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## JEWISH TELEGRAPHIC AGENCY

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### 1,500,000 POLISH JEWS FACE EXTINCTION UNDER HITLER - MATTER OF MONTHS, MOZES REPORTS

(EDITOR'S NOTE: Following is the first authentic, comprehensive account of the fate that has overwhelmed more than 1,500,000 Jews in the Nazi-held areas of Poland. The writer, Mendel Mozes, was for many years chief of the Warsaw bureau of the J.T.A. He remained in Warsaw during the first five days of the war, then evacuated his staff and family to Krzemieniec, southeastern town which was the temporary seat of the fleeing Polish Government. After seven weeks of wandering, during which they were unheard from, the group, three of them seriously ill from exposure and lack of food, arrived in Wilno. The J.T.A. office in Warsaw and his home, Mr. Mozes reported, were bombed and burned to the ground in the first days of the war.)

WILNO, Lithuania, Oct. 30. (JTA) -- The complete ruin and physical destruction of Polish Jewry under Chancellor Adolf Hitler is a question of months, if not weeks.

Every branch of life has already been closed to the Jews in the areas held by the Nazi troops and some 1,500,000 of their number are threatened by starvation and extinction.

The Nazis have forbidden Jews to possess more than 2,000 zlotys (about \$400 at pre-war rates) in bank deposits and have prohibited them from buying such things as clothes and shoes without special permit. All goods in Jewish shops have been confiscated and the more well-to-do among the merchants have been arrested.

The sadistic treatment of the Polish Jews by the Nazis overshadows the persecution suffered by the Jews following the German conquests of Austria and Czechoslovakia. Every German is free to maltreat and humiliate the Jews.

The situation in Warsaw is beyond description, but is exceeded by that prevailing in the provinces. Entire Jewish populations have been expelled under the most cruel conditions, often upon less than half an hour's notice. Towns where such expulsions occurred include Mlawa, Prasnysz, Krasnosielisk, Rozany, Ostro-Maziowiec, Wyszkwow, Wysztygrod, Wengrow, Stoczek, Ostrolenka and Poltusk.

About 2,000,000 Jews escaped the Nazi pogroms by Soviet Russia's occupation of the eastern provinces. These include 500,000 who managed under the most difficult conditions to cross from the German zone into the Russian areas. They left empty-handed, the Nazis having seized all their property and leaving them only 20 zlotys each.

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Many leaders and Journalists were arrested by the Gestapo, Nazi secret police, and transferred to the Reich. The president of the Warsaw Jewish Merchants Association, Abraham Gepner, and a leader of the Bund (Jewish Socialist party) Arthur Seligbaum, were held as hostages.

Two days after the Nazi occupation of Warsaw, a Polish newspaper issued with the permission of the German military forces, announced that the Jews would be treated on a basis of equality with the Poles, thus partially allaying the fears of the Jewish population.

Within the second week of the occupation, however, a violent anti-Semitic program was adopted by the authorities. Remnants of the Polish parties tried at first to alleviate the situation. Thus, the Lawyers' Union resolved to treat all its members without distinction as to religion.

The Nazis, however, employing anti-Semitism to win mob approval, gave the extremist Jew-baiters a free hand with the result that Jews were assaulted on the streets and in their homes and ousted from positions in food lines.

#### Mayor Starzynski Snubs Appeal

A delegation appealed to Mayor Starzynski (who had originally been reported a suicide upon surrender of the city), who has retained the mayoralty of the city, and received the reply: "We have more important things to settle."

Unchecked by the authorities, mobs even tore the coats from the backs of women and children. Jewish men of 15 to 60 were drafted for forced labor, cleaning up the debris and often working 48 hours without food. Many were shot dead when they collapsed.

The Warsaw Jewish community has been put under control of a Nazi commissar who has ordered registration of all Jews between the ages of 18 and 40. Community officials were also instructed to file a detailed report on the economic position of the Jews and to supply a list of all converts.

Funds of the community were confiscated and all activities were suspended with the exception of 30 soup kitchens, which are supported by the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee and which are able to supply only a fraction of the starving population. The Jewish burial office has also been permitted to continue in operation.

Under the pretext of arms searches, Jewish houses in Warsaw are raided nightly by the Gestapo and all valuables, even food, are confiscated.

Jewish leaders who approached the authorities for permission to publish a Jewish newspaper were bluntly informed: "We are still in a state of war against the Jews."

