

JTA

VOL. XII No. 190 (27th year)

Monday, August 20, 1945

Daily News Bulletin

PUBLISHED BY THE JEWISH TELEGRAPHIC AGENCY

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

MOSCOW REPORTS ON PARTICIPATION OF BIRO-BIDJAN JEWS IN WAR AGAINST JAPAN

MOSCOW, Aug. 19. (JTA) — The part played by Jews of Biro-Bidjan in the brief war between Russia and Japan was revealed in press reports here today. The strategic position of the Jewish autonomous territory of Biro-Bidjan situated on the Russian-Japanese demarcation line gave it a special significance when the war broke out.

The Jewish medical school in Biro-Bidjan was especially helpful in supplying physicians and nurses. Since its foundation, the school has trained several hundred medical workers, the majority of whom volunteered for the Red Army units, facing the Japanese.

Concerts and performances for Russian soldiers on the front lines were given by members of the Jewish theatre of Biro-Bidjan. The Jewish actors had just returned from a tour in Kazakhstan shortly before the Red Army became engaged in the war against Japan. The administration of the theatre is now receiving many messages of appreciation for concerts given before army units and in hospitals for wounded soldiers.

In addition to mobilising all their forces to help in the war against Japan, the Jews of Biro-Bidjan raised more than 5,000,000 rubles for children of front-line fighters on all fronts. A special boarding school had been established for several hundred such children in addition to summer camps maintained by the administration of the Jewish autonomous region.

ZIONIST MOVEMENT BANNED IN CARPATHO-RUSSIA BY SOVIET AUTHORITIES; SCHOOLS CLOSED

PRAGUE, Aug. 19. (JTA) — The Zionist movement was declared illegal by the Soviet authorities in Carpatho-Russia, the part of Czechoslovakia which was transferred to Soviet Ukraine, it was learned here today by the correspondent of the Jewish Telegraphic Agency from quarters close to the Soviet Embassy in Prague.

Children's schools maintained by Zionist groups in Carpatho-Ukraine were similarly closed down, the same sources declared. The measure, they explained, is due to the fact that a considerable part of the Zionist movement is considered as being "anti-Soviet and reactionary" by the local Soviet authorities.

Soviet quarters in Prague, commenting on the ban on the Zionist movement in Carpatho-Russia, referred to reports published recently in the Moscow press charging the Zionist leadership in Palestine with "anti-Soviet activities in Palestine." Neither Jewish organizations in Prague nor the Czechoslovakian government has any reliable information on developments in Carpatho-Russia since this former Czech territory became an integral part of Soviet Ukraine.

THREE NAZIS WILL BE HANGED IN VIENNA FOR MASS-MURDER OF HUNGARIAN JEWS

VIENNA, Aug. 19. (JTA) — Scaffolds were erected today in the court-yard of the Viennese jail for hanging three of the four Nazis convicted by the Peoples Court in the first war criminal trial in Austria with murdering 102 Hungarian Jews while transferring them from one concentration camp to another near Vienna. The fourth was sentenced to eight years of hard labor.

In pronouncing the death sentence, the presiding judge characterized the condemned men as "bloodthirsty brutes whose mentality is the best index to the Nazi character." He said that all Nazis whose participation in the mass-murder of Jews could be shown would be brought to justice. The three who will be hanged are Rudolf Irgonberger, Alois Frank and Wilhelm Neutefufel.

COUNT TELEKI LISTED AS WAR CRIMINAL, KEEPS CONFISCATED JEWISH PROPERTY IN SWITZERLAND

BERN, Aug. 19. (JTA) — The Swiss press today reports from Hungary that Count Janos Teleki, who is now living at a sanatorium in Switzerland under the assumed name of Weiss, has been listed as a war criminal by the Hungarian Government in Budapest.

Count Teleki is charged, among other things, with "transferring" to Switzerland a considerable quantity of textile goods confiscated from Jewish firms in Hungary which were "aryanized." Some of the original Jewish owners of the property are now in the United States. The Hungarian "aryanizer" made no attempt, needless to say, to contact the Jewish owners and to let them know that they could claim their merchandise in Switzerland.

DELEGATION TO WORLD JEWISH CONGRESS FARLEY NOT PERMITTED TO LEAVE RUMANIA

LONDON, Aug. 19. (JTA) — The delegation of Jews from Rumania which was expected to participate in the special conference of the World Jewish Congress will not come here, it was learned here today.

Information received from Bucharest during the week-end indicated that the delegation was not permitted to leave Rumania.

ZIONIST DELEGATION SUBMITS CONFERENCE RESOLUTIONS TO COLONIAL SECRETARY

LONDON, Aug. 19. (JTA) — A Zionist delegation, led by David Ben-Gurion, chairman of the World Zionist Executive, was received by George Hall, British Colonial Secretary. The delegation submitted the resolutions adopted at the World Zionist Conference.

