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\$1,250,000 IN FARES FOR REFUGEES DEPOSITED WITH JDC; HUNDREDS FLOCK TO AID RELATIVES

NEW YORK, March 21. (JTA) -- Hundreds of men and women daily are flocking to the Transmigration Bureau of the Joint Distribution Committee, seeking to pay steamship fares so that their relatives can get out of Germany, Austria and other Nazi-dominated countries, and the total of such deposits had reached \$1,250,000 by the first week in March, it was disclosed today.

The "stampede" was attributed by Moses A. Leavitt, secretary of the J.D.C., to the State Department's action in "unblocking" immigration quotas -- permitting immigration up to the quota limits -- with the result that American consulates in Greater Germany are notifying applicants whose names stand high enough on the waiting lists that they may receive visas on presentation of proof that they have steamship passage booked for a specific date and ship.

Into an office accustomed until recently to receive perhaps a score of visitors daily, there now crowd as many as 500 or 600 people during the 9 A.M. to 3 P.M. business hours, clutching in one hand a cablegram stating that their kindred in Nazi territory can expect a United States visa if they will deposit passage money with the J.D.C. and in the other hand, a check book.

Hundreds more, who have not received such a cable, but who have heard about the spurt in issuance of visas, come to inquire about the chances for their European relatives. By mail, telephone and telegraph come additional hundreds of inquiries and remittances of money.

In the last five days of February alone, the Transmigration Bureau took in nearly \$400,000 in deposits for payment of passage for emigrants from Europe. This was \$100,000 more than the office had taken in during the entire period from the time it was established June 21, 1940, up to the end of January this year. By the end of February, the office had received a total of \$949,562 from 3,453 depositors and by the end of the first week of March the total of deposits had jumped to about \$1,250,000.

The recent announcement by the American Export Line, which operate the American ships on the Lisbon-New York route, that it had suspended the sale of tickets for the time being since its boats were booked solidly for several months in advance, has not affected the operation of the Transmigration Bureau. It was pointed out at J.D.C. headquarters that this announcement has no immediate practical effect, since the American Export boats were in any case sold out so far in advance and sailings of Spanish and Portu-

(Continued on reverse side)

guese ships from Lisbon as well as migration on trans-Pacific routes are continuing.

The phenomenal growth in the work of the Transmigration Bureau was explained by Leavitt in a statement in which he said:

"The emigrant cannot buy a steamship ticket, even if he has funds in Reichmarks. Fares must be paid with American dollars. Therefore, in practically all cases, the ticket must be purchased either by relatives in this country or with the funds of the J.D.C. placed at the disposal of the committees abroad in accordance with monthly appropriations. The emigrant deposits his German marks with the central Jewish organization in Germany and the cost of transportation is met from the funds of the J.D.C. Only the committees in Berlin, Vienna, Prague and Bratislava can select the prospective emigrants and the order in which they are to be assisted."

He pointed out that these clearance transactions constitute one of the major source of income for Jewish organizations in Germany and German-held territories, for carrying on the J.D.C. program for relief and rehabilitation there. It is through the clearance arrangement, he said, that the J.D.C. is able to finance the providing of necessities of life and various other kinds of vital help to hundreds of thousands of Jewish war victims and sufferers from persecution in Germany, Poland and other lands, without sending American dollars into German territory or aiding the Nazi economy.

"With the speeding up of issuance of United States visas," Leavitt continued, "relatives in the United States are now being notified that the time has come when their help in financing transportation--either the Central Jewish organization or one of the travel offices, such as the Hapag or the American Express Company.

"In most cases, the cable directs the American relative to deposit the amount of the fare with the J.D.C.--that is, with the Transmigration Bureau in New York. When it receives the money, the Transmigration Bureau notifies the appropriate Jewish Committee in Greater Germany that funds have been deposited for a designated person. The actual booking of the steamship reservations is made in Greater Germany by the Jewish committees themselves. Payments are made on the German committee's order by the J.D.C. in Lisbon or New York. Steamship company offices in New York do not now sell accommodations for a definite sailing date from Lisbon. And it must be borne in mind that American consulates will only issue a visa on proof that steamship passage has been secured for a definite date. It is our understanding that the so-called 'open booking' which provides that the steamship company shall give accommodations on the earliest possible sailing--which may mean months later, in view of the present overcrowding of ships--is useless so far as securing a visa is concerned.

"It can therefore be seen that the fact that someone in this country receives a cable notifying him that a relative in Germany is in line for a visa, and hurries to deposit the amount of the fare with the Transmigration Bureau, does not guarantee that his kinfolk will be able to emigrate immediately."

1,400 EXILES MAROONED ON ROMANIAN-HUNGARIAN FRONTIER

LONDON, March 21. (JTA) -- Some 1,400 Jewish exiles from Transylvania, men, women and children, are still in the "no-man's-land" on the new Rumanian-Hungarian frontier, suffering appalling hardships, it was reported today. The Rumanians are refusing to let them remain and the Hungarians will not admit them.

The men live in tents and the women, children and aged people are herded together in a few huts, the report said. The impoverished Jewish communities of Temesvar and Arad have done their best to supply food, but are unable to do much. Jewish leaders in Budapest unsuccessfully approached the Hungarian Government to allow the deportees to enter Hungary pending arrangements for their settlement overseas, it was said.

