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JAIL TERMS, HEAVY FINES SET BY FRENCH DECREE BANNING ANTI-JEWISH AGITATION

PARIS, April 25. (JTA) -- Prison terms of five days to six months plus fines up to 10,000 francs are provided for violation of the new decree prohibiting anti-Semitic propaganda, text of which was made public today in the Official Gazette. The penalties, which are classified in five categories, depend upon whether the offense is against a group or individual, publicly or privately.

It was announced that the decree supplements the press law of July 29, 1881, which provides for "suppression of defamation or insults, whether against groups or individuals of certain origin, race or religion, should they aim to provoke hatred among citizens or inhabitants." As published in the Official Gazette, the preamble to the edict makes it clear that anti-Semitic propaganda is held detrimental to France's defense. "Vigorous efforts for defense of the nation, imposed by circumstances," it declares, "makes discipline and unity within the country imperative. Everything creating or favoring division within France can harm the above efforts."

It was reliably learned that the French Episcopacy insisted that the decree be adopted, thus outweighing the opposition which had contended that freedom of the press was being restricted. A signed statement by Premier Edouard Daladier, Coordination Minister Camille Chautemps, Justice Minister Paul Marchandau (author of the decree) Interior Minister Albert Sarraut and Colonial Minister Georges Mandel, declared: "There is no danger of the decree being applied to other aims than intended. Thus, freedom of the press will not be affected."

The Official Gazette also published the text of the decree suppressing foreign propaganda, with a preamble which declares that it was necessary for the national defense. The decree provides prison terms of six months to five years plus a fine of 1,000 to 10,000 francs for anyone receiving funds from abroad, directly or indirectly and under any form of pretext, and using them for propaganda purposes. Courts are empowered to deprive of citizenship rights for five to ten years anyone found guilty of violating the law. Anyone receiving funds for publicity operations must report them to the police within eight days or face a penalty of 100 to 1,000 francs.

All evening newspapers voiced praise of the two decrees. The League to Combat Anti-Semitism sent a message of thanks to the Government for their adoption. The decree will enter into force immediately, since the Cabinet is empowered to issue decrees until November without Parliament's approval.

Need for the new edicts was explained by Premier Daladier and his aides in a statement submitting them to President Albert Lebrun for signature. On August 4, 1938, the statement pointed out, the Government declared in Parliament that any attempt to incite one part of the population against another must be considered treason. Strenuous national defense efforts demanded the utmost internal discipline, the statement declared.

The existing laws had proved inadequate in checking "highly suspicious" campaigns, President Lebrun was told, tending to weaken the morale of the nation. The Government, therefore, decided to modify the 1881 law accordingly.

The French law, according to the statement, afforded protection against libel and defamation of groups which constitute a legal unit but not of racial groups. To fill this gap "which was brought to light by numerous recent facts," the President was told, the signatories suggested completion of the 1881 law by the addition of clauses suppressing defamation and libels of groups belonging by origin to a certain race or religion, whenever delicts aimed to excite hatred among citizens and inhabitants.

The statement emphasized that the modifications did not alter the spirit of freedom which was the basis of the 1881 law but "coordinate this spirit with that of liberty, equality and fraternity, which is the slogan of the Republic."

"No racial or religious pretext should break the equality of our citizens or affect French fraternity," the statement concluded, adding that the interests of the French Commonwealth rather than those of affected groups were considered by the decrees, since discord and incitement to hatred tended to weaken the Commonwealth.

Reports from Alsace said today that the population there was joyful over the decree dissolving three pro-Nazi organizations.

1,229 REFUGEES BARRED FROM PALESTINE IN 2 MONTHS, COMMONS TOLD

LONDON, April 25. (JTA) -- Colonial Secretary Malcolm MacDonald told the House of Commons today that 1,229 Jewish illegal immigrants were prevented from landing in Palestine from Feb. 15 to April 15. In a written reply to a question, Mr. MacDonald furnished the following outline of the Government's action to check illegal immigration:

Two hundred and sixty-nine Jews were prevented from landing from the S.S. Sandu on March 21. The vessel was ordered to return to Constanza, Rumania, its port of departure, and was escorted to the limit of Palestine territorial waters on March 25 after being supplied with food for five days by the Jewish Agency and with drinking water by the port authorities.

