

Friday, June 7, 1946

JTA*Daily News Bulletin*

PUBLISHED BY THE JEWISH TELEGRAPHIC AGENCY

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

FIVE JEWS DRAGGED FROM TRAIN IN POLAND AND KILLED; BODIES FOUND IN NEIGHBORING WOODS

WARSAW, June 6. (JTA) -- Five Jewish passengers were dragged from a train between Nowy Sacz and Cracow this week by an anti-Semitic band and taken to a neighboring woods where they were shot, it was reported today from Cracow.

The armed fascists entered the train and checked the identity documents of all the travellers. The five Jews among the passengers were separated from the rest and ordered out at the Zaretta station, from where they were taken to the woods. Their bodies were found and taken to Nowy Sacz for burial, the report said.

TRUMAN SAYS BYRNES, ATTLEE CONFERRING ON ENTRY OF 100,000, BUT OBSTACLES MUST BE OVERCOME

WASHINGTON, June 6. (JTA) -- President Truman said today that Secretary of State Byrnes and Prime Minister Attlee were conferring at present on the recommendation of the Anglo-American inquiry committee that 100,000 Jews be admitted to Palestine, but certain obstacles must be overcome before any decision can be reached.

The President's statement came in reply to a question as to why there has been so much delay in carrying out the recommendation of the committee. He pointed out that he had recommended the admission of the 100,000, several months ago.

Earlier today an authoritative source here said that the United States has offered to transport the 100,000 Jews to Palestine from displaced camps in Germany, and to aid in their resettlement, provided Great Britain admits the Jews.

This Government is prepared also to offer technical and financial assistance in the rehabilitation of the displaced Jews, but does not consider this the major problem.

It is understood that Prime Minister Attlee, in discussions with the United States Government, never raised the question of disarming the resistance forces in Palestine, and therefore withdrawal of this reported condition by the British, as a prerequisite to permitting entrance of the 100,000 was not under consideration.

American military aid likewise was never requested by the British, according to other informed sources, and no such request is expected. In the light of these circumstances it is believed that the United States considers that the decision as to the immigration of the 100,000 now rests with the British.

No announcement on the matter is expected until after June 20, the date set by the State Department for receipt of comment from Jews and Arabs on the report of the Anglo-American Committee. It is known that in addition to replies already received from interested Jewish organizations, the Department has received some Arab answers, despite previous Arab statements refusing cooperation in the consultations.

BRITAIN WILL NOT ANNOUNCE ITS PALESTINE POLICY UNTIL CONSULTATIONS ARE CONCLUDED

LONDON, June 6. (JTA) -- The policy of the British Government with regard to Palestine cannot be announced until consultations with other governments and representatives of Jewish and Arab organizations are concluded, it was stated today by Foreign Secretary Ernest Bevin.

Bevin made this statement in a written reply to Samuel Silverman, Laborite member of the House of Commons. He pointed out that the British Government is pledged not to enter any commitment regarding the future of Palestine until it has consulted Arabs and Jews.

The fact that the Jewish Agency and the Arab Higher Committee of Palestine gave evidence before the Anglo-American inquiry committee is no reason for omitting them from the list of governments and organizations which are being consulted in accordance with this pledge, Bevin said. He added that the governments of Britain and the United States have agreed to initiate discussions between their respective officials following their joint examination of the report of the Anglo-American committee.

In Commons today, Herbert Morrison, Lord President of the Council, said he is not in a position to make any statement as to whether the government will be making an early declaration or provide a day for discussion on the report of the inquiry committee. He emphasized that the government still does not think it would be wise to debate the matter until discussions in which it is engaged reach a more definite stage.

Morrison made these observations following a question posed by Mr. Silverman in which he pointed out that two months have elapsed since the Anglo-American report was issued and no steps have been taken to transfer the 100,000 Jews from Europe to Palestine as recommended in the report.

