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VICHY CLOSES ITS CONSULATES IN PALESTINE

JERUSALEM, May 25. (JTA) -- On orders from the Vichy Government, all French consulates throughout Palestine closed today and the French Consul General will leave the country on Wednesday.

It has not yet been established who will represent French interests in Palestine.

Relations between Vichy and Great Britain, which hold the mandates respectively over Syria and Palestine, have seriously deteriorated recently, as a result of Vichy's decision to collaborate with Germany and the opening of Syrian air bases to the Nazis, which was followed by R.A.F. raids.

Holds Colonial Office Now Favors Arming Palestine Jews

LONDON, May 25. (JTA) -- The belief that the Colonial Office has changed its attitude on the arming of the Jews in Palestine was expressed today by the Daily Herald columnist Hannen Swaffer.

Discussing the Near East war situation, Swaffer declared that the plea of the Palestine Jewish community for arms "not only to defend Palestine for themselves and the British but to save their own skins" was logical in view of the possibility that the exiled ex-Mufti of Jerusalem was stirring up trouble in Palestine leading to "wholesale massacre."

"The Colonial Office," Swaffer said, "now favors arming of the Jews, who hitherto were only allowed to volunteer in the proportion of one Jew for every Arab."

Greek Captain Jailed For Aiding Refugee Entry

HAIFA, May 25. (JTA) -- George Papastropoulos, master of the steamship Milos, was sentenced to 18 months' imprisonment by the District Court today for bringing 700 illegal immigrants to Palestine.

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Spiros Yanulatos, master of the steamship Atlantic, charged with entering Palestinian territorial waters on Nov. 24 with 1,800 Jewish illegal immigrants from Germany and occupied countries, was acquitted of the same charge, the court agreeing with his defense that he was forced against his will to go to Haifa by armed forces operating in the Mediterranean.

The passengers of both ships have been interned in the British island colony of Mauritius.

3 Falashas Join British Army

JERUSALEM, May 25. (JTA) -- Three Falashas (Ethiopian Jews) who have resided in Heraliah for the last seven years recently enlisted in the British army and have now been commissioned to Ethiopia as instructors in Emperor Haile Selassie's army, the newspaper Haboker reported today.

Mayor Israel Rokach of Tel Aviv has issued an appeal for speeding up donations to the city's Military Ambulance Fund.

NAZI PRESS HAILS ELIMINATION OF JEWS FROM FRENCH ECONOMY

ZURICH, May 25. (JTA) -- Radical elimination of Jews from the entire economic life of occupied France has been hailed in the German press as one of the most important achievements in German efforts to reorganize European economy according to Nazi principles.

Publishing details of the decree by the military governor of the occupied territory, which went into effect May 20, the Hamburger Fremdenblatt asserts that the decree was welcomed by the French population as the "anti-Jewish activities of the Vichy commissariat were considered slow and ineffective."

The text of the decree, which was first published in the military governor's official gazette, specifies the following occupations from which Jews are barred: wholesale and retail trade, restaurants, hotel keeping, insurance, shipping, storage, travel agencies, banking, money exchange, money lending, debt collecting, publishing, administration of houses and landed property and any activities as agents and commission workers.

The decree defines "Jews" in accordance with the Nuremberg Laws--persons with at least three grandparents of pure Jewish blood, persons with grandparent who belonged to the Jewish religious community and persons with two Jewish grandparents who attend synagogue or have married Jews.

ZIONIST NATION WOULD HERALD BROTHERHOOD OF MAN, SO.AFRICAN LEADER HOLDS

BLOEMFONTEIN, Union of South Africa, May 25. (JTA) -- Minister of Justice Colin Steyn told the annual conference of the South African Zionist Federation today that attainment of the Zionist ideal would be a great thing not only for the Jewish people, but also for humanity. He said establishment of a Jewish commonwealth would herald the brotherhood of man. N. Kirschner, president of the Zionist Federation, who presided, stressed the "indestructible determination" of the Zionists to continue with the up-building of Palestine.

STIMSON, KNOX HAIL WELFARE BOARD'S 'SPLENDID WORK'

CHICAGO, May 25. (JTA) -- Meeting in its 24th annual convention the Jewish Welfare Board today heard messages of praise from War Secretary Henry L. Stimson and Navy Secretary Frank Knox on the "splendid work accomplished in behalf of the American soldier and sailor."

