

# NEWS

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### 4,000 STRANDED REFUGEES AWAIT ITALY'S ENTRY IN WAR WITH RESIGNATION

ROME, May. 22 (JTA)--Despite the likelihood of Italy's entry into the war, most of the approximately 4,000 Jewish refugees here await the tide of events with comparative calm. They are cognizant of the possibility of being transported en masse to German-occupied Poland, but after eight months or more of day-to-day hardships and expectation of the worst, those who have no hope of emigration are virtually resigned to whatever fate awaits them.

The few hundred who have prospects for emigration in the near future are panic-stricken at the possibility of seeing these hopes vanish if the war spreads to the Mediterranean.

Especially affected are 250 Polish Jewish refugees for whom issuance of Palestine certificates was recently authorized and who expected to embark shortly.

Another 100 German and Polish Jewish refugees already have their American visas but are prevented from sailing by lack of funds. The HIAS-ICA Emigration Association, which formerly lent money to individual refugees, is now unable to do so.

There are also 35 young German and Polish refugees recently selected by Solomon Trone, representative of the Dominican Republic Settlement Association of New York, to be among the first colonists in the Dominican settlement project. Provided no international complications intervene they will sail on the steamship Neptunia from Genoa on May 24. (Doubt was expressed here that the Neptunia would sail and hope was pinned on embarkation on the United States liner Manhattan on June 1.)

### Efforts Pressed to Obtain Transit Through Italy

NEW YORK, May 22. (JTA)--Despite Italy's negative attitude thus far, strenuous efforts are continuing to be made to obtain transit through Italy for some 325 Jews of the Greater Reich who have immigration visas for the Dominican Republic and are scheduled to sail from Genoa, it was learned today.

Leading in these efforts are the State Department, the Dominican Republic Settlement Association, headed by James N. Rosenberg of New York; Andres Pastoriza, Dominican Minister in Washington, and General Rafael L. Trujillo, ex-President of the Dominican Republic.

There are 45 refugees already at Genoa waiting to sail. In addition, there are approximately 175 in various other places, mainly in the Reich and Czechoslovakia who have immigration visas to join the Sosua colonization project and another 150 with visas to enter San Domingo as non-colonists.

The refugees were originally scheduled to sail on the Italian steamship Neptunia on May 24, but it now appears doubtful that the Neptunia will sail and efforts are concentrated on obtaining embarkation on the United States liner Manhattan on June 1--provided that Italy remains neutral until then.

Italy recently stopped permitting entry of refugees for emigration overseas on the ground that her possible involvement in the war would leave her with refugees on her hands. An appeal to the Italian Foreign Office by the Dominican Minister in Rome earlier this week met with an unfavorable reply, but hope has not yet been abandoned.

#### 500 REFUGEES SAILING FROM FRANCE FOR U.S.; 200 RELEASED FROM CAMPS

PARIS, May 22. (JTA)--The French authorities today released 200 German Jewish refugees from internment camps to sail for the United States. The refugees, who were interned in the general round-up of German nationals last week, were freed after intervention by the HIAS-ICA Emigration Association because they possessed American immigration visas.

The 200 refugees immediately proceeded to a port city to embark for the United States.

At the same time, more than 100 Jewish refugees arrived from Belgium, all holders of American visas and most of them already having steamship tickets. The HIAS-ICA was arranging the necessary formalities to make it possible for them to sail this week.

The American consulate in Paris is working feverishly to issue as many visas as possible to interned refugees who hold quota numbers.

The American Red Cross has opened an office in Paris to carry on relief work for refugees from Belgium regardless of nationality.

#### HUNGARIANS BARRED FROM AIDING REFUGEES; THOUSANDS HARRIED BY POLICE

BUDAPEST, May 22. (JTA)--The Hungarian authorities have issued an order providing for arrest and heavy fine for anyone giving individual charity or shelter to a person who entered Hungary illegally. The order also required illegal immigrants to report to the police within 24 hours.

