

JTA

VOL. XIII No. 21. (28th year)

Friday, January 25, 1946

Daily News Bulletin

PUBLISHED BY THE JEWISH TELEGRAPHIC AGENCY

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

ANTI-SEMITISM IN SLOVAKIA STILL STRONG DESPITE GOVERNMENT'S EFFORTS; 16 JEWS KILLED

PRAGUE, Jan. 24. (JTA) -- There is no lessening of anti-Semitism in Slovakia, although the federal government is fighting it, and day after day officials denounce its repeated manifestations, a survey by this correspondent discloses.

Two recent reports that thousands of Jews had been killed in eastern Czechoslovakia have no foundation in fact. But there have been recent outbreaks at Topolcany, Bardejov, Vranov and Kolbasovo, all in Slovakia, the last of the disorders occurring a fortnight ago and involving at least 16 deaths.

Reliable reports received here say that the latest incidents, at Kolbasovo, were perpetrated by a band of Poles, known as the Banderovtzy, who operate on the Carpathian frontier. They belong to the irridentist movement in Poland, aim at an independent Ukraine, and they are both anti-Semitic and anti-Communist.

Members of the Banderovtzy have flooded eastern Slovakia with propaganda pamphlets aimed at the Jews. This propaganda has been sympathetically received by some members of the new Democratic Party which, in some sections of Slovakia, parallels the activities of the former fascist Hlinka movement.

Local Authorities Take No Steps to Apprehend Killers of Jews

At Kolbasovo two weeks ago bandits overran the tiny community, seeking only Jews and Communists, and murdered the 16. Nothing was done to seek out the guilty until the military arrived on the scene eight days ago - to find the community indifferent or, possibly, fearful of reprisals from the Banderovtzy if they made any protest or furnished any details. But a complete investigation is now under way, and it is reported that the leaders of the gang have been identified.

The current anti-Semitic sentiment in Slovakia is also fostered by elements of the Democratic Party of that province. From a score of persons from whom this correspondent has heard anti-Semitic expressions, all were members of this Democratic faction which would seem to be an effective cover today for the Hlinka group.

At Vranov I spoke to a number of people at a blackmarket restaurant. A member of the National Council (Provincial Parliament) spoke up and said: "I do not believe in what the Government is saying. People are not obtaining UNRRA goods and supplies." He maintained that 1,500,000 meters of cloth had been sent to eastern Czechoslovakia and that three Jewish distributors had made vast profits but that the people who needed the material had not received it.

Inquiries by this correspondent at Kosice disclosed that the Eastern Slovakian Relief Agency had until very recently only 100 meters of cloth, while over at Medzilaborce I found that UNRRA cloth was being sold to people who had received coupons for it from the County Council. The sellers, however, were not Jews.

POLICE RAID FACTORIES IN TEL AVIV; ARREST EIGHT JEWS AS TERRORIST SUSPECTS

TEL AVIV, Jan. 24. (JTA) -- Palestine police in a raid today on factories at Tel Aviv arrested eight men suspected of terrorist activities. Thirty-eight others were held for questioning. The area of the factories - two diamond polishing plants - was cordoned off by troops while police interrogated several hundred workers and searched plants and machinery.

It was officially reported from Eritrea today that the 12 Jews wounded during a disturbance last week in the camp where 300 Jewish deportees from Palestine are confined are making satisfactory progress. Two others were killed in the outbreak.

ANGLO-AMERICAN INQUIRY COMMITTEE ON PALESTINE OPENS HEARINGS IN LONDON TODAY

LONDON, Jan. 24. (JTA) -- Prof. Selig Brodetsky, president of the Board of Deputies of British Jews, will be the first witness tomorrow morning, when the Anglo-American Committee of Inquiry on Palestine opens hearings here.

Other Jewish organizations which have submitted memorandums to the committee and asked to be heard, include the Anglo-Jewish Association, the British Federation of Synagogues, the Agudas Israel and the anti-Zionist Jewish Fellowship.

(Moshe Shertok, chief of the political department of the Jewish Agency, disclosed today in Jerusalem that representatives of the Agency would not testify before the committee in London. He said that "if the Agency decides to appear before the committee, it will appear only in Jerusalem.")

The Anglo-Jewish Association, it is understood, has submitted a memorandum along the lines of its previously decided policy on Palestine, urging free immigration into the country, without any mention of establishment of a Jewish state. Leonard Stein, president of the Association, will probably testify before the committee.

A New Zionist Organization spokesman told a press conference today that his group would not accept the committee's invitation to appear because it felt that the committee was established only to delay fulfillment of the terms of the Palestine Mandate. He charged further that the British plan for establishing Transjordan as an independent state had "excluded three-quarters of the scope of the committee's work."

