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COMMUNISTS LAUNCH DRIVE AGAINST JEWISH SABBATH-OBSERVERS IN LITHUANIA

STOCKHOLM, March 18. (JTA) -- A problem has arisen in State services in Soviet-held Lithuania in connection with Jewish officials who refuse to work Saturdays, it was reported here today.

Thousands of Jews are employed in cooperatives and other Government institutions. While generally the Lithuania press does not attack Sabbath-observers, a group of Jewish Communists is campaigning against them, demanding that religious Jews either work on Saturdays or resign.

The position of many former Jewish leaders is tragic. Among those lining up daily at the labor exchange, without prospect of obtaining work other than snow-shoveling are Aba Yedidya, former president of the CRT and member of the Kaunas Jewish-Relief Board, and other members of the board.

There is also the problem of scores of German Jews so far permitted to stay in Lithuania as yeshiva students. Rumors that they will be deported to Germany are denied, but they are unable to obtain work because they lack the qualifications.

Jasmin, former board member of the Kaunas Jewish People's Bank, has been appointed vice-director of the Lithuanian branch of the Soviet State Bank in Lithuania, the Kaunas press reports. Under the former regime he was known as the representative of the Communist wing in the Jewish Education Society.

BRITAIN TO PROVIDE SPECIAL KOSHER FOOD FOR PASSOVER

LONDON, March 18.. (JTA) -- Special arrangements to meet ration requirements of the Jews during Passover have been made by the Ministry of Food, it was disclosed today.

Kosher butter and sugar will be available. Jewish customers of a retailer unwilling to supply kosher butter will be allowed to make purchases from another retailer. For this purpose emergency ration cards will be issued.

A hostel for air raid sufferers was opened today at the Jews' Temporary Shelter. Lionel de Rothschild, vice-president of the Shelter, declared in a speech that the institution would be conducted on Jewish religious lines, but everyone, regardless of faith, would be admitted. Among those present were Miss Florence Horsbrugh, Parliamentary Secretary to the Ministry of Health, and the mayor of Stepney.

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PATRIA DISASTER LAID TO SABOTAGE BY INQUIRY COMMISSION

HAIFA, March 18. (JTA) -- A report stating that sabotage was the cause of the explosion and sinking of the S.S. Patria in Haifa harbor last Nov. 25 has been forwarded to High Commissioner Sir Harold A. MacMichael by the Special Commission of Inquiry which investigated the disaster.

The three-man commission found that arrangements for safeguarding the ship before the explosion seemed adequate and that the subsequent rescue was carried out with all possible speed.

Recounting the Patria's history, the report said that at the time of the explosion there were 1,904 illegal immigrants aboard who had arrived on three different vessels during November. The Palestine Government requisitioned the Patria to transport the illegals to a British colony.

At the time the report was drawn up 156 bodies had been recovered, leaving 112 unaccounted for. It is probable that some of these escaped ashore, said the commission. The members were Supreme Court Justice Alan Rose, Brig. Gen. A.J. McNeill and Naval Commander J. L. Edwards.

FOREIGN JEWS IN ITALY AFFECTED BY RACIAL DECREE

ROME, Feb. 19 (JTA - By Mail) -- In a case tried before the Italian Supreme Court, it was ruled that foreign Jews were affected by the Italian racial decree of June 29, 1938, which curbs the practice of various professions by "Italian citizens of the Jewish faith."

According to the decree, "non-discriminated" Italian Jews were forbidden to lend their professional services to "Italian citizens not of the Jewish faith." No provision was made in the decree with regard to foreign Jews, since it was supposed that a previous decree of September, 1938, provided for the expulsion of all foreign Jews who had not left Italy by March 12, 1939. The earlier decree stipulated, however, that foreign Jews falling into certain categories would be permitted to remain.

Dr. William Frankel, a Polish Jew, was one of those who qualified to remain, by virtue of his marriage to an Italian "Aryan" contracted before the racial decree came into effect. Consequently, since the decree affecting the participation of Italian Jews in the professions made no reference to foreigners, he continued his medical practice in Bologna until indicted by the local police.

Dr. Frankel was convicted by the Bologna court and fined 1,000 lira, and carried his case to the Supreme Court.

The Supreme Court ruled, however, that the provisions of the racial decree are implicitly extended to include foreigners of the same race, and that the only concession accorded to foreign Jews is the privilege of being permitted, in certain exceptional circumstances, to continue to reside in Italy.

PALESTINE LIBERAL RABBIS DEMAND RECOGNITION

JERUSALEM, Feb. 24. (JTA - By Mail) -- A resolution demanding legal status within the Knesset Israel (Central Organization of Palestine Jewry) has been passed by the Palestine Congress for Progressive Judaism. The conference was attended by many well-known rabbis, most of them from Germany.

NEW NAZI ACTION DELAYS EMIGRATION OF JEWS FROM REICH

ZURICH, March 18. (JTA) -- The Nazis, who visualize a Europe without Jews, have been responsible for American delay in issuing visas to Jews desiring to leave for the United States, it was reported today from Berlin.

All prospective immigrants are required to produce police certificates showing that they have no criminal records. In an attempt to speed their departure, the German authorities gave orders to the police that all emigrating Jews be given a clean bill immediately upon their application for police certificates. No longer able to rely upon the records issued by the German police, the American consulates in the Reich began taking time to investigate each applicant, thus deferring the issuance of the visa until the private investigation of the consulate is completed.

