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HITLER BACKS JAPAN'S DEMAND FOR MADAGASCAR; URGES 20,000 SHANGHAI JEWS BE SENT THERE

LONDON, March 20. (JTA)-- Hopeful that he can eventually have all Jews of occupied Europe deported to Madagascar, Hitler is now backing Japan in its attempt to force the Vichy Government to permit the landing of Japanese forces on the French-administered African island which the Nazis would like to convert into a "reservation" for the Jews of the European continent.

Trustworthy reports reaching here today reveal that the Nazi authorities in Berlin are making every effort to impress the Vichy regime with the necessity of "co-operating" with Japan regarding Madagascar. At the same time, they have suggested to Japan that it "become the instrument for saving the civilization of Europe from the Jewish danger."

One of Hitler's suggestions to Japan, the report states, recommends that the 20,000 German-Jewish refugees in Shanghai who fell into Japanese hands, as well as all other Jews in Japanese-occupied territories, be sent to Madagascar "to form the nucleus" for the contemplated Jewish reservation.

JEWS IN PARIS TO PAY INDEMNITIES FOR DAMAGES CAUSED BY BRITISH BOMBERS

BERNE, March 20. (JTA)-- Persons who suffered damages as a result of the recent bombing of Paris armament factories by the Royal Air Force will receive indemnities from funds derived from the sale of confiscated Jewish property, it was announced today over the Paris radio.

The Berlin radio station today announced that further anti-Jewish restrictions were introduced during the week in Bulgaria, Hungary and Slovakia. The restrictions in Bulgaria permit only 16 Jewish engineers to practice their profession in the country, despite the acute shortage of qualified technical workers. The Slovakian restrictions provide, among other things, a special curfew for the entire Jewish population, prohibiting Jews to appear in the street after 8 o'clock in the evening. The Hungarian restrictions deal with the projected confiscation of Jewish farm-land.

NAZIS SCHEME TO DESTROY POLISH ECONOMY THROUGH USE OF ANTI-JEWISH PERSECUTION

STOCKHOLM, March 20. (JTA)-- The persecution of the Jews in Nazi-held Poland, besides serving Hitler's anti-Jewish policy, is also calculated with a view of destroying the foundations of Poland's economic system and reducing the country to one huge agricultural territory producing food for Germany, the Krakauer Zeitung reaching here today declares.

The Nazi paper says that by driving the Jews from important Polish provincial towns, the Nazi administration transforms these towns from trade centers where Jews were the commercial element supplying the peasants of the neighboring agricultural areas with merchandise, into mere villages. The peasants thus become entirely dependent on Germany for manufactured goods.

JEWISH AGENCIES NEGOTIATE UNIFIED PROGRAM FOR PROTECTING AMERICAN-JEWISH RIGHTS

NEW YORK, March 20. (JTA) -- The special committee on civic-protective agencies, appointed by the board of directors of the Council of Jewish Federations and Welfare Funds at the 1942 General Assembly in Chicago, concluded its initial series of meetings with representatives of the four major agencies in the defense field, it was announced here today by Sidney Hollander of Baltimore, president of the Council.

This initial series of conferences included discussions with the American Jewish Committee, American Jewish Congress, the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith and the Jewish Labor Committee. Appointment of the Council's committee on civic-protective agencies followed immediately after the General Assembly approved a special report outlining a possible basis for coordination in the defense field.

Mr. Hollander reported that the committee is now studying the questions raised by the representatives of the four agencies and will present a complete report on its progress to the next meeting of the Council's board of directors this Spring. "All of the agencies have expressed a real desire to develop a more unified program to deal with the important problems of protecting Jewish rights," Mr. Hollander said. "Differences of opinion prevail on the methods to be followed in achieving a basis for such action.

Basis for Active Cooperation Sought at Conference

"Previous experience, both inside and outside of the General Jewish Council, has indicated underlying differences in objectives among the various agencies. The committee is attempting to find a basis upon which active and satisfactory cooperation can be established between the various groups."

