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PALESTINE USHERS IN THE PASSOVER WITH PUBLIC SEDERS FOR SOLDIERS AND CIVILIANS

JERUSALEM, March 31. (JTA)-- Public Seders in which Jewish soldiers on furlough from the Libyan front will participate will mark the ushering in of the Passover festival tomorrow evening throughout Palestine where the Jews terminated their exodus from Egypt some three thousand years ago.

Simultaneously, it was announced here today that sufficient matzoth and Passover wine have been sent to thousands of Jewish soldiers "somewhere in the Libyan Desert" who were forced to remain at their posts. Care has been taken that the matzoth and other Passover food reach the Jewish men in the British armed forces throughout the Mediterranean front, as well as the Jews serving in the Polish and Czechoslovak military units there.

In Tel Aviv a huge Seder will take place tomorrow evening with more than a thousand soldiers and civilians participating. Members of the Habimah Hebrew Theatre will read the Hagaddah and members of the Palestine Hebrew Opera will sing the Passover songs. Thousands of Jewish soldiers will also be accommodated at Seders in private homes in Tel Aviv, Jerusalem, Haifa and in the colonies. Chief Rabbi Herzog is scheduled to deliver a special Passover broadcast over the Palestine Broadcasting Station sending a message of hope to the Jews in Nazi-held territories and a word of blessing and encouragement to the Jewish fighters on the Allied fronts.

PASSOVER SERVICES ARRANGED FOR JEWS IN BRITISH, POLISH, CZECH ARMIES IN ENGLAND

LONDON, March 31. (JTA)-- Special "seder" ceremonies for Jews serving with the British, Polish and Czechoslovakian forces will be held throughout England, it was announced here today as last-minute preparations were completed in London to provide Passover food for all Jewish refugees who are unable to support themselves.

Broadcasts to the Jews in Nazi-occupied countries will be beamed from here, including one in English by Chief Rabbi Hertz and one in Polish by Dr. Ignacy Schwartzbart. The text of the Chief Rabbi's message released here today emphasizes that "at no time has the meaning of the Passover festival been of more vital significance than in our present day of spiritual darkness and of blasphemous tyranny." It speaks of the approaching liberation and urges the Jews to prepare for playing part "in the righteous peace which we fervently pray will crown these terrible years of alarm, sufferings and sorrow."

Dr. Schwartzbart in the address which he will broadcast to the Jews in Nazi-held Poland, tells the oppressed Jews in the ghettos not to be discouraged and to continue their fight together with the Polish population against the common enemy. He informs the Jews of Poland about the thousands of Jewish soldiers who are now fighting in the ranks of the Polish armies in England, in the Middle-East and in Soviet Russia and assures them that "the obstinate struggle against Hitlerism will continue until victory is won."

RABBIS ARRESTED IN SLOVAKIA; JEWS ORDERED TO MARK THEIR DOORS WITH YELLOW STARS

ZURICH, March 31. (JTA)-- A number of Rabbis and Jewish leaders were arrested this week in Slovakia for alleged "anti-State activities" and on the charge of "spreading alarming reports," according to a report by the Slovak News Agency reaching here today.

The report also gives details of the arrest of Pastor Puskas in Zvolen, whose internment was announced several days ago. According to the Slovak News Agency, the Calvinist pastor was charged with baptizing 400 Jews within three days in order to enable them to circumvent the anti-Jewish restrictions. Changes in the existing legislation which will make the conversion of Jews illegal are expected to be introduced in Slovakia in the next few days.

A decree issued in Slovakia today under the signature of Sano Mach, the Minister of Interior, orders all Jews to mark their doors with a yellow Mogen David. This was ordered in order to make it easier for the Nazi-controlled Slovak police and secret service men to distinguish between Jewish and non-Jewish homes when carrying out night raids on Jews.

JEWISH AGENCY SENDS SHERTOK TO CAIRO FOR IMPORTANT DISCUSSIONS WITH MILITARY LEADERS

CAIRO, March 31. (JTA)-- The arrival here today of Moshe Shertok to spend part of the Passover week in conferences with the British military authorities, coupled with the call issued in Palestine several days ago by the Jewish Agency urging more able-bodied Jews to enlist in the British forces, were taken here to mean that Jewish leaders in Palestine are seriously concerned over what the next few weeks may bring to the Yishuv.

