

Daily News Bulletin

PUBLISHED BY THE JEWISH TELEGRAPHIC AGENCY

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

JEWISH SETTLEMENT CORDONED OFF IN SEARCH OF ASSAILANTS ON PALESTINE HIGH COMMISSIONER

JERUSALEM, Aug. 10. (JTA) -- The Palestine Government today issued a communique stating that the desperadoes who made an attempt on the life of Sir Harold MacMichael, the outgoing High Commissioner of Palestine, have disappeared in the Jewish settlement of Givat Shaul, leaving no trace of their identity.

"Police immediately cordoned off the settlement, but no one volunteered any clues," the communique says. "All available information points to the fact that the perpetrators of this and other recent outrages, and their active supporters who have openly boasted of their responsibility for terror and intention to continue, are more than a small body of terrorists and form a widespread organization."

Declaring that police dogs have similarly confirmed that the perpetrators of the attack on the High Commissioner entered the Givat Shaul settlement, the official communique says that the police investigating the attack, have discovered on the spot a quantity of hand grenades, two sub-machine guns, a sack of bombs capable of being exploded by electricity from a distance, and other ammunition and explosive equipment.

"The Government and the police are fully alive to their responsibilities and duties," the communique continues. "They are also aware of the fact that the majority of the inhabitants in the country sincerely abhor terrorist activities. But the public also have a clear responsibility. The government calls upon all members of the community to aid to the utmost ability especially in the matter of giving information to the security forces."

King Congratulates MacMichael; Jewish Agency Issues Statement

High Commissioner MacMichael was reported today as having much improved from the light wounds received. He was the recipient today of a message from the King congratulating him on his "providential escape from the cowardly attempt."

The Jewish Agency for Palestine today issued a statement reading: "We are shocked to learn of the attempt on the life of the High Commissioner. We are confident that whoever the culprits be, all inhabitants of the country, regardless of race and religion, will do everything in their power to bring to justice the perpetrators of the dastardly act."

Police authorities today reported that the preparations on the scene of the crime had apparently been made under the cover of bogus survey operations. Several of the assailants, numbering not more than ten, laid in ambush for several hours waiting for the High Commissioner's car to pass. They hid behind rocks on the hilly left side of the road. Seven of them were seen escaping from the engagement and entering the neighboring Jewish settlement of Givat Shaul, where police officers are now making extensive searches with the aid of police dogs.

ONLY SIX JEWS SURVIVE. IN PINSK; LIVED IN A CELLAR FOR TWENTY MONTHS

MOSCOW, Aug. 10. (JTA) -- Latest reports reaching here today from the liberated city of Pinsk disclose that only six Jews are now living in that city which once boasted a large Jewish population.

The six Jews lived for twenty months in a basement hidden by two local Russian women Elizabeth Baranovskaya and Sofia Fedorchenko. Two German officers responsible for the murder of most of Pinsk Jews have fallen into the hands of the Red Army.

LEON BLUM PERISHED IN "JEWISH EXTERMINATION CAMP" NEAR LUBLIN, MOSCOW WRITER REPORTS

MOSCOW, Aug. 10. (JTA) -- Leon Blum, pre-war Premier of France, died in a "Jewish camp" near Lublin in 1943, according to a report published here today by the well-known Soviet author Constantin Simonov, who has just returned from a visit to the newly liberated Polish city.

If Simonov's story is correct - he got it from two persons who claimed to have spoken to Blum shortly before he died - it clears a mystery of more than a year's standing as to the ex-premier's fate. Blum, one of the French leaders tried by the Vichy government in the never-completed Riom trials in 1942, was last reported in 1943 to be in a prison camp in western Prussia.

According to Simonov's story, Blum was held in one of the grimmest and most notorious Nazi prison camps about a mile from Lublin. What happened there was told to the Soviet author by the two men with whom he talked in Lublin, a Russian named Peter Mikhailovich Denisov and a Pole named Klaudia Elinsky.

In 1943, they said, they were in a warehouse filled with construction materials for the camp, and met one of the Lublin Jews whom they had known in the past. He talked to them for a while, and then, pointing to an old man who was lugging boards, said: "Do you know who that is? That's Leon Blum."

Seeing that there was no one near them, the two men approached the old man.

"Are you Leon Blum?" Denisov asked.

"Yes," the old man replied, "I am Leon Blum."

"Prime Minister of France?"

"Yes, Prime Minister of France."

"How did you get here?" Denisov asked.

"I came with the last party of French prisoners," the old man answered.

"Why didn't you try to save yourself at home?" Denisov persisted. "Couldn't you have done it?"

"I don't know," the old man said. "Perhaps I could. But I decided to share the fate of my people."

The old man began to cry. Just then some Gestapo men came up, and Blum picked up the heavy board and went on. In a few steps he fell down. Someone helped him up, and he went on again.

A week later Denisov and Elinsky were back at the warehouse, and met their Jewish friend again. They asked him where Leon Blum was. "Up there," the man replied, pointing to the sky, "where I'll be soon."

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SWEDEN WILLING TO ADMIT JEWISH CHILDREN FROM HUNGARY, PREMIER ANNOUNCES

STOCKHOLM, Aug. 10. (JTA) -- The Swedish press today quotes Premier Hansson as stating that Sweden is "very willing to receive Jewish children from Hungary if the matter could be arranged." A similar statement was issued here today also by Gunnar Anderson, vice-chairman of the Swedish Federation of Labor.

Swedish newspapers also report today from Bulgaria that Justice Protich of the Bulgarian High Court, whose hatred for Nazis is widely known, has been appointed by the Bograianov government to deal with property confiscated from Jews under the anti-Jewish laws issued by the previous pro-Nazi Bulgarian cabinet.

