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JEWISH LEADERS IN ROME DISCUSSING VARIOUS PROBLEMS WITH ITALIAN GOVERNMENT

GENEVA, Aug. 3.(JTA)-- Following issuance of an order by the Badoglio Government in Italy abolishing the anti-Jewish laws and releasing all interned Italian Jews, Vittorio Valobra, president of the Union of Italian Jewish Communities, today began negotiating in Rome with high government officials for the release of interned Polish, German and stateless Jews.

The exact number of alien Jews who are interned in camps or confined in small townships cannot be established for the time being. It is known that about 4,000 foreign Jews were stranded in Italy when it entered the war. Since then many Jews from Axis-occupied Yugoslavia, Greece and Albania fled to Italy and were interned in the special "Jewish camps." With the exception of some isolated cases, their treatment was considered humane by Jewish leaders in Italy who extended as much assistance as possible to the refugees.

Restoration of "Aryanized" Property to Jewish Owners Under Consideration

With the anti-Jewish laws abolished, the approximately 40,000 Italian Jews who still remain in the country now face the problem of re-establishing themselves in the enterprises from which they were ousted under the anti-Jewish regulations, especially under the Mussolini decree of February 9, 1939, which "regulated" the economic activities of the Jews as well as their ownership rights.

Under this decree, Italian Jews were not permitted to own land with a combined taxable value of more than 5,000 lire, which is approximately \$250, or urban buildings assessed at more than 20,000 lire. Jewish-owned land and urban property exceeding the stated limits was to be transferred to the then newly created Institute for the Administration and Liquidation of Immovable Property. The Institute issued bonds, negotiable only among Jews, in payment for the Jewish real estate over which it assumed control. The same law also provided that Jewish-owned enterprises with more than 100 employees were to be administered by a specially appointed commissar for a transitional period of one year, and then transferred to "Aryans."

The question of how to restore the "Aryanized" property to the Jewish owners and how to return "liquidated" Jewish real estate to the holders of the bonds issued by the Mussolini-established Institute is reported to be one of the subjects under discussion between Jewish leaders and the Ministry of Finance in Rome.

30,000 Jews in Italy Hope for Economic Rehabilitation

It is estimated that about three-quarters of the 40,000 Jews in Italy lost their means of livelihood as a result of the anti-Jewish laws. Practically, the only important occupation in which any considerable number of Italian Jews continued to be employed was the operation of very small shops, the larger stores having been compelled either to sell out to "Aryans" or to become "Aryanized" by

a commissar appointed for this purpose. Similarly, seventy-five percent of the Italian Jews in the liberal professions were barred from practice and the remainder permitted to serve clients of Jewish faith only.

The economic rehabilitation of these thousands of Jews will probably be accomplished slowly, but it is not expected to encounter any special complications such as may be met in Nazi-held countries. This is due to the fact that the anti-Jewish laws were not very popular with the Italian population who welcome their abolition.

PALESTINE CAN ABSORB 5,000,000 PEOPLE IF U.S. PLAN IS CARRIED OUT, SAYS BEN-GURION

JERUSALEM, Aug. 3. (JTA)-- The post-war reconstruction of Palestine as visualized by Jews was partly outlined here today by David Ben-Gurion, chairman of the executive of the Jewish Agency, who emphasized that the country will be able to absorb 5,000,000 men providing that the American plan for the digging of a channel between the Mediterranean and the Dead Sea is carried out.

"Tremendous quantities of water sufficient to irrigate hundreds of thousands of dunams which could support 5,000,000 people would be made available if the plan of the American engineers were carried out," Ben-Gurion says in a statement published in the Hebrew newspaper Hazofeh. "In addition, it would create a source of electric power and would greatly benefit the present population of Palestine."

In the meantime, Ben-Gurion emphasizes, Palestine can absorb an additional 200,000 Jewish families on the millions of dunams of unsettled land. He estimates that there are 18,000,000 dunams open for settlement and sufficient water available at present to irrigate 4,000,000 dunams.

