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REICH JEWISH LEADER ARRESTED; NAZIS HINT REPRISALS ON LEASE-LEND BILL

ZURICH, March 15. (JTA) -- Dr. Otto Hirsch, principal leader of the Jews in Germany has been arrested by the Gestapo and other Jewish leaders have been called up for compulsory labor service, it was learned here today.

These actions came before passage of the Lease-Lend Bill by the United States Congress, but at a time when Congressional approval seemed assured. The development gained added significance from the fact that the Nazi press and radio have been indicating possible reprisals against the Jews of Europe for passage of the aid-to-Britain bill.

Fearing anti-Jewish measures in Germany, Jews in Berlin were reported today to be spurring efforts to emigrate. They besieged consulates of overseas countries and pleaded that action on their visa applications be expedited. Two groups of German Jews who had succeeded in securing visas left Berlin yesterday for Lisbon on sealed trains.

Nature of the charges against Dr. Hirsch, if any, was not disclosed. He is the director of the Reichsvereinigung der Juden in Deutschland, central body of the German Jews. Other officials of the Reichsvereinigung were ordered to report for draft labor, which had not hitherto been imposed upon them because they were needed for duties in connection with Jewish emigration and social service.

Dr. Hirsch has been arrested several times in the past eight years and held for varying periods. In 1935 he was seized and held for a week in Columbia House, known as "the torture chamber of the Gestapo."

One of the hints of possible retaliation against the Jews because of the aid-to-Britain developments in Washington was given by the Nazi newspaper, Berliner Boersen-Zeitung, which asserted that passage of the Lease-Lend Bill "already today burdens not only the Jewish emigrants, but also that portion of Jewry which is still in Europe with heavy responsibility." The paper added that "the Jew Frankfurter did them no service in getting around and undermining American neutrality."

The Berlin radio, in a German-language broadcast last night, declared that "the aid-to-Britain law means nothing else than an extension of Jewish rule to the European continent" and charged "a very primitive Jewish dictatorship over the American democracy."

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"It is this aggression of the Shylock type, insisting on its pound of flesh, which will be cut out of the living body of the young nations," the broadcast said.

"This time the American Shylocks did not even think it was necessary to camouflage themselves, in line with the old liberal custom, and to indulge in the favorite game of mimicry. They can be seen in unfaked originality in photographs recently published here in Germany showing the present President Roosevelt and his closest collaborators, when he was still Governor of the State of New York, the stronghold of world Jewry.

"Since then they climbed up the ladder together with him and they carried him up to the heights--these Felix Frankfurters, Morgenthau, Baruchs and Leimans. They form the famous brain trust which up to a short time ago bashfully hid the fact that it was nothing but a very primitive Jewish dictatorship over the American democracy."

Following Berlin's lead, the Rome radio also sought to make a Jewish issue of American aid to Britain. A Rome broadcast said:

"The real masters of the situation, the bankers, many of whom are Jews--whether they are Jews or Gentiles, they are all in the same racket--so far remain in the background. In Mr. Roosevelt, who likes to remain in the foreground, they have an ideal instrument for their purposes, which is, of course, the doublecross...Europe's position is impregnable. The Jews and their Gentile allies are bound, therefore, also to be beaten. And so is poor Mr. Roosevelt."

ACTION ON ANTI-PROPAGANDA BILLS URGED IN SENATE

WASHINGTON, March 13. (JTA) -- Two moves designed to curtail the flow of inciting propaganda in this country were pledged in the Senate today.

Senator Gillette said he would appear shortly before the Senate Committee on Privileges and Elections to seek action on two measures which he introduced as a result of his investigation of scurrilous campaign literature in the 1940 election. He predicted confidently that some measure would be enacted this session. He indicated he was prepared to make some concession in the program he outlined in the interest of obtaining speedy action on the essence of the program, pointing out it could be amended at a later date.

Senator Wiley of Wisconsin, citing the recent recommendation of Postmaster General Walker, said he would make a similar move before the Senate Post-Office Committee, to which his bill calling for full publicity on the sponsors of all propaganda of foreign origin has been referred.

DAILY NEWS HITS WHISPERING CAMPAIGN AGAINST JEWS ON LEASE-LEND BILL

NEW YORK, March 13. (JTA) -- Declaring that interventionism is "the majority American sentiment" and most prevalent where Jewish influence is almost non-existent, the New York Daily News today editorially denounced the "whispering campaign" to the effect that the Jews are seeking to push this country into war. The editorial follows:

"A whispering campaign now going on to the effect that the Jews are mainly to blame for our being as deep in the war as we now are, and are moving heaven and earth to push us

all the way in. After the war, when blame is being dealt around for the inevitable tragedies of it all, this legend will probably be dug up in this country, and anti-Semitism may have a flareup.

"Some pertinent facts: In the Senate, the leaders of the fight for the bill were Senators Barkley of Kentucky, Byrnes of South Carolina and George of Georgia. These men are all from the regions where the Ku Klux Klan was strongest. To say they are subject to Jewish influence in their bailiwicks is ridiculous.

