

Daily News Bulletin

PUBLISHED BY THE JEWISH TELEGRAPHIC AGENCY

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

ARMISTICE PACT WITH RUMANIA PROVIDES FOR IMMEDIATE ABOLITION OF ANTI-JEWISH LAWS

MOSCOW, Sept. 14. (JTA) -- Jews in Rumania, after several years of horror under the pro-Nazi Antonescu regime, will now enjoy a period of peace and equality under the terms of the armistice agreement between the Allies and the Rumanian Government, it was emphasized here today following publication last night of the full text of the agreement, which provides for the immediate abolition of all anti-Jewish laws in Rumania.

Rumanian Minister Lucretiu Patrascanu, who signed the armistice pact here on behalf of his government, today assured the correspondent of the Jewish Telegraphic Agency that all Jews in Rumania who were arrested or interned under the anti-Jewish laws, will be released. He tried to minimize the fact that tens of thousands of Jews were massacred in Rumania during the last three years and that many thousands of them perished in exile in Transnistria. "There were a number of small anti-Jewish pogroms, but most of them took place before 1941," he told the JTA correspondent.

The position of the Jews in Rumania will be especially secure because of the fact that an Allied Control Commission will supervise the carrying out of the armistice terms. Point six of the armistice pact signed between the USSR, Great Britain and the United States on one hand and Rumania on the other reads:

"The Romanian government will liberate at once all persons independently of their civil status and nationality who are kept under arrest owing to their activity to the advantage of the United Nations or for their sympathy with the cause of the United Nations or owing to their racial origin and will also abolish all discriminatory legislation and restrictions resulting therefrom."

In addition to this stipulation, the armistice agreement, in a special appendix to paragraph 2 which provides for the internment of German and Hungarian citizens living in Rumania, specifies that this provision is "not to apply to citizens of these countries of Jewish nationality." Jews in Rumania will also be gratified by the fact that the anti-Semitic Iron Guard organization and similar pro-Nazi and fascist groups are to be dissolved and are not to be permitted in the future.

Jews in Rumania Feel Relieved; Jewish Life in Bulgaria Restored

Jerusalem, Sept. 14. (JTA) -- The Jews in Rumania feel as if they have been released from a prison, Dr. Mordecai Eliash, prominent Palestine lawyer, returning from a mission to Turkey in behalf of the Jewish Agency, today declared at a press conference, on the basis of information from Bucharest which he received during his stay in Istanbul.

The Jewish Agency is trying to send representatives to Rumania, Dr. Eliash stated, but the British authorities, for the time being, are not allowing British

9/15/44

subjects or British-protected persons to proceed there because no British consulate has yet been established. "The Rumanian Government is facilitating the emigration of its Jewish citizens to wherever they desire to go, but with the liberation of the country Jews feel they are free people," he added.

In Bulgaria, Dr. Eliash continued, the Jews are arranging their domestic affairs after having their rights restored. Jewish life is gradually becoming normal. In occupied Slovakia, local partisans are assisting the Jews, he said. Both in Rumania and Bulgaria the Turkish consulates recognize documents issued by the Jewish Agency and are ready to grant transit visas to Palestine to persons holding such papers, Dr. Eliash disclosed.

FRENCH JEWS FORM NEW BODY TO HANDLE ALL JEWISH AFFAIRS; OUTLINE POST-WAR DEMANDS

LYON, Sept. 10 - Delayed. (JTA) -- French Jewish leaders today announced the formation of a new organization representing all the elements of the community, and empowered to act as the sole representative of French Jews in dealings with public authorities and Jewish bodies in other countries.

The group, which will be known as the Representative Council of the Jews of France, will seek recognition by the government and will ask to be consulted on all matters affecting Jews in France. It is composed of six representatives of the Jewish Consistory, five of the general defense committee, which was the supreme underground organization during the occupation, and one each from the French Zionist organization and the Committee of Action of French Jewish Youth. Its announced program formulates the following demands:

- 1- Creation of constitutional guarantees against any attempt on the principles of equality of race and religion.
- 2- Recognition of the equality of Jews in respect to all other citizens.
- 3- Restitution of civil, political and economic rights of Jews by abrogation of all discriminatory laws.
- 4- Equality of treatment of foreign Jews with non-Jewish emigrants from their countries.
- 5- Institution of a liberal emigration program by the state with the support of qualified agencies, without discrimination or detriment in regard to Jews.
- 6- Participation by Jews on a basis of equality with all other citizens in the reconstruction of the country, as well as their reintegration in different strata of post-war social and economic activity.

The new body also asks for the repatriation by the authorities, as civilian internees of war, of all Jews deported or expelled from their place of residence.

