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STARVATION THREATENS MANY PRAGUE JEWS; LEADERS STILL HELD, INSTITUTIONS CLOSED

PRAGUE, March 24. (JTA) -- Threat of starvation added today to the panic prevailing among the estimated 160,000 Jews of Bohemia-Moravia since its occupation by the German army.

The situation was acute in Prague, where the only Jewish soup kitchen and all Jewish charity institutions have been shut down by the Nazis. Many Jews dependent upon relief are facing starvation. Since all Jewish bank accounts have been stopped, wealthier Jews are prevented from aiding the needy. The coming of Passover makes the position especially tragic, since there are no facilities for provision of matzoth which is usually brought in from Slovakia.

Meanwhile, all Jewish institutions and newspapers have been closed by the Nazis. Jewish leaders seized shortly after the occupation are still under detention. Marie Schmolka, head of the Refugee Relief Organization, and her Jewish assistants who were arrested in the first days of the occupation and subsequently released were re-arrested today. That preparations had been made long before the occupation is indicated by the fact that the Nazis are working from lists in making their arrests. Today they came to arrest a Jewish editor named Lehenhart, who has been dead for the past ten years.

Large numbers of Jews are being rounded up nightly and committed to concentration camp. Jews in the vicinity of the Altneu Synagogue are afraid to remain in their homes at night because of reports that wholesale arrests of Jews in that district will soon be launched.

Many Jews released after detention by the Gestapo bear the marks of brutal maltreatment. Some have come back with their features almost unrecognizable.

The Nazi authorities yesterday prohibited the disposal of Jewish realty, by sale, lease or outright gift. All Jewish shops in Prague have been closed and all Jewish employes of non-Jewish shops have been dismissed. Jewish employes of the Prague Municipality have also been deprived of their posts.

300 JEWS TRAPPED IN MEMEL, REFUGEES REPORT; MANY AGED BEATEN IN RAIDS BY NAZIS

KAUNAS, March 24. (JTA) -- Refugees from Memelland today refuted an official statement that no Jews were left in the territory just taken over by Germany, declaring that some 300 still remained in the smaller towns of the province. A majority of these, the refugees said, were aged and poor Jewish artisans and small tradesmen who learned too late of Memel's surrender to escape in time.

These unfortunates had their first taste of Nazi brutality today when Storm Troopers raided and wrecked Jewish homes, beating up many aged Jews. Nazi frontier guards were reported to have stopped several cars, arresting Jewish occupants who were bound for Lithuania. In most cases, the Nazis confiscated the luggage of Jewish refugees. At the Memel railway station, no departing Jew was permitted to take with him more than one suitcase. Yesterday morning, the station was occupied by Storm Troopers and Hitler Youths who shouted farewell insults and oaths at Jewish refugees.

The older generation of Memel Germans for the most part received the news of the surrender of Memelland without enthusiasm. Many of them helped Jews escape from the city, in some instances even transporting them out of the district in their own cars and in others providing poor Jews with railway fare to Lithuania and promising to forward their belongings at the first opportunity.

Nazi mobs in Memel yesterday tore up the holy Scrolls of the Law in synagogues that had earlier been demolished. Several synagogues have been converted into barracks for Storm Troopers. All Jewish businesses and factories in the district were occupied by Storm Troopers, who saw to it that Jews did not try to damage their equipment or remove merchandise before leaving.

Meanwhile, heart-rending scenes were being enacted at the frontier when poorer Jewish refugees arrived without any luggage, having left everything in Memel. A large number of refugees, many of them ill, arrived at Polangen, Kretzingen, Grosz and Shavli after spending the night under the open sky. Steps were taken during the day to provide them with food and shelter. Relief work has been initiated by the Government, which sent special officials to all frontier points, and by the local Jewish communities. A Committee for Memel Refugees has been formed by representatives of Jewish communities with the participation of rabbis.

Anxiety prevailing among the refugees, who have lost their means of existence, was increased today by a rumor that the Nazi authorities had requested the Lithuanian Government to turn over to Germany all former Memel citizens. The rumor was denied in official circles.

The fate of a number of Jews imprisoned by the Nazis prior to the surrender of Memel remained unknown today. They are believed to number not more than several score, including Jewish merchants held on tax evasion charges and doctors accused of performing illegal operations. Three Jewish lawyers and four Jewish judges were reported to be among persons arrested in Memel.

Kaunas police today arrested one suspect following stoning of all synagogues and the Jewish Hospital here last night.

