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4,500 ITALIAN JEWS BAPTIZED IN YEAR; GREATEST MASS CONVERSION SINCE INQUISITION

ROME, July 6. (JTA) -- Italian racial legislation has stimulated the greatest mass conversion of Jews since the Spanish Inquisition, it was disclosed here today. Official statistics revealed that 4,500 Jews, representing more than ten per cent of the entire Jewish population in Italy, have embraced Christianity in the past year.

Recent legislation favoring converted Jews compared to those adhering to their religion has greatly influenced the number of proselytes, who hope to benefit from future laws and agreements between the State and the Vatican. Other factors involved in the wave of conversions are the possibility of sending children to Catholic schools and emigration facilities to Latin America, where many countries, while restricting Jewish immigration, admit proselytes.

SHIP TAKING REFUGEES TO PALESTINE BURNS; PASSENGERS RESCUED BY ITALIAN STEAMER

HAIFA, July 6. (JTA) -- The Panamanian steamer Rim, bound for Palestine with 450 Jewish refugees on board, caught fire yesterday near the Island of Rhodes, dispatches reaching here today said. The refugees, who had embarked June 26 at the Black Sea port of Constanza, were safely transferred to the Italian steamer Fiume and landed at the port of Rhodes.

Departure of the Rim from Constanza was marked by the attempted suicide by 40 of a group of 140 refugees who were in despair at having been left behind. (A J.T.A. Paris dispatch said the passengers, estimated at 800, had cabled an appeal to the Paris office of the Joint Distribution Committee for food and clothing. The message contained no details and J.D.C. officials said they were trying to contact the Jewish community at Rhodes through the Milan, Italy, Jewish Relief Committee.)

England May Use Refugees to Ease Farm Labor Shortage

LONDON, July 6. (JTA) -- Home Secretary Sir Samuel Hoare told Commons today that the Government is considering allowing Jewish refugees now in England to fill the gaps caused by a shortage of agricultural labor and also the temporary admission of new refugees to assist in harvesting. He said he was examining such a plan in conjunction with the agriculture and labor ministers.

Sir Samuel rebuked Lady Astor, Conservative M.P., for a remark that "the (Jewish) race is not particularly keen on agriculture." He said that this view was not borne out in fact since large numbers of young refugees were anxious to work on the land.

The statement followed discussion of the refugee question in the House of Lords late yesterday, during which demands were voiced from all sections for extension of British aid to refugees. Replying for the Government, Parliamentary Colonial Undersecretary Lord Dufferin and Ava rejected suggestions for increased admission of refugees to England and for financial assistance in refugee settlement projects for colonial territories.

"I have the strongest feeling," he declared, "that any very large increase in the Jewish population of this country would provoke anti-Semitic feeling, which, I cannot disguise, is an underlying factor in Great Britain, in common with almost every other country in the world."

On the question of aiding such colonial refugee projects as British Guiana and elsewhere, Lord Dufferin said: "Whereas we are prepared to go to every limit of our resources in supplying the services of the administration, even transport, we do not feel justified at this stage in giving actual financial assistance to these schemes."

The Lord Baldwin Fund for Refugees, which was inaugurated by the former Prime Minister last December, has passed the £500,000 mark and will be closed July 31, it was announced today. The Daily Express urged editorially that the fund be used to turn refugees into farmers and to send them to thinly populated parts of the colonial empire without delay.

Chile Admits 78 Barred by Paraguay

PARIS, July 5. (JTA) -- The HIAS-ICA Emigration Association announced today receipt of a cable from Chile reporting that 78 German Jewish passengers on the liner Monte Olivia, who had been barred from Uruguay and Paraguay despite their possession of Paraguayan visas, have finally been permitted to proceed to Chile. Permission was the result of efforts on behalf of the refugees by the HIAS-ICA.

The refugees had left Germany for Paraguay at the end of May, but were not permitted transit across Uruguay because the Paraguayan consul at Montevideo had notified the Uruguayan authorities that Paraguay had invalidated the visas of the entire group. After wandering on the high seas for some time, they were finally permitted to land at Buenos Aires on 20-day permits while the HIAS-ICA negotiated for their permanent admission to Chile.

Bulgaria Resumes Ouster of Alien Jews

SOFIA, July 6. (JTA) -- Expulsion of foreign Jews has been resumed by the Bulgarian authorities, it was learned here today.

BOMB FOUND IN CAIRO SYNAGOGUE; ZIONIST SUPPORTERS WARNED

CAIRO, July 6. (JTA) -- A large bomb, wrapped in paper bearing a handwritten Arabic threat against Egyptian Jews who support Zionism, was found today in this city's leading synagogue. The bomb had no fuse.

