

JTA

VOL. XII. No. 42 (27th year)

Sunday, February 25, 1945

Daily News Bulletin

PUBLISHED BY THE JEWISH TELEGRAPHIC AGENCY

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

RESUMPTION OF UNITED JEWISH APPEAL SOUGHT BY COUNCIL OF JEWISH FEDERATIONS

NEW YORK, Feb. 23. (JTA) — A renewed effort to bring about resumption of the United Jewish Appeal, whose dissolution was announced last week, was made today by the Council of Jewish Federations and Welfare Funds in a telegram sent to Paul Baerwald, chairman of the Joint Distribution Committee and to Rabbi James Heller, chairman of the United Palestine Appeal.

The telegram, signed by Sidney Hollander, president of the Council of Jewish Federations and Welfare Funds, reads as follows: "Overwhelming Welfare Fund sentiments is that decision to conduct independent appeal by the J.D.C. and U.P.A. threaten to involve communities in extreme difficulties in raising funds and in arriving at equitable decisions on relative needs. Fears are also expressed that less funds would be made available under these conditions in spite of largely increased needs. As president of the Council I strongly urge your organization to submit your differences to arbitration by mutually acceptable procedure. Prompt action in response to this telegram is essential to our mutual causes and objectives."

RUSSIA REPATRIATES 10,000 JEWS OF RUMANIAN CITIZENSHIP TO THEIR FORMER HOMES

BUCHAREST, Feb. 23. (JTA) — Approximately 10,000 Jews from Transylvania, Bukovina and Old Rumania will be repatriated from Soviet Russia early next month, it was learned here today by the Jewish Telegraphic Agency. These Jews were deported from their homes to Transnistria, in the then - occupied Soviet Ukraine, when Rumania was an ally of Germany. The repatriated Jews are natives of the sections of Rumania which have been acknowledged by the Soviet Government to be Rumanian territory.

The Rumanian Government today announced that it will ship back to Odessa 500 tons of tombstones which were taken from the Odessa Jewish cemetery by the former Rumanian pro-Nazi regime and transported to Rumania for sale as building material. An official announcement today also reveals that Alexander Cuza, notorious anti-Semitic leader, has been deprived of his title of honorary professor.

UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE IN SAN FRANCISCO WILL DISCUSS FATE OF MANDATED LANDS

PARIS, Feb. 23 (JTA) — The American Embassy and the French Foreign Office today denied the report that a secret memorandum was submitted by U. S. Ambassador Caffery to General de Gaulle outlining a plan under which France would surrender its mandates over Syria and Lebanon and the British Government would surrender its Palestine mandate to a new United Nations authority.

It was authoritatively stated here today that the question of a new international system of mandates replacing the old League of Nations' control will be on the agenda of the forthcoming conference of the United Nations in San Francisco, but no detailed proposals for this new system have thus far been submitted to the French Government.

2/25/45

PARTITIONING OF PALESTINE OPPOSED BY HEBREW PRESS; ARTICLES URGE VIGILANCE

JERUSALEM, Feb. 23. (JTA) -- Official and semi-official denials of the Cairo report that Palestine is to be partitioned and that the Jewish part of it will be federated with Lebanon are published in the local newspapers. Nevertheless, the Hebrew press continues to discuss the possibility of such a plan and the attitude of Palestine Jewry toward it.

Davar, leading Hebrew newspaper, says that it is a fact that Roosevelt and Churchill met with the Arab rulers and it is therefore highly possible that they touched upon the Palestine problem. Although the subjects discussed are not yet known, they will not remain secret for a long time, it adds. "We have the right to hope that our political demands are not unknown to Churchill and Roosevelt and that they have the good will to secure for the Jewish nation a state", Davar says. The paper opposes the cutting off of considerable parts of the Jordan and the Jordan Valley waters from the section of the country which would become part of the proposed Jewish state under partition.

