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LITHUANIA EXPELS REFUGEES OVER SOVIET BORDER; HUNDREDS ROUNDED UP IN WILNO

COPENHAGEN, Feb. 9. (JTA) -- Acting under Nazi pressure, the Lithuanian Government yesterday began deportation of refugees to Soviet-occupied territory, it was reliably learned here today.

Hundreds of refugees among the thousands who had sought haven in Lithuania from war-ravaged Poland were rounded up at random in Wilno and an undetermined number were immediately transported to the Soviet frontier. British and French diplomatic efforts to forestall the deportations were of no avail, it was reported.

A communique issued by the official Lithuanian Telegraphic Agency on January 30 denied reports that the Government was driving refugees back into German-occupied Poland, adding that the authorities "by repeated demarches" were seeking "voluntary repatriation" of refugees.

GRAND JURY TO SIT THROUGH MARCH IN PROBE OF 'FRONTIST' INCITERS

WASHINGTON, Feb. 9. (JTA) -- The Brooklyn Grand Jury which indicted 17 Christian Front members on charges of sedition and theft of Government arms will be continued through March expressly to investigate the financial backers and possible inciters of the Christian Front movement, the Department of Justice said today.

Earlier, at a press conference, Attorney General Robert H. Jackson revealed that he had not received from the Dies committee the documents with which to conduct an investigation of the forged "Pelley letters" which were placed in the Congressional Record by Rep. Frank Hook. Jackson said that he had received Hook's request for an investigation, however, and indicated that an indictment of David Mayne, Pelley's Washington agent, would be asked of a grand jury here.

DRIVE ON JUDAISM IN RUSSIA SEEN INEFFECTIVE AFTER 22 YEARS

MOSCOW, Feb. 9. (JTA) -- After 22 years of effort, the Union of Militant Jewish Atheists virtually admitted today that it has not been able to wipe out practice of the Jewish religion in Soviet Russia.

The tacit admission was contained in a report that the Union last year, despite a campaign covering two decades, still found it necessary to organize 15,000 to 20,000 lectures throughout Russia to combat Judaism.

The ineffectiveness of the campaign is causing considerable perturbation in Jewish Communist circles, according to long articles appearing in the press. One paper, the Kiever Stern, complains that anti-religious propaganda is being carried on half-heartedly among the Jewish masses and that no such propaganda is carried on in the Yiddish tongue.

The same paper cites as an instance of the campaign's failure the fact that the former secretary of the atheists' union arranged a Jewish religious ceremony for the circumcision of his recently born son. "It can be easily imagined what value the anti-religious activities of such an atheist can have had when he himself persists in superstitious beliefs."

EXPULSION OF CZECH JEWS TO BE LAUNCHED BY END OF MONTH, PARIS HEARS

PARIS, Feb. 9. (JTA) -- The Gestapo intends before the end of February to launch the expulsion of Bohemia-Moravia's 70,000 Jews, delayed by the arrest of Gestapo leader Klein for misappropriation of confiscated Jewish property, the Czech National Committee in Paris reported today in a communique.

The Jews apparently will be transported to the Jewish "reservation" in the Lublin area of Poland, the communique said, adding that Czechs also will be rounded up and sent into the interior of the Reich for forced labor behind the Siegfried Line. A few days before Feb. 1--the original deadline for Jewish voluntary emigration--4,000 Prague Jews were expelled in what was interpreted as an example to the Jewish population of what would happen if they did not emigrate, the communique said.

At the same time, the statement said, the Gestapo reopened 258 unsolved murder cases of women and children in the Protectorate in an effort to prove that they were "ritual murders" committed by Jews. "Evidence" was put on display in a public exhibition entitled "The Jew as the Enemy of Humanity" and the Gestapo forced Czech workers and school children to visit the exhibit on pain of being sent to concentration camps.

The communique confirmed previous reports that the Gestapo had called together Jewish representatives in Prague and informed them that "not a single Jew should remain in the Protectorate" after Feb. 1; that 120 Jewish communities were liquidated and only 18 permitted to continue operating, and that all orders to the Jews were given orally and not reported in the press in order to prevent the news from leaking out of the country.