Since the majority of the 5,000 Jewish refugees from the Reich and Nazi-occupied Poland were forced over the Hungarian frontier by the Gestapo, the new measures affect them, exposing them to life under constant harrying by the police, without food or shelter, since none dares to give them a meal or lodging for a night.

The Budapest Jewish Community intervened and obtained permission to take care of illegally-entered refugees, provided they are concentrated in special camps and maintained with Jewish funds.

Since no buildings are available to house the large number of refugees, one of the largest Budapest synagogues was converted into a concentration center for several hundred men, women and children, held behind locked doors. This is the fifth concentration center for Jewish refugees in Budapest.

Visiting the converted synagogue, this correspondent found police at every entrance, keeping a 24-hour watch to prevent any refugee from leaving the premises. Inside the synagogue were young and elderly men, unshaved, unwashed, lying on straw and separated from their wives and sisters. The women are kept separately in a garage on the synagogue premises.

The large synagogue courtyard resembles the courtyard of a prison. The refugees are permitted into the yard for a brief recess daily. Here, watched by the police, the families meet for a short time every day.

The refugees live on food delivered by the Jewish community and nervously await their future. Since few of them have emigration prospects, none can tell whether he will not be deported to Germany at any time. Panicky and feeling their plight to be hopeless, they do not know whence will come their salvation.

The burden of maintaining the 5,000 falls heavily on the Jewish community, which itself is becoming impoverished as result of the Government's anti-Jewish policy.

#### ROOSEVELT PROMISES TO GUARD ALIENS' RIGHTS IN SHIFT OF IMMIGRATION BUREAU

WASHINGTON, May 21 (JTA)--President Roosevelt today presented to Congress a reorganization plan to transfer the immigration and naturalization functions from the Department of Labor to the Department of Justice.

In presenting the plan, he said: "The startling sequence of international events...has necessitated a review of the measures required for the nation's safety. I had considered such an interdepartmental transfer for some time but did not include it in the previous reorganization plan since much can be said for the retention of these functions in the Department of Labor during normal times..."

"This plan provides for transferring the Immigration and Naturalization Service from the Department of Labor to the Department of Justice. While it is designed to afford more effective control over aliens this proposal does not reflect any intention to deprive them of their civil liberties or otherwise to impair their legal status. This reorganization will enable the Government to deal quickly with those aliens who conduct themselves in a manner that conflicts with the public interest..."

"I realize that the Congress may adjourn before the termination of the 60-day period provided under the reorganization act, but in that event, and in view of the urgency of this matter, I hope that it will take such action as will permit this plan to go into effect."

ENTRY 'IRREGULARITIES' DISCUSSED BY CHILEAN CONGRESS

SANTIAGO, Chile, May 22 (JTA)--The Chamber of Deputies meets in special evening session tonight to discuss the report of its investigation committee charging irregularities in immigration of refugees to Chile, involving former Foreign Minister Abraham Ortega.

Earlier, President Pedro Aguirre Gerda, in a message, to the Chamber and the Senate, stressed that his government had the greatest respect for all religions.

PALESTINE COUNCIL MAPS PLANS TO MEET EMERGENCY

JERUSALEM, May 22 (JTA)--The executive committee of the Jewish National Council has conferred with representatives of local councils on economic defense measures to meet the emergency, it was disclosed today. It was decided to invite representatives of the Jewish Farmers' Association and the Kofer Hayishub presidium to join in a special fund-raising drive.

Together with the Jewish Agency Executive, the National Council of officials will approach the authorities to discuss emergency problems, it was understood.

'APPEASEMENT' NO ANSWER TO JEWISH PROBLEM, KAPLAN TELLS PITTSBURGH PARLEY

PITTSBURGH, May 22. (JTA)--Present day anti-Semitism is not an end in itself but an instrument towards total destruction of democracy. Professor Mordecai M. Kaplan told 600 delegates tonight at the opening session of the National Conference of Jewish Social Welfare. Other speakers were Alexander M. Dushkin, Smauel C. Kohs and Ezekial J. Londow of Washington, D.C. Dr. John Slawson presided and Charles J. Rosenbloom welcomed the delegates. "Present day anti-Semitism is infinitely more terroristic than it ever was in the past because it has become part of a new technique in world revolution which is bent upon destroying democracy," Prof. Kaplan said. "Organizers of that revolution have discovered that by creating a Jewish bogey and representing democracy as dominated by that bogey, they can rally unthinking masses to their cause."

