

Monday, March 25, 1946

**JTA***Daily News Bulletin*

PUBLISHED BY THE JEWISH TELEGRAPHIC AGENCY

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

POSSIBLE AMERICAN REACTION TO TRANSJORDAN INDEPENDENCE AROUSES INTEREST IN LONDON

LONDON, March 24. (JTA) -- There is keen interest in various circles here concerning possible American and Russian reaction to Britain's granting independence to Transjordan.

The Manchester Guardian commenting on the treaty, which was signed on Friday, predicts that there will be both approval and opposition by the other great powers. The article quotes from the memoirs of Emir Abdullah, ruler of Transjordan, to prove that he does not believe in Arab unity.

The London Times, in an editorial yesterday, avoided any mention of the Jewish aspect of the issue. It emphasized that the ceremony in the Foreign Office which marked the signing of the treaty was largely recognition of an accomplished fact. The editorial praised Emir Abdullah's achievements.

The Board of Deputies of British Jews today adopted a resolution describing the granting of independence to Transjordan as "a unilateral abandonment of the obligations of the Mandatory under the Mandate, as far as three-quarters of the territory of Palestine is concerned, and a breach of Article 80 of the UNO charter," which provides that until trusteeship arrangements are entered into, the existing international instruments to which UNO members may be parties remain unaltered. The resolution also says that the Board affirms the Jewish peoples' legal claim to the whole of Palestine.

A.L. Easterman, political secretary of the World Jewish Congress, presenting the report of the Board's Palestine Committee, attacked the failure of the Colonial Office to reply to the Deputies' representations on Transjordan as a "grave discourtesy." He said that further action on the issue was planned.

WORLD ZIONIST CONGRESS WILL OPEN ON AUGUST 7, JEWISH AGENCY DECIDES

JERUSALEM, March 24. (JTA) -- The 22nd World Zionist Congress, the first since 1939, will open here on August 7, it was decided today at a meeting of the Jewish Agency executive.

The first anniversary of the establishment of the Arab League was celebrated here yesterday, by both Moslem and Christian Arabs. Rev. Nikilai Khoury, a leader of the 130,000 Christian Arabs in Palestine and Transjordan, spoke from the pulpit of the Aska Mosque, one of the holiest shrines of Islam, from which no Christian had ever before spoken.

Jamal Hussaini, head of the Palestine Arab Party, who was recently permitted by the Government to return to Palestine, also spoke from the same pulpit. He delivered a violent anti-Jewish address, urging complete social and moral ostracism of Arab land brokers who sell land to Jews.

GERMAN COURT TO TRY NAZIS CHARGED WITH DESTRUCTION OF SYNAGOGUES IN 1938 POGROM

WEISSENBERG, Germany, March 24. (JTA) -- Germans accused of anti-Jewish activities will be tried before a German court here this week, in the first legal action by Germans against Germans since the collapse of the Nazi regime.

The defendants who are charged with burning down the Weissenburg synagogue in the 1938 pogroms, are forty Nazis, including the district gauleiter and other local officials. They have been in American custody for several months. The trial, which will open on Tuesday, is expected to last three weeks. It will be conducted by the county court with headquarters at Nuremberg, which will move here for the occasion.

NUREMBERG TRIBUNAL IS ASKED TO WITHDRAW "RITUAL MURDER" CHARGE AGAINST STREICHER

NUREMBERG, March 24. (JTA) -- The International Military Tribunal was urged yesterday to withdraw the charge that Julius Streicher disseminated "ritual murder" propaganda against Jews by falsifying quotations from the Talmud.

Streicher's counsel indicated that if the prosecution would not agree to withdrawal of this charge, a certain Dr. Bischof, described by Streicher's lawyer as "a great expert" will be summoned to testify in behalf of the Nazi Jew-baiter. Bischof, the attorney said, will prove that certain excerpts from the Talmud appearing in Streicher's publications were not translated "thoughtlessly or inaccurately."

