

Daily News Bulletin

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PROVISIONAL GOVERNMENT SAYS GERMANS EXTERMINATED 450,000 HUNGARIAN JEWS

LONDON, Feb. 16 (JTA) — The Hungarian Provisional Government, in a broadcast on the Kossuth radio station today, estimated that "at least 450,000 Hungarian Jews were killed by the Germans in gas chambers and in death camps".

"The cruel methods used in the murdering of Hungarian Jews, including aged, women and children, surpass the imagination of human beings," the broadcast said. "Full details of the atrocities against Hungarian Jewry are now being revealed by survivors in Budapest. The new democratic Hungary demands that none of these crimes remain unavenged."

BRITAIN THREATENS TO INCLUDE NON-JEWISH UNITS IN JEWISH BRIGADE, ZIONIST LEADERS REVEAL

JERUSALEM, Feb. 16. (JTA) — British military authorities have informed Jewish leaders that unless sufficient Jews enroll immediately in the Jewish Brigade, in order that it may be brought up to full strength, they will be forced to attach non-Jewish units to it, it was revealed here today by David Ben-Gurion, chairman of the executive of the Jewish Agency, and Moshe Shertok, the Agency's political chief.

As a result, the Agency has given number one priority to the problem of getting more recruits for the Brigade. At a mass-meeting today, called to spur enlistment, Ben-Gurion and Shertok called for urgent action to have the Jewish Brigade completed in the shortest possible time.

Two high-ranking Jewish officers, who have just arrived from the place where the Jewish Brigade is undergoing training, today addressed a press conference in Tel Aviv describing the life of the Jewish soldiers. Both officers emphasized that all members of the Brigade are anxious to be sent to the battlefront as soon as possible.

CZECH GOVERNMENT INVITES J.D.C. TO CONDUCT RELIEF WORK IN LIBERATED CZECHOSLOVAKIA

PARIS, Feb. 16 (JTA) — The Czechoslovak Government has invited the Joint Distribution Committee to station a representative in Czechoslovakia as soon as the government returns there, it was disclosed here today.

The invitation, signed by Václav Majer, Minister for Economic Reconstruction, read: "I should like to express the government's wish to welcome one of your representatives to Czechoslovak territory as soon as my Government is established in liberated territory."

A small number of Jews who have escaped extermination in Lithuania, Galicia, the Ukraine and Byelorussia have formed community councils in 111 small towns, it was learned here today. Some of them have made contact with Palestine, according to a report from the Mid-Eastern office of the J.D.C. received here.

The J.D.C. has instructed its Tehran office to dispatch food and clothing parcels immediately to each of these councils for distribution among the local Jews.

JEWISH SECTION OF BULGARIAN PEOPLES COURT WILL PROSECUTE ANTI-JEWISH CRIMES

SOPIA, Feb. 16. (JTA) -- Jewish prosecutors, part of a special Jewish section of the Bulgarian Peoples Court, are at work preparing indictments against persons charged with persecution of Jews during the pro-Nazi regime in Bulgaria, it was learned here today.

Among those who will be tried shortly are overseers in forced labor camps to which about 8,500 Jewish men between the ages of 20 and 45 were sent. These camps were intended to be a slow method of exterminating the Jews, at the same time that labor was being secured from them. They worked from dawn to dusk, were given little food and subjected to all sorts of mistreatment.

A Jewish section of an Anti-Fascist Exhibition which opened here this week depicts graphically the sufferings endured by the Jews in the four years that Bulgaria was allied with Germany. Among the documents on exhibition is a plan outlined by Alexander Beloff, Commissioner for Jewish Affairs, under which all Jews were to be banished from Bulgaria, and sent in slow stages to death camps in Poland. The plan provided for Jews to be sent to the provinces, from there to Vienna and other Danubian cities and eventually to Poland.

