

# JTA

VOL. XII No. 52 (27th year)

Tuesday, March 6, 1945

## Daily News Bulletin

PUBLISHED BY THE JEWISH TELEGRAPHIC AGENCY

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

### JTA CORRESPONDENT REACHES BELGRADE; FINDS ONLY ABOUT TEN PER CENT OF ALL JEWS SURVIVED

BELGRADE, Mar. 5. (JTA) -- Less than ten per cent of the 75,000 Jews who lived in Yugoslavia before the war are now alive, the correspondent of the Jewish telegraphic Agency was told today by leaders of the Jewish community of Belgrade upon his arrival here from Rome.

The Jewish leaders estimated that there are at present no more than 7,000 Jews in all of Yugoslavia. They cautiously added that it is impossible to know the exact number of survivors, since it is assumed that some of them may still be scattered throughout Eastern Europe.

Some of the surviving Jews in Yugoslavia hope to emigrate to Palestine, but in the absence of transportation facilities and the preoccupation with ridding the country of the Germans, the issue is not being raised. Most Jews here, however, wish to remain in Yugoslavia and participate in the upbuilding of the country.

The surviving Jews have been guaranteed the same rights as all citizens of Yugoslavia under a decree of the National Liberation Committee although the problem of property restoration is still being worked out. Jews are again in government positions and a Jew, Moshe Plade, is vice-president of the Provisional Parliament.

### BULGARIAN GOVERNMENT ISSUES LAW ON RESTORATION OF JEWISH PROPERTY; COMPENSATION PROVIDED

SOFIA, Mar. 5. (JTA) -- The Official Gazette published this week and a law which provides for the return of confiscated Jewish property and for the annulment of all anti-Jewish regulations.

Under the new law, compensation amounting to thirty million levas -- approximately \$375,000 -- will be paid for goods which cannot be returned. All land, excepting that upon which Bulgarian peasants have settled, will be returned to the former Jewish owners. Compensation on the basis of land prices of two years ago will be paid for unreturned land. Rent collected by the government from confiscated Jewish houses will be refunded to the owners. Compulsory sales by Jews of stocks and bonds are considered void.

The Bulgarian Government will start refunding the amounts owed to Jews immediately, providing the total owed an individual does not exceed fifty thousand levas, which is approximately \$625. If the amount exceeds this sum, the balance will be paid in government bonds redeemable within six years.

The Sofia radio reported today in a broadcast in the Hebrew language that Jewish community councils have been re-established in thirty-three Bulgarian towns. Only fifteen of them have their own schools. The Jewish schools in Bulgaria have 2,200 pupils under the age of 13. There are also about 4,000 Jewish children in general schools, the broadcast said.

MOSCOW JEWISH COMMUNITY JOINS IN FAST DAY PROCLAIMED BY CHIEF RABBINATE OF PALESTINE

JERUSALEM, Mar. 5. (JTA) -- For the first time since the Soviet Revolution, the Jews of the USSR will join world Jewry in a fast day proclaimed by the Palestine Rabbinate.

At a rabbinical conclave held here today under the auspices of the Chief Rabbinate, it was announced that a telegram has been received from the Moscow Orthodox Jewish Community stating that it will proclaim March 14 as a Jewish Fast Day, thereby joining the Jews of the rest of the world in commemorating the memory of the Jewish communities annihilated by the Germans and of the millions of Jews massacred by them.

Jews in the United States, England and other countries will also observe March 14 as a day of fasting, in accordance with the proclamation issued by the Chief Rabbinate here. A monument will be erected on that day in the Mount of Olives cemetery, honoring the memory of the millions of Jews killed by the Nazis in European countries.

Today's conclave, called in connection with the Day of Mourning, was held in the oldest house of worship in Jerusalem situated in the Old City and known as Rabbi Yehudah He'Chassid's Synagogue. A solemn service marked the opening of the gathering at which aged and venerable rabbis wept like children, sitting on the floor and reciting lamentations and other prayers. Chief Rabbi Herzog, opening the conclave, appealed to the world to save the remnants of the Jews of Europe and to open the gates of Palestine for unrestricted Jewish immigration.

