

JTA

VOL. XI, NO. 252 (26th year)

Monday, November 6, 1944

Daily News Bulletin

PUBLISHED BY THE JEWISH TELEGRAPHIC AGENCY

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

BOARD OF DEPUTIES VOTES TO ASK BRITISH GOVERNMENT FOR JEWISH COMMONWEALTH IN PALESTINE

LONDON, Nov. 5. (JTA) -- The Board of Deputies of British Jews today voted to submit to the government a memorandum demanding the establishment of a Jewish State or Commonwealth in "an undivided Palestine." (Full text of the memorandum appeared in the JTA Bulletin on Nov. 5.) The vote was 85 to 20. An amendment asking elimination of the word "Commonwealth" was defeated 159 to 18.

Debate on the resolution was marked by sharp controversy, chiefly around the issue of a Jewish state or commonwealth. Prof. Selig Prodestky, president of the Board, said that the deputies considered the statement on Palestine which has been drafted by the Anglo-Jewish Association as "insufficient" because the Association does not ask for the establishment of a Jewish state or commonwealth. He revealed that he has written to Leonard Stein, president of the Association, pointing out that if the Association's stand on Palestine is submitted to the government "this may be another case of 1917."

Several deputies, including B. A. Levinson, M. Gluckstein, and Basil Henriques, called on the Board to withdraw the demand for a Jewish state from its memorandum, asserting that it was a concession to narrow nationalism and would expose Jews to the charge that they are an alien race.

Proponents of the Jewish state, led by Levy Bakstansky, secretary of the British Zionist Federation, charged that only by the establishment of a Jewish Commonwealth could Palestine absorb the large-scale immigration which is expected after hostilities cease. Lord Nathan, Victor Gollancz, and H. A. Goodman, secretary of the World Agudas Israel, also urged establishment of a Jewish state.

An amendment asking support of the policy of Dr. Judah L. Magnes, the Ichud Party in Palestine and the Hashomer Hazair, all of whom favor a bi-national state, was rejected. Phineas Horowitz, British Zionist leader, said that Zionists had been attempting, unsuccessfully, for 25 years to come to an understanding with the Arabs.

ALMOST ALL BELGRADE JEWS MURDERED BY NAZIS, WAR CRIMES COMMISSION ESTABLISHES

ROME, Nov. 5. (JTA) -- A special commission investigating Nazi atrocities in Yugoslavia has established that 1,000 Jews remain in Belgrade, the country's capital, which had a pre-war Jewish population of 12,000, the Free Yugoslav radio announced today. It said that evidence being collected would be submitted to the International Commission on War Crimes.

Most of the Belgrade Jews, the broadcast said, were either murdered or disappeared after being taken to concentration camps. Male inmates of the Janjci, Beli and Potok camps were asphyxiated in mobile gas chambers. Inmates of the Budap camp were shot shortly before the Germans retreated. Some of the prisoners had been so fiendishly tortured that identification of their bodies is impossible.

1,000 REFUGEES ARRIVE IN PALESTINE; PARTICIPANT IN WARSAW GHETTO REVOLT AMONG THEM

HAIFA, Nov. 5. (JTA) -- Nearly 1,000 Jewish refugees from Europe arrived in Palestine over the week-end. Of them 547 came by rail from Turkey to where they were brought from Rumania on a Turkish vessel. Another 434 arrived here direct from Lisbon aboard the Portuguese steamer Guine.

The arrivals from Turkey related that their ship, the S. S. Salaheddin, was storm-tossed on the Black Sea for three days, and was blown off its course. At one point, they said, the vessel almost capsized. The Guine passengers, among whom are orphaned children, are still confined aboard the ship awaiting clearance by the immigration authorities.

Among the 547, who consist mainly of Jews from Rumania, Hungary and Poland, is Itzhak Mueller, 30, who told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency that he had participated in the uprising in the Warsaw ghetto in April of 1943. He left Poland only two months ago. When it was obvious that the Warsaw revolt was doomed to failure, Mueller said, he gave a German officer his last possession, a diamond ring, to carry him out of the ghetto precincts in a military truck.

