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PALESTINE "ARMS" TRIAL CONTINUES; WITNESS FAILS TO IMPLICATE JEWISH DEFENDANT

JERUSALEM, Aug. 16. (JTA)-- The Palestine "arms trial" in which two British soldiers were sentenced last week to fifteen years imprisonment for selling arms to an unnamed Jewish organization, continued before the military court here today with Abraham Rachlis, a taxi-driver, and Leib Sirkis, a policeman, as defendants. Both are charged with having in their possession 10,500 rounds of ammunition and 300 rifles which they allegedly acquired from the convicted soldiers.

At the afternoon court session today, Private Charles A. Stoner, one of the convicted soldiers, admitted that he never saw Sirkis, except on one occasion when the taxi in which he was delivering the arms met with an accident. It was then he first noticed Sirkis. He did not know whether he was a bystander, or one of the crowd who helped after the accident, or a passenger in the taxi. The trial is expected to continue for several days.

JEWISH ORTHODOX LEADERS CONFER WITH CZECH PRESIDENT AND POLISH MINISTERS

LONDON, Aug. 16. (JTA)-- The continued deterioration of the Jewish position in Europe today was the subject of conferences between Jewish orthodox leaders and President Benes of Czechoslovakia and his foreign minister Jan Masaryk, as well as with the Polish ministers Prof. Stanislaw Kot and Jan Stanczyk. The Jewish leaders stressed the point that unless urgent measures are taken, complete annihilation faces the Jews of Poland and the Czech Protectorate.

The Jewish groups supporting the Free Austrian movement in England today joined the democratic, socialists and Catholic groups in withdrawing their support from this movement and in declaring the movement as no longer having any authority. At present the Free Austrian movement here is backed only by monarchists and communists.

AVOWAL OF ANTI-SEMITISM EXACTED OF BELGIANS FOR SERVICE IN NAZI OCCUPATION FORCES

LONDON, Aug. 16. (JTA)-- Belgian pro-Nazis must make a definite avowal of anti-Jewish opinions before they are accepted by the Nazi authorities for police service in occupied East European countries, it is reported in the Fascist Belgian newspaper Journal de Charleroi, reaching here today.

The paper carries an announcement offering those enlisting in this service a salary of 250 marks, abundant food, free lodging and other conditions designed to be highly tempting.

The Inbel, Belgian news agency in London, today reported that the Nazis have resorted to a ruse to frustrate those Belgians suspected of hiding Jewish children to save them from deportation. Requiring the vaccination of all children, in such cases where the Nazis suspect that the child is Jewish, says this news agency, the child is given a poisonous injection, bringing fatal results within a few hours.

MAMMOTH AMERICAN HOSPITAL UNIT, LARGEST IN MIDDLE EAST, ARRIVES IN PALESTINE

LONDON, Aug. 16.(JTA)-- The London press reports the arrival today in Palestine of an American army hospital unit, equipped more elaborately than any similar unit in the Middle East. Twenty-four specialists in addition to the complement of regular physicians, dentists and nurses, are attached to it.

The hospital which will be set up will have a capacity of 1,000 beds. The patients will be housed in thirty buildings, each of four wards. In addition, adjoining buildings will be erected for special departments including administration, surgery, X-ray departments and laboratory. The hospital will have its own water supply.

RUMANIAN TOWNS BEREFT OF CRAFTSMEN AS RESULT OF JEWISH DEPORTATIONS

WASHINGTON, Aug. 16.(JTA)-- The Office of War Information today reported that because of the extermination and deportation of Jews in Rumania, many Rumanian towns have lost the "majority of their tradesmen, artisans and craftsmen." The report is based on information gleaned from an article in the Bucharest newspaper Universul.

The Office of War Information also quoted another report from Bucharest to the effect that six additional synagogues and buildings of Jewish welfare institutions have been confiscated by the Rumanian government.

