

JTA

VOL. XI. No. 114 (26th year)

Thursday, May 18, 1944

*Daily News Bulletin*

PUBLISHED BY THE JEWISH TELEGRAPHIC AGENCY

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

HUNGARIAN JEWS WILL BE MASSACRED BEFORE ENTRY OF RUSSIANS, BUDAPEST PAPERS THREATEN

ZURICH, May 17. (JTA) -- The Jewish population of Hungary will be massacred in the ghettos into which they are now being herded, in the event that an invasion by Russian troops become imminent, pro-Nazi Budapest newspapers threaten.

The papers sneer at the Allied indignation over the removal of Jews to districts in Hungary which are targets of Anglo-American bombing. "Hungarian self-defense will not be influenced by threats from New York and London," the *Esti Ujsag* writes.

The organ of the Hungarian Government, *Fueggetlenseg*, in an article written by its editor, says that the Jews in Hungary, when being moved into ghettos, calmly comment: "We shall wait!" This, the paper says, means that the Jews hope that within several weeks the Russian Army will break through the Carpathian mountains and occupy the cities where the ghettos have been established. "This Jewish waiting will, however, be forestalled by National-Socialism and by methods fixed to comply with Hitler's wish that no Jew be left in Europe by the time the war comes to an end," the paper declares.

323,000 Hungarian Jews in Ghettos; Auctioning of Property Speeded

Under-Secretary Lazlo Baky, who yesterday announced that all of Hungary's 800,000 Jews will be in ghettos by the end of this month, today revealed in a broadcast from Budapest that 323,000 Jews are already in ghettos or concentration camps.

The newspaper *Magyarorszag*, welcoming the segregation of Jews in ghettos, urges the government take "immediate measures" to put all the Jews of Hungary "to useful work." It emphasizes that "800,000 Jews constitute an important labor reserve."

Meanwhile, the Hungarian authorities have decided to speed the disposal of confiscated Jewish property, and the Minister of Interior today warned in Budapest that any hidden Jewish property must be reported to local authorities within ten days, after which severe punishment will be imposed upon anyone found guilty of failing to report Jewish belongings.

The warning was broadcast over the Hungarian radio together with an announcement disclosing that it was motivated by the fact that many non-Jews possess hidden Jewish property "partly with a view to material gain and partly because of misguided altruism." The broadcast invited applications for 190 Jewish drug stores which were taken over by the government under the anti-Jewish regulations after the owners were moved to ghettos.

The Bar Association in Budapest announced that it has struck from its membership rolls 1,260 Jewish lawyers. It also sent out a circular letter to its non-Jewish members warning them of disciplinary proceedings if any of them are found guilty of acting "as dummy for a Jewish lawyer."

5/18/44

TRANSFER OF JEWS FROM POLISH ARMY TO BRITISH WILL NO LONGER BE PERMITTED, EDEN SAYS

LONDON, May 17. (JTA) -- The transfer of Jews from the Polish Army to the British will not be permitted any longer "under any circumstances" Foreign Secretary Anthony Eden told the House of Commons today. This applies to the Polish-Jewish soldiers who were amnestied by President Raczkiewicz and who are refusing to leave the places where they are imprisoned unless they are admitted to the British forces, Eden said.

pointing out that the amnesty decree completely annulled all punishment imposed by a Polish court martial upon the 21 Jewish soldiers who left the Polish Army because of anti-Semitism and sought to enter British units, Eden said that the pardoned men have been sent to a central Polish replacement depot from where they will be assigned to various units in accordance with their previous training.

Eden stated that the British Government warmly welcomed the action by the Polish Government, and expressed the hope that the incident would now be considered closed, and that "the men involved would go forward to play a part in the great actions which are impending."

The London News-Chronicle publishes an editorial stating that the disagreeable impression resulting from the court-martalling of the Jewish soldiers has not been entirely effaced by the amnesty "since it is plain that these unhappy men were freed only under the pressure of public opinion."

