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AMERICAN JEWISH CONFERENCE OPENS TODAY TO DISCUSS VITAL JEWISH PROBLEMS

NEW YORK, Aug. 27. (JTA)-- Jewish leaders from all parts of the country arrived in New York today to participate in the sessions of the American Jewish Conference which opens here at the Waldorf-Astoria on Sunday to discuss vital problems affecting Jewish life in Europe and in Palestine.

The Conference will be opened with addresses by Henry Monsky, president of the B'nai B'rith, Dr. Stephen S. Wise, president of the American Jewish Congress, and Judge Joseph M. Proskauer, president of the American Jewish Committee. Other speakers will include Jacob Weinberg, leader of the Jewish Labor movement; Gedaliah Bublick, Mizrahi leader; Mrs. David de Sola Pool, president of Hadassah; Dr. Israel Goldstein, president of the Jewish National Fund in America and Baruch Zuckerman, leader of the Zionist Laborites.

In a statement issued today by the office of the executive committee for the organization of the Conference, it was emphasized that "every major Jewish community and organization will have spokesmen at this historic meeting as a result of the elaborate plans which were taken to make this gathering the voice of American Jewry." In addition to 375 delegates elected throughout the country by 25,000 electors, an additional 125 delegates were designated by 48 national Jewish organizations.

"The Conference will consider not only plans for immediate help and rescue for the Jews of Europe but will also recommend action on problems relating to the rights and status of Jews in the post-war world and on all matters looking to the implementation of the rights of the Jewish people with respect to Palestine," the statement says. "The Conference also plans to elect a delegation to carry out its program in cooperation with the duly accredited representatives of Jews throughout the world."

Jewish Organizations in England Watching Conference with Great Interest

LONDON, Aug. 27. (JTA)-- Jewish organizations in England are awaiting with great interest the results of the American Jewish Conference which opens in New York on Sunday. Messages of greetings to the Conference have been cabled by the Board of Jewish Deputies, the Anglo-Jewish Association, and other smaller Jewish bodies.

Voicing its good wishes for the success of the Conference, the message from the Board of Deputies said that the parley will "serve as a lead for all free Jews" in "this critical period of Jewish history." The text of the message reads:

"The Board of Deputies of British Jews, representing all sections of British Jewry, sends its best wishes for the success of the American Jewish Conference, and for the fruitful solution of the vital problems confronting it. This

conference of all great American Jewish organizations, meeting at this most critical period in Jewish history, will serve as a lead for all free Jews and as a hope for millions of Jews under Nazi tyranny and destruction.

"Its deliberations will be anxiously awaited by Jews everywhere, and notably by the Anglo-Jewish community and other Jews who will share in the vast responsibility of rebuilding the stricken Jewry of Europe and Jewish life in Palestine. May the Conference go forward in a spirit of confidence with a sense of deep responsibility and realization of the services which it will be rendering the Jewish people by helping them bring the oppressed from slavery to freedom and from darkness to light in a new world which the evergrowing promise of a speedy United Nations victory is bringing nearer every day."

The Anglo-Jewish Association in a cable to the Conference, emphasized that it "will follow the proceedings with close attention" and wished it "every success."

#### Palestine Jews Name Representatives to Conference

JERUSALEM, Aug. 27.(JTA)-- The executive committee of the Jewish National Council has cabled to Rabbi Meir Berlin, president of the World Mizrahi Organization, and to Israel Mereminsky, Histadruth leader, both of whom are now in New York, authorizing them to represent the Yishuv at the American Jewish Conference, which opens Sunday afternoon, it was learned here today.

Simultaneously, the Council cabled greetings to the Conference, expressing the hope that it will succeed in unifying American Jewry so that it will be able to play an influential part in rescuing the Jews of Europe and securing a Jewish homeland in Palestine.

#### PROSECUTION CONCLUDES EXAMINATION OF 29 WITNESSES AT PALESTINE ARMS TRIAL

JERUSALEM, Aug. 27.(JTA)-- The prosecution in the trial of two Palestine Jews on charges of possessing arms obtained illegally from British soldiers today concluded examining twenty-nine witnesses who were summoned to appear before the military tribunal which is hearing the case.

Counsel for the accused men is understood to be preparing a statement to the court maintaining that the prosecution has failed to prove its case and, therefore, the charges should be dropped without the necessity for the presentation of any defense witnesses.

#### JEWS IN FRANCE ORDERED TO REPORT TO POLICE HEADQUARTERS

ZURICH, Aug. 27.(JTA)-- All male Jews in the Rhone Department of France who were born between January, 1912, and December, 1922, have been ordered to report, together with their identification and food cards to the central police commissariat at Lyons, it is reported in the French newspaper, Le Journal, which arrived here today.

The order also provides the same procedure for foreign Jews born between January, 1893 and December, 1924. The paper did not indicate what action would be taken when the Jews appeared at the Lyons police headquarters.

JEWISH COMMUNITIES IN ITALY URGED TO SEND TORAHS TO ROME FOR SAFEKEEPING

ZURICH, Aug. 27.(JTA)-- The Chief Rabbi of Rome has issued an appeal to all Jewish communities in Italy to send their Holy Scrolls and valuable communal archives to Rome in order to prevent their possible destruction during Allied air raids, according to private advices received here today.

Meanwhile, Italian papers continue to demand clear-cut action by the Badoglio government which would clarify the new status of the Jews in Italy and make clear that all remnants of racial legislation have been abrogated.

