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JEWS IN FORMER ITALIAN-HELD FRANCE CONSCRIPTED FOR WORK ON NAZI FORTIFICATIONS

GENEVA, Sept. 26.(JTA)-- French police, acting on the orders of the German military authorities, are rounding up for forced labor all foreign Jews between 18 and 50 and all French Jews between 20 and 30 residing in the former Italian-held section of France, it is reported here today. These Jews are to be sent to build fortifications under the direction of the Todt Organization which has been constructing German defense lines throughout Europe.

Local prefectures, under orders from Vichy, have turned over to the Germans lists of all Jews in their districts, the report declares, adding that several hundred Jews have already been arrested in the Haute Savoie region, and sent to an unknown destination. A particularly tragic situation exists in Nice, where the Gestapo is seizing hundreds of Jews who had fled there because they believed it would remain under Italian control. About 200 have already been sent from Nice to Marseille, the report states. A similar situation is reported to exist in other sections of France. Almost the entire Jewish population of Avignon and Dordogne has been arrested, while in Paris the Gestapo has deported all Jewish children left orphaned and homeless by the deportation of their parents.

Despite harassment by German authorities the central Jewish organization is attempting to assist both French and refugee Jews wherever possible, today's report discloses. It says that persons active in the organization are sent to the Drancy concentration camp on the slightest pretext. Among those recently sent to Drancy are Raoul Lambert, president of the central Jewish body, who was arrested in Marseille early this month.

PALESTINE ARMS TRIAL VERDICT EXPECTED TO BE ISSUED TODAY

JERUSALEM, Sept. 26.(JTA)-- A verdict in the arms trial which has been proceeding in a military court here for the past six weeks is expected tomorrow, following completion of summations by both the defense and prosecution.

Concluding his case on Friday, Major Baxter, the prosecutor, asked the court to find the two defendants, Leib Sirkin and Abraham Rachlin, guilty of purchasing 300 rifles and 105,000 rounds of ammunition stolen from British arms stores by two soldiers who have already been convicted of the theft. He reiterated the charge that there exists in Palestine "a sinister organization with agents to do its work in all branches of the armed forces, which possesses enormous sums of money and which has as its chief aims the obtaining of unlimited quantities of arms and ammunition." Baxter asserted that "this organization's aims are against the policy of the Allies and it would be worthwhile looking into who are its members and where it obtains its funds."

The prosecutor stated that Rachlin and Sirkin were members of this organization and that the testimony of the two soldiers linking them with the gun running had not been discredited by the defense. Referring to the fact that the defense had objected to his introducing the names of several Jewish organizations, Baxter

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said: "If the cap fits any persons, that's not my fault." He vehemently denied charges by defense attorneys that the Palestine police were prejudiced against the defendants and had framed the case.

Reviewing the testimony of Golda Meirson, Histadruth leader, concerning the Haganah and Machneh, Jewish self-defense organizations, Baxter said that her "enthusiastic speech" had removed the camouflage from these groups, which were presumably ready to assist the Palestine Government, and had shown them to be organizations that have a "Nazi-like power" to compel their members to perform allotted tasks and which train Jewish youths in the use of arms. Sirkin, he added, fitted the description of "those defenders of the country mentioned by Miss Meirson."

A.F. OF L'S ROSH HASHONAH MESSAGE ASKS END TO RACIAL AND RELIGIOUS DISCRIMINATION

NEW YORK, Sept. 26.(JTA)-- A Rosh Hashonah message to the Jews of the United States and the rest of the world from the 6,000,000 workers organized in the American Federation of Labor was issued here today by William Green, president of the A. F. of L., through Adolph Held, chairman of the Jewish Labor Committee.

The message follows on the heels of an appeal by Mr. Green, Philip Murray, president of the Congress of Industrial Organizations, Mr. Held, and David Dubinsky, president of the International Ladies Garment Workers Union, for action by the United States to have Jews in occupied countries classified as war prisoners and treated accordingly and for the admission to all United Nations territory of Jews fleeing Axis-held countries. The appeal was submitted to Secretary of State Hull on Friday when he received the labor leaders. Mr. Hull is reported to have told the delegation that he would do all possible to assist the Jews in Europe.

The text of Mr. Green's greeting follows: "The American Federation of Labor joins with the Jewish people on this New Year in the hope that before another year has passed the tyrants and oppressors and dictators of Europe and Asia will be punished for their crimes against humanity. The downfall of Mussolini was the first step toward the eventual total elimination of Fascism and Nazism from any and all governments in the world. But, in my opinion total victory will not be complete unless the destruction of the Axis powers is accompanied by the promulgation throughout the world of freedom, democracy and social and religious liberty for all races and creeds. Let us resolve that our coming victory over our enemies will bring about the end, for all time, of religious and racial persecution and mark the beginning of a new era in human relations."

