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TYPHUS REPORTED AMONG POLISH-JEWISH REFUGEES IN RUSSIA; AMERICAN RED CROSS RUSHES AID

OTTAWA, March 5. (JTA)-- Typhus is reported to be spreading in the sections of Russia where many Jewish and Polish refugees from Poland are concentrated, it was revealed here today by Count Edward Raczynski, Polish Foreign Minister now on a visit to Canada.

"Very recently," the Minister said in a statement issued here, "word has been received of typhus in the section of Russia where many of our refugees are located. In response to an appeal, the American Red Cross has sent a special airplane with serum for assistance in this area."

The Polish Minister also described the plight of the Jews in Nazi-held Poland, emphasizing that the Jewish death rate there is now 17 percent as compared with the one percent of the pre-war years.

TWENTY "JEWS AND COMMUNISTS" EXECUTED IN PARIS; FRENCHMEN TOLD OF "JEWISH INVASION"

LONDON, March 5. (JTA)-- Twenty "Jews and Communists" who were taken as hostages by the Nazi military administration in Paris this week were executed yesterday in reprisal for the death of a German soldier last Sunday, according to a Berlin radio announcement heard in London today. Twenty more hostages will be executed if the assassin of the German soldier is not delivered to the military command in Paris by March 16.

Figures purporting to describe the Jewish "invasion" of France were given last night in a broadcast on the Nazi-controlled French wireless. In 1789 there were 500 Jews in Paris, the broadcast claimed. In 1800 the number was 4,000. It grew to 10,000 in 1830; to 18,000 in 1848; to 30,000 in 1870; to 50,000 in 1914; and to 400,000 in 1936. "It is therefore no more a question of sentiment for Frenchmen," the speaker claimed, "but defense against invasion."

POLISH JEWISH REFUGEES STRANDED IN SHANGHAI CABLE FOR ASSISTANCE

STOCKHOLM, March 5. (JTA)-- An urgent appeal for aid from 940 Polish Jewish refugees stranded in Japanese-held Shanghai was received here today by Dr. Ehrenpreis, Chief Rabbi of Sweden.

Describing their situation as desperate the refugees cabled that they are in need of immediate assistance. They stated that there is still a possibility of them being able to leave the Pacific war zone for Palestine if transit visas can be secured from the Soviet government. Dr. Ehrenpreis forwarded the plea to Dr. Ignacy Schwartzbart in London asking him to take up the matter with the Polish government there.

Polish Jewish refugee children now in Russia, who have lost contact with their parents and relatives, will be among the more than 500 youths who are expected to arrive in Palestine, it was learned here today.

DR. SILVER DEMANDS ABOLISHMENT OF PALESTINE IMMIGRATION RESTRICTIONS FOR WAR PERIOD

NEW YORK, March 5. (JTA)-- A demand that the White Paper policy restricting Jewish immigration into Palestine should not be implemented by the British Government for the duration of the war, was voiced here today by Dr. Abba Hillel Silver, national chairman of the United Palestine Appeal, prior to his leaving for London on an important Zionist mission.

"Jewish refugees escaping from the Nazi regime should be given a haven of refuge in Palestine in the same manner as Poles, Czechs, Greeks and other non-Jewish victims of the Nazis who are admitted to Palestine in the thousands without any restrictions," Dr. Silver said.

The first American Zionist leader to go to London since the outbreak of the war, Dr. Silver emphasized that he would like American Zionists to also send one of their leaders to Palestine. This, he said, would be very important not only for the morale of the Yishuv, but also for the Zionist movement in all democratic countries.

"The three major Jewish communities - the Jews of America, England and Palestine - must at the present time maintain permanent contact," Dr. Silver declared. This is essential for our program of aiding the Allies as well as for the Jewish post-war program."

Dr. Silver paid high tribute to the Jews of England who, he said, are marvelously fulfilling their duties both to the British cause and to the cause of Palestine. During his stay in London, Dr. Silver will not only help to cement a Jewish front between the Jews of England and America, but will also help the Jews in London to launch their Keren Heyesod campaign.

