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200 REFUGEES DROWN AS SHIP SINKS IN STORM OFF TURKEY

LONDON, Dec. 15. (JTA) -- Two hundred Jewish refugees en route to Palestine were drowned when the motorship on which they were traveling capsized in a storm in the Sea of Marmara, it was reported here today.

According to a Reuters dispatch, the refugees, who had sailed from a Bulgarian port, included 66 children. It was believed that about 160 of the passengers were rescued and taken to hospitals.

Istanbul reports said the ship broke up near the shore off Silivri, Turkey. One Istanbul newspaper said the ship's captain swam ashore and called Government rescue crews to the scene. Two lifeboats were said to have been dashed to pieces on the rocks.

NAZIS IN WARSAW PLAN TO DRAFT JEWISH RESOURCES, MANPOWER

GENEVA, Dec. 15. (JTA) -- Utilization of the entire Jewish manpower and economic resources has been decided upon by a conference of heads of the Warsaw subdistricts, according to Gazeta Zydowska, only Jewish newspaper in Nazi-occupied Poland.

During the conference, the chief of the Resettlement Department announced that the establishment of ghettos for the entire Warsaw district had been completed. Jews have been entrusted with police and sanitary services in the ghettos, it was stated.

A Jewish militia, 1,000 strong, is being organized by the Nazi administration of Warsaw to act as a police force within the Warsaw ghetto, it is reported. Only high school graduates may join it. Their records must show they have never been sentenced to any punishment and that they have had military training.

Reliable information reaching Geneva from Nazi-occupied Poland also revealed:

(1) The Nazi administration in Warsaw issued an order prohibiting Jewish group prayers.

(2) The Jewish community of Warsaw was permitted by the Nazi administration to raise a loan of 100,000 zlotys necessary to cover immediate needs in connection with urgent relief for ghetto residents. The loan is to be taken from the "emigration fund" created through confiscation of Jewish property and is to be repaid at the end of March, 1941.

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(5) An average of 400 Jews weekly are reaching Warsaw from provincial towns, where life for Jews has become unbearable. This constant influx is aggravating the situation in the ghetto, where there are not sufficient dwellings to accommodate even the Jews compelled to move from other sections of Warsaw into the ghetto.

The information from Warsaw revealed that during October there were 67 cases of typhus, 122 of diphtheria, 46 of scarlet fever, 36 of dysentery and 161 of persons bitten by mad dogs. These figures include both Jews and non-Jews. The 132 Jewish health society, has been permitted by the Nazi authorities to take over medical supervision in the Jewish labor camps in the Warsaw district, which are located in Krobow, Czestoniew, Redemiec, Jasieniec, Zalesie, Kampinos, Szymanow and Terechin.

BOTH PRO-REFUGEE AND ANTI-IMMIGRATION BILLS SEEN DOOMED IN PRESENT CONGRESS

WASHINGTON, Dec. 13. (JTA) -- Faced with a world-wide refugee problem unprecedented in history, interested members of the 76th Congress have introduced much legislation to expedite U.S. refugee aid, but it is expected that the sum total of action obtained will be insignificant. Balancing this factor, however, is the fact that legislation which might be characterized as anti-refugee likewise has failed to make any headway.

Prospects for a drive to amend U.S. immigration laws to permit greater U.S. participation in the handling of this problem hinges greatly upon the success the State and other departments will have during the next few months in providing aid with existing authorization, legislators familiar with the refugee cause declared.

Greater stress has been laid on the necessity for speeding up the clearance of emergency visitors visas to anti-Fascist refugees and the establishment of additional colonization projects in both North and South America. "If the Interior Department could succeed in its effort to establish the Virgin Islands as a refugee haven it would help matters greatly," Senator Wagner of New York declared.

Privately, many of the Congressmen supporting U.S. refugee aid expressed the hope that no legislation would be necessary in the immediate future, voicing the fear that a Congressional fight on the issue would do the refugee cause "more harm than good." It was admitted, however, that eventual legislation granting permanent entry to refugees under emergency visas would be necessary.

No law is expected to be passed in this Congress either to expedite U.S. aid to refugees or further to increase barriers against them. Some measures in the former category have made some progress this session and high hopes are held for early action next year.

Legislation authorizing the establishment of a refugee colonization project in Alaska still remains unreported before the Senate Committee on Insular Affairs, although lengthy hearings were held on the measure months ago. Despite the proximity of adjournment, Interior Department sponsors of the measure are still working to obtain a committee report. While the bill will have to start from scratch next session, it is pointed out a favorable Senate committee report is calculated to aid it.

After a lengthy hearing before the House Immigration Committee, legislation sponsored by Senator Wagner and Rep. Dickstein authorizing immediate admission of 10,000 German refugee children made no further progress. Although this measure, as well as several other bills to admit children of other nations, would have little point at this

time in view of the German Government's refusal to guarantee their safety in transit, Senator Wagner said he intended to press for action next session in the hope and expectation that conditions may change.