Just Reparation for Jewish Damages is Demanded

Other demands include complete and just reparation to Jews for moral and material damage done them by: Restitution of confiscated property whoever may be the present holder; reintegration of functionaries and agents discharged or compelled to cease their functions, as well as Jewish employees - the period during which such functionaries, agents and employees were not permitted to function shall count as a period of active service with full promotion rights or salary increases to which they would have been entitled had they been working; and re-establishment of institutions and Jewish social, cultural and economic bodies suspended or forbidden under the anti-Jewish laws.

The council's program in regard to Palestine supports the demands of the Jewish Agency for immediate abolition of the White Paper and free immigration and colonization, and for a national status for the Jews there. It stresses the council's

9/15/44

support of efforts to achieve Arab-Jewish understanding and adds: "It is understood that the national status of the Jews in Palestine will in no manner affect that of Jews in other countries or the bonds uniting them to their countries."

It will participate, the program says, when circumstances permit, in a "Jewish international representation which by its structure and composition will be qualified to represent the Jews of the respective countries." It will support efforts by such an organization to secure recognition at the peace conference and in all post-war reconstruction bodies.

The new council will also "seek support of all other qualified organizations to assure the security and the rights of Jews in any countries where they may be numbered."

Officers of the council are president, Leon Weis, who has been serving as acting president of the Consistory; vice-president, Rubin Greenberg, president of the Lyon branch of the Federation of Jewish Societies of France and secretary, Josef Fischer, general secretary of the Zionist organization.

JEWISH LEADERS ESTIMATE LESS THAN 150,000 JEWS REMAIN IN FRANCE; 120,000 DEPORTED

LYON, Sept. 10 - Delayed. (JTA) -- Leaders of French Jewry today told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency correspondent that they believed that possibly 120,000 to 150,000 Jews survived the German extermination drive in France. They placed at 300,000 the number of Jews, including foreigners, who resided in the country prior to the outbreak of the war.

Additional thousands, they said, escaped the Nazis by crossing the Swiss and Spanish frontiers. About 12,000 Jewish children were saved by being smuggled into Switzerland where they were maintained with funds supplied by American Jewish relief groups.

These officials estimated that 120,000 Jews were deported from France to Poland. They hold out little hope that those deportees have survived. The larger part of the deportees, they said, were foreign refugees, who, because of language and other difficulties, were not able to disguise themselves and conceal their identity.

Local Lyon Jewish officials say that in the last few months before France was liberated their main enemy was not the Gestapo, which seemed to be weakened, but the French fascist formations such as the Vichy Militia and the Parti Populaire of Jacques Doriot. The latter, the officials revealed, desecrated the Lyon Synagogue on Quai Tilsitt, destroying Torahs, smashing the furniture, and leaving the building a shambles.

Most of the synagogues in France have been destroyed, the leaders of the Jewish Consistory said, but services are being resumed in liberated territories as soon as possible.

It is difficult to comprehend how Jewish organizations functioned under the German terror, even when these quiet un-heroic looking people describe the methods they employed. I was shown the small, flimsy, easily-swallowable pieces of paper on which all records were kept. I was told that the meek, bashful girl who helped interpret my French to the Jewish leaders had taken several parties of children into Switzerland through Gestapo and militia cordons, and had lost a sister who was captured while doing the same type of work. I also saw a typical "East Side" tailor from the

9/15/44

Villeurbanne suburb who risked his life daily serving as contact man between the Jews of Lyon and those living in communities to the south.

Illustrative of the way the Jewish organization functioned is the fact that Jewish officials in Grenoble, 50 miles away, were unable to give me the names and addresses of leaders here. They gave me the address of a Frenchwoman living in Villeurbanne and she brought me to the tailor through whom I met the leaders of the local organization.

It is doubtful that many Jews could have survived, if not for the hundreds and thousands of people like this French working-class woman whose life would have been forfeited if the Gestapo or militia had discovered Jews in her house.

The Jewish defense groups maintained activities on a surprisingly large scale. Their primary activity was helping people to live by providing them with funds, forged papers and finding them hideouts. However, as one official explained, "it wasn't necessary only to give them means to live, but, also, the will to live - the hope and belief that our enemies would be overcome."

Religious Services Held Secretly During Nazi Rule

Thus, at a time when religious services were held secretly in backrooms of houses, when Jews ran the risk of death if caught in the streets, Jewish organizations provided a full program of cultural, educational and communal activities.

One effect of the persecutions was to knit the Jews closely together. All Zionist groups, while retaining their individuality, combined to form a central body. Jewish youth groups combined into one large organization. Both these and all other Jewish organizations and groups joined to create a central defense body which set the pattern for the newly formed Representative Council of the Jews of France, in which all elements are participating.

