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POST-WAR RECONSTRUCTION PLAN FOR PALESTINE ANNOUNCED BY GOVERNMENT

JERUSALEM, March 24. (JTA)-- The Palestine Government today announced a sweeping post-war reconstruction plan for Palestine and appointed Sir Douglas Harris, chairman of the Palestine War Supply Board, as special commissioner to put the plan into effect "within the space of a few years."

Details of the plan, as announced by the Palestine High Commissioner, Sir Harold MacMichael, provide for reconstruction activities in the fields of public works, education, care for sick, insurance against disabilities or ill-health, as well as irrigation, drainage and private building. They also indicate that the Palestine administration intends to deal with the problem of post-war unemployment and is considering the possibility of introducing some government control over private industries.

The project will be financed either by funds from local Palestinian sources or by money borrowed in London, the High Commissioner stated. He warned, however, that limitations can be expected in securing any funds from London, since countries which in the present war suffered less than others, as is the case with Palestine, will also receive less financial support from England for their post-war reconstruction needs.

Jews Ready to Cooperate if White Paper Policy is Abolished

Jewish leaders here today stated that they will be only too glad to cooperate with Sir Douglas, providing that the post-war reconstruction work will not be conducted along the lines of the White Paper policy of the British Government, which restricts the Jewish acquisition of land and stops Jewish immigration into Palestine next spring.

In a radio broadcast today, the High Commissioner expressed the hope that the Jews "will doubtless be ready to cooperate" in the study of post-war problems which the office of Sir Douglas will undertake. "The Jewish community," he said, "has already done much along the lines of social security. The Arabs are less provided for. There is much to do." He emphasized that Palestine is essentially an agricultural country and pointed out that "the need for constructive work by and in behalf of the rural population is at least as great as in the towns."

"The precise scope and pace of the reconstruction must remain uncertain for the present, but to neglect planning at this stage is to accept defeat or relegate any sort of progress to a dim, vague and distant future," Sir Harold declared. At the same time he expressed hope that the reconstruction project will be carried out within "a few years."

Touching on the problem of post-war unemployment, the High Commissioner said that this problem will be "inevitably serious" at the time of the demobilization of Palestine's man power. Its solution will have to be bound up with the post-war reconstruction scheme, he said. With regard to Palestine's industry, he indicated that only those industries will be selected for "encouragement and protection" which have a good chance to survive under local conditions and in the face of foreign competition.

HOUSE-TO-HOUSE RAIDS ON JEWS IN GERMANY; "JEWISH" LABOR DRAFT ORDERED IN RUMANIA

STOCKHOLM, March 24.(JTA)-- House-to-house round-ups of Jews for deportation to Nazi-occupied eastern territory are reported today to be taking place throughout Germany in an effort to complete the process of making the Reich "judenrein" by the end of this month.

The Berlin radio also reported today that all Jews in Rumania between 18 and 50 years of age have been ordered to report to the local authorities. A special "Jewish manpower draft" has been proclaimed for the purpose of putting Jews to forced labor on public works connected with Rumania's military interests, the broadcast said.

NEUTRAL COUNTRIES DISCOURAGED; WANT ANGLO-AMERICAN GUARANTEES ON REFUGEES

BERN, March 24.(JTA)-- Considerable interest has been aroused in government circles here by the announcement in the House of Lords yesterday that Britain and the United States have reached an understanding on a program for rescuing Nazi victims in Europe, which will be implemented at the forthcoming Anglo-American conference on refugee problems.

It was pointed out here today that the announcement is discouraging for neutral countries insofar as it contained no reference whatsoever to possible moral and material support for those neutral lands which are maintaining refugees who succeeded in escaping from the Nazis. This feeling of discouragement has been aggravated by the fact that Viscount Cranborne, in making the announcement in the House of Lords, emphasized the fact that Britain has given shelter to only 150,000 refugees. Switzerland alone is now sheltering and feeding 20,000 people who have fled from Nazi territory.

It was predicted here today that as a result of the failure of Britain and the United States to guarantee that refugees now sheltered in Switzerland will eventually be allowed to enter British or American territories, it can be expected that all neutral governments bordering Germany will henceforth guard their frontiers even more closely than hitherto. "Thousands upon thousands of persecuted people are still hoping for the day when they will be able to cross the German frontier into a neutral country; it is therefore the duty of the Allied powers to make, as soon as possible, binding declarations assuring the neutral governments of extensive moral and material support for all refugees admitted as well as guarantees that they will not remain in the neutral countries when the war is over," a spokesman for a relief organization stated, summarizing the views prevailing here.

British Press Asks Immediate Anglo-American Action to Aid Nazi Victims

LONDON, March 24.(JTA)-- The British press, almost without exception, commenting today on the debate concerning aid for European Jews in the House of Lords yesterday demands immediate concrete measures by the Allied Government to rescue these and other victims of the Nazis.

The Daily Express supports the suggestion that one man be appointed to consolidate all rescue efforts, and asks that a person be chosen "who is determined to do his utmost." The Daily Telegraph writes that "the most elementary sense of humanity urges that no succor within the power of the United Nations be denied to these victims of a persecution which is unique in its coldbloodedness."

The Yorkshire Post, Foreign Minister Anthony Eden's paper, referring specifically to Lord Cranborne's announcement that the British and American Governments have agreed on means of rescuing the oppressed people in occupied countries, points out that more, perhaps, will depend on the spirit with which this machinery is administered than on the machinery itself.

DR. SOMMERSTEIN ASKED BY RUSSIAN AUTHORITIES TO ACCEPT SOVIET CITIZENSHIP

TEL AVIV, March 24. (JTA)-- Dr. Emil Sommerstein, former Jewish member of the Polish Parliament, who is now among the Polish-Jewish refugees in Russia, has been asked by the Russian authorities to voluntarily accept Soviet citizenship, according to a reliable report reaching here from Teheran.

