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NAZI ADVANCE IN THE CAUCASUS SPELLS DANGER FOR PALESTINE, SYRIA

LONDON, Aug. 12. (JTA)-- With the steady advance of the Nazi armies in the Caucasus, British military experts today indicated that the danger for Palestine, Syria and Egypt may become even more serious since the occupation of the Caucasus by the Nazis may open for them new strategic opportunities for air-and-land attacks on Syria.

Opinion is expressed here that the present lull on the Egyptian front is due partly to the fact that General Rommel, commander of the Nazi army there, is awaiting the outcome of the battle for the Caucasus. German victory in the Caucasus may lead to a Nazi pincer drive on Syria, Palestine and the Suez Canal through Persia and Iraq timed with the renewal of offensive activities on the part of Gen. Rommel's forces in Egypt, it is believed.

"The present lull in Egypt cannot be expected to last for long," Brigadier General H.S. Sewell writes. He takes the pessimistic view that "it will take many weeks, even months, for fresh British reinforcements and heavy equipment to reach Egypt from England and America, while the Axis can meanwhile reinforce and re-equip their army in Africa over what, in comparison, is a very short line of communication."

News from Egypt Inspire No Optimism, British General Says

Declaring that "there is little in the news from Egypt to inspire undue optimism as to the general situation," Brigadier General Sewell emphasizes that the Nazi army on the Egyptian front, though checked, is nevertheless not beaten. "Further attempts by the invader to reach the Nile valley are likely to follow soon," he warns.

Pointing out that the supply of ammunition is a vital factor for both armies in Egypt, the British general says: "Axis supply routes have been subjected to heavy air attacks, but it is doubtful if more than a small proportion of ammunition and gasoline has been destroyed by aerial bombing. Trucks are small targets, they can move almost anywhere in the desert, and there are no bridges and few defiles on which transport need converge. At this time of the year, too, the ground is frequently hidden from the air by sandstorms."

General Charles de Gaulle, head of the Fighting French, arrived yesterday in Syria to inspect his fighting forces there. Together with British military leaders, he will make a tour of inspection as far as the Syrian-Turkish frontier. He will then proceed to Cairo to discuss with the British military command further measures of defense for Syria from possible Nazi attacks.

THOUSANDS OF JEWS IN AMERICA JOIN IN WORLD-WIDE "DAY OF FASTING AND PRAYER"

NEW YORK, Aug. 12. (JTA)-- Thousands of Jews in New York and in other American cities today joined in the world-wide "Day of Fasting and Prayer" called to ask Divine intercession for a speedy victory of the United Nations and for an end to the terror against Jews in Nazi-held Europe.

In the synagogues, the fasting Jews in their prayers followed a modified version of the Day of Atonement ritual. As on the solemn day of Yom Kippur, the Shofar was blown. Many of the more pious Jews closed their places of business for the day.

The call for the fast day initially issued by the Union of Orthodox Rabbis of the United States and Canada was subsequently approved by the chief rabbis of Palestine and of England. In Palestine, according to word received here, there was general response of the population to the call to fast. The rabbis also appealed to the Russian Jews to join in the fast.

In a statement issued by leading orthodox rabbis in America, it was urged that the day would be appropriate for a consideration of the laxity in religion to which American Israel, it was said, is prone, with the view of a stricter return to the tenets of the faith, especially of the observance of the Sabbath.

Jews in Russia Observe the World-Wide Fast

TASHKENT, U.S.S.R., Aug. 12. (JTA)-- For the first time in the history of Soviet Russia, Jews in this country today joined the Jews of the world in a Day of Fast and Prayers proclaimed by the Union of Orthodox Rabbis of the United States and Canada.

Samuel Chobrutsky, president of the Moscow Jewish Community which has its offices now in Tashkent, cabled to the Union of Orthodox Rabbis in New York that he has undertaken to see to it that Jews in Russia are informed of today's world-wide Jewish Day of Fast and Prayers and are enabled to observe it. The communication is the first sent from here to a rabbinical organization abroad since the Communist Party came to power.

PELLEY, ANTI-SEMITIC LEADER OF SILVER SHIRTS, SENTENCED TO 15 YEARS IMPRISONMENT

INDIANAPOLIS, Aug. 12. (JTA)-- William Dudley Pelley, anti-Semitic leader of the Silver Shirts of America, was sentenced today to 15 years in prison in the first major sedition case since America's entry into the war.

Federal Judge Baltzell imposed the sentence after denying a defense motion for a new trial.

TWO JEWISH EDITORS BELIEVED TO HAVE FALLEN INTO NAZI HANDS

KULBYSHEV, Aug. 12. (JTA)-- Nathan Schwalbe and Saul Wagman, two Polish-Jewish editors, have apparently fallen into the hands of the Nazis. Such is the belief in Polish embassy circles here following a search of their possible whereabouts in Russia which yielded no results.

Members of the Polish Embassy today declared that efforts have been made to check with all Polish refugee offices in various parts of Russia as to whether the two noted editors are among the Jewish refugees from Poland stranded in Russia. The search establishes that they were not among those who reached Russian soil after escaping from Warsaw.

EXPULSION OF 28,000 JEWS FROM PARIS TO POLAND WILL BE COMPLETED THIS WEEK

BERNE, Aug. 12. (JTA)-- The deportation from Paris to Poland and Nazi-occupied Russia of the first group of 28,000 Parisian Jews will be completed by August 16, according to a report published today in the Swiss newspaper *Schaffhausener Arbeiterzeitung*.

