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JAPAN BARS FURTHER TRANSIT OF POLISH JEWISH REFUGEES; CITES CONGESTION

TOKYO, March 17 (JTA) -- Acting upon instructions from Tokyo, the Japanese Consul in Moscow will discontinue issuance of transit visas to Polish Jews, whom the Soviet authorities are permitting to leave Soviet Lithuania via Siberia and Japan to overseas lands, it was learned here today.

The instructions were issued as result of the congestion of more than 2,000 Jewish refugees from Lithuania, all holders of Polish passports, who are now congregated in Kobe and are in no position to proceed to the overseas countries for which they have started out. Almost all the 2,000 refugees have become dependent on relief. The Kobe Jewish community, which counts only 25 families, has secured temporary relief funds from the Joint Distribution Committee in New York.

Simultaneously, the Japanese authorities at the Tsuruga port barred the landing of a group of Jewish refugees who arrived from Lithuania through Soviet territory on the steamer Harbin-Marufu from Vladivostok. The group, it is learned, includes a number of Jewish writers and journalists.

Moses Beckelman, J.D.C. representative in Lithuania, is expected to reach Kobe next week. In the meantime, the Japanese authorities are threatening to deport the refugees to Shanghai should they not leave Kobe for their countries of destination within the shortest time. Some of the stranded refugees possess Palestine immigration certificates but cannot find transportation facilities, while others are awaiting the arrival of visas from countries on the American continent.

Transports of German Jews are also arriving at Yokohama via Soviet Russia. Most of them possess regular American quota visas, but must wait several weeks before they can get bookings on steamers sailing to the United States.

EXPROPRIATION OF JEWISH FIRMS SPREADS TO UNOCCUPIED FRANCE

VICHY, March 17 (JTA) -- Expropriation of Jewish-owned enterprises has spread to unoccupied France in certain cases, the Official Journal revealed today.

A number of enterprises in the occupied zone have branches in the free zone which are "necessary for sound management," the official organ said, and when the home

(Continued on reverse side)

3/18/41.

offices are placed under "temporary managers" by the authorities, the branches are also affected. So far six film enterprises have come under this ruling.

Meanwhile, it was reported that the number of Jewish enterprises in occupied France so far expropriated has reached 1,435.

(Virtual elimination of Jews from any economic activity is foreseen for next month, the New York Herald Tribune reported from Paris, when a new and sweeping anti-Semitic ordinance goes into effect, prohibiting "non-Aryans" from participating in any wholesale or retail business as either employers or employees. Jewish proprietors and investors will be paid for their holdings, but will not be able to reinvest their money in any producing activity.)

"Every Communist Is an Agent of Jewish Capitalism," is the slogan recommended to French newspapers today by the official bulletin for the press published by the General Commissariat for Information, a Vichy Government body.

3 JEWS TAKE LIVES IN CRACOW; 17 JAILED IN LODZ FOR BRINGING FOOD INTO GHETTO

ZURICH, March 17. (JTA) -- Three old Jews, including a former clerk of the Cracow Jewish community, have committed suicide by coal gas in Cracow, the Nazi newspaper Goniec Krakowski reports.

According to the Litzmannstaedter Zeitung, 17 Jews and Poles in Lodz were sentenced by a special court to terms at hard labor ranging between two and seven years for transportation of food into the ghetto. In the case of the Poles, the charge was bringing food into the ghetto, and in the case of the Jews, receiving it.

Governor Fischer of Warsaw has issued a decree forbidding Jews to change their residence, even within the ghetto, without permission of the Nazi authorities. Those violating the order are subject to 3,000 zlotys' fine and three months' imprisonment at hard labor.

The increasing tendency among the Poles to help to alleviate the sufferings of Jews in the Warsaw ghetto by secret donations of food or clothing, which are sometimes simply thrown over the ghetto walls when direct access is barred, has caused the German authorities to decree heavier penalties for such acts of generosity, according to a report in Dziennik Polski.

Poles who aid Jews in this manner are now liable to a fine of 1,000 zlotys as well as three months' hard labor. Offenders between 14 and 21 years of age will be sent to labor camps. Should the offender be under fourteen years of age, the parent or guardian will be liable to the prescribed penalty.

BUDAPEST PRESS URGES NEW ANTI-JEWISH ACTION

ZURICH, March 17. (JTA) -- Disregarding Finance Minister Schneller's recent warning that a "modest livelihood" must be provided for the 1,000,000 Hungarian Jews, the majority of whom have already been economically uprooted as a consequence of anti-Jewish legislation, the right-wing Budapest press was reported today to have renewed its campaign for the elimination of Jews from their last economic positions.

The latest attack was made by the newspaper Magyarasag which, according to the German radio, called for "Magyarization" of the Hungarian book trade by elimination of Jewish publishing houses and book sellers. The newspaper said that 30 publishing companies were owned by Jews and that 135 of the 200 book sellers in Budapest and 200 of the 300 in the provinces were Jewish.

BRISTOL SYNAGOGUE SAVED FROM INCENDIARY BOMBS

LONDON, March 17. (JTA) -- A synagogue in the Bristol area was saved by the rabbi and students when incendiary bombs fell on the roof in a recent air raid, it was disclosed today.

