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JEWISH TELEGRAPHIC AGENCY

1560 BROADWAY, N.Y.C.

VOL. VI. NO. 109.

Thursday, December 14, 1939.

CUBA DROPS BILL TO SEIZE OVER \$1,000,000 IN REFUGEE BONDS

HAVANA, Dec. 13. (JTA) -- The Cuban Government has decided not to press its bill for confiscation of more than \$1,000,000 in bonds posted for some 3,000 refugees who have overstayed six-month visas, it was authoritatively learned today.

The Government's decision has been communicated to George Garcia Montes and Dr. Antonio Sanches Bustamante, attorneys representing the refugees' interests. The confiscation measure, against which the State Department had brought strong pressure, was a rider in a general bill providing increased taxes.

Consideration of the entire bill, which had passed its first reading in the Senate, has been postponed indefinitely. Two explanations for the postponement have been advanced -- first, important changes in the measure were being made by the Cabinet and President Federico Laredo Bru; second, several Senators contended that the task of finding new sources of revenue was the responsibility of the new Government which is to be elected next February.

Representations Made By Hull

WASHINGTON, Dec. 13. (JTA) -- Secretary of State Cordell Hull today indicated that he had made representations to the Cuban Government, cautioning against passage of the bill which would confiscate more than \$1,000,000 in American funds advanced as bonds for the entrance of refugees into Cuba.

Questioned at his press conference on the matter, Secretary Hull said that developments were not such that he could make public the conversations at this time. It was learned from other sources, however, that strong pressure has been brought to bear by Washington and that the Cuban Government is now inclined to kill the bill.

NAZIS MACHINE-GUN 400 JEWS IN POLISH TOWN ON SNIPING CHARGE

PARIS, Dec. 13. (JTA) -- Reports reaching Paris tonight said that 400 Jews had been massacred in the Polish town of Lukov and several hundred in Kalushin.

On the pretext that someone had shot from a window at passing German soldiers, the advices said, all Jewish males in Lukov were ordered by the Nazi authorities to gather in the market place, where they were riddled with machine-gun bullets, 400 dying immediately. On a similar pretext, it was said, several hundred Jews were shot dead publicly in Kalushin.

Facts Behind Warsaw Ghetto Decree Bared by Escaped Leader

PARIS, Dec. 13. (JTA) -- Grim details of the birth of the Warsaw ghetto decree, which the newspaper Le Temps reports today will go into effect on January 1, were related to this correspondent by Dr. Chaim Szoszkas, a Jewish leader who arrived here last week after escaping from the former Polish capital.

Dr. Szoszkas, who is now en route to Italy to embark on the Conte di Savoia for New York, was one of the three leading Jews who appeared before the Nazi authorities in Warsaw to appeal against introduction of the ghetto.

The actual ruler of the estimated 1,500,000 Jews still in Nazi Poland, Dr. Szoszkas said, was neither Governor Hans Frank nor the military authorities, but the Gestapo, the dread German secret police.

Special Gestapo units known as the "Death Battalions," from the death's head worn on their uniforms, have been given a monopoly in the matter of rule over the Polish Jews. While the non-Jewish population remains under the supervision of the other Nazi authorities, the Jews are left to the mercy of these Gestapo units and no other Nazi authority has the right to intervene.

How these Gestapo units deal with the Jews in the occupied provinces is known neither to Dr. Szoszkas nor anyone else in Warsaw, since the former Polish capital is completely isolated from the rest of Nazi Poland. But in Warsaw itself, the Gestapo has set up one of its offices in the building of the Jewish Community and from there is directing its supervision of the Jews.

In the room next to that occupied by the Gestapo is the office of the Jewish Community organization, which, according to Dr. Szoszkas, was conducted during the bombardment by a committee of five, consisting of Senator Moshe Koerner, Engineer Cherniakoff, Deputy A. Hartglass, the famous industrialist - philanthropist Abraham Gepner, and Dr. Szoszkas. Gepner, although taken as a hostage by the Nazis, is nevertheless free and is extremely active together with Hartglass and the other two leaders in the interests of Warsaw Jewry.

Dr. Szoszkas, who is among the first Jewish leaders to have escaped from the Nazi occupation and who asserts he was struck with a whip and in other ways maltreated when he objected to establishment of a ghetto, gave this correspondent what may be considered the first official Jewish account of what happened to the Jews in Warsaw after the Nazis occupied the city.

