

RED CROSS TO RUSH SUPPLIES TO POLAND UNDER PACT WITH NAZIS FOR IMPARTIAL RELIEF

WASHINGTON, Nov. 28. (JTA) -- Chairman Norman H. Davis announced today that the American Red Cross was sending immediate relief supplies to German-occupied Poland in accordance with "satisfactory arrangements" made with the German Government for the impartial distribution of these supplies by the Polish Red Cross and other approved Polish agencies.

The relief, Mr. Davis said, would take the form of medicines, hospital supplies and warm clothing for the purchase of which an appropriation of \$250,000 has been set up, as announced from Berlin last night.

"We have received word from our delegation in Berlin," Mr. Davis said, "that the German Government has given us satisfactory assurances that American relief supplies will be distributed on a non-sectarian basis inside Poland. We know from reports received from our delegation after visiting the conquered territory that the needs are heart-breakingly urgent, but it was unthinkable that any funds contributed by the American people to the American Red Cross could be used for relief which might be distributed without complete impartiality. After conversations with the German Government and the German Red Cross lasting more than three weeks and the exchange of many cables and telephone calls between Washington and Berlin, we are happy to announce that an agreement has been reached."

Meanwhile, representatives of agencies conducting relief in Poland met at the Red Cross for discussion of mutual problems. Details of the conference were not revealed. Among those attending were Paul Baerwald and Joseph C. Hyman, of the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee; Maurice Pate, of the Polish Relief Commission; John Rich, of the American Friends Service Committee (Quakers) and Breckenridge Long, of the State Department. The Red Cross agreement with the German Government was discussed, but no comment could be secured.

Shipments from the American Red Cross will be made via Trieste to Cracow, where a central warehouse will be established, Mr. Davis said in his announcement. They will be consigned to representatives of the American Red Cross, who in conjunction with the German Red Cross will allocate them to Polish agencies and committees, including the Polish Red Cross, for impartial distribution to those in need, including the Jews.

"Following its usual procedure in giving foreign relief," Mr. Davis explained, "the relief rendered by the American Red Cross will be administered by the Red Cross

society in the country concerned. In this instance, the German Government has designated the German Red Cross as the official agency to administer all relief for Poland contributed by sources outside Germany, but distribution within Poland will be handled by the Polish Red Cross and the Polish agencies, including Jewish organizations. Our representatives will collaborate with the German Red Cross in the allocation of the supplies and from time to time will check the needs and inspect the distribution."

Mr. Davis said reports cabled by the Red Cross delegation, composed of Ernest J. Swift, Wayne Chatfield Taylor and James T. Nicholson, clearly showed the need for relief inside Poland.

"In Warsaw alone 65 per cent of the buildings were either completely destroyed or made uninhabitable," Mr. Davis said. "More than 1,300,000 persons are crowded in the remaining buildings, enduring the hardships of a rigorous winter. The danger of a typhus epidemic is great despite the fact that the German military authorities, using Polish health officers, doctors and nurses, are doing their best to re-establish normal conditions."

Mr. Davis said that of the 26 hospitals in the city, ten had been destroyed and others badly damaged, leaving about 8,000 hospital beds to serve the entire population.

"The most urgent needs," Mr. Davis said, "are for hospital equipment, blankets, sheets, warm clothing, underwear, shoes, stockings and medicines and vaccines of all kinds. These are needs which the American Red Cross under its treaty obligations will depend upon the satisfactory operation of the plan approved by the German Government and upon the contributions of the American public to this cause."

In addition to its work inside Poland, the American Red Cross has for some time been giving relief to Polish refugees in Hungary, Rumania, Latvia, Estonia and Lithuania. Several shipments of medical supplies, warm underwear, sheeting, blankets, shoes and soap already have been made and others are awaiting cargo space.

REFUGEES CONFIRM REPORTS OF RAPE BY NAZI TROOPS IN POLAND

WILNO, Lithuania, Nov. 28. (JTA) -- Refugees from Nazi Poland today confirmed reports that German troops had raped Jewish women in various parts of the occupied territory. The refugees cited specific instances that occurred in Brest-Litovsk during the six days that city, now in Russian hands, was occupied by the Nazi forces, and in the town of Wengrow.

The Nazis held Brest-Litovsk from Sept. 14 to 20. One evening shortly before curfew, 20 women were taken from the streets and brought to the railway station, where they were placed on an ambulance train. The women returned to their homes after midnight in an "indescribable condition," the refugees said. Since the victims were members of well-known Brest-Litovsk families, the refugees refused to reveal their identity.

Among the victims in Wengrow, they reported, was a Jewish woman physician who was taken from a hospital while she was on duty.

