

Sunday, November 24, 1946

**JTA***Daily News Bulletin*

PUBLISHED BY THE JEWISH TELEGRAPHIC AGENCY

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

HAGANAH MOVES TO CURB EXTREMISTS; MAPS PLAN TO AVOID CIVIL WAR AMONG JEWISH GROUPS

JERUSALEM, Nov. 22. (JTA) -- In what is believed to be one of the first steps taken by the Haganah to implement its declared policy of curbing extremist outrages, a large mine planted by either the Irgun Zvai Leumi or the Stern Group near government buildings here was removed today by members of the Haganah.

It is understood that the Haganah learned that a large, powerful mine had been placed on Mamilah Road, where several government offices are located. Without notifying the authorities, it sent one of its members to the location. He dismantled the mine and removed it without attracting the attention of the police.

The action followed a secret meeting of Haganah leaders, who were summoned to an urgent conference to discuss measures which have been mapped to thwart the extremists without precipitating civil war within the Jewish community.

No Partition Proposal Received from Britain, Jewish Agency Says

A Jewish Agency spokesman today denied rumors that the Agency was negotiating with leaders of the extremist organizations in an attempt to persuade them to halt their activities. He also denied that the Agency had received any partition proposal from the British Government or is negotiating with the government concerning any such proposal.

He revealed that the Jewish internees at Cyprus are refusing to move to winter quarters prepared for them, in protest against being forced to remain on the island. The Agency, he said, is demanding their transfer to camps in Palestine.

The country's rail service resumed operation today after a three-day suspension, with a large portion of available combat troops guarding the right of way. Every foot of track and roads adjoining the rails are being patrolled.

British troops, meanwhile, are completing the most extensive maneuvers ever held here. Thousands of troops have been engaged in mock battles in Palestine and Trans-Jordan for the past three months. An armored formation of the Arab Legion played the role of the enemy.

Violent explosions which shook the outskirts of Haifa this afternoon, and which led to reports that terrorists had launched new attacks, turned out to be part of the maneuvers.

The Arab press reports that plans have been worked out to erect a barbed wire fence on the Egyptian border. The inspector-general of the Egyptian police is reported to be touring the entire border area by plane, including the Sinai Peninsula, where mobile police patrols have been stationed.

ZIONIST LEADERS CONFER WITH SECRETARY BYRNES ON PALESTINE; FRANK DISCUSSION HELD

NEW YORK, Nov. 22. (JTA) -- American Zionist leaders today conferred with Secretary of State James F. Byrnes on the Palestine question for the first time since it was announced in Washington that Mr. Byrnes has been authorized by President Truman to discuss the Palestine issue with British Foreign Secretary Ernest Bevin who is now in this country.

Participating in the conference were Dr. Abba Hillel Silver, Dr. Stephen S. Wise and Dr. Nahum Goldmann. Mr. Bevin had been informed that a meeting with Byrnes was scheduled, during his second conference with Dr. Silver, which was held this week in the Waldorf Astoria at the invitation of the British Foreign Secretary. The three Zionist leaders had a full and frank exchange of views with Secretary Byrnes on various aspects of the Palestine problem.

Following the conference, Dr. Wise sailed on the Ile de France for Europe to attend the World Zionist Congress, and to participate in the first meeting of the European Consultative Council of the World Jewish Congress which will take place in Paris at the end of this month.

"I am hopeful that the British Government will see that there must be a Jewish State in Palestine," Dr. Wise said in a statement issued to the press in connection with his departure. "Either that, or the end of the British Mandate. At the same time, and even though the problem of Palestine be settled alright, our government and the Congress must face the fact of immigration of refugees into our own country.

"The truth that Palestine alone can solve the problem of Jewish displaced persons does not alter the obligation of the U.S. to welcome and give a home to Jewish immigrants," Dr. Wise continued. "President Truman has spoken on behalf of this. I believe the Republican Congress ought to take and will take the same position. Both great labor organizations have spoken in favor of immigration possibilities to be granted to refugees. It would be the decent and American way of dealing with certain aspects of this problem."

