

# NEWS

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### CUBA MOVES TO SEIZE REFUGEES' BONDS, WASHINGTON HEARS

WASHINGTON, Dec. 6. (JTA) -- The Cuban Government moved today to confiscate a large sum of American cash placed on deposit in Havana as bonds for refugees who have been allowed to enter the island republic, it was learned from an official source.

In a bold move, carefully concealed until this moment, the Government was scheduled to introduce into the Cuban Senate at four o'clock this afternoon a bill that would confiscate between 75 and 100 percent of the bonds of refugees who have remained in Cuba six months or more. The bill is retroactive and would throw into the Cuban Treasury virtually all the bonds for thousands of European refugees.

Each refugee entering Cuba on a temporary visa is forced to put up a \$500 bond. Many of these bonds have been advanced by American organizations and individuals. Under the agreements reached between these organizations and the Cuban Government, these bonds were to have been returned when the refugees left Cuba.

State Department officials declined to comment at this time on the action of the Cuban Government, but it is known that the State Department has exhausted every unofficial recourse in an attempt to avert the confiscation. Involved is the money of Americans from every section of the country who have contributed funds.

One Government official, who would not allow his name to be used, said: "It seems that this action of the Cuban Government, if put into effect, would be incompatible with Cuba's membership in the Intergovernmental Committee on Refugees."

Dr. Jose T. Baron, Charge d'Affaires at the Cuban Embassy, said he knew nothing of the proposed confiscation, and then added: "Of course, you know aliens must comply with our laws."

### 5 ARABS SLAIN, 6 CAPTURED IN BATTLE WITH TROOPS IN PALESTINE

JERUSALEM, Dec. 6. (JTA) -- It was officially announced today that British troops and a detachment of the Transjordan Frontier Force surprised an Arab gang of 14 near Jenin. Five of the Arabs were reported killed, including the notorious band leader, Mohammed Hamden, and six were captured.

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The announcement came as curfew, in effect in Palestine for many months as a result of Arab disorders, was lifted throughout the country, except for curfews on inter-urban traffic.

Meanwhile, the frontier of Jewish settlement was extended by the occupation of Kfar Menachem, east of Beer Tuvia, the most isolated of the Jewish colonies, by a group of 40 young pioneers, half of them Americans. They expect to be cut off completely during the rainy season because of muddy roads and provisions will be dropped to them from airplanes.

The pioneers are from the Kibbutz American Krith, a unit of the Shomer Hatzair, labor Zionist youth organization. The colony is named for Menachem M. Ussishkin, president of the Jewish National Fund.

#### 580 Enter Palestine on Certificates

TEL AVIV, Dec. 6. (JTA) -- An Italian steamer yesterday disembarked 580 Jewish immigrants here. Most of them were from Nazi countries and still bore the stamp of their suffering. All had immigration certificates.

#### Palestine Economic Position Aired at London Parley

LONDON, Dec. 6. (JTA) -- The economic position of Palestine was considered yesterday at a meeting of the executive committee of the Jewish Agency for Palestine, at which President Chaim Weizmann presided.

Siegfried Hoofien, director of the Anglo-Palestine Bank, delivered a report covering the general economic and financial situation of the country, following which the report was discussed. Dr. Weizmann paid warm tribute to the personality and achievements of Siegfried Adolf van Vriesland, industrial and Zionist leader, who died in Tel Aviv on Monday.

#### 160,000 JEWS SAVED FROM WARSAW GHETTO BY SUSPENSION OF GESTAPO EDICT

PARIS, Dec. 6. (JTA) -- Dr. Chaim Szoszkas, Warsaw Jewish leader, arriving here en route to New York, reported today that 160,000 Jews remained outside the Warsaw ghetto when the Nazi authorities suspended execution of the order for segregation of the city's half million Jews.

Before leaving Warsaw several days ago Dr. Szoszkas was a member of a Jewish delegation which appealed to the Nazi military authorities for revocation of the Gestapo order on the ground that to move the 160,000 Jews into the ghetto would increase the danger of epidemic, which might spread from the segregated area and affect the Army.