Stimson, expressing faith in the outcome of the struggle, called on Jewish youth "to understand the issues involved" and to contribute their services to the defense program. Col. Knox declared in his message that "when civilization stands at the crossroads coordination of all groups, morally, physically is imperative."

President Frank Weil, in his annual report, stressed the Board's unprecedented achievement in organizing, in a period of only a few months, 158 army and navy committees in 148 communities serving the social, religious and recreational needs of Jews in the American armed forces.

"The entire Jewish community rallied to this undertaking," Weil said, pointing out that 34 leading national organizations were affiliated with the army and navy committees. Now that the Welfare Board is one of the six constituent agencies of the United Service Organization, a feature of its work is the appointment of religious activity committees comprising leading rabbis working under the leadership of Dr. David de Sola Pool, he declared.

Weil reported that the Board has handled 10,476 personal welfare cases of disabled veterans, their dependents and beneficiaries. He also cited the growth of the community centers movement, 323 centers with a total membership of 400,000 being affiliated with the board.

Speakers at the opening session last night included Prof. Morris R. Cohen of Chicago University and Rabbi Edward Israel, president of the Synagogue Council of America. Round-table discussions this morning were conducted by Edgar Kaufmann, George Myer and Michael A. Stavitsky.

SULZBERGER, OTHERS ADDED TO BOARD OF REFUGEE BODY

NEW YORK, May 25. (JTA) -- The conviction that America and Britain must offer Europe's conquered peoples a future "different from that of the last 20 years" if the Nazis are to be successfully challenged was expressed today at the annual meeting of the National Refugee Service by Vera Micheles Dean, research director of the Foreign Policy Association. One hundred and fifty leaders in refugee-aid, representing all sections of the country, attended the session.

"The present contest in Europe is not a choice between Hitler's plan for a new order and a return to the world disorder of August, 1939," Miss Dean said. "We must recognize that in order to challenge the Nazis America and Britain must offer the conquered peoples of Europe a future different from that of the last 20 years. We must offer them all that the Nazi new order promises them--all that and freedom too."

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A business session earlier in the day added 40 persons from 22 communities to the board of directors, among them Arthur H. Sulzberger, Judge Morris Rothenberg, Maurice Wertheim, Stanley Isaacs and George Z. Medalie, of New York; Eugene Warner of Buffalo, Paul Bissinger of San Francisco, Milton Baruch of Los Angeles, Mortimer Adler of Rochester, Meyer Kestnbaum of Chicago, D. J. Apte of Miami, Gustave H. Kann of Pittsburgh and Rabbi Morris Lazaron of Baltimore.

LABOR UNIONS OFFER 'HONORABLE PEACE' TO 'DAY' STRIKERS

NEW YORK, May 25. (JTA) -- An "honorable peace" to the eleven members of the editorial staff of the Day, Jewish daily, who have been on strike for more than 14 weeks, was offered publicly during the week-end in a proclamation signed by the Joint Board of the Amalgamated Clothing Workers Union, Joint Board of the Cloakmakers Union, Joint Board of the Dressmakers Union and the United Hebrew Trades.

The four organizations, opposing dual unionism, suggested that the strikers resign from the New York Newspaper Guild and apply for reinstatement by the Jewish Writers Union, recognized body of Yiddish journalists. The economic demands of the strikers will then be settled through the efforts of the Jewish Writers Union in co-operation with other labor unions. The project does not include B.Z. Goldberg, one of the striking group, who, the proclamation says "is a special case and must be put in a special category."

Rejection of the above terms will be considered, the proclamation said, proof that the strike has no economic bases, but was precipitated by political considerations.

JEW SAVES NAZI PILOT'S LIFE

LONDON, May 25. (JTA) -- A German ace bomber pilot is now in an internment camp somewhere in England with the memory of a night of horror in Plymouth during a Nazi raid, and the knowledge that he owes his life to the skill of a Jewish surgeon, says the News Chronicle.

He fractured his spine when his plane crashed in the West Country. Rescued by farm workers, he was taken to a hospital and the Jewish surgeon performed a series of delicate operations so successfully that one day he will be able to walk again.

The hospital was bombed, and members of the staff risked their lives to carry him to safety.