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NEW "ARMS TRIAL" OPENED IN PALESTINE; JEWS CHARGED WITH POSSESSION OF BOMBS

JERUSALEM, Dec. 8. (JTA) -- A new "arms trial" opened in a military court here today with seven Jewish settlers of the Hulda colony charged with illegal possession of 88 mortar bombs and 85 ballistite cartridges which were discovered during a search by Polish troops for deserters from the Polish forces in Palestine.

Two of the seven accused, Jacob Mass and Jacob Galata, pleaded guilty at the opening session of the court today at which Brigadier A. A. Allen, the military commander of the Hulda area, appeared as first witness. He was followed on the witness stand by Police Inspector Hacket who revealed that more than 100 armed policemen participated in the raid on Hulda, in addition to British and Polish troops.

Explaining that he "acted upon instructions," Brigadier Allen told the court that on October 31 he sent British soldiers to surround the Hulda colony and assist the Polish Army in its search for deserters. "No deserters were found," the British commander testified, "but later the police arrived and discovered arms which were laying unhidden in a shed in the settlement."

The police, Brigadier Allen continued, asked the head of the settlement for an explanation as to these arms, but received no satisfactory reply. A large number of settlers, including women, then started shouting and obstructed the police in carrying out their duties. Whereupon the British soldiers were ordered to assist the police in dispersing the crowd and in removing the arms.

Settlers Explain Need of Arms; Cite Arab Riots

Cross-examined by defense attorney David Goiten, the British commander admitted that he had later received a letter from the Hulda settlers apologizing and explaining their conduct. The letter pointed out that Hulda had a tragic history. It was utterly burned down during the Arab disturbances of 1929. Three years later it was re-established, but then it was again destroyed, this time losing seventeen members. After re-establishing itself for the second time, the colony sent twenty-two of its young men into active service in the British armed forces.

Police Inspector Hacket, appearing as the second witness, confirmed the testimony of Brigadier Allen. He also confirmed the fact that Hulda was burned down during Arab riots and that Jews were killed there and Jewish property looted. The inspector also revealed that at one time the settlers in Hulda had been cut off from the rest of the country by Arab bands and had to be supplied with food by airplanes. "The Hulda settlement," he said, "is isolated because there are no paved roads leading to it and because it can be reached only by passing through Arab villages."

Asked by the president of the court whether the Jewish Auxiliary Police in Hulda assisted the police in the search for arms, Inspector Hacket said that he did not order them to do so. He added that the settlement police are maintained by the settlement and receive their training there. The trial is being presided over by Major Russell Lawrence and Capt. Threadwell is acting as prosecutor. Major Lawrence presided during the trial in which Leib Sirkin and Abraham Rachlin were sentenced to 10 and seven years, respectively, for alleged gun running.

POPE MAKES FORMAL PROTEST TO GERMANY OVER DEPORTATION OF JEWS FROM ITALY

STOCKHOLM, Dec. 8. (JTA) -- Pope Pius personally protested yesterday to the German Ambassador to the Vatican against the continued deportation of Jews from Rome and other cities in the German-controlled part of Italy, it was reported in the Swedish press today.

The German ambassador, Baron Ernst von Weizsaecker, was given a brief audience by the Pope during which the formal protest was made. Last week, the *Observatore Romano*, official organ of the Vatican, published an article which stated that the Pope viewed with disfavor the Nazi persecution of the Jews in Italy. The Germans, however, paid no attention to the article and continued to deport Jews from Rome to Unknown destinations.

Trains loaded with Jewish deportees are still leaving Rome daily, according to a report by a correspondent of the influential Swedish newspaper *Eskilstuna Kuriren*. The correspondent writes that thousands of Jews have already been deported from the Italian capital and German authorities plan to expell about 20,000 Jewish families. Some of the Rome Jews succeeded in reaching Switzerland, while others are in hiding in the countryside, the correspondent adds.

TURKEY RELEASES JEWS FROM LABOR CAMPS; INFORMS U. S. AMBASSADOR OF NEW POLICY

CAIRO, Dec. 8. (JTA) -- More than 1,000 men, many of them Jews, who have been confined in a Turkish labor camp in the Anatolian Mountains for inability to pay a special discriminatory capital levy, have been released, it was learned here today following conclusion of the conferences between Turkish President Inonu and Prime Minister Churchill and President Roosevelt. Turkish officials informed American Ambassador Laurence Steinhardt last week that the prisoners were to be freed.

The decree under which the men were imprisoned provided for a "yarlik Vergisi," a capital tax which presumably affected all residents of the country, but which in practice spelled ruin for the Jewish, Greek and Armenian populations. It was put into effect about a year ago and shortly afterwards large numbers of Jews and members of other minority groups were sent to labor camps to work out the portion of the excessive tax which they were unable to pay.

The decision, at this time, to release the prisoners is interpreted here to be a direct result of Turkey's closer orientation to the Allied powers, whose representatives, it is reported, gave her to understand that such discriminatory legislation would not be looked upon kindly in the democratic nations.

JEWISH AGENCY IN PALESTINE SENDS THREE-MAN DELEGATION TO LONDON

JERUSALEM, Dec. 8. (JTA) -- The Jewish Agency executive, at an urgent meeting today, decided to send a three-man delegation to London composed of Moshe Shertok, Rabbi Fishman and Dr. Emil Schmorak. The three members of the executive represent the Laborites, Mizrachi and General Zionists respectively.

During the absence of Mr. Shertok who is the head of the political department of the Jewish Agency, his post will be filled by Bernard Joseph, the Agency's legal adviser, who is to consult with David Ben-Gurion regarding all political problems. This decision is subject to approval of the Zionist Actions Committee.

