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Sunday, October 15, 1944

Daily News Bulletin

PUBLISHED BY THE JEWISH TELEGRAPHIC AGENCY

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

SWEDISH GOVERNMENT ISSUES PASSPORTS TO JEWS IN HUNGARY TO PROTECT THEM FROM DEPORTATION

JERUSALEM, Oct. 13. (JTA) -- The Swedish Government has agreed to issue another 5,000 passports to Jews in Hungary so as to afford them Swedish protection and prevent their deportation from the country, it was announced here today by Eliahu Dobkin, head of the Immigration Department of the Jewish Agency. Five thousand such passports have already been issued and delivered to Jews in Hungary, he stated.

An appeal to Roosevelt, Churchill and Stalin to save the remnants of Hungarian Jewry will be sent by the Palestine Federation of Labor as a result of reports reaching here which state that mass-deportations of Jews from Hungary have been renewed. Other reports emphasize that the situation of the Jews in Czechoslovakia has changed for the worse in the last few weeks.

Meanwhile, the Palestine Jewish Labor Council, after a special meeting presided over by David Remez, leader of the Histadruth, today telegraphed an appeal to Stalin, as well as to the British Embassy in Moscow for delivery to Churchill, asking the rescue of Jews still remaining under German occupation. The appeal reads: "In these days of great hopes, when the eyes of the entire world are centered upon your discussions for speedy victories, the end of the war, and the settlement of problems of nations and peoples after the hostilities cease, we, the Jewish organized labor of Palestine, appeal to you at this twelfth hour to safeguard the lives of the remnants of the Jewish people who are still under Nazi rule. Jewish organized labor, as well as the entire Jewish community in Palestine, is prepared and anxious to receive them here. We depend upon you."

A message received here from Kaunas reports that when the Germans retreated from the city they took with them five rabbis, including the two prominent spiritual leaders Abraham Grodzensky and Elehanan Wasserman.

BELGIAN GOVERNMENT ARRANGES FOR SPEEDY REPATRIATION OF JEWISH DIAMOND WORKERS

ANTWERP, Oct. 13. (JTA) -- Arrangements for speedy repatriation of Jewish diamond workers and diamond dealers from Palestine and other countries to their former homes in Antwerp are now being made by the Belgian Government, it was revealed here today by Camille Huysmann, mayor of this city.

Before the outbreak of the war there were 23,000 diamond workers and 4,600 diamond dealers in Antwerp. One-third of the workers and two-thirds of the brokers were Jews. About 4,000 of the Jewish workers fled to Palestine and developed a diamond industry there. "I am confident that many of them will agree to be repatriated," Mr. Huysmann said, revealing that under the existing arrangements some will be back in Antwerp "within a few weeks" while other groups of Jewish diamond workers and dealers will be repatriated within a few months.

Of the 50,000 Jews residing in Antwerp before the German occupation, only 2,000 remain. The Belgian diamond Bank gave 400,000 francs to help fugitive Jews. The money was transmitted through Maurice Gutworth who now heads the Antwerp Jewish Relief Committee. Gutworth, himself, was in hiding, together with his mother and sister.

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JEWISH LEADERS IN FRANCE WILL MEET WITH GOVERNMENT BODY TO DISCUSS RETURN OF PROPERTY

PARIS, Oct. 13. (JTA) -- Jewish leaders here today announced that they will confer next week with the special legislative commission established by the French Government to work out details for the restoration to Jews of property confiscated during the German occupation.

Although the French Cabinet has decreed the restoration of such property, no machinery has been established to implement the decree. The commission with which the Jewish leaders will confer is to draft legislation to cope with the complications arising out of Jewish claims and the counter-claims of those who argue that they were not aware that the property they acquired was confiscated from Jews.

Jewish members of the resistance movements who fell in the fight to free France from the Germans were honored at a large mass meeting here called by the Jewish Resistance Union and the Society for United Assistance of Jewish Youth. Units of the Jewish section of the French Forces of the Interior provided an honor guard.

