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HIGH CZECH OFFICIALS DEFY NAZIS ON RELATIONS WITH JEWS

LONDON, May 18. (JTA) -- Highest functionaries of the Czech National Solidarity Party and well-known personalities in Czech political, economic and cultural life are among the many inhabitants of the Protectorate recently denounced to the German authorities for continuing to maintain relations with Jews, Czechoslovak circles here reported today.

An ostentatiously friendly attitude towards the Jews is one of the characteristic expressions of national resistance to the Nazis. Since last autumn, when the National Solidarity Party was compelled to forbid its members to maintain social contacts with Jews, the German press, as well as the Vlakist (Fascist), has been unceasingly denouncing Czechs for defying the order.

A particular target of attacks recently has been the town of Prebram, where, according to the Nazi-controlled press, "the local secretary of the National Solidarity organization aroused public indignation by contacts with local Jews." In the town of Novacerekva-Moravia, "even the head of the gendarmerie conducts himself in this inadmissible fashion." Something even more terrible happened in Turnov, where "at a dance arranged by a secondary school a Jewish girl was a member of the dance committee."

Czech circles here said such denunciations were not merely an expression of German anger, but the persons thus pilloried were usually imprisoned or interned in concentration camps for several months. Nevertheless, it was added, they risk everything to show that the Czechoslovak nation "cannot be forced, even by the worst terror, to degrade itself by accepting Nazi racialism."

'ARYAN PARAGRAPH' INTRODUCED BY NORSE UNDER NAZI PRESSURE

STOCKHOLM, May 18. (JTA) -- Acting under Nazi pressure, the Norwegian Government has introduced the "Aryan paragraph," dismissing all Jewish and "non-Aryan" employees from State and Municipal institutions, it was reported here today.

"Non-Aryans" reportedly will be permitted for the time being to retain their Norwegian citizenship, but no citizenship will in the future be granted to any applicant classified as "non-Aryan."

(Continued on reverse side)

The Swedish Government announced that 4,046 refugees, 3,199 of them Jews, are now residing in Sweden. Several hundred of these refugees expect to receive visas for various countries on the American continent, which they hope to reach by way of the Far East. The majority, however, fears internment, since it is known that Germany is pressing the Swedish Government for the internment of not only refugees from the Reich but also of Norwegian political refugees.

STRICTER ENFORCEMENT OF ANTI-JEWISH LAW ORDERED IN HOLLAND

STOCKHOLM, May 18. (JTA) -- Arthur Seyss-Inquart, German Commissioner in Holland, has ordered stricter application of the Nov. 4 law excluding Jews from official positions, it was reported here today.

Seyss-Inquart called attention to a previous order that municipal councils and school governing bodies must oust Jewish pupils from all schools except those exclusively for Jews. The deadline for such action was May 15.

PALESTINE JEWS DEMOCRACY'S MOST LOYAL BULWARK IN NEAR EAST, WEIZMANN HOLDS

NEW YORK, May 18. (JTA) -- Dr. Chaim Weizmann, President of the Jewish Agency for Palestine and of the World Zionist Organization, declared today that despite the justified grievances that Palestine Jews may have against Great Britain they rallied to her cause and have remained the most loyal bulwark for democracy in the "Near East field of intrigue and outright hostility."

Speaking before a congregation of more than 4,000 under the auspices of the Free Synagogue in Carnegie Hall Dr. Weizmann pointed out that although the policy of British appeasement towards Arabs injured the Jews greatly, the Jewish community of Palestine solidly backed the side of Britain as soon as she was confronted with war.

"Not for a moment did we doubt that all the differences between us and the British Government waned into insignificance when measured against the possibility of a British defeat at the hands of the totalitarian, anti-democratic powers," the Zionist leader said.

Had Britain permitted the fullest development of Palestine the military situation in the Mediterranean would have been much more favorable in the present critical moment, Dr. Weizmann asserted.

"If Palestine today had a more substantial Jewish population--let us say a million Jews, with the corresponding military man-power, and if the British government had trained and armed this man-power for the onslaught that inevitably had to come at that focal point in the war for the survival of the British empire, then all of us, in England as well as here, would be breathing a great deal more freely, and would be viewing the collaboration of France and Germany with much less anxiety," he said.

"We would be able to place in the field 100,000 young men who would give all for the defense of Palestine and the British cause, which is identical."

Pointing out that it was the British who created a wide area of independent Arab states, Dr. Weizmann assailed the revolt in Iraq and declared that if the formation of Arab republics by Great Britain after the first world war failed to inspire

5/19/41.

the Arabs with loyalty and gratitude to Britain, certainly small concessions later offered by the British appeasement policy in Palestine could not expect to win over the Arabs now.

"Fortunately," he said, "there still are some far-sighted and loyal Arabs who refuse to let themselves be blinded by the blandishments of the exiled Mufti of Jerusalem. They know that only a British victory can bring them true freedom and peace. Even if some of our Arab neighbors should let themselves be so misguided as to take up arms against the forces of democracy, Britain will find that Jewish Palestine will remain constant to her cause and that the Jewish people of Palestine are prepared to lay down their lives in defense of their homes."

