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AXIS REPORTS OF PALESTINE RIOTING FALSE; JEWS SPEED RECRUITING

JERUSALEM, May 5. (JTA) -- There has not been a single incident between Arabs and Jews in Palestine in recent days and rumors abroad of Arab-Jewish strife are regarded as merely Axis-inspired propaganda.

(The German and Italian radios have been reporting "bloody clashes between Arabs and Jews," kidnaping of Zionist leaders, ambushing of British troops and the bombing of the High Commissioner's residence in Jerusalem.)

The atmosphere was calm today as preparations for defense were being speeded. Recruiting of Palestine Jews between the ages of 20 and 30 was in full swing to meet the threat arising from the fighting in Iraq and the reported Axis plan for a drive towards Suez through Syria and the Holy Land.

Enlistment of unmarried Jews began yesterday in response to a proclamation issued by the Jewish Agency for Palestine and the Jewish National Council. Jewish officials said the call met with a warm response, although there were no immediate figures on the number of recruits.

There are already more than 8,000 Jews serving with the British forces in North Africa and some were among the expeditionary force evacuated from Greece. Jewish soldiers returned from Greece told this correspondent today that the majority of the Palestine Jews, most of whom were serving in the Royal Air Force, were safely evacuated from Greece.

Today was marked as a fast day among Palestine Jews in connection with prayers for a British victory. Continuous, 24-hour prayers for victory have been instituted in Palestine synagogues.

Meanwhile, the 30th anniversary of Merchavia, oldest Jewish national settlement in the Jezreel Valley, was celebrated yesterday. Merchavia was started by Dr. Franz Oppenheimer as a cooperative experiment with 9,500 dunams of land. There are now 35 settlements on Jewish National Fund land in the valley totaling 250,000 dunams. More than 1,000 persons from all over the country, including Zionist leaders, attended the celebration.

ISTANBUL, May 5. (JTA) -- Axis broadcasters today renewed issuance of sensational and unconfirmable reports of trouble in Palestine.

A broadcast of the Nazi-controlled Amsterdam radio said: "At several places in Palestine
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it came to bloody clashes between Arabs and Jews. In Jerusalem, the British troops fired on a crowd. Some persons were killed and others wounded. In front of the residence of the British High Commissioner a bomb explosion occurred."

The Rome radio reported that the exiled ex-Mufti of Jerusalem, Haj Amin el Husseini, who is said to have played a prominent part in the coup which established the Rashid Ali government in Iraq, issued an appeal to Palestine Moslems to "join the Iraqis."

ZIONISTS CABLE CHURCHILL URGING JEWISH ARMY

NEW YORK, May 5. (JTA) -- Emphasizing the seriousness of Palestine's position in the event of attack by the Axis powers and the "special danger to which the Jewish community there may be exposed," the Emergency Committee for Zionist Affairs, representing all American Zionist organizations, today cabled an appeal to Prime Minister Winston Churchill to give the Jews of Palestine "the possibility and the means to defend themselves, their country and their honor" through immediate establishment of a large Jewish military force. The cable signed by Dr. Stephen S. Wise on behalf of the Emergency Committee, follows:

"Speaking for hundreds of thousands of organized Zionists and millions of fellow Jews in this country, we beg to submit to your earnest consideration the specially dangerous position of the Jewish community in Palestine in the present war situation. Apart from all other considerations and the desire of the Jews to make their maximum contribution to the war effort, we strongly feel that the Jewish population in Palestine should be given the possibility and means to meet all eventualities and to defend the country themselves and their honor. We are persuaded that the urgency of an immediate decision on this request is self evident."

A similar appeal has been cabled to Prime Minister Churchill by Col. Morris J. Mendelsohn, chairman of the National Council of the New Zionist Organization of America, who said that to leave "Palestine Jewry to be slaughtered like sheep by Nazis and their acolytes would be considered by all free peoples tantamount to an act which, in your own words, 'would be fatal to the honor of the British Empire, without which we could neither hope nor deserve to win this hard war.'"

Roosevelt Intercession Urged

COLUMBUS, O., May 5. (JTA) -- Five hundred Jewish leaders, attending a regional conference of the United Palestine Appeal, yesterday sent a telegram to President Roosevelt urging him to intercede with Great Britain to permit the formation at once of a Jewish army in Palestine and to equip it with adequate material.

"In keeping with the policy of the American Government to aid the democratic peoples resisting the aggressor nations, we urgently plead that you call upon Great Britain to permit Jewish community of Palestine to be adequately armed to defend itself against attack," the telegram said.

"Great Britain, knowing America's concern for her success, should be asked: (1) to permit the formation immediately of a Jewish army in Palestine and (2) to equip that army with adequate material of war. The danger in the Middle East grows hourly. We respectfully ask your service in advising Great Britain of these views."

OLD POINT COMFORT, Va., May 5. (JTA) -- "All-out" aid to Palestine and Britain was called for at the 19th annual conference of the Seaboard Zionist Region, held here over the weekend. Louis E. Spector, Washington, was elected president of the region.

CROATIA PLANS TO SEIZE JEWISH PROPERTY, OUST PROFESSIONALS

BUDAPEST, May 5. (JTA) -- Following its decree barring Jews from citizenship, the Nazi-controlled Croatian Government has announced measures to seize Jewish property and oust Jews from Government service and the professions.

