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GAS MASKS DISTRIBUTED TO PALESTINE HARBOR OFFICIALS

JERUSALEM, Jan. 23. (JTA) -- The Government today issued gas masks to harbor officials at Haifa and Jaffa.

Distribution of the masks climaxed widespread reports and rumors that war preparations were going on in the Holy Land. Arab newspapers, in particular, had been persistently reporting secret stationing of troops, importation of munitions, arrival of a submarine and passing out of gas masks to soldiers and sailors.

Falastin, Arabic daily, stated that large quantities of masks were brought into the country by the military authorities given to troops and naval forces stationed at the Mediterranean port.

Three ships with dynamite cargoes have anchored in the Haifa Bay, the paper reported, adding that British soldiers were arriving nightly at Haifa and being taken to barracks at Bath Galim.

The necessity of ensuring oil shipments from Iraq during a possible war, Arab newspapers said, had caused British authorities to begin planning a new pipeline from Mesopotamia to Haifa paralleling the present route.

Reports from Maskat in Oman, on the South Arabian coast, state that American engineers and geological experts are now engaged in experiments for the discovery of new sources of petroleum. Oil was discovered in the district last year.

The necessity of guarding oil supplies, the Arab papers state, has prompted British authorities to station a submarine and two cruisers in Haifa. Haifa is the terminus of the oil lines from the Mosul fields and shipments are made from the port to British possessions throughout the world.

COUNCIL WILL BE SHELVED FOR YEAR, ARAB PAPER REPORTS

JERUSALEM, Jan. 23. (JTA) -- Capt. Anthony Eden's name was brought into the Palestine legislative council situation today when it was reported by El Liwaa, Arab newspaper, that the British Foreign Secretary and Colonial Secretary J.H. Thomas had reached an understanding to postpone the projected council for a year.

Plans for the council were announced by High Commissioner Wauchope in December. The announcement met with the united opposition of Jewish groups and indecision in Arab circles.

B'NAI B'RITH STARTS BIALIK LODGE IN PALESTINE

JERUSALEM, Jan. 22. (JTA) -- B'nai B'rith, international Jewish fraternal order, today established a Bialik Lodge in honor of Chaim Nachman Bialik, Hebrew poet who died July 4, 1934. Moshe Chelouche was elected president of the lodge.

HUNGER STRIKE ENDED AFTER 11 DAYS

JERUSALEM, Jan. 23. (JTA) -- A hunger-strike was ended today by nine illegal immigrants in the Jerusalem jail after eleven days of fasting on the promise that they would be bailed out. They had launched the strike complaining that although they had paid fines and served their terms they were kept in prison pending deportation. They had also complained of ill-treatment by prison officials.

In Acre, meanwhile, the hunger-strike of a group of illegal immigrants entered its seventh day.

PALESTINE HALTS APPLICATIONS FOR "RELATIVES" VISAS

JERUSALEM, Jan. 23. (JTA) -- The Government today stopped receiving applications of Palestine residents for immigration certificates to have their relatives brought into the country.

The action followed announcement by the Jewish Agency for Palestine, which has charge of the certificates allotted to the Jews, that it would accept no applications for relatives' certificates after February 1 and until further notice.

The Jewish Agency's announcement said exceptions would be made in the case of persons with relatives in Germany, Russia or Yemen.

The Government's action came on the heels of a promise to the Jewish Agency to consult it before promulgating new immigration restrictions. Restriction of relatives' entry was one of the curbs which the Government had been reported considering for announcement in a new ordinance.

Other reported contemplated restrictions would invalidate immigration certificates if not used within a specified period of time, double the \$5,000 minimum necessary for entry in the capitalist category and increase the tourist deposit to \$400.

CHIEF RABBI OF ENGLAND ISSUES SPECIAL PRAYER FOR KING GEORGE

LONDON, Jan. 23. (JTA) -- Dr. J.H. Hertz, Chief Rabbi of England, today issued a special prayer to be used in all synagogues throughout the country at memorial services next Tuesday in connection with the funeral of King George V. The services, especially arranged for the occasion, will be held simultaneously in all Jewish houses of worship at six o'clock in the evening.

The British Board of Jewish Deputies, representative organization of English Jewry, announced today that it will hold a memorial meeting for King George on Sunday.

Vladimir Jabotinsky, head of the New Zionist (Revisionist) Organization, today visited Buckingham Palace to pay his respects to the royal family.

LEAGUE REFUGEE BODY MEETS SECRETLY

GENEVA, Jan. 23. (JTA) -- The League of Nations Council's subcommittee on refugees was called into secret session tonight to draft the text of recommendations expected to be submitted to the council tomorrow.

It was learned that at an earlier meeting the committee had decided to recommend that the duties of the new High Commissioner for German Refugees follow generally the proposals of the League's experts committee of five. No nominations for a High Commissioner to succeed James G. McDonald have come up as yet, it was ascertained.

The experts committee had recommended that a prominent person be appointed to continue in Mr. McDonald's office with the aid of the technical departments of the League Secretariat.

It appeared likely that the subcommittee would ask that administrative expenses in the maintenance of the office be defrayed from the League's budget.

It was not expected that the political questions raised in Mr. McDonald's letter of resignation would be discussed. These will probably be left for the consideration of the League Assembly at its September session.

HICEM WARNS AGAINST EMIGRATION TO ECUADOR

PARIS (JTA) -- A warning against "the dangerous illusions which might arise among the Jewish population in the countries of emigration owing to misleading reports about the possibilities of immigration and colonization in Ecuador" has been issued by the HIAS-ICA Emigration Association (HICEM).

The statement avers that "possibilities in Ecuador are practically nil," giving the following reasons for its contention:

- (1) Ecuador as a whole is an extremely poor country.
- (2) The natives in the towns and on the countryside content themselves with an extremely modest wage, and even so find it difficult to secure employment.
- (3) The country is quite incapable of absorbing a large number of artisans, and immigrants without any trade have no chance of earning a living there.
- (4) There are no openings whatever for intellectuals and for members of the free professions.
- (5) The general political instability in the country does not promise any success in colonization schemes, the carrying out of which would entail considerable delay.
- (6) The territories which the Government has agreed to cede are of very inferior quality, far from roads or rivers. There is a general lack of good roads in the country and the transport of agricultural products is made by mules.
- (7) The regions where settlements have been proposed are situated at an altitude and tropical climate to which Europeans can adapt themselves only with great difficulty.

RABINOVICH, SOCIAL WORKER, DIES AT AGE OF 55

NEW YORK, Jan. 23. (JTA) -- Samuel Rabinovich, executive director of the United Jewish Aid Societies, died this morning in Mount Sinai Hospital after a three years' illness. He was 55 years old.

Before serving with the Aid Societies, an affiliate of the Brooklyn Federation of Jewish Charities, he was executive director of the Milwaukee Federation of Jewish Charities.

EDEN'S REPORT ON DANZIG TO BE SHARPLY WORDED

GENEVA, Jan. 23. (JTA) -- It was reliably learned today that Anthony Eden's report on Danzig, which is expected to be presented to the Council tomorrow afternoon, will be couched in the sharpest language.

The report, it is understood, will order rather than recommend that the Danzig Senate execute the Council's decisions with respect to rectifying violations of the Free City's constitution.

It was also learned that the report will suggest that the Council give Sean Lester, League High Commissioner, special powers in the event of non-compliance with the orders.

The next and probably final session of the Council is expected to be held tomorrow afternoon at which time, Zaldum Bide's (Ecuador representative) report on the refugee question will also be presented.

LODZ DISSOLVES ENDEK UNIT, BIGGEST IN POLAND

LODZ, Jan. 23. (JTA) -- The authorities today dissolved the local branch of the anti-Semitic National Democratic Party (Endeks) as a result of the recurrent anti-Jewish excesses in this city and its environs. Headquarters of the unit, one of the party's biggest in Poland, together with those of its affiliated labor organization were sealed.

OLDEST JEWESS IN POLAND DIES AT 111

WARSAW, Jan. 23. (JTA) -- Rachel Ackerman, believed to be the oldest Jewish woman in Poland, died today at the age of 111. Although all of her children had emigrated to Palestine, Mrs. Ackerman remained behind and was active until the very end.

188 "NON-ARYAN" TEACHERS FIRED IN BADEN SCHOOLS

BERLIN, Jan. 23. (JTA) -- It was announced here today that 188 "non-Aryan" teachers have been deprived of their jobs in schools in the State of Baden in obedience to the Nuremberg "ghetto" laws. As a result the schools of that state are left without a single "non-Aryan" teacher.

In the cities of Mannheim, Heidelberg and Bruchsal, all Jewish children have been segregated in "ghetto" schools where they have been put in charge of Jewish teachers.

60 DAYS FOR SALESMAN WHO REFUSED TO SHAKE HANDS WITH "ARYAN" GIRL

BERLIN, Jan. 23. (JTA) -- Two months in jail is the price a Jewish traveling salesman will have to pay for having refused in Magdeburg last December to shake hands with an "Aryan" salesgirl in a department store.

The sentence was imposed by a Magdeburg court today despite the salesman's testimony that he had not meant by his action to ridicule the Nuremberg racial laws. He said he had told the girl he "ought not shake hands with you" because she had failed to place an order with him.

REICH PRESS HINTS SYRIAN RIOTS WILL SPREAD TO PALESTINE

BERLIN, Jan. 23. (JTA) -- Accounts of the disorders in Syria are featured in today's German newspapers in such a way as to give readers the impression that a revolution is under way in that French-mandated territory.

Even the conservative Frankfurter Zeitung declares that "it is believed serious disorders" will occur in Palestine as well as Syria in the near future.

The official German news agency reports from Jerusalem that "Palestine is watching developments in Syria with growing anxiety."

HELENE MAYER, JEWISH FENCING STAR, REPORTED EN ROUTE TO BERLIN

BERLIN, Jan. 23. (JTA) -- Helene Mayer, world's champion woman fencer who has been invited to represent Germany in the Olympic Games next Summer, is on her way here and is expected to arrive next week, it is reported in the German press today.

The reports disclose that Miss Mayer, whose home is now in California where she teaches English, has been invited to join the Schild Jewish Veterans, a sports organization of Frankfurt-am-Main, since she is ineligible to membership in an "Aryan" club. It is not indicated whether or not Miss Mayer has accepted the invitation, although the report states she is slated to participate in the Schild's tournament on February 2.

Miss Mayer, who left Germany shortly after Hitler came to power, was invited to participate in the games to influence the United States to send a team to Berlin. She is of Jewish parentage.

SENATOR KING URGES CONGRESS LIFT IMMIGRATION BARS FOR REICH EXILES

WASHINGTON, Jan. 23. (JTA) -- Assailing Germany's treatment of its Jews, Senator William King of Utah in a speech before the Senate today urged that the United States open its doors as a haven to German-Jewish refugees.

Senator King quoted at considerable length from the report recently made by James G. McDonald in resigning as League of Nations High Commissioner for Refugees.

Declaring that Palestine, which he described as "still semi-arid," could not support many more German Jews, he stated that "this is a problem we shall have to deal with."

"One of the ladders on which Hitler climbed to power," Senator King said, "was his promise to expel Jews from Germany. "Now he has issued edicts to carry out his promises. The properties of Jews have been confiscated; their rights, civil and otherwise, have been taken away."

He concluded with the plea that "we should not turn our backs on this people of genius."

Senator King, who is a Mormon, has on many previous occasions spoken on behalf of the German Jews, both in Congress and at public functions.