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GERMAN COMMAND ORDERS ROME OFFICIALS TO ESTABLISH CONCENTRATION CAMP FOR JEWS

LONDON, Dec. 13. (JTA) -- The German radio reported today that the municipal authorities in Rome have been ordered by the German military command there to establish a "concentration center" large enough to accommodate 16,000 Jews. The broadcast admitted that mass-arrests and deportations of Jews continue, and added that some Jews in Rome are temporarily permitted to remain in their homes under police surveillance awaiting transfer to the projected "concentration center."

The London press reports today that the *Osservatore Romano*, organ of the Pope, has published a second criticism of the German administration in Rome for deporting Jews from Italy. The second protest against the German anti-Jewish measures followed the formal representations which the Pope made personally last week to the German Ambassador at the Vatican City. It asserts that the Germans are showing no mercy to women and children during the deportations.

The British Foreign Office is criticized by the *Manchester Guardian* today for its statement yesterday regarding aid for Jewish and other refugees. The article points out that the statement of the Foreign Office contains figures which are irrelevant to the actual work of rescuing Jews from Nazi lands. "We are even told in this document that the Palestine administration offered to receive 34,000 potential Jewish refugees, while the actual truth is that the administration being bound under the White Paper to admit 75,000 Jews to Palestine has kept out the immigrants with such zeal that it is now 34,000 short of the permitted total," the article says.

The Intergovernmental Committee for Refugees is also criticized in the article for its inactivity in saving Jews from German-occupied and Nazi-dominated countries. "The slowness of the Intergovernmental Committee is painful, and the addition of twenty more states as members of this committee will hardly quicken the pace of its work," the *Guardian* writes.

GEORGE BACKER DISCUSSES PALESTINE PROBLEMS WITH JEWISH LEADERS IN JERUSALEM

JERUSALEM, Dec. 13. (JTA) -- George Backer, who arrived here several days ago from the United States, left today for Cairo, after a tour of Palestine during which he visited the Ramath Hakovesh colony where a Jewish settler was killed and several wounded in a recent clash with police who raided the settlement in search of arms.

During his stay in Palestine, Mr. Backer discussed political questions with members of the executive of the Jewish Agency and with leaders of Palestine Jewry. He visited the Wailing Wall and other historic places in Jerusalem.

Moshe Shertok, head of the political department of the Jewish Agency, also left for Cairo today, traveling together with Mr. Backer. He will remain in Cairo for ten days to discuss political problems there with British officials. Berl Locke, of the Jewish Agency office in London, also proceeded today to Cairo from where he will return to London.

COUNCIL OF JEWISH FEDERATIONS AND WELFARE FUNDS URGES UNITY IN COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES

NEW YORK, Dec. 13. (JTA) -- Jewish federations, welfare funds and community councils were urged by the Council of Jewish Federations and Welfare Funds not to permit conflicts in some areas to destroy united Jewish action in the field of fund raising and community organization, it was learned here today when the Council made public the text of a letter to this effect circulated to member agencies.

The letter, signed by Sidney Hollander, president of the Council, and William J. Shroder, chairman of its board, resulted from a decision taken by the board of directors of the Council at a meeting held last month in Pittsburgh. The text reads:

"For many years our Jewish communities have organized themselves to meet their communal needs and community obligations with complete recognition and acceptance of two basic principles;

"1. - That united community action can be achieved in all fields where there is a common desire to act together for the benefit of Jewry generally and the community in particular; 2. - That all individuals and groups in our communities can work together effectively with full recognition that there are differences of opinion and belief in many areas.

"These principles are inherent in the organization of federations, welfare funds and community councils. They have proven themselves through many years of experience.

"Under the stress of present conditions it becomes increasingly difficult to forget differences in order to do together those things which can and should be done together. This may result in hasty action inimical to your long-term obligations. Recognizing this, the Council of Jewish Federations and Welfare Funds, by formal action of its Board of Directors, has authorized this word of reaffirmation of its basic principles.

"We urge upon all communities the necessity of not permitting conflicts in some areas to destroy what has been achieved by cooperative action, and to continue, and to expand their community organizations for the betterment of our people here and throughout the world, and for making their contribution to American life."

Differences of Ideology can Exist, But Contracts Must be Honored, Hollander Says

Supplementing this letter, a statement by Mr. Hollander emphasized that "differences of ideology do exist and will continue to exist, but we have contracted together to maintain communal solidarity for the support of those causes for which we have a common responsibility or group interest. This contract has always been honored. We can continue to honor it.

"The American Jewish Conference, initiated in the hope of furthering unity, regrettably left an aftermath of secession and counter-secession," Mr. Hollander declared. "I don't believe that American Jews, any more than other Americans, can subscribe to a single ideology. The Conference simply proved once again that all of us hold convictions from which we will not easily be swayed.

"However, we seem to be forgetting that we have held firm to our differing beliefs for many years. And during those same years we have established an enviable record in erecting a structure of services developed and supported on the solid foundation of joint endeavor. In other words, our Jewish communities have long been

a living proof that local groups can work together in common purpose for the causes they support and still have divergent ideas on numerous phases of Jewish life.

"I am certain that not every contributor to our federations and welfare funds admires all the beneficiary agencies alike, nor does joint fund-raising require this. Conceivably he is less than enthusiastic or even opposed to some, but despite such questionings, the self-imposed obligations of American Jews have always been generously and willingly discharged through cooperative effort by all groups.