HUNGARIAN JEWS ORDERED TO LIQUIDATE AGRICULTURAL HOLDINGS

ZURICH, Sept. 26.(JTA)-- Jews who own farms of more than five yokes (a yoke is approximately 1.1 acres) have been ordered to offer their holdings, including all live stock, for sale, in a decree issued this week by the Hungarian Ministry of Agriculture, according to Budapest papers received here today. The decree provides that where the Jewish owner and the potential purchaser cannot agree on price or terms of payment, government experts will intervene and set a price.

POLISH GOVERNMENT ISSUES SPECIAL ROSH HASHONAH PUBLICATION FOR JEWISH SOLDIERS

LONDON, Sept. 26.(JTA)-- The Polish Government announced today that in connection with the forthcoming Jewish High Holidays the Ministry of Defense will issue a special publication for Jewish men in the Polish armed forces containing greetings from War Minister Sosnkowski, Gen. Kukiel, army commander, Home Minister Bannoczyk and Dr. Schwartzbart, the Jewish deputy in the Polish National Council,

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PALESTINE'S INDUSTRIAL PROGRESS AIDS WAR EFFORT, U.S. COMMERCE DEPARTMENT REPORTS

WASHINGTON, Sept. 26.(JTA)-- Palestine's industrial achievements must remain secret until the war is won, but the general features that can already be reported testify to the skill and energy devoted to wringing every possible use out of the available resources, it is stated in the current Foreign Commerce Weekly, official organ of the Department of Commerce.

"The Dead Sea is yielding up its ages-old accumulation of chemical salts," the article says, "as two plants draw the sea water into solar evaporation pans, where the rate of evaporation is speeded up by a secret process involving the addition of coloring matter to the water. Bromine, magnesium, potash, and other chemicals are then produced. Another source of heavy chemicals is the oil refinery at Haifa, Palestinian terminus of the transdesert pipe line from Iraq. Besides serving the air and naval services in the eastern Mediterranean, this refinery turns out by-products absorbed by the growing chemical industry."

Research workers at the Hebrew University on Mt. Scopus at Jerusalem have initiated a new pharmaceutical industry, the Commerce Department publication reports. It adds that workshops have sprung up all over Palestine, but especially in the Haifa Bay industrial area, and, starting practically "from scratch" with little outside aid, there has been built up a most important mechanical-repair and parts-manufacturing industry. "At a recent exhibition of new Palestine products, some 800 different kinds of manufactured goods were displayed," the article concludes.

CONGRESS ASKED TO ADOPT RESOLUTION URGING SHIPMENT OF FOOD TO EUROPE'S CHILDREN

NEW YORK, Sept. 26.(JTA)-- An appeal to the people of the United States to urge the adoption by Congress of a resolution calling for the shipment of foods to starving children in the occupied countries was made last night by Howard E. Kershner, director of the International Commission for the Assistance of Child Refugees, in a talk over the Columbia Broadcasting System.

Mr. Kershner, who directed relief activities for the Quakers in Europe from 1939 to 1942, insisted, on the basis of past experience, that the Germans would not interfere with the distribution of food rations to the children of Norway, Holland, Belgium and France. The distribution, he said, would be under the auspices of the International Red Cross and would be financed by funds which the four countries have in the United States. No ships needed for prosecuting the war would be used, he added, and most of the food would come from South America.

SURINAM JEWS MAKE CONTRIBUTION TO DUTCH WAR EFFORT

WASHINGTON, Sept. 26.(JTA)-- The Surinam Committee for Jewish Affairs has sent 16,360 guilders to Queen Wilhelmina in London to aid the Netherlands war effort, according to a dispatch from Paramaribo reported to the Office of War Information from official Netherlands sources.

The drive to raise funds was launched at a rally protesting the German deportation of Jews from Holland, the dispatch said.

PUPILS OF JEWISH SCHOOLS ACTIVE IN THIRD WAR LOAN DRIVE

NEW YORK, Sept. 26.(JTA)-- Teachers and principals of Yeshivoth, Talmud Torahs and other Jewish schools are mobilizing their pupils to take an active part in the purchase and sale of war stamps and bonds for the Third War Loan Drive, it was announced today by James Felt, treasurer of the Jewish Education Committee of New York, who is chairman of a special committee for War Bonds and Stamps in the Jewish schools.