"Of the three House leaders of the fight for the bill, the most powerful, Speaker Sam Rayburn, is from Texas; Majority Leader John W. McCormack of Massachusetts is a Catholic, and House Foreign Affairs Committee Chairman Sol Bloom is Jewish.

"And in the real test vote in the House on Feb. 8 (Tuesday's House vote was just a bandwagon affair), all the Southern Democrats except Peterson of Georgia and Cannon of semi-Southern Missouri voted for the bill. The only Southern and semi-Southern Senators to vote against H.R. 176 were Reynolds of North Carolina and Clark of Missouri.

"Three New York Democratic Representatives voted against the bill on Feb. 8, plus eight New York Republicans.

"The Jews hate Hitler and wish him harm, because Hitler first hated them and did them harm. But to call the Jews the prime movers in the United States interventionist movement is simply to talk against the facts in the case.

"Interventionism is evidently the majority American sentiment; and the most war-minded part of the whole country is the South, which has the highest percentage of native American stock, and where Jewish influence in politics is almost non-existent."

Meanwhile, The Nation, in an article by its Washington correspondent, I.F. Stone, declared it was difficult to believe that the resemblance of Senator Wheeler's recent remarks on "international bankers" and the ranting of Father Coughlin was coincidental. Stone reported that a year ago Senator Wheeler held a "long and friendly" telephone conversation with Coughlin. The correspondent also quoted Senator Wheeler's wife as saying she thought the Jews were 100 per cent for the lease-lend bill and that the Senator was "much too tolerant of the Jews."

BRITAIN URGED TO ESTABLISH HOME GUARD IN PALESTINE

LONDON, March 13. (JTA) -- Establishment of a home guard in Palestine was urged today by The Zionist Review, organ of the British Zionist Federation, in view of the increased Nazi threat to the Holy Land.

The paper pointed out that in addition to tens of thousands of young Palestine Jews who had volunteered for a Jewish army there were scores of thousands of men ineligible because of age for the regular forces but who were eager to be enrolled in a home guard.

"The Arabs in Palestine, under Hitler, would find conditions rather worse than those of the Arabs of Libya under Italian rule," the editorial asserted. "But the Jews could only expect a multiplication of the worst Nazi horrors enacted in Germany and Austria. Can they be denied the right to prepare themselves for self-defense against such a terrible eventuality?"

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Palestine Jews, asked to provide 2,000 lorry drivers for the North African desert campaign, complied with the request within a week, Theodor Kollek, delegate of the Palestine Foundation Fund (Keren Hayesod), reported today at a meeting of the Federation of Women Zionists.

WEIZMANN LEAVES FOR NEW YORK; DR. JOSEPH EN ROUTE TO PALESTINE

LONDON, March 13. (JTA) -- Dr. Chaim Weizmann, president of the Jewish Agency for Palestine, was to leave today with his wife for Lisbon en route to the United States. They are expected to reach New York by Clipper the middle of next week.

NEW YORK, March 13. (JTA) -- Dr. Bernard Joseph, legal advisor of the Jewish Agency, left by air for San Francisco last night, on the first leg of his return journey to Palestine after having spent two months in this country. He said that the Jews of Palestine were prepared to place a Jewish military force of 40,000 men at the disposal of Britain.

TRADE UNIONS TO RAISE \$75,000 FOR ORT

NEW YORK, March 13. (JTA) -- The sum of \$75,000 will be contributed by trade unions and fraternal labor organizations towards the New York quota of \$500,000 of the American ORT Federation, it was announced at a luncheon conference of Labor Peoples ORT. The suggestion was made by David Dubinsky, president of the International Ladies Garment Workers Union.

A picture of the plight of the Jews in Europe was given by Dr. David Lvovitch, vice-president of the World ORT Union. He emphasized that in spite of Nazi occupation of various countries the work of ORT had increased considerably. He said: "Even behind ghetto walls of Warsaw and Lodz, ORT succeeded in opening trade schools and workshops in which clothes and shoes are made for the poor and needy." Other speakers included Maxa Nordan and Alexander Halpern, President of ORT in England, who recently arrived here.

FREIHEIT LIBEL CASE AGAINST FORWARD WITHDRAWN

NEW YORK, March 13. (JTA) -- Criminal libel charges preferred by P. Novik, editor of the Morning Freiheit, Yiddish Communist daily, against the Jewish Daily Forward, its editor, Ab Cahan, its general manager, Alexander Kahn, and a writer, I. Feinberg have been withdrawn, it was disclosed today. Counsel for the Freiheit asked permission to withdraw the charges when the case came up before Magistrate Anna M. Kross on Tuesday.

AUSTRALIAN PREMIER FAVORS KIMBERLEY COLONIZATION

LONDON, March 13. (JTA) -- Sir Robert Waley Cohen, on behalf of the Freiland League for Jewish Territorial Colonization, today interviewed Prime Minister Robert G. Menzies of Australia, who said he was favorably inclined towards the plan for Jewish settlement in the Kimberley region of Australia.

GRAIEVSKY, JERUSALEM HISTORIAN, DEAD

JERUSALEM, March 13. (JTA) -- Pinchas Graievsky, oldest historian in Jerusalem, died today at the age of 68.