

Sunday, August 10, 1947

JTA

Daily News Bulletin

PUBLISHED BY THE JEWISH TELEGRAPHIC AGENCY

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

"SECRET" DOCUMENTS OF PALESTINE GOVERNMENT FOUND IN POSSESSION OF HAGANAH

JERUSALEM, Aug. 8. (JTA) -- Government circles today reported that police authorities are investigating what may be the biggest security leak in the history of the Palestine Government.

The report said that British soldiers, searching a car, allegedly found two in possession of four brief cases containing "top secret" government and military files. The Jews, reportedly members of the Haganah, were arrested, but were released on bail.

A Jewish delegation, headed by Isaac Ben Zvi, president of the Jewish National Council, today called on the Acting Chief Secretary of the Palestine Government and invited to him the resolutions adopted yesterday at the emergency session of the Jewish National Assembly, demanding the release of the three arrested Jewish mayors and other elected Jewish officials. The mayors yesterday refused to answer any questions put to them by officers of the British secret service.

Five Jewish youths dressed in khaki and armed with automatic pistols today broke up the Hasharon Cooperative Bank in Ramath Gan and escaped with about \$4,000 in cash and \$20,000 in checks. An hour later a Yemenite Jew presented one of the stolen checks for payment at the Ottoman Bank in Tel Aviv but, when the cashier became suspicious, he fled leaving the check behind.

Six men and one woman were detained today at Kfar Hayim, when a quantity of illegal pamphlets were found in their taxi. At the same time, it was reported from reports that three Arabs were arrested by Egyptian border guards in the Sinai desert, near the Palestine frontier, when they attempted to smuggle arms into Palestine from Egypt. Their camels were loaded with several Tommyguns, seventy-five rifles and several hundred rounds of British-made cartridges.

Arrested Jews Will Be Released After Three Weeks, Arabs Predict

The Arab press today reported that the interrogation of the arrested Jewish mayors and Revisionist leaders will be concluded within three weeks, after which a "considerable number" of them will be released. The report is allegedly based on information from "official sources," but no confirmation could be obtained.

It was revealed today that in their hunt for Revisionist leaders, the police searched a house on Bilu Street in Tel Aviv, searching for Meir Grossman, noted Revisionist leader. Mr. Grossman, who used to live in the house eleven years ago, is now in the United States and has been there for several years.

Lt. Gen. Gordon H.A. MacMillan, British military commander in Palestine, today ordered that Major Roy A. Farran be charged with the murder of Alexander Rubenstein, a 17-year-old Jewish youth. The announcement was made after the Palestine

8/10/47

Supreme Court rejected a petition in behalf of Rubovitz' parents that the police be instructed to produce the youth or his body.

Farran, who twice escaped from custody and later surrendered, is reported to be a member of an unofficial organization existing among Palestine policemen which is said to be responsible for the kidnapping and beating of a number of Jews, including Rubovitz. The boy disappeared in Jerusalem May 6.

A government press release has revealed that 18 members of the security forces, three civilians and two extremists were killed in the current wave of violence, which began July 16. In addition 80 policemen and soldiers and 17 civilians were wounded in the same period.

British Deliberately Seek to Provoke Palestine Jews, ZOA President Says

NEW YORK, Aug. 8. (JTA) -- The charge that "British authorities are deliberately exacerbating the situation and provoking the entire Jewish population" was made by Dr. Emanuel Neumann, president of the Zionist Organization of America, at a special meeting of the national ZOA executive held in New York last night to consider present events in Palestine.

Members of the ZOA executive, coming from all parts of the country, reported on the mounting bitterness in their respective communities over Britain's "war on the Jewish refugees." The demand was voiced by many speakers that President Truman and Secretary of State George C. Marshall intervene at once with the British Government and that a humane policy toward the refugees be made a condition of any further financial assistance by the United States to Britain.

Charging that British policies are intended to provoke Jewish retaliation, Dr. Neumann stated: "Well-informed persons returning from Palestine have expressed serious doubt as to whether those responsible for British policy really want all terrorist activities to be stamped out. They point out that every time the responsible Jewish leaders inaugurated a serious effort to rally the whole community against the Irgun and the Stern group, the Government committed some new provocative act tending to frustrate and paralyze the efforts of the Jewish leaders."

