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Tuesday, August 12, 1941.

NAZIS FORCE JEWS IN MINSK DISTRICT TO DIG THEIR OWN GRAVES

STOCKHOLM, Aug. 11. (JTA)-- Jews in the Nazi-occupied Minsk region are being forced by the Nazis to dig their own graves and be buried alive, it was reported today in a radio broadcast from Moscow, based on information reaching the Soviet capital from Russians who succeeded in escaping from Nazi camps near Minsk.

The informants pictured, in horrible details, the atrocities which the Jews are undergoing in the Minsk district, especially those held in a huge concentration camp near Minsk. Every evening the Nazi commander of the camp draws up a list of those to be shot the next morning. The next day the victims are led to a yard not far from the camp and executed.

"On July 21," the Moscow radio reported, "the commander of the camp ordered a large group of Jews to dig their own graves. When this was done, the victims were bound and thrown into the graves, while Russian internees were ordered by the Nazi commander to fill the pits with earth so that the Jews would be buried alive. The Russians, however, refused. Whereupon the Nazis brought machine guns to the spot and executed 45 Jews and 50 Russians." This report, the Moscow radio disclosed, came from Michael Skorotkovich, district librarian, who was among the Russians who succeeded in escaping from the camp.

Describing general conditions in the Minsk camps, the Soviet librarian stated that the prisoners there, including children, are being denied food for as long as five days, then a rotten herring is apportioned to every three internees. Hundreds of sick prisoners receive no medical attention whatsoever, and the corpses of those who die of starvation and of physical torture remain in the camp for weeks without being removed by the Nazi guards.

NAZIS FORBID JEWS IN LITHUANIA TO USE SIDEWALKS, PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION

LONDON, Aug. 11. (JTA)-- Jews in Lithuania are forbidden to walk on the sidewalks or use any means of public transportation, under several new anti-Jewish regulations issued by Von Rintelen, Nazi Commissar for Lithuania, according to information received in Polish circles here today. Jews are obliged to walk in the roadway in single file and keep to the right.

VICHY POLICE INVESTIGATING SYNAGOGUE BOMBING

VICHY, Aug. 11. (JTA)-- An investigation of the bombing yesterday of a synagogue here is under way, it was stated today by the Vichy Police Chief. Hirtz Weill, President of the Jewish community, informed the police that two men were discovered in the basement of the synagogue a few days ago, but were frightened away before they could be captured.

At that time it was thought that the men were intent on burglarizing the synagogue, but it now seems that they were preparing for the planting of the bomb. The police authorities link the explosion with the theft, last week, of some explosives from a stone quarry near Cusset. The Paris press, commenting on the explosion, says it "was stupid and odious."

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CLOTHES SENT BY CANADIAN JEWS TO POLISH GOVERNMENT ARE SHIPPED TO REFUGEES IN RUSSIA

LONDON, Aug. 11. (JTA)-- A consignment of clothes which was sent by the Federation of Polish Jews in Canada has been included in a shipment of commodities and medicaments which the Polish Government has sent to the Soviet Union, for use by Polish citizens released from Russian exile under the terms of the recent Polish-Russian pact, it was disclosed here today.

In announcing that the first shipment to Russia had already been dispatched, Gen. Sikorski, Premier of the Polish Government-in-Exile, speaking to Polish troops stationed in Scotland, said: "I can assure those of you who have relatives in Soviet Russia that the Soviet Government is willing to be helpful in making their lives easier and more useful."

INCREASED CULTIVATION OF WHEAT-GROWING LAND REPORTED IN PALESTINE

JERUSALEM, Aug. 11. (JTA)-- Extended irrigation facilities are stimulating Jewish agricultural development in Palestine especially wheat growing, according to figures released today by the Jewish National Fund. Today eighteen percent of all land cultivated by the JNF, is devoted to wheat growing, whereas only half that amount was cultivated five years ago. The success obtained in the cultivation of irrigated wheat fields is considered to have a significant bearing on the future Palestine food supply.

Experiments are being conducted with new varieties of wheat especially from Australia and Morocco. During the first year of the war it was disclosed, irrigated land cultivated by the JNF rose from 40,000 to 50,000 dunams, a 25 percent increase. Also new land purchased in the Galilee and Beisan areas has made available water resources which in recent years have been exploited by the Irrigation Works.

