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NAZIS EXECUTE THOUSANDS OF JEWS IN KAUNAS AND VILNA DISTRICTS ✓

STOCKHOLM, May 14. (JTA)-- Reliable information reaching here today from Nazi-occupied Lithuania reveals that mass-executions of Jews are taking place in practically every town in the Kaunas and Vilna districts. More than 10,000 Jews have been massacred by the Nazi authorities in five towns alone, the report discloses.

In the town of Shavli, the report states, approximately 7,000 Jews were massacred by the Nazi authorities. In Troki about 2,000 Jews were executed. More than 1,000 Jews were murdered in Nowo-Wileika. About 600 Jews were killed in Niemenchin. The number of Jews slain in the township of Eishyshok totals 180. In many other Lithuanian townships practically all Jews have been ruthlessly exterminated.

"Of the 70,000 Jews who were in Vilna prior to the occupation of that city by the Nazi armies, only 35,000 remain," the report continues. "A large number of them have been deported to Ponar, a small town in the neighborhood. The Jews in the Kaunas ghetto are also being deported to ghettos and camps in the province."

The report informs that before executing the Jews, the Nazis strip them of their clothes. The mass-executions are performed by machine guns. In several places, the Nazi police asked local non-Jewish school boys to help them in carrying out the executions which Nazi photographers calmly filmed. The boys, the report adds, were rewarded with property taken from the executed Jews.

OVER 7,000 GREEK JEWS DIE FROM STARVATION; JEWS AID GUERRILLA WAR AGAINST NAZIS

ANKARA, May 14. (JTA)-- More than 7,000 Greek Jews, including 3,000 children under fourteen years of age, have died from starvation since the Nazi occupation of the country, according to reports reaching here today.

Other information smuggled out of Greece, which was received here today, discloses that Jews are playing an active part in the violent guerrilla warfare that is being waged against the Germans. Among a band of twelve recently executed by the Nazis for repeated, successful attacks on Axis military transports were four Salonika Jews.

In Salonika, it is estimated, at least fifty Jews are now dying from hunger every day. Half of these are children. The Salonika municipality attempted to distribute what relief is available to Jews and Christians alike without discrimination, but the Nazis intervened. The occupation authorities designated certain hours during which Jews could apply to communal kitchens for food, but arranged it so that by the time the Jews arrived most of the food had been distributed.

LAVAL ASSUMES DIRECT CONTROL OVER JEWS IN FRANCE

VICHY, May 14. (JTA)-- Pierre Laval, the pro-Nazi chief of Government, today assumed full control over the Jews in unoccupied France and enforcement of anti-Jewish laws there in a decree published in the Journal Officiel here. The decree formally transfers the control of Jewish affairs from the Ministry of Interior to the office of the Chief of Government.

Meanwhile, Louis Darquier de Pellepoix, new Commissar for Jewish Affairs, today appealed in the French press to all Frenchmen "to collaborate" in "the task of completely purging Jews from the economic, cultural and social life of the nation."

A hint that French Jews may soon be compelled to don yellow Mogen David badges was contained in a broadcast on the Paris radio today. The broadcaster stated: "Frenchmen must no longer be exposed to contact with people who have caused their ruin without being able to recognize them immediately."

The Jews in the former French capital who are still at liberty are being rounded up. A number of Jews attempting to avoid arrest have shot their Gestapo pursuers, while yesterday a Jew who was on the point of being captured by Gestapo agents committed suicide in the street.

JEWS IN BERLIN BARRED FROM PARKS, EX-MUFTI RETURNS TO BERLIN

STOCKHOLM, May 14. (JTA)-- Swedish newspapers today publish reports from Berlin stating that a new order has been issued there prohibiting Jews in the Nazi capital from entering any parks. The order also forbids them to appear on the main streets of the city during Nazi parades.

The same reports disclose that a number of synagogues in Berlin are now being used as Army warehouses. Two synagogues in Berlin are being used as shelters for Germans from Rostock who came to the German capital to seek refuge from the constant R.A.F. raids on their city.

