

# JTA

VOL. XI, NO. 300 (26th year)

Thursday, December 21, 1944

## Daily News Bulletin

PUBLISHED BY THE JEWISH TELEGRAPHIC AGENCY

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

### SEVERAL THOUSAND JEWS MASSACRED IN BUDAPEST; JEWS FIGHT IN STREETS OF HUNGARIAN CAPITAL

JERUSALEM, Dec. 20. (JTA) -- Several thousand Jews, after being rounded up by the pro-Nazi Hungarian police in a Budapest movie picture house were there slaughtered, it was reported here today. Their bodies were subsequently cast into the Danube, the report adds.

The measure is stated to have been taken as reprisal for bitter battles which occurred between government troops and armed Jewish groups in various provincial towns of Hungary. As reply to the mass-killing of the Jews in the Budapest theater, Jews in the Hungarian capital organized themselves into resistance units and, erecting barricades in the streets, engaged in battle with the Hungarian troops. The pro-Szalasy troops, supported by tanks and heavy artillery, succeeded in demolishing many buildings, but could not move the Jewish fighting units from their positions.

The Jewish units, however, suffered severe losses and many important Jewish leaders were killed, says the report. "The rapid advance of the Russian Army toward Budapest compelled pro-Nazi Premier Szalasy to relax his rigorous anti-Jewish measures. Only then did the Jewish units cease their resistance," the report concludes.

### NEW PLAN FOR PALESTINE REPORTED; 250,000 JEWS TO BE ADMITTED DURING TEN YEARS

LONDON, Dec. 20. (JTA) -- A plan to establish a cantonized federation of Syria, Lebanon, Palestine and Transjordan is now under discussion in London and in Cairo, it was reported today by the New Zionist Organization in a statement issued to the press. The scheme suggests the immigration into Palestine of 250,000 Jews within ten years and additional compensation for the number of Jews who may leave Palestine during that period.

France and Britain would allegedly become the guarantors of the sovereignty of the planned federation, with the right to veto foreign agreements endangering its independence, as well as administrative measures discriminating against minorities, the statement says.

It appears, the statement continues, that the parties interested in the project agree more or less on the general conditions under which the scheme is to be carried out, but there is still disagreement as to whether the Jews of Palestine should be offered only internal autonomy, or a state in a partitioned Palestine. Those of the sponsors of the project who insist on the establishment of a Jewish State in a partitioned Palestine argue that such a proposal is likely to secure American approval of the general plan.

Speaking in Leeds tonight, Lord Strabolgi estimated that a Jewish majority can be reached in Palestine within ten years, or less.

FRENCH GOVERNMENT MAY DISSOLVE BODIES OPPOSING RESTORATION OF PROPERTY TO JEWS

PARIS, Dec. 20. (JTA) -- The French Government is now considering a motion introduced in the Consultative Assembly by representatives of the Front National for the dissolution of two organizations established to protect the interests of purchasers of Jewish property confiscated under the Vichy anti-Jewish laws and administrators of Jewish enterprises named by the Vichy regime.

The motion was sponsored in the Assembly by Juliet Curie, Father Phillipe and others. It charges the two organizations with conducting violent anti-Jewish agitation. The decision of the French Government may be communicated to the Assembly in the course of its present session which closes tomorrow.

There are two interpellations with regard to the same question pending on the agenda of the Assembly. The first was made by Florimond Bonte, a Communist, who accuses the organizations - the National Inter-Corporative Association, and the Association of Administrators of France - of "opposing the restoration of Republican justice." In addition to fighting the restoration of Jewish property to the rightful owners, he said, these organizations are seeking to have Vichy-named administrators retain their privileges. He therefore demands the immediate dissolution of the organizations and the arrest of racist provocateurs.

The second interpellation was made by Louis Nogueres, a Socialist, who, raising the same question, asked the Minister of Justice what measures he is taking against the administrators and acquirers of Jewish property who are organizing themselves to defend "what in scorn of all justice and human dignity, they dare to call their rights."

