

Friday, January 12, 1945

**JTA****Daily News Bulletin**

PUBLISHED BY THE JEWISH TELEGRAPHIC AGENCY

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

**BEN ZURI AND KHAKIM ASK ACQUITTAL; LATTER DENIES MOYNE MURDER CONNECTED WITH ZIONISM**

CAIRO, Jan. 11. (JTA) -- Ephraim Ben Zuri and Elisha Khakim, young Palestine Jews on trial here for the assassination of Lord Moyne and his chauffeur, today demanded that the court acquit them because their crime was motivated by humanitarian and idealistic principles. Neither defendant has denied committing the murders.

Addressing the court, Khakim insisted that what he had done had no connection with Zionism, "only with the general principles of humanity." Ben Zuri said that he acted in accordance with his ideals, adding that "if my ideals were wrong, I am guilty; but if they are right, I am innocent." The president of the court interrupted him at this point charging that his statement was purely propaganda and had no connection with the offense for which the two are being tried.

The two youths presented lengthy statements outlining their motives for killing the British Resident Minister in the Middle East, but the court prohibited publication of that portion of their remarks until some later date. Both asked that the trial be transferred to an "international court." Before they spoke, the president of the court told them that they could speak freely, but that they would not be allowed to attack any "allied or friendly nation," and must confine themselves to facts connected with the murder.

Ben-Zuri addressed the court first, after Khakim declined an invitation to begin, stating that his friend was a better speaker. The youthful defendant spoke calmly and displayed great composure as he presented the facts on the basis of which he hopes to escape the death penalty demanded yesterday by the prosecution. He spoke in English, explaining that although he was more fluent in Hebrew, he was afraid his remarks would be distorted in translation.

**Say: "Secret Organization" Instructed them to Kill Only Moyne**

Stressing that their instructions from the "secret organization to which we belong," which was otherwise unidentified, were to kill Lord Moyne, but not harm anyone else, especially any Egyptian, Ben Zuri described how they had studied Moyne's habits and had followed his car from the Ministry of State to his residence, waiting for a favorable opportunity to shoot. He said that they had at first decided to attempt the murder at a crowded intersection where the car normally slowed down, but abandoned the idea for fear of hitting either the driver or Moyne's secretary who usually sat besides him.

Instead they chose the alternative of assassinating Moyne outside his residence, although there was less chance for them to escape since it was not a normally crowded spot. Khakim shot Moyne, while Ben Zuri killed the driver when he attempted to seize them. Ben Zuri expressed regret that the chauffeur, Lance Cpl. Fuller, had been killed.

He continued to deny that he had attempted to kill the policeman who pursued him, which is one of the four charges on which he and Khakim are being tried, and said

that he only intended to hit the constable's motor-cycle. "I am a good shot," he added, "and was only six yards from the constable. I am willing to prove that within 30 seconds I could put six bullets in that clock," and he pointed to a clock on the wall of the courtroom.

Khakim spoke after Ben Zuri, asking that "in the name of justice" the court acquit him. It is understood that Asher Levitsky, famous Palestine trial lawyer, who came here to join the defense, has withdrawn from the case because Khakim declined to adopt the line of defense suggested by him and insisted on making a political address.

The court adjourned until Saturday when the trial will be resumed. All that remains is for the defense to complete presentation of its case, since the prosecution rested yesterday.

#### Relatives of Deported Terrorists Storm Tel Aviv Offices

TEL AVIV, Jan. 11. (JTA) -- Parents and wives of many of the 279 Jewish terrorist suspects who were deported to a British internment camp in Eritrea, today stormed the offices of the municipality and of the local Jewish community council, demanding urgent action to secure adequate food for the deportees. They displayed letters from the interned men declaring that they have proclaimed a hunger strike because of the poor food.

#### RUMANIAN GENERAL CHARGED WITH DESORTING JEWS TO TRANSNISTRIA COMITS SUICIDE

BUCHAREST, Jan. 11. (JTA) -- General Tshapleam, who deported thousands of Rumanian Jews to Transnistria and who was responsible for their persecution there, committed suicide here today. He had been included on the list of war criminals.

