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DE GAULLE ANNULS ANTI-JEWISH LAWS IN SYRIA AND LEBANON

NEW YORK, Aug. 6. (JTA)-- The anti-Jewish laws which the Vichy Government had extended from France to Syria and Lebanon, French-mandated territories, have now been declared null and void by General de Gaulle, the Free French Delegation in New York announced here today.

"A message from General de Gaulle from Syria notifies the Free French Delegation in the United States that the anti-Semitic and racial laws promulgated by Vichy are considered null and void by the Free French in Syria and Lebanon," the announcement states. "The Free French only apply those laws which have been enacted before the 18th of June 1940, together with the new ordinances of the Chief of the Free French Forces."

NAZIS DECIDE TO ESTABLISH GHETTO IN VILNA

STOCKHOLM, Aug. 6. (JTA)-- Plans to isolate all of the 50,000 Jews of Vilna in a ghetto similar to the ghettos established in Nazi-held Poland have been completed by the Nazi authorities, it was reported here today. The report confirms that the Jews of Latvia may be ordered into the ghetto in Slobodka, a suburb of Kaunas.

The Nazis have decided to give the name of Ostland to the newly conquered Lithuania and the section of Latvia south of the Dvina River, including the city of Riga, the report says. Civil administration in Ostland will be entrusted to local Nazi agents. Lithuania will be divided into three administrative districts, Vilna, Kaunas and Shavli. Ghettos for Jews will be established in all these cities.

The German press which reached Stockholm today carries special pages devoted to the city of Vilna in which the Jews have been residing since the fourteenth century. Known as "the Jerusalem of Lithuania," Vilna has a colorful Jewish history and has been known as a seat of Jewish culture and the place where the Vilner Gaon lived and was buried.

JEWISH DOCTORS IN GERMANY EXECUTED FOR REFUSING TO SERVE IN NAZI MEDICAL UNITS

LISBON, Aug. 6. (JTA)-- A number of Jewish doctors who preferred to remain in Nazi concentration camps rather than to be released for service in the German medical corps on the Russian front, were executed by the Gestapo, a Jewish scientist who arrived here from Germany disclosed today.

Some 300 Jewish physicians have been taken from the camps and sent to the Russo-German front to attend the wounded German soldiers, the informant said. The Gestapo offered the released Jewish doctors the same conditions as those of regular army medical officers, without discrimination, he stated. They were, however, warned not to speak about affairs within the concentration camps where some of them had been imprisoned for several years.

The release of Jewish doctors from the concentration camps was necessitated by the shortage of doctors in Germany and by the heavy casualties on the Russian front, the Jewish scientist explained.

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POLISH GOVERNMENT ASKED TO INVESTIGATE FATE OF POLISH JEWS INTERNED IN RUSSIA

LONDON, Aug. 6. (JTA)-- The Polish Government was requested today to investigate the fate of a number of prominent Polish Jews interned in Russia, including Chief Rabbi Schorr of Warsaw and Dr. E. Sommerstein, former president of the Jewish Parliamentary Club. The request was made by Dr. Ignacy Schwartzbart.

Simultaneously, representatives of the New Zionist Organization had an interview with Soviet Ambassador Maisky, during which the fate of the Zionist movement in the Soviet Union was discussed.

YMHA AND JEWISH COMMUNITY CENTERS EXTEND MEMBERSHIP PRIVILEGES TO MEN IN SERVICE

NEW YORK, Aug. 6. (JTA)-- Full membership privileges in all YMHA's and Jewish Community Centers associated with the Jewish Welfare Board throughout the United States was extended this week to all men in service without regard to religious affiliation, it was announced here today.

The National Association of Jewish Center Workers, in cooperation with the J.W.B. Army and Navy Committee, worked out the free membership plan as part of the general program to provide for the recreational and religious needs of men in the service.

