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RUMANIA REQUIRES STATE EXAM FOR RABBIS; REFUGEE AID CENTRALIZED

BUCHAREST, Jan. 8. (JTA) -- Minister of Religion Ion Nistor issued a decree today providing that passing of a State examination will be a prerequisite to official recognition of a rabbi. Such recognition is necessary for exemption from active military service.

The examination will be held annually, Prof. Nistor's decree said, and those entitled to take it must be 18 years old, be Rumanian citizens and must have completed four classes of secondary school or a yeshivá (rabbinical seminary) recognized by the State.

Meanwhile, the Union of Jewish Communities in the Old Kingdom convened a special congress to elect a successor to the late Chief Rabbi Jakob Niemirower. Forty-four Jewish communities were entitled to participate in the election, scheduled for this morning. It was said that the congress would be postponed to Feb. 24 if a quorum was not present.

An agreement has been reached among the refugee committees of the unions of Jewish communities in the Old Kingdom, Transylvania, Bukowina and Bessarabia for establishment of a central refugee committee, affiliated with the Union of Jewish Communities in the Old Kingdom, which will comprise 44 members, including an executive committee of 15. Regional committees will be established in the various districts.

REICH PRESS ASSERTS JEWS 'REMOVED' HORE-BELISHA TO AVOID 'LIMELIGHT'

NEW YORK, Jan. 8. (JTA) -- The German press charged today that Leslie Hore-Belisha was removed as British War Secretary because "world Jewry itself wished to remove its representative from the limelight, "according to a Berlin short-wave broadcast transcribed by Press Wireless for the Jewish Telegraphic Agency. Text of the broadcast follows:

"The German press today again discusses the reasons for the resignation of the British Secretary for War, Hore-Belisha, in a number of extensive articles.

"The newspapers express the opinion that the many reasons advanced by the British for Hore-Belisha's resignation are nothing but attempts to camouflage and

to gloss over the true state of affairs. The real reason is to be found, according to the German newspapers, in the fact the atmosphere in England in general and in the British army in particular was such that Hore-Belisha, the Jew, could no longer be maintained in such an exposed position.

"World Jewry itself wished to remove its representative from the limelight, because of the surprising development of the war. Had this war resulted in a rapid, easy victory for Great Britain, as the war-mongers had originally predicted, then Hore-Belisha would have been their man. Now, however, the responsibility for this war, the anxiety, the cares and the worries engendered by it weigh heavily on Britain. Hore-Belisha's lack of success becomes daily more evident, in spite of his vociferous self-praise in well-organized publicity.

"The longer this war lasts the more does Jewry wish to cause the world to forget that it and nothing else was primarily to blame for its outbreak. The war-mongers in Britain were therefore one with Jewry in their desire to have Hore-Belisha step into the background. The Jewish influence in England will remain unaffected, that is obvious. Jewry, however, prefers also in England to exert its influence behind the scenes, instead of giving anti-Semitic lessons to the British people so demonstratively.

"Several German papers also mention that according to Mr. Chamberlain's letter there were no political differences between the Prime Minister and Hore-Belisha. These papers confirm this statement by the Prime Minister and enlarge upon it by pointing out that of course Mr. Hore-Belisha and Mr. Chamberlain have the same aim--the victory of the plutocratic idea. They strive for the annihilation of Germany and they do not want Jewish influence to remain so evident as it has been up to the present. Therefore Hore-Belisha had to go. He has not left for good he has only disappeared from the public eye."

LONDON, Jan. 8. (JTA) -- A Nazi radio broadcaster, who has been nick-named "Lord Haw-Haw" in England because of his heavy English accent, declared in a broadcast on Saturday night that Hore-Belisha, whom he described as "a Jew and one of the brightest ornaments of his race," was to be held ultimately responsible for the atrocities allegedly perpetrated against the Arabs by British troops in Palestine since he was responsible for military operations in the Holy Land.

British Papers Press For Explanation

LONDON, Jan. 8. (JTA) -- British newspapers continued today to express indignation over the dismissal of Leslie Hore-Belisha as War Minister and to demand a full explanation.

(A London dispatch to the New York Times today said "some newspapers suggested the possibility that anti-Semitism was to blame (for Hore-Belisha's removal)--a suggestion for which there seemed to be little support.")

Lord Rothermere's Sunday Dispatch spreads fourteen questions across its first page, demanding that Prime Minister Neville Chamberlain answer them. Among the questions is the following:

"Is Hore-Belisha the victim of anti-Jewish feeling among a section of his highly-placed critics and is it true that the departure of Hore-Belisha is in any way connected with the whispering campaign against him which originated in social circles rather than in political quarters and spread so high and so extensively that the Prime Minister eventually could not but take notice of it?"

Reynolds News, describing the background of the situation, declares that soon after Hore-Belisha's reforms started "the then friends of Nazi Germany, many of whom are still in high office, opened a campaign against the new War Minister on the ground that being a Jew he could not be persona grata with the German General Staff, with which they desired ardently to be on good terms."

500 REFUGEES CAPTURED IN PALESTINE WATERS

LONDON, Jan. 8. (JTA) -- Reuters news agency reported today that more than 500 Jewish refugees from Germany and other countries were arrested in Palestine territorial waters and taken to Haifa, including 360 captured in a schooner and the remainder in a sailing vessel.

