

# JTA

VOL. XI. NO. 190 (26th year)

Thursday, August 17, 1944

## Daily News Bulletin

PUBLISHED BY THE JEWISH TELEGRAPHIC AGENCY

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

### BULGARIA RESCINDS ANTI-JEWISH LAWS; JEWS TO DISCARD THEIR YELLOW BADGES

ISTANBUL, Aug. 16. (JTA) -- The Turkish radio today reported that all anti-Jewish regulations in Bulgaria, introduced under German pressure, have been abolished.

Jews in Bulgaria have been notified that they need no longer wear the yellow Mogen David and that they are as free to leave their restricted residential areas and move about the country as other citizens, the broadcast said.

### RUMANIA SEEKS LIBERATION OF RUMANIAN JEWS FROM NAZI CAMPS; REINSTATES JEWISH EMPLOYEES

GENEVA, Aug. 16. (JTA) -- The pro-Nazi Rumanian Government, in an effort to "appease" the Allies on the treatment of Jews, has not only ceased its anti-Jewish persecution, but has now reinstated a number of Jewish employees in public institutions, it was reliably reported here today.

The report stated that as part of its present policy to win Allied sympathy, the Rumanian Government has now given asylum to about 2,500 Jews from Hungary and has recently admitted even Jews who escaped from occupied Poland.

Efforts are now being made by the Rumanian Government to secure the liberation of Rumanian Jews from German concentration camps. Several thousand Rumanian Jews, thanks to these efforts, have been liberated from camps in France, but none from camps in Germany, Hungary and other parts of Nazi Europe, the report revealed.

### GERMANS RAZE ALL TRACES OF THE "JEWISH EXTERMINATION CAMPS" BEFORE LEAVING POLAND

MOSCOW, Aug. 16. (JTA) -- Correspondents of the Moscow press now visiting the liberated area in Poland today reported from Lublin that the Germans have razed to the ground all buildings in the extermination camp of Treblinka, including the gas chambers where tens of thousands of Jews were suffocated to death. The Moscow papers, however, assert that there are people who survived the massacres in Treblinka and who testify in details as to the mass-murder which the Germans carried out systematically on Jews brought from all parts of occupied Europe.

Similar steps to remove all traces of their crimes have been taken by the Germans in the Sobibor, Trawniki, Poniatow and Majdanek. All these places are now in the hands of the Red Army, but it is not easy to find the exact location of the "death factories."

An investigation made by Soviet officials in the Lublin district established that in the Trawniki concentration camp the Germans had established a special section for Jews who were caught fleeing from the Warsaw ghetto after the anti-Nazi revolt there. The torture of the Jews in this section of the camp was especially brutal, neighboring peasants testified.

REFUGEES WILL NOT BE FORCED TO RETURN TO NATIVE LANDS; ITALY GRANTS THEM CITIZENSHIP

LONDON, Aug. 16. (JTA) -- The Italian Government has granted naturalization to a number of refugees desiring to remain in Italy, it was announced here today by Sir Herbert Emerson, director of the Intergovernmental Committee for Refugees.

The announcement was made at a press conference arranged in connection with the plenary session of the Intergovernmental Committee now taking place to discuss postwar refugee problems. Representatives of thirty-four nations are participating in the conference. "The action of the Italian Government is part of an effort now being made to have some of the refugees absorbed by the countries giving them temporary asylum," Sir Herbert said.

"No refugee will be forced to go back to his native land against his own will," the head of the Intergovernmental Committee continued. He refused to answer any questions with regard to Palestine, but said that about two million refugees will have to be classified after the war as "non-repatriables." It is unlikely that they will be mainly Jewish, he added, citing the fact that among twenty thousand refugees in Italy there are only five thousand Jews.

Many Refugees Prefer to Remain in Spain and Portugal

Sir Herbert also reported that about twelve hundred refugees in Spain and Portugal prefer to remain there rather than go to the Allied "free port" for refugees at Camp Fedhala, near Casablanca. "They want to be nearer to their native lands in order to return home as soon as their countries are liberated," he explained.

The director of the Intergovernmental Committee emphasized that homes for 9000 Jewish refugee children from Nazi Europe are now available in the United States, Argentina, Palestine, Canada and Sweden, but the Germans refuse to issue the necessary visas. Similar difficulties are being made also by satellite countries.

The London Times, in an editorial commenting on the plenary session of the Intergovernmental Committee says that this committee is destined to perform the same functions as the Nansen Office did after the last World War. "The work of the Intergovernmental Committee will, however, not be completed until those whom it protects will be helped to find not merely homes and employment, but new citizenship and fresh hope for the future," the editorial declares.

SWEDISH PRESS PROTESTS GERMANY'S REFUSAL TO PASS JEWS FROM HUNGARY TO SWEDEN

STOCKHOLM, Aug. 16. (JTA) -- The Swedish press today carries articles protesting against Germany's refusal to issue transit visas and grant transport through Germany for several hundred Jews whom Hungary is permitting to leave for Sweden.

The Dagens Nyheter and the Nyadaglight Allehanda, two leading Stockholm newspapers, urge that the Swedish Government continue unabated its efforts for the Hungarian Jews.

The pro-Nazi press in Hungary reaching here today carries a warning that "the ruthlessness of the Allied air war and the advance of the Russian Army threaten the remaining Jews in Hungary with mortal danger." The papers report that Lajos Forster, former member of the Czechoslovak parliament, and his son, have been arrested in Hungary for hiding Jews from deportation. They report also that a Slovakian Jew, Abraham Donat, and his four children were discovered hiding in a Catholic church.