The executive declined to extend to Mr. Joseph the right to vote as a full-fledged executive member. It also rejected a proposal that Berl Locker, a Laborite, be given the status of a member of the executive because of his activities in the Jewish Agency.

RELIEF AGENCIES CAN EARMARK CONTRIBUTIONS TO UNRRA FOR JEWISH WAR VICTIMS IN EUROPE

WASHINGTON, Dec. 8. (JTA) -- Jewish Welfare Agencies will be able to specify that their relief funds be used to help Jewish war victims in Europe, under an interpretation offered today by Assistant Secretary of State Dean Acheson, of a decision taken at the first meeting of the United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration.

Acheson, who represents the United States on UNRRA's council, has been making a detailed explanation of the policies laid down in Atlantic City to the Foreign Affairs Committee of the House of Representatives. The Committee is considering United States participation in UNRRA. One of UNRRA's decisions was to accept contributions from non-governmental sources.

Rep. W. O. Burgin, North Carolina Democrat, asked Acheson whether the contributors could specify the group to benefit from their donations. Acheson replied: "Yes, unless the group is so narrow as to be impossible so far as administration is concerned. We could not, for instance, single out twelve to thirteen-year-old Greek girls."

Rep. John M. Vorys, Ohio Republican, asked whether such contributions would be administered on the principles of the community chest, which uses donations for specific causes, but ensures that distribution is according to need. Acheson replied that "a fair and equitable distribution of relief services" would be necessary. Specific Jewish contributions were not mentioned in the discussion.

One UNRRA resolution provides that "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." Acheson also told the committee that UNRRA would care for refugees until they are repatriated, help in repatriation, and help after repatriation. The Intergovernmental Committee on Refugees, he said, would take care of sending to new homes those refugees who cannot or do not want to go back.

KING IBN SAUD, ADDRESSING PILGRIMS IN MECCA, URGES CREATION OF PAN-ARAB FEDERATION

CAIRO, Dec. 8. (JTA) -- A statement strongly supporting the idea of a pan-Arab federation was made by King Ibn Saud in Mecca, it is reported by an Arab news agency here today.

Welcoming prominent pilgrims to Mecca, the King of Saudi Arabia is reported to have emphasized that the creation of a pan-Arab federation was in the interest of every Moslem. He expressed his agreement with the viewpoint taken by Egypt and Syria on this question.

"We must have Arab unity, if we want to be able to save all Arab countries," King Ibn Saud is reported to have stated. "This unity is necessary in order that we may be able to ask the Allies to support the liberty of the independent Arab countries and to obtain independence for other Arab lands."

The Arab press in Cairo reports that a delegation from Lebanon will visit Egypt early next month to participate in the talks on Arab unity conducted by the Egyptian premier Nahas Pasha with leaders of various Arab countries.

FASCIST POLICE SEEK TO TRAP ITALIAN PRIESTS AIDING JEWS TO ESCAPE TO SWITZERLAND

WASHINGTON, Dec. 8. (JTA) -- Fascist police are disguising themselves as Jewish refugees in a new campaign to trap priests in Italian border towns who are suspected of aiding prisoners to escape, the Swiss newspaper Basler Nachrichten said in a dispatch reported today to the Office of War Information.

The dispatch said the police actions has been accompanied by articles in the Fascist press which are intended to "make an end of tolerance toward the Jews" and which brand such an attitude as "betrayal of race."

In one village near the frontier, the Swiss paper related, an "unknown" person who professed to be a Jew approached the priest and asked to be sheltered from persecution. The priest took him in and was "on the point of conducting him to the frontier" when the "Jew" revealed himself as a militia officer and arrested the priest.

A similar incident occurred in another locality, said the dispatch. Here, however, the priest "scented danger" and did not commit himself, but he was nevertheless arrested by the "police informer." Parishioners greeted his release a short time later with ringing church bells, the dispatch added.

PREMIER SMUTS ASSUMES PATRONAGE OVER YOUTH ALIYAH; WILL HELP JEWISH YOUNGSTERS

LONDON, Dec. 8. (JTA) -- Field Marshal Jan Christian Smuts, Premier of South Africa who has temporarily replaced Winston Churchill as head of the British War Council, today became a patron of the Youth Aliyah which enables Jewish refugee children to come to Palestine.

In announcing Gen. Smuts' acceptance, the Youth Aliyah headquarters here issued a statement reading: "Under the patronage of Premier Smuts we are looking confidently to the future when we hope to assume responsibility for many thousands of Jewish children who will be brought to Palestine as soon as more European countries are liberated."

The Jews of Palestine cannot be blamed for arming themselves in view of the present situation in the country, it was stated today by S. S. Hammersley, Conservative M. P., in a letter to the London Times.

"The majority of the Arabs possess arms," Hammersley points out, "and fearing that worse is to come the Jews have taken steps to defend themselves. Can we blame them?" He adds that the Arabs have used disorders as "an instrument of force to persuade the British Government to modify the original intention of a home in Palestine for the Jews."

DUTCH OFFICER CONFIRMS NAZIS DYNAMITED JEWISH YOUTHS IN CONCENTRATION CAMP

EDINBURGH, Dec. 8. (JTA) -- Confirmation of earlier reports that the Germans had blasted to death 400 Dutch Jewish prisoners in the quarries of the Mauthausen concentration camp in Austria was given today by Dutch Lieut. Kees De Ridder, who fled Holland last summer.

Lieut. De Ridder told a press conference here that the dynamiting of 400 young Jews between the ages of 17 and 24 had occurred soon after the German occupation of his country, but reports of the massacre did not reach the Netherlands until a few months ago.