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BRITAIN PERMITS MUFTI'S AIDES TO RETURN TO PALESTINE; PRO-ZIONISTS ALARMED

LONDON, Feb. 9. (JTA)-- Alarmed over the pro-Axis activities of the ex-Mufti of Jerusalem, British political leaders here who support the Zionist aspirations in Palestine, today expressed their astonishment over the fact that the British Government has permitted sixteen of the ex-Mufti's followers to return to Palestine with British visas. All of them had accompanied the ex-Mufti to Iraq and Iran from where he conducted violent anti-British propaganda in Arab countries.

Ten more Palestinian Arabs who were aiding the ex-Mufti in Iraq and Iran before he escaped from there to Berlin have also received British permission to return to Palestine and their arrival there is expected shortly, the British pro-Zionist political leaders revealed. Among them is Jamal Husseini, nephew of the ex-Mufti, and former secretary of the Moslem Supreme Council in Palestine of which the ex-Mufti was president. He was once sentenced to imprisonment for taking part in the Arab disturbances in Jerusalem, and in 1937 was re-arrested and removed, together with other Arabs, on a British cruiser to an island in the Indian ocean as a person dangerous to the security of the country. In October, 1937, the Palestine Government, in a special issue of the Palestine Gazette, announced that he was barred from returning to Palestine.

Negotiations for the return to Palestine of another group of Arabs banned from the country as aides of the ex-Mufti are going on, the British political leaders charged today. They expressed alarm over this development and emphasized that they have reliable information that the ex-Mufti is now operating in Turkey and even in Palestine from centers in Berlin, Athens and Rome, and through agents who are organizing Arab fifth columns in Moslem countries.

NAZI MILITARY COMMAND PROHIBITS JEWS IN BELGIUM FROM LEAVING COUNTRY

VICHY, Feb. 9. (JTA)-- Nazi military authorities in Belgium today issued an order prohibiting Jews from leaving Belgian territory, the Paris radio announced.

The order is aimed at preventing Jews from escaping deportation to Poland by reaching unoccupied France where refugees can still apply for emigration visas to overseas countries. The mass-deportation of Polish-born Jews from Belgium to Nazi-held Poland was resumed last week. It is estimated that about 10,000 Jews have already been deported from Belgium to the Eastern front where they have been placed at forced labor.

ROMANIA CONFISCATED JEWISH ENTERPRISES WORTH 882,000,000 LEI DURING 1941

BERNE, Feb. 9. (JTA)-- The Donau Zeitung, a Nazi newspaper reaching here today, reports that 414 large Jewish industrial enterprises were taken over by the Rumanian Government during 1941. The capital of these enterprises amounted to 882,000,000 lei, the paper says.

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REICH JEWS FORCED TO WEAR BEARDS; DEPRIVED OF SHAVING SOAP, BARRED FROM BARBERS

ZURICH, Feb. 9. (JTA)-- Jews throughout the Reich will have to wear beards as the result of new anti-Jewish measures reported in the German press reaching here today. ✓

The Nazi newspapers report that all Jews in the Reich have been deprived of their ration cards for shaving soap and have, at the same time been forbidden to visit any barber shop.

The Berlin press also reports that as of today all bakeries and grocery stores in the Reich must display a sign stating that the sale of flour, white bread and pastry is forbidden to Jews.

REFUGEE CONTRIBUTION TO BRITISH WAR PRODUCTION IS PRAISED IN ENGLAND

LONDON, Feb. 9. (JTA)-- The extent to which Jewish refugee artisans and manufacturers are contributing to Britain's war production, was revealed here today in a report issued by Ernest G. Cove, secretary of the Refugee Industries Committee.

Refugee industries, many of them supervised and staffed by men who fled from Germany and Austria, have introduced new methods and materials that ordinarily would be a monopoly of the enemy, Cove pointed out. Production of uniforms for men in the armed forces has been greatly increased as the result of mass production of high grade buttons made from a cheap byproduct of coal, by a group of refugees from Czechoslovakia, he said. Before the outbreak of the war about forty-four million gross of buttons were imported annually from Germany alone.

