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UNPRECEDENTED POGROMS RAGING IN POLAND; LARGE SCALE DEPORTATIONS OF JEWS REPORTED

SOMWHERE IN EUROPE, Sept. 18.(JTA)-- Massacres of Jews on an unprecedented scale are now taking place all over Nazi-occupied Poland coupled with mass-deportations of Jews from Warsaw, Lwow, Przemyśl and other towns, big and small, according to a "SOS" received here today from the Government-General section of Poland.

"Save us from death!" the call appealed. It reached this neutral country through the Polish underground movement together with a brief report stating that "the Nazis have started their program of total extermination of the Jews in Poland."

Unable to give any details because of the manner in which it was smuggled out of Poland, the sketchy report reads: "In addition to mass-deportations of Jews from the Warsaw ghetto, the Nazis have started hunting down Jews in all large and small towns throughout the Government-General, including Lwow, Przemyśl, Radom and other places where Jews are concentrated. Jewish families are being torn apart. The men are assembled in camps prior to deportation. Some are sent to the devastated areas of occupied Russia and others to coal mines in German territory. The women and children are being sent to unknown destinations. Large-scale pogroms of unprecedented ferocity are proceeding at the same time, throughout Poland. The Nazis have started carrying out their program of total extermination of Polish Jewry. Save us from death!"

Previous reports reaching here from Poland this month stated that more than 300,000 Jews already have been deported by the Nazis from the Warsaw ghetto to unknown destinations. Though they constitute about one-half of the entire Jewish population in the ghetto, the merciless deportations continue at the rate of several thousand a day, one report said.

One Third Of Deported Jews Die, Nazi Official Reports

Mass deportations to the German-conquered regions of Eastern Europe have resulted in terrible "wastage of human life" amounting in many instances to 30 per cent of the deportees, according to information received from underground sources in Germany.

The underground informants give the gist of a report by S.S. special detachment leader Ferdinand Riege to Heinrich Himmler, head of the Nazi Gestapo and Europe's police dictator. Riege was in charge of the first mass deportations of Western European Nazi victims to Eastern Europe. The report states that "unexpected difficulties arose as a result of which wastage of human life due to illness, suicide, etc., amounted to 30 per cent."

LAVAL MOBILIZES FRENCH RADIO STATIONS FOR ANTI-JEWISH PROPAGANDA CAMPAIGN

LISBON, Sept. 18.(JTA)-- Faced with indignant protests, both at home and abroad, against the merciless deportations of Jews from France, the Vichy Government today mobilized all its radio stations in a campaign of anti-Jewish propaganda aimed at justifying Laval's measures against the Jews.

The campaign, it was announced over the Vichy radio, has been mapped out by the Commissariat for Jewish Affairs. It is built around the slogan "Jews are responsible for the defeat of France."

"At a time when France is weak and disorganized from war wounds, when the whole future of France and the world is uncertain, it is surprising to see Frenchmen excited about a few Jews," the Vichy radio said. "We do not deny that from a purely humanitarian standpoint some Jews are to be pitied. From our national standpoint, however, the Jews are responsible for our decadence and defeat."

The Toulouse radio, in a broadcast today, stated that the Jews constituted a racial and not religious problem in France. "All the wars of the last century were caused by Jewish powers," the commentator said. He dismissed the mass expulsions of Jews from occupied and unoccupied France as nothing but "the return of a few thousand Jews to their countries of origin."

Protestant Church in France Sends Appeal to Marshal Petain

The Paris radio today reported that among the "pro-Jewish letters" which it has received since the deportations of Jews started, was one asking the following "idiotic question: 'Why is it that in the days of Jews there was plenty to eat in Paris, while now, without Jews, we are starving!'"

The president of the Federation of Protestant Churches in France, Marc Boegner, addressed an appeal to Marshal Petain expressing the indignation of the French Protestants at the delivery of Jews to Hitler, it was reported here today. "No Frenchman can remain unmoved in view of the events occurring in the concentration camps where the Jews are being held for deportation," the appeal said, revealing that Jewish and Christian organizations in Lyon were refused permission to bring food to the Jewish deportees.

Switzerland Establishes Camp For Jews Escaping From France

GENEVA, Sept. 18.(JTA)-- A camp for Jews who escaped from France into Switzerland, by crossing Lake Geneva on fishing boats, will be erected in the vicinity of Geneva, according to a decision made known here last night by the Swiss authorities. The refugees will be held in the camp until their status is clarified.

The Tribune de Geneve today publishes an eye-witness story of the Jewish deportations from France as told by a Swiss citizen who just returned from the unoccupied zone. "In a small village," the eye-witness said, "a local doctor pointed, at the railroad station, to a number of cattle cars and put his finger to his lips. The cars formed part of a trainload of Jews seized by the police. I could hear sobs as I read this inscription: 'Material for the Wehrmacht; whoever seeks to open this car will be shot.' In Toulouse every one is talking of the pastoral letter issued by Mgr. Saliege, the courageous Archbishop. All my friends have four or five copies in their pockets, and they see to it that it is circulated."

CHRISTIANS IN AMERICA URGED TO PRAY FOR JEWS ON YOM KIPPUR

NEW YORK, Sept. 18.(JTA)-- A plea to Christians to offer special prayers for the Jews on Yom Kippur, the Day of Atonement, which will be ushered in Sunday evening, is voiced in the current issue of the Commonwealth, a Catholic weekly.