INDEPENDENCE FOR TRANSJORDAN IS "CRYING CONTRADICTION" OF JEWISH STATE DEMAND SAYS SHERTOK

JERUSALEM, Jan. 24. (JTA) -- The Bevin plan to establish Transjordan as a sovereign state is "a crying contradiction" of the Jewish Agency's demand for recognition of Palestine as a Jewish state, Moshe Shertok, head of the Agency's political department, charged today.

Shertok told a press conference that the Agency had never considered Transjordan's separation from Palestine to be permanent, and had "always hoped for an arrangement enabling Jewish colonization and joint Jewish-Arab enterprises there." He asserted that when certain clauses of the Mandate concerning the establishment of a Jewish National Home had been abolished with respect to Transjordan, Britain expressly stated that the abolition was only temporary.

Discussing the Arab League boycott, he revealed that the Agency has established a special committee to study the problem, and "when necessary, give a direct Jewish reply to the boycott."

JEWS WORRIED THAT THEIR PROPERTY IN AUSTRIA MAY GO INTO ALLIED REPARATIONS POOL

VIENNA, Jan. 24. (JTA) -- Jewish circles here are concerned over the possibility that the Allies will seize all former Nazi assets in Austria for reparations, disregarding the individual claims of Jews, from whom most of this property was originally stolen.

The Austrian Government has been considering using all the unclaimed property of Nazis who fled the country in fear of the Allies for a common reparations pool for all returned survivors of concentration camps, regardless of the reason for which the Nazis imprisoned them, it is reported here.

A Government spokesman has pointed out that it would require special permission of the Allied occupation authorities to return to Jews property stolen from them, since the terms of the Potsdam Declaration provide for a common reparations pool. Because the property taken from Jews was held legally under the Nazi system of jurisprudence, this title may be recognized and the forfeited assets be placed in the common pool.

Prior to the Anschluss, more than 10,000 buildings in Vienna were owned by Jews, according to the estimate of Aaron Ehrlich, head of the Jewish businessmen's organization. Most of these houses were confiscated, or their owners were cheated by Nazi "laws." Although only a few of the owners have survived, they are not permitted to live in their own homes, and they cannot collect rents from the tenants, Ehrlich said. In a letter to Chancellor Leopold Figl, Ehrlich has charged that not only homes, but large holdings in farm and forest lands, which were seized from Jews, is still in the hands of Nazis.

Other Jews have made frequent and public complaints that they are starving and have insufficient clothing to last out the winter. One group of former concentration camp inmates has protested to Chancellor Figl that despite his promises of assistance, known Nazis are living under much better conditions than they.

Under the Austrian rationing system everyone receives the same amount of food, Jews and Nazis alike. This works particular hardships upon the Jews who were in hiding during the Nazi occupation and obtained little food as they had no ration cards. The only exceptions being made are for inmates of the concentration camps, who are supposed to receive a small amount of additional food for six months after their release. Since it usually takes these Jews a number of months to reach home under present conditions of travel, they only obtain this "extra" ration for a month or so, Jewish spokesmen maintain.

POLISH JEWISH REFUGEES IN PALESTINE WILL CONTINUE TO RECEIVE SUBSIDIES FROM GOVERNMENT

JERUSALEM, Jan. 24. (JTA) -- Jewish refugees from Poland, who were recently deprived of the monthly allowance given them during the war by the British Government, from funds charged to the Polish Government-in-Exile, were today informed that they will receive the grants due them for January. The Polish authorities in Palestine, who made the announcement, said that payments would be made regularly in the future.

When subsidies were stopped, on the basis that the 1,300 Jews concerned entered Palestine with immigration certificates and were, therefore, considered permanent settlers and not refugees, the Polish Jews protested to the Palestine Government. They maintained that since they did not come from Poland directly, but from Teheran, the Soviet Union, and other places, it would have been impossible for them to enter Palestine without certificates.

TRUMAN FOR CLOTURE ON FEPC DEBATE, BUT AGAINST INTERFERENCE FROM OUTSIDE SENATE

WASHINGTON, Jan. 24. (JTA) -- President Truman told a questioner at his press conference today that although he favored cloture--limitation of debate--when he was in the Senate, he felt that that body must settle the matter of the FEPC bill without outside interference.

As the filibuster went into its sixth day, Senator Alben Barkley, majority leader, told the Senate that he would vote for cloture, if such a motion was placed on the floor. The Republican steering committee which has been threatening for several days to demand cloture is meeting again tomorrow morning.

Senator Glen H. Taylor, Democrat of Idaho, took the floor to attack the filibuster as anti-democratic and "rule by a small minority." He expressed the hope that there would be no yielding to this "legislative black-mail" and said he is prepared to do his part "in this fight for democracy," through all-night sessions or any other measures. Senator McClelland of Arkansas assailed the bill as "the most vicious" in the history of American legislation, while Senator Bankhead denied that a filibuster was in progress.

N.Y. STATE UNIVERSITY PROPOSED TO ELIMINATE DISCRIMINATION AGAINST JEWISH STUDENTS

ALBANY, Jan. 24. (JTA) -- Two bills to establish a state-supported university have been introduced into the New York State Senate and Assembly as the result of yesterday's presentation of a report to the Mayor's Committee on Unity in New York City charging discrimination against Jewish, Negro, and Catholic students in colleges and universities in New York City as well as elsewhere throughout the country.

The bills would provide for a \$50,000,000 university offering adequate and equal opportunity for cultural, scientific, and professional training for a student body which might reach as high as 40,000 to 50,000. Funds would be obtained from the State's \$485,000,000 post-war reconstruction fund. Early action on the measures is expected here.

Two other bills, introduced into the Legislature previously, ask that jurisdiction be conferred on the State Commission Against Discrimination so that the Commission would be empowered to eliminate discrimination in educational institutions as well as in employment.

(A demand for the withdrawal of public subsidies, in the form of tax exemptions, from New York colleges and universities which practice discrimination, has been made by Rabbi Stephen S. Wise, president of the American Jewish Congress. Pointing out that the city's tax laws provide for tax exemption to institutions provided they do not deny the use of their facilities "to any person otherwise qualified, by reason of his color, race or religion," Dr. Wise called for the enforcement of the law.)

BRITISH GOVERNMENT CONSIDERING NEW LAWS TO COMBAT ANTI-SEMITIC ACTIVITIES

LONDON, Jan. 24. (JTA) -- The British Government is considering the enactment of new legislation to prohibit anti-Semitic activities, Home Secretary John Chuter Ede declared today in answer to a question in the House of Commons.

He maintained that "the matter is difficult because a very large number of people of Semitic descent would object to a law specifically aiming for their protection and no one else." Ede also said that certain types of anti-Semitic excesses are already punishable by law.

TRUMAN CONFERS MEDAL OF MERIT ON ROSENMAN; PAYS TRIBUTE TO HIS WAR SERVICES

WASHINGTON, Jan. 24. (JTA) -- In a surprise ceremony, following his press conference today, President Truman conferred the Medal of Merit on Judge Samuel I. Rosenman, his special counsel. The President had revealed a few minutes earlier that Judge Rosenman was resigning as of Feb. 1.

Mr. Truman paid high tribute to Judge Rosenman, saying that some day, when an accurate history is written, Rosenman would receive the credit which is his due. He called Rosenman's services to two presidents and to his country "as able and as devoted as it has been self-effacing." The President revealed that Rosenman had sought to resign in April, 1945, and that he had persuaded him to stay. Truman said he would frequently call on Rosenman for help as President Roosevelt had done.

14,000 SURVIVING JEWISH REFUGEES IN SHANGHAI NEED LARGE-SCALE RELIEF, SAYS JDC AIDE

NEW YORK, Jan. 24. (JTA) -- A vast amount of relief, plus rehabilitation and reconstruction assistance, is required by the surviving Jewish refugees in Shanghai, who have been left penniless and, in many cases, ill as a result of four years of Japanese occupation, it was reported here today by Manuel Siegel, JDC representative in Shanghai from Nov. 1941 until the end of 1945.

Siegel, who was interned two and a half years by the Japanese, told a press conference how considerable assistance was given the refugees, who were confined in a ghetto in the Hongkew district, all during the occupation through funds provided by the JDC. He stressed, however, that "years of internment, persecution and brutality are showing their effects on many of Hongkew's residents" and that relief funds must be increased "if those who survived are not to die now that victory has come."

Disclosing that 11,000 of the Jewish refugees still depend on the JDC for direct relief, Siegel declared that "it is obvious that the problem of the refugees cannot wholly be solved in Shanghai, nor in the Far East, where their future is too uncertain." How long the refugees will be able to stay in China is still uncertain, he reported. "The refugees themselves are anxious to leave and would like to go either to Palestine or the United States," he added.

MORRIS ALEXANDER, PROMINENT JEWISH LEGISLATOR, DIES IN SOUTH AFRICA

CAPETOWN, South Africa, Jan. 24. (JTA) -- Morris Alexander, the only member of the South African House of Assembly to have served in that body and the old Cape Parliament, which was incorporated into the Union Parliament in 1910, has died here.

Alexander, who was born in Znin, Poland, in 1877, served as a member of the City Council of Capetown for eight years, and was instrumental in having Yiddish legalized as a European language in South Africa. For many years he was president of the New Hebrew Congregation here, as well as president of the Board of Deputies of the Cape Colony. An active Zionist, Alexander also furthered the charitable work of South African Jewry as chairman of the Cape branch of the South Africa Relief Fund. He was a son-in-law of the late Solomon Schechter, president of the Jewish Theological Seminary of America.