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AGENCY TERMS ENTRY HALT "DEVOID OF MORAL JUSTIFICATION"

JERUSALEM, July 13. (JTA) -- The Jewish Agency for Palestine today denounced as "devoid of moral justification" the British decision, announced in the House of Commons by Colonial Secretary Malcolm MacDonald yesterday, to suspend Jewish immigration to the Holy Land for six months starting October 1. In a formal statement, the Agency warned that the Jewish people would not acquiesce to a policy it regarded as "rule by force."

The Agency said the British action, assertedly taken as a move to halt extra-quota immigration, penalized the Jewish people as a whole because of refugees who had sought to escape from persecution.

"The statement that the refugees emanate from Poland and Rumania is misleading," the Agency said. "In fact, it is common knowledge that most of the refugees are from Germany, Austria, Czechoslovakia and Danzig. The decision penalizes the Jewish people as a whole because of the refugees who had sought escape from persecution by going to their national home. The penalty amounts to closing their homeland to the Jewish people and the denial of the only salvation to Jews doomed to extermination in the anti-Semitic inferno in Central Europe."

"For three years Palestine was the prey of terrorist bands and the Palestine Government failed to enforce law and order. Now the Mandatory Government, after surrendering to the Arab terror and violating its obligations to the Jewish people, makes a display of firmness by enforcing immigration restrictions."

"The Jewish people regard the policy as devoid of moral justification, based only on force, and will not acquiesce to a rule by force. The natural, historic right to return to the homeland will not be invalidated by a White Paper. It is not the refugees returning home who are violating the law, but those endeavoring to deprive them of their supreme human right -- the right to live."

The Agency's denunciation of the MacDonald decision had the unanimous support of the Jewish press, which emphasized that most of the extra-quota immigrants were German refugees and pointed out that the Polish and Rumanian Jews were also fleeing from oppression. The Laborite Davar asked how it was possible to distinguish "between one hell and another."

A military court, meanwhile, opened trial of Bernard Teitler, 28-year-old Hebrew University student from Germany, on a charge of possessing explosives in his room. Teitler testified that he had sublet his room last May, previous to discovery of the explosives.

The trial is being attended by President Judah L. Magnes of the University and Rector Abraham Fraenkel. As a result of Dr. Magnes' intercession, the authorities permitted Teitler to take his examinations for a master's degree in physics while awaiting trial in the Jerusalem Central Prison. The examination, given by Prof. Samuel Sambursky, noted mathematician and cosmologist, was highly successful. Teitler was wounded in 1936 while acting as a supernumerary policeman at the Jerusalem suburb of Motza.

Labor Party Seeks Showdown on Palestine

LONDON, July 13. (JTA) -- A showdown with the Government on the Palestine issue was sought by the Labor Party today as it prepared to bring before Commons a motion censuring the Colonial Office for its decision to suspend Jewish immigration to the Holy Land for six months.

The Jewish Agency office here, meanwhile, issued a statement registering "solemn protest" on behalf of the Jewish people against the British action.

The Labor Party, it was understood, is determined to force a vote on the Palestine issue, hoping to reduce still further, if not entirely wipe out, the slim majority of 81 obtained by the Government for its policy in the May 22 debate. The Government's decision to suspend immigration, it was understood, was prompted by fears that the illegal immigrants would far exceed the legal quota. Further steps to stop illegal immigration are expected to be taken.

Tom Williams, Labor M.P., in a statement to the Jewish Telegraphic Agency, denounced the suspension of immigration as "clearly undemocratic, unreasonable and inconsistent with our pledged word." He accused the Government of trying to force its policy through the League while Commons was adjourned and to return with a fait accompli after the recess.

The Zionist Federation announced it would hold an emergency conference Sunday to protest the British action.

Z.O.A. Condemns Suspension

NEW YORK, July 13. (JTA) -- The Zionist Organization of America strongly condemned the immigration suspension, echoing the Jewish Agency's characterization of the action as "without moral justification" and "based only on the use of force."

Colonization Drive Continued

JERUSALEM, July 13. (JTA) -- Continuing the southern colonization campaign, launched yesterday with the establishment of Bet Haffa, Jews today planned to open a new colony on Sunday near Mikve Israel, south of Jaffa. The new settlement, the fifty-first since the Palestine disturbances began three years ago, will be named for Karl Netter, founder of Mikve Israel and among the creators of the Alliance Israelite Universelle, organization of French Jews. The colonists will be drawn from graduates of the Boy's Agricultural School at Mikve Israel, which was founded by Netter in 1870 before there were any Jewish colonies in Palestine, and from the settlement's employees.