BRITAIN PRESSING U.S. TO VOICE OPPOSITION TO ESTABLISHMENT OF JEWISH STATE IN PALESTINE

JERUSALEM, June 6. (JTA) -- The British Government is pressing upon the government of the United States to accept a number of important conditions following which Britain would be ready to agree to the admission of 100,000 displaced Jews to Palestine, it was learned here today. The three main conditions are:

1. The United States Government should declare - simultaneously with the announcement of the admission of the 100,000 Jews - its opposition to the ultimate establishment of a Jewish state in Palestine.
2. The United States, after the admission of the 100,000 Jews, should not press for further Jewish immigration to Palestine.
3. The United States should undertake to cooperate with Britain in combatting "illegal immigration" to Palestine.

The Small Zionist Actions Committee is meeting here on Sunday to discuss the reply drafted by the executive of the Jewish Agency to Britain's invitation for Jewish observations on the report of the inquiry committee. It is understood that the reply will be brief and will demand the admission of the 100,000 Jews to Palestine before discussions are held on any other points of the report.

Reliable sources today indicated that the Soviet Government, although refraining from making its attitude towards the Palestine issue known, is against converting Palestine into a purely Arab state, because this would amount to undivided British rule in the Middle East, whereas Jewish immigration to Palestine involves international interests and international control of Palestine. Such control would also open the way for Soviet participation in shaping the fate of this part of the world, Moscow feels.

BRITISH AND STATE DEPARTMENT DELAY IN MOVING 100,000 TO PALESTINE SCORED IN SENATE

WASHINGTON, June 6. (JTA) -- The failure of the British Government and State Department to take steps to carry out the recommendation of the Anglo-American inquiry committee that 100,000 Jews be admitted to Palestine immediately was scored in Congress today by several Senators.

Sen. James Tunnell, Democrat of Delaware, told the Senate that if the British Government had no intention of permitting these 100,000 Jews to go to Palestine, it should immediately issue a clear-cut statement to that effect "so that there might not be false hopes aroused and promises impossible of fulfillment made. If because of its Arab interests it cannot do justice to the Jewish people, it should surrender its mandate," he said.

Sen. Robert A. Taft, Republican of Ohio, reviewed the actions of the United States and British Governments with regard to Jewish immigration into Palestine, and said he thought there was no military problem whatever involved since "the British have many thousand of troops in Palestine." He scored the State Department for "promoting further delay" by asking further arguments from interested parties.

Sen. Robert F. Wagner, Democrat of New York, said he was "most concerned about whatever future attempts will be made somewhere along the line in our Department of State again to minimize and to whittle down the import of President Truman's stand and thus to postpone the actual entry of the 100,000 Jews into Palestine."

Sen. Claude Pepper, Democrat of Florida, told of his trip to Palestine last year and said he returned "completely convinced" that the charge that 100,000 immigrants could not be absorbed by the Palestine economy was "totally unfounded in fact." He suggested that the Palestine Mandate be given to the United Nations trusteeship since the Arab states are members and would then feel that they will have some say in its administration.

Short statements endorsing the inquiry committee's recommendation were also read by Senators James Mead of New York, Kenneth Wherry of Nebraska, Edwin Johnson of Colorado, Joseph Guffey of Pennsylvania, David Walsh of Massachusetts, Homer Ferguson of Michigan and James Huffman of Ohio. They also charged the State Department with causing further delay by asking for opinions on the recommendations of the committee and scored the British Government for conditioning the immigration of the 100,000 on disbandment of the Hagannah.

JEWISH PRISONER SNATCHED FROM POLICE IN DARING RAID IN JERUSALEM; GIRL STERNMOST SENTENCED

JERUSALEM, June 6. (JTA) -- A Jewish prisoner from the Latrun detention camp was snatched from a guard today by two armed men who broke into a doctor's waiting room in Jerusalem, where the detainees had been escorted for treatment.

The guard, a police sergeant, was wounded by two shots fired at close range. The prisoner escaped with the assailants in a waiting car which they later abandoned. During the incident, other unknown persons attacked a R.A.F. man in the vicinity and took his rifle.

While the attacks were in progress, a British military court here was sentencing Guela Cohen, a pretty 20-year-old Yemenite Jewish girl, to seven years imprisonment for illegal possession of arms and two years for operating an illegal radio transmitter. The sentences will run concurrently. The Cohen girl, who is also known as Shoshana Levi, was captured on Feb. 19 when police raided a house in Tel Aviv which was used as an improvised broadcasting studio by the Stern Group.

