

# JTA

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### UZBEKISTAN SOVIET REPUBLIC BECOMES NEW HOME FOR HUNDREDS OF THOUSANDS OF EVACUATED JEWS

TASHKENT, U.S.S.R., Feb. 18. (JTA)- Development of a new Jewish center in the Soviet Republic of Uzbekistan with a possible Jewish population of 1,000,000 people was predicted here today as tens of thousands of Jews from the Ukraine, White Russia, Crimea and other parts of Soviet territory who were evacuated to this part of the Soviet Union prior to the Nazi invasion of their home towns and colonies, started to map out plans for remaining permanently in this part of the world, in accordance with the order issued yesterday to the local authorities here by the Soviet Government in Moscow, instructing them to arrange for the permanent absorption of all evacuees.

The Moscow Jewish Community offices which have been evacuated from the Soviet capital to Tashkent are expected to play an important role in the resettlement of the evacuated Jews. These offices are now being flooded with cables from Jews in America interested in locating their evacuated relatives. Recognized by the Soviet authorities, the Moscow Jewish Community is expected to undertake, from its Tashkent headquarters, the work of re-uniting members of war-torn Jewish families as well as the task of arranging for transporting some of the belongings which many Jewish evacuees were compelled to leave behind.

The majority of the evacuated Jews are in great need of clothing, shoes, and linen. They also lack household equipment since they were unable to take much with them during the evacuation. They are, however, well provided with food.

Starting on a new life here, as permanent residents, does not constitute a serious problem for the evacuees since the central government is determined to aid them in adjusting themselves to life in this part of the Soviet Union through all possible means at its disposal.

In addition to the tens of thousands of Soviet Jewish evacuees now scattered in the districts of Tashkent, Samarkand and Alma-Ata, there are also tens of thousands of Jewish refugees from Poland who were transported to these sections after having been released from internment camps. The Polish Embassy in Moscow has arranged for the registration of all Jews who are holders of Polish passports with a view of reestablishing contact for them with their relatives in America and in England and also for the purpose of securing exact data on the number of Polish Jews now living in Soviet Russia as refugees.

The number of Soviet and Polish Jews now concentrated in Uzbekistan is estimated to be about one million. There were about 40,000 Jews living in the whole of Uzbekistan prior to the outbreak of the present war, the majority of them residing in Tashkent and Samarkand.

Sparsely populated, the Uzbekistan Soviet Republic offers unlimited opportunities in the agricultural and industrial field and is able to absorb millions of new settlers.

SENATORS URGE AMERICANS TO COMBAT RACIAL AND RELIGIOUS HATRED IN U.S.A.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 18. (JTA)-- Leading members of the U.S. Senate joined today in an appeal to their fellow-Americans to strengthen the habit of friendly cooperation in wartime as a means of defeating attempts to divide and confuse them through propaganda designed to stir up religious and racial hatreds.

The Senators signed the appeal in recognition of the current nation-wide observance of Brotherhood Week, which is sponsored by the National Conference of Christians and Jews in 2,000 communities across the nation. "The strengthening of the bonds of fellowship and cooperation among members of all faiths in our country, essential in time of peace, is still more essential in time of war," the Senators declared in a joint statement. "The more united and cooperative Americans of all creeds are in the nation, in the community, and in the individual neighborhood, the greater will be their resistance to the propaganda of hatred which is intended to divide and confuse them."

FIRMS ACCUSED OF RACIAL DISCRIMINATION DENY INTENTION TO VIOLATE ROOSEVELT'S ORDER

NEW YORK, Feb. 18. (JTA)-- Seven corporations with U.S. war contracts in the New York area were accused today before President Roosevelt's Committee on Fair Employment Practice of discriminating against Jews or Negroes in hiring employees.

All seven denied any intention of violating FDR's order, issued last June, against discrimination by war contractors "because of race, creed, color or national origin." The Titeflex Metal Hose Co. through spokesmen, apologized to the Committee for an ad containing the word "Gentile."