8/17/44

GERMANS WRECKED LARGEST SYNAGOGUE IN ITALY BEFORE EVACUATING FLORENCE

FLORENCE, Italy. Aug. 16. (JTA) -- German demolition squads, aided by Mussolini's followers planted charges of dynamite and gelequite in the main synagogue of Florence before retreating from the city.

The explosives completely gutted the interior of the edifice, which is Italy's largest synagogue. They blasted out the pulpit and the colonnades along the sides, cutting down the balconies and leaving the building a near wreck.

A young Canadian Jewish army sergeant of an engineering unit was the first to report the wrecking of the synagogue to the authorities. While in the building, he removed several unexploded charges, but others are believed to be still on the premises, and the correspondent of the Jewish Telegraphic Agency inspecting the building was warned to tread easy.

The Germans also gutted the adjacent offices of the Jewish community. The files and community records are hopelessly jumbled up and defaced, covering the floor of the office knee-high. Florence's second synagogue remained undamaged. The restoration of the great synagogue will cost thousands of dollars. The interior will have to be completely rebuilt.

Young Jewish Leader Killed by German Sniper Upon Return to City

One of the most tragic blows to Jews in Florence was the killing of the 29-year old Jewish community leader, Juliano Treves. He was killed by a German sniper when he returned from Rome to Florence on a mercy mission to ascertain the relief needs of the Jews in the city. The last German and Fascist units had already retreated from the city at the time. Treves escaped to Rome last January when the Germans sought to arrest him at his home in Florence.

Information obtained by the correspondent of the Jewish Telegraphic Agency from Jewish leaders in Florence places the number of completely destitute Jews in the city at about 350, and this total is expected to be considerably increased as soon as more Florentine Jews come out of their hiding in Catholic institutions and with Italian friends in the vicinity.

The plight of these needy Jews, who require food, clothing and shelter, is expected to be immediately taken up by the leaders of the Jewish community with Allied authorities. Meanwhile the Joint Distribution Committee is rushing financial aid through the Italian relief committee.

400 Jews Return to Battered Leghorn; Appeal for Immediate Relief

ROME, Aug. 16. (JTA) -- About 400 members of the pre-war Jewish community in Leghorn have returned to that battered city and are in desperate economic straits, it was stated today by Guiseppe Furnaro, president of the Leghorn Jewish community who arrived here to appeal for aid to the representative of the Joint Distribution Committee.

Furnaro reported that all Jews who returned to Leghorn are homeless and are sleeping on floors in local school buildings. They are badly in need of food and clothing. By arrangement with the J.D.C., Capt. Aaron Papernan, Fifth Army Jewish Chaplain, is proceeding tomorrow to Leghorn with a supply of food.

PALESTINE HIGH COMMISSIONER THANKS WEIZMANN FOR SYMPATHY MESSAGE; HAS FULLY RECOVERED

JERUSALEM, Aug. 16. (JTA) -- Sir Harold MacMichael, retiring High Commissioner of Palestine, today cabled his thanks to Dr. Chaim Weizmann, president of the Jewish Agency, for the latter's message of regret over the attempt on Sir Harold's life. Dr. Weizmann expressed hope ~~at the time that~~ the assailants would be discovered and punished.

The High Commissioner has fully recovered from the slight injuries which he received. His aide-de-camp Major Nicholls, who was seriously wounded, is now reported out of danger. None of the assailants have been apprehended as yet.

NATIONAL LIBERTY PARTY PLANNED TO PROVOKE CIVIL WAR AGAINST JEWS IN AMERICA

WASHINGTON, Aug. 16. (JTA) -- A letter from defendant Frank W. Clark, chairman of the National Liberty Party, revealing that his organization planned to provoke a civil war against the Jews was among the 160 exhibits admitted in evidence at the mass sedition trial today. The documents were seized, according to government testimony, by the F.B.I. at Bund headquarters in Los Angeles.

Clark wrote in a series of letters to L. Frey, secretary of the western states convention of the anti-Communist Federation: "You people of Los Angeles have over 70,000 Jews to deal with and twice as many Communists, and the Pacific Ocean is a pretty good place for them to start swimming or go down."

The defendant predicted that "before the battle is over, we will have cleaned up and cleaned out this thing we call government, having driven all enemies into the Pacific and Atlantic Oceans -- or else bury them here, as we cannot deport them, as we have finally found out in the twenty years struggle for immigrant legislation."

Other documents showed similar sentiments on the part of other defendants. A document bearing the signature of Robert E. Edmondson, another of those on trial for conspiring to incite the armed forces to disloyalty and mutiny, listed Jewish names of reserve officers who were called out at Fort Dix, N.J., in 1938 for active duty as instructors of 2,000 citizen military training corps students. Edmondson commented: "Fine American names in the United States Army -- which may be called upon to shoot down patriotic vigilantes trying to rescue the Republic from Jewish Communism." He added: "Did Germany's Hitler stand for that? No. He disfranchised the Jews. And Mussolini is now evidently following in his footsteps."

Several letters from Lois M. Lafayette Washburn, national secretary of the National Liberty Party, inform H. Diebel of the Aryan Book Store that "our leader," Mr. Frank W. Clark, and his co-horts bring us fifty-five years experience with evidence and reports of findings in secret investigations of the worlds worst criminal Jews, against whom drastic action is planned."

WOMEN ZIONISTS IN ARGENTINA LAUNCH DRIVE TO AID TRANSPORTATION TO PALESTINE

BUENOS AIRES, Aug. 16. (JTA) -- At a meeting last night of the Zionist Womens Organization of Argentina, presided over by Mrs. Bertha Gershomoff, wife of the prominent Argentine journalist, a campaign was launched to raise funds to transport Jewish women and children from Europe to Palestine. Among the speakers were many noted Catholics.