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SOVIET BARS 600 RUMANIAN JEWISH REFUGEES

BUDAPEST, Dec. 23. (JTA) -- Six hundred Rumanian Jews who had rented a barge to carry them down the Danube to Reni, Soviet-occupied Bessarabia, were refused admission by the Soviet authorities and forced to return to Galati, it was reported here today.

No explanation for the Soviet action was given. Hitherto the Soviet authorities had been allowing Jewish refugees to enter freely, even when the documents certifying Bessarabian birth which they carried had been forged.

Meanwhile, it was reported that Iron Guard terrorism against Jews was continuing. A number of cases were reported of Jews being thrown to their death from windows.

Rumanian-Palestine Exchange Arrangement

BUCHAREST, Dec. 23. (JTA) -- A special credit has been placed at the disposal of the Rumanian National Bank for the transfer to Palestine of Rumanian Jewish industrial undertakings, it was learned today.

The bank will pay the value of the undertakings in Palestine currency at the official rate of exchange directly to the Palestine bank accounts of Jewish owners. A special commissfon has been appointed to estimate the value of the enterprises.

BULGARIAN ANTI-JEWISH LAW SEEN HARsher THAN ORIGINAL BILL

BUDAPEST, Dec. 23. (JTA) -- The anti-Jewish law passed by the Bulgarian Parliament on Friday is considerably stronger than the original bill, according to a dispatch to the semi-official Hungarian newspaper Pest today.

Whereas the original bill defined as a Jew anyone with a Jewish father, the law as passed defines as a Jew anyone with a Jewish parent. The law also will practically exclude Jews from economic and cultural life of Bulgaria, while the original project only proposed limitation on their participation.

That official Bulgarian opinion is split wide open on the Jewish question was indicated by the fact Deputy Denikostov, during the debate, moved to deprive even war veterans of their citizenship, while ex-Premier Musanov on the same day moved that the whole measure be killed as unconstitutional.

(Continued on reverse side)

HUNGARY CURBS SEVERANCE PAY FOR OUSTED JEWS

BUDAPEST, Dec. 23. (JTA) -- A new decree will be published tomorrow requiring Jews who lost their jobs as a result of the anti-Jewish legislation to give up "part" of their severance pay wherever such payment injures the financial standing of their employers, the newspaper Nyolc Orai Ujsag reported today.

GAINS IN LIBYA BRING VICTORY NEARER, WAVELL TELLS JEWISH AGENCY

JERUSALEM, Dec. 23. (JTA) -- Hope that British successes in Libya would bring victory nearer was expressed today by Major-General Archibald P. Wavell, commander of Middle East British forces, in a cable replying to a message of greeting from Moshe Shertok, head of the Jewish Agency's political department.

The first two trainloads of Italian prisoners taken in Libya have arrived here for internment. They appeared to be worn out and expressed themselves as overjoyed that the war was over for them.

HEBREW UNIVERSITY ESTABLISHES SZOLD SCHOLARSHIPS

JERUSALEM, Dec. 23. (JTA) -- The Hebrew University today gave Miss Henrietta Szold an 80th birthday gift in the form of a scroll announcing the university's decision to grant free tuition to three students which she would chose. Rector Leon Roth and Dr. Werner Senator made the presentation.

Miss Szold was cheered by 150 delegates attending a conference of the Association of German Settlers in Palestine when she entered unexpectedly in the middle of a speech. The social worker asked the delegates not to exaggerate her importance and said she would not have achieved her results without the hearty and tremendous support of American Jewish women.

GERMAN SETTLERS IN PALESTINE FORM POLITICAL GROUP

JERUSALEM, Dec. 23. (JTA) -- A conference of the Association of German Settlers in Palestine, attended by 150 delegates from all parts of the country, decided yesterday to convert itself into a political organization and elected Felix Rosenbluth as president.

CBS TO EXTEND NETWORK TO LATIN AMERICA, WILL COUNTER AXIS PROPAGANDA

NEW YORK, Dec. 23. (JTA) -- In an effort to foster better relations with Latin American countries, the Columbia Broadcasting System will extend its network to 18 of the 20 Latin American republics on or about Sept. 1, 1941, it was announced today by CBS President William S. Paley, returning from a seven-week air tour of Latin America.

At a press conference this afternoon Paley said that the new project, whereby CBS would transmit programs to these countries for re-broadcast by long-wave and would accept programs from these countries, would give the United States the strongest voice of any foreign country in Latin America.

At present, he said, high-powered German short-wave stations are heard clearly in South America. In addition, he said, some stations were known to be "tied up with German interests." From time to time, Germany buys time on South American stations for rebroadcast of German programs.

Much of the output of Axis short-wave stations, Paley declared, "is straight propaganda selling the ideologies of certain countries and seeking to discredit the way of life of other nations."

The new network will not be used for political propaganda of the type emanating from many European transmitters, he said. "We were generally told that such propaganda as some European stations send in a steady stream toward South America is defeating its own ends by its very vehemence."

AMERICAN COMMITTEE OF OSE FORMED

NEW YORK, Dec. 23. (JTA) -- Establishment of an American Committee of OSE, the Jewish health protection society, as an emergency branch of the Central OSE Committee in Europe was announced today by Dr. A.J. Rongy, chairman of the American group. The war, the occupation of Paris, where OSE had its headquarters, and the forced emigration of many of its workers necessitated establishment of the American branch, it was said.