Secretary Hall thanked the delegation for "the frank and clear account of the Zionist policy and aim," declared that he could not comment for the present on the resolutions but that the government would take note and give the most careful attention to the matter.

TWENTY JEWS ARRESTED IN POLICE RAID ON JEWISH SETTLEMENT IN PALESTINE; ARMS FOUND

JERUSALEM, Aug. 19. (JTA) — Eighteen men and two men were arrested during a raid last night by the police on a Jewish settlement near Haifa. The police found considerable quantities of arms and explosives hidden in the settlement.

UNRRA WILL CONTINUE TO AID DISPLACED PERSONS REGARDLESS OF RACE, RELIGION, LEHMAN SAYS

LONDON, Aug. 19. (JTA) — Displaced persons who do not wish to return to their native lands will continue to receive relief from UNRRA "without discrimination as to race, religion or political beliefs," Herbert H. Lehman, director general of the United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration, told a session of the UNRRA Council here.

Mr. Lehman made his statement following the adoption by a plenary UNRRA session yesterday of a motion overriding the dissent of Russia, Poland, Yugoslavia and Czechoslovakia opposing any aid to war refugees who wish to remain stateless rather than to be repatriated to their native lands. The motion was adopted by 28 to 4.

The dissenting four countries declared that they reserved full rights, since they consider that the adopted decision may result in an increase of those who do not wish to return to their homelands. The attitude of these four countries is explained by the fact that many fascists among the Poles, Slovaks and Russians prefer to remain stateless rather than return to their liberated homes. At the same time there are also many Jewish war refugees who refuse to be repatriated to their homes in Poland where anti-Semitism is still acute.

BERNARD BARUCH, 75 YEARS OLD, URGES "HUMAN DEMOBILIZATION;" PREDICTS POST-WAR PROSPERITY

NEW YORK, Aug. 19. (JTA) — Bernard Baruch, seventy-five years old today, considers the problem of "human demobilization" more important than anything else facing the country at the present time. Interviewed on his birthday at his home at Sands Point, L. I., he said he was convinced that it would be possible for the United States to have a long period of post-war prosperity "if we use the brains God gave us."

Mr. Baruch emphasized that he believes that the political and economic system of the United States "is the best in the world." The vogue of collectivism he ascribed to "political emotionalism." He was not concerned, however, for the American people, whom he thought, would never consent to be collectivized. At the same time he saw no need of the American and Russian systems coming into collision. "Both," he said, "could survive according to national preferences, only our way is still the best for us." Russia and America could remain friends and must do so, Mr. Baruch declared.

AMERICAN DELEGATES TO WORLD ZIONIST CONFERENCE RETURN TO U.S.; LAUD TRUMAN'S STAND

NEW YORK, Aug. 19. (JTA) — A group of American delegates to the World Zionist Conference which concluded last week in London returned yesterday by clipper to New York. The number included Dr. Abba Hillel Silver, Dr. Israel Goldstein, Judge Louis Levinthal, Mendel Fischer and Meyer Weisgal.

A statement issued by Rabbi Israel Goldstein on his arrival said that President Truman's statement of last week favoring the admission of Jews from liberated Europe to Palestine "represents the major hope of European Jewry." He predicted that the White Paper restrictions on Jewish immigration to Palestine would be lifted.

Arabs Will Accept British-American Policy on Palestine, Canadian Notable Believes

MONTREAL, Aug. 19. (JTA) — Commenting on President Truman's statement with regard to Palestine, Sir Ellsworth Flavelle, national chairman of the Canadian Palestine Committee today urged that the governments of the United States and Great Britain agree on a clear cut policy on Middle Eastern problems. "The Arabs will adjust themselves to a united policy without civil disorder, especially if it carries the sanction of the United Nations," he said.

TRUMAN'S STATEMENT ON PALESTINE LAUDED IN U.S. PRESS; TRUSTEESHIP PRINCIPLE ADVOCATED

NEW YORK, Aug. 19. (JTA) — President Truman's statement on Palestine advocating the admission of as many Jews from Europe as possible to the Jewish National Home and presenting the United States policy as favoring the establishment of a Jewish state in Palestine if that can be peaceably achieved, is commented upon favorably by leading American newspapers.

Pointing out that this is the first forthright enunciation of policy by the American government on the controversial question of Palestine, the New York Herald-Tribune, one of America's leading newspapers, says in an editorial: "The President's stand, now publicly announced, looking to the fulfillment of the Balfour Declaration's promise of a Jewish national state, is the only one which Americans, in all conscience, could approve. The consensus here, as we believe, that the White Paper was wrong, was an expedient of appeasement, and should now be corrected. This is the time to correct it. This nation, moreover, is directly concerned because of its adherence to the Balfour Declaration embodied in the mandate granted to Great Britain by the League of Nations in 1917, an adherence specifically backed by Congressional resolution. The fact that its fulfillment has been delayed and, in the turmoil of the last few years, jeopardized has dismayed men of good will here as elsewhere.