On April 2 the S.S. Astir tried unsuccessfully to land 710 Jews, 698 of them German. The vessel was sailing under the Greek flag and had left the Piraeus early in March for the port of Reni on the Danube where, with the master's permission, Jewish passengers were embarked with the intention of landing clandestinely in Palestine. The Astir was ordered to return to Reni and was escorted to the limit of Palestine territorial waters on April 6 after being supplied with food for five days by the Jewish Agency and with water by the Haifa port authorities. Five Jews, certified as unfit to travel, were detained and are receiving medical care. One of these has been sent into detention under emergency regulations. The captain of the vessel said he had no complaint to make regarding these arrangements.

Two hundred and fifty Jews were prevented from landing from the S.S. Assimi on April 11. The vessel and its passengers were detained in Haifa harbor and after being ordered to leave sailed from there on April 25. Six Jews out of 80 who succeeded in landing prior to the capture of the ship are under arrest and the case is under investigation. The passengers and crew have been supplied with food by the Jewish community and with water by the port authorities. In the future, the statement said, would-be illegal immigrants will be supplied with food and water during their detention in a harbor and for the return voyage by the Palestine Government.

On April 15 another vessel, the S.S. Panagali Conestria, with 182 Jews aboard, was captured at Haifa. Attempts to compel the vessel to leave port were frustrated by the action of the passengers and it was impossible to send the ship and cargo to sea or keep them indefinitely in the harbor. The Jewish passengers are being removed to a quarantine station where they will be guarded and fed by the Palestine Government, it was announced. The Jews will be prosecuted and the master and crew of the ship interned.

4 Child Refugees Turned Over to Hadassah

TEL AVIV, April 25. (JTA) -- The military authorities today handed over to Hadassah four children who were among 218 Jewish illegal immigrants arrested near Ashdod Friday night.

Despite arrest last night of ten alleged organizers of demonstrations by school children against the Government's handling of the Assimi incident, demonstrations continued today and were again dispersed by the police.

PALESTINE BODY GETS PLAN TO FLOAT \$5,000,000 DEVELOPMENT LOAN

JERUSALEM, April 25. (JTA) -- New plans for economic development of Palestine and strengthening of the Jewish position were discussed at a meeting of the Jewish National Council yesterday, it was announced today in a communique.

Eliahu Berligne, Council member, outlined a proposal prepared by a committee under the leadership of Siegfried Hoofien, banker, to raise a \$5,000,000 loan to promote large-scale agricultural settlement, enlarge the Tel Aviv port and establish industrial enterprises. The loan, to cover a 20-year period, would be guaranteed by the Palestine Foundation Fund, Zionist colonization agency, and the Jewish Agency for Palestine. It would not be used for routine purposes. Jewish Agency Treasurer Eliezer Kaplan urged the Council to act swiftly on the plan.

Dr. Chaim Weizmann told a subcommittee meeting of the Zionist General Council that the World Zionist Organization and Palestine Jewry would never agree to British policy for Palestine as outlined at the recent London conference, it was declared today in a communique on the session.

Two Jewish auxiliary policemen were shot dead in an ambush near the East Railway Station in Haifa. They were Joseph Falkovitz, 25, and Israel Luxemburg, 24, both immigrants from Poland.

2,500 REFUGEES ENTERED BOLIVIA IN 5 MONTHS; BAN BY NEW REGIME FEARED

LA PAZ, Bolivia; April 19. (JTA --By Air Mail)--- Encouraged by the Government of President German Busch, a total of 2,500 refugees from central Europe have settled in Bolivia since November, 1938. Of this number, it is estimated that 500 have established themselves in agricultural pursuits.

In an interview with the Jewish Telegraphic Agency correspondent here, Foreign Minister Dr. Eduardo Diez de Medina declared the Government was favorably disposed to Jewish immigration and stressed the regime's interest in encouraging entry of agriculturalists, capitalists, qualified mechanical and technical workers.

Illustrating the Government's friendly attitude on the question, Dr. de Medina cited recent establishment of a group of Jewish agricultural immigrants in the Government colony of Ichilo. He said the colonists had been transported to the colony at Government expense and had each been granted 50 hectares (about 125 acres) of land. He also pointed out that the University of San Francisco Xavier, at Chukisaka, had added to its faculty a number of well-known Viennese professors.

Meanwhile, anti-Jewish agitation is developing here along lines familiar in other South American countries. Bolivian merchants, for example, under the instigation of Nazi business men are demanding elimination of peddling on the grounds that it constitutes "dishonest competition." The demand, while it does not specify Jews, is aimed against several score Jewish peddlers in La Paz.

