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SITUATION OF FRENCH JEWS GRAVE; NEW LAW ORDERS THEM TO ASSUME "PURELY JEWISH" NAMES

ZURICH, Jan. 28. (JTA)-- France turned the clock back 100 years today by announcing that a law is being drafted by the Vichy Government under which all Jews in France whose surnames sound French or "Aryan" must assume the names used by their ancestors during the years between 1830 and 1850.

The announcement was broadcast over the Rome radio in a dispatch from Vichy. It stated that Darquier de Pellepoix, French Commissioner for Jewish Affairs, has been entrusted with preparing the details of the new anti-Jewish law.

With the Nazis fully in control of France, the position of the Jews there has become similar to that of the Jews in Belgium and Holland. Reports reaching here state that mass-arrests of Jews continue throughout France. Some of the arrested persons are being deported to unknown destinations in the east, while others are being sent to build fortifications. The fate of both categories of exiled Jews remains unknown. It is believed here that the Jews who are engaged in building fortifications are executed as soon as they carry out the task to which they are assigned. This action is taken by the Nazis as a precaution to insure that the victims do not, in some way, reveal the secrets of the fortifications to the Allied powers through Frenchmen who are still fleeing from France to North Africa.

Swiss Press Pessimistic About Future of French Jewry

The Swiss press is quite pessimistic concerning the immediate future of the Jews in France. Reporting that the Nazis have decided to make France "judenrein" by February 15, Swiss newspapers express the opinion that the Jews in France will definitely face the same fate as the Jews of Norway, whose deportation and arrest provoked world-wide protests. The difference between the Jews in France and those in Norway is that while many of the latter fled to neutral Sweden, it is almost impossible now for a Jew to escape from France to any of the neighboring neutral countries, Swiss correspondents state.

In the meantime, more information has reached here from Marseilles concerning the mass-arrests of Jews and Frenchmen there this week. The information reveals that Jews in Marseilles are fearful of appearing in the street. A number of Jewish organizations have moved their offices from Marseilles to other French towns where the Jews are less harassed at present.

The French population, encouraged by the Church, is displaying great sympathy for the Jews but can do little for them, the reports from France declare. They reveal that a clandestine Christian magazine combatting anti-Semitism is now being widely circulated throughout France. The magazine contains the text of declarations by French church leaders against the persecution of Jews in France and attacks the Nazi theories as being fundamentally anti-Christian.

BRITISH PARLIAMENTARIANS SUBMIT PROGRAM ON RESCUE OF JEWS TO GOVERNMENT

LONDON, Jan. 28.(JTA)-- An all-party delegation of members of both houses of Parliament was received today by high-ranking members of the British cabinet with whom they discussed measures to aid the Jews in Nazi-held countries.

The delegation, which was received jointly by Foreign Minister Eden, Colonial Secretary Oliver Stanley and Home Secretary Herbert Morrison, consisted of eight peers and members of Commons, including two Jews, Lord Melchett and Samuel Silverman. It was headed by Arthur Greenwood, a leader of the Labor Party. The group presented the following proposals to the Government:

- 1) Approach the German Government through intermediaries with a suggestion that Jews be allowed to leave German-controlled territories.
- 2) Announce that the British Government, its dominions and colonies, the United States and other United Nations will offer asylum to the Jewish refugees.
- 3) Provide facilities to transport the Jews from the Nazi-held countries to neutral nations, which should be prevailed upon to receive them.
- 4) Provide maintenance for the Jews after they are rescued.

The above proposals were drawn up last night at a meeting of members of Parliament representing all parties together with the Archbishop of Canterbury. A motion embracing these measures may be introduced in both houses of Parliament.

SITUATION OF JEWS IN NORTH AFRICA STILL NOT CLEAR, SECRETARY HULL DECLARES

WASHINGTON, Jan. 28.(JTA)-- Secretary of State Hull at his press conference today declared that the State Department has not received as yet any detailed facts on the position of the Jews in North Africa, nor did it know to what extent the anti-Jewish laws there have been abolished by the new administration.

Newspapermen would be welcome to the facts when the State Department secures any helpful information, Hull said. He added that the whole situation has been dealt with primarily from the military standpoint, including all phases of conditions that would call for remedial treatment. Just how fast the military authorities were moving, he said, he did not know.

(The New York Times, in a cable from North Africa today, reported that anti-Jewish elements of the Vichy regime are still a strong factor in French Morocco "where the American flag flies near concentration camps." As an illustration of the situation the report cited the fact that when a man wants to buy a shirt, he first must fill out an application stating whether he is a Jew. If the applicant is Jewish, he is refused the necessary coupon and must wear his old shirt.)

BRITISH JEWS PRESENT X-RAY UNIT TO RUSSIAN ARMY; MRS. CHURCHILL ACCEPTS GIFT

LONDON, Jan. 28.(JTA)-- The Jews of England today presented a check for £2,000 (about \$8,000) for a mobile x-ray unit to be sent to Russia as the first of twenty-five such units which English Jewry has pledged to present to the Red Army. The units will carry inscriptions in English, Yiddish, Hebrew and Russian. The check was accepted by Mrs. Churchill at a special meeting of the Jewish Fund for Soviet Russia, held at Grosvenor House, addressed by Mrs. Churchill, Lord Nathan, Prof. Brodetsky, Leonard Stein and others. Messages from Chief Rabbi Hertz and the Lord Mayor of London were read.

FAMOUS RABBI REFUSES TO REMOVE HAT BEFORE NAZIS, DRAGGED BEHIND SPEEDING AUTO

KUIBYSHEV, Jan. 28.(JTA)-- Polish conscripts in the Nazi army who voluntarily surrendered to the Russian forces told today how prominent rabbis and leading Jewish figures in many Polish towns were brutally massacred by the Nazi troops.

