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GESTAPO SEARCHES FOR TENS OF THOUSANDS OF "MISSING" JEWS IN FRANCE, BELGIUM

LONDON, May 16.(JTA)-- Tens of thousands of Jews are reported "missing" in France, Belgium and Holland as a result of their hiding from the occupation authorities who seek to deport them, Allied circles here were informed today.

Special formations of the German police assisted by Gestapo units and by local police forces are constantly searching for these victims whose whereabouts cannot be established because of the aid which the fugitive Jews receive from the underground movement, backed by the bulk of the local populations. The search has been going on for weeks in towns, farms, villages and even on trains and in street cars, which are stopped at random while passengers are forced to show identification papers indicating that they are not Jewish.

In a number of French and Belgian towns, whole blocks are surrounded by the police in the hope that Jews will be found hidden in the houses. Non-Jewish homes suspected of sheltering escaped Jews are raided at night. None of these measures bring substantial results and most of the fugitives are still at large, leaders of the Allied Information Office here said, on the basis of information which they have received from France and Belgium.

ALL JEWISH OFFICIALS IN NORTH AFRICA RESTORED TO OFFICE; RECEIVE FULL BACK PAY

LONDON, May 16.(JTA)-- All Jewish officials in North Africa who were ousted from office in June, 1940, as a result of the anti-Jewish legislation promulgated at that time by the Vichy Government, have been restored to their positions by the Giraud administration, according to an announcement by the Minister of the Interior for French North Africa, reported in the London press today. The report adds that these officials have been given back salaries for the entire period they were out of office.

(The Associated Press reported from Tunisia yesterday that all anti-Semitic measures introduced there by the Axis powers have been revoked. The Jewish Council, which had been suppressed by the Nazi authorities, has been reestablished.)

HOUSE OF COMMONS URGED TO FORCE GOVERNMENT TO AID JEWS IN OCCUPIED COUNTRIES

LONDON, May 16.(JTA)-- Appealing to the House of Commons to compare the results of the Bermuda Conference with what could and should have been done, the Manchester Guardian today declares that the government must be forced to do more.

In an editorial in connection with the forthcoming debate in Commons on the Bermuda parley, which is scheduled for this week, the Guardian wants to know what the Colonial Office has done so far to expedite the emigration of Jews from the Balkan countries to Palestine. It cites the statement by Colonial Secretary Oliver Stanley some months ago to the effect that 4,000 children and 500 adults were to be evacuated from Bulgaria to Palestine, and asks why they haven't been taken out of Bulgaria as yet.

Since the declaration condemning Nazi atrocities, which was issued in December, the United Nations have done nothing practical to aid the oppressed Jews and other peoples in occupied countries, the Guardian continues. It scores the "defeatist" state of mind of the British Government and supports the program of rescue advanced this week by a group of prominent parliamentarians.

JOINT STATEMENT BY ROOSEVELT AND CHURCHILL ON JEWISH PLIGHT DEMANDED BY CONGRESSMAN

WASHINGTON, May 16.(JTA)-- A suggestion that Prime Minister Churchill's presence in the United States be utilized by President Roosevelt and by Mr. Churchill for the issuance of a joint statement on the Jewish sufferings in Nazi Europe, was advanced here by Congressman Arthur G. Klein of New York in a lengthy review of the Nazi atrocities against Jews inserted in the Congressional Record.

"The time for complacency if, since the advent of Hitler, it should ever have existed, is gone," Congressman Klein said. "An entire people are being systematically slaughtered and destroyed. Public opinion should be aroused to such an extent that some immediate action will be instituted by our Government in conjunction with our allies to save the lives of these remaining unfortunate Jews, who are destined to be murdered like cattle unless some forthright evidence of official indignation is forthcoming.

"If, while Mr. Churchill is here in Washington, a joint statement were issued by our great President and the great Prime Minister of England, condemning these atrocities, and stating that official action would soon be instituted, it would not only give heart to those of us here at home who are so vitally interested, but would revive the hope and faith of those poor suffering people who are so hopeless at present. It would also serve notice on the Nazi brutes that the civilized peoples of the world will not condone or forgive their brutal action toward an innocent minority, and that retribution will surely follow. Some such official action will, I am sure, have a startling and salutary effect in easing the situation somewhat, so that final plans for the evacuation of, at least, some of these unfortunates, may be made."

Touching upon the Bermuda Conference, Congressman Klein declared that the apparent purpose of this conference "was not even to discuss the Jewish dilemma." He pointed to the fact that the official communiques of the conference did not even mention the word "Jew."

