

Tuesday, March 20, 1945

# JTA

## Daily News Bulletin

PUBLISHED BY THE JEWISH TELEGRAPHIC AGENCY

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

### NEW SURVEY ESTABLISHES ONLY 30,000 JEWS SURVIVED IN POLAND; 500 JEWISH CHILDREN REMAIN

WOSKOW, Mar. 19. (JTA) — A survey of the Jewish situation in liberated Poland made public here today reveals that there are only 30,000 Polish Jews in all of Poland about 500 of them are children. Most of the survivors range in ages between 25 and 40

The survey, prepared by Berl Mark, a member of the praesidium of the Central Committee of Jewish Organizations in Poland, says that the surviving Jews can be classified into four categories: 1. Jews who emerged from their hiding places in caves and in the woods — their health is seriously undermined and they are incapable of physical or mental labor; 2. Jews who have been liberated from concentration camps in Oswiecim, Piotrkow, Gzestoshowa and East Prussia. These are mostly women who need medical treatment, since their bodies are mutilated from medical experiments made upon them by German doctors; 3. Jews liberated from the Lodz Ghetto. The majority of them are skilled workers; 4. Jews who secured false identity documents. Their nerves are shattered because of the prolonged disguise.

The survey also mentions Jewish partisans and speaks of them as a section of Polish Jewry which is physically and mentally healthy and which "forms the backbone for the restitution of Jewish life in liberated Poland." The surviving Jews are concentrated in Praha, the suburb of Warsaw and in the cities of Lublin, Lodz, Bialystock, Gzestoshowa, Piotrkow, Radom, Przemysl, Krasne, Minsk-Mazowieck and a number of small townships.

Apart from the 30,000 Jews in Poland proper, there are Jews who have returned there from Soviet Russia, the survey discloses. These are primarily specialists and soldiers who served in the Polish Army which was formed in the USSR. They are now participating in the rehabilitation of Jewish life in Poland.

### Urgent Relief is Major Problem; Government Grants 14,000,000 zlotys

The survey shows that the principal problems which the surviving Jews face are the urgent need of relief, the acute shortage of medical aid, and lack of employment. Local Jewish committees are functioning in all cities where Jews are concentrated. These committees are affiliated with the Central Relief Committee for the Jews in Poland, presided over by Dr. Emil Gomerstein. The central committee distributes the relief received from abroad and is also organizing constructive relief through cooperatives and workshops.

The Polish Provisional Government is actively supporting the work of the central Jewish relief committee, and has granted 14,000,000 zlotys credit to Jewish organizations. The government also helped in the re-opening of four homes for Jewish children in Lublin, Bialystock, Oswiecim and Przemysl. It returned a number of Jewish communal buildings to local Jewish committees and secured a Jewish printing plant in Lodz where Jewish information bulletins are now being published. This is the only Jewish print shop in Poland.

3/20/45

200 JEWS EMERGE FROM COLOGNE'S RUINS; ALL OF CITY'S SYNAGOGUES RAZED

COLOGNE, Mar. 19. (JTA) — Two-hundred Jews have emerged from the ruins of, Cologne and appealed to the Allied Military Government for food cards, the correspondent of the Jewish Telegraphic Agency was told today by AMG officials. Most of these are married to non-Jews, or are the children of "mixed marriages". Because they were in hiding for several months to avoid being shipped into the interior of Germany, they had been compelled to forego food cards.

One of them, Moritz Neihaus, took this correspondent on a tour of the ruined synagogues of the city. All of them had been burned by the Nazis and the Allied bombings finished the job. Part of the walls and the "mikvah" remain of the Orthodox synagogue and large talmud torah on Stapern Strasse. The largest Orthodox synagogue, on Glocken Strasse, is undistinguishable from the rest of the rubble. The walls of the grandiose Reform Synagogue on Rund Strasse are still intact, but the roof has caved in. The basement of the building had been used as an air-raid shelter for "Jews." Of the spiritual leaders of these synagogues, two - Rabbis Kober and Rosenthal - succeeded in escaping to the United States, while the third - Rabbi Stein - was deported to Poland.