The Berlin radio today announced that the ex-Mufti of Jerusalem and Rashid Ali el Gailani, former Premier of Iraq, have arrived in Berlin "to discuss cooperation with the Reich."

CONFISCATION OF JEWISH REAL ESTATE IN RUMANIA NEARING COMPLETION

ZURICH, May 14. (JTA)-- Indicating that confiscation of Jewish real estate in Rumania has almost been completed, the Bucharest radio announced today that no further applications for flats and lodging houses expropriated from Jews, and now owned by the National Center of Rumanization, can be made after tomorrow.

Similarly, the right to occupy such flats cannot be claimed after tomorrow even by persons to whom the apartments have been granted, unless they have already taken charge of the residences.

BRITAIN PERMITS REMITTANCES TO REFUGEES IN RUSSIA DESPITE CURRENCY REGULATIONS

LONDON, May 14. (JTA)-- The British government will allow persons in England to send remittances to Lithuanian and Polish relatives who are now refugees in the Soviet Union, within the existing currency regulations, it was announced today by the Polish-Jewish Refugee Fund here.

As a result of negotiations between the Fund and the British authorities, anyone in England wishing to send money to relatives in Russia may register at the Fund offices and the necessary arrangements will be made.

JEWISH DEPUTIES CLASH IN POLISH NATIONAL COUNCIL OVER PALESTINE ISSUE

LONDON, May 14. (JTA)-- The differences existing between the two Jewish representatives in the Polish National Council were brought out in the open today when Samuel Zygelbaum, Jewish Socialist Bund representative, delivered his maiden speech before the Council.

Declaring that he was speaking for the "majority of Polish Jews," Zygelbaum stated that "Polish Jews are tied to the country by blood and toil and do not look to a new fatherland, be it Palestine or any other place." Dr. Ignacy Schwartzbart, Zionist representative in the Council, arose following Zygelbaum's address and challenged the latter's claim to speak for the "majority of Polish Jews." He stated that the Jewish Socialist Bund was not entitled to speak even for all Jewish workers since important Jewish labor parties are included in the Representation of Polish Jewry, whose headquarters are in Palestine. Taking issue with Zygelbaum's reference to Palestine, Schwartzbart said that "speeches like Zygelbaum's were made in Poland for fifteen years and he apparently has learned nothing since."

The Bundist deputy devoted the major portion of his address to voicing three demands of Polish Jews in a post-war Poland: Firstly, full rights for Jews in all spheres of political, social, economic and cultural life; Secondly, guarantees for the national development of Jews by the introducing of national and cultural autonomy and the recognition of Yiddish by the government and the right to use Yiddish in public institutions; thirdly, eradication of anti-Semitism from government policy and public life by making anti-Jewish agitation a criminal offense.

Dr. Schwartzbart, while approving the Government's policy to achieve the liberation of Poland, declared that the weak point of this policy was lack of confidence in the Government's declarations of democratic principles, because of the present composition of the Council, where the right wing is predominant. He demanded the appointment of a third Jewish deputy and additional Socialist and Peasant Party deputies.

UNITED NATIONS MUST FACE JEWISH PROBLEM SQUARELY, WEIZMANN SAYS

NEW YORK, May 14. (JTA)-- Declaring that the alleviation of the Jewish problem must be made a part of the entire program for post-war reconstruction, Dr. Chaim Weizmann, president of the Jewish Agency of Palestine, today called upon the United Nations "to face this problem squarely" in order to prevent a repetition of conditions in which the Jews would again be used "as scapegoats and as weapons to shatter the peace of the world."

Dr. Weizmann spoke over Station WEF and a coast-to-coast hookup of the National Broadcasting Company during a broadcast presented under the auspices of the United Jewish Appeal.

In urging intergovernmental action in which he hoped the United States would assume the leadership, the leader of the World Zionist movement said that the post-war reconstruction problem will be so vast as to require the assistance of governments. However, he pointed out that any intergovernmental program will have to be based on the experiences of such agencies as the Joint Distribution Committee, United Palestine Appeal and National Refugee Service, which raise their funds through the United Jewish Appeal campaign. "These agencies have served as the foremost instruments of rescue during the period of greatest need and suffering for large sections of the Jewish people," Dr. Weizmann declared.

