

JTA

VOL. XI. NO. 244 (26th year)

Thursday, October 26, 1944

Daily News Bulletin

PUBLISHED BY THE JEWISH TELEGRAPHIC AGENCY

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

ROMANIAN FOREIGN MINISTER PLEDGES RETURN OF JEWISH PROPERTY, END OF ANTI-JEWISH LAWS

BUCHAREST, Oct. 25. (JTA) -- Rumanian Foreign Minister Grigore Niculescu-Buzesti in an exclusive interview today with the Jewish Telegraphic Agency correspondent declared that his government will soon announce decrees eradicating all traces of racial legislation and restoring all property confiscated from Jews.

The foreign minister gave the JTA correspondent a detailed statement outlining the government's policy on Jewish affairs, in which the following assurances were made:

The decree issued by the Rumanian Government on August 30, re-establishing the constitutions of 1866 and 1923, makes all Rumanian subjects equal before the law and eliminates all discrimination resulting from race or religion. As a result, Jews enjoy full political and economic rights. In fact, as a consequence of the reinstatement of the old constitutions, all racial legislation automatically becomes unconstitutional. However, the government feels that specific decrees abolishing all discriminatory legislation is necessary and they will be issued shortly.

The government is presently drafting legislation to establish machinery for restoring to Jews all property confiscated during the Antonescu regime. Decrees covering restitution of property will soon be issued.

All government departments have been instructed to reinstate Jewish employees dismissed by the Antonescu regime, if the employees wish to resume their former posts. The Foreign Ministry has already done so. Professional organizations have been ordered to readmit Jews in order that they may resume practicing their professions. This applies to doctors, lawyers and other professional men. Reinstatement of Jewish state employees and professionals has been accomplished by administrative order, rather than by official decrees, in order to speed the process.

Discussing the question of Palestine, Mr. Niculescu-Buzesti said that although the Rumanian Government will exert no pressure on Jews to induce their emigration, persons wishing to go to Palestine will be assisted, wherever possible, in doing so. He expressed regret that transportation for such emigrants could not be furnished at present because all Rumanian shipping is being used in connection with the war effort. "The government," the foreign minister added, "finds it natural that Jews wish to create a national home in Palestine and, therefore, has expressed an affirmative attitude towards Zionism."

Celler Charges Anti-Jewish Laws Still in Force in Rumania

WASHINGTON, Oct. 25. (JTA) -- Rep. Emanuel Celler, New York Democrat, today charged that with the signing of the Russo-Rumanian armistice "the rights of Jews were restored on paper but not in actuality." He cited a press report of the desperate condition of the surviving Rumanian Jews because the Rumanian Government has failed to

enact a law to force employers to reinstate Jews to their former jobs and has taken no action to restore Jewish property and normal rights.

In answer to the denial, on Monday, by Soviet Ambassador Andrei A. Gromyko that anti-Jewish laws are still in effect in certain portions of Russian-occupied Rumania, Heller wrote: "It is the old dodge of the voice of Jacob but the hand of Esau. The Soviet Government in my humble opinion has a keen responsibility here. I do not intend to be unduly critical but I do deem it necessary to face the facts. I likewise deem it imperative for the Soviet Union to examine these facts to the end that appropriate remedies be applied so that the restoration of full rights for the Jews in Rumania be translated from mere words on paper into action."

JEWISH NATIONAL COUNCIL WARNS IT "WILL DO EVERYTHING IN ITS POWER" TO END TERROR

JERUSALEM, Oct. 25. (JTA) -- The Palestine Jewish community "will do everything in its power" to curb terrorist outbreaks unless the violence is ended immediately, the Jewish National Council warned in a resolution adopted today. It emphasized the "grave danger to the Yishuv" resulting from the activities of groups which have split off from the community. The resolution says:

"The Jewish National Council states with anxiety that the acts of murder and violence, sabotage and blackmail committed by groups which have split off from the Yishuv constitute a grave danger to the Yishuv's safety and the inner freedom of the Zionist struggle. These acts, which are hostile to the spirit of our nation, give a pretext to the enemies of the Jewish people and Zionism to besmirch our fighting and building achievements and to arouse the world against us.