The delegation pointed out that the ghetto, comprising the district from Nalewki to Zelazni Brama, was devastated and could hardly sustain its present population in the overcrowded, half-ruined houses, and to increase the concentration would increase the typhoid and other epidemic diseases. This argument was believed to have brought about postponement of the removal of the 160,000 Jews from other quarters.

Dr. Szoszkas estimated that 10,000 Jews had been slain in Warsaw during the German bombardment.

Aaron Pincus, a Jewish resident of Paris who returned here yesterday from Lodz after spending three months in Poland, declared that the Nazis were determined to make Lodz "Judenrein" within the shortest possible time.

Pincus gave the following details of developments in Lodz: The military authorities called in the three leading rabbis of the city, cut off their beards and told them they would be shot if Jews were found gathering in synagogues. Even on Yom Kippur the synagogues were closed, under military orders. No more than three Jews are permitted to gather in one place for holding prayers.

Jewish enterprises must remain open on Saturday, despite the Sabbath, and on Jewish holidays. Jews are seized in the streets and taken away for forced labor. This practice is being extended to women. Recently, the wife of the Jewish poet, Moshe Broderson, and the wives of other prominent Jews were forced to clean soldiers' lavatories. Jews are therefore keeping to their homes for fear of being drafted for labor.

#### JEWISH CONGRESS URGES WORLD ACTION AGAINST TREATMENT OF JEWS IN POLAND

PARIS, Dec. 6. (JTA) -- The World Jewish Congress executive committee has adopted a resolution appealing to the civilized world to take action against barbaric treatment of Jews in Poland and the establishment of a Jewish "reservation" in the Lublin district.

"The Jews of the world reject with revulsion and indignation the inadmissible pretext of the Reich Government that it will solve the Jewish problem in this way," the protest said. "We have no doubt that the civilized world will also reject these decisions of the present German Government."

The Congress executive also addressed a letter to Polish Premier Wladislaw Sikorski stating that the Jews recognized the exiled Polish Cabinet as the sole authority over the Lublin district and calling attention to the Jews' indignation over the "reservation" project as well as Jewish sympathy for all Polish sufferers, regardless of race and religion.

A report received by the Congress regarding the Lublin "reservation" said that the German Government intended to publish soon a map of the area entitled "Jehudah," to signify that it was a Jewish territory. The map would show the territory as having an area of about 1,000 square kilometers, bounded by the San and Vistula Rivers on the west and by the Soviet frontier on the east.

The Soviet authorities are erecting barbed-wire fences on the Russian border of the district to prevent Jews from escaping from the "reservation" into Soviet territory, the report said, but nevertheless several thousand Jews have succeeded in crossing the frontier.

The report asserted that the plan for the "Jewish territory" had been decided upon at the last meeting between Reich Foreign Minister Joachim von Ribbentrop and Premier Vyacheslav Molotoff of Soviet Russia, in Moscow. The plan was later elaborated in Berlin, it was said, with the result that the following four-point program was formulated:

(1) The first to be sent to Lublin will be all Jews from the Corridor, including Gdynia, Posen and Kattowice; (2) next to be removed are the Jews of Vienna and other parts of Austria, at a rate of 2,000 weekly. Such speed turned out later, however, to be impossible; (3) the starting of systematic removal of Jews from the Bohemia-Moravia Protectorate should be effected simultaneously with that from Austria; (4) the latest to be removed should be the Jews of the Old Reich.

This plan, the report said, provided for completion of the removal of all Jews in the Greater Reich by April 1, 1940. It appears, however, that the Nazi rulers have themselves realized the unfeasibility of such a rapid expulsion.

So far, the report declared, more than 5,000 Jews have been shipped to Lublin from Vienna, despite the determination of the Vienna Nazi authorities to have the city "Judenrein" by February, 1940. The Jews in Berlin have so far not been affected by the plan. Jewish leaders in Berlin were recently called to Gestapo headquarters to submit budgets and plans of activities for the next three years, which is taken to mean that they will be permitted to conduct relief and emigration work as hitherto for the next three years.

