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NEW CURBS ON POLISH JEWS IMPOSED BY NAZIS; CRACOW HOMES SEIZED

PARIS, April 19. (JTA) -- A sweeping new ordinance governing the activities of Jews has been issued by the Nazi authorities in Cracow, capital of rump Poland, according to information reaching Polish official circles here today. The ordinance provides:

(1) All Jews must shave off their beards; (2) no Jew is permitted to enter an "Aryan" restaurant or cafe; (3) Jews are forbidden to hold "political conversations"; (4) every Jew, man and woman, when coming in contact with an "Aryan," must open the conversation by stating: "I am a Jew."

It was also reported that virtually all Jewish-owned houses in the central section of Cracow have been confiscated and their inhabitants ordered to evacuate on as little as six hours' notice. They found shelter in the poor Jewish section of the city.

Further details on the removal of Jews in Lodz to a ghetto have reached Paris. Those evicted are forbidden to take along any of their possessions, except a bundle of laundry, underwear, clothing and family photographs, with the stipulation that no bundle can be heavier than requires one person to carry.

Each Jew, when moving, must fill out a registration card and file it with the Gestapo office in charge of the transfer. He must turn over to the same officials the key to his house after having locked all doors and windows. In certain sections of Pomorska and Konstantinowska Streets the Jews are subjected to special medical isolation before being transferred to the ghetto.

The Jews are usually moved to the ghetto in groups of 100. They receive notice in advance and have to report to certain places specified by the Gestapo. There they are met by Gestapo officers who warn them that anyone attempting to leave the group during the transfer will be shot. They are then led to the ghetto, where they are turned over to representatives of the Jewish community with instructions to squeeze them into rooms previously assigned.

Many ghetto houses are overcrowded with six to ten families living under the worst sanitary conditions. Germans who leave the ghetto section are assigned to the evacuated Jewish houses in the center of the city. They also receive the furniture and other immovable property left behind by the Jews.

In addition to removal to the ghetto, many Jews are packed into cattle trains and sent to unknown destinations. According to reports from Jews who escaped from Czestochowa, a special freight train carrying several hundred Lodz Jews was seen passing through Czestochowa. The victims were not permitted to leave their places in the train during the three days the train stopped in Czestochowa and not until many fainted from thirst were local Jews permitted to bring them water and food.

Jews arriving from Lodz report that many who have not yet been transferred to the ghetto, where living conditions are unbearable, prefer to escape from the city. They wander during the night on side roads, hoping to reach Warsaw or some other city in the Government-General, where conditions are not as bad as in Lodz. The city of Lodz has been renamed Litzmannstadt in memory of a German general.

The "Black Book" issued by the exiled Polish Government reports that a group of about 50 Polish citizens, most of them Jews, were lined up in Sosnowiec on Sept. 4, 1939, and were executed, according to the report of a person who witnessed the executions from the window of a nearby house. The entire male population had previously been arrested in their homes by German troops. Later the group of 30 was separated from the rest. German officers assisted in the execution.

WAR TENSION HAS EASED PRESSURE ON JEWS IN HUNGARY, ECKHARDT HOLDS

NEW YORK, April 19. (JTA) -- The war, by centering public attention on immediate life-and-death problems of national existence, has to some extent eased the position of the Jews in Hungary and elsewhere in the Balkans, according to Dr. Tibor Eckhardt, head of the Independent Agrarian Party and formerly chief Hungarian delegate to the League of Nations, who is visiting the United States.

In an interview with the Jewish Telegraphic Agency today at the Waldorf-Astoria, Dr. Eckhardt, himself known several years ago as an anti-Semite and former president of the Jew-baiting Union of Awakening Magyars, reported that Nazi agitation has become "less conspicuous" in Hungary, probably, he thought, "because the Germans are busy elsewhere." Nevertheless he said the Jews were suffering severely as a result of Hungary's "Second Jewish Law," enacted a year ago. Dr. Eckhardt, who supported the law as a whole while opposing many of its provisions, said it had resulted in 40,000 to 50,000 Jews losing their livelihoods.

