

Friday, August 22, 1947

JTA

Daily News Bulletin

PUBLISHED BY THE JEWISH TELEGRAPHIC AGENCY

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

EXODUS REFUGEES REJECT BRITISH ULTIMATUM TO LAND IN FRANCE OR BE SENT TO GERMANY

MARSEILLES, Aug. 21. (JTA)--The 4,400 Exodus refugees aboard three prison ships in the harbor of Port de Bouc today rejected a British Government ultimatum to land by 6 P.M. tomorrow in France or be transported to Hamburg, chief port of the British zone of Germany.

Jewish Agency Refuses to Ask Refugees To Disembark in France

LONDON, Aug. 21. (JTA)--The Colonial Office today communicated to the Jewish Agency office here the decision of the British Government to send the Exodus refugees to Germany if they refuse to land in France by tomorrow night.

Berl Locker, member of the Agency executive, who received the notification and who was urged by the Colonial Office to go to Port de Bouc, France, to advise the visaless Jews to disembark from their three-prison ships, immediately rejected the invitation verbally. Later, in a letter to the Colonial Office, he wrote:

"The Jewish Agency indignantly rejects the suggestion that it should try to persuade the refugees to land in France. The Agency has a duty to cooperate with the Mandatory in facilitating Jewish immigration. It will never lend itself to an attempt to prevent Jews entering their national home."

Emphasizing in his letter that the government's statement "adds injury to insult by alleging that the refusal of the refugees to land is the result of persistent Zionist threats and propaganda," Locker pointed out that the British ultimatum to the Exodus refugees makes more difficult the position of the Jewish forces fighting violence in Palestine. He appealed to the government to "think twice" since it will have to "bear the responsibility for the consequences and repercussions" of its action.

At a press conference where he released his letter, Locker described the deportation as "an act of vengeance and persecution against people who committed no crime." He revealed that the British Consul General at Paris and several members of his staff read the ultimatum to the refugees on the three prison ships and that the visaless immigrants had rejected it.

Warning against using force at the disembarkation in Germany, he declared: "I dread to imagine what will happen. The position is fraught with danger for us, but is not without danger for the government."

Britain "Explains" Why Exodus Jews Are Being Sent To Germany

The announcement, issued by the Foreign Office, "explained" that the Exodus immigrants were being sent to Germany because it was the only territory under British jurisdiction where a large number of refugees could be fed and housed adequately.

The statement stressed that the British Government is still responsible for the maintenance of law and order in Palestine until the United Nations renders a

decision. It declared that "no action which might prejudice a U.N. verdict will be permitted." Asserting that the "illegal immigration traffic" is trying to upset the balance of population in Palestine, it pointed to recent clashes between Arabs and Jews and claimed that they resulted from such attempts. It also charged that thousands of legal immigrants could have reached Palestine from Germany, but for the stream of visaless refugees.

An official spokesman of the Foreign Office refused to reveal the arrangements which were being made in Germany to receive the Jews, but denied that they would be interned. He insisted that they would be treated the same as other DP's, although they "will not be at the head of the queue of legal immigrants going to Palestine." Asked whether the immigrants would be disembarked forcibly at Hamburg, the spokesman said: "They will not be allowed to remain on board." He also expressed doubts that newspaper correspondents would be permitted to witness the debarkation.

Refugees Wire Appeal; Determined to Land in Palestine

Authoritative British sources today declared that the British Government "had no intention of backing down" on the ultimatum to the Exodus refugees. A Foreign Office spokesman stated in the evening that the ultimatum still stands and that the Jewish Agency "has taken on itself a grave responsibility."

An appeal from the refugees aboard the three British transports was received today by the Jewish Agency in which the immigrants reiterated their determination to land only in Palestine. The telegram reads:

"Forty-five hundred of us left the graveyard of Europe, our families and our hopes and tried to reach our homeland--Palestine. We were carried back to Europe on three hell ships but we cannot and will not land on European soil again.

"For more than three weeks we have been kept here in Port-de-Bouc in the heat and rain, confined to dark crowded holds without beds and with insufficient floor space to lie on, inadequate washing and sanitary facilities and under constant intimidation by British guards. We do not know how much longer we can restrain ourselves but our determination to land in Palestine only cannot be broken."