"Meanwhile, economic destruction of the Jews is being carried out by the Gestapo," the communique declared. "It is sufficient for any German to say that he wishes to acquire a Jewish enterprise and the owner is immediately arrested. The Gestapo finds a way to make the prisoner sign a declaration that he is ceding his enterprise to the German authorities, which in turn hand it over to the individual German who asked for it."

Describing confiscation of property from Jewish homes, the statement continued: "Gestapo agents enter Jewish houses and, without any shame, ask for jewelry and anything valuable, which they put in their pockets without issuing any receipts. They invade the same house two and three times until they are certain that nothing worthwhile stealing remains."

Referring to the Jewish situation in Slovakia, the communique confirmed reports that the Slovak Government had prepared a law forcing Jews to sell their property at prices set by Government appraisers, paid in ten-year obligations.

"This hypocritical legislation to deprive the Jews of their belongings is even worse than spontaneous pillaging," the communique said, adding that confiscation of all Jewish property in Slovakia could be expected at any moment.

The statement concluded by declaring that since Jan. 10 hundreds of Jews had been sent by the Slovak authorities into special camps organized on the German model to be used for forced labor.

PRIESTS FORCED TO REMOVE BODIES OF DEAD JEWS FROM POZNAN SYNAGOGUES

PARIS, Feb. 9. (JTA) -- The French radio reported today that Catholic priests in the Nazi-occupied Polish city of Poznan were forced to remove from synagogues the bodies of Jews locked up and starved to death during the expulsion of all Jews from the city. The synagogues apparently will be used by the Nazis for their own purposes, the report said.

EMERSON HEADS NEW REFUGEE BODY IN ENGLAND

LONDON, Feb. 9. (JTA) -- Sir Herbert Emerson, League Refugee Commissioner and director of the Intergovernmental Refugee Committee, was today named chairman of the new committee to maintain general oversight of the refugee work in England and to allocate the £27,000 monthly Government grant to voluntary refugee-aid organizations.

Other members of the committee include Sir George Martin, of Leeds; Prof. Edith Morley of Reading University; Prof. T.S. Simey of Liverpool University, and four representatives each of the Christian Council for Refugees and the Central Council for Jewish Refugees.

Meanwhile, Home Secretary Sir John Anderson rejected in Commons a suggestion that refugees be forbidden to reside within a few miles of Whitehall, declaring that refugees found genuine by the Aliens Tribunals were regarded as "innocuous." Sir John said that 25,100 men and 36,600 women had been exempted from internment and special restrictions. He refused to answer a question suggesting that the tribunals were unduly lenient.

A request by Vernon Bartlett, Independent M.P. and a writer on foreign affairs, that the British Government permit entry to Palestine of the 2,800 Syrian refugees who are passengers on a Turkish freighter somewhere at sea, was turned down by Colonial Secretary Malcolm MacDonald.

BLACKOUT WINDOW-SLASHERS AT WORK AGAIN IN LONDON

LONDON, Feb. 9. (JTA) -- Window-slashers are again active during blackouts here, carving the word "Jew" on the windows of 25 shops during last night's blackout. Many non-Jewish shops were among those affected.

From the city. The synagogues apparently will be used by the Nazis for their own purposes, the report said.

JEWS WIN RIGHT TO ATTEND BRITISH SCHOOLS IN ITALY

LONDON, Feb. 9. (JTA) -- The British Council disclosed today that most of the Jewish students forced by the Italian authorities to quit the Council's institutes in Italy have been reinstated after appeals to the Italian Government.

The Council has also arranged to have its own teachers go on to Jewish schools to give English courses. The Council emphasized that discrimination against Jews was not its policy, but that its institutes in Italy were obliged to conform to Italian educational laws. All students must obtain permits from the local authorities to attend the British schools, it was pointed out.

WAUCHOPE LAUDS YOUTH ALIYAH WORK ON 6th ANNIVERSARY

LONDON, Feb. 9. (JTA) -- Praise for the Youth Aliyah as "a great achievement in these difficult times," was voiced today by Sir Arthur Wauchope, former Palestine High Commissioner, in a letter of congratulations to the London headquarters of the movement on its sixth anniversary this week. The movement is dispatching 25 more young refugees to Palestine on Feb. 17 to join the 6,000 already in the Holy Land.

