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MANY JEWS REPORTED AMONG FREE FRENCH FORCES INVADING SYRIA

LONDON, June 8. (JTA).-- Many Jewish officers and privates are among the Free French forces which penetrated Syria this morning, a recently arrived Palestinian informant told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency today.

The events in Syria, he said, were being followed with the greatest interest in Palestine which, while not the only neighbor of Syria and Lebanon, was the juncture of the main Allied bases of operations.

A great part of the Jewish settlements in the Galilee are now on the very front line of the advancing Allied troops. One of the oldest colonies in the Upper Galilee, Metullah, is situated only 200 yards from the Lebanon border and part of the colony's land even extends into Syrian territory.

A little to the south is Kfar Giladi and Tel Esi, both heroically defended points in earlier days. Another group of colonies in the affected region includes Ayeleth Hashahar, on Lake Merem, and Mishmar Hayarden, which is an important bridgehead to Syria, and other Upper Galilean colonies around Rosh Pina.

Degania Kinereth as well as the fishing settlements on Lake Tiberias are also close to the front line. Hannita, near the Mediterranean coast, is also on the Syrian border. All of these colonies are closely connected with the history of the Palestine Jewish community.

The informant pointed out that it was perhaps premature to attempt to assess the political repercussions in Palestine of the Allied move. Lebanon is the only "A" mandate apart from Palestine. Iraq, which was formerly in the same category, was released from mandate in 1932. Syrian Nationalists often expressed the opinion that Palestine must be considered the southern part of Syria and accordingly called Palestine Suriya el Jemoubia, meaning Southern Syria, and the pre-war relations between the two countries were closest.

Great Jewish communities exist in all the larger towns of Syria, foremost among them being those in Damascus, Aleppo and Beirut.

Ibn Saud Letter Used by Nazis to Stir Up Arabs

LONDON, June 8. (JTA).-- A letter written by Emir Ibn Saud of Saudi Arabia to President Roosevelt in November, 1938, requesting his assistance in resisting "Zionist rule in Palestine" has come to the fore as a weapon of Nazi propaganda to alienate the Arabs' sympathies for Britain, it was learned here today.

The network of Axis propagandists in the Middle East has been making a point of dwelling on the Palestine question and has been making strenuous efforts to convince the Arabs that Britain has not fulfilled pledges she made to the Arabs during the last war. The Emir's two-and-a-half-year-old letter is being used in an attempt to play his known sympathies for the Palestine Arabs.

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The text of this letter has just been made public here for the first time, and in connection with its publication British circles emphasize that it is especially important "because it shows the mind of Ibn Saud." The letter reads, in part:

"I have heard it stated that the Americans are biased in favor of the Zionists and support their designs on Palestine. This means that they have been taken in by their false claims and propaganda, and so have paid no attention to the case of the Arabs. By so doing, they doubtless think that they are serving the cause of humanity in general, whereas nothing could be further from the truth, for what could be more tyrannical than to turn out of their homes and lands a peace-loving people who trusted in the justice of the democratic world in general and the U.S.A. in particular.

"As we have complete trust in your love for truth and justice, and we believe that the government of the U.S.A. is based upon the truest democratic principles, I have made up my mind to draw the attention of your excellency to the case of the Arabs in Palestine, and to explain to you their incontrovertible rights in that country, and I hope that this letter will make their case quite clear to you and to the people of the U.S.A.; and I am sure that when you have read it your excellency will support the claim of the Arabs who live in their own lands.....

"If the Jews base their claim on having inhabited the country for a period, the Arabs have lived in it much longer. Anyhow, the fact that the people, having resided in a country for a period cannot establish their right to that country, for if that principle were applied to the world in general today, some astonishing difficulties would arise!

"I do not clearly understand what the 'Jewish problem' really is. Is it to find a 'home' for all the Jews who are scattered all over the Earth? Or is it to establish Zionist rule in Palestine? If it is the former, then it must be realized that Palestine has already absorbed more Jews than any other country, and even were the Arabs to be turned out, it could not possibly contain all the Jews in the world, so you see how unfair it is to burden Palestine with any more Jews; if, however, they wish to establish Zionist rule in Palestine, it is surely a most tyrannical proposal to turn a peace-loving, law-abiding people out of their homes to satisfy the greed and personal ambitions of a few Zionist leaders. With regard to the Balfour Declaration, which, in any case, was made without having been considered by the government of the day, it can only be said that it was a thoroughly unjust and illegal proposal....

"Verify the Arabs and all Islam will fight for Palestine, and they refuse to have their lands handed over to foreigners who have no connection with the country. I hope that the great and just United States of America will assist us in this, for it is obviously unjust that the Jews, of all people, who are being expelled from other civilized countries, should be foisted on to Palestine."

Urges Dispatch of Capt. Wingate

LONDON, June 8. (JTA).-- The Daily Telegraph expressed hope today that Captain Charles Wingate of the Royal Artillery, who was awarded the S.D.O. for his work in clearing up the Palestine troubles of 1938, would be sent back to Palestine to aid in defense efforts. Captain Wingate, who is said to have been the brains behind the Ethiopian campaign, is now free since this campaign has ended. The Telegraph said Captain Wingate was "a firm believer in the Jews' powers as fighters."

WELFARE PARLEY HEARS PLEA FOR 'UNDERSTANDING' AMONG FUND-RAISING GROUPS.

