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BRITAIN CONSULTS POWERS ON AID TO CZECH REFUGEES; MAY USE PART OF \$50,000,000 LOAN

LONDON, March 20. (JTA) -- The British Government is consulting with other governments on the new refugee problem created by German occupation of Bohemia and Moravia and will do "whatever they can to mitigate the consequences of recent events," Foreign Secretary Viscount Halifax said today in a statement to the House of Commons.

The Foreign Secretary said that in recent weeks migration of Sudeten Germans and other classes of refugees had been proceeding on the whole smoothly. He continued:

"Some hundreds of refugees received permission to enter Czecho-Slovakia before German occupation. Urgent instructions were sent to His Majesty's Minister in Prague to do his best to expedite the issue of permits and accelerate the departure of persons on the British list. We instructed His Majesty's Ambassador in Berlin to make urgent representations direct to Germany and ask them to put no obstacle in the way of the departure of the refugees on the British list.

"In arrangements for financial assistance to Czecho-Slovakia, £4,000,000 had been set aside to be employed for this purpose. We take the view that if proper safeguards can be established this money should, if possible, still be available for the purpose for which it was intended, but I am in no position at present to tell the House how or whether, with due safeguards, that end in fact could be achieved.

"The Government are consulting with other Governments, but further refugees will now be added to those of Czecho-Slovakia. The Government are doing and will continue to do whatever they can to mitigate the consequences of recent events. But it is quite plain that anything we attempt depends on the attitude of the German Government."

Prague dispatches continued to report numerous Jewish suicides. Over the weekend 20 Jews, including a High Court judge and a banker, were taken to hospitals after unsuccessful attempts at suicide. Persecution of Jews in Slovakia, Nazi protectorate, was reported widespread. Jews in the town of Bardejou were collectively fined \$10,500 for alleged offense.

A Federation of Czech Jews was formed here today to supplement the work of the British Committee for Czech Refugees. H.A. Goodman was elected chairman.

A conference of sectional refugee committees, meeting yesterday at Oxford under the chairmanship of Lord Hailey, urged the British Government to allot for refugees and accelerated emigration of Jewish children from Germany the remainder of the planned £10,000,000

loan to former Czecho-Slovakia. The conference adopted a resolution for closer cooperation with the Coordinating Committee for Refugees, urging Government financial assistance and emphasizing that refugee work had passed the stage of voluntary efforts. It also suggested the committee investigate settlement possibilities of the Negev, southern Palestine.

Plans for the purchase of a 100-acre estate at Swansea, Wales, to provide schools and training colleges for refugee children were announced by the Rev. Rees Howells, director of the Biblical College of Wales. The project will cost between \$400,000 and \$500,000.

U.S., BRITISH JEWS AMONG THOUSANDS QUERIED BY FASCIST POLICE ON EMIGRATION

ROME, March 20. (JTA) -- Numerous Americans, Swiss, French and British nationals were revealed today to have been among several thousand Jews questioned over the weekend as to their intentions of leaving Italy. Treated courteously, the foreigners were reminded that the law ordering expulsion of all post-war Jewish immigrants by March 12 was still in effect. They were assured, however, that they had no reason for concern if their applications for time extensions were based on good grounds.

Applications, it was understood, will be answered by April 1, which is considered the new unofficial deadline for compliance with the expulsion order. Those unable to show reasons for remaining beyond that time will certainly be ordered to leave, although exceptions are likely to be made for American, British, French and Swiss nationals.

Meanwhile, there has been a slight relaxation in the propaganda against native Italian Jews. "Aryan" signs posted on shops are gradually disappearing, since enterprises so marked have been suffering trade losses.

Seven Roman Jewish youths of 16 to 18 were sentenced to terms of two to three years in concentration camp for assaulting an actor who, on the stage of the Center Cinema, had spoken insultingly of the Jewish race. The attack occurred in front of the theater immediately after the performance. Despite the fact that one of the accused insisted that he alone was guilty of the assault, all seven youths were sentenced. No publicity was given to the case.

REICH GETS FEW CONCESSIONS IN TRADE PACT WITH RUMANIA

BUCHAREST, March 20. (Havas) -- A Reich-Rumanian trade agreement to be signed here tomorrow marks only a slight extension of the two countries' existing trade relations, and in particular gives Berlin minimum oil concessions as contrasted with the demands originally made by the Nazis, it was authoritatively learned tonight.

King Carol this afternoon received the British Minister, Sir Reginald Hoare, as reports poured in that Hungarian troops were continuing to mass on the Rumanian frontier.

Tomorrow's protocol, it was said, would merely be a rectification of the Berlin-Bucharest trade accords of last November, in the framework of which Dr. Helmuth Wohlthat, German commercial expert, has been carrying on negotiations here. Rumanian circles continued to insist that there had not been any German ultimatum, and that the only pressure exerted by the Reich had been the normal influence enjoyed by Berlin in view of Germany's trade position in this country.

