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100,000 JEWS EXECUTED BY NAZIS IN MINSK AREA AND THE BALTIC STATES

STOCKHOLM, March 16. (JTA)-- More than 100,000 Jews have been executed by the Nazi authorities in Ostland, the section which includes occupied Soviet White-Russia and the Baltic States, according to information received here today by neutral diplomats. In the Minsk area alone more than 80,000 Jews were massacred, the report said.

(A. Savich, JTA correspondent in Moscow, cabled last week that 15,000 Jews were executed by the Nazis in the town of Borisov, near Minsk. The victims were forced to dig their own graves, and many of them, including children, were buried alive, the Moscow dispatch reported.)

In Estonia, the small Baltic country where there were only 4,300 Jews before the Nazi invasion, not a single Jew was left alive, the report states. All the 1,800 Jewish residents of Tallin, the capital, were herded by the Nazis into trucks and carried to the outskirts of the city to be machine-gunned and thrown into one huge grave. The same thing took place in all other Estonian towns with Jewish houses being raided and all Jewish families being carried away to their death.

Massacres Were Ordered By Himmler; Victims' Clothing Confiscated for the Army

Thousands of Jews were also massacred by the Nazis in Lithuania and in Latvia, according to the report. The order to carry out mass-executions of Jews is reported to have emanated from Heinrich Himmler, chief of the Gestapo. Instructions from Himmler stated that only Jews who could be useful to the German war industry as qualified workers should be left alive.

Prior to killing their Jewish victims, the Nazi authorities ordered the Jewish population in Minsk to surrender to the German army all their warm clothing. Among the Jews massacred in the Minsk area were many from Germany, Austria and Czechoslovakia who had been deported from their home towns to Nazi-occupied Soviet territory for hard labor.

American Federation for Lithuanian Jews Issues Appeal

NEW YORK, March 16. (JTA)-- The American Federation for Lithuanian Jews, of which Sidney Hillman is honorary president, today issued an appeal to all Jews from the Baltic countries now in the United States to come to the aid of Lithuanian Jews who succeeded in escaping from the Nazis into Soviet territory.

Pointing out that the Federation will make every effort possible to contact these Jews and to render them needed aid, the appeal also speaks of "thousands of Jews massacred by the Nazis in Kovno and the Vilna district," and of the ghettos in which the Nazis have isolated those Jews in Lithuania whose lives they have spared only to use them as slave labor.

GROUP OF RABBIS ISSUE STATEMENT OPPOSING FORMATION OF JEWISH ARMY IN PALESTINE

NEW YORK, March 16. (JTA)-- Fifty-seven rabbis, including nineteen from New York, signed a statement issued yesterday saying they opposed the plan to form a Jewish army in Palestine. The statement, released by Rabbi Samuel H. Goldenson of Temple Emanu-El, New York, reads:

"Our attention has been called to a dispatch from London relative to the sentiment in America with regard to the creation of a Jewish army in Palestine," the statement said. "We desire to state that American Jewish opinion is sharply divided on this issue. We believe that the creation of a Jewish army to fight under its own banner would lead to further friction in Palestine, cause misunderstanding of the Jews the world over and thus add to the unhappy plight of our stricken people. We would urge, however, consideration of the immediate arming under the British flag of all Palestinians loyal to the British and United Nations." The statement appealed to "all people or groups" to put aside their particular interests and separate programs and concentrate on winning the war. "We reaffirm our belief that the solution of the group problems of the Jews, wherever they live," the statement continued, "should be sought in the spirit of the prophetic teaching of Isaiah that 'the work of righteousness shall be peace.'"

Other rabbis in New York City who signed the statement were I. Mortimer Bloom, Simon R. Cohen, Joseph S. Kornfeld, Isaac Landman, Solomon Landman, Samuel J. Levinson, Clifton H. Levy, Nathan A. Perilman, Max Reichler, Jerome Rosenbloom, William F. Rosenbloom, Hyman J. Schachtel, Nathan Stern, Sidney S. Tedesche, Benjamin A. Tintner, Aaron L. Weinstein, Jonah B. Wise and Samuel J.B. Wolk.