Declaring that the hearings of the President's Committee have brought out the fact that private employment agencies, labor unions and employers in many cases discriminate against individuals because of race or religion, the New York Times in an editorial today attacks such discrimination.

"In Europe's 'New Order'," the editorial says, "there are first-class, second-class and third-class citizens - perhaps other categories further down the scale. We should recognize the Nazi infection by that arrangement if by nothing else. If we recognize classes of citizenship here - and this is what some of our labor unions and employers have been doing - we introduce the Nazi system to that extent. The practice is outrageous at any time. At the present time it is giving aid and comfort to the enemy."

CANADA WILL PERMIT INTERNED JEWISH REFUGEES TO JOIN ITS ARMED FORCES

TORONTO, Feb. 18. (JTA)-- Hundreds of young German-Jewish and stateless refugees who are now interned in Canada may be given the opportunity to join the Dominion's armed forces or work on farms, according to the report submitted to the Dominion executive of the United Jewish Refugee and War Relief Agencies which held a two-day session here. Applications for enlistment from many of the internees are now being studied by the Department of National Defense which views "with sympathetic interest" this willingness to serve, stated Saul Hayes, the executive director of the Jewish organization.

Owing to the shortage of farm labor many of the internees will be given an opportunity to work on the land. Among the internees are many Halutzim who have had farm training in England.

The session also discussed the question of aid for the Polish-Jewish refugees in Russia. It was decided to remit immediately the sum of \$10,000 for relief purposes and study the best possible means of aiding the refugees in Russia.

ROOSEVELT AND CHURCHILL INTEND TO INCLUDE SYRIA WITHIN POST-WAR JEWISH STATE, AXIS CLAIMS

ANKARA, Feb. 18. (JTA)-- Intensifying their propaganda to the Arab world, Axis radio stations supported by articles in the Italian press today broadcast the "revelation" that Roosevelt and Churchill intend to declare Syria part of a post-war Jewish State in order to compensate the Jews for their support of the Allies.

Broadcast in Arabic from the Axis-controlled station in Athens, the allegation aims at securing more support for the Axis from the Arabs in Palestine and Syria on the eve of the expected German drive to the Suez Canal. To support the authenticity of the "revelation," the Giornale d'Italia, one of the leading Italian newspapers, publishes an article today emphasizing the fact that the United States has not yet recognized the independence of Syria.

The Giornale d'Italia also alleges that Gen. Speer who has been appointed British Minister to Syria "is a Jew whose real name is Speyer." Incorrectly terming Speer the "Allied High Commissioner for Syria and Lebanon," the Italian newspaper writes that "the choice of badly disguised Jews as head of the administration in Syria only confirms the fact that Roosevelt and Churchill intend to assure for their Jewish friends not only domination in Palestine but also far-reaching influence in the entire Orient."

LARGE NUMBER OF MILITARY DECORATIONS AWARDED TO JEWS IN BRITAIN

LONDON, Feb. 18. (JTA)-- The number of British Jews who have so far received official citations and awards for bravery both in battle and civilian defense activities is far greater than the proportion of Jews in the general population, it was disclosed today by Prof. Selig Brodetsky, president of the Board of Deputies of British Jews.

At the same time Brodetsky revealed that the Board had received a reply from Polish Premier Sikorski to the message sent by it to the recent session of the Inter-Allied Conference asking that the parley consider the Nazi persecutions of Jews in occupied countries. The reply assures Brodetsky that "the governments taking part in the Conference are bearing in mind the persecution suffered by the Jewish population in Europe. The Polish government in particular does not admit any differentiation between the wrongs done Polish citizens of whatever origin or creed. The nine governments have pledged themselves to assure just retribution, and the claims of the Jews will receive consideration at subsequent meetings of the Conference."