Meanwhile, the commission appointed by the Polish National Council to inquire into anti-Semitic conditions in the Polish Army met today and elected Adam Ciolkosz, socialist, chairman. Emanuel Szerer, Jewish Socialist, was named secretary.

FORMER ITALIAN JEWISH SENATOR DIES WHILE BEING DEPORTED BY GERMANS

WASHINGTON, May 17. (JTA) -- The Swiss newspaper Basler Nachrichten said today that "deep regret and anger" had spread through Nazi-occupied northern Italy following the "tragic death" of Senator Elio Morpurgo, 85-year-old Italian Jew who "formerly played an important role in Italian political life," the Office of War Information reports.

Because of ill health, Morpurgo had been permitted to live in a place where Swiss authorities had promised he would be unmolested, the Swiss newspaper said. However, it was reported, the aged Morpurgo was arrested "contrary to promise" by fascist SS men and ordered deported with other Jews. He died after a few hours of travel.

STATE DEPARTMENT SETS UP COMMITTEE TO SPEED ACTION ON VISA APPLICATIONS

WASHINGTON, May 17. (JTA) -- In order to speed action in visa cases a special committee has been set up in the Visa Division to examine newly received applications, the State Department announced today.

The statement explains that advisory approvals for the issuance of visas may be sent to American consular officers in cases other than those of alien enemies, which are recommended by the committee as not requiring consideration under the interdepartmental visa committee procedure. A simplified form of application will be placed in use within a few weeks, according to the State Department.

## CONFERENCE OF JEWISH SOCIAL WORKERS OPENS IN CLEVELAND; FIRST SESSION HEARS SILVER

CLEVELAND, May 17. (JTA) -- Plans concerning Jewish community life in America during and after the war were discussed here today by various commissions of the five-day annual conference of Jewish social workers which opened this afternoon at the Hotel Statler, with more than 500 delegates in attendance.

The conference, which is being held jointly by the National Conference of Jewish Social Welfare, National Association of Jewish Center Workers and National Council for Jewish Education, was addressed tonight by Rabbi Abba Hillel Silver on "The Stake and Responsibility of the American Jewish Community in the Present World." Emphasizing that neither America nor American Jews can be isolationist in theory or practice, Dr. Silver said: "America is the center of world. Politically, economically and culturally it is now enmeshed in common destiny with rest of the world. American Jews have also come to share, however reluctantly, the common, inescapable destiny of their fellow Jews in the rest of the world."

American Jews therefore have a double responsibility, Dr. Silver continued. First, to do their part as Americans to bring this war to a successful conclusion. This," he said, "we are doing in full measure. Jews know how to fight for the things they love - and they love America. They understand, too, the nature and the intent of the enemy - and this knowledge lends drive and resoluteness to their war efforts. The second responsibility is to save what we can of European Jewry, which has been the victim of the most horrible catastrophe in world history. They will emerge from physical ravaged and seriously depleted of numbers and resources," he pointed out. "Our first task will be to salvage, to rebuild, to re-unite broken families, to re-establish shattered communities."

"Many communities cannot be rebuilt, many countries will be closed," Dr. Silver stated. "Palestine alone offers a sound and realistic prospect for mass-scale immigration, provided political barriers which the mandatory power has illegally erected be removed." He concluded by emphasizing that physical rehabilitation is not enough. "We must also plan for our cultural and spiritual rehabilitation - how to keep alive the spirit of Israel, the light of Jewish thought - and the torch of Jewish learning, how to safeguard our heritage which alone gives dignity and distinction to our lives and meaning to our millennial suffering, how to vitalize those institutions which have preserved the ethical and religious idealism of Judaism for ourselves and for mankind."

Louis Kraft, president of the National Conference of Jewish Social Welfare, in his presidential address said that a three-fold responsibility faces Jewish social workers. First; to serve normal and emergency social welfare needs of America in time of war. Second; to participate in plans now under way to make America a better place to live in after the war. Third; to do their part, as Jews well equipped for living, in the building of an enduring Jewish life in America - a life of dignity, security, and fulfillment for Jews as individuals and as a group.

