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REFUGEE PARLEY DECIDES TO LAUNCH PHILIPPINE, DOMINICAN SETTLEMENT AT ONCE WITH 'TOKEN' UNITS

WASHINGTON, Oct. 18. (JTA).--Responding to President Roosevelt's appeal to "clear the decks" of the 200,000 to 300,000 pre-war refugees, officers of the Intergovernmental Refugee Committee, meeting today at the State Department, decided immediately to launch colonization in the Philippine Islands and the Dominican Republic with "token groups of refugee pioneers" residing in European neutral countries.

After thus embarking on what President Roosevelt called the "short-range" program, the committee adjourned until Oct. 26, when it will reconvene in Washington to discuss the President's proposal to expand the intergovernmental body's work to seek new territories for the ten to twenty million refugees Mr. Roosevelt estimated would be created by the war.

The President's proposal to expand the committee's scope so vastly came as a distinct surprise to the foreign delegates--Chairman Lord Winterton and Director Sir Herbert Emerson of Britain and the French, Argentine, Brazilian and Netherlands diplomatic representatives--who immediately cabled to their governments for further instructions.

At the third session today, the delegates decided that the most pressing need of the moment, and the one most easily alleviated, was the relief of some 60,000 refugees who have found temporary havens in Switzerland, the Netherlands, Belgium and the Scandinavian countries. The condition of these refugees was described as "desperate and urgent" and it was decided that they would be given priority in the location of permanent homelands.

The refugees in these neutral countries are not allowed to work and many of them are approaching starvation, the committee was told. Local relief agencies have been called upon to care for their own countrymen and the plight of the 60,000 is growing steadily worse. The Swiss minister, Marc Peter, appeared before the conference and painted a dark picture of the plight of the refugees in Switzerland, asking that something be done to help them at once.

The committee decided to transport as many of the refugees as possible from the neutral nations to other havens through infiltration and settlement projects. Small "token

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groups" will be received from each of these nations and transported to the Philippines and the Dominican Republic.

These projects will be financed by funds from private organizations and individuals in the United States. The funds are now available, but the names of the contributors were withheld. Engineers, health experts and builders are already proceeding to the two territories to prepare for the reception of the first refugees.

Negotiations will also be begun immediately regarding settlement in other lands, the committee agreed. While the names of these countries where colonists would be accepted were not announced, it is known that under consideration are British and Dutch Guiana and Brazil.

Colonization schemes for Alaska are not viewed as of practical value at the moment, for under existing laws persons entering Alaska must do so under United States immigration quotas.

The British and French delegates emphasized that the condition of the refugees in these two belligerent nations was better than that of the exiles in the neutral states. The refugees have not become a burden, largely because so many of them have volunteered for war tasks, it was said. Others are being cared for by private funds, a large proportion of which are contributed by American groups.

At the close of today's two-hour session, Lord Winterton, Emerson and American Vice-Chairman Myron C. Taylor left for New York, where they will confer with private groups which have contributed toward the Philippine and Dominican colonization projects.

Paul van Zeeland, president of the Coordinating Foundation, who is concerned in the discussions about colonization, failed to reach Washington in time for the first sessions of the conference. He is aboard the United States liner President Harding, which has been battered by a storm at sea resulting in a number of injuries. The ship is due in New York on Saturday, and van Zeeland should be able to attend next week's sessions.

After the conference ends next week, Taylor will make a personal report on its progress to President Roosevelt, it was announced.

During the recess of the conference, technical advisors for the British Government and the State Department will remain in Washington working out details of the Dominican and Philippine settlement plans.

At yesterday's session, Secretary of State Cordell Hull delivered an address of greeting stressing the importance of solving the refugee problem, Lord Winterton mentioned the difficulties in contributing to refugee work which confront the belligerent countries, Emerson reported on the committee's work and James G. McDonald, chairman of the President's Advisory Committee on Political Refugees, reported on the Philippine and Dominican projects

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Communique on Conference

WASHINGTON, Oct. 18. (JTA).--Excerpts from the official communique issued by the Intergovernmental Committee on Refugees at the conclusion of today's session follow:

"At the third session the officers discussed what President Roosevelt had described in his opening statement as the 'short-range problem', including the problem of emigrating those individuals and families who are at this moment in countries of temporary refuge and who, for the sake of the world and themselves, should be placed in permanent domicile as rapidly as possible.

"The meeting was of the opinion that this problem could still best be solved partly by infiltration, that is individual immigration, and partly by an initiation of settlement projects. The meeting took note with particular satisfaction of the fact that the Dominican Government, with great foresight and generosity, had responded to the appeal of the Intergovernmental Committee for opportunities of settlement. The meeting also heard with satisfaction that the Government of the Commonwealth of the Philippines had responded in a similar manner. Mr. James G. McDonald reported that engineering and economic studies had recently been completed and that practical steps, including financing, in the initiation of settlement were being taken.

