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THOUSANDS OF JEWS IN WESTERN EUROPE HIDING FROM GESTAPO IN WOODS, VILLAGES

LONDON, Jan. 12.(JTA)-- Thousands of Jewish men and women, hiding from the Gestapo, are wandering in woods and in villages all over Western Europe finding refuge here and there among the local non-Jewish population, but gradually being discovered by the Gestapo and deported to Nazi-held Russian territory, it was reported here today from information reaching Allied Governments' circles.

The report describes the situation of these Jews as "critical." They live in constant dread of being discovered and suffer from cold and hunger. "Only if they are admitted into neutral countries will they be saved from certain death," the report emphasizes.

Details are given of a number of hiding places where numerous Jews are sheltered by their non-Jewish countrymen. The location of these places can manifestly not be disclosed, but the problem of maintaining the Jews there is becoming increasingly complicated. "The victims will not be able to endlessly endure the terrible conditions in which they exist now," the report says.

PALESTINE GOVERNMENT AIDS TEL-AVIV WITH LOAN FOR TWENTY-MILLION DOLLAR PLAN

TEL AVIV, Jan. 12.(JTA)-- A twenty-million dollar program for the post-war development of Tel Aviv was adopted here today by the municipality. The execution of this program will be facilitated by a thirty-year loan to be granted by the Palestine Government to the municipality at three-and-a-half percent interest.

The government loan will be spent within five years for housing projects, water supply, canalization, drainage and other municipal improvements. In outlining the program, Mayor Israel Rokach explained that it will help to provide employment for soldiers who will return home after the war is over and employment also for Jewish workers now engaged in war industries which will be liquidated after the war, and make possible the post-war absorption of new Jewish immigrants from Europe.

NEW RAIDS ON JEWS IN FRANCE ORDERED; NAZIS DEPORT 50,000 JEWS FROM FRANCE

ZURICH, Jan. 12.(JTA)-- With the term for stamping Jewish ration cards with the letter "J" expiring today in the former unoccupied part of France, Darquier de Pellepeix, French Commissar for Jewish Affairs, announced over the radio this afternoon that police authorities have been ordered to begin a search for Jews who failed to report to have their cards stamped, preferring "to pose as non-Jews" in order to obtain larger food rations.

At the same time Pellepeix announced that he had directed the local police authorities to be more strict in enforcing all the anti-Jewish measures. He disclosed that the Nazi occupational authorities have already deported 50,000 Jews from France, and stated that the French authorities do not intend to intern Jews born in France.

LONDON PRESS SUPPORTS PLAN TO EXCHANGE JEWS IN AXIS LANDS FOR ITALIANS

LONDON, Jan. 12.(JTA)--- The suggestion which is now being advocated in England that Jews from Axis countries should be exchanged for Italian civilians repatriated from Ethiopia is supported today in an article published by the News-Chronicle, one of England's leading daily newspapers.

"A small measure of practical assistance for the unfortunate people is of greater value than columns of official denunciations," the article says. "There is nothing yet to show that the threats of the Allied Nations for post-war punishment for the Nazi massacres of Jews has hampered the Nazis in their atrocities in Poland and elsewhere. The urgent task now is to get out as many as possible prospective victims from the clutches of the Nazi gangs of murderers."

Jewish youth organizations in England today announced their decision to plant a children's forest in Palestine in commemoration of the Jewish children massacred by the Nazis in the ghettos of occupied Poland.

POLISH GOVERNMENT ALARMED OVER INCREASED MORTALITY AMONG REFUGEES IN SIBERIA

LONDON, Jan. 12.(JTA)--- The Polish National Council today considered alarming reports of increased mortality among Poles and Jews who are held in Siberia as Polish refugees stranded in Russia. The reports state that the situation of these refugees, who consider themselves Polish nationals, is extremely grave because of the shortage of food in Siberia and the lack of warm clothing for the winter. The Council decided to empower the Polish Government to appropriate additional funds for their relief.