Also, acquisition by the JNF of lands suitable for pasture has stimulated growth of sheep breeding, which is beginning to assume increasing importance in the agricultural economy of Palestine. It has been a great factor, also, in the increase in textile production, particularly in the villages. Where in 1939 there were 70 settlements maintaining 12,500 head of sheep, there are now 25,000 sheep. Ninety percent of all the Jewish flocks are on JNF land, the figures show.

PALESTINE GIVEN INCREASED TRADE FACILITIES IN SYRIA, LEBANON

VICHY, Aug. 11. (JTA)-- Palestine will receive extended trade facilities in Syria and Lebanon as a result of an agreement reached at the Damascus conference between representatives of Palestine, Syria, Lebanon and Britain, it was reported today in the Paris press.

ASSOCIATION OF JEWISH REFUGEES SET UP IN LONDON

LONDON, Aug. 11. (JTA)-- Formation of an "Association of Jewish Refugees," whose membership will be drawn from German and Austrian refugees, and organized on a purely non-party basis, was announced here today. The provisional committee, which contains many prominent Zionists and non-Zionists announced the aims of the Association as being "to represent those Jewish refugees for whom Judaism is the determining factor in their outlook."

Among the members of the provisional committee are Professor Mittwoch, former director of the Berlin office of the JDC; Dr. Breslauer, former director of the Berlin Jewish Community; Dr. Schoyer, former representative of the Conservative group in the Executive of the Berlin Jewish Community; Dr. Michaels, former director of the London office of Haavara which has been disbanded; S. Adler-Rudel, prominent German social worker; and Kurt Alexander, ex-member of the Executive Board of the Central Verein, leading Jewish Organization in Germany.

ALLOTMENT COMMITTEE NAMED TO DISTRIBUTE FUNDS RAISED BY UNITED JEWISH APPEAL

NEW YORK, Aug. 11. (JTA)-- Formation of an Allotment Committee, to distribute funds raised by the 1941 United Jewish Appeal for Refugees, Overseas Needs and Palestine above a basic minimum among its three constituent agencies, was announced today by Rabbi Abba Hillel Silver and Rabbi Jonah B. Wise, National Chairmen of the unified campaign in behalf of the Joint Distribution Committee, the United Palestine Appeal and the National Refugee Service.

The Allotment Committee is vested with the authority to determine the division of all funds raised by the United Jewish Appeal in excess of the initial sum of \$8,800,000 which was to be distributed among the Joint Distribution Committee, the United Palestine Appeal and the National Refugee Service in accordance with the agreement constituting the United Jewish Appeal.

The membership of the Allotment Committee is composed of two representatives each of the JDC and the UPA, and three representatives of welfare fund communities approved by both the JDC and the UPA. The announcement of the establishment of the Allotment Committee listed its membership as follows: James H. Becker of Chicago and Dr. Solomon Lowenstein of New York, representing the Joint Distribution Committee; Charles J. Rosenbloom of Pittsburgh and Dr. Abba Hillel Silver, representing the United Palestine Appeal; and Amos S. Deinard of Minneapolis, Frederick K. Greenman of New York and Samuel Merrell of Boston, representing the welfare fund communities. Mr. Greenman was elected Chairman of the Committee and Dr. Eli Ginsberg of Columbia University was named Director of Research.

MORRIS D. WALDMAN LEAVES ARGENTINE; DAIA PROCLAIMS RELIEF CAMPAIGN

BUENOS AIRES, Aug. 11. (JTA)-- After spending about three weeks here, Morris D. Waldman, secretary of the American Jewish Committee left Argentine yesterday on his way back to the United States.

More than 10,000 people attended a mass meeting last night in Luna Park at which a relief campaign for Jewish war victims in Europe was proclaimed. The meeting was addressed by Dr. Nahum Goldmann and Mrs. Archibald Silverman who arrived here from New York as well as by Moises Goldman, secretary of the DAIA, Association of Jewish Organizations in Argentine, and Enrique Dickman, former Socialist Deputy and one of Argentine's Jewish leaders. Mr. Moises Cadoche, president of the DAIA, proclaimed the opening of the campaign.