"The meeting was informed that similar studies in other areas would be undertaken promptly. The committee also took note of the fact that the Coordinating Foundation, whose Executive President, Mr. Paul van Zeeland, will be present at the meeting next week, is mandated to work with individuals and organizations to investigate the suitability of places of settlement and future resettlement plans. A tribute was paid by the meeting to the unstinted generosity over a period of years of the private organizations."

Gestapo Expels Jewish Children, Committee Hears

WASHINGTON, Oct. 18. (JTA).--Thousands of Jewish children, so young they are unable to give their or their parents' names, have been smuggled out of Germany into neutral countries by the Gestapo so that the Reich would have fewer mouths to feed, officers of the Intergovernmental Refugee Committee were informed today.

Some of the children were orphans and others were children of persons imprisoned in concentration camps, according to documentary evidence presented to the committee. The expulsion practice has been so prevalent, it was said, that the Red Cross in neutral countries was forced to form special organizations to care for the children.

The Gestapo's practice was to place the children aboard trains bound for the Netherlands, Switzerland and Belgium, three or four to each train. Tied around their necks or pinned to their clothing were cards reading: "My name is John Doe. My aunt or uncle will meet me at - - - - ." When the child arrived at the town named, there was no one to meet him, and the neutral country found itself with another baby on its hands. Efforts to return the children to the Reich were met with: "We don't know who they are or where they came from. We can't accept them."

Petition Asks Opening of Palestine

WASHINGTON, Oct. 18. (JTA).--A committee of prominent American Zionists today presented to officers of the Intergovernmental Committee petitions of 238,199 persons, for the attention of President Roosevelt, appealing to the President to seek the opening of Palestine to enlarged Jewish immigration.

The petitions were collected by the Jewish Morning Journal of New York. The delegation was headed by Louis Lipsky, vice-president of the Zionist Organization of America, and included Rabbi Isadore Breslau, director of the American Zionist Bureau, and Morris Si

OVER 120,000 JEWS FLOCK TO WILNO FROM SOVIET POLAND; LEADERS AMONG REFUGEES

KAUNAS, Oct. 18. (JTA)-- Refugees arriving here today from Wilno said that more than 120,000 Jews have flocked to that city from Soviet-held areas of Poland and that thousands more are pouring in.

The influx rivals that of Jews from Nazi-held territory in Poland to areas controlled by the Soviet forces. Wilno, ancient capital of Lithuania and cultural center of Polish Jewry, has been ceded to Lithuania by Soviet Russia but will not formally be transferred until Oct. 22.

Among the refugees pouring into Wilno are large numbers of Polish intellectuals and members of the middle classes. All accommodations in the city are overcrowded and most of the refugees are destitute and starving.

A number of prominent Jewish leaders were reported among those who had succeeded in reaching Wilno. They include former Senator Rafael Szerzewski, industrialist and philanthropist; Senator Rabbi Isaac Rubenstein of Warsaw; Isaac Giterman, director of the Warsaw office of the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee; I.M. Neumann, editor of the Warsaw Yiddish newspaper Haint; the Zionist-Revisionist leaders Spector and Szofman; Deputy Simon Zeidman of Warsaw, and a number of bankers and industrialists from Warsaw and Lodz.

The refugees reported that a number of Jewish Socialist and Peoples' Party leaders and some Jewish physicians have been arrested and transported into Russia. In this group were reported to be Zalman Reizen, editor of the Wilno newspaper Tog and author of a Yiddish literary lexicon; Joseph Czernichow, an attorney, with his son; Anna Rosenthal and the bankers Lewin, Chwoles and Zaks.

The refugees said that there were no signs of anti-Semitism in Russo-Poland but added that the Jewish situation was grave because the Soviet authorities were confiscating property, machinery, materials and bank deposits. They said that community activities had been paralyzed and that Jewish organizations were no longer functioning.

Until Sept. 22 thousands of Jews had taken advantage of free communications between Russian and German areas in Poland to flee from Nazi persecution, mainly to Rovno, near the old Soviet border. Hundreds of these were said now to have joined the rush to Wilno.

Schorr Reported Alive, Held by Reds in Lwow

KAUNAS, Oct. 18. (JTA)-- Advices from Wilno today denied recurrent reports that Senator Moses Schorr of Poland, Chief Rabbi of Warsaw and principal leader of Polish Jewry, had been executed by the Nazis.

Rabbi Schorr was stated to be under arrest in Soviet-held Lwow, together with Deputy Emil Sommerstein and editor N. Szwalbe of the Polish-language Jewish newspaper Nasz Przegląd.

