

Trial of Stern Group Leaders. Defendants Plead Not Guilty to Charges.

Tel Aviv.

The trial of Nathan Friedman-Yellin, Sternist chief, and his deputy M. Shmulevitz continued in the Acre Military Court with the defendants pleading not guilty to charges of directing terrorist activities and membership in a terrorist organisation from September 29, 1948, on.

The prosecution began to outline the case, saying that the activities of the Stern Group had not ceased with the formation of Israel but it had continued its subversive activities. It had failed to disband, as proved by documents, arms and money which were found in Yellin's flat. Forged documents were also found in Yellin's flat, indicating that he and his co-defendant planned to escape abroad, the prosecution charged.

The prosecutor compared the Stern Group's activities to the Japanese just before Pearl Harbour. The Sternists, he said, were negotiating with the Israeli Government at the same time that their actions in Jerusalem amounted to a stab in the Government's back. He charged the Stern Group with responsibility in the murder of Bernadotte and said that the count was in Palestine under protection of the Israeli Government.

Policemen, soldiers and the landlord of Yellin's flat testified about his arrest. The policemen and soldiers told of finding arms and other material in his apartment.

A request by Friedman-Yellin's attorney that Premier David Ben Gurion and Army Chief of Staff

Yaacov Dori be called as witnesses in the trial was turned down by the court. The defence had asked that the two Israeli leaders be summoned to testify on the causes which brought about the passage of the anti-terrorist law enacted immediately after the assassination of Count Folke Bernadotte.

Six witnesses for the prosecution testified at the hearings on Yellin's arrest and the documents found on him. These included a forged exit permit made out in an assumed name, a ticket of the Czech Air Lines, a British food ration card and forged army release papers. Yellin and Shmulevitz admitted the forgery, following a statement by the Chief Army Release Officer. They declared that they had not made use of these forged documents anyhow.

Miss Edita Borachova, air hostess of the Czech Air Lines, who had been held in preventive custody for being involved in the attempt of their escape, was unconditionally released by the court. The court's decision followed strong representations by the Czechoslovak Consul. Miss Borachova has returned to Prague.

In Jerusalem the Israeli Supreme Court confirmed the legality of a Government order declaring that the Stern Group is an illegal terrorist organisation. The decision was announced after the Supreme Court had considered an application from the Sternists for an order nisi calling on all members of the Israeli Cabinet to show cause why the order making the Stern Group illegal should not be revoked.—J.T.A.

Transfer of Herzl's Remains to Israel.

JEWISH AGENCY DISAGREES
WITH GOVERNMENT PLANS.

Jerusalem.

The Jewish Agency Executive at a meeting here appointed a committee to be in charge of arrangements for the transfer of the remains of Dr. Theodor Herzl to Israel.

The committee, which is composed of the chairman of the executive, Mr. Berl Locker, Mr. S. Z. Shragai and Mr. Moshe Kolodny, will negotiate with Mr. Isaac Gruenbaum, Israeli Minister of the Interior, who was entrusted by the Government and the Zionist Actions Committee with making the necessary preparations for the transfer concerning the time of the transfer and the place of reinterment.

According to Government plans, the reburial is to coincide with the opening of the Constituent Assembly, but the Jewish Agency is opposed to this arrangement. They advocate Jerusalem to be chosen as the Zionist leader's final place of rest. Herzl's tomb, they declare, should be in the centre of the forecourt of the permanent Parliament building to be erected in Jerusalem.

ZIONIST CONGRESS.

The executive also discussed arrangements for the next Zionist Congress. The time of the Congress has been tentatively fixed for August, 1949. A special committee has been appointed to prepare plans and select suitable buildings for the Congress in Jerusalem.—J.T.A.

Beigin's Freedom Party Assailed.

New York.

Prof. Albert Einstein was one of 122 signatories who issued a statement assailing the Irgun-sponsored Freedom Party in Israel, led by Menahem Beigin, who is now on a visit to the U.S. The statement said that the Beigin group was a "Fascist party" and Beigin and his followers "have had no part in the constructive achievements in Palestine."—J.T.A.

King Farouk Disowns Jericho Conference.

London.

King Farouk of Egypt has disowned the recent Jericho Conference, which was reported to have asked King Abdullah of Transjordan to proclaim himself as King of Palestine, the Arabic weekly "Akbar el Yom" said. "Egypt did not shed the blood of her loyal sons to hand the future of Palestine to those assembled in Jericho," King Farouk is reported to have said.

Syria has also disowned the Jericho Conference.

TRANSJORDAN PARLIAMENT BACKS ABDULLAH.

King Abdullah's Parliament unanimously approved of uniting his 30,000 square mile kingdom of Transjordan with Arab Palestine. Both Houses carried the proposal.—Sapa.

Tel Aviv.

The Israeli armed forces have received new uniforms and complete winter outfits, it was announced here.

Tel Aviv.

A delegation of the Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society of America (Hias), composed of Mr. Salomon Dingel, Mr. Samuel Goldstein and Mr. Isaac Asofsky, has arrived here to study the possibilities of Hias activities in Israel.