BRITISH REFUGEE BODY TO SEND EXPERTS TO SURVEY NO. RHODESIA PROSPECTS

LONDON, March 24. (JTA) -- The Colonial Office announced today that the Coordinating Committee for Refugees has arranged for a commission of experts to fly to Northern Rhodesia to examine the possibilities of refugee settlement there and in Nyasaland.

The commission includes two Jews, Max Nurock, former assistant secretary in the Palestine Government, and A. Khasanof, of the Palestine Jewish Colonization Association.

Creation of a refugee department under the joint administration of the Home and Foreign offices was urged upon the British Government today by the Women's International League. The League, in a resolution, suggested that the department make provision for temporary immigration to England, immediate establishment of refugee camps, absorption

of a far greater number of the refugees to bolster the declining population, and overseas settlement in cooperation with the dominions and colonies.

The resolution called upon the British Government to initiate international discussion looking to maximum use of the potential economic and cultural assets of skilled and learned refugees, and expressed dismay at the Government's attempts to burden private organizations with tasks that can be fulfilled only by inter-governmental collaboration.

A resolution on the Palestine situation deplored the breakdown of the London conference and urged arbitration by disinterested states.

5,000 HUNGARIAN JEWS LOST JOBS IN 6 MONTHS AFTER ANTI-JEWISH LAW WENT INTO EFFECT

BUDAPEST, March 24. (JTA) -- Five thousand Jews lost their jobs in the first six months after enactment of the first anti-Jewish law in Hungary, it was disclosed today by Alexander Reppler, general secretary of the Jewish Community, in a lecture at the Free Jewish University. The law, which is to be replaced by one imposing more drastic limitations upon Jews in the nation's economic and cultural life, had provided for dismissal of only 1,500 during that period, Mr. Reppler said.

N.Y. Rabbi Assailed in Parliament For Boycott Call

BUDAPEST, March 24. (JTA) -- A New York rabbi was accused by the Government in the Chamber of Deputies today of organizing a boycott of Hungarian goods in retaliation for the Government's bill for restriction of Jews.

Minister of Justice Andreas Tasnadi-Nagy declared during the debate on the bill that Rabbi Lazar Schoenfeld, a native of Hungary, was preaching a boycott of Hungarian goods to his congregation. Anti-Semitic newspapers picked up the charge and used it to support their campaign against the Jews.

Rabbi Schoenfeld, leader of Congregation Beth David Agudath Achim in the Bronx, told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency that the accusation of the Hungarian Minister of Justice was based on a distortion of an article he had published in Hungarian-language newspapers here. In the article, Rabbi Schoenfeld said, he had warned that if the anti-Jewish bill was adopted by the Hungarian Parliament and if the Nazi spirit were allowed to prevail in Budapest, he would then favor a boycott of Hungarian products. This article was cabled to Budapest in a distorted summary form, the rabbi said, and made him appear as urging a boycott now. As a result, Rabbi Schoenfeld is planning a \$100,000 libel suit against the Hungarian Nazi paper, Verhovai Lap.

ZIONIST LEADERS CONFER IN JERUSALEM; COUNCIL TO MEET APRIL 25

JERUSALEM, March 24. (JTA) -- Members of the Zionist General Council who are now in Palestine conferred today under the chairmanship of M.M. Ussishkin on the results of the London conference. It was learned the Council, which is the supreme authoritative body between biennial meetings of the World Zionist Congress, will hold a formal session on April 25.

A 45-year-old Jew, Meir Ovadia Mizrachi, was shot and seriously wounded today in a Tiberias street.

M.P.'s Would Hold Up Palestine Action

LONDON, March 24. (JTA) -- Members of Parliament, meeting here last night with 300 Jewish women representing Zionist and other organizations, expressed the hope that the House of Commons would not rush into a decision on the complicated Palestine controversy during the present serious international situation. Dr. Edith Summerskill, Laborite M.P., who presided, declared on behalf of many members of all parties that she deeply resented any departure from the British promises to the Jews and hoped the Jews would resist any proposals violating the Balfour Declaration and the mandate.

Hadassah Gives J.N.F. \$25,000 To Buy Optional Areas

NEW YORK, March 24. (JTA) -- Hadassah announced today that it has contributed \$25,000 to the Jewish National Fund "to assure the immediate purchase of land areas now held under option in the Jewish National Home." The action was taken after a specially convened meeting of the organization's national board.

