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## by the JEWISH TELEGRAPHIC AGENCY

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### FRANCE OFFERS TO RELEASE INTERNED REFUGEES TO MAKE EMIGRATION EFFORTS

WASHINGTON, Feb. 4. (JTA) -- The French Government has offered to release temporarily any of the 15,000 refugees interned in Camp de Gurs for whom 1,200 francs monthly maintenance is provided, pending preparations for emigration, it was learned today.

The offer was made by Ambassador Gaston Henry-Haye in reply to a memorandum submitted by the Rev. Dr. Henry Smith Leiper, president, and Boris Gourevitch, vice-president of the Union for the Protection of the Human Person, which has headquarters in New York.

Camp de Gurs, situated in the Lower Pyrenees, is the largest of the French internment centers for refugees. The internees are reported in a desperate plight as a result of inadequate sanitary facilities, shortage of food and clothing.

The release will be on condition that 1,200 francs monthly be provided by "the American associations or persons taking an interest in the fate of the refugees in question," it was said, and will be of a temporary character, "to facilitate the emigration of the refugees."

It was stated that 200,000,000 francs annually would be required to obtain the release of all 15,000 internees.

### Jews Barred from Going to North Africa

VICHY, Feb. 4. (JTA) -- While refugees from Alsace and Lorraine have been offered an opportunity to settle in North Africa, a number of cases are reported of Jews from these regions refused permission to emigrate there. Informed sources said, in justification of the discrimination, that anti-Jewish feeling was violent among the natives in North Africa.

### U.S. REDISTRIBUTES QUOTA NUMBERS TO AID REFUGEES

WASHINGTON, Feb. 4. (JTA) -- In an effort to eliminate the additional war-created bottleneck which has prevented maximum utilization of United States refugee aid possibilities, the State Department announced today that block allotments of quota numbers of Nazi-controlled nations had been distributed to United States consulates in Canada, Mexico and Cuba.

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Quota numbers under the German and Polish immigration allotments have been distributed for issuance in February in the three countries, the Department said.

A number of Czechoslovak quota numbers for issuance in March have also been distributed in American consular offices in Canada, Mexico and Cuba. Czechoslovak numbers are available for issuance at Havana in the current month. The consular offices to which the numbers have been sent are Havana, Mexico City, Tia Juana, Mexicali, Ciudad Juarez, Nogales, Monterey, Nuevo Laredo, Montreal, Toronto, Niagara Falls, Windsor and Vancouver.

Block allotments under the Hungarian quota have been sent to Havana and Montreal and individual allotments to several other consular offices. The allotments made will exhaust the Hungarian quota for February.

It is anticipated that further block allotments under the German, Polish, Czechoslovak and Hungarian quotas will be distributed to consular offices in nearby countries from month to month. In this connection, it is pointed out that no more than 10 per cent of the annual immigration quotas may be issued in one calendar month.

Previously, the State Department had assigned parts of the quotas of Central European nations under Nazi control to the United States Consulate at Lisbon, which is thronged with refugees from the spreading Nazi terror.

Officials pointed out that those remaining in occupied territory are generally unable to travel or are prevented from leaving the country by lack of funds, the authorities or some other reason. On the other hand, the bulk of those ready and able to journey to America have already managed to escape at least as far as Lisbon.

#### MENZIES LAUDS AID OF AUSTRALIAN JEWS

JERUSALEM, Feb. 4. (JTA) -- Australian Prime Minister Robert Menzies, who arrived here Sunday on a visit to Australian troops in the Near East, today made a statement to the JTA praising the Australian Jews contribution in means and service to the Dominion's war effort.

"We have many prominent Jews, of whom we are proud. They are actively engaged in our war effort," he said.

Among the holy places which the Prime Minister visited here was the Wailing Wall.

#### RELIGIOUS INSTRUCTION ISSUE DISCUSSED AT ATLANTA MEETING

ATLANTA, Feb. 4. (JTA) -- The question of "released time" from public schools for religious instruction, which started today in New York, was discussed yesterday at a meeting of the American Association for Jewish Education, one of the ten meetings arranged by national organizations at the Biltmore Hotel in connection with the general assembly of the Council of Jewish Federations and Welfare Funds.

Prof. Horace M. Kallen asserted that to grant the church coercive powers over children was "to exercise undemocratic methods which will eventually destroy the essential American principle of separation of church and State." James Marshall, president of the New York City Board of Education, said the rights of all citizens had to be protected regardless of faith.

Consensus of reports from local communities was that Jews should cooperate on an interfaith basis wherever the "released time" plan has become law or public policy, but they prefer the "dismissed time" plan, in which the public schools do not check on the attendance of pupils at the church schools. The discussion emphasized the need for Jewish community leaders to develop common programs wherever "released time" plans are introduced or considered.