French Jew-Baiter Sentenced to Twenty Years' Imprisonment.

Paris.

A sentence of 20 years' solitary confinement was imposed by the Paris High Court on Henri Labroue, who during the occupation held the chair of anti-Semitism at the Sorbonne, which had been specially created for him by the Nazis. Moreover, he was chairman of the "Anti-Jewish Group" in Bergerac, and head of the Institute of Jewish Studies in Bordeaux. He claimed that he had carried out these activities in order to "resist Hitlerite anti-Semitism."

The trial established that the accused still holds the views he propagated during the occupation. In referring to the Vichy regime he consistently spoke of the "Aryan administration," and accused the Jews of considering themselves a superior race and of being unforgiving.

The prosecutor recalled that the accused had to seek protection from the authorities when students of the Sorbonne organised hostile demonstrations against him. He also read an article published by Labroue in the newspaper "Pilori" in which he threatened high members of the French clergy, including Cardinal Gerlier, Mgr. Salliege and Abbe Glasberg, for defending Jews and protesting against Nazi persecution. He further mentioned a speech made by Labroue at a banquet attended by high German and French Nazi officials in which he praised Hitler and the Nazi movement.

Alice Meckert, a French woman, who aided the Gestapo during the war by betraying partisans and Jews, and who was responsible for the death of about 5,000 Jews, was sentenced to hard labour for life by a special court in Marseilles.—J.T.A.

Clashes Between Zionists and Anti-Zionists in Rumania.

AUTHORITIES ORDER TRUCE.

Bucharest.

A several days-old battle between Rumanian Zionists of various political shades and anti-Zionist Jews was halted temporarily by the unofficial intervention of high Rumanian authorities. The truce, called for three days, halted the partly successful attempts by members of the Democratic Jewish Committee to take over the premises of Zionist organisations in this city.

During the 48 hours prior to the truce, the anti-Zionists invaded 14 offices of ten different Zionist groups here. The invaders called on the Zionists to vacate the premises and, when the request was rejected, occupied them by force.

By the time the truce went into effect about half the offices had been recovered by various Zionist groups. Similar instances have been reported from provincial centres with sizeable Jewish populations.—J.T.A.

Arms Supplies to Jews.

STATEMENT IN HOUSE OF
COMMONS.

London.

The British delegation to the Security Council has been instructed to raise the matter of arms supplies to the Jews in Palestine on any appropriate occasion. Mr. H. McNeil stated in the House of Commons, adding that the information from many sources left no doubt that the flow of arms to fighting personnel has been reaching Palestine from abroad in violation of the embargo.

Israeli Philharmonic Orchestra Honoured in New York.

Epstein Lauds Its Role in Peace and War.

New York.

More than 1,200 persons paid 75 dollars each to attend a concert paying tribute to the Israel Philharmonic Orchestra arranged by the American Fund for Palestinian Institutions in the grand ballroom of the Waldorf-Astoria as part of its 1948 drive for 1,217,000 dollars. The fund is headed by Edward A. Norman.

Addressing a gathering at a dinner which followed the concert, Eliahu Epstein, Israeli envoy to Washington, emphasised that the victory of Israel "was not due mainly to material weapons, but primarily to the spiritual and moral impulses which animated our people and which gave them the inspiration to fight for the most cherished treasures in life: liberty and independence."

Epstein pointed out that by paying tribute to the Israeli Philharmonic Orchestra the audience was paying tribute as well "to the entire spirit of a people who labour and fight not for a mere existence, not for bread alone, but for a complete life that will enable them to contribute to world civilisation in science, in the arts, in literature and language." He lauded the activities of the Israeli Orchestra in keeping the morale of the people in Israel high throughout the crucial year of the war, by visiting the battlefronts and isolated settlements and risking their lives to play under fire.

The concert programme included selections by Arthur Rubinstein, Gregor Piatigorsky and the New Philharmonic Orchestra, conducted by Charles Munch. Norman told the guests that the beneficiaries of the American Fund for Palestinian Institutions include five institutions for theatre and music, two conservatories of music, eight institutions for literature and language, seven welfare agencies, eight agricultural

schools and training agencies, eight vocational training institutions, 11 teachers' colleges and secondary schools, 22 theological schools, five relief agencies, one hospital for mental diseases, three museums, three libraries, three research institutes and two physical training agencies.—J.T.A.

Scholarships for Displaced Jewish Physicians.

New York.

More than 100 scholarships worth 500 dollars each are being offered to displaced physicians by the Joint Distribution Committee under a plan aimed at helping D.P. doctors make a rapid adjustment to their new homelands, it was announced here. Eligible for grants under the plan are Jewish physicians who have rendered one year of outstanding service with J.D.C.'s medical department in the D.P. camps of Germany and Cyprus.—J.T.A.

Tel Aviv.

Hundreds of Orthodox Jews demonstrated outside the offices of the State Council, protesting against the importation of non-kosher meat into Israel. A representative of the demonstrators who was invited into the Council chambers to confer with the Orthodox members of that body demanded the immediate enactment of legislation barring the import of any non-kosher meat into Israel.