The assembly concluded with the blowing of the Shefar and with Kaddish for the millions of murdered Jews. Then the rabbis marched to the Wailing Wall where evening prayers were recited.

ARABS STRIVING TO ESTABLISH UNITED FRONT TO REPRESENT THEM AT SAN FRANCISCO

CAIRO, Mar. 5. (JTA) -- The Arab countries of the Middle East are striving to conclude an agreement on common defense of their interests so that they may have a unified front at the San Francisco conference of the United Nations, which opens on April 25, a high Arab personality said today.

When and if such a united representation is established, it will be maintained and perfected so that it may represent the Arabs at the ultimate peace conference after all hostilities have ceased, he added.

TURKEY SAYS JABOTINSKY WAS DEPORTED BECAUSE BRITISH AMBASSADOR REQUESTED HIS OUSTER

WASHINGTON, Mar. 5. (JTA) -- The Turkish Embassy here today informed the Hebrew Committee for National Liberation that Eri Jabotinsky was deported from Istanbul to Palestine upon the request of the British Ambassador in Turkey "as he was believed to have been involved in the assassination of the late British Resident Minister in the Near East."

In making the statement of the Turkish Embassy public, the Hebrew Committee termed fantastic the attempt to label Jabotinsky, who was on a rescue mission, an accomplice in the assassination of Lord Moyne. Mr. Jabotinsky was released during the week-end from the Feru jail in Palestine to which he was taken by police authorities upon his reaching the Palestine frontier after being deported from Turkey.

ROMANIA SETS UP CENTERS TO RECEIVE JEWS REPATRIATED FROM TRANSNISTRIA

BUCHAREST, Mar. 5. (JTA) -- Four reception centers have been established in Rumania to receive several thousand Jews who are being repatriated from the Soviet Ukraine - which the pro-German Rumanian Government called Transnistria.

The repatriates, who are expected to begin arriving this month, were deported by the Antonescu Government. The centers are located in the cities of Adamanta, Reni, Berta and Ungheeni.

ANTI-SEMITES STILL ACTIVE IN LIBERATED HOLLAND; JEWS ENTERTAIN AMERICAN JEWISH SOLDIERS

MAASTRICHT, Holland, Mar. 5. (JTA) -- Several hundred American Jewish soldiers were entertained by the local Jewish community at a Purim party yesterday, although for a time it appeared as if it would be called off because of anti-Jewish agitation.

Yesterday morning, two of the Jewish leaders here called a meeting of the community council and advised that the party not be held since it might furnish ammunition for the anti-Semites who could spread stories about "Jewish gaiety and riches" and "Jewish balls with orchestras" etc.

Their fears were a result of a concerted anti-Jewish campaign which has been waged by sections of the Maastricht press. Chief target of the attacks has been M.E. von Geldern, a Jew, who is secretary of Lieut.-Col. Schierman, chief of the Dutch Government's military mission here. City Councillor Schrienmacher writing in the newspaper Veritas, a local daily, declared that he did not object to von Geldern personally, but to the presence of a Jew on the military staff. This was the second published attack on von Geldern.

The Jewish community council, which is headed by E. Wesley, voted to hold the party after hearing from J. Schleijon, a prominent Maastricht Jew, and Capt. Meyer Goldman, Jewish Chaplain attached to the 29th TAC of the 9th Air Force. The affair went ahead on schedule and Jewish infantrymen, airmen, and other troops of all types filled the hall, danced with the few young women left here, chatted with the children, nibbled on cookies and had themselves a good time.

The Jewish leaders, however, decided to appoint a committee to see Lieut.-Schierman and protest the continued anti-Jewish propaganda.

18,000 AT BUENOS AIRES MEETING PLEDGE AID FOR EUROPE'S JEWS; MOURN MARTYRED DEAD

BUENOS AIRES, Mar. 5. (JTA) -- Eighteen-thousand persons, who filled the vast Luna park sports arena here, last night paid tribute to the estimated 5,000,000 Jews murdered in Europe and pledged assistance to the surviving Jews in liberated Europe.

