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RUMANIAN JEWS NOTIFIED TO PREPARE FOR MASS-DEPORTATIONS TO TRANSNISTRIA

JERUSALEM, April 29. (JTA)-- Jews in Rumania have been instructed to prepare for mass-deportations to the province of Transnistria, where the Rumanian authorities have established a "Jewish reservation" on occupied Soviet land beyond the Dniester river, in an order issued recently in Bucharest, according to reliable information reaching Rumanian circles here today.

The order says that every Jew in Rumania between 15 and 70 years of age may be expelled to Transnistria. A person must leave for the "reservation" within twenty-four hours after receiving notification that he has been chosen for deportation. He will be permitted to take along only hand-luggage. The death penalty is provided for anyone "trying to escape."

The order provides exemption for Jews who a special commission finds are "elements essential to Rumania's economy." On the basis of this provision, leading members of the anti-Semitic Iron Guard have already started to blackmail Jews for large sums of money, under the threat that the commission will be guided by their testimony and recommendations in determining which of the Jews are to be spared deportation under the exemption.

Jews Forced to Assume Responsibility for the War

Other reliable information reaching here today from Rumania reveals that every Jew in Rumania must now sign a declaration which reads: "I am responsible for the outbreak of the present war and I have to accept punishment for it." Many Jews refuse to sign this statement even though faced with the alternative of being sent to a concentration camp, the reports disclose.

What the Jews in Rumania consider most regrettable is the fact that the "declaration" was prepared by Joseph Willmann, who has been appointed by the authorities to head the Central Office for Jews which was established to exercise supreme authority over all activities of the Jewish population. Willmann, who is a professional swindler and who speaks perfect Yiddish, was posing as a Jew but turned out to be a Nazi spy. He is now playing an important role in the persecutions of the Jews of Rumania.

NAZI PRESS SAYS WARSAW JEWS HIDING THEIR DEAD TO RETAIN RATION CARDS

STOCKHOLM, April 29. (JTA)-- Nazi newspapers from occupied Poland reaching here today carry articles charging Jewish families in the Warsaw ghetto with hiding their dead in order to retain the latter's ration cards.

"A new wave of epidemics has broken out in the Warsaw ghetto as a result of the fact that Jews are hiding their dead relatives in basements without reporting them to the police," the Krakauer Zeitung writes. The paper adds that the Nazi authorities have informed the Jewish Council in Warsaw that the death penalty will be imposed upon the head of any Jewish family who does not report a death to the police authorities.

JEWISH WRITERS CITED FOR BRAVERY IN DEFENDING MOSCOW

MOSCOW, April 29. (JTA)-- A number of Jewish writers who volunteered for service when the Nazis were threatening Moscow were cited here today for the heroism which they displayed in defending the Soviet capital.

Aron Kushnirov, famous Jewish poet, is credited with fighting through Nazi fire and saving important military documents in his division's headquarters from falling into enemy hands. He performed this act although his division was surrounded by the Germans. E. Folkowitch, a Jewish author, is credited with operating in the rear of the enemy and breaking through to join an organized guerrilla unit, bringing the unit a number of trophies. Also cited was A. Gourstein, the Jewish literary critic; A. Wiener, the author of "Jewish Literature in the Nineteenth Century," and Samuel Rossin, well-known Jewish poet. The last three were wounded.

PLANS FOR SUGAR PRODUCTION IN PALESTINE ANNOUNCED BY J.N.F.

JERUSALEM, April 29. (JTA)-- Palestine housewives and industries will be using locally-produced sugar by next summer as a result of plans for large-scale cultivation of both cane and beet sugar, announced today by the Jewish National Fund headquarters.

Disclosing that prolonged experiments with both sugar beets and sugar cane in the Jezrael and Jordan valleys have finally been crowned with success, the J.N.F. office declared that 1,200 to 1,500 dunams of land in the Ein Harod, Beisan and eastern Emeq areas will be planted in beets very shortly. A factory for the conversion of beet sugar is now being established and it is expected to produce 750 to 1,000 tons of sugar annually. An initial investment of \$60,000 to \$80,000 will be necessary for plant facilities.

The raw sugar produced by the new factory will be useable only for the manufacture of candies, jams, preserves and similar products. Facilities for refining the sugar for table use will have to wait on further industrial development and experience. In addition to the raw sugar, however, there will be valuable byproducts such as molasses, alcohol from fermented sugar mash and cattle fodder.

Although it has been known for some time that sugar beets could be grown in the humid areas of central Palestine, no large-scale planting has ever been undertaken heretofore. The sugar cane plantations on the J.N.F. land will be the first of their kind in the history of Palestine.

NAZI DESTRUCTION OF OLD CZECH SYNAGOGUES REPORTED FROM PRAGUE

ZURICH, April 29. (JTA)-- Systematic destruction by the Nazis of synagogues in Czechoslovakia is reported here today from Prague. Many of the razed synagogues are centuries old. In Nachod, the old synagogue which is one of the oldest in the world, was converted into a market.

Another report reaching here today reveals that the central authorities in Slovakia have cancelled the authority given district commissioners to make decisions concerning Jews in their territory. The cancellation is explained by the fact that "the decisions of the local commissioners hardly complied with the anti-Jewish spirit of the government."

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RELIEF PROGRAM FOR VICTIMS OF HITLERISM OUTLINED BY UNITED JEWISH APPEAL

NEW YORK, April 29. (JTA)--Details of the far-flung relief and rescue program for the victims of Nazism in allied and neutral countries, maintained throughout the present world conflict with the support of the American Jews, were outlined here today at the Biltmore Hotel at an extraordinary Executive Committee meeting of the United Jewish Appeal.