In many towns, the ancient yellow badge has been introduced for Jews. In others, every Jew has been given a number which must be worn on his coat lapel.

Some towns have inaugurated a system of badges in various colors -- yellow for rich Jews, blue for poor ones and grey for the poorest.

It can now be estimated that 35,000 Warsaw Jews, one tenth of the capital's pre-war Jewish population, were killed during the Nazi bombardment of the city.

Male in Every Tenth House Executed

Jews in a number of the smaller towns were subjected to mass execution. In Przemyśl, which was afterwards taken over by the Russians, 40 Jews were shot and 40 others were ordered to bury them at the place of execution. One male was taken from every Jewish home in Pultusk and executed. Crucifixes topped by Jewish prayer caps were placed over their graves.

In Lukow, after shooting of a German soldier by snipers, 30 Jews and 15 Poles were executed. The town of Kaluszyn, almost 100 per cent Jewish, was set afire and every Jew trying to escape was shot dead. An estimated 500 were killed in this way. Similar executions were staged in Siemiatycze and the vicinity.

Mass expulsions of Jews ordered in Włodzimierz, in the Lublin district, were cancelled upon the intervention of a Catholic priest who guaranteed the Jews' good behavior with his own life and a deposit of 20,000 zlotys.

Rabbis and Chassidic "wonder rebbes" were treated with particular cruelty by the Nazi conquerors and Polish Jew-baiters. Cutting off beards was the most popular form of humiliation. A rabbi was stabbed to death in a street of Wengrow.

A concentration camp has been established in the vicinity of Wengrow.

In Warsaw, Jews have been evacuated from Nowolipki, Hoza and other streets. The Nazis appointed an executive body of 25 Jews of all parties to rule the Jewish community under the direction of the Nazi commissar for Jews. All private and communal Jewish schools are closed.

The Warsaw Jews are officially excluded from the gratis distribution of bread in the streets. Jewish wounded are not permitted to be treated at hospitals where wounded Polish and German soldiers are housed. Ritual slaughter of animals has been entirely forbidden.

In the town of Włocławek, where the German commander is the former director of the Dachau concentration camp, Jews are forbidden to use the sidewalks.

Danish Paper Reports Jews' "Intense Suffering"

COPENHAGEN, Oct. 30. (JTA) -- The newspaper Berlingske Tidende today described the "intense suffering" of the Jews in Nazi Poland. It reports that synagogues have been burned and that the Jews have been compelled to pay compensation on the charge that they destroyed their temples themselves. Food stores, the newspaper says, have been ordered to serve Germans first, Poles next and then Jews.

Red-Nazi Border in Poland Closed

KAUNAS, Lithuania, Oct. 30. (JTA) -- The Soviet Government, it was learned here today, has closed its frontier with Nazi Poland both to incoming and outgoing persons. The Germans, at the same time, are not permitting Jews to enter Nazi-ruled Polish territory but are allowing them to leave after confiscating their property.

The Soviet measure is considered a severe blow to tens of thousands of Jews in the Nazi region who looked upon escape to Russia as their last hope. It hits especially hard separated families where the husbands were evacuated during the hostilities while wives and children were left behind on the German side.

It is reported here that negotiations to solve the problem will be initiated between Russia and Germany since a considerable number of non-Jews are prepared to return to their homes in Nazi Poland.

Vocational readjustment of the Jews in large Jewish communities in Soviet Poland is now an important problem. Cities such as Lwow, Przemysl, Tarnopol, Czortkow, Brody, Kilomyhia, Rovno, Luck, Duno, Kowel, Pinsk, Brestlitovsk, Baranovitch, Lida, Grodno and Bialystok all have large Jewish populations and are faced with this problem.

Pending readjustment, immediate relief is essential for Jewish merchants, small traders, craftsmen, small house and land owners, who are now without livelihoods.

Another serious problem is the huge number, estimated at 500,000 to 1,000,000, of refugees who escaped from the Nazi areas and are now crowding the larger cities. The refugees are sheltered in railway stations, schools, synagogues and public buildings. Some sleep on stairways and even in the streets. Adaptation of these refugees to new conditions will take months.

Meanwhile, thousands of homeless and destitute refugees are still wandering along the main railway lines in all directions, moving from place to place with their sole remaining property in bags carried on their shoulders. Headed for Lwow, Rowno, Brest-Litovsk, Bialystok and other large centers in Soviet Poland, they are trying to find missing relatives who vanished during the bombings and the chaos of evacuation.

