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BELGIAN GOVERNMENT SAYS ANTI-JEWISH LAWS VOID; WILL PUNISH PERSECUTORS OF JEWS

LONDON, Sept. 20.(JTA)-- The Belgian Government issued a statement today denouncing the recent deportation of large numbers of Belgian Jews and reiterating that all anti-Jewish measures will be considered void when Belgium is liberated and that persons responsible for the persecution of Jews will be severely punished.

Recalling that it has associated itself with various Allied announcements protesting the German mistreatment of Jews, the government stated: "Faithful to the principles which all the United Nations have adopted, the Belgian Government reaffirms that anti-Jewish measures imposed by Germany in Belgium will be held null and void when our territory is freed and any Belgian assisting in such measures will be held guilty of aiding the enemy and will be liable to heavy legal penalties."

PALESTINE GOVERNMENT SPIES ON JEWISH EXPERTS IN "ARMS TRIAL"

JERUSALEM, Sept. 20.(JTA)-- A protest against the use of spies by the prosecution to shadow experts called to give opinions at the "arms trial" here was voiced in court today by Dr. Philip Joseph, attorney for the defense, following the testimony of Sergeant Kelly, one of the police experts on the Hebrew language.

The British policeman testified that he overheard a conversation in Hebrew between the two experts on handwriting, Dr. Elkes and Miss Razendorfer, in which the experts, who were supposed to work independently, allegedly conferred concerning their conclusions with regard to the handwriting of Leib Sirkin, one of the accused Jews charged with buying ammunition from two British soldiers who have been found guilty by a military court of illegal arms traffic. Both experts testified in court that the handwriting found in the notes discovered on one of the convicted soldiers was not Sirkin's.

Protesting the fact that the prosecution used Sergeant Kelly as a witness against the experts, Dr. Joseph urged that the Palestine Government assign its own expert on handwriting to establish the truth. "I am convinced of the innocence of Sirkin and I am certain that a Government expert will only collaborate the findings of Dr. Elkes and Miss Razendorfer," he argued.

Cross-examining the policeman, Dr. Joseph proved to the court that Sergeant Kelly does not understand sufficient Hebrew to be a competent witness against the handwriting experts. The Jewish lawyer submitted an article on education from a Palestine Hebrew newspaper and asked that Kelly translate the article into English. The police expert admitted that he could not do an exact translation of the article.

The prosecutor, embarrassed by the incident, asked the court to examine Sergeant Kelly tomorrow not on written but on spoken Hebrew, since the policeman insisted that he understood what the two Jewish handwriting experts discussed. The court granted the request.

LABOR UNIONS IN CANADA ASK THAT COUNTRY BE OPENED TO REFUGEES; SCORE ANTI-SEMITISM

MONTREAL, Sept. 20. (JTA)-- The Canadian Government was called upon "to offer the sanctuary of Canada to all refugees of religious or political persecution without regard to race, creed or financial condition," in a resolution adopted here at the closing session of the convention of the Canadian Congress of Labor, which was attended by 529 delegates.

The resolution urges the Government "to take immediate steps to facilitate the entry into Canada of refugees, especially those stranded in Portugal whom it is still possible to rescue." The resolution was sponsored by the delegation of the Amalgamated Clothing Workers Union of America.

Another resolution adopted by the convention of the unions, most of which are affiliated with the C.I.O., condemns anti-Semitism as subversive and against the interests of national unity. Similar resolutions were adopted by the convention of the Canadian Trades and Labor Congress which is affiliated with the American Federation of Labor.

Deny that Labor Unions Oppose Immigration

The resolution on the admittance of refugees adopted by the Canadian Trades and Labor Congress denies that organized labor in Canada is opposed to the rescue of persons in Nazi lands.

"The labor movement of Canada," the resolution reads, "has observed with great sympathy the hardships and sufferings which are the lot of those men and women who have fallen under the shadow of the enemy. We are at one with those who ask that all measures which can be taken without prejudice to the prosecution of the war shall be taken for the release and rescue of those who can still be saved. We disavow the libel circulated that it is the working men of this country who obstruct measures for the salvation of the victims of Nazi tyranny.

"We urge our Government and our representatives in Parliament to urge our Government to facilitate a rescue program so that Canada may, to its undying glory, help to rescue those who are in need of salvation," the resolution concludes.

Anti-Jewish Activities Must be Checked, Resolution Says

In the resolution against anti-Semitism, the Canadian Trade and Labor Congress points out that there are "divisive elements" in Canada which exploit differences of creed "for their own vicious ends" and constitute a menace to labor institutions.

"Men of all racial origins and of all religious persuasions have cooperated to build the international labor movement of Canada," the resolution declares. "And men of all faiths and origins are fighting side by side in the present war against fascism and race hatred. We are determined that we of the Labor Movement shall not permit the filthy head of anti-Semitism or racialism to rear itself, but shall extend the comradely tradition of tolerance and fairness which is the pride of Canadian organized labor. This great comradeship and this vision of humanity must be the goal to which labor movement must stride and it will not allow it to be shattered by narrow group prejudices or racial animosities."

AMERICAN COUNCIL FOR JUDAISM DEFENDED IN ENGLAND BY LEADER OF LIBERAL SYNAGOGUE

LONDON, Sept. 20.(JTA)-- Rabbi Israel I. Mattuck, spiritual head of the Liberal Synagogue in London, today took issue with the Jewish Agency on the question of the American Council for Judaism, declaring that "the Jewish Agency underestimates the importance of this Council."