Twenty-four of the arrivals were young Hungarian Jews who escaped from slave labor in copper mines in Bor, Yugoslavia, and joined Marshal Tito's liberation forces. After participating in several battles against the Nazis, they left for Rumania when that country broke with the Germans. They were picked up in Bucharest by the Jewish Agency. When interviewed, they were wearing tattered rags which defy description.

Despite the hardships of their journey, almost all of the 547 were singing Hatikvah and waving blue-and-white flags as their train pulled into the railway station here. Their transportation was arranged by the Jewish Agency and financed by the Joint Distribution Committee.

Transport of Jews from Bulgaria Reaches Turkey en route to Palestine

BEYOGLU, Turkey, Nov. 5. (JTA) -- The first large transport of Jews to leave Bulgaria since that country was liberated arrived in Turkey today en route to Palestine. Included in the group were 57 children, 27 Hungarian Jews who were freed from copper mines in Serbia by the Yugoslav liberation armies, and 60 refugees who left Bucharest on Nov. 2.

J.D.C. REPRESENTATIVE LEAVES FOR TEHERAN TO ORGANIZE SHIPMENT OF FOOD TO JEWS IN POLAND

JERUSALEM, Nov. 5. (JTA) -- Charles Passman, a representative of the Joint Distribution Committee, today left for Teheran by plane to arrange the transportation of food and clothing to needy Jews in liberated Poland. The first transport, valued at \$250,000, will leave the J.D.C. warehouses in Teheran within the next ten days, Mr. Passman said.

Dr. Emil Sommerstein, head of the Jewish Relief Committee in Lublin, was informed by cable that more relief supplies will be forthcoming from the Joint Distribution Committee for Jews in liberated Poland. In the meantime, he was asked that his committee take all possible steps to assure expeditious transportation and to arrange that no custom duties are charged when the supplies enter Russia in transit to Poland. The cable also advised the Jewish Relief Committee in Lublin to keep in touch with the Teheran office of the J.D.C. on all matters pertaining to shipment of relief supplies.

STORY OF AUTONOMOUS JEWISH MAQUIS IN FRANCE TOLD IN SWISS PRESS; HEROISM LAUDED

BERN, Nov. 5. (JTA) -- A comprehensive report telling the story of how the autonomous Jewish Maquis units came into existence in various cities in France is published in the press here today.

The proposal to form Jewish Maquis units first met with disapproval from leaders of the underground movement in France, the report reveals. Leaders of the Maquis argued that it was not necessary to subdivide the movement into religious groupings because its activities were directed against a common enemy. Thousands of young Jews, convinced by these arguments, enlisted in the general Maquis units, which resulted in the fact that the French Forces of the Interior had many Jewish members ranging from privates to colonels.

Thousands of other young Jews, however, were of the opinion that the world must know how Jews are able to fight. Their insistence led to the formation of autonomous Jewish units, first in Lyon and then in other French cities. Many prejudices had to be overcome. One day, an important Gestapo leader was shot in a street in Lyon. No one knew the authors of this attack. It was only after it became known that the perpetrator was a member of the Jewish Maquis group that the organization was finally recognized as an independent unit.

Other independent Jewish units existed in Paris, Toulouse, Grenoble and Limoges. There also existed separate "Zionist Maquis" units with their own commanders which are credited with excellent results in the battle against the German occupation forces.

FRENCH GOVERNMENT WILL PERMIT JEWISH DELEGATION TO ATTEND WORLD JEWISH CONFERENCE

PARIS, Nov. 5. (JTA) -- The French Government will permit four Jewish representatives to go to the United States to attend the War Emergency Conference of the World Jewish Congress, it was learned here today. The delegates will represent the Council of the Jews in France. The conference, which is to open in Atlantic City this month, will be the first international gathering of Jews since the outbreak of the war.