Dr. James G. MacDonald, chairman of the President's Advisory Committee for Political Refugees also addressed the congregation. Dr. Stephen S. Wise, rabbi of the Free Synagogue, presided.

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Wagner Urges Britain to Arm Palestine Jews

WASHINGTON, May 18. (JTA) -- Senator Robert F. Wagner, chairman of the American Palestine Committee, today issued a statement calling attention to the perilous situation of the Jewish community in Palestine as a result of the extension of the war to the Middle East and urging that the Jews be given "the opportunity and the means to defend themselves."

"Nothing could be more revolting to me as an American, as a Christian and as a lover of democracy than to see the swastika, emblem of brutality and of revolt against Christian morality, hoisted over the holy places of Palestine," Senator Wagner said. "And nothing could be more shocking to the civilized world than to see the 500,000 Jews of Palestine, most of them refugees from fiendish persecution, given over to ruthless destruction."

"They should be given the opportunity and the means to defend themselves. Their zeal should be reinforced with the necessary equipment. Faced with the implacable enemy, they have the right to fight and, if need be, to give their all in the cause of the resolute defense of democracy and the Jewish National Homeland."

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Mizrachi Parley Demands Creation of Jewish Army

ATLANTIC CITY, May 18. (JTA) -- The 24th annual convention of the Mizrachi Organization of America last night adopted resolutions calling for the establishment of a Jewish army, arming of the Palestine Jews and eventual creation of a Palestine Jewish Commonwealth.

A resolution urged the British Government to set up "a specifically Jewish force to fight as an equal and an ally with the armies of the other nations who are fighting at the side of Britain" and "to provide the Jewish community in Palestine itself with all necessary arms for purposes of self-defense in case of need."

Another resolution, declaring that the Jewish problem could be solved only by absorption of great numbers of Jews in Palestine, asserted that "on the precedent of the Greco-Turkish population transfers which followed the last war, the resettlement must be under intergovernmental auspices."

The convention decided to raise \$50,000 this year to complete a \$100,000 fund for land redemption for the Nachlat Herzog colony for orthodox Jews, named for Palestine's Chief Rabbi.

The convention received with enthusiasm messages from Menachem M. Ussishkin and Rabbi Meir Berlin in Palestine declaring that the Jewish community would defend its positions and urging steadfast support and material aid from American Jews.

Rabbi Wolf Gold, president of the Mizrahi World Executive, declared in an address last night: "Repentance is incumbent upon us all. We must offer our own atonement before the rest of the world can atone. Now the enemy stands at the gate of the Holy Land. Millions of Jews are imperilled. White papers plague us from high places. We are forbidden to arm against the invader. There is chaos and disruption in Jewish life everywhere. Our responsibility is great.

"We must ourselves turn back to the ways of righteousness ere all the nations become just and tolerant. For it is within ourselves to bring healing to our people. In thought and deed let us give recompense for our transgressions of the past--so that a new and glorious future may be assured us in a world purged of barbarism and hatred."

NEW GROUP FORMED HERE TO AID ORT'S \$500,000 DRIVE

NEW YORK, May 18. (JTA) -- Delegates representing 284 national and local fraternal and benevolent organizations assembled in the Hotel Pennsylvania here today to form a Council of Organizations to aid the American ORT Federation raise its \$500,000 New York quota.

Lord Marley, Deputy Speaker of the House of Lords, one of the principal speakers at the meeting, described the constructive work of ORT in Europe and particularly in England where the organization is aiding in the training of workers for defense industries.

Other speakers included Dr. David Lvovitch, vice president of the World ORT Union, Dr. Boris Aisurovitch, European ORT representative, Dr. Julius Brutzkus, former minister of Jewish affairs in Lithuania and Transit Commissioner M. Maldwin Fertig.

A cable of greeting from George Backer, president of the American ORT Federation, who is now in England, was read. As a special feature of the afternoon, a talkie, showing the work of ORT in Europe, with Mr. Backer as narrator, was shown. Resolutions asking organizations to contribute to the work of the ORT were passed.

Mr. Fertig was elected chairman of the newly formed council and Herman Hoffman, Louis Levine, Max Ogust, Simon E. Osserman, and Max J. Schneider were elected co-chairmen.

MARSEILLE SYNAGOGUE DAMAGED BY MYSTERIOUS BLAST

MARSEILLE, May 18. (JTA) -- A mysterious explosion wrecked the entrance to a synagogue here at two o'clock this morning. An inquiry has been ordered.

GESTAPO SPREADING NET IN U.S., DEMOCRACY GROUP WARNS

NEW YORK, May 18. (JTA) -- A warning that the Gestapo is spreading its influence in the United States is sounded in a 32-page documentary pamphlet issued today by the Friends of Democracy, Inc.