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JEWISH DEFENDANTS IN PALESTINE "ARMS TRIAL" CONVICTED; WILL APPEAL VERDICT

JERUSALEM, Sept. 27. (JTA)-- A British military court today sentenced Leib Sirkin and Abraham Rachlin to terms of ten and seven years imprisonment, respectively on charges of illegally securing arms stolen from military stores.

The verdict, which was immediately followed by the sentencing of the two defendants, was issued this morning after a six-week trial which attracted world-wide attention, since the issues involved transcended the guilt or innocence of the two accused.

Defense attorneys Philip Joseph and Asher Levitsky announced that they would appeal the decision to the General Officer Commanding British forces in the Middle East and would carry the case to the King, if necessary. Dr. Joseph, who was Sirkin's attorney, stated that "Sirkin came here for justice, not mercy. He still considers himself innocent and will not refrain from appealing to the GOC and, if that fails, to the King."

Before delivering the court's verdict, the president of the tribunal, Major Russel Lawrence, made the following statement: "This trial has proved the existence of a large, embracing conspiracy to obtain arms and ammunition from His Majesty's forces. The offenses of which both accused are charged, are a result of this conspiracy which is against the security of the country's inhabitants as well as a hindrance to the war effort. No decent man should allow arms brought by sea at risk of men's lives to be stolen. The organization behind the accused seemingly possesses vast sums of money and a great knowledge of military matters and organization."

Trial Marked by Accusations Against Jewish Institutions

The trial of the Jewish taxi-driver, Rachlin, and the Jewish trade-union official, Sirkin, and also that of Stoner and Harris, the two soldiers from whom they were accused of purchasing the arms, became a forum from which the military prosecutors voiced thinly-veiled accusations against leading Jewish institutions in Palestine, not excluding the Jewish Agency, implying that they were directly involved in a gigantic conspiracy to smuggle arms to secret Jewish defense groups.

Defense attorneys, on the other hand, made counter-charges against the Palestine police, accusing them of anti-Semitic tendencies and of "framing" the case against Rachlin and Sirkin. The defense held that the prosecution had failed to prove possession of the arms in question - 300 rifles and 105,000 rounds of ammunition - by either of the defendants and that its witnesses had on several occasions contradicted themselves and each other.

Frequent references were made during the proceedings to the Haganah and the Machneh, Jewish self-defense groups, which the prosecutor, Major Baxter, charged were part of a "sinister organization extending throughout the Middle East and especially in Palestine." He implied that the stolen arms had been secured for use by these groups. Jewish leaders here ridiculed the prosecution's allegations and termed the trial a "frame-up."

U.S. ZIONISTS DENOUNCE "ARMS TRIAL" VERDICT; CHARGE TRIAL WAS PLOT OF PALESTINE GOVT.

NEW YORK, Sept. 27. (JTA)-- The Palestinian gun-running trials, which concluded in Jerusalem today, were denounced tonight as "part and parcel of a systematic effort by the Palestine government to discredit Jewish aspirations in Palestine by indirection and conniving," by Louis Lipsky, member of the World Zionist Executive, speaking at a Zionist meeting here.

"The Palestinian gun-running trials which have now reached their predestined conclusion indicate, as nothing else could, the real intention of the Palestine administration to destroy Jewish aspirations in Palestine," Mr. Lipsky said. "These trials were part and parcel of a systematic effort by the government to discredit Jewish aspirations by indirection and conniving. They have been magnified and distorted beyond all proportions in a deliberate program of frame-up.

"Gun-running in a war zone is an every-day occurrence," he continued. "Arabs have engaged in it in Palestine since long before the war and their intentions were hostile to democracy and the United Nations. But the Palestine administration has seen fit to convert a routine trial involving two Jews into a cause celebre. Reporters were specially summoned to Cairo to magnify the incident. The trial was a sounding board for the most vicious anti-Jewish utterances by the prosecuting officials, and these were broadcast around the world. Every effort was made by the authorities to make it appear that the Jews, the first victims of Hitler's aggression and a people whose dead are on every battlefield in this war, were acting in a manner inimical to the United Nations. The intent was clear. It was to justify a perpetuation of the White Paper policy.