JEWISH LABOR PARTY LEADS IN HISTADRUTH ELECTIONS IN PALESTINE

JERUSALEM, Aug. 10. (JTA) -- The approximate results of the elections to the Histadruth, Palestine Federation of Labor, were made public here today. A total of 106,000 members of the Histadruth participated in the voting. The number of members eligible to vote is 123,000, exclusive of some 6,000 soldiers who are abroad.

The Mapai section of the Histadruth was leading in the elections and received 53 percent of all the votes. The group "B" in the Mapai, opposition wing, received 19 percent of the votes. The Hashomer Hatzair secured 18 percent. The Alyiah Chadasah and the Haoved Hatzioni received three percent each. The remainder went to other small groups.

EGYPTIAN PREMIER SENDS PROTEST TO AMERICAN POLITICAL PARTIES FOR ATTITUDE ON PALESTINE

CAIRO, Aug. 10. (JTA) -- The Premier of Egypt today addressed a protest to the Democratic and the Republican parties of the United States criticizing the planks on Palestine which the two parties adopted at their national conventions in Chicago. The protest was sent not in the name of the Egyptian Government, but of the Wafd Party.

The Egyptian Premier insists in his protest that Palestine would not solve the Jewish problem and that the attitude of the American political parties in supporting the Jewish claims on Palestine is only "frustrating the Arabs." He warns that the Arab world will act against "the attempt to dispossess the Palestine Arabs" and emphasizing the religious and historical importance of Palestine for the Moslems, adds that "a painful impression would be created among Moslems and Christians throughout the entire world, should Palestine be given to Jews." A similar protest was sent today by the Premier to the British Labor Party which advocates the transfer of Palestine Arabs to neighboring Arab lands.

RELIEF PROBLEMS FOR JEWS IN ROME DISCUSSED BY POLETTI AND J.D.C. REPRESENTATIVE

ROME, Aug. 10. (JTA) -- Problems of relief for 2,000 destitute Jews in Rome were taken up today at a conference between Lt. Col. Charles Poletti, head of the Allied Military Government in liberated Italy, and Arthur Greenleigh, special representative of the Joint Distribution Committee.

Assurances were given at the conference that relief will continue to be administered by the public relief agency in Rome on a non-sectarian basis. Rome's relief organization, however, is able to supply only basic assistance for the city's destitute who are receiving the most meager food rations. In many cases these rations are being supplemented for the non-Jewish population by the Vatican soup kitchens. A relief deputation of the Rome Jewish Community is giving similar aid to the Jewish needy on the basis of funds provided by the Joint Distribution Committee.

STETTINIUS GRATIFIED OVER MEXICO'S PLAN TO ESTABLISH "FREE PORT" FOR REFUGEES

WASHINGTON, Aug. 10. (JTA) -- Acting Secretary of State Edward R. Stettinius, Jr. today declared that he was very gratified to read the announcement by the Mexican Government of plans to set up a Refugee Shelter in Mexico patterned after that established by the U. S. Government at Fort Ontario.

The Acting Secretary made this statement at a press conference adding that he hoped that other countries would follow the example of the United States. "I would welcome such a move by all freedom-loving countries of the world," he said.

Sen. Robert Reynolds, leader of the American Nationalists, today began a campaign to prevent the U. S. from setting up additional "free ports" such as the emergency shelter opened for 982 European refugees last Saturday at Fort Ontario in Oswego.

In a widely circulated letter written on official Senate stationery, Reynolds described the settling of the refugees as "merely the entering wedge," and added, "once the foot is in the door, I am of the opinion that thousands of refugees will follow - and once they are here they will never be returned." Reynolds urged his followers to deluge their Congressmen with letters demanding the immediate end of "all immigration now."

BRITISH REPATRIATES REPORT MASS-SUICIDE OF JEWS IN VITTEL TO AVOID DEPORTATION

LONDON, Aug. 10. (JTA) -- British civilian repatriates who arrived here today from Lisbon on the Swedish exchange ship Drottningholm, related heart-breaking stories of Jews interned at hotels in Vittel, France, committing mass-suicide in order to be spared deportation by the Germans to extermination camps in Poland.

Many of the Jews leaped to their death from the windows of the hotels when the Gestapo raided the places in hunt for Jews, the repatriates said. Others poisoned themselves and their children as soon as it became known that Jews in Vittel were being rounded up for deportation to Poland.

AUSTRALIAN JEWS FROM CENTRAL REPRESENTATIVE BODY TO SPEAK FOR ALL COMMUNITIES

MELBOURN, Australia, Aug. 10. (JTA) -- A conference of delegates representing Jewish institutions from all Australian states, except Queensland, took place here today for the purpose of forming a central body authorized to speak in behalf of all the Jews of Australia. Hitherto Jewish communities functioned independently in each state.

The conference decided to form an Executive Council of Australian Jewry which will be acknowledged as the representative body of all Jewish communities of Australia. A twelve-clause constitution was adopted and a decision was passed to meet again within three months for the purpose of electing permanent officers.

IRVIN SPEISER, JEWISH SOCIAL SERVICE WORKER, DIES IN NEW YORK

NEW YORK, Aug. 10. (JTA) -- Funeral services were held today for Irwin Speiser, leading member of the staff of the National Refugee Service, who died yesterday at the Beth Israel hospital after a brief illness. Mr. Speiser was on the staff of the Joint Distribution Committee for many years. Only recently he was named treasurer of the newly organized Central Location Index.