"The law was neither reasonable in its provisions nor useful in its effect," he said. "It was passed under the revolutionary pressure of the Nazis and under the influence of the Munich agreement which seemed to deliver that part of Europe completely to the mercy of Germany. The public's state of mind after Munich made the path of Nazi propaganda easy, and of the anti-Nazis difficult.

"The law had good consequences in only one respect, that it lessened the influence of Nazi propaganda. The manner of administration of such a law makes a big difference in its effect. I don't see any tendency to unreasonableness in the way the Hungarian Government is going about it. It is not being carried out by dictates and decrees, but by negotiations and agreement. You won't see any inhumane actions or heartrending scenes in its enforcement. If it had been the Nazis who enforced it, if they had attained power on this issue, there would have been a different story.

"It's a big sacrifice for the Jews, but if they are left in peace and not bothered I believe they will be able to adjust themselves, and in time the more obnoxious provisions will be modified or allowed to lapse -- and the country will be rid of the issue."

The Hungarian Jews are hardest hit in the field of commerce, Dr. Eckhardt said. However, he maintained, economic developments in Europe tended to eliminate the individual trader and middleman in favor of big State-controlled corporations, so that the Jews were losing their position in this field in any case.

The Hungarian peasants, who formerly sold most of their crops to Jewish traders and bought a large part of their necessities from them, did not welcome the change, Dr. Eckhardt added.

"The peasants preferred doing business with the Jews rather than a State corporation," he said, "because the small trader was more accomodating."

Among the peasantry, constituting 64 percent of the population of Hungary, there is no anti-Semitism, Dr. Eckhardt declared. It centers, he said, in the cities, particularly Budapest, and among professional men, the middle class and students. The younger generation was seriously infected, he said. He attributed the development primarily to the fact that professions and business were overcrowded owing to the reduction of Hungary's territory after the first World War, coupled with the fact that the Jews, "half of whom immigrated within the past fifty or sixty years," held a disproportionate position in business and professional life.

"The same thing would have happened if it had been Irishmen or any other group of aliens," Dr. Eckhardt maintained.

However, he said that the same Nazi forces which had promoted anti-Semitism now appear as a menace to Hungary's national existence. The Balkan peoples are all afraid that the war will spread to them, Dr. Eckhardt said, hinting that they feared repetitions of the "treachery coup" in Norway.

JEWISH POSITION IN SPAIN SEEN HOPELESS; SECRET POLICE MEASURES TAKEN

GENEVA, April 19. (JTA) -- Conditions of life for the relatively few Jews remaining in Spain are becoming increasingly unbearable, it was reported today from quarters well informed about the present situation in that country.

No special anti-Jewish legislation is expected, but police measures against the Jews have been taken secretly along lines indicated to the police by the Minister of Interior, who is an open advocate of the Nazi racial doctrine. The Government of Francisco Franco apparently is anxious to avoid the unfavorable impression abroad which would result from introduction of legal anti-Jewish discrimination, but the Jewish position in Spain is regarded as hopeless.

A vast range of anti-Semitic literature is published by Franco's party, including history books treating the Jewish problem in Nazi fashion. Chapters on the reign of Queen Isabella and King Ferdinand, during which the Jews were expelled from Spain, could have been written by Julius Streicher.

The Falange, Spanish Fascist party, favors persecution of Jews as the friends of the western democracies and allies of Britain and France. The Falange has just published a book attributing to a so-called "Council of Spanish Rabbis" a plot for destruction of the world and explaining that "it was Franco who prevented the carrying out of the Jewish plans."

The German Gestapo exercises enormous influence in Spain's political and economic life. It is reported that German refugees living in Spain have been imprisoned.

Some Spanish consulates abroad do not grant visas to Jews, while foreigners living in or visiting Spain are asked to declare their religion and, if they are Jewish, are urged to leave with the least possible delay.

Conditions in the Tangiers Spanish protectorate are described as even worse. In the protectorate Jews do not enjoy even elementary rights. They are at the mercy of the Arabs, who are given satisfaction in the Tetuan and Larache ghettos for any claims against Jews, even the most unjustified.

HENDERSON BOOK REFUTES NAZI CHARGE WAR WAS STARTED TO AVENGE JEWS

NEW YORK, April 19. (JTA) -- Publication today of Sir Neville Henderson's book, "Failure of a Mission: Berlin, 1937-1939," recounting the former British Ambassador's efforts to make peace with Germany, sheds new light on the period leading up to the war. It contains facts which serve as refutation of Nazi allegations that the Allies declared war on the Reich to avenge the Jews.

