

Friday, April 12, 1946

**JTA****Daily News Bulletin**

PUBLISHED BY THE JEWISH TELEGRAPHIC AGENCY

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

JEWISH REFUGEES AT LA SPEZIA CALL OFF HUNGER STRIKE; PROMISED A "DIFFERENT STATUS"

LA SPEZIA, Italy, April 11. (JTA) -- The more than 1,000 Jewish refugees who are being held here aboard the Italian ship "Fede," and prevented from proceeding to Palestine, last night ended their hunger strike, which lasted 75 hours.

The strike was suspended until April 19 following a two-hour meeting with Harold Laski, chairman of the British Labor Party, who promised to take up the case of the detained refugees with Ernest Bevin, British Foreign Secretary, and report his decision by that time. Pending Bevin's ruling, the refugees were promised a "different status" by British Captain Hills of Allied General Headquarters.

The leaders of the refugees presented the British officer with the following four demands: 1. The Italian guards should be removed from the ship; 2. The refugees should be allowed free access to the city of La Spezia; 3. Newspapermen should be permitted to visit the ship freely; 4. The four Italian officials who were arrested for displaying sympathy with the detained Jews should be released.

While not committing himself on all points, Hills indicated that these demands will probably be accepted by higher authorities. The presence of an official from the British embassy who came from Rome to attend the conference with the refugees gave the agreement an official character.

Over 80 Faint During Hunger Strike; Two Men Attempt Suicide

The suspension of the hunger strike climaxed a grim day during which over eighty men and women fainted. Two men tried to hang themselves on the gate of the pier. Dr. Boris Schwartzman, one of the passengers, said that the continuation of the strike might have resulted in an epidemic, possibly typhus, because of the weakened physical condition of the strikers.

The refugees agreed to accept food provided by the Joint Distribution Committee, so that their own food supplies can be saved for the Palestine trip, which they are now confident they will be able to make. The food which the J.D.C. will supply to the refugees will include matzo and other Passover necessities.

Meanwhile, the refugees today received messages of encouragement from Jewish organizations in the United States and Palestine stating that everything possible is being done to secure the release of the "Fede."

The Jewish National Council of Palestine cabled to the refugees that the "Yishuv will not relax in its efforts to bring you to the Homeland." The World Jewish Congress told the refugees in a cable that it is intervening with the British and American governments.

PALESTINE JEWS CALL GENERAL STRIKE IN SYMPATHY WITH LA SPEZIA REFUGEES

JERUSALEM, April 11. (JTA) -- The Jewish National Council of Palestine today decided to call a general strike and a one-day fast for next Sunday in sympathy with the more than 1,000 Jewish refugees detained at La Spezia.

Meanwhile, Chief Rabbis Herzog and Uziel today cabled to King George of Great Britain appealing for his personal intervention to secure permission for the refugees to proceed to Palestine. Similar appeals were cabled by the Chief Rabbis to President Truman and British Prime Minister Attlee.

The Histadruth, the Palestine federation of labor, cabled the British Labor Party, the American Federation of Labor and the C.I.O., the World Federation of Trade Unions in Paris and the Socialist Party in Italy asking them to assist the Jews detained on board the "Fede."

The decision to call a general strike and a fast was taken at an extraordinary meeting of the Jewish National Council, with the participation of representatives of all leading Jewish organizations. The meeting also decided that a number of selected Jewish leaders should start on a hunger strike tomorrow, to last until the refugees at La Spezia are permitted to proceed to Palestine. (The decision was taken before the Council learned of the decision by the refugees to suspend their hunger strike until April 19.)

NAZI POLICE HEAD WHO DIRECTED KILLING OF JEWS SAYS HE WAS UNAWARE OF ATROCITIES

NUREMBERG, April 11. (JTA) -- Ernst Kaltenbrunner, chief of the German Security Police, under whose direction millions of Jews were murdered in Eastern Europe, told the International Military Tribunal today that he was unaware of the extermination of Jews for many months and, when he learned of them, he had protested to Hitler concerning the policy of Gestapo chief Heinrich Himmler.

Despite the laughter with which the audience greeted these denials, Kaltenbrunner also claimed that he was not responsible for ordering the Luftwaffe to bomb the Jewish camps of Landsberg and Muehldorf which was charged in an affidavit by Bertus Gerous, his former secretary. After Gerous allegedly sabotaged the order, and prevented the camps' destruction, Kaltenbrunner ordered the Landsberg Jews to be sent to Dachau where they were to be poisoned, while the Muehldorf prisoners were turned over to the Gestapo for killing.

