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ALASKA COLONIZATION ESSENTIAL FOR NATIONAL DEFENSE, ICKES TELLS SENATE GROUP

WASHINGTON, May 13. (JTA) -- Secretary of Interior Harold L. Ickes appealed to Congress today for swift passage of the King-Havener bill providing for the settlement and development of Alaska, largely through colonization by refugees, as an urgent national defense measure. Testifying before a special subcommittee of the Senate Committee on Territories and Insular Affairs, he said that the settlement of Alaska was necessary to protect the territory from aggression, as well as on humanitarian and economic grounds.

The secretary also pointed out that many organizations interested in refugee relief would rather invest their money in a place where the refugees could be self-sustaining than in temporary havens abroad.

Ickes said: "I know that the word 'humanitarian' is in bad odor these days, and I don't suggest that this committee take any action at all on humanitarian grounds. I do propose that if a proposition is good for business and good for the national defense and good for the American people we ought not to turn it down merely because it has some humanitarian by-products."

Saying that the type of immigrants is an important consideration, he added: "I think that I can say without fear of contradiction that the Alaskans are as tolerant and democratic a group of human beings as exist anywhere in the world. By and large they will judge newcomers, whether from the U.S. or from abroad, on their merits and not on grounds of race or religion. They will ask of a new Alaskan 'What is he good for?' not, 'Where does he come from?'"

Of national defense he said: "An unpopulated country, rich in natural resources and poorly defended, offers a standing temptation to overpopulated, resource hungry and militarized nations. There are few territories in the world as rich in resources and as capable of absorbing a new population as Alaska. The industrial development in populating of Alaska by American and immigrant stock, carefully selected to insure physical hardihood and loyalty to American institutions, would constitute an important contribution to the defense of American territory generally."

Pointing out that Alaska lies closer to Russia and Japan by thousands of miles than do any other parts of the U.S., Ickes said:

"Alaska has been called the Achilles' heel of our national defense. Both the War Department and the Navy Department have expressed their willingness to cooperate with and support other departments in formulating plans for developing the facilities in Alaska that contribute to the national defense."

"At the present time," Ickes said, "many American citizens are sending substantial sums abroad for the relief of victims of war and persecution. Rather than pour these funds for an indefinite period into countries where the recipients are not allowed to earn a living, the donors, I believe, would deem it a privilege to establish permanent sources of livelihood in a territory where some of these victims may utilize their abilities and become self supporting. It is expected that persons and organizations interested in refugee settlement will be in a position to invest considerable amounts of capital in the development of Alaska."

3,000 GERMANS, AUSTRIANS INTERRED IN BRITISH ROUND-UP OF 'ENEMY ALIENS'

LONDON, May 13. (JTA). -- Three thousand Germans and Austrians, all males aged 16 to 60 and many of them refugees from Nazi persecution, were in internment camps today following a lightning swoop by the authorities precipitated by fear of a parachutist invasion coupled with "Trojan horse" activities.

Yesterday's aliens raids, which were confined to the eastern half of England and Scotland, were described as purely precautionary and not based on evidence against any particular persons.

Simultaneously, every male alien aged 16 to 60, neutral and friendly alike, who lives in the raided areas, was told he must report daily to the police, must not use any motor vehicle other than a public conveyance and must not be out of doors between the hours of eight p.m. and six a.m.

The roundup was effected on orders of the Home Office and was designed to check possible "fifth column" activities. Even Germans and Austrians who had satisfied the Aliens Tribunals that they were anti-Nazi were included among the internees, the only exemptions being invalids and the infirm. Included were doctors, dentists, musicians, lawyers, tradesmen and others.

An official statement said the measures had been applied to areas where for military reasons special precautions were required for the time being. Their rigor, it added, would be mitigated as soon as the circumstances permitted.

French Re-Intern Germans

PARIS, May 13. (JTA). -- The French authorities have been quietly rounding up Germans and Austrians, including even refugees who had been released, and placing them in internment camps, it was reliably learned today. The action is being taken as a precaution against "fifth column" activities.

RECALL NAZIS DISGUISED SPIES IN HOLLAND AS JEWS

PARIS, May 13. (JTA). -- The disclosure that Nazi agents masquerading as refugees had helped the Nazi parachutists landing in the Netherlands recalled today that the Dutch authorities had several months ago discovered a group of such agents through the medium of botched circumcisions.

Last February the Paris newspaper L'Oeuvre reported that 16 Nazi spies who entered the Netherlands in the guise of Jewish refugees -- even taking the precaution of being circumcised -- were unmasked when it was determined through a rabbi that they were not circumcised according to the Jewish ritual.

According to the report, the Gestapo had selected 16 men who looked as Jewish as possible, had them attend synagogue services for several weeks to acquaint themselves with Jewish ceremonials, had them circumcised, furnished them with passports stamped with "J" (Jew) and sent them into Holland.