The discussions thus far have been conducted in behalf of the Council by David Watchmaker of Boston; Max Simon of Cleveland; Charles Riegelman and Ira M. Youker of New York; William Rosenwald of Greenwich, Conn.; Morris Wolf of Philadelphia; and Sidney Hollander. The other members of the committee are: Edwin J. Schaffer of Columbus; George Z. Medalie of New York; William J. Shroder of Cincinnati, and James L. White of Salt Lake City.

NATIONAL FARM SCHOOL'S 42nd COMMENCEMENT TODAY MARKS CONTRIBUTIONS TO NATIONAL DEFENSE

NEW YORK, March 20. (JTA) -- The contributions being made by the National Farm School, at Bucks County, Pennsylvania, to the vitally important "food front" of national defense, will be highlighted at the 42nd annual commencement exercises of the institution which will be held this Sunday. Fifty-three young men, forty-one of whom are Jewish, will be graduated. All of them, the School officials announced, have secured employment in their specialized fields.

The National Farm School, now in its 46th year, trains boys for life on the land. Although non-sectarian in character, it receives most of its support from Jewish sources and seventy-five percent of the students are Jewish. The graduation exercises will bring to over 1,200 the number of young men trained by the School for scientific farming. A special service at the exercises will be devoted to the memory of Ted Lewis, a Farm School student, who lost his life at Pearl Harbor. Lewis, class of '38, was a Corporal located at Schofield Barracks. He was a native of Philadelphia.

The school is designed primarily to give to city boys who wish to enter one of the various fields of vocational agriculture, the knowledge and skills that are essential to success. As an actual part of the "learning process," these embryo farmers produce large quantities of essential foodstuffs and other agricultural commodities that are vital to the nation's security.

AUSTRALIA BEGINS RELEASE OF JEWISH REFUGEES FOR EMPLOYMENT IN WAR WORK

LONDON, March 20. (JTA)-- A group of 350 interned refugees, who were sent from England to Australia in 1939, have been released and are engaged in fruit picking in the state of Victoria, refugee relief headquarters were informed today by Major Layton, the Home Office representative in Australia. A good many of these refugees are Jewish.

Another 500 refugees will be released to perform work of national importance as soon as the necessary administrative machinery is set up, Major Layton reported. After the 350 already freed have completed the fruit picking, they will be admitted into labor battalions of the Australian army. Aged and infirm people as well as youths under eighteen will also be released as soon as arrangements are made for their maintenance.

BREAD RATIONING BEGINS IN PALESTINE ON EVE OF PASSOVER

JERUSALEM, March 20. (JTA)-- Bread rationing will be introduced throughout Palestine beginning April 1, the Government announced today. The daily ration will be 550 grams, slightly over one pound, per person.

Sir Harold MacMichael, High Commissioner for Palestine, accompanied by Dr. Judah Magnes and by Dr. Abraham Katznelson, director of the Social Welfare department of the Vaad Leumi, toured the Hebrew schools in Jerusalem today, inspecting the school kitchens and the distribution of meals.

The new Scientific Advisory Council, of which Dr. Magnes is president, today announced that Prof. Ladislaus Farkas has been appointed its Secretary, and not Dr. I. I. Kligler, as previously reported.

POLISH OFFICER PRESENTS TORAH RESCUED FROM BENGHAZI TO TEL AVIV SYNAGOGUE

TEL AVIV, March 20. (JTA)-- A torah scroll rescued from the burning synagogue in Benghazi when the Allied forces entered the city following the German retreat, was turned over to a Tel Aviv synagogue today by the Polish officer who had dashed into the Benghazi synagogue and saved it. The officer had carefully wrapped the torah in silk before presenting it to the local synagogue officials.