The question of aid by Jewish social workers to organizations active in international work and anti-discrimination was discussed by a special commission prior to the general session of the conference, under the chairmanship of Mr. Kraft. Other commissions discussed problems dealing with social security, demobilization, post-war economic readjustment and Jewish community planning. The general session was greeted by Joseph M. Berne, president of the Jewish Welfare Federation of Cleveland.

## HABIMA THEATRE STAR WILL ENTERTAIN PALESTINE TROOPS IN ITALY

TEL AVIV, May 17. (JTA) -- Hanna Rovina, star of the Habima Theatre, has accepted an invitation to go to Italy to entertain Palestine troops fighting there. She is expected to leave shortly.

## BIJAN COMMITTEE WILL RAISE \$1,000,000 THIS YEAR TO AID RUSSIAN JEWS

NEW YORK, May 17. (JTA) -- The American Biro-Bidjan Committee, will raise \$1,000,000 this year to finance relief activities in Russia, which include the settlement and care of 3,500 Jewish war orphans in Biro-Bidjan, it was reported here last night at a dinner marking the tenth anniversary of the Jewish Autonomous Region.

Speakers, who included Senator Elbert D. Thomas of Utah and Vilhjalmur Stefansson, noted explorer who is vice-president of Ambijan, praised the contributions the Russian people have made to victory. Senator Thompson said that the aid given by Ambijan to the orphaned Jewish children in Russia would create friendship for the United States when the young refugees grew up.

## PALESTINE JEWS TO OBSERVE "FIFTH COMMANDMENT DAY" AS PERMANENT INSTITUTION

JERUSALEM, May 17. (JTA) -- Palestine Jews will celebrate "Fifth Commandment Day," as a permanent institution, similar to the observance of "Mother's Day" and "Father's Day" in the United States.

Leading Jewish official bodies here today decided to proclaim an "Honor Thy Father and Mother Day." The details of the observances are still to be worked out. The Fifth Commandment says: "Honor thy father and thy mother, that thy days may be long upon the land which the Lord thy God giveth thee."

## READING GUIDE TO JEWISH ENCYCLOPEDIA ISSUED; FACILITATES STUDY OF JEWISH SUBJECTS

NEW YORK, May 17. (JTA) -- A reading guide and index to the recently completed 13-volume Universal Jewish Encyclopedia in English was issued today under the title "The Seven-Branched Candle Light." The book, identical in dimensions and in binding to the Encyclopedia itself, is designed to enable the reader to pursue home studies at least 100 major courses and to facilitate utilization of the thousands of other subjects of Jewish interest contained in the ten volumes of the Universal Jewish Encyclopedia.

"The Seven-Branched Candle Light" was compiled by Rabbi Simon Cohen in collaboration with Louis Rittenberg and Rabbi Abraham I. Shindeling, research director, executive-literary editor and revision editor respectively of the Universal Jewish Encyclopedia. This guide and index groups the themes of study under seven prime subjects: Religion, Jewish Life, Jews and Non-Jews, History, Literature, Jewish Contributions to Civilization and General Subjects.

## INDIAN JEWISH CHRONICLE CELEBRATES THIRTIETH ANNIVERSARY

MONTREAL, May 17. (JTA) -- The Canadian Jewish Chronicle, the oldest continuous Anglo-Jewish periodical in the Dominion, is celebrating its thirtieth anniversary. Published several months before the outbreak of the last war, the Canadian Jewish Chronicle has covered the most important period in the development of the Canadian Jewish community.

## AMERICAN PALESTINE FUND WILL HONOR PROFESSOR EINSTEIN ON 65TH BIRTHDAY

NEW YORK, May 17. (JTA) -- A dinner in honor of Professor Albert Einstein, sponsored by the American Fund for Palestinian Institutions, will be held on Monday evening, June 5 at the Waldorf Astoria, it was announced today. Professor Einstein is chairman of the advisory board of the American Fund, which coordinates the fundraising activities in this country on behalf of 52 educational, cultural and welfare institutions in Palestine.