RUMANIAN AUTHORITIES SURRENDERING FUGITIVE POLISH JEWS TO NAZI FIRING SQUADS

SOMEWHERE IN EUROPE, Aug. 27.(JTA)-- The Rumanian Government has been turning over to the Nazi authorities hundreds of Polish Jews who escaped the Gestapo dragnet and fled across the Rumanian border in the hope of finding haven, it was reliably learned here today. The refugees so returned were said to have been shot without exception. A considerable number of others, however, were reported to have evaded capture and are hiding in the Rumanian forests. They were said to be living miserably in caves and underground shelters, never daring to show themselves by day. Some have died of hunger.

Jewish leaders in Bucharest are known to have intervened with the authorities on behalf of the refugees, but in the light of Rumania's treatment of her own Jewish population, which has been subjected to drastic discriminatory measures and depleted by deportation and pogroms, there is little likelihood of success.

Despite the callous treatment of refugees by the Rumanian Government, hundreds of Polish Jews, desperately trying to avoid the Nazi "annihilation squads," are daily trying to cross into Rumanian territory. The Rumanian press has discussed the subject, taking the stand that the right of asylum is one that must be restricted to "Aryans" alone.

DR. SILVER ELECTED CHAIRMAN OF EXECUTIVE OF ZIONIST EMERGENCY COMMITTEE

NEW YORK, Aug. 27.(JTA)-- Dr. Abba Hillel Silver, outstanding Zionist leader, has been unanimously elected chairman of the executive and political committee of the American Emergency Committee for Zionist Affairs, it was announced here today by the Committee.

Dr. Stephen S. Wise is chairman of the Emergency Committee and Dr. Silver was elected to serve with him as co-chairman. The Emergency Committee acts on behalf of the four major Zionist organizations in the United States - the Hadassah, Women's Zionist Organization of America, Mizrachi Organization of America, Poale Zion-Zeire Zion of America and the Zionist Organization of America.

AGUDAS ISRAEL WILL ISSUE HEBREW DAILY IN PALESTINE

JERUSALEM, Aug. 27.(JTA)-- A new Hebrew daily will soon appear in Palestine, it was revealed today with the announcement by the Agudas Israel organization that the Palestine Government has granted it permission to convert its weekly, "Kol Israel," ("Voice of Israel") into a daily. There are at present six Hebrew dailies published in Palestine.

IMMIGRATION TO U.S. LOWEST IN EIGHTY YEARS, DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE REPORTS

WASHINGTON, Aug. 27.(JTA)-- A drastic curtailment of immigration to the United States during the last twelve months was reported by the Department of Justice today. Entries of aliens during the year ending June 30, 1943, were the lowest in 80 years.

Only 104,842 aliens entered the country during the twelve month period, and of those only 23,725 came as immigrants intending to remain permanently, according to Earl G. Harrison, Commissioner of the Immigration and Naturalization Service. Not since 1862--also a war year--have there been fewer aliens entering the country. That year the total was 91,982. Of the 23,725 immigrant aliens admitted during the past year the largest group was Jews. Most of the 4,705 Jews admitted were in flight from Nazi persecution. The second largest group, 3,692, was English.

The number of Jews admitted to the United States has decreased from 43,450 in 1939 to 1/10 that number during the past year. In 1940, 36,945 Jews were immigrants to the United States; in 1941 there were 23,737. In 1942, 10,608 were permitted to enter.

As evidence of the effect of the war in uprooting large population groups, Mr. Harrison pointed to the disparity between the figures showing country of birth and country of last permanent residence of the immigrants admitted. For example, of the 1,201 people giving France as their country of last permanent residence, only 524 gave it as their country of birth. This is explained by the large numbers of fugitives from other occupied European countries who flocked into France before the summer of 1940. On the other hand, of 1,295 aliens giving Germany as their country of birth, only 248 gave it as the country of their last permanent residence, reflecting large-scale migrations out of Germany. Similarly, 1,647 gave Poland as their country of birth, and only 394 gave it as the country of last permanent residence.

AXIS GOVERNMENTS INTENSIFYING PERSECUTION OF JEWS, INTER-ALLIED REPORT SAYS

LONDON, Aug. 27.(JTA)-- The Axis governments are intensifying their persecution of the oppressed populations of Europe and murdering tens of thousands of persons, among whom are thousands of Jews, according to an official statement issued here last night by the Inter-Allied Information Committee.

Reviewing the extermination of large sections of the civilian population in Poland, Belgium, France, Czechoslovakia, Greece, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Norway and Yugoslavia, the report stresses that at least 1,000,000 Jews have been killed in Poland; 81,000 have been deported from Czechoslovakia and many of them have perished; and the majority of Norway's small Jewish population has been sent to Poland. The Inter-Allied office emphasized that the report was incomplete.

JACOB MAGIDOFF, JEWISH MORNING JOURNAL WRITER, DIES IN NEW YORK

NEW YORK, Aug. 27.(JTA)-- Jacob Magidoff, 74, for the last 42 years city editor of the Jewish Morning Journal and, since 1936, one of its editorial writers, died last night at his home here.

Born in Odessa, Mr. Magidoff came to this country in 1886. He received and LL.B. degree from the New York University Law School in 1902 and was admitted to the bar two years later. In 1894 he was appointed associate editor of the Arbeiter Zeitung and from 1896-99 was city editor of the Abendblatt. He then joined the Jewish Daily News, where he remained for a year, becoming city editor of the Jewish Morning Journal in 1901.