Sir Neville indicates that Britain would have been willing to accept friendship with Germany even with the anti-Semitic legislation in force. He states: "...nor would the world have failed to acclaim Hitler as a great German if he had known when and where to stop; even, for instance, after Munich and the Nuremberg decrees for the Jews."

The former Ambassador also relates that, with the full consent of Prime Minister Neville Chamberlain, he committed a "calculated indiscretion" a month after his arrival in Berlin by making a speech before the German-English Society, which, he says, "earned for me in some British journals the application of 'our Nazi British Ambassador at Berlin.'"

RELEASE OF IRON GUARDISTS STIRS FEARS OF ROMANIAN JEWS

PARIS, April 19. (JTA) -- Bucharest Jewish circles were reported today to be in a state of alarm as a result of the release of all Iron Guardists from three concentration camps and the announcement that Iron Guardists in exile abroad most of them in Germany, would be permitted to return.

The Guardists were freed without the previous requirement that they swear allegiance to King Carol and the Front of National Rebirth. In addition, the King received in audience Dr. Ilie Garneata, a leader of the anti-Semitic terrorist organization, for an hour.

ROMANIAN ARMY GRANTS PASSOVER FURLONGHS

BUCHAREST, April 19. (JTA) -- In compliance with a request by Chief Rabbi Alexander Safran, the Rumanian Army has granted Jewish soldiers Passover furloughs.

(Continued on reverse side)

LUXEMBURG JEWS, FEARING NAZI INVASION, REPORTED SPENDING NIGHTS IN BELGIUM

LONDON, April 19. (JTA) -- A Brussels dispatch to the News-Chronicle, commenting on activity by the German forces opposite Luxembourg, said today that Jews having businesses and homes in the Duchy were spending every night in Belgium in order not to be caught unawares in the event of a German invasion.

ZIONIST BODY REJECTS BEN GURION'S RESIGNATION

JERUSALEM, April 19. (JTA) -- The Palestine branch of the Zionist General Council refused today to accept a written resignation submitted by David Ben Gurion, chairman of the Jerusalem executive of the Jewish Agency for Palestine, reportedly because of his dissatisfaction with the line taken by the Agency in combatting the Palestine land act. All but two members of the committee voted against acceptance.

The committee yesterday heard a report on the political situation by Moshe Shertok, head of the Agency's political department. A debate on the Agency's line in combatting the land act followed and was continued today.

BRITISH CHURCH LEADERS VOICE PLEA FOR VICTIMS OF OPPRESSION

LONDON, April 19. (JTA) -- In a joint foreword to a pamphlet entitled "The Present Position of Refugees," the Archbishops of Westminster and Canterbury and the Moderator of the Church of Scotland and of the Evangelical Free Churches of England express the hope that "the peculiar needs of those who are victims of a system of oppression and tyranny which has given rise to the present conflict will not be forgotten."

STEPS TAKEN IN BRITAIN TO ADMIT SOME REFUGEE DOCTORS TO PRACTICE

LONDON, April 19. (JTA) -- Health Minister Walter Elliot told the House of Commons today that he was consulting with Home Secretary Sir John Anderson and the General Medical Council on the question of admitting to the British medical register some refugee doctors "of approved eminence and qualifications."

Elliot's statement was in reply to a question by Morris Jones, who drew attention to the drain of war services upon doctors and the fact that civilian doctors in some districts were overworked. Elliot said the question of providing refugee physicians with facilities to study for British qualification with a view to their practicing in Britain and the Dominions was also being discussed.

MACDONALD REJECTS N.Z.O. OFFER TO CHECK ON SPIES

LONDON, April 18. (JTA) -- An offer by the New Zionist Organization to help weed out German spies from illegal immigrants entering Palestine was described as "valueless" in the House of Commons today by Colonial Secretary Malcolm MacDonald. Replying to a question by Geoffrey Mander, Liberal, MacDonald said the British Government "naturally was unable to entertain an offer by an organization known to be engaged in promoting the traffic of illegals."