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MOSCOW JEWISH COMMUNITY TAKES ACTION ON INQUIRIES OF AMERICAN JEWS

TASHKENT, U.S.S.R., May 12. (JTA)-- Jews in the United States and the other United Nations were assured today that their inquiries concerning relatives in the Soviet Union will be dealt with promptly and all efforts will be made to locate any persons believed to be in the U.S.S.R.

In a statement issued to the Jewish Telegraphic Agency, Samuel Chobrutsky, head of the Moscow Jewish Community, which is now located here, in Soviet Uzbekistan, to which tens of thousands of Jews have been evacuated from war-torn areas, declared:

"We have received numerous letters and cables from Jews living in the countries of the United Nations asking us to find their relatives in the U.S.S.R. Many of these messages were answered. Others have not received any answer as yet. We wish to announce through the Jewish Telegraphic Agency to the Jews of countries friendly to the U.S.S.R. that we shall do everything possible to attend to their queries. The fact that some may not receive a reply for a long time is explained only by the gigantic dimension of our country."

The headquarters of the Community are located at 4 Saperny Proezd in Tashkent. It was revealed here today that the Community offices have received inquiries not only from individual Jews in America, England and Palestine, but also from central Jewish institutions interested in the welfare of the Jewish population which was evacuated by the Soviet authorities mainly from the Ukraine and the Crimea to Uzbekistan prior to the occupation of these territories by the Nazi army. The Community office here has also been receiving inquiries from American Jews seeking information concerning the whereabouts of Polish Jews now scattered throughout Uzbekistan.

NAZIS REDUCE SIZE OF JEWISH GHETTO IN KAUNAS; JEWISH HOMES LOOTED IN RIGA

STOCKHOLM, May 12. (JTA)-- Reports from Berlin published today in the Svenska Dagbladet, a Swedish newspaper, reveal that the Nazi authorities have reduced the size of the Jewish ghetto in Kaunas, capital of Nazi-held Lithuania, and have crowded the Jews there into the slums of the city.

The Deutsche Zeitung im Ostland, a Nazi paper for the Baltic countries published in Riga, reports that looting of Jewish homes by Nazi officials is continuing unabated. Police officials invade Jewish houses in Riga and seize clothing, money and jewelry under various threats, the Nazi paper admits. It states that two police officials were sentenced to imprisonment by a special court in Riga for breaking into a Jewish apartment and extorting valuables from the owner.

DEMANDS JEWS IN POLISH GHETTOS BE SENT FOOD, MEDICINE AS "WAR PRISONERS"

LONDON, May 12. (JTA)-- A demand that the Jews in the ghettos of Poland be considered "prisoners of war" and be sent food and medicine in the same way that this is done for soldiers captured on the battlefield, was voiced today in a motion presented in the Polish National Council by Samuel Zygelbaum, Jewish Socialist deputy. The motion was also signed by Dr. Ignacy Schwartzbart, the other Jewish member of the Council, and by the Socialist deputies Ciolkosz and Szerer and the Peasant Party deputy Zaremba.

The Zygelbaum motion asks the Council to go on record to the effect that "efforts made hitherto to provide food and medicine to the people of Poland are insufficient and disproportionate with their dire needs and our duties." Referring to conditions in the ghettos, the motion stresses the fact that the Nazis allow the Jews only the barest minimum of food and medicine and that mass executions, forced labor, concentration camps and hunger have become the paramount instrument for the extermination of the Jewish population.

"The Council is, therefore, asked to request of the United Nations that Poland's population, especially the Jews in the ghettos, be considered as prisoners of war and to ask the Polish government to take steps, accordingly, to send food and medicine to Poland and to the ghettos, providing it is assured that the provisions sent are used by the starving populations and not diverted by the Nazis to their own use," the motion states.