The paper reports that freight cars crowded with Jews have been departing from Paris to Nazi-held Eastern territories every day since August 3. As soon as the Nazis complete the deportation of the first 28,000 Jews, more round-ups of Jews in Paris and other parts of occupied France for further deportations will follow, the report states.

Property, confiscated from the deported Jews, includes 298 big estates located in the occupied part of France, according to the Swiss paper. These estates, the Nazis announced, have been sold to "Aryans." As no names of buyers are given, the Swiss newspaper says that it is assumed that the Jewish estates, especially those with old and richly furnished castles, have been "acquired" by high Nazi officials.

NAZIS KILL RABBIS, BURN SYNAGOGUES, INTER-ALLIED COMMITTEE REPORTS

LONDON, Aug. 12. (JTA)-- The demolition of synagogues by the Nazis in occupied Poland and the execution of rabbis there is described in a report issued here last night by the Inter-Allied Information Committee.

The report, dealing with religious persecution in Nazi-occupied Europe, says that a large number of synagogues in occupied countries have been burned down by the Nazis. Others have been desecrated and converted into stables for horses.

"In occupied Poland," the report states, "rabbis have been subjected to great humiliation. Many of them have been massacred. The synagogue in Posen is now a swimming pool for members of the Nazi party. In Wloclawek, the Nazis burned down the great synagogue and later imposed a collective fine of 600,000 zloty upon the Jewish population "as penalty for damage done to a public building." The report estimates that 800 Polish priests have been killed by the Nazis in the campaign to eradicate religion in occupied territories.

VICHY INTRODUCES NEW PROCEDURE FOR JEWS DESIRING TO LEAVE UNOCCUPIED FRANCE

ZURICH, Aug. 12. (JTA)-- Exit visas for Jews desiring to emigrate from unoccupied France will hereafter be issued by the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs instead of the local police authorities, as hitherto issued, it was reported here today from Vichy.

The new measure will make the departure of Jews from unoccupied France more difficult, the report indicated. It is aimed especially against foreign-born Jews, whom the Nazi authorities in Paris would prefer to see deported to occupied territories in Eastern Europe for slave labor instead of emigrating to overseas lands.

CONFERENCE IN LONDON DISCUSSES POST-WAR JEWISH PROBLEMS

LONDON, Aug. 12. (JTA)-- A two-day session to discuss various aspects of post-war Jewish life was opened here today by the Joint Foreign Committee of the Board of Deputies of British Jews.

The session will take up questions of Jewish relief and reconstruction as well as the post-war regularization of the status of the Jews in Europe. The Palestine problem will also undergo discussion.

NON-ZIONISTS RABBIS ISSUE STATEMENT OF PRINCIPLES; DEFINE ATTITUDE TO PALESTINE

PHILADELPHIA, Aug. 12. (JTA)-- A statement of principles by non-Zionist rabbis, declaring that "the Jews should have the democratic right to live freely under law, and in accordance with the dictates of their religious conscience, and in any part of the world," was made public here today by Dr. Louis Wolsey. The statement, which carries the signatures of eighty-seven Reform rabbis, follows:

"We, Rabbis in American Israel, who believe in the universalism of Judaism's ethical and spiritual teachings, express our hearty agreement with the following Statement drawn up by those who convened in Atlantic City, June 1 and 2, 1942, for the purpose of giving voice to our convictions and to discuss ways and means of securing wider recognition and appreciation of them among our neighbors.

"The special reason for our gathering is in the growing secularism in American life, the absorption of large numbers in nationalistic endeavors and the tendency to reduce the religious basis of life to a place of secondary importance. At this time more than ever, all men for their own good and the good of mankind should give every emphasis to those moral and religious values and principles that transcend boundary lines and hold all men in a common bond of human fellowship.

"1. We believe that the present tragic experiences of mankind abundantly demonstrate that no single people or group can hope to live in freedom and security when their neighbors are in the grip of evil forces either as perpetrators or sufferers. We hold, therefore, that the solution of the social, economic and political problems of one people are inextricably bound up with those of others. To this general rule the problems of our Jewish people constitute no exception, though unhappily we Jews are often the first victims of the distemper of peoples and suffer most from the maladjustments of society.

"2. We declare our unwavering faith in the humane and righteous principles that underlie the democratic way of life, principles first envisaged by the Prophets of Israel and embodied in our American Bill of Rights. In keeping with these principles we hold that the Jewish people have the same right to live securely anywhere in the world and to enjoy the fruit of their labors in peace as have men of every other faith and historic background.

"3. Realizing how important Palestinian rehabilitation is towards relieving the pressing problems of our distressed people, we stand ready to render unstinted aid to our brethren in their economic, cultural and spiritual endeavors in that country. But in the light of our universalistic interpretation of Jewish history and destiny, and also because of our concern for the welfare and status of the Jewish people living in other parts of the world, we are unable to subscribe to or support the political emphasis now paramount in the Zionist program. We cannot but believe that Jewish nationalism tends to confuse our fellowmen about our place and function in society and also diverts our own attention from our historic role to live as a religious community. Such spiritual role is especially voiced by Reform Judaism in its emphasis upon the eternal prophetic principles of life and thought.

"It is incumbent, therefore, upon all of us, Jews and non-Jews alike, to stress to the utmost those teachings of our own religion that are all-inclusive, if we would permanently correct the evils that so often bring suffering to mankind. Reform Judaism, as we conceive it, is the contemporary manifestation of the eternal prophetic spirit of Israel, through which alone Judaism and the Jew live to witness to the universal God."