"It is the intrigue of men who are determined to turn the Jewish National Home into a ghetto. They must be repudiated by the responsible leaders of the United Nations. Sooner or later England must give a candid reply to the Jewish appeal that it honestly keep its covenant to establish a Jewish National Home in Palestine," the Zionist leader declared.

EMIR FEISAL ARRIVING IN U.S. THIS WEEK; WILL CONFER WITH PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT

WASHINGTON, Sept. 27. (JTA)-- Emir Feisal, second son of King Ibn Saud of Saudi Arabia, will arrive here on Thursday as an official guest of the United States Government, it was announced today by the State Department. He will be accompanied by one of his younger brothers, Emir Khalid, and by the Saudi-Arabian Minister to London.

Emir Feisal, who is the foreign minister of Saudi Arabia, will confer with President Roosevelt and Secretary Hull. He will receive all the honors and ceremonies due a foreign minister of a sovereign state.

DAVID J. SCHWEITZER APPOINTED SPECIAL ENVOY OF HIAS-ICA EMIGRATION ASSOCIATION

NEW YORK, Sept. 27. (JTA)-- The appointment of David J. Schweitzer, well-known Jewish social worker, as representative-at-large of the Hias-Ica Emigration Association was announced here today by Abraham Herman, president of Hias in a statement disclosing that Mr. Schweitzer will be sent as a special envoy to Europe and the Near East.

A former vice-chairman of the European Executive Council of the Joint Distribution Committee, Mr. Schweitzer for the past twenty years has been active in the field of Jewish relief and reconstruction in Europe as well as in the Western Hemisphere. He is the first of a group of American representatives whom the Hias and the Hias-Ica Emigration Association intend to send to neutral countries, liberated territories in Europe and to lands in the Near East from where relief can be organized for Jews in occupied territories.

SPANISH GOVERNMENT DENIES THAT ITALIANS STAGED ANTI-JEWISH DEMONSTRATIONS IN TANGIERS

LONDON, Sept. 27.(JTA)-- The Spanish Government today informed the World Jewish Congress office here that no anti-Jewish disturbances have taken place in Tangiers recently as reported in some of the London newspapers.

"There are no indications in Tangiers of any attacks against Jews as result of the international situation," the denial said. The report in the London press to which the Spanish Government took exception stated that minor demonstrations were organized by Italian Fascists in Tangiers against Jews residing there.

FRENCH AIRCRAFT COMPANY ACQUIRES CONFISCATED ROTHSCHILD PROPERTY NEAR PARIS

ZURICH, Sept. 27.(JTA)-- The famous Rothschild estate of Vaux de Cernay, near Paris, belonging to Baron Henri de Rothschild, has been acquired by the Amiot Aircraft Company, it was reported here today. The property was confiscated following the denaturalization of the Rothschild family because they were Jews.

The same report discloses that the French Red Cross has bought, for 86,000 francs, the Rothschild's Children's Hospital at Creil, near Paris. The hospital, which was endowed by Robert Philippe de Rothschild, is continuing to function, the report said.

PALESTINE JEWISH ORGANIZATIONS DEMAND RESCUE OF CHILDREN FROM NAZI LANDS

JERUSALEM, Sept. 27.(JTA)-- The Day of Protest against the Nazi persecution of children, which was initiated by the Polish Government, was observed here yesterday throughout the country with proclamations issued by central Jewish bodies condemning the Nazi "bestial plans to annihilate the younger generation."

The Jewish National Council of Palestine, in its proclamation, urges all efforts to save youth from the Nazis. "We demand," the proclamation says, "expansion of the plans for the rescue of children. We are sure that there still are rescue possibilities. Our houses are wide open to absorb the remnants."

Similar proclamations were issued by the Municipality of Tel Aviv, by the Jewish Federation of Labor and by various other organizations. The Jewish press in Palestine carried editorials appealing to the democratic world to do everything possible for the salvation of children in Nazi-held territories.

