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HOUSE IMMIGRATION COMMITTEE DEMANDS REPRESENTATION AT BERMUDA CONFERENCE

WASHINGTON, April 15.(JTA)-- Members of the House today expressed dissatisfaction at the fact that not a single member of the House Immigration Committee has been included in the American delegation to the Bermuda Conference on refugees which opens on Monday in Hamilton to discuss immigration and other matters concerning refugee aid.

A resolution introduced by Representative Noah M. Mason of Illinois, ranking Republican of the House Immigration Committee, would empower Speaker Sam Rayburn, Texas Democrat, to appoint three members of the Committee as an official delegation of the House to report on the Bermuda Conference in addition to the three delegates already named by the State Department. Representative Mason termed his resolution "an impersonal protest against the fact that no member of the House Immigration Committee that will have to pass on legislation concerning refugees was invited to the Conference."

Supporting this resolution is Congressman Samuel Dickstein of New York, who is the chairman of the House Immigration Committee. In a statement today he insisted that members of his group sit in on the conference at Bermuda. He also criticized the statements that no more refugees could be admitted to this country under present immigration laws. He emphasized that 500,000 visas are available under unused quotas of the past five years.

"The world is afire, and the United States must do their share," he declared. He appealed to the American people to admit more refugees from Europe and criticized a recent statement made by Prime Minister Winston Churchill, who said that Britain has admitted all the refugees it can. "Palestine could absorb between 300,000 and 400,000 more," Dickstein stated.

"OPTIMISTIC ESTIMATES" INDICATE ONLY 350,000 JEWS STILL REMAIN ALIVE IN POLAND

LONDON, April 15.(JTA)-- The "most optimistic estimates" indicate that the total number of Jews in all of Poland at present - including those in the ghettos, in camps and living in non-Jewish areas - does not exceed 350,000, as compared with the 3,500,000 Jews who lived in Poland before the outbreak of the war, according to an appeal from Polish Jewish leaders reaching here today through emissaries of the underground organizations.

The appeal beseeches the democratic nations to take some concrete action, since "all the remnants of Polish Jewry are threatened with immediate annihilation."

Other reports reaching here today from Poland, via devious channels, state that 15,000 Jews living in the Sanok district have been massacred. They were first taken to the Zaslaw concentration camp near Zagorze, from where, after a few days, 10,000 were taken to Belzec, where they were shot or burned alive. The other 5,000 were also gradually shifted to Belzec where they met the same fate. At present there are still about 1,000 young Jews confined in the Zaslaw camp who are employed at forced labor by the Germans.

This report also reveals that many young Jews, faced with deportation or death, are continuing to flee to the woods and forests where they are joining guerrilla bands.

NEW RUMANIAN ORDER TIGHTENS ANTI-JEWISH ECONOMIC RESTRICTIONS; VETERANS GAIN SLIGHTLY

ZURICH, April 15.(JTA)-- The recent order by the Rumanian Government which was touted as liberalizing the laws regarding the expropriation of Jewish property, actually is aimed at speeding up the confiscation of all such property, it is revealed in a report carried by the Bucharest financial paper, Argus, which reached here today.

Argus publishes a statement made this week by the Under-Secretary for "Rumanization" of Jewish property, in which he defends the exemptions granted to war veterans and a few other limited categories. Answering criticism of the provisions of the order which enable a Rumanian to take over the property belonging to his Jewish wife, the Secretary said: "What is wrong with a Rumanian war hero getting the property of his Jewish wife, thus enabling his children to live?"

The official emphasized that while a law of 1941 exempted Jews who had performed "special services" from the anti-Jewish economic regulations, the new order makes it possible to rescind such exemptions. He also pointed out that the eviction of Jews from buildings "they are no longer entitled to occupy" has been simplified. The only advantage gained by Jews under the new order seems to be that those who were naturalized for courage in the last war, instead of being decorated, are now placed on the same footing as medal holders.