Experts from Austria who had been previously producing gloves for export are now manufacturing tens of thousands of military gauntlets, using new methods and new materials. As a side line this same firm is packing nuts and bolts for use in constructing indoor bomb shelters. A workshop which was formerly producing fasteners is now engaged in turning out special tools required for the manufacture of automatic rifles.

A few months ago, Cove discloses, the Government Control Board communicated with this last firm stressing the great importance of increased production and inquiring into delays which had been incurred. The management replied that the delays in producing the necessary products were due to the fact that eight key workers were interned in Canada. As a result four of these internees have since returned and were publicly welcomed back by hundreds of British workers. The other four will leave Canada as soon as shipping facilities are available.

JEWISH PUBLICATION REVEALS HOW U.S. PRESS SERVED NAZI PURPOSES

NEW YORK, Feb. 9. (JTA)-- American newspapers by printing almost verbatim and in great quantity, news issued by official Nazi sources in Dr. Goebbels' Ministry of Public Enlightenment and Propaganda unwittingly did a great disservice to democracy, it is stated in an article on "The War of Nerves in the News," which appears in the current issue of the Contemporary Jewish Record, out tomorrow.

The article, written by Sidney A. Freifeld, urges a "reevaluation of news criteria in the face of a campaign of psychological warfare that is wholly new to America and which our working press has been called upon to face for the first time." It states that "having long ago learned to cope with domestic press agency, the American press can surely adapt itself to handle Nazi press agency, which threatens everything for which America and its free press stands."

NAZIS PROCEEDING WITH PLAN FOR "JEWISH RESERVATION," BERLIN REPORTS

STOCKHOLM, Feb. 8. (JTA)-- Berlin correspondents of Swedish daily newspapers report that the Nazi authorities in the German capital are still determined to create a vast "Jewish reservation" in Eastern Europe and are going ahead with detailed plans for such a set-up. They report that these plans are being drawn up by the Department of Jewish Questions in the Ministry for the German-occupied territories of the East, which is headed by Dr. Alfred Rosenberg.

Based on the Nazis' avowed aim "of ridding Europe of the Jews," the Rosenberg project contemplates a huge Jewish-inhabited region enclosed by barbed wire and guarded by Nazi sentries, in which Jews will be completely isolated from the rest of the world and will be exploited to meet the Nazis' economic needs. Indicating the thoroughness with which Jews are being evicted from the Reich is the report that Frankfurt-on-the-Main, which at the time of Hitler's seizure of power had a Jewish population of about 26,000, is now being made "Judenrein."

JEWISH AGENCY RECEIVES REPORT ON CONDITIONS OF JEWISH REFUGEES IN SOVIET RUSSIA

JERUSALEM, Feb. 9. (JTA)-- Reports reaching the Jewish Agency here today estimate that the number of Jewish refugees in Soviet Russia totals over 1,000,000, of whom 200,000 are at present in Tashkent.

The Jewish Agency has also been informed that negotiations are now being conducted between Jewish relief organizations and the Soviet government on the problem of organizing relief activities among the refugees. The majority of the refugees are suffering from insufficient food and clothing. Many of them are living in tents and are in great need of aid, the report said.

After wandering for over two years, 51 Polish Jews today reached Palestine from India. They made their voyage of many months by foot through Russia, Persia and Afghanistan.

PALESTINE GOVERNMENT CRITICIZED FOR DELAY IN IMMIGRATION SCHEDULE

TEL AVIV, Feb. 9. (JTA)-- The Palestine government was severely criticized in a resolution adopted here today at a plenary session of the Histadruth addressed by E. Dobkin, head of the immigration department of the Jewish Agency, on the question of possibilities of war-time Jewish immigration into Palestine.

