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NAZIS ORDER DEPORTATION OF ALL JEWS FROM BIALYSTOK, VILNA AS SPRING OFFENSIVE NEARS

STOCKHOLM, March 19. (JTA)-- Unverified reports reaching here today from Nazi-held Poland state that the German military authorities have ordered the deportation of the entire Jewish population of the cities of Bialystok, Vilna, Tarnopol, Dubno and Novogrudek, in preparation for the Spring offensive and because of the fortifications now being constructed in these areas.

The Jews of these cities will all be sent to huge concentration camps, the reports stated. The deportation order was issued under the pretext that "the Jews are not a reliable element" and can not, therefore, be trusted to reside in cities which are of strategic importance to the German army, according to one report.

The same report reveals that Heinrich Himmler, chief of the Gestapo, issued instructions to Gestapo authorities in the occupied territories of Eastern Europe to "reduce" the Jewish population in the cities in Poland and the Baltic countries which are close to the Soviet front lines. The instructions, it is stated in the report, pointed out that the Jews constitute a serious hindrance to the German army in the execution of war operations. As a result of these instructions, mass-pogroms of Jews have been taking place for the past four weeks in the Baltic countries and in Polish towns in the Eastern front zone, the report says.

Dr. David Schreiber, Jewish member of the Polish Senate, and a number of other prominent Jewish leaders who were in Lemberg prior to Nazi occupation of that city after the outbreak of the Soviet-German war, fell into the hands of the Nazis and their fate cannot be ascertained, one of the reports reaching here from Nazi-held Poland discloses.

This report informs that among the Jewish leaders who remained in Lemberg were Dr. Bodek, former Jewish member of the Polish Sejm, Henryk Hescheles, editor of the Polish-Jewish daily newspaper Chwila, Rabbi Jecheskiel Lewin, Mizrachi leader, Dr. Emil Rosenfeld, Zionist youth leader, and others.

NEW NAZI REGULATIONS ASSIGN CONFISCATED JEWISH PROPERTY TO SOLDIERS

BERNE, March 19. (JTA)-- Confiscated Jewish property, especially property taken from German Jews who were deported to Poland and other Nazi-occupied territories in Eastern Europe, will only be sold to soldiers who have seen service at the front and who have a record of "high merit in the fight for the liberation of the Fatherland," according to new regulations made public in Berlin today.

The regulations are a result of the complaints voiced by German soldiers that while they are risking their life at the front, Germans in the rear benefit from Jewish deportations by the fact that being on the spot they acquire all the Jewish property. Some of the wounded soldiers even went so far as to ask, through welfare organizations, that Jewish property in their neighborhood be turned over to them for use by their families.

LEADING JEWISH GROUPS ASK U.S. TO SECURE CHANGE IN PALESTINE IMMIGRATION LAWS

WASHINGTON, March 19. (JTA)-- A delegation representing four national Jewish organizations today asked Acting Secretary of State Sumner Welles to use the good offices of the United States to obtain from the Palestine Administration a modification of its policy toward the admission of Jewish refugees. His attention was also called to the tragedy of the S.S. Struma, which sank recently in the Black Sea with a loss of 768 lives after being refused admission to Palestine.

The delegation was composed of representatives of the American Emergency Committee for Zionist Affairs, the American Jewish Committee, the American Jewish Congress and the B'nai B'rith. The members of the delegation were Mrs. David de Sola Pool, Mr. Louis Lipsky, Mr. Maurice Wertheim, Dr. Stephen S. Wise and Mr. Henry Monsky. The delegation handed Mr. Welles the following official memorandum:

"The undersigned are official representatives of the American Emergency Committee for Zionist Affairs, the American Jewish Committee, the American Jewish Congress and the B'nai B'rith, with whom are associated the overwhelming majority of the national organizations and organized communities of American Jewish citizens. In their behalf, we respectfully address ourselves to our State Department and draw its attention to events that have caused us grave concern and distress.

