

*Daily News Bulletin*PUBLISHED BY THE JEWISH TELEGRAPHIC AGENCY
106 EAST 41st STREET, NEW YORK 17, N. Y.JEWS IN FRANCE LAUNCH CAMPAIGN FOR 50,000,000 FRANCS TO SUPPLEMENT RELIEF FROM ABROAD

PARIS, Dec. 18. (JTA) -- A thirty-day campaign to raise funds among members of the Jewish community to supplement aid from abroad for relief and rehabilitation of Jews in France was proclaimed by the first national assembly of the General Committee for the Defense of Jews which just concluded here. The organization hopes to reach a goal of 50,000,000 francs.

The assembly adopted a resolution containing a strong plea for strengthened unity. The resolution points out that the defeat of anti-Semitism, the rehabilitation of Jewish victims of persecution and the reconstruction of the Jewish community can be achieved only by the closest cooperation and unity.

Reports read at the assembly by regional delegates revealed that a wide range of new problems has confronted the Jewish community since the liberation of France and that there is considerable variation in the attitude of the local authorities towards various Jewish problems. Legal aid, such as intervention with the authorities to secure new identity documents for Jews emerging from hiding as well as to secure repossession of Jewish homes and business enterprises has become one of the important activities of the Committee for the Defense of Jews.

While in some centers the reintegration of Jews is being facilitated by the authorities, in others the committee had to protest against the continued practice of stamping papers of Jews with the letter "J" which was used by the German occupation authorities to single out Jews.

Senator Godart Demands Immediate Restoration of Property to Jews

Senator Justin Godart, acting mayor of Lyon, and a well-known friend of Jews, today called for "a simple act of justice" asking for the immediate restoration to Jews of their property seized under the Vichy regime. He accused the purchasers of the property of acting in bad faith and said that they should be made to answer charges of collaborating with the enemy for profit.

Writing in the weekly newspaper "Fraternite," the veteran French statesman warned against "anti-Semitic lepers," declaring that those spreading anti-Semitism, whether consciously or not, are serving the Fifth Column.

Sharp criticism of the failure of the authorities to implement promises to restore homes and property to Jews is also voiced by Pierre Stefani, editor of the Toulouse newspaper "La Republique." The government's failure to act, he said, protects not only those who acquired Jewish property, but all anti-Semites in France. He demands that all Vichy administrators and all persons who acquired Jewish property be interned and that profits made by the administrators who handled Jewish property be confiscated.

ROMANIAN DECREE ON RESTORATION OF JEWISH RIGHTS EVOKES STRONG CRITICISM

BUCHAREST, Dec. 18. (JTA) -- Rumanian Jewish leaders today expressed dissatisfaction with the decree issued by the Rumanian Government abolishing racial laws, reinstating dismissed Jewish employees and professionals, and returning confiscated Jewish property.

Criticism of the decree, which was promulgated by the Rumanian cabinet last Friday and the full text of which was made public today, was voiced by Dr. William Filderman, president of the Federation of Jewish Communities. He pointed out that a previous draft of the law suggested the immediate and automatic reinstatement of all ousted Jewish employees and also provided that the government compensate them for the four years during which they were out of work, while the present law retains all Rumanian employees in their posts and, Dr. Filderman alleged, gives employers an opportunity of refusing to accept dismissed Jewish employees.

"The new decree," Dr. Filderman stated to the Jewish Telegraphic Agency correspondent, "does not actually abolish the racial laws. It does not really restore rights to Jews. It only provides favors from the state. Under a previous draft of the law the state was to pay indemnities to Jewish real estate owners and tenants who were ejected from their homes. The present decree provides that such indemnities be paid only after the war, which means refusing payment."

"We are not asking the government for charity," Dr. Filderman continued. "We want ousted Jewish employees to get employment and to make a living. We also desire that Jews receive compensation for the property that was taken away from them."

Decree Guarantees Equality for All Citizens, Government Says

The text of the decree is prefaced with an introduction prepared by Minister of Justice Lucretiu Patrascanu, who drafted the measure. The introductory paragraph points out that the decree is "the realization of the constitutional principle of the equality of all citizens, without differences based on ethnic origin, religion, or language." The measure provides:

1. Jewish civil servants discharged by the previous regime will be reinstated upon their filing a request within 45 days after promulgation of the law. They will have all rights dating from the day of their dismissal. State employees who resigned between Jan. 1, 1938 and Aug. 23, 1944 are also covered by the above regulation. Salaries will be paid those applying for reinstatement from the date they file their application.
2. Private employers are obliged to re-employ Jewish employees dismissed after Dec. 1, 1940. Requests for reinstatement should be made within 20 days of promulgation of the decree; and employers must reinstate applicants within 35 days after their requests are filed, granting them all rights enjoyed prior to their dismissal.
3. A joint commission of the Ministry of Labor and representatives of employers and employees will supervise the reinstatements, taking into consideration the capacity of the business, and giving priority on immediate reemployment to those earning small salaries, persons without any other income, former prisoners in concentration camps, persons deported for racial reasons and those with large families. Employees who cannot be reinstated in their former positions will be guaranteed employment in similar undertakings by the Ministry of Labor.
4. All professional and industrial licenses will be returned to Jews within 15 days after such return is requested. Jews expelled from professional, commercial

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or industrial associations are automatically reinstated.

5. All property formerly belonging to Jews, which is now owned by the state or in the possession of any purchaser is regarded as always having belonged to the disposed titular owners and is returned to them without any additional legal procedure. Leases held upon property seized from Jews are automatically cancelled with promulgation of the decree.