RUMANIAN JEWS TO BE SENT TO FORCED LABOR BATTALIONS IN OCCUPIED UKRAINE

ZURICH, Feb. 18. (JTA)-- All Rumanian Jews who are unable to prove that they worked for at least five days at clearing snow from the streets and roads will be sent to Jewish labor battalions which have been set up in the Transnistria district, the Rumanian-held section of the Soviet Ukraine, it was reported today by the Donau Zeitung, a Nazi paper for the Balkan countries.

This new decree of the Rumanian Ministry of Labor applies to all Jews who are subject to labor service. Those who cannot produce official certificates attesting to their having performed snow clearing duty will be immediately taken into custody and sent to the camps, the Nazi paper states.

POLISH JEWISH ARMY DOCTORS WILL SERVE WITH BRITISH FORCES

LONDON, Feb. 18. (JTA)-- Nine Polish Jewish army doctors are included among a number of Polish officers who have been assigned to serve with the British army, it was learned here today. The officers have been transferred because at present there is a surplus of officers in the Polish forces.

JEWS IN BULGARIA ORDERED TO SELL ALL PROPERTY; MAY RETAIN PERSONAL RESIDENCES

ZURICH, Feb. 18. (JTA)-- All Jewish-owned buildings in Bulgaria except those occupied by the owner for his own residence, must be sold to non-Jews before the end of this year, according to a decree issued by the Bulgarian government and published in the Donau Zeitung which reached here today.

The decree is part of the land-reform act in Bulgaria which bars Jews from owning land. Foreign citizens, under this decree, will not be permitted to purchase the Jewish buildings unless they secure a special authorization from the Bulgarian authorities.

In permitting Jews to retain the houses in which they live, the decree stipulates that the Jewish owners must under no circumstances secure any income from the apartments. The value of the houses which Jews are permitted to retain as their personal dwellings is also regulated by the decree.

ACTIONS COMMITTEE APPROVES NEW BUDGET FOR WORLD ZIONIST ACTIVITIES

JERUSALEM, Feb. 18. (JTA)-- Since the war situation makes it impossible to hold a World Zionist Congress, the budget of the World Zionist Organization was submitted for approval today to a special session of the Zionist Actions Committee.

In approving the budget, the Actions Committee also empowered the Zionist Executive to secure an additional \$400,000 for "extra expenditures" the nature of which were not specified. The Committee also approved the sum of \$88,000 to be spent for administrative expenses of the Zionist executives in Jerusalem and London. This sum will be raised by the sale of "shekalim" among the members of the Zionist organization throughout the world.

PROBLEMS OF REFUGEE IMMIGRATION IN WARTIME WILL BE DISCUSSED AT HIAS CONVENTION

NEW YORK, Feb. 18. (JTA)-- Problems of Jewish refugee immigration in wartime will be discussed at the annual convention of the Hias which will take place on March 8 in New York with 2,500 delegates representing various Jewish groups and organizations in attendance, it was announced here today by Abraham Herman, president of the Hias.

"Since the entry of the United States into the war and the dedication of all material and spiritual forces of America to the cause of victory, Hias has enlisted for the duration," Mr. Herman said. "The Hias is carrying on and is determined to carry forward its inescapable and vital services on the Front of Human Salvage. Once before, with the United States at war, Hias was called upon to render a service of rescue which is engraved not only upon the pages of history, but upon the hearts and minds of scores of thousands of men, women, and children. A similar duty confronts us today."

CENTRAL CONFERENCE OF AMERICAN RABBIS WILL MEET IN CINCINNATI NEXT WEEK

CINCINNATI, Feb. 18. (JTA)-- More than 400 Reform rabbis from the United States and Canada will gather here next week at the 53rd annual conference of the Central Conference of American Rabbis which opens on Feb. 24. This year's conference which will conclude on March 1, is being held in conjunction with the 100th anniversary of the temple founded here by Rabbi Isaac H. Wise, the founder of the Central Conference.