Kaltenbrunner was accused in an affidavit by another subordinate of ordering the Jews driven from camp to camp to prevent them from being liberated by the Allied armies, even though Himmler himself had ordered that they be allowed to remain in the camps.

NEW EXPLOSIONS IN TEL AVIV; TROOPS AND POLICE RUSHED TO NORTHERN PART OF CITY

TEL AVIV, April 11. (JTA) -- Troops and police were rushed today to the northern part of Tel Aviv after explosions had been heard. Telephone communications have been affected by the explosion, making it difficult to secure details.

The Palestine censor has barred publication in the local press of a broadcast by a BBC correspondent stating that the British Government has informed France that it believes that while the ex-Mufti of Jerusalem may not fall into the "war criminals" category, he is a "quisling."

FIRST U.S. VISAS GRANTED TO DISPLACED JEWS IN GERMANY BY CONSULATE IN FRANKFURT

FRANKFURT, April 11. (JTA) -- The HIAS announced today receipt of the first 15 immigration visas issued by the United States consulate here. Visa number one went to 17-year-old Marta Ickowic, whose entire family was murdered in Oswiecim. She received a HIAS corporate affidavit and will be placed with a family in the United States.

Visas were also granted to Berek and Dora Braunstein and their nine-year-old daughter Bina, who will live with Berek's brother in Manchester, Tennessee. Recently married Anna and Eliaz Chaja also received visas and will live with Anna's family in Detroit. The other nine were assigned to young men and women between the ages of 16 and 25.

INTER-PARTY PARLEY TO DISCUSS RESTORATION OF JEWISH PROPERTY PLANNED IN SLOVAKIA

BRATISLAVA, April 11. (JTA) -- In a letter today to Adalbert Winterstein, president of the Union of Jewish Communities in Slovakia, Co-Chairman Joseph Lettrich of the Slovak National Council, who is also chairman of the Democratic Party, revealed that he is prepared to convene an inter-party conference to draft a program for restoring confiscated Jewish property.

Lettrich said that he considered the claims of Slovak Jews for property restitution to be just and desired that a solution of the problem be reached as soon as possible. At the inter-party meeting, which would probably consist of representatives of the Democratic and Communist parties, which share control in Slovakia, Jewish spokesmen would be invited to present their demands, he added.

(The Bratislava newspaper Pravda, official organ of the Slovak Communist Party, in an issue which has just arrived in New York, says that the question of large agricultural estates confiscated from Jews by the Nazi puppet regime must be treated in line with the land reform laws adopted by the Government. It urges that since it has been decreed that a person may own only the amount of land which he or his family can cultivate themselves, Jews should be allowed to repossess as much of their former property as they can now work, and should be compensated for all other holdings, which should be divided among the peasantry. Jewish estates which have already been parcelled out among peasants should remain the property of the new owners, the paper says, but the former owners should be paid an officially prescribed price.)

Slovak Jews are encountering other difficulties besides that of recovering their property. Under present Czechoslovak law, a "political reliability" certificate is needed by those applying for citizenship and other legal documents. Jews who assert that they always were of Slovak nationality are forced to prove that they so indicated in both the census of 1938 and that of 1939. Even if they can do so, but if they listed Hungarian or German as their mother tongue, they are considered of German or Hungarian nationality.

JEWISH ROLE IN REBUILDING POLISH STATE LAUDED BY OFFICIALS AT LODZ CEREMONY

LODZ, Poland, April 11. (JTA) -- The part played by Jews in the anti-German underground and in reconstructing a democratic Polish state was lauded here by official speakers addressing the opening ceremonies of a home for Jewish youth.

The Jewish committee here has up to now registered 38,000 Jews, of whom 48 percent had returned from concentration camps, 17 percent from hiding places with friendly Poles, 10 percent from the forests and partisans units and 25 percent from the USSR.

FRENCH STEAMER SAILING FROM MARSEILLES NEXT WEEK WITH 1,000 PALESTINE IMMIGRANTS

PARIS, April 11. (JTA) -- The French steamer Champollion is leaving Marseilles on April 17 for Palestine, carrying approximately 1,000 Jewish refugees from eight countries, about two-thirds of whom will be children, it was announced here today.

The transportation is being arranged by the Jewish Agency, with the JDC paying for the refugees' passage, and the HIAS financing their transportation to Marseilles by rail from various points in Europe.