Two sealed trains are now leaving Berlin every week for Lisbon, crowded with German Jews who received their visas to overseas lands. The emigrants must take along food for three days and do not get a hot meal until they reach the Portuguese frontier. The trains are escorted by Gestapo agents from Germany to the Portuguese border.

TUBERCULOSIS REPORTED SPREADING AMONG JEWS IN NAZI POLAND

GENEVA, March 18 (JTA) -- Poor dwellings and lack of food were reported here today as being responsible for the increasing prevalence of "the white plague" among the Jews in Nazi-held Poland.

The report, which quotes data secured from the TOZ Jewish Health Society in Warsaw, reveals that during the last week alone about 250 cases of tuberculosis were registered by the TOZ in the Warsaw ghetto, while in the city of Czenstochowa the TOZ must take care of some 2,000 Jewish consumptives. About 2,000 Jewish patients are also maintained by the TOZ in Otwork. The number of Jewish consumptives registered with the TOZ in Warsaw and in Lublin reaches many thousands.

Anti-tuberculosis stations have been organized by the TOZ in various cities in Nazi-held Poland to advise Jews on how to avoid infection from persons in their household having the disease.

ANTI-SEMITIC PLACARDS APPEAR IN MEXICO CITY

MEXICO CITY, March 18 (JTA) -- Anti-Semitic placards calling on Mexicans "to get rid of the Jews" have suddenly made their appearance on the walls in the principal streets of the city, provoking anxiety among the Jewish population.

The placards are illustrated with anti-Jewish cartoons of the Julius Streicher type. It is believed they were brought into the country by German agents from the United States, since many persons speaking German among themselves have suddenly appeared in the streets of the capital posing as "American tourists." The visitors stand in front of the anti-Jewish placards and spread the "news" to Mexicans that "America too will soon rid itself of the Jews."

Since the passing of the lease-lend bill in Washington, fifth column activities in Mexico have greatly increased, including the anti-Jewish whispering campaign and open air anti-Jewish meetings. Local newspapers express the opinion that many Nazi spies who feel that they can no longer remain in the United States have moved to Mexico City to direct from here their fifth column work in America.

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DR. GOLDMAN TO TOUR SOUTH AMERICA FOR PALESTINE AID

NEW YORK, March 18. (JTA) -- Dr. Solomon Goldman of Chicago, co-chairman of the United Palestine Appeal, will make a six-week tour of South America in behalf of the Palestine Foundation Fund (Keren Hayesod), it was announced today.

Since the war has almost completely cut off support for Palestine reconstruction from Jewish communities in Europe, Dr. Goldman will seek to bring about wider participation on the part of Jewish communities in Argentina, Chile, Brazil and Uruguay. He will leave from Miami by plane on April 20 and return to the United States on June 1.

JEWISH YOUTH GROUP BACKS BILLS AGAINST JOB BIAS

NEW YORK, March 18. (JTA) -- A petition campaign in support of three bills now before the State Legislature to outlaw racial and religious discrimination in public utilities, employment agencies and defense industries, has been launched by United Jewish Youth, Samuel Freedman, executive secretary announced today. A goal of 25,000 signatures by April 5 has been set.

RELIGION INSTITUTE MARKS FOUNDERS' DAY

NEW YORK, March 18. (JTA) -- The annual celebration of Founders' Day of the Jewish Institute of Religion was held in connection with the 67th birthday of Dr. Stephen S. Wise, president and founder of the school, with a luncheon yesterday at the Hotel Riverside Plaza.

NEW COMMITTEE SEEKS TO SPUR JEWISH EMIGRATION

LONDON, Feb. 25. (JTA-By Mail) -- An appeal to Jewish refugees to take the initiative in working out their own political future and the future of the millions unable to escape from Europe was made at a meeting convened by the newly-formed Committee for Evacuation and Settlement held at the Anglo-Palestinian Club. Dr. H.C. Schnur honorary secretary of the committee, stressed the importance of the Jews' securing representation at the peace conference and of their pressing with one united voice for the solution of the problem.

FIRST JEWISH ORGANIZATION IN NORTHERN RHODESIA

LUSAKA, NORTH RHODESIA. Jan. 27 (JTA-By Mail) -- A Central organization for Northern Rhodesian Jewry has been formed here, with the cooperation of the South African Jewish Board of Deputies. At present five Copperbelt towns -- N'Kana, N'Dola, Mufulira, Luanshya and N'Changa -- constitute the nucleus of the organization, but other big towns are to be contacted and their cooperation sought.

BOMBAY JEWS AID WAR EFFORT.

BOMBAY, Feb. 28. (JTA-By Mail) -- Since the outbreak of war the Jews of India have been intensifying their work in order to render all possible aid to the British war effort. A "Bombay Jewish War Effort Committee" has been formed, which has already raised £1,500.

HEBREW UNIVERSITY GETS HERBERT ADLER LIBRARY

LONDON, Feb. 14. (JTA-By Mail) -- The Jewish library of the late Herbert M. Adler has been bequeathed to the Hebrew University in Jerusalem, The Jewish Chronicle reports. The English Friends of the Hebrew University are arranging for its transportation.