Rabbis Visit Jewish Recruits

JERUSALEM, Jan. 8. (JTA) -- A delegation of rabbis representing the Chief Rabbinate has visited Jewish recruits at Sarafend to ascertain their religious needs. Military honors were accorded the delegation, members of which addressed the recruits, led prayers, reviewed a parade and were entertained by the officers.

Nazi Broadcast Attacks Palestine Policy

LONDON, Jan. 8. (JTA) -- "Lord Haw Haw," the Nazi propaganda broadcaster in English, on Saturday night sharply attacked British policy in Palestine, describing the history of the Holy Land since the World War as a "sordid story of Jewish intrigue."

The broadcaster assailed former Colonial Secretary Leopold S. Amery as pro-Jewish and asserted that the Jews had coerced and cajoled the British into suppressing Arab demands for freedom and at the same time supported a Jewish campaign of murder and violence against the Arabs side by side with the Government's campaign of violence.

Malcolm MacDonald, another former Colonial Secretary, was denounced by Haw-Haw for "having deliberately increased the number of Jews in the Palestine police force."

SILVER REELECTED U.P.A. CHAIRMAN AT WASHINGTON PARLEY

WASHINGTON, Jan. 8. (JTA) -- The United Palestine Appeal conference, which closed last night with a banquet, reelected Rabbi Abba Hillel Silver as chairman and heard Senator William H. King warn that if the sweep of brute force was not halted, 1940 might bring the complete disappearance of all small nations from the face of the earth.

Other officers are: Dr. Stephen S. Wise, Louis Lipsky, Dr. Solomon Goldman, Dr. Israel Goldstein and Judge Morris Rothenberg, co-chairmen; Dr. Wise, head of

the executive committee; Mr. Lipsky, chairman of the administrative committee; Dr. Cyrus Adler of Philadelphia, Prof. Albert Einstein, Gov. Herbert H. Lehman and Judge Julian W. Mack of New York, Henry Monsky of Omaha, Nathan Straus and Miss Henrietta Szold, honorary chairmen; Arthur M. Lamport, New York, treasurer; Abraham L. Liebovitz and Louis Rimsky, associate treasurers. Vice-chairmen are Dr. Barnett R. Brickner of Cleveland; Leon Gellman of New York; Rabbi James G. Heller of Cincinnati; Rabbi Edward L. Israel of Baltimore; Judge Louis E. Levinthal of Philadelphia; Elihu D. Stone of Boston; Joe Weingarten of Houston, Texas; and David Wertheim of New York. Charles Ress of New York City was elected as honorary secretary.

Dr. Goldman did not arrive at the conference because the airplane in which he was traveling from Chicago was grounded in Pittsburgh by bad weather.

GOVERNOR AND JUDGE LEHMAN WARN OF DICTATORS' ATTACK ON DEMOCRACY

NEW YORK, Jan. 8. (JTA) -- Governor and Chief Court of Appeals Judge Lehman, both brothers guests of honor at a B'nai B'rith covenant breakfast yesterday marking presentation to the jurist of a bronze plaque for service to the community and the Jews, warned that totalitarian propaganda threatened American democracy and religion. The presentation was made by B'nai B'rith President Henry Monsky before 2,500 persons at the Hotel Waldorf-Astoria.

Gov. Herbert H. Lehman declared: "Let no lover of democracy forget that when we do an injustice to any one we sorely threaten democracy, because the essence of democracy is truth, justice and mercy." He urged support of true religion in whatever church one attends and declared that when one is truly religious, democracy and its forms of government are sustained.

Judge Irving Lehman asserted: "Those who obey God's commands can never bow to the will of a ruthless dictator who knows neither love of God nor love of neighbor. Dark though the world appears today, the light of God is still seen by those who seek it, be they Jews or Christians."

VOLUME ON JEWISH HISTORY SINCE VERSAILLES PAYS TRIBUTE TO JTA SERVICE

NEW YORK, Jan. 8. (JTA) -- Warm tribute to the Jewish Telegraphic Agency is paid by Dr. Abram Leon Sachar in the preface of his recently published "Sufferance is the Badge," which relates Jewish history from the Versailles Treaty through the conquest of Poland. The book, published by Alfred A. Knopf, is a sequel to Dr. Sachar's "A History of the Jews," and has been accorded an excellent reception by reviewers.

In acknowledging indebtedness to a variety of sources and individuals for aid in preparing his newest book, Dr. Sachar writes in the preface: "My debt to the bulletins of the Jewish Telegraphic Agency will be readily apparent to any well-informed reader. For no one can hope to co-ordinate the events of the present without constant reliance upon this superb service." Dr. Sachar, formerly a history professor at the University of Illinois, is national director of the B'nai B'rith Hillel Foundations in American Universities.

J.D.C. GETS £10,000 FROM SOUTH AFRICA

JOHANNESBURG, Jan. 8. (JTA) -- The South African Jewish Board of Deputies today remitted £10,000 to the Joint Distribution Committee as its first contribution for Polish Jewish relief.