AMERICAN JEWS LAUDED IN PALESTINE BY DR. GRANOVSKY FOR THEIR SUPPORT OF ZIONISM

TEL AVIV, April 11. (JTA) -- American Jewry is proud of the Palestine Jewish community's achievements and will stand by and assist the Jews in their struggle to establish a national home in Palestine, Dr. Abraham Granovsky, managing director of the Jewish National Fund today told a press conference here, reporting on his recent visit to the United States.

Dr. Granovsky expressed appreciation of the reception accorded him in America and praised Judge Morris Rothenberg's leadership of the American J.N.F. He said that the Zionist movement in the United States was making great numerical strides, and pointed out that even the non-Zionists were insistent that Palestine represented the only possible solution for the homeless Jews of Europe.

Discussing his visit in America, Dr. Granovsky said he was impressed by the similarity of the American spirit and the spirit of "new Palestine." He hailed American sympathy with the Jewish cause and said that both the U.S. and Palestine were seeking a "better world of positive creative achievement."

UNITED ZIONISTS-REVISIONISTS URGE WORLD ZIONIST CONGRESS BE HELD IN AMERICA

NEW YORK, April 11. (JTA) -- A resolution urging that the forthcoming World Zionist Congress be held in the United States, and not in Palestine as scheduled, was adopted here at the national conference of the United Zionists-Revisionists of America, which takes in the New Zionist Organization, the Jewish State Party and the former dissident group of Zionists-Revisionists.

The conference adopted a platform for the elections to the Congress suggesting, among other things, that "the Congress must proclaim the necessity of establishing a Provisional Jewish Government to be entrusted with the administration of the free democratic Jewish Republic." A budget of \$600,000 was adopted by the conference for the next six months.

Canadian Zionists Request Congress Be Held in United States

TORONTO, April 11. (JTA) -- The executive board of the Zionist Organization of Canada, meeting here, has decided to cable the World Zionist Executive in Jerusalem requesting that the 22nd World Zionist Congress be held in the United States. The request will be made "in view of the importance of the United States in connection with the Palestine problem" and because the General Assembly of the United Nations will be held in New York in September.

AMERICAN JEWISH CONFERENCE WARNS FRANCE AGAINST RELEASING JERUSALEM EX-MUFTI

NEW YORK, April 11. (JTA) -- Asserting that the contemplated release of Haj Amin el Husseini, ex-mufti of Jerusalem, would involve the French Republic in a violation of the United Nations pledge to prosecute all war criminals, Henry Monsky, chairman of the American Jewish Conference, today cabled French Foreign Minister Georges Bidault urging detention of the Arab leader.

INTERGOVERNMENTAL REFUGEE BODY HEAD SUGGESTS BASIS FOR DEFINING "REFUGEES" AND "DP'S"

LONDON, April 11. (JTA) -- Definitions which would provide a basis for placing persons in the categories of "refugees" or "displaced persons" were presented to the United Nations Committee on Refugees and Displaced Persons today by Sir Herbert Emerson, chairman of the Intergovernmental Committee for Refugees.

"Refugees" would be defined as persons who had left their country of nationality or residence through fear of loss of life or liberty or because of religious or racial persecutions. "Displaced persons" would be those who were obliged to leave their homes by reason of World War II or were displaced inside their own countries by deliberate action of the enemy.

Whatever definition is finally decided upon, Sir Herbert said, there should be no distinction made among the various groups, and all needing help should receive it. He stated that whether a refugee was technically stateless or possessed the passport of a country to which he did not wish to return was irrelevant. He stressed, however, that while the refugees and DP's should have the right to refuse to return, the Governments of the countries involved should not be entitled to refuse them entrance.

SIDNEY HILLMAN ASKS ADMISSION OF 100,000 JEWS TO PALESTINE, ABOGATION OF WHITE PAPER

NEW YORK, April 11. (JTA) -- The immediate admission of 100,000 displaced Jews to Palestine and abrogation by the British Labor Government of the "infamous White Paper of its Tory predecessor" was demanded here last night by Sidney Hillman, president of the Amalgamated Clothing Workers of America, and American delegate to the World Federation of Trade Unions, in a speech before the annual dinner of the Clothing, Woolens, and Allied Trades Division of the United Jewish Appeal.

Hillman, who recently returned from a tour of Germany and Austria, said that the displaced Jews "almost without exception, were living from day to day with a single hope--to emigrate to Palestine--the only spot in the whole world where they can hope to resume living as human beings." Declaring that the British Government holds the Palestine Mandate as a trust for which it is responsible before the democratic world, Hillman said the fate of the displaced Jews "is not something for Britain to dispose of in its own narrow national interest."

