

Thursday, March 14, 1946

# JTA

## Daily News Bulletin

PUBLISHED BY THE JEWISH TELEGRAPHIC AGENCY

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

### BRITAIN INITIALS TREATY WITH EMIR ABDULLAH FOR INDEPENDENCE OF TRANSJORDAN

LONDON, March 13. (JTA) -- The negotiations between the British Government and Emir Abdullah, the ruler of Transjordan, which have been proceeding here, have resulted in the initialling of a treaty recognizing the independence of Transjordan, it is reported today by the diplomatic correspondent of the Manchester Guardian.

Declaring that an official announcement to this effect is expected to be issued this week, the correspondent says that there is a school of thought which questions Britain's right to end the mandate before the United Nations Organization establishes its trusteeship system.

### JEWS' TIE TO PALESTINE STRESSED AT INQUIRY HEARINGS; PARTITION, PARITY REJECTED

JERUSALEM, March 13. (JTA) -- Spokesmen for the Jewish National Council, headed by President Isaac Ben Zvi, testified today before the Anglo-American inquiry committee, stressing the Jewish peoples' historic connection with Palestine and urging the establishment of a Jewish state here.

Dr. Mordecai Eliash, a ranking member of the Council, told the committee that Jews did not threaten Arab rights in Palestine, but, on the contrary, were themselves subjected to onerous land and immigration restrictions while their youth was jailed. Jews were condemned to being a permanent minority, he emphasized.

Both he and David Remez, secretary-general of the Council, rejected a suggestion by Co-chairman Joseph Huthcheson that, perhaps, the Palestine problem might be solved by partition or creation of Arab-Jewish parity. They asserted that Jews were a minority everywhere in the world, and, therefore, it was only just that they be a majority "in one corner of the world."

The Council witnesses, who took up the entire afternoon session, were questioned sharply concerning allegations that the Zionists were hindering Jews from leaving Palestine. They vigorously denied the charges. Ben Zvi spoke of the Jews' tie to Palestine, and advocated a "treaty of friendship" with the Arabs.

### Agudas Israel Does Not Want Jewish State, Witness Says

Speaking for the Orthodox Jews of Palestine, Dr. Isaac Bruer and Rabbi Moshe Blau, of the Agudas Israel, declared that the Jews were deprived of Palestine 2,000 years ago by violence. They said that the Agudas Israel did not see the problem of Palestine as one of world politics or power politics between Arabs and Jews, but as a problem of law, and emphasized that the Jewish people throughout the world were united in the demand for Palestine.

Dr. Bruer stressed that his organization was not interested in the establishment of a Jewish state, but in increased immigration of Jews into Palestine. "We believe that sovereignty is the root of the trouble," he added. "Our aim is a political

3/14/46

regime guaranteeing the opening of the gates of Palestine and unrestricted development. We also ask that control of immigration be given to the Jewish Agency, and that we have a voice in the Agency."

In reply to questions, Dr. Bruer emphasized that the Agudas Israel believed that all Jews in Europe--religious and non-religious--should be allowed to enter Palestine, but was opposed to use of force for political ends. He pointed out, however, that the Jews could not be expected to stand by and allow themselves to be murdered, as they were in 1936, "when the Government was unable to protect us."

### Situation of 1,000,000 Sephardic Jews Reported to Committee

The situation of the 1,000,000 Sephardic Jews living in the Middle East was reported to the committee by David Abulafia and Itzhak Abbadi, who stressed the "absolute identification" of the Sephardic Jews with the Zionist cause.

Abulafia said that although the situation of the Oriental Jews living in the Middle Eastern countries was growing more precarious, they believed that they could help bring about an understanding between the Arabs and the Jews, because of "their general Oriental outlook." This will be possible, however, only if a Jewish state is established in Palestine, he added.

Abbadi urged the committee to inquire into the conditions of the Jews in the Arab countries. To which American chairman Joseph Hutcheson replied: "I suppose you want us to eliminate Europe from our terms of reference and make it read as you wish." Abbadi answered: "No sir, we only feel that you are not getting a complete picture of the situation if you fail to inquire into the situation of the Jews under the Arabs."

He charged that "fanatic nationalism" in the Middle East was causing a rise in anti-Semitism as well as anti-foreign feelings. In reply to Richard Crossman, he said that Zionism was only one of the factors causing the increased anti-Semitism.

Both Sephardic witnesses said that they were certain that when the committee made investigations in the Middle East, the Jews in those countries would fear to speak frankly before it. They asked to be excused from divulging the source of their information concerning the discrimination against Jews in Arab countries.

Commenting on their testimony, Lord Morrison asked them whether they wanted the committee to invite Jews from bombed areas of East London to come to Palestine because "they are uncomfortable."