BOY SCOUT LEADERS APPEAL FOR MORE JEWISH MEMBERS THROUGHOUT COUNTRY

NEW YORK, March 16. (JTA)-- Disclosing that there are more than 700 Boy Scout troops affiliated with Jewish institutions throughout the country, the national office of the Boy Scouts of America today issued an appeal to all synagogue and civic leaders to aid in building the organization so that it will be better equipped to fulfill the national defense home front services upon which it is engaged.

The National Jewish Committee on Scouting, which is headed by Frank L. Weil, president of the Jewish Welfare Board, is promoting scouting in cooperation with all Jewish organizations that deal with boys, the Scout headquarters stated. They pointed out, however, that there could be several thousand Jewish troops and additional thousands of Jewish boys enrolled in Boy Scout troops of all types.

In the appeal issued by James E. West, Chief Scout Executive, he emphasizes the fact that "so far, one-third of our American boys are enrolled with the Boy Scouts as they pass through the ages twelve to twenty, whereas actual surveys reveal that three-fourths of our American boys would be Scouts if they were given the opportunity. To accomplish a national program of service of far-reaching proportions, the membership of the Boy Scouts of America must be greatly extended. Thousands of Scouts can be enrolled with Troops now existing, but there will be need for many more Troops. War Service has cut heavily into the leadership of these Troops. Young Scout leaders have gone into the army. Older leaders have been mobilized in the war industries and transferred to distant points. There is urgent need for more leaders for replacements in existing Troops and still more leaders to man the new Troops and Senior groups that will be organized."

AMERICAN JEWS HOLD EIGHT PERCENT OF DISTINGUISHED FLYING CROSSES AWARDED IN THIS WAR

DALLAS, Texas, March 16. (JTA)-- Despite the fact that Jews constitute about three percent of the population in the United States, they total eight percent of the 75 recipients of the Distinguished Flying Cross so far in this war, among American forces, the Waco Texas Times-Herald reports.

ANTI-JEWISH MEASURES IN BULGARIA NOT POPULAR WITH THE POPULATION, NAZI PAPERS COMPLAIN

ZURICH, March 16. (JTA)-- Jewish doctors and dentists in Bulgaria who are permitted to continue their practice must remove the Bulgarian-sounding endings from their names, according to an order issued by the Minister of Interior and published in the Sofia newspaper Zora which reached here today. The order permits the Jewish doctors and dentists to display their former names in brackets on their nameplates until December 31, 1942.

Nazi-financed Bulgarian newspapers reaching here today express dissatisfaction with the "lenient" way in which the Jews are treated in Bulgaria, and urge the Sofia government "to show sincere conviction by deeds" in settling the Jewish question. Articles published in these newspapers complain that the anti-Jewish measures in Bulgaria seem to be unpopular with the local population and that "the Jewish problem is not regarded seriously enough."

The "Vechera," one of these pro-Nazi newspapers, devotes a special article to criticizing the present anti-Jewish regulations as "inadequate." The paper claims that despite these regulations, Jews in Bulgaria are still "able to retain their former position." "Apart from confiscation of radios, the imposition of the special levy on Jews, and the restrictions on Jews appearing in the street in the evening, practically nothing has been done to curb Jewish activities," the paper writes, demanding the "complete eradication of the Jews."

"ARAB GOVERNMENT" ESTABLISHED IN BERLIN WITH EX-MUFTI AS PREMIER, LONDON REPORTS

LONDON, March 16. (JTA)-- An "Arab Government" with the ex-Mufti of Jerusalem as Premier, has been set up by the Nazis in Berlin, according to information published here today in the London Tribune, a left-wing weekly publication, of which Sir Stafford Cripps was one of the editors until recently.

A proclamation issued by this "government" to the Arab world promises the Arabs that "when the day of the Axis powers will come, the eight million Arabs in the Middle East will be given their chance to launch pogroms against the British and the Jews in the same way as this was done in Hong Kong." The Arab "government" in Berlin includes Rashid Ali of Iraq as "foreign minister" and Fawzi Kaukaji, Arab-terrorist, as "war minister."