POLISH JEWS IN RUSSIA FORM SPECIAL BODY IN MOSCOW; ALL GROUPS REPRESENTED

MOSCOW, Dec. 20. (JTA) -- Polish Jews now residing in various parts of Russia are joining in large numbers the "Committee of Polish Jews in the USSR," it was reported here today.

The committee announced that it is receiving letters from Polish Jews in Asiatic Russia, written in Hebrew and in Yiddish, in which the writers express readiness to cooperate with the newly-created body. Many of these letters come from orthodox Jews as well as from former Zionist leaders of pre-war Poland, the announcement said.

Among the various Polish-Jewish leaders who are listed by the committee as its members are: Dr. Jacob Zineman, Zionist leader from Warsaw now living in Jamboul, Kazakhstan; Rabbi Moshe Bernstein, of Cracow; Sholem Fraint, Jewish member of the Cracow municipal council; Moshe vilensky, who is now the secretary of the Kehillah in Tashkent; Rabbi Moshe Rubin of Novo-Sanez who is now the rabbi of Jamboul; Jacob Tobiasz, former leader of the Jewish community in Lomza and of the Poale-Zion Party in Poland; Berko Zilbermintz and Mordecai Bernstein, former leaders of the Jewish Socialist Bund in Poland; Abraham Vever, former vice-chairman of the Union of Metal Workers in Warsaw who is now living in Molotovbad, Kirghizia.

DR. WEIZMANN TOURS NORTHERN PALESTINE; SAYS MULTITUDE OF JEWS CAN BE SETTLED THERE

JERUSALEM, Dec. 20. (JTA) -- Dr. Chaim Weizmann, president of the Jewish Agency for Palestine, today concluded his visit in the northern part of Palestine during which he was given an affectionate reception by thousands of Jewish settlers. Addressing the colonists in the most-northern Dafneh settlement, Dr. Weizmann said: "I have seen country still empty with plenty of room for a multitude of new Jewish settlers without affecting a single Arab."

12/21/44

WORLD JEWISH CONGRESS EXECUTIVE MAPS OUT PLANS FOR RAISING \$10,000,000 FUND

NEW YORK, Dec. 20. (JTA) -- The executive committee of the World Jewish Congress, at a meeting today, mapped out its plans for campaigns in various countries in order to raise the \$10,000,000 fund for rehabilitation and reconstruction work in Europe, voted at the War Emergency Conference held recently by the Congress at Atlantic City.

A statement issued by the executive committee declared that the fund will be known as the "Jewish Rehabilitation Fund of the World Jewish Congress" and will be administered by a governing council in which representatives of various Jewish communities affiliated with the congress will participate. The statement also announced the election of Dr. Nahum Goldmann as chairman of the executive committee of the Congress.

LEADERS OF JEWISH FEDERATIONS PLAN WELFARE IMPROVEMENTS FOR POST-WAR PERIOD

FORT WORTH, Texas, Dec. 20. (JTA) -- Improvement of current wartime services, development of welfare plans for the immediate post-war period, provision for returning Jewish veterans, regional community relations services, and development of adequate recreational and Jewish educational facilities were discussed by the executive committee of the Southwestern States Region of the Council of Jewish Federations and Welfare Funds, meeting here December 16-17. Representatives from eight cities participated.

A resolution was passed to approve the establishment of a regional community relations office with professional staff and financed by Jewish communities in the region. The resolution provides for a survey of the region's needs on which the program for the coming year will be based. A detailed plan and program will be developed at its completion and presented to the Regional Conference to be held in March. National civic protective agencies were urged to refrain from opening any regional civic protective office pending culmination of these plans. A one-day institute on community relations was led by Isaac Frank, executive director of the Detroit Jewish Community Council.

A special committee was approved to study the region's social services, with special attention being given to the programs of the New Orleans Jewish Children's Home, B'nai B'rith Home for the Aged, and the Leo N. Levi Memorial Hospital. The current needs of the United Jewish Appeal were reported on by E. M. Solow and I. Edward Tenkon of Dallas. It was voted that every effort should be made to supplement current UJA allotments to meet increased needs.

