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ACQUITTAL FOR HITLERIST STORM TROOP LEADER HELLDORF ACCUSED OF DIRECTING ANTI-JEWISH EXCESSES IN BERLIN LAST ROSH HASHANAH: APPEAL JUDGE SAYS HE ACCEPTS HELLDORF'S WORD THAT HE WENT TO SCENE OF EXCESSES TO CALM HIS MEN AND ORDER THEM OFF: IMPOSES SMALL FINE ON HIM HOWEVER FOR INSULTING BEHAVIOUR TO WITNESSES GIVING EVIDENCE AGAINST HIM: TWENTY OTHER PRISONERS INCLUDING HELLDORF'S CHIEF OF STAFF ACQUITTED.

Berlin, Feb. 9th. (Jewish Telegraphic Agency).

Count Helldorf, the leader of the Hitlerist Storm Troops in Berlin, who was sentenced at his first trial to six months' imprisonment for his part in the anti-Jewish excesses which took place in Berlin last Rosh Hashanah, and for whom the Public Prosecutor demanded two years' imprisonment at the conclusion of his appeal against the sentence, has been acquitted to-day by the Appeal Court on the charge of disturbing the peace brought against him.

The President of the Appeal Court, Judge Ohnesorge, said that the court accepted Count Helldorf's plea that he had motored to the Kurfuerstendamm on hearing of the disturbances there in order to calm his men and to get them to disperse.

The Court could not, however, overlook the insulting attitude of Count Helldorf towards the civilian witnesses who had appeared in court to give evidence against him, and on that count, the Judge said, he would have to pay a fine of 100 marks.

Twenty other prisoners who were appealing with Count Helldorf against their previous sentences, including Helldorf's chief-of-staff, Ernst, who had like Helldorf been sentenced to six months' imprisonment at the first trial, have also been acquitted.

Engineer Brandt, the leader of the Young Steel Helm Brigade, who was likewise sentenced at the first trial to six months' imprisonment, has now had his sentence reduced to four months. One prisoner named Mehde has been sent to prison for 10 months, and 17 others for six months.

TRIAL OPENING SOON OF TWO YOUNG JEWS ACCUSED OF BEING CONCERNED IN DEATH OF VILNA NATIONAL DEMOCRATIC STUDENT WAGLAWSKI: INVESTIGATION COMPLETED: WULFIN AND ZALKIND TO BE TRIED SEPARATELY: STATE ATTORNEY APPEARING FOR PROSECUTION.

Warsaw, Feb. 10th. (Jewish Telegraphic Agency).

The enquiry had been conducted into the death of Stanislaw Waglawski, a student belonging to the antisemitic National Democratic Party, who was killed during the anti-Jewish disturbances at Vilna University last November and whose body was exhumed by the authorities a week ago in connection with the proceedings against the two young Jews, Wulfin and Zalkind, who have been arrested on suspicion of being concerned in his death (they are both out on bail now), and the trial, it is announced, will be opened in a few days.

It is stated that the two young Jews will not be tried together, but that there will be two separate trials. The State Attorney, M. Janowicz, will appear for the prosecution.

SOROCOA SHOOTING AFFAIR: EVIDENCE BY EYE-WITNESS: YOUNG MAN WHO WAS TO HAVE BEEN IN ILL-FATED PARTY AND SAW EVERYTHING FROM HIDING-PLACE MAKES DEPOSITION TO LEADER OF ROUMANIAN SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC PARTY: MATTER WILL BE RAISED IN PARLIAMENT: NO ACCUSATION AGAINST GOVERNMENT DEPUTY MIRESCU SAYS BUT IT IS AVERSE TO REOPENING INQUIRY: COMPLAINS OFFICIAL INQUIRY DID NOT QUESTION POPULATION AND CONFINED ITSELF TO SOLDIERS AND POLICE AND THEREFORE ITS FINDINGS CONTRADICT THOSE OF PRIVATE INQUIRIES.

Bucharest, Feb. 9th. (Jewish Telegraphic Agency).

Deputy Mirescu, the leader of the Roumanian Social Democratic Party, who has been in Sorocoa investigating the shooting affair there on the instructions of the Executive of the Party, tells the J.T.A. representative here that his enquiry has brought to light a great deal of new material which he will shortly present to Parliament.

He succeeded in finding an eye-witness of the shooting of the six victims, he said, and we have taken a statement from him. It seems that he was to have been a seventh member of the ill-fated party, and escaped their fate only because he had arrived at the place arranged for the crossing of the River Dniester before the others did, and he took shelter in a little hut a short distance off. From his hiding place there he saw all that happened. I am not now able to reveal his name for obvious reasons, Deputy Mirescu went on.

He did not go with the rest to the house of the smuggler Ion Mihalasch, who acted as their go-between with the frontier guard, who was to have conducted them across the river, and gave him a sum of 4,000 lei as a bribe. This amount had been agreed to by the frontier guard for taking five people across the river (the sixth member of the party was the smuggler), and as there were six of them, they had drawn lots to decide which should be left behind. The lot had fallen on Riva Darcautzan, but he (the eye-witness) had withdrawn in her favour, because her fiance was in the party, and he did not want to separate them. They arranged, however, that he should also come to the spot arranged, thinking that while they were all crossing the guard might be persuaded to let him cross too. As he waited in the hut for his friends, he saw a sledge drive up, filled with frontier guards, with Captain Gaja, the Commandant of the Sorocoa frontier guard, among them. He heard Captain Gaja ordering a soldier to bring out the young people who were in Mihalasch's house. Three-quarters of an hour later, the group came up, and five minutes after, without any warning having been given, the shots were fired.

The soldiers, the statement declares, tried to drag the bodies to the middle of the river Dniester, where there was a crack in the ice, with the intention of throwing them into the water. The Russian frontier guard on the other side prevented this, however, by playing searchlights on them, and threatening to shoot if the Roumanian soldiers ventured further towards the middle of the river. The watcher says in his deposition that he was in his hut for a quarter of an hour after the shooting took place, before he thought it safe to leave his hiding place.

I afterwards spoke to the widow of the smuggler Mihalasch, Deputy Mirescu went on, and her statements concerning the time when the young people arrived in her house and when they left, and also when the soldier arrived in their house, agreed with the statements made to me by the eye-witness.

11/2/32.

Blood Still Seen Through Ice: Captain Of Frontier Guard Had Been Reproached By His Superiors For Not Being Sufficiently Vigilant To Prevent Crossing Of Frontier And Wanted To Prove His Zeal.

The fear of the frontier guard which exists among the inhabitants of Bujurovka, the suburb of Soroca which adjoins the scene of the shooting, can be gauged by the fact that not one resident would dare to conduct us to the scene of the outrage, Deputy Mirescu said, and we had to find the place for ourselves, with the help of the directions of the frontier guards. The place was covered with ice, through which the blood could be seen.

Asked by the J.T.A. representative whether the young people had wanted to cross the frontier into Soviet Russia for political reasons, because they were Communists, Deputy Mirescu said that he was convinced that this was not the case. Only one of them, Leib Rudmann, he said, was a Communist. Tikinowski had been falsely alleged to be a brother of Dr. Tikinowski, who was involved in an espionage affair a year ago. Tikinowski had a ticket to go to the Argentine, and it was only at the last minute that Rudmann had persuaded him to seek employment in Soviet Russia, instead of undertaking the long journey to the Argentine. Tikinowski's relatives state that in addition to the ticket he had 125 dollars and 3,000 lei on him, which were not found on the body.

As to the motive for the outrage, Deputy Mirescu said that Captain Gaja had recently been repeatedly reproached by his superior officers as responsible for frequent cases of people crossing the River Dniester and he had therefore wanted to make an example of one party in order to frighten off further attempts, and at the same time to show his superior officers that he was zealous in his duties of preventing the crossing of the frontier.

How would you explain the fact, the J.T.A. representative asked, that the official enquiry has given such totally different results to all the private enquiries, including your own?

That, Deputy Mirescu replied, is explained by the fact that General Marcovici confined himself in his investigation to questioning the Commandant of the Frontier guard, and the police. He stubbornly refused to make any enquiries from among the large number of witnesses among the inhabitants of Soroca, who wanted to make statements. At the second enquiry, too, to which a representative of the Ministry of Justice was added, only five out of the fifty witnesses who had come forward were heard, and the attitude of the enquiry commission was such a brow-beating one as to frighten them into confining themselves to merely formal statements, without going into the facts. It throws light on General Marcovici's attitude to the whole matter to mention that he did not even visit the scene of the outrage.

No one has ever thought of accusing the higher authorities or the Government of responsibility for this unfortunate occurrence, Deputy Mirescu concluded. Nevertheless, I have obtained the impression from a talk which I have had with M. Argetoianu, that the Government does not wish the Soroca affair to be reopened.

11/2/32.

THE COST OF THE PALESTINE DEVELOPMENT SCHEME: EXPENDITURE WILL BE MET OUT OF PALESTINE REVENUE. COLONIAL SECRETARY TELLS COLONEL WEDGWOOD IN HOUSE OF COMMONS: DOES NOT AGREE THAT IF PALESTINE LOAN IS NOT RAISED MONEY SPENT ON ENQUIRY WILL BE WASTED.

London, Feb. 10th. (Jewish Telegraphic Agency).

Colonel Josiah Wedgwood asked the Secretary of State for the Colonies in the House of Commons to-day if he would state what expenditure had been incurred in connection with Mr. French's report on Palestine settlement, how the cost would be met, and would further expense be avoided until Parliament had approved the raising of a loan.

Pending approval by His Majesty's Government of any scheme for development or settlement in Palestine, the Colonial Secretary, Sir Philip Cunliffe-Lister replied, the expenditure would, apart from the salaries of the Director of Development and his staff, be confined to such preliminary investigation as may be necessary to enable Mr. French to formulate his proposals. Such expenditure would be met in the first instance from the General Revenue of Palestine.

I will enquire of the High Commissioner, the Colonial Secretary added, the total sum expended in connection with the Development Department since the appointment of the Director in the summer of 1931 and I will communicate with Colonel Wedgwood when I have his reply.

Is the Colonial Secretary aware, Colonel Wedgwood asked, that if a loan is not raised all this money spent on this enquiry will be wasted?

No. I am not prepared to accept that statement, the Colonial Secretary replied.

The dispatch addressed to the late High Commissioner for Palestine, Sir John Chancellor, by the late Colonial Secretary, Lord Passfield, at the time of Mr. French's appointment in July, setting out his duties as Director of Palestine Development, stated that "it is the intention of His Majesty's Government to authorise the High Commissioner to incur expenditure not exceeding £50,000 in the foregoing investigation, including all necessary surveys, and experiments, such expenditure being met, in the first instance", (as the Colonial Secretary stated to-day in reply to Colonel Wedgwood) "from Palestine funds".

PALESTINE HIGH COMMISSIONER SIR ARTHUR WAUCHOPE TELLS GATHERING AT GOVERNMENT HOUSE IN HONOUR OF EGYPTIAN PRIME MINISTER HE PERSUADED HIM TO AGREE TO REDUCTION OF TARIFF ON PALESTINE FRUIT BY DEPICTING HARDSHIPS OF PALESTINE AGRICULTURISTS: EGYPTIAN PRIME MINISTER ANNOUNCES 50 PER CENT. REDUCTION IN EGYPTIAN TARIFF ON PALESTINE FRUIT EFFECTIVE BETWEEN APRIL 1ST. AND OCTOBER 31ST.

Jerusalem, Feb. 9th. (Jewish Telegraphic Agency).

A 50 per cent. reduction in the Egyptian tariff on fruit from Palestine to be effective between April 1st. and October 31st. was announced by the Egyptian Prime Minister, Sidki Pasha, at a reception given in his honour this afternoon at Government House, attended by notables of all the Communities in Palestine.

The High Commissioner, General Sir Arthur Wauchope, who was recently on a visit to Egypt, during which he invited the Egyptian Prime Minister to visit Palestine, mentioned in the course of his speech, the conversations which he had with Sidki Pasha in Cairo, in which he had pictured to him the hardships and sufferings of the Palestine agriculturists, in pleading with him for a reduction of the Egyptian tariffs in order to help the Palestine agricultural industry.

REOPENING OF JEWISH SCHOOLS IN PALESTINE.

Jerusalem, Feb. 9th. (Jewish Telegraphic Agency).

The schools of the Jewish Agency in Palestine, which have been closed for nearly four weeks in consequence of the strike of teachers, which has now been settled, will be re-opened to-morrow (Wednesday), it is announced to-day.

The only question still outstanding between the parties is the payment of salaries for the period of the strike. It is suggested that this difficulty should be settled by prolonging the school term by one month.

PRESIDIUM OF THREE APPOINTED BY POLISH ZIONISTS IN PLACE OF RETIRING PRESIDENT DEPUTY GRUENBAUM.

Warsaw, Feb. 9th. (Jewish Telegraphic Agency).

The new Central Committee of the Polish Zionist Federation elected at the recent Polish Zionist Conference has elected a Presidium of three members, consisting of Dr. Mayer Blumel, ex-Senator Davidsohn and Deputy Rosenblatt, in place of the retiring President, Deputy Gruenbaum.

REVISIONISTS ACCUSED OF HESITATION AND WEAKNESS TOWARDS MANDATORY POWER AND ZIONIST ORGANISATION: CHARGE MADE AT MEETING OF REVISIONIST EXECUTIVE IN PARIS BY DR. TIOMKIN AND MR. SCHECHTMAN IN TENDERING THEIR RESIGNATIONS: FIFTH REVISIONIST WORLD CONFERENCE FIXED FOR JULY.

Paris, Feb. 9th. (Jewish Telegraphic Agency).

Dr. Z. Tiomkin and Mr. Schechtman, two prominent members of the Revisionist Organisation, both resident in Paris, have resigned from the Revisionist Organisation, complaining that the present Revisionist attitude towards the Mandatory Power and the Zionist Organisation is hesitant and weak.

The resignations were tendered to-day at a meeting of the Executive of the Revisionist World Union held here, attended by most of the members of the Executive.

It was decided by the meeting to convoke the Fifth World Conference of the Revisionist World Union for July.

QUARTER MILLION DOLLARS TO BE RAISED IN AMERICA THIS YEAR FOR MIZRACHI WORK IN PALESTINE.

New York, Feb. 9th. (Jewish Telegraphic Agency).

A campaign for a fund of a quarter of a million dollars to be raised in America this year for the work of the Mizrahi in Palestine was decided on to-day at the annual Convention of the American Mizrahi Palestine Fund now in session here.

PROFESSOR EINSTEIN MAKING JEWISH NATIONAL FUND BANQUET ONLY RECEPTION HE WILL ATTEND IN AMERICA.

New York, Feb. 9th. (Jewish Telegraphic Agency).

Professor Albert Einstein and his wife will be the guests of honour at a banquet arranged by the Jewish National Fund in Los Angeles for February 28th. This will be the only reception by the Jewish Community which Professor Einstein will attend during his present stay in California.