FRENCH COURT APPLIES ABROGATED VICHY LAWS TO JEWS; JUDGE SHARPLY CRITICIZED

LYON, France, Oct. 10. (Delayed) (JTA) -- Sharp criticism of the local Court of Correction for fining several Jews 200 francs each, under the Vichy law, for carrying false identity papers is voiced in the Lyon press today.

The newspaper Lyon Libre, organ of the movement of national liberation, points out that it is necessary that the president of the court be informed that certain changes have taken place recently in France of which, apparently, he is unaware. It asks why the court did not postpone the cases until a general ruling on the situation is issued.

The paper disclosed that other Jews are awaiting trial for failure to register as Jews, despite the government's abrogation of all racial laws. It urges that machinery be set up for the issuance of provisional identity papers to those who, because of exceptional circumstances, were compelled to destroy their original documents.

The independent daily Le Progres points out that under the Vichy regime Jews and many others had to carry false papers to escape persecution, and says that "the judges should have other things to do at present."

Many Jews are having difficulty in obtaining new identification papers because they destroyed their original ones and consequently are unable to furnish the proof required before new papers can be issued. This is especially true of refugees from other parts of France who are strangers here and do not have the means, at present, of obtaining copies of vital personal records. The situation of foreigners -- both Jews and non-Jews -- is likewise extremely complicated, since many of them also had to destroy their papers or had them taken from them in concentration camps.

This is one of the questions which the Center of Action for the Defense of Immigrants, which was formed by a number of prominent French personalities and representatives of foreign groups, immediately after the liberation of the city, is taking up with the authorities. A mass meeting of this organization, held earlier this week, heard several resistance leaders pay tribute to the role of the immigrants in the resistance movement. A message from Mayor Justin Godart, promising France would accord immigrants a just democratic judicial status, was read.

PALESTINE JEWS RESENT GOVERNMENT'S HOLDING ENTIRE YISHUV RESPONSIBLE FOR TERROR

TEL AVIV, Oct. 13. (JTA) -- Palestine Jews today expressed their resentment at the wording of the proclamation issued earlier this week by the British commander in the Middle East, Sir Bernard C. Paget, and the officer administering the Palestine Government, John V. M. Shaw, which implied that the entire Jewish community was responsible for the acts of a few terrorists.

Meanwhile, it is learned that leading Jewish institutions have been conferring for the last few weeks on means of curbing the terror. Practical measures by these institutions are almost impossible, however, because they do not possess any executive power.

The first meeting of Tel Aviv's Labor Council adopted a resolution calling on all workers and citizens "to stamp out this evil in our midst," but, added that "we reject and will oppose any attempt to hold the Yishuv responsible for the abhorrent acts of an isolated group."

The Hebrew press carries editorials voicing similar sentiments. All the papers agree that the Jews of Palestine must cooperate in stamping out the terror, but they are resentful of the tone of the Paget-Shaw statement, and its attempt to link all the Jews with the extremists.

Utilizing Terror for Anti-Jewish Politics Unfair, Say British Zionists

LONDON, Oct. 13. (JTA) -- The reaction of British Zionists to the proclamation on the terrorism in Palestine issued this week by the Palestine Administration and the British Commander-in-Chief in the Middle East is voiced in today's issue of the Zionist Review, official Zionist organ, which says that "any attempt to use these tragic events for anti-Jewish politics is unfair."

Pointing out that the overwhelming majority of the Palestine Jewish community has expressed its condemnation of the terrorists, the Review says that undoubtedly all assistance will be forthcoming from the Jews. It points out, however, that "the Palestine Administration has proven highly inefficient in maintaining law and order. This is demonstrated," it continues, "by the riots of 1936 and 1939 as put on the record by a Royal Commission. It is again shown in relation to a small gang of terrorists.

"Under the circumstances," the Zionist publication adds, "it is hardly fair to place the onus of stamping out the criminals upon the Jewish community. It is still less fair to follow up an appeal for collaboration by a statement that terrorist acts can only bring shame and dishonor upon the Jewish people as a whole." Far-sighted statesmanship, it concludes, must fully consider the psychological atmosphere produced by systematic appeasement of the Mufti clique, by the White Paper and by the Patria and Struma cases.