Urges Jewish Groups to Emulate Cooperation of Different Religions

"We should remember also that community chests are based on cooperation among Protestants, Catholics and Jews," Mr. Hollander continues. "If different religious groups can work together without giving up their own religious principles, cooperation among Jewish groups should not be difficult.

"Today the pressure of world events has strained and complicated much of what we do and think. But that must not divert us from the necessity of maintaining and protecting what we have so successfully achieved.

"Whether a central community body can or cannot represent all of our different theories and beliefs, we know that we can all participate in its concrete activities. It is a healthy educational process for debates to continue. Independent thought frequently revitalizes action. But the place for debate and agreement has always been the forum, the meeting-hall. The community organizations have other positive functions on which we have all agreed. These must have the right of way."

RUMANIAN HEALTH CONDITIONS DETERIORATING AS RESULT OF BAN ON JEWISH DOCTORS

ZURICH, Dec. 13. (JTA) -- The health of the population in Rumania is steadily deteriorating as a result of the fact that Jewish doctors have been barred from serving any but Jewish patients, it is admitted in the German press.

The Hamburger Fremdenblatt, which was received here today, states that in discussing the health situation in Rumania, "we must take into account the fact that since Jewish doctors are only permitted to treat Jewish patients, there is an acute shortage of physicians for the 'Aryan' population."

EXHIBIT OF LEBANESE ART OPENED IN JERUSALEM; YIDDISH CLASSICS FOR PALESTINE YOUTH.

JERUSALEM, Dec. 13. (JTA) -- An exhibition of the works of Lebanese artists was opened here today at the Bezalel National Museum. Speaking at the opening, Isaac Ben Zvi, president of the Jewish National Council, reviewed the cultural relations between Palestine and Lebanon in ancient times, when Lebanese craftsmen helped to construct the Temple in Jerusalem.

In order to acquaint the younger members of the Palestine Jewish community with the classics of Yiddish culture, a new publishing company calling itself "Hamessef" has been founded here, with capital of more than \$85,000. It will also publish the works of contemporary Yiddish writers in Hebrew translations. Among those whose works will be published are Joseph Opatoshu, David Bergelson, I.J. Singer, Moshe Kulback, Peretz Hirschbein, S. Nizer, Jonah Rosenfeld, Mani Leib, Abraham Reisen and David Pinski.

STATE DEPARTMENT SIDESTEPS CRUX OF REFUGEE PROBLEM, ZOA PRESIDENT CHARGES

NEW YORK, Dec. 13. (JTA) -- Asserting that the statement issued by Breckenridge Long, Assistant Secretary of State, before the House Foreign Affairs Committee, to the effect that 580,000 refugees were admitted to this country over a period of ten years, "is welcome in and for itself," Dr. Israel Goldstein, president of the Zionist Organization of America, declared last night that "even within our strict immigration quotas, many additional tens of thousands could have been saved by our government." He charged that "a new illiberal policy in granting visas has prevented many from coming in who later met their death in concentration camps and execution chambers."

Speaking at a testimonial rally tendered him by New York Zionists at the Biltmore Hotel, Dr. Goldstein declared that "to lump the Jewish plight with the plight of other conquered peoples is to evade realities. The cruel reality is that no other people has been marked for complete extermination. To offer the Jews of Europe," the speaker continued, "the hope that Hitler's inevitable doom will bring them relief from their troubles is false solace. Most of the Jews in Hitler lands who are alive today may not be alive to see the day of Hitler's doom. The victory of the United Nations may come too late to do any good," the speaker said.

More than 1,000 delegates representing over 150 Zionist units and groups in Greater New York attended the testimonial rally. The conference adopted a resolution calling upon the United Nations to proclaim "the reconstitution of Palestine as the Jewish Commonwealth as part of the peace aims of the United Nations, so that the Jewish people may be enabled to take its place in the progressive order of mankind which will ensue from this struggle." The resolution also addressed an appeal to the President of the United States that all appropriate action be taken to insure the withdrawal in its entirety of the Palestine White Paper of 1939, with its restrictions on immigration and land settlement.

BRITISH JNF RAISED \$800,000 DURING 1943, ANNUAL CONFERENCE TOLD

LONDON, Dec. 13. (JTA) -- The Jewish National Fund in Britain has raised approximately \$800,000 in 1943, in addition to about \$730,000 in outstanding pledges, it was reported here last night at the annual JNF conference. The meeting adopted a resolution supporting the proposal for the establishment of a United Palestine Appeal for 1944 and pledged that the JNF would raise \$1,200,000 for the combined Palestine drive.

Addressing the conference, Aaron Wright, a JNF leader, asserted that the Jews were the only people in the Middle East who aided the British war effort. They were enabled to do this, he said, because of what they have built in Palestine. Mr. Wright said that it will be essential to bring to Palestine about 1,500,000 Jews immediately after the end of the war.

Boston JNF Conference Pledges War-Time Reconstruction of Palestine

BOSTON, Dec. 13. (JTA) -- Five-hundred delegates attending a JNF "Land for Victory Conference" here last night pledged their efforts to raise funds for the purchase of additional land in Palestine to speed war-time and post-war reconstruction there. The meeting was addressed by Hallet Abend, former New York Times correspondent in China, and Mendel Fisher, executive director of the JNF.

DR. PAUL ROMANOFF, CURATOR OF JEWISH THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY MUSEUM, DEAD

NEW YORK, Dec. 13. (JTA) -- Dr. Paul Romanoff, for the last thirteen years curator of the Museum of the Jewish Theological Seminary of America, died yesterday in the Montefiore Hospital, after an illness of two years. His age was 45. Born in Russia, he had resided in this country since 1926.