One of the tasks which Dr. Silver will have to perform is to acquaint British Government circles in London with the sentiments of American Jewry with regard to the obstacles which the Palestine administration has been placing in the path of the Jewish refugees seeking to enter Palestine, and especially with the effect that the Strume disaster has had here. Dr. Silver expects to be back in the United States several days before Passover.

The arrival of Dr. Silver in London has been timed to facilitate his participation in a special political meeting arranged there by the Zionist Federation of Great Britain at which Dr. Weizmann will deliver a speech on the Strume tragedy. Important political questions concerning Jewish work in Palestine will be discussed at this meeting.

ONLY ONE STRUME SURVIVOR STILL ALIVE; WASHINGTON POST HITS PALESTINE ADMINISTRATION

WASHINGTON, March 5. (JTA)-- Reports reaching here today from official Zionist circles in London reveal that only one of the five survivors of the Strume sinking is still alive, the others having died from exhaustion. According to these reports, investigations conducted so far have not established whether the Strume exploded as the result of striking a mine or whether it was torpedoed by a submarine.

In a strongly-worded editorial commenting on the Strume disaster the Washington Post yesterday criticized the action of the Palestine administration in denying entrance to the 750 refugees aboard the ill-fated vessel. The editorial declares that although the recent shakeup in the British cabinet has had some salutary effect on it, some of its members, including the Colonial Ministry, "are continuing to function with the same complete lack of understanding of what the war is all about."

NO ADDITIONAL MUFTI FOLLOWERS ADMITTED TO PALESTINE, COLONIAL MINISTRY DECLARES

LONDON, March 5. (JTA)-- A denial that negotiations are in progress for the return to Palestine of another group of ten followers of the ex-Mufti of Jerusalem, including his nephew and chief aide Jamal Husseini, was voiced in Commons today by Under-Secretary for Colonies Harold MacMillan, replying to a question of William Gallecher, Communist M.P. MacMillan reiterated that six of the ex-Mufti's followers including his nephew Jamal, are interned in Southern Rhodesia.

Replying to a question by S.S. Silverman, Laborite, MacMillan promised to seek further information on the charge that Dr. Weizmann's recent message to a rally of the Palestine Women's Auxiliary Territorial Service was suppressed by the Palestine censor.

AUSTRALIAN JEWISH MAJOR LEADS FORTY BRITISH SOLDIERS TO SAFETY FROM SINGAPORE

LONDON, March 5. (JTA)-- An amazing story of the escape from Singapore, under the most harrowing conditions of Major Maurice Ashkenasy, a Jew; who was deputy assistant adjutant general of the Australian Imperial forces in Malaya, was reported today by the correspondent of the Evening Standard.

Ashkenasy, leading a party of forty soldiers from the British Brigade, left Singapore harbor in a lifeboat on Sunday, February 15, the day the city fell to the Japanese. With Ashkenasy, who in civilian life is a prominent Melbourne lawyer, at the tiller the men rowed all afternoon in a boat so cramped that the tiller could not be moved without the men first shifting their positions. Carried toward rocks by a heavy current the boat lost its rudder and sprung a leak.

Pumping and bailing the fugitives finally reached a small island where they paused for a short rest before continuing. The next morning after rowing all night they saw land to the westward. By noon they had reached a small native village where they were able to hire a launch to take them to the mainland of Sumatra. From there they were taken to Java by a British warship. All during their voyage there were Japanese aircraft overhead but they were not attacked.

WEIZMANN, BRODETSKY, MELCHETT, OTHER JEWISH LEADERS IN BRITAIN LAUD JTA SERVICES

LONDON, March 5. (JTA)-- The services of the Jewish Telegraphic Agency were highly praised here today by Dr. Chaim Weizmann, Prof. Selig Brodetsky, Lord Melchett, Sir Robert Waley Cohen and other prominent Jewish leaders, in messages congratulating the JTA on its twenty-fifth anniversary.

