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GERMAN RED CROSS CHARGED WITH OBSTRUCTING INTERNATIONAL RED CROSS AID FOR JEWS

LONDON, May 24.(JTA)-- The British Red Cross today charged the Red Cross of Germany with deliberately obstructing communication between Jewish inhabitants of the ghettos and their relatives in England. It also warned Jews in the democratic countries that it is not advisable to send letters to their families in Nazi-occupied territories when they know that the families have either fled or been deported by the Nazis.

The charge of non-cooperation by the Nazis was made at a press conference arranged by the Red Cross here at which it was stated that "whatever can be done to maintain contact between Jews in the ghettos and their relatives in Britain is being done." Some messages, the speakers declared, reach their destinations after three or four months. They emphasized, however, that "the German Red Cross is unwilling to help in this particular work" and thus it becomes more and more difficult to contact Jews in Nazi-held countries.

In warning against sending letters to Jews whom the Nazis have deported to unknown destinations, the representatives of the British Red Cross pointed out that sending letters to such persons "sometimes endangers the persons concerned."

It was announced at the conference that the activities of the Red Cross have been curtailed in Poland and in the Baltic countries, while the Czechoslovakian Red Cross has been completely disbanded by the Nazi occupation authorities.

Nazis Confiscate Food Parcels Sent to Jews, Evidence Shows

STOCKHOLM, May 24.(JTA)-- Evidence that the German authorities are confiscating food parcels sent by relatives abroad to Jews in Nazi-held territories is published in the local newspapers today.

A Jewish refugee from Germany now living in Sweden lodged a complaint with a Swedish bank through which he sent a parcel to a relative known to be held by the Nazis in the fortress city of Theresienstadt in the Czech Protectorate. The bank, which deals with a German export-import firm, Heinrich Schmidt in Hamburg, received an "explanation" from the latter, the text of which, as published in the press here, reads;

"Investigations regarding the parcel show that the consignment has been confiscated by the German authorities because the addressee was not an 'Aryan.' It is hopeless to negotiate for any compensation."

INTERMENT OF THOUSANDS OF JEWISH REFUGEES BY JAPAN REPORTED IN NAZI BROADCAST

STOCKHOLM, May 24.(JTA)-- The Nazi-controlled radio station in Norway today reported that "ninety percent of all of the 15,000 refugees from Europe who arrived in Shanghai since 1934, have been interned by the Japanese authorities."

The refugees, the majority of whom are Jews, have been confined in a special area in the Yangtze basin, the Nazi broadcast said.

JEWISH ORGANIZATIONS IN PALESTINE LAUNCH CAMPAIGN FOR MORE CHILDREN

JERUSALEM, May 24.(JTA) -- Concerned over the decline of the birth rate among Jews in Palestine, central Jewish organizations, including the Jewish National Council and the Hadassah, held a joint conference here today at which it was decided to launch a propaganda campaign in the Yishuv to popularize larger families.

It was pointed out by several speakers that the present decline in the birth rate seriously threatens the future of the Jews in Palestine. The average European Jewish family in Palestine has about one child, while the average Arab family has four. Jewish families from oriental countries tend to have larger families, but the Jewish birth rate is on the average only one-third of the Arab birth rate.

Even increased Jewish immigration may not fill the gap between the future Arab population and the Jewish, if the birth rate among Jews remains stationary, it was stated at the conference. Fear was expressed that while the Arab population in Palestine is growing, the Jewish population may proportionately decline until it reaches a point where it will endanger the development of Jewish life in the country.

A gathering of representatives of Jewish institutions from all parts of the country will be held in the near future, as a result of today's conference.

BRITISH REPORT BATTLE IN WARSAW GHETTO REACHING FINAL STAGE

LONDON, May 24.(JTA) -- The British Broadcasting Corporation, in a Polish-language broadcast to Europe, said today that the battles precipitated in the Warsaw ghetto by Nazi execution squads "have reached the final stage."