The French coast guard has captured the steamer Prosula bearing 650 Jewish refugees, most of them from Czechoslovakia, it was reported here today. Brought into the North Lebanon

seaport of Tripoli, the ship's captain said he had sailed on May 25 from the port of Sulina, at the mouth of the Danube River, for Shanghai but had been forced by a shortage of food and money to make for the nearest port.

Lebanese newspapers reported that the authorities, after consulting with the highest religious authority in the country, had decided to admit a number of Jewish refugees. The newspapers demanded an official statement.

FRANCE PLANS SETTLEMENT OF 25,000-40,000 REFUGEES IN MADAGASCAR, NEW CALEDONIA

PARIS, July 13. (JTA) -- The French Government is completing plans which may lead to settlement of 25,000 to 40,000 German refugees in Madagascar and New Caledonia, it was announced last night at a reception in honor of Deputy Francois de Tesson, who recently returned from a visit to the United States on behalf of the World ORT Union, organization for retraining of Jews. The reception, tendered by the ORT, was presided over by former Foreign Minister Yvon Delbos and attended by prominent French and Jewish personalities.

The plan, Deputy de Tesson said, had been disclosed to him in conferences with Foreign Minister Georges Bonnet and Colonial Minister Georges Mandel following his return from the United States where he had discussed the refugee situation with George Backer, president of the American ORT Federation, and other Jewish leaders. He said Erich Warburg was due in Paris soon to discuss details of the settlement project.

M. de Tesson, who is a descendant of the Marquis de Lafayette and chairman of the French Parliamentary ORT Committee, voiced high praise for President Roosevelt and American generosity in treatment of the refugee question, and paid tribute to Mr. Backer as "a great humanitarian and a great friend of France."

M. Delbos, emphasizing that France had always shown sympathy for refugees, declared that the nation's experience refuted the allegation that Jews were unfit for agricultural work. He declared that France had in 1934 permitted settlement of a Jewish refugee group on land in the interior and that all had proved good farmers. He added that during the war scare last year, all able-bodied refugees in the group had voluntarily registered for service in the army.

Other speakers included Senator Justin Godart, Dr. Leon Bramson, ORT president, and Dr. Lvovitch, vice-president. Senator Godart predicted that the Government would modify the status of refugees in this country, making their life easier.

REFUGEE CAMP AT POLISH FRONTIER BEING LIQUIDATED

WARSAW, July 13. (JTA) -- The refugee camp at the Polish frontier station of Zbonszyn in existence since last October when Germany began its series of mass expulsion of Polish Jews, will be gradually liquidated, it was authoritatively learned today.

The exiles will be distributed to various parts of Poland. Those having relatives or friends in the interior will be permitted to join them, while the remainder will be distributed in cities where refugee committees are functioning. Evacuation of the camp has already begun, it was ascertained, with 40 to 50 refugees leaving daily. There are still 3,500 exiles at Zbonszyn and the liquidation process is expected to take three to four months.

Jewish circles, meanwhile, expressed anxiety with regard to the future of the refugees who are completely impoverished and unable to earn a living. Lack of funds not only prevents the possibility of constructive help by the refugee committee but even provision of food.

SPONSORS OF REFUGEE BILL DISCOURAGED, ADMIT IT CAN'T PASS; EXCLUSIONISTS PREVAIL

WASHINGTON, July 13. (JTA) -- Sponsors of the Wagner-Rogers bill for admission of 20,000 refugee children from Germany have all but thrown up the sponge and admitted that the bill cannot pass at this session.

Desperate efforts are being made by the Society of Friends (Quakers) to rally support for the measure but it is conceded off the House and Senate floors that the exclusionist forces have the upper hand. Neither immigration committee favors the bill. The Senate Immigration Committee reported it so emasculated, by providing that such children be made part of the German quota, that Senator Wagner will have none of it.

The House Immigration Committee has again scheduled an executive meeting on the bill to take place next week. Representative Caroline O'Day of New York is working strenuously in the measure's behalf. Seven radical exclusionist members of the committee, however, have stated flatly they are opposed to the bill in any way, shape or form.

Mrs. O'Day said that while there is an overwhelming amount of sympathy outside of Congress for the bill, there is a lamentable lack of interest in it in the House and Senate.

Representative Kramer of California, it is reported, while outwardly favorable toward the bill, actually is opposed to it. He will vote to report it out, only if he is confident the measure will fail. Any real likelihood that it would pass, will find him opposing it.

