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TWO-THIRDS OF RUMANIAN JEWS DEPORTED OR MURDERED, NAZI BROADCASTER DISCLOSES

ZURICH, Aug. 9. (JTA)-- Only one-third of the 750,000 Jews in Rumania (which figure included those living in Bessarabia and Bukovina and excluded those in the portions of Transylvania ceded to Hungary) remain in the country, it was stated today by a broadcaster on the official German radio.

The Nazi announcer stated that 270,000 Jews are now living in Rumania. Previous reports from Bucharest stated that over 200,000 Jews had been deported to Transnistria, the Rumanian-held section of the Soviet Ukraine. Today's announcement would indicate, therefore, that about a quarter of a million Rumanian Jews have been exterminated by the Antonescu regime and the Nazi military authorities in Rumania.

A threat that the remaining Jews will be deported is contained in an official statement issued by the Rumanian Government, copies of which were received here today. In it the Jews are charged with violating practically all of the war-time regulations and are warned that they and their families will be deported Eastward if they are found to be evading service in the labor camps, leaving their authorized residences, hoarding food, medicine and "continuing subversive propaganda."

At the same time, the German broadcaster confirmed the report that the Zionist Federation of Rumania has been liquidated by the Commissioner for Jewish Affairs.

CATHOLIC, PROTESTANT CHURCHES IN HOLLAND ASK NAZIS TO CEASE PERSECUTION OF JEWS

STOCKHOLM, Aug. 9. (JTA)-- The Catholic and Protestant churches in Holland, aroused by the recent mass-deportation of Dutch Jews, have jointly petitioned the German occupation commander Christensen, requesting better treatment for the Jews, it was disclosed in an address delivered at Waubach by Nazi deputy commissar Schmidt, reports of which reached here today.

Attacking the petition, which was also read in all the churches in the Netherlands, Schmidt declared that the passive attitude displayed by the Dutch people was the reason for the Nazis' "taking over solution of the Jewish problem."

Meanwhile, it was learned here that the deportations of Jews take place late at night because the Germans wish to avoid pro-Jewish demonstrations by the Hollanders. It is also reported that relatives of the deportees, many of whom were expelled several weeks ago, have had no word from any of them.

The Nazis have intensified and systematized the deportation of young Jewish girls to unknown military camps, according to other advices reaching here. These girls are now being deported in alphabetical order. In many cases, those who have been selected to go are pulled from their homes in the middle of the night without previous warning.

RUSSIAN JEWS RANK HIGH IN AWARDS FOR HEROISM; JEWISH CULTURAL ACTIVITIES CONTINUE

KUIBYSHEV, Aug. 9. (JTA)-- Although Jews rank seventh in population among the various nationalities in the Soviet Union, they are fourth in number among the heroes who have received awards in recent months for exploits at the front or for unusual feats in production, it was learned here today.

At the same time it was announced that a history of the warrior traditions of the Jewish people from ancient times until the present will shortly be published here. Famous Jewish historians, who are members of the Jewish Culture department of the Ukrainian Academy of Sciences, are working collectively on an extensive work which will examine the Jewish attitude towards warfare over a period of several thousand years.

Other information reaching here today from various far-flung points in Russia indicate that Jewish cultural activities are continuing despite the grave military crisis.

Biro-Bidjan Jewish Theatre Gears Itself to War Effort

The official State Theatre in the Jewish autonomous region of Biro-Bidjan has geared itself to the war effort, according to reports received here. Its present task, as outlined by its director, H. Helfand, is to "extend its repertory so as to reflect the heroic struggle being waged by the Jewish people, on a par with the entire Russian people, against fascism; and to show Jewish fighters and partisans as heroes who are bringing fame and honor to the Jewish nation." In line with this policy, the theatre has produced several plays about individual Jewish Red Army men and guerrilla fighters. It has also presented Jewish classics, works by Sholem Alechim, Bar Kochba by Halkin, Professor Mamlock by Friedrich Wolf and many others. These plays have been presented to capacity audiences in the towns, to workers on collective farms and to groups of soldiers.

