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JAPAN ANNOUNCES DEPORTATION OF POLISH AND CZECH JEWS FROM SHANGHAI

GENEVA, Dec. 29. (JTA)-- The Japanese authorities today announced over the Shanghai radio that Jewish refugees from Poland and Czechoslovakia stranded in Shanghai will be deported to Poland. Nothing was mentioned with regard to the Jewish refugees from Germany who constitute the majority of the 20,000 refugees marooned in Shanghai.

Direct reports from Shanghai received by Jewish organizations here state that the Jewish refugees there continue to be maintained on funds of the Joint Distribution Committee. Though the Shanghai radio announced that the deportation of the Polish and Czech Jews to Poland will be conducted under the supervision of a special committee set up by the Japanese authorities, Jewish quarters here doubt whether the deportations will actually be carried out. It is pointed out that such deportation would involve the crossing of Soviet territory and the Soviet-German war fronts, and that this would be impossible under the present circumstances.

The office of the Agudas Israel in Switzerland today received a cabled message from Shanghai that all refugee rabbis and talmudic students there are safe. Telegraphic communication between Jewish organizations in Switzerland and the Jewish refugee groups in Shanghai have been maintained without interruption since Japan's entrance into the war. The economic situation of the rabbis and the talmudic students stranded in Shanghai is especially precarious in view of the fact that their contact with friends and relatives in America from whom they used to receive individual support, has been broken.

GESTAPO AGENTS DON MOGEN DAVIDS IN ATTEMPT TO TRAP PRO-JEWISH GERMANS

STOCKHOLM, Dec. 29. (JTA)-- In an attempt to curb the growing pro-Jewish sentiments among the German people, Gestapo agents in several large German cities, including Berlin, recently donned yellow Mogen David bands and circulated among the populace seeking to discover those people who were friendly to Jews, it is reported here today.

A number of merchants who have extended special favors to Jews in defiance of the harsh anti-Jewish regulations, under which Jews are allotted only half the usual rations and may shop only after "Aryans" have been satisfied, have been punished when caught by the Gestapo. Some Catholic priests who aided Jews were also said to have been trapped by Gestapo agents wearing the yellow armbands. Factories in which workers had been particularly friendly to Jews were also visited.

As a result of this Gestapo activity, the general population, uncertain as to who is really a Jew and who is a Gestapo agent in disguise, are either avoiding new Jewish acquaintances or are, at least, first making sure that they are not Gestapo spies, the report says.

DISMISSAL OF REFUGEES IS CONTRARY TO GOVERNMENT'S ATTITUDE, SAYS N.R.S.

NEW YORK, Dec. 29. (JTA)-- The dismissal of Jewish refugees by a number of employers under the pretext that refugees from Germany are considered enemy aliens, today prompted the National Refugee Service to issue a statement clarifying the attitude of the Department of Justice with regard to the employment of aliens in war-time.

"While the Department of Justice has gone on record as opposing discrimination against enemy aliens for nationality alone, certain employers within the past few weeks have seen fit to discharge enemy aliens in their own employ. It should be noted that no governmental rulings further restricting the employment of enemy aliens have been issued since the outbreak of the war," the statement reads.

The National Refugee Service refers in its statement to instructions issued by Mayor LaGuardia, head of the Office of Civilian Defense, urging that employers refrain from discharging enemy aliens on the ground that since they cannot become citizens, they are no longer wanted in factories. "We cannot hold law-abiding Germans and Italians in this country responsible for what is going on in Europe," the New York Mayor is quoted as having said in advising that the dismissal of aliens be halted.

The New York Times in an editorial today similarly warns against dismissals of aliens from their employment.

Jewish Refugees Accepted For Army Service Provided They Have First Papers

Jewish refugees from Germany and other countries now at war with the United States will continue to be inducted under the Selective Service Act provided they have their first papers, it was announced by the National Refugee Service on the basis of official information received from military authorities.

The Army Recruiting Service, the announcement said, continues to accept enlistments in the Regular Army only from citizens between the ages of 18 and 35, but the local Selective Boards will accept as volunteers any man between those ages regardless of his status as an alien or enemy alien and without regard to whether he has registered for Selective Service. He must, however, have his first papers and must be able to speak, read and write English sufficiently well to understand commands.

The above procedure applies to New York City, but the National Refugee Service believes that a similar policy is in effect also in other sections of the country. There is no way, at the present, by which a non-citizen may enlist in the Navy or Marine Corps.

Refugees Advised to Carry Their Alien Cards; Can Attend Public Meetings

The National Refugee Service today also advised refugees throughout the country to carry on their person at all times their alien registration cards. Those who have not yet received their alien registration receipt cards are urged to write to the Department of Justice, asking when the card will be available.

In answer to questions from refugees covering attendance at meetings, the National Refugee Service informally advised that where the group is meeting under American sponsorship with American citizens present, there is no violation of the President's Proclamation, but that emigre groups as such had best defer their meetings until a more definite ruling is announced.

FREE FRENCH SCORE PETAIN'S SILENCE ON NAZI EXECUTION OF 95 JEWISH HOSTAGES

ZURICH, Dec. 29. (JTA)-- The Free French Radio at Brazzaville, French West Africa, today scored Marshal Petain for not protesting the execution of 95 Jewish hostages, which was reported last week by the Berne correspondent of the newspaper La Suisse.

Recalling that Petain had protested against the German threat, early this month, to execute another 100 hostages, the Free French broadcaster said: "Ninety-five of these men have already been executed, and it is more than significant that the Marshal has still remained silent."

