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BRITISH RACE TO HEAD OFF NAZI ATTACK ON PALESTINE; TROOPS MASS ON SYRIAN BORDER

LONDON, June 5. (JTA)-- British military authorities in the Middle East today raced against time to head off reportedly imminent simultaneous German attacks against Palestine, Egypt and Cyprus.

What may have been the beginning of this drive was the heavy air-raid on the important port of Alexandria today in which more than 100 civilians were killed. The Transjordan capital of Amman was bombed yesterday by planes said by British authorities to be of the French type.

To forestall a Nazi push into Palestine from Syria, large contingents of British, commanded by General Wavell, together with Free French forces, were reported massing on the northern borders of Palestine and Transjordan for a drive into the French-mandated territory, now serving as a Nazi base. It is reported that the Germans have accumulated 15,000 men in Syria by infiltration through Turkey.

It appeared that the Allied forces in Palestine and the Axis forces in Syria were engaged in a race to gain the advantage by taking the offensive. The British have already declared Syria to be enemy-occupied territory, have reportedly concentrated heavy fleet units off the Syrian coast and the British Board of Trade today extended the blockade to the French-mandated territory.

General Charles de Gaulle, leader of the Free French forces, is stated to be in Palestine, conducting staff conferences with British Commander Sir Henry Maitland Wilson. The British are planning to continue bombing of military objectives in Syria, following their raid yesterday on oil depots in Beirut.

The British radio said today that "reports are still coming in about French soldiers in Syria deserting and joining the Free French movement of General de Gaulle and more French planes from Syria are said to be landing at British bases." The British radio also quoted the Free French news agency as reporting that the chief of the gendarmerie in Lebanon had joined the de Gaulle movement.

Depredations in Baghdad by looting, murdering bands left behind by the fleeing Premier Rashid Ali Beg Gailani took on an outspokenly anti-Jewish character, well-informed circles here said today. These sources said the disorders did not reflect the general attitude of the population and that the excesses were committed solely by hired hooligans.

Palestine Recruiting Intensified

JERUSALEM, June 5. (JTA)-- The recruiting drive was intensified today as it was announced that 700 Jews enlisted in the British forces during May. Meanwhile, the Tel Aviv Municipal Council approved allocations for a further 2,500 air raid shelters in private homes

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The Palestine Broadcasting Service is introducing special programs for Jewish soldiers, including personal messages from relatives to men serving all over the Middle East.

Sephardic Chief Rabbi Ben-Zion Uziel urged every young Jew to join the fighting forces, in an address at the Great Synagogue in Tel Aviv, where 500 Jewish troops and officers gathered for the ceremony of presentation of a Torah scroll to Jewish soldiers in the Middle East by the Tel Aviv Jewish community council.

Captains Rabinovitz and Ravitz, chaplains, offered prayers for Jewish soldiers who have fallen or been taken prisoner in recent campaigns. Accepting the scroll, Chaplain Raffalowitz offered prayers for the King and royal family. The ceremony concluded with the singing of "Hetikvah" and "God Save the King."

Meanwhile, a measure of optimism is being to return to Palestine industry. The pessimism which followed the outbreak of the war has been shown to be unfounded, declared Siegfried Hoofien, manager of the Anglo-Palestine Bank, addressing a meeting of the Tel Aviv Chamber of Commerce.

Some industries are not only showing profits, but have even established new capital reserves, Hoofien said. Some industries are rapidly expanding and manufacturers are expressing regret that there are only 24 hours to the day, he said. He expressed hope that the Government would assist in problems of raw material and transport facilities.

#### Laborites Cheer Plea for Arming Jews

LONDON, June 5. (JTA)-- A speaker before the Labor Party's annual conference today denounced the Palestine administration's "harsh and unfair policy towards the Jews" and asserted that "the fate of the Jewish people and the solution of the Jewish problem are of the highest importance in a new, truly democratic world order."

The speaker, N. D. Jackson, a trade union leader, complained that the eagerness of the Jews to assume their role as Britain's natural allies had been met only with embarrassed silence on the other side.

The speech followed the reading, amid cheers, of a cablegram from the Palestine Histadruth urging the Government to authorize formation of a Jewish army. "It is essential that the Jews be allowed to participate to the maximum of their ability in repelling the enemy and his agents, who now try to do Hitler's bidding in Palestine," the message said.

The Jewish people was mentioned as one of Britain's allies by Camille Huysmans, president of the Labor International, in an address. Thanking Britain for her hospitality to aliens, he said: "Some of us had inevitable difficulties which aliens have to meet in a country which is at war. When I say 'we' I mean not only the Belgians, but the Dutch, Czechs, Poles, etc., and the Jewish people, who are persecuted everywhere."

The Labor Party's policy regarding technical enemy aliens was criticized by three delegates. Goldstone of the Tailors' Union wanted assurance that the party did not approve the policy of general internment in case of invasion. George Latham replied for the party's executive committee that "the problem bristles with difficulties" and gave assurance that everything possible would be done to improve the aliens' position.

116 CHILDREN REACH LISBON FROM FRANCE, EN ROUTE TO U.S.

LISBON, June 5. (JTA)-- A group of 116 refugee children from Germany and Austria, most of them Jewish, arrived here yesterday from unoccupied France to proceed to the United States under a special arrangement between the United States Committee for the Care of European Children, the J.D.C., the Quakers and the State Department in Washington.

