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SUMNER WELLES HAILS GEN. GIRAUD FOR ABOLISHING ANTI-JEWISH LAWS IN NORTH AFRICA

WASHINGTON, March 8.(JTA)-- Undersecretary of State Sumner Welles today hailed Gen. Henri Giraud's abolition of the anti-Jewish laws in North Africa imposed by the Vichy regime. He declared that this act is a return to the principles of individual liberty that made France great. These principles, he emphasized, are based on complete individual liberty of every kind for all inhabitants of the country.

(The abolition of the anti-Jewish laws in North Africa was announced last night over the Morocco radio which reported that Gen. Giraud had issued a statement declaring that no decree issued by the Vichy regime is valid in French Africa. His statement was followed by an announcement that the department dealing with Jewish affairs had been abolished and that a minister who had republished in the Official Gazette of Algeria two anti-Jewish decrees from the Official Gazette of the Vichy Government had been dismissed.)

The news of Gen. Giraud's action, Mr. Welles said, has been received here with the utmost measure of gratification. Gen. Giraud's blunt order outlawing the Vichy anti-Jewish laws was also enthusiastically received in various other Washington circles. It is felt here that Giraud's announcement that a decree signed in Vichy is not valid in North Africa and his dismissal of an official who tried to legalize these laws, can be interpreted as an indication of better things to come.

The Federal Communications Commission here issued for publication the full text of Gen. Giraud's announcement as broadcast last night over the Morocco radio. It reads: "The French Civil and Military High Command announces: The Journal Officiel of Algeria of March 2, 1943, has published two decrees of Oct. 19, 1942, made in Vichy, relative to the status of Jews who are natives of Algeria. This publication was made without my authority. It emanates from the Directorate of Reserved Affairs of the Government General and I immediately order its suppression. M. Bouny, Director of the Government General, has been relieved of his functions. Copies of the Journal Officiel of March 2, 1943, are withdrawn from circulation. A decree signed in Vichy is not valid in French Africa. The German occupation has interrupted the free exercise of national sovereignty. We must draw the logical consequences. All that is necessary will be done."

NAZIS IN TUNISIA IMPOSE \$400,000 FINE ON JEWISH POPULATION

LONDON, March 8.(JTA)-- The Nazi authorities in Tunisia have imposed a fine totalling approximately \$400,000, on the Jewish population of the sections still under their control, it is indicated in a dispatch from Algeria appearing in the Evening Standard tonight.

The Standard correspondent reports that when British troops entered the town of Medenine in southern Tunisia, they found posted a proclamation issued by German commander-in-chief Von Arnim imposing a twenty-million franc fine on Tunisian Jews "to provide a bombing distress fund."

SHIPS FOR TRANSPORTING JEWS FROM BULGARIA ARE DECLARED UNSEAWORTHY BY RED CROSS

LONDON, March 8.(JTA)-- Competent quarters here today stated that they are unaware of the fact, reported by a Nazi news agency, that negotiations between the Bulgarian and British governments for the emigration of 4,000 Jewish children and 500 adults from Bulgaria to Palestine have broken down.

The same quarters, however, admitted that practical difficulties have arisen in bringing the negotiations to a successful conclusion because the vessels on which the Jews are to travel have allegedly been declared unseaworthy by the Red Cross, which is to assume responsibility for the transfer of the Jews.

ARABS IN PALESTINE NOT YET READY FOR INDEPENDENCE, LONDON TIMES SAYS

LONDON, March 8.(JTA)-- The Arab population of Palestine will probably take another twenty years to reach a point of maturity where it can take care of its own destiny, the London Times writes today. The article stresses the fact that "Jews have brought prosperity to Palestine, enabling the Arabs to enjoy lavish government services."

The Jewish population of Palestine at the beginning of the year totalled 517,000, or 31.3 percent of the entire population, it was estimated today by the Statistical Department of the Jewish Agency. Of this number, 369,000 entered the country between 1919 and 1943.