TEL AVIV MUNICIPAL COUNCIL REJECTS LABOR DEMAND FOR CITY ELECTIONS

TEL AVIV, Aug.16.(JTA)-- The election of a new Municipal Council of Tel Aviv will not take place before October, 1944, according to a decision arrived at by the Council.

A proposal of the Labor councillors to hold elections this year was defeated by the majority vote of the citizens bloc. The discussion of a proposal to increase the membership of the Council from fifteen to twenty-one was postponed.

To relieve labor shortage in orange groves, 500 Jerusalem workers, mostly Yeshivah students, have been transferred to the Sharon citrus area.

Fifty cold storage plants are to be erected in Jewish agricultural settlements and material for this purpose has been released. Vegetables and fruit will be kept in cold storage for seasons of short supply, thus balancing the distribution of vegetables and stabilizing prices.

NAZI PRESS IN HOLLAND WARNS TEACHERS AGAINST PRO-JEWISH SYMPATHIES

ZURICH, Aug. 16.(JTA)-- The Nazi-controlled Dutch press reaching here today from Holland carries articles directed against teachers in the Amsterdam schools who, the papers say, are still urging their students to display sympathy to Jews and never forget their Jewish colleagues who were deported from Holland.

PALESTINE APPEALS FOR HEBREW BIBLES FOR TROOPS IN THE MIDDLE EAST

JERUSALEM, Aug. 16.(JTA)-- Jews in Palestine were asked to donate Hebrew Bibles for the troops in an appeal issued here today following a conference of Jewish chaplains of the British Army in the Middle East. Many Jewish soldiers find it difficult to obtain Jewish religious books, especially Bibles, the appeal said.

FOREIGN POLICY ASSOCIATION REVIEWS JEWISH SEARCH FOR REFUGEE HAVENS

NEW YORK, Aug. 16.(JTA)-- Concluding that international agreements and large-scale financing will be essential in translating plans of the Agro-Joint and the Refugee Economic Corporation for post-war settlement of European Jews in overseas countries, the Foreign Policy Association, in a survey of possibilities of mass-settlement of refugees published today, reveals that since the outbreak of the war these two Jewish organizations have explored many proposed places of haven, including Alaska, Angola, Australia, Brazil, Canada, Chile, China Cuba, Lower California, New Zealand and Peru.

"Although the mass resettlement of refugees in specially created colonies has never been attempted, certain efforts have been successfully made by the Jewish Colonization Association," the review points out. "By 1939 this organization, which was endowed in 1891 by a wealthy Jewish philanthropist of German descent, Baron de Hirsch, had established over 500 settlements in Argentina, Brazil, Canada, Palestine, Poland, Turkey, Rumania, and the U.S.S.R., and had 18,400 families on its more than two million acres of land. In accordance with its founder's conviction that migrations to cities would create tensions between Jewish immigrants and native populations, the Association stresses the training of colonists for agricultural life and aids the colonists to buy their own land by arranging long-term credits for those who lack capital.

"In the mid-1930's, as the number of European refugees increased and immigration barriers rose to unprecedented heights throughout the world, new plans developed for mass colonization in relatively empty spaces of the globe. So far as these projects concerned the tropics and subtropics, they involved the much debated issue of whether or not large-scale settlements of people from temperate lands are possible in regions near the equator. In answering this question, actual experience in the few recently established tropical colonies may be useful.

"At the Evian Conference in 1938 the Dominican Republic offered to accept up to 100,000 refugees from Europe. A group of men in the United States subsequently organized a Settlement Association to establish colonies based on subsistence homesteads, with approximately 500 forming the first contingent. These 500 were settled at "Sosua," in the north-western part of the Republic, before war suspended further immigration. At present the chief needs of the colony are more land and a larger proportion of women among the settlers. In January, 1943, health conditions were reported by a U.S. Army consultant in tropical diseases to be very good for a subtropical area, thanks to adequate medical care and the adjustment of diet and work hours to local conditions. The record of the Dominican settlement has brought inquiries from three South American countries regarding the possibility of similar colonization projects in their territories.