It may take months and even years before the situation of the refugees in the Soviet Polish areas is regulated. In the first place, immense capital is needed for the task. Secondly, the problem is complicated by the attitude of the Soviet authorities in western White Russia and the West Ukraine, who declare that the Soviet Union is rich enough to handle the task itself and does not want foreign assistance.

#### Lithuania Pledges Tolerance For All in Wilno

WILNO, Oct. 30. (JTA) -- The Government today issued a proclamation in the Yiddish language guaranteeing tolerance and incorporation of the city in a spirit of cooperation with minorities.

President Antanas Smetona, it was stated, intends to issue a further proclamation promising cultural autonomy to all minorities. The city, just occupied by Lithuanian troops after cession of the Wilno district by Soviet Russia, will have a Jewish vice-mayor.

One Jew was killed and several others wounded in an anti-Semitic riot here just prior to the Lithuanian occupation. A mob of Polish youths attacked Jews after they had been stirred up by Endek (Nationalist Democrat) agitators. Russian troops arrested the riot leaders.

The disturbances were repeated yesterday following the occupation and the rioters were dispersed by Lithuanian police.

The Jewish life of the city is gradually returning to normal and relief committees have begun activities.

The Lithuanian army of occupation was greeted in the name of the Jewish Community by President Dr. Jacob Wygodzski. The commander-in-chief of the army, in his reply, voiced assurances that there would be equal treatment for all inhabitants and minorities.



NAZI PRISON CAMP ATROCITIES OUTLINED IN WHITE PAPER; RECALL 'DARKEST AGES IN HISTORY'

LONDON, Oct. 30. (JTA) -- Treatment of prisoners in German concentration camps reminiscent of "the darkest ages in the history of man" is charged in an official White Paper on treatment of German nationals in the Reich, which was made public today.

The attitude of the Nazis towards imprisoned Jews, according to the document, was that the biblical Pharaoh had not gone "half far enough" in treatment of the Jews, that a Jew was considered worth just the price of a 12-pfennig bullet, that Jews could not report sick because they could only be "well or dead" and that Chancellor Adolf Hitler himself had given an order permitting flogging up to 60 strokes for Jews.

The foreword to the White Paper declares that neither consolidation of the regime nor the passage of time have in any way mitigated the savagery.

The book contains the reports of British consuls in various German cities on the pogroms of last November and the reports of prisoners and others submitted to the Foreign Office between March, 1938, and February, 1939, including the statement of a former prisoner in the Buchenwald concentration camp confirming the worst reports of treatment of Jewish prisoners.

The information had hitherto been suppressed, the Government said, because it might engender hatred between Germany and Britain.

"Flogging and torture were the order of the day" when the Nazis first came into power, the White Paper said. "It was common knowledge that the National Socialist movement was taking a terrible revenge on those who had the temerity to oppose it. Foreigners were not spared. British subjects, including a member of the Embassy staff, were wantonly assailed in the streets by S.A. men (storm troopers)."

"Hitler himself gave the order that Jews might receive up to 60 strokes during flogging," the document said. Floggings were very frequent in concentration camps for small offenses, such as drinking water during work hours, it declared.

Jews were told that they were only being treated as the forefathers had been in Egypt and that Pharaoh had not gone "half far enough." The White Paper commented: "Under the present regime it will be seen that conditions in Germany and the treatment accorded Germans are reminiscent of the darkest ages in the history of man."

A certain Herr "Z" was quoted as saying that at the Buchenwald camp filth and mud were knee-deep, making it almost impossible to walk. His flesh was torn and his face so disfigured as to be almost unrecognizable after his stay there, he said.

There were about 10,000 men in the camp, according to Herr "Z", but only 100 straw sacks for them to sleep on. Lying on the back was forbidden under pain of blows. He charged that sentries were ordered to use their rifles without warning. Every bullet, the sentries would say, cost 12 pfennigs and a Jew was worth just that much.

Another former concentration camp prisoner was quoted as saying that no Jews were allowed to report sick at parade. A Jew, he observed, could only be "well or dead." At roll call many who were unable to stand had to be held up so they could be seen from the front. Many, he said, ended their sufferings by pretending to escape in order to be shot down.

