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HALF OF ITALIAN JEWS JOBLESS AS RESULT OF ANTI-SEMITIC MEASURES

ROME, Jan. 28. (JTA) -- It is estimated that nearly half of the Jews of Italy are unemployed as a result of the Government's anti-Semitic measures.

Meanwhile, Virginio Gayda, Premier Mussolini's journalistic spokesman, writing in *Giornale d'Italia*, blamed Jewish stockholders for an "unhealthy rise in many industrial shares" and added that "it would not be difficult for the authorities to single out the various Jewish groups in possession of negotiable shares or the so-called 'exempted Jews' who lend their names to Jews in order to cover the activities of the latter."

Recent restrictions on the economic activities of Italian Jews prohibit them from exporting fruit and vegetables and from selling school books. As in the case of most of the other measures taken during the past year to curb the influence of the Jews in Italian economy, these orders have apparently been carried into effect through administrative authority and not by official decree.

Practically the only important occupation in which any considerable number of Italian Jews continue to be employed is that of small shopkeepers, particularly in the clothing and dry goods trades, which remain comparatively unaffected. Larger stores have been compelled either to sell to "Aryan" interests or to "Aryanize" themselves by incorporating non-Jewish directors on their boards. It is estimated that at least 50 per cent of successful Jewish businesses have had to camouflage themselves in this manner.

In the field of industry the Italian Government tacitly recognized the important contribution Italian Jews have rendered to the State. The cotton, wool and silk industries have been largely developed by Jewish factories, and these goods are particularly valuable in wartime. Most of these factories are still permitted to function normally, and some of them are even receiving a certain measure of Government cooperation.

On the other hand, all Jews were at once eliminated from the insurance companies, which were almost entirely their creation.

Italian Jews in the professions have suffered heavily, three-quarters of them having been barred from practice. There are at present 15 Jewish doctors, who are awaiting trial on the charge of having accepted "Aryan" patients. One of them is the German refugee doctor, Irving Stuckgold, until recently the leading Court physician.

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Most serious measure affecting Italian Jews has been the barring of Jewish street vendors, particularly with pushcart shops. Some 15 to 20 per cent of Italian Jews lost their means of livelihood by this action.

COLONIAL OFFICE SILENT ON HALIFAX PALESTINE STATEMENT

LONDON, Jan. 28. (JTA) -- The Colonial Office and the Jewish Agency said today that they were unable for the present to comment on the statement of British Ambassador Lord Halifax in Washington that the Government was giving "serious consideration" to readjustment of its administrative policy in Palestine and acceptance of a Palestine army corps on an equal footing with those of the dominions.

(In New York, Zionist circles said they had no information as to the implications of Lord Halifax's statement and added that Zionist leaders planned to see the Ambassador in Washington soon in an effort to obtain, among other things, clarification of this statement.)

Meanwhile, the Jerusalem correspondent of the periodical Great Britain and the East declares: "Recent parades of the Palestinians have shown how quickly Palestinians have adapted themselves to army life. Their drill and marching is as smart as any in the British Army, they take keen interest in their duties and shirk no task that is imposed on them; and they have earned the commendation of their superior British officers.

"Their coolness and courage in tight corners (as witness the 'mentions' for Arab and Jewish soldiers and civilians employed with the Army for exemplary conduct during a Haifa air raid) can be attributed, like that of their civilian compatriots, to complete confidence in the ultimate Allied victory. The Palestinian soldiers are becoming seasoned campaigners and will give a good account of themselves in the Middle East theatre of war."

NAZIS SET PENALTY FOR JEWS LEAVING WARSAW GHETTO

ZURICH, Jan. 28. (JTA) -- Jews leaving the Warsaw ghetto without permission will be punished by 1,000 zlotys fine or three months' imprisonment, according to an announcement in the Krakauer Zeitung. The same penalty will be imposed on non-Jews helping Jews to leave the ghetto or to remain outside.

A special tax, equal to half of the industrial tax, has been imposed on all Jewish concerns in Warsaw, according to the Nowy Kurjer.

40,000 JEWS EXPELLED FROM BELGIAN CITIES

GENEVA, Jan. 28. (JTA) -- The Nazi authorities in Belgium have expelled some 40,000 Jews from Antwerp and West and East Flanders and interned them in concentration camps at Hasselt in the Limbourg province, it was reported here today.

The 40,000, who comprised almost the entire Jewish populations of these communities, were taken from their homes with virtually no warning.