With Germany expected to launch its drive in the Middle East in the direction of Syria and Palestine, it was pointed out here today that the Allied position in relation to the Arab populations is not yet fully secure. Though the channels of communication with the Axis have been restricted, Nazi propaganda, through the medium of radio, continues, and Axis agents are apparently still active, while pro-Axis elements among the Arabs have gone underground, awaiting a more favorable time.

PROTESTANT ORGAN APPEALS TO ROOSEVELT TO BAN "SOCIAL JUSTICE"

NEW YORK, March 31. (JTA)-- The Executive Council of The Protestant, a monthly religious publication, sent telegrams to President Roosevelt and to Attorney General Anthony J. Biddle urging the Government to take immediate steps to ban the publication "Social Justice," the mouthpiece of Father Coughlin. The telegrams called attention to an editorial published in the March 30 issue of "Social Justice" threatening to discontinue publication of the weekly voluntarily and blaming the Jews for its cessation of publication. The editorial predicts that such action would provoke pogroms in the streets of New York in comparison with which the European pogroms would rank a poor second. The telegrams were signed by Kenneth Leslie, editor of the Protestant, Pierre van Paassen, author, Professor James Luther Adams of Headville Theological Seminary and Professor Paul Tillich of Union Theological Seminary.

VICHY DEPRIVES BERNARD LECACHE OF HIS CITIZENSHIP

VICHY, March 31. (JTA)-- A decree published in the Official Gazette declares void the naturalization of Bernard Lecache, former president of the League to Combat Anti-Semitism in France. Lecache was granted French citizenship in 1935.

JEWS IN THE ARMED FORCES WILL OBSERVE PASSOVER IN 200 POSTS ON LAND AND SEA

NEW YORK, March 31. (JTA)-- Thousands of Jewish servicemen stationed at 200 home and overseas posts with the armed forces of the United States, will attend traditional seders and observe Passover ceremonies following arrangements made by the National Jewish Welfare Board in cooperation with the Corps of Chaplains of the Army and the Navy, it was announced today by Dr. David de Sola Pool, chairman of the Board's Committee on Religious Activities.

In nearly 100 cities of the United States, thousands of Jewish families will throw open their homes to soldiers on short leave from nearby cantonments. It is estimated that about 10,000 Jewish soldiers will be accommodated in this fashion, while thousands more are expected to attend approximately 75 community services arranged by Jewish Welfare Board workers, and conducted by regular Army chaplains.

All troop transports recently leaving ports of embarkation have been supplied with a pound of matzoth for each Jewish soldier aboard, a quantity of Passover meats, a "haggadah," and a mimeographed list of specific suggestions for Catholic and Protestant chaplains aboard relating to the conduct of Passover services.

Fifty Jewish cadets at West Point will hold a seder in the Army chapel on the reservation, having received supplies from the Jewish Welfare Board. In St. Louis, non-Jewish Army officers requested and received 100 pounds of matzoths and Passover food for the Jewish men in their command.

30,000 Haggadahs and 50,000 Pounds of Matzoths Shipped to Soldiers Abroad

The Board has arranged with the Senior Jewish Chaplain of the British Army for Jewish soldiers serving with the American Expeditionary Forces in England and Ireland to observe Passover. In addition, more than 30,000 "haggadahs" or Passover prayer books, together with 50,000 pounds of matzoths and other Passover foods have been shipped to Jewish servicemen here and abroad by the Board.

In Hawaii, where nightly blackouts and Army camp alerts will prevent ceremonies after dark, daytime services will be held by Army Chaplain Harry Richmond and Navy Chaplain Herbert C. Straus in the two U.S.O. clubs operated by the Jewish Welfare Board in Honolulu. More than 3,000 soldiers of the Jewish faith are expected to attend, while those who cannot leave camp will attend service and seders within camp areas.

