALEM, May 16. (JTA) -- Chief Rabbi Isaac Herzog has sent an appeal to the Pope, through neutral channels, urging the Pope to exert all efforts to save the Jews of Hungary, it was learned here today.

The president of the Hungarian Jewish Settlers Association here, today appealed to Jews throughout the world to save the 800,000 Jews of Hungary from extermination, asserting that there is still a possibility of rescuing these Jews if immediate action is taken.

The Polish Jews Joint Relief Committee today cabled to Jewish groups in the United States, Argentina and Australia, appealing for 30,000 pounds of clothes to be included in parcels to be sent to Polish Jewish refugees in Russia. The committee has started a campaign to send an additional 2,000 packages to the refugees every month.

Vatican Urged by Rep. Celler to Arrange Transfer of Jews from Hungary

WASHINGTON, May 16. (JTA) -- Congressman Emanuel Celler (N. Y. Dem.) today urged that the Vatican undertake to arrange the evacuation of Jews from Hungary. The Vatican authorities, Rep. Celler said, could hire ships which would carry the refugees from the Danube to where they could embark for Turkey.

Rep. Celler suggested that Turkey be asked to receive all refugees who can reach her shores. Such refugees, he said, could be kept in "free zones" whose cost could be borne by the United Nations. After the war they could return home.

Stalin Asked to Exchange Hungarian War Prisoners for Threatened Jews

NEW YORK, May 16. (JTA) -- The Emergency Committee to Save the Jewish People of Europe today made public an appeal to Marshal Stalin, asking the Russian leader to intercede to save the Jews of Hungary. The appeal suggests that Stalin agree to exchange Hungarian prisoners of war for Jews in Hungary who are menaced by the Nazis. Carl Rohde, former U. S. minister to Norway, speaking at a press conference today, urged by the Committee, also suggested that Stalin issue a warning threatening the Hungarians with severe punishment if they slaughter the Jews.