Sir George A.D. Ogilvie-Forbes, formerly Counselor of the British Embassy at Berlin, revealed in the White Paper that early in the Nazi regime storm troopers regularly beat Jews outside the American Consulate-General until American officials finally forced police to intervene.

M.R.T. Smallbones, former British Consul-General at Frankfort-am-Main, was quoted as having written in a report last December: "I am persuaded that if the Government of Germany depended on the suffrage of the people, those in power and responsible for these outrages would be swept away by strong indignation, if not put against a wall and shot."

#### LABOR CONSCRIPTS FORCED TO PAY OWN WAY IN NAZI CAMPS, PRAGUE PAPER REVEALS

AMSTERDAM, Oct. 30. (JTA) -- The Prague newspaper Neue Tag, copies of which were received here today, reports that "enlistment" for Jewish labor camps in the protectorate has been concluded.

The newspaper states that 3,196 Jews appeared before the "recruiting commission." Of this number, 1,722 were declared fit for hard labor, 509 for easy work and 565 unfit for any labor. The comparatively small number of conscripts, the newspaper declares, came as a surprise, revealing that many Jews had succeeded in leaving the country.

Altogether, six labor camps have been established and started work on October 15. One of the camps is exclusively employed on road construction work. According to the newspaper, a Government decree has been issued under which members of the Jewish labor camps are compelled to pay for their shelter and food.

#### HEAVY JAIL TERMS METED OUT TO 43 PALESTINE JEWS FOR BEARING ARMS

ACRE, Palestine, Oct. 30. (JTA) -- A military court today sentenced one Jew to life imprisonment and 42 others to terms of 10 years each for possession of arms in violation of the emergency regulations.

The Jews, all members of the Histadruth, Palestine Jewish labor federation, were convicted after a trial lasting three days. They were arrested on Oct. 5 near Yavniel while conducting practice maneuvers. The life term was meted out to Abshalom Thau, an architect and formerly a sergeant of railway police.

#### CHILE TO ADMIT REFUGEES WHO "MAKE GOOD CITIZENS"; 180 ON WAY FROM SPAIN

WASHINGTON, Oct. 29. (JTA) -- One hundred and eighty German Jewish refugees now en route from Rotterdam, Netherlands, to Valparaiso, Chile, via Cadiz, Spain, will be admitted to the South American Republic "if we believe they will make good citizens," an attache of the Chilean Embassy said today.

The case of each refugee seeking entrance to Chile will be judged individually, the Embassy said. Included in the 180, who are aboard the steamship Batavier III, are merchants, craftsmen, farmers and their wives and children. Chile has made no conditions regarding entry of professional men.

#### 600 Sail From Portugal

PARIS, Oct. 30. (JTA) -- More than 600 Jewish refugees, who were headed for overseas destinations on German ships when the war broke out and were consequently disembarked at Spain, have succeeded in reaching Portugal it was learned today. With the aid of the HIAS-ICA Emigration Association the refugees are being dispatched to their original destinations.

Virgin Islands Ruled Out as Temporary Haven

WASHINGTON, Oct. 29. (JTA) -- The Virgin Islands are not being considered as a possible haven for refugees, contrary to a report appearing in a New York newspaper, it was learned at the State Department today. Refugees entering the islands must do so under the United States quota and alteration of present immigration laws would be necessary to open up the islands to new settlers, it was understood.

Refugees in Norway Cleared of Suspicion

OSLO, Oct. 30. (JTA) -- The police authorities announced today that not a single spy suspect has been found among the estimated 1,000 Jewish and non-Jewish refugees from Germany, Czechoslovakia and Austria, who are concentrated chiefly in Oslo and its suburbs.

Nine prominent Jewish refugee physicians have been permitted to practice in Norway, it was disclosed, on condition that they work in certain areas to be specified by the Social Welfare Department. They will be allowed to start work on Jan. 1.

Among the doctors are a number of specialists, including Prof. E.J. Kraus, bacteriologist; Prof. W. Jaroschy, orthopedist; Prof. B. Epstein, pediatrician, and others. One Jewish doctor from Germany has also been admitted to practice in Sweden.

COUNCIL URGED TO COORDINATE CIVIC-PROTECTIVE WORK

ST. PAUL, Oct. 30. (JTA) -- The General Jewish Council was urged to coordinate Jewish civic-protective work in the United States by reserving to itself the activities "it can best administer and apportioning the remainder among its four constituent organizations," in a resolution adopted by the West Central States Regional Conference of the Council of Jewish Federations and Welfare Funds.

