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GIRAUD DECREE ABOLISHES ANTI-JEWISH LAWS IN ALL NORTH AFRICA; CREMIEUX LAW REVOKED

ALGIERS, March 17.(JTA)--- A decree abolishing sixty-two anti-Jewish decrees of the Vichy regime was issued today by Gen. Henri Giraud, implementing his speech of last Sunday. At the same time he abrogated the Cremieux Law, which gave native Algerian Jews French citizenship.

Today's decree nullifies the Vichy laws in Morocco, Tunisia and West Africa as well as in Algeria. In his address Sunday, Giraud had indicated that the anti-Jewish laws in Algeria only would be revoked. (Text of the Giraud decree was not available as the Bulletin went to press.)

American and British Governments Endorse Gen. Giraud's Policy on Jews

WASHINGTON, March 17.(JTA)-- The governments of the United States and of Great Britain today endorsed the parallel abrogation by Gen. Giraud of the Cremieux law of 1870 which gave full French citizenship to the Jews of Algeria and of the Vichy anti-Jewish regulations introduced since June 22, 1940.

Official statements to this effect were issued by Prime Minister Churchill in London and by Secretary of State Cordell Hull in Washington. The statement by Churchill, made in the House of Commons today and released by the State Department, here, reads:

"His Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom formally welcome General Giraud's speech, in particular, his abolition of French legislation subsequent to June 22, 1940, his abrogation of all race distinctions between native Moslems and Jewish inhabitants, and his decision that municipal assemblies and Conseils Generaux (General Assemblies) will resume their traditional role with their members elected by the people. In order to achieve the liberation of France through victory, Frenchmen everywhere must be united, and above all, all Frenchmen outside Nazi power should act loyally against the common enemy without a day's needless delay. This object has been permitted by General Giraud's speech and the (Fighting French) National Committee's memorandum, since these show no questions of principle divide these two bodies of Frenchmen."

Secretary Hull's statement, issued to the press, declared: "Prime Minister Churchill has today made a very important statement in the House of Commons, warmly welcoming and commending General Giraud's speech of March 14, 1943. The Government of the United States is in the heartiest accord with this timely and splendid statement of the British Prime Minister and finds satisfaction in strongly commending this further step toward French unity."

Jewish Press Disappointed At Abrogation of Cremieux Decree

NEW YORK, March 17.(JTA)-- The Jewish daily newspapers here carry editorials today praising Gen. Giraud for abolishing the Vichy anti-Jewish laws but expressing puzzlement over his simultaneous abrogation of the Cremieux decree.

The explanation by Gen. Giraud that he is repealing the Cremieux law in order to end discrimination between Moslems and Jews in Algeria, since the former are not

French citizens, is disputed by the Jewish Daily Forward, largest Jewish newspaper in the world. In order to abolish inequality between the Arabs and the Jews in Algeria, the paper points out, Gen. Giraud could have granted French citizenship to the Moslems. The editorial emphasizes that under the premiership of Leon Blum, in 1936, a bill was introduced in France to grant French citizenship to the Moslem population in Algeria. This bill was never passed.

The Day, another large Jewish newspaper, in its editorial today points out that Gen. Giraud owes the world a clear explanation as to why he abrogated the Cremieux law and thus reduced the Algerian Jews from French citizens to subjects. "It is obvious that the Jews have nothing against Giraud's granting full French citizenship to the Moslems also," the editorial states.

WASHINGTON DENIES REPORTED NEGOTIATIONS WITH LATIN AMERICA FOR RESCUE OF JEWS

WASHINGTON, March 17.(JTA)-- Officials of the State Department today declared that they had heard nothing of alleged negotiations between U.S. diplomatic representatives in Latin American countries and the governments of those nations with regard to settlement of Jewish refugees from Europe in South America.