ITALY TOLD BY ALLIES TO PREPARE TO ASSUME RESPONSIBILITY FOR DP'S, INCLUDING 25,000 JEWS

LONDON, Nov. 22. (JTA) -- The Allied Control Council for Italy has asked the Italian Government to make immediate preparations to assume full responsibility for displaced persons by Oct. 1 of next year, Italian diplomatic circles disclosed here.

The Italian Government has been "invited" by the Council to study the entire situation arising out of the presence of DP's in Italy and to take the measures seen by it as necessary. Among the estimated 80,000 displaced persons in Italy are about 25,000 Jews.

VIENNA JEWS PLAN MEETING TO PROTEST GOVERNMENT'S FAILURE TO ACT ON RESTITUTION

VIENNA, Nov. 22. (JTA) -- A mass meeting of Vienna Jews will be held here on Tuesday to protest against the inadequate restitution laws adopted by the government, and its failure to recognize justified Jewish demands.

The Jewish Community Council, in cooperation with other Jewish organizations, has established "a Protective Association" to handle the claims by Jews for damages and restitution of property and to represent them before the appropriate authorities,

BRITISH MILITARY POLICE RAID JEWISH FISHING SCHOOL IN GERMANY; ARREST 26

HAMBURG, Nov. 22. (JTA) -- Twenty-six persons, including seven women, were arrested yesterday when British military police raided a Jewish fishery training school at Blakensee, near here, on charges that it was an embarkation center for Jews seeking to enter Palestine.

The police say that they discovered chests containing money and food in the school's headquarters and a powerful steam launch and three sea-going motorboats moored at its docks.

All those arrested were displaced persons, seven of whom were ordered moved to an UNRRA camp at Neustadt last month, but had refused to go.

GERMAN OFFICIALS CHARGED WITH BIAS AGAINST JEWS IN NAMING CUSTODIANS FOR PROPERTY

MUNICH, Nov. 22. (JTA) -- German authorities are discriminating against Jews in the appointment of custodians for former Nazi and aryitized Jewish property, it was charged today in a complaint lodged with the Military Government, which promised an immediate inquiry.

A Military Government spokesman told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency that official policy "does not favor anybody." All that is required is that the custodian be politically pure, but all persons regardless of race are on an equal footing regarding appointments.

Discussing the problem of Jews ousted from houses taken over by the Army to house dependents of officers and soldiers, the spokesman said that the Jews and other persecutees must vacate the same as other Germans, but the local government is obligated to find them equally comfortable quarters elsewhere.

JEWISH MASS GRAVES LOOTED IN POLAND BY CRIMINALS SEEKING VALUABLES

WARSAW, Nov. 22. (JTA) -- Police authorities today launched a campaign to put an end to looting of mass graves of Jews in the areas of Treblinka, Majdanek, Sobibor and Trawniki where Nazi extermination camps formerly existed.

Large sections of the graves have been dug up by criminals in search of valuables. The excavations are carried on with the help of pneumatic drills and mechanically operated sieves. Even human ashes are being sifted in an attempt to find gold teeth, or rings.

Jan Jakubik, an estate owner near Treblinka, was sentenced this week to 18 months hard labor, after it was established that he had hired a large number of people, including children, to dig up mass graves at Treblinka. His activities were discovered by the police as a result of a raid on jewelry shops in Warsaw where large quantities of gold teeth, rings, ear rings and other trinkets were discovered. An investigation established that Jakubik was one of the persons who sold much of this loot to the jewelry stores.

CZECHOSLOVAK-PALESTINE SERVICE INAUGURATED AT PRAGUE BY CZECH AIR LINE

PRAGUE, Nov. 22. (JTA) -- The Czechoslovak Air Line has inaugurated regular direct flights from Prague to Palestine.

