

MYSTERIOUS DISAPPEARANCE OF COMMUNIST SECRETARY

Tel Aviv.
A special committee has begun inquiries into the mysterious disappearance of Sioma Mironianski, secretary of the Communist Party, who has not been seen since his arrest in the summer of 1941.

A former C.I.D. official, Michael Cohen, who was sentenced two years months ago to 15 years' imprisonment for the murder of his wife, told the inquiry committee that he saw three Jewish police officers brutally torturing Mironianski seven years ago in order to extract from him information concerning the membership and activities of the Communist Party.

The witness said that the torture of prisoners by the Jaffa C.I.D. at that time was a daily occurrence.

Cohen alleges that the Jewish police inspectors, Shamai, Ben Ephraim and Steinberg were involved, the latter having struck the fatal blow on Mironianski's head.

Mironianski's body was later removed while the officers warned the witness not to disclose the incidents he had witnessed. He feared to disclose this murder during the British rule.

Originally, when Mironianski disappeared, the Communist Party, then illegal, published illegal posters accusing the officers of the murder of their secretary.

All the three police officers at present occupy prominent positions in the Israeli police. They are continuing to hold their positions while the inquiry is being conducted.

8,000 JEWISH D.P.'S ENTERED CANADA IN 1948

Montreal.
About 17 per cent. of the displaced persons admitted to Canada in 1948 are Jewish, and their total figure is approximately 8,000, it was reported here by Saul Hayes, executive director of the Canadian Jewish Congress.

Hayes pointed out that the "highest authorities of the Immigration Branch have been vigilant" against the injection of anti-Jewish prejudice in the selection of immigrants for Canada. "Our Congress urged the Canadian Government to admit a reasonable number of Jewish war victims so that they may begin life anew in this country and add to Canada's human resources. It is only fair to state that our Government is fulfilling its promises and moral obligations by making it possible for a fair number of Jewish persons to enter Canada," he emphasised.—J.T.A.

Stockholm.
According to Kalundborg Radio, the Swedish newspaper "Dagsposten," which was known to have Nazi sympathies, will cease publication at the end of 1948 owing to financial difficulties.

PLANS OF J.N.F. OF BRITAIN

London.
The Jewish National Fund of Great Britain, at its 24th annual conference here, endorsed a proposal to acquire 1,000,000 dunams of land in Israel during the course of the coming year.

Pledging unprecedented efforts to Israel, Aaron Wright, president of the J.N.F. of Britain, revealed that the organisation had received a total of 2,876,000 dollars during the current year, as compared with 1,100,000 dollars in the previous 12-month period. He estimated that a minimum of 4,800,000 dollars would be needed by the Israeli Government to repair property damaged in the recent fighting. Half of this sum, he said, will be turned over to Israel by the J.N.F., which has also undertaken to contribute half of the 6,000,000 dollars which will be needed for immediate development of the Negev.

Touching on the question of compensating the Arabs who fled the country and left their property behind them, Wright stated that compensation could be arranged either by the Keren Kayemeth, dealing directly with the Arabs, or by the Israeli Government on a Governmental level.—J.T.A.

"Pan Crescent" Now Israeli Passenger Vessel.

Rome.
The S.S. Pan Crescent, which carried Jewish refugees to Cyprus after making an unsuccessful attempt to land its passengers in Palestine before the termination of the British mandate, sailed recently for Israel as a reconverted, full-fledged Israeli passenger vessel capable of carrying 2,800 passengers. The ship was launched from Venice, where it had been in the repair dock for the past four months. The crew is entirely Jewish.

It is reported from Tel Aviv that the vessel Galila, which was acquired two months ago, was formally turned over to the Israeli merchant marine when the ship's Panamanian flag was hauled down and the Israeli banner was hoisted to the mast. The Galila can carry 1,100 passengers and a 100-man crew and was formerly a wartime American troopship.—J.T.A.

Tel Aviv.
The Ministry of Labour and Public Works, in conjunction with the Ministry of Security, is preparing legislation which will ensure that ex-servicemen are given employment when the war is over.

ITALY GRANTS ASYLUM TO REFUGEES FROM ARAB COUNTRIES

Rome.
The Ministry of the Interior informed the Union of Italian Jewish Communities, affiliate to the World Jewish Congress, that it had ordered Police Headquarters to issue a two-months permit of sojourn to all Jews from the Arab countries at present in Italy.

A group of 65 Jews from Egypt, Iraq and Syria will at present benefit from the Ministry's orders. They are stranded in Italy because of the refusal of their consular authorities here to renew their expired passports and the resulting impossibility of securing visas for other countries.

The order of the Ministry is a direct result of the intervention of the union with Gen. d'Antoni, Director-General of Italian police.—W.J.A.

YAIR SALTZMAN KILLED IN ACTION.

Tel Aviv.
Yair Saltzman, only son of Mr. and Mrs. Saltzman, of Tel Aviv, and brother of Pnina Saltzman, the famous pianist, was killed in action in the Negev. Yair, who was 21 years of age, was studying in Paris when hostilities broke out in Palestine. He did not wait to be called up and enlisted immediately. Yair was a gifted and promising violinist and conductor. On several occasions he appeared on concert platforms with his sister.

Youth Hostel in Israel.

To Honour Memory of Mrs. Stephen Wise

New York.
The Women's Division of the American Jewish Congress has announced a project for the establishment of a Youth Hostel in Israel as a memorial to Louise Waterman Wise, the late wife of Dr. Stephen S. Wise and former President of the American Jewish Congress's Women's Division.

The hostel will be conducted under the auspices of the Youth Bureau of the Department of Education of the Israeli Government. Funds to build and support the hostel will be raised exclusively among members of the American Jewish Congress.—W.J.A.

HEBREW LANGUAGE ACADEMY PLAN

Tel Aviv.
A preliminary meeting has been held at Beth Bialik, Tel Aviv, to discuss the forthcoming establishment of the projected Hebrew Language Academy. Prof. N. H. Tarczyner, chairman of the Hebrew Language Committee (hitherto the highest authority on questions of the Hebrew language) reported on the decision of the Executive Committee to dissolve that body and to transfer its functions to the Academy. Mr. David Remez, Minister of Communications, attended the meeting and took part in the discussion.—W.J.A.

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