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NAZIS CLOSE ALL JEWISH RELIGIOUS SCHOOLS IN LUBLIN; PROHIBIT RELIGIOUS INSTRUCTION

ZURICH, April 17. (JTA)-- Jewish religious instruction was forbidden by the Nazis this week in Lublin, Nazi-occupied Poland, in an order closing down all Jewish religious schools in the city and prohibiting "until further notice" the teaching of religion in synagogues. A report reaching here today says that more than 100 religious schools are affected by this order.

The Nazi authorities, in giving an official explanation for their action, stated that "the Jewish religious schools have been carrying on undesirable activities and fostered opposition against the Germans." Heavy penalties are provided for violating the order, including confinement in concentration camps for all teachers and pupils caught attending classes. The order so far is restricted to the Lublin area, but it is feared that it will soon be extended to all of occupied Poland.

JEWISH SUBMARINE COMMANDER AMONG 500 JEWS DECORATED FOR BRAVERY IN RUSSIA

MOSCOW, April 17. (JTA)-- Captain Israel Fisanovich, Jewish commander of a Soviet submarine, was today awarded the title "Hero of the Soviet Union" and a Gold Star medal in recognition of a number of daring actions which resulted in the sinking of several enemy transports. Fisanovich is one of more than 500 Jews in Russia who have been decorated during the last two months for bravery on the front or for exemplary work in the production of war material.

The list of decorations published today also includes a Jewish woman, Valeria Poznanskaya, who was awarded the Stalin prize for inventing a new method of producing coke from anthracite and unsaturated coal. Josef Abramovich is cited in the list as the recipient of the Order of Lenin for his services in the construction of war plants.

Outstanding in today's list of awards is a Jewish woman, Mary Yakhnovich, who was decorated as a senior battalion officer. Other names on the list include Col. Benjamin Buntzen, Col. Samuel Rogachevsky, Col. Chaim Karesik and many other Jewish military officers who are reported to have displayed great courage and bravery on the battlefield in leading their troops in the fight against the German army.

FRENCH ANTI-SEMITES SEIZE SYNAGOGUE TO CONVERT IT INTO CLUB

VICHY, April 17. (JTA)-- A synagogue in Auriens, in occupied France, has been taken over by members of Jacques Doriot's anti-Semitic Parti Populaire, it is reported today in the party newspaper "Le Cri du Peuple." The synagogue will be used as a party meeting hall, the fascist newspaper states.

NAZIS DEMAND STOPPAGE OF JEWISH BIRTHS IN THE WARSAW GHETTO

LONDON, April 17. (JTA)-- Nazi authorities in Poland are insisting that the number of Jewish births in the Warsaw ghetto, which is very small as compared with pre-war times, must be further reduced, Polish circles here learned today.

A neutral observer who recently visited Warsaw and reached London today reported that the Nazi administration in the ghetto is checking every Jewish birth there. In issuing ration cards, they emphasize that the food situation requires that there be no Jewish births at all.

Despite the Nazi threats to imprison or even execute Poles who are smuggling food for the Jews into the ghettos, Polish peasants are still continuing to illegally provide foodstuff to Jewish friends, the observer said. His report was substantiated today by information reaching the Polish government here from Sosnowiec that Israel Sternfeld, a former Jewish businessman there, was executed by the Nazis for "prohibited" dealings with Poles. The same information reveals that in Warsaw four Poles were sentenced to prison for supplying food to Jews in the ghetto, and that one of them is a peasant from a neighboring village who was convicted for the second time of the "crime" of selling potatoes to Jews.

CHELSEA MUNICIPAL EMPLOYEES GUILTY OF RACIAL DISCRIMINATION WILL BE DISMISSED

CHELSEA, Mass., April 17. (JTA)-- Chelsea municipal employees found guilty of racial discrimination in the future will be disciplined or dismissed from their jobs after a hearing before the proper authorities.

An order to this effect was passed today by the Chelsea board of aldermen. The resolution of the board, which was passed unanimously, gives notice to all municipal employees of each and every department that "whoever at any time or place shall in any manner, either by word, sign or affiliation do or cause to be done any act, writing, action or expression, tending to arouse racial or religious feeling or tending to the disunion of the citizens of Chelsea, shall after a hearing before the appointed authorities, and after the facts found true, be deemed a person unfit to be in the service of the city."

The action of the board of aldermen was taken after an incident in which a city employee made derogatory remarks about Jews on the streets while he was under the influence of liquor.

It was emphasized by members of the board that Chelsea is a community of more than 52 racial groups who are living in harmony. Like the rest of the country, it was pointed out, Chelsea has no majority or favored group. "This is a community of minorities, where all races, colors and creeds are now shedding blood for a common cause."

REFUGEES IN ENGLAND RAISE FUND TO REBUILD TOLSTOY'S BIRTHPLACE IN RUSSIA

LONDON, April 17. (JTA)-- Refugee writers, artists and scientists, the majority of them from Germany, today proclaimed a campaign to raise funds throughout England for the purpose of rebuilding Yasnaya Polyana, the birthplace of the great Russian writer Leo Tolstoy, which Nazis destroyed, desecrating the Tolstoy Museum there and burning Tolstoy's original manuscripts.

GOVERNMENT TO STOP DISTRIBUTION OF "SOCIAL JUSTICE" OUTSIDE OF MAILS

WASHINGTON, April 17. (JTA)-- Attorney General Biddle today announced that the Government is prepared to take all necessary measures to prevent the distribution of "Social Justice" outside of the mails and that a Federal Grand Jury in the District of Columbia would investigate every phase of Father Coughlin's routhpiece.