"The Jewish National Council records with anxiety that all efforts of persuasion and moral pressure exercised by the Zionist movement's institutions, the Chief Rabbinical Council, and other public bodies and the Hebrew press have failed to halt the wild terror. The council proclaims, with its full responsibility and prerogatives, that if the terror, from whatever quarter, does not cease, the Yishuv will immediately do everything in its power to put an end to it."

At the same time, the Council "strongly protested the proclamation issued recently by British Commander-in-Chief in the Middle East Sir Bernard Paget, and Acting High Commissioner John V. M. Shaw, which makes all Palestine Jews and Jews throughout the world responsible for the terroristic acts committed by a small group, and which minimized the Yishuv's war effort."

Arab Paper Urges Anti-U. S. Boycott in Reprisal for Pro-Zionist Statements

CAIRO, Oct. 25. (JTA) -- A boycott of American goods was proclaimed here today by the Wafdist newspaper Al Wafd al Masri, which called on the entire Egyptian press to forget partisan rivalry and unite in similar action.

The action climaxed a growing anti-Zionist campaign which has taken an anti-American turn because of the pro-Zionist planks adopted by the Democratic and Republican parties in the United States. An anti-United States boycott had been previously proclaimed by Arab newspapers in Palestine.

Two other powerful Wafdist newspapers in Egypt, Al Misri and Al Balagh, are expected to join in urging the public to boycott American products. Al Balagh is the largest Islamic newspaper in the world.

JEWS MEN AND WOMEN PLACED IN HUNGARIAN WAR FACTORIES; SWEDISH RELIEF DISRUPTED

STOCKHOLM, Oct. 25. (JTA) -- The German radio announced today that Jewish men between the ages of 16 and 60, and women up to the age of 40 have been placed at slave labor in Hungarian war factories. The broadcast follows an announcement earlier this week that such action was contemplated.

Meanwhile, Swedish efforts to aid Jews in Hungary through the Red Cross have been disrupted as a result of the new situation there. The newspaper Svenska Dagbladet reports that the Swedish Red Cross had made large-scale preparations, including the appointment of Waldemar Langlet, who has been living in Hungary for many years, as a special Red Cross delegate attached to the Swedish legation in Budapest.

Langlet has already established three relief bureaus and several kindergartens for Jews in Budapest, while Asta Nilsson, who headed Swedish Red Cross kindergartens in Budapest all during the last war, has been sent there to direct the new kindergartens. The question at present, the Svenska Dagbladet says, is whether it will be possible to carry out these activities in view of present conditions. It expresses the opinion that the chances of doing so are "slight."

IRISH MINISTER IN BERLIN INTERVENES FOR JEWS IMPRISONED IN OSWIECIM CAMP

DUBLIN, Eire, Oct. 25. (JTA) -- The Government of Eire has requested its Charge d'Affaires in Berlin to intervene with the German Government in connection with reported Nazi plans to wipe out thousands of Jews and other persons confined in the Oswiecim concentration camp in Poland and other camps.

This was revealed today by H. A. Goodman, secretary of the Agudas Israel, following his reception by members of the government. Addressing a luncheon given him here, Mr. Goodman also disclosed that Eire has agreed to receive 500 Jewish children from Europe "irrespective of their nationality" and has instructed the Irish Red Cross to make necessary arrangements. It has also contacted the Japanese consul here concerning the possibility of assisting the Jews interned in Shanghai.

Mr. Goodman praised the cooperation given him by Prime Minister De Valera, who, he said, was interested in the problem of relief for Jews in Europe and the post-war problems of Palestine Jews, Foreign Minister J. M. Walsh and United States Minister David Gray.

DR. SOMMERSTEIN COMING TO UNITED STATES TO ATTEND CONFERENCE OF POLISH JEWS

NEW YORK, Oct. 25. (JTA) -- Dr. Emil Sommerstein, prominent Zionist and a member of the Polish Committee of National Liberation, is coming to the United States as head of a five-man delegation to the forthcoming conference of Polish Jews called by the Federation of Polish Jews, it was announced today.