Samuel Zygelboim, Jewish member of the Polish National Council, today estimated that the number of Polish Jews in Russia at present does not exceed 300,000. The majority are in the Turkestan section which has a climate similar to that of Palestine. A considerable number of Jewish refugees from Poland are, however, in remote parts of Siberia where the winter is very severe. Mr. Zygelboim, who spoke at a reception given to him by the Polish-Jewish Center in London, gave it as his opinion that there are no more than 3,250,000 Jews left alive today in Nazi-occupied Poland, including some 500,000 Jews who were deported by the Nazis to Poland from countries in Central and Western Europe. There were 3,500,000 Jews in Poland before the outbreak of the war.

"Should it come to pass that Polish Jewry will perish before we achieve victory, then I feel that I, as their representative, have no right to survive," he said in his speech. He emphasized that according to information reaching him from the underground movement in occupied Poland, the Nazi massacres of Jews continue. "It is hopeless to expect that Hitler will release the Jews," he said. "He does not want them to leave Nazi-held territories. He wants them to perish. He even prevented Laval from permitting Jewish children to leave France. Only actual reprisals may deter Hitler from completely annihilating all the Jews of Poland."

DELEGATION SUBMITS MEMORANDUM TO SIKORSKI ON ANTI-SEMITISM AMONG POLES

NEW YORK, Jan. 12.(JTA)--- A memorandum containing recommendations for the United Nations on the measures to be taken to halt the Nazi extermination of Jews in Poland was submitted here today to Gen. Sikorski, Polish Prime Minister, by a delegation of the American Representation of the General Jewish Workers' Union of Poland. The memorandum also dealt with the anti-Semitic activities now conducted by certain Polish elements in the occupied territory as well as in countries outside Poland.

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JEWISH CONTRIBUTIONS TO JOINT FUND-RAISING CAMPAIGNS MOUNTING, SURVEY SHOWS

NEW YORK, Jan. 12.(JTA)-- Contributions to joint fund-raising campaigns organized by local Jewish communities to meet their local, national and overseas obligations have maintained a steady upward trend since 1933, when the Jewish welfare fund movement began to gain momentum, according to a survey on contributions and contributors during the years 1933-42, made public here today by the Council of Jewish Federations and Welfare Funds.

An analysis of 13 Jewish welfare funds established in the late twenties or early thirties showed gains of 434 percent in contributions, and nine welfare funds showed an increase of 327 percent in the number of contributors between 1933-34 and 1941-42. The latter period, of course, saw Jewish overseas needs reach new peaks and a subsequent sympathetic response by the American Jewish public.

For the country as a whole, gains in recent years were less phenomenal, with smaller communities reporting a higher rate of increase than the larger ones. Between 1938-39 and 1941-42, the total raised in 138 campaigns increased 18 percent - the increases ranging from 13.6 percent for campaigns of \$500,000 or more to 67.6 percent for campaigns of \$10,000 to \$25,000.

Appeals in 105 Cities Bring \$27,000,000 in One Year

Federations, welfare funds and joint appeals in 105 cities, which reported their 1941-42 figures to the Council, raised a total of \$27,025,576, about 3.4 percent more than the previous year. In campaigns of \$100,000 or more gains ranged from 2.0 to 9.5 percent; in smaller campaigns, from 11.5 to 15.8 percent.

On the whole, the 1941 Fall campaigns fared better than those held in the Spring of 1942. The Fall drives recorded increases in both the small and large communities. Gains in the 1942 Spring drives were confined mainly to communities raising less than \$100,000. A few of the larger cities also showed increases but there was a decrease of about 6.0 percent for the group of large cities as a whole. In all of the 1941-42 campaigns, the bulk of the funds - close to 80 percent - came from so-called "big gifts" of \$100 or more.

