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HEAD OF JEWISH RELIEF GROUP IN ITALY SEIZED BY GESTAPO; THOUSANDS OF JEWS ARRESTED

GENEVA, Sept. 16. (JTA)-- Vittorio Valobra, prominent Italian Jewish leader and president of the central Jewish relief organization in Italy, was arrested by the Nazis during a round-up of thousands of Italian and refugee Jews by Gestapo units, according to reliable information reaching here today.

Vallobra was arrested when Gestapo agents raided the central offices of the "Jewish Philanthropic Organizations of Italy" in Genoa and seized all persons on the premises. M. Luzsati, secretary of the relief group, was also arrested and the organization's records were confiscated.

Meanwhile, special Gestapo units are scouring Italy for native and refugee Jews, who, the Nazis charge, "engineered Italy's capitulation." Although Italians are sheltering large numbers of Jews, the Nazis succeeded in arresting several thousand whom they have imprisoned. It is feared that they will be deported to Poland, the reports say.

The fate of prominent Jews in other towns in Nazi-overrun territory is not known, but it is believed that they have also been taken into custody. Milan is the only large city from which no reports of arrests of Jews have been received, the information reaching here discloses. Jews from other sections of Italy and from the former Italian-held part of France are reported to be pouring into Milan. Among them are many Yugoslav Jews.

PALESTINE PROCLAIMS MILLION DOLLAR DRIVE TO SAVE JEWS FROM NAZI EUROPE

JERUSALEM, Sept. 16. (JTA)-- A million dollar campaign to save as many Jews as possible from German-occupied and Nazi-dominated countries was proclaimed here today at a special session of the Assafath Haniwcharim, the Jewish National Assembly of Palestine. This is the largest campaign ever proclaimed in Palestine for relief for Jews in other countries.

Immediately after announcement of the million-dollar drive, the Jewish Federation of Labor in Palestine announced that it will contribute \$200,000 toward it. The entire sum is to be raised within one month, to be known as "The Month for the Diaspora."

The official opening of the campaign was preceeded by reports concerning the position of the Jews in Europe delivered at the session of the Assembly by three outstanding leaders of the Yishuv who were sent to Turkey to study the possibilities of rescuing Jews from the Balkan countries and other lands under Nazi domination and control. Two of these leaders are members of the executive of the Jewish Agency, Moshe Shertok and Dr. Emil Shmorak. The third is Isaac Ben-Zvi, president of the Jewish National Council of Palestine.

Reporting on the possibilities of saving Jews in Europe, Mr. Shertok, who discussed the question with high Turkish officials in Istanbul, emphasized that

"we are no longer facing a blind wall." There are loopholes, he said, through which it is possible to see what is happening to the Jews inside Nazi Europe and to extend help to the victims.

Possibilities of Rescue Differ in Various Countries

"The position of the Jews differs in various countries, hence the possibilities of rescue vary," Shertok reported. There are places where admission to forced labor camps is the only means of rescue because a Jew who is not interned is free game. Information reaching us from Jewish labor camps indicate that the interned Jews there are trying to utilize these camps as 'Hachsharah' centers to prepare themselves for work in Palestine. Jewish children are being taught Hebrew under the most trying circumstances in the hope that they will eventually succeed in reaching Palestine."

Emphasizing that the Jews in Palestine were on the verge of being in the hands of the Nazis if the enemy had not been defeated on the Egyptian front, Shertok urged the Jewish population in Palestine to see to it that the million-dollar campaign is carried out successfully and that the maximum number of Jews are rescued from Europe. "We are obliged to save as many of them as we can because without that reservoir of newcomers the continuation of our work will suffer," he pointed out, adding that "no sacrifice should be considered too great."

Only 200,000 Jews Left in Poland; 300,000 Remain in Rumania

Isaac Ben-Zvi, president of the Jewish National Council, reporting on his mission to Turkey, described the plight of the Jews in the Balkan countries. He stated that reliable information which he secured during his visit to Turkey indicates that of the 60,000 Jews in Salonika not a single one remains. "In January of this year thousands of Jews in Salonika were living in the hope that they would be rescued," he reported, "but two months later the Nazis started the mass-deportations of Jews from the city at the rate of 5,000 a day crowding them into cattle trains. It is very doubtful whether twenty percent of them reached their destination."

"Of the 800,000 Jews who lived in Rumania before the war there are today no more than 300,000 left," Mr. Ben-Zvi continued. "About 30,000 of them are in Transnistria. Of the 75,000 Jews in Yugoslavia only a small fraction is left."

Dr. Emil Shmorak, executive member of the Jewish Agency, reported that during his stay in Turkey he established that only 200,000 Jews remain in Nazi-held Poland. It is not known, however, whether this total includes the Jews who are confined in camps for forced labor, he emphasized. "There are growing possibilities for rescue, let us utilize them to the very maximum," he declared.

The session of the Assefath Hanivcharim also heard fervent appeals from Chief Rabbi Herzog and Chief Rabbi Uziel asking the Jews of Palestine to spare no efforts and sacrifices in saving as many Jews as possible. The ultra-Orthodox Agudas Israel Organization also issued an appeal to the Jews of Palestine to make the million-dollar drive a success.

NEW INSPECTOR-GENERAL OF PALESTINE POLICE NAMED BY COLONIAL OFFICE

LONDON, Sept. 16.(JTA)-- Capt. J. M. Rymer Jones has been appointed Inspector-General of the Palestine Police Force, the Colonial Office announced today.

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SPLIT IN BRITISH JEWRY LEADS TO FORMATION OF TWO SEPARATE FOREIGN COMMITTEES

LONDON, Sept. 16.(JTA)-- The split between the Board of Deputies of British Jews and the Anglo-Jewish Association reached its climax today with the formation of a separate Committee for Foreign Affairs by the Anglo-Jewish Association which will function parallel with a similar committee existing in the Board of Deputies.