Members of the Biro-Bidjan Jewish Theatre have also played an active role in the Russian war effort, it is reported. Some members have joined the Soviet forces as nurses, others have given blood, and more than 60,000 rubles have been donated to the special Jewish fund to purchase 1,000 tanks and 500 bombers for the Red Army.

The Kharkov Jewish State Theatre, which has been transferred to Samarkand, has produced many Jewish dramas and Russian plays translated into Yiddish during the past six months, according to reports reaching here. A new production on a war theme is being prepared by the writers Khashechetvatsky and Bergholtz. The theatre has also given a number of concerts for Red Army organizations. The report states that not only Jews, but also Russians and Uzbeks attend the performances.

Here in Kuibyshev the Jewish composer Alexander Drein is writing music to the poems of the Yiddish poets Leib Kvitko, Itsik Fefer and others. According to reports from Tashkent, the Jewish composer Pulver is putting music to poems by Peretz Markish and S. Halkin. In besieged Leningrad, M. Milner is composing an opera based on Halkin's Bar Kochba, and similar cultural activities are proceeding in other parts of the country.

NAZI PUPPET STATE OF CROATIA ORDERS REGISTRATION OF ALL JEWS

BERNE, Aug. 9. (JTA)-- All Jews in the Nazi puppet state of Croatia have been ordered to register with the Ministry of Public Security, it was learned here today. The order is reported to have caused great anxiety among Jewish circles in the country, who fear that it may be a prelude to intensification of the already severe anti-Jewish measures.

JEWISH REFUGEES DEPORTED FROM UNOCCUPIED FRANCE TO POLAND BY NAZIS

LONDON, Aug. 9. (JTA)-- One thousand Jewish refugees were deported to Poland this week-end from the concentration camps at Marseille, Pau and Perpignan in unoccupied France as a result of the agreement reached between Premier Laval and Otto Abetz, Hitler's representative in Paris, a Fighting French spokesman stated today. These and previous deportations have caused a wave of suicides in the concentration camps in both the free and occupied zones, he declared.

The Nazi-controlled French newspapers denounce growing pro-Jewish demonstrations throughout France, it was learned today. An eyewitness account reaching London through underground channels also describes how French women allow Jews to take first place on lines before food shops and how Frenchmen are deliberately riding in Paris subway cars which are prominently marked: "For Jews." Even French officials are reported to be aiding Jews on all possible occasions. Sympathy for the Jews has been intensified by the sight of manacled Jews being marched through the streets of Paris en route to railroad stations from which they are deported.

The French people were told today by a Fighting French speaker broadcasting over the B.B.C. that "France itself is not responsible for the terrible persecution of the Jews, but is a victim of injuries caused to her honor and traditions by the enemy through its intermediary - Vichy." "France," the official organ of the Fighting French, today carries an article stating that "the whole of France is indignant and protests such barbarity inflicted upon her sons. Our generous nation cannot be impressed by the heavy stupid racial theories which caused laughter among anthropologists."

PALESTINE IMMIGRATION CERTIFICATES SENT TO HUNGARIAN AND RUMANIAN CHILDREN

JERUSALEM, Aug. 9. (JTA)-- The Palestine Government has dispatched 270 immigration certificates to Jewish children in Rumania and Hungary, it was announced today. The young immigrants are expected to arrive here within the next few weeks. The second group of "chalutzim" released from internment in Australia arrived here this week, it was also disclosed today.

An official decree of the Government, published in the Palestine Gazette today, approves the budget of the Jewish National Council for the current fiscal year ending March 31, 1945. It authorizes the Council to levy a two percent tax on the actual rental value of all buildings within the Jewish communities, cooperative settlements and local councils. The funds raised by this tax will be used to cover the normal expenses of the Council such as education, relief for the poor, care of the sick, provisions for orphans and contributions to rabbinical institutions and local communities.

