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JTA

*Daily News Bulletin*PUBLISHED BY THE JEWISH TELEGRAPHIC AGENCY
106 EAST 41st STREET, NEW YORK 17, N. Y.RUSSIA'S CLOSE BORDER TO JEWS ESCAPING FROM POLAND; ACT ON ALLIED DECISION

BERLIN, Dec. 25, (JTA) -- Acting on a decision taken by the Kommandantur, in which the American, British, French and Russian military authorities are represented, the Soviet authorities have closed the frontier through which Jews escaping from Poland have been entering the Russian zone of Berlin en route to displaced persons camps in the American and the British zones.

The decision was taken last Friday, when it was also decided to evacuate about 4,000 Polish Jews from Berlin into the three western zones of Germany. Forty-eight hours notice was given by the Russian authorities before closing their border.

As a result of this drastic measure, which caused consternation among displaced Jews in the American and British zones, who were expecting to be united with surviving relatives from Poland, about 800 Polish Jews were arrested yesterday in the Russian zone and transferred to the Magdeburg prison. Other Jewish refugees were arrested on the frontier.

The general feeling here is that the British and the American military officials in Germany do not comprehend the tragic situation of the Jews in Poland. Some of them are trying to create the impression that the Jews are fleeing from Poland because they are stimulated by Zionist propaganda to do so, and also because of the fact that they do not receive sufficient protection from the Polish Government against anti-Semitic terror. Open and camouflaged anti-Jewish sentiments are noticeable among most of the British officers and even among some Americans. Only the French display any deep humanitarian understanding for the Jews who are escaping from Poland, it was stressed by responsible Jewish observers.

JEWISH BODIES IN PALESTINE DEMAND REPATRIATION OF JEWS DEPORTED TO ERITREA

JERUSALEM, Dec. 25, (JTA) -- Repatriation of the nearly 300 Palestine Jews confined in a British concentration camp in Eritrea, and a ban on future deportations were demanded today at a plenary session of the Jewish National Council.

A similar demand will be submitted to the Government by the municipalities of Tel Aviv and of Petach-Tikvah, following resolutions to this effect adopted yesterday by the municipal councils of the two cities.

The resolutions also requested the appointment of a public commission to reconsider the arrest of innocent persons in Palestine. In presenting this request, the mayors of Tel Aviv and Petach-Tikvah will point out to the Government that numerous Jewish families have been ruined by arbitrary arrests made only under the authority of subordinate police officers.

A group of 140 Bulgarian Jews, one of the last groups to be admitted under the White Paper quota, landed here today from the Rumanian vessel "Transylvania."

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OUTLAWING OF HATE AND PERSECUTION URGED BY POPE IN PROGRAM FOR LASTING PEACE

ROME, Dec. 25, (JTA) -- Outlawing of "all hate and persecutions" as one of three fundamental prerequisites for a true and lasting peace, was urged yesterday by Pope Pius in his annual Christmas message.

"One who asks for security in the future," the Pope said, "should not forget that its only true guarantee lies in one's own internal force- that is, in safeguarding the family, children, labor, in fraternal charity, the outlawing of all hate, all persecution, all unjust vexation of honest citizens, in loyal concord between State and State, between people and people."

ELTZER-SARACEANU ELECTED PRESIDENT OF UNION OF ROMANIAN JEWS

BUCHAREST, Dec. 25, (JTA) -- M. Zeltzer-Saraceanu was today elected president of the Union of Romanian Jews. He succeeds Dr. William Filderman who held this post for many years.

Mr. Saraceanu was at one time the general secretary of the Union of Romanian Jews. He was also the editor of the Curierul Israelita, organ of the same organization, which is the central representative body of Romanian Jewry.

JEWISH NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF PALESTINE TO MEET NEXT MONTH TO DISCUSS POLITICAL PROBLEMS

JERUSALEM, Dec. 25, (JTA) -- A special session of the Jewish National Assembly of Palestine (Assefath Haniycharim) will be convened towards the end of next month for a discussion of the political problems facing the Jews of Palestine and also budgetary matters, it was decided today at a meeting of the Jewish National Council, which is the executive organ of the Assembly.

An effort will be made prior to the session to bring about a reconciliation with those political groups which boycotted last year's elections to the Assembly and have not participated in its work. In this connection a special committee will be appointed to revise the electoral system in preparation for new elections.

EXILED ARAB LEADER, BROUGHT BY BRITAIN TO EGYPT, SEEKS RETURN TO PALESTINE

CAIRO, Dec. 25, (JTA) -- Jamal Hussein, former Palestinian Arab leader who was exiled to Rhodesia in 1941, today declared that he intends to return to Palestine. Hussein was flown here, last week, from Rhodesia in a British military plane.

"If the Palestine Government refuses me permission to enter the country, I will take the matter to court," he said. He announced that he would be leaving for Beirut on Jan. 2, and from there will make his formal application to the Palestine Government for re-admission. In Palestine, he added, he will work with the Arab Higher Committee and "help defend the Arabs in the country."

SIX PALESTINE JEWS ARRIVE IN ROME TO AID UNRRA WORK FOR JEWISH REFUGEES

ROME, Dec. 25, (JTA) -- A group of six Palestinian Jews arrived here today to work with UNRRA in caring for Jewish refugees in Italy. Four of the group will reside in refugee camps in order to study conditions as they exist in the field.

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LEADER OF "STERN GROUP" SAYS HE WILL COOPERATE WITH OTHER RESISTANCE ORGANIZATIONS

JERUSALEM, Dec. 25, (JTA) -- Friedman Yellin, leader of the Fighters for the Freedom of Israel, with whom the correspondent of the Jewish Telegraphic Agency spoke for four hours at a secluded spot "somewhere in Palestine," declared that his organization, which is popularly known as "the Stern Group" is ready to cooperate with the other Jewish resistance groups, the Haganah and the Irgun Zvai Leumi, in a working agreement similar to the French liberation movement.