NEW POLISH ANTI-SEMITIC PAPER LAUNCHED IN LONDON

LONDON, March 21. (JTA) -- A new Polish National Democratic (Endek) monthly, Mysl Polska, appeared today under the editorship of Rejek, who is editor of Jestem Polakem, anti-Semitic Endek weekly. The monthly declares that it stands for "national Polish and universal Catholic principles."

Meanwhile, the current issue of Jestem Polakem publishes an article seeking to justify anti-Semitic excesses in Polish universities during the pre-war regime as "inevitable self-defense," which, it states, Polish students instituted as a consequence of "murders committed by Jews."

Declaring British opinion must be informed of "the true facts," the paper announces publication in the near future of a book in English "exposing the Jews as murderers of Polish youth." Another article asserts that France flourished after the expulsion of the Jews in the Middle Ages and declined after readmitting them.

"The new Poland will not make the same mistake," it says. "The Jews must not think of returning to Poland after the war."

There are now 13 Polish papers printed in Britain. The large number has caused British newspaper circles to ask how it is possible to grant such a large paper supply in view of the present shortage and these circles also hold that the multitude and variety of Polish publications in Britain is contrary to the Polish Government's express wish to avoid internal dissension and promote national unity. Publication of Jestem Polakem, which is more violently anti-Semitic than ever, is particularly resented.

POLISH JEWISH LEADER DIES TRAGICALLY IN RUSSIA

LONDON, March 21. (JTA) -- Dr. Rafael Landau, for 20 years president of the Cracow Jewish Community, has died under tragic circumstances in the Kazakstan area of the U.S.S.R. Polish Jewish circles here reported today. He was 72 years old. Dr. Landau, who fled from Lwow at the outbreak of the war in Poland, had been deported to the interior by the Soviet Government.

JEWISH GOEBBELS FAMILY IN BUDAPEST FORCED TO CHANGE NAME

LONDON, March 21. (JTA) -- A storm was created in Hitler's ranks by the discovery of a Jewish family named Goebbels in Budapest when the death of one member, Helena Goebbels was announced, The Jewish Chronicle reported today. An order, coupled with blood-curdling threats, was issued immediately to surviving members of the family to change their name. The new name is Glibes.

JEW IS SECRETARY OF OXFORD UNION

LONDON, March 21. (JTA) -- For the first time a Palestinian holds office in the Oxford Union. He is Gershon Hirsch, who was elected as the union's secretary for the coming term.

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WHEELER DENIES ANTI-SEMITISM; HITS 'MEDIEVAL' RACE AGITATION

WASHINGTON, March 20. (JTA) -- Taking cognizance for the first time of charges that he had been instrumental in injecting anti-Semitism into the recent controversy on the lease-lend bill, Senator Burton K. Wheeler denied last night, in a broadcast on an NBC network, that he had attempted to spread race hatred.

The leader of the Senate isolationist bloc denounced the "medieval mendaciousness" of racial agitation and said he was "not interested in the race or creed" of the men he had condemned in his recent speeches. He did not attempt to explain, however, why he had singled out the Rothschilds, Warburgs and Sassoons, all Jewish, in a recent broadcast attack on "international bankers."

In his broadcast speech last night Senator Wheeler declared: "Those of us anxious to preserve civil liberties and peace have been subjected to a smear campaign, but fact is not answered with fact, or reason with reason. Cries of 'pro-Nazi,' 'Hitler agent' and 'anti-Semite' are shouted at the opposition. This is bigotry in its vilest form. This is a return to the monarchical concept that the king can do no wrong."

"Speaking for myself, I have nothing to recant or for which to apologize. I have said, and I repeat, that there are men in the world who are far more concerned with the restoration or the preservation of their economic and social status than with the welfare of the masses of the people. I am not interested in the race or creed of these men. I am concerned, and always have been, with the welfare of the great mass of humanity, with the under-privileged, with the economic and social status of those who are ill-fed, ill-clothed and ill-housed."

"Nothing I have said can be interpreted to give comfort to those people here, or in any country in the world, who make a fetish of the persecution of any minority group. I denounce those who seek to play upon the passions and emotions of our people with this kind of medieval mendaciousness."

"Today we witness legislative and administrative actions which inevitably must lead to the denial of the rights of minorities. A lend-lease bill, an alien concentration camp bill, an anti-strike bill, a wiretapping bill--these are the vehicles of one-man government. They will lead to chains and tears for the minorities in our land. Wave after wave of every kind of intolerance will roll over our nation. No minority group, economic, political, racial or religious, can be certain that it will escape the tide. These are the results of war and war psychology."

B'NAI B'RITH FELLOWSHIP IN MEMORY OF SOUTHERN FIGHTER AGAINST BIGOTRY

WASHINGTON, March 21. (JTA) -- A Grover Cleveland Hall Memorial Fellowship of \$300 to be given annually in recognition of student leadership in the promotion of inter-faith relationships, has been established at the University of Alabama by the National Hillel Commission, governing body of the B'nai B'rith Hillel Foundations, in memory of the editor of the Montgomery Advertiser who won national acclaim as a crusader against bigotry and was awarded the 1927 Pulitzer Prize for his editorials against the Ku Klux Klan and racial and religious intolerance, President Henry Monsky of B'nai B'rith announced today.