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PERSECUTION OF ITALIAN JEWS BY NAZIS DESCRIBED BY EYE-WITNESS; THOUSANDS DEPORTED

BERN, Nov. 28. (JTA)-- Although the Nuremberg Laws have not yet been officially introduced in German-held Italy, the Jewish population there is suffering severe persecution, according to a Jewish Telegraphic Agency informant who just returned here from northern Italy.

This informant says that the Mussolini puppet government has decreed that all works of art and other property belonging to Jews are to be confiscated immediately. According to reports available in Italy, he says, about 12,000 to 15,000 of the country's 39,000 Jews have already been sent to concentration camps under the supervision of German S. S. troops while an additional 10,000 have been deported to Germany or Poland. All remaining Jews are now being rounded up, with only those above the age of 65 being allowed their freedom. In addition, the Nazis have levied a collective fine on the Jewish populations of Trieste, Milan, Verona and Merano.

The JTA informant described heartbreaking scenes when Jewish men were separated from their wives, and mothers from their children and deported. He says that of several thousand sent to Poland hundreds died en route from starvation and cold.

FRENCH GUERRILLA BAND FREES JEWS FROM CONCENTRATION CAMP; ARRESTS OF JEWS CONTINUE

GENEVA, Nov. 28. (JTA)-- A detachment of French "Maquillards" (partisan bands who derive their name from the fact that they operate in the brush country) recently attacked the Gurs concentration camp, where thousands of Jews are confined, and liberated many of them, it is reliably reported here today.

The report says that the guerrilla detachment overpowered the Mobile Guards and Nazi troops with which the camp was garrisoned and disarmed them. All prisoners who signified their willingness to join the Maquillards were released and went with the guerrillas. The Jews who remained in the camp were punished severely by the Nazis who charged them with responsibility for the raid, the report adds.

It is also reported that mass round-ups of Jews are continuing throughout France, in the cities of Montpellier, Perpignan, Nice and in the departments of Savoy and Haute Savoie, several thousand French, Hungarian and Polish Jews have been arrested in recent weeks. Most of this territory was formerly held by Italian troops.

ARRESTED RAMATH HAKOVESH SETTLERS RELEASED; WEIZMANN REFUSES TO COME TO PALESTINE

JERUSALEM, Nov. 28. (JTA)-- All the Jewish settlers arrested during the raid by British and Polish military police on the colony of Ramath Hakovesh on Nov. 16 were released over the week-end on bail furnished by the Jewish National Council. Although it was never announced officially how many settlers were arrested, it was reliably reported that 35 men had been seized.

It was learned here today that Dr. Chaim Weizmann has definitely refused to come to Palestine to discuss the situation precipitated by David Ben Gurion's resignation from the Jewish Agency executive.

11/29/43

UNRRA EXPECTED TO COORDINATE WORK OF JEWISH RELIEF AGENCIES IN LIBERATED EUROPE

ATLANTIC CITY, Nov. 28. (JTA)-- One of the first jobs of the United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration will be to coordinate the work of Jewish and other voluntary relief organizations through a welfare branch directly under Director-General Herbert H. Lehman, it was learned here today.

Agencies such as the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee, the Jewish Labor Committee, the World Jewish Congress, the Federation of Polish Jews, Hadassah and others are expected to offer their cooperation. Under the UNRRA agreement, signed by 44 United Nations and their associates, private charity can only work in liberated areas under UNRRA direction. The subcommittee report on this subject said:

"The resources, personnel and skill of voluntary agencies, too, will be needed. Within such limits as may be imposed by necessity, it should, therefore, be the policy of UNRRA to enlist the cooperation of any . . . voluntary relief agencies and seek their participation in relief and rehabilitation measures which they have the competence, personnel and other resources to administer and which can be effectively integrated with the UNRRA program as a whole. So far as feasible these agencies should be permitted to operate in the areas of their choice."

The last provision should enable Jewish organizations to work in areas where Jewish populations have been most affected by the ravages of war and the Nazis -- particularly Poland and reoccupied Russia. In each country, however, the government or national authority has the right to accept, supervise or bar this help.

