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ZIONISTS MAKE 11TH-HOUR PLEA FOR JEWISH ARMY; NEAR EAST 'BLITZ' IN 10 DAYS SEEN

LONDON, May 1. (JTA) -- The Zionist Review, organ of the British Zionist Federation, today voiced an eleventh-hour appeal to the Government to sanction formation of a Jewish army and not withhold from the Palestine Jews any longer an opportunity to defend themselves.

The appeal came as the British Press Association and the Free French newspaper France predicted a great Nazi offensive towards Suez through Libya on the west and Syria on the east within six to ten days.

"Our appeal is no less cogent because it is reinforced by considerations of immediate practical importance," the Zionist organ said. "The Prime Minister has said that in none of his successive victories could Wavell maintain in the desert for action, at one time, more than two divisions, or about 30,000 men." But it must be remembered that in September, 1939, 156,000 Palestinian Jews registered for national service."

Asking why advantage was not taken of the opportunity to enlist more Jewish volunteers, the Review complained that the Palestine administration had not given the slightest encouragement to the Jewish community and only reluctantly had agreed to enlistment of special Jewish units. Nevertheless, 8,000 Jews enlisted, compared with 3,000 Arabs, although the Jews are only one-third of the population, the paper said.

Stressing that the Palestine Jews had a tremendous advantage in familiarity with the terrain, the paper declared that the power of resistance of a people fighting despair and building a homeland after 2,000 years should not be minimized and "it would be a crime against humanity to rob them of the chance to defend their honor and the cause of freedom."

The Press Association's diplomatic correspondent foresaw a great conflict in Palestine as the great Axis pincer movement developed.

Germany expects no opposition in French-mandated Syria, where there have been nationalist uprisings recently and where part of the French forces are believed to be disaffected, the report said. From Syria, the Nazi mechanized units could roll across the desert into Palestine and thence towards Suez, while another Italo-German force was fighting its way across the Egyptian desert.

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"According to reports," it was stated, "Hitler is planning to attack Egypt on a gigantic scale. His High Command have been instructed to disregard casualties and concentrate on achieving the swiftest possible advance through Palestine by the use of every device of modern mechanized warfare on land and in the air."

The Press Association reported an asserted boast of Hitler that the conquest of the Mediterranean would be completed by Aug. 1 and said Germany would avoid Turkey and land large forces in Syria by air.

400 Reach Palestine from Greece

LONDON, May 1. (JTA) -- Arrival at Haifa of an Allied steamer bearing 400 refugee Britons, Poles, Czechs, German Jews and Yugoslavs from Greece was reported today by Reuters, British news agency.

The steamer was part of a large British convoy which was unsuccessfully attacked from the air five times. Escorting destroyers reportedly shot down one of the raiders.

Barkley Sees Jews Defending Rampart of Freedom

WASHINGTON, May 1. (JTA) -- Addressing more than 200 Congressmen, Cabinet officers and others attending the dinner launching the American Palestine Committee, Senator Alben Barkley, chairman of the committee, last night extended encouragement "to those who are manning the rampart of freedom which Palestine has become today."

Declaring America looked forward to the day when the small nations would be restored, Senator Barkley asserted that the Jewish people would be restored to "its rightful heritage."

Major Victor Cazalet, chairman of the Palestine Committee in the British House of Commons, predicted that "Jew and Arab, by cooperation, will create a Middle East which may rival in prosperity the happiest days of their ancient glory." Dr. Chaim Weizmann foresaw that it would take decades after the war to detoxicate the minds of millions from the virus of anti-Semitism. Senator Burton of Ohio also spoke. Senator Wagner sent a message.

NAZIS INTRODUCE YELLOW ARMBANDS IN YUGOSLAVIA

ISTANBUL, May 1. (JTA) -- The Nazi occupation forces in Yugoslavia are forcing Jews to wear yellow armbands with the word "Jew" printed in German and Serbian, it was reported here today. Many Jews have been drafted into labor gangs to work at clearing debris in Belgrade, it was said.

LISBON REFUGEE-AID HEAD COMING HERE

LISBON, May 1. (JTA) -- Augusto Desaguy, president of the Portuguese Jewish Refugee Committee, left for New York today on what was described as an important mission to American refugee-aid organizations.

ITALIANS ARREST BENGHAZI JEWS

LONDON, April 17. (JTA-By Mail)-- The Italian authorities in Benghazi arrested a number of Jews in the city immediately after its reoccupation by the Axis forces, says The Jewish Chronicle. The Jews were accused of pro-British activities.

GOLDMAN REELECTED CONGREGATIONS' PRESIDENT; NEW JEWISH UNITY MOVE URGED

DETROIT, May 1. (JTA) -- The 37th biennial council of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations, which closed last night, reelected Robert F. Goldman as president. Other officers elected are Adolph Rosenberg, Cincinnati, board chairman; Jacob W. Mack, Cincinnati, Harry N. Gottlieb, Chicago, Eugene Strassburger, Pittsburgh, and Frederick S. Greenman, New York, vice-presidents, and Herbert C. Oettinger, Cincinnati, treasurer.