There are a few other Jews in Cologne besides the 200 who have applied for food cards. Two were found among the 80 prisoners released from Gestapo headquarters and 12 foreign Jews have passed through the wooden barracks on the outside of Cologne which are being used as a sorting place for displaced persons. These barracks, incidentally, had housed political prisoners and a number of "mischlings" who were captured in recent months.

In an old pile of clothes in this camp were found ghostly remnants of the Jewish population of Cologne. Sgt. Henry Silberman of New York, who was cleaning up the barracks, came across a torah scroll and several black-and-white striped "tsitsith."

JAPANESE LEGATION FINANCED ANTI-JEWISH PROPAGANDA IN BULGARIA, OFFICIAL CHARGES

SOFIA, Mar. 19. (JTA) — The Japanese legation in Sofia had huge funds at its disposal for anti-Semitic propaganda, it was revealed here today by Menahem Fayonoff, Chief Secretary of the Ministry of Propaganda, testifying at the trial of former officials charged with persecution of Jews.

Fayonoff said that anti-Jewish activities in Bulgaria were inspired by the Gestapo and were strongly opposed by the majority of the Bulgarian people. Similar testimony was given by Minister of Propaganda Dimo Kazasoff and Minister of Social Affairs Grigor Tschmedjeff.

Relief authorities here have begun distribution to needy Jews of 1,000 pairs of shoes received from Palestine. Both local Jews and refugees require extensive assistance. Six young refugees from Hungary appealed today to the British mission here for permission to join the Jewish brigade.

SPLIT IN HISTADRUTH HEALED BY COMPROMISE AGREEMENT; OPPOSITION GETS MORE SEATS

TEL AVIV, Mar. 19. (JTA) — The split within the Histadruth, resulting from differences between the dominant Palestine Labor Party and opposition groups, has been settled by a compromise agreement under which the left groups receive more seats in the central committee of the Histadruth. The committee now consists of the following: 18 representatives of the Labor Party; six of the Movement for Labor Unity, which constitutes the opposition within the Labor Party; five of the Hashomer Hazeir; two of the Left Poale-Zion; and one each of the Oved HaZioni and the Aliyah Hadasha.

BRITISH JEWS TO SEND DELEGATION TO U.S. TO COORDINATE JEWISH ACTIVITIES AT SAN FRANCISCO

LONDON, Mar. 19. (JTA) -- The Board of Deputies of British Jews will send a delegation to the United States to coordinate its activities with those of Jewish groups in America in connection with any representations that may be made to the San Francisco conference of the United Nations, Prof. Selig Brodetsky, president of the board announced today.

Prof. Brodetsky said that he had discussed with high officials of the British Foreign Office the question of war crimes against Jews, and that a memorandum on this subject is being prepared by the board of deputies for submission to the British Government. The board, he added, is also preparing a statement on reparations in kind to Jews under the decisions taken by the "Big Three" at the Yalta Conference. This statement will be submitted to the appropriate authorities, he declared. He revealed that the foreign committee of the board is considering steps to establish "firm contact" with the Jews of Soviet Russia.

DR. WISE INDICATES THAT JEWISH DEMANDS MAY BE PRESENTED TO THE SAN FRANCISCO CONFERENCE

NEW YORK, Mar. 19. (JTA) -- Dr. Stephen S. Wise, addressing a meeting yesterday of rescued Jews who recently reached this country, indicated that there are hopes that Jewish demands may be presented "in a proper way" to the Security Conference of the United Nations in San Francisco. He lauded President Roosevelt as a great friend of the Jewish people and the Jewish National Home. The meeting was arranged by the World Jewish Congress.

The American Jewish Trade Union Committee for Palestine today issued a statement requesting that the Palestine question be placed on the agenda of the San Francisco conference. The statement emphasized that "the committee represents millions of American workers, both of the American Federation of Labor and the C. I. O."

Senators Demand San Francisco conference Act On Palestine Problem

NEW YORK, Mar. 19. (JTA) -- A demand that the United Nations conference at San Francisco consider the fate of mandated territories -- and specifically the fate of Palestine -- was made here last night by Sen. Ralph O. Brewster of Maine, addressing a dinner sponsored by the New Zionist Organization to mark the 30th anniversary of the Jewish Legion, which fought for Britain in World War I.