REFUGEES FROM GERMANY WILL NOT BE ORDERED TO LEAVE THE WEST COAST, NRS LEARNS

NEW YORK, March 20. (JTA)-- The West Coast evacuation orders for "enemy aliens" will not be applied, now or in the near future, to aliens of German and Italian nationalities, Albert Abrahamson, executive director of the National Refugee Service, today told a representative of the Jewish Telegraphic Agency on the basis of inquiries made by the NRS with the proper authorities. He added, however, that this policy may be altered by military considerations.

"So far as can be learned," Mr. Abrahamson stated, "no plan for removal of either of these groups is contemplated at the present time. It is impossible, however, to give assurances that no evacuation of German or Italian "enemy aliens" will take place, as military considerations may alter the present indicated policy, not only on the West Coast but in other parts of the country as well."

Emphasizing that the National Refugee Service is maintaining close contact with the authorities on the problem, Mr. Abrahamson declared that while the evacuation of Japanese aliens and American citizens of Japanese origin from the West Coast areas

already designated will begin soon, there is a definite possibility that special hearing boards there will consider exemptions from the evacuation regulations of Germans and Italians who are classified as aliens of enemy nationality. "Many statements attesting to the loyalty to the United States of the refugees and others falling within these categories were read into the record of the hearings of the Tolan Congressional Committee recently held on the West Coast and have been offered in Washington as possible ground for exemption," he said.

Recommendations of Congressional Committee Titled As Acceptable

Commenting on the report submitted by the Tolan Committee to Congress yesterday, Mr. Abrahamson stated that the recommendations contained in this report are more or less acceptable. The entire problem of evacuation of "enemy aliens" from military areas in the interest of national security is now less acute than before as far as the refugees from Germany are concerned, but it still requires close watching, he said.

The National Refugee Service was informed by the Department of Justice that refugees accepting government funds for evacuation purposes would not render themselves liable to deportation, since they are not considered as having become a public charge. "Assistance given to persons required to evacuate military areas should not be looked upon in any sense as charity, but as the extension of governmental assistance in carrying out a necessary military project," the NRS was told.

ALL ALIENS MADE SUBJECT TO DRAFT UNDER NEW SELECTIVE SERVICE REGULATIONS

WASHINGTON, March 20. (JTA)-- All aliens, including those in the "enemy alien" category, will be reclassified by their local Selective Service Boards, for the purpose of inducting them into the army if they fall into the 1A classification, it was announced today by Selective Service headquarters here. This is a reversal of the previously announced policy, under which "enemy aliens" were automatically placed in the 4C group.

This new order affects all aliens, including those who have not filed their first papers for American citizenship. Aliens of neutral countries, who have filed their first papers will still have the right to refuse to serve, but those who do so will be forever barred from acquiring American citizenship.

HUNDREDS OF RABBIS ENDORSE PALESTINE JEWISH FIGHTING FORCE

NEW YORK, March 20. (JTA)-- More than 350 American rabbis including the heads of the leading rabbinical bodies, have expressed approval of the proposal to establish a Palestine Jewish military force to fight in the cause of the United Nations under British command and under its own banner, it was announced today by the American Emergency Committee for Zionist Affairs.

Among the messages received by the Committee were those from Dr. James E. Heller, president of the Central Conference of American Rabbis, the organization of Reform rabbis; from Rabbi Leon S. Lang, president of the Rabbinical Assembly of America, composed of Conservative rabbis; and from Rabbi Joseph H. Lookstein, president of the Rabbinical Council of America, whose membership consists of Orthodox rabbis.

JNF ADMINISTRATION RE-ELECTED; DR. ISRAEL GOLDSTEIN CHOSEN PRESIDENT FOR NINTH TERM

NEW YORK, March 20. (JTA)-- The entire administration of the American branch of the Jewish National Fund was re-elected here last night at a meeting in the Commodore Hotel. Dr. Israel Goldstein, who has headed the JNF in America for eight years, was re-elected for a ninth term. Louis Segal was elected secretary; I.M. Kowalsky and Jacob Sincoff, treasurers; and Mendel Fisher, executive director.