These proposals have not yet been approved by the powerful Committee on Relief and Rehabilitation Policies. After an opportunity for revision there, they will be submitted to the UNRRA council, on which all 44 member nations are represented.

UNRRA, itself, will be able to give special help to Jews under a policy laid down in a report by Anders Frihagen, Norwegian Minister of Reconstruction. The report said:

"In any area where relief and rehabilitation operations are being conducted through the employment, in whole or part of the administrations resources, relief in all its aspects shall be distributed or dispensed fairly on the basis of the relative needs of the population in the area, and without discrimination against any person for whatever reason."

Then, to provide for special cases like those of persecuted Jews, the report added: "In determining the relative needs of the population, there may be taken into account the diverse needs caused by discriminatory treatment by the enemy during its occupation of the area." The report will probably be approved by the committee on general policy and by the full council of UNRRA.

DUTCH NAZIS ASK THAT MARRIAGE TO A JEW BE MADE GROUND FOR DIVORCE

STOCKHOLM, Nov. 28. (JTA)-- Dutch Nazis are agitating for revision of Holland's marriage laws to make marriage to a Jew grounds for divorce. The Nazi newspaper "Storm," a recent copy of which was received here, writes: "The mere fact that one is married to a Jew should be sufficient reason for a divorce."

PARLIAMENTARIAN SUGGESTS DOMINION STATUS FOR JEWISH NATIONAL HOME IN PALESTINE

LONDON, Nov. 28. (JTA)-- The suggestion that Palestine be given Dominion status within the British Empire is made here today by Sir Jocelyn Lucas, Conservative M. P., writing in the Manchester Guardian. Such a step, he said, would be welcomed by the vast majority of Jews throughout the world. The Arabs, likewise, will not object, Sir Jocelyn asserts, because they know that under British dominion status they will have greater power and security. If the Jewish Agency can convince the world that Arab interests would be protected in a Jewish national home which had Dominion status, opposition to the scheme would disappear, he concluded.

Lord Strabolgi, Laborite peer, meanwhile, attacked what he said was appeasement of extreme Arab nationalists in the Middle East. "Arab mischief-makers" in league with the Axis are agitating to secure lifting of the British mandate and a reversal of the policy of a Jewish national home, Lord Strabolgi told a meeting of the Anglo-Palestine Club. Pointing out that the Jews are the only reliable friends of the Allies in the Middle East, he called on the United States, Britain and France to defend United Nations interests in that area by abrogating the White Paper.

HOUSTON CONGREGATION APPROVES PRINCIPLES OF "ADVANCED REFORM JUDAISM"

HOUSTON, Texas, Nov. 28. (JTA)-- Replying to a query by the Jewish Telegraphic Agency concerning the situation at the Beth Israel Synagogue in Houston, where a dispute has been raging between members of the congregation, the Jewish Community Council of Houston issued the following statement:

"Congregation Beth Israel at a special meeting of its membership voted 623 to 168 to ratify and approve the action of the Board of Directors in adopting the basic principles of the Congregation. These principles outline advanced Reform Judaism and are to be the basis of voting membership in the Congregation for new members. The meeting also approved several resolutions censuring the Hebrew Union College, the Union of American Hebrew Congregations and the Council of American Rabbis for failure to uphold traditional Reform Judaism and urging them to take a more definite stand."

Zionist Head Flays Houston Temple for "Barring Observers of Traditional Judaism"

WASHINGTON, Nov. 28. (JTA)-- The action taken by the reform congregation Beth Israel of Houston, Texas, in voting approval of a "statement of principles" barring from voting membership all believers in "the Rabbinical and Mosaic laws which regulate diet" was branded as a "callous effrontery" toward the concepts of Judaism and an act of intolerance, in a statement issued here today by Dr. Israel Goldstein, president of the Zionist Organization of America. The pledge required from each member also repudiates the Hebrew language as "unintelligible to the vast majority of our co-religionists," Dr. Goldstein said.