Earlier reports reaching here had stated that Nazi troops were seizing Jewish women in the streets of Polish cities and taking them to military camps for lewd

purposes. The military authorities of Lodz were reported to have ordered the Jewish Community there to supply 100 women for the troops, and to have seized them at random on the streets when the command was disregarded.

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Starvation Spurs Epidemics in Polish Cities, Gottlieb Reports

PARIS, Nov. 28. (JTA) -- Epidemics of typhus among Jews in Warsaw, Lodz and other localities in Nazi Poland were reported today in a message from Warsaw brought here by Dr. Joshua Gottlieb, former editor of the Warsaw Yiddish daily Moment, who arrived in Paris en route to Palestine.

Declaring that "the epidemics are due chiefly to starvation and exhaustion," Dr. Gottlieb said that in Lodz the disease was taking a heavy toll in the poor Jewish section known as Balut, while in Warsaw it was spreading in the ghetto without any attempt by the Nazi authorities to check the epidemic.

Dr. Gottlieb revealed that his wife was killed by the explosion of a German bomb in a Warsaw street while she was administering relief to victims of the bombardment. He praised the work of the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee during the invasion and afterward, declaring it was the only assistance available to the Warsaw Jews.

The former editor said that when he left Warsaw last week "there was the danger that the relief activities will have to be temporarily curtailed unless urgent financial assistance arrives from abroad."

Many persons in Paris have received the first direct communications since the war from relatives in Soviet Poland in the form of telegrams marked "via Moscow." It was the first direct connection between Paris and the Soviet-occupied territory. No such connections exist yet with Nazi Poland. Despite all efforts of the International Red Cross, the German authorities refuse to admit any mail into this area.

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Gitterman, J.D.C. Agent in Poland, Relates War Experiences

(EDITOR'S NOTE: Isaac Gitterman, for more than 20 years director of the Joint Distribution Committee's activities in Warsaw, was trapped in Poland during the German invasion but finally managed to reach Wilno, where he has organized relief for homeless refugees. In this dispatch he describes his experiences.)

WILNO, Nov. 28. (JTA-By Wireless)-- I am unable to represent the situation so as to make it possible for people living under normal conditions to get an idea of a still existing reality. Not only do I know the situation but I have gone through many of these horrors myself.

I had only a few hours left to leave my home. I parted with my wife and son, and the idea that they might be buried under the ruins of Warsaw haunted me for weeks like a nightmare.

I had been exposed myself to machine-gun fire with my daughter. Bombs exploded at our feet and scores of people died in our presence. One moment it seemed as though my daughter were among the killed. These were days when I could not get a piece of bread for my child.

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But it was not only through my own experiences that I became thoroughly acquainted with the situation. Beginning with the first day (of the German invasion, Sept. 1) I organized the relief work on behalf of the Joint Distribution Committee, trying to allay misery and suffering. My work brought me into contact with thousands of people, and I heard thousands of dreadful stories.

In hundreds of cases I witnessed tragedies of families separated through the events. A son of our collaborator, I. Neustadt, lost his wife and one-year-old boy while traveling through Poland. He was later seen at Rovno, barefoot and ill-clad, cleaning barracks for a piece of bread.

I did not know the limits of human misery when I thought that the Zbonszyn tragedy (the isolation of several thousand deportees from Germany in the "no-man's-land" at the Polish border in November, 1938) was the worst that human beings could possibly endure. Compared with our situation Zbonszyn seemed a paradise.

"How enviable the fate of the Zbonszyn people was," an engineer from Poznan exclaimed when he asked me for shoes and underwear. He was formerly a millionaire and owner of three big factories, and had at that time shown much interest in the relief work for the refugees at Zbonszyn. Now his wife and only child had to be fed at one of the kitchens established by the J.D.C.

There can be no comparison between the Zbonszyn tragedy and that of a town named Pultusk. The fact that all the Jews of Pultusk were ordered to leave the town on 20 minutes' notice was not the worst calamity that befell them. I am sure nobody would believe the full story of what happened there. Yet Pultusk was only a little episode of what happened in Poland.

There were 18,000 Jews in Jaroslaw, 15,000 in Zamosc, more than 20,000 in Wloclawek and 10,000 in Ostrolenka who were given only a few hours -- in some cases minutes -- to leave their home towns. No less than 50 smaller towns could be added to this list.

Within a few hours 75 townships were burned down completely. More than 500,000 Jews who have lost family members and all their property are now without a home and suffering from hunger and cold on Soviet territory; 150,000 Jews were evicted from their houses within a few hours; the homes of more than 100,000 Jews were destroyed by fire. The moral and physical sufferings of the 1,500,000 Jews who remained under German rule are indescribable. No one who has not seen the present horrible tragedy of Poland, unparalleled throughout the ages, can realize its full extent.