Dr. Kaplan pointed out that elimination by Jews of their Jewish religious and cultural heritage would not appease this group.

"Events have proved that appeasement is as tragic a mistake in dealing with anti-Semitism as in dealing with Nazism," he said. "The only self-respecting and dignified answer of the Jews to the challenge of anti-Semitism is creative survival. Their main energy should be devoted to the cultivation of that spiritual heritage which so enriched American life in the beginnings of our history as a separate nation and which contributed so much to formulating American democracy.

"By rendering Jewish life fruitful of new cultural, ethical and religious values we would augment its effectiveness as a force for democracy and civilization."

The conference is being held at the William Penn Hotel in conjunction with meetings of the National Association of Jewish Center Workers and the National Council for Jewish Education.

## MIZRACHI REELECTS GELLMAN; VOICES CONFIDENCE IN BRITISH GOVERNMENT

BALTIMORE, May 22. (JTA)--Winding up its three-day session at the Southern Hotel, the 23rd annual convention of the Mizrahi Organization of America yesterday reelected Leon Gellman, New York, president other officers elected include Dr. Jacob Hoffman, former president of the German Mizrahi; Dr. Pinchos Churgin, dean of Yeshiva College, New York, vice-presidents. Rabbi Max Kirshblum, New York, executive secretary; Max Nadler, treasurer.

Resolutions affirmed "support for the strengthening of orthodoxy in America," pledged "full assistance to rabbinical seminaries; both abroad and at home" and expressed "confidence in the present regime of Great Britain in the hope that its solemn obligation toward the Jewish national homeland in Palestine will be redeemed."

## CONGRESS WOMEN'S DIVISION PARLEY CLOSES; LEHMAN ASKS RELIGIOUS UNITY

NEW YORK, May 22. (JTA)--The three-day annual convention of the American Jewish Congress Women's Division at the Hotel Roosevelt closed today with the adoption of resolutions aimed at strengthening democracy against the "fifth column" threat.

Governor Herbert H. Lehman, addressing a convention dinner last night in honor of Mrs. Stephen S. Wise, president, urged unity of all religions to guard democracy. "Let every lover of democracy remember that when we deal unjustly with or persecute our fellowmen, we at the same time attack and destroy the fundamentals of democracy, since the very essence of democracy is equality and justice," he said.

The Rev. William C. Kernan, called for the outlawing of all pro-Nazi organizations in the United States, investigation of the activities of German consuls and other Nazi Government agents here and their deportation if they were found further Nazi designs against America. Other speakers were Dr. Wise, who presided, and Prof. Albert Einstein.

## SCHURMAN QUILTS SCHURZ FOUNDATION OVER USE OF "AMERICAN-GERMAN"

NEW YORK, May 22. (JTA)--Dr. Jacob Gould Schurman, 65-year-old former Ambassador to Germany, has resigned as honorary president of the Carl Schurz Memorial Foundation and as member of the sponsorship committee for its \$2,000,000 fund-raising campaign because he objected to the term "American-Germans" in printed appeal for funds. He said use of the term tried to transform Americans of German descent into "Germans substantively and Americans adjectively."

The foundation was established in 1930 by Ferdinand Thun, Felix M. and Paul M. Warburg, Julius Rosenwald, Victor Ridder, Gustav Oberlander and Henry Janssen.

## HUNIOR HADASSAH TO BUILD CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL IN PALESTINE

NEW YORK, May 22. (JTA)--Junior Hadassah, has cabled \$5,000 to Palestine toward the erection of a hospital in the children's village of Meier Shfeyah. in Samaria, it was announced today. The hospital, which will be named in honor of Miss Alice L. Seligsberg, of New York, who was instrumental in establishing hospitals and clinics in Palestine in 1918, will provide the medical and health needs of the 165 children living in Meier Shfeyah.