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LONDON URGED TO ALLOW FOOD SHIPMENTS TO JEWS IN POLAND; THOUSANDS DIE IN RUMANIA

LONDON, Feb. 17. (JTA)-- A dramatic appeal to the British Government to permit shipments of food to the starving Jews in the Polish ghettos, similar to those recently sent to Greece, was voiced here today at a session of the Board of Deputies of British Jews.

The appeal was made by H. A. Goodman, member of the Board and spokesman for the world executive of the orthodox Agudas Israel organization. He requested the Board of Deputies to approach the British Government in connection with securing such permission. Starvation among Jews in the Polish ghettos is as bad as that existing in Greece, he pointed out. Goodman added that he had good reasons to believe that the Polish Government would support such a request. He was assured by Prof. Selig Brodetsky, President of the Board, that the matter would be vigorously pursued.

A report reaching the Polish Government here today confirmed the fact that 165,000 Jews died in Poland in 1941. The report predicts that mortality among Jews in Poland will be much greater this year. The proportion of Jewish dead in Poland is now 151 out of every 1,000 and even this high proportion is still rising, the report declared.

Authentic reports of the massacre of tens of thousands of Jews in Bessarabia, Bukovina and in the city of Jassy have been received by the Board of Deputies and were made public today by Prof. Brodetsky.

The reports reveal that among the thousands of Jewish victims were many who lost their lives in wholesale executions carried out by the Rumanian authorities. Many executions of Jews have taken place also in other sections of Rumania, the report declares.

BRITAIN MASSING 1,000,000 MEN IN NEAR EAST TO DEFEND PALESTINE AND ARAB STATES

CAIRO, Feb. 17. (JTA)-- A force of 1,000,000 men is now massed in the Near East ready to swing into action, should the Nazis attempt to invade Turkey and penetrate into Syria and Palestine, it was learned here today.

British military authorities are paying special attention to the increased pro-Axis propaganda among Arabs directed by the ex-Mufti of Jerusalem from his offices in Athens, Rome and Berlin and through his agents in Turkey. It is admitted here that his influence is great even though the Arabs on the whole are considered to be pro-British.

Axis radio stations indicate in their broadcasts that Germany and Italy consider the ex-Mufti to be a candidate for the Caliphate, which united the Arabs into a political entity for many centuries. England, working for the establishment of an Arab Federation, has been backing young King Farouk of Egypt for the Caliphate, which was abolished in 1924 by Mustafa Kemal of Turkey.

ANTI-JEWISH DISCRIMINATION IN DEFENSE INDUSTRIES IS WIDE SPREAD, COMMITTEE LEARNS

NEW YORK, Feb. 17. (JTA)-- Concrete facts proving that discrimination against Jews is being practiced in employment for defense industries in the metropolitan area despite the need for the maximum utilization of all available manpower, were submitted yesterday to the President's Committee on Fair Employment Practices which is holding hearings here.

Declaring that he spoke on behalf of various Jewish organizations, Rabbi J.X. Cohen submitted to the hearing a report in which he disclosed that defense manufacturers, employment agencies and defense training schools are practicing anti-Jewish discrimination in employment. He also quoted in his report a survey made of classified advertisements published in the largest metropolitan newspapers showing that in April, 1941, out of a total of 10,051 advertisements, 2,950, or 29% expressed a religious preference. In November of 1941, of a total of 17,839 advertisements, 5,885, or 32%, specified a religious preference other than Jewish.

Discrimination is being practiced against Jews by holders of the largest defense contracts in this area and representing the largest employers of labor, the report stated: "These complaints, concerning which detailed information is available to the President's Committee, are directed against such basic war industries as aircraft factories, aircraft instrument makers, machine tool producers, ship builders, chemical manufacturers and producers of essential petroleum products, steel and other materials. Few employers openly proclaim their unwillingness to hire Jewish workers. An applicant is rarely turned away with the explanation that Jews are not wanted. But application forms almost invariably demand information regarding religion, or substitute leading questions. The identification of applicants as Jews is thus facilitated. Obviously, an interviewer wishing to reject an applicant because of religion, can do so on some pretext such as insufficient or unsuitable experience."