REICH DECREE PUTS JEWS UNDER "NATIONAL JEWISH ASSOCIATION"

BERLIN, July 6. (Havas) -- All German Jews were organized by Government decree today into a "National Jewish Association," virtually a separate community within the Reich, responsible for its own charities and with an educational system designed to facilitate Jewish emigration.

The Association, under the supervision of the Interior Ministry, will take care of all indigent Jews and will receive no funds from other Reich agencies for that purpose.

Jewish students will be permitted to attend only association schools, which will operate under academic rules in force throughout Germany, but will stress occupational training likely to be useful to emigrants. The Association will train its own teachers.

Foreign Jews living in the Reich may be admitted to the schools. No compensation will be paid for losses to Jews growing out of readjustments necessary in conforming to the decree.

German newspapers tonight commented on the Government's "magnanimous" gesture in allowing the Jews to reestablish their own schools.

"The new ordinance," observed the Nazi party organ Voelkischer Beobachter, "shows how ready Germany is, in spite of bad experiences with the Jews, to let the act of separation be carried out without friction. The National Socialist goal is still the departure of all Jews from the Reich. We do not attach the slightest value to Jews. If we once more accord them our attention, it is not to provide a new basis for their affairs, but to speed up their emigration."

NAZI BROADCASTS TO POLAND URGE SPREAD OF ANTI-SEMITISM

WARSAW, July 6. (JTA) -- Efforts to stir up anti-Semitism in Poland today marked Polish-language propaganda broadcasts inaugurated by German border radio stations designed to counteract German-language broadcasts from Poland and to effect peaceful surrender of Danzig to Germany. Announcers stressed the urgency of developing Polish anti-Semitism, describing the Jew as a "destructive element par excellence." The broadcasts are made at intervals from 10.15 a.m. to 8.15 p.m.

MEXICO PADLOCKS FASCIST GROUP'S HEADQUARTERS

MEXICO CITY, July 6. (JTA) -- Headquarters of the Party of National Salvation, pro-Fascist organization, have been closed by the Government as a "public nuisance." The party, successor to the Committee for Revolutionary Unification, was held responsible for recent street rioting and anti-Semitic excesses. According to the Mexican Labor News, the action followed continued unauthorized public meetings in the face of repeated Government warnings.

RABBIS LAUD QUAKERS, REBEL PASTORS IN DICTATOR STATES; HIT WHITE PAPER

ASBURY PARK, N.J., July 6. (JTA) -- Resolutions praising the Quakers for their aid to refugees, commending the courage and idealism of dissenting religious leaders in totalitarian states, and condemning the British White Paper on Palestine were adopted by the Rabbinical Assembly of America today at the concluding session of its 39th annual convention here.

Dr. Max Arzt of Scranton, Pa., was elected to succeed Dr. Simon Greenberg of Philadelphia as president. Other officers elected include Rabbi Leon S. Lang of Newark, vice-president and Dr. Israel M. Goldman of Providence, treasurer.

In its resolution on Palestine, the Assembly assailed the White Paper as a "direct repudiation of the Balfour Declaration, a betrayal of the pledge to the Jewish people for the establishment of a Jewish national home in Palestine and a violation of the solemn agreement entered into by the British Government with 52 nations of the world, including the United States." The resolution expressed "horror" at the British Government's "placing of expediency above right" and saw in the new policy "a breakdown of the entire ethical structure upon which our modern civilization has been founded."

Declaring the policy "especially tragic and cruel" at a time when thousands of Jews were being made homeless in central and eastern Europe, the resolution reaffirmed faith in the Palestine Jews "and their determined resolve to effect cordial and harmonious relationships with their Arab neighbors despite all present efforts by external and internal forces to widen the breach between Arab and Jew." It concluded with an appeal for continued self-control, condemning acts of violence as "contrary to the teachings and practice of Judaism."

In the resolution on dissenting religious leaders in totalitarian states, the Assembly voiced grief "for the martyrdom which our Christian brethren as well as the members of our own faith are suffering." The resolution praised the American Friends' Service Committee (Quakers) for helping in the work of rehabilitation of refugees and also cited as "the most significant evidence of true brotherhood in these days of rampant hate and prejudice" the committee's publication of Refugee Facts, pamphlet giving facts on the refugee situation in this country.