The Celler bill, authorizing permanent status for refugees entering this country under emergency visas, was introduced too late in the session for any hope of action this year.

A more than usual number of bills to increase immigration restrictions, in the face of the growing refugee problem, were introduced in the 76th Congress.

As usual, Senator Robert R. Reynolds, of North Carolina, was most active in this field, introducing measures which would bar immigration for the next 10 years, ban immigrants who have dependents abroad, deport all non-citizens who are on relief and make the employment of American citizens mandatory wherever possible.

Senator Holmes of Oregon was even more far-reaching in legislation which would direct the State Department to negotiate treaties with other Western Hemisphere nations designed to prohibit all immigration into the Americas and nearby islands.

Duplicates of these bills and many other similar measures were introduced on the House side, although none reached House or Senate consideration. Their sponsors make it clear there will be no let-up on this front in the next Congress.

BLOOM CHARGES NAZIS LOOTING INTERNEES IN OCCUPIED COUNTRIES

WASHINGTON, Dec. 15. (ONA) -- Jews and members of other minority groups held in concentration camps and restricted areas in occupied Europe are being systematically pillaged by their Nazi captors of sums of money sent them by relatives and friends in the outside world, Chairman Sol Bloom of the House Foreign Affairs Committee charged today in an interview.

"One of the principal objectives in placing these people in areas where they would be under close supervision was to expedite the plunder of funds which the Nazis were certain they could secure," he declared.

A large part of the money comes from this country, but it is being received from other points throughout the world, he continued. "The amount sent is incalculable, but there is definite knowledge that most of it goes to provide the Nazi Government with foreign exchange," the Congressman said, describing the procedure as another form of "Hitler's blackmail of the civilized world."

The New Yorker also criticized attacks on the alleged slowness with which the refugee problem is being acted upon by the U.S. "The State Department and the President's Advisory Committee are doing a wonderful job within the limits of the care that must be exercised," he declared. "This Government is fully aware of the fact that Hitler was seized upon refugee movements to cloak the infiltration of subversive agents into the democratic countries of the world and we are taking every precaution to see that our aid for refugees does not result in damage to our own country."

WICHY GIVES GEN. BLOCH FIRST EXEMPTION FROM ANTI-JEWISH LAW

WICHY, Dec. 15. (JTA) -- The first exemption from the anti-Jewish law of Oct. 18 was granted today to General Darius Paul Bloch for "prominent services," scientific and military, under a decree signed by Chief of State Henri Philippe Pétain on the proposal of War Minister Charles Huntziger.

General Bloch was cited five times in war dispatches. He is considered one of the foremost experts on anti-tank defense and is the author of the book, "Chemical War" and other military and scientific works.

23 HUNGARIANS SENTENCED FOR HIRING JEWS

BUDAPEST, Dec. 15. (JTA) -- Twenty-three employers were fined or sentenced to jail terms today for violating the employment provisions of the anti-Jewish law. Gyula Csikszentmirei, a Hungarian lawyer, was sentenced to 60 days' imprisonment and fined 500 pengos as a repeated offender.

The law limits the proportion of Jewish intellectual workers to six per cent of the total number of employees of a concern and prohibits employment of a Jew in an establishment in which there are fewer than 17 employees. Csikszentmirei was unable to find a satisfactory Hungarian clerk and hired a Jew in defiance of the law.

ZIONISTS DISTURBED OVER REPORTS OF PALESTINE DEPORTATIONS

NEW YORK, Dec. 15. (JTA) -- Following J.T.A. reports that the Palestine Government had taken action to put into effect its policy of deporting illegal immigrants to a British colony, the Emergency Committee for Palestine Affairs held a special meeting today and asserted that such action would "evoke the indignation of Jews throughout the world."

The committee said it was seeking to obtain further information from Palestine as to what had occurred.

Patris Probe Opens

JERUSALEM, Dec. 15. (JTA) -- The Palestine Government today opened an investigation into the cause of the mysterious explosion which sank the refugee ship Patris in Haifa harbor on Nov. 25 with an ascertained death toll of 62 among the 1,771 passengers, in addition to a British policeman. A Government commission held its first session in Haifa and heard testimony from District Commissioner J.H. Foxback, Captain Holliday, master of the Patris, and others.

It was disclosed today for the first time that one of the fatalities was a British policeman, Percy Walker, 27 years old, who lost his life during the rescue operations.

LORD SAMUEL HELD POSSIBLE CHOICE AS AMBASSADOR TO U.S.

LONDON, Dec. 15. (JTA) -- Lord Samuel, First High Commissioner of Palestine and a leader of the Liberal Party, is being mentioned as a possible successor to Lord Lothian as Ambassador to the United States, the Evening Standard said today. The newspaper said Lord Samuel would be welcomed by many Americans.