Mr. Biddle disclosed at the same time that the department was considering similar action against other newspapers, including some foreign language publications. He said that "a few--not many" foreign language papers were engaging in seditious talk and that representatives of the War, Post Office and Justice departments had been conferring about the problem.

The announcement came following the statement made in Detroit by Prewitt Serres, the lawyer of "Social Justice" magazine, that the Detroit radio priest will assume full responsibility for the editorial matter of the publication, if anyone connected with "Social Justice" is charged with sedition.

Bill Barring Sale of Anti-Semitic Publications Introduced in New York

NEW YORK, April 17. (JTA)-- A bill to prohibit the sale or distribution here of any publication which holds up persons of any nationality, race or religion to contempt, ridicule or hatred, or which would tend to create disunity or interfere with the operations or success of the military and naval forces of the United States, was introduced at today's meeting of the City Council. The measure was presented by the American Labor party delegation in the Council and was referred to the committee on defense.

The sponsors said the bill was intended to supplement the action of United States Attorney-General Biddle and Postmaster-General Walker in banning Social Justice, the weekly founded by Father Charles E. Coughlin, and William D. Pelley's Galileen from the mails.

TORTURE OF RABBIS AND PRIESTS IN NAZI CAMP DESCRIBED BY RELEASED GERMAN JEW

NEW YORK, April 17. (JTA)-- Moving accounts of how rabbis and priests are being humiliated and tortured by the Nazis in the concentration camps in Germany are related by Leo Stein, a German Jew, in a book "I was in Hell with Niercoeller" published here by Fleming H. Revel Company.

Arrested by the Nazis and confined in the same camp as pastor Martin Niercoeller, Dr. Stein, who was a teacher of Law at the University of Berlin, was released after his wife secured an American visa for him. Upon leaving the camp where he and thousands of others - Jews, Protestants and Catholics - were under constant physical and moral torture, Dr. Stein was asked by Niercoeller to "tell the world what you have seen and heard" no matter what consequences it might bring to the imprisoned German pastor.

In vividly describing the savagery practiced by the Nazi guards upon their victims in the concentration camps, including the heroic pastor who was a German U-boat commander in the last World War, Dr. Stein reveals Niercoeller's attitude towards the Jews, and quotes him as saying:

"I have never been what could be called anti-Semitic, for a true Christian can never be anti-Semitic. From the viewpoint of the Christian faith the so-called

Jewish question does not exist. When I voted for the Nazi Party it was not with any intention of expressing any sort of animosity towards the Jews. I looked upon the anti-Semitic slogans of the National Socialists merely as catch phrases, which were regrettable, but unavoidable in the interest of the ultimate aim. And I was convinced that after they gained power, the National Socialists would put a stop to anti-Semitism and restore the Jews to their former rights."

Pastor Niemöller Warns Christians Against Anti-Semitism

Asked by Dr. Stein whether he had not read "Mein Kampf" in which Hitler expressly states that he would destroy the Jews as soon as he attained power, Pastor Niemöller is quoted as replying:

"Yes, I read 'Mein Kampf.' But we had been assured again and again by Hitler himself and other responsible leaders that 'Mein Kampf' represented nothing but a literary ebullition of the leader of the Nazi Party and was by no means to be taken as a political program. To confirm this, we were told also that the future foreign policy advocated in the book would be impossible of execution, so that no one would ever dream of attempting to carry it out. The proposed settlement of the so-called Jewish question was regarded in the same fashion.

"Indeed," pastor Niemöller is further quoted as saying, "I certainly am not free from reproach, because at that time certain restrictions against the Jews seemed to me tolerable, considering the great aims the Nazis were driving at. At that time I did not realize that we would have to pay for these restrictions with our own liberty. I did not fully take into account that equality had been given to the Jews during our epoch of political liberalism, and that any restriction imposed on them would mean the end of that epoch, and possibly the end of individual liberty, including the right of worship. In other words, to deprive the Jews of political equality would mean turning back the wheels of history. Yes, that is the truth I learned. And I think that it is not sufficiently realized by the anti-Semites in other countries."

JEWISH WELFARE BOARD OPENS THREE-DAY NATIONAL CONFERENCE IN NEW YORK

NEW YORK, April 17. (JTA)-- Jewish leaders from all parts of the country interested in Jewish community center activities and in Army and Navy welfare work gathered here today to participate in the three-day national conference of the Jewish Welfare Board opening tomorrow evening at the Hotel Commodore.

The conference, which will mark the twenty-fifth anniversary of the JWB, will be addressed by Frank L. Weil, General Irving J. Phillipson, Maj. Frederick M. Warburg, Judge Irving Lehman, Dr. David de Sola Pool, Walter Rothschild, Prof. William Yandell Elliott, Rabbi Milton Steinberg, Morris M. Gottlieb, Joseph Rosenzweig, Louis Kraft and others. The work of the Jewish Welfare Board for Jews in the armed forces will be one of the major subjects of discussion at the conference.

210 REFUGEES EVACUATED FROM EUROPE BY J.D.C. LAND IN NEW YORK

NEW YORK, April 17. (JTA)-- Another dramatic rescue through the efforts of the Joint Distribution Committee of refugees trapped in Europe and Africa was consummated yesterday with the arrival of the Portuguese vessel, SS Guine, which brought 408 persons to the Western Hemisphere. The ship disembarked 210 persons in New York and 198 in Cuba.