"Zionist planning," Ben-Gurion points out, aims at a maximum development of agriculture, industry, commerce and fishing together with the increased construction of power and transport facilities, the recruitment of more manpower and the opening of new markets. Improvement of arid land so as to make it suitable for cultivation requires large-scale government planning, he asserts, and the excavation of irrigation channels from the northern part of the country to the deserts in the south. "The development of agriculture and industry is conditioned by the supply of cheap power, which can be generated by utilization of the vast water power resources of the country," he concludes.

JEWS IN CZECH PROTECTORATE PERMITTED TO SEND LETTERS TO PORTUGAL

ZURICH, Aug. 3. (JTA)-- Jews in the Czech Protectorate will henceforth be permitted to send one letter monthly to people residing in Spain and in Portugal, Nazi authorities in Prague announced.

The letters are not to exceed 100 words each and can be sent only after permission is granted by the chief of police in Prague through whom the correspondence is to be submitted to the postal authorities.

The Swiss press today reported that Sano Mach, Slovakian Propaganda Minister, who is responsible for the anti-Jewish propaganda in the Nazi-puppet state, fled the country soon after the news of Mussolini's fall reached Slovakia. He is reported to be en route to Spain, from where, it is stated, he will try to reach South America. At the same time it is reported here that the local German press in Slovakia this week renewed its campaign against the Jews, charging them with spreading rumors of Anglo-American raids over German cities and blaming them for the growing food shortage.

THOUSANDS OF JEWS FROM WESTERN EUROPE FORCED TO WORK IN NAZI COAL MINES IN SILESIA

GENEVA, Aug. 3. (JTA)-- The whereabouts of approximately 900 Jews who were rounded up by the Nazis in Paris and deported to Poland was disclosed in a report reaching here today from Germany stating that thousands of Jews deported from Nazi-held Western European countries are now working in coal mines in Upper Silesia.

The 900 Parisian Jews, the report said, are quartered in the city of Kattowice, the Polish part of Silesia. More than 5,000 Jews deported from various European countries are held in a camp near the Silesian city of Myslowice and are working in the mines. About 2,500 more Jews are held in another camp in the same neighborhood and have also been assigned to work in the mines. About 150 Polish Jews have been sent to work at the local blast furnaces. The local Jewish population was deported from Upper Silesia in 1939.

JEWS IN TRIPOLITANIA APPEAL TO PALESTINE; WANT TEACHERS AND SOCIAL WORKER

JERUSALEM, Aug. 3. (JTA)-- The Jews of Tripolitania, liberated from the Axis, today appealed to the Jewish National Council of Palestine to send them teachers for 2,000 children without any Jewish educational facilities. The appeal also asks the Council to arrange for the transportation from Tripolitania to Palestine of forty Jewish war orphans.

Emphasizing that Jewish life in Tripolitania is still disorganized, the appeal asks the Jewish National Council to send a social worker to reorganize the Jewish institutions which were closed down by the Axis and were reopened after the British Army entered Tripolitania. The appeal states that the Zionist movement has not yet been recognized by the British administration in Tripolitania.

GESTAPO HINDERS EFFORTS OF BELGIAN PATRIOTS TO FEED FUGITIVE JEWS

LONDON, Aug. 3. (JTA)-- Efforts by Belgian patriots to feed fugitive Jews are being hindered by the activities of Belgian "quislings" organized by the Gestapo, according to a warning appearing in the underground newspaper "Clarte," a copy of which was received here today.

The Vichy radio today reported that the estate of Vaux de Cernay formerly owned by Henri de Rothschild has been seized as "Jewish property" and is being offered for sale for 6,400,000 francs.

ORGANIZED ZIONISTS TRIUMPH IN STRUGGLE WITHIN ZIONIST MOVEMENT IN SO. AFRICA

JOHANNESBURG, Aug. 3. (JTA)-- The struggle within the ranks of the Zionist movement in South Africa culminated in an all-night session of the Zionist conference here at which those who advocated abolition of parties within the Zionist movement were defeated by 137 votes to 104. The executive of the South African Zionist Federation will be constituted, therefore, on the basis of party representation and not on the "best man" basis as urged by Zionists affiliated with no official group in the Zionist movement.