"The five of us," Dr. Szoszkas declared, "were sitting in the office of the Warsaw Jewish Community when suddenly the door opened and a Gestapo officer accompanied by several soldiers appeared. Barking the order, 'Heraus verfluchte lausige Juden!' the officer forced us out of the room. Later Cherniakoff was called back and was asked how much money the Jewish community had in cash.

"There was 120,000 zlotys (\$24,000 at pre-war rates) in the treasury. The officer put this money into his own pocket and when asked for a receipt cynically replied: 'Applying paragraph zero of the international laws set up in Geneva, I issue no receipts.'

366,000 Jews in Warsaw, Census Shows

"The officer then ordered Chérniakoff immediately to form a new community council of 24 members. The functions of this council were to include the taking of a census, in the space of seven days, of all the Jews in Warsaw, including part Jews and converts. This census showed there were 366,000 Jews in the city.

"A second function of the council was to supply Jewish labor battalions for the hardest and most hazardous work, such as pulling coke out of burning ovens or substituting for horses in pulling heavily-loaded wagons. During the work, the Jews were continuously subjected to humiliation by the Gestapo supervisors.

"One Saturday afternoon, seven Gestapo officers ordered Cherniakoff, whom they recognized as head of the Jewish Community, to call a full session of the council within fifteen minutes and also to gather an additional 24 men as alternate members of the council.

"As there were no means of transportation, we grabbed the first Jewish passersby on the street and brought them in as the required alternates. One of them we knew was a criminal who had served four years in prison, but we could not help ourselves as the Gestapo order was to be carried out within fifteen minutes without questions or apologies.

"We were then all driven by the Gestapo agents into one large room and seated in two rows of 24 each, the Council members facing the 24 Jews picked at random. The Gestapo officials took places between the two rows. After we were all photographed, one of the Gestapo officers took out a document and announced that it was a decree providing for formation of a ghetto.

"The decree provided, first of all, that the Jews of this section should forcibly expel from the district set aside as the ghetto all the Christians residing there.

"When the reading of the decree was concluded, the Gestapo officer announced that should the order not be carried out as specified, all the 24 Jews picked up as alternate members of the Council would be executed. These 24 were taken away by the Gestapo at once as hostages.

"It soon became evident that it would not be possible to house all the 366,000 Jews of Warsaw in the streets assigned for the ghetto. Furthermore, it was clear that the Jews could not and would never carry out the provocative task of driving the Christian population from their homes in the Jewish section, since that would have rendered 24,000 Christians homeless.

"A delegation of the Council, composed of Cherniakoff, Hartglass and myself therefore appeared the next day before General Neumann, the German military commander of Warsaw, to prove to him that the ghetto edict could not be carried out as specified. General Neumann expressed great astonishment when informed that such an order had been given. He not only denied its issuance but informed the delegation that there was 'evidently some misunderstanding' and promised to investigate the matter while keeping the delegation waiting.

"Thirty minutes later, he called us in and directed us to the chief of the Gestapo for an explanation. Furious because of our complaint, the Gestapo chief

swore, insulted us and struck us with the whip in his hand. Five Gestapo officers stood behind us, their revolvers ready for use. Feeling that our position was grave, we explained that our complaint was a mistake. This appeased him.

"We asked for the release of the 24 hostages, but were told that they would be executed despite their complete innocence. For five ensuing days, panic prevailed among the Jews. Crowds of women besieged the community building pleading for rescue of the hostages. On the sixth day, the 24 condemned Jews were freed.

"Thus was the birth of the ghetto announced to the Jews in one of the oldest Jewish communities in the world."

LITHUANIA ADMITS 200 SUWALKI EXILES; ASKS OTHER NATIONS TO HELP

KAUNAS, Dec. 13. (JTA) -- According to a plea by a delegation of Jewish leader Interior Minister Skucas today permitted entry of 200 Suwalki Jews, mainly women and children, who had been deported from the Nazi-held Polish city into a no-man's-land near the Lithuanian border and had been suffering horribly from the freezing weather.

Meanwhile, the Lithuanian Government has requested the governments of Russia, Sweden, Norway, Denmark, Germany and the United States to receive a certain number of the refugees now in this country. Russia has complied, accepting 1,500 refugees whom they interned. Sweden and Norway have declined, explaining they were faced with the problem of accomodating a great number of Finnish refugees. The other states have not yet replied.

The Government, it was learned, will discuss with Germany the question of repatriating 300 Wilno Jews arrested or interned in the Reich.

