

JTA

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106 EAST 41<sup>st</sup> STREET, NEW YORK 17, N. Y.PASSOVER IN PALESTINE MARRED BY STRIKES; GOVT. EXPECTED TO YIELD TO HUNGER STRIKERS

JERUSALEM, April 15. (JTA) -- The Jews of Palestine will sit down to their feeders tonight amid tension caused by the fourth day of a hunger strike by 15 Jewish leaders and by a wave of strikes of civil service workers which has tied up the postal, telephone, telegraph and radio services and which spread today to the government-operated railways.

The 15 Jewish leaders, who are determined to continue their hunger strike until the more than 1,000 Jewish refugees detained at La Spezia are permitted to proceed to Palestine, were reported today by physicians to be showing slight signs of fatigue. However, their general condition is satisfactory.

Palestine Jewry is awaiting impatiently an expected decision by the Government to grant 1,500 immigration certificates to the Jewish Agency with which the La Spezia refugees could enter the country legally. Dr. Bernard Joseph, legal advisor of the Agency, met today with John V. W. Shaw, Chief Secretary of the Palestine Government, and a meeting of the Government's Advisory Council was held to discuss the hunger strike.

Jerusalem Police Employees Join Strike of 2,500 Postal Workers

This morning civil service workers in the Haifa district and civilian employees of Jerusalem police headquarters also struck. Late last night the 2,500 postal employees, whose walkout precipitated the strike wave, rejected a compromise proposal drawn up by their representatives and government officials. On Saturday, the postal workers rejected a proposal that the dispute be submitted to the Colonial Office for settlement.

The Palestine public, both Jewish and Arab, although inconvenienced by disruption of postal and telegraph service, views the strikers demands with sympathy. One of the demands made by the workers is a revision of the basic pay rates for higher grades of postal employees, whose present maximum is \$60 per month, after a period of 20 years service.

One of the casualties of the strike has been the Passover messages which traditionally are received and go out from Palestine in the pre-holiday and holiday period.

Displaced Jews Mark Passover with Unveiling of Liberation Monument

MUNICH, April 15. (JTA) -- Passover, the holiday of liberation, was marked today by the liberated Jews in the British zone of Germany with the unveiling of a monument inscribed "Israel and the World will Remember the 30,000 Jews Exterminated in the Belsen Camp at the Hands of the Murderous Nazis."

The monument was unveiled at the site of the notorious Bergen-Belsen camp. The ceremony was arranged by the Central Jewish Committee in the British zone, which represents all the displaced Jews there. It was attended by representatives of the Allied forces. The unveiling of the monument coincides with the first anniversary of the liberation of its inmates.

JEWISH REFUGEES THROUGHOUT ITALY MARK PASSOVER AT SEDERS; BROADCAST OVER ROME RADIO

ROME, April 15. (JTA) -- A special Passover message was broadcast to Jewish refugees throughout Italy today by Lec Garfunkel, chairman of the Jewish Refugees' Organization. His address, which was in Yiddish and Hebrew, was broadcast over the Rome and Bari radios.

Seders were scheduled to be held in every DP camp and training center in Italy, with matzo's, wine and other foods provided by the Joint Distribution Committee.

MOST CZECH JEWS HAVE SUFFICIENT PASSOVER SUPPLIES, ALTHOUGH WINE MATZOES ARE RATIONED

PRAGUE, April 15. (JTA) -- Most Czech Jews have been able to obtain some matzo's for use during the Passover week, although there is a shortage of the unleavened bread here. Jews desiring matzo's are required to surrender half of their bread ration coupons.

The matzo's, most of which came from abroad, were distributed free to the needy, as was wine which is also rationed. About one quart of wine has been allotted each family.

OSWIECIM COMMANDER BOASTS AT NUREMBERG TRIAL OF EFFICIENCY IN EXTERMINATING 3,000,000

NUREMBERG, April 15. (JTA) -- Rudolph Hoess, former commandant of the Oswiecim death camp, boasted before the International Military Tribunal today that he had organized the camp so efficiently that most of the 2,500,000 persons murdered there between the Summer of 1941 and the Autumn of 1944 never knew that they were going to their death.

Hoess, who is to be taken to Poland shortly to be tried as a war criminal, was called to testify by counsel for Ernst Kaltenbrunner, former chief of the Nazi Security Police. He told the court that in the little over three years that he commanded Oswiecim 3,000,000 persons died there, of whom almost all were Jews. About 500,000 died of starvation and diseases, while the others were gassed.

Of the Jews, Hoess said, 100,000 came from Germany, 400,000 from Hungary and the others from all occupied European countries. Although some of the adults who arrived at Oswiecim were sent to forced labor, all children were immediately destroyed, he testified.

Hoess related how in the Summer of 1941 he was told by Heinrich Himmler, Gestapo chief, that he was being assigned to Oswiecim to carry out Hitler's order for a "final solution" of the Jewish problem. By "final solution," Himmler explained, he meant the total extermination of all European Jews.

Before assuming his duties at Oswiecim, Hoess continued, he visited the death camps at Treblinka and other places to observe how they were operated. He found Treblinka badly organized, he said. It was too small for the number of people to be gassed and the people destined for extermination were aware of their fate.

At Oswiecim, its former commander explained, he arranged it so that the persons to be killed thought that they were entering a shower bath, instead of a gas chamber. He also introduced the use of "Cyclon B" gas, which, he said, was more effective than the monoxide gas used in Treblinka, and caused death in three to fifteen minutes.

CZECH JEWS IN DANGER OF BEING DEPORTED TO GERMANY; CLAIMED GERMAN NATIONALITY IN 1930

PRAGUE, April 15. (JTA) -- Czech Jews who claimed German nationality in the 1930 census are in danger of being deported to Germany, as a result of pressure by the Czech Communist Party, which is urging that no distinction be made between Jews and "aryans" in deporting German nationals.