In suggesting to Dr. Sommerstein that he become a Russian citizen, the Soviet authorities pointed out that he was born in one of the Polish provinces which the Soviet Government now considers part of the U.S.S.R. as a result of the plebiscite conducted there in 1939. Dr. Sommerstein, the report states, is now living in the city of Sizran, on the Volga, after having left a hospital near Saratov, in the Volga district, where he was treated for many weeks for a serious illness. His health at present is believed to be satisfactory, the Teheran report says.

Representatives of the Soviet Embassy in Teheran arrived in Jerusalem today to open negotiations with medical institutions and factories for the purchase of medicaments and surgical instruments for military hospitals in Russia.

10,000 JEWS DEPORTED FROM BULGARIA TO GERMANY; 30,000 MORE TO FOLLOW

ZURICH, March 24. (JTA)-- The Nazi Transocean news agency today reported that 10,000 Bulgarian Jews deported to Germany have arrived there. Some will be sent to Poland, while others will be used as slave labor in German cities devastated by Allied bombing and for agricultural work. About 30,000 more Jews will be deported from Bulgaria for the same purposes, the report stated.

At the same time, the Nazi-controlled Lyons radio today reported from Sofia that "the Bulgarian Government has banned Jewish students from schools and universities for the next school year." The Transocean agency supplemented this report with a dispatch stating that all Jewish students have already been expelled from the Sofia University.

PALESTINE GOVERNMENT INTENDS TO INTRODUCE COMMUNAL FEEDING

LONDON, March 24. (JTA)-- The Palestine Government intends to subsidize the sale of essential foodstuffs in the country and to introduce communal feeding in order to combat the increase in the cost of living, it was announced here today by Captain Oliver Stanley, Colonial Secretary.

Speaking in the House of Commons, Capt. Stanley said that prices on essential commodities in Palestine have risen about 150 percent. The wages of the lowest paid workers, he said, have risen accordingly. He emphasized that the Palestine Government is determined to introduce increased taxation "for those able to bear it."

Arabs and Jews Submit Joint Protest Against Increased Taxation in Palestine

JERUSALEM, March 24. (JTA)-- Jewish and Arab mayors of Palestine as well as representatives of the local chambers of commerce today submitted a joint statement to the Palestine Government objecting to the increased taxation which the government is proposing.

It is understood that the Palestine administration, confronted with the opposition of Arabs and Jews, may amend it slightly. Jewish leaders here today charged that the Palestine Government is using eighty percent of the tax paid by Jews for projects benefiting the Arabs, solely.

NAVAL VESSEL NAMED AFTER COMMODORE LEVY TO BE LAUNCHED ON SUNDAY

NEWARK, N.J., March 24.(JTA)-- A destroyer escort vessel named after Commodore Uriah P. Levy, who served in the United States Navy from the War of 1812 until the Civil War and who was the highest ranking officer in the Navy at the time of his death in 1862, will slide down the ways in Port Newark this Sunday afternoon. It is to be launched by Mrs. Charles Mayhoff of New York City, a niece of the Commodore.

Levy, who is credited with being father of the law that abolished corporal punishment in the Navy, had a stormy career studied by a duel in which he killed his adversary and several court-martials. In 1844 he was retired from active service despite his bitter protests and it was not until ten years later that a special board of inquiry rendered a judgment in his favor and he was restored to duty. The evidence at the inquiry indicated that he had been retired because of anti-Semitic prejudice.

In the war of 1812 he commanded an American raider which destroyed more than twenty British vessels before it was captured by a larger English craft and Levy imprisoned until the end of hostilities. He led naval expeditions to suppress piracy in the Gulf of Mexico and to wipe out the slave trade along the coast of Honduras. He is buried in Cypress Hills cemetery in New York City.

LEADERS OF 80 JEWISH COMMUNITY CENTERS TO CONFER ON WAR-TIME DISLOCATION

NEW YORK, March 24.(JTA)-- Leading laymen representing 80 Jewish community centers in Greater New York, Long Island and Westchester will gather on Sunday, March 28, at the Hotel Commodore to discuss the effect of war time dislocations, it was announced here today. A service flag representing 5,000 members of the 80 Jewish community centers will be dedicated by Frank L. Weil, national president of the Jewish Welfare Board, who will pay special tribute to center members from the New York area who have been cited for bravery in action.

A good neighbor project for the out-of-towner, especially in defense areas, is developing into an important phase of community center activity, according to the Jewish Community Center of Detroit. In a report to the Jewish Welfare Board, the parent organization for this and over 300 Jewish centers and YMHA groups, this center says that as a result of the influx of workers into defense towns and cities, many young men and women - some of them only 17 or 18 years old who are away from home for the first time - all have a similarity of problems because of dislocation.

JEWISH FLYER RECEIVES FIVE DECORATIONS FOR VALOR; PARTICIPATED IN THIRTY COMBAT FLIGHTS

NEW YORK, March 24.(JTA)-- First Lieutenant Norman Segal of New York City has received five decorations for valor as navigator of American Flying Fortresses over enemy territory in Europe and in North Africa, it was disclosed yesterday.

Lieutenant Segal holds the Distinguished Flying Cross, the Air Medal and three Oak Leaf clusters. He participated in the daylight bombing of Abbeville and Rouen last August and was with one of the bomber units in the Dieppe raid. He flew in thirty combat operations against the Germans and Italians in North Africa. One month ago he was sent home to teach other young Americans how to navigate bombers. He is an instructor at a flying field in Tampa, Fla. He is 23 years old and has been in the flying service two and one-half years.