#### 208 GROUPS HERE LISTED FOR WAR RELIEF WORK

WASHINGTON, Dec. 6. (JTA) -- There are now 208 organizations registered for collecting relief for war-torn countries, most of them for Poland, the State Department announced today.

#### LITHUANIA ACTS TO SET UP REFUGEE COMMISSARIAT WITH WIDE POWERS

KAUNAS, Lithuania, Dec. 6. (JTA) -- The Government has introduced a refugee bill in Parliament which provides for creation of a refugee commissariat having the power to administer relief, grant residential permits and initiate deportation action against illegal entrants.

The bill provides prison terms of six months and \$1,000 fines for persons harboring illegals. "Dangerous" refugees would be interned in special camps and might be subject to forced labor. Similar measures would be applied to aliens who could not be expelled because of the war. Refugees would be exempt from payment of taxes.

#### HAGUE TRIBUNAL SOUGHT TO RULE ON CITIZENSHIP OF 110 MEMEL FAMILIES

KAUNAS, Lithuania, Dec. 6. (JTA) -- Faced with the danger of becoming German subjects through loss of Lithuanian citizenship, 110 Memel Jewish families have collectively petitioned the Lithuanian Government to leave the decision as to their citizenship to the Hague Tribunal. The petitioners declared they desired to remain loyal Lithuanians. Memelland was taken over by Germany from Lithuania last spring.

#### SYNAGOGUE IN GLASGOW DEFACED BY SWASTIKAS

GLASGOW, Dec. 6. (JTA) -- A synagogue in the Giffnock district of Glasgow was defaced by the painting of 14 swastikas on its walls. Police were conducting an investigation today.

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ASSAULTS ON JEWS RENEWED BY ENDEKS IN WILNO STREETS

WILNO, Lithuania, Dec. 6. (JTA) -- There has been a renewal in the past few days of anti-Jewish assaults in the streets of Wilno by Polish Nationalist (Endek) students. Serious outbreaks had occurred here shortly before and immediately after cession of the Wilno district by Russia to Lithuania in October. One Endek was sentenced to death and another to 15 years' imprisonment by a court martial for participation in the disorders.

CHARITIES GET GRANTS FROM BARON TRUST FUND

LONDON, Dec. 6. (JTA) -- Under the Bernhard Baron Trust Fund, £40,000 was distributed today to hospitals and charities, including £10,500 to Jewish charities.

SENATOR MEAD HEADS ORT CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEE

NEW YORK, Dec. 6. (JTA) -- At a special luncheon meeting at the Lawyers' Club this afternoon, attended by members of the American ORT Federation board, Senator James M. Mead was presented as new chairman of ORT United States Congressional Committee. In accepting the appointment Senator Mead, who has been active in organizational work for ORT in the past, explained that he himself had suggested his name as a member of the committee.

"I could not in conscience go on a number of other organizations which have sought my help in recent years," he said. "Others, my duties would not permit me to serve. I realize that there is no more useful and constructive agency than ORT, so I purposely intimated that I should like to become a member of it. In becoming more active in your organization I am following the example of my senior senator, Robert F. Wagner, and the example of the President of the United States, who has become the most important figure in the world by his contributions to the cause of peace and the dignity of man.

"If we find an opportunity to serve an association that is in harmony with the policies advocated by the President and Senator Wagner it is not a burden to do so. It adds to the sum total of the more general contribution we are able to make for the entire American nation. I am entirely privileged to participate in the affairs of ORT and to interpret it to my colleagues in the United States Congress."

Former Congressman William W. Cohen presided at the luncheon.

U.S. COURT HOLDS PENNSYLVANIA ALIENS REGISTRATION LAW UNCONSTITUTIONAL

SCRANTON, Pa. Dec. 6. (JTA) -- Pennsylvania's new law requiring registration of aliens has been declared unconstitutional by the United States District Court here. According to the new law all persons not citizens, with few exceptions, were to register with the State Department of Labor and Industry and they were to carry identification cards.

The District Court upheld the contention of Bernard Davidowitz and Vincenze Travaglini, both of Philadelphia, that the measure was class legislation and violated the constitutional guarantees of personal freedom.