Haaretz, another leading daily, says: "Our task in these days is to be on guard. We must strengthen our political front in London and in Washington." The Palestine Post, the Hebrew daily Hatzofe and practically all other Hebrew newspapers in Jerusalem and Tel Aviv carry articles opposing the partitioning of Palestine.

FRENCH ASSEMBLY GETS TWO DRAFTS OF LAWS FOR PROPERTY RESTITUTION, SENDS THEM TO COMMISS

PARIS, Feb. 23. (JTA) -- Two drafts of a law providing for the restitution of property seized from Jews and others under the discriminatory legislation of the Vichy regime and during the German occupation were today before the Consultative Assembly. One was submitted by the Government and the other by the Socialist Party.

The Government draft was signed by Gen. de Gaulle and by the Ministers of Justice, Finance and National Economy. The original text, which evoked much criticism, has been considerably altered, but the draft is still considered defective on many grounds, both regarding the principle involved and the procedure it establishes for the recovery of the property. Both proposals will undergo lengthy scrutiny by a special commission to which they have been referred.

As drafted, the government establishes a distinction between those whose property was transferred without their consent and those who gave their consent. In the former case, the acquirers of the property are held to have acted in bad faith and the transfers are voided. These cases will come before the president of the civil tribunal sitting as a referee - which is the quickest French legal procedure. But since the defendant has the right of appeal, the recovery of the property can be delayed for months. Those who gave their consent for the transfer of their property, will have to prove that they acted under duress.

JACQUES DORIOT, FRENCH FASCIST AND ANTI-SEMITIC, REPORTED KILLED IN ALLIED AIR RAID

ZURICH, Feb. 23. (JTA) -- Jacques Doriot, founder and leader of the French fascist Parti Populaire, and one of the most active anti-Semites in France, was killed during an Allied air raid on an undisclosed city in Germany, the official German DNE news agency reported today.

2/25/45

JEWISH AGENCY NEEDS \$16,000,000 IN CURRENT YEAR, EXPECTS TWO-THIRDS FROM U.S. JEWS

LONDON, Feb. 23 (JTA) -- The Jewish Agency for Palestine will require \$16,000,000 during the current year to finance its various activities, it was announced at a press conference here today by Eliezer Kaplan, Agency treasurer.

It is hoped, Mr. Kaplan said, that two-thirds of the \$16,000,000 budget will be met by contributions from Jews in the United States, while the remainder will come from various sources, including a \$2,700,000 loan from Lloyds Bank.

Over \$3,000,000 will be spent for immigration, the Agency treasurer said, and more than \$4,000,000 for establishment of eleven or twelve new settlements, including five for demobilized soldiers and two for Oriental Jews. Part of the expenses for one of the latter settlements, which it has been proposed to name after Yehuda Halevi, will be covered by Argentine Jewry.

To alleviate the housing shortage, the Agency will allot \$4,000,000 for the construction of 2,000 rooms in urban areas and 1,000 in rural districts, Mr. Kaplan stated. He also disclosed that the Agency has assisted many citrus growers who did not receive government subsidies, or whose subsidies were delayed.

Discussing other financial activities of the Jews of Palestine, Mr. Kaplan said that the Jewish Agency was awaiting the results of consultations with major Jewish bodies in the country before adopting a stand on the new increased taxation scheme proposed by the Palestine Government. He announced that efforts are being made to secure raw materials and agricultural machinery from Britain, but said that if they are unsuccessful, the material will be purchased in the United States. Mr. Kaplan revealed that the Agency is caring for the property in Palestine of many Jews still in occupied territory in Europe.

IMPEACHMENT OF JUSTICE FRANKFURTER DEMANDED IN ANTI-JEWISH SPEECH IN CONGRESS

WASHINGTON, Feb. 23. (JTA) -- The impeachment of Supreme Court Justice Frankfurter was demanded from the floor of the House by Rep. Dan R. McGehee, of Mississippi, in an anti-Semitic speech in which the Congressman charged that Justice Frankfurter "connived with others of his faith and belief behind closed doors," to secure the appointment of men to key government positions.