Clergyman Charges British with "Deliberate Murder" of Exodus Refugees

Rev. John Stanley Grauel, 29-year-old Methodist minister who served as a volunteer member of the crew of the Exodus and later testified before the United Nations Special Committee on Palestine in Jerusalem, today charged the British with ramming the Exodus 14 times off Haifa.

Speaking to reporters upon his return to New York, he accused British naval forces of the "deliberate murder" of passengers and crew members of the crowded vessel and declared that William Bernstein, American crew member, was "clubbed to death."

BRITISH USE PRESSURE ON SWEDEN TO PREVENT DEPARTURE OF VESSEL FOR PALESTINE

STOCKHOLM, Aug. 8. (JTA) -- British officials here have drawn the attention of the Swedish Government to a small vessel which they believe will be used to transport visaless Jewish immigrants to Palestine, the press reported today.

The British emphasized that they fear that the vessel, the 600-ton San Basilio, will sail from Gothenberg to pick up the refugees at another European port. The San Basilio is registered under no flag.

8/10/47

ANTI-JEWISH OUTBREAKS IN BRITAIN CEASE. BOARD OF DEPUTIES SAYS; DEMONSTRATORS FINED

LONDON, Aug. 8. (JTA) -- The Board of Deputies of British Jews said today that no anti-Jewish outbreaks occurred yesterday in England, but it added that it is studying the situation carefully. Meanwhile, in Manchester a 17-year-old youth was sentenced to prison for six months for breaking a shop window and assaulting a policeman in Monday's anti-Jewish outbreaks.

In a Liverpool slaughter house workers decided today not to handle kosher meat, as a protest against the hanging of the two British sergeants in Palestine by the Irgun. Several anti-Jewish demonstrators in Liverpool, including two women, were fined for participating in the anti-Semitic outrages, as were three men in Manchester. The Liverpool man received a month's prison sentence.

The National Council of Christians and Jews today issued a statement approved by the Archbishops of Canterbury and Westminster and the Moderator of the Free Church Federal Council condemning terrorism in Palestine and appealing to Englishmen not to join their anger against the Jews in Britain who, the statement said, shared their fellow countrymen's opposition to the extremists.

Protests of Jewish groups in England against the hanging of the two British sergeants continue to be made public. In a letter to the mayor of Sheffield city, the Jewish community of that city expressed its "deep sense of shame" at the hangings committed by "irresponsible fanatics," adding that the Irgun Zvai Leumi causes "grave harm" to the Jewish people. "Our just claim for a national home cannot and must not be achieved by crime," the missive concluded.

The Lancashire and Cheshire Federation of Trades Councils urged its 77 affiliated trade unions to oppose anti-Jewish outbreaks in England and appealed to all trade unionists to stamp out "these fascist activities."

Anti-Jewish Demonstrations Flout Democracy, Zionist Organ Warns

The Zionist Review, official organ of the Zionist Federation of Great Britain today described the anti-Jewish attacks in England as a challenge to democracy. "It would be a serious mistake to underestimate the significance of the anti-Jewish demonstrations which have disfigured the face of Britain in the last few days," said the paper. "Limited though the disturbances have been in comparison with the country as a whole, they are, nevertheless, a symptom of a disease which both Gentiles and Jews would do well to note.

"Gentiles should remember that it is not only Jewish freedom that is at stake but the very basis of democracy," the article pointed out. "The most elementary principle of modern society, that no person shall be held responsible for the misdeeds of others, is being flouted--and in a disgraceful manner.

"The anti-Semitic demonstrations here are a challenge to British democracy to act in time and act quickly. The public is notorious for its short memory, but at the peril it will forget that it was the less lethal anti-Semitism of pre-Hitler Germany which led to the rise and to the extermination of millions of innocent men, women and children--Jew and non-Jew alike," the article warned.

NEW SYNAGOGUE OPENED IN BAVARIAN TOWN WHICH ONCE BOASTED IT WAS "FREE OF JEWS"

MUNICH, Aug. 8. (JTA) -- A synagogue has been opened in the town of Wolfratshausen, in Bavaria, one of the first towns during the Hitler regime to boast that it was "Judenrein." The synagogue will serve the 250 members of the Jewish community.