In the report presented to the Executive Committee of the UJA, which is the fund-raising instrument for the Joint Distribution Committee, United Palestine Appeal and National Refugee Service, William Rosenwald, Rabbi Abba Hillel Silver and Rabbi Jonah B. Wise, National Chairmen, emphasized that: "Total effort on the front for human reconstruction must keep pace with total effort on the battlefronts for democracy if the ideals of free civilization are to prevail." They pointed out that President Roosevelt, Prime Minister Churchill and other United Nations' leaders had stressed the importance of sustaining the courage and faith of the millions who have been temporarily conquered by the Nazi armies.

The report indicated that the Joint Distribution Committee had extended assistance to 930,000 persons in some 50 countries throughout the world in 1941 and that during 1942 it was confronted with even greater needs. At present the Joint Distribution Committee is required to extend aid to 2,000,000 refugee Poles who are now in Russia in a non-sectarian relief program in collaboration with the Polish Government-in-Exile. Since Pearl Harbor the Joint Distribution Committee has arranged for the emigration of 5,000 refugees from Europe, bringing to a total of 260,000 the number of victims of Hitlerism who have been helped to escape by this agency since the beginning of the Nazi regime in Germany in 1933.

Through the United Palestine Appeal, the report stated, American Jews are now providing the means for the fullest mobilization of the manpower and resources of Palestine for the defense of democracy in the Middle East. In the first three months of 1942 three thousand Jews entered Palestine with the help of the United Palestine Appeal. Altogether, 38,000 Jewish refugees have come into Palestine since the outbreak of hostilities in September, 1939. A total of 266 agricultural colonies established by the United Palestine Appeal are producing large quantities of foodstuffs for the armies of the Middle East.

The report pointed out that on the home front, the National Refugee Service is furthering the war effort and promoting American unity by its programs for re-training, resettling and adjusting loyal aliens to the war economy in order to enable them to share in the nation's all-out war effort. In view of the need for skilled labor, the National Refugee Service has placed special emphasis on making available to war industries individuals who can find employment in our production program without displacing American workers. One of the most important new responsibilities of the National Refugee Service is that of guidance and aid to refugees in loyally complying with wartime alien regulations and restrictions, the report said.

WORLD ASSOCIATION TO STIMULATE READING OF PSALMS ESTABLISHED IN JERUSALEM

TEL AVIV, April 29. (JTA)-- A world association to stimulate the reading of Psalms, with headquarters in Jerusalem, will shortly be established, it was announced here today. Originally suggested by the Lubavitcher Rebbe, who is now in New York, the proposal was approved today by Chief Rabbis Herzog and Uziel of Palestine. It's offices will be located in the Old City of Jerusalem near the tomb of King David.

JEWISH CIVIC PROTECTIVE GROUPS MAP OUT PLANS FOR COLLABORATION

NEW YORK, April 29. (JTA)-- A joint meeting of the leadership of the four major agencies engaged in Jewish defense work in the United States was held in New York on April 27 under the auspices of the Committee on the Problems of Civic-Protective Agencies, established by the Council of Jewish Federations and Welfare Funds, it was announced here today.

The joint meeting follows a series of separate discussions between the Council's Committee and representatives of the American Jewish Committee, the American Jewish Congress, the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith and the Jewish Labor Committee.

At the meeting the Council's Committee, appointed at the General Assembly in Chicago by the Council's board of directors with instructions "to offer its services to the defense agencies in an endeavor to find a basis for effective collaboration," presented its recommendations to the agency spokesmen.

DR. SELIGSOHN, OUTSTANDING JEWISH LEADER IN GERMANY, DIES IN CONCENTRATION CAMP

NEW YORK, April 29. (JTA)-- Dr. Julius L. Seligsohn, president of the Hilfsverein der Deutschen Juden and one of the outstanding Jewish leaders in Germany, has died in a Nazi concentration camp, according to advices reaching the Joint Distribution Committee here today. He was imprisoned in the fall of 1940 for having proclaimed a fast day for the Jews of Germany on the occasion of the expulsion of all Jews from Baden and the Palatinate at that time. He was about 55 years old.

A lawyer of international reputation, Dr. Seligsohn served as a volunteer both in the Hilfsverein and in the Reichsvereinigung der Juden in Deutschland, of which he was the vice-president. He was well-known in all Jewish welfare circles both abroad and in the United States. His last visit to this country was in 1938, when he came to confer with officials of the J.D.C. concerning the possibility of speedier evacuation of Jews from Europe.

"Dr. Seligsohn follows to martyrdom the late Dr. Otto Hirsch, President of the Reichsvereinigung, who likewise died in a Nazi concentration camp a few months ago. When the history of these tragic times is written, these men will rank high among those who, by their way of life, defied and thus defeated the enemies of civilization," a statement by the Joint Distribution Committee declared. Dr. Seligsohn was a veteran of the first world war.

ANTI-SEMITISM IS MOST COWARDLY THING IN WORLD, DECLARES MASARYK

NEW YORK, April 29. (JTA)-- Anti-Semitism was assailed as "the most cowardly thing in the whole world," by Jan Masaryk, Foreign Minister of the Czechoslovak Government-in-Exile, speaking yesterday at the annual donor luncheon of the women's division of the American Jewish Congress at the Hotel Astor here. Mr. Masaryk also stated that a Jewish national home in Palestine was a necessity and a debt owed to the Jews.

Other speakers included the French playwright Henri Bernstein, who lauded the heroism of Leon Blum and Georges Mandel at the Riom trials; Sir Norman Angell, British writer and lecturer, Dr. George Shuster, president of Hunter College here, and Dr. Stephen S. Wise. Mrs. Wise was re-elected president of the woman's division.