"I am suggesting to the Dies committee that they go immediately into and delve into the notions of Frankfurter, with a view of bringing impeachment proceedings against him and relegating him back to private life and, if possible, send him back to the land from whence he came and let him teach his un-American doctrines there rather than try to contaminate a patriotic American citizenship", the Mississippi Representative said.

STATELESS JEWS FORMERLY OF GERMAN NATIONALITY WILL NOT BE COMPELLED TO RETURN TO REICH

WASHINGTON, Feb. 23. (JTA) -- Fred K. Hoehler, director of the displaced persons division of the United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration, today said that no pressure will be exerted on stateless Jews in UNRRA camps to compel them to return to Germany.

Asked about UNRRA'S program for German Jews and other anti-Nazis of German nationality, Hoehler declared that it would be UNRRA'S job to give them assistance. He estimated that less than 20,000 Jews are in all the UNRRA camps, including Poles and Germans. The reason for this small representation, Hoehler said, was the fact that many Jews are still in unliberated parts of Europe or where UNRRA is not yet functioning.

JEWISH REFUGEES WERE BURIED ALIVE IN WELLS BY GERMANS IN FRANCE

PARIS, Feb. 23 (JTA) — Thirty-five Jewish refugees, aged men and women from Alsace-Lorraine, were buried alive in three wells of a little town in central France last July, after a roundup by German military police and Vichy militiamen, the newspaper *France au Combat* charges.

All the victims had been living quietly in the town of St. Amand when, on the night of July 22-23, the Nazis and militiamen descended on the community and rounded up all the Jews, according to the newspaper's special correspondent, who investigated the crimes.

One of the intended victims, named Kramison, escaped from one of the trucks carrying the refugees to the prison at Bourges, and hid out in the woods. It was through his efforts to locate his wife, who had been taken off in another truck, that the atrocities came to light.

After spending the night at the Bourges prison, the victims were reloaded in the trucks which set off in the direction of Nevers. When the Germans were finally driven out of the area, the bodies of 35 men and women were found jammed in the three wells, situated on the Gucry estate in the commune of Savigny-en-Saptaime.

Since then, medical evidence has established that the victims had been hurled down the wells, and then horribly crushed to death by huge rocks thrown on top of them. The rocks filled the wells to the top. Among the 34 victims identified was a Col. Benheim, aged 76, a commander of the Legion of Honor; Elie Raymond Grumbach, 42, a native of Switzerland; I. Dreyfus, 85; A. Bruschwig, 73; Edouard Weil, 76; Madame Jeanne Levi, 68; Marthe Kramison, the wife of the man who escaped; and a girl of 18, Colette Strauss.

AMERICAN JEWISH COMMITTEE ESTABLISHES A EUROPEAN OFFICE IN LONDON

NEW YORK, Feb. 23 (JTA) -- Max Gottschalk, director of the overseas department of the American Jewish Committee, has arrived in London where he will set up a European office of the American Jewish Committee, it was announced by Dr. John Slawson, Executive Vice-President.

Dr. Gottschalk, who will be abroad for an extended stay, has a dual mission — that of arranging for Committee representation in the major capitals of Europe and of creating the machinery for the development of closer working arrangements between the principal European Jewish organizations and the American Jewish Committee, the announcement said.

ZIONIST ORGANIZATION IN CANADA LAUNCHES \$1,100,000 CAMPAIGN FOR 1945

MONTREAL, Feb. 23 (JTA) — The national executive committee of the Zionist Organization of Canada has decided to call upon Canadian Jewry to contribute in 1945 the sum of \$1,100,000 to the United Palestine appeal.

The Mishrahi Organization of Canada has decided to establish a Hachsharah farm for the training of religious cholutzim who will ultimately make their home in Palestine. A site for this purpose has already been secured at Bronto, Ontario, it was announced at the annual convention of the organization.