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HENRI BERGSON, FAMED PHILOSOPHER, DEAD IN FRANCE AT 81

VICHY, Jan. 5. (JTA) -- The death of Prof. Henri Bergson, world famous French Jewish philosopher, writer and lecturer, was announced here today. He was 81.

Early last month Bergson, whose influence on contemporary thought was profound, declined the French Government's offer of exemption from the regulations requiring the resignation of Jewish employes from State positions. He resigned from his position in the College de France.

Prof. Bergson had been in poor health for some time and had not for several years been actively lecturing at the College de France. In 1927 he was awarded the Nobel Prize for Literature. Considered one of the greatest thinkers of modern days he had been usually associated with Prof. Albert Einstein and Prof. Sigmund Freud as one of the outstanding examples of Jewish genius in all directions of thought.

Prof. Bergson was born in Paris on Oct. 18, 1859, the son of Michael Bergson, a Jewish immigrant from Poland, who settled in Paris and became a naturalized Frenchman. His mother, Kate Bergson, was an Englishwoman.

He was a brilliant student and carried off nearly every prize open to him. In 1900 he was elected to a professorship at the College de France, which is the highest French research institution. He served as a French Cabinet minister in 1918 and as president of the Committee on International Intellectual Cooperation of the League of Nations from 1921 to 1925. He was a member of the French Academy and had been awarded degrees by famous universities throughout the world. He twice visited the United States for lectures.

During the World War Bergson bent all his influence in the cause of the Allies. His great work, "Creative Evolution," published in 1907, has had an enormous influence on both science and philosophy.

NAZIS LEVY NEW 15 % 'SOCIAL ADJUSTMENT' TAX ON JEWS

STOCKHOLM, Jan. 5. (JTA) -- Beginning Jan. 1. Jews in Germany must pay an additional 15 per cent "social adjustment" tax on all incomes earned since Aug. 1, 1940, under an order of the Reich-Finance Ministry, it was reported here today. A similar tax is to be levied soon on all Poles and other "Schutzbefohlene" (residents) living in the Reich.

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More Apples For All But Jews

NEW YORK, Jan. 5. (JTA) -- A one-pound increase in the apple ration for all Germans except Jews was reported in a Berlin broadcast today by Joseph C. Harsch, correspondent of the Columbia Broadcasting System.

PATRIA DEATH TOLL RISES TO 144

JERUSALEM, Jan. 5. (JTA) -- The death toll in the S.S. Patria disaster stood at 144 today following the recovery of seven more bodies from the hull of the ship which sank in Haifa harbor last November 25 after a mysterious explosion. The Patria was preparing to leave for a British colony with 1,771 refugees who had been refused permission to land when the blast sent it to the bottom. Survivors of the disaster have since been permitted to remain in Palestine. Only one of the seven bodies just recovered was identified, as that of Simon Joseph Weinstein, 20, of Vienna.

JEWISH AGENCY PUSHES NEW BUILDING PROJECTS IN PALESTINE

JERUSALEM, Jan. 5. (JTA) -- The Jewish Agency's technical department has appropriated £87,500 from Keren Hayesod funds for new buildings in settlements, principally those on Jewish National Fund land. The projects include 242 dwellings with a total of 790 rooms, 17 communal buildings and 130 farm buildings.

The annual conference of Jewish chemists, held in Tel Aviv with 43 delegates from all parts of the country attending, appointed a committee to advise industry on raw materials and exploitation of metal resources for Palestine industries. Prof. M. Bobtelsky of the Hebrew University declared in a speech that it would not be long before essential chemicals could be manufactured in Palestine.

Bernard Joseph On Way Here

JERUSALEM, Jan. 5. (JTA) -- Dr. Bernard Joseph, legal adviser to the Jewish Agency for Palestine, has left for New York on an important Agency mission and is scheduled to arrive by Clipper on Jan. 14 or 21, it was announced today.

POLES, JEWS FORM UNITY GROUP IN LONDON; REFUGEE AID PLEDGED

LONDON, Jan. 5. (JTA) -- Exiled Poles and Jews moved to cement friendly relations today by forming a Committee of Unity designed to put into effect a declaration by the Polish Government-in-exile pledging equality for all citizens in a reconstructed post-war Poland.

Earlier, Polish Foreign Minister August Zaleski promised immediate action to aid Polish Jewish refugees in unoccupied France. He received a memorandum from Ignacy Schwartzbard, Jewish member of the Polish National Council, outlining several specific suggestions for assistance.

At the same time the immigration department of the Jewish Agency in Istanbul cabled Schwartzbard that Polish Jewish refugees in Turkey were now receiving the same support as other Polish refugees there.