The lawyer for Alfred Rosenberg, who is also charged with spreading anti-Jewish propaganda throughout the world, also filed a plea with the court. Stating that anti-Semitism in Germany "is an irrational force," Rosenberg's lawyer asked the tribunal to permit him to present additional documents proving that anti-Semitism was not a new movement introduced into Germany by the teachings of Rosenberg, but existed there since the 8th century. "National Socialism," he argued, "was not the first to lead the German people astray in the direction of anti-Semitism."

UNDERGROUND RADIO ADMITS PALESTINE NAZI MURDERED BY MEMBERS OF JEWISH RESISTANCE

JERUSALEM, March 24. (JTA) -- The "Voice of Israel" transmitter, which is operated by the Haganah, said today that Gotthilf Wagner, former mayor of the Germany colony of Sarnca and leading Palestine Nazi, was killed by members of the Jewish Resistance Movement. Wagner was shot dead by an unidentified youth on Friday on the outskirts of Tel Aviv.

The broadcast declared that the Palestine Jewish community "will not tolerate Germans living here in a safe haven, while Jews are being deported without trial. It demanded that all Germans be deported from Palestine, that their property be confiscated and that demobilized Jewish servicemen be settled on their land.

AMERICANS CAPTURE FORMER OSWIECIM GUARD; KILLED MANY CZECHOSLOVAKIAN JEWS

PRAGUE, March 24. (JTA) -- Heinrich Sommerhoff, a former guard at the Oswiecim extermination camp, has been captured by American military police, the Czech press reports. His extradition to Czechoslovakia will be demanded since he is charged with murdering many Czechoslovakian Jews.

Eliahu Dobkin, head of the immigration department of the Jewish Agency, arrived here today to negotiate for the emigration of Jews from Czechoslovakia to Palestine.

ANGLO-AMERICAN INQUIRY COMMITTEE HEARS PALESTINE GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN, CHURCH LEADERS

JERUSALEM, March 24. (JTA) -- John V.W. Shaw, Chief Secretary of the Palestine Government, and ranking British administrative official after High Commissioner Sir Alan Cunningham, appeared before the full Anglo-American inquiry committee yesterday. It is presumed that Secretary Shaw presented the official Government position, but no definite information is available at present because his testimony was given at a closed session.

In a statement to the press, the inquiry committee replied to the American Zionist Emergency Council's charges that the official transcript of the committee's sessions had deliberately omitted those sections of the testimony of Jamal el Hussein and Auni Bey Abdul Hadi, Arab Higher Committee spokesman, which admitted the association between the Nazis and the ex-Mufti. The committee replied that the Arabs had spoken in English with an accent which was not familiar to the American court reporter and that he had, therefore, missed parts of the witnesses' statements.

The committee, however, insisted that its members were well aware of the Arab testimony and that efforts were being made to correct the official transcript. The press statement also said that the committee regretted that the American Zionists had released their accusation to the press before asking the inquiry body for its explanation.

Yesterday's morning session was devoted largely to religious spokesmen, with representatives of the Anglican Church, the American Episcopal Church, the Greek Orthodox Church, and various other Eastern Christian Churches, all of Palestine, appearing. The representative of the Maronite Church, who's Beirut Archbishop, Monsignor Ignatz Mour'arak, last week called for a Jewish state in Palestine, did not appear for "reasons of health."

Anglican Bishop Opposed To JVA Because It Would "Sacrifice" Holy Places

The Right Reverend Dr. Weston H. Stewart, Anglican Bishop of Jerusalem, expressed opposition to the proposed Jordan Valley Authority for the harnessing of the Jordan's waters for irrigation and electric power, "because Christian sentiment would be profoundly shocked if the holy places were sacrificed to any nationalist or imperialist scheme of industry or commerce." He said that if Palestine is partitioned, neither Bethlehem nor Galilee should be included in the Jewish or Arab sections.