"I am delighted," Dr. Weizmann wrote, "to hear that the Jewish Telegraphic Agency is celebrating its twenty-fifth anniversary, and I would like to offer it my warm congratulations on the many years of unflinching service which lie behind it, as well as my best wishes for the future.

"The history of the past quarter-century, for which the J.T.A. Bulletins provide so admirable a source-book of contemporary happenings in the Jewish world, has seen great, as well as tragic, events for Jewry. If the J.T.A. has been forced to record the villainy of Hitler, it has also been able to tell of the steady progress of the Jewish National Home which has followed from the Balfour Declaration. If, so far, the dark pages have been more numerous than the bright, I am convinced that this will not always be so, and my wish for the Jewish Telegraphic Agency is that the

future may compensate for the past, bringing, as the months and years go by, a steadily decreasing quota of sadness and suffering, and an ever-increasing proportion of good news, for the pages of the Bulletin."

JTA Has Played an Invaluable Role, Says Prof. Brodetsky

Prof. Selig Brodetsky, president of the Board of Jewish Deputies and member of the Executive of the Jewish Agency, in a message to the J.T.A. says:

"As a regular reader of the Jewish Telegraphic Agency Bulletin for many years past, I gladly avail myself of the opportunity of sending the Agency my warmest congratulations on the occasion of its Silver Jubilee. The J.T.A. has played an invaluable role in keeping public opinion, both Jewish and non-Jewish, informed of what has happened to the Jewish people throughout the world. By focussing public attention on the sufferings and injustices inflicted on the Jews, it has often enabled remedial action to be taken. But the record of Jewish history in the last quarter of a century has not been one of unrelieved gloom, and the Bulletin has devoted a substantial amount of space to the chronicle of Jewish achievements in Palestine. When I review what the work of the J.T.A. has meant to journalists, and to those who have to play an active part in Jewish affairs, I can hardly imagine a time when its services were not available.

"In sending you my hearty congratulations, I would like to add my best wishes for the future. I can only express the hope that it may be the good fortune of the Jewish Telegraphic Agency to report, when victory has been won, the opening of a brighter chapter in Jewish life - when the Jew will everywhere be regarded as a free and equal citizen, while the Jewish people is enabled to work out its national destiny in its ancient Homeland."

All Lovers of Freedom Must Appreciate the JTA Work, Melchett States

Sir Robert Waley Cohen, prominent Jewish leader, sent the following message: "I congratulate you most warmly upon entering the 25th year of your history. To all those who are interested in seeing the members of the Jewish faith rendering to the world all the service of which they are capable, your steady flow of news has been a great boon. Even in the tragic years of the Nazi attack on civilization, with Jews as the foremost victims, your detailed history of the unfolding tragedy has been unique and most valuable. May the times not be too far distant when you will again be concerned with records of achievement and of services rendered to the civilized world."

Lord Melchett, in his message, declared: "The Jewish Telegraphic Agency has performed the most valuable services to the Jewish people, and indeed to the world, in its constant and fearless publication of news in regard to Jewish affairs in every corner of the world. The period during which persecution and oppression could be practiced in dark corners disappeared with the establishment of the Jewish Telegraphic Agency on a firm foundation, and all lovers of freedom and good will must appreciate the work that it has done."

Messages of congratulations were also sent by Lord Wedgwood of Barleston, Lord Strabolgi, Commander O. Locker-Lampson, Dr. Igancy Schwartzbart and many others.

DR. WISE TO BE HONORED ON HIS 68TH BIRTHDAY; WALLACE, KNOX, ICKES SEND GREETINGS

NEW YORK, March 5. (JTA)-- Vice-President Henry Wallace, Secretary of the Navy Frank Knox, Secretary of the Interior Harold W. Ickes and Governor Herbert H. Lehman today joined in a warm tribute to Dr. Stephen S. Wise who will be guest of honor at a banquet on the occasion of his 68th birthday next Sunday evening, March 15, in the Hotel Astor. The dinner has been arranged by the Order Sons of Zion.