John Mack, Labor M.P., declared today that it was unfortunate that in discussing the terror in Commons, Colonial Minister Col. Oliver Stanley did not make clear that Palestine Jewry is passionately opposed to any form of violence. Mack said that the Government, at the same time that it scores the Jews, must not tolerate similar tactics by the Arabs.

Chief Rabbi Joseph Hertz, in a letter to the Times this morning, says that the wording of the proclamation was "unfortunate." Citing the disturbances provoked by the Mufti, the chief rabbi recalled that at no time did the authorities blame the entire Arab people for the outbreaks.

0.A. CONVENTION OPENS TODAY IN ATLANTIC CITY; ROOSEVELT WILL SUPPORT JEWISH STATE

ATLANTIC CITY, Oct. 13. (JTA) -- President Roosevelt, in his message to the 7th annual convention of the Zionist Organization of America which opens here tomorrow, will pledge his support of a Jewish Commonwealth in Palestine in accordance with the Palestine plank of the Democratic Party adopted at its Chicago convention, it was indicated here today.

Messages pledging support for a Jewish Palestine were received today by convention headquarters from Sumner Welles, former Under-Secretary of State, and from the majority and minority leaders of the House of Representatives, Congressmen John W. McCormack and Joseph W. Martin, Jr. respectively.

"The record of the Jewish people during the past quarter century has been outstanding," Mr. Welles said. "Their faith and persistence in the face of grave dangers and notwithstanding innumerable obstacles have been superb and a cause for inspiration to all who believe in democracy and in the principles of human liberty. I earnestly hope that the great cause which the organization upholds and for which it has strived so zealously since the time of its creation may ultimately triumph, and that in the peace settlement to come there may be established in Palestine a Jewish commonwealth to whose inhabitants will be guaranteed all of the individual liberties in which people of the United States so fervently believe."

Majority leader McCormack, a Democrat, in his message addressed to Dr. Israel Goldstein, president of the ZOA, voiced confidence that when decisions will be made regarding the peace to come "full justice will be done to the Jewish National Home" whereby "the Jewish people will be granted the opportunity of unrestricted immigration to Palestine and the complete freedom for the acquisition of land, so that on the banks of the Jordan the rebirth of the Jewish nation will take place in the land of its forefathers, to become with the help of God, an equal member of the family of nations." He emphasized his conviction "that our responsible leadership in Washington will make an effective contribution towards the achievement of this Godly goal, for the sake of the Jewish people as well as for the good of all mankind."

Minority leader Joseph W. Martin, Jr., a Republican, declared that "following the victorious conclusion of the war, the only country that will be capable of receiving and absorbing large numbers of these unfortunate people of Europe will be Palestine, which country was made ready for that very purpose."

DEWEY SUPPORTS ESTABLISHMENT OF JEWISH COMMONWEALTH ON BASIS OF BALFOUR DECLARATION

NEW YORK, Oct. 13. (JTA) -- Gov. Thomas E. Dewey, Republican nominee for President, today made public a statement emphasizing that he is "for the re-constitution of Palestine as a free and democratic Jewish Commonwealth in accordance with the Balfour Declaration." The statement was issued following a conference yesterday with Dr. Abba Hillel Silver, chairman of the Zionist Emergency Council. It reads:

"I heartily endorse the Palestine plank in the Republican party platform. Again I repeat what I previously stated to the great leader of the American Zionist movement and distinguished American Dr. Abba Hillel Silver that I am for the re-constitution of Palestine as a free and democratic Jewish commonwealth in accordance with the Balfour Declaration of 1917 and the Resolution of the Republican Congress in 1922. I have also stated to Dr. Silver that in order to give refuge to millions of distressed Jews driven from their homes by tyranny I favor the opening of Palestine to their unlimited immigration and land ownership. The American people have time and again declared themselves in favor of these principles. The Republican party has at all times been the traditional friend of the movement. As President I would use my best offices to have our government working together with Great Britain to achieve this great objective for a people that have suffered so much and deserve so much at the hands of mankind."