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KING HOLDS UP BULGARIAN ANTI-JEWISH LAW; PLANS TO EASE EFFECTS

SOPIA, Jan. 20. (JTA) -- The Bulgarian anti-Semitic law which was passed on Dec. 28 against the opposition of a large section of Parliament has not yet been promulgated by King Boris.

Although on paper the law is more severe than its counterpart in Yugoslavia, it probably will not be so strictly enforced. In fact it is understood that the King is holding up promulgation until details can be worked out whereby the hardships caused by enforcement can be minimized.

Bulgaria has a long tradition of tolerance and inasmuch as Jews are such a small minority--the numerical proportion is only 0.85 per cent of the population--the law against them is not taken too seriously. Besides 40,000 Jews in Bulgaria, there are 20,000 Russians, 30,000 Armenians, 80,000 Rumanians, 100,000 gypsies, 650,000 Turks and 700,000 Macedonians. Altogether one-fourth of Bulgaria's 6,000,000 population is represented by minority groups.

Precisely for this reason enforcement of the numerus clausus against Jews is regarded by Bulgarians as unrealistic. Of 2,000 lawyers practicing in Sofia only 80 are Jews and these "menace" no one. Nevertheless, according to the law's letter, 65 must give up their practice, leaving 15 in Sofia, 24 in all Bulgaria, or 0.85 per cent of the country's 3,000 licensed attorneys.

Medicine is the only profession not touched by the Jewish law. Not only will all Jewish doctors be allowed to continue practicing, but they will not be allowed to emigrate from Bulgaria until the war danger is over and they are not needed by the army.

The law has provided a numerus nullus, however, for Jews in the case of professions like pharmacy, theater proprietors, enterprises like hotels, movies and cabarets. While the anti-Semitic Ratniki claimed that a third of Sofia's merchants were Jews, the actual percentage of Jewish storekeepers, according to objective observers, is not more than 12 per cent--which is not strange since half of the Jews in Bulgaria live in Sofia and they number eight per cent of the capital's population.

Nevertheless, the law provides that the number must be reduced to the actual proportion of Jews in the total population. The Jews and opponents of anti-Semitism, however, are confident that the King's enforcement decree will provide for exceptions or delays

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and thus furnish Bulgarian Jewry with some chance of weathering the storm, which the Government hinted was only a temporary measure designed to avoid international complications.

How many leaders feel about the measure was indicated by the open letter sent to Premier Bogdan Filoff by the former Bulgarian Minister to Belgrade Kasasoff who protested that passage of the law "was not only a blot on the history of Bulgaria but also a blot regretted by the Premier himself."

Meanwhile, the Orthodox Metropole Stevan of Sofia has informed the Government that he will oppose application of the law against all converted Jews, whenever they were baptized. About 100 were baptized after Sept. 1--the deadline established by law. In the light of such fearlessly expressed sentiments, and also the fact that no fewer than six members of the Government, including Filoff and Foreign Minister I. Popoff, are well-known Masons, Bulgarian Jewry is hopeful that the actual measures taken against them will be limited to the barest essentials necessary to satisfy the Nazis that Bulgaria is cooperating to enforce the "new order" in Europe.

2 NIGHT RAIDS ON PALESTINE FAIL

JERUSALEM, Jan. 20. (JTA) -- Enemy planes attempted last night for the second successive night to raid Palestine, but did not succeed in crossing the coast. Warnings were sounded in Gaza, Tel Aviv and Haifa.

The first night raid on Palestine in several months was staged by enemy planes over the southern part of the country Saturday. Their bombs fell in open fields, causing no casualties or damage.

(The Royal Air Force command in Cairo announced in a communique: "The enemy raided.. airdromes near Tel Aviv, but no damage or casualties have been reported.")

Meanwhile, General Blamey wrote to the Hebrew newspaper Haboker expressing thanks for a message of congratulation of the Bardia victory. "The results of the battles in the western desert," he said, "were achieved, in certain degree, because of excellent conditions in Palestine, enabling efficient drilling of troops." He lauded the "hospitality and cooperation of the Palestine population."

Earth Tremor Felt in Palestine

JERUSALEM, Jan. 20. (JTA) -- A strong tremor was felt throughout Palestine early this morning. There was no immediate report of any damage or casualties.

FRENCH COMMUNICATIONS MINISTRY FIRES 122 JEWS

VICHY, Jan. 20. (JTA) -- According to a list published in the Journal Officiel today, 122 employees of the Communications Ministry are dismissed under the anti-Jewish statute.

The law barring naturalized doctors from practicing in France was extended to Algeria in a decree published in the Journal Officiel. The decree contains the customary exceptions for front-fighters and persons of special scientific merit.

Two Jewish barristers, Nordmann and Veilouriel, were among a number arrested in Paris on charges of pro-British propaganda, it was reported today from Nazi-occupied France.

PALESTINE JEWS EAGER TO GIVE MORE WAR AID; JOSEPH ASSERTS

MONTREAL, Jan. 20. (JTA) -- Palestine Jews' only regret with the conduct of the war "is that they are not being asked for all they can supply in men and equipment," Dr. Bernard Joseph, legal adviser of the Jewish Agency, said in an interview following his arrival here to address the Canadian Zionist Organization convention.