As former inspector of forced labor detachments, Tshapleam supervised the arrest and deportation of more than 75,000 Jews, the majority of whom died from overwork, hunger and privation in Transnistria, which was the name given by the Antonescu Government to the Rumanian-held sector of the Soviet Union.

#### JEWISH WOMEN WHO FLED GERMAN FORCED LABOR CAMP DESCRIBE MISTREATMENT; 500 HELD THERE

GENEVA, Jan. 11. (JTA) -- A German concentration camp in the Sudeten section of Czechoslovakia, where 500 Jewish women were confined under horrible conditions, was described today by two escaped inmates of the camp who reached here recently.

They said that the camp, which was located in an abandoned textile mill at Weaskirchen, housed 200 Jewish women from Hungary and 300 from France and Holland. The prisoners were compelled to work from 4:30 in the morning until seven o'clock at night, with pauses for meals which consisted usually of a bowl of watery soup, accompanied by potatoes, or bread, or ersatz coffee.

Hygienic conditions were bad. The prisoners were given no soup, and once a week a little hot water for washing. They were clothed in thin dresses, wooden shoes and a flimsy coat, although they were forced to walk a long distance from their barracks to the workshops in freezing weather. As a result of this mistreatment all of the women were ill. They were treated so harshly that even several of the German women guards expressed their indignation.

The two arrivals said that similar camps for Jewish women exist in Saxony, Silesia and other parts of Germany.

PALESTINE RESOLUTION REINTRODUCED IN HOUSE; ZIONISTS NOT EXPECTED TO PRESS FOR PASSAGE

WASHINGTON, Jan. 11. (JTA) -- The Palestine Resolution which has been a center of controversy in Zionist and non-Zionist circles for the past few months, was re-introduced in the House of Representatives today by Rep. James P. Geelan, Connecticut Democrat.

Although official Zionist circles here refused to comment on the bill, pending a meeting of the American Zionist Emergency Council in New York tomorrow, it is not thought likely that they will press for action until the State Department reconsiders its opposition. Herman Schulman, chairman of the administrative committee of the Council, said that a statement would be issued tomorrow. The Geelan bill is identical with the measure introduced in the 78th Congress by Rep. Renuf Compton, whom Geelan defeated.

BRITISH AUTHORITIES HERE DENY JEWISH REFUGEES FROM BALKANS BEING BARRED FROM PALESTINE

NEW YORK, Jan. 11. (JTA) -- A denial that Britain is placing new obstacles in the way of Jews wishing to immigrate to Palestine from Europe was issued here today by the British Information Services. The statement was made in reply to recent reports that Turkey was refusing to grant transit visas to Jewish refugees desiring to go to Palestine because the British were refusing them admittance.

"When practically the whole of Europe was occupied by the enemy, Palestine immigration certificates could not be issued in the occupied countries, as would-be immigrants were physically unable to make contact with British consular officers or with representatives of the Jewish Agency," the statement said. "Arrangements were accordingly made whereby blocks of certificates were allocated in respect of given countries, for use by such refugees as might be able to escape from those countries. As part of this arrangement a guarantee was given by the British Government to the Turkish Government that any Jewish refugee reaching the Turkish frontier from the Balkans would be admitted to Palestine; on the strength of this guarantee the Turkish Government issued the necessary transit visa.

"Large parts of Europe (including the Balkans) have now been liberated; their Jewish inhabitants are no longer in imminent danger of persecution or death at the hands of the enemy, and the problem has thus changed. To meet this new situation, arrangements have been made dropping the emergency set-up and re-introducing the previous machinery. Immigration certificates for Palestine can now be obtained from the representatives of the Jewish Agency in the capital of every Allied, neutral and liberated country in Europe, including Rumania and Bulgaria. On receipt of the immigration certificate, the applicant is automatically issued a Palestine entry visa by the British consular representative on the spot. A new arrangement has now been made with the Turkish Government, whereby any applicant producing his immigration certificate and entrance visa is, without delay, issued a Turkish transit visa."

