

Thursday, February 9, 1945

JTA

*Daily News Bulletin*PUBLISHED BY THE JEWISH TELEGRAPHIC AGENCY
106 EAST 41st STREET, NEW YORK 17, N. Y.JEWS OF RUMANIA AND POLAND RE-ESTABLISH CONTACT; CONFERENCE OF RABBIS CONVOKED

BUCHAREST, Feb. 7 (JTA) — The first direct contact between the Jews of liberated Galicia and the Jews of Rumania was made today with the arrival here of Rabbi Mordecai Rosenblatt, of Lwow, to represent orthodox Jewry of the Lwow and Stanislawow districts at a rabbinical conference opening in Bucharest.

Rabbi Rosenblatt, who is twenty-six years old, fought with the Jewish partisans in occupied Poland and distinguished himself in the struggle against the German occupation forces. In an interview with the correspondent of the Jewish Telegraphic Agency he estimated that of the 400,000 Jews who lived in Eastern Galicia before the outbreak of the war no more than 9,000 survive. Of them, 1,600 are now in Lwow, 2,000 in Drohobycz and 800 in Stanislawow.

Mass-graves containing the bodies of more than 110,000 massacred Jews have been found in a number of towns in Eastern Galicia, the rabbi reported. The towns of Prody and Gwozdice, which had large Jewish populations before the war, have been made completely "judenrein" by the Germans and not a single Jew is to be found there at present. However, there are 1,600 Jews in the town of Stry and about 1,000 in Gzertkow.

JEWISH AGENCY OPPOSES SENDING OF RESCUED JEWS TO AFRICA; WANTS THEM IN PALESTINE

JERUSALEM, Feb. 7 (JTA) — The Jewish Agency for Palestine is deeply concerned over the fate of 1,670 Jews who were recently rescued from the German concentration camp in Bergen-Belsen and are now in Switzerland from where they will be sent to a UNRRA camp in Algiers, Moshe Shertok, head of the Agency's political department, told a press conference today.

"The Jewish Agency sees no sense in sending these rescued Jews to a camp in North Africa instead of enabling them to proceed to Palestine," Shertok said. "Especially since about 1,200 of them are Chelutzim and veteran Zionists."

Appealing to the Palestine Government to issue special immigration permits for these Jews, Shertok emphasized that reports received by the Jewish Agency reveal that the rescued Jewish men and women were deeply distressed by the discovery that they are to be moved to North Africa. "When they escaped from Germany, they were under the impression that they would be taken to Palestine. They are terribly downhearted now that they have been told that admission to Palestine is barred to them," Shertok declared.

Speaking on the question of securing more immigration visas for Jews who wish to emigrate from liberated countries to Palestine, Shertok told the press conference that this is the most important problem facing the Jewish Agency. He disclosed that the Agency has asked the Palestine Government to increase the quota of visas now being issued on account of the balance of immigration certificates still due under the White Paper, but that no reply has been received as yet.

BRITISH AND JEWISH QUARTERS IN PALESTINE DENY EXISTENCE OF PLAN TO BUILD HUGE CANAL

JERUSALEM, Feb. 7 (JTA) -- British and Jewish authoritative quarters today told the correspondent of the Jewish Telegraphic Agency here that there is no truth in the report published yesterday by the London Daily Sketch that the British government is planning to dig a canal from the Mediterranean to the Red Sea through Palestine.

Experts here ridiculed such a plan pointing out that such a canal would wash out the immense mineral treasures of the Dead Sea. They also pointed out that it would inevitably result in inundation of the Jordan valley and Lake Galilee, both of which are of the highest religious and agricultural value.

Digging a canal through Palestine would cost about \$1,500,000,000, an amount which neither the British Government, nor the Palestine Government, nor the Jewish Agency, nor anybody else is ready to invest, it was pointed out here. The only rational sound plan along these lines is the one advanced by Walter C. Lowdermilk, U.S. Government expert, but even realization of the Lowdermilk plan is far in the future, it was emphasized.