Mrs. O'Day said she was "heartsick" at the attitude of these members of Congress who let the unemployment problem of the United States deter them from approving the humanitarian move to aid the suffering children of Germany and Austria. A member of the immigration committee bitterly assailed "those persons who wrap themselves in super-Americanism and encourage intolerance."

The indications are the bill never will emerge from the House committee unless the Senate passes it first. The Senate measure has been ordered reported out but Senator King of Utah is holding it up at the expressed wish of Senator Wagner. House leaders say there is no use going ahead with the bill there unless they can be shown the measure can withstand a threatened filibuster by Senator Reynolds of North Carolina.

Daily News Again Appeals for Refugee Bill

NEW YORK, July 13. (JTA) -- The New York Daily News today reiterated its appeal for immediate passage of the Wagner-Rogers bill in its original form. Commenting on a letter from a reader captioned "A Refugee Testifies," the editorial declared: "In ordinary human charity, and for the sake of our own souls, Congress ought to pass this bill before it adjourns, even though it may let every other piece of major legislation on its program go over to its next session."

CUBAN PRESIDENT PROMISES TO RELEASE 57 EXILES HELD 2 MONTHS

HAVANA, July 13. (JTA) -- President Laredo Bru today promised a delegation representing democratic groups early release of 57 German Jewish refugees held in the immigration camp for more than two months and slated for deportation to Germany. The delegation was headed by Dr. Juan Marinello, president of the Union Revolucionaria. The president's action was immediately assailed in anti-Semitic radio broadcasts which demanded deportation of the refugees.

RAYBURN CRITICIZED IN CONGRESS FOR ATTITUDE TOWARD THORKELSON

WASHINGTON, July 13. (JTA) -- Representative Clare E. Hoffman (Rep., Mich.) today criticized Majority Leader Sam Rayburn on the floor of the House for his attitude last week toward Representative Jacob Thorkelson (Rep., Mont.) in connection with Thorkelson's injection of racial prejudice in his extension remarks in the Congressional Record.

Hoffman charged that Rayburn was attempting to deny to Thorkelson the right of free speech because the latter's views differed from his own. Rayburn heatedly denied the allegation, asserting he was denying Thorkelson nothing but his right to spread racial dissension.

Chairman Matthew A. Dunn of the House Census Committee was empowered by the committee today to appoint a sub-committee to draft legislation for registration of aliens, to be submitted at the next session of Congress.

PRAGUE BANS JEWS FROM PUBLIC BATHS

PRAGUE, July 13. (JTA) -- The authorities today prohibited Jews from using public baths here under penalty of a fine or imprisonment. A police communique said a special pool had been set aside for Jews in the outskirts of the city. The alleged reason for the order was that "the presence of Jews in public baths disturb peace and order in the city."

NAZI IDEOLOGY COURSES REPLACE RELIGIOUS CLASSES IN DANZIG

DANZIG, July 13. (JTA) -- Lessons in Nazi ideology will replace religious courses in Danzig schools, it was officially disclosed today, and only book stores with special permit will henceforth be allowed to sell religious books.

The Danzig Jewish Community, which now numbers 2,000, has opened a soup kitchen for impoverished middle class Jews. Fifty per cent of the city's Jewish population, which continues under strictest supervision by the Gestapo, are entirely dependent upon relief received from philanthropic organizations abroad, chiefly the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee. The remainder are still able to eke out an existence from the sale of their personal belongings.

Only 160 Jews engaged in the export of timber, grain and similar products, have not yet been ordered to emigrate, their presence being considered necessary for Danzig's economy.

WOMEN'S GROUP BACKS PLANS TO ASSIST REFUGEES

KANSAS CITY, July 13. (JTA) -- A four-point plan to assist refugees was adopted here yesterday by the annual convention of the National Federation of Business and Professional Women's Clubs. Approved without a dissenting vote, the plan provides for creation of a national committee on refugees, which will obtain the names of federation members seeking haven here; aid in learning English; invitations to membership in clubs and establishment of vocational clearing houses.

LITHUANIA FAILS TO OBTAIN RELEASE OF JEWISH JOURNALIST IN BERLIN

KAUNAS, July 13. (JTA) -- Private Berlin sources reported today that a Jewish journalist, H. Fink, who was arrested in 1937, has not yet been released despite intervention by the Lithuanian authorities. Fink, who is a Lithuanian citizen and had acted as correspondent for the Jewish Morning Journal of New York, is serving a five-year prison term for "incitement against Germany in the foreign press."