6. Jews cannot return to buildings owned by them until April, 1945, if the buildings are now occupied by factories, schools, or artisan shops, unless the Jewish owners lived there immediately prior to their deportation or forced transfer elsewhere. The following categories of persons are : not required to leave property belonging to Jews before April 23, 1945, unless by special agreement; workers and artisans with a monthly income of less than 30,000 lei, unmarried war widows, invalids, orphans, state employees and institutions of social welfare.

The above regulation, however, does not apply to Jews who fall into the same categories, i.e. Jews earning under 30,000 lei monthly, war widows or orphans. All persons who are now eligible to ask for return of their buildings must do so within two months after promulgation of the decree. Jews who are now outside the country must apply within two months after returning to Rumania.

Divorces of partners in mixed marriages which were obtained between Jan. 1, 1938 and Aug. 23, 1944 are declared null and void under the new decree.

GREEK ROYALIST GROUP CHARGED BY EAM WITH ABDUCTING JEWS, LOOTING HOMES

ATHENS, Dec. 18. (JTA) -- An armed royalist organization which goes under the name of "X" is charged today in the EAM newspaper "Free Greece" with committing anti-Semitic acts.

The paper says that members of the "X" broke into the homes of two Jewish families, named Erheit and Cohen, in the Kolonaki district of Athens and carried away all members of both families. According to the report, the homes were then looted. Kolonaki is the Park Avenue of Athens.

PALESTINE WILL SEND 10,000 PAIRS OF SHOES TO NEEDY JEWS IN BULGARIA

SOFIA, Dec. 18. (JTA) -- Ten thousand pairs of shoes from Palestine will be dispatched to Sofia shortly as a result of the visit here of David Ben-Gurion, chairman of the executive of the Jewish Agency, it was stated here today. They will be distributed by a committee of Zionists and non-Zionists.

It was disclosed that other matters discussed by Mr. Ben-Gurion with Jewish leaders here were establishment of a Representation of Bulgarian Jews which would embrace all Jews regardless of party, and the emigration of Jewish children, especially those dwelling in the slums of the Jewish quarter.

Meanwhile, Jewish leaders are drafting a memorandum outlining their complaints regarding obstacles placed in the way of Jews wishing to emigrate. During Mr. Ben-Gurion's conversation with Minister of the Interior Anton Yugov, to whom he expressed dissatisfaction with present emigration procedure, Mr. Yugov suggested that such a memorandum be submitted to him and promised favorable consideration of all suggestions to facilitate emigration.

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CHILDREN FROM EUROPE BROUGHT TO PALESTINE ARE ALL MENTAL PROBLEMS, DR. YASSKY REPORTS

WASHINGTON, Dec. 18. (JTA) -- Dr. Haim Yassky, director of the Hadassah medical system in Palestine, disclosed at a press conference here today that among the children brought to Palestine since the war, there are none without mental problems. He added, however, that their rate of recovery is rapid. Adults are slower to recover, and it is too early to know at what rate they will improve, he said.

Dr. Yassky estimated that the expenditure of \$1,000,000 a year for 100,000 Jewish refugees in the places from where they will go to Palestine "could provide them with a good start on the road back to recovery even before they set foot in the Holy Land." He said that from five to ten percent of those admitted were affected with tuberculosis, the rate being highest among those coming from Transnistria, where living conditions were worst, and that although there are now 6,000 active and arrested cases in Palestine there are only 190 institutional beds.

Dr. Yassky disclosed that a group of sixty Jewish health and social welfare workers represented on the Cairo Council of Voluntary Agencies is preparing to do relief work with United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration in the Balkans. He revealed that the World Jewish Medical Association, at the instigation of the Jewish Medical Association of Palestine, is collecting material from all over Europe as to the amount and details of experimentation on human beings by the Nazis, but that it is already known that the Nazis tested out gases for military purposes, and that children's blood was taken for the German Army's blood bank.

N.Z.O. SAYS PALESTINE RESOLUTION WAS DEFERRED BECAUSE OF "SABOTAGE" BY ZIONISTS

NEW YORK, Dec. 18. (JTA) -- The New Zionist Organization of America today issued a statement declaring that "the responsibility for the shelving of the Palestine Resolution by the Senate Foreign Relations Committee must be laid not only to the opposition of the State Department, but also to the ineffective and vacillating manner in which the Zionist organization in this country has conducted the action on its behalf."

Charging that "strong elements in the Zionist leadership opposed and sabotaged" the passage of the Palestine Resolution by the Senate Committee, the statement, signed by Col. Morris J. Mendelsohn, president, said that the New Zionist Organization will "embark upon a campaign stronger than ever before to move the American people and government to take active measures on behalf of a Jewish Palestine."

MEMORIAL HELD FOR FIFTY FRENCH JEWISH HOSTAGES KILLED BY GESTAPO

PARIS, Dec. 18. (JTA) -- Several hundred persons braved the cold and the rain yesterday to assemble at the Puteaux cemetery outside Paris to attend a memorial for 50 Jews slain in Dec. 1941 at Mont Valeriem.

The Jews were killed together with sixty non-Jewish members of resistance organizations in a Gestapo reprisal. All 50 had been residents of Paris and were being held at Drancy as hostages. A cortege formed at the railway station and proceeded to the cemetery where the ceremonies were held.

SENATE APPROVES UGO CARUSI AS COMMISSIONER OF IMMIGRATION

WASHINGTON, Dec. 18. (JTA) -- The senate today approved the nomination of Ugo Carusi as Commissioner of Immigration and Naturalization of the Department of Justice. Mr. Carusi succeeds Earl G. Harrison who resigned.