The conference adopted a resolution rejecting the White Paper as a violation of the British promise to the Jews. It endorsed the Biltmore Declaration which demands the post-war establishment of Palestine as a Jewish Commonwealth, and deplored the failure to bring about unity in Zionist ranks. Another resolution deplored the world's indifference to the fate of the Jews in Nazi Europe and urged the peoples in the democratic countries to press their governments for immediate action to save as many Jews in Europe as possible.

RELIGIOUS ANTAGONISM IN POLAND HAS DISAPPEARED, SAYS SURVIVOR OF WARSAW GHETTO

STOCKHOLM, Aug. 3.(JTA)-- Religious antagonism in Poland has virtually disappeared, according to a Jewish lawyer who was able to flee to Sweden from the Warsaw ghetto through the efforts of friendly Poles.

In a lecture delivered here, he stated that common struggles and common sufferings have united the Poles and Jews, and cited how Poles smuggled food, clothing and underground papers into the Warsaw ghetto before it was destroyed. The Swedish press and public opinion have been greatly moved by his lecture and the Social Demokraten, a Swedish newspaper, writes that "his words speak for themselves, and need no comment. The destruction of the Jews in Poland is one of the darkest pages in history."

The lawyer, whose name was not divulged, reported that before the outbreak of the Russian-German war, sixty percent of the original inhabitants of the Warsaw ghetto had died from hunger, but the number of persons within the ghetto precincts increased daily as a result of the arrival of a constant stream of deportees. Thousands of Jews were driven outside the ghetto walls for forced labor every day, he said, but many of them never returned, having died from hunger and mistreatment. Beginning July, 1942, he declared, the Nazis began removing 6,000 Jews from the ghetto daily through executions and deportations, and this continued on a somewhat smaller scale until the final liquidation of the ghetto last April. After the expulsion of the last Jews from Warsaw, the Nazis systematically razed the ghetto, setting fires that burned for two weeks, he revealed.

MEMORIAL TO UNKNOWN JEWISH SOLDIERS IN ALLIED ARMIES DEDICATED IN PALESTINE

TEL AVIV, Aug. 3.(JTA)-- A memorial to the unknown Jewish soldiers in the Allied armies was officially opened here today at the colony of Metzudath Zeev, with Mayor Rokach of Tel Aviv presiding.

One room in the building is devoted to a "Jabotinsky Exhibition" and other rooms are dedicated to the Jewish Legion, Joseph Trumpeldor, trophies of the present war including Nazi flags captured by Jewish troops at Derna and a special exhibit entitled "Pogroms and Self-Defense." A Scroll of the Law rescued from a synagogue in Nazi-occupied Europe was deposited in the memorial which is inscribed with quotations from the works of Jabotinsky.

FUNERAL SERVICES FOR DR. ISMAR ELBOGEN HELD AT JEWISH THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

NEW YORK, Aug. 3.(JTA)-- Funeral services were held here today for Dr. Ismar Elbogen, noted Jewish historian, who died yesterday in Mount Sinai Hospital at the age of 68. Dr. Elbogen, who was a former lecturer in the Lehranstalt fuer des Wissenschaft Judentums in Berlin, came to this country five years ago at the joint invitation of the Hebrew Union College in Cincinnati, the Jewish Institute of Religion in New York and the Jewish Theological Seminary here.

Dr. Elbogen was born in Germany on Sept. 1, 1874, and studied at Breslau University and the Jewish Theological Seminary in that city. After a period of study in the Collegio Rabbinico Italiano in Florence, Italy, he became a lecturer in history and Bible exegesis. From 1902 to 1919 Dr. Elbogen was a lecturer in the Lehranstalt in Berlin, becoming a professor in 1919. He then taught the history of Jewish religion there until 1933. The funeral services were held at the Jewish Theological Seminary, where Dr. Elbogen was a research professor. Burial was at Mount Hebron Cemetery here.