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JEWISH TELEGRAPHIC AGENCY

1560 BROADWAY N.Y.C.

VOL. VII. NO. 95.

Monday, July 29, 1940.

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At the time of the Russian entry into Bessarabia and North Bukowina an estimated 30,000 Bessarabian Jews were living in Rumania proper. It is impossible to state with any accuracy how many have since emigrated to Soviet-occupied territory, but it is safe to say that at least two-thirds, or about 20,000, still remain in Old Rumania.

Emigration of Bessarabians--Gentiles as well as Jews--is still going on and large numbers are seen in Bucharest every day. At the request of the Soviet Legation, Bessarabians anxious to return to their homeland are no longer required to report directly to the Prefecture of Police but may proceed directly to Galatz and ask for permission to enter Soviet territory there.

To what extent normal conditions have been restored in Soviet-held Bessarabia it is impossible to say from here. It is understood, however, that the old frontier is still being maintained and that the passage of individuals from the Soviet Union to Bessarabia and vice versa is forbidden, as it is from Poland.

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The writer asserted that "people in positions of authority and advantage are allowing the collection, internment and ill-treatment of all those disaffected subjects of our enemies who would be most willing and able to organize internal resistance in their own countries in our behalf."

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The author demanded a reversal of the internment policy, which he described as a policy of "senseless rejection and intimidation of the most valuable helpers." He asserted that "the future of our war, the honor of our people and the confidence of mankind at large can only be saved by public eradication, in the sight of all the world, of this plague spot at the heart of our affairs."

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A report of the executive committee of the Board disclosed that representatives of the Board had urged the Home Office to approve a general principle providing that persons of proven loyalty should not be interned. They also raised the question of treatment of internees and deportees and the exemption of natives of Galicia.

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