

# yad washem bulletin

Jerusalem, April 1961—Nissan 5721

No. 10

## TOWARDS THE EICHMANN TRIAL

### PREVENTION OF THE EMIGRATION OF 1,000 CHILDREN FROM RUMANIA

Berlin, 3 March, 1943.

Secret

To: Foreign Ministry, Attention: Counsellor Herr von Hahn, Berlin, Rauchstrasse.

Re: Transfer of Jews from the Balkans to Palestine.

Documentation: None.

According to reliable information which must be kept secret negotiations which might prove successful are being conducted between Jewish leaders in Rumania—through their offices in Constantinople—and Turkey, for the grant of transit visas for one thousand Jewish children and one hundred Jewish adults who will accompany the former on their trip via Bulgaria and Turkey to Palestine.

We request every effort to prevent this emigration.

By Order  
Eichmann

The document speaks for itself. It had a two-fold purpose: first—to prevent all emigration of Jews (especially of children) from countries within the Nazi zone of influence, in the hope that ultimately they would be done to death with the active aid (or under the "influence") of the Germans; second—to prove to the Mufti that the Germans were preventing emigration to Palestine. Documents exist proving that the Mufti was particularly "interested" in plans concerning the rescue of Jews and transporting them to Palestine.

Der Chef der Sicherheitspolizei  
und des SD

IV B 4 b-3 - 89/432

Seite 2011, am  
3. März 1943  
Dienstadt: 10 02 01

Verfürges Amt  
D. 11 302  
dnj  
Geheim

An das  
Auswärtige Amt,  
s.Ed. von Herrn Legationsrat von H a h n ,  
B e r l i n ,  
Rauchstrasse 11.

Betrifft: Judenausiedlung von Balkan nach  
Palästina.

Besuch: Ohne.

Suverlässigen, geheimsukhaltenden Nachrichten zufolge stehen jüdische Funktionäre in Rumänien über ihre Stellen in Istanbul mit der Türkei in aussichtsreichen Verhandlungen über die Ausstellung von türkischen Durchreisewisa für eine Gruppe von 1 000 jüdischen Kindern mit 100 jüdischen Begleitpersonen aus Rumänien, die man in Zusammenarbeit mit "Wagon-Lite" auf dem Landwege über Bulgarien und die Türkei nach Palästina verbringen will.

Es wird gebeten, die geplante Auswanderung nach Möglichkeit zu unterbinden.

K207357

In Auftrage:  
*[Signature]*

# Chronology of the Catastrophe

1920

## Foundation of the Nazi Party

Its programme included extreme anti-Semitic features including deprivation of citizenship for the Jews and the threat of expulsion from Germany.

1923

## 8 November: Munich Putsch.

A stillborn Nazi attempt at revolution.

1924

## Hitler in Landsberg Prison—dictates "Mein Kampf".

In this two volume book (the first volume was published in 1925) Hitler expressed his basic views and revealed his plans, which he subsequently endeavoured to put into practice when he achieved power. The book is full of insults and threats to the Jews.

Few people have read the whole book. Those who did read it at the time thought that what it contained was not real plans but merely propaganda.

1932

## 21 July: In the Reichstag Elections the Nazi Party receives 37.4 per cent of the votes (230 deputies), becoming the largest party in the German parliament.

In the elections held on November 6 of that year the percentage declined to 33.1 per cent, although the Nazis still remained the largest party in the Reichstag.

1933

## 31 January: Hitler appointed Reichskanzler (Premier).

After the death of the aged President Hindenburg (August 2, 1934) Hitler proclaimed himself his successor, uniting the

office of President of the State and Head of the Government. He became Führer and Reichskanzler, sole ruler of Germany.

## 1 April: Official "Boycott day" against the Jews of Germany.

On this day Jews were arrested and beaten and entry into Jewish business was prohibited. A spate of orders and ordinances against the Jews began with the object of robbing and impoverishing them. These decrees continued to be issued until the Jews disappeared from Germany.

## First wave of emigration of Jews from Germany.

According to the report of the National Representation of the Jews 38,000 Jews left Germany in 1933. Emigration was still unrestricted and the emigrants could take a considerable part of their property.

1935

## 15 September: Nuremberg Laws.

Law of State Citizenship, formally proclaimed at the Congress of the Nazi Party in Nuremberg declared that only a person of German or related blood could be a citizen of the State; that Jews were undesirable aliens, blood-defiled, endangering the honour and security of the German people. They could not be Staatsbürger (citizens) but remained subjects (Staatsangehörige).

