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JEWS ORDERED TO LEAVE SOFIA; GERMANS ABANDON JEWISH PROPERTY IN BALTIC LANDS

ZURICH, Dec. 15. (JTA) -- Jews who had returned to Sofia and were temporarily being permitted to remain there were ordered today to leave the Bulgarian capital within ten days, the Berlin radio reports. An exception will be made only for those mobilized for war work, the broadcast said.

The measure is apparently being taken in connection with the military activities of the German command in Bulgaria in preparation for developments on the Turkish-Bulgarian frontier. The Jews in Sofia were deported from the city several months ago and confined in remote townships under special supervision. Recently, however, they were permitted to return to their homes in order to liquidate their property, and many of them were given to understand that they would not be molested if they decided to remain in Sofia.

Reports reaching here today from the German-held Baltic territory state that German civilians there are abandoning Jewish property which they acquired under Nazi occupation and are returning to Germany. A systematic evacuation of Germans from the Baltic countries to the Reich is going on, indicating that the German military command visualizes the possibility of being compelled to withdraw from Latvia and Lithuania.

Newspapers from Germany report that Henryk Konieczak, a Pole, was executed by the German administration in occupied Poland on the charge of supplying Jews with ration cards. The same newspapers report that two Hungarian motion picture producers have been acquitted of a charge of conspiracy based on the fact that they sold a motion picture in which a principal role was played by a Jewish actor, and the script of which was written by a Jew, to a German firm. The court held that the failure of the producers to inform their German customers of the participation of Jews in the writing and filming of the picture did not constitute conspiracy.

HELPING JEWS IN OCCUPIED EUROPE IS INTERNATIONAL PROBLEM, EDEN TELLS PARLIAMENT

LONDON, Dec. 15. (JTA) -- Foreign Secretary Anthony Eden, speaking in Commons today, emphasized that the question of helping the Jews in Nazi Europe "is not only a British problem and not even an American problem."

"It is an international problem," he said. Mr. Eden added that the British Government is well aware of the fact that the refugee situation "has not lost its tragic nature" and assured the House that the government will give all help to the Intergovernmental Committee for Refugees in the work of which the British and United States Governments are deeply interested.

Referring to the fact that under the White Paper 75,000 Jews should have been admitted to Palestine by next March, but so far only 41,000 have been given visas, the Foreign Secretary said that arrangements were made to admit other thousands of Jews, but they were not carried out "due to the attitude of the Bulgarian and Rumanian Governments."

OFFICIAL ATTITUDE OF U. S. TOWARDS PALESTINE DEFINED BY STATE DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN

WASHINGTON, Dec. 15. (JTA) -- The attitude of the United States Government towards the Palestine problem was defined by Assistant Secretary of State Breckenridge Long during his testimony before the House Committee on Foreign Affairs on the question of the rescue of Jewish and other peoples in Nazi-occupied territory, it was learned here today when further portions of his testimony were made public.

"The American Government," Mr. Long declared, "is not entirely obtuse about Palestine, or is not disinterested in the situation that is developing there. We have been interested and we will continue to be interested from the point of view of larger aspects of world security and of world peace, as well as the rights of humans and humanitarian sympathies and the religious sentiments involved."

The Assistant Secretary of State also revealed that at one time the United States Government tried to get Jews out of Rumania to Palestine by railroad instead of by boat. "The Turkish Government," Mr. Long disclosed, "took the position that these people could pass in transit through that small part of Turkey which lies between the Straits and Bulgaria. It would give them access to Istanbul, and that was the way we happened to get into this kind of transportation; but finally the German Government heard about it and interfered and prevented it."

State Department Will Support J.D.C. Efforts to Send Food to Transnistria

Mr. Long also emphasized that the American Government will support the Joint Distribution Committee in its efforts to send food from Turkey, through the International Red Cross, to Jews in Transnistria. "It is hard to get things," he explained. "We have been trying to help the J.D.C. get food supplies, but the food supplies must be obtained within the blockade. The blockade military officers and the blockade authorities will not permit food to be shipped through the blockade to German-occupied territory, or to Germany. I think that, with every assurance of success, this arrangement will be concluded."