Sir Ronald Storrs, former Governor of Jerusalem, in a dispatch from Palestine to the Sunday Times, yesterday, opposed demands by the Histadruth, the Palestine Labor Federation, for increased wages, pointing out that there is a danger of steep inflation. Reviewing the economic situation in Palestine, Sir Ronald stated that after the war many of the industries in the country may have to shut down because no orders will be available.

CIVIL SERVICE EMPLOYEES IN PALESTINE CALL NO-SHAVE STRIKE; ASK SALARY RAISE

JERUSALEM, March 8.(JTA)-- A no-shave strike coupled with a decision to remain in their offices indefinitely, without going home, was called here today by civil service employees of the Palestine Government, who are asking an increase in salary to meet the high cost of living.

The officials involved have not shaved for the past three days. Their protest followed unsuccessful negotiations with the Palestine administration and the presentation of a memorandum to the Palestine High Commissioner requesting that their plea be transmitted to the Colonial Secretary in London.

ASK FULL-DAY DEBATE IN BRITISH PARLIAMENT ON MEANS OF SAVING JEWS FROM NAZIS

LONDON, March 8.(JTA)-- A full-day debate in Parliament to discuss what action should be taken to save Jews in Nazi territories will be demanded by the 277 parliamentarians who have signed a motion asking the Government to rescue those Jews who can still be saved from extermination, it was reported here today.

DR. MORGENSTERN ENDORSES CONVOCAION OF AMERICAN JEWISH ASSEMBLY

OMAHA, Neb., March 8.(JTA)-- Dr. Julian Morgenstern, president of the Hebrew Union College, speaking at Temple Israel here last night, endorsed the plan to convoke an American Jewish Assembly as suggested by the recent conference of Jewish national organizations held in Pittsburgh at the invitation of the B'nai B'rith.

POLISH AUTHORITIES HAMPER EVACUATION OF POLISH JEWS FROM RUSSIA, REPORT CHARGES

NEW YORK, March 8.(JTA)-- Jewish organizations here have received a detailed report indicating how Polish military authorities prevented Jewish soldiers serving in the Polish armed forces in Russia from leaving Soviet territory for the Near East during the evacuation of the Polish Army from Russia.

The report is credited to an official of the Jewish Agency for Palestine, Elishah Rudnizki, who was sent from Jerusalem to Iran to help Polish Jews to leave Russia for Palestine. While in Iran from July 24 until September 5, 1942, Mr. Rudnizki investigated the methods employed in the evacuation both by the Russian and Polish authorities. His report, received here by various interested groups, was released by the New Zionist Organization as follows:

"From the very beginning, the families of the Polish Jewish soldiers registering for evacuation in the Polish Legation and the military headquarters in Russia, met with discriminatory treatment. Whereas the names of Polish applicants were immediately and automatically entered on the evacuation lists and no documentary evidence or investigations were required, Jews had to furnish birth and marriage certificates; they were also told that only nearest family relatives will be accepted. A few days before the date scheduled for the evacuation, the Jews who were accepted were summoned by the Polish authorities to turn in their evacuation certificates, because the N.K.V.D. (Narkomvnucl - Soviet Ministry for the Interior) allegedly did not permit the Jews to emigrate, considering them as Soviet citizens. In Wremsk (Jengajul), in Dzalal-Abad, Gazar, Kisaba and elsewhere, Jewish names were simply removed from the lists; in Karmina evacuation certificates that had already been issued were taken from Jews.

"Panic set in among the Jewish candidates for evacuation. During the month of August, they made a series of interventions with the NKVD. But the representatives of the NKVD in all cases categorically assured the Jewish delegates that, for their part, they had no objections to the emigration of the Polish Jews, and that it was their custom to approve in entirety whatever evacuation lists were submitted by the Polish authorities. The Jews cheerfully reported this reassuring Soviet answer to the Polish authorities. The latter, however, remained firm in their previous statements.

"A very significant scene took place in Wremsk, where the Jewish Delegation succeeded in arranging a kind of a 'contradictory meeting' between the local representative of the NKVD, Captain Alexandrowitch, and the Polish representatives, Colonel Sulik and Lieutenant Czerniawsky. Captain Alexandrowitch emphatically stated on this occasion that he had absolutely no objections to the emigration of Polish Jewish refugees.