(Conflicting reports concerning the fate of Rabbi Schorr, who is 65, have been circulated since early in October. It was originally reported that he had been executed by the Nazis. Doubt was expressed, however, by relatives in London and Paris and by Polish Foreign Minister August Zaleski, who said the Chief Rabbi had left Warsaw before its surrender to the Nazis but had refused to leave Poland when given an opportunity to accompany Government officials. A Paris dispatch recently quoted an unnamed brother-in-law in Bordeaux, a refugee from Poland, as declaring Rabbi Schorr had been shot without trial by a Nazi firing squad immediately after the occupation of Poland.)

Giterman, J.D.C. Warsaw Director, In Wilno

KAUNAS, Oct. 18.(JTA)--Isaac Giterman, director of the Warsaw office of the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee, is now in Wilno, it was learned here today. Mr. Giterman, who has represented the American relief organization in Poland for more than 20 years, had not been heard from since the early days of the war.

Moses Beckelman, of the Paris staff of the J.D.C., who arrived here recently, has organized a special committee for the relief of refugees from Wilno.

Wilno Residents of 1920 Held Lithuanian Citizens

KAUNAS, Oct. 18.(JTA).--It was learned authoritatively today that all persons resident in the Wilno district, which has just been ceded by Russia to Lithuania, on July 20, 1920, will be considered Lithuanian citizens. Those who have moved into the district since that date will be treated as foreigners but will be permitted to remain.

Yiddish Daily Banned in Kaunas

KAUNAS, Oct. 18.(JTA).--The authorities today closed down the Yiddish newspaper Volksblatt organ of the Peoples' Party. The reason for the action was not immediately ascertained.

All Warsaw Jews Drafted for Labor

KAUNAS, Oct. 18.(JTA).--Reports reaching here today said that the entire Jewish population of Warsaw, up to the age of 60, has been drafted for forced labor and put to cleaning up the city. Non-workers are barred from receiving food. The reports confirmed previous advices that the thickly-populated Jewish quarters of the city had been entirely destroyed during the Nazi bombardment.

3 Nations Agree to Speed Aid for Polish War Victims

NEW YORK, Oct. 18.(JTA).-- The Federation of Polish Jews in America announced today conclusion of arrangements with the Rumanian, Lithuanian and Hungarian governments which will expedite the work of locating Polish war victims and enable Americans to send money and other for of relief to relatives.

The arrangements provide for creation of special committees for the conduct of the necessary work in Bucharest, Kaunas and Budapest. Such a committee has already been named by the Lithuanian Government. It comprises ten distinguished Lithuanians, five of them non-Jews and five representatives of the Jewish community. The Federation announced that it is shortly sending its representatives to the three countries to open offices for the registration of war refugees under the auspices of the respective committees.

ORT Seeks New Funds for Wilno Work

NEW YORK, Oct. 18.(JTA).--An appeal for funds to finance ORT organization, distribution and other constructive work for the inhabitants of the Wilno district and refugees from Poland has been received from the Kaunas offices of the Jewish retraining organization, it was announced here today by Dr. David Lvovitch, vice-president of the World ORT Union.

Dr. Lvovitch also announced formation of an ORT committee in Budapest, with a budget of \$26,000, half of which is to be raised among Hungarian Jews and the remainder to be contributed from abroad. Among speakers at the meeting organizing the committee was Court Councillor Samuel Stern, president of the Pest Jewish Community. The committee comprises Dr. Emerich Szanto,

president; Dr. Ernst Boda, executive director; Adalbert Alapi, financial vice-president; Dr. Adolf Deutsch, vice-president, and Dr. Josef Pasztor, secretary.

GOEBBELS ORGAN OPENS DRIVE TO DEPRIVE REICH JEWS OF FOOD CARDS

PARIS, Oct. 18.(JTA).-- A campaign to deprive the Jews of the Reich of food cards, condemning them to literal starvation, has been opened by Der Angriff, organ of the Reichsminister of Propaganda Joseph Goebbels, "because Germany is undergoing a blockade and because the coreligionists of the German Jews are conducting war propaganda abroad against Germany."

Der Angriff complained in an article that "the Jews in Germany are least affected by the war" and that "their behavior is growing more and more provocative and impertinent." "It would be practical for somebody to advise the Jews in America to urge their racial brothers in the Reich to be more modest and less seen," the article concluded.

The drive coincided with French press reports from Belgium quoting people arriving from Germany as relating that the Nazi authorities in Cologne had assigned only one food store for the city's entire Jewish population, located five kilometers from Cologne. All Jews, including women and children, are forced to walk there twice daily for their food since Jews are not permitted to use street cars, it was said.