The Zagreb radio said Jewish property would be confiscated without compensation. Jewish employees of the Government will be ousted by June 1. Jewish physicians employed by the Government will be dismissed and private practice of Jewish doctors will be severely restricted.

Jewish lawyers will be barred from practice. Elimination of Jews from banking will be completed soon, the announcement said.

ITALY REPORTS CASUALTIES AMONG PALESTINIANS IN EAST AFRICA

ROME, May 5. (JTA) -- A High Command communique claimed today that Italian forces in East Africa repulsed an attack, inflicting "considerable losses on the enemy," among whom "there were many Jews from Palestine." An earlier communique said some Jews were killed in fighting in the Ambaragi area of Ethiopia.

TREATMENT OF JEWISH CHILDREN IN BRITISH RECEPTION AREAS LAUDED

LONDON, May 5. (JTA) -- Treatment of the 15,000 Jewish children evacuated from Greater London was lauded today by Dr. Nathan Morris, director of Hebrew education, following a 16-day tour of reception areas. He said in a statement:

"Such a store of humanity and kindness towards these little children of another faith and upbringing surely is a thing to be passionately fought for. Only in this country could Europe's last Jewish community keep alive its identity. The good will and imagination shown by little countryside families who have received the children into their homes are moving beyond belief.

"They have done everything, and more than everything, to understand the children's ways. The wives and families of the fishermen of distant Cornwall and of the colliers in South Wales have shown an intuitive grasp of the needs of the children temporarily adopted by them. They have escorted them to and from their Hebrew classes and, through snow and rain, have taken them to their religious services. All this goodness, sympathy and tolerance must never be lost. As a race, we will fight beside this people to the last ounce of strength and effort in order to preserve it."

Dr. Morris declared he had not heard of one case of unkindness. He said: "All these Jews were cared for by non-Jews. All these simple village folk tried to restore the faith of those of a different faith."

CRACOW ZIONIST LEADER EXECUTED

LONDON, May 5. (JTA) -- The Nazis in Cracow have shot Dr. Marcus Spiegel, 55, Zionist leader and former chairman of the Palestine Office in Western Galicia and the Keren Hayesod office in Cracow, after several months' imprisonment, Polish circles here reported today.

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WORKMEN'S CIRCLE PARLEY FONDERS WORLD JEWISH PROBLEMS

CHICAGO, May 5. (JTA) -- The grave problems confronting world Jewry today in the light of Nazi and Fascist aggression were emphasized here by speakers addressing the 41st annual convention of the Workmen's Circle, largest Jewish labor fraternal organization; with a membership of about 100,000, which opened yesterday at the Chicago Civic Opera House. More than 5,000 delegates and guests were present.

Mayor Edward Kelly, bringing the city's official greeting to the convention, declared "the spirit of Israel is eternal."

The principal address at the opening session was delivered by Raphael Abramovitch, leading figure in the Socialist world, who recently arrived in the United States. He warned that "victory of fascism means total extinction of Jewry."

Reuben Guskin, in his presidential address, said that "a homeland for the Jewish people is the only solution" of their problem. He did not mention Palestine specifically. J. Baskin, general secretary reviewed the work of the organization.

SCHWARTZ REPORTS ON AID TO REFUGEES IN FRANCE

NEW YORK, May 5. (JTA) -- Dr. Joseph J. Schwartz, vice-chairman of the Joint Distribution Committee's European Executive Council, who arrived here Friday for a six-week visit, reported at a press conference today that the J.D.C. had spent almost 5,000,000 francs for relief work in French internment camps and that anti-Semitic propaganda was having no effect on the French population. Dr. Schwartz said, in part:

"The J.D.C. has thus far spent close to 5,000,000 francs for relief work in the camps, in addition to much larger sums for work among non-interned refugees... There are still about 60,000 refugees interned in unoccupied France, of whom about 25,000 are Jewish. The largest part of the remainder are Spaniards. A number of steps have been taken in recent weeks which have improved the conditions under which these 60,000 unfortunate human beings live, but there is ample scope for further improvements.

"An attempt is now being made to segregate different categories of refugees. For example, the Camp de Gurs contained up to 14,000 refugees during the winter. Today, there are about 7,500 left. The aged people (of whom there were more than 1,200) have been moved to smaller camps at Noe and Recebedou. Families with children up to the age of 15, embracing 4,500 individuals, have been transferred to the camp at Rivesaltes. Not only are physical conditions somewhat better in these newer camps, but it has meant a tremendous lift in morale...

"On the whole, release from the internment camps is difficult and proceeds slowly. Theoretically, it is possible for a refugee to be released if he can obtain the right of residence in one of the French prefectures and can show a maintenance guarantee of 1,500 to 2,000 francs monthly. In practice, however, the stumbling block proves to be the residence permit...

"The HICEM has a file of some 30,000 dossiers of refugees in France, of which 18,000 to 20,000 belong to internees. Gradually, the necessary papers are being transferred from Stuttgart to Marseille, and refugees who have possibilities of rapid departure are being sent to the camp at Lesmilles, right outside Marseille, to expedite their contact with the consulates."