In Wilno the J.D.C. has coped with the situation. Nobody suffers any longer from hunger in this region, nor will anybody, we hope, suffer from cold after the distribution of warm clothing. Our relief work is also being partially extended to all the other areas. Our colleagues in Warsaw are displaying great heroism in their work, but relief there is not sufficient. In a few days tens of thousands may perish from starvation and exposure if relief is not forthcoming.

BERLIN PRINTING MILLIONS OF ANTI-SEMITIC LEAFLETS IN RUSSIAN, PARIS HEARS

PARIS, Nov. 28. (JTA) --- The Havas News Agency reported from Zurich today that the Scherl Printing House in Berlin was turning out millions of anti-Semitic tracts in the Russian language.

The dispatch said the tracts demand that Jewish functionaries in the Soviet Union be replaced by "younger men." German Consul-General Von Saucken at Moscow was reported to have approved the text of the pamphlets.

According to the French news agency's Zurich correspondent, Chancellor Adolf Hitler hoped by this means to arouse Soviet youth against the Jews and thus "get rid of powerful Soviet officials who are hostile to Russia's present pro-German policy."

MASS OUSTERS OF AUSTRIAN, PRAGUE JEWS TO YUGOSLAVIA REPORTED

PARIS, Nov. 28. (JTA) -- Mass expulsion of Jews from Austria and Prague into Yugoslavia was reported today in a Zagreb dispatch broadcast over French radio stations.

Deprived of all belongings, even overcoats, the Jews were admitted temporarily by the Yugoslavian border authorities and will be kept in barracks isolated from the rest of the population, the dispatch said. Their fate depends on the outcome of negotiations which the Yugoslav authorities intend to start with American relief organizations regarding the maintenance of the refugees.

A Havas Agency dispatch from Belgrade added that the expulsions numbered thousands. German frontier guards evidently were under orders to permit the refugees to leave Germany under cover of night, Havas said, and the Belgrade Government had taken vigorous but only partly successful measures to check the influx, returning a number of the refugees to the Reich. Those remaining were living in miserable conditions, subsisting mostly on the charity of the population.

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185,000 Jews Left in Old Reich, Census Reveals

AMSTERDAM, Nov. 28. (JTA) -- The Jewish population of the Old Reich, including the Sudetenland, has dropped from 500,000 in 1933 to 185,000 as of Oct. 1 this year, according to a report in the Juedische Nachrichtenblatt, the only remaining Jewish newspaper in Germany.

The report is based on data compiled by the Reichsvereinigung der Juden in Deutschland, the all-inclusive German-Jewish organization. Of the 185,000 remaining German Jews, according to the census, only 77,000 are males and 108,000 are females. Ninety thousand of the total live in Berlin.

The report discloses that only 16 per cent of the Jewish population still possess property valued at more than 5,000 marks. The remainder have all been reduced to poverty and the majority of them must be supported by Jewish charity.

'ARYAN' WOMEN WHO BEFRIENDED JEWESS JAILED IN VIENNA

GENEVA, Nov. 28. (JTA) -- Marian Sarah Leichter, Viennese Jewess who is serving a prison term because she was secretary of a labor union under the former regime, asked an "Aryan" woman friend to take care of her children until she was released. As a result, it is reported from Vienna, Mrs. Leichter's term was increased by seven months, the friend was sentenced to two months' imprisonment for agreeing to take care of the children and the prison matron received a ten-month term for delivering the message.

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DOMINICAN REFUGEE PROJECT TO START IN SPRING; ROSENBERG TO VISIT SITE SOON

WASHINGTON, Nov. 28. (JTA) -- James N. Rosenberg, chairman of the American Jewish Joint Agricultural Corporation (Agro-Joint), announced today that he will sail for Ciudad Trujillo in the first week of January to complete arrangements for colonization of a group of German Jewish refugees in the Dominican Republic under a plan sponsored by the Intergovernmental Committee on Refugees.

Mr. Rosenberg said he expected Stephen Morris, of the State Department, who is secretary of the intergovernmental committee, to accompany him. Both will make the trip as guests of the Dominican Republic.

Mr. Rosenberg made the announcement after a conference today with Dominican Minister Andres Pastoriza and Robert Pell, of the State Department. He said the final contract between the corporation which is to be formed to carry out the colonization project and the Republic will be signed while he is in the Caribbean island, and that colonization will begin next spring.

Within a few weeks, Mr. Rosenberg announced, Dr. Joseph A. Rosen, president of Agro-Joint and a noted resettlement expert, and a technical staff will sail for Ciudad Trujillo to finish practical plans for the colony of 500 families and several hundred unmarried young men and women.