In a letter published in the London Times, Rabbi Mattuck replies to the statement published by Mr. Linton, political secretary of the Jewish Agency, who rebuked the Washington correspondent of the Times for citing the differences of opinion between the American Council for Judaism and the American Jewish Conference as proof that there is no agreement among the Jews in the United States with regard to the post-war status of Palestine.

"Though the American Council for Judaism is very young, it has already progressed considerably," Rabbi Mattuck writes in the Times. "It is the first organization ever established in the United States to oppose political Zionism on the ground of religion and on the basis of Jewish unity."

Referring to the resolution on Palestine adopted at the American Jewish Conference, Rabbi Mattuck points out that many delegates at the Conference abstained from voting for this resolution. "Many of those who did vote for it were not moved by political aims but by the desire to help Jews suffering under the Nazis," he writes, adding that "non-Zionists too are eager to do their utmost to use Palestine as a place of refuge for the persecuted Jews in Nazi Europe."

EYE-WITNESS ACCOUNT OF MISTREATMENT OF NORWEGIAN JEWISH DEPORTEES REACHES SWEDEN

STOCKHOLM, Sept. 20.(JTA)-- Details of the barbaric treatment to which the Norwegian Jews who were deported from Norway to Poland last winter were subjected are revealed today in the Stockholm daily Ny Dag, which publishes a letter written by one of the seamen on the vessel that carried the deportees from Oslo to Germany.

The letter, which was smuggled out of Norway, states: "The Jews were taken to the harbor of Oslo and were not allowed to take leave of their friends. They were placed in the two foremost holds of the vessel, the S.S. Kiel, where they were crowded together in a very restricted space. Conditions were made worse by the fact that 200 more Jews than had been expected were among the deportees, who ranged in age from six years to eighty. When the S.S. Kiel sailed, weather conditions were very bad, and the condition of the Jews in the holds worsened during the voyage. The prisoners suffered appallingly.

"One young Jew attempted to commit suicide by cutting his arteries with the edge of a tin can. Another tried to jump overboard. A woman gave birth to a child in the crowded hold, and was not permitted to move amidships until she had attempted to kill the child. The deportees were given little food and the guards were brutal. The slightest move or word brought fists and clubs into play. The holds were flushed with hoses to clean them, wetting all the belongings of the Jews. When they arrived at the German port most of their possessions were taken from them and either thrown overboard or burnt."

Information reaching here some time ago revealed that from Germany the Norwegian Jews were sent to coal mines near Ketwice in Poland, where the able-bodied men were put to work. The report stated that most of the deportees had died from starvation and overwork.

JEVISH CHAPLAINS OF ALLIED ARMIES HOLD CONFERENCE TO PREPARE FOR HIGH HOLIDAYS

NEW YORK, Sept. 20.(JTA)-- Jewish chaplains with the Allied armies recently held a conference in Algiers to prepare for the Jewish High Holy Days, it was revealed today by the Jewish Welfare Board. A statement issued by the J.W.B. emphasizes that "the largest number of Jewish men and women in uniform in the nation's history, scattered all over the world on every fighting front, will observe the High Holy Days of the year 5704, with all their traditional solemnity and devotion."

"American Jewish chaplains flew into Algiers from Sicily, Tunis, Casablanca and intermediate points to confer with the Senior Chaplain of the North African Theatre and their British colleagues," the statement discloses. "They flew back to their assignments the next day. The conference arranged for High Holy Day services for the British and American forces in the following towns in North Africa: Casablanca, Oran, Algiers, Bizerte, Tunis, Kairouan, Bone, Sousse, Bougie and Phillippeville. Jewish chaplains will also conduct services in several towns in Sicily and behind the lines of the Fifth Army in Italy."

Home hospitality after the services -- a yomtov family dinner in a Jewish home -- was arranged with the Jewish communities in the North African cities. Similar arrangements for religious services followed by home hospitality have been made by the Jewish chaplains in England, Ireland, Hawaii, Australia, New Zealand, Egypt, Palestine and other overseas points, the Jewish Welfare Board announced.

To assist in these arrangements, the chairman of the Army and Navy Committee of the Jewish Welfare Board, Walter Rothschild, visited the British Isles. Mr. Rothschild organized an over-all committee under the chairmanship of Lord Nathan to co-ordinate all arrangements for the High Holy Days in the British Isles and all activities on behalf of the Jewish servicemen and women stationed there.

In this country, arrangements have been made to care for hundreds of thousands of Jewish soldiers and sailors by over 500 local JWB Army and Navy Committees, and 260 USO-JWB workers in cooperation with the Jewish chaplains stationed in their vicinities. Where there is no regularly-stationed Jewish chaplain, the JWB will provide a civilian rabbi to lead the High Holy Day services.

The War and Navy Departments are cooperating by granting passes to attend religious services, wherever military exigencies permit. They have also assigned Jewish chaplains to Labrador, several Caribbean islands and other bases to conduct High Holy Day Services.

REFUGEES DONATE VALUABLE MANUSCRIPTS TO SPUR WAR BOND PURCHASES

NEW YORK, Sept. 20.(JTA)-- A collection of original manuscripts, music scores and paintings has been contributed by refugees now in America for presentation to persons buying large amounts of War Bonds, the Treasury Department announced today. It is expected that the items will be added to private collections or donated to libraries or museums. They will be on view at the New York Public Library for two weeks beginning Sept. 27.

The project has been organized by the Treasury Department with the cooperation of the National Refugee Service and the Immigrants Victory Council and the appeal for further items has been signed by Albert Einstein, Lotte Lehman, Thomas Mann, Elisabeth Bergner and Emil Ludwig.