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PALESTINE STUDENTS RALLY TO MEET AXIS THREAT; ASK CLOSING OF COLLEGES

JERUSALEM, April 18. (JTA) -- Jewish students today demanded the closing of higher educational institutions to release men for the armed forces, as the Axis advances in North Africa and the Balkans brought the war threat closer to Palestine.

A special meeting of the Central Committee of Hebrew Students, embracing the Hebrew University in Jerusalem, the Haifa Technicum and the Tel Aviv Economic School, adopted a resolution urging obligatory enlistment of students in order to fill necessary military units. A similar resolution was adopted by a country-wide conference of graduates of Hebrew colleges in Tel Aviv.

The Jerusalem conference was addressed by David Ben Gurion, chairman of the Jewish Agency Executive, and the Tel Aviv meeting by Moshe Shertok, head of the Agency's political department. Shertok asserted: "It is our duty to throw ourselves into the struggle with heart and soul. We are fighting with our backs to the wall. Yet our will and endurance are immeasurably strong."

Zionists Urge British to Use Jews to Counter Nazi Penetration

LONDON, April 18. (JTA) -- Stressing the danger of fifth column activities in Near East countries, The Zionist Review, organ of the British Zionist Federation, today appealed to the British authorities to make full use of the devoted Palestine Jews to counteract fifth columnists and also warned that the serious situation in the Middle East permitted to further delay in using Jewish manpower and resources.

"The Jewish population of Palestine can surely be used in such a way in this present hour of trial as to render ineffective any act that the fifth column in Palestine might attempt," the paper said. In view of the anxiety throughout the Jewish world because of the immediate threat to Palestine, the paper demanded that everything be done to prepare the Yishub to meet the emergency.

"A tremendous and grave responsibility would be assumed in the eyes of the whole world if a situation were to develop in Palestine in which the Jewish population was suddenly found face to face with a ruthless enemy and without the means to withstand the at-

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tack," the editorial asserted. "We hope the authorities are fully aware of its implications and will no longer delay the mobilization of Jewish manpower and resources. This step is an essential part of any practical plan for defense of Palestine and the Middle East as a whole."

LONDON, April 18. (JTA) -- The New Zionist Organization administrative committee today submitted to the British Government an offer to form and equip a number of Jewish air squadrons as the first step towards formation of a Jewish army. The proposal was made through the medium of "an influential statesman who has long supported the project," it was said.

Acceptance of the Jewish army proposal, recognition of the Jews as an ally of Britain and measures to force Germany to compensate the Jews after the war for persecution and expropriation are demanded by David Adams, Col. Josiah Wedgwood, Geoffrey Mander and Ian O. Hannah, Members of Parliament, in messages to The Jewish Standard, NZO organ, on its first anniversary.

Iraq Government in Jerusalem; Axis Increases Agitation

LONDON, April 18. (JTA) -- Regent Emir Abdul Illah and Premier Taha el Hashimi, deposed in the recent coup in Iraq, have arrived in Jerusalem and established an Iraq Government-in-exile, it was reported here today. This government is still recognized by Britain, political circles emphasized.

Meanwhile, a Rome broadcast in Arabic admitted for the first time that the exiled ex-Mufti of Jerusalem, now in Baghdad, had instigated the pro-Nazi coup.

ZURICH, April 18. (JTA) -- The Axis is turning its big guns of propaganda on the Near East, especially Palestine. Utilizing their usual "softening-up" tactics, the German and Italian radios are seeking to create the impression of difficult conditions in Palestine, Egypt and other Near Eastern countries as a result of Axis action on the North Africa front.

The German wireless distributed a long dispatch trying to create the impression of a food shortage in the Holy Land and reporting British requisitioning of all private cars and coastal steamers for transport of troops. The Rome radio followed through with an Ankara report that British contingents would be transported from Palestine to Egypt in order "to face the Italian-German menace."

70 Senators Back "Restoration of Jews in Palestine"

WASHINGTON, April 18. (JTA) -- Seventy Senators have joined in making a declaration calling for "every possible encouragement to the movement for the restoration of the Jews in Palestine" and offering support to the reestablishment of the Jewish national home in Palestine, Senator Robert F. Wagner, chairman of the American Palestine Committee, announced today.

The Senators who signed the declaration are Ball, Bankhead, Barbour, Barkley, Bilbo, Bone, Bridges, Brown, Bulow, Burton, Butler, Byrd, Byrnes, Capper, Chandler, Chavez, Clark, Connally, Davis, Downey, Ellender, George, Gillette, Glass, Green, Guffey, Gurney, Harrison, Hatch, Hayden, Herring, Hill, Holman, Hughes, Jolmsen, Kilgore, Langer, Lodge, Lucas, Maloney, McCarran, McKellar, McNary, Mead, Murdock, Murray, O'Mahoney, Norris, Overton, Pepper, Radcliffe, Reynolds, Russell, Schwartz, Sheppard, Smathers, Taft, John Thomas, Elbert D. Thomas, Tobey, Truman, Tunnell, Tydings, Vandenberg, Van Nuys, Wagner, Walsh, Wiley and Willis.

MANY JEWISH CASUALTIES IN NAZI RAID ON LONDON

LONDON, April 18. (JTA) -- There were many Jews among the casualties in Wednesday night's fierce eight-hour German air raid on London. Hundreds were bombed out of their homes by high-explosives and incendiaries. One of the large social centers affiliated with the Liberal Synagogue under the management of Lily Montagu was struck by a bomb and many persons were trapped within.

