

JTA

VOL. XI. NO. 205 (25th year)

Tuesday, September 5, 1944

Daily News Bulletin

PUBLISHED BY THE JEWISH TELEGRAPHIC AGENCY

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

HIRSCHMANN WILL GO TO BULGARIA TO ENSURE ABOGATION OF ANTI-JEWISH LAWS IS ENFORCED

CAIRO, Sept. 4. (JTA) -- Ira A. Hirschmann, United States War Refugee Board representative in Turkey, is preparing to leave for Bulgaria to check on whether all anti-Jewish restrictions have been removed, it was learned here today.

Mr. Hirschmann is waiting only for an armistice to be signed here between the Bulgarian Government and the Allies. It is known that one clause of the armistice terms commits the Bulgarian Government to grant equal rights to all citizens. It is to ensure that this clause will be carried out that the WRB representative will go to Sofia. The Bulgarians have already issued decrees abrogating the anti-Jewish laws and restoring the franchise to all citizens.

The clause barring racial or religious discrimination is felt to be of utmost importance, since it will set a precedent for other armistice terms, especially with Hungary and Rumania.

As a result of the change of government in Sofia last week the armistice negotiations have been delayed as it is not known whether the Bulgarian delegates presently conferring with the Anglo-American representatives here have authority, any longer, to speak for their government.

ONLY 90,000 JEWS REMAIN IN FRANCE OF PRE-WAR POPULATION OF 350,000; 10,000 IN PARIS

NEW YORK, Sept. 4. (JTA) -- Only 90,000 Jews remain in France of the 350,000 French and refugee Jews who lived there before the German occupation of the country, it is reported today by American correspondents in the French capital. In Paris, itself, there are only 10,000 Jews. Before the war the city had a Jewish population of about 100,000.

The correspondents also disclose that the Jews in Paris and in the Drancy concentration camp near the city helped to liberate themselves from the Germans. On August 7, more than two weeks before the Allies entered the city, barricades were erected in the Jewish quarters of the capital, Alexander Uhl of PM reports, while on that same day members of the French Forces of the Interior, in cooperation with some of the internees at Drancy, thwarted German attempts to deport 1,500 persons confined there by blowing up the cattle cars in which they were to be transported.

Uhl writes that "Jews have returned to their homes and are back in the life of Paris again. Their own resistance work, which even now cannot be talked about too freely for the sake of those still in Nazi power, is going on. As part of their duties in the FFI, they have been assigned the job of guarding Jewish buildings. And, as part of the FFI, they are again entering the French Army." He also reports that "the decrees against the Jews have not yet been rescinded by the de Gaulle government as they have been in North Africa, but no one pays the slightest attention to them any more."

A New York Times correspondent reporting a visit to the ghetto established in Paris by the Germans says that "the aggregate of the stories these unfortunates told would fill a book...Some of them are too horrible for belief."

AMERICAN JEWISH COMMITTEE URGES PUNISHMENT OF NAZIS RESPONSIBLE FOR MAJDANEK MASSACRE

NEW YORK, Sept. 4. (JTA) -- An immediate on-the-spot investigation by a special United Nations commission of the recently uncovered Nazi atrocities at the Majdanek concentration camp near Lublin in Poland was urged today by the American Jewish Committee in a letter sent simultaneously to Secretary of State Cordell Hull and the diplomatic representatives of the United Nations in Washington.

The letter, signed by former New York Supreme Court Justice Joseph M. Proskauer, President of the American Jewish Committee, declared that "the future peace of the world will rest in no small measure upon the speedy and just punishment of those who have broken the laws of God and the laws of man, for until all men are convinced that the civilized world will no longer tolerate inhumanity and persecution will we be faced with the ugly and tragic consequences of man's assault upon the dignity of man, thus, the retribution that will be justly meted out will serve as a bulwark of human morality."