### Dr. Magnes Testifies Today; Committee Will Recess

At tomorrow's hearings, the Ichud group, which favors creation of an Arab-Jewish bi-national state in Palestine, will be heard. Chief spokesman for the Ichud will be Dr. Judah L. Magnes, president of the Hebrew University. Prof. Martin Buber and Moshe Smailansky will also testify.

The committee will recess at the conclusion of tomorrow's session until March 22, at which time the full committee will resume hearings for two days. The body may split up into three sub-committees at that time in order to enable it to hear all those who have asked to appear. During the recess the members will tour the country.

3/14/45

PRAGUE GOVERNMENT ORDERS RELEASE OF DETAINED CARPATHIAN JEWS; SITUATION EASED

PRAGUE, March 13. (JTA) -- Central government authorities here today ordered provincial officials to release all Carpathian Jews who have been detained for delivery to Soviet repatriation offices in Czechoslovakia. The officials were also instructed not to force Carpathian Jews to register with Soviet repatriation offices, if these Jews produce documents proving that they have applied for Czechoslovak citizenship.

The new orders have resulted in halting the panic which prevailed among Carpathian Jews in Czechoslovakia. Jewish leaders here, however, still consider the situation serious.

The Home Ministry today published regulations providing that Jews in Czechoslovakia who declared themselves of "Jewish nationality" in the census of 1931 may be entered in the electoral register for the forthcoming national elections, if they now state they are of Slavonic nationality.

Delay in Restoration of Property Paralyzes Jewish Life in Czechoslovakia

NEW YORK, March 13. (JTA) -- Until such time as the Czech Government is able to restore confiscated Jewish property to its rightful owners, many of the Jews in Czechoslovakia will continue to be dependent for support on American Jews, through the Joint Distribution Committee, Dr. Imrich Rosenberg, Czech Government official and leader of the 42,000 surviving Jews of Czechoslovakia, declared today at a press conference arranged by the United Jewish Appeal.

Dr. Rosenberg, who arrived in this country from Prague yesterday, came here at the invitation of American Jewish leaders to participate in the \$100,000,000 drive of the United Jewish Appeal. He pointed out that the delay in restoring confiscated Jewish property had paralyzed economically the surviving Czech Jews who returned to their homes from concentration and labor camps without means and broken in health. He revealed that he was expecting within the next few days a statement from Jan Masaryk, Czech Foreign Secretary, regarding the full restitution of confiscated Jewish property.

At the same time, Dr. Rosenberg emphasized that the Czechoslovakian Government "has done more to repatriate Jews from Nazi camps in Germany and Austria and to curb anti-Semitism than any of the other governments of Europe." He added, however, that "the seeds of anti-Semitism planted by the Nazis in Czechoslovakia were too deep to be uprooted overnight."

Dr. Rosenberg, who is a member of the cabinet of the Secretary of Foreign Trade of the Czech Government, reported that anti-Jewish manifestations were particularly evident in Slovakia, citing the fact that representatives of Slovakian Jewry informed the Anglo-American Inquiry Committee on Palestine, which recently visited Czechoslovakia, that more than 60 percent of the surviving Jews of Slovakia want to leave the country as soon as possible. The great majority of these Jews, Dr. Rosenberg said, want to go to Palestine, while those with relatives in this country would like to come to the United States.

WAR-TIME CONTRIBUTIONS OF REFUGEES IN BRITAIN CITED IN HOUSE OF LORDS DEBATE

LONDON, March 13. (JTA) -- A charge that there were "too many Germans" employed in government offices was made in the House of Lords yesterday by Lord Ailwyn, after Lord Vansittart stated that former fascist organizations in England were being revived.

In reply to Ailwyn, who aimed his attack not at the British fascists, but at refugees, Lord Chancellor told the House that a Jewish refugee expert and eight refugee assistants had solved an important bottleneck in aircraft production during the war. Lord Master also testified to the valuable services rendered Britain by refugees.

3/14/46

TRANSPORT OF POLISH JEWS LEAVES RUSSIA TO RETURN HOME; URGED TO SETTLE IN SILESIA

MOSCOW, March 13. (JTA) -- Several hundred Polish Jews who have been working in factories near Moscow since they fled here to escape the Nazis left today for Poland.

Prior to leaving, they attended a mass meeting here addressed by high Soviet and Polish officials. Speaking on behalf of the Committee of Polish Jews in the USSR, Dr. M. Sford thanked the Soviet Government for the asylum it gave the Polish Jews, and stressed that all Polish Jews in Russia have been offered Soviet citizenship, if they so desire.

He urged those who choose to be repatriated to Poland to settle in Silesia, western Poland, where, he said, the Polish Government would help them rebuild their lives.

UNRRA COUNCIL TO ACT TOMORROW ON LEHMAN'S RESIGNATION AS HEAD OF THE ORGANIZATION

WASHINGTON, March 13. (JTA) -- The Central Committee of the United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration will act Friday on Director-General Herbert H. Lehman's tendered resignation, it was learned here today.