"The heroic defense of the Jewish heroes is still going on in a few points of resistance and the Jewish military organization is still active," said the broadcast. "Further news from Poland reports about the terrible bestiality of the German who advance from house to house.

"The Jewish council of the ghetto has been executed by firing squads," the broadcast continued. "Many Jews have been burned alive, thousands have been shot. Germans have set entire streets afire to get the defenders out of their homes. Anybody who tries to escape from the ghetto is shot on sight. The Polish inhabitants of Warsaw are still assisting the Jewish defenders and hiding those who have been able to escape."

POLITICAL OFFICE OF JEWISH AGENCY OPENED IN WASHINGTON, DR. WEIZMANN ANNOUNCES

NEW YORK, May 24.(JTA) -- Dr. Chaim Weizmann, president of the World Zionist Organization and the Jewish Agency for Palestine, announced today that an office of the political department of the executive of the Jewish Agency has been opened in Washington.

The office, which will be responsible to and under the jurisdiction of the Jewish Agency executive, will be directed by Dr. Nahum Goldman, member of the political department, in collaboration with Mr. Louis Lipsky, American member of the Zionist Executive. It will work in close cooperation with the American Emergency Committee for Zionist Affairs, of which Dr. Stephen S. Wise is the chairman. Dr. Goldman will be relieved of most of his other duties in New York and will devote the major portion of his time to the conduct of affairs of the political office in Washington, the announcement said.

BRITISH PUBLIC CONTINUES TO CRITICIZE RESULTS OF BERMUDA CONFERENCE

LONDON, May 24.(JTA)-- The British public continues to express dissatisfaction with the outcome of the Bermuda Conference despite the statements in Parliament last week by Foreign Secretary Anthony Eden and Under-Secretary for Home Affairs Osbert Peake.

In an effort to make the public "appreciate the immense difficulties of the problem" of saving the Jews in Nazi Europe, Lord Winterton, chairman of the Inter-Governmental Committee for Refugees, issued a statement today declaring that "the case for the Government was put admirably" by Eden and Peake in their reports to the House of Commons. Lord Winterton admits, however, that these reports "seem to have made no impression" on the minds of church leaders and parliamentarians with whom he has had private talks and who discussed the problem with members of the Cabinet.

H. N. Brailsford, one of Britain's leading journalists, in an article in Reynolds News yesterday, expressed dissatisfaction with the results of the Bermuda Conference. "The Anglo-American parley in Bermuda was niggardly half-hearted and slow in the face of a tragedy which calls for daring, imagination and resource," he said. He took issue with the statement made by Peake to the effect that Britain admitted 63,000 refugees in 1940-42. "Most of these men were Dutch and Norwegian seamen and other members of the Allied forces," he pointed out.

AGED JEW SAVES LIVES OF HUNDREDS OF RUSSIAN SOLDIERS; CATCHES SPY POISONING WELL

KUIBYSHEV, May 24.(JTA)-- An aged Jewish water carrier, whose quick thinking saved the lives of hundreds of wounded Red Armymen, is wearing the Medal for Military Distinction today, according to a story appearing in a local newspaper. He is Alter Seigal, a resident of Dubno, now attached to a military field hospital on the Kuban front.

One day, several weeks ago, when Seigal went to fetch some water, he noticed a stranger wandering around near the well in an aimless manner, which aroused his suspicion. When he had drawn a bucket of water from the well, he offered a drink to the man, but the latter refused, explaining that he was not thirsty.

"Drink, or I sound the alarm," Seigal threatened. Whereupon the stranger's hand moved to his right hip pocket. But before he could draw his revolver, Seigal doused him with the bucket of water, temporarily blinding him, and shouted for help. When the well water was tested, it was found to be poisoned. Had the water been brought to the hospital, it would have killed hundreds of patients.