SIXTY POLISH-JEWISH REFUGEES DIED IN IRAN DURING PAST YEAR

LONDON, April 15.(JTA)-- Sixty Jews were among the 2,637 Polish refugees who died in Persia during the last twelve months, it was reported today in Dziennik Polski, semi-official organ of the Polish Government-in-Exile.

London newspapers today report from Sweden that following the recent heavy Allied air raid on Berlin, the Nazis deported all Jews from the city to an "unknown destination" in the east.

PROTEST SENT TO ROOSEVELT ON ALLEGED ANTI-JEWISH NOTES IN CATHOLIC NEW TESTAMENT

NEW YORK, April 15.(JTA)-- A protest over statements alleged to be anti-Semitic in a Roman Catholic version of the New Testament, distributed to Catholics in the armed forces, has been wired to President Roosevelt, it was announced today by Kenneth Leslie, chairman of the Protestant Text Book Commission to Eliminate anti-Semitic Statements in American Textbooks.

Mr. Leslie directed the President's attention to a footnote in the version which, he declared, "is bound to make serious trouble and cause disunity." The book referred to by the committee was printed by the United States government printing office in Washington, under the direction of the chief of chaplains, and it is understood to have been widely distributed to forces overseas.

The footnote quoted by Mr. Leslie in the wire reads: "The Jews are the synagogue of Satan." This, he added, is "quite at variance with the text on the same page." The expression, Mr. Leslie said, is a typical anti-Semitic statement from the fascist and anti-Semitic dictionary of Charles E. Coughlin. On another page of the version appears the subhead: "Israel's Fall the Gentile's Salvation."

Denial that the two statements reflect anti-Semitism was expressed by a Catholic authority, who added that he thought it was unwise at this time to provoke a controversy. He pointed out that both statements are included in the St. James version of the Bible and that the "synagogue of Satan" (Revelation 2:8-9) refers solely to the synagogue at Smyrna and not to the entire race.

CHICAGO MEETING, ATTENDED BY 20,000, URGES UNITED NATIONS TO SAVE EUROPEAN JEWS

CHICAGO, April 15.(JTA)-- More than 20,000 Jews and non-Jews crowded the Chicago Stadium here last night at a mass-meeting condemning the Nazi extermination of Jews and urging the United Nations to take immediate and effective measures to save Jews from Nazi Europe.

The meeting adopted a resolution asking that the European Jews be rescued, which will be forwarded to President Roosevelt with the request that it be submitted to the Bermuda Conference. The resolution, in addition to pleading for the rescue of Jews, also urges the revision of the U. S. immigration regulations to permit the entry of refugees from Nazi-held territories. It also demands the opening of Palestine for Jewish immigration, and asks the United Nations to intervene with the Latin-American countries to secure modification of their immigration regulations in order that more refugees from Europe might be admitted.

The principal speakers at the meeting included Judge Joseph Proskauer, president of the American Jewish Committee; Dr. Stephen S. Wise, president of the American Jewish Congress; Henry Monsky, president of the B'nai B'rith; Adolf Held, president of the Jewish Labor Committee; Governor Dwight H. Green of Illinois; Senator Brooks of Illinois and Senator Truman of Missouri. Federal Judge William J. Campbell presided.

Delegate to Bermuda Speaks of Conference Plans

Senator Lucas of Illinois, who is one of the three American delegates who will represent the U. S. Government at the Bermuda Conference on refugees, addressing the audience over the telephone from Washington, read part of a letter addressed to him by President Roosevelt, appointing him one of the American representatives at Bermuda. President Roosevelt emphasized in his letter that "a very serious situation exists in many parts of this world because of the policy so viciously prosecuted by the Nazi Government to persecute religious, national and political groups who have incurred their wrath."

The Bermuda conference, Senator Lucas told the meeting in the course of his address, "expects to explore and develop all facts with respect to the persecution and extermination of the peoples of Europe under the Nazi regime, and submit at once to the executive committee of the Inter-Governmental Committee on Refugees our report in detail with recommendations."