The Netherlands anti-espionage service, suspecting that they were spies, arrested the men. After examining them, the authorities called a rabbi and, without informing him about the details of the case, asked him to ascertain whether they had been circumcised in the Jewish manner. He reported that they were not.

CZECHOSLOVAK PAVILION AT WORLD'S FAIR DEFACED

NEW YORK, May 13. (JTA) -- The first night that the 1940 New York World's Fair was open to the public, unknown persons defaced the raised-letter inscription on the outside wall of the Czechoslovakian Pavilion, it was learned today.

George J. Janacek, Commissioner General of the pavilion, told the J.T.A. that at about 3 a.m. Sunday, after the fair had closed for the night, the cleaners found that the inscription, reading, "Begun by the Republic of Czechoslovakia, Maintained by Friends in America," had been damaged, with most of the letters being torn off the wall.

World's Fair police were notified and began an investigation, with no immediate results. Small signs were posted under the damaged inscription advising the public that it had been "defaced during the night by unknown persons." Janacek said it was obvious that the deed had been done by "persons unfriendly to Czechoslovakia." He said that repair of the damage would cost about \$35, but added that "it is not so much the monetary aspect that concerns us as the principle of the thing."

The Jewish Palestine Pavilion was opened on Saturday, with the exhibits brought up to date to show the advance of the Jewish homeland during the past year and a new exhibit on Palestine architecture added. Admission to all exhibits in the pavilion is free this year. An official opening ceremony will be held at a date not yet fixed.

Governor Lehman, speaking at ceremonies opening the Temple of Religion, declared: "We must protect ourselves from the enemies within by militant love of democracy and an alertness which will sanction no violation of our civil and religious liberties." He said: "We are deeply grateful that here we still have the blessings of religious and civil liberty; that we can live in a land where men still worship as they please."

U.S. MUST ROOT OUT INTOLERANCE, J.E. HOOVER TELLS B'NAI B'RITH

BOSTON, May 13. (JTA). -- Denunciation of anti-Semitic and subversive elements and praise of the B'nai B'rith's Americanism program and character-building agencies such as the Hillel Foundation and Aleph Zadik Aleph were voiced here last night by Director J. Edgar Hoover of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, speaking at a banquet featuring the 88th annual convention of B'nai B'rith District 1, which includes 143 lodges in Canada, New York and New England.

With more than 2,000 delegates and guests listening, Hoover blasted those who use the Constitution as a part of their "international confidence games" under which they may hide while seeking "to rob us of our American heritage."

Hoover said: "This great land of ours is large enough for all creeds and races but it is not large enough for intolerance, for the goose-stepping bundsmen or the destruction scheming Communist. It is only large enough for those whose proud boast and privilege is that America stands as a sanctuary where the voices of religious and racial bigotry are absent."

Governor L. Everett Saltonstall paid tribute to B'nai B'rith as a movement which "unites men and women in the noble cause of humanity and democracy." Attorney Harry J. Greenblatt, Boston, was elected president of the district to succeed Harry B. Epstein, New York.

UNITED SYNOGOGUE PLANS COMMITTEE TO DEFEND DEMOCRACY; MOSS REELECTED

ATLANTIC CITY, N.J., May 13. (JTA) -- The closing session of the United Synagogue of America's annual convention today reelected Louis J. Moss, Brooklyn, as president and decided to create a national committee for defense of democracy, in order "to mobilize all its resources" for defense and extension of the American way.

Reaffirming faith in the principles of democracy, the 1,000 delegates at the Ritz Carlton Hotel opposed such violations of the democratic way as are occurring at the present time, for example, attempts to abridge rights of aliens, anti-labor laws and fomenting of "bigotry and hatred against racial and religious groups."

The resolution called upon local, state and national governments to be "vigilant with respect to defense of the democratic way, provided that in defending the democratic way the Bill of Rights itself be not violated."

The convention memorialized the British Government "to keep the gates of Palestine open to Jewish immigration, especially in view of the unparalleled tragedy that has befallen our people." A special committee was named to "plan a Jewish Palestine week at an appropriate time during the year."

The convention of the Women's League of the United Synagogue elected Mrs. Samuel Spiegel as president for the 13th time, and reelected all other officers. The convention authorized an increase in membership of the executive council from 66 to 75 because of the organization's unprecedented growth in the past 10 years. During this year 27 new sisterhoods became affiliated.

1,200 IN PALESTINE VOLUNTEER FOR CZECH LEGION

JERUSALEM, May 13, (JTA). -- Nearly 1,200 Czech Jews living in Palestine have volunteered for service with the Czech Legion in France, it was disclosed here today. All are of service age and 250 of them are ready to join the Legion immediately.