PERSECUTION OF JEWS A CONCERN OF ALL, MSGR. SHEEN DECLARES^B

WASHINGTON, Dec. 29. (JTA)-- "The persecution of the Jews is not the concern of the Jews alone, but is also a Christian concern," declared the Rt. Rev. Msgr. Fulton J. Sheen, in a broadcast over the National Broadcasting Company's network, last night.

"There is no such thing as anti-Semitism as such," Msgr. Sheen said. "To be anti-Semitic is also to be anti-Christian. We must look upon the persecution of Jews and Christians today not as separate, unrelated causes, but involving one another in some way because both are related to God."

SCHOOL FOR SCRIBES OF HOLY SCROLLS OPENED IN PALESTINE

LONDON, Dec. 29. (JTA)-- The first school for scribes, where students will be trained in the work of painstakingly inscribing the holy scrolls and the phylacteries, has been set up in Palestine by the Agudas Israel, it was announced here today. Already sixty students are enrolled in the school.

Before the Nazi occupation of eastern Europe most of the torahs were inscribed in Poland. Now, however, with many of the scribes living in Nazi-held territories, it has become necessary to train others. Some torahs when completed will be sent to the United States, it is reported here.

LITVINOFF IS ASKED TO INTERVENE FOR THE RELEASE OF POLISH-JEWISH LEADERS IN RUSSIA

WASHINGTON, Dec. 29. (JTA)-- Soviet Ambassador Maxim Litvinoff is being flooded with telegrams from various labor organizations in America and Canada asking his intervention with the Soviet Government to secure the release of the Polish-Jewish socialist leaders Victor Alter and Henryk Ehrlich, it was learned here today.

The two Jewish labor leaders were rearrested by the Soviet authorities after having been released in Soviet Russia under the Soviet-Polish pact. The organizations which have appealed to Litvinoff include the Amalgamated Clothing Workers of America, the Canadian Commonwealth Federation, the Workmen's Circle and numerous other labor bodies with large membership. The Jewish Writers Union cabled a direct appeal to the Soviet Government in Kuibyshev asking for the liberation of the arrested Jewish labor leaders who are also prominent journalists.

NEW SETTLEMENTS ESTABLISHED IN PALESTINE BY JEWISH NATIONAL FUND

JERUSALEM, Dec. 29. (JTA)-- The establishment of two new settlements on Jewish National Fund land in Palestine was announced here today. In the Beisan area a new colony, named Avukah, has been established near Kfar Ruppim. The other settlement has been named Maanith, and is located near Karkur.

MANY IN ENGLAND OPPOSE BRITISH REFUSAL TO ESTABLISH A JEWISH ARMY, LASKI STATES

BOSTON, Dec. 29. (JTA)-- Criticism against the British Government for not allowing the establishment of a Jewish Army is leveled by Harold J. Laski, noted British author and professor of political science at London University, in an article published in the Boston Globe today.

"Many in England," Mr. Laski writes, "are deeply disturbed at the graceless refusal of Lord Moyne, the Colonial Secretary, to allow the Jews in Palestine to raise their own army in any theater of war the British Government might suggest. The supposed need to be tender to Arab susceptibilities is regarded as moonshine by some of the most experienced administrators in this field; and the Arab sensitivity to which we have been most tender is that of the ex-Mufti of Jerusalem, who was, when last heard of, in Berlin concerting plans against us with his natural leader. It is no accident that when, in the Arab rebellion, it was made clear that we really meant to govern, Arab intransigence ceased. Those Jewish pioneers who ask no more than the privilege of dying for Great Britain are surely entitled to a deeper magnanimity than received."

N.Z.O. Asks Roosevelt, Churchill Consider Jewish Army

NEW YORK, Dec. 29. (JTA)-- An appeal to President Roosevelt and to Prime Minister Churchill asking that "the problem of organizing a Jewish Army be considered by the Inter-Allied Council," was telegraphed today by Col. Morris J. Mendelsohn, president of the New Zionist Organization in America.

The appeal states that the Jews in Palestine and other countries are ready to supply large forces to augment the allied ranks in the Near East and other fronts, thus relieving Australian contingents for more pressing duties in the Pacific.

ORT WILL CONTINUE ITS WORK IN EUROPE AND WESTERN HEMISPHERE, BACKER STATES

NEW YORK, Dec. 29. (JTA)-- The work of the ORT in both Europe and the Western Hemisphere will be maintained wherever possible, it was stated yesterday by George Backer, president of the American ORT Federation, at a conference of the ORT Council of organizations held here. Jewish refugees and war victims will continue to be rehabilitated through industrial and agricultural training, Mr. Backer said.

"ORT institutions everywhere will, I am convinced," Mr. Backer declared, "continue to function under the local leadership developed through more than sixty years of experience. For ORT is the expression of the will and determination of the Jews to survive in the face of oppression."

"In the countries of our Allies - the British Commonwealth and other lands - in Switzerland, in unoccupied France, in Asia and South America, the American ORT Federation will continue the task, already so well begun, not only of rehabilitating the refugees but enabling them to acquire the tools of self-support so they will not be a burden to the community."

POLISH REFUGEE RABBIS IN PALESTINE RECEIVE AID

LONDON, Dec. 29. (JTA)-- Polish refugee rabbis and talmudic students now in Palestine, whose financial condition is described as "tragic," will be aided by a grant from the Keren Hatorah, it was announced here today. It is expected that these funds will take care of 160 people.