Pointing out that in the face of the untold sufferings endured by the Jews in all countries of Europe, the observance of Yom Kippur takes on a particularly crucial significance, the author of the plea, Jacques Maritain, prominent Roman Catholic writer and philosopher, says: "The suggestion has been made that we Christians might display before God our brotherly compassion of Israel and make heard our cry on its behalf by praying especially for the Jews and sharing in their penance on the Jewish Day of Atonement. For our relation to the Jewish people is not only a human one, as it is with other suffering peoples; it is also a divine one, a relation of spiritual consanguinity within God's redeeming scheme."

The Synagogue Council of America will conduct a Day of Atonement radio program over the National Broadcasting Company on Sunday afternoon, at 4:30 Eastern War Time. Messages will be delivered by Rabbi David de Sola Pool, former president of the Synagogue Council of America, and Adolph Rosenberg of Cincinnati, chairman of the Executive Board of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations.

ITALIAN GOVERNMENT CHOOSES YOM KIPPUR TO BEGIN CENSUS OF JEWS FOR FORCED LABOR

BERNE, Sept. 18.(JTA)-- Yom Kippur, the Jewish Day of Atonement, has been designated by the Italian Minister of the Interior to begin a census of all Jews in Italy eligible for forced labor service, it was reported here today.

Last Spring the Italian Government decreed that Jews between the ages of 18 and 55 were to be mobilized for forced labor and several thousand were sent to forests and swamps to work on land reclamation projects. The new census, it is reported, is a prelude to an intensified round-up of Jews who will be sent to labor camps.

BULGARIAN JEWISH WAR VETERANS RETURN DECORATIONS TO GOVERNMENT; SPURN SPECIAL PRIVILEGES

ZURICH, Sept. 18.(JTA)-- Hundreds of Jews who served in the Bulgarian army in the last war, including many officers, have notified Dr. Alexander Bekeff, Bulgarian Commissioner for Jewish Affairs, that they refuse to take advantage of the provision in the recently announced anti-Jewish regulations which exempt them from wearing a yellow Mogen David, it was learned here today. Bekeff announced last month that Jewish veterans might wear a red circle on their clothes instead of the yellow star.

At the same time that they announced that they would spurn the privileges offered them and "share the fate of their brethren," the veterans returned to the government all decorations they received for bravery during World War I.

VICHY PREPARING REVOCATION OF ALL NATURALIZATIONS GRANTED SINCE 1920, LONDON HEARS

WASHINGTON, Sept. 18.(JTA)-- The puppet government of Pierre Laval is preparing to revoke all naturalization papers granted by France since 1920, the British Broadcasting Company said today. According to London, Laval will soon present a law to this effect to his cabinet.

The contemplated measure would leave one-million Jews and Gentiles stateless, the broadcast said, and without even a nominal defense against deportation. The Jewish population of France was about 240,000 last year.

NAZIS MASSACRE 800 JEWS IN KOVNO AFTER PILLAGING THEIR HOMES, EYE-WITNESS REPORTS

KULBYSHEV, Sept. 18.(JTA)-- Details of the tortures inflicted upon the Jews of Kovno, capital of Lithuania, including the murder of 800 in a local fire station, were recounted here today by David Powolosky, one of the few Jews who managed to flee the city after the Nazi occupation.

Immediately after entering the city, Powolosky relates, the S.S. men began plundering Jewish homes, starting in the wealthier districts and working their way down to the poorer sections. One night three storm-troopers broke into the house of a Jewish doctor, M. Brook, and ordered him, his wife and their two children, aged 6 and 8, into a Gestapo car, although none of them were dressed. While the Jewish physician and his family waited outside in the car the Gestapo men looted their home of household furnishings and other articles. When they had taken their pick of whatever struck their eyes, the Nazis drove the family to a local fire station.

The Brooks' were the first victims to be confined there. For the next two days a steady stream of Jews were thrust into the building by the S.S. men. Every Jew in the heavily Jewish-populated Slobodka district of Kovno was brought in as well as Jews from Yanaver and Butcher Streets. In all more than 800 people were finally confined in the fire station. They were left without food and water.

On the third day of their imprisonment some of the older Jews began to die. S.S. men stationed outside ordered the Jews to pile their dead one on top of another in one corner of the fire house since there was hardly room to stand. By the seventh day two hundred Jewish corpses were piled up and the stench from the dead bodies was overpowering. The cries of mothers and children had died down.

On the following day the Nazis placed soldiers with automatic rifles at the windows of the building and ordered them to fire into the huddled mass of Jews. When the shooting stopped, the guards opened the doors and called out: "Whoever wants to go home may do so." Seven survivors of the massacre arose, but no sooner did they reach the exit than the Nazis started firing upon them. Four, including Powolosky succeeded in escaping.

AXIS RACIAL PROPAGANDA IS FAILURE IN AMERICA, REPORT STATES

NEW YORK, Sept. 18.(JTA)-- Axis propaganda has made a poor showing in attempts to divide Americans along religious and racial lines, Dr. Everett R. Clinchy, president of the National Conference of Christians and Jews, indicated in his annual report made public today. He warned, however, that "the threat of prejudice and intolerance has not been destroyed."

"The entrance of the United States into war has not stopped the subversive elements preaching racial and religious hatred," the head of the Christian-Jewish body said. "It has simply obliged them to make their approach more subtle. A systematic attempt is being made in this country by the Axis powers and their agents to cause division and dissension among religious groups. Their aim is not merely to turn Christians against Jews, but Protestants against Catholics, Catholics against Protestants, and, it should be noted, some Protestants against other Protestants."

Dr. Clinchy reported that cooperation among Protestants, Catholics and Jews has been greatly spurred during the year "under the pressure of an inescapable war need for integrated civic planning and activity."