PORTUGUESE NOT PRO-GERMAN, FRIENDLY TO JEWS, TRIBUNE WRITER REPORTS

NEW YORK, July 6. (JTA) -- Decline of Nazi influence in Portugal and marked lack of pro-German feeling despite intensive efforts to cultivate it were reported today by Leland Stowe, veteran foreign correspondent, in a dispatch from Lisbon to the New York Herald Tribune.

Declaring Nazi propaganda had been successfully counteracted by Great Britain, Mr. Stowe said: "But one need not stay in Portugal very long to discover there is no pro-German feeling among the Portuguese people. Actually, the Germans are unpopular, and for several reasons. A newcomer from America is quickly informed that Jews have lived unmolested for centuries in this forgotten Atlantic doorstep of Europe; that even the Spanish Inquisition did not succeed in transplanting anti-Semitism into Portuguese soil. One learns that the Nazi pogroms of last November were strongly resented by these friendly, warm-hearted Portuguese people."

7 ARABS SENTENCED TO DEATH BY HAIFA MILITARY COURT

HAIFA, July 6. (JTA) -- Seven Arab terrorists were sentenced to death by a military court here today for the killing last month of four British soldiers and three Jewish supernumeraries. Five others were sentenced to life imprisonment.

BERLIN RABBI WHO DEFIED NAZIS ARRIVES HERE

NEW YORK, July 6. (JTA) -- Dr. Manfred Swarsenski, one of Berlin's most influential rabbis whose courageous sermons at various synagogues attracted large crowds, arrived here today from London on the United States liner Washington. Dr. Swarsenski spent four weeks in the Sachsenhausen concentration camp following the November excesses in Germany.

DR. OSKAR FISCHEL, ART HISTORIAN, DIES IN LONDON AT 69

LONDON, July 6. (JTA) -- Dr. Oskar Fischel, noted art historian and a refugee from Germany, died here today at the age of 69. He came here recently with the aid of leading English museum officials. Dr. Fischel was dismissed from the University of Berlin in 1933, when the Nazi regime took power, but was reinstated upon the insistence of students and prominent scholars. He was finally dismissed in 1935. Dr. Fischel was the author of many works on the theatrical arts and on the painter Rafael.

Kozienice Rebbe Dead

WARSAW, July 6. (JTA) -- Death of the famous Kozienice "wonder rabbi" Jacob Szapiro was reported here today from Otwock. He was 54 years old. Rabbi Szapiro was the grandson of the renowned Kozienice "magid" (preacher).

Abraham Kaplansky, Pioneer Printer in Canada, Dies

MONTREAL, July 6. (JTA) -- Abraham Leon Kaplansky, one of the first Jewish printers to settle in Canada and active in philanthropic work, died here this morning. He was 79 years old. One of the best known Jews in Canada, Mr. Kaplansky was at one time a lawyer and a Justice of the Peace. He was head of the legal department of the Federation of Jewish Philanthropies.

FASCISTS LOSE 7 SEATS IN FINNISH PARLIAMENTARY ELECTIONS

HELSINKI, Finland, July 6. (JTA) -- Unofficial returns indicated today that Finland's pro-Fascist patriotic national movement had lost seven of its 14 parliamentary seats in this week's national elections. The Socialist-Agrarian bloc representing the Government coalition won five additional seats, increasing its representation to 141. There are 200 seats in the Finnish Parliament.

LITHUANIAN MAYOR QUILTS WHEN COUNCIL FAILS TO BACK HIM ON SHECHITA BAN

KAUNAS, July 6. (JTA) -- Mayor Sliupas of the seaside resort Polangen, who was author of a by-law prohibiting kosher slaughter which afterwards was cancelled by the Government as anti-constitutional, today resigned his post after the municipal council with only one dissenting veto refused to sanction an appeal to the Supreme Court against the Government's decision.

FRENCH COURT RULES PROPERTY OF "ARYANIZED" FIRMS ABROAD MUST BE RETURNED TO ORIGINAL OWNERS

PARIS (JTA) -- The Tribunal de Commerce de la Seine has just issued an important ruling affecting the property of Jewish refugees in France. The Court decided that any property of "Aryanized" Jewish firms in France must be returned to their former owners and not to their present Nazi administrators.

The case before the Court concerned the Sudeten firm "Roha" which drew a bill on a French firm amounting to 20,000 francs. Before the payment fell due, the Sudeten district was occupied by Germany and the owner of the firm, a Jew by the name of Lovic, fled to London from where he claimed the money from the French firm. The Nazis in the meantime took over the firm and put in a certain Herr Walter as Commissar who also claimed the money from the French firm. The French firm, however, waited for the Nazi Commissar Walter and Lovic to take out a summons, and the case was heard before the Tribunal de Commerce.