In Kozheniz, the Poles relate, the German soldiers, enraged because the famous aged Chassidic "wonder-rabbi" of the town refused to remove his hat before the Nazis, pulled him from a throng of Jews they were crowding into a ghetto and dragged him by his beard to a public square. There they disrobed the rabbi and instructed him to sing. When he refused to do so, they tied him to the rear of an automobile and dragged him through the streets of the city behind the speeding vehicle.

In Zhelechov, according to these same Polish prisoners, the Gestapo shot the grandson of the famous rabbi "Chofez Chaim," also a prominent Jewish leader, Chaim Meir and his brother-in-law, Berl Landau, who was an official of the Agudas Israel, and Moshe Kaliner, a famous local philanthropist from Garvolin. The Jews were first taken to work on fortifications at the front where they "were shot while trying to escape."

VATICAN RADIO BROADCASTS PASTORAL TO GERMAN PEOPLE CONDEMNING NAZI RACIAL THEORY

WASHINGTON, Jan. 28.(JTA)-- The Vatican radio today and yesterday broadcast to the German people the pastoral letter of the Bishop of Berlin, Konrad, Count von Preysing, in which he attacked Nazi racial theory, U.S. Government monitors reported today.

The pastoral was written by the Bishop of Berlin on December 12. The manuscript was smuggled out of Germany and reached the United States through neutral channels last week. A translation was brought to the attention of the United States Senate at that time by Senator James M. Mead of New York. The Vatican broadcast quoted the text of the pastoral without comment.

CLEVELAND JEWS CHARGE LOCAL HUNGARIAN LEADERS WITH ANTI-SEMITISM

CLEVELAND, Jan. 28.(JTA)-- Jews in this city have withdrawn from active participation in the communal life of the Hungarian colony here because of the open and masked anti-Jewish attitude taken by its leaders.

The anti-Semitic policy of the Hungarian Government is finding an echo among certain Hungarian groups in the United States. Only recently the Hungarian paper "A Mi Lapunk," published in Bridgeport, carried on its front page an attack on Hungarian Jews. The paper describes itself as the organ of all Hungarian Church groups in New England. The anti-Semitic article, signed by Rev. Karl Rapp, declared that "only one born of Hungarian blood is a Hungarian." The article provoked severe criticism in the "Szabadsag," a Cleveland Hungarian daily newspaper, which declared that Rev. Rapp's "blood theory" reminds one of Hitler's language.

TREES PLANTED IN PALESTINE FOR CHILDREN KILLED DURING NAZI RAID ON LONDON

LONDON, Jan. 28.(JTA)-- Forty-eight trees will be planted in the "Children's Forest" near Jerusalem in honor of the 48 school children who were killed when a bomb from a Nazi plane demolished their school during the German raid on London last week. The funds to plant the trees were raised by the Zionist Boy Scout troops here.

RABBI LAZARON CALLS ON LAYMEN NOT TO HEED RABBIS ON ZIONIST ISSUE

CINCINNATI, Jan. 28. (JTA)-- Urging Jewish laymen not to allow rabbis to do their thinking for them, Rabbi Morris S. Lazaron of Baltimore, one of the leaders of the recently-formed American Council for Judaism which opposes political Zionism, outlined his objections to Zionist political activities, addressing the 119th annual congregation dinner of the Rockdale Temple, here.

"Don't let the rabbis do your thinking for you," he said. "You of the laity must be informed on this vital issue. The time has come to choose sides in a serious matter. I do not stand with political Zionism." He added that the philosophy of political Zionism "is the philosophy of despair, assumes that our present status is hopeless and that democracy is a failure."

"I object to political Zionism," he said, "because it goes beyond the Balfour Declaration in demanding a) a Jewish army; b) unlimited Jewish immigration into Palestine with a Jewish commonwealth and Jewish control there. I object to political Zionism because it violates the Atlantic Charter. I object to political Zionism for the reason that - in one of the United Nations' most delicate moments, when the fate of millions of persons other than Jews is at stake - political Zionism loudly demands Palestine for the Jews, without consideration of possible disturbance of the United Nations' situation in relation to 17,000,000 Arabs."

"I object to political Zionism," Rabbi Lazaron continued, "because it claims, without proof, that it speaks for the Jews of America. I object to political Zionism because epithets instead of objective arguments are being used against its opponents. I object of political Zionism because terrorism and pressure are used by some of its advocates against individual non-Zionist rabbis as well as upon various Jewish communities and welfare-boards."

"I object to political Zionism," he further stated, "because its philosophy tends to separate Jews from other Americans and tends to delay our integration into the American way of life. I object to political Zionism because some of its leaders are exploiting other fellow-Jews. We could come to an agreement with moderates among Zionists on a basis that really would do more for Palestine. I object to political Zionism because it now takes the attitude that non-Zionists have lost the right to express their own non-Zionist opinion. That attitude assuredly is not of democracy."

He proposed the following program: "1. We have the right to demand equal citizenship wherever we live. 2. Reconstruction of Jewish life must be made in the war's general setting - based on realities. 3. Spiritual functioning of the world Jewish religious community must be included in the reconstruction of Jewish life. 4. We should ask England to reaffirm the Balfour Doctrine to admit all possible Jews and to ask others to help Palestine. The United Nations - not the Zionists, should decide Palestine's future."

"I resent the Zionist effort to give a Palestinian orientation to all life in America," he continued. "We need the international mind - we need to look beyond state boundaries. Zionism's danger lies in its chauvinism and in its materialistic politics. Jewish life is not dependent upon a land."