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2,000 JEWS SLAIN IN RUMANIAN TERROR; EYEWITNESS TELLS BRUTALITIES

SOBIA, Jan. 29. (JTA) -- This, I believe, is the first eyewitness account to reach the outside world of the Iron Guard horror in Rumania.

It was necessary for this correspondent to come to Sofia to send out details of the revolt because the Bucharest censorship refused to pass anything but milk and water versions of the insurrection and banned any mention whatever of the well-organized anti-Jewish pogrom carried out simultaneously with the disorders last week.

The tale is one of unrelieved horror--a record of fiendish brutality without precedent in the history of Rumania and with very few precedents in the history of any other country.

Between 4,000 and 6,000 persons were killed in Bucharest alone while the death toll for Rumania as a whole was somewhere between 9,000 and 12,000. These are conservative estimates based on conversations with competent military and police officials and surgeons who have no reason to exaggerate the magnitude of the slaughter.

Of the 4,000 or more lives lost in Bucharest approximately 2,000 were rebel guards, 600 soldiers and 1,400 civilians. At least 1,000 of the latter were Jews who were murdered by one Iron Guard Army while another battled the khaki-clad Rumanian army in the center of the city. Jewish leaders believed their dead throughout the whole country would exceed 2,000.

Unknown hundreds of Jews will never be found, however, because of the manner in which they were put to death. The spectacle of thousands killing and being killed in a fight for political power is terrible enough but the spectacle of thousands of non-combatants tortured and murdered only because of their race or religion is far worse.

For that reason and also because the general outlines of the insurrection already have been made public, I will confine myself to reporting details of the pogrom, whose relation to the whole uprising must still seem obscure. This correspondent, like most newspapermen, always has been unwilling to place credence in atrocity stories but, after what I saw and was told at Bucharest by an eyewitness whose word cannot be doubted, I am forced to admit that atrocities can and do occur and that those which occurred at Bucharest far exceeded in bestiality anything that might ever be imagined.

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Dozens of Jews--women and children as well as men--were literally burned alive. I am not speaking of those who were burned to death in hundreds of buildings to which Guardists set fire, after shooting and beating the inhabitants and looting the contents of their homes. I am speaking only of Jews who were beaten senseless on the streets, robbed, then doused with gasoline and set afire.

In the Bucharest morgue yesterday a military surgeon showed me the charred bodies of nine persons burned beyond recognition. All of them, he assured me, had been picked up in the streets of the Jewish quarter following the most frenzied stage of the pogrom, last Wednesday.

Trusted friends have told me, and officials have confirmed, numerous cases of Jewish women whose breasts were cut off, not to mention sadistic mutilations like gouged-out eyes, brandings and bone-breakings.

Perhaps the most horrifying single episode of the pogrom was the "kosher butchering" last Wednesday night of more than 200 Jews in the municipal slaughterhouse.

The Jews, who had been rounded up after several hours of Iron Guard raids, were put into several trucks and carried off to the slaughterhouse. There the Greenshirts forced them to undress and led them to the chopping blocks, where they cut their throats in a horrible parody of the traditional Jewish methods of slaughtering fowls and livestock.

Tiring of this sport after a few score had been thus dispatched, 40 to 50 armed legionaries, mad with hate, beheaded the rest with axes and knives. Some mangled bodies were disposed of by pouring them down manholes to the sewers usually used to carry off animal remains.

The only other episode comparable to the slaughterhouse massacre--in point of numbers only--was the mass execution in a field near Jilava prison of 160 Jewish leaders who had been imprisoned in the office of the Jewish community on Calea Dudesti.

GREEK JEWS MOURN METAXAS, FOE OF ANTI-SEMITISM

ATHENS, Jan. 29. (JTA) -- The Jewish population of Greece today mourned the death of Premier John Metaxas, who since his ascension to power in 1936, had on many occasions emphasized publicly his feelings towards the Jews and had openly praised Greek Jews for their patriotism during the present war.

It was under the influence of Gen. Metaxas that anti-Jewish agitation in Greece was checked by a law "prohibiting incitement of citizens, directly or indirectly, to mutual contempt and hate, to dissension and to exaltation of religious and political passions in every respect." This law brought to an end the anti-Semitic propaganda carried on by the Venizelists and other anti-Semitic groups after Venizelos had blamed the Jews for his failure to be elected Premier.

Until Metaxas came to power, the Jews of Greece were a football in the hands of the political parties of the country. For some time the Venizelists, supported by the powerful anti-Semitic EEE party, conducted violent attacks on the Jews, chiefly because the Jewish population did not vote for them.

With Gen. Metaxas rise to power in 1936, the anti-Jewish propaganda ceased completely and high Government officials, including the Governor General of Macedonia and Governor Philosophos of Janina, on more than one occasion declared their interest in preserving equal rights for Jews in Greece. Gen. Metaxas himself in a letter to the Jewish Community of Athens, emphasized that he felt "deeply moved" by the support which his regime was receiving from the Jewish population. "This gives me strength to carry on my task," the letter said.