"The circumstances that have led us to direct ourselves to you and that have been climaxed by the sinking of the Struma and the tragic loss of 768 lives, are detailed in the attached memorandum. These circumstances make it indubitably clear that the policies pursued by the present Palestine Administration and the Colonial Office of the British Government, in regard to the admission of refugees and their internment, are creating unparalleled tragedy and suffering for Jewish refugees from the Nazi terror. These policies have already led to disasters that have cost the lives of hundreds of people and threaten, if continued, to bring death and injury to many thousands more.

"We believe these policies to be inconsistent with the ideals of humanity and justice as expressed by our Government in the Atlantic Charter and with the obligations assumed by Great Britain in the Balfour Declaration and in the Mandate for Palestine, which provides as follows: 'Article 6 -- The Administration of Palestine, while ensuring that the rights and position of other sections of the population are not prejudiced, shall facilitate Jewish immigration under suitable conditions.'

"We therefore urge our Government to use its good offices to bring about a modification of policies and practices, suggested in the accompanying memorandum, as will prevent the recurrence of any further such tragedies and assure admission to Palestine of these victims of Nazi terror."

TWO PHILADELPHIA BOYS SENTENCED TO IMPRISONMENT FOR USING "HITLER TACTICS"

PHILADELPHIA, March 19. (JTA)-- Two 19-year-old boys were sentenced to three months to three years in prison as ringleaders of an anti-Semitic gang who, shouting "we give you the same treatment as Hitler would give the Jews," invaded a Jewish store, demolished its merchandise and injured the owner, Philip Bain.

In issuing the sentence, Judge Edwin O. Lewis condemned the "Hitler tactics" of the boys. "I want you and every other person to understand that the use of Hitler tactics on storekeepers because of their religious beliefs will not be tolerated in this country," he said.

HUNGARIAN ACT TO EXPROPRIATE JEWISH AGRICULTURAL POSSESSIONS SUBMITTED TO PARLIAMENT

ZURICH, March 19. (JTA)-- The new Hungarian bill providing for the expropriation of Jewish agricultural holdings was introduced last night in the Hungarian parliament, according to an announcement over the Budapest radio today. No details as to the fate of the law were given in the broadcast.

Prior to introducing the law in parliament, the Hungarian Minister of Agriculture, Baron Banffy, had a lengthy discussion with the new Hungarian Premier who was the first Hungarian statesman to introduce restrictions on Jewish land holdings when he held the post of Minister of Agriculture. The new law, if passed by parliament, will confiscate the agricultural estates of the last group of Jewish land owners in Hungary.

CRANBORNE PROMISES THOROUGH PROBE OF BRITISH POLICY IN PALESTINE

LONDON, March 19. (JTA)-- A promise that he would look into all aspects of British policy in Palestine was given today by Colonial Secretary Lord Cranborne to a delegation of members of Parliament who called upon him demanding an investigation of the policy of the Palestine administration. Lord Cranborne told the group, which was headed by Lord Wedgwood, that having come to office just a short time ago, he has not yet been able to thoroughly familiarize himself with the Palestine situation.

The flow of British capital for investment in Palestine has been maintained all during the war period, it was revealed today at the annual meeting of the London Palestine Investment Company. Captain H.A. Leon, a former mayor of Richmond, who is chairman of the company, announced that English Jews had invested considerable sums in Palestine since the outbreak of war and that these investments were not confined to Zionists. The corporation is attempting to promote trade between Palestine and all parts of the British Empire.

VICHY AUTHORITIES, ACTING ON NAZI COMPLAINTS, WILL TIGHTEN ANTI-JEWISH LAWS

ZURICH, March 19. (JTA)-- The Vichy authorities, following German complaints, have decided to take measures for stricter enforcement of anti-Jewish regulations, which in the view of the Nazis and their French collaborators are interpreted too leniently in many districts, the Lyons radio announced today.

