

ITALY'S SURRENDER WILL IMPROVE SITUATION OF JEWS IN HUNGARY, SWEDISH PRESS SAYS

STOCKHOLM, Sept. 8.(JTA)-- Italy's unconditional surrender to the Allies will have repercussions not only in the Balkan countries, but also in Hungary and will affect the position of the Jews there, it is predicted in the Swedish press today, which emphasizes that Hungary now has the largest Jewish population in Central Europe.

The Goeteborg Handels-och Sjöfarts-Tidning, a Swedish liberal evening paper, takes the occasion to again warn against the systematic attempts which are now being made by Hungarian propaganda to present the position of the Jews in Hungary in a favorable light as compared with the treatment of Jews in other parts of Europe.

"The Hungarian anti-Jewish policy," the paper writes, "has culminated in the massacres of Jews in the territories occupied by Hungarian troops. The present regime in Hungary attempted to annihilate the Jews in the country by sending them to the notorious labor battalions on the Russian front. The Hungarian parliament rejected the suggestion that Jews be forced to wear a yellow badge by only one vote. As to deportation of Jews, the Hungarian government refrained from expulsions only when it learned that Germany was demanding from Slovakia the delivery of all property confiscated from deported Jews."

NAZIS LEFT NO JEWS IN KHARKOV PRIOR TO RETREATING, JEWISH COMMANDER REPORTS

MOSCOW, Sept. 8.(JTA)-- The Nazis made Kharkov "completely judenrein" prior to their retreat from the capital of the Ukraine, it was reported here today by Chaim Kashdan, commander of a Red Army tank battalion who was among the first Russian soldiers to enter the city.

The Jewish commander stated that he took special interest in establishing whether any Jews remained alive in the vicinity of Kharkov. "Many Kharkov Jews," he said, "were hidden by Ukrainian peasants in the neighboring villages. Others were supplied with documents stating that they were Christians. The Gestapo, however, carried out a thorough search in all villages and arrested everybody whom they suspected of being Jewish."

"Upon our re-occupation of Kharkov," the Jewish commander continued, "we found the Jewish cemetery there uprooted. The buildings of all Jewish libraries were burned down by the Nazis months ago together with all their books. A bonfire was made of pictures of Jewish writers which hung in many Jewish homes and in public reading rooms."

Captain Kashdan also related that hundreds of Jews succeeded in escaping from Kharkov during the Nazi occupation and in joining the Russian forces by walking days and nights through the woods. These Jews brought valuable information to the Russian Army, he added.

The Moscow press reports today that Dora Margolin, a Jewish army nurse, saved forty Russian soldiers in one day on the Kharkov front under enemy fire. She carried them to safety on her shoulders until she, herself, was wounded.

JDC ESTABLISHING PERMANENT RELIEF OFFICE IN MIDDLE EAST

JERUSALEM, Sept. 8.(JTA)-- The ground work has been laid for intensified activities by the Joint Distribution Committee in the Middle East, including the relief and transportation of refugees and the sending of additional parcels to Polish-Jewish refugees in Russia, it was disclosed here today by Dr. Joseph Schwartz, European director of the JDC, who returned from Turkey this week. Dr. Schwartz is leaving for North Africa today, from where he will go to JDC headquarters in Lisbon.

In an interview with a Jewish Telegraphic Agency correspondent Dr. Schwartz reported that the JDC is planning to establish a permanent representation in the Middle East to deal with general relief problems and to secure firsthand information concerning the Jewish communities of occupied Europe. To this end, he said, conferences have been held with the JDC advisory committee here, under the chairmanship of Dr. Judah L. Magnes, and with the Jewish Agency, the Histadruth, the Mizrachi, the Agudas Israel, the Chief Rabbis of Jerusalem and Tel Aviv and other responsible bodies.

Among the concrete results already achieved from these conferences, the JDC director declared, are provisions for the transfer of 1,000 Yemenite Jews from Aden to Palestine. Six hundred Jews from Yemen have already been brought here with JDC assistance. Transportation has also been arranged for 1,000 Jewish refugees in Turkey who wish to enter Palestine and the JDC has allotted funds for the transportation of Jewish refugee children in the Balkans, should they be allowed to emigrate.

More packages are being shipped to the refugees in Russia, Dr. Schwartz asserted, and plans are being made to expand this service in order that the maximum number of refugees will be reached. He said that efforts are being made to secure food and clothing which can be shipped by way of Iran or other countries. Establishment of JDC offices in the Middle East, he concluded, will strengthen the efforts to bring the greatest possible amount of relief to the areas where the need is most acute.