Governor Green of Illinois, addressing the meeting, urged immediate action to rescue the Jews and other peoples persecuted by the Nazis. "Every day until victory is achieved will cost the lives of more helpless Jews in Nazi-dominated lands unless we can by some bargain or agreement, obtain their release or insure their safety," he said. The audience was also touched by the address of Rev. Harold Rop, of the Chicago Church Federation, who declared that "the Statue of Liberty will be veiled in gloom if no urgent measures are taken to save Jews from the Nazis."

Feeding of Nazi Victims in Occupied Countries Is Demanded

The twelve-point resolution adopted at the mass-meeting also demanded that "the United Nations should provide financial guarantees to all such neutral states as will give temporary refuge to Jews coming from Nazi-occupied territories and to provide for their feeding and maintenance and eventual evacuation.

"In view of the fact that mass starvation is the design of the Nazi regime, the United Nations should take appropriate steps without delay to organize a system for the feeding of the victims of Nazi oppression who are unable to leave the jurisdiction and control of the Axis," the resolution says.

PALESTINE JEWS MOURN DEATH IN ACTION OF BRIGADIER FREDERICK KISCH

JERUSALEM, April 15.(JTA)-- Jews throughout Palestine today mourned the death in action of Brigadier Frederick Herman Kisch, chief engineer of the British Eighth Army, and, perhaps, the outstanding Jewish officer in the British forces. His death from a mine explosion during the advance on Sousse, Tunisia, was announced in Cairo yesterday.

Brigadier Kisch, who was 55 years old, had an eventful military career dating back to 1909. He served with distinction in the last war and was thrice wounded and twice decorated, receiving the British DSO and the French Croix de Guerre. Since re-entering military service in 1939, Kisch had played an important role in the British campaigns in the Middle East. He is credited with constructing the fortifications at El Alamein, where the British held the Afrika Corps last year, and from where they launched their present victorious offensive.

In 1922 Kisch, who had previously devoted himself to a military and diplomatic career, decided to throw in his lot with the Zionist cause. From 1923 to 1931 he was a member of the Zionist Executive in Palestine in charge of the political department. In 1929 he visited the United States in connection with Palestine matters and was given an official reception by Mayor Walker of New York City who hailed him as the outstanding British-Jewish hero of World War I.

Brigadier Kisch was born in India where his father was an important British official. He was educated in England at Clifton College and the Royal Military Academy. He joined the Royal Engineers in 1909, serving with them in the last war in France and Mesopotamia. He was promoted to lieutenant-colonel and became a general staff officer to General Sir G. Macdonogh, being recognized as one of the most promising staff officers of his generation. As a result of wounds he became temporarily unfit for service and in 1917 and 1918 was employed by the British Military Intelligence. He was a British delegate to the Versailles Peace Conference in 1919, and was at one time attached to the British Embassy in Paris. He was the author of "Palestine Diary," published in 1938. Brigadier Kisch re-entered military service in 1939.

Weizmann to Speak Today on Kisch at Memorial Meeting in New York

NEW YORK, April 15.(JTA)-- Dr. Chaim Weizmann, president of the Jewish Agency for Palestine, will be the principal speaker at a memorial meeting for Brigadier Kisch, which will be held in the offices of the American Emergency Committee for Zionist Affairs. Brigadier Kisch was one of Dr. Weizmann's close collaborators both during the years when Kisch was a member of the World Zionist Executive and later when he retired to private life in Palestine.

MISSOURI STATE LEGISLATURE DEMANDS JEWISH COMMONWEALTH IN PALESTINE

ST. LOUIS, April 15.(JTA)-- The Missouri State Legislature today enacted a bill calling upon President Roosevelt, Secretary of State Hull and the United States Congress to use their influence with the United Nations to secure the establishment of a Jewish Commonwealth in Palestine as part of the peace settlement.

The bill was introduced in the House by Representative Mrs. Alex Langsdorf, wife of the Dean of the School of Engineering at Washington University, and in the Senate by Senator Joseph A. Falzone.