British Jews Seek \$400,000 for Relief of Jewish War Victims

LONDON, Sept. 27.(JTA)-- The United Jewish Relief Committee here today launched a campaign to raise \$400,000 for the relief of Jewish war victims in Axis-occupied countries. A public appeal for contributions was issued by Chief Rabbi Joseph Hertz.

Participating in the drive are the Federation of Jewish Relief Organizations, the Polish-Jewish Refugee Fund, the Federation of Czechoslovakian Jews, the Chief Rabbi's Religious Emergency Council and the Keren Hatorah.

OFFICE OF WAR INFORMATION ARRANGES YIDDISH BROADCASTS FOR JEWS OVERSEAS

WASHINGTON, Sept. 27.(JTA)-- The Office of War Information will make short-wave radio facilities available to the Synagogue Council of America for the broadcasting of two programs in Yiddish to Jews overseas in connection with the High Holy Days, it was learned here today. The broadcasts will be made by Rabbi Israel Goldstein and Rabbi Ahron Opher, both of New York.

U.S. AND BRITAIN TRANSFER JEWISH REFUGEES FROM NEUTRAL COUNTRIES TO OVERSEAS LANDS

JOHANNESBURG, Sept. 27.(JTA)-- Prime Minister Jan Christian Smuts today assured a Jewish labor delegation that Jewish refugees are being taken from neutral countries on neutral ships to overseas lands and that this work "is being carried out actively by the British and U.S. Governments," without publicity.

Questioned as to the possibility of large numbers of refugees being admitted to South Africa, Gen. Smuts said that this country is already harboring many war refugees and evacuees. "The food situation and other pressing local problems make it difficult to admit more," he declared. He emphasized that by moving refugees from neutral countries, the governments of the United States and Britain are enabling the neutrals to admit other refugees from Nazi-held territory and the Axis satellite countries.

HADASSAH SENDS \$108,000 TO BUILD HOMES FOR ORTHODOX CHILDREN IN PALESTINE

NEW YORK, Sept. 27.(JTA)-- A grant of \$108,000 to build houses for orthodox Jewish refugee children brought to Palestine under the aegis of the Youth Aliyah movement was cabled to Palestine today as a Rosh Hashonah gift by Hadassah.

The grant will be divided into two portions - \$80,000 to be allocated to agricultural colonies which have recently taken in refugee children and reported inadequate housing facilities, and the remaining \$28,000 to be used to build homes in a new village for boys and girls who have entered from neighboring Yemen.

WAR WILL END ON APRIL 12, 1944, DR. STEPHEN WISE PREDICTS

NEW YORK, Sept. 27.(JTA)-- The war against Germany will end on April 12, 1944, it was predicted today by Rabbi Stephen S. Wise. Dr. Wise voiced his prediction in connection with the nation-wide "Time for Victory" contest, the sponsors of which are offering \$2,500 in war bonds to the person making the most accurate guess.

Dr. Wise said that the two prerequisites for victory are complete unity of the United States, Britain and Russia, and realization by the German people that they are licked. He said that should his guess be correct, he would divide the prize between the Army and Navy relief organizations since he did not feel entitled to retain it because "prediction is my business."

DR. KURT ROSENFELD, GERMAN SOCIALIST AND JURIST, DIES HERE AT 68

NEW YORK, Sept. 27.(JTA)-- Funeral services will be held here tomorrow for Dr. Kurt Rosenfeld, prominent German Jewish Socialist and jurist, who died at his home in Queens yesterday at the age of 68. Dr. Rosenfeld was a member of the Reichstag from 1919 until 1933 when he was forced to flee Germany. Prior to that he was Prussian Minister of Justice. At the time of his death he was president of the anti-Nazi German American Emergency Conference, which he helped to found here a short time ago to combat Nazi activities.

Dr. Rosenfeld aroused Hitler's personal enmity because he questioned the Fuehrer sharply during a libel trial in 1932 and caused Hitler to lose his temper publicly. Under Dr. Rosenfeld's prodding, Hitler shouted: "I won't answer any more questions from Jewish lawyers." The Fuehrer was fined 1,000 marks. When Dr. Rosenfeld fled Germany in 1933, a fine of 80,517 marks was decreed for him.