In his communication to Mr. Hull, Judge Proskauer emphasized the need for the United States Government to take the leadership in the formation of the commission. Declaring that since Poland is "the center of the Nazi machinery of mass murder," Judge Proskauer urged that that country be visited by this commission "at once, in order that the incredible evidence might be viewed first hand. The findings of such a body would be unimpeachable."

Pointing out that the Jews of the world have in the past few years been apprised of the probable murder of three million souls by the Nazis, Judge Proskauer said that "we reluctantly and mournfully accept the evidence of Majdanek as conclusive proof of our worst fears." Even a world accustomed to the horrors and tragedies of modern warfare, he said, "is stunned by this latest proof of Nazi inhumanity to man."

MYSTERY OF FATE OF ATHENS JEWS SOLVED WITH DISCOVERY THEY EXECUTED AT MAJDANEK

LUBLIN, Sept. 4. (JTA) -- The mystery surrounding the fate of several thousand Jews deported from Athens by the Germans last year has been partially solved with the disclosure here that 1,200 of the deportees were executed at the Majdanek camp. It is likely that many others were also murdered.

The names of most of the 1,000,000 Jews exterminated at Majdanek and other camps will probably never be known, since it has been definitely ascertained that the Germans kept no list of their Jewish victims. Lists were kept only of the executed non-Jews.

A few score names are available from the pitiful possessions of the dead Jews found piled up in Majdanek storehouses awaiting shipment to Germany. From these, which include luggage, prayer books and other personal effects, the Jewish Telegraphic Agency correspondent in a brief examination was able to obtain the names of 20 to 30 Jews from Germany, Austria and Czechoslovakia.

Were some committee to undertake to make a thorough canvass of these possessions, a record of at least a fraction of the presently anonymous dead might be secured.

The 1,200 Greek Jews were not gassed, burned or buried alive, as were most of the Majdanek victims. Survivors report that they were systematically beaten to death over a period of several weeks.

9/5/44

GERMANY REJECTS SWEDEN'S PLEAS TO ALLOW HUNGARIAN JEWS TO SEEK HAVEN THERE

STOCKHOLM, Sept. 4. (JTA) -- Swedish efforts to obtain transit visas through Germany for Hungarian Jews who have been offered haven in Sweden have failed, it is reported here today. The newspaper Svenska Morgnbladet said that interventions by Swedish authorities with Berlin have been "without result."

In an interview with the Dagens Nyheter today, Swedish Chief Rabbi Ehrenpreis, who was formerly chief rabbi of Sofia, the capital of Bulgaria, hailed the Bulgarian Government's abrogation of the anti-Jewish laws as "the first breach in the wall of barbarism erected by Hitler."

Rabbi Ehrenpreis revealed that Metropolitan Stefan of Sofia had interceded for the Jews some time ago following an appeal by him. Many Jews in Bulgaria, the chief rabbi said, are refusing to discard their yellow badges and are wearing them as a mark of distinction.

GERMANS MASSACRING JEWS IN AREAS MENACED BY ADVANCING ALLIED ARMIES

ZURICH, Sept. 4. (JTA) -- Beset on all sides by Allied armies which are liberating large sections of Nazi-occupied territory, the Germans in the parts of Europe menaced by the Allied advances are wreaking a terrible vengeance on those Jews who still remain in their power, it is indicated today in reports reaching here.

The German radio announced that many Jews have been killed during violent "demonstrations" in the fascist-held provinces of Rumania. Asserting that the Jews there went into hiding after "Michael's betrayal," the Nazi broadcaster said that Horia Sima, Rumanian anti-Semitic leader, has proclaimed "a merciless fight against Bolshevik traitors and Jews."

German newspapers published in upper Silesia, in the section of Poland still occupied by the Nazis, report that "Jews and communists have been mercilessly liquidated" in the Dambrowa region, which is north-east of Cracow.

Other German newspapers reaching here confirm the reports that Jews are participating in the battle in the streets of Warsaw. They also charge that Jews are helping the advanced units of the Russian Army in Rumania.