COURT DISMISSES SEDITION CASE; DROPS CHARGES AGAINST 26, INCLUDING ACTIVE ANTI-SEMITES

WASHINGTON, Nov. 22. (JTA) -- Chief Justice Bolitha J. Laws in Federal District Court today dismissed the wartime mass sedition case, granting defense motions by the 26 defendants, who were charged in April, 1944, with conspiracy to interfere with the draft and to undermine the morale of the armed forces. Among the defendants are some of the principal anti-Semites in the country.

The Justice Department announced immediately that it will appeal the decisions. Attorney General Tom Clark has instructed Department attorneys to draw up the necessary papers and an appeal hearing will be held on Dec. 2.

The Department had announced yesterday that it was ready to retry the case and was prepared to submit a confidential report which O. John Rogge, former prosecutor on the case, made after an investigation in Germany.

After indictment in April, 1944 the defendants were placed on trial. Eight months later, with the Government's evidence not yet completed, the presiding judge died and a mis-trial was declared.

In dismissing the indictments Laws said: "Under the circumstances, to permit another trial, which conceivably would last more than a year, with new prosecutors and newly appointed counsel for defendants, with the eventual outcome in serious doubt ... would be a travesty on justice.

"I can reach no other conclusion than that there is serious doubt as to the validity of these cases," he continued. "More than eight months is an abnormally long time to be required by the prosecution to establish guilt in a clear case."

Laws pointed out that the witnesses are now scattered, some no longer available, and that the memories of witnesses as to events occurring many years ago are not clear.

"It is for these persons among others that the Constitution requires a speedy trial and that the Congress has imposed a statute of limitations to prevent long delayed prosecutions. I do not see how these defendants can now possibly obtain fair trials."

ANTI-SEMITIC INCIDENTS REPORTED IN HUNGARY; MINISTER OF JUSTICE PROMISES ACTION

BUDAPEST, Nov. 22. (JTA) -- Several ugly anti-Semitic incidents have occurred in recent days, according to reports reaching here from various parts of the country.

In Pecs, several students, acting at the instigation of one of their instructors, painted anti-Semitic slogans on walls of buildings. In Oroshaza the municipal council adopted a resolution condemning local Jews for addresses made at the unveiling of a memorial to Jews murdered by Hungarian fascists, charging that they were unfriendly.

Meanwhile, Szolnok, which was the scene of an anti-Jewish disturbance last Sunday during a football match has been barred from holding further games for one year by Minister of Justice Istvan Ries, who is also president of the Hungarian Football Association. Ries also promised punishment of those responsible for the incident.

AMERICAN JEWISH CONGRESS ATTACKS NEW POLICY OF COMMUNIST PARTY ON JEWISH ISSUES

NEW YORK, Nov. 22. (JTA) -- The American Jewish Congress today issued an attack on a new statement of policy by the Communist Party of the United States with regard to Palestine and other Jewish issues, which was outlined this week in an official 10,000 word resolution on "Communist Work Among American Jewish Masses."

The attack is made in an unusually long editorial in Congress Weekly, official organ of the American Jewish Congress, which declared that a "widening and formidable gap separates the so-called 'Jewish' line of those who follow Communist doctrine and those who worry about the fate of the Jewish people."

Pointing to the basic differences in approach to the Jewish problem between the Communist Party and the vast majority of Jewish organizations, the editorial stated that the desire among Jews for survival as a people rather than the negative force of "anti-fascist unity" must be the motivating power of Jewish activity.

The editorial referred to the apparent pro-Zionist position of Communist groups during the war and declared that "the ambiguity of this position has now definitely ended and that the party has reverted to its pre-war position of champion of the Arab people." It pointed out that the Communist opposition to the immediate admission of 100,000 Jews into Palestine and their suggestion of making any immigration dependent on "Arab sanction" would doom hundreds of thousands of Jews either to continued confinement in European camps or to harrowing insecurity.

Wants Amity Between Soviet-U.S. Jewries. But Questions Communists' Role

Apropos the Communist suggestion of closer cultural co-operation between American and Soviet Jewry, the editorial said that "the establishment of close relations between American and Soviet Jewries has long been the hope of all who believe in the unity of the Jewish people," but "what this program calls for is that American Jews become disciples of Soviet Jewry in cultural "affairs." The plan, as envisaged by the Communists, it added, "means in effect that American Jewry is to be taught by the American agents of Soviet-Jewish culture - the Jewish Communists."

