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HUNDREDS OF FAMILIES EVACUATE CENTRAL LONDON; SYNAGOGUES DAMAGED

LONDON, Sept.17. (JTA) -- Several hundred Jewish families in central London districts were forced to leave their homes last night owing to bomb explosions and were accommodated in vacant flats in nearby areas.

A survey made by the J.T.A. disclosed that about a dozen synagogues in the London area had suffered damage, mainly to roofs and windows. No direct hits were scored and the damage was not serious, either to the synagogues proper or principal communal buildings.

The Board of Deputies of British Jews and the Anglo-Jewish Association today sent messages to King George expressing thankfulness over his and Queen Elizabeth's escape in a recent bombing of Buckingham Palace.

310,000 JEWS REMAIN IN RUMANIA

BUCHAREST, Sept.17. (JTA)-- It was announced today that 181 Jewish advocates will be permitted to practice in Bucharest and six in Jassy. Physicians have not been restricted.

The number of Jews remaining in Rumania, after recent territorial cessions, is 310,000 of a population of 11,000,000, it was estimated.

The Palestine Office here has received 550 immigration certificates for the half year.

ZURICH, Sept.17. (JTA) -- The Rumanian Education Ministry has cancelled all contracts made by the ministry with Jewish firms, the German wireless reported today.

DEATH TOLL 119 IN TEL AVIV BOMBING

JERUSALEM, Sept.17. (JTA) -- One hundred and nineteen persons, 105 of them Jews, were killed in the heavy Italian air raid on Tel Aviv Sept. 9, it was officially announced here today. Fifty-five of the fatalities were children.

NAZIS SEIZE 90 ROTHSCHILD BUILDINGS IN FRANCE

MADRID, Sept.17. (JTA) -- More than 90 buildings, several castles and hunting estates owned by the Rothschild banking family have been confiscated in occupied France, dispatches reaching here from Paris disclosed today.

THORKELSON SEES DRAFT AIMED AT SETTING UP 'JEWISH KINGDOM'

WASHINGTON, Sept.17. (JTA) -- The most novel "explanation" of the conscription law comes from Rep. Jacob Thorkelson, Montana "lame duck."

In a three-page insert in the Congressional Record, Thorkelson suggests that the United States is conscripting an army "to battle a unified Europe and Islam in the Sudem, Egypt, Arabia and Palestine in an attempt to establish the contemplated Kingdom of David with Jerusalem as a capital."

Thorkelson's denunciation of the conscription law was one of the only two sections in today's issue of the Record. The other was devoted to funeral services for House Speaker William B. Bankhead, who was a firm supporter of the draft.

SCHURZ FOUNDATION HITS NAZISM; CITES AID TO REFUGEES

PHILADELPHIA, Sept.17. (JTA) -- Denouncing totalitarianism and expressing itself as "outraged" by what the Nazis are doing in Europe, the executive committee of the Carl Schurz Foundation issued a statement yesterday reaffirming the loyalty of American citizens of German blood to the United States.

The statement pointed out that the foundation last year spent 70 per cent of its annual outlay, or \$56,000, in placing in American universities and schools, refugee students and teachers, 95 per cent of them "young men and women of the Jewish faith."

Last May, Dr. Jacob Gould Schurman resigned as honorary president of the foundation because he objected to use of the term "American-Germans" in its appeal for funds.

RABBI ISRAEL NAMED PRESIDENT OF SYNAGOGUE COUNCIL

NEW YORK, Sept.17. (JTA) -- The Synagogue Council of America announced today the election of Rabbi Edward L. Israel, of Baltimore, as president. Rabbi Israel is the spiritual leader of the Har Sinai Congregation of Baltimore, one of the largest Jewish congregations in the country. He succeeds Dr. David de Sola Pool, rabbi of the Spanish-Portuguese Synagogue in New York, the oldest Jewish congregation in the United States.

The Council, composed of lay and rabbinical organizations of Reform, Conservative and Orthodox Jews, is organized for the purpose of speaking and acting unitedly to further the common interests of Judaism in America. Its constituent organizations are the Union of American Hebrew Congregations, the United Synagogue of America and the Union of Orthodox Jewish Congregations of America, the (Reform) Central Conference of American Rabbis, the (Conservative) Rabbinical Assembly and the (Orthodox) Rabbinical Council.

Rabbi Israel is active in the Zionist Organization of America, American Jewish Congress, B'nai B'rith Hillel Foundation Commission, World Jewish Congress, Hebrew Union College Board of Governors and the National Public Housing Conference. During the World War he served as chaplain under Jewish Welfare Board auspices with

the Central Conference of American Rabbis, he has been actively engaged in movements for economic and social betterment.

During the year the Council has expanded its work to include collection of statistics of Jewish congregations and of the number and the distribution of the Jews of America. This was accomplished by the Council's absorption of the Jewish Statistical Bureau. The new Statistical Bureau of the Synagogue Council is headed by Dr. H.S. Linfield. The Bureau provides the United States Census Bureau with statistics of Jewish congregations, their synagogue buildings, expenditures, educational work and ministers.

Other Council officers are Rabbi Max Arzt, first vice-president, Rabbi Herbert S. Goldstein, second vice-president, S. Herbert Golden, treasurer, Benjamin Koenigsberg, recording secretary, and Rabbi Gustave F. Falk, corresponding secretary, all of New York.

PALESTINE UPBUILDING PROGRAM SEEN SPURRED BY WAR

NEW YORK, Sept.17. (JTA) -- Every activity to preserve and expand the Jewish homeland in Palestine is receiving new impetus as a result of war events, it is emphasized in a review of progress issued by the United Palestine Appeal.

Although the war has come closer to Palestine, with Italian air raids on Haifa and Tel Aviv and with the opening this week of recruitment for a Jewish unit in the British regiment of Buffs stationed in the Middle East, the Jewish Agency and the Jewish National Fund have gone forward on an enlarged scale, it was stated.

Highlights of the review, issued to coincide with the launching of fall campaigns for the United Jewish Appeal throughout the country, are: (1) 18,000 Jews have entered Palestine in the past year and 6,000 others are now on their way from various ports; (2) relief needs, arising out of unemployment and wartime restrictions and preparations, have thrust new responsibilities on the Jewish Agency; (3) the Agency is enabling scores of new enterprises to get started, thus providing employment for many workers and strengthening the economic foundations of the country; (4) some 38,000 dunams of land were purchased by the J.N.F. in a ten-month period and tens of thousands of additional dunams are available for purchase.

HAROLD ALTSCHUL, FORMER ORT LEADER, DEAD AT 45

NEW YORK, Sept.17. (JTA) -- Harold Altschul, former executive vice-chairman of the American ORT Federation, died yesterday at Mt. Sinai Hospital after a week's illness. He was 45. Altschul resigned from his ORT post on March 25. He had also been active in the work of the Joint Distribution Committee.

LOEWI NAMED TO N.Y.U.

NEW YORK, Sept.17. (JTA) -- Dr. Otto Loewi, co-winner of the 1936 Nobel Prize in medicine and now an exile from Germany, has been appointed Research Professor of Pharmacology at New York University, according to an announcement by Chancellor Harry Woodburn Chase. He received the Nobel Prize for research in chemical transmission of nervous impulses.