TRIAL OF RIOTERS RESPONSIBLE FOR KUNMADARAS POGROM OPENS; SYNAGOGUE FIRE INVESTIGATED

SZOLNOK, Hungary, June 6. (JTA) -- The trial of eight persons charged with responsibility for the anti-Semitic riot at the town of Kunmadaras on May 21 during which three Jews were killed and many injured, has opened here before a military court.

Most of the defendants, among whom there is one woman, were shoeless and dressed in tattered clothing. The woman, Esther Kabai-Toth, was unable to give her birthdate, but said she was about 41 years old. Two of the others are illiterates. The youngest defendant is only 15.

The Kabai-Toth woman is charged with spreading the report that a missing child had been kidnapped by a Jewish shopkeeper and killed for his flesh, from which sausages were made. The prosecution brought out that she had continued to spread the rumor after she knew that the child had been found.

The other chief instigators of the riot, according to preliminary evidence, were a Slovakian named Zsigmond Toth and a school master named Nagy. The latter was on trial before a local court in Kunmadaras for pro-Nazi and anti-Semitic activities when the outbreak occurred. Toth is charged with making statements to the effect that the extermination of Slovakian Jewry was progressing and that the Jews of Hungary must suffer the same fate.

Aside from the slander about the Jews murdering children and the sympathy felt by many persons for the schoolmaster, the main motivation for the riot seems to have been a desire to loot the shops of the Jews who were the targets of the attack. As one of the injured men lay dying, the mob carried almost everything moveable from his store. The local police made no move to stop them. Two of the injured Jews, a husband and wife, had returned from the Bergen-Belsen camp only six weeks before the outbreak.

One of the accused told the court today that he was innocent, because the steel rod with which he had beaten one of the murdered Jews was hollow and, therefore, could not be considered a lethal weapon.

(Police authorities in Budapest announced today that an investigation of the destruction of an Orthodox synagogue at Mako, last Friday night, is continuing. The persons believed to be responsible for setting the fire which razed the synagogue have not been found, and some investigators have expressed the opinion that the blaze may have been caused by lightning.)

EPIDEMIC OF SUICIDES AMONG DISPLACED JEWS FEARED; JEW TAKES LIFE IN CAMP IN GERMANY

MUNICH, June 6. (JTA) -- Fear lest an epidemic of suicides break out among displaced Jews in Germany over the delay in their transfer to Palestine was expressed today in Jewish circles here following the suicide of M. Hornstein, formerly of Vilna, Poland, who took his life at the DP camp at Ferenwald.

Hornstein was a cousin of a rabbi in Tel Aviv. He recently told friends that he could no longer endure remaining in Germany and would commit suicide if compelled to remain any longer.

NAZI CHIEF OF STAFF DENIES KNOWLEDGE OF MURDER OF JEWS; CHALLENGED BY PROSECUTION

NUREMBERG, June 6. (JTA)--Col. Gen. Alfred Jodl, former chief of staff of the German High Command, today denied before the International Military Tribunal that he knew of the extermination of Jews by German troops, although the prosecution submitted evidence showing that the Security Police, who carried out the massacres of Jews, operated under the Wehrmacht's direction.

Jodl said that he had never seen any order dealing with the murder of Jews. However, he was unable to explain an army directive issued during the campaign in Russia, which said that all "Jewish spies and Soviet commissars" were to be delivered to the army for "special treatment." Although many sources, including Nazi documents, have revealed the extent of Jewish participation in the partisan movements, Jodl denied that there were any Jews among the guerrillas captured by his troops.

The prosecutors also introduced a report by the Wehrmacht commander in Denmark, issued in Sept., 1943, in which he acknowledged orders to round up 6,000 Danish Jews. The same officer in a subsequent document, said that the Jews were primarily responsible for the trouble in Denmark and should be treated accordingly. Other documents included a report on the arrest of 283 Jews in Denmark, which Jodl had annotated: "This is a matter of complete indifference to us."

During the cross-examination Jodl was asked what happened to the Jews turned over to the S.S. by his troops. He replied that they had been sent to Theresienstadt, where they lived under good conditions.