Originally the Czechoslovak Government ruled that Czech Jews who gave their nationality as German in the 1930 census can apply for Czech citizenship together with German anti-fascists. Of 19,000 such applications, about 2,500 came from Jews. However, due to pressure by the Communist Party, several hundred applications of known German anti-fascists in Prague have been rejected, including many applications from Jews.

The rejections are still going on. Political parties that disagree with the attitude of the Communists are unwilling to intervene because they fear that they may be charged in the approaching elections with protecting German nationals.

CHARGES AGAINST MUFTI ARE NOT EXTRADITABLE OFFENSES, BRITISH FOREIGN OFFICE SAYS

LONDON, April 15. (JTA) -- The charges against the ex-Mufti of Jerusalem are not extraditable offenses under the Anglo-French extradition treaty and, therefore, no useful purpose would be served by demanding his extradition, Hector McNeill, Under-Secretary for Foreign Affairs told the House of Commons today.

Barnett Janner, Laborite, and vice-president of the British Zionist Federation, pointed out that the Mufti had recruited forces for Germany to be used against Britain. George Thomas, Laborite, asked why he could not be indicted as a war criminal.

Replying to the latter question, McNeill said that technically the Mufti was not a war criminal, since he was not an enemy national and had not served in the armed forces of the enemy. The Foreign Office spokesman asked for more time to prepare his replies, when he was queried by Janner as to whether he would endeavor to obtain the Mufti "by some method or another."

He also evaded a question as to whether Britain had asked France to transfer the Mufti to British custody, and whether, if such a request has been refused, it will be repeated.

SECRET WAR ACTIVITIES OF RELIEF ORGANIZATIONS LAUDED AT LEAGUE OF NATIONS

GENEVA, April 15. (JTA) -- The open and secret activities of international relief agencies based in Switzerland during the war were lauded today by Sir Herbert Morrison, League of Nations' High Commissioner for Refugees, reporting to the General Committee of the League, which will go out of existence this week. He said that these groups had greatly aided persons in occupied countries.

Dr. Raffaele Cantoni, president of the Federation of Jewish Communities of Italy, sent a message this week to the Swiss Government expressing "profound gratitude" to the Swiss people for the welcome they extended during the war to exiled Italian Jews. The Jews were thus saved from certain death, Dr. Cantoni said.

EXILE CONFERENCE IN MUNICH VOTES TO SEND UNITED DELEGATION TO WORLD ZIONIST CONGRESS

MUNICH, April 15. (JTA) -- A conference of the United Zionist Organization concluded here after deciding to send a united delegation to the forthcoming World Zionist Congress. The delegation will attend the Congress in the name of the surviving Jews of Europe and will press for unity as the best means of achieving Jewish life in Palestine.

CANADIAN PARLIAMENT IS WARNED OF INCREASE OF ANTI-SEMITISM IN THE COUNTRY

OTTAWA, April 15. (JTA) -- A warning that anti-Semitism is on the increase in Canada was sounded here by Alister Stewart, Socialist deputy for Winnipeg, addressing the Federal Parliament.

"Racialism," he said, "is one of the most deadly enemies of any democratic community. It not only hurts those against whom it is directed but warps and twists the minds of those who practice it. Yet we find it again in the Government service; in the Department of Immigration; we find it in the allegedly cultured places in this country, in universities such as McGill and Toronto.

"I am glad to see that racial discrimination has ceased in Manitoba but we should never rest until we have wiped it out from these other universities and give to the Jewish people the same rights and privileges that every other Canadian citizen has," he added.

REPORT OF ALLEGED COLLABORATION BY RUMANIAN JEWISH EDITOR PROVES FALSE

LONDON, April 15. (JTA) -- A report received by Rumanian Jewish circles here last July stating that Michael Landau, a former deputy in the Rumanian parliament and one-time editor and publisher of the Kishinev Yiddish daily "Unzer Zeit," had been sentenced to five years imprisonment in Bucharest for alleged collaboration with the Antonescu Government, was without foundation, the Jewish Telegraphic Agency established today.

Dr. Landau, the JTA learns, has been living for the last nine years in Palestine.

Jews in SO. AFRICA COLLABORATE WITH J.D.C. IN RELIEF ACTIVITIES; PLEDGE \$1,600,000

JOHANNESBURG, April 15. (JTA) -- The visit to South Africa of Dr. Joseph J. Schwartz, chairman of the European Executive Council of the Joint Distribution Committee, has resulted in a "closer binding of South African and American communities in the great common endeavor to alleviate the desperate plight of our surviving brethren in Europe," Harry Landau, chairman of the South African Jewish War Appeal, has cabled to J.D.C. in New York.

"You may rely on our unstinted endeavors in bringing the maximum amount of help to our stricken people in the closest collaboration with your organization," Mr. Landau stated. The Joint Distribution Committee will receive \$1,600,000 this year from the South African Jewish War Appeal.

Vaad Hatzala NAMED IMMIGRANT CERTIFYING AGENCY; WILL SUPPLY AFFIDAVITS FOR 1,000 JEWS

NEW YORK, April 15. (JTA) -- The U.S. Department of Immigration and Naturalization today confirmed Vaad Hatzala as a certifying agency for the entry to the United States of 1,000 displaced Jews under President Truman's directive.

The Vaad Hatzala will supply a corporate affidavit for 1,000 emigrants, from among the displaced Jews in camps in the American zones in Germany and Austria. These affidavits will be given only to people who have neither friends nor relatives in the United States, the organization announced.

BECAUSE OF PASSOVER THE NEXT ISSUE OF THE BULLETIN WILL APPEAR ON THURSDAY