In the Panama Canal Zone, seder services will be held in both Panama City and Balboa, on the Atlantic and Pacific sides of the isthmus. In Bermuda, a community seder has been arranged by the local Board committee in cooperation with the Army and Navy authorities. Other Passover services for soldiers will take place in Antigua, Jamaica and Trinidad, B.W.I., Paramariba, Aruba and Curacao, N.W.I.; Puerto Rico, Virgin Islands, Newfoundland and Iceland. American Jewish soldiers in Iceland will observe the Passover in conjunction with British soldiers and several refugee families residing there.

Eight hundred Jewish soldiers will attend two Passover seders to be held simultaneously at the largest mess hall in Camp Upton, with Rabbi Philip Goodman officiating. Rabbi Norman Salit will lead services for soldiers at Fort Jay, N.Y.,

Rabbi Alexander Steinbach will officiate at Fort Tilden, L. I.; Rabbi Isaac Landman will serve at Fort Hamilton, Brooklyn, and Rabbis Morris Max and Isidor Signor will conduct services for Coast Guard men at Manhattan Beach. Two seders will be held at Fort Dix, N. J. under the direction of Chaplain Bernard Segal. One will be for patients and staff at the Base Hospital, the other at the Reception Center for men in quarantine. About 500 soldiers will attend. At the U.S.O. Club, operated by the Jewish Welfare Board in New York 300 Jewish servicemen will attend services conducted by Chaplain Joshua L. Goldberg, of the United States Navy.

Seder Arranged for Jews Detained at Ellis Island

The refugees and immigrants who are temporarily detained at Ellis Island, will usher in the Passover Festival at a Seder service and celebration that has been arranged for their benefit by the Hebrew Sheltering and Immigrant Aid Society. Arrangements have also been made to accommodate a number of Jewish enlisted men and officers of the U.S. Coast Guard at the Seder Service at Ellis Island, Abraham Herman, President of the Society stated. A Passover celebration will be held at HIAS headquarters in New York City, where refugees and immigrants are temporarily sheltered upon their arrival prior to their departure for their destination.

In Little Rock, Ark., a seder will be held in an open field for 125 orthodox Jewish soldiers, and an equal number will observe the holiday in the camp chapel at Fort McPherson, near Atlanta, Ga. Separate seders for orthodox and reformed Jewish soldiers will be conducted in Columbus, Ga., with 150 men expected at each.

J.D.C. REMITS \$1,600,000 RELIEF IN CASH FOR NEEDY JEWS IN OVERSEAS LANDS

NEW YORK, March 31. (JTA)-- The sum of \$1,600,000 in cash was spent during the first ten weeks of 1942 by the Joint Distribution Committee for its program of aid to distressed Jews overseas, it was announced here today.

Over \$1,000,000 of the total represents advances made to steamship lines by the J.D.C. for transportation of refugees from Europe, it was pointed out. A sum of \$144,000 was remitted to unoccupied France and \$122,500 to Switzerland for refugee assistance. There was also a grant of \$10,000 sent to Turkey by the J.D.C. in behalf of the passengers of the ill-fated S.S. Struma. The money was used for food and medicines in behalf of the Struma refugees during the time that the boat was in Turkey. Nearly \$80,000 of the total was sent to Central and South American countries to facilitate the adjustment and rehabilitation of refugees there.

The bulk of J.D.C. cash expenditures from January 1 through March 15 were remitted overseas under U.S. Treasury licenses, it was explained. Since Pearl Harbor, the J.D.C. has been granted Treasury licenses totalling \$1,759,000 for cash transmission to European lands. Remittances to Russia, South America and the British Empire do not require Treasury licenses.

AMERICAN J.N.F. CABLES \$75,000 AS PASSOVER GIFT TO PALESTINE

NEW YORK, March 31. (JTA)-- A special Passover gift of \$75,000 for the redemption of land in Palestine was cabled to the Head Office of the Jewish National Fund in Jerusalem, according to an announcement made by Dr. Israel Goldstein, President of the American branch of the Fund. This amount will be applied for the acquisition of new land in connection with the wartime program. \$780,000 has been cabled to Palestine by the Jewish National Fund of America during the past six months, which includes the present remittance of \$75,000, Dr. Goldstein said.

BECAUSE OF PASSOVER THE JTA BULLETIN WILL NOT APPEAR ON THURSDAY AND FRIDAY