COL. POWELL APPOINTED DIRECTOR OF ALL UNRRA'S REFUGEE CAMPS IN EUROPE

WASHINGTON, Dec. 20. (JTA) -- Colonel Roger G. Powell, retired, United States Army Engineer Corps, has been appointed director of UNRRA's European refugee camps, it was announced today by the United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration.

Col. Powell will supervise all activities of the refugee camps, including their staffing and organization, for those areas of Europe under the direction of the UNRRA European Regional Office in London. Col. Powell expects to leave the United States to take charge of the work within the next few weeks.

VICHY OFFICIAL DEALING WITH JEWISH AFFAIRS ARRESTED IN FRANCE

PARIS, Dec. 20. (JTA) -- Capt. Grasset, former official of the Commissariat for Jewish Affairs established by the Vichy regime, was arrested today in Annecy.

12/21/44

TEL AVIV RATES HIGH WITH AMERICAN SOLDIERS ON LEAVE, RED CROSS REPORTS

TEL AVIV, Dec. 20. (JTA) -- Tel Aviv is one of the most favored spots for American soldiers on leave, the American Red Cross reported today. The U. S. servicemen, who converge on the Jewish city, the report states, come chiefly from the Persian Gulf and travel via convoy across Transjordan. They are permitted 10 days' relaxation in Palestine. Other tourists include combat crews from Italy, soldiers who took part in the invasion of Normandy, and Air Transport Command soldiers from desert posts throughout Africa, the Red Cross revealed.

"Tel-Aviv is extremely popular with all soldiers on leave," the Red Cross report says. "What attracts them are healthy children, clean, modern streets, milk, fresh fruit and vegetables, well-stocked shops with merchandise exquisitely made by refugees, ice cream parlors -- one run by a Brooklyn woman who serves a conglomeration of ice creams and fruits dubbed a 'Brooklyn Special.' Enlisted men like Palestine as a leave area because all night spots, restaurants, tea houses, beaches are in bounds to enlisted personnel."

"Palestinians are friendly and hospitable to American soldiers and a great many of them entertain G.I.'s in their homes," the report continues. "Two American families who have been especially kind to Holy Land tourists are Dr. & Mrs. E. Epstein of Jerusalem, and Mr. & Mrs. Greenburg of Tel Aviv, through whose homes have passed thousands of lonely soldiers eager to get within a real home again," the report says.

HEROIC CHAPLAINS DECORATED POSTHUMOUSLY; WIFE OF JEWISH CHAPLAIN RECEIVES AWARD

WASHINGTON, Dec. 20. (JTA) -- Distinguished Service Crosses were presented here yesterday posthumously to the families of the four chaplains who lost their lives in the Atlantic when they gave up their life-belts to combatant soldiers, upon the sinking of the troopship Dorchester.

One of the four was Lt. Alexander Goode, who was a rabbi of a Washington congregation before volunteering for war service as a chaplain. The four chaplains were seen by survivors linking their arms on the deck in prayer as the waves closed over the sinking ship. Mrs. Theresa Goode of Washington received the Distinguished Service Cross for her husband from Lt. Gen. Brehon Somervell, commanding general of the Army Service Forces at the special services yesterday at which the awards were presented to the close relatives of the heroic chaplains.

SYNAGOGUE COUNCIL OF AMERICA SENDS SEASON'S GREETINGS TO CHRISTIAN COMMUNITIES

NEW YORK, Dec. 20. (JTA) -- Rabbi Herbert S. Goldstein, president of the Synagogue Council of America today sent the greetings of all the rabbis and synagogues of the country to the heads of the Federal Council of Churches of Christ in America, the National Catholic Welfare Conference, and the United Lutheran Synod, voicing the good wishes and warm regards of the Jewish community for their Christian brethren, in connection with the observance of the Christian Holy season.

In his message, Rabbi Goldstein stressed the mutual respect of religious Americans for one another's traditions, and expressed the hope that all prayers will be answered and that "penance and atonement may ensue, which will certainly bring about a healing and a holy peace for all God's children."