NEW BILL WOULD SET UP INTERNATIONAL QUOTA FOR ALASKA

WASHINGTON, Jan. 29. (JTA) -- A bill which would create an international refugee quota from which settlers for Alaska would be drawn was introduced in the House today by Samuel Dickstein (Dem., N.Y.). It was referred to the House Immigration Committee, of which Rep. Dickstein is chairman, and he said he hoped to obtain the earliest possible consideration for it.

Differing radically from the King-Havener colonization measure, which died in the last session, the Dickstein bill would create a special quota made up of all unused immigration quotas of the past six years under which refugees would be admitted to Alaska for colonization purposes.

Refugees would be allowed to enter the northern territory only after presentation of satisfactory proof to the immigration authorities that they had not engaged in subversive activities in their native lands, that they had lost their native citizenship rights, that they had useful and productive occupations which they intended to pursue and that they would remain in the territory a minimum of five years.

Rep. Dickstein also revealed that legislation for a Federal housing project which would provide for self-liquidating home construction for the colonists was being developed for early introduction.

The Representative said action on the measure would "call Hitler's bluff," referring to the Fuehrer's frequent offers to ship political and religious refugees to any nation that would have them. It is reported that the German Government has advised the State Department of its willingness to release some 450,000 refugees, provided that they proceed directly to the United States. Secretary Hull said yesterday that as far as he knew the United States had not been advised of such a plan.

JEWS BARRED FROM ALGERIAN MUNICIPAL AFFAIRS

VICHY, Jan. 29. (JTA) -- Jews are excluded from participation in municipal affairs in Algeria under a decree published in the Official Journal. The action was taken against the Jews, who form the most educated section of the native population, although representation for the Moslems is provided for.

At the same time, one physician and four engineers were dismissed from official posts under the anti-Jewish statute, according to decrees published today. Further such dismissals are expected.

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Meanwhile, it was reported from Paris that the entire immovable property of those members of the Rothschild family who had been deprived of French nationality had been turned over to the Youth Organization and the national relief body. The historic building of the Rothschild bank on Boulevard Lafitte was among the properties affected.

AIRFIELDS IN MEMORY OF HOS, BEN-YAACOV PLANNED

TEL AVIV, Jan. 29. (JTA) -- Jewish organizations planned today to dedicate two aviation schools and two airplanes for Vice-Mayor Dov Hos of Tel Aviv and Isaac Ben-Yaacov, head of the Jewish Agency's aviation department, who were killed in a recent auto accident, and to establish an agricultural colony in the name of Hos.

An appeal for £10,000 to purchase and maintain the schools and airplanes was launched at a memorial meeting for the two Jewish leaders at the Lydda airport. It is sponsored by the Tel Aviv municipality and Jewish institutions.

At the same time, the first session of the 42nd session of the Council of the Histadruth, Palestine Jewish labor federation, was devoted to a memorial service for Hos and Ben-Yaacov. Abraham Hartzfeld, head of the Histadruth's agricultural department, announced that the organization was preparing to found a farm settlement somewhere in southern Palestine in Hos's memory and appealed for greatest efforts to bring about speediest realization of the project. Eulogies were delivered by David Remez, Moshe Shertok and Joseph Baratz.

PURGE OF JEWS INTENSIFIED IN SLOVAKIA

ZURICH, Jan. 29. (JTA) -- A conference of officials in the Presov district of Slovakia has decided to liquidate Jewish general stores and food shops throughout the district, the Bratislava radio reported today.

OSE OUTLINES PROGRAM TO MEET WAR SITUATION

NEW YORK, Jan. 29. (JTA) -- A four-point program for continuation of the OSE's relief work was outlined last night in a statement issued by the American Committee of OSE at a press conference. The OSE is the Jewish health protection and child care organization.

The program includes: (1) aiding and directing OSE work in Europe, (2) directing the work of OSE committees in South American, South Africa and Australia to obtain greater support for OSE institutions in Europe, (3) maintaining contact with general and Jewish relief organizations in the United States for more efficacious aid to war sufferers, (4) continuing the scientific research interrupted in Europe by the war.

5 DIE ON OVERCROWDED STEAMER TAKING INTERNEES TO AUSTRALIA

LONDON, Jan. 29. (JTA) -- There were three deaths, including one suicide, among the 2,547 internees sent to Australia on the S.S. Dunera, which was fitted to carry only 2,066 passengers, Home Undersecretary Osbert Peake reported in Commons today, replying to a question by George Griffiths.

Foreign Undersecretary George H. Hall, replying to a question from S.S. Silverman, said there were 20 Jews, including seven women, among the 34 persons claiming to be anti-Nazis who were interned in Jamaica. They are partially segregated from Nazi internees, complete segregation being difficult for practical reasons, he said.