Investigations in Bolivia and Mindanao

"In the Yungas district of Bolivia, the Refugee Economic Corporation and the Agro-Joint set up a small colony. These two groups succeeded in bringing Jewish refugees out of La Paz, the capital city, where they had congregated, creating certain tensions. The Bolivian colony, now consisting of 170 people, demonstrates the desirability of future immigration of settlers.

"On the eve of World War II several investigations of prospective resettlement sites were made by governments and private organizations. Similarly, Mindanao, southernmost island of the Philippine group, was investigated by a group of American experts in the summer of 1939, after the Philippine government had agreed to admit 10,000 refugees for a colony. The Refugee Economic Corporation secured options on 12,500 acres of land for a large ranch and selected 800 settlers, but the war interrupted their transportation," the review says.

REFUGEES OFFER UNSOLICITED DONATIONS TO AMERICAN WAR EFFORT, O.W.I. REPORTS

WASHINGTON, Aug. 16.(JTA)-- Many refugees are numbered among the thousands in America who, in addition to investing in war bonds, have given outright to the United States Government unsolicited donations, the Office of War Information said today.

One refugee sent two iron crosses conferred in 1917 and 1918, during his service in the German Army, writing, "I wish to contribute not only the silver worth, which, of course, is small, but also through a symbolic act to set an example that should be followed by all those who came over here in these years to the shores of the United States from Germany and Austria."

Another letter from a refugee accompanied twin wedding rings and a wrist watch. "Just before war was declared," the letter read, "we succeeded in coming from Germany to the land of freedom, and we wish to express our sincere gratitude for that. We are so happy to be here and to have the possibility to become citizens of this great country. We therefore think you would appreciate this very small gift we are enclosing to the benefit of this country, the only gold we were able to bring with us." Still another letter stated: "I am a Belgian and a refugee in this splendid country. Please find enclosed my golden wedding ring which I hope will help in your hard task to get money for defense."

HIAS RECEIVES LIST OF 10,000 JEWISH REFUGEES SEEKING AID FROM AMERICAN RELATIVES

NEW YORK, Aug. 16.(JTA)-- Abraham Herman, president of the Hebrew Sheltering and Immigrant Aid Society which recently announced a program of contacting relatives in Europe, today reported that his organization received a list of more than 10,000 names of Jewish refugees who, for the most part, succeeded in escaping from Southern France, a year ago, when the Vichy authorities, at the behest of Hitler, began a series of deportations of Jews to "unknown destinations."

The list was compiled by the Union of Swiss Jewish Welfare Societies, an affiliate of the Hias-Ica Emigration Association. It was forwarded to Hias with the urgent request that they undertake immediately an energetic effort to locate American relatives and friends of the men, women and children who, the Union declares, "are all without any means." The refugees implore their relatives and friends in the Western Hemisphere to come to their aid by remitting funds for their immediate needs and by planning, if possible, their rescue through emigration to new havens of freedom in the Western Hemisphere or in Palestine.

"Through its branch offices and cooperating welfare agencies in the United States, Hias hopes to locate the relatives and thus bring about the sending of relief for the subsistence of the refugees, practically all of whom are quartered in camps," Mr. Herman stated in his announcement.

J.W.B. EMISSARY RETURNS FROM INSPECTION OF U.S. JEWISH TROOPS IN BRITAIN

NEW YORK, Aug. 16.(JTA)-- American service men stationed in the British Isles have made an extremely favorable impression on the British public by their conduct, according to Walter N. Rothschild, member of the board of directors of the U.S.O., who has just returned from a six weeks visit to England, Scotland, Ireland and Iceland.

Mr. Rothschild made his trip under U.S. Army auspices, crossing on a U.S. Army transport and returning by U.S. Army plane. His tour was an official inspection, as chairman of the Army and Navy Committee of the Jewish Welfare Board, of the religious services rendered to Jewish men and women in the Army and Navy installations in the British Isles.