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2,000 REFUGEES GET PERMISSION TO EMIGRATE FROM FRANCE

VICHY, Feb. 5. (JTA) -- More than 2,000 visas were granted last week by the French authorities to Jewish refugees possessing visas for overseas countries, it was reliably reported here today.

An additional 600 visas were granted to refugees who were transferred from the Gurs and other camps to Les Milles, where a "departure camp" was established two months ago.

The latter category, including mostly German and Czech refugees, are awaiting transit visas. The authorities and the HIAS-ICA Emigration Association are now attending to this matter.

A new cold wave and a deterioration of the food situation are aggravating the plight of refugees in the camps. They chiefly lack fats--which are scarce throughout the country--and warm clothes. The interfaith committee on the care of interned refugees has been unable to satisfy even the most elementary needs of the refugees owing to a lack of sufficient funds and also the extreme difficulties encountered in obtaining foodstuffs, medicines and woolen articles.

Bad conditions both inside and outside the camps, coupled with undernourishment, justify fears that there will be increased mortality among children and old people and that the health of the remaining refugees will be permanently impaired.

10 More Jews Lose Posts

VICHY, Feb. 5. (JTA) -- Seven judges and three consular agents are among those dismissed under the anti-Jewish statute, according to a new list published in today's Official Journal.

Swiss Jews Aid Internees

GENEVA, Feb. 5. (JTA) -- Touched by reports of the precarious position of the 15,000 internees in Camp de Gurs, in unoccupied France, the majority of whom are German and Polish Jews, the Swiss authorities permitted the Jewish communities of Zurich and Basel to act as clearing houses for individuals in Switzerland who wish to send either food or monetary aid to the interned refugees.

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He added that the Soviet authorities were enabling declassified Jews to emigrate.

The communities will be permitted to accept for transmission to Gurs not more than 550 French francs a month from each sender. Food packages to Gurs are permitted to be shipped from Switzerland provided that they contain food valued at not more than twenty Swiss francs or 250 French francs. Packages containing clothing and underwear may also be sent to Gurs.

The Swiss Federation of Jewish Communities has transmitted 5,000 Swiss francs to Gurs through the Red Cross for the purpose of improving the medical aid to the internees.

SOVIET EXTENDS PERIOD FOR EMIGRATION FROM LITHUANIA

STOCKHOLM, Feb. 5. (JTA) -- The Soviet authorities in Lithuania, have agreed to extend the permission for Polish Jews to leave Soviet territory until Feb. 10, it was learned here today.

The original permit was valid until Jan. 26. It provided that holders of Polish passports stranded in Wilno, Kaunas and other Lithuanian centers would be allowed to emigrate from Lithuania through Soviet Russia to Palestine, the United States, and any other overseas countries which would accept them. In view of the fact that only several hundred Jewish refugees from Poland were in a position to take advantage of the offer by Jan. 26, the permission was extended for another fortnight.

Several thousand Polish Jews at present in Lithuania are trying desperately to contact their relatives in various overseas lands by cable, appealing to them to facilitate their departure. The majority of them have relatives in the United States and in Palestine. Those who have prospects for receiving United States visas are given Soviet and Japanese transit visas to await their American visa in Tokyo. Those who expect to proceed to Palestine can secure Turkish transit visas only when they produce sufficient evidence that there is a Palestine entrance visa provided for them so that they will not remain stranded in Turkey on their way from the Soviet port of Odessa to Palestine.

Anxious to emigrate while the doors of Soviet Russia are still open, hundreds of Jewish refugees who hope to find their way to Palestine but who are not able as yet to secure their Palestine immigration certificates expect to leave Lithuania via Soviet Russia and Siberia for Japan to await their Palestine visas there. The Japanese authorities, it is reported, are willing to admit these refugees, but intend to dump them in Shanghai should they not secure their Palestine visas within a fortnight after reaching Japanese soil.

Among those permitted to emigrate from Soviet Lithuania are more than 1,000 rabbis and yeshiva students for whom efforts are being made in America to bring them to the United States.

Wilno Chief Rabbi Reaches U.S.

CHICAGO, Feb. 5. (JTA) -- Isaac Rubenstein, former Polish Senator and Chief Rabbi of Wilno, arrived here today from the coast after a six-week voyage from Japan. He was met here by a delegation of rabbis.

Discussing the situation in Wilno, which is now in Soviet-held Lithuania, Rabbi Rubenstein said: "Jewish communal activities have been banned. The Strashun library has been confiscated. Social and economic life are under government control. However, the yeshivas are still existing."