NEW YORK MAYOR ASKS EMPLOYMENT AGENCIES TO FIGHT RACIAL DISCRIMINATION

NEW YORK, Aug. 11. (JTA)-- More than 750 employment agencies licensed by New York City were asked by Mayor La Guardia, last week, to assist in eliminating discrimination in employment because of race, creed, color or national origin, the Mayor announced today. Paul Moss, License Commissioner, the Mayor said, has reported that complaints received from persons seeking jobs through such employment agencies indicated that such discrimination existed.

Denouncing such discrimination as "vicious and unpatriotic," the Mayor asked the operators of licensed agencies to communicate to Mr. Moss their promises of cooperation in efforts to eliminate the discriminations against which complaints have been made.

Many of the agencies, the Mayor said, have indicated their intention to cooperate in the campaign against discrimination but have informed him that limitations imposed by employers were responsible for the discriminatory advertising for and hiring of help.

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SYNAGOGUES IN LOUISVILLE, KY. FORM PERMANENT INTER-CONGREGATIONAL COMMITTEE

LOUISVILLE, Ky., Aug. 11. (JTA)-- The inter-congregational committee, originally organized to achieve 100 percent synagogue membership in this community by proposing to deny religious ministrations to the unaffiliated, has been transformed into a permanent organization, known as the Louisville Conference of Synagogues and Temples, its chairman, Dr. Bernard Schneider, announced today.

The new group, embracing the city's three orthodox, one conservative, and two reformed, congregations, will serve as a clearing house to enable the congregations to iron out their problems jointly, the chairman said. He added that the congregations for some time have felt the need for such an organization.

Meanwhile, the congregations are pushing their own individual membership drives, which were launched simultaneously with mailing of a letter by the inter-congregational committee to all unaffiliated families in the city, asking them to join a congregation of their own choosing. A response of 2 percent was received directly by the committee, but each congregation is now following up this letter in its own way.

B'NAI B'RITH PUBLISHES MANUAL ON NATIONAL DEFENSE

WASHINGTON, August 11. (JTA)-- An illustrated manual entitled "B'nai B'rith in National Defense" made its appearance here today, published by the Supreme Lodge of the B'nai B'rith.

Prepared by Maurice Bisgyer, national B'nai B'rith secretary, the publication includes the official B'nai B'rith statement on national defense by its president, Henry Monsky, who was recently appointed by President Roosevelt to the Voluntary Participation Committee of the Office of Civilian Defense; an outline of the B'nai B'rith project for providing Torah Scrolls for Jewish religious services in the army chapels; correspondence between B'nai B'rith and Mayor Fiorello H. La Guardia, director of Civilian Defense, on B'nai B'rith's role in the campaign to salvage aluminum; suggestions for defense activities by lodges and auxiliaries; and a review of the many and varied defense projects already being engaged in by B'nai Brith.

DUTCH ORGAN DESCRIBES OPPOSITION TO ANTI-JEWISH PROPAGANDA IN HOLLAND

NEW YORK, Aug. 11. (JTA)-- Citing the cultural debts owed by Holland to the Jews, the Knickerbocker Weekly, organ of the Free Netherlands, published in the United States, describes Dutch resistance to the anti-Jewish campaign carried on in Holland by Seyss-Inquart, Nazi Commissioner.

"When a Hollander hears the word 'Jew' it does not suggest to him the well-known rich banker of German posters, but rather one of the hard-working humble figures made familiar to us by the pictures of Rembrandt, and whom one can meet every day in the streets of Amsterdam," the Dutch weekly writes.

"Whoever has visited the famous Friday market in Amsterdam knew that he was among Jews; but not for a moment can he have doubted that he was just as much in Holland as if he had been in the middle of a tulip field!"

PARIS RADIO CALLS FOR FIGHT AGAINST 'JEWS IN LONDON AND MOSCOW'

LONDON, Aug. 11. (JTA)-- A call to all Frenchmen to join the fight "against the Jews in London and Moscow" was broadcast over the Paris radio today by Commander Constantini, notorious anti-Semite and head of the League Francaise.

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