Interviewed by a correspondent, Seigal revealed that his family and relatives - with the exception of two sons fighting with the Red Army - had been massacred when the Nazis seized Dubno. He added that his one desire, despite his age, was to join a guerrilla band so that he might personally wreak vengeance on the Germans.

BRITISH HUMOR MAGAZINE STOPS PUBLICATION OF JOKES ABOUT JEWS

LONDON, May 24.(JTA)-- Taking into consideration the great Jewish tragedy in Nazi Europe, the popular London humorous weekly "Tid-Bits" today announced that it will no longer publish jokes about Jews. The announcement adds that its decision is motivated also by the desire of the publishers not to furnish any material to anti-Semites in view of the growing anti-Jewish propaganda in England conducted by anonymous fascist elements.

RABBIS ASK ROOSEVELT, CHURCHILL TO SECURE RELEASE OF JEWS IN EUROPE

NEW YORK, May 24.(JTA)-- Several hundred rabbis in New York today adopted a resolution expressing disappointment at the outcome of the Bermuda Conference and asking the governments of the United States and of Britain "to pursue every means to effect the release of Jews from those Axis countries which are still in a position to exercise a measure of sovereignty."

The resolution, which was sent to President Roosevelt and to Prime Minister Churchill, also asked that "Palestine, which is accessible not only by sea but also by land routes, be opened without political restrictions to all who can be rescued and for whom it is the nearest available refuge."

"We cannot believe that Bermuda is the answer to the agonizing cry of the millions of innocent victims," said the resolution. "Evasion and helplessness must not be the way of the United Nations now, any more than concession and appeasement should have been the pre-war policy of the democracies."

The resolution was adopted at a rabbinical convocation summoned by the New York Board of Jewish Ministers as part of the six-week period of mourning and intercession proclaimed by the Synagogue Council of America. Similar rabbinical convocations took place today in all larger Jewish communities throughout the country. The synagogue of Congregation Kehillath Jeshurun in New York, where the rabbis from all parts of New York assembled, was draped in black and its Holy Ark covered by a black banner bearing a quotation in English and Hebrew from the Book of Lamentations "For these I weep."

HIAS URGED TO APPOINT COMMISSION OF SOCIAL WORKERS FOR POST-WAR WORK IN EUROPE

NEW YORK, May 24.(JTA)-- The appointment of a special commission of experienced immigration experts and social workers, to be sent to Europe at the earliest possible opportunity to study the situation there in order to facilitate the emigration of those persons for whom visas and transport facilities will be available, was suggested today in a report submitted by Dr. James Bernstein, European director of the Hias-Ica Emigration Association, to a session of the board of directors of the Hias.

Dr. Bernstein, who has just returned from Lisbon, where he directs the activities of the central office of the Hias-Ica, also recommended the re-establishment of the Hias Immigrant Bank. This bank, which was a department of the Hias for several decades, handled the transfer of huge sums sent by American Jews to their relatives abroad.

Dr. Bernstein estimated that there are now about 5,000 Jewish refugees in Spain who succeeded in crossing over from France. He said that the Spanish Government is extending its cooperation to the Consular Service of the United Nations and to representatives of refugee aid organizations working on the Iberian Peninsula. In Switzerland, he stated, the refugee population has increased by five to six thousand since the Nazi deportations from Southern France began in the summer of last year.

FOREST IN PALESTINE TO HONOR PROF. GUSTAVE KLAUSNER, PIONEER AMERICAN ZIONIST

ST. LOUIS, May 24.(JTA)-- A forest of 10,000 trees will be planted in Palestine shortly in honor of Prof. Gustave Klausner of the University of St. Louis, one of the pioneer American Zionists, it was announced here last night at a Jewish National Fund dinner addressed by Mendel Fisher, executive director of the JNF. Prof. Klausner is a national vice-chairman of the JNF. Mr. Fisher was presented with a check for \$13,000, representing part of the current year's collection for the JNF in St. Louis.