8/10/47

MEASLES REPORTED AMONG EXODUS' REFUGEES; IMMIGRANTS FINAL DESTINATION STILL A SECRET

PORT DE BOUC, France, Aug. 8. (JTA) -- At least one case of measles has been reported among the Jewish refugee children being held aboard the three British prison ships in the harbor here and several other cases are suspected, French sources reported today.

Meanwhile, the French have denied a British report of yesterday that they will send an official delegation to the Exodus' refugees on the ships to offer them a last chance to disembark before being transported elsewhere. Although the British were negotiating with the French concerning such a delegation and announced that it would board the vessels today or tomorrow, it was disclosed today that the French have definitely rejected the role offered them by the British Government.

The situation, therefore, remains much the same as before with the final destination of the immigrants still a secret. British sources here deny that the refueling of the deportation transports means that they are preparing to sail.

The case of measles has presented the convoy authorities with a problem. They cannot put the child ashore because its parents refuse to land. French medical officers have suggested that the child be placed in isolation aboard ship.

U.S. ARMY SINGLES OUT FOUR JEWISH DP'S AS BEING INVOLVED IN ASSAULT ON TWO SOLDIERS

ANSBACH, Germany, Aug. 8. (JTA) -- Four of 51 displaced Jews held for questioning here in connection with the beating of two American soldiers by a group of DP's in a nearby camp last week were today singled out by Army investigators as being involved in the incident. Two of the men are suspected of having been the assailants.

Meanwhile, the Army has not yet withdrawn the armed guard which has surrounded the camp since the beginning of the week and continues to question various camp residents. The inquiry has been handled by Army personnel with tact and no incidents have occurred. It is believed that the guards may be withdrawn over the week-end.

Major Abraham Hyman, legal aide to Judge Louis E. Levinthal, Jewish advisor to the Army, stayed at the camp today and explained the Army's actions and the reason for the searches and questioning. He asked the displaced Jews to maintain discipline in order to avoid further trouble.

GERMANY IS NOT SAFE FOR JEWS, DR. SLAWSON REPORTS AFTER TOUR OF AMERICAN ZONE

PARIS, Aug. 8. (JTA) -- Germany is not safe for Jews, Dr. John Slawson, executive vice-president of the American Jewish Committee reported here today following his return from a tour of the American zone during which he made a study of the DP situation on behalf of his organization.

Speaking at a press conference, Dr. Slawson stated that the energy and vitality of the displaced Jews was good, but added that the opening of the gates of Palestine and the United States was the only solution to their problem.

"The DP situation is deteriorating," he asserted. "Growing political and social tensions in Germany are finding expression in incidents between DP's and American troops and Germans. The attitude of anti-democratic Germans remains appreciably unaltered by the liberation."

8/10/47

100,000,000 WORTH OF JEWISH COMMUNAL PROPERTY, SURVEY SHOWS

NEW YORK, Aug. 8. (JTA) -- The Nazis destroyed about \$100,000,000 worth of Jewish communal property in Germany, it was estimated in the first comprehensive report on the organized destruction of Jewish communal property by the Hitler regime, released today by the American Jewish Committee.

The study, which follows a three-year survey compiled and analyzed by the American Federation of Jews from Central Europe and sponsored by the Committee, is based on a total of 1,054 reports covering 1,050 cities and towns, and on secret Gestapo documents and evidence revealed at the Nuremberg trials.

Local property of 231.6 million Reichsmarks was reported, plus 5.1 million Reichsmarks for Jewish regional associations in four German states, thus bringing the total reported communal property to 236.7 million Reichsmarks before the nation-wide pogrom of Nov. 10, 1938. This total corresponds roughly to \$100,000,000 at the last prewar official exchange rate, the survey notes.

The record of assets of the former Jewish communities and other non-private organizations in Germany includes an inventory of the major synagogues, hospitals, orphanages, seminaries and other Jewish communal property in the principal German cities. A comprehensive inventory of the damage suffered by the Jewish communities in Germany under the Nazi regime is intended to commemorate the cultural and religious attainments of the Jews of Germany "and to serve as valuable material for the recovery of property destroyed or robbed by the Nazis," Professor Nathan Stein, president of the American Federation of Jews from Central Europe, declared.