CANADIAN PROMISES TO IMPROVE TREATMENT OF ORTHODOX INTERNEES

LONDON, March 17. (JTA) -- An official of Canada House, replying to charges by the Agudath Israel of discrimination against orthodox Jews in Canadian internment camps, said today that efforts were being made to solve the Sabbath-observance problem and urged "restraint" to avoid "exacerbating a situation containing potentialities of ill-feeling."

"It is one of the tragedies of war that in Canada, which has been completely free of any taint of anti-Semitism or racial discrimination, anti-Semitic feeling should have, to some extent, been encouraged by exacerbation of the thorny question of treatment of orthodox Jewish refugees," the official said. He emphasized that the major problem of internees was outside the Canadian Government's control.

"When the transfer of large numbers of refugees to the Dominion was arranged, one would expect prisoners of war and dangerous characters," he said. "Arrangements were made accordingly. Internment camps were established which would be conducted under military discipline.

"We did not have resorts like the Isle of Man where harmless refugees could live and we had no reason to expect the arrival of such persons. Nor could we assume that many of the men sent to us for internment would be within a comparatively short time, eligible for release. Thus arose another problem-- it is clearly impracticable to erect, at the expense of the British taxpayer, permanent buildings because of men who might be released at any time.

"In addition, a minor problem arose in connection with the treatment of orthodox internees. In quasi-military camps it is clear that the inmates are responsible for maintenance and a certain number of camp fatigues are necessary. When the orthodox demanded a holiday on Saturdays, the Christians naturally demanded Sundays. This led to an impossible situation. It must be admitted the orthodox have not shown the willingness to compromise which might be expected.

"In addition to a Home Office representative, Alexander Paterson, the Central Department for Interned Refugees has also sent a representative to Canada. The Central Department, of which Carey Wilson is chairman, has been given official recognition by the Canadian Government.

"I am sure there is a sincere desire to solve the problems. In the meantime, it is wisest to exercise restraint in order to avoid exacerbating a situation containing potentialities of ill-feeling.

BAR-DRORA, HEBREW WRITER, DEAD AT 62

TEL AVIV, March 17. (JTA) -- Issachar Dov Freir, leading Hebrew journalist, who wrote under the pen name of Bar-Drora, has died at the age of 62. For many years editor and contributor to various Hebrew publications, he was known for his brilliant style. He was born in Kutno, Poland.

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EDEN RENews PLEDGE OF AID TO PALESTINE CITRUS GROWERS

JERUSALEM, March 17. (JTA) -- The British and Palestine Governments are now working on proposals to aid Palestine citrus growers, Foreign Secretary Anthony Eden declared in a message replying to a cable of the Joint Arab-Jewish Citrus Growers' Executive Committee.

"His Majesty's Government and the Palestine Government, in consultation with the banks concerned, have under active consideration proposals for alleviation of Palestine's citrus difficulties and the growers may rest assured that every effort is being made to reach a solution," Capt. Eden said.

A delegation of the Jewish Community Council has appeared before Edward Keith-Roach, District Commissioner for Jerusalem, to ask that a moratorium be declared in Jerusalem through the rescinding of the bankruptcy law.

The delegation also requested that the voluntary taxation system which Jewish organizations introduced under the name Kofar Hayishuv be given a legal status, as regards the Jewish population. The delegation asked for wider powers in connection with the collection of this tax.

DR. ELISA JACOBI, REFUGEE DOCTOR NAMED TO HOSPITAL POST IN ENGLAND

LONDON, March 17. (JTA) -- Dr. Elisa Jacobi, Austrian Jewish refugee doctor, has been appointed a medical officer of the Fulham Council's Maternity Homes, it was announced today.

This was the first announcement of the appointment of an alien doctor to a public hospital in line with the recent Home Office order authorizing such appointments. Dr. Jacobi, who held medical posts in Vienna for eight years, has been in this country two years.

REFUGEES IN FRENCH CAMP HONOR BRAMSON'S MEMORY

MARSEILLE, March 17. (JTA) -- Refugee internees at Camp de Gurs have laid two wreaths on the grave of Dr. Leon Bramson, chairman of the executive committee of the World ORT Union, who died on March 2. A memorial meeting for Dr. Bramson will be held April 2, which date has been proclaimed as a day of mourning in ORT institutions in France and abroad. The ORT executive committee has decided to publish a memorial book on his life.

100 EUROPEAN JNF WORKERS GREETED IN PALESTINE

JERUSALEM, March 17. (JTA) -- A reception was held today for 100 officers and employees of the Jewish National Fund in various parts of Europe who have immigrated to Palestine in recent months. Menachem M. Ussishkin, president of the JNF, said the Palestine Jewish community was happy to receive them. A discussion ensued regarding problems of their readjustment.

DR. SCHMITZ, ASCH'S TRANSLATOR, SUICIDE IN PALESTINE

JERUSALEM, March 17. (JTA) -- Dr. Siegfried Schmitz, former Vienna editor and translator of Sholem Asch's works into German, committed suicide today. He was 54 years old. He had been editor of the Kongress-Zeitung, the newspaper which appeared during each World Zionist Congress.