A report from Buenos Aires that such negotiations are taking place appeared in this morning's papers, stating that "a vast plan for resettling thousands of Jews and other refugees in South America currently is being studied in several important Latin American capitals as one of the most important points in the United Nations' post-war program." The report credited U. S. diplomatic representatives with "discussing the idea informally with the heads of several Latin American republics, particularly those which have severed relations with the Axis."

COUNCIL OF CHURCHES SUBMITS PROGRAM ON AID TO EUROPEAN JEWS TO OTTAWA CONFERENCE

NEW YORK, March 17.(JTA)-- The Federal Council of the Churches of Christ today made public a program for financial assistance and havens in neutral lands for European Jews, which will be presented to the Governments of the United States and Great Britain for consideration at the forthcoming Anglo-American refugee parley in Ottawa.

At the same time the Council designated May 2 for observances in churches of a "Day of Compassion" for the Jews of Europe. It also urged Christians throughout the country to give "their moral support to whatever measures afford promise of rescuing European Jews whose lives are in jeopardy."

The proposals which will be submitted to the British and American delegates at Ottawa are as follows:

"Offer financial assistance for the support of refugees that neutral governments (for example, Switzerland or Sweden, Spain, Portugal and Turkey) may receive from areas under Nazi control, as a result either of infiltration across their borders or of negotiations with the Axis powers, with the expectation that, after the war, such refugees would be repatriated in their own countries.

"Provide places of temporary asylum to which refugees whom it may be possible to evacuate from European countries may be removed, these refugees to be supported in camps for the duration of the war, with the understanding that they will then be repatriated in their own country or be provided with permanent homes in other ways."

SHERTOK OUTLINES PLAN FOR ARAB-JEWISH RELATIONS; URGES UNITED NATIONS TO BACK IT

NEW YORK, March 17.(JTA)-- Terming it a "constructive solution" of the Arab-Jewish problem in Palestine in the light of the present Jewish situation in Europe and the Arab situation in the Near East," Moshe Shertok, head of the political department of the Jewish Agency who is now on a visit to this country, to-night outlined a program which, he hopes, the major powers will accept in order "to redress once and for all the historic wrong" done to the Jews.

The program, summarized by Mr. Shertok in an address delivered at a reception tendered to him at Carnegie Hall by the American Emergency Committee for Zionist Affairs, provides: 1. Throw Palestine open to the Jews; 2. Give the Jews power to conduct immigration and settlement on a large scale and enable them to achieve statehood; 3. The Jews are to guarantee full equality of rights and full opportunities to progress to Palestine Arabs; 4. Deal with the widest generosity with the Arab countries and open the way for collaboration between a Jewish Palestine and Arab peoples throughout the Middle East.

"One hears less today of Palestine's inability to solve the Jewish problem in view of its small size," Shertok said. "It is generally realized that, if Jews are given a proper chance, they can settle in Palestine in very large numbers. But the difficulty is the Arabs. The question is in which case will a greater injustice be done? If, having achieved independence and security in vast territories, the Arabs had to give up political domination over Palestine, or if the only country where Jews can work out their salvation, were to be closed in their faces? It should not be beyond the capacity of world statesmanship to evolve a constructive synthesis between Jewish and Arab aspirations, which would resolve the conflict."

Appealing for the abrogation of the White Paper under which Jewish immigration to Palestine will be completely stopped next year, Shertok warned Britain that its White Paper policy "will simply not work." He enumerated the contributions which the Jews of Palestine have made to the Allied war effort and emphasized that "had the outbreak of the war found two million Jews in Palestine instead of half a million, the whole position of the democratic front in that part of the world would have been different. But even as it is today, Palestine turned out to be a sure bulwark of democracy in the Middle East." Jews are only one-third of the population of Palestine but they are four-fifths of the men provided by Palestine serving today, and ninety-eight percent of the women, he said. He related deeds of bravery performed by Jewish soldiers and stated that their graves were scattered from Tripoli in Syria, to Tripoli in Libya, and from Greece to Eritrea.