AMERICAN JEWISH ORGANIZATIONS URGE TRUMAN TO INTERVENE WITH BRITAIN ON EXODUS ULTIMATUM

NEW YORK, Aug. 21. (JTA)--Alarmed at the decision of the British Government to send the Exodus refugees to the British zone of Germany and of the repercussions that may follow in Palestine, leading American Jewish organizations today telegraphed appeals to President Truman to use the influence of the United States to convince Britain to withdraw the decision.

The American Jewish Conference in an appeal to the President signed by Louis Lipsky, chairman, asked him to act immediately in order "to avert a new tragedy which threatens the Jewish people."

The American Jewish Committee, in a statement signed jointly by Jacob Blaustein and Federal Judge Phillip Forman, appealed to the British Government to reconsider the "ill-advised and inhuman" decision. The statement termed the decision "a brutal and insulting act of reprisal" and declared that "the American Jewish Committee is unable to pass over in silence" such an act.

Dr. Stephen S. Wise, in a telegram to President Truman on behalf of the American and World Jewish Congress, recalled that he was one of the supporters of last year's American financial loan to Britain, and declared: "It is unthinkable that Britain, again seeking our country's financial aid, should commit the moral crime of sending Jews, about to enter Palestine, back to Hitler's Germany."

8/22/47

EXODUS JEWS DENOUNCE THREATENED DEPORTATION OF EXODUS REFUGEES; EXTREMISTS MAY ACT

JERUSALEM, Aug. 21. (JTA) -- All sections of the Jewish community of Palestine have bitterly denounced the British decision to transport the Exodus refugees to Germany unless they disembark in France tomorrow evening. It is feared that the extremists will "react" to the announcement tonight.

It is understood that shortly before the decision was made public, High Commissioner Sir Alan G. Cunningham communicated it to Goldie Meirson, head of the political department of the Jewish Agency in Jerusalem, suggesting that the Agency dispatch an envoy to France to plead with the visaless immigrants to leave the British transports. However, Mrs. Meirson said the Agency would not assist Britain in the prevention of Jewish immigration into Palestine.

It is expected here that the Exodus Jews will not be sent to Germany before today, since the ultimatum runs out tomorrow evening after the beginning of the Sabbath and there is every reason to believe that the government will not force the Jews to desecrate their Sabbath.

Haganah circles today declared that the decision to deport the refugees to Germany is a "new link in the long chain of provocations which hinder the Haganah and the major national institutions in their fight against extremism." However, these circles stressed that this action would not halt the flow of visaless immigrants to Palestine.

Declaring that a "crime would be committed against humanity if the Exodus refugees were taken to Hamburg and compelled to disembark," a Jewish Agency spokesman today asserted that only a few months ago "no one would ever have thought that Britain was capable of such an action."

Describing the refugees' determination to disembark only in Palestine as "heroic and magnificent," the spokesman said that "John Bull was never a bully, but moral standards have changed. We see an unprecedented and, therefore, a particularly horrible spectacle, of a powerful government harassing a group of utterly defenseless men and women. If one thought an appeal to the British Government's sense of compassion would do any good, one would appeal, but matters have gone too far for that."

Two Britons Wounded in Explosion; Arab Shop Blasted By Arabs

Two British soldiers were wounded this morning when a landmine blew up a military truck on the outskirts of Nathanya. In Jerusalem an Arab underground organization blew up an Arab hardware store for dealing in Jewish-manufactured items. The shopkeeper was warned just before the blast and no one was injured.

It was established today that last night's 50-minute alert in Jerusalem during which anti-tank guns, machine-guns and rifles were fired by British police and troops in various parts of the city was not the result of an extremist attack. Jewish circles charge that the heavy and indiscriminate firing, first thought to have started with a raid on the headquarters of the Criminal Investigation Division in the Russian compound, was touched off by a group of policemen seeking "revenge" on Jews for extremist actions in the past. Once started, the aimless firing was joined by trigger-happy patrols throughout the darkened city.

The government banned the most influential Arab newspaper for two weeks for a breach of censorship rules. The paper, Ad Difa, published an "inflammatory" article on Arab youth and military organizations.

DIS REFUGEES WILL BE PLACED IN BELSEN CAMPS; UNREST AMONG JEWISH DP'S EXPECTED

MUNICH, Aug. 21. (JTA) -- A representative of the International Refugee Organization today stated that the Exodus refugees would be sent to the Hohna camp, near Belsen, after they are disembarked at Hamburg. Information to this effect came from the British zone. It was also reported that the Jews would be kept in closely guarded camps until their ultimate fate is decided by the authorities.

Jewish leaders here told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency today that should the British carry out their threat to return the Exodus refugees to Germany, there were strong possibilities that the displaced Jews in the DP camps in Germany "would not maintain discipline." Although asserting that they would attempt to control the Jews, DP leaders expressed grave fears that they would not be able to do so.

PRESIDENT TRUMAN WILL ASK NEXT CONGRESS FOR LEGISLATION TO ADMIT DP'S

WASHINGTON, Aug. 21. (JTA) -- President Truman said today that he will probably propose legislation for the admission of displaced persons to the United States at the next session of Congress, as he did in the last two sessions.

Telling his press conference that everybody in this country is a descendant of displaced persons, the President said that the American people have no right to quarrel with efforts to admit DP's. He added that it is up to the United States to do its share, and that the recent appointment of a new Commissioner of Immigration and the assignment of the former Commissioner to a special State Department post devoted to the DP problem, were in the interests of getting some concrete action.

Admission of Displaced Persons to U.S. Urged by American I.R.O. Expert

NEW YORK, Aug. 21. (JTA) -- Arthur J. Altmeyer, former executive secretary of the Preparatory Commission for the International Refugee Organization, said today that prospects for the resettlement of displaced persons were very good. South America, Australia, and Canada, France, Belgium, the Netherlands and Britain, are now showing greater interest in admitting DP's, he reported.

Arriving home after a five-month tour of the DP camps, Altmeyer pointed out that only 25 percent of the 650,000 displaced persons being cared for by the International Refugee Organization are Jewish. Urging passage of the Stratton Bill to admit 100,000 DP's to the United States every year for the next four years, Altmeyer pointed out that "these people have the energy and skills which we could use to our advantage. They are not worn out, broken down or discouraged."

DR. SNEH WARNS AGAINST EXPECTING SPEEDY SOLUTION OF PALESTINE PROBLEM

PARIS, Aug. 21. (JTA) -- "A speedy solution of the Palestine question should not be expected" and it is better for the Jews that they "accept the fact that the Jewish struggle is only beginning," Dr. Moshe Sneh, member of the Jewish Agency executive, declared here last night at the opening of the European General Zionist Conference.

Prof. Selig Brodetsky, member of the Jewish Agency executive, warned that Britain might persuade the United Nations Special Committee on Palestine to accept the Morrison plan under the name of partition.

Dr. Israel Goldstein, American Zionist leader who presided at the meeting, declared that the General Zionist platform must be a center program, between the Socialists and the Orthodox. He called for unity in the ranks of the General Zionists.

8/15/47

JEWISH COMMUNITY ELECTIONS IN HUNGARY POSTPONED AT GOVERNMENT'S REQUEST

BUDAPEST, Aug. 21. (JTA) -- The Jewish community elections have been postponed at the request of the Ministry of Education, supervisory authority of the community, it was announced today. The Ministry suggested that any schism in the Jewish community might have an adverse effect on the general elections which are scheduled to be held next month.

32 JEWISH REFUGEES RETURN TO GERMANY FROM SHANGHAI; MAJORITY GOING TO RUSSIAN ZONE

MUNICH, Aug. 21. (JTA) -- A group of 732 German Jews who fled to Shanghai from this country when the Nazis assumed power returned here today. Most of them came to claim property which had been confiscated by the Nazis.

The group is dividing here to continue to various destinations in Germany. A total of 429 will proceed to the Soviet-occupied area, while 234 will go to the British zone and 69 to the American zone. Most of the refugees will proceed to Berlin.

The Jews expressed their thanks for the "splendid care" afforded them by the Joint Distribution Committee and the UNRRA in China. They said that although five passengers died en route, their sea voyage from Shanghai to Naples was comfortable. They all complained, however, that the trip from Naples to Munich was extremely bad, declaring that they were compelled to travel in box-cars and were not provided with any food during the trip.

DP Dentists, Teachers Take Refresher Courses

Some 200 displaced Jews who were dentists in various parts of Europe before the Nazis uprooted and imprisoned them are now taking a special "refresher" course at a training school at the Rosenheim camp, 50 miles from here.

The school, maintained by the Joint Distribution Committee, helps the dentists regain skills which fell into disuse and teaches them the latest techniques developed in America and elsewhere. Three dentists from New York, all with previous teaching experience, conduct the school.

Two hundred Jewish DP teachers are attending a month-long special refresher course at the Muehldorf camp. Guest lecturers from Palestine and the United States, including Dr. Emanuel Gamoran, educational director of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations, have been explaining recent pedagogical techniques to the teachers.

TWO POLES SENTENCED TO PRISON FOR KILLING JEW AFTER HIDING HIM FROM NAZIS

WARSAW, Aug. 21. (JTA) -- Two Poles, Jan Skladowski and Creslaw Krulikowski, were today sentenced to six and four-year prison terms, respectively, for murdering a Jew during the German occupation. The pair admitted that, after successfully hiding a Jew in their home under a pile of potatoes when Nazi police searched the house, they later killed him for fear of being apprehended.

CANADIAN SOCIALIST PARLEY ASKS IMMIGRATION POLICY FREE OF DISCRIMINATION

MONTREAL, Aug. 21. (JTA) -- An immigration policy for Canada which would "guard against racial and religious discrimination" was demanded at a convention of the Cooperative Commonwealth Federation (Canada's Socialist party) held in Saskatchewan. The resolution was adopted unanimously.

NEW JERSEY CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION ADOPTS LEGISLATION TO BAN SEGREGATION

NEW BRUNSWICK, N.J., Aug. 21. (JTA) -- An anti-discrimination clause which would ban segregation in the New Jersey public schools and militia was adopted here yesterday at the State Constitutional Convention by a vote of 50 to 18. The amendment will make New Jersey the first state in the Union to include such a provision in its charter.

The measure provides that "no person shall be denied the enjoyment of any civil or military right, nor be discriminated against in any civil right or segregated in the militia or public schools on account of religious principles, race, color, ancestry or national origin."

TRANSPORT OF JEWISH REFUGEES ARRIVES IN NEW YORK FROM GERMANY

NEW YORK, Aug. 21. (JTA) -- More than 200 Jewish refugees arrived here yesterday on the S.S. Ernie Pyle from Germany. The passengers included about 50 Jewish orphans. The United Service for New Americans provided a corporate affidavit for 108 of the immigrants.

A group of 230 refugees, stranded in Shanghai for more than eight years following their flight from Nazi-occupied Central and Eastern European countries, will arrive in San Francisco aboard the S.S. "General Meigs" on Saturday, it was reported today by U.S.N.A.

OSCAR M. LAZRUS TO HEAD \$1,000,000 DRIVE FOR UNION OF AMERICAN HEBREW CONGREGATIONS

NEW YORK, Aug. 21. (JTA) -- The appointment of Oscar M. Lazrus of New York as national chairman of the Combined \$1,010,000 Annual Maintenance Campaign of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations and the Hebrew Union College, was announced today by Dr. Maurice N. Eisendrath, president of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations, and Dr. Nelson Glueck of Cincinnati, president of the Hebrew Union College.

Mr. Lazrus succeeds Roger W. Straus as national finance chairman. He is a trustee of the New York Federation of Jewish Philanthropies; one of the founders of the New York United Jewish Appeal; a member of the National Council of the Joint Defense Appeal of the American Jewish Committee and the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith, and is active in many other organizations.

WEST COAST COMMUNITIES PLEDGE INCREASED AID TO JOINT DEFENSE APPEAL CAMPAIGN

NEW YORK, Aug. 21. (JTA) -- Major Jewish communities on the West coast have pledged increased assistance in the fight against anti-Semitism following a recent visit by Donald Oberdorfer, of Atlanta, national chairman of the Joint Defense Appeal, it was announced here today.

Mr. Oberdorfer will report on this new development at the forthcoming meeting of the JDA national executive committee on September 6-7 at the Blackstone Hotel, in Chicago. The meeting will bring together all 50 members of the Committee from every section of the country, who will discuss plans for aiding the JDA, which is the financial arm of the American Jewish Committee and the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith.