

# JTA

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### 6,000 IN CROATIA SENT TO FORCED LABOR IN SALT MINES

LISBON, Aug. 15. (JTA)-- Over 6,000 Jews in the Nazi-puppet state of Croatia have been deported from the larger towns to the Croatian salt mines for forced labor there under conditions which mean their virtual extermination, according to information received here today.

The majority of these victims are employed along the Adriatic coast. Others are held on the island of Pag and in the concentration camps of Karlovac and Jadovno, near Zagreb. Those working in the salt mines are reported to be left absolutely without any shelter from the burning sun. They are suffering acutely from lack of food, drinking water, clothing and medicine. The conditions of the victims in the concentration camps where children, as well as aged and infirm men and women, have been dumped indiscriminately is similarly reported as being appalling. Added to their individual tragedies is the fact that their families have been broken up and scattered in various camps without the possibility of learning of each other's fate.

German newspapers reaching here today report that raids on Jews are being continued in every town in Croatia, and that the town of Bihatsch is already "judenrein." "Steady progress" is being made in Zagreb and other Croatian cities to eliminate the Jews, and a large proportion of the Jews in Zagreb have already been put to forced labor, the Nazi press reports.

### Zagreb Rabbi Executed by Nazis

ZURICH, Aug. 15. (JTA)-- Rabbi Matko Engle of Zagreb has been executed by the Nazi military authorities in Croatia for allegedly giving refuge in his house to an anti-Nazi assailant, the Donau Zeitung published by the Germans in Belgrade reports.

### NEGOTIATIONS REPORTED FOR UNITED ADMINISTRATION OF PALESTINE, TRANSJORDAN AND SYRIA

LONDON, Aug. 15. (JTA)-- Negotiations for the establishment of a united administration for Palestine, Transjordan, Syria and Lebanon were reported today from Cairo as taking place now in Jerusalem. The report was given in a broadcast in Arabic over the Cairo radio station.

Authoritative quarters in London were unable to confirm this report.

David Ben-Gurion, chairman of the Executive of the Jewish Agency, reached London today from Palestine to discuss urgent political problems concerning the Jewish position in Palestine and in the Near East.

(Continued on reverse side)

HUNDREDS OF JEWS DRIVEN TO DEATH IN NAZI CONCENTRATION CAMP IN POLAND

LONDON, Aug. 15. (JTA)-- One fifth of the several thousand Jews confined by the Nazis in the incredibly vile "Jewish" concentration camp in Jaslo, southern Poland, died from exhaustion, hunger and physical mistreatment during the first two weeks of their imprisonment, according to a report received here today by the Polish Government-in-exile.

The report states that the Jews in the Jaslo camp are all herded in a small enclosure near the local prison. No food is given to them for days on end. When they do receive some, it is the leavings of the other prisoners. In the enclosure they are being kept under the most degrading and brutal conditions. Many of them are from time to time brought to the prison lavatories and locked up there. They must remain in the lavatory even when it is being used by other prisoners. As many as ten Jews are usually confined in one stall.

500 Jews Die Daily in Warsaw Ghetto

NEW YORK, Aug. 15. (JTA)-- A grim insight into the ghetto conditions prevailing in Nazi-occupied Poland is offered in a letter from Warsaw made public here today by the American Friends of Polish Democracy. The letter establishes that the Jews in the Warsaw ghetto receive no bread and that an average of 500 Jews die daily there.

"The Jews," the letter tells, "are entitled to six pounds of bread monthly, just a little over 5 ounces a day. But the right to buy this small quantity of bread means nothing in reality, for we are never able to obtain it. For the past two months we have not seen a loaf of bread. No other food is available. We are actually starving.

"A two pound loaf of bread costs 30 zlotys, approximately \$5.50, on the illegal market, whereas the "official" bread - which we cannot obtain - costs only 10 cents for a 2 pound loaf. Every month more and more people are dying. An average of 300 people die daily in the Warsaw ghetto, many of them of starvation."

Commenting on this letter, the American Friends, pointed out that the significance of these figures is appalling. "500 people dead daily - 100,000 dead in a year - 20% of the total population of the Warsaw ghetto! Every fifth Jew in Warsaw faces probable death within a year - such is the result of the Nazi occupation," says the comment.

DENY RUMORED ESTABLISHMENT OF JEWISH DEPARTMENT IN POLISH CABINET

LONDON, Aug. 15. (JTA)-- Rumors that a Department for Jewish Affairs will be established in the Polish Cabinet in connection with the forthcoming cabinet reconstruction, were termed today as "completely unfounded," by competent sources. It was pointed out that a Department for National Minorities, which also deals with Jewish affairs, has long been functioning.

CZECH STATESMEN, JOURNALISTS VISIT HEBREW UNIVERSITY

JERUSALEM, Aug. 15. (JTA)-- A group of Czechoslovakian statesmen and journalists today visited the Hebrew University, the Research Institute of the University and the National Library. Prof. Hugo Bergman, Czech-born Rector of the University greeted the guests, reminding them of the visit paid the Hebrew University in 1927 by Prof. Thomas Masaryk, late President of the Czechoslovakian Republic.

POLISH SOLDIERS DAY OBSERVED BY POLES AND JEWS IN JERUSALEM

JERUSALEM, Aug. 15. (JTA)-- Religious ceremonies, preceeding the celebration today of "Polish Soldiers Day" which commemorates the "Vistula Miracle," when Polish forces under Gen. Pilsudski threw back the Russians who were almost at the gates of Warsaw, were held here yesterday in the Yeshurun Synagogue.

Attending the ceremonies were representatives of the Jewish Agency, the Vaad Leumi and other Jewish institutions; also representatives of the Palestine Government. Col Ostrovsky, acting Commander-in-chief of the Polish forces in Palestine, the Polish Consul General Kirsak and other high Polish officials were among the Poles present.

Chief Rabbi Herzog, delivering the sermon, stressed Poland's hospitality and friendship toward the Jews since the middle ages when King Kazimierz opened the gates of Poland to Jewish refugees, resulting in a "Golden Age" for Jews and the development of Poland as a center of the Torah. He expressed the hope that a liberated Poland will again safeguard racial, national and religious freedom for all its inhabitants. The Jewish chaplain of the Polish forces, Rabbi Steinberg, also spoke. The chorus of the synagogue sang the Polish and British national anthems, concluding the ceremony with the singing of Hatikva.

ANTI-JEWISH LAWS IN FRANCE EXPLOITED BY SWINDLERS TO EXTORT MONEY FROM JEWS

VICHY, Aug. 15. (JTA). The anti-Jewish laws in France are being exploited by swindlers and blackmailers to extort money from Jews under different threats and pretexts, the police authorities in Paris and in other French cities have discovered.

Typical is the case reported today from Paris where Pierre Delamare, an "aryan" appointed to administrate Jewish enterprises, was arrested in a cafe while extorting 10,000 francs from a Jew. The victim, a former trader, was threatened by the French "aryan" with blackmail and being sent to a concentration camp unless the Jew paid him a bribe of 30,000 francs. The same French administrator, it was established, was extorting money also from other Jewish traders for prolonging the liquidation of their enterprises, as well as from "aryans" for facilitating their buying Jewish businesses. Additional complaints about other "aryan" administrators who are utilizing the anti-Jewish laws for blackmailing Jewish businessmen have also reached the Paris police.

A report from Nice reveals that a Jewish banker, whose name is not disclosed, has been swindled out of a million francs by two Frenchmen who assured him that they could arrange to restore him to his former position. One of the swindlers died of a heart attack in a Nice hotel when he read in a newspaper that his partner has been arrested. The police found on his person 500,000 francs in cash of the money extorted from the Jewish banker.

In Paris, two bandits posing as police detectives authorized to check Jewish enterprises, appeared in the famous Flambaum Kosher restaurant and ordered the owner, Mrs. Flambaum, into her office. There they locked her up, cut the telephone line, and robbed her of 160,000 francs in cash and jewelry.

NAZI RADIO ATTACKS MOSLEM AID TO JEWISH AIR-RAID VICTIMS

CAIRO, Aug. 15. (JTA)-- Egyptian Moslems who have extended help to Jewish victims of Nazi air-raids were attacked today in a broadcast in Arabic from the Nazi radio in Zeelen, where the Nazis maintain a center for broadcasting to foreign countries. The broadcaster referred to the fact that the Islamic Comforts Society had helped the air-raid victims in the Jewish quarter of Alexandria.

REFUGEES CONSTITUTE NO COMPETITION TO AMERICAN LABOR, INVESTIGATIONS SHOW

NEW YORK, Aug. 15. (JTA)-- Declaring that a minority of Congressmen prejudiced against Jews and aliens are actually responsible for the recent regulations which practically close the doors of the United States to refugees, Kenneth G. Crawford, Washington correspondent of the New York newspaper, PM, today points out in an article that several studies have established that the refugees constitute no danger of competition to American labor and that recent refugees have brought with them whole industries that will supply goods previously imported from Europe.

"The malignant political disease known as anti-Semitism has attacked a larger number of Congressmen than is generally realized," Mr. Crawford writes. "The very fact that they talk about the 'Jewish problem' in relation to immigration - as they do behind closed committee doors if not in public--is a symptom. A few Congressmen, particularly Southern Congressmen, indulge in Jew-baiting because they consider it politically smart. Look what good use Hitler made of it. More of them, like Representative Martin Dies of Texas and Senator Robert Reynolds of North Carolina, bait aliens of all faiths. It is a form of demagoguery that goes well with their constituents.

"The oversimplified argument that every immigrant who comes into the USA is an American's rival for employment is the sort of thing politicians most fear. The answer that the amount of immigration from Germany even since the war started is negligible, that most of those admitted have non-competitive skills or learning, that they can make a valuable contribution both economically and culturally to the USA is too complicated for political usefulness.

"Several studies of immigrants in recent years have shown how unreal the danger of competition from them is. An analysis of 1,000 typical cases showed that more than half were women, children or aged persons without occupation. Of the rest, 147 were merchants whose new enterprises were opening employment opportunities, 78 were professional men. Out of the whole group, only six were unskilled workers. Recent refugees from Germany and the Low Countries have brought with them whole industries and skills that will supply goods previously imported from Europe.

During fiscal 1940, only about 57,500 quota visas were issued. Less than half of these--about 25,000--came from Germany and what used to be Austria."

Commenting on the attitude of the State and Labor Department officials to the refugee problem, Mr. Crawford says:

"All these facts about the refugees are well known to the State and Labor Department officials who administer the immigration laws. Most of these officials, particularly in the Labor Department, are sympathetic with the organizations trying to help the refugees. Yet pitifully little is done about it. The callousness and, in some cases, the alleged anti-Semitism of State Department bureaucrats, have been blamed for this. More likely, their hesitancy to take bold measures within the law stems from a desire to get along pleasantly with Congressmen.

"Arva Warren, chief of the State Department's visa division, has been aggravatingly deliberate in handling refugee matters. There have been bitter complaints against Consuls Leland B. Morris in Berlin and James B. Stewart in Zurich. At one point the consuls were so far behind the President's committee in their work that refugee organizations all but gave up in despair. But they have fought doggedly for admittance of the few who can qualify and have a few thousand transplanted families to show for their effort."