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SWEDEN TO ADMIT ELDERLY JEWS FROM REICH IF THEIR MAINTENANCE IS GUARANTEED

STOCKHOLM, April 14. (JTA)-- The Swedish Government today announced that it will issue entry visas to a number of elderly Jews from Germany, providing that the Jewish community in Sweden will assume responsibility for their maintenance.

The announcement was made in connection with the renewed mass-deportations of Jews from Germany to Nazi-held Eastern territories. The gesture of the Swedish Government is especially appreciated by Jewish circles here, in view of the fact that it was made despite the delicate position in which Sweden, as a nation surrounded by Axis-dominated countries, is situated.

The granting of Swedish visas to German Jews, as announced today, is so far of moral value only since the Nazi authorities for the time being have completely suspended Jewish emigration from the Reich. The visas will, however, be issued with the provision that they will be valid for an indefinite period.

For the first time since the last World War the Jewish community in Sweden was compelled to bake its own matzo's this Passover. In normal times the community imported its matzo's from the United States and England. Last year the matzo's came from Latvia. With the Nazi occupation of Latvia, the Jewish bakers in Sweden, though not equipped for the job, had no other choice but to take up the baking of matzo's for the Swedish Jews as well as for the Jewish refugees now in Sweden.

Public "sedorim" were held on Passover in Stockholm attended by native Jews, by Jews from Norway who escaped into Sweden, and by Jewish refugees from Germany. The Jewish refugees from Norway usually enjoy a better status here than those from the Reich, because the Swedish authorities are freely issuing labor permits to Norwegian citizens. The position of the German-Jewish refugees in Sweden is rather precarious since they are considered stateless as a result of Germany's depriving them of their German citizenship. As stateless persons they cannot take any employment without special permission from the authorities, and are also not in a position to return to Sweden once they have left the country.

JEWS FROM NUREMBERG DEPORTED TO RIGA GHETTO

STOCKHOLM, April 14. (JTA)-- Reports reaching here today state that Jews from a number of cities in Germany, especially from Nuremberg, have been transported to Riga and segregated in the Jewish ghetto there.

Jews in Sweden have been able to establish contact with those in Nazi-occupied Eastern countries, but not with the residents of the Riga ghetto. Letters can now be sent from here to occupied Poland, and some replies have been received, especially from the city of Lwow.

FINLAND'S JEWS NOT AFFECTED BY NAZI ANTI-SEMITIC PROPAGANDA THERE ✓

ZURICH, April 14. (JTA)-- A Jewish report reaching here today from Finland states that on the whole the position of the approximately 2,000 Jewish inhabitants of that country has not deteriorated in spite of the anti-Jewish campaign conducted there by new publications started with financial support from Germany. The scarcity of food, however, is being exploited by anti-Semitic agitators in a campaign against Jewish small traders, which is meeting with considerable response among certain elements of the Finnish population.

Jews are serving in the Finnish armed forces, and many of them have fallen on the Russian front, the report says. No discrimination is practiced against Jews in the army. Gen. Mannerheim and other officers of the Finnish military command strictly adhere to the principle of equal treatment of soldiers irrespective of their race or religion, the report emphasizes.

The Jewish community in Sweden, under the leadership of Chief Rabbi Ehrenpreis, has taken over most of the Jewish cultural work for the Scandinavian countries which was formerly directed from Copenhagen. It has enlisted many Jewish families in Sweden to act as foster parents for Jewish children from Finland. It has seen to it that Jewish children are included in the transports under the Finnish-Swedish relief program. It is also taking direct care of thirty Jewish children from Germany scheduled to leave for Palestine under the Youth Immigration Plan, but unable to do so because no more vessels are leaving from here for Palestine. It is assumed that these thirty children will remain in Sweden for the duration of the war.

NAZIS IN HOLLAND, FEARING DUTCH PEOPLES' RESENTMENT, TONE DOWN JEW-BAITING

LONDON, April 14. (JTA)-- The German occupation authorities in Holland, evidently fearful of the strong opposition which the Dutch people have manifested towards persecution of Jews, have been "soft-pedalling" their anti-Jewish activities, according to reports reaching the Netherlands government here today.

As a result of the violent unfavorable public reaction to Nazi anti-Jewish action, the Germans have abandoned public Jew-baiting and confine their activities to petty harrassments, the reports state. These take the form of summoning Jews to official offices on holidays or Saturdays in order to have them fill out forms that could be completed another day.

In general synagogue services have not been molested by the occupation forces, although some cases are reported of Nazis breaking into synagogues and desecrating the holy scrolls.

SIKORSKI CONFIRMS ARRIVAL OF POLISH TROOPS FROM RUSSIA TO DEFEND PALESTINE, SYRIA

LONDON, April 14. (JTA)-- Gen. Sikorski, Polish Prime Minister, today officially confirmed that "tens of thousands" of Polish soldiers have arrived "somewhere in the Middle-East" from Soviet Russia and will be stationed on defense lines in Iran, Syria and Palestine.

Reports reaching well-informed quarters here state that Germany is apparently no longer relying on Italy with regard to projected naval action in the Mediterranean and is constructing huge drydocks and naval bases in Cadiz, Marseilles and other ports along the Mediterranean.

RUMANIAN PEOPLE HOSTILE TO EXPROPRIATION OF JEWISH PROPERTY, MINISTER CHARGES

ZURICH, April 14. (JTA)-- The Rumanian population is refusing to assist the government in its policy of expropriating Jewish property and ousting Jews from all economic positions in the country, it is indicated in a Bucharest broadcast today.