POST-WAR DEVELOPMENT OF PALESTINE WILL DEPEND ON FOREIGN LOANS, EXPERT SAYS

JERUSALEM, March 17.(JTA)-- Jewish economic circles here are pinning their hopes for post-war development of Palestine industries on the stock markets of New York and London.

Siegfried Hoofien, director of the Anglo-Palestine Bank, addressing a meeting here, stated that "although some capital has been accumulated in this country, the stock markets in New York and London will have to be approached for assistance in the development of our young country." Mr. Hoofien expressed the opinion that "a favorable response may be anticipated."

Economic circles here estimated today that Palestine has invested over \$200,000,000 in Imperial bonds and securities.

JEWS IN ENGLAND MOURN DEATH OF CARDINAL HINSLEY; FOUGHT AGAINST ANTI-SEMITISM

LONDON, March 17.(JTA)-- Jews throughout England today joined in mourning Arthur Cardinal Hinsley, Catholic Primate of Great Britain, who died this morning at the age of 77. Chief Rabbi Joseph Hertz addressed a message to Catholic leaders expressing the condolences of the Jewish community.

Cardinal Hinsley endeared himself to Britain's Jews for his uncompromising battle against Nazi persecution and atrocities in the occupied countries of Europe, and in Germany itself. A message he sent to a Jewish gathering last June typified his opposition to anti-Semitism in any form. At that time he stated: "The cruel persecution of the Jews simply because they are Jews is an outrage to all principles of justice and humanity. We condemn in the strongest terms the massacre of innocent people, the appalling horrors of deportations of whole populations, the hideous concentration camps and the savage methods of the Gestapo." His most recent statement on the subject was contained in a message read to a protest meeting in Westminster Cathedral early this month, which urged that steps be taken to rescue the Jews in Europe.

PUNISHING NAZIS FOR MURDERING JEWS IS NOT ENOUGH, RABBI BERLIN SAYS

NEW YORK, March 17.(JTA)-- "Punishment of the Nazi murderers for the unprecedented cruelties and mass massacres which they are committing daily against the Jewish communities in Europe, will not right the wrong that has been inflicted upon the Jewish people," Rabbi Meyer Berlin, president of the World Mizrachi Organization, last night told 800 men and women at a farewell dinner given him at the Hotel Commodore prior to his return to Palestine.

"Abolition of the Nuremberg laws and the restoration of equal rights in principle will not in themselves solve the problem of Jewish homelessness and do away with Jewish tragedy," Rabbi Berlin said. "Only the establishment of a free Jewish commonwealth in Palestine to serve as a home and a haven for the survivors of the Nazi mass massacres will create the foundation for the permanent solution of this truly urgent problem."

In tribute to his achievements, Rabbi Berlin was presented with a scroll to which scores of synagogues and organizations in the metropolitan area were signatories, certifying to the fact that they have each contributed the amount of \$100 for the inscription of his name in the Golden Book of the Jewish National Fund.

HADASSAH CABLES \$100,000 TO PALESTINE FOR JEWISH REFUGEE CHILDREN

NEW YORK, March 17.(JTA)-- The Hadassah today cabled \$100,000 to Palestine to help continue a program of education and maintenance for more than 1,000 Polish and Hungarian Jewish refugee children who entered the country within the last month.

A total of \$200,000 has been sent by Hadassah since January 12 to Miss Henrietta Szold, who heads the Youth Aliyah movement in Jerusalem under whose auspices the children were brought to Palestine, it was announced.

DR. ROBERT SONNENMARK, CZECH JEWISH LEADER, DIES IN DACHAU CONCENTRATION CAMP

LONDON, March 17.(JTA)-- Dr. Robert Sonnenmark, prominent Czech Jewish leader, has died in the notorious Dachau concentration camp in Germany, where he had been interned since 1939, according to information reaching Czechoslovakian circles here today. Dr. Sonnenmark was a member of the executive committee of the Zionist Federation of Czechoslovakia and was a leader of the Jewish party there.