Recalling how after the first World War the establishment of minority rights and the pledge for the rebuilding of the Jewish National Home in Palestine had been undertaken as a means of aiding oppressed Jews, Dr. Weizmann, who was instrumental in the issuance of the Balfour Declaration, urged that these two steps be used as the cornerstone for a far-reaching reconstruction program following the present conflict.

70th BIRTHDAY OF LEON BLUM WILL BE OBSERVED TOMORROW AT CARNEGIE HALL MEETING

NEW YORK, May 14. (JTA)-- The 70th birthday of Leon Blum, former Premier of France now imprisoned in Riom, unoccupied France, will be celebrated here on Saturday, May 16 at a mass meeting in Carnegie Hall under the sponsorship of the Jewish Labor Committee, it was announced here today. The meeting, which will be addressed by prominent speakers, will send a message of greetings to the imprisoned statesman who proudly emphasized his Jewishness at the recent Riom trial.

Latest communications from Paris concerning the under-ground movement in Nazi-occupied territories will be read at the meeting by Adolph Held, chairman of the Jewish Labor Committee, who will preside at the gathering. The speakers will include Dorothy Thompson, Dr. Frank Kingdon and Dr. Harry Gideonse, president of Brooklyn College. Among the guests will be a group of French political personages: Prof. H. Laugier, Prof. Francis Perrin, Jean Rollin, Henri Torres, Henry Bonnet, and Prof. Gustave Cohen.

DR. ISRAEL GOLDSTEIN RE-ELECTED PRESIDENT OF SYNAGOGUE COUNCIL OF AMERICA

NEW YORK, May 14. (JTA)-- Dr. Israel Goldstein, president of the Jewish National Fund and of the Jewish Conciliation Board of America, was re-elected president of the Synagogue Council of America at a meeting of the delegates of the Council held last night, it was announced here today.

The Synagogue Council of America, organized in 1925, aims to provide a Council comprising national congregational and rabbinical organizations of America for the purpose of speaking and acting unitedly in furthering such religious interests as the constituent organizations in the Council have in common. The constituent organizations are: The Union of Orthodox Jewish Congregations of America, Rabbinical Council of America, Union of American Hebrew Congregations, Central Conference of American Rabbis, United Synagogue of America, and Rabbinical Assembly of America.

DROPSIE COLLEGE WILL CONFER HONORARY DEGREE UPON B'NAI B'RITH PRESIDENT

PHILADELPHIA, May 14. (JTA)-- Henry Monsky of Omaha, Neb., president of B'nai B'rith, oldest and largest national Jewish service organization, will have conferred upon him the honorary degree of Doctor of Hebrew Letters at the 30th annual Founder's Day and commencement exercises of the Dropsie College for Hebrew and Cognate Learning, on Sunday evening, May 24, it was announced here by Dr. Abraham A. Newman, president.

PIONEER WOMEN'S CONVENTION TO HELP WAR WORK IN PALESTINE

NEW YORK, May 14. (JTA)-- Delegates from over 250 branches of the Pioneer Women's Organization in the United States and Canada will gather at the eighth national convention to be held in Detroit from June 10 to 14, it was announced here today. They will be asked to vote on a broad emergency program designed to promote participation of the women of Palestine in the war effort on the Middle Eastern front.

BEN-GURION'S FATHER DIES IN PALESTINE

TEL AVIV, May 14. (JTA)-- Avigdor Green, father of David Ben-Gurion, the Zionist leader who is now in the United States, died here yesterday at the age of 82. He was buried today at the old cemetery here with many old Zionists participating in the funeral. He was one of the active members of the Choveve Zion, the Lovers of Zion movement which played an important part in pre-Herzlian Zionism by organizing Palestinian colonization societies in Czarist Russia where he was born.