Xavier Vallat, Commissar for Jewish Affairs, is at present touring France to tighten control of local administration of the various anti-Jewish and racial laws. Special instructions will be issued to local authorities and Vallat will personally explain how the Commissariat for Jewish Affairs expects these local administrators to enforce the anti-Semitic regulations, which now total 67 decrees containing 379 articles.

BRITISH JEWS WILL OBTAIN PASSOVER FOOD UNDER FOOD MINISTRY'S REGULATIONS

LONDON, March 19. (JTA)-- Special arrangements to meet the requirements of Jews during the Passover period for certain rationed foodstuffs, was announced today by the Ministry of Foods.

Kosher butter and sugar will be made available in specially printed wrappers at fixed prices. Emergency cards will be issued to Jews registered with retailers who are unable to supply kosher foods, in order that these Jews may be able to purchase from shops stocking rationed Passover food.

The 3,000 Polish and Czechoslovakian Jewish soldiers and airmen stationed in Britain as well as hundreds of Jewish refugees, mainly women and children, will be provided with Passover supplies by the Joint Passover Relief Appeal formed this week.

HOUSE COMMITTEE ADVISES "HUMANE POLICY" IN EVACUATING ALIENS FROM COASTAL AREAS

WASHINGTON, March 19. (JTA)-- A humane policy for evacuation of aliens from the West coast which would avoid undue suffering and the possibility of making future potential enemies for the United States was urged upon Congress today in a special report by the select Tolan Committee, appointed to investigate this subject.

While advising that there was no safe course save to take the advice of the military authorities regarding the evacuation of Japanese from the area, the Committee advised a more cautious course in dealing with Germans and Italians. Specifically, it urged all possible care in handling the cases of refugees from German and Italian oppression, declaring: "The tragic hardships and injustices of evacuation are most evident in the present plight of German and Italian anti-Axis refugees on the West coast. Many of these are in the process of becoming citizens, which process has been lengthened in the case of enemy aliens since the war. Although anxious to prove their loyalty and to join in the fight against the Axis, these people are being classed in the same status with the enemy they have fled. England has resolved this anomalous situation through special hearing boards created to grant exemptions from the enemy alien status upon individual examination."

The Committee urged the establishment of a system of local hearing boards to examine these people and issue certificates of loyalty to Germans and Italians whose loyalty was established beyond doubt.

It also recommended that the Department of Justice immediately review the situation regarding enemy aliens who are awaiting their second papers, with a view to expediting their applications; and that upon certification of the local hearing boards, a grace period for completion of their citizenship should be granted.

GHETTOS IN POLAND ARE VIOLATION OF INTERNATIONAL LAW, POLISH WHITE BOOK CHARGES

NEW YORK, March 19. (JTA)-- The Polish Government, in a White Book published yesterday, states that it considers the introduction of ghettos for Jews in Nazi-held Poland to be a violation of existing international laws.

"The confinement within 'ghettos' of hundreds of thousands of Polish citizens, who are forbidden to leave them, constitutes an instance *sui generis* of the illegal measures taken by the occupying authorities in violation of the most elementary rules of law and humanity," the White Book charges.

Dwelling at great length on the atrocities committed by the Nazi authorities in Poland against the Polish and Jewish populations there and on the expulsion and mass-deportation of Jews from numerous Polish towns, the White Book, supporting its charges with documentary evidence, relates among other things how synagogues were burned down by the Nazis in a number of towns and how Jews, in addition to wearing the Star of David, were ordered in some localities to salute every German they met in the street by uncovering their heads.

"Aside from this long list of persecutions, mention must be made of the 'spectacles' organized by German soldiers and police who make Rabbis dance in their ritual robes to the accompaniment of blows from the butts of their rifles," the White Book states. It carries the official text of the Laws and Customs of War on Land known as the IVth Hague Convention which constitutes the recognized international provisions for governing treatment of citizens of an occupied territory, and concludes by pointing out that these provisions "have been openly violated by Germany."