INFLUX OF POLISH JEWS INTO U.S. ZONE IN GERMANY CONTINUES, WAR DEPARTMENT REPORTS

WASHINGTON, June 6. (JTA)--Polish Jews are continuing to enter the American zone of Germany in hope of expediting their removal to Palestine, and they constitute the majority of those entering the zone, according to the Civil Affairs Division of the War Department.

Declaring displaced persons primarily responsible for disturbances in the American zone, army officials have listed several solutions. These include closing the borders against further entrance of refugees, closing the displaced persons camps, provision of means for resettlement of the non-repatriables and reduction of rations in the camps to that of the German population, with the displaced persons ordered to work for their keep.

JEWISH THEATRE TROUPE FROM POLAND ARRIVES IN GERMANY TO GIVE FIRST SHOW SINCE 1939

MUNICH, June 6. (JTA)--A troupe of the Jewish Musical and Variety Theatre of Poland has arrived here to give the first performances in Germany by a Yiddish theatrical group since before the war. Its first production will be Sholem Aleikhem's "Two Hundred Thousand."

Most of the actors recently returned from Russia where they sought refuge during the war. They played in Moscow under the direction of Prof. Solom Mikhovels, the leading Yiddish actor and director in the Soviet Union, and also performed at other Jewish state theatres.

Among the actors is one who was a partisan leader, several who were confined in concentration camps and others who survived in Poland because they had "aryan" papers.

UNRRA RULING WILL INCREASE RATIONS OF AUSTRIAN JEWS WHO WERE IMPRISONED BY NAZIS

VIENNA, June 6. (JTA) -- UNRRA has decided to grant Displaced Persons status and special aid to all Austrians who, as victims of the Nazi regime, were placed in concentration camps, according to a cable received here from Hans Geiger, a Washington, D.C. attorney who has been representing former concentration camp inmates.

Under the ruling, several thousand former prisoners, among them 2,000 Jews, will be benefitted. The new ration for this class is expected to be increased to between 2,000 and 3,000 calories. According to information available here, the central office of UNRRA in Washington has already instructed its London headquarters to begin these supplementary deliveries of food.

In addition, under a new Austrian relief law soon to be presented to Parliament, Austrians who were persecuted for their racial origins will be included in state grants-in-aid which will probably amount to 150 schillings (\$15.00) a month, provided they have no other income. They are also to be granted special advantages, under the proposed legislation, in the way of applying for licenses to establish businesses.

DR. MAGNES REPORTS ON PROGRESS OF HEBREW UNIVERSITY; URGES PALESTINE MEDICAL TRAINING

NEW YORK, June 6. (JTA) -- Acceleration of the \$4,000,000 campaign of the Hebrew University and the Hadassah to establish a medical school at the university was announced here today by Dr. Judah L. Magnes, president of the institution, who has just arrived in this country to aid the drive.

Despite the fact that the necessary funds have not yet been collected, Dr. Magnes said that expansion of the medical facilities has begun. The Hadassah hospital, which at present has a capacity of 350 beds, will have 70 beds added shortly, and is expected to be increased to 500 to 550 beds when the program is completed. A corner-stone has already been laid for a new nurses' training school.

Dr. Magnes stated that for a long time Palestine has depended upon European Jewish doctors to protect the health of the population, and pointed out that the supply of young Jewish physicians halted abruptly in the years of the Hitler regime. Palestine must train its own medical and scientific personnel in order to provide for the future, he said, adding that he expected the medical school would become the center for medical research in the Near East.

Dr. Magnes declared that although the Hebrew University was a center for Jewish culture and science, the enrollment is and will continue to be on a non-sectarian basis. The only requirement is a high scholastic record. He said that there were a number of Arabs at the university now and that nine American students were attending under the provisions of the G.I. Bill of Rights.

The enrollment of the University at present is 900. The largest attendance figure was reached during the scholastic year of 1939-1940. Shortly thereafter the students began dropping out of school to enlist in the British armed forces until only 300 students remained during the war years. Hebrew University students fought with pioneer companies at Dunkerque and in Africa and then were transferred to the Jewish Brigade. The majority of the Brigade's officers were former students of the University, he said.