The Council originally named seven delegates, but due to transportation difficulties the number was reduced. The four delegates are: Leon Meiss, president of the Council; Baron Guy de Rothschild, Rabbi Jacob Caplan and the Zionist leader Joseph Fisher. Efforts to secure U. S. visas for them will have to be made by the World Jewish Congress offices in New York.

The Representative Council is the central body which represents all Jewish groups in France. Its delegation will be the first since the liberation of the country to meet with Jewish groups in the United States.

The number of Jews in Paris being assisted by Jewish relief agencies has increased to 17,000, which is 5,000 more than in the early days of the liberation of the city. Jews, who are continuing to return to their homes in Paris, find their apartments stripped bare. All welfare agencies for Jews are now operating through the Comité Central des Oeuvres Sociales, formed by the Representative Council of the Jews of France. They are all working efficiently, though they are tremendously overtaxed.

World Jewish Congress Announces Conference Postponed to Nov. 26

NEW YORK, Nov. 5. (JTA) -- The World Jewish Congress announced today that its War Emergency Conference, scheduled to open in Atlantic City on Nov. 12, has been postponed to Nov. 26, in order to permit delegations from Palestine, Argentina and France to arrive in time.

PREPARATIONS COMPLETED FOR DISTRIBUTION OF RELIEF FROM ABROAD SOMMERSTEIN REPORTS

MONTREAL, Nov. 5. (JTA) -- Dr. Emil Sommerstein, president of the Polish Jewish Relief Committee in Lublin, has notified the United Jewish Refugee and War Relief Agencies of Canada that preparations have been completed for receiving and distributing supplies to be sent by the group to Jews in liberated Poland and Polish-Jewish refugees in Russia.

Announcing receipt of Dr. Sommerstein's communication, Saul Hayes, director of the UJR said today that the Jewish leader had stated that shoes, warm clothing, blankets and soap were among the most urgently needed supplies. Preparations for shipments of the relief transports are nearly complete, Mr. Hayes said. He pointed out that the UJR's relief program is being conducted in cooperation with the Joint Distribution Committee.

RESTRICTIONS ON JEWISH STUDENTS IN CANADIAN UNIVERSITIES SCORED BY SOCIALIST LEADER

MONTREAL, Nov. 5. (JTA) -- Race restrictions at McGill University were scored here by M. J. Coldwell, leader of the Cooperative Commonwealth Federation, who criticized the university's policy of requiring higher admittance marks for Jewish students.

"Any university that does that kind of thing forfeits its right to be called a university and would forfeit its right to receive such educational grants as would be made under a C.C.F. government," he said in reply to a question following an address in which he outlined the needs of Canadian education. Dr. F. Cyril James, principal and vice-chancellor of McGill University, said that he would make "no statement."

The third unit of the Hillel Foundation on Canadian campuses was today inaugurated at McGill University at a large gathering of Jewish students. A unit was founded at the University of Manitoba early this year and one at Queen's University, Kingston, in 1942.

N. Y. FEDERATION SETS UP NEW TYPE OF VOCATIONAL SERVICE FOR JEWISH HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH

NEW YORK, Nov. 5. (JTA) -- A new type of vocational training program for Jewish youth of high-school age has been set up by the Federation of Jewish Philanthropies, it was announced today by George Z. Medalie, president.

In operation since last month, the service which reaches 1,000 boys and girls between the ages of 14 and 18, does not wait for youth with vocational problems to be referred to it, but goes out into the community to meet clients, forming discussion groups and providing consultation service in YMHA's, YWHA's, settlement houses and synagogues.

JEWISH BRIGADIER DIRECTED GUERRILLA ACTIVITIES IN GREECE FOR TWO YEARS

LONDON, Nov. 5. (JTA) -- British military authorities revealed today that for two years prior to the Allied invasion of Greece, a small group of British officers led by Colonel, now Brigadier, C. W. Myers, directed guerrilla activity there.

The officers were dropped by parachute in 1942. Brigadier Myers, who is a Jew, was mentioned at one time as a possibility for commander of the Jewish Brigade. Last January he was made a Commander of the British Empire in recognition of his work in Greece.