Jews fought not only in their own defense, but as individual members of special Jewish units of the French resistance forces. Jewish officials said that they early recognized the importance of the resistance movement, and joined in large numbers. Organized units followed two principal groupings: nationalist and Zionist elements, including the Jewish Scouts, in one, and Communist youth in another. At first they were badly handicapped by lack of arms, but later they received from the Maquis weapons which had been parachuted into France from Allied planes.

Armed Zionist Fighters Convoyed Jews Into Spain

The United Jewish Youth Organization was formally recognized by the French Forces of the Interior, and its representatives were in direct contact with the FFI on all military questions affecting Jews. Jewish fighters, whether as individual members of Maquis bands, or in Jewish units, participated in sabotage, ambushes and other Maquis activities against the Germans and Vichy militia. Jewish fighters also had another function. They gave special attention to traitors and anti-Semites and gave protection to Jewish institutions. Armed fighters of the Zionist and Scout formations convoyed groups of Jews into Spain.

In areas like Villeurbanne, local leaders say, Jews were represented in the fighting forces out of all proportion to their numbers and Jewish Communist and Socialist Bund youth took a leading role in the bloody fighting there.

The Jewish leaders paid special tribute to the assistance given the Jews in France by the Joint Distribution Committee, and particularly thanked the JDC's European chairman, Dr. Joseph Schwartz.

9/15/44

J.D.C. REPRESENTATIVE WILL PROCEED TO LIBERATED POLAND AS MEMBER OF UNRRA MISSION

NEW YORK, Sept. 14. (JTA) -- A representative of the Joint Distribution Committee will be included in the delegation which the United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration will send to liberated Poland for the purpose of studying the relief needs of the local population, it was announced today by Dr. Joseph J. Schwartz, European chairman of the J.D.C., at a press luncheon held at the Murray Hill Hotel.

Dr. Schwartz also revealed that Jewish relief groups in France who conducted underground relief activities during the German occupation had been provided by the Joint Distribution Committee with 350 million francs for aid and rescue work. About eight thousand Jews, he said, have been taken from the Balkan countries to Palestine with the J.D.C. covering ninety percent of the cost of their rescue and transportation. The other ten percent was covered chiefly by funds contributed by individual Jews in Palestine. For this rescue work alone, the J.D.C. appropriated \$3,000,000. in the past few months.

The Joint Distribution Committee, Dr. Schwartz continued, is now sending 10,000 food-and-clothing packages a month to individual Polish Jews in Russia. "Now that the Russian government has agreed to permit an UNRRA mission to enter Poland for the purpose of surveying relief needs in the battle-scarred country, we have the opportunity to learn at first hand the status of Poland's Jews," Dr. Schwartz said, adding that the J.D.C. will have the right to report to the Joint Distribution Committee via UNRRA on all matters of special interest to Jews and to the Committee.

Dr. Schwartz disclosed that the J.D.C. is taking steps on behalf of the Jews of Rumania and Bulgaria similar to those already taken in other liberated territories. "The work of rescue and relief now under way in liberated Italy indicates some of the problems which the J.D.C. will face in other areas as they are freed," he said. He expressed the hope that soon J.D.C. will have its own American personnel in France to coordinate the work of the local committees. The J.D.C. for the first nine months of this year appropriated more than \$16,600,000 for its work of rescue, relief and rehabilitation, he pointed out.

TEMPLE EMANU-EL IN NEW YORK COMMEMORATES 100TH ANNIVERSARY

NEW YORK, Sept. 14. (JTA) -- Commemorating today 100 years dedicated to cultivating the spiritual, religious and cultural ideals of their pioneer forefathers, Congregation Emanu-El began the celebration of the temple's Centenary by preparing for a series of special programs, religious services and forums to be continued until the end of April.

During this period, prominent civic, business, professional and religious leaders of all creeds will participate in activities observing the 100th anniversary of the Congregation, according to Roger W. Straus, chairman of the Centenary Committee. A committee of one hundred has been organized for the celebration. Temple Emanu-El traces its origin back to Sept. 14, 1844, the date of the first call, which was issued by five New York men having liberal religious principles and who sought to establish a symbol of liberal Judaism here.

JEWS IN LIBERATED ITALIAN CITIES WILL CELEBRATE ROSH-HASHONAH IN SYNAGOGUES

WASHINGTON, Sept. 14. (JTA) -- The Jews of Rome, Florence and Leghorn, now liberated from fascism and Nazi occupation, will hold Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur services beginning Sunday at sundown, according to a dispatch from Rome reported to the Office of War Information today. Jews of the Allied armies will hold services in Rome and in all military establishments at the same time, it was reported.