The decision to form its own Committee for Foreign Affairs was adopted at a general meeting of the Anglo-Jewish Association today following weeks of fruitless negotiations with the Board of Deputies. Only two members of the Association voted against the establishment of a separate committee. The new body will seek to cooperate with the foreign committee of the Board of Deputies, it was decided at the meeting.

Prof. Selig Brodetsky, president of the Board of Deputies, speaking for his organization, said that the Board will do nothing to widen the gap between the two organizations and urged that the Anglo-Jewish Association act in the same spirit, in order to enable cooperation at a later date. Leonard Stein, speaking for the Anglo-Jewish Association, said that the Association has no intentions of following an anti-Zionist policy. "Should the Association embark on such a course, a number of members, including members of the executive, will leave the organization, but this is not the case," he declared.

PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT SAYS JEWS HAVE ADDED "NEW LUSTRE TO THEIR BATTLE RECORD"

KIAMESHA, N. Y., Sept. 16.(JTA)-- "The battle record of the American Jew has had lustre added through the heroic feats of the present generation," President Roosevelt declared today in a message sent to the 48th national encampment of the Jewish War Veterans of the United States, which opens here tomorrow.

The President's message, addressed to Benjamin Kaufman, national commander of the J.W.V., reads as follows: "My greetings and best wishes are extended to you and the members of the Jewish War Veterans of the United States. The record of the Jewish War Veterans of the United States on the home front since the inception of the present conflict in aiding the armed forces is known to me. It is one of which you may, with justice, be proud. The battle record of the American Jew has had new lustre added through the heroic feats of the present generation. I am certain that with an unshaken belief in the final triumph of good over evil, the people of the stock of Abraham face the future with courage and hope in the eventual triumph of our just cause."

ZOA TO FORM COMMITTEE OF FINANCIAL EXPERTS TO SEEK INTERNATIONAL AID FOR PALESTINE

NEW YORK, Sept. 16.(JTA)-- The formation by the ZOA of a committee of financial experts to determine the extent to which the United Nations should be asked to finance Jewish reconstruction in Palestine was predicted here today by Dr. Israel Goldstein, newly elected president of the Zionist Organization of America.

Addressing a press conference, Dr. Goldstein also stated that he intends to institute local conferences of non-Zionists throughout the country to be addressed by Zionist leaders for the purpose of converting them to Zionism. The fact that many non-Zionist delegates at the American Jewish Conference voted for the Jewish Commonwealth resolution proves that non-Zionists can be influenced, he said.

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RINGLEADER OF ANTI-SEMITIC RIOTS IN CANADA SURRENDERS TO POLICE, PLEADS GUILTY

MONTREAL, Sept. 16.(JTA)-- Rene Bolduc, son of the police chief of the Canadian resort town of Plage Leval, who has been sought by the police for several weeks as ringleader of a gang of young hoodlums who precipitated an anti-Semitic riot in Plage Leval on July 25, surrendered to the authorities here yesterday.

Young Bolduc pleaded guilty to the charges against him and will be sentenced on September 21. In court yesterday, a constable testified that he had seen Bolduc "roll up his sleeves and look for a fight" during the disturbances. Moe Herscovitz, Canadian Olympic star whose eye was injured, is still under a doctor's care, it was reported at the trial.

ROOSEVELT RECEIVES AWARD OF JEWISH EDUCATIONAL LEAGUE; URGES RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

NEW YORK, Sept. 16.(JTA)-- The importance of religious education was emphasized by President Roosevelt in a message received today by Edgar J. Nathan, Jr., president of the League of Fraternal and Benevolent Organizations of the Jewish Education Committee of New York.

President Roosevelt wrote to Mr. Nathan in response to an award which the League presented to him. The award is made annually to an American who is judged "to have contributed most during the year to the promotion of human brotherhood." The League cooperates with the Jewish Education Committee for the extension and improvement of Jewish religious education in New York through the maintenance of a network of services to the Jewish schools of the City.

"I am very grateful and pleased to receive the first annual award of the League of Fraternal and Benevolent Organizations of the Jewish Education Committee," President Roosevelt said in his message. "The value and importance of religious education is becoming more and more apparent to people all over the world. It will always be an essential factor in the promotion of human brotherhood and of cooperation between nations in the cause of peace."

JEWS ARE FULL-FLEDGED ALLIES IN WAR AGAINST FASCISM, SAYS LORD STRABOLGI

LONDON, Sept. 16.(JTA)-- The "dispossessed, stateless and refugee Jews are our allies just as the Italians became our allies following the overthrow of Fascism," Lord Strabolgi, prominent Laborite peer, declared today, addressing a farewell dinner for Rep. Will Rogers, Jr., who is returning to the United States after several weeks in Britain on a mission for the Emergency Committee to Save the Jewish People of Europe.

Lord Strabolgi told the 200 notables gathered at the dinner that "this is not a war between nations, but a political war" and, therefore, the Jews are full-fledged allies. Rep. Rogers declared that the fight to secure a Jewish Army would continue.

TEN JEWS ELECTED TO SOUTH AFRICAN PROVINCIAL LEGISLATURES

JOHANNESBURG, South Africa, Sept. 16.(JTA)-- Ten Jews have been returned unopposed in the provincial elections just concluded, it was announced here today. The bodies to which the ten have been elected are similar to the state legislatures in the United States.

Prime Minister Jan Christian Smuts this week received a delegation from the Committee to Rescue Jews from Nazi Terror, which has been formed jointly by the South African Trades and Labor Council, the Labor Party and the Poale-Zion Party, with whom he discussed measures to facilitate the rescue of the Jews in Europe.