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Following representations by Schwartzbard to Count Zaleski, Foreign Vice-Minister Popel cabled the Polish Consul in Tel Aviv instructing it to recognize the newly-formed society of Polish Jewish journalists in Palestine and to give it the same support accorded Polish journalists' groups elsewhere. The society was formed under the chairmanship of M. Indelmann with 13 other Polish Jewish writers as members.

JEWS' PROPERTY SEIZED IN RUMANIA FOR USE OF NAZI TROOPS

BUCHAREST, Jan. 5. (JTA) -- Delegations of Rumanian and German army officers have been going the rounds of houses, factories and institutions owned by Jews in Bucharest and other cities, requisitioning rooms and in some cases entire buildings for the use of German officers and men when they arrive. As soon as all Jewish property has been disposed of, presumably public buildings and Rumanian "Aryans'" homes will be requisitioned.

PROF. COHEN SEES SUFFERING FOR EUROPE'S JEWS EVEN AFTER HITLER DEFEAT

NEW YORK, Jan. 5. (JTA) -- The prediction that Jews in Europe will continue to suffer even after the defeat of Hitler was made by Prof. Morris R. Cohen, addressing the opening session of the three-day, fifteenth annual conference of the Yiddish Scientific Institute, which closed tonight at the Hotel Piccadilly.

Presided over by S. Niger, the conference listened to addresses on various problems in Jewish life delivered by some 15 experts on sociology, economics, history, literature and pedagogy. The speakers included Dr. M. Weinreich, sociologist and director of the Yiddish Scientific Institute; Dr. Jacob Shatzki, historian; Dr. Paul Romanoff, curator of the Museum of the Jewish Theological Seminary; Dr. H. Frank, economist; Dr. A. Meines, one of the editors of the Yiddish Encyclopedia, and Eliza Oherikower, head of the historical department at the Institute.

Prof. Cohen said that whatever the outcome of the war, Jews in Europe would seek to emigrate overseas. Relief work alone will not meet the needs of European Jewry after the war, he said. He expressed doubt as to whether the Jewish problem in the Soviet Union had actually been solved and whether the five million Jews on Soviet soil were actually safe, now that the Soviet Government was following a policy of giving in to Nazi Germany on many important issues.

The audience of more than 1,500 persons who heard Prof. Cohen's address also heard his views on the role which Yiddish as a language played in the past and its fate in the future. "Yiddish has been useful to the Jews for the last 800 years, but now Yiddish is a luxury while English is a necessity," Prof. Cohen said.

Dr. Weinreich discussed the transfer to New York of the institute's world headquarters following seizure of the Wilno quarters by the Soviet authorities. He thanked the Jewish Labor Committee for making it possible for many active members of the institute to come from Europe to the United States.

New light on some sculptures by Leonardo Da Vinci and Gioffrancesco Rustici, based upon the finding of Hebrew inscriptions and their content on the statues themselves, was presented by Dr. Romanoff.

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REFUGEES IN BRITISH PIONEER CORPS WIN HIGH PRAISE

NEW YORK, Jan. 5. (JTA) -- The British radio yesterday brought to its microphone Austrians and Germans who escaped from the Nazis and are now enlisted in the Pioneer Corps of the British Army. The program was recorded at Columbia Broadcasting System's short-wave listening station.

The British officer of the company paid the men high compliments for their work with the fighting forces in France and in England, declaring: "There are no finer workers in the Pioneer Corps of the British Army today than our alien companies. They are ranked among the happiest and the best disciplined men in the service."

"The reason for this is as interesting as it is true. All these men have come through the hell of concentration camps. They have undergone incredible tortures individually, they have suffered indignities too appalling to mention here."

"In the Pioneer Corps, these fellows have not only regained their freedom, but, what is of far greater importance to them, their self respect. The manner in which they carry out their army duties proves their gratitude to this country. That is why they are happy."

"I served with this company in France and I was more than very proud of it. Its reputation out there was second to none and in rejoicing it, as I have done recently, I am glad to know that its reputation overseas has been fully maintained since it returned to this country."

B'NAI B'RITH DEFENSE COMMITTEE CREATED TO AID GOVERNMENT PROGRAM

WASHINGTON, Jan. 5. (JTA) -- Appointment of a National B'nei B'rith Defense Committee to assist the national defense program by making available to the Government the manpower and machinery of the 900 B'nei B'rith units, in whatever way they may be of service, was announced today by President Henry Monsky.

WASHINGTON PARLEY TO LAUNCH \$12,000,000 PALESTINE DRIVE

NEW YORK, Jan. 5. (JTA) -- Leaders of Jewish communities throughout the country have been summoned to attend the National Conference for Palestine in Washington on Jan. 25 and 26 to launch officially the \$12,000,000 war emergency campaign of the United Palestine Appeal for refugee immigration and colonization and defense of Palestine. Chairman Abba Hillel Silver announced today.