At the same time the Rumanian press headlined the favorable result of current Turkish-Bulgarian trade talks as a step toward Balkan consolidation of a strong front for peace. Germany was significantly described as convinced there was no country in Eastern Europe that could be likened to defunct Czecho-Slovakia.

Despite the reassuring accounts of the imminent trade accord with the Nazis, the consternation caused by reports of a German political-trade ultimatum published abroad has not yet

completely disappeared here. The effect was all the more marked because of coincidence of the reports with Czecho-Slovakia's destruction and the presence here of Dr. Wohlthat's mission.

Symptomatic of the Government's position was an editorial in Timpul, newspaper of Foreign Minister Grigore Gafencu, on the results of the Bulgaro-Turkish trade negotiations. "The Ankara communique," said Timpul, "expresses the true spirit of friendship and collaboration among the Balkan states, which has Rumania's categorical approval. We congratulate Turkey and Bulgaria for having known how to urge us to unite our efforts toward strengthening peace in Eastern Europe. It seems, moreover, that these desires for friendship, collaboration and national independence have had echoes. That is the way we explain the authorized German declarations which we published yesterday and which proclaimed 'that at Berlin the opinion prevails that no other nation of Eastern Europe could be compared to former Czecho-Slovakia.'"

PALESTINE JEWS PRAY FOR "DIVINE INTERVENTION"; SERVICES REPLACE STRIKE

JERUSALEM, March 20. (JTA) -- Special services were held throughout Palestine by Jews today in place of the 24-hour general strike against British proposals for a settlement of Arab-Jewish difficulties. At the behest of Chief Rabbi Isaac Herzog, prayers were said for divine intervention to block Great Britain's plans for eventual establishment of an independent state with Jews fixed as a minority. The strike, which had been called by the Jewish National Council, was postponed indefinitely because of the international situation.

SYRIAN RIOTS FOR INDEPENDENCE CONTINUE, MILITARY RULE IMPOSED

DAMASCUS, Syria, March 20. (Havas) -- New rioting caused a number of casualties here today after French authorities had placed the city under military rule. Police units were obliged to open fire this morning when several hundred persons staged angry demonstrations in the wake of disorders yesterday.

The military moves came after French High Commissioner Gabriel Puaux had informed the Syrian Government that French authorities would assume security and police powers to cope with the unsettled situation. The unrest results from friction between the Syrian Government and France over the latter's failure to ratify the agreement granting Syria independence.

Troops began military occupation of the city this morning and the measures were expected to be completed by nightfall. Troop units were posted at the principal street intersections and in front of public buildings. The emergency measures are temporary, it was announced.

POLISH JEWS APPEAL AGAINST DENATIONALIZATION

WARSAW, March 20. (JTA) -- Hundreds of Polish Jews residing abroad have appealed to the High Court against their denationalization under a recent law authorizing such action against nationals who have lived outside of Poland more than five years or whose activities are deemed detrimental to the State. The court is now issuing certificates confirming the fact that an appeal has been filed. The German authorities, after prolonged negotiations, have agreed not to expel persons holding such certificates.

POLISH JEWS' WORLD FEDERATION CALLS ELECTIONS FOR NEW YORK CONVENTION

NEW YORK, March 20. (JTA) -- The World Federation of Polish Jews Abroad issued a call today to its twenty-one branches in Europe, Latin America, United States and Canada, to elect delegates to its Third World Convention, which will be held in New York during the week of Sept. 6.

BOYCOTT COUNCIL ACTS TO SPUR INDUSTRIES HERE TO REPLACE CZECH PRODUCTS

NEW YORK, March 20. (JTA) -- The Joint Boycott Council, which was instrumental in shifting considerable trade from Germany to Czecho-Slovakia, formally announced today the extension of the anti-Nazi boycott to the areas of the former Republic now under Nazi control.

"We are not declaring an extension of the boycott to harm the democracy-loving masses of what was formerly Czecho-Slovakia," declared Dr. Joseph Tenenbaum, chairman of the council, in a statement, "but rather to help free this martyred people from the brutal and unprecedented invasion of its sovereign rights by bringing about the economic collapse of its persecutors and defilers."

Merchandise already paid for or goods in transit are exempt from the boycott, Dr. Tenenbaum said. He added that the extension of the boycott would aid in building up substitute industries in the United States, regarding which the council was cooperating with a number of trade associations.

JOURNALIST SENTENCED FOR ANTI-JEWISH AGITATION IN HOLLAND

ROTTERDAM, March 20. (JTA) -- A fine of 50 guilders and sentence of a month's imprisonment, the latter suspended for a three-year probationary period, were imposed by a Rotterdam court on an editor of "World Service," the anti-Semitic news service published by Col. Ulrich Fleischauer in Erfurt, Germany, on a charge of anti-Jewish incitement.