Meanwhile, a Jewish constable, Samuel Marks, was awarded the British Empire Medal for "outstanding gallantry" during a recent London raid. Under the most difficult conditions he rescued women and aged persons from collapsed houses amid falling bombs. His colleagues at the police station presented him with an inscribed silver watch.

The bravery of a London Jewish seaman, David Miller, who brought down with a machine-gun a Nazi bomber which had attacked a large Dutch liner, has been brought to the notice of Queen Wilhemina. Miller stood at his post although the raider machine-gunned the deck and dropped four bombs, one of which split the ship. He finally succeeded in sending the plane to the sea in flames.

It has been revealed that an invention made by two refugee scientists contributed towards the recent destruction of Nazi night bombers over Britain. This invention was referred to in the official British communiques as "other devices" that helped to bring down the night bombers.

\$25,000 Vitamin Shipment for British Children

NEW YORK, April 18. (JTA) -- A second shipment of high potency vitamin concentrate oil valued at \$25,000 has been contributed by Esco Fund Committee, Inc. for British children, through the Jewish Section of the Interfaith Committee for Aid to the Democracies and will be shipped through the American Red Cross, it was announced today.

JEWISH INSTITUTIONS SUFFER IN BELGRADE BOMBING

LONDON, April 18. (JTA) -- Buildings accomodating Jewish institutions and societies were among those hit in German air raids on Belgrade, The Jewish Chronicle reported today. Many Jews, including women and children, were killed in basement shelters. The Beth Israel Synagogue of the Belgrade Sephardic congregation was badly damaged.

ZURICH, April 18. (JTA) -- The Nazi-controlled Zagreb radio has broadcast an announcement demanding that Jewish shopowners who had displayed the flag of the Croat nationalist movement remove the emblems immediately because they "are dishonored when displayed in this way."

FRANCE CONFISCATES MORE JEWISH FIRMS

VICHY, April 18. (JTA) -- A new list of 55 expropriated Jewish enterprises was published today in the Official Journal.

(An Associated Press report from Vichy said it had been announced that France hoped to arrange an international agreement to repatriate some of the Jews of foreign origin now in France.)

Newspapers in the occupied zone featured a dispatch, datelined London, which said emigrant Polish circles were strongly anti-Semitic and quoting the nationalist Polish paper, Jestem Poliakem.

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POLISH STAND ON JEWS IS 'EQUAL OBLIGATIONS, EQUAL RIGHTS,' SIKORSKI TELLS CONGRESS DELEGATION

NEW YORK, April 18. (JTA) -- The Polish Government considers it is helping to fight an ideological war from which a new world order will emerge, based on freedom and justice to all, Polish Premier Wladislaw Sikorski told a delegation of the American Jewish Congress and the World Jewish Congress in an interview held at the Hotel Buckingham yesterday. He said the principles to which the Polish Government was dedicated were the five freedoms enunciated by President Roosevelt. The slogan of the present Government is "equal obligations and equal rights," he added.

These remarks followed presentation to Sikorski of a memorandum setting forth a series of steps which the Polish Government was urged to take to assure the Jewish community that "full equality of civic and national rights before the law" would be accorded Polish Jews in a reconstituted Poland. The memorandum was presented by Dr. Stephen S. Wise, president of the Congress, on behalf of the delegation.

Gen. Sikorski declared anti-Semitism was foreign to and opposed by the Polish Government. Common suffering, he said, has created a community of spirit between the Poles and the Jews. The Polish Cabinet has unanimously opposed anti-Semitism and the circulation of the anti-Semitic magazine, *Jestem Poliakem*, is forbidden in the army. The Polish Government regards the publishers of this paper as having violated Polish national discipline, he said.

Recalling the statement in London last November by the Polish Minister Stanczyk, that full equality would be granted in a reconstituted Poland, he said it was issued only after full discussion and by the unanimous decision of the entire Cabinet. He emphasized the collaboration between Polish Americans in the United States and American Jews was of utmost importance and requested the Polish Ambassador to the United States, who attended the interview, to further such collaboration.

He offered to consider with the Polish Minister of Justice the advisability of declaring null and void legislative and administrative decrees of former Polish governments, which discriminated between one kind of Polish citizen and another. This, he asserted, was a formality, because the present Polish Government stands for a new world order which must emerge from a victory of the democracies, making such acts impossible.

At a press conference earlier in the day, asked why the Polish Government-in-exile was permitting publication of *Jestem Poliakem* and whether it should not be suppressed, the Premier replied: "The Polish people are now passing a considerable evolution. The theories of the *Jestem Poliakem* will in no way influence the Government's attitude towards the Jews in the reconstituted Poland. The *Jestem Poliakem* group in London is small and of little importance. No importance should be attached to it abroad. The Polish Government does not want to assume the role of a gendarme and order the closing down of this publication, but it has condemned it and has prohibited its circulation in the Polish Army."

Asked why the Polish army organ, *Polska Walszowa*, had published an article accusing the Jews in Soviet-occupied Poland of being pro-Communist, Gen. Sikorski said the army paper "is not anti-Semitic, but is only registering facts. While in the part of Poland occupied by the Germans, the Jews are united with the Polish population against the occupation forces the case in Soviet-occupied Poland is somewhat different. There some fifty per cent of the Jewish population have remained pro-Polish while the rest lean towards cooperation with the Soviet administration."