The Jews of Palestine are doing everything in their power to assist Great Britain in the present struggle for democracy, Dr. Joseph said. "All they ask for are the orders to go ahead."

"I can tell you something today that could not be told six months ago," he continued. "When England feared that a heavy air invasion was imminent, Royal Air Force ground crews were transferred from Egypt to England with the intention to bring out new recruits to be trained. When a change in plans prevented this move, the Jews of Palestine were asked to help and they replied by supplying the complete personnel for the ground crews."

Dr. Joseph said the lack of export markets for citrus fruits was providing a major economic problem, but this would be somewhat alleviated next year when approximately 50 per cent of the orange crop would be utilized in the production of acetone, a valuable war chemical.

URUGUAY ADMITS 37 REFUGEES, BARS 15

MONTEVIDEO, Jan. 20. (JTA) -- The authorities yesterday permitted disembarkation of 37 Jewish refugees with valid Uruguayan visas who arrived here on the Japanese steamship Montevideo Maru after a six-month journey via the Far East, but barred another 15 lacking documents, who proceeded to Argentina together with 140 passengers on the ship possessing Argentine visas.

The 15, whose difficulties arose from the fact they received Haitian visas containing mistakes or omissions, were not allowed to land at Panama for transshipment to Haiti. The Brazilian authorities barred them from landing in Bahia for a 30-day stay to put their documents in order. The refugees, many of them over 60 years of age, were said to be living on the verge of starvation on the Japanese ship.

RABBI SPEAKS AT INAUGURATION CEREMONY

WASHINGTON, Jan. 20. (JTA) -- Speaking at interdenominational exercises which opened the inauguration ceremonies, Rabbi Norman Gerstenfeld of Washington Hebrew Congregation yesterday urged the cooperation of all religions to keep secure the spiritual consciousness necessary for America's "true defense" in a "blood-soaked world."

The exercises were held in the Court of Freedom, opposite the White House. Dr. Gerstenfeld warned that America must maintain her spiritual values expressed by all religions if she would be a factor in bringing about a permanent peace and not one "founded on the negotiated lies of tyrants."

AUSTRALIA TO ADMIT LIMITED NUMBER OF POLISH REFUGEES

LONDON, Jan. 20. (JTA) -- The Polish, British and Australian governments have reached agreement on admission of a limited number of Polish war refugees to Australia. The first transport, including Jewish and non-Jewish refugees now in Lisbon, Tangier and other places, will leave shortly.

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The exiled Polish Government today allocated £2,000 for relief of Polish Jewish war refugees in Palestine, following intervention by Ignacy Schwartzbart, member of the Polish National Council.

FUNDS PARLEY MUST AVERT HARMFUL EFFECTS OF UJA SPLIT, SHRODER SAYS

NEW YORK, Jan. 20. (JTA) -- The general assembly of the Council of Jewish Federations and Welfare Funds, to be held in Atlanta Feb. 1 to 3, faces the dual task of preventing any harmful developments which may result from abandonment of the United Jewish Appeal and "constructive planning" for the adjustment of community programs to meet current local, national and overseas Jewish needs, declared Board Chairman William J. Shroder in a message published in the council's organ, Notes and News.

"Inherent in this abandonment is the possibility of dissension within the communities, with the danger not merely of breaking down community harmony and cooperation, but also of producing less financial support for the needs of the American scene, as well as of Palestine and the rest of the world," he said. "The division of available funds raised in the local communities may be determined by them without too much local friction, if their quota committees act objectively and with a minimum of emotionalism, on the basis of past experiences and available facts. The important need of determining functions and programs, so as to avoid overlapping and to secure maximum results from available funds, is a matter involving patient efforts toward cooperation between the local communities and the national and overseas agencies. Neither of them is justified in taking an arbitrary position with reference to the other. Both must rather be actuated by the sincere desire to achieve these results without, on the one hand, destroying the autonomy of the functional agencies or, on the other, imposing upon the contributing public unnecessarily overlapping, duplicating or costly programs."

More than 500 delegates representing Jewish federations, welfare funds and community councils in 165 cities will meet at the Assembly. Most pressing of the issues they will discuss will be the need for establishing an equitable basis for the allocation of funds among the various national and overseas agencies following dissolution of the United Jewish Appeal.

\$4,542,000 BUDGET SET IN NRS DRIVE

CLEVELAND, Jan. 20. (JTA) -- Announcing a preliminary minimum needs budget of \$4,542,150, the board of directors of the National Refugee Service last night launched its first independent fund-raising campaign.

Four new members of the board were elected. They are David Dubinsky, president of the International Ladies Garment Workers Union; Monroe Goldwater, New York attorney; Jerome Udell, New York clothing manufacturer, and Alfred D. Lesker, Chicago advertising executive.

ILLINOIS GOVERNOR LAUDS JEWISH CHARITIES

CHICAGO, Jan. 20. (JTA) -- Governor Dwight Green, in the first public address after his inauguration, yesterday praised Jewish philanthropic work.

"The great State of Illinois has to learn from American Jewry to take care of helpless society, I as Governor am proud to learn," he told the 41st annual conference of the Chicago Jewish Charities. "The Jews have kept up the principles of charity to the highest degree... Jewish charity activities are a beacon light to humanity."