Terming the action of the Houston Congregation "an amazing phenomenon in American Jewish life" Dr. Goldstein, in his statement, asserts that in voting approval of the pledge the congregation revealed "an inner-demoralization which makes them not only inferior Jews, but inferior Americans."

DR. LOUIS GINSBERG, TALMUD AUTHORITY, HONORED ON 70TH BIRTHDAY

NEW YORK, Nov. 28. (JTA)-- Dr. Louis Ginsberg, Professor of Talmud and Rabbis at the Jewish Theological Seminary for the past 41 years, was honored at a reception at the Seminary today on the occasion of his 70th birthday, attended by leaders in religious and public life. Dr. Ginsberg is considered the greatest living authority on the Talmud and was cited in 1936 by Harvard University as one of the 66 foremost scholars and scientists in the world. He was born in Poland and educated at German universities.

NATIONAL LABOR COMMITTEE FOR PALESTINE KITS WHITE PAPER, ASKS PROBE OF PALESTINE GOVT.

NEW YORK, Nov. 28. (JTA)-- The two-day convention marking the twentieth anniversary of the National Labor Committee for Palestine concluded here today with the adoption of resolutions demanding the immediate revocation of the White Paper restricting Jewish immigration into Palestine and the opening of the doors of Palestine to the hundreds of thousands of Jewish survivors in Hitler-occupied Europe. The resolution also demanded the appointment of an inter-parliamentary body to investigate the activities of British government officials in Palestine whom it accused of fighting against Jewish interests.

Isaac Hamlin, Secretary of the Committee, announced that the organization, which raised more than \$800,000 during 1943 for the aid of the Histadruth, the National Labor Federation of Palestine, has established a goal of \$1,250,000. for the coming year. Affiliated with the National Labor Committee for Palestine are major labor unions, fraternal organizations, women's organizations and youth groups in the United States with a total membership of more than one million.

At a mass meeting held at Manhattan Center last night several speakers, among them Dr. Stephen S. Wise, president of the American Jewish Congress, Joseph Schlossberg, member of the Board of Higher Education of New York, and Israel Mereminski, representing the Palestine Histadruth organization, joined in denouncing the White Paper and urging that the intentions of the Balfour Declaration guaranteeing a Jewish Commonwealth in Palestine be observed. Dr. Wise charged that British officials in Palestine were deliberately inciting Jews to violence in order to find justification for the White Paper.

EXPERTS IN U. S. AND PALESTINE PLANNING SETTLEMENT OF 1,000,000 REFUGEES IN HOLY LAND

CLEVELAND, Nov. 28. (JTA)-- To prepare for the settlement in Palestine of a million Jewish refugees soon after the war and of additional numbers later, a body of technical experts in this country and another in Palestine are assembling data and laying plans for what may evolve into a five-year plan for Palestine's economic development, it was announced here last night by Dr. Emanuel Neumann, of New York.

Dr. Neumann, a former member of the World Zionist Executive in Jerusalem and now chairman of the economic studies and planning committee of the American Zionist Emergency Council, described the scope and objectives of the economic studies at the final session of the twentieth annual convention of Junior Hadassah, the Young Women's Zionist Organization of America, in the Hotel Statler. Dr. Neumann estimated that the cost of settling one million immigrants in Palestine may reach up to one billion dollars.

The convention adopted a statement hailing "the Jews of Russia, as all other peoples of that land, for their undaunted valor and magnificent fighting skill against the Nazi-Facist forces." It approved a budget of \$118,000 for its youth education and social service projects in Palestine. Miss Naomi Chertoff of New York, was unanimously reelected president.

SCHWARTZ RETURNING FROM EUROPE TO REPORT TO JDC ON PRESENT SITUATION OF JEWS

NEW YORK, Nov. 28. (JTA)-- Dr. Joseph Schwartz, European director of the Joint Distribution Committee, will return to the United States this week to report on the present situation of the Jews in Europe at a special meeting called by the JDC for next Sunday, Dec. 5, it was announced here today. Miss Laura Margolis, JDC representative in Shanghai, who is en route home aboard the exchange liner Gripsholm is also expected to speak at the meeting.