The United States Government, Mr. Long further revealed, is continuing its efforts through a neutral government to get 20,000 Jewish children out of Germany and German-held territory. The neutral government concerned has asked the German Government to permit it to take these children out of the Reich to its own territory, and has suggested that these children be selected by some charitable or other appropriate organizations in Germany. This neutral government, however, has not as yet received a reply from Berlin, Mr. Long said, but the proposal still stands although the German Government has not indicated that it will accept it.

U. S. Supports Plan for Removing 100,000 Children from Axis Lands

The Assistant Secretary of State spoke of a plan now being supported by the United States Government "for removing children temporarily from Axis-held territory to neutral countries in varying numbers up to a maximum of 100,000 for rehabilitation in those countries where they could get food and where we could put the food where the children could be nourished and brought back to something like a normal state of physical well being."

He also revealed that the United States Government offered to make a generous contribution to Sweden "in connection with her reception of Jews and other people from Denmark" but the Swedish Government said she did not think it was necessary." She

thought it was an obligation of the Swedish Government, and she did not even want contributions from the Danish Government-in-exile," Mr. Long added.

#### Balkan Governments Warned Against Mistreatment of Jews

Continuing his testimony on the activities of the United States in connection with rescuing Jews from Nazi territory, Assistant Secretary Long disclosed that the American and British have jointly, through the Swiss Government, warned Balkan governments against mistreatment of Jews. The warning, he added, was "the strongest document that the State Department ever sent." At the same time, the United States Government offered to help Switzerland, "as far as our economy permits," in caring for refugees escaping from Axis-held countries, he stated.

Mr. Long gave details of the unsuccessful British-American endeavor to evacuate refugees from the Balkan countries to Palestine through Turkey. He revealed that the United States Government allocated \$300,000 for this transfer. "There was a proposal, he related, "that two ships would be chartered; they would leave a port on the Black Sea and go to Turkey, from where the refugees would go directly to Palestine. They would carry 5,000 Jewish children. When they called me one morning, we could not find money to underwrite this. It is an expensive proposition when it comes to moving a lot of people and paying for their transportation and their keep en route. The estimated cost was about a half million dollars for this one trip. In the course of the day I could not secure funds. I approached the White House and got an allocation of \$300,000 or so much as might be necessary to defray the expenses on the part of the United States, which would be one-half.

"Unfortunately, although we had the money and were ready, the project could not be accomplished because the German Government, in the last analysis, got wind of it and stopped the movement of ships and told the Rumanian Government she was not to be a party to any such movement."

#### Rabbis Interned by Japan Cannot Travel on Exchange Ship

The Assistant Secretary reported that he was visited recently by a group of rabbis who were interested in the faculty and student body of one of the rabbinical colleges which started at the outbreak of the war from northern Poland, travelled through Lithuania, all the way through Russia, and is today interned by the Japanese in Shanghai.

"There are 464 persons in this particular group," he said. "The American rabbis want to bring them over here. They wanted to bring them on an exchange ship. I had to take the position that we could not accomodate them on an exchange ship, because that was for American citizens, and for every non-American who got on board, it would be necessary to leave an American citizen in a Japanese internment camp. I did not think we were justified in leaving Americans over there and bringing other persons out of there."

#### DR. WEIZMANN DISCUSSES PALESTINE PROBLEMS WITH AGUDAH LEADERS IN LONDON

LONDON, Dec. 15. (JTA) -- Dr. Chaim Weizmann discussed various Palestine problems with leaders of the Agudas Israel in London following his meeting with Prime Minister Churchill, it was reported here today at a meeting of the Agudah executive committee. Further discussions would be held as the situation develops, it was emphasized.

Dr. Israel Mattuck, rabbi of the Liberal Synagogue, in an article in the Manchester Guardian today