Also accompanying Mr. Rosenberg in January will be William P. Kramer, forestry expert who surveyed the Dominican project for the President's Advisory Committee on Refugees. Kramer was designated by President Isaiah Bowman of Johns Hopkins University for the task.

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Britain Would Push Guiana Plan on Private Basis, Emerson States

LONDON, Nov. 28. (JTA) -- Although the question of refugee settlement in British Guiana is being held in abeyance because of the war, the British Government would be sympathetic towards pursuing the scheme if any private organizations were able to furnish the necessary funds, Sir Herbert Emerson, director of the Intergovernmental Committee on Refugees, told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency today.

Sir Herbert stated that the Intergovernmental Committee would continue the work of seeking a solution of the German refugee problem within the limitations imposed by the war. He said that while belligerents could not participate in plans for further Jewish emigration directly from the Reich, the committee would continue to encourage investigations into possible places of settlement.

VALUE OF REFUGEES TO AMERICAN LIFE STRESSED AT PARLEY HERE

NEW YORK, Nov. 28. (JTA) -- That refugees can enrich America economically and culturally if provided with the channels for doing so was stressed today at the Second General Conference on the Emigre and the Community, held under the auspices of the Good Neighbor Committee.

Morning and afternoon sessions, held at the Ethical Culture Meeting House, were attended by about 200 persons who heard addresses by Clarence E. Pickett, Edward M.M. Warburg, Dr. George N. Shuster, Dr. Eduard C. Lindemann, Miss Evelyn Hersey, Harold P. Page, Miss Cecilia Razovsky, Charles J. Lieberman, Dr. Alvin Johnson and others.

The conference closed with a dinner at the Hotel Roosevelt at which scheduled speakers included Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt, James G. MacDonald, Jane Cowl, Dr. William Haber, Father Joseph D. Ostermann, Dr. Robert W. Searle and Dr. John L. Elliott, presiding.

Mr. Warburg, chairman of the administration committee of the Joint Distribution Committee, stressed that despite the impression that the war had removed the anti-Semitic aspect of the refugee problem, the sectarian aspect remained. He revealed, incidentally, in reply to a question, that an unexpected difficulty had arisen in removing refugee children from England -- their foster parents often had become so attached to them that they were reluctant to let them go.

Mr. Pickett, secretary of the American Friends Service Committee, who presided at the morning session, suggested that "it is an opportune time for our whole governmental attitude toward the immigrant to be revised," and deplored anti-alien bills in Congress and State legislatures. He stressed "the enormous values that have accrued to our own country from the admission of aliens."

At the afternoon session, at which Dr. Lindemann presided, Miss Hersey, of the American Committee for Christian Refugees, disclosed that the State Department was rearranging quota numbers by assigning unused German visas to refugees in other countries so that the total quota could be used. The new arrangement is already functioning in England and Cuba and will be extended within a few weeks to Shanghai, where the refugee plight is "terrific," she said. Miss Hersey declared that with the influx of refugee experts the United States was becoming the cultural center of the world and would be "many times richer" if it succeeded in "digging the channels" for refugees to make their contributions.

Miss Razovsky, of the National Refugee Service, urged that Americans join in solving three refugee problems: (1) providing more temporary shelters for arriving refugees, (2) aiding in defraying storage expenses for "lift vans" -- the household goods of the refugees transported here or awaiting shipment from European countries, and (3) providing added loans and stipends to help refugees to start life anew.

Mr. Liebman, president of the Refugee Economic Corporation, spoke optimistically of the possibilities of refugee settlement on land in the United States. Dr. Johnson counselled against forcing refugees to give up their own cultural heritage when coming here. Other speakers were Dr. Eduard Heimann, the educator, and Miss Annemarie Feibes, chairman of the Council for Student Refugees, who presented the refugees' viewpoint.

RETURN OF ARAB EXILES TO PALESTINE DISCUSSED BY BRITISH ENVOY, EGYPTIAN LEADER

CAIRO, Nov. 28. (JTA) -- Ali Maher Pasha, chief of the Egyptian Cabinet, in an interview published in Al Ahram, revealed that negotiations had taken place between himself and British Ambassador Sir Miles Lampson for repatriation of exiled Palestine Arab leaders.

The negotiations had been in progress two months, Ali Maher said, and aimed at reducing tension in Palestine as a step towards solution of the Holy Land problem advantageous to British and Arabs, with the consent of the Arab states. The amnesty would affect all persons sentenced by Palestine military courts, who, together with exiles, were estimated by Ali Maher at 20,000.