A Jewish leader from Belgium who arrived in Paris today told this correspondent that many Jews were still trying to leave the Reich and some had succeeded in reaching Belgium. These refugees report in Belgium that the greatest fear of German Jewry is that with the food situation in the Reich becoming worse every day, Jews may be deprived of even the limited food supplies they still get.

NAZIS CARRY OUT POGROM IN POLISH CITY, DANZIG PAPER REPORTS

PARIS, Oct. 18.(JTA).--Nazis have carried out a pogrom against Jews in the German-occupied Polish town of Thorn, according to reports from neutral countries substantiated today by receipt of the Danziger Vorposten, Danzig Nazi organ.

The Vorposten said that all Jews had fled from Thorn before the German Army's entry, but many later returned and took refuge in a synagogue from where "we swept them out." It added that after what happened to those Jews, "no Jew will ever dare to come again to Thorn."

"The impertinence of these Jews went so far that some of them applied to the local Nazi commissar to permit them to reopen their stores," the paper said.

REPORT FILDERMAN HELPED 200 POLISH RABBIS ENTER RUMANIA IS DENIED

PARIS, Oct. 18. (JTA).--Surprise was expressed here today over a report in a New York Yiddish daily newspaper under a London dateline in the issue of Sept. 26 declaring that through the personal intervention of Dr. William Filderman, Rumanian Jewish leader, 200 rabbis from Poland with their families had been admitted to Rumania.

Dr. Filderman has not been in Rumania since the outbreak of the war. He has been living in Vichy, France, until this week. He is still in France and intends to proceed to Rumania this Friday. A list of Jewish refugees from Poland contains the names of not even a dozen rabbis, in cases where the professions are given.

VAAD LEUMI ACHIEVES UNITY; REVISIONISTS, FARMERS ENTER EXECUTIVE AFTER TWO-DAY TALKS

JERUSALEM, Oct. 18. (JTA).--The Jewish National Council (Vaad Leumi) has achieved long-sought unity among Palestine Jewish groups after 48-hour-long negotiations spurred by the war in Europe. Pinchas Rutenberg, recently-elected non-partisan president of the council, announced today that the Zionist-Revisionists, the Jewish Farmers' Association and other dissident groups had entered an enlarged executive committee of the council.

The 18-member Executive includes six representatives of the Mapai, Zionist labor party; two Revisionist, two of the Sephardic group and one each of the Mizrachi, the Poel Hamizrachi, the German immigrants' organization, the General Zionists "A", General Zionists "B" and the farmers.

It was decided at the meeting to hold new elections for the council as soon as possible. The Executive acted to speed arrangements for the emergency income tax on Palestine Jews, in which the Agudath Israel, non-Zionist religious organization, is also participating.

Observers analyzing the composition of the new Executive noted that there was a fairly even distribution between the Left and the Right, with Rutenberg and Miss Henrietta Szold, American-born Zionist leader, holding the balance of voting power.

Report Mufti Escaped from Lebanon to Baghdad

NEW YORK, Oct. 18. (JTA).--The New York Times said in a London dispatch today that the former Mufti of Jerusalem, Haj Amin el Hussein, had escaped from Lebanon and had arrived in Baghdad, Iraq, on Monday. The ex-Mufti, who was held by the British Government responsible for the Palestine disorders, had fled from Jerusalem in the fall of 1957 after his followers had either been arrested or exiled. He had been living in Lebanon ever since and was reported to be directing the Arab disorders from his refuge there.

Senator Holt Cites Palestine in Debate on Neutrality

WASHINGTON, Oct. 18. (JTA).--The actions of the British in Palestine were again held up today as an example of perfidy, in the Senate neutrality debate. "The British," said Senator Rush Holt (Dem., W.Va.) "lied to the Jews, and then they lied to the Arabs. The Jews in Palestine were subjected to the same sort of indignities by the British as the Jews in Czechoslovakia by the Germans."

ROME GETS PLAN FOR SETTLEMENT OF 5,000,000 JEWS IN ETHIOPIA

NEW YORK, Oct. 18. (JTA).--Frank van Gildemeester, Dutch Protestant banker who heads the International Organization for Assistance of Jewish Refugees, is discussing with the Italian Government a plan for establishment of a colony of 5,000,000 Jews in Ethiopia, to be financed by floating \$5,000,000 worth of shares in North and South America, and claims that Government officials have shown interest during preliminary discussions, the United Press reported from Rome today.

REWARD OFFERED FOR DESECRATORS OF CONNECTICUT JEWISH CEMETERY

NEW LONDON, Conn., Oct. 18. (JTA).--The breaking of 35 tombstones and the painting of swastikas on many others in the Ahavath Chesed Synagogue's cemetery in Waterford on Tuesday night led combined Jewish societies today to offer a \$200 reward for apprehension and conviction of the vandals. In the raid on the cemetery, American flags were torn from the mounds of Jewish legionnaires.