## A second wave of Jewish emigration from Germany as a result of the Nuremberg Laws.

This wave was more difficult and encountered more obstacles than the first. A large number of countries surrounded themselves with a rampart of restrictive laws, or prohibited the entry of refugees. The wicked German regime wished to force the Jews to depart but at the same time coveted Jewish assets in

Germany. Thus it conducted propaganda against the Jewish emigrants abroad and made it difficult for them to find a refuge.

Up to the beginning of 1938, 140,000 Jews left Germany.

1938

## 13 March: Annexation of Austria to the Reich.

All decrees published in the past five years against the Jews immediately came into force in Austria.

## 28 August: Forcible expulsion of thousands of Jews who were Polish citizens and who had lived in Germany.

## 9 October: Kristallnacht.

A wave of anti-Jewish riots officially staged in Germany, ostensibly in reprisal against the assassination of the Secretary of the German Embassy in Paris by Hershel Greenspan. The riots continued for several days. (The name "Kristallnacht" was given because it involved the smashing of thousands of expensive window-panes of Jewish businesses.)

According to an official German report on Kristallnacht 191 synagogues were burned, 5,500 shops were destroyed, 30,000 Jews were arrested, half of them deported to the Buchenwald Concentration Camp, 36 Jews were killed and many others severely wounded. A collective fine of one billion marks was imposed upon the Jews of Germany while a new spate of decrees designed to complete the act of robbery was promulgated.

## Third wave of Jewish emigration after Kristallnacht.

According to the figures of the Jewish Representation in Germany 215,000 Jews left Germany between April 1933 and July 1939. In this period 97,000 left Austria and 17,000 the Protectorate.

1939

## 24 January: Establishment of the Central Office for the Emigration of the Jews.

The Office was headed by Heydrich, head of the Security Police and the SD. Branches of the Central Office were opened first in Vienna and then in Prague. These two institutions were headed by Adolf Eichmann. "The Emigration Offices"

## THE HOLOCAUST OF EUROPEAN JEWRY — IN NUMBERS

	Jewish population in 1939	Victims of annihilation	% of losses based on the Percentage of losses
(1) Poland	2,250,000	2,850,000	67.7
(2) Soviet Russia (the Nazi occupied provinces)	2,100,000	1,500,000	71.4
(3) Rumania	850,000	425,000	50.0
(4) Hungary	400,000	200,000	50.0
(5) France	300,000	90,000	30.0
(6) Czechoslovakia	315,000	240,000	76.2
(7) Germany	193,000	110,000	57.0
(8) Austria	90,000	45,000	50.0
(9) Lithuania	150,000	130,000	86.6
(10) Latvia	95,000	80,000	84.2
(11) Holland	150,000	105,000	70.0
(12) Belgium	90,000	40,000	44.4
(13) Yugoslavia	75,000	55,000	73.3
(14) Greece	75,000	60,000	80.0
(15) Italy	57,000	15,000	26.3
(16) Bulgaria	50,000	7,000	14.0
(17) Others	15,000	5,000	33.3
	8,255,000	5,957,000	72.1

### REMARKS

- (a) This table of figures was assembled by the distinguished statistician and demographer, Jacob Lestchinsky<sup>1</sup>. The figures are the results of estimates and calculations and do not pretend to be absolutely accurate. Jacob Lestchinsky says that the true, accurate figures may be at most two to three per cent higher or lower, and no more.
- (b) In this table the year 1939 was taken as a basis of comparison. This means that Jews who fell victim to the Nazis in Germany since 1933 and in Austria since 1938 were not taken into account. Lestchinsky estimates their number in Germany alone (including suicides) at 30-40,000.
- (c) There are other calculations, according to which the Jewish losses are higher or lower than those given in the table. According to N. Blumenthal, the Jewish losses range from 6.5 m. to 7 m. persons<sup>2</sup>. According to the estimate of the Anglo-American Inquiry Commission, in April 1946 the number of Jewish victims totalled 6,029,500. The International Tribunal in Nuremberg mentioned the figure six million (this figure is also mentioned in the Declaration of Independence of the State of Israel.) G. Reitlinger, in his well known book "The Final Solution" (English, translated in German)<sup>3</sup> arrives at a figure which lies between four and five million victims. His calculations, however, are highly questionable.

<sup>1</sup> In his book: "The National Aspect of Diaspora Jewry," (Yiddish), Buenos Aires, 1955.

<sup>2</sup> See: Nachman Blumenthal, about the number killed, six million or more? "Ghetto Fighters House Bulletin" No. 13, January 1956.