WAR DEPARTMENT RAISES QUOTA OF JEWISH ARMY CHAPLAINS, GEN. ARNOLD ANNOUNCES

NEW YORK, Sept. 8.(JTA)-- The quota of Jewish chaplains in the U.S. armed forces which is four percent of the total in the Chaplaincy Corps is being raised to six percent, Brig. General William R. Arnold, Chief of Chaplains of the War Department announced at a press conference here today.

Jews, he said, are among the four denominations which "on a month to month basis are either slightly ahead or are keeping pace with the procurement schedule for Army chaplains. He added that the Jewish communities, through the Jewish Welfare Board, provide civilian rabbis in many places throughout the country when chaplains are not available locally.

According to the records of the Jewish Welfare Board there are now 159 chaplains on active duty with the Army, 25 with the Navy and one with the Merchant Marine. In addition, 49 have received ecclesiastical endorsement from the Committee on Army and Navy Religious Activities of the JWB and are awaiting assignment.

LEADING JEWISH BODIES IN ENGLAND FAIL TO AGREE ON FORMATION OF JOINT COMMITTEE

LONDON, Sept. 8.(JTA)-- The negotiations between the Anglo-Jewish Association and the Board of Deputies of British Jews on the formation of a Joint Foreign Committee to deal with problems of persecuted Jews have reached a stalemate, it was announced today. Both sides published an exchange of correspondence indicating that no agreement could be reached on the composition of a joint body.

UNION OF ORTHODOX RABBIS IN AMERICA ASKED TO CHECK AGUDAH IN PALESTINE

JERUSALEM, Sept. 8. (JTA)-- Chief Rabbi Herzog of Palestine today cabled an appeal to the Union of Orthodox Rabbis in the United States asking it to exert influence on Agudah leaders and "frustrate destructive attempts" of the Agudas Israel organization in Jerusalem to set up a separate rabbinical office in Tel Aviv.

"The establishment of such an office," the cable reads, "endangers the organized Palestine Rabbinate and is undermining the authority of the Torah in communal as well as in family life. In view of the possible introduction of civil marriage and divorce laws in Palestine the Chief Rabbis appeal to the Rabbis of America to use their influence on the Agudas Israel organization in Jerusalem and frustrate destructive attempts."

AGUDAS ISRAEL CONVENTION OPENS TODAY; WILL DISCUSS JEWISH FATE IN EUROPE

FERNDALE, N.Y., Sept. 8. (JTA)-- The fourth annual convention of the Agudas Israel of America will open at the Hotel Empire here tomorrow to discuss Jewish religious problems in the United States as well as the fate of the Jews in Europe and in Palestine.

The three-day convention will be attended by hundreds of orthodox rabbis from all parts of the country. It will be addressed by Rabbi Jacob Rosenheim, president of the World Agudas Israel Organization.

MONTREAL JEWS PLEDGE \$10,000 FOR RUSSIAN HOSPITAL AT MEETING FOR SOVIET DELEGATION

MONTREAL, Sept. 8. (JTA)-- Ten thousand dollars will be raised in this city for a new wing for the Leningrad Military Hospital, to be named after the late Reuben Brainin, noted Jewish writer, as a result of the meeting here last night to welcome Prof. Solomon Mikhoels and Lieut.-Col. Itzik Feffer, the Jewish cultural delegation from the Soviet Union.

More than 12,000 people, the largest gathering of Jews ever to assemble in Montreal, greeted the two Soviet delegates and pledged to raise the funds for the hospital. Among the speakers at the meeting were Sholem Asch, Samuel Bronfman, Canadian Jewish industrialist and philanthropist, and Chief Justice W. L. Bond. Earlier in the day the delegation was received by Mayor Ranauld of Montreal.

HIAS CABLES \$25,000 FOR REFUGEE TRANSPORTATION FROM SPAIN AND PORTUGAL

NEW YORK, Sept. 8. (JTA)-- To facilitate the departure of new groups of Jewish refugees from Portugal and Spain for Central and South American countries, the Hebrew Sheltering and Immigrant Aid Society today cabled 500,000 Escudos, approximately \$25,000, to the HIAS-ICA Emigration Association headquarters in Lisbon, it was announced here by Isaac L. Asofsky, executive director.

The amount was remitted in response to an urgent request by Dr. James Bernstein, Hias representative on the directorate of the Hias-Ica Emigration Association who is in charge of the "Rescue Through Emigration" work in the Portuguese capital. This sum will be applied to covering the transportation expenses of new refugee groups for whom immigration permits to South American countries have been secured.

PRO-PALESTINE COMMITTEE IN AUSTRALIA CALLS FOR ABROGATION OF WHITE PAPER

SYDNEY, Australia, Sept. 8. (JTA)-- An appeal for implementation of the Balfour Declaration and abrogation of the White Paper of 1939 was voiced here today at the first meeting of the Pro-Palestine Committee by Bishop Pilcher, one of the leaders of the group.