HADASSAH SHIPS \$38,880 IN MEDICAL SUPPLIES, CLOTHING TO PALESTINE

NEW YORK, Jan. 28. (JTA) -- Hadassah reported today that it had sent \$38,880 worth of merchandise and medical supplies to Palestine during the last nine months despite the spread of hostilities and the tightening of blockades in the Mediterranean. The shipments were made through the Palestine Supplies Bureau of Hadassah, in response to cabled pleas for drugs, surgical instruments, hospital linens and clothing with which to meet war needs in the Holy Land.

Included in this sum is a current shipment weighing three tons and valued at \$10,000 which is expected to leave Thursday and go by way of the Suez Canal. Apparatus for chest, abdominal and bone surgery already ordered by Hadassah's medical staff in Palestine will leave within the next few weeks, the report stated.

According to Mrs. Samuel W. Halprin, chairman of the Palestine Committee, and Mrs. Nathan D. Perlman, equipment chairman, the latest shipment includes 420 dozen x-ray films, drugs, scissors, medical bags, syringes and 11,489 items of linen and clothing. Nearly 3,000 infants' diapers, 1,056 pillow cases, 1,000 sheets and 5,196 dresses, coats, men's suits, trousers, blouses, hospital gowns and jackets are included.

9 Nurses Go to Egypt

JERUSALEM, Jan. 28. (JTA) -- Nine nurses trained by the Hadassah Medical Organization will leave for Egypt Wednesday to serve in the King Fuad Hospital in Alexandria.

SETTLEMENT OF CATHOLICS IN DOMINICAN REPUBLIC PLANNED

NEW YORK, Jan. 28. (JTA) -- Archduke Franz Joseph Otto von Hapsburg conferred yesterday with Generalissimo Rafael L. Trujillo, former president of the Dominican Republic, on plans for large-scale settlement in the Dominican Republic of Catholics who are being oppressed in Europe.

Archduke Otto said he was anxious, in cooperation with the Dominican Republic Settlement Association, to aid in bringing numbers of homeless Catholics to the Dominican Republic. Generalissimo Trujillo expressed his great interest in this plan and assured the Archduke of his personal cooperation.

"The settlement project in the Dominican Republic," said Trujillo, "is non-sectarian. We welcome hard-working, reliable pioneers who come to our country for the purpose of engaging in agricultural life and becoming loyal citizens of the Dominican Republic. Toward that end my countrymen and I are giving every possible help. I am glad to assure His Highness, the Archduke Otto, of the keen desire of our country to cooperate with him."

James N. Rosenberg, president of the D.R.S.A., is presenting a letter from Archduke Otto to the president of the Dominican Republic regarding the proposed plan.

BRITAIN PLANS PROBE ON TREATMENT OF INTERNEES IN CANADA

LONDON, Jan. 28. (JTA) -- Home Undersecretary Osbert Peake said in Commons today he was making inquiries regarding conditions in Internment Camp B in Canada. His statement was in reply to Col. Josiah Wedgwood, Laborite, who called attention to a complaint of the Agudath Israel that orthodox Jewish internees were penalized for observing Saturday as sabbath.

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Regarding a complaint that 70 refugees, most of them Jews, in Camp R were dominated by several hundred Nazi sailors, Capt. Peake said the refugees had been separated from the Nazis some time ago.

DYSENTERY RAVAGES REFUGEES IN GURS CAMP

LISBON, Jan. 7. (JTA-By Mail) -- Thirteen thousand internees at the Gurs Camp, in the Lower Pyrenees of France, are underfed and ravaged with dysentery, it is revealed in a letter from Rabbi Leo Ansbacher, chaplain of the camp and himself an internee, to the Jewish Community at Tangiers.

"There are 15,000 internees in the camp," Rabbi Ansbacher writes, "ranging in age from one month to 100 years.

"Yesterday, we buried 17 people, mostly victims of the camp disease-dysentery. We lack one of the principal weapons to fight this disease-cocoa. As we also lack oats, and rice and flour paste are strictly rationed, we can do practically nothing in face of this disease, fatal to the old and feeble. Even after the crisis is over we are powerless to give them the food necessary to strengthen them.

"I therefore beg you to send us as much cocoa as you can get. We shall be able to do miracles here with that beverage, and many lives will be saved. The shortage of fat is so great that it would be extremely useful if cheese and sardines or other fish in oil could be sent us. People are taking some interest in us, it is true, but distress and despair are such that any sort of aid is merely a drop in the ocean."

WILLKIE VISITS EAST END SHELTERS

LONDON, Jan. 28. (JTA) -- Wendell L. Willkie last night visited air raid shelters in the largely-Jewish-populated East End.