He added that the Soviet authorities were enabling declassed Jews to emigrate.

BRITAIN SCANNING PLANS TO AID PALESTINE CITRUS INDUSTRY

LONDON, Feb. 5. (JTA) -- Comprehensive proposals for assisting Palestine's citrus industry have been received in the last few days and are now under examination, Colonial Undersecretary George H. Hall announced in Commons today, adding that a further statement was likely in the next few weeks.

Jewish Groups Act on Food Prices

JERUSALEM, Feb. 5. (JTA) -- Central Jewish institutions in Palestine which are interested in checking the rise on prices are now taking measures to combat speculation and have set up a special committee to study the problem.

The Tel Aviv Municipal Council has named a delegation to submit to High Commissioner Sir Harold H. MacMichael a request that the Government institute drastic measures to curb growing speculation.

Despite the control of food prices instituted by the Palestine Government and notwithstanding the fact that there are sufficient reserves of foodstuff in the country, the cost of living is constantly increasing. This is especially true with regard to butter, bread and sugar.

Several dealers in butter have been sentenced by the Jerusalem court to various punishments for violating the Government prices on butter. The prices of commodities not under Government control are becoming prohibitive. The prices of clothing and shoes have increased more than 100 per cent since last July.

COLONIAL SECRETARY LORD LLOYD, DEAD AT 61, WAS FRIEND OF ARABS

LONDON, Feb. 5. (JTA) -- Colonial Secretary Lord Lloyd, who died early today at the age of 61 after a three weeks' illness, was known as a friend of the Arabs, although also sympathetic to the Jews. His tenure in the Colonial Office was marked by continuation of the White Paper policy of restricting growth of the Jewish homeland and the recent omission of a Palestine immigration schedule for the current six months.

When he was named to the Colonial Office post last May, The Zionist Review, organ of the British Zionist Federation, said his appointment opened the possibility of a Palestine solution which would "achieve the most cherished ideals of the Jewish and Arab peoples." Mrs. Emma Dugdale, niece of the late Lord Balfour, said: "It was statesmanlike to appoint a Colonial Secretary whom the Arabs will recognize to be their friend and whom the Jews have no reason to regard as their enemy."

In 1938 he proposed a solution of the Palestine problem by assuring the Arabs a majority in Palestine and opening Transjordan to Jewish immigration.

"It seems generally assumed," he wrote in The Sunday Chronicle, "that a solution of justice to the Arabs necessarily involves injustice to the Jews, and vice versa. I do not believe that to be the case. I believe that the assurance to the Arabs of a permanent majority in their own country, on the one hand, and compensation to the Jews in wider immigration into Transjordan, on the other, would provide an equitable settlement and one that is administratively as well as politically feasible."

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ORT LAUNCHES DRIVE FOR \$1,250,000

NEW YORK, Feb. 5. (JTA) -- The American ORT Federation today opened its 1941 campaign for \$1,250,000 to help train European refugees and war victims in trades and agriculture. This quota was announced by George Backer, president, at a luncheon at the Hotel Commodore in honor of George Frankenthaler, chairman of the Greater New York drive. Co-chairman is Edgar Salinger, chairman of the national scope committee.

Commenting on a report by Dr. David Iovovitch, vice-president of the World ORT Union, on ORT's work in 1940 and program for 1941, Frankenthaler said: "The report of the results that ORT achieved in 1940 in training more than 12,000 men, women and children despite unprecedented instability is compelling proof of ORT's ability to meet the need for reconstructive aid to Europe's Jews. The ORT program for 1941 is based on a realistic evaluation of what ORT can do under the most critical conditions.

"The projected activities offer American Jewry a unique opportunity to help train their more unfortunate co-religionists in industry and agriculture for the day when they will be free to pursue a normal, useful life."

PALESTINE POPULATION NOW TOTALS 1,530,000

JERUSALEM, Jan. 15. (Air Mail) -- The total population of Palestine, not including British military forces, is estimated to be now about 1,530,000 according to figures made public by the Government.

The report states that the population increased during the second quarter of 1940 by 8,554 persons, natural increase accounting for 7,131 and migration for 1,423. The report discloses that during last July 9,185 persons entered the country and 9,139 departed. The total number of registered immigrants during that month was 295, of whom 155 came from Poland.

Total deposits with banks and credit cooperatives in Palestine amounted to over £14,700,000 on July 1 and represented a decrease of about 10 per cent from the figure of the preceding month, the official report states.