Referring to the "tremendous significance" of the Soviet program in eliminating anti-Semitism and solving the Jewish problem through economic reconstruction and equality, the editorial noted that "this process of legal, economic and political restoration has been accompanied by a process of internal disintegration which has rendered the network of Yiddish schools, the Yiddish press and many cultural institutions superfluous," and that even the "most sympathetic observers have nothing to report on any communal or national Jewish life in the USSR."

Dealing with the resolution's reference to the American Jewish scene and its appeal for common action in collaboration with other minority groups in the struggle against anti-Semitism and inequality, the editorial said that while the American Jewish Congress was wholly in agreement with such a program, it felt that "the entire spirit and letter of the resolution casts considerable doubt whether the instructions issued to party members with regard to co-operation with others on these problems are really motivated by a genuine interest and concern for the fulfillment of democracy in this country."

DENTAL COUNCIL CONDEMNS QUOTA SYSTEM; ACTION HAILED BY ANTI-DEFAMATION LEAGUE

NEW YORK, Nov. 22. (JTA) -- Justice Meir Steinbrink, national chairman of the Anti-Defamation League, today expressed gratification at the action of the Council on Dental Education of the American Dental Association in circularizing deans of dental schools throughout the country that it was opposed to use of quotas based on the applicants' racial or religious antecedents.

The Council's action ends a situation which developed last February, when the Anti-Defamation League made public a memorandum sent to the dental colleges at Columbia and New York Universities by the secretary of the Council, which was interpreted as favoring the use of quotas.

In his circular letter to the deans, Dr. J. Ben Robinson, chairman of the Council, wrote: "Former statements issued by the council have been interpreted to mean that it favors the establishment of quotas that would limit the opportunities of certain groups of our population because of creeds or ethnic origins. The council wishes to disavow unequivocally the existence of any such thought or intention in the purpose of any of its announcements."

COLUMBIANS CHARGE "JEWISH INTERESTS" KEEP THEM FROM MEETING HALL; SPEAK IN

ATLANTA, Nov. 22. (JTA) -- Emory Burke, president of the Columbians, new anti-Semitic, anti-Negro organization, charged today that the attempt last night to bar the group from its usual meeting hall was provoked by "Jewish interests."

When the Columbians assembled at the meeting hall of the Plumbers and Steamfitters Union, which they had been using, they found it locked at the order of union officials. Summoning a locksmith they forced their way in and conducted their meeting.

A union spokesman said that as a result of the disturbance last week, when the Columbians were driven from the hall by tear gas, he considered the union's contract with the fascist organization had been breached.

NEW YORK HIGH COURT REFUSES TO STRIP UNIVERSITY OF TAX EXEMPTION BECAUSE OF BIAS

ALBANY, N.Y., Nov. 22. (JTA) -- The Court of Appeals, highest state court, has refused to review a lower court's dismissal of a suit seeking to deny tax exemptions to Columbia University on the grounds that it practiced discrimination in admissions.

The suit, which was brought by the Non-Sectarian Anti-Nazi League, asked the Tax Commission to withdraw the exemption. When the Commission refused to act, the League appealed to the Supreme Court and then to the Appellate Division, both of which upheld the Commission.

MONSKY NAMED CHAIRMAN, WEIL MEMBER OF CONFERENCE FOR PREVENTION OF JUVENILE CRIME

WASHINGTON, Nov. 22. (JTA) -- Henry Monsky, national president of the B'nai B'rith will be chairman and Frank L. Weil, president of the National Jewish Welfare Board, a member of the continuing committee of the National Conference for the Prevention and Control of Juvenile Delinquency, which has just concluded a three-day conference here. Monsky and Weil, in their capacities as committee members, will help to implement and coordinate the results of the meeting.