Difficulties of Jewish Graduates from Defense Training Schools Discussed

Pointing out the difficulties which Jewish graduates of private defense training schools face in finding work in defense industries, the report says: "The majority of Gentile graduates of these schools are placed, the larger number of Jewish graduates unplaced. One of the leading schools in the metropolitan area, which has relations with many defense industries which employ its graduates, places the majority of its non-Jewish student graduates but fails to place any more than a small minority of its Jewish graduates despite the excellence of their records. Recent conferences with the School revealed that, for the year ending November 1941, 181 students were placed, of whom 151 were Christians and 30 Jews. This School follows the practice of submitting records, including religion, to defense manufacturers. The selections made by these manufacturers are on the basis of these records. The School authorities, judging from the selections made, admit that prejudice against Jews operates in defense industries."

The experiences of the graduates of these private defense training schools are shared by other qualified applicants for defense positions seeking jobs through public and private employment agencies, the report charged. It recommended that the Government "make a thorough investigation of all the factors which create the situation described above, and adopt a uniform policy which would lead to the elimination of the question of race and religion from the application blanks of defense firms, public employment services, and private, fee-charging employment agencies."

At today's hearings, several witnesses testified that the Sperry Gyroscope Co. of Brooklyn, important defense factory, had repeatedly and over a long period of time refused employment to Negroes, Jews or "enemy aliens." Horace B. Hitchcock, counsel for the company, denied the allegations.

REFUGEES FROM POLAND WELL TREATED IN RUSSIA; POLISH GOVERNMENT WELCOMES JEWISH AID

LONDON, Feb. 17. (JTA)-- A detailed picture of how refugees from Poland, both Jews and Poles, are being treated by the Soviet authorities is given today in Dziennik Polski, official organ of the Polish Government-in-exile.

Emphasizing that the release of interned refugees is still going on in Siberia and other distant parts of Russia, the Soviet correspondent of the official Polish newspaper states that all released internees are being transported to various localities in Kazakstan. Each internee, the correspondent writes, is supplied by the Soviet authorities with food for two weeks when starting out on the journey. The refugees are all transported in heated trains and are treated well by the Russian population.

In London today the Polish government expressed its appreciation for the relief work on behalf of Polish citizens in Russia which is being conducted by the Polish Jewish Relief Fund and by the Council of Polish Jews in Britain. Acting Foreign Minister Edward Reczynski, in a message to the Polish Jewish organizations, stated: "I am sure that the work of your organizations will be of very considerable assistance to the needy Polish citizens in Russia. I sincerely hope your generous initiative will meet with an equally generous response."

Dr. Josef Grosfeld, former Polish charge d'affaires in Moscow, wrote the Jewish groups: "I have noticed your appeal to the Jews of Great Britain to support the Polish population in the USSR with the greatest pleasure and appreciation. The difficult living conditions of those deported have been aggravated by the war and can only be altered by outside aid and assistance. I consider your appeal an important manifestation of your solidarity with the Polish nation in its efforts to alleviate the sufferings of our deportees."

NEW RUMANIAN LAW PREVENTS JEWS FROM REACHING PALESTINE THROUGH NEUTRAL COUNTRIES

ZURICH, Feb. 17. (JTA)-- Jews in Rumania who in spite of the Nazi domination of that country found a way to emigrate to Palestine will no longer be in a position to do so as a result of new regulations published in the Rumanian press which reached here today.

Formerly, Jews from Rumania desiring to reach Palestine managed to emigrate from the country to Turkey, making the 48-hour Black Sea voyage on board Rumanian freighters. Others made their way to Turkey by land through Bulgaria. From Turkey the Jewish refugees could easily reach Palestine by land via Syria as soon as they secured their Palestine visas.