GERMANS ADMITS MASSACRES OF JEWS; TELLS GERMANS TO EXPECT NO MERCY FOR THESE CRIMES

STOCKHOLM, Feb. 7 (JTA) -- The Swedish press today reports that for the first time the German Ministry of Propaganda has openly admitted the mass-killing of Jews in gas chambers in Poland and the massacre of Jewish women and children by Gestapo troops.

The purpose of these open admissions, the Swedish papers explain, is to make the population of Germany realize that it has no reason to hope for mercy if the enemy occupies the country, and that, therefore, everyone must do his utmost to keep the Allies at bay.

RANKIN ATTACKS JEWS IN DEBATE ON DENTAL RACE QUOTA; CELLER HITS DISCRIMINATION

WASHINGTON, Feb. 7 (JTA) -- An attack upon Jews was made today in the House of Representatives by Rep. John Rankin, Mississippi Democrat, in connection with the furor which has been aroused as a result of a report by the Dental Education Council of the American Dental Association, which allegedly advocates a reduction in the number of Jewish dental students.

Following a statement on the floor by Rep. Emanuel Celler, New York Democrat, who assailed the American Dental Association for "undermining the Bill of Rights," Rankin charged that "Mr. Celler is always bringing up the Jewish question." He added that there were "white Gentile Americans" who also had their rights.

Earlier in the day, Rep. Samuel Dickstein, New York Democrat, denounced the policy of the Belgian Government in classifying Jewish refugees from Germany within its borders as enemy aliens. Speaking to the House, Rep. Dickstein scored the placing of such Jews in internment camps while "erstwhile collaborators live off the fat of the land," and demanded that they "be treated as fellow sufferers and not as Germans."

Veterans Score Dental Restrictions As Insult to Jewish Soldiers

NEW YORK, Feb. 7. (JTA) -- The suggestion that a racial quota be established in dental schools was condemned today by Archie H. Greenberg, national commander of the Jewish War Veterans of the United States, as a "gratuitous insult to the 500,000 Jews in the armed forces." He said it would result in denying to many returning Jewish veterans the right to study dentistry.

N.Y. UNIVERSITY DOES NOT CONTEMPLATE QUOTA SYSTEM FOR JEWISH STUDENTS, CHANCELLOR SAYS

NEW YORK, Feb. 7 (JTA) — Chancellor Harry W. Chase of New York University last night denied that there was any discrimination against Jewish students in the university's dental college. The denial was issued in connection with the disclosure yesterday by the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith that Dr. Harlan H. Horner, secretary of the Council on Dental Education of the American Dental Association, submitted a confidential report to Chancellor Chase, urging a reduction in the number of Jewish students to be admitted to the College of Dentistry of New York University.

"We have no quota system of admission," said the chancellor, "and we do not contemplate any for Jews or Christians in dentistry, medicine or any other school in New York University. It will continue to be the purpose of our admission committees to accommodate the most able and promising applicants who come to us, regardless of their creed, color or origin. And, finally, any further shift in the general composition of our student body will depend entirely on natural tendencies in the company who may hereafter seek admission rather than upon any alteration of our own policy of admission."

It was pointed out, also that the charter of New York University prohibits the institution from refusing admission to students on the ground of race, creed or color and that this also is one of the conditions upon which the state contributes its annual subsidy to this and other educational institutions.

Dr. Horner Admits He Urged a Reduction of Jews in Universities

Dr. Horner, reached on the telephone last night at his home at Evanston, Ill., said it was true that the reports were prepared under the sponsorship of the Council of Education of the American Dental Association, and that they were sent to Columbia and New York University with the full knowledge and consent of the council. Asked whether he confirmed the references in these reports to the "imbalance" of racial groups in the dental schools of New York University and Columbia and the recommendations for their reduction, he said, "Yes, I made those statements. That's all I care to say at this time."