"The Palestinian problem is not just a British or a British and Jewish and Arab concern. It is a problem for the United Nations. No settlement of the peace can be complete without a decision on the future of Palestine. The trusteeship system projected by the United Nations organization would seem to provide both the agreement on principle and the machinery for a decision that can be acceptable both to the Jews and to the Arabs. The problem is not insoluble. The pressure of Jewish millions which frightens the Arab peoples may well be a chimera; for to many of even the uprooted refugees of Europe the call back home will doubtless prove stronger than the call of a strange and unfamiliar land. It is both hopeful and healthful that the President has posed the issue and clarified this nation's stand upon it," the editorial concludes.

DR. MORGENTHAU, LONG OPPONENT OF POLITICAL ZIONISM, NOW FAVORS A JEWISH STATE

INDIANAPOLIS, Ind., Aug. 19. (JTA) — Something of a sensation was created here by the Jewish Post carrying in this week's issue an interview with Dr. Jilinn Morgenthau in which the head of the Hebrew Union College, long known as an opponent of political Zionism, declared that not only is he not terrified by the prospect of a Jewish state in Palestine, but that he "would not be disturbed, even pleased a little bit, by a Jewish Commonwealth."

In his interview given to Gabriel Cohen, editor of the Jewish Post, Dr. Morgenthau admits that he was at one time very strongly anti-Zionist, but has undergone a change of opinion and is now a non-Zionist with "a sympathetic understanding and appreciation of Zionism." His annual message at the opening of the new term of Hebrew Union College next month would be devoted to this subject, he said.

Speaking about the policies of American Zionists, Dr. Morgenthau is reported as expressing opposition to their emphasis on Jewish nationalism in this country. He sees in the emphasis on Palestine the imperilling of the normal development of a strictly American Judaism. "If our American Judaism which we are in the process of building is based on a program of Jewish nationalism, then as a corollary it must be destructive for the Jewish community of America," he said. "I am intensely opposed to centering everything in American Jewish life on nationalistic and I regard it as exceedingly dangerous, for it runs contrary to the fundamental principles of Americanism and American institutions."

UNITED JEWISH APPEAL SUMMONS AMERICAN JEWS TO FACILITATE POST-WAR REHABILITATION PLANS

NEW YORK, Aug. 19. (JTA) -- Vast tasks in post-war reconstruction overseas and Palestine settlement must be immediately undertaken by the Jews of the United States through the instrumentality of the United Jewish Appeal, if the Jewish survivors of war and Hitlerism are to share in the fruits of victory and peace, it was declared today by Rabbi James G. Heller, Rabbi Jonah B. Wise and William Rosenwald, national chairmen of the United Jewish Appeal.

The statement, issued on the occasion of the end of World War II, emphasized that the coming of victory has opened up opportunities for full-scale assistance in the rehabilitation of the shattered lives of the Jews of Europe and in the upbuilding and development of the Jewish National Home in Palestine for the settlement of hundreds of thousands of homeless men, women and children.

"With the coming of victory," the statement said, "we must dedicate ourselves to the building of the better world for which our sons and brothers fought and died. The victory which has been achieved on the battlefield must be transformed into a victory for the advancement of mankind and for the establishment of a just and enduring peace. Victory involves many new responsibilities and obligations. Victory offers to us new opportunities for the rebuilding of the shattered lives of the Jewish survivors of Europe. Victory offers to us new opportunities for the upbuilding and development of the Jewish National Home in Palestine as the focus for the revival of the Jewish people."

PALESTINE CAN ABSORB A MILLION JEWS, DR. HELLER SAYS UPON RETURN TO AMERICA.

NEW YORK, Aug. 19. (JTA) -- Present economic conditions in Palestine are such as to assure the rapid absorption by it of at least a million Jews in the early future, Rabbi James Heller, national chairman of the United Palestine Appeal, declared today following his return this week from a visit to Palestine.

Rabbi Heller declared that the solution of the problem of Jewish survivors in Europe is through mass settlement in Palestine. He urged the Jews of the United States to assume a greater part in the development of Palestine.

Dr. Heller visited fifty of Palestine's agricultural settlements and every major city and town in the country. He was deeply impressed by the "miraculous transformation of the country, whose grandeur of achievement is all the more recognizable as Jewish accomplishments are contrasted with sections of the country which have been neglected for centuries." He also attended the World Zionist Conference in London as an American delegate.

JACOB HILCH, WELL-KNOWN JEWISH WRITER, DIES IN NEW YORK

NEW YORK, Aug. 19. (JTA) -- Jacob Hilch, well-known Jewish writer and former editor of the Jewish literary monthly "Di Zukunft," died last night at his home here after a brief illness. He was 79-years-old. Born in Warsaw, he came to the United States 54 years ago and was active in Jewish literary and labor circles for the last half century.