The meeting, which was called by the DAIA, the central organization of Argentine Jewry, was a prelude to the world-wide day of mourning proclaimed for March 14. Speakers, including Moises Goldman, president, and Ricardo Dubrovsky, vice-president of the DAIA, Marcos Turkow of the Polish Jews of Argentina and Marcus Rogalsky, editor of the Yiddish daily, El Diario Israelita, appealed to the Argentine Jewish community to contribute funds for the relief and rehabilitation of European Jewry.

Diplomatic representatives and Russian Orthodox clergymen participated in the meeting, which was the largest held by the Jews of this country since the outbreak of the war. It concluded with the mass recital of Kaddish by the audience.

DR. SILVER URGES ZIONIST ADOPT "MILITANT POLICY"; SAYS MODERATION FAILED TO BRING RESULTS

NEW YORK, Mar. 5. (JTA) — Expressing disappointment at Prime Minister Churchill's and President Roosevelt's references to the Palestine problem in their reports on the Crimea Conference, Dr. Abba Hillel Silver has issued a statement to the press urging American Zionists to mobilize behind "a vigorous, militant policy".

"Mr. Churchill has made it clear that no decision on Palestine has been taken, nor is one contemplated until the end of the war," Dr. Silver said. "In my opinion there was never solid ground for anticipating a positive pro-Zionist declaration to issue from Malta, Yalta or Egypt. I made no secret of my views, but always cautioned against false hopes and unfounded optimism. Repeatedly I warned my fellow Zionists that our battle was far from won and advocated a policy of constant vigilance and unrelenting militant action along our whole political front to ensure ultimate victory. For this I was bitterly attacked and my policy denounced by those who thought they knew better, who imagined themselves to be in the know, and who fostered a false atmosphere of inflated expectation. They attached exaggerated importance to their personal standing in official circles. They decried public agitation and the pressure of public opinion as harmful and a Congressional Resolution on Palestine as superfluous, untimely and inconsequential. They believed the time had come for our 'diplomats' to take over."

Emphasizing that "events have proved them to be hopelessly in the wrong," Dr. Silver concluded, "In the face of this new and bitter disappointment, our movement must recover its sense of reality, shake off illusions and gird itself for the great struggle which still lies ahead. We must rally our forces and mobilize all our resources once more for a united, all out effort to bring the realization of our historic aspirations. The future of Israel is at stake. This is no time for weakness and cautious 'moderation'. The moment calls for high courage and a return to a vigorous, militant policy."

ZIONIST LEADERS HONOR MENDEL FISHER; J.N.F. IN U.S. RAISED \$16,000,000 UNDER HIS DIRECTION

NEW YORK, Mar. 5. (JTA) — More than 500 Zionist leaders and representatives of Jewish groups paid tribute to Mendel N. Fisher on the 10th anniversary of his assuming the post of executive director of the Jewish National Fund, at a dinner in his honor last night at the Hotel Commodore, at which it was pointed out that American Jews contributed \$16,000,000 to the J.N.F. during Mr. Fischer's term of office.

Dr. Chaim Weizmann, president of the World Zionist Organization, was among those who sent messages of greetings. Judge Morris Rothenberg, president of the Jewish National Fund of America, presented Mr. Fischer with an engraved resolution, on behalf of the organization, commemorating the ten years of devoted service. Israel Goldstein, president of the Zionist Organization of America, was the toastmaster. Speakers included representatives of all groups in the Zionist movement.

AMERICAN COUNCIL FOR JUDAISM ADOPTS \$250,000 BUDGET FOR EXPANSION OF ACTIVITIES

NEW YORK, Mar. 5. (JTA) — A budget of \$250,000 for the purpose of securing a larger membership and for increased educational activities on a nationwide scale was adopted by the American Council for Judaism at its annual conference, it was announced here today. Lessing J. Rosenwald was re-elected president of the organization.

It was reported at the conference that the membership of the Council comes from more than 300 communities throughout the United States. Mr. Rosenwald, in his Presidential address, reviewed the year's activities. Rabbi Elmer Berger, executive director, analyzed the situation that led to the formation of the Council and discussed its program.