Differences Between Large and Small Cities in "Top" Gifts

There were marked differences, however, between the large and small cities in the extent of their dependence on "top" gifts. Campaigns for \$500,000 and over, derived 20.4 percent of their totals from "top" contributions of \$5,000 and over; campaigns for \$100,000 to \$500,000, about 11 percent, and campaigns for \$25,000 to \$50,000, about 5.0 percent. Campaigns for less than \$25,000 received no such "top" contributions.

Differences between the large and small cities were evident also in the distribution of medium size contributions. In the very large campaigns (\$500,000 or more), contributions of \$100 to \$500 accounted for about 24 percent of the total raised; in the very small campaigns (less than \$10,000), contributions in this category accounted for over 42 percent. The same relationship existed with regard to contributions of \$10 to \$100. The smaller the campaign, the larger the proportion derived from contributions of this size. However, in all campaigns, large or small, the total derived from contributions of less than \$10 was equally low - in no instance more than about 4.0 percent.

JEWS WELFARE BOARD ANNOUNCES ITS WAR-TIME BUDGET FOR 1943

NEW YORK, Jan. 12.(JTA)-- A 1943 budget of \$620,020, the greater portion of which is for a War Emergency Budget to cover the religious requirements here and abroad of the Jewish members of the rapidly expanding American armed forces as well as other items, was announced today by Frank L. Weil, president of the National Jewish Welfare Board.

The major items of expenditure for 1943 are listed under the War Emergency Budget which totals \$425,220. These include \$167,970 for religious work expenses; \$84,000 for religious supplies; \$133,000 for the Board's overseas activities, and \$41,250 for its Bureau of War Records. The normal budget totalling \$195,800 covers the Board's Jewish Center program and normal Army and Navy work (the program carried on at permanent Army and Navy posts and hospitals). As these activities are not included in the general program of the U.S.O., they will have to be financed by funds from the Jewish community.

In a statement explaining the relations between the Jewish Welfare Board and the U.S.O., Mr. Weil said: "The Jewish Welfare Board is the only Jewish agency operating as one of the constituent bodies of the United Service Organizations. The U.S.O. general program of religious, welfare, social and recreational activity for soldiers is uniform as part of a joint cooperative effort. Under the contractual agreements required by the United States Government from all agencies participating in the United Service Organization, U.S.O. funds are limited to certain specified purposes. The figures given here are for the 1943 activities not covered by the U.S.O. budget for which funds must be raised from within the Jewish community."

In the War Emergency Budget, the religious activities include the recruiting, interviewing and endorsement of rabbis to serve as chaplains in the Army and Navy by a Committee on Religious Activities on which is represented the Reform, Conservative and Orthodox rabbinates; supervision of the chaplaincy services; supplementary aid to chaplains; provision of kosher food to members of the armed forces when requested; reading materials, supplementary prayer books and other literature, and funds to meet the cost of arranging for special services during the High Holy Days, Passover and other Jewish religious celebrations.

The War Emergency Budget will finance the operation of a Bureau of War Records, already functioning, to assemble a complete record of the participation of Jews in the armed forces.

IMPRESSIVE FUNERAL FOR Z.H. MASLIANSKY; DR. WEIZMANN AMONG PALLBEARERS

NEW YORK, Jan. 12.(JTA)-- Impressive funeral services were held here today for Rev. Zvi Hirsch Masliansky, pioneer Zionist leader and renowned Jewish orator who died yesterday morning in his home in Brooklyn, aged 87. Eulogies at the funeral were delivered by Dr. Stephen S. Wise, Nahum Goldmann, Louis Lipsky and Rabbi Israel H. Levinthal.

The honorary pallbearers included Dr. Chaim Weizmann, John L. Bernstein, Rabbi Barnett R. Brickner of Cleveland, Dr. Solomon Goldman of Chicago, Rabbi Israel Goldstein, Judge Louis E. Levinthal of Philadelphia, Rabbi Abba Hillel Silver of Cleveland, and other Zionist leaders. Masliansky was buried at the old Mt. Carmel cemetery, Brooklyn. No flowers were laid at his grave in accordance with the wishes of the family.