Dr. Sommerstein and his fellow delegates will attend the conference as representatives of the Polish Jews in the U.S.S.R., the announcement said. He will be accompanied by Berek Mark, Jacob Prawja, Ida Kamenka, and Symon Zacharjusz. The conference, which is scheduled to open on January 6, will be attended by representatives of Polish Jews in 26 countries, a spokesman for the federation said.

MURPHY WARNS AMERICAN PEOPLE MUST BE ALERT TO DANGERS OF INTOLERANCE

NEW YORK, Oct. 25. (JTA) -- The American people must awaken in time to the "insidious nature" of racial and religious intolerance if the victory on the battlefield is not to be dissipated by internal dissension, Supreme Court Justice Frank Murphy stated yesterday, receiving the original painting of the 1944-45 "Free and Equal" seal distributed by the Council Against Intolerance in America.

"Good men of all faiths," the Supreme Court justice asserted, "should come forward so that no segment of our people should be left hunted, declassified or segregated against. The hope for the future is to see to it that good men and women join hands and work together so that those who arouse ancient evils and make them agents of international power politics will not succeed."

The painting, which is the work of John Atherton, was presented by Dr. Henry A. Atkinson, co-chairman of the council and director of the Church Peace Union and World Alliance for International Friendship, who praised the justice for his work with the National Committee Against Nazi Persecution and Extermination of Jews, which recently was organized with the jurist as chairman.

MIZRACHI NATIONAL CONVENTION OPENS IN ATLANTIC CITY TODAY TO DISCUSS POST-WAR PROBLEMS

ATLANTIC CITY, Oct. 25. (JTA) -- A "program of action" to meet the pressing religious, cultural and political reconstruction problems confronting European Jewry will be formulated at the 26th national convention of the Mizrahi Organization of America, opening here tomorrow, it was announced today by Leon Gellman, president. Rabbinical and lay delegates elected by more than 230 Jewish communities throughout the United States will attend.

The major problems confronting the Jewish people to be discussed are;
1. The deliverance of millions of Jews from lands of blood-drenched Europe;
2. Establishment of Palestine as a Jewish Commonwealth; 3. Restoration of the centers of Jewish learning throughout the world; 4. Strengthening of Judaism throughout the world."

AACHEN TO BE SCENE OF FIRST JEWISH BROADCAST FROM NAZI SOIL TO U. S.

NEW YORK, Oct. 25. (JTA) -- The embattled German city of Aachen will be the scene of the first Jewish broadcast from Nazi soil to the United States when Chaplain Morris A. Frank of General Hodges' First Army conducts religious services this Sunday morning, October 29, at 9:30 to 9:45 A.M., E.W.T., in a program presented by the American Jewish Committee in collaboration with the National Broadcasting Company.

The program, to be carried over the NBC coast-to-coast network, will come directly to American listeners from the ruins of Aachen's only synagogue almost six years after the Nazis destroyed it when they vent their special fury against the Jews of the Reich following the assassination of Ernst von Rath, a minor official in the German legation in Paris, by Herschel Grynszpan on November 7, 1938. Following the broadcast to this country NBC will beam the program back to occupied Germany.

RABBI WEILL, TALMUD PROFESSOR AT YESHIVA COLLEGE, DIES AT 83; FORMER CHIEF RABBI OF LUBLIN

NEW YORK, Oct. 25. (JTA) -- Rabbi Julius Weill, Professor of Talmud at the Rabbi Isaac Elchanan Theological Seminary and Yeshiva College since 1921 died of a heart attack yesterday. He was 83 years of age. Born in Grodno, Russia he studied at local yeshivas where he was ordained at an early age. He subsequently served as Chief Rabbi of Kurland, Lublin, and Suwalk, in Russia.

THE CONTENTS OF THIS BULLETIN ARE NOT FOR PUBLICATION WITHOUT SPECIAL AUTHORIZATION