The pre-Nazi Government did succeed in expelling the Jews from Sofia and other large cities to provincial villages, but intercession by democratic elements and the clergy prevented the deportation to Poland of Jews from Bulgaria proper, although over 20,000 were sent to death camps from Bulgarian-occupied Macedonia and Thrace. Many other documents and photos of deportations are also on exhibit.

SOLIDARITY BETWEEN JEWS AND POLES STRESSED BY WARSAW GOVT. ENVOY AT PARIS MEETING

PARIS, Feb. 16. (JTA) -- The solidarity between Poles and Jews exemplified in the struggle for the liberation of Warsaw will remain the principle of a new Poland in which all Poles and Jews will enjoy full freedom of religion and opinion, Dr. Stefan Jedrychowski, the Warsaw Government's delegate in France, today told a crowded meeting of the Union of Polish Jews in France held to celebrate Warsaw's liberation.

Dr. Jedrychowski described Warsaw as a symbol of the resistance and freedom for which Poles and Jews are united against the common enemy and paid tribute to the Jewish fighters in the Warsaw Ghetto "who gave the lie to the propaganda that Jews don't fight."

Albert Bayet, French resistance leader, hailed the new Poland for abolishing racial and religious discriminations. M. Kaminsky, a leader of the Polish Jews in France, reminded the audience that Poland was not only the locale of the murder of millions of Jews, but also of pitched battles between the Germans and Jewish fighters. "The Jews of Poland," he said, "have won a place in the ranks of the victors and the new Poland will again become a center of Jewish spiritual life."

The French Telegraph Service reports today that the Minister of Justice will resume consideration of applications for naturalization which have not yet been granted. Priority will be given to foreigners who showed special merit during the resistance against the German occupation forces, the reports says.

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ITALIAN JEWS FORM COMMITTEE TO RETURN REFUGEE CHILDREN TO THEIR HOMES OR INSTITUTIONS

ROME, Feb. 16. (JTA) — The return of scattered Jewish children to their homes or Jewish institutions will be accelerated by a special committee representing various organizations of Italian Jewry, Reuben Resnik, Joint Distribution Committee representative in Italy, announced today.

Many of these children have been cared for since the German occupation in the homes of friendly non-Jews and in non-Jewish institutions. Although this aid is much appreciated, Jewish leaders feel that the time has come for the Jewish communities to resume responsibility for these youngsters. Due to the efforts of the JDC, much of this work had already been completed in the Florence area and members of the JDC staff will assist in arranging facilities for the children in other areas, Dr. Resnik said.

The present plans call for re-establishment of the Rome Jewish orphanage and the development of what additional facilities may be needed. A Jewish day nursery, which opened this week, is caring for 150 children, mostly of working families which cannot provide proper care for them in the daytime. It is planned to expand its facilities, and the JDC is offering financial aid and the assistance of its staff members.

The Jews of Rome, and through them the Jews of all Italy, will pay tribute to the help given them by American Jews at a meeting on Feb. 25 honoring the JDC. The meeting is being arranged by local Jewish leaders.

HIAS-IEA DIRECTOR ARRIVES IN PARIS TO STUDY JEWISH EMIGRATION WORK

PARIS, Feb. 16. (JTA) — Dr. James Bernstein, European director of the Hias-IEA Emigration Association, has arrived here to study Jewish emigration problems and the functioning of the Hias-IEA offices in Paris, Lyon, Marseille, Nice and Toulouse.

The organization's principal activity in France at present, he said, is establishing contact between people here and relatives abroad with a view to future emigration of those able and desiring to go. Under an arrangement with the Jewish Agency the Hias-IEA will do all the practical work connected with the emigration of Jews from France to Palestine. Selection of the emigrants and issuance of the certificates will be handled by the Jewish Agency, while the Joint Distribution Committee will do most of the financing.

Dr. Bernstein is planning to visit Belgium and Switzerland to survey the Jewish situation there, before proceeding to London to confer with Max Gottschalk, president of the Hias-IEA, who arrived in the British capital this week from New York.