Field representatives of the Jewish Welfare Board sent into outlying communities to organize recreational programs for the soldiers will distribute the special guest cards to the men upon request. Three hundred and twenty-five Centers, YMHA's and YWHA's, are affiliated with the National Jewish Welfare Board, which also operates 24 soldiers' centers throughout the country. The soldiers will be brought into direct contact with the community through their guest membership and will be free to engage in the regular Center activities conducted for the benefit of the members generally, the announcement said.

DOCUMENTS AND PHOTOS OF JEWISH POGROMS IN RUMANIA DISPLAYED BY CHILEAN DIPLOMAT

MONTEVIDEO, Uruguay, By Air Mail. (JTA)-- Documents and photos picturing the terrible pogroms which Jews have recently undergone in Rumania were displayed here to newspapermen by Miguel A. Rivera, ex-Minister of Chile in Bucharest, stopping here en route to Chile.

"It is hard to describe what Nazi bands and Rumanian hooligans have done to the Jews in Rumania," the diplomat said. "Human language is too poor to tell it in words. Jews in Rumania have been robbed of their possessions, blackmailed, brutally attacked and many of them massacred under most horrible circumstances. What my eyes have seen should not be passed over in silence. It cries out to heaven." The journalists who heard the details were deeply touched.

Senar Rivera who arrived here on a Spanish steamer said that "Rumania is now nothing but a German colony." The country which enjoyed an abundance of food before the Nazi occupation, is now suffering starvation. The Nazis are shipping everything to Germany. The Rumanian people are disappointed and embittered against the Nazis, as they realize that the real ruler of Rumania today is the German General Sigmund von Licht.

EYE-WITNESS CONFIRMS 500 JEWS SLAUGHTERED IN BAGDAD POGROMS

NEW YORK, Aug. 6. (JTA)-- More than 500 Jews were massacred in the Bagdad pogroms instigated by the Nazi-inspired Government of Rashid ali Galieni, it was revealed by Dr. Herta Boff, who arrived here today after her flight from Iraq by way of the Dutch Indies, Manila and across the Pacific.

NEW IMMIGRANTS RAPIDLY ABSORBED IN PALESTINE'S ECONOMIC LIFE

JERUSALEM, Aug. 6. (JTA)-- Immigrants who have entered Palestine since the outbreak of the war have been speedily absorbed in all sections of the economic life of the Yishub, it was revealed today.

At least 7,500 new Jewish breadwinners, who together with their families and dependents comprise a large part of the new immigration, have been placed in settlements. In addition hundreds of members of the Youth Aliyah have been absorbed in the settlements, where they are receiving agricultural training.

MISTREATMENT OF FALASHA JEWS UNDER ITALIAN OCCUPATION REVEALED IN REPORT FROM ETHIOPIA

JOHANNESBURG, So. Africa, Aug. 6. (JTA)-- The first report about the life of 60,000 Falasha Jews under the Italian occupation arrived here today following their deliverance from fascist oppression when the British forces completed the capture of Ethiopia.

The report reveals that during the Italian occupation of Ethiopia the Falasha Jews were subjected to special persecutions. The anti-Jewish discrimination was carried out by the Italian occupational forces in all places in Ethiopia where Jews lived, especially in Gondar, which has the largest Jewish community, numbering 20,000 Falasha Jews who constitute almost one-third of all the Jews in Ethiopia.

"The property and the businesses of the Jews in Gondar were confiscated, and many found it necessary to hide their Jewish identity," the report states.

Now that the Duke of Aosta and his Italian troops have surrendered, the Falasha Jews are once more resuming their normal pursuits, the report informs. Most of them are tinsmiths, jewelers, shoemakers, blacksmiths, with some merchants and small shopkeepers. They live apart from the rest of the community and trade mostly among themselves.

REFUGEE CONTRIBUTIONS TO BRITAIN'S WAR EFFORT LAUDED IN LONDON PRESS

LONDON, Aug. 6. (JTA)-- Refugee contributions to Britain's cause have proved of great advantage and "have justified what some people considered our too open-handed hospitality in welcoming these emigres," says an article in the Evening Standard, commenting on the order that all of Britain's refugee population must register for "national civilian service."