A total of \$70,000 has been raised since October 1 by Hadassah as part of its regular budget for afforestation and reclamation work conducted by the Jewish National Fund in Palestine, Mrs. Herman Shulman, secretary, reported at the meeting. Of this sum, \$12,000 will be used to plant an Eddie Cantor Forest in honor of the screen actor's work for the Youth Aliyah (immigration) movement which has transferred nearly 4,000 children to Palestine from Central Europe to date.

SWISS RALLY DEMANDS STRONG ACTION TO CURB NAZI PROPAGANDA

BERNE, March 24. (Havas) -- A resolution calling upon Swiss authorities to act more vigorously against Nazi propaganda was passed today at a mass meeting held at Zuchwill, in the canton of Solothurn. In particular it was asked that a foreman dismissed from an arms factory at Zuchwill, but who has used his period of notice to continue Nazi propaganda, be forbidden access to the factory. A railway worker in the same canton has been arrested and postmen have been dismissed for Nazi activities.

BULGARIA GRANTS USE OF GOVERNMENT FARMS FOR TRAINING OF JEWS

NEW YORK, March 24. (JTA) -- Bulgaria has granted the use of several government farms for the training of Jews and has promised to employ as many graduates as possible, it was announced today by City Councilman George Backer, president of the American ORT Federation.

More than 100 young men from Sofia and the provinces are enrolled in the courses, which are part of ORT's program of re-directing occupational life for the refugees and other European Jews through vocational and agricultural training. ORT also maintains ten vocational courses and schools in Sofia, constituting virtually all the Jewish technical training given in Bulgaria.

EXPOSE OF NAZI RACE THEORIES PUBLISHED IN BOOK BY SELIGMANN, FORMER J.D.C. AIDE

NEW YORK, March 24. (JTA) -- The publishing firm of G.P. Putnam's Sons announced today publication on April 7 of "Race Against Man," by Herbert J. Seligman, former director of public information for the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee. The book is an expose of the Nazi race theories and is based on several years of research. It contains an introduction by Prof. Franz Boas, famous Columbia University anthropologist, who has frequently ridiculed the racial theories as lacking any basis whatever in science.

ONLY LIMITED SETTLEMENT POSSIBILITIES IN DUTCH GUIANA, COLONIAL MINISTER SAYS

THE HAGUE (JTA) -- The restricted possibilities for settling Jewish refugees in Dutch Guiana were stressed by Colonial Minister Welter in a statement.

"The possibilities for increasing the population in Surinam (Dutch Guiana) are limited," Mr. Welter said. "It will be impossible to increase it by 50,000. Reports of unlimited development possibilities of Surinam belong to the realm of fairy tales. Immigration of Europeans in large numbers into Surinam is absolutely impossible because there are no opportunities there for manual labor. It is different regarding people with capital. The plans of the Dutch Government in this respect are clear and definite. The Government will in the first place allow the immigration of natives from Java, since Surinam is above all a tropical country."

The Governor of Surinam, M. Kielstra, has submitted a memorandum to both Houses of the Dutch Parliament dealing with the immigration of Jews into Surinam. "After discussing the problem of immigration of Jews from Central Europe into Surinam with a number of official and private organizations," the memorandum states, "it has been established that there are only limited possibilities for such immigration into Dutch Guiana. The country cannot be saddled with the burden of settling groups of unsuitable colonists who will most probably not be admitted elsewhere."

"From the practical point of view," the memorandum continues, "there are possibilities for settling one group of colonists trained in agriculture and capable of starting plantations of citrus trees and perhaps a few other suitable agricultural products, and another group able to start industries of which there is a need in Surinam. Both categories of immigrants must, however, be provided with sufficient means."

"I have just been informed," Mr. Kielstra concludes his report, "that an agricultural expert will shortly arrive in Surinam to study on the spot the possibilities for settling Jewish immigrants."

EXHIBITION IN LENINGRAD TRACES DEVELOPMENT OF JEWISH LIFE IN RUSSIA

LENINGRAD (JTA) -- An exhibition illustrating the development of Jewish life in Russia has opened in the State Ethnographical Museum here. The exhibition is divided into three sections.

The first is devoted to Jewish life in Russia before the Revolution. Pictures, diagrams and documents illustrate the economic and political conditions of the Jewish population under the Czarist regime. The pogroms of the years 1881 and 1905 are represented in pictures, and the part played by the Czarist Government in organizing the pogroms is supported by a mass of documents.

The second is devoted to Jewish literature, theatre and art and to the Jewish part in the Russian revolutionary movement. The third section traces the development of Jewish life and culture after the Revolution.