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PALESTINE JEWS STRIKE AS GOVERNMENT MOVES TO DEPORT ILLEGALS

LONDON, Dec. 11. (JTA) -- A general stoppage of work and business was held by Jews throughout Palestine today, it was learned here, as the Government moved to implement its policy of deporting illegal immigrants to an island colony for duration of the war.

Fragmentary reports from Jerusalem indicated that the strike began in Haifa yesterday when some groups of the more than 2,000 refugees who arrived in Palestine in November and were interned at Athlit were moved to the port city in preparation for deportation.

The 2,000 are in addition to some 1,500 survivors of the S.S. Patria who were interned at Athlit when the ship was sunk by an explosion on Nov. 25 as it was preparing to sail for the colony. The British Government gave the Patria survivors special permission to remain in Palestine, but stressed that this did not set a precedent for other past or future illegal immigrants.

The Government's decision was announced in Commons on Dec. 4 by Colonial Undersecretary George H. Hall, who said the Patria survivors would be permitted to remain in Palestine as an "exceptional act of mercy" in view of their "harrassing experience," but that "the position remains unchanged regarding all other illegal immigrants" who would "be sent overseas as soon as necessary shipping arrangements can be made."

A similar general strike was held by Palestine Jews on Nov. 20 in protest against the preparations which the Palestine administration was then making to deport 1,771 refugees on the Patria.

Today, Hall informed Col. Josiah Wedgwood, Laborite M.P., that High Commissioner Sir Harold A. MacMichael had reported the Patria death toll as 55, leaving 198 unaccounted for, of whom the majority had probably escaped during rescue operations.

The ship will probably be raised from Haifa harbor and repaired, Hall stated. Preliminary salvage operations have been started. The survivors are maintained at the Palestine Government's expense since work for them is not available, the Colonial Undersecretary said.

(Continued on reverse side)

Patria Toll Reaches 60

JERUSALEM, Dec. 11. (JTA) -- The death toll in the explosion and sinking of the refugee ship Patria on Nov. 25 reached 60 today when two more bodies were recovered and two of the survivors died.

The bodies were those of Dr. Egon Bondi, 35, of Prague and a 30-year-old unidentified woman. The new deaths were Herman Langsam, 3-year-old child, and Henry Gerstel, 60, who succumbed to typhoid in the Athlit internment camp.

EXPULSED JEWS OF TRANSYLVANIAN TOWN PERMITTED TO RETURN

BUDAPEST, Dec. 11. (JTA) -- The Jewish community of Chikszereda in the Sekler region of Transylvania have been allowed to return to their homes, it was learned today after the newly-appointed Transylvanian Deputy Gabriel Pal had intervened in their favor.

The military authorities had ordered the Jews to evacuate the town and seek refuge in Russia on the ground that they were not considered Hungarian citizens.

One group of 42 Transylvanian Jews, it is understood, were sent to Korosmezo, Hungarian town on the Soviet frontier, and ordered to cross into Ukraine and never return.

Meanwhile, Transylvanian deputies prevailed on the authorities not to apply to Jewish physicians the six per cent law already applied to Jewish lawyers in Transylvania. They maintained the doctors were badly needed and it was unfair to discriminate against Jews, many of whom had aided the campaign for the return of Transylvania to Hungary.

The present policy is, therefore, not to discriminate against Jewish doctors able to present certificates of "good behavior" from the district leader of the Hungarian nationalist party. In practice, however, it is understood district political leaders have been refusing such certificates to Jews, regardless of whether they supported or opposed Hungarian revisionist claims during the Rumanian occupation.

TWO GHETTOS TO BE SET UP IN POLISH TOWN

GENEVA, Dec. 11. (JTA) -- Two ghettos will be created in the Polish town of Otwock one for sick Jews and the other for the remaining Jewish inhabitants--according to Gazeta Zydowska, only Jewish newspaper in Nazi-occupied Poland.

The Warsaw ghetto has been divided into four sections, according to the newspaper. For the time being it is impossible to leave the ghetto. Later certain persons with occupations outside the walls will be allowed to leave, it was stated.

A Jewish theater has been opened in Warsaw which will employ a few scores of persons.

Nazi Film on Polish Jews Opens in Vienna

BUDAPEST, Dec. 11. (JTA) -- The German-produced film, "The Eternal Jew," giving a Nazi version of Jewish life in Poland, has opened in Vienna, it was reported here today. The director, Herr Teubert, said in an interview with the Neues Wiener Tageblatt that the picture was "documentary proof that the Jews should be shut off from economic life because of their destructive ways, and also proof that a cultural void separates Aryans from members of the Jewish race."

Taubert said the German Propaganda Ministry had projected the film even before the invasion of Poland, "but our efforts were continually sabotaged by the Polish Government," and "our plans could be realized only after German troops had marched across Poland."

YOUTH IMMIGRATION TO PALESTINE FROM DENMARK RESUMED

LONDON, Dec. 11. (JTA) -- Youth Aliyah (Palestine immigration) from Denmark has been resumed with the departure of 45 children, part of a group of 270 who reached Denmark before the German occupation for agricultural training, Youth Aliyah headquarters here announced today.

Special permission was obtained from the British authorities for the entire group to proceed to Palestine despite the fact they were coming from enemy-occupied territory. The group is traveling via Sweden, Russia, Turkey and Syria and is expected to arrive in Palestine before Dec. 21, the 80th birthday of Miss Henrietta Szold, head of the Youth Aliyah. Transit visas have been secured for the remaining 225, who are expected to leave soon.

Another 667 children, including groups in Lithuania, Yugoslavia, Hungary, Sweden, Bulgaria, Rumania, Cyprus and Greece, will leave in the near future, the remainder of a total of 1,600 immigration certificates will be distributed as soon as transportation can be arranged.

The Youth Aliyah office is making efforts to transfer to Palestine refugee children in unoccupied France whose parents are already in the Holy Land.

JEWS OUSTED FROM BAR IN TUNIS

VICHY, Dec. 11. (JTA) -- The Tunis Bar Association Council has been dissolved following promulgation of the French anti-Jewish law in the North African territory and a special board, free of Jews, has been appointed by the Governor, it was disclosed here today.

U.P.A. CONFERENCE TO BE HELD IN CHICAGO

NEW YORK, Dec. 11. (JTA) -- More than 500 Jewish leaders will meet under the auspices of the United Palestine Appeal at Palmer House Hotel, Chicago, for a two-day conference beginning Dec. 14. Speakers will include Sir Norman Angell, James G. MacDonald, Dr. Kurt Blumenfeld, Dr. Solomon Goldman and Dr. Nahum Goldmann.

Among the problems to be considered are: (1) continued progress of immigration of Jewish refugees into Palestine from war zones and other parts of Europe; (2) assistance to the 500,000 Jews in Palestine in weathering the economic crisis caused by the war; (3) support of the Jews of Palestine as a mainstay of British defense in the Mediterranean area.

ZIONIST DISTRICTS TO JOIN IN SZOLD BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION

WASHINGTON, Dec. 11. (JTA) -- The eightieth birthday of Miss Henrietta Szold, founder of Hadassah and social worker, will be observed by Zionist districts throughout the country on Dec. 21, ZOA President Edmund I. Kaufmann announced today.