WAR AIDED ARAB-JEWISH AMITY, PALESTINE INDUSTRIES, PAPER HOLDS

LONDON, Feb. 9. (JTA) -- Reviewing Palestine's trade position in wartime, the periodical Economist asserts that the war has brought to Palestine special difficulties but on the other hand has ended "burning Arab-Jewish differences." The magazine points out that Arabs are again frequenting Jewish shops and Arab stands have again appeared in Jewish markets.

The war has also resulted in the growth of certain industries, the Economist states. Such products as textiles, metalwares and pharmaceuticals which were formerly imported are now being manufactured locally and even, in the case of pharmaceuticals, are being exported.

The Syrian-Lebanon trade treaty is described by the Economist as the most important legislative act of the past months, replacement of the absolutely open frontier by most-favored-nation treatment representing a considerable improvement from the Palestine standpoint.

Pointing out that the marketing of the citrus crop is now the most important problem, the Economist states that although expectations regarding the shipment of 50 per cent of it to obtain better prices are not yet fulfilled, there is still some hope for improvement.

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More Ships Assigned For Citrus Trade

JERUSALEM, Feb. 9. (JTA) -- The British Admiralty has agreed to provide Palestine citrus exporters with additional freight ships from the beginning of February to the middle of March and the Colonial Office is ready to assist the exporters to obtain neutral freighters on easy terms, it was announced today. An official communique said the action had been taken on request of High Commissioner Sir Harold A. MacMichael, who recently received a joint delegation of Arab and Jewish citrus growers which was seeking aid for the Palestine citrus industry.

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Farm Produce Rises

JERUSALEM, Feb. 9. (JTA) -- Figures just published by the Jewish Agency for Palestine show a considerable increase in agricultural production during the past year.

Production of vegetables rose from 14,500 tons in 1938 to 16,000 tons in 1939. Milk output increased from 32,500,000 liters to 34,500,000 liters. Egg production soared to 58,000,000 from 48,000,000 in 1938. Agricultural products brought good prices during the year, the Agency reported.

Masaryk Colony Founded in Haifa Bay Region

JERUSALEM, Feb. 9. (JTA) -- Zionist youths founded a new colony in the Haifa Bay region of Palestine which will be named Kfar Masaryk in honor of the late president of former Czechoslovakia, Dr. Thomas G. Masaryk. The colony was started by 35 members of the Shomer Hatzair, labor Zionist youth organization, on 2,000 dunams of Jewish National Fund land. The settlement will eventually house 150 settlers.

New Police Posts to Be Set Up

JERUSALEM, Feb. 9. (JTA) -- The Palestine Government today allocated £250,000 for the establishment of police posts in rural centers throughout the Holy Land.

COUGHLIN PAPER URGES JEWS TO LISTEN TO RADIO TALK SUNDAY

NEW YORK, Feb. 9. (JTA) -- The current issue of Social Justice, Charles E. Coughlin's organ, calls on "all true Americans--both Christian and Jew" to listen to the radio priest's broadcast this Sunday, which, it was said, would be of a "tremendously important nature." The paper includes articles entitled "The Jewish Money Lenders" and "Abraham Lincoln and Rothschilds."

How Coughlin Talks Influenced Young "Frontist" Related

NEW YORK, Feb. 9. (JTA) -- How the radio talks of Charles E. Coughlin "inflamed" Michael J. Bierne, one of the 17 indicted "Frontists," is related in the New York Post today by columnist Dorothy Dunbar Bromley.

Miss Bromley quotes as her source a relative of Bierne's, who said that before he began listening to the "radio priest" and reading his organ Social Justice the 32-year-old New York Telephone Company employe "had every reason to be content with his status." She reveals that Bierne has been employed by the telephone company for 16 years, had been untouched by the depression, was making \$60 a week when arrested and was "a happy family man."

Since listening to Coughlin, the relative told Miss Bromley, a change came over Bierne. "He talked incessantly of a Communist plot to take over the United States," the writer states. "He was sure of his facts because he had heard Father Coughlin say these things over the radio."