Establishment of an institute to formulate proposals for restoration of Jewish rights and reconstruction of Jewish life after the war was announced by Dr. Maurice L. Perlzweig, chairman of the British section of the World Jewish Congress, at a meeting of the American Jewish Congress.

The institute, with headquarters in New York, will investigate the causes of the collapse of Jewish emancipation in Europe and will prepare a program, including reparation of losses suffered by Jews since 1933 and development of colonization and immigration plans to settle the refugee problem.

"The institute is needed now," he said, "to develop our own concept of the new world order as far as the Jews are concerned. If we wait until the war is over, even the democratic powers might harden their concept of the new world order into a shape which it might be beyond human power to remodel. This would be disastrous."

At the American ORT Federation meeting, Alexander Halpern, chairman of the London ORT, stressed the need for expansion of training centers in England. Dr. David Lvovitch, vice-president of the World ORT Union, said: "The results the ORT achieved in 1940 in training more than 12,000 men and women in productive skill, despite unprecedented instability, is compelling proof of the present need for reconstructive, as well as remedial aid, so vitally essential to Europe's Jews."

At the National Council of Jewish Women meeting, President Mrs. Maurice Goldman, of San Francisco, stressed that her organization "strives to teach understanding of the American way of life and inspire new immigrants with appreciation of and responsibility to a democracy."

Sidney Hollander, reelected president of the Council, in his closing speech to the assembly Sunday night, warned Jewish communities against losing sight of responsibilities on the home front in preparing to defend democracy from attack from without. He urged continued attention to those served by local Jewish welfare agencies and the importance of meeting the social-economic needs of the entire community as well.

One of the major questions at the general assembly was the problem of budgeting by local community funds for national and overseas causes. A proposal for a national budgeting advisory service was approved by the board of directors after being submitted by Jacob Blaustein, as chairman of the Committee on National Budgeting Proposals. It will be submitted to a referendum of the local groups together with a majority report of the committee favoring its adoption and a minority report in opposition.

#### Bienstock, Landau Speak at Cocktail Party

ATLANTA, Feb. 4. (JTA) -- Many of the delegates to the general assembly of the Council of Jewish Federations and Welfare Funds yesterday attended a cocktail party given by Jacob Blaustein, president of the Overseas News Agency, at which Victor M. Bienstock, head of the London bureau of ONA and JTA, and Jacob Landau, managing director of ONA and JTA, were the speakers.

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Bienstock, who recently arrived from London, discussed the situation in England. Lendau, who recently returned from a five-month tour of South America, spoke on the Jewish question and the refugee situation.

#### SCHWARTZ, OUNGRE GO TO LISBON

MARSEILLE, Feb. 4. (JTA) -- Dr. Joseph Schwartz, vice-chairman of the Joint Distribution Committee's European Council, left for Lisbon today after an extensive tour of southern France during which he contacted local relief bodies and participated in a number of conferences on relief.

LISBON, Feb. 4. (JTA) -- Edouard Oungre, director of HIAS-ICA work in unoccupied France, arrived here today for a week of consultations with HIAS-ICA and Joint Distribution Committee officials here regarding emigration.

#### HART BLUMENTHAL, BIBLIOPHILE, DEAD AT 81

PHILADELPHIA, Feb. 4. (JTA) -- Hart Blumenthal, retired merchant, Jewish leader, bibliophile and owner of an outstanding collection of Lincolniana, died yesterday at the age of 81 after an illness of several weeks. He was honorary president of Knesseth Israel Congregation, chairman of the finance committee of the National Farm School and had also served on the board of the Jewish Publication Society of America.

#### JEWISH CONGRESS PROTESTS RUMANIAN POGROM

NEW YORK, Feb. 4. (JTA) -- A protest against the anti-Semitic riots in Rumania was submitted to the Rumanian Minister in Washington by the American Jewish Congress and the World Jewish Congress today.

Dr. Stephen S. Wise, chairman of the executive committee of the World Congress and the president of the American Jewish Congress, termed the riots disastrous to Rumanian Jewry.

"The reward meted out to Rumanian Jews in depriving them of their rights and cruelly persecuting them will remain forever a dark blot on the history of mankind," Dr. Wise said.

#### PALESTINE MANUFACTURES STEEL HELMETS

JERUSALEM, Feb. 4. (JTA) -- Steel helmets for the British forces in Palestine and the Middle East will henceforth be manufactured in Palestine, obviating importation from England. The first delivery of Palestine-made steel helmets was made to the British military authorities by a factory recently established here for manufacturing military accessories.