Another factor tending to stimulate uneasiness among the Jewish population is the dispatch of Bolivian "youth leader" groups, at the expense of the German Government, to the Reich for intensive courses in Nazi theories and anti-Semitism. The first such group is reported on the way back from Berlin after having completed the course.

President Busch recently indicated, however, that the Government would combat every effort to introduce racism in the nation's life and might prohibit the dispatch of Bolivian youths to Germany.

Bolivian Army Officers Seen Backing Anti-Semitism

NEW YORK, April 25. (JTA) -- It is believed that the new Bolivian totalitarian regime of President German Busch will take early measures to halt immigration of Jewish refugees from Europe, New York Times correspondent John W. White said today in a dispatch from Buenos Aires, Argentina.

"Bolivia is one of the few South American republics that has permitted the entry of Jewish refugees," the dispatch said. "Recently, she has been admitting approximately 800 a month in compliance with requests from the United States and British Governments last November.

"In a country where the white population is as small as it is in Bolivia, the arrival of 3,000 or 4,000 foreigners is more noticeable than it would be in other countries. The Bolivian Government has insisted that these refugees proceed to the interior to engage in farming, but as they are all professional or business men they have tended to settle in La Paz and Cochamba.

"There has recently been a loud outcry against these newcomers. Among other things, it is charged that they are speculating in foodstuffs. They are blamed for the recent heavy increase in the prices of certain foods, especially eggs and meat. Army officers, who are openly anti-Semitic, are in sympathy with the anti-Semitic campaign that has been raging recently."

AMBASSADOR WILSON TO RETURN TO BERLIN IF HITLER REPLY IS CONCILIATORY

WASHINGTON, April 25. (JTA) -- It was reported today that the United States Government will return Ambassador Hugh R. Wilson to Berlin if Chancellor Adolf Hitler's reply to President Roosevelt's message asking non-aggression pledges to 31 countries is conciliatory.

Representative Sol Bloom (Dem., N.Y.), acting chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee favors Ambassador Wilson's return if the State Department approves. "We should," Mr. Bloom said, "go half way." The Ambassador was recalled for "report and consultation" as a protest against the anti-Jewish pogrom of November 10, 1938. He left Berlin on Nov. 16.

TRIBUNE BACKS WAGNER-ROGERS BILL; LONDON FAVORS ENTRY OF CHILDREN BUT WOULD LOWER AGE LIMIT

NEW YORK, April 25. (JTA) -- The New York Herald Tribune today supported editorially the Wagner-Rogers bill for admission of 20,000 refugee children as "a departure from the harsh and heartless rigidity of legalistic regulation with which the world is stifled in order to render some small aid to a small group of helpless children, victimized by a cruel age."

The editorial followed the backing of the bill by Alfred M. Landon, Republican Presidential candidate in 1936. A letter from Mr. Landon, addressed to Clarence Pickett, executive director of the Non-Sectarian Committee for German Refugee children, which was introduced in testimony before the Congressional committee, favored the bill, but expressed the wish that the age limit of 14 was lower and warned of a later demand that parents of the children be given consideration.

Meanwhile, the Friends Center of New York, Quaker organization, announced the creation of a new council and the opening of new headquarters to handle more effectively the Friends' increased activities in the metropolitan area, especially in connection with the refugee problem.

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Women's Body Asks 5-Year Entry Ban

WASHINGTON, April 25. (JTA) -- The United Daughters of 1812, holding a three-day convention here, today heard a report of its resolutions committee urging a five-year ban on immigration as a solution to the problems of unemployment and relief and opposing the Wagner-Rogers refugee children's bill. Most of the refugee children are Jews, said Mrs. Arthur J. O'Neill, of Chicago, president of the organization. "I have nothing against the Jews, but this is a predominantly Christian country and we should take care of our own needy before we receive new aliens."

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State Medical Group Would Limit Alien Doctors

SYRACUSE, N.Y., April 25. (JTA) -- The House of Delegates of the Medical Society of New York State yesterday endorsed a recommendation of its new president, Dr. Terry M. Townsend, that the Board of Regents and Legislature take steps to "effect reasonable restrictions of licensure of aliens." The influx of refugee physicians from foreign lands has reached such proportions in New York State that "the law of self-preservation" impels physicians to demand restrictions on their admission to practice, Dr. Townsend said.