ATLANTIC CITY, June 8. (JTA).-- A plea for mutual understanding between national and overseas welfare agencies on the one hand and local Jewish communities throughout the country on the other hand was made last night by William J. Shroder, chairman of the board of the Council of Jewish Federations and Welfare Funds, at the annual National Conference of Jewish Social Welfare.

Joining in a discussion of "The Relationship of National Agency Programs to Local Community Organization" were Morris D. Waldman, secretary of the American Jewish Committee; Arthur D. Greenleigh, executive director of the National Refugee Service; Harry Greenstein, executive director of the Associated Jewish Charities of Baltimore; Edward M. Kahn, executive director of the Atlanta Federation of Jewish Charities; and Henry Montor, executive director of the United Palestine Appeal.

The chief source of friction between the national organizations seeking funds throughout the country and the local Jewish communities was the tendency on the part of many of the former, Mr. Shroder said, to disregard the local bodies and to make their appeals directly to individual members of the community.

"This claim," he said, "is postulated on the theory that an agency has the right to function in any community where it can sell itself to a group sufficiently influential to insure financial backing and local leadership, and that any other position would lead to freezing the social program at the existing level. A second postulate is that no local organization represents every Jew in the city, and that any community organization claiming to act for its community is usurping a power it does not and cannot possess.

"While these positions may find philosophical and logical support we must remember that community organization is not a matter of theory, but of fact. If a community recognizes an organization as its representative, supports its positions and follows its recommendations, no philosophical or theoretical demonstration, however perfect, can prevent it from being the instrument through which the local community expresses its will."

Mr. Shroder said that local communities were often at fault, too, in that they refused to meet the national organizations half way. "A satisfactory working relationship has been attained," he said, "where the local community organization is recognized as the spokesman and instrumentality of its community; and where it has freely met its obligations to our national programs, and where it has refrained from demands, however theoretically justifiable which from practical considerations the national agencies could not meet."

Declaring that the difficulties and conflicts depicted by Mr. Shroder were "only the surface indications of the perfectly natural and inevitable struggle of a once united people . . . seeking to adjust themselves. . . to new and changing conditions," Mr. Waldman envisioned a possible solution one day along the lines of the Board of Deputies of British Jews.

"The Community Council," he said, "is a harbinger of the future form and structure of the local community organization. Though it resembles the European Kehillah in form and content, unlike the Kehillah it is not imposed from above on an already homogeneous group. Here it is a natural growth like the Welfare Fund before it and the Federation before the Welfare Fund. The Federation movement which reached completion a quarter century ago, reflected the state of development of community life in which local philanthropy was the paramount interest. The Welfare Funds which have been established in the last 15 years reflected a broadening development--the wider community interest in, and sense of responsibility for, extra-local activities.

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"The Community Council reflects a still wider development of the communal outlook, concerning all matters, local as well as national, domestic as well as overseas, affecting Jewish life. The terrific disruption of Jewish life in Europe with its alarming repercussions elsewhere throughout the world, including our own country, has violently and radically changed the Jewish community perspective. Philanthropy has to be subordinated to self-protection. This situation has given tremendous impetus to the development of Community Council. And we can envisage, when Community Councils become firmly established throughout the country a close organic relation between the local communities and national organizations. It is not improbable that we shall then have here something like the Board of Jewish Deputies of Great Britain, constituted by, and consisting of, the organized Jewish communities in that country.

NEW GROUP FORMED TO AID FRENCH JEWS OUSTED BY ANTI-JEWISH LAWS

VICHY, June 8. (JTA).-- The growing number of destitute French Jews, mostly former officials and teachers ousted from their posts under the anti-Jewish legislation, is causing concern in French Jewish circles.

To cope with this situation, a special committee has been organized to help needy intellectuals. Dr. Olmer, famous Marseille Jewish physician, is head of the committee, which has launched a fund-raising campaign among French Jews.

480 JEWS SEIZED IN BRATISLAVA AREA; MANY JAILED FOR ARMBAND VIOLATIONS

ZURICH, June 8. (JTA).-- Four hundred and eighty Jews have been arrested in the Bratislava area of Slovakia and imprisoned on various technical charges, it was reported here today.

The Hlinka Guard organ Gardists said 360 were sentenced to terms of one and two months for failure to wear the prescribed yellow armbands, 60 for closing their shops on Saturday, 48 for being on the streets after the curfew for Jews and 60 for shopping during hours prohibited to Jews.

On the ground that Jews were "flooding" Slovakian offices to complain of illegal restrictions, the Government ordered that Jews henceforth submit complaints in writing through the Jewish central organization, except in matters requiring legal representation. A fine of 100,000 crowns was set for violation of the order.

Machinery has been set up in Bratislava to enable Germans to take over flats occupied by Jews, according to Grenzboten, organ of the German minority in Slovakia.

The paper states that the chief of the Central Economic Office is planning a new decree prohibiting "Aryan" landlords and trustees from giving notice to "Aryan" tenants in order to let flats to Jews, while facilities will be introduced for giving notice to Jewish tenants in certain urban districts.

The paper publishes an invitation of the Bratislava German Party to members to choose suitable flats inhabited by Jews and forward to the office applications for these apartments which will be acted upon within a month.

The Hlinka Guard organ, Gardists, reports that a number of "Aryans" have been sentenced to terms in labor camps or arrested for carrying on business on behalf of Jews. One Guardist was arrested for renting his flat and living in a servant's room while five rooms were occupied by Jews. All persons stated to have known of the fact and who failed to report it were also arrested and the local Hlinka Guard commander was dismissed.