EINSTEIN TO DISCUSS JEWISH CRISIS TONIGHT IN BROADCAST FOR UNITED APPEAL DRIVE

NEW YORK, March 20. (JTA) - Prof. Albert Einstein will speak tomorrow night over the Columbia Broadcasting System network on the situation of Jews in European lands and the plight of refugees in a special broadcast under the auspices of the United Jewish Appeal for Refugees and Overseas Needs. Prof. Einstein is an honorary chairman of the appeal. His talk on the subject of "Humanity on Trial" will be heard from 10.45 to 11.00 p.m.

Refugee Committee Set Up in Canada

MONTREAL (JTA) - A nation-wide committee to seek funds for assistance to refugees has been formed by a conference of Jewish leaders here. Officers of the new Canadian Jewish Committee for Refugees are Samuel Bronfman, Montreal financier, chairman; Egmont Frankel, Toronto, vice-chairman, and Lazarus Phillips, Montreal, treasurer. The conference was called to implement a resolution adopted by the recent assembly of the Canadian Jewish Congress.

EXCAVATIONS SHOW HIGH LEVEL OF JEWISH CULTURE IN POST-ROMAN PALESTINE

JERUSALEM (JTA) -- The Jewish people's continued residence in Palestine during the centuries after the final overthrow of Jerusalem by the Romans and the high level of culture they maintained have been strikingly revealed by recent major archaeological discoveries by the Palestine Jewish Exploration Society in its "dig" at Sheikh Abreik.

Extensive remains of a large and prosperous Jewish city of the second and third centuries of the Christian era have been unearthed. The discoveries are seen here as proof of the existence of an important Jewish population in Palestine during a period after the "dispersion" of the Jews by the Romans, when they are popularly regarded as having been swept out of Palestine. The period in question is the "Talmud era," when the great compilation of Jewish religious, legal and folk-lore writings was coming into being.

Discovery of a great and sumptuously built and ornamented synagogue, announced on Dec. 25, was the most striking achievement of the season's digging, which has now ended. It was accompanied by important finds in other ancient ruined buildings and a cemetery nearby, it is revealed by the seasonal report by Dr. Benjamin Meisler, director of the investigation.

An especially important discovery was a mausoleum near Jewish graves of the third century, decorated on all four walls with charming artistry. The floor, of bevelled stones, is decorated with pictures of animals and plants. A large Greek inscription carved in marble was found in the graves, announcing in the form of an obituary poem the burial of one of the important inhabitants of the city of Beth Shearim in his family tomb. This inscription is described as additional proof that Sheikh Areik and Beth Shearim are the same place, the residence of Rabbi Yehuda Anasi and the Sanhedrin (supreme council of Jews).

REFUGEE KISSES GROUND AS HE LANDS HERE

NEW YORK, March 20. (JTA) -- Hermann Leopoldi, Viennese Jewish vaudeville comedian and musician, was photographed today by newspaper photographers kissing the ground as he arrived here on the United States liner City of Baltimore. The famous comic had been held for nine months in the Dachau and Buchenwald concentration camps, where he sang songs of his own composition to keep up the morale of the prisoners.

\$20,000,000 REFINERY UNDER CONSTRUCTION IN HAIFA

HAIFA (JTA) -- Under direction of a corps of American engineers, construction of the \$20,000,000 oil refinery on the outskirts of Haifa is well under way. An army of 1,100 workers, 60 per cent Arabs and 40 per cent Jews, has cleared and fenced in the 360-acre site and is constructing roads, drainage, temporary buildings, a railway bridge across the Kishon river connecting with Haifa Port and an automobile bridge from the Haifa-Acre road. The total number of men employed is soon expected to rise to 3,000.

The strictest guard is maintained around the site, and utmost secrecy prevails as to the work. The fences are patrolled and a day and night guard is maintained in four watchtowers equipped with powerful searchlights. The refinery is being built by an English corporation, Consolidated Refineries, Ltd. It will have a capacity of 2,000,000 tons of crude oil a year, drawing on the supply brought to Haifa from Iraq by the pipeline of the Iraq Petroleum Co. The Consolidated is a joint firm, in which the Anglo-Iranian Oil Company and the Anglo-Saxon Oil Company are joint partners.

The plant will be in two parts, the refinery proper and a tank farm, separated by a broad road. The machinery for the refinery is almost all being imported from the United States as well as construction and excavation machinery. The refinery is located on a site obtained in a trade with the American-Palestine Economic Corporation, originally the oil interests purchased land for the plant on the sand dunes along the shore of Haifa Bay. The American-Palestine firm, which has been responsible for much of the industrial and residential development in the Haifa Bay area, feared that this location would result in pollution of the air and water of the bayside development and of Haifa itself, and offered to exchange it for the present site, an offer accepted by the oil companies.

Aside from the direct benefit of employment of thousands of workers, the plant is expected to bring other advantages. A number of local industries have received orders for some of the materials used in construction. The Palestine Electric Corporation is supplying power. Development of roads and bridges will benefit the entire area. Simultaneously with these developments, the Government has started construction of a long-sought road connecting Haifa directly with its airport across the Kishon river, and greatly reducing the time required for getting from the city to the bay-side suburbs.