Stating that organization of the General Jewish Council "has been eminently justified" by its activities and commending it for its accomplishments, the Conference pointed to the "widespread conviction that duplication of work in this field has not been sufficiently eliminated and that wastefulness and inefficiency result from this situation."

The Conference proposed that, after greater coordination has been achieved, local welfare funds should allocate amounts to the four agencies in the General Jewish Council in accordance with "a definite and equitable formula to be determined by the Council." The Council was urged to recommend such a formula for welfare funds in 1940.

In another resolution, the delegates, who represented Jewish federations, welfare funds and community councils in ten states, approved the coordinated fund raising and allocation of money for overseas and refugee needs through a United Jewish Appeal as conducive to "economy, efficiency and equitable distribution of funds." Nathan M. Stein of Milwaukee was elected president of the Region with William Holzman of Omaha and Amos Deinard of Minneapolis, vice-presidents.

EDDIE CANTOR TO TOUR SO. AFRICA FOR YOUTH ALIYAH

WASHINGTON, Oct. 30. (JTA) -- Eddie Cantor announced today that he plans a tour of South Africa next year to raise funds for refugee relief. On a similar tour of England for the Youth Aliyah, which transfers refugee children to Palestine, the screen and radio actor obtained pledges totalling \$560,000 in 16 days.

Cantor was 20 minutes late for a stage appearance here this afternoon because he was so captivated by Supreme Court Justice Felix Frankfurter, with whom he talked for two hours in the jurist's chambers. A few days ago Cantor was received by President Roosevelt.

Yesterday the actor delivered a sermon in the First Congregational Church here and dropped his comedian's mask to plead the cause of religion and democracy. Introduced by Dr. Howard Stone Anderson as a "loyal Jew, fine entertainer and great American," Cantor hailed the fact that a Jew could speak in a Christian pulpit in the United States, and said that "there are too many gentiles and not enough Christians."

#### BIOGRAPHY OF JULIUS ROSENWALD TO BE PUBLISHED THIS WEEK

NEW YORK, Oct. 30. (JTA) -- Harper and Brothers today announced publication on Nov. 3 of a biography of Julius Rosenwald, late merchant and philanthropist.

The biography, described by the publishers as a "full-length portrait of a nationally beloved citizen," was written by M.R. Werner, one of America's outstanding biographers.

In a statement on the book, the publishers declare: "In this full-length portrait of a nationally beloved citizen is to be found the measure of man at his best. For Julius Rosenwald was not merely the merchant genius behind the phenomenal growth of the great mail order business of Sears, Roebuck and Company, nor merely the generous philanthropist who gave away \$63,000,000 in his work among Negroes, in education, in Jewish resettlement projects, in public health, and other social reforms. To both critics and admirers, to the millions whom he has helped to help themselves, he typifies the virtues and ideals of 'the American way.' He is the man whose simplicity, faith, courage, rugged individualism and innate kindness will provide posterity with the pattern of a full and useful life."

#### JEWS URGED TO AID RUMANIAN ARMY; PRESS CONTINUES ANTI-SEMITIC DRIVE

BUCHAREST, Oct. 30. (JTA) -- An appeal to the entire Jewish population to contribute as much as possible to a voluntary fund for the Rumanian army has been issued by Chief Rabbi Jakob niemirower.

Meanwhile, despite similar demonstrations of Jewish patriotism, the anti-Semitic press is continuing a virulent anti-Jewish campaign. The newspaper Porunca Vremi, discussing the Estonian, Latvian and Lithuanian Jews, jeeringly foretells the same future for them as that of the Jews of Poland.

#### PEACE BODY ASKS BRITAIN TO INCLUDE MINORITIES GUARANTEE IN ANY PEACE PROPOSALS

LONDON, Oct. 30. (JTA) -- The National Peace Council asked the British Government today to include in any declaration of peace contributions it is prepared to make, proposals guaranteeing the "essential democratic rights of all peoples, including the Polish, Czechoslovak peoples and the Jewish race."

#### JEWS FLOCKING TO COLORS IN SO. AFRICA, LONDON PAPER REPORTS

LONDON, Oct. 30. (JTA) -- The Daily Telegraph reports from Cape Town that a feature of the enlistment for South Africa's new army, is the large number of Jews who are offering to serve. The dispatch estimates that 40 per cent of the new recruits in one regiment are Jews.