In an audience granted to A.M. Kaiser, representative of the Polish Jewish Relief Fund of Britain, Premier Col. Antanas Merkys promised that the Government would fulfill its duty of giving asylum to refugees. He said all would be given residence and labor permits for "productive" professions. The Premier said that clothing sent to the refugees from England would be exempt from customs duties. He added that the Government would negotiate with neutral governments for transit visas for those refugees able to emigrate, but that material assistance from abroad was necessary. He expressed thanks to British Jewry for its interest in the problem.

BRODETSKY ASSURED OF DEPUTIES' PRESIDENCY; NO OTHER NOMINATIONS FILED

LONDON, Dec. 13. (JTA) -- Prof. Selig Brodetsky, member of the Jewish Agency Executive and a noted mathematician, will become the next president of the Board of Deputies of British Jews without a contest, it was learned today. The deadline for nominations expired last night with no other nominations for the post filed. Prof. Brodetsky, who is head of the Jewish Agency's political department in London, will succeed Neville Laski who resigned for "professional reasons" after holding the presidency since 1933.

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RED CROSS INSISTENT ON IMPARTIAL RELIEF, DAVIS STATES ON RE-APPOINTMENT AS CHAIRMAN

WASHINGTON, Dec. 13. (JTA) -- Distribution of relief must be on a basis of "absolute impartiality, with no discrimination because of race or religion," Norman H. Davis emphasized today as he was reappointed chairman of the American Red Cross. Mr. Davis coupled this with the necessity for strict neutrality in all Red Cross action abroad as two cardinal principles to which the Red Cross was "adhering steadfastly." He said that a special drive for war relief funds may be called by the Red Cross.

NAZI TERRORISM, REDS ASSAILED AT MASS RALLY OF ALL FAITHS HERE

NEW YORK, Dec. 13. (JTA) -- Thousands of persons gathered tonight in the Madison Square Garden, in a rally under the auspices of the American Jewish Congress, Jewish Labor Committee and several cooperating organizations, to hear Christian and Jewish leaders condemn Nazi terrorism in Poland and elsewhere and to adopt resolutions protesting against the Lublin Jewish "reservation" and other aspects of Reich persecution.

The audience cheered speeches and resolutions which branded Germany as an enemy of civilization, warned that Nazi oppression threatened not alone the Jews but Christians and all of mankind, and called for renewed efforts to safeguard democracy and equal rights in this country.

A memorial prayer for the victims of war and oppression was a feature of the meeting, chanted by the members of the Jewish Ministers-Cantors Association, under the direction of Joseph Rumschinsky.

"In the name of the American people," William Green, president of the American Federation of Labor, condemned "Adolph Hitler's savage persecution of the Jewish people." He called for "mobilization of the moral strength and power of the univers in opposition to the madmen of Europe." Condemning the Soviet-German alignment, Green warned that as soon as it suited Stalin's "purposes to terrorize the Jews, Soviet Russia will start playing the same anti-Semitic game as Nazi Germany and Fascist Italy."

Herbert Hoover, in a message from Palo Alto, Calif., declared in part: "In common with the overwhelming majority of our fellow citizens I have been outraged by the bestialities visited upon the people of the Jewish faith. And today hundreds of thousands of Catholics and Protestants, as well as Jews, are homeless and helpless before the forces of unbridled evil."

Samuel McCrea Cavert, general secretary of the Federal Council of Churches of Christ in America, declared that "at last we begin to see that Christians are in jeopardy when Jews are attacked." He reported on "the authority of an eminent European Christian" that within a few months "non-Aryan" Christians would probably be deported to the Lublin "reservation."

Others on the speakers' list were Alfred M. Landon, speaking by phone from Topeka, Kansas; Mayor LaGuardia, Dr. Charles H. MacFarland, Dr. Stephen S. Wise, presiding; Adolph Held, Abraham Cahan, Dr. Samuel Margoshes, Max Zaritsky, Chaim Greenberg, Jacob Patt, I. Baskin, Louis Segal and Max Wolff. Messages were received from many individuals and organization, including Senators W. Warren Barbour, Arthur Capper, Bennett Champ Clark, Theodore F. Green, Henry C. Lodge Jr., Robert A. Taft, Arthur H. Vandenberg and Burton K. Wheeler; Federal Securities Administrator Paul McNutt, Bishop William T. Manning, Governor Herbert H. Lehman, Thomas Mann