The majority of the children were maintained in special homes which the OSE, Jewish health society, established in France shortly before the outbreak of the war with funds provided by the Joint Distribution Committee. When the war broke out, the homes were transferred to southern France, where, with J.D.C. funds, they were given full care and instruction. The children are mostly orphans or have their parents in Nazi concentration camps. They are scheduled to sail for New York on June 10 on the Portuguese steamer Mousinho.

LORD CECIL HEADS DRIVE FOR POLISH JEWISH REFUGEES

LONDON, June 5. (JTA)-- Lord Cecil has accepted the chairmanship of the £10,000 appeal of the Polish Jewish Refugee Fund in behalf of Polish Jewish refugees in Palestine, it was announced today.

Seventy-nine Polish Jewish refugees stranded in Japan have obtained permission to proceed to Canada, Ignacy Schwartzbart was informed by the Federation of Polish Jews in Canada, which guaranteed their maintenance for duration of the war. The federation cabled that it was prepared to assume responsibility for more refugees if the Canadian Government granted them landing permits.

JEWS' PLAYS SHOWN IN FRANCE; NAMES BARRED

LONDON, June 5. (JTA)-- Plays by Jewish playwrights are still performed in Nazi-occupied Paris, but the names of the authors may not be mentioned, the Free French newspaper reports. The Paris theater Porte St. Martin has resumed performances of the play, "Two Orphans" by Denery, whose name, however, does not appear on posters and programs because he is "non-Aryan."

Meanwhile, it was reported from Vichy that administration of several important Jewish-owned metal foundries had been turned over to the foundry trust. The Official Journal announced "Aryanization" of 504 more Jewish enterprises in Paris.

NEW CURBS IMPOSED ON JEWS IN ITALY

GENEVA, June 5. (JTA)-- Jews are forbidden to be estate administrators in Italy by order of the Directorate General for Demography and Race, it was reported here today. A decision of the Directorate of State Monopolies bars Jews from holding executive posts.

CROAT EDITION OF STUERMER ISSUED

ZURICH, June 5. (JTA)-- In order to foster anti-Jewish propaganda in Croatia, the Nazis have arranged for the publication in Zagreb of a Croat edition of Der Stuermer, Julius Streicher's rabidly anti-Semitic weekly, it was reported here today.

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JAFFE URGES U.S. JEWS TO GIVE INCREASED AID TO PALESTINE

NEW YORK, June 5. (JTA)-- Emphasizing that "danger is approaching Palestine" and that "tens of thousands of Jews demands the right to fight in Palestine," Leibe Jaffe, director of the Palestine Foundation Fund in Jerusalem, who has arrived in the United States on his way from London to Palestine, appealed today at a press conference that American Jewry "more than ever take on itself the responsibility for the fate and future of the Jewish people."

Jaffe, who spent three-and-a-half months in England in a campaign to raise funds for the defense and upbuilding of Palestine, praised the British Jews for the role they play in the present struggle. There are tens of thousands of Jews in the forces, "he said." There is a great percentage of them in the A.R.P. and other essential services. Some of them have been decorated for bravery. The Jewish districts in London and the provincial centers have suffered terribly. The famous Whitechapel has gone through the ordeal of bombardment, but, as with other sections of the British people, they carry on with courage and determination."

Revealing that despite the war situation in England, he succeeded in raising over \$87,000 for Palestine, Jaffe said the Zionists in England did not for a moment cease their work for Palestine despite the fact that none of them knew if he would survive the next night.

Speaking about the role which American Jews are expected to play in the present emergency for Palestine, Jaffe said: "The danger is approaching Palestine. We do not know what the coming days may bring. Property can be destroyed, lives can be extinguished, but nobody can destroy the eternal covenant of the Jewish people with Eretz Israel; nobody can extinguish the immortal love of the Jewish people for their land." Nearly all of European Jewry is destroyed. We lost the best countries which helped us to build Palestine. The great Jewry of America, which enjoys freedom and an undisturbed life, must now replace the Jewries of other countries and must more than ever take on itself the responsibility for the fate and future of the Jewish people. The eyes of the Jews in all the world are turned to American Jewry."

SERVICES TODAY FOR CONGRESSMAN EDELSTEIN

NEW YORK, June 5. (JTA)-- Funeral services will be held tomorrow at Gramercy Park Memorial Chapel here for Rep. M. Michael Edelstein, who died in the House lobby in Washington yesterday of a heart attack after an exchange with Rep. John A. Rankin over the latter's anti-Jewish charges. Reps. Dickstein, Cullen, Kennedy and Pfeiffer were appointed by Speaker Rayburn as an official House committee to attend the funeral.

It was revealed today that Edelstein was planning to write an article on anti-Semitism for Atlantic Monthly.

MRS. SILVERMAN BACK FROM S. AMERICA

NEW YORK, June 5. (JTA)-- Mrs. Archibald Silverman, Zionist leader, has returned from South America, where she delivered more than 60 speeches in Argentina, Uruguay and Brazil during a six-week stay. Mrs. Silverman stated that while the Jewish community in South America was still young, its responsiveness towards the Palestine appeal was gratifying.