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HUNGARY'S JEWISH POPULATION FALLING THROUGH 'RACE SUICIDE' AND EMIGRATION

BUDAPEST, Sept. 4. (JTA) -- There were 531 fewer births than deaths in Budapest during the first half of 1940, according to the Municipal Statistics Bureau.

The falling birth rate is explained as due to the large Jewish population, which is practicing race suicide. During the first half of this year there were only 421 births against 1,868 deaths among Budapest's 190,000 Jews--a decline of 1,447 in the last six months.

Excluding Jews, there were 8,888 births against 7,904 deaths--an increase of 984 for the Gentile population. Roman Catholics were the most fecund group, with 6,755 births against 6,108 deaths, or an increase of 647. The population increase among Calvinists was 302, among Lutherans 3.

Statistics show that the Jewish population has been falling off at a constantly increasing rate since 1936, when there was a decline of 1,251 for the year. The Jewish decrease since then was 1,582 in 1937, 1,721 in 1938, 2,354 in 1939. The net decrease in 1940, is expected to exceed 3,000.

Adding emigration figures to the 8,335 natural decrease, Budapest's Jewish population has fallen off in the last four-and-a-half years by approximately 20,000, or ten per cent of the 200,000 Jewish population at the last census.

Rumanian Cession Adds 148,000 Jews

BUCHAREST, Sept. 4. (JTA) -- The Jan. 1 census showed that there were 148,649 Jews, or 5.7 per cent of the total population, in the territories ceded by Rumania to Hungary, according to figures published in the press today.

5,000 JEWS RESETTLED BY CRACOW COMMUNITY

GENEVA, Sept. 4. (JTA) -- Jewish distress in Nazi-occupied Poland is described in Gazeta Zydowska, only Jewish newspaper in the German-held area, copies of which reached here today.

(Continued on reverse side)

Committees have been organized in many towns to receive evacuees from Cracow. Kielce has received 3,000, Piotrkow 1,000 and large numbers are in the suburbs of Warsaw. Five thousand evacuees in great distress were assisted by the Cracow Jewish Community to depart and reestablish themselves elsewhere.

In the Lublin district, 10,000 Jews are working in 30 camps and flood control under severe conditions and with inadequate meals. Special Jewish schools are being opened soon.

A special column in the paper devoted to Palestine economic news deals only with the establishment of new colonies.

Living costs are very high, according to the paper. An old coat costs 400 zlotys (\$80, at the pre-war rate of exchange), shoes 530 zlotys, dinner 4 zlotys, soup and bread 1 zloty.

SITUATION OF REFUGEES IN MARSEILLE GROWING WORSE

MARSEILLE, France, Aug. 20. (JTA-By Airmail) -- The position of hundreds of Jewish refugees now in this city is becoming more serious daily.

Most of them came here--the only unoccupied harbor of France--buoyed by the hope that they would be able to settle their emigration plans, obtain their visas and depart. All of them are now stranded here. The interruption of postal traffic between the occupied and the non-occupied zone makes impossible the transfer of their visas, most of which were applied for in Paris and other areas now occupied, to the United States Consulate here. A still graver development is the refusal by French authorities to grant exit visas to all male refugees between 18 and 48 who are of German nationality or origin.

(Unofficial confirmation was obtained at Vichy recently of reports from the Swiss border that Nazi agents had been permitted to enter the unoccupied zone and were rounding up hundreds of anti-Nazi German nationals for shipment back to Reich jails.)

The same ruling applies to French, British Polish and other subjects. There seems to be an exception as regards Czechoslovak nationals since the Czech consul here has been handing out forms destined to secure visas from the French authorities for these refugees.

The number of Jews in this city ranges from 500 to 1,000. An accurate estimate is impossible since there is no official Jewish or non-Jewish office where these refugees are registered.

There is a special ruling to the effect that no person who is not a resident of the city may enter its confines without special permission from the authorities. Many of the refugees were not aware of this regulation and on arriving within the city were taken back by the police, dumped on the outskirts, and told they could not enter again unless they obtained an official permit.

Very few of the Jews have their papers completely in order. Even if visa files should arrive here they will not be in a much more favorable position since very few of them possess the money to pay the \$10 fee required, not to speak of the trip to Lisbon via Spain and the two transit visas required for this journey.

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Apart from the vital need for financial support from the outside, the main question seems to be a quick settlement of the transfer of the visa files from the occupied to unoccupied territory. This, it is believed here, can be done if necessary via Washington if such action through the offices of the Madrid and Lisbon embassies is not practicable.