The committee will cooperate with the Joint Distribution Committee, which assists the OSE in its work of ameliorating Jewish health conditions in European countries.

Members of the committee include Prof. Albert Einstein, Prof. Milton Rosenau, Dr. Emanuel Libman, Dr. I.S. Wechsler, Dr. Nathan Ratnoff, Dr. A. Brown and Dr. L. Rosenthal. The executive committee includes Dr. Rongy, Dr. B. Fregel, co-chairman; Drs. J.J. Golub and D. Jedwabnik, vice-chairmen; Dr. Chaim Breyner, treasurer, and Dr. L. Wulman, secretary.

5,371 COMMUNITIES TOOK PART IN 1940 UNITED JEWISH APPEAL

NEW YORK, Dec. 23. (JTA) -- On the eve of the completion of the 1940 United Jewish Appeal, Chairman Abba Hillel Silver and Jonah B. Wise, announced today that a record number of 5,371 Jewish communities in the United States participated in the nationwide campaign this year in behalf of emergency relief and rehabilitation in European lands, immigration and settlement in Palestine and refugee integration in the United States.

The extent of community coverage of the 1940 U.J.A. represented an all-time high in the history of American Jewry. New sources of financial assistance were discovered in 1940 in many small and distant communities which had not previously given any organized support to the U.J.A. or its agencies.

NEWBOLD MORRIS URGES ASYLUM FOR REFUGEES IN U.S.

NEW YORK, Dec. 23. (JTA) -- Maintenance and extension of the American policy of asylum for political refugees was urged yesterday by Newbold Morris, president of the New York City Council, addressing the annual conference of the HIAS Council of Organizations at the Central Plaza.

INTERFAITH FELLOWSHIP ESTABLISHED AT U. OF ILLINOIS

WASHINGTON, Dec. 23. (JTA) -- What is believed to be the first university fellowship to be given in recognition of student leadership in the promotion of interfaith relations on an American college campus was established when the National Hillel Commission, governing body of the B'nai B'rith Hillel Foundations created the \$300 annual Edward Chauncey Baldwin Memorial Award at the University of Illinois, it was announced today by Henry Monsky, chairman of the commission and president of B'nai B'rith.

PICKETT GETS AWARD FOR HUMANITARIAN WORK

NEW YORK, Dec. 23. (JTA) -- The ultimate settlement following the present war must take into primary consideration the question of food, clothing and shelter for all peoples, Clarence E. Pickett, executive secretary of the American Friends Service Committee, declared last night as he accepted the award of Pi Lambda Phi, national collegiate fraternity, at its 46th annual banquet in the Hotel Biltmore. The presentation was made by Joseph C. Hyma, former Supreme Rex of the fraternity.

PARLEY ASKS INTENSIFIED BOYCOTT AS AID TO BRITAIN

NEW YORK, Dec. 23. (JTA) -- Several hundred delegates representing 450 labor, religious and fraternal organizations affiliated with the Women's Division of the Joint Boycott Council participated in the fifth annual conference of the Women's Division at the Hotel Astor yesterday and went on record as rejecting any plan for breaking the British blockade by sending food to Nazi-dominated countries. A resolution said that since "their salvation and independence can come only with a British victory," the breaking of the blockade would "lengthen the period of their servitude under the Nazi heel."

RETIRED NEW YORK JEWISH POLICE OFFER TO REPLACE DRAFTees

ATLANTIC CITY, N.J. Dec. 23. (JTA) -- The semi-annual meeting of the Retired Jewish Policemen of New York City has adopted a resolution offering its members' services without pay to fill in for drafted New York policemen. The organization, which represents 800 retired men, said the duties the men would perform would be left to the discretion of the Mayor and Police Commissioner. William R. Wittenberg, president of the organization, said most of the men were physically fit for return to active duty.

EQUADOR EASES IMMIGRATION CURBS FOR FARMERS, INDUSTRIALISTS

QUITO, Ecuador, Dec. 23. (JTA) -- A new immigration law which provides for a substantial reduction in the amount of landing deposit required from immigrants has been adopted by the National Assembly as a result of the improvement of Ecuador's economic position, which is attributed to the influx of Jewish and other immigrants from Europe.

The new law permits unrestricted immigration into Ecuador, provided that the immigrants settle on the land or devote themselves to the development of new industries. Instead of \$5,000 hitherto required from each immigrant, the arrivals will have to deposit only \$400 per family, plus \$100 for each adult member of the family, which will be repaid to the immigrants when they will prove that they are actually engaged in the work for which they were admitted into the country.

The severe economic crisis which Ecuador suffered last Spring, during which the value of the Equadorian currency dropped twenty per cent, has now passed, partly as result of the funds deposited by newly-arrived European immigrants. It is estimated by the local press that if applications for Equadorian visas registered with the Consulate in Geneva alone were approved, they would yield an additional \$400,000 in landing deposits to the treasury.

In addition to reducing the landing deposits, the new immigration law relaxes the regulations for bringing over immediate relatives from Europe. Such relatives will be admitted without any special restrictions if their relatives in Ecuador can prove that they are in a position to maintain them.