"The conference," he stated, "did not have the power or the authority to take any action other than to advise their respective governments of their 'explorations.' They could not do anything 'now' toward alleviating the terrible plight of the millions of Jews facing destruction in the immediate future. They could not do anything 'now' about feeding the millions of starving Jews in the ghettos of Europe. Nor could they do anything 'now' about bringing out of the hell-hole of Nazi-occupied Europe, some of the thousands of young and innocent children whose lives could still be saved, and who could still be rehabilitated."

UNITED NATIONS WILL REDEEM JEWISH HOPES, SECRETARY HULL SAYS

NEW YORK, May 16.(JTA)-- Assurance that the United Nations will solve the Jewish problem after the war so that the Jews will be free and equal citizens in all parts of the world was given by Secretary of State Cordell Hull in a message made public today by the Synagogue Council of America. The message was addressed to the Council on the occasion of the six-week period of mourning and intercession for the Jews of Europe.

"Of all the inhuman and tyrannical acts of Hitler and his Nazi lieutenants, their systematic persecution of the Jewish people - men, women, children - is the most debased," Secretary Hull said. "The fate of these unhappy people must be ever before us in the effort we are making today for the final victory. The United Nations will be prepared not only to redeem their hopes of a future world based upon freedom, equality and justice, but to create a world in which such a tragedy will not again occur. The Jews have long sought a refuge. I believe that we must have an even wider objective; we must have a world in which Jews, like every other race, are free to abide in peace and in honor."

S.S. . . HAYM SALOMON WILL BE LAUNCHED TODAY IN BALTIMORE YARDS

BALTIMORE, May 16.(JTA)-- A ten-thousand ton Liberty Ship named after Haym Salomon, the Polish immigrant Jew who helped to finance the American Revolutionary War, will be launched here tomorrow at the Fairfield Yards of the Bethlehem Shipbuilding Corporation. Representatives of the Jewish community and of church groups will be among those who will attend the ceremony.

APOLOGY BY COMMITTEE FOR A JEWISH ARMY PUBLISHED IN CONGRESSIONAL RECORD

WASHINGTON, May 16.(JTA)-- Senator Edwin C. Johnson of Colorado has made public in the Congressional Record the text of a letter he received from Peter H. Bergson, national director of the Committee for a Jewish Army of Stateless and Palestinian Jews, stating that "it was not the intention" of the Committee to use the names of certain senators for an unauthorized endorsement of the contents of an advertisement in which the Committee termed the Bermuda Conference a "cruel mockery."

"In the course of the last week," the letter reads, "some of your distinguished colleagues have expressed, on the floor of the Senate, their dissatisfaction with the publication of their names in connection with an advertisement published by our committee. To our complete surprise, a list of names of signatories of the proclamation on the moral rights of the stateless and Palestinian Jews, appended to a quotation from that document and placed in a separate box to the left of our May 4 advertisement in the New York Times has been interpreted as using those names for an unauthorized endorsement of the contents of that advertisement.

"On behalf of all my colleagues on the executive board, and myself, I wish to assure you that this definitely was not our intention and that nothing was further from our minds. We are extremely sorry that such an interpretation has been made and we wish to take this opportunity to express to you and your colleagues our sincere regrets. Please convey our apology to those of your distinguished colleagues in the United States Senate who have taken this view," the letter concludes.

JEWISH NATIONAL FUND ACQUIRES 13,000 DUNAMS OF LAND DURING WAR

TEL AVIV, May 16.(JTA)-- In spite of rising prices and increasing technical and legal difficulties, the Jewish National Fund has acquired 13,000 dunams of land in Palestine since the outbreak of war, Dr. A. Granovsky, one of the Board of Directors of the J.N.F., revealed, addressing a press conference here today.

The Jewish National Fund, he said, is now carrying out a program intended to secure a sound basis for the economic post-war development of Palestine. The program includes the preparing of land reserves to be used in the first place for the settlement of demobilized Jewish soldiers as well as of new immigrants and refugee children after the completion of their training; and the acquisition of urban areas in the vicinity of Jerusalem, Tel Aviv, Haifa and the larger colonies for the erection of dwellings in cooperation with building societies. A total of \$600,000 has already been invested by such societies in land acquired through the Keren Kayemeth.

Plans have also been prepared, Dr. Granovsky continued, to acquire land for industrial development and the housing of industrial workers. In this connection Dr. Granovsky revealed that the Jewish National Fund has received a concession on an area of 4,700 dunams situated on the seashore north of Herzlia. This area, he said, will be used for the development of urban settlements and industrial plants, as well as for the establishment of health resorts.