"The Jewish delegation then informed the Soviet representative that in the course of an audience which it had had a few days before with the Commander-in-Chief of the Polish Army in Soviet Russia, General Anders, the latter had invoked the agreement with the Soviet authorities, which was alleged to create difficulties for the Jewish refugees. General Anders appealed to the patriotic sentiments of the Polish Jews, asking them not to approach the NKVD. Whereupon Captain Alexandrowitch exclaimed: 'Let General Anders stop playing the fool... For every Jew thrown off an evacuation train, I shall throw off a Pole...' This statement proved to be extremely effective. Col. Sulik immediately stated that he had never issued any order which would put difficulties in the path of the prospective Jewish evacuees. The Jews themselves drew up a list - the Polish authorities still refusing to do so - and 120 Jews were evacuated by the next transport. On another occasion Gen. Zhukov summoned the Chief-of-Staff of the Polish Army, General Szysko-bogusz, and, in the presence of the Jewish delegation reiterated that the Russian authorities had no objection to Jewish soldiers in the Polish Army leaving Russia.

PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT, IN MESSAGE TO U.J.A., LAUDS PRIVATE RELIEF AGENCIES

NEW YORK, March 8.(JTA)-- President Roosevelt, in a message today endorsing the 1943 campaign of the United Jewish Appeal, lauded the work of private relief agencies and emphasized that the aid given by American Jews through the U.J.A. has been "a great physical and spiritual bulwark for many victims of oppression." The message reads:

"Throughout the past decade of destruction of human life and decency by the Nazi regime, the American people have, through private relief and reconstruction agencies, manifested their deep concern and sympathy for the victims of racial and religious oppression. The preservation of the life of those whom the tyrants sought to destroy has been supported not only out of humanitarian considerations, but for the sake of sustaining the spirit of freedom and democracy in the lands where it has been temporarily crushed.

"The reconstructive help that has been extended through the United Jewish Appeal has been a great physical and spiritual bulwark for the many victims of oppression. Relief afforded to these victims overseas and aid extended to newcomers in our own country are praiseworthy humanitarian undertakings. It is my hope that the 1943 campaign of the United Jewish Appeal will make possible the continuance of this contribution to the alleviation of human suffering."

CONGRESS IS EXPECTED TO ADOPT A RESOLUTION URGING AID FOR JEWS IN EUROPE

NEW YORK, March 8.(JTA)-- Congress is expected to adopt this week a resolution condemning the Nazi massacres of Jews and urging action to save those who can still be saved, it was announced here today by Senator Alben Barkley, majority leader of the Senate.

In Albany, Governor Thomas E. Dewey today proclaimed Tuesday, March 9, as "a day to be set aside by the citizens of New York State to offer prayers to the Almighty God for the Jews who have been brutally massacred" by the Nazis in Europe.

A mass-memorial "We Will Never Die" commemorating the millions of Jewish dead in Europe will be held at Madison Square Garden tomorrow evening. More than 40,000 persons are expected to attend this memorial in which the Jewish sufferings under the Nazis will be dramatized by a cast of several hundred actors and 200 cantors. To accommodate all who have already made reservations for this memorial, a second presentation will be given on the same evening, the first double rally in the history of Madison Square Garden. Similar mass-memorials are being arranged in the largest halls in Chicago and Washington.

J.D.C. APPROPRIATES \$25,000 FOR EMIGRATION OF 600 YEMENITE JEWS TO PALESTINE

NEW YORK, March 8.(JTA)-- An emergency appropriation of \$25,000 to enable 600 Yemenite Jews to emigrate to Palestine has been made by the Joint Distribution Committee, it was announced here today. The grant of the J.D.C. is being matched by the Jewish Agency for Palestine and by relatives of the emigrants.

In making the announcement, Joseph C. Hyman, executive vice-chairman of the J.D.C., declared that many of the Yemenite Jews who recently received their Palestine immigration certificates are so destitute that they live in the streets of Aden, a port city on the Red Sea.