Declaring that he favored the creation of a Jewish state in Palestine, Senator Brewster said:

"The Jews have paid a terrible price for the existence of an unsolved Jewish problem in Europe." "But we too, we Christians have paid heavily for not having solved in good time, radically and adequately, the Jewish problem of Europe. The Palestine issue not only affects the question of an equitable peace, but touches on the future of mandated territories. It will have to be one of the tasks of the coming San Francisco Conference to consider and decide, unnumbered by previous secret arrangements, the future of mandated areas and the form of international supervision over areas which, because of the primitive character of their population, may need such supervision."

Senator Edwin C. Johnson of Colorado also urged the establishment of a "Jewish Palestine" and criticized the failure of the Yalta conference to promise the Jews a solution of the Palestine problem. Other speakers were Representative Emanuel Celler of New York, Louis Bromfield and William B. Ziff, authors, Ira Hirschmann, who presided, and Col. John Henry Patterson, commander of the Jewish Legion.

AMERICAN ECONOMIC DELEGATION LEAVES PALESTINE AFTER COMPLETING THREE-MONTHS SURVEY

JERUSALEM, Mar. 19. (JTA) -- An American economic delegation, under the leadership of Robert R. Nathan, former head of the planning division of the United States War Production Board, has left for home after a three-month investigation into the post-war economic prospects of Palestine. The delegation was sent here by the American Palestine Institute which is preparing a survey on the country's economic potentialities in the next decade.

JEWISH WELFARE BOARD ANNOUNCES \$1,800,000 BUDGET FOR 1945; WEIL RE-ELECTED PRESIDENT

NEW YORK, Mar. 19. (JTA) -- The National Jewish Welfare Board will seek \$1,800,000 in 1945 for service to the armed forces, the returned veterans and the Jewish Centers and Y's of the country, it was announced here today following a meeting of the Board's executive committee at the Vanderbilt Hotel at which Frank L. Weil was re-elected president of the organization for his sixth consecutive term.

The current budget of the Jewish Welfare Board will be about \$300,000 higher than last year when the Board sought to raise \$1,520,340. The annual meetings of the organization were suspended in 1941 for the duration and all governing powers vested in the executive committee.

Mr. Weil reported that there are 267 Jewish chaplains serving in the U. S. armed forces, 124 of whom are overseas. He read a letter from Major General William E. Arnold, Chief of Chaplains, asking the JWB to provide 36 more Jewish chaplains to serve in overseas areas.

AMERICAN JEWISH MAJOR HONORED IN FRANCE FOR REHABILITATING FRENCH CIVILIANS

HARTFORD, Conn., Mar. 19. (JTA) -- Major Milton H. Richman, of Hartford, has been decorated by American and French authorities for his work in evacuating, housing, feeding and rehabilitating French civilians, according to word received by his family here today.

The Bronze Star was presented to him on Feb. 21 in France. The accompanying citation said that he "performed an invaluable service, never allowing displaced persons and refugees within his zone of jurisdiction to become a threat to the success of tactical operations." He was also awarded the Metz medal for meritorious service to the people of Metz, and the Verdun medal. Major Richman was a lawyer in private life and a former commander of the Connecticut section of the Jewish War Veterans.

LUBAVITCHER REBBE ASKS RELIGIOUS EDUCATION FOR JEWISH REFUGEE CHILDREN IN PALESTINE

NEW YORK, Mar. 19. (JTA) -- A demand that Jewish refugee children in Palestine be given religious education was voiced here by the Lubavitcher Rebbe, Rabbi Joseph I. Schneersohn, in a message issued on the occasion of the fifth annual celebration of the Lubavitcher Yeshivoh in America. The message reads:

"Several anti-religious persons in the group of Jewish leaders in whose hands the fate of the orphaned Jewish refugee children in Palestine was entrusted, have created an 'apostasy corner' wherein a number of the said children are brought up in an atmosphere of irreligion and apostasy. Rabbi Schneersohn calls upon all Jews and Jewesses, irrespective of party or affiliation, to protest against this 'apostasy corner' and to demand the strictest possible control of the distribution of funds, so that not a single cent can be given to that irresponsible group."