Dr. Horner is not a dentist. He was engaged by the Council on Education as an educational expert in 1940. Before that time he had been associated with the State Department of Education for thirty-five years. He was Associate Commissioner of Education for nine years before joining the dental council. The significance of the recommendations of the council was further emphasized by Dr. Horner, who explained that the council is a standing committee of the American Dental Association which has authority to grade dental schools and place them on approved or disapproved lists which have national recognition. Its recommendations, therefore are highly respected.

Report to U.S. Congressional Committee Speaks of "Racial Imbalance"

In a report which Dr. Horner submitted to the U.S. House Committee on Education, the text of which made public here today, he said: The racial and geographical imbalance in the entire enrollment in the dental schools presents a more difficult problem. The accompanying outline map of the United States shows the state of residence of the 9,014 undergraduates enrolled in the thirty-nine dental schools as of Oct. 15, 1943. It will be observed the 2,170 students, or 24 per cent, were residents of New York and New Jersey. These students are largely of foreign extraction and belong mainly to one racial group. They come principally from the metropolitan area in and around New York City. So far as they are confined to one racial group they claim

admission to dental study far in excess of the ratio of the entire population of their group to the population of the nation. . . .

"The council believes that determined effort should be made on a national scale to counteract the trend toward marked racial and geographical imbalance in the entire group of dental students and to elevate the broad common level of the intellectual capacity and fitness of the applicants for admission to dental study. A system of undergraduate scholarships, provided by continuing Federal subsidy, on a pro-rata basis to the approved schools, granted upon merit and limited in each case to the natural recruiting territory of the school, would, the council believes, be of immense help in the gaining of this desirable end."

Dr. Harold E. Pinney, of Chicago, chairman of the American Dental Association, in a statement in connection with the report, said: "Any inference that the report panders or encourages regional, racial or religious intolerance is based on inaccurate interpretation of the facts involved. The report should be restudied for what it really is and really says. It is extremely deplorable that certain individuals have attempted to insert into the report and into Dr. Horner's statement a significance that is denied by the report itself, and which is also denied by the representative cross-section of members and the past record of the American Dental Association. The American Dental Association does not now, nor has it any time in the past countenanced bigotry or intolerance."

YEMEN LETS CENTURIES-OLD BAN ON JEWS, ALLOWS JEWISH PHYSICIANS TO ENTER

JERUSALEM, Feb. 7 - (JTA) -- For the first time in centuries Jews will be permitted to enter the small Arab kingdom of Yemen, the Jewish Agency announced today.

The Agency has been informed by its representative in Yemen that King Imam Yahia has agreed to the admission of four Jewish physicians, two of whom will be women, on condition that they do not come as representatives of any organization and agree to accept directions from the Yemen Government.

The doctors will treat both Jewish and Moslem patients, which is, in itself, a revolutionary step, since heretofore Jews were not allowed to treat Moslems.

DRIVE FOR "KISCH MEMORIAL FOREST" HEAVILY OVERSUBSCRIBED; WILL BE LOCATED ON MT. TABOR

LONDON, Feb. 7 (JTA) -- The drive to raise funds for the establishment of a Kisch Memorial Forest in Palestine has been heavily oversubscribed, with \$184,000 already raised, it was announced here today.

The forest, which will commemorate Brigadier Frederick H. Kisch, commander of the engineering corps of the famed British Eighth Army, who was killed by a land mine in Tunisia, is to be situated on Mount Tabor. Kisch was an active Zionist, and, at one time, was chief of the political affairs department of the Jewish Agency.

MIZRACHI AWARDED U.S. GOVERNMENT CITATION FOR \$3,000,000 WAR BOND DRIVE

NEW YORK, Feb. 7 (JTA) -- The Mizrahi Organization of America received a U.S. Treasury Citation yesterday, marking the successful completion of a special \$3,000,000 War Bond drive to provide the Armed Services with a hospital ship. The drive, which began during the Fifth War Loan and continued through the Sixth, was conducted in honor of Chief Rabbi Dr. Isaac H. Halevi Herzog, of Palestine.

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