<sup>3</sup> It will appear in Hebrew immediately after the Eichmann Trial, published by Yad Washem with corrections and supplements, including, among others, the results of the Eichmann Trial.

which at first engaged in enforced migration and extortion of sums of money from the Jews were converted in the course of time into offices for the expulsion and deportation of Jews. When in September 1939 the Reich Security Head Office was established, comprising Division IVB4 for Jewish Affairs (Berlin, Kurfürstenstrasse 16), Eichmann was appointed its head. From this office, he directed the implementation of "the final solution" of the Jewish problem.

### 30 January: Hitler threatens the destruction of the Jews of Europe.

The following passage is from a statement made by him in the Reichstag:

"If international European Jewry, in Europe and elsewhere, should involve the European peoples in a new world war, the result will be not Bolshevist domination of the globe, and therefore the victory of Jewry, but the destruction of the Jewish race in Europe."

A similar statement was made by Hitler on 30 January 1941.

### 15 March: Conquest of Czechoslovakia, which becomes the German "Protectorate" of Bohemia-Moravia.

Slovakia becomes an "independent" state, in fact subservient to Germany. All the anti-Jewish laws in force in Germany immediately become applicable to the Jews of the conquered country.

### 1 September: The invasion of Poland.

Anti-Jewish riots and atrocities commenced simultaneously

### 30 April: Lodz ghetto closed.

### 4 October: Vichy Government (France) published "Jewish regulations," (Statut des Juifs), with the invasion of Poland, 250,000 Jews massacred in Poland before the end of 1939.

### 17 September: Soviet army enters Eastern Poland.

Hundreds of thousands of Jews who had fled to the eastern provinces of Poland came under the Soviet regime.

### 21 September: Heydrich orders establishment of ghettos in the occupied territories and the appointment of Councils of Jews.

### 12 October: First transports of Jews from the West (Vienna and Bohemia) to Poland (Nisko).

### 26 October: Forced labour made

compulsory for Jews. *Shechita* prohibited in the General-Government.

(The German General Government was the name given to the remaining occupied territories of Poland, after the annexation of extensive areas to the Reich.)

### 23 November: Establishment of the first ghetto on Polish territory: Piotrkow Tribunalski.

1940

### 8 February: The establishment of Lodz ghetto.

### 15 November: Warsaw ghetto closed.

1941

### 22 January: First riots staged by the Iron Guard in Rumania.

### 22 January: Vichy Government appoints "Commissioner for Jewish Affairs."

### 22 June: Germans invade Soviet Russia.

Riots and mass murder of Jews mark the beginning of the invasion.

- 2 July: Pogrom in Lwow
- 31 July: Heydrich appointed by Goering to head "the final solution."

The first paragraph of the appointment reads as follows:

"In addition to the function given in the order dated January 24, 1939 i.e. to solve the Jewish problem by emigration and evacuation in the most effective manner (see above) in keeping with current conditions, I hereby appoint you to make all necessary organizational, practical and financial preparations, with a view to bringing about the final solution of the Jewish problem in the European territories under German influence."

- In the autumn months of 1941: mass massacres of the Jews in the territories captured from Soviet Russia.

These acts of murder were carried out by Einsatzgruppen ("special operations squads") organized and trained for this purpose prior to the invasion of Soviet Russia, in keeping with an agreement between the Wehrmacht and Himmler. The fixed method—indicating central planning—distinguished these mass murders: Large pits were dug prior to the slaughter. Men, women and children, the sick and the aged, were made to stand in front of the pits, or forced to enter them, after which firing squads shot them down. Experiments were made to conduct the slaughter with gas vans but after some time these were discarded.

- 1 September: The destruction of thousands of Jews of Hungary, who had been deported to Kamienetz Podolsk.
- A number of dates of the destruction of communities in 1941:
- 12–13 September: Mass slaughter in Dniepropetrovsk.
- 19 September: Destruction of the Jews of Zhitomir.
- 28–29 September: Mass slaughter of 34,000 Jews in Kiev.
- 2 October: Paris synagogues blown up.
- In October: Deportation of Jews from the Reich (to Lodz, Minsk, Riga and Kovno).
- End of October: Slaughters in Riga, Vilna, Kovno, Dvinsk.

- 6 November: Slaughter of 15,000 Jews in Rovno.

- 8 December: Slaughter of 27,000 Jews in Riga.

- 22 December: Slaughter of 22,000 Jews in Vilna.

- End of December: Chelmno death camp opened.

The camp was intended for the destruction of the Jews of Lodz and the surrounding district. Here use was made of gas vans.

## 1942

- 20 January: Wannsee Conference for coordination of operations connected with execution of the "final solution."

Fifteen of the most important officials in Germany participated in this conference. Heydrich explained the reason for the conference in the following terms:

"As a result of the war, it proved necessary that the emigration plan should be replaced by the deportation of the Jews to the east, in keeping with the orders of the Führer... Consultation with all offices directly connected with this problem is necessary... in order to coordinate methods."

("Deportation to the east" was the euphemism used for execution.) Mass slaughter already commenced—mainly in the occupied Soviet territories—at the end of the summer and in the autumn of 1941, but henceforth full impetus was given to the final solution."

In 1942 most of the Jews captured by the Nazis in the countries they occupied were put to death.

- End of January: First deportations to "the model ghetto" of Theresienstadt.

- 16 March: Belzhetz death camp opened.

- 16 March: Campaign of destruction launched in the General Government by regiments of murderers called "Einsatz Reinhardt."

In the summer months of 1942 most of the Jews of the General Government were transported to the death camps of Treblinka, Sobibor, Belzhetz, Majdanek and Auschwitz-Birkenau.

- 17 March to 21 April: Death transportation of the Jews of Lublin.

Most of these Jews were killed in Belzhetz.

- 23 March: First transports of Slovakian Jews arrive in Auschwitz-Birkenau.

- 1 June: Jews of France and Holland ordered to wear distinguishing symbol (yellow Magen David on the breast).

- 23 June: Large-scale hunt for Jews in Paris with a view to sending them to death camps.

- 22 July: Death transportation of Jews of ghetto Warsaw.

Most of the Jews sent to Treblinka. Up to the end of September 300,000 Jews were dispatched. The expulsion was then held up for some months.

- 4 August: First deportation train from Belgium.

- 10-32 August: Death deportation of 40,000 Jews of Lwow.

- August to February 1943: Deportation to Auschwitz of Jews of Croatia.

- 25 November: Deportation of the Jews of Norway to the camps.

- 17 December: Declaration of the allied nations that the destroyers of the Jewish people would be punished.

## 1943

- 18 January: First rising in Warsaw ghetto.

- 20–26 January: Dispatch of Jews from Theresienstadt ghetto to destruction in Auschwitz.

- 5-12 February: First death deportation of Jews of Bialystok.

- 13 March: Liquidation of Cracow ghetto.

- 13 March: Opening of large crematoria in Auschwitz.

- 15 March: First transports of Jews from Saloniki and Thrace to destruction.

- 19 April-16 May: Warsaw ghetto rising and liquidation of the ghetto.

- 11 June: Himmler orders final liquidation of ghettos in Poland.

- 21 June: Himmler orders final liquidation of ghettos in Soviet Russian territories.

- 21-27 June: Revolt in Treblinka death camp.

- 17-27 August: Liquidation of Zaglembe (mining region in Poland in which the towns of Będzin, Sosnowiec, Dombrowa etc. were situated).

- 23 September: Liquidation of Vilna ghetto.

**A PLAN TO SAVE 5,000 JEWISH CHILDREN WHICH FAILED**

1 October: Rescue of Jews of Denmark, who were threatened with dispatch to death camps.

The majority were transported by members of the Danish underground to neutral Sweden.

14 October: Revolt in Sobibor death camp.

18 October: First dispatch of Jews from Rome to Auschwitz.

**1944**

19 March: Horthy agrees to hand over Hungarian Jews to Nazi police for deportation.

15 May: The dispatch of 380,000 Jews of Hungary most of them to Auschwitz for destruction.

24 July: Russian army captures Lublin-Maidanek concentration camp.

25 July: Evacuation of Kovno ghetto.

5 September: Evacuation of Lodz ghetto.

6 October: Revolt of the Jewish "Sonder-Kommando" in the Auschwitz camp.

End of October: Last "selection" for gas chambers in Auschwitz.

December: Trial of Majdanek criminals in Lublin.

26 November: Himmler orders destruction of gas chambers and crematoria in Auschwitz.

**1945**

16 January: Liberation by the Russian army of 800 Jews of Chens-tochov, and 870 Jews of Lodz.

17 January: Liberation of more than 80,000 Jews of Budapest by the Russian army.

6-10 April: Evacuation of 15,000 Jews from the "small camp" of Buchenwald. (Most of them died en route.)

15 April: Allied armies enter Bergen Belsen camp.

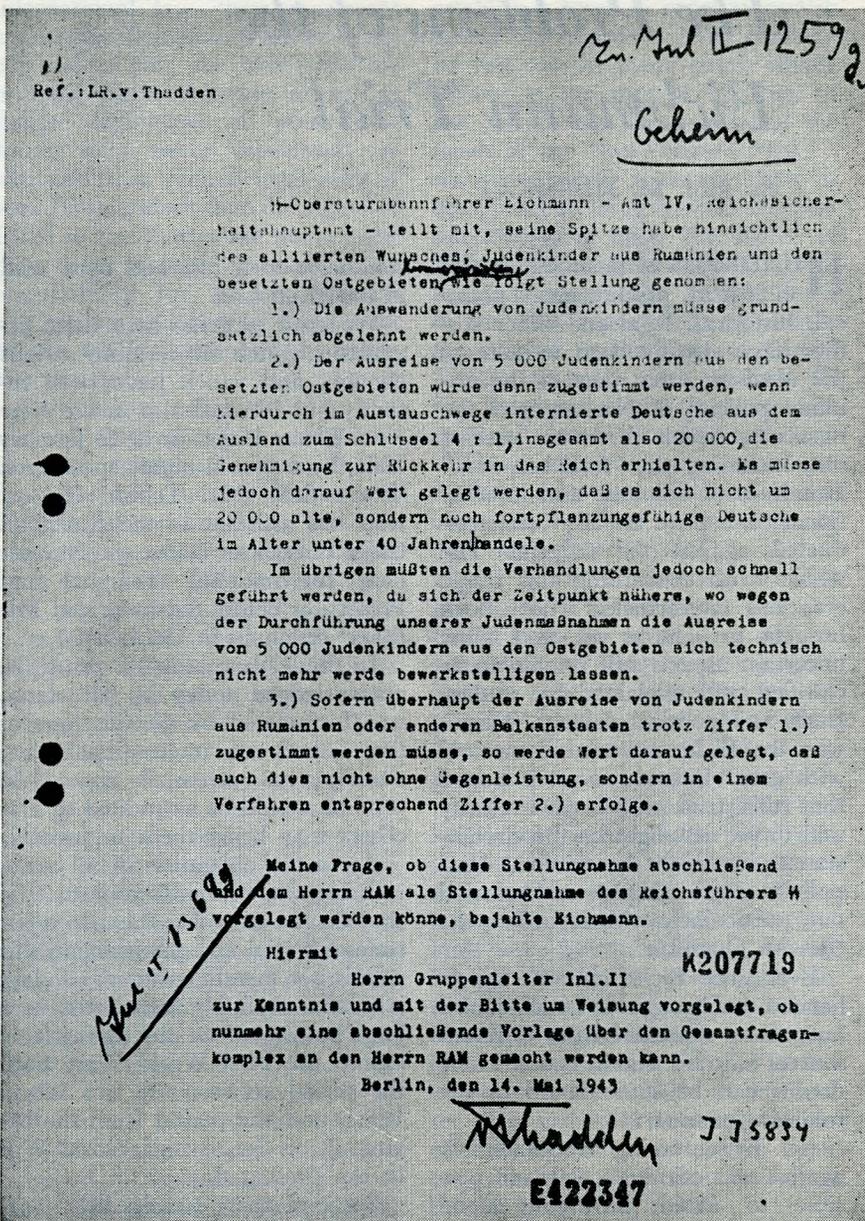
The liberating armies found 40,000 prisoners still alive and 15,000 dead (most of them Jews) Thousands of others died in the first days after the liberation.

April: Evacuation of a number of other camps (Sachsenhausen, Oranienburg, Ravensbrück). Prisoners forced to wander aimlessly. Most of them slaughtered by the SD en route.

30 April: Suicide of Hitler.

7 May: Germany surrenders.

23 May: Himmler commits suicide.



This document dated May 14, 1943, is signed by Eberhard von Thadden, Officer for Jewish Affairs in the Inland B Department of the German Foreign Ministry. Thadden informed his superior, on the basis of a conversation with Eichmann, about Himmler's attitude towards "the request of allied countries to dispatch Jewish children from Rumania and German occupied territories in the east." He enumerates three points:

1. Opposition in principle to emigration of children;
2. Consent to the departure of 5,000 Jewish children from the occupied territories in the east will be given only on condition that in return German internees held abroad be repatriated to the Reich at a ratio of 4 to 1, in other words—20,000 Germans. It must be stressed that the reference was not to

20,000 aged persons but to "Germans of the age of fertility, under forty years of age."

3. Should permission be given to the departure of Jewish children from Rumania and other Balkan countries, it should not be without recompense but in keeping with paragraph 2.

Thadden quoted this characteristic remark of Eichmann: "Incidentally, it is essential to conduct these negotiations with dispatch, seeing that the time is coming when as a result of our measures against the Jews the departure of 5,000 Jewish children from the eastern territories will no longer be possible from the technical point of view." The true import of this euphemism is that there would not be 5,000 Jewish children alive.

The project was not carried out.