BULGARIAN GOVERNMENT OUSTS JEWS FROM PREMISES OF CONFISCATED ENTERPRISES

GENEVA, Aug. 9. (JTA)-- Jews in Sofia, capital of Bulgaria, who have been ousted from certain professions and trades by the Bulgarian Government, were today ordered to vacate any premises connected with such businesses. These houses and residences taken from the Jews will be given to the families of Bulgarian officials, the Sofia radio announced.

Last month the Bulgarian Government, acting under powers granted it by the Bulgarian parliament "to solve the Jewish problem," issued a series of decrees virtually excluding Jews from the country's economy.

JEWISH AGENCY, VAAD LEUMI WELCOME ANNOUNCEMENT OF PALESTINE REGIMENT

JERUSALEM, Aug. 9. (JTA)-- The Jewish Agency for Palestine and the Jewish National Council today issued official proclamations welcoming the establishment of a Palestine regiment, in which Jewish and Arab infantry battalions will serve. "The Jews of Palestine must prove worthy of this new opportunity," the proclamation stated, appealing for thousands of additional Jewish volunteers.

Official Jewish circles here were gratified at the announcement in Commons by Sir James Grigg, the British Secretary for War, concerning the formation of the new regiment. They feel that it will give the Yishuv a greater opportunity to participate in the war effort, and hope that it will result in increased enlistment.

The Hebrew press here also welcomes the announcement of the Palestine regiment. The "Haaretz" states that the "government's decision demonstrates that Palestine Jewry's willingness to do its part is appreciated both in London and Cairo. The decision paves the way for a larger number of Jews enlisting for the defense of Palestine." The "Davar," official organ of the Histadruth, Palestine Labor Federation, writes: "At last something has been done to give Palestine's Jews a chance to reinforce the defenses of the country. Palestine Jewry will know how to take the fullest advantage of this opportunity."

Board of Deputies Spokesman States New Regiment "Encouraging Step"

LONDON, Aug. 9. (JTA)-- Dr. Israel Feldman, chairman of the Palestine Committee of the Board of Deputies of British Jews, speaking today on an overseas broadcast of the British Broadcasting Company, declared that while the Government's decision to set up the Palestine regiment does not fully meet Jewish demands, it "constitutes an encouraging step towards fulfillment of Palestine Jewry's desire to fully cooperate in the fight against Nazism and the defense of their country."

Creation of Jewish Battalions Only "Sidetracks" Issue, Van Paassen Charges

NEW YORK, Aug. 9. (JTA)-- The British Government's decision to establish a regiment of Palestine infantry "merely sidetracks the issue which our committee has been pressing for the last eight months in this country and in Great Britain," it was charged yesterday by Pierre Van Paassen, chairman of the Committee for a Jewish Army. "The formation of this new force is an acknowledgement of the ever-growing public demand in America and England for the establishment of a Jewish Army of stateless and Palestinian Jews, 200,000 strong," he declared.

"The New Zionist Organization said that Britain's action "does not satisfy the demand of world Jewry for a Jewish Army, and it does not indicate the full use of the available manpower of Palestine, and is far from being a satisfactory answer to the grave danger threatening the United Nations from the double-pincer Nazi attack in the Near East."

News Use Formation of Palestine Regiment As Basis for Anti-Semitic Blasts

ZURICH, Aug. 9. (JTA)-- Establishment of the new Palestine regiment has brought a quick reaction from the official German radio, heard here today.

A Nazi broadcaster on the Freisland station stated that "Lipson (Daniel Lipson, Independent Conservative M.P., who opposed formation of a Jewish army during the debate in Commons on Thursday) who is himself a Jew, doubtlessly expressed the true feelings of the Jews, as they fear nothing so much as the establishment of Jewish fighting units." The German short-wave radio at Zeesen stated: "If the Jews really wanted to fight they have had plenty of time to form an army during the last three years. It is a pity that such an army never materialized, because if it had, the favorite wish of the German soldiers might have been fulfilled - crossing swords with the real "lions of Judah."