Warsaw Ghetto is "Hell on Earth" Says Eye-Witness Report

NEW YORK, May 12. (JTA)-- An eye-witness report of the miserable conditions under which more than 400,000 Jews live in the ghetto of Warsaw was released here today by the Polish Labor Group which is sponsored by the American Friends of Polish Democracy and the International Coordination Council. The report was written by a person who was able to make several extensive visits to the Warsaw ghetto during the past winter and who is now in a neutral country.

"The streets of the Ghetto," the report says, "are indescribably crowded and noisy. There is not enough room for all the people who want to be out in the streets. The area of the Ghetto is extremely small, and the authorities of occupation are constantly reducing it further. Only recently three large streets (the Sienna, Sosnowa, and Sliaska Streets) were carved out of the Ghetto; the Jews who lived there were ordered to move deeper into the Ghetto.

Drinking Water Sold by the Glass; Food Parcels Save Lives

Trade is conducted on the street corners. Vegetables, scrap-iron, books, Jewish emblems showing a blue Star of David are bought and sold. There is a great trade in drinking water: one glass of fresh water costs 18 groszy. The water is sold by water-carriers who walk along the streets with buckets of fresh water. When a military car passes, all in the crowd silently remove their hats.

The prevailing elements in Ghetto life are misery and hunger. Every parcel arriving from abroad saves people from actual starvation. The Jewish physicians, who were compelled to move into the Ghetto, are overwhelmed with work. Hundreds of people die daily from exposure and hunger. Even the sacredness of death is lost in the Ghetto. A funeral must be paid for, and few families possess the means. Misery overcomes piety, and the dead are simply put out into the streets at night. Later Jewish police carry away the corpses to be buried free of cost by the Jewish community.

The report concludes with this picture of the ghetto after curfew. "The streets are silent. Only the graveyards are growing. The numberless, nameless dead receive burial. Life in the Ghetto is a veritable hell on earth."

NEW ANTI-JEWISH MEASURES CONTEMPLATED IN FRANCE, COMMISSIONER ANNOUNCES

VICHY, May 12. (JTA)-- An announcement that he intends "to free France from the Jewish spirit" by introducing stricter anti-Jewish legislation in the country was made here today by Louis Darquier de Pellepoix, notorious French anti-Semite, who this month was appointed Commissioner for Jewish Affairs in France.

In granting his first interview to the press the new commissioner stated that he intends to annihilate the Jews economically. "The measures taken against the Jews in France up to the present are far from leading to the attainment of the final objective," he said. New measures which "will precisely define the status of the Jews and will effect the economic Aryanization of France," will be undertaken, he announced. Parallel with action on the economic front, increased anti-Jewish propaganda will be instituted "in order to acquaint the public with the Jewish question," Pellepoix added.

BULGARIAN JEWS FORBIDDEN TO TRAVEL OUT OF HOME AREAS

ZURICH, May 12. (JTA)-- All Bulgarian Jews have been forbidden to travel outside the area in which they are now living, under a decree announced today by the Bulgarian authorities in Sofia, the Ankara radio reports.

The ban on travel applies to Jews in every section of the country. Those Jews who are at present away from their homes will be allowed to return, but that is the only exception to the order that will be allowed.

The Bulgarian police, the Turkish radio stated, have been instructed to fix the permanent residential areas out of which Jews cannot travel. Special permission to leave their home districts will be given to Jews who are seriously ill and are unable to secure treatment in the immediate vicinity.

DR. WEIZMANN PRESENTED WITH SIGNET RING WORN BY DR. HERZL

NEW YORK, May 12. (JTA)-- A signet ring worn by Dr. Theodore Herzl, founder of the Zionist political movement, was presented here last night to Dr. Chaim Weizmann, president of the World Zionist Organization, by Dr. Stephen S. Wise at the closing session of the Extraordinary Zionist Conference at the Biltmore Hotel.