MEMBERS OF WORLD SECURITY ORGANIZATION MUST BAR DISCRIMINATION, SAYS PERUVIAN ENVOY

NEW YORK, Jan. 11. (JTA) -- A guarantee of non-discrimination toward its inhabitants as a prerequisite for any nation's admission to an international security organization was urged today by Peruvian Ambassador Pedro C. Beltran, at a luncheon in the Savoy-Plaza Hotel arranged by the World Jewish Congress.

Recalling that it was his country which took the lead among South American countries in breaking with the Axis powers right after Pearl Harbor, the Ambassador declared, "No nation should be admitted to any kind of world security organization unless it is ready to guarantee to its inhabitants absolute equality before the law and equal opportunity to all without any sort of discrimination."

12,000 OF 20,000 JEWISH REFUGEES IN SHANGHAI COMPLETELY DESTITUTE

PARIS, Jan. 11. (JTA) -- Twelve thousand of the twenty thousand Jewish refugees stranded in Shanghai, China, are now on full relief, according to information received here today by the American Joint Distribution Committee through Swiss channels.

Information received by the JDC which has already spent 400,000,000 Chinese dollars on maintenance of these refugees, discloses that the budget of the committee looking after them is steadily mounting owing to the soaring cost of living there. In December alone, according to the report received here, the price of bread increased fifty percent. The local committee reports numerous cases of freezing and illness due to insufficient clothing which can be obtained only at very high prices.

AMERICAN JEWISH COMMITTEE CALLS OFF 38TH ANNUAL MEETING IN RESPONSE TO BYRNES' REQUEST

NEW YORK, Jan. 11. (JTA) -- The thirty-eighth annual meeting of the American Jewish Committee, scheduled to be held at the Waldorf-Astoria on Saturday and Sunday, February 3rd and 4th, has been called off in deference to the wishes of James F. Byrnes, Director of the Office of War Mobilization, it was announced today by Dr. John Slawson, executive vice-president of the American Jewish Committee. More than five hundred persons from all over the country were expected to attend the annual meeting.

"The American Jewish Committee," said Dr. Slawson, "is more than happy to comply with any request of the government made in the interests of strengthening the American war effort. At a meeting of our administrative committee yesterday, it was decided that until travel conditions improve, the affairs of the American Jewish Committee will be administered by its executive committee."

CHRISTIAN MINISTERS ASK PALESTINE FOR JEWS; ASSERT IT CAN ABSORB GREAT NUMBERS

ST. LOUIS, Jan. 11. (JTA) -- Sessions of the South Central Conference on Palestine opened here today at a meeting in Pilgrim Congregational Church with two prominent ministers and a soil conservation expert calling for the re-opening of Palestine to Jewish immigration and the establishment there of a free and democratic Jewish commonwealth.

The speakers were Dr. Walter Clay Lowdermilk, Chief of Soil Conservation in the U. S. Department of Agriculture, the Rev. Dr. Wendell Phillips, Rector of Christ Church, Rye, N. Y., and the Rev. Dr. Henry A. Atkinson, Chairman of the World Peace Union. Dr. Atkinson, who is Chairman of the Christian Council on Palestine, an organization of about 3,000 Christian ministers and religious educators throughout the United States, also called for the support of churchmen everywhere for the program of the American Christian Council on Palestine, under whose auspices the series of meetings is now being held in St. Louis. Speaking at a luncheon session, Dr. James G. McDonald, Chairman of the President's Advisory Committee on National Refuge, said that Palestine offers the primary hope for solution of the refugee problem.

FUNERAL SERVICES HELD IN NEW YORK FOR BARONESS NELLY DE ROTHSCHILD

NEW YORK, Jan. 11. (JTA) -- Funeral services were held here today for Baroness Nelly de Rothschild, wife of Baron Robert de Rothschild. More than 500 persons attended the ceremonies which were conducted by Chief Rabbi Jacob Kaplan of France and Rabbi Simon Langer. Interment was at Fernhill Cemetery. Baroness Rothschild died on Monday after an illness of several months.