Commenting on the formation by the Nazis of the "Mufti Cabinet," the Tribune declares in an editorial that "this is the fruit of twenty years of British appeasement." It points out that each of the three pro-Nazi Arabs would have not been dangerous today had the ex-Mufti not enjoyed the backing of British officials who allowed him to build up his own power in the course of seventeen years, "on a ruthless Nazi pattern with the help of assassination."

UNEMPLOYMENT IN PALESTINE DECREASED, WAR PRODUCTION INCREASED DURING 1941

JERUSALEM, March 16. (JTA)-- Unemployment in Palestine decreased sharply during 1941 and the early part of 1942, while industrial and agricultural production showed a marked increase as did bank deposits, it was officially reported here today.

Detailed figures on the Palestine economic situation released here today reveal: Unemployment decreased from 15,787 to 2,490; bank deposits increased from \$61,000,000 to \$88,000,000; the industrial index rose to 185; the budget of the Palestine government was 57% above the last pre-war year. In general, the official report states, both industry and agriculture have been geared to the war effort resulting in the increased production noted. Building activities, however, have almost ceased since the outbreak of the war as have exports of citrus fruits, but the deficit thus caused has been compensated by war orders.

COUNCIL AGAINST INTOLERANCE CALLS "VICTORY THROUGH UNITY" CONFERENCE

NEW YORK, March 16. (JTA)-- A "Victory through Unity" Conference "to strengthen the principles of equality and the practice of mutual tolerance during the war and for the peace to follow," will be held in New York on Saturday, March 21, in the Hotel Edison, it was announced today by the Council Against Intolerance, under whose auspices the gathering will take place.

Experts in various community organizations, governmental bureaus and educational institutions will participate in panel discussions at the conference in an effort to find out, first, what is being done to unite the community, and, second, to develop plans for further activities.

EVERY ANTI-SEMITE IS A NAZI, SAYS HENRI DE KERILLIS, NOTED FRENCH EDITOR

NEW YORK, March 16. (JTA)-- The assertion that every anti-Semite is a Nazi is made by Henri de Kerillis, former member of the French Parliament and one of the best-known French editors, who is now in this country.

Writing in La Victoire, a French weekly published in New York, Mr. de Kerillis, in a series of articles attacking anti-Semitism, makes the point that despite the complete destruction of Jewish wealth and influence in continental Europe, anti-Semitism instead of losing ground is becoming more and more violent. This, Mr. de Kerillis says, is explained by the fact that the real purpose of the Nazi fight against the Jew is not only to annihilate the Jews but also "to crush the fundamental morale of European civilization."

NATIONAL CONVENTION FOR DENVER SANATORIUM WILL MEET IN NEW YORK

NEW YORK, March 16. (JTA)-- Over 4,000 delegates and representatives of hundreds of Jewish organizations throughout the country will gather at the Hotel Astor, March 21 to 25 for the 38th Annual National Convention of the Jewish Consumptives' Relief Society, it was announced here today. The Society operates the free non-sectarian Denver Sanatorium at Spivak, Colorado, which is the largest institution of its kind in the world for the treatment and cure of tuberculous poor who are unable to afford private care.

The delegates will meet to hear reports of the officers and to take action on the Society's proposed activities for 1942, including the Sanatorium's recent offer to Federal authorities to increase its facilities by one hundred more beds to meet the situation created by war conditions and the rapid rise of tuberculosis.

PROF. HERBERT SPEYER, BELGIAN JEWISH LEADER, DIES IN LONDON

LONDON, March 16. (JTA)-- Prof. Herbert Speyer, a member of the Council of the Jewish Agency, from Belgium, and one of the most prominent jurists in pre-war Belgium, died here today from pneumonia at the age of 72, after a short illness.

Prof. Speyer, who came to London after the collapse of France, was appointed president of the Juridicial Commission of the Belgian Government-in-exile here. Belgian government circles declared that Prof. Speyer will be deeply mourned by all Belgian patriotic circles, since throughout his life he defended the cause of justice and democracy in his lectures, speeches and writings. Prof. Speyer was the outstanding authority on questions of Belgian constitutional and administrative law and for many years represented the Liberty Party in the Belgian Senate. He was also a member of the Belgian Colonial Council and a professor at the Free University in Brussels.