He also deplored the "regrettable extent to which politics was allowed to permeate the education of the young," pointing out that the Jewish community conducted its own schools and that the Palestine Administration supervised Arab schools. The director of the Government's education department, W.J. Farrel, testifying earlier, asserted that Arab schools were superior to the Jewish.

Greek Orthodox Bishop George Hakim of Galilee, speaking for the assembled representatives of various Eastern Christian Churches, opposed Zionism, stating that Palestine was an Arab land and should be kept that way. He further stated that Christian Arabs and Moslem Arabs live together on the best of terms.

Henry Cattan, an Arab lawyer appearing for the Arab Higher Committee, charged that the "Arabs of Palestine have been crucified and bleeding for the last 25 years." He presented a series of legal arguments asserting Arab claims to Palestine and denying Britain's right to dispose of the country. During cross-examination by American committee member Frank Aydelotte, Cattan denied that the influx of Jews to Palestine had increased the Arab standard of living, either by improving cultivation of the land or raising wages to a higher level than that existing in other Arab countries. Dr. Aydelotte remarked "how interesting, we heard contradictory opinions in neighboring countries."

SOUTH AFRICAN NATIONALISTS ATTACK JEWS IN PARLIAMENT FOR ASKING INCREASED IMMIGRATION

JOHANNESBURG, March 24. (JTA) -- A suggestion by a Government party member, Morris Kentridge, that South Africa liberalize its immigration laws resulted in an attack on Jews in Parliament yesterday.

Kentridge, who is active in Zionist affairs here, pointed out that South Africa needed European immigration, and criticized as short-sighted the policy of closing the country to all immigration. He urged, at the same time, that Prime Minister Smuts, who is going to London soon, use his influence to secure the opening of Palestine to Jews.

Kentridge was assailed by Nationalist deputies led by Dr. D.F. Malan. Malan raised the question of Germans who are still interned, declaring that if the Government punished Germans as Germans, Jews should be deported because they are Jews. Deputy M.S. Bremer said that history would stand aghast not at the mistreatment of Jews in Germany, but at the postwar treatment of the German people.

A Nationalist deputy named Leroux urged Jews to desist from advocating increased immigration, as "this caused increased anti-Semitism," while another Nationalist, S.D. Becker, charged that "Jews had grown fat at the expense of Afrikaners."

Deputy T.J. Haworth of the United (Government) Party denounced the Nationalist deputies' anti-Semitism, citing Jewish contributions to the South African war effort and pointing out that the Nationalist deputies remained neutral.

FIRST SHIPMENT OF PALESTINE ORANGES SINCE OUTBREAK OF WAR ARRIVES IN RUMANIA

BUCHAREST, March 24. (JTA) -- The first shipment of Palestine oranges to arrive in Rumania since the outbreak of the war was being unloaded today. Their import was made possible by a Government decree authorizing Rumanian merchants to use their assets abroad.

The importer, Moshe Rothman, told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency that he hoped to increase imports from Palestine, to include medicaments and olive oil.

The Revisionist Party here has voted to abide by the decision of its sister parties abroad and participate in the election of delegates to the forthcoming World Zionist Congress.

UNITED STATES MUST TAKE LEAD IN SOLVING IMMIGRATION PROBLEM, SAYS YALE SOCIOLOGIST

NEW YORK, March 24. (JTA) -- The United States must take a leading part in solving the immigration problem, Dr. Maurice R. Davis, chairman of the department of Sociology at Yale University and director of the Study of Recent Immigration from Europe, declares in a pamphlet just published here. The two-year study was organized by the National Refugee Service.

Dr. Davis points out that many classes of immigrants increase economic well-being in America by creating increased job opportunities. Among these he includes immigrants who bring capital into the country, those with business experience or skills which America may need, and those who are willing to take jobs for which American labor cannot be found. Dr. Davis finds that there is a widespread feeling against a "closed door" policy, although opinion in America appears to favor limited immigration.