The resolution expresses dissatisfaction over the fact that the Palestine authorities are delaying the announcement of the immigration schedule for the October-March period which should have been issued some time ago. This delay, the resolution points out, is having an adverse effect on Palestine's economy since it prevents the entry into the country of Jewish immigrants entitled to visas under the delayed immigration schedule. The total Jewish immigration into Palestine in 1941 was announced today by the Jewish Agency as 4,113, including 443 capitalists, 549 workers and 1,069 students.

A conference of the Hapoel Hamizrachi, orthodox laborites, at which the question of that organization rejoining the Histadruth was discussed, concluded today without coming to any decision. The conference is expected to be resumed within a few days.

Declaring that more than a third of the Yishuv is dependent on handicraft industry for a livelihood, Dr. Emil Schnoorak, economic adviser of the Jewish Agency, today stressed the necessity for increased technical education for Jewish youth. Only 800 students are enrolled in technical schools, he revealed.

B'NAI B'RITH MEMBERS, UNITS PURCHASED \$3,000,000 IN DEFENSE BONDS, MONSKY REPORTS

NEW YORK, Feb. 9. (JTA)-- Members of B'nai B'rith had purchased \$2,966,680 in defense bonds up to February 1, and various units of the organization have themselves invested \$195,275 of their reserve funds in the bonds, Henry Monsky, president of B'nai B'rith, told the ninety-ninth annual meeting of the B'nai B'rith's executive committee today at Essex House. Mr. Monsky emphasized that the total figures of sales represented only partial reports received from the 1,300 lodges, auxiliaries and youth chapters.

It also was announced that 160 B'nai B'rith units have thus far contributed \$26,610 toward the organization's pledge of \$45,000 to the \$50,000,000 war fund of the American Red Cross, in addition to an initial gift of \$5,000 from the supreme lodge. Since the war began in 1939, B'nai B'rith has given the Red Cross a total of \$90,000. This was in addition to more than \$300,000 in cash, equipment and supplies given to other war relief agencies, most of them non-sectarian, during the past twenty-nine months. Approximately 5,000 members of B'nai B'rith and its youth organizations are now in the nation's armed services.

Arrangement Reached Between Red Cross and B'nai B'rith

Mr. Monsky also announced at the meeting that an arrangement has been reached between the American Red Cross and the B'nai B'rith by which the latter's 900 local lodges and auxiliaries will collaborate with the newly organized Red Cross Camp and Hospital Service Councils to meet the welfare and recreational needs of both hospitalized and able-bodied service men in army camps.

Efforts to advance a better understanding between Negroes and Jews, as a contribution to national unity, were reported by the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith. Colored leaders have welcomed these efforts and nationally recognized spokesmen of both groups have aided in developing material intended to foster inter-racial unity, the League spokesman stated.

To provide more effective aid to young people below military age in adjusting themselves to war-time economic changes, three group vocational counselorships have been established in New York, Chicago and Philadelphia, the B'nai B'rith Vocational Service Bureau reported. The increased war-time importance of the 62 B'nai B'rith Hillel Foundation directors and counselors in dealing with the guidance problem of college youth was stressed in another report.

David Blumberg, Los Angeles welfare leader and business executive, was elected a national vice-president of B'nai B'rith at today's meeting. Mr. Blumberg succeeds the late Judge I.M. Golden of San Francisco.

NATHAN GESANG, ARGENTINE JEWISH LEADER, HONORED BY KEREN HAYESOD

NEW YORK, Feb. 9. (JTA)-- A luncheon honoring Mr. Nathan Gesang, president of the Zionist Organization and the Keren Hayesod in Argentina, who is now on a visit to this country, was tendered today at the Mayflower Hotel in behalf of the Keren Hayesod headquarters of Palestine. The speakers included Dr. Nahum Goldmen, Leib Jaffe, Kurt Blumenfeld, A. Naiditch, Emanuel Neumann, M. Rudenski and David Werthein.

In replying, Mr. Gesang pointed out that the Zionist movement in the United States is destined to play the leading role in the fight for the realization of Jewish aspirations in Palestine. He urged the American Zionist leaders to utilize the services of leading European Zionists who are now in this country.