The assassination of Ernst Vom Rath, secretary of the German legation in Paris, provided the Nazis with the excuse for putting into action drastic measures to destroy the Jewish community in Nov., 1938, the survey declared. "There had been about 1,600 Jewish synagogues and houses of worship in Germany in 1932 and 1933," the report notes. "The number decreased 1,400 in 1937. During the November events, only 200 synagogues which stood between the houses of non-Jews were spared. Whatever property of the Jewish communities, scientific bodies and social work organizations remained was put under official seal in June 1943, and confiscated by the German Government."

19 MORE NAZIS STAND TRIAL FOR WAR CRIMES

FRANKFURT, Aug. 8. (JTA) -- Josef Hofer, who has admitted that he was the director of the crematoria at the notorious Oswiecim death camp, was arrested in Hamburg today after his estranged wife revealed his identity to the police. Hofer had been working as a house painter during the last two years.

Nineteen Germans went on trial today before the Dachau War Crimes Court charged with beating and murdering numerous concentration camp inmates who were impressed into labor gangs in the underground V-bomb plant at Nordhausen. George J. Rickhet, who directed the entire V-bomb production program, is the chief defendant.

Lt. Col. William Berman, the prosecutor, said today that the object of the Nordhausen camp, which was also called Camp Dora, was the "extermination of those who were sent there, not by gas chambers but by working them to death." Berman pointed out that the camp was composed of 48 huge tunnels which were filled with dust and contained practically no air, adding that the inmates "died like flies."

8/10/47

JEWISH REFUGEES IN SHANGHAI GET FIRST 200 U.S. VISAS ON USMA AFFIDAVIT

NEW YORK, Aug. 8. (JTA) -- The first 200 U.S. visas based on the corporate affidavit of United Service for New Americans have been issued to refugees in Shanghai, it was reported today by Joseph E. Beck, executive director of United Service. The refugees will leave Shanghai en route to San Francisco on August 24th aboard the S.S. "General Gordon."

On arrival in San Francisco the newcomers will be provided with a complete program of reception, shelter, maintenance and resettlement services by U.S.N.A., working in cooperation with the San Francisco Committee for Emigres and the local section of the National Council of Jewish Women. The immigrants will be resettled in many cities and towns throughout the country by United Service, in cooperation with local refugee-aid committees.

CANADIAN DELEGATION LEAVES FOR DP CAMPS TO SELECT 2,500 CLOTHING WORKERS AS IMMIGRANTS

MONTREAL, Aug. 8. (JTA) -- Representatives of the Canadian clothing industry left this week for Europe to select from among the DP's skilled garment workers who will be brought to Canada where the industry faces a shortage. The Government has granted permission for the admission of up to 2,500 needle workers.

The delegation, which includes Max E. Enkin, Samuel Posluns, B. Shane and A. Herbst, will survey the DP camps in Germany and Austria. Enkin is vice-president of the United Jewish Welfare Fund of Toronto, of which Posluns is a past president. Enkin and Herbst are leaders in the needle trade unions.

The decision of the Canadian Medical Association to oppose the admission of refugee physicians to this country was strongly criticized by the Daily Herald here, pointing to Canada's "scandalously high infant mortality rate" -- it is estimated that during the war period the country lost 90,000 infants -- the paper asked: "If we are so well fixed for doctors, why is it that every hospital in the country pleads it is understaffed?"

TEN TORAHS, 2,000 HOLY BOOKS FOUND INTACT IN PLOCK SYNAGOGUE; MUSEUM TO BE SET UP

WARSAW, Aug. 8. (JTA) -- Twenty Torahs and 2,000 sacred books which remained hidden throughout the period of the Nazi occupation in the attic of the synagogue in Plock were brought here today and will probably be distributed to various communities. The Jewish community of Plock was deported in 1941 to the extermination camps in Treblinka and Oswiecim.

Miraculously, the scrolls and books, as well as the synagogue in which they were discovered, are all in perfect condition. The synagogue will soon house a special museum featuring the records of the Polish Jewish martyrs who were killed during the war.

CZECHOSLOVAK OFFICIALS GIVE FORMER GERMAN BUILDING TO JEWS FOR A SYNAGOGUE

PRAGUE, Aug. 8. (JTA) -- A request by the Council of Jewish Communities in Bohemia and Moravia-Silesia that the Czechoslovak authorities turn over to the Jews in Karlovy Vary a building confiscated from the Germans for use as a synagogue was granted today. The town's synagogue was originally destroyed by the Germans and the one set up after the war had burned down.