The new regulations, which went into force on the day of their publication, provide that no Jew can emigrate from Rumania unless he first secures, in Bucharest, a visa to the country of his destination. Rumania and Britain being at war, there is no British Consulate in Bucharest that could issue entrance visas to Palestine.

Rumanian Jews seeking to go to Hungary, Slovakia, Bulgaria and other countries which maintain normal diplomatic relations with Rumania, will be allowed to leave the country under the new regulations, providing that they sign a document stating that they do not ever intend to return to Rumania. This provision will make it impossible for a Rumanian Jew to receive a visa to enter any of the neighboring countries which they were formerly permitted to visit for business purposes, since none of the neighboring countries will admit Jews for permanent residence.

16 GOVERNORS ISSUE APPEAL FOR RACIAL AND RELIGIOUS COOPERATION IN AMERICA

NEW YORK, Feb. 17. (JTA)-- Governor Herbert H. Lehman joined yesterday with the Governors of fifteen other States in an appeal for complete cooperation and unity of every race and religion. The appeals marked the annual observance of Brotherhood Week, which is now taking place throughout the country.

"I have confidence that the American people will win a victory for themselves and for freedom-loving peoples throughout the world," Governor Lehman declared.

Other Governors foresaw attempts by the enemy to create discord among the American people through a "psychological war" and urged a united spirit of brotherhood as the best defense against such tactics.

Among those who participated in the appeal by individual messages to the people of the nation were the Governors of Massachusetts, Florida, Montana, Maryland, Ohio, Michigan, Rhode Island, Texas, Illinois, New Mexico, Iowa, California, Washington, Maine and Connecticut.

JEWISH WAR PRISONERS HOLD MEMORIAL MEETING FOR BRANDEIS AND USSISHKIN IN NAZI CAMP

JERUSALEM, Feb. 17. (JTA)-- Palestine Jewish war prisoners who are isolated in a separate Nazi prison camp "somewhere in Germany," despite the strict camp regulations, succeeded in holding a memorial meeting for the late Justice Louis D. Brandeis and M. A. Ussishkin, it was learned from a letter received here today from one of the prisoners.

The letter did not indicate how the news of the deaths of the two Jewish leaders reached the prisoners.

HADASSAH SENDING THIRTY TONS OF SUPPLIES TO PALESTINE EVERY MONTH

NEW YORK, Feb. 17. (JTA)-- Hadassah is sending thirty tons of food, medical supplies, equipment and clothing to Palestine every month as part of its war emergency program there, it was announced today at a session of Hadassah leaders being held here. Since the middle of November, the announcement stated, Hadassah has sent to Palestine more than 50 long tons of sugar, laundry soap, egg powder, corn meal and soap flakes. In addition, large quantities of sewing thread, crockery, dried fruit, peanut oil, oats, canned vegetables and meats, 10,000 sheets, hospital linens and garments, and miscellaneous articles of clothing, including sweaters, dresses, stockings, work clothes and children's wear have been dispatched.

A message from Surgeon General Thomas Parran greeting Hadassah on the occasion of its thirtieth anniversary was also made public by the organization today. Calling Hadassah "one of our valued outposts of life conservation on a vital front," Dr. Parran commended the wartime performance of its medical and public health units. "There is particular reason to rejoice that basic health and welfare facilities have been developed in Palestine over a period of thirty years," he stated.

NAZIS REOPEN UKRAINIAN ACADEMY AFTER OUSTING ALL JEWISH STAFF MEMBERS

STOCKHOLM, Feb. 17. (JTA)-- All Jewish members of the staff of the Ukrainian Academy at Kiev, largest city in the Soviet Ukraine, have been removed as have eighty percent of the Russian staff members, it is reported in the Ostdeutscher Beobachter today, in an article announcing reopening of the school by the Nazi occupation authorities.