UNRRA IS GIVING RELIEF TO JEWS IN RUMANIA AND BULGARIA, LEHMAN ASSURES

WASHINGTON, Feb. 16. (JTA) — Director General Herbert H. Lehman of the United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration has given assurances that UNRRA is "taking every necessary step" to facilitate caring for the Jews in Bulgaria and Rumania, it was learned today.

In a letter to Peter H. Bergson of the Hebrew Committee of National Liberation, Lehman wrote that UNRRA is doing everything possible "to carry out its responsibility under the Council resolutions with respect to the care and repatriation or return of displaced persons 'found in Bulgaria and Rumania'."

ZIONIST LEADERS VISIT LORD HALIFAX; DEMAND OPENING OF PALESTINE TO JEWISH IMMIGRATION

WASHINGTON, FEB. 16. (JTA) — A joint committee representing the American Jewish Conference, the American Zionist Emergency Council, and the Jewish Agency for Palestine today called on Earl Halifax, British Ambassador to the United States, to submit a memorandum urging the British Government to open the gates of Palestine so that large numbers of homeless Jews now in liberated areas in Europe can enter immediately. Lord Halifax promised to transmit the plea to the British Foreign Office at once "with the recommendation that it be given the most urgent and sympathetic consideration."

Among the delegates were Dr. Stephen S. Wise, chairman of the Council; Hayim Greenberg and Herman Shulman, officers of the council; Dr. Israel Goldstein and Louis Lipsky, co-chairmen of the interim commission of the American Jewish Conference, and Dr. Schum Goldmann, American representative of the Jewish Agency in Palestine.

Pointing out that "psychological and material condition of the Jewish survivors in Europe is beyond description," the statement to the British Government declared: "The world will not understand a policy of inaction at a time when delay may mean for these people death by starvation and disease. They plead to be allowed to rebuild their lives in the Jewish National Home. It is inconceivable that while their own people in Palestine are waiting to receive and welcome them they should be continued to continue in utter hopelessness where they are unwanted and do not wish to remain—in surroundings associated for them with recollections of grief and horror."

The memorandum referred to reports that the majority of the 270,000 Jews in Rumania are completely pauperized and that at least 80 percent of Rumanian Jewry wish to go to Palestine, indicated that a similar situation prevails in other liberated territories, and denounced the fact that the 1,700 Jews who recently escaped from Germany are to be sent to temporary refuge camps in Algiers—"A prolongation of the individual tragedy of each of these refugees."

HOUSE LABOR COMMITTEE APPROVES BILL FOR PERMANENT FAIR EMPLOYMENT PRACTICE COMMISSION

WASHINGTON, Feb. 16. (JTA) — The House Labor Committee today approved by a vote of 12 to 2 a bill to set up a permanent Fair Employment Practices Committee with law enforcement powers. The bi-partisan bill must now get approval from the House Rules Committee before it can come up on the floor for consideration.

Senate legislation on a permanent FEPC is in the hands of a sub-committee headed by Senator Dennis Chavez of New Mexico. Additional hearings are expected in view of Senator Robert Taft's sponsorship of an FEPC measure without enforcement provisions.

VANDALS DESECRATE JEWISH CEMETERY IN OAKLAND; WRECK FIFTY-FIVE TOMBSTONES

OAKLAND, Cal. Feb. 16. (JTA) — unidentified vandals spread destruction yesterday in the Home of Peace cemetery, overturning and wrecking 55 tombstones, among them that of a soldier killed fighting in the Argonne in World War I. Other tombstones were mutilated.

The destruction was apparently the work of at least three men using crow bars and sledge hammers. Many of the larger monuments showed signs of having been pounded after being overturned. Harry J. Sapper, executive director of the Oakland Jewish Federation, declared that it was obvious that the vandals were not merely bent on destroying tombstones as such, but were motivated by hatred of Jews.