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FRANKFURTER MURDER TRIAL OPENS TODAY; LAWYER GETS THREAT

CHUR, Switzerland, Dec. 8. (JTA) -- More than 200 foreign journalists and observers gathered here tonight for the opening tomorrow of the trial of David Frankfurter, 27-year-old Yugoslavian Jewish medical student, charged with the murder of Wilhelm Gustloff, Nazi leader, in protest against persecution of Jews in Germany.

Frankfurter's confessed assassination of the Nazi leader in a hotel in Davos last February created a stir throughout the world and has been used in the Reich as a springboard for an intensified propaganda campaign against the Jews.

The young student will go before five judges in the Grisons Cantonal Court. The trial is expected to last three days. Swiss authorities were reported taking every possible measure to prevent the trial from becoming a cause celebre, barring Jews as witnesses and all Nazis except Mrs. Gustloff.

Police reinforcements were posted throughout the town after defense attorney Dr. Eugen Curti, "the Clarence Darrow of Switzerland," had received letters threatening his life. Dr. Grimm, a Nazi attorney appearing for Mrs. Gustloff, also reported receiving a threatening letter.

Curti visited Frankfurter in jail and reported that he felt well and had no regrets about his act. Rabbi Taubes of Zurich also visited him and said he had asked for kosher food. Frankfurter spent all last night praying and has been fasting every Monday and Thursday.

A 23-page indictment charges Frankfurter with premeditated murder and asks the maximum penalty that this canton allows -- eighteen years' imprisonment -- and loss of civil rights, payment of court costs, exile and compensation for Gustloff's widow. The defense is expected to plead "moral justification."

Nazis Warn Switzerland and Jews

BERLIN, Dec. 8. (JTA) -- Nazi newspapers issued a double warning to Switzerland and to the Jews today of political consequences that would follow an unfavorable outcome of the trial of David Frankfurter, who will face a Swiss court tomorrow on charges of murdering Wilhelm Gustloff, Nazi leader in Switzerland.

Inspired articles declared a verdict unfavorable to the Nazis would affect "the equilibrium of Swiss-German relations" and demanded the maximum penalty for the 27-year-old Jewish student as well as prohibition of anti-Nazi propaganda after conclusion of the trial.

With all Nazi forces mobilized to ensure "a victory for National Socialism," Chancellor Hitler's Voelkischer Beobachter issued an unmistakable threat to the Jews that they would be held accountable because Jewish organizations abroad failed to satisfactorily protest against the "glorification" of Frankfurter.

The trial was the chief center of interest in Nazi papers, relegating all other news into the background. No doubt remained here that the Nazis intend to utilize the case to the utmost to further anti-Jewish propaganda.

Der Angriff, organ of Propaganda Minister Paul Joseph Goebbels, demanded that Frankfurter be sentenced to "annihilation." (The maximum penalty for murder in the canton where he is being tried is eighteen years' imprisonment.) Under reported orders of Dr. Goebbels, all papers stressed the case as "a trial of world Jewry."

The Voelkischer Beobachter, chief Nazi Party organ, gave four pages to the forthcoming trial, devoting the first page to reports, articles and photographs dealing with the case. It attacked Eugen Curti, for taking up Frankfurter's defense, although it admitted that a score of other lawyers had volunteered to take the case.

Nazi officials' fears that the trial would expose Gustloff's efforts to detach the German cantons of Switzerland for inclusion in the Reich were reflected by the Boerse. Zeitung, which denied in an editorial that the Nazi Party was engaged in such activities.

REICH JEWS OMIT CHANUKAH FETES TO AVOID PROVOCATIONS

BERLIN, Dec. 8. (JTA) -- Seeking to avoid provocations, Jewish organizations decided not to hold public celebration of the Jewish festival of Chanukah, which opens tonight. Only synagogue ceremonies were to be held.

ROYAL COMMISSION WARNED ENTRY HALT WOULD CAUSE CRISIS

JERUSALEM, Dec. 8. (JTA) -- Warning was served on the British Royal Commission at an open session today by Moshe Shertok, head of the political department of the Jewish Agency for Palestine, that stoppage of Jewish immigration into the Holy Land would precipitate a crisis.

Declaring Jewish economy in Palestine was based on a continued flow of immigration to feed expanding industry and building, Mr. Shertok urged an increased labor immigration schedule and easing of restrictions on entry of dependents and capitalists. He suggested that in the latter category Palestine admit persons possessing from \$1,250 to \$2,500, instead of the present figure of \$5,000.

The question of illegal immigration again came to the fore with the charge by Eliahu Epstein, of the Jewish Agency, that such entry by Arabs was resulting in lowering of wages, living standards and sanitary conditions.

Illicit Arab immigration, Mr. Epstein declared, stimulated the disorders of 1933 and 1936.

Questioning by the commissioners as to the Jewish Agency's views and desires in this connection drew from Mr. Shertok a demand that the illicit immigration be halted and the assertion that if those illegal immigrants could be absorbed, Jews should be admitted in their stead.

Holds Absorptive Capacity Under-estimated

Mr. Shertok declared the Government underestimated the economic absorptive capacity of the country since it was saturated with Arabs who had entered illegally.

Lord Peel asked whether there was any objection to legal immigration from Arab countries, Mr. Shertok replying that as far as the general supply of labor was concerned, the Government was under obligation to encourage Jewish immigration to facilitate establishment of the Jewish national home.

"Does facilitate mean Jewish immigration?" Lord Peel asked.

Mr. Shertok replied affirmatively.