"Some years ago," Dr. Wise said in turning to Dr. Weizmann, "through the generosity of friends, there was given to me a ring worn until his death by the immortal founder of the Zionist movement, Dr. Theodore Herzl. When presenting the claims of the Jewish people at the forthcoming Peace Conference, I wish you, Dr. Weizmann, to have on your finger the ring of your predecessor as president of the World Zionist Organization. I place it on your hand, which under God is to receive the Victory Charter for a Jewish Commonwealth in Palestine."

After Dr. Wise placed the ring on Dr. Weizmann's finger, the two Zionist leaders embraced each other as the delegates, moved by the dramatic incident, joined in the strains of Hatikvah.

In acknowledging the gift, Dr. Weizmann declared that he considers the Herzl ring "the highest Jewish decoration." In his closing address, he expressed his conviction that "the chances are not small" that America and England will find a way to solve the Jewish problem and that "Russia too, which has hitherto stood aside from

the great current of events in Western Europe might have a word to say in the solution."

Arab-Jewish relations, Dr. Weizmann said, will be settled in Palestine when the democratic powers, convinced of the justice of the Jewish claims, will tell the Arab world "openly, honestly and unequivocally" that they think that the Jewish aspirations in Palestine are grounded in history and in the work which the Jews have shown.

Phrase "Jewish Army" is "Somewhat Pretentious," Says Weizmann

Explaining his attitude towards the question of the formation of a Jewish Army, Dr. Weizmann stated that he thinks the phrase "Jewish Army" is "somewhat pretentious." An army of 200,000 Jews seems somewhat fantastic, he declared. "I will be satisfied if not an 'army' but a Jewish contingent, a few Jewish regiments, will be organized, as I hope and believe they are likely to be," he said, adding that if once a nucleus is established of the 12,000 Jews who are already in the armed services in the Near East and "if these are given a badge which I hope will be the Mogen David, then another thousand, and another thousand, and another thousand could be added, until the available human material from Palestine has been organized."

Dr. Weizmann expressed his views on the subject of a Jewish Army following the adoption by the Conference of the declaration in which it was demanded that "recognition should be given to the right of the Jews of Palestine to play their full part in the war effort and in the defense of their country, through a military force fighting under its own flag and under the high command of the United Nations." The declaration, presented by Judge Louis E. Levinthal in behalf of the Zionist Organization of America of which he is president, was seconded by the Hadassah, Miz-rachi and the Laborite Zionists. The Jewish State Party which participated in the Conference did not second it. Its leader, Meir Grossman, later stated that he was prevented from presenting the reasons why his group could not second the text of the declaration.

MRS. ARCHIBALD SILVERMAN FLIES TO ENGLAND TO AID KEREN HAYESOD CAMPAIGN

NEW YORK, May 12. (JTA)-- Mrs. Archibald Silverman, well known Zionist worker, left here by Clipper today for England, to participate in the Keren Hayesod campaign now in progress there. Mrs. Silverman expects to stay in England until the end of June.

GOV. LEHMAN SIGNS BILL AGAINST RACIAL DISCRIMINATION IN SPORT

ALBANY, May 12. (JTA)-- New laws aimed at halting discrimination because of race, color or creed at golf courses or at amateur athletic and sparring matches throughout New York State were signed today by Governor Lehman.

ANTI-SEMITIC NEWSPAPER RESUMES PUBLICATION IN ARGENTINA

BUENOS AIRES, May 12. (JTA)-- The notorious anti-Semitic and pro-Nazi newspaper El Pampero reappeared yesterday after a week's suspension.

PRESIDENT OF JEWISH COMMUNITY IN CAIRO DEAD

CAIRO, May 12. (JTA)-- Youssef Cattauli Pasha, president of the Cairo Jewish Community since 1924, died here today at the age of 81. He headed various industrial and commercial companies and was a member of the Egyptian Senate for more than 15 years until he retired from politics in 1938 and was succeeded in the Senate by his son Aslan Bey Cattauli.