In his letter of resignation, made public last night, former Governor Lehman said that his action followed repeated urgings by his physician "to take a much needed rest." He has not been well since the death of his son, Lt. Peter Lehman, in a plane crash over England in 1944.

"Whilst I shall be prevented from achieving my great wish to serve UNRRA until the task has been completed, there is consolation to me in the knowledge that, in the face of almost insuperable difficulties from the outset, a splendid international organization has been assembled which has labored loyally and selflessly to carry out a great program of relief and rehabilitation in war-devastated areas of the world," Lehman's letter stated.

Lehman pointed out that indications are that the UNRRA would cease to function at the end of the next fiscal year. He called upon the Central Committee of the organization to provide for the transfer of its unfinished functions to other organizations before that time.

MEMORIAL SERVICES HELD FOR TWO J.D.C. WORKERS KILLED IN PRAGUE PLANE CRASH

PARIS, March 13. (JTA) -- Memorial services for David Guzik and Gertrude Pinsky, representatives of the Joint Distribution Committee who were killed in a plane crash in Prague last Tuesday, were held here today with Guzik's son, a member of the Jewish Brigade, attending. The services were conducted by Chief Rabbi Julien Weil.

(In New York, memorial services for Guzik and Miss Pinsky were held today at the national offices of the Joint Distribution Committee. Rabbi Jonah B. Wise, of the Central Synagogue and vice-chairman of the J.D.C., officiated. Eulogies were delivered by Edward M.M. Warburg, chairman of the J.D.C., and Dr. Joseph C. Ryman, executive vice-chairman.)

ANGLO-AMERICAN COMMITTEE CRITICIZED IN CONGRESS FOR FAILURE TO ISSUE INTERIM REPORT

WASHINGTON, March 13. (JTA) -- Congressman Emanuel Celler of New York, in a one-minute speech on the floor of the House today, attacked the Anglo-American inquiry committee for its decision not to file an interim report on the situation of the Jews in Europe.



SYNAGOGUE COUNCIL OF AMERICA STARTS DRIVE FOR "ADOPTION" OF SYNAGOGUES IN FRANCE

NEW YORK, March 13. (JTA) -- Rabbi Herbert S. Goldstein, president of the Synagogue Council of America, announced today that in response to an urgent appeal from French Jewry, the Council, representing the Orthodox, Conservative and Reform rabbinic and congregational bodies in the United States, has initiated a plan to help in the religious rehabilitation of France.

In accordance with this plan, the Council has requested Jewish communities throughout the United States to "adopt" the Jewish religious communities of France and aid in the restoration of their religious life to full strength and dignity. When this project is completed, the Council will then launch a similar campaign for other Jewish communities in Europe.

WORLD CONFERENCE OF JEWISH NATIONAL FUND WILL BE HELD THIS SUMMER, EPSTEIN ANNOUNCES

NEW YORK, March 13. (JTA) -- A world conference of the Jewish National Fund will be held at the end of this summer, it was announced here today by Elias M. Epstein, head of the overseas department of the J.N.F. headquarters in Jerusalem.

Mr. Epstein made this announcement prior to his departure for Palestine. He has been in the United States for several months, during which he addressed a number of meetings on J.N.F. work and made a special study of modern propaganda methods with reference to the educational and fund-raising program of the Jewish National Fund in all parts of the world.

CANADIAN JEWISH OFFICER RECEIVES U.S. LEGION OF MERIT; CONSUL PRESENTS DECORATION

MONTREAL, March 13. (JTA) -- Squadron Leader Gerald Bronfman, of the Royal Canadian Air Force, was presented with the United States Legion of Merit today, for "outstanding services from June, 1943 to August, 1945 while assigned to the Royal Canadian Air Force Division of the Canadian Joint Staff, Washington, D.C."

The presentation was made by North Winship, United States Consul-General, at his office here. The 34-year old airman, who joined the R.C.A.F. as an aircraftsman in 1940, was commissioned in 1942 and held several appointments prior to going to Washington. He retired from the air force last October.

PRIME MINISTER SMUTS, DIPLOMATIC CORPS ATTEND MEMORIAL SERVICES FOR JEWISH LEADER

JOHANNESBURG, March 13. (JTA) -- Prime Minister Jan Christian Smuts headed an impressive delegation of government leaders who participated in memorial services in the Great Synagogue here for Morris Alexander, veteran South African legislator, who died last month. The American minister, as well as consuls of various countries, attended. Speakers emphasized Alexander's notable services to the building of the Union of South Africa.

SALY BRAUNSCHEWIG, SWISS JEWISH LEADER, DIES; HEADED WAR-TIME RELIEF ACTIVITIES

GENEVA, March 13. (JTA) -- Saly Braunschweig, 50, president of the Federation of Jewish Communities of Switzerland, died here yesterday, after a long illness. Braunschweig headed the extensive war-time activities of Swiss Jews in behalf of refugees.