The great majority of the refugees, the Standard writes, "are repaying our generous gesture by rendering loyal service in many fields. More than 5,000 are serving in the Pioneer Corps, scientists of international repute are giving us their specialized and creative knowledge, while the demand for refugee engineers and technicians far exceeds the supply. The Ministry of Agriculture is making use of trained continental agriculturists and unskilled labor." German and Austrian refugees, who are at liberty and are to register for "national civilian service," welcome this measure, the Standard adds.

Britain's refugee population, which consisted of some 80,000 to 90,000 people at the outbreak of the war, is gradually shrinking, the article also disclosed, since about 20,000 have emigrated. A large number departed at the beginning of the war, while emigration continues on a minor scale in spite of shipping difficulties.

JEWISH WRITERS ASSOCIATION FORMED IN MONTREAL

MONTREAL, Aug. 6. (JTA)-- The founding of a Jewish Writers Association with forty Jewish journalists as members was announced here today.

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200 REFUGEES RESCUED FROM AFRICA BY J.D.C. REACH NEW YORK

NEW YORK, Aug. 6. (JTA)-- More than 200 refugees from Nazism who, after having been stranded in North Africa for periods up to half a year, were rescued through the efforts of the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee, arrived here aboard the steamer Guinee this morning, after a fifteen-day voyage from Casablanca, Morocco. The J.D.C. arranged with the Companhia Colonial, a Portuguese line, to have the Guinee stop at Casablanca to pick up the refugees.

Among those who arrived are men who were saved from the labor camps in the Sahara Desert where thousands of refugees are now toiling in the construction of a railroad to Dakar. Refugees in France have recently been rounded up and transported to Africa to work on this project.

Also among the Guinee passengers were some of the refugees who have been trapped in Africa since January, when the steamer Alsine, on which they originally sailed, was held up at Dakar where it remained until June. Another group was aboard the steamers Wyoming and Montviso, which sailed from Marseille for Martinique and were turned back to Africa due to international tension. These refugees had faced the prospect of being stranded indefinitely until the J.D.C. came to their rescue.

Another 200 are scheduled to arrive soon aboard the steamer Nyasse which, also at the instance of the J.D.C., called at Casablanca. There are still about 1,100 refugees in Casablanca awaiting transportation facilities which the J.D.C. is trying to arrange.

RABBINICAL ASSOCIATION CONVENTION DISCUSSES WARTIME RELIGIOUS PROBLEMS

CHICAGO, Aug. 6. (JTA)-- Problems of religious life during the war crisis were discussed at great length at the 17th annual convention of the Rabbinical Association of the Hebrew Theological College held in the Sherman Hotel here. The convention concluded with a resolution urging every member of the Association to work in behalf of the United Service Organization.

Rabbi Israel Gerstein of Chattanooga, Tennessee, read a paper on "The Rabbi and the Men in the Camp" in which he indicated the growth of interest in religion among the Jewish soldiers. Rabbi Lieutenant Max Braude, Jewish Chaplain of Fort Knox, Kentucky, described the nature of his office. Rabbi E. Louis Cardon of Springfield, Illinois, General Convention Chairman, pointed out that the interest of clergymen in the welfare of a soldier usually increases the loyalty of his entire family toward religious institutions. Formal treatment of the theological problems raised by the war appeared in a philosophical thesis by Rabbi Manuel Laderman on the subject "An Attempt At A Religious Answer to the Present Crisis."

Great attention was also given to the release-time plan for religious education through the public school system. Rabbi Leonard C. Mishkin, Educational Director of the Associated Hebrew Schools of Chicago, lead the discussion in a paper entitled "Religious Education and the Public School." The convention recommended that its members study carefully any plan for linking religious education with the public school system in their respective communities before taking a stand upon the matter. Rabbi Simon Dolgin of Los Angeles outlined the relevance of the ritual law to modern educational problems.

Dr. Laderman, Rabbi of the Hebrew Educational Alliance in Denver, Colorado, was elected President of the Association. He succeeds Rabbi Oscar Z. Pasman of Ottawa, Canada.