CHIEF RABBI HERZOG FLIES TO CAIRO TO CONFER WITH NOTABLE FROM LIBERATED EUROPE

JERUSALEM, Sept. 4. (JTA) -- Chief Rabbi Isaac Herzog left for Cairo today by plane to meet "a prominent non-Jewish figure" who arrived in Egypt on Friday from liberated Europe and immediately communicated with Dr. Herzog, it was learned here today. The identity of the prominent person or the reason for his wishing to see the chief rabbi could not be ascertained.

BRITISH JEWS MARK FIFTH ANNIVERSARY OF WAR AT DAY OF PRAYER; ALLIED SERVICEMEN ATTEND

LONDON, Sept. 4. (JTA) -- British Jews marked the fifth anniversary of the war at services in synagogues throughout the country yesterday. Although the bulk of the congregations were aged men and women, the services were attended by many American, Canadian and other Allied soldiers. Worshippers leaving the London Synagogue were handed anonymous leaflets calling on Jews "to rise in despair and demand justice for their brethren crying for help while the gates of Palestine remain closed."

WORLD JEWISH CONGRESS TO RE-OPEN PARIS OFFICE; WILL AID IN REHABILITATION TASKS

NEW YORK, Sept. 4. (JTA) -- The executive committee of the World Jewish Congress announced today that it has instructed Mr. Marc Jarblum to proceed at once from Geneva to Paris with a competent staff of trained personnel to re-establish the Paris office of the World Jewish Congress for the purpose of offering immediate aid in the reconstruction of Jewish life in the territory released by the onward surge of the Allied armies.

Mr. Jarblum, a French member of the executive committee of the World Jewish Congress, remained in France during the occupation until last year, when at the request of the French Jewish Resistance Committee, he went to Geneva, from which point he was able to assist many Jews in escaping from Hitler territory.

SYNAGOGUES AND CHURCHES TO COLLECT CLOTHES FOR UNRRA, LEHMAN ANNOUNCES

WASHINGTON, Sept. 4. (JTA) -- Director General Herbert H. Lehman of the United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration today announced that the churches, parishes and synagogues of the United States have responded to his request for an emergency collection of used clothing for distribution in liberated areas of Europe.

The National Catholic Welfare Conference, the Church Committee on Overseas Relief and Reconstruction of the Federal Council of Churches of Christ in America, and the National Council of Jewish Women are enlisting the aid of local organizations of the respective faiths in a one-week campaign for the collection of used clothing. The week of September 24 has been set aside for the collection. The immediate goal is for at least 15,000,000 pounds of usable wearing apparel, used and new, for war-stricken men, women and children.

Mrs. Joseph M. Welt, president of the National Council of Jewish Women, wrote Mr. Lehman that her organization, which will serve as the coordinating agency of all Jewish participation in the collection, "accepts this assignment and pledges the all-out effort of our 65,000 members throughout the country." She reported that the Council has secured the support of the following groups: The Central Conference of American Rabbis, the Rabbinical Assembly of America, the Rabbinical Council of America, the Union of Orthodox Rabbis of the United States and Canada, The National Federation of Temple Synagogues, the National Women's League of the United Synagogue and the Women's Branch of the Union of Orthodox Congregations of America.

7,000 PALESTINE PERMITS FOR HUNGARIAN JEWS SECURED BY ZOA BUREAU

NEW YORK, Sept. 4. (JTA) -- Some 7,000 Jews of Hungary will find a permanent haven in Palestine as a result of efforts made in their behalf by the Palestine Bureau of the Zionist Organization of America, a report made public here by Dr. Israel Goldstein, president of the organization, revealed today.

The problem of securing Palestine immigration certificates for Hungarian Jews in whose behalf their American relatives have appealed to the organization was discussed at a meeting of prominent ZOA leaders under the chairmanship of Dr. Goldstein. Grave concern was voiced over the dwindling supply of certificates at the disposal of the Jewish Agency for Palestine. The meeting however, unanimously expressed the opinion that every possible effort must be exerted to utilize all remaining certificates for the immediate rescue of Jews from Hungary and other Balkan countries.