"Such an agreement," he stated, "would certainly increase the effectiveness of Jewish action and strengthen our striking power. Possibly one or both of the other resistance groups may fight only up to a certain point, until certain objectives are gained-- granting of 50,000 immigration certificates, for example. But our struggle cannot end there. So long as there is a fight against British rule, we will fight. If they lay down their arms anywhere along the line, before the final goal is reached, we will continue the fight."

Yellin said that his fighters are gaining new support and sympathizers daily, "and more people now understand us." He said they broke away from the Irgun Zvai Leumi in September, 1944, because "we felt that the war offered an excellent opportunity to free Palestine by striking at the British. Others believed that if they helped Britain during the war, she would be grateful and help the Jews afterwards. Now they know the truth and are beginning to realize that we were right."

Denies His Organization Maintained Contact with Enemy During War

He denied the charge that his group had any contact with the enemy during the war, as well as the statement that most members of the organization came from Poland. "Our membership is made up largely of young people born in Palestine," he said, "and they have a feeling for Palestine which is peculiar to them. It is their home. Our active front line is composed of such young men -- they are our fighters. Our rear echelon is made up of older people. Also, whereas in other Jewish resistance organizations the members devote only a limited part of their time to liberation activities, our members give all their time to the party."

He said that, as is the case with other similar movements, "we are organized in small groups. No one member knows more than five others, save in the case of some of our fighting units." He added that his group is preparing for a long, hard fight; that money and arms are being collected unrelentingly; that "when the time comes, we shall strike hard and fiercely," and that "I hope the American people will understand."

"Through our activities of the past few years," he explained, "we have sought to bring the Jewish question to the immediate attention of the world. The assassination in Cairo last year of Lord Moyne, the British resident minister in the Middle East, was an act in that direction. We have also sought to set an example for the Jewish people -- showing them that only by fighting and struggling can their hopes be achieved and a Jewish state won. We feel that we have succeeded in both our aims. In addition, we have made the Palestine government show its true colors -- as a vicious instrument aimed at the permanent subjugation of the Jewish people."

ARAB COMMITTEE IN SYRIA WARNS MERCHANTS TO LIST ALL GOODS BOUGHT FROM PALESTINE JEWS

DAMASCUS, Dec. 25, (JTA) -- Large-scale preparations to enforce the Arab League boycott of Jewish-made goods from Palestine are being made by the Syrian boycott committee, according to an announcement made here today. The committee is requesting merchants and traders to submit lists of such goods in their possession to the Syrian Minister of Supplies. The committee warns that all unlisted goods may be confiscated.

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BRITISH REFUGEES AT OSWEGO OFFER PRAYER FOR TRUMAN; GLAD TO REMAIN IN THE U.S.

NEW YORK, Dec. 25, (JTA) -- Jewish refugees in the Oswego center today offered a special prayer for President Truman in thanks for his order which will enable them to leave the center and remain in the United States as legal immigrants.

Dr. Stephen S. Wise, president of the American Jewish Congress, today published a statement lauding President Truman's action as paving the way for the full use of U.S. immigration quotas for the benefit of the displaced persons in Europe. Lessing J. Rosenwald, president of the American Council for Judaism, telegraphed Truman, expressing his thanks for the President's directives expediting immigration of displaced persons to the United States at the rate of 3,900 a month.

BRITISH JEWS BUILD HOMES FOR THOSE IN PALESTINE TO RELIEVE HOUSING PROBLEM

LONDON, Dec. 25, (JTA) -- The cornerstone for the first building of the new housing project at "Beth Shearim Hatzfonith" near Haifa was laid today by Leopold Shen, director of the Jewish National Fund in Britain. Permission has already been obtained for the construction on JNF land of the first 110 of a planned 1,700 homes which will comprise the housing project. The first group of buildings is expected to be completed before Passover.

Funds for the project were provided by individual British Jews, who will own the buildings after completion. They will be leased at moderate rentals or sold on easy terms to Palestinian Jews. Not only will this plan contribute toward the solution of the housing shortage in Palestine, but it will also be a means of linking private Jewish capital abroad to Palestinian national enterprise, Mr. Shen pointed out.

TRUMAN PROCLAIMS BROTHERHOOD WEEK; CALLS ON NATION TO JOIN IN OBSERVANCE

WASHINGTON, Dec. 25, (JTA) -- President Truman has proclaimed the week of February 17 to 24, 1946 as Brotherhood Week.

Calling upon the people of America to join the National Conference of Christians and Jews in observing Brotherhood Week, the President said, "the good world of the future must be built on the foundation of the recognition of the dignity and rights of each individual, whatever his race, creed or national background."

Programs planned during the observance of Brotherhood Week will include radio and musical programs, organization of exhibits, and the holding of lectures and discussion groups.

DEWEY STONE HEADS ZIONIST EXPANSION FUND; \$500,000 WILL BE RAISED FOR EDUCATION

WASHINGTON, Dec. 25, (JTA) -- Dewey D. Stone of Taunton, Mass. has been chosen by the Zionist Organization of America to be national chairman of the ZOA's expansion fund of \$500,000 to finance enlarged projects of public relations and education.

The major projects covered by the expansion fund embrace a nation-wide radio program, publication of books, scholarships at the Hebrew University, with preference given to veterans, a youth program, Palestine investments, and the counteracting of anti-Zionist propaganda. Manuel Posy, formerly Zionist regional director for Manhattan, has been designated as national director of the expansion fund.