According to the Bucharest radio, Titus Drago, Under-Secretary for "Rumanization," speaking at a press conference in the Rumanian capital, complained that his ministry is experiencing difficulties in executing the anti-Jewish policy of the government. He charged that its work was being sabotaged in some quarters and declared that measures must be taken to uncover camouflaged transactions between Jews and Rumanians designed to circumvent the "Rumanization" regulations.

J.D.C. WILL EVACUATE 1,200 MORE REFUGEES FROM EUROPE

NEW YORK, April 14. (JTA)-- Some 1,200 refugees will be evacuated from Europe by the Joint Distribution Committee between now and May 15, it was announced here today by Joseph C. Hyman, executive vice-chairman. This would bring to approximately 5,000 the number of refugees who have emigrated from Europe since Pearl Harbor with JDC assistance.

"Since Pearl Harbor the JDC has paid out \$1,335,000 for transportation fares under U.S. Treasury licenses," Mr. Hyman said. "The Visa Division of the State Department continues to issue visas for the United States provided assurances can be given that transportation facilities will be available. The sailings which the JDC arranges give that assurance. The newest group of refugees to sail brings to 66,700 the total number enabled to leave Europe since September, 1939, when war broke out."

LEADING JEWISH RELIGIOUS INSTITUTIONS CONGRATULATE JTA ON 25th ANNIVERSARY

NEW YORK, April 14. (JTA)-- The foremost Jewish religious bodies and spiritual leaders in the country today congratulated the Jewish Telegraphic Agency on its twenty-fifth anniversary, which is now being celebrated. The importance of the JTA to the Jewish cause was emphasized in all the congratulatory messages.

Dr. Israel Goldstein, president of the Synagogue Council of America, which includes all national congregational and rabbinical organizations of the country, wrote: "On the occasion of your twenty-fifth anniversary permit me, on behalf of the Synagogue Council of America, to congratulate you upon the excellent record of service which has accumulated to your credit during this quarter of a century. The past twenty-five years have been crucial and excruciating years for the Jewish people the world over. Yours has been the valuable, nay invaluable function of being the eyes and ears, observing and reporting events and trends on a far-flung front affecting the Jewish people. American Jewry, which will be called upon to shoulder huge responsibility for Jewish communities abroad during the war and after, will continue to need the services of the Jewish Telegraphic Agency. More power to you."

Dr. James G. Heller, president of the Central Conference of American Rabbis, said in his message: "For many years I have used and appreciated the material on Jewish news of the Jewish Telegraphic Agency. It has proved and continues to prove

a great service in keeping our own people informed as to the furious pace of events and in giving a veracious picture of the conditions of Jewish life."

Rabbi I. Rosenberg, president of the Union of Orthodox Rabbis of the United States and Canada, stated: "Please accept my heartiest congratulations on the occasion of the twenty-fifth anniversary of the Jewish Telegraphic Agency. May the Almighty help you to continue your valuable work of distributing information concerning our people, with more vigor. A service like yours is now indispensable, and we wish you great success in the future."

Dr. Solomon Goldman, outstanding figure in the American Zionist movement and spiritual leader of the Anshe Emet synagogue in Chicago, said in his message: "The Jewish Telegraphic Agency has rendered indispensable, inestimable and invaluable service to American Jewry particularly and to world Jewry generally. At a distance of a quarter of a century, it is difficult to imagine how we did our work without it. I dare say that our thinking must have been quite provincial. The Jewish Telegraphic Agency has broadened our Jewish horizons and has made it possible for us to think and act not only on the basis of sentiment and conjecture but with knowledge and understanding."

Dr. David de Sola Pool, in his greeting declared: "The Jewish Telegraphic Agency has proved itself to be a uniquely valuable instrumentality for gathering and recording the sheer facts about Jewish life from far and wide. With the end of the war, the world will have to settle down to re-fashioning itself along the lines of democratic freedom and justice. Then the vast mass of stark facts which the Jewish Telegraphic Agency has collected and put on record will be indispensable in setting forth the claims of the Jewish people."

Rabbi Leo Jung of the Jewish Center, New York, stated: "But for the painstaking and reliable effort of the Jewish Telegraphic Agency we should be entirely confused in these terribly complex and unhappy times. Permit me to express my profound appreciation of your services and my fervent hopes for your continued success. Israel as well as our non-Jewish brethren are vitally in need of a reliable interpreter of the various aspects of Jewish life in our day."

A message of blessing was also received from the Lubavitcher Rebbe, Rabbi I. Schneersohn. In congratulating the JTA on its "important and praiseworthy work," the Lubavitcher Rebbe expresses the hope that the Jewish Telegraphic Agency will soon be "the purveyor of cheerful news from our Jewish brethren in all parts of the world."

Dr. Jacob Rosenheim, president of the Agudas Israel World Organization, said in his message. "Reasonable management in public Jewish affairs is scarcely imaginable today without the constant help of your news services. The objectivity and impartiality of your reports is specially to be acknowledged. I hope that you will continue and develop your work during the next twenty-five years and that you will be able to serve the Jewish cause in future peaceful times, spreading good Jewish news all over the world." A similar message was also received from Rabbi B.W. Handles, executive director of the Agudas Israel of America.

"BLACK BOOK" OF POLISH JEWRY WILL BE PUBLISHED IN U.S.A.

NEW YORK, April 14. (JTA)-- A "Black Book" of Polish Jewry, containing documentary material on the atrocities perpetrated by the Nazis upon the Jews in occupied Poland, will soon be published by the American Friends of Polish Jews, it was announced here today. The book will carry documented reports from 450 cities, towns and villages in Poland.