Charles P. Kramer, New York, was elected president of the National Federation of Temple Brotherhoods. Arthur Straus, Chicago, was chosen chairman of the Jewish Chataqua Society. A National Association of Temple Secretaries was formed which elected Irving Katz, Detroit, as president.

Following an impassioned debate, the delegates to the Union convention adopted a resolution expressing deep regret and disappointment that the General Jewish Council's objectives, envisaged in Pittsburgh in 1938, had not been realized and called upon the four major Jewish agencies to join together in another effort to constitute a national body for defense, to include lay religious leaders. The resolution provided for a Union committee, together with a committee of the Central Conference of American Rabbis, to take steps to achieve this objective.

Another resolution urged maximum support of the embattled democracies and endorsed aid to Britain through the Jewish Section of the Interfaith Committee for Aid to the Democracies. The action followed an appeal by Rabbi Maurice Perlzweig, chairman of the British Section of the World Jewish Congress.

Other resolutions pledged support of the United States defense program, expressed sympathy with Jewish and non-Jewish victims of the ravages of war, denounced Nazism, Fascism and Communism and recommended to constituent congregations that they welcome refugees into religious fellowship.

At the convention banquet last night, James Marshall, president of the New York City Board of Education, declared that the triumph of democracy demanded rejection of the worship of false gods. He appealed for a moral fiber created out of fearless inspection of the truth to distinguish a democratic victory from an autocratic victory.

JEWISH RELIEF LEADER HELD BY NAZIS

GENEVA, May 1. (JTA) -- Dr. L. Szyfman, chairman of the TOZ, Jewish health society, in Lodz is being held by the Nazis in a camp near Vienna, it was learned here today. Dr. Szyfman's condition is very grave, the report says.

Dr. Boris Tschlenov, representative of OZE in Switzerland, has received a permit from the Swiss Government to send medicaments and vitamin products to Poland to be distributed there by the TOZ. The first shipment of 34 cases, sent through the International Red Cross, is reported to have reached Warsaw. A second shipment of vitamin products, medical supplies and drugs is en route. Dr. Tschlenov is working in cooperation with the International Red Cross and with the Aid Service of Switzerland.

MAINZ, FORMER FRANKFORT BANKER, DEAD IN ENGLAND

LONDON, April 27. (JTA-By Mail) -- The death has occurred at Harrogate, at the age of 90, of Leopold Mainz, formerly of Frankfort. An eminent banker, philanthropist and communal leader, Mainz belonged to a family whose roots in Germany go back to the early fourteenth century. His father was one of the eleven collaborators of Sampson Raphael Hirsch and his son followed him as a foremost protagonist in the cause of rigid orthodoxy.

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40,000 JEWS DIED IN YEAR IN NAZI POLAND

GENEVA, May 1. (JTA) -- Approximately 40,000 Jews died in Nazi-held Poland during the last year, it was reported here today on the basis of data published by various Jewish communities in Poland.

The increase in Jewish mortality among the two million Jews in occupied Poland has no equal in the history of Polish Jewry. In the pre-war years the Jewish population in Poland was increasing at an average of 8,500 per million.

Those of the two million Jews still alive in Nazi Poland are considered even by the Nazis as "living corpses." An investigation conducted by Nazi medical commissions among Jews in Poland to ascertain their fitness for hard labor, has established that forty per cent of the entire Jewish population is not fit for physical work, the report says.

Tens of thousands of Jews in Nazi Poland are filling the Jewish hospitals, to a point where in some cities the Jewish communities were compelled to convert the quarters of the medical staff into wards. The diseases are due chiefly to starvation. In the city of Tarnov the Jewish community had to add 120 nurses in order to cope with the growing number of patients.

In Kielce, where the Jewish hospital is no longer able to accommodate all the sick, many patients are left in their homes to be treated by visiting doctors. In the township of Shidlovitz, where there are only 2,000 Jews, there are 800 patients in the local Jewish hospital. Novi-Sad, a township with a few thousand Jews, has 700 patients in the Jewish hospital, according to the report.

"MARRIED CAMP" FOR INTERNEES IN BRITAIN OPENS

LONDON, April 10. (JTA-By Mail) -- The married aliens' camp is to be opened at Port St. Mary, Isle of Man, on May 1. There will be accommodation at first for 250 families with about 100 children, mostly German Jews. The families will be billeted on the villagers, who will be paid one guinea a head per week for adults.

A number of Germans interned in the Isle of Man have, in response to Lord Derby's appeal, given permission to the Ministry of Supply to collect binoculars impounded when they entered the camp, it is announced. Refugees from several European countries have also sent binoculars.

About a thousand of the civilian internees in Canada have been returned to Britain, it is announced by Alexander Paterson, the Home Office representative, now at Ottawa. The immigration of a further thousand to the United States has been arranged, he added.

The remainder, with the exception of a certain number who have been released because they have relatives of the first degree in Canada, will remain in internment in Canada for the duration of the war, it is stated.