BOLIVIAN OFFICIAL VOICES SYMPATHY FOR JEWS

LA PAZ, Bolivia, Sept. 4. (JTA) -- Great interest in Zionism and sympathy for the difficulties besetting Jews were expressed today by Alcides Arguedas, Bolivian Minister of Agriculture and Immigration, and Anthony Ashton, British Charge d'Affaires here.

The statements were made when the officials were visited successively by a delegation headed by Dr. A.S. Juris, representative of the World Jewish Congress, which informed them about developments in Palestine and the activities of the Congress.

The Bolivian Minister said his country, which could accept only agricultural immigrants, favored equal rights for world Jewry and supported Jewish claims in Palestine.

RECONSTRUCTION FOUNDATION COUNCIL TO HOLD FIRST U.S. MEETING

NEW YORK, Sept. 4. (JTA) -- The changes brought about by the international situation in the Jewish credit cooperative movement in Europe, as well as the possibilities of promoting such a movement among Jews in Latin American countries, will be discussed at a meeting of the Council of the American Joint Reconstruction Foundation to open in New York Sept. 20.

This is the first time the Council will hold its meeting on American soil. It will be presided over by Alexander A. Landesco, acting chairman of the Council, in place of the late Sir Osmond d'Avigdor Goldsmid.

The Foundation was founded in 1924 by the Joint Distribution Committee and the Jewish Colonization Association to promote the Jewish credit cooperative movement as an economic bulwark for the Jews of Eastern and Central Europe. Until the outbreak of the present war it maintained 686 credit kassas in Poland, Rumania, Bulgaria, Estonia, Finland, Greece, Latvia, Lithuania and Turkey. It continued its activities through 1939. In Poland immediately after the invasion, a large part of the Foundation's funds were turned over to the J.D.C. to be used for the urgent relief needs of the Jewish population.

WAR CURBS OBSERVANCE OF HIGH HOLIDAYS IN BRITAIN

LONDON, Aug. 23. (JTA--By Airmail) -- Old men, mothers of little children and children should "for obvious reasons" not attend public religious services during the forthcoming High Holidays but should say their prayers at home, is the advice given by Chief Rabbi J.H. Hertz in a circular sent to the ministers and honorary officers of Jewish congregations throughout the United Kingdom.

There will be no sounding of the shofar at Neilah, the circular points out, because prayers must conclude before blackout, while the fast does not end until 5.54 p.m. in London. On the other hand, soundings of the shofar during New Year service should on no account be curtailed, the circular states.

(Continued on reverse side)

The Chief Rabbi's circular further gives instructions for a special service on Sunday, Sept. 8, which has been proclaimed a day of national prayer in connection with the outbreak of the war. The sounding of the Shofar will be one of the features of this service as well.

Stressing the fact that the anniversary intercession service is to be held in accordance with a desire expressed by the King, the Chief Rabbi in his circular declares that "His Majesty's Jewish subjects will loyally obey the Royal summons."

"It will be a day of supplication for delivery from the terrors that threaten our beloved country, as well as a time of mourning for the thousands of our brothers in Poland who have fallen victims to the hate-lust and blood-lust of the merciless persecutor," the circular adds.

MOSCOW APPEALS FOR BIRO-BIDJAN SETTLERS

MOSCOW, Aug. 23. (JTA-Airmail) --- The Soviet authorities have issued an appeal for Jewish settlers for the Jewish autonomous republic of Biro-Bidjan, according to the Moscow press and wireless.

In a special broadcast on Biro-Bidjan in connection with the All-Union Agricultural Exposition, which is now in progress, the Moscow wireless spoke in glowing terms of the Jewish collective farmers in Biro-Bidjan.

"This Far-Eastern Region is occupied by the Jewish autonomous republic," the broadcaster said. "The history of this region is a wonderful tale about transformed men, emigrants from little towns and villages. They have cleared the forest and cultivate the land. Their agricultural achievements are outstanding. The region needs immigrants. Here, as in the whole of the Far East, work awaits the Soviet patriot."

PALESTINE FEELS SLIGHT EARTHQUAKE

JERUSALEM, Sept. 4. (JTA) -- A slight earthquake was felt throughout Palestine yesterday. There was no damage.

McWILLIAMS GUILTY OF DISORDERLY CONDUCT FOR ANTI-JEWISH SPEECH

NEW YORK, Sept. 4. (JTA) -- Joseph E. McWilliams, organizer of the Christian Mobilizers and independent Congressional candidate in Yorkville, was convicted by Magistrate Edgar Bromberger today of disorderly conduct for abusive language against the Jews at a street meeting the night of July 12. He was paroled in custody of his attorney pending sentence on Sept. 18 in order not to interfere with his political campaign. He appears in Harlem Magistrates Court on Sept. 13 to answer another disorderly conduct charge.