ARMY CANNOT SOLVE PROBLEM OF JEWISH DP'S, DR. BERNSTEIN REPORTS AFTER EUROPEAN TRIP

NEW YORK, April 11. (JTA) -- "The Army is trying to do a humane job for the displaced persons in Germany, but is confronted with an impossible situation," Rabbi Philip S. Bernstein, former chairman of the Army and Navy Religious Activities committee of the Jewish Welfare Board, said here today following his return from a tour of England, France and Germany.

Dr. Bernstein, who went to England to participate in the United Palestine Appeal campaign there, declared that the Army was providing food and sufficient housing to maintain the DP's, but that the Army was not "equipped by training or function to deal sympathetically and effectively" with psychological and spiritual problems confronting the displaced persons. He cited the recent Stuttgart raid by German policemen in which one Jew was killed and four wounded as evidence of such shortcomings.

HUMAN SPILL FAVORS FEDERAL FAIR EMPLOYMENT LEGISLATION; HE TELLS PRESS CONFERENCE

WASHINGTON, April 11. (JTA) -- President Truman told his press conference today that he still favored federal FEPC legislation, adding that state bans on discrimination could be enacted at the same time.

JEWISH VETERANS AND WAR WORKERS TURNING TO FARMING, AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY REPORTS

NEW YORK, April 11. (JTA) -- Jewish war veterans and former civilian war workers make up the majority of American Jews who are now turning to agriculture, Dr. Gabriel Davidson, managing director of the Jewish Agricultural Society, which aids Jews in settling on the land, reported today in the organization's forty-sixth annual report.

Citing the war record of Jewish farmers, Dr. Davidson points out that not only did Jewish farmers increase production on the land, but that in some eastern and mid-western communities they supplied a higher percentage of soldiers and sailors than the general farm population. A "spot check," conducted by the Society and the National Jewish Welfare Board in sections of Michigan, Connecticut and New Jersey containing typical Jewish farm settlements, revealed that 7.5 percent of Jewish male farmers between the ages of 18-44 joined the armed services as compared with the national farm average of 6.2 percent.

Dr. Davidson's report discloses that 95 percent of all Jewish farmers who settled on the land just before World War II and during the war years have remained at their new occupation. The report also declares that the Jewish farm population of nearly 150,000 men, women and children is in "a healthy and prosperous situation."

The Jewish Agricultural Society has expanded its activities within recent years, Dr. Davidson reveals. During the past year the Society opened a western office in Los Angeles where the Jewish population is growing and "where the outlook for new agricultural settlers is bright." During the last decade the organization has settled 7,000 people on land throughout the country, and more than \$10,000,000 in farm loans have been lent since the inception of the Society, the report said.

Oldest Jewish Agricultural School Opens Summer Session, Celebrates 50th Anniversary

NEW YORK, April 11. (JTA) -- The National Farm School, the oldest Jewish farm school in the U.S., today announced the opening of registration for the summer session commencing in June.

The school, which is near Doylestown, in Bucks County, Pennsylvania, is celebrating its fiftieth anniversary this month. In a message of greeting commemorating its establishment, President Truman recently wrote: "The origin of the National Farm school is as interesting as its subsequent history has been notable."

The school has established a counselling service for veterans who wish to study under the G.I. Bill of Rights. Each student, who must be a high school graduate, is required to do agricultural work as part of the school curriculum. For this work he is credited with \$600 toward his maintenance and tuition costs.

R. IGNACY SCHWARZBART, FORMER DEPUTY IN POLE EXILE PARLIAMENT, TO MAKE HOME IN U.S.

LONDON, April 11. (JTA) -- A farewell party was given here today for Dr. Ignacy Schwarzbart, former Jewish deputy in the national council of the Polish Government-in-Exile, who is leaving for the United States, where he will make his permanent home. Speakers lauded Schwarzbart's contributions in the fields of politics, journalism and Zionism.

BRITISH HIGHEST COURT AGREES TO HEAR CASE OF PALESTINE JEW DETAINED IN ERITREA

LONDON, April 11. (JTA) -- The Privy Council, the British Empire's highest appellate court, today agreed to hear arguments on the case of Ben Elizer, a Palestine Jew who has been confined in an Eritrean detention camp, despite a writ of habeas corpus granted to his attorney by the Palestine High Court.

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