"Do you mean immigration should be monopolized by Jews, not allowing Arabs to enter?" Lord Peel inquired.

"It is only Jewish immigration that develops the country and makes place for the others," Mr. Shertok replied.

Dr. Arthur Ruppin, head of the special economic department of the Zionist Executive, outlined the history of Jewish colonization and cited its advantages to the Arabs. Land prices had increased tenfold, he said.

Sir Laurie Hammond, a member of the commission, interjected a query as to whether the price rise resulted from speculation. Dr. Ruppin replied that prices rise in every country where a large immigration is taking place. He added that Jewish discovery of water resources enabled great expansion of agriculture and no one was able to foresee the limits on development made possible by irrigation.

12/8/36.

POLICE CAPTURE ARAB BANDITS NEAR LYDDA

JERUSALEM, Dec. 8. (JTA) -- After a brief exchange of shots, police today captured several members of an Arab band near Lydda. Another band attacked an Arab family near the Hatikva quarter, wounding two persons.

British troops reinforced by local police were continuing an all-night man hunt for a band of native marauders who have been holding up automobilists on the open roads, said the Havas News Agency. Seven cars were stopped and robbed yesterday between Jenin and Nablus, it was said. Troops and police spent the entire night searching hideouts and caverns in the district. It was believed the bandits are concealed in a cave.

500 IRAQ ARABS READY FOR ACTIVITIES IN PALESTINE

JERUSALEM, Dec. 8. (JTA) -- Five hundred Iraq Arabs have arrived in Transjordan to organize as nuclei for bands which will become active in Palestine when they deem it necessary, it was reported tonight. They are said to be commanded by Fawzi Bey el Kaukaji, Syrian terrorist leader, regarded as "public enemy number 1" by the Palestine authorities during recent disorders.

REICH PRES' S BLAMES POLAND FOR NON-RENEWAL OF SILESIA PACT

BERLIN, Dec. 8. (JTA) -- German newspapers revealed for the first time today that the Polish-German convention on minorities in Silesia will not be renewed after its expiration next July, blaming Poland's unwillingness to renew the pact.

The papers expressed concern over the fate of German nationals in Polish Silesia, who will lose the convention's protection. Non-renewal, however, will also mean that Jews in German Upper Silesia will come under the anti-Jewish legislation applying to their co-religionists in the Reich, Jewish circles pointed out.

MOSLEY PRESS AGENT HELD BY LONDON COURT

LONDON, Dec. 8. (JTA) -- John Beckett, former member of Parliament, now director of publicity for Sir Oswald Mosley, British Fascist leader, was arraigned today in Bow Street court, charged with using insulting words and behavior, likely to cause a breach of the peace. He was released on bail pending a hearing next week.

2 GERMANS SENTENCED IN SWITZERLAND FOR ESPIONAGE

ZURICH, Switzerland, Dec. 8. (JTA) -- International diplomatic tension around the Frankfurter trial, deepened by Berlin's reported intention to make it a major political issue, was aggravated today by the decision of the Zurich Supreme Court in the case of two Germans charged with military espionage, the Havas News Agency reported.

The court found Gottlob Johann Reinhardt and Theodore Rudolph Scheibe guilty of espionage on behalf of the Reich and sentenced them to six weeks and one month in prison respectively followed by three years' banishment from the country.

FAIR INVITATIONS IN GOVERNMENT'S HANDS, WHALEN TELLS UNTERMYER

NEW YORK, Dec. 8. (JTA) -- The New York World's Fair press department today made public the following telegram from Grover Whalen, president of the fair corporation, to Samuel Untermyer, president of the Non-Sectarian Anti-Nazi League, who had protested against inviting Germany to the fair:

"Telegram received. Invitations to foreign nations to participate New York World's Fair 1939 were issued by the President through the State Department under an act of Congress requesting the president of the United States to invite nations having diplomatic relations with this country to participate in the fair. Matter of invitations to foreign nations being entirely in hands of Federal Government are therefore beyond our control."

Dr. Joseph Tenenbaum and B.C. Vladeck, heads of the Joint Boycott Council, which comprises the American Jewish Congress and the Jewish Labor Committee, issued a statement saying the council had been negotiating with Mr. Whalen since October and had threatened that the fair grounds would be picketed if Germany were represented.

A.A.U. HEAD HITS NATIONALISM IN SPORTS

HOUSTON, Tex. Dec. 8. (JTA) -- "Athletic nationalism" was vigorously attacked today by Jeremiah T. Mahoney, newly-elected president of the Amateur Athletic Union. He declared himself opposed "to having the Olympic games taken over by any country which surrenders its athletic functions and prerogatives to its government, as did the German Olympic Committee."

BIOGRAPHY OF MAJOR NOAH TO BE ISSUED

PHILADELPHIA, Dec. 8. (JTA) -- "Major Noah: American Jewish Pioneer," a life of Mordecai Manuel Noah by Dr. Israel Goldberg, will be ready for distribution before the year-end, the Jewish Publication Society of America announced today.

LABOR LEADER'S TRIP ON GERMAN LINER PROTESTED BY TENENBAUM

NEW YORK, Dec. 8. (JTA) -- A telegram from Dr. Joseph Tenenbaum, head of the boycott committee of the American Jewish Congress, to George Meany, head of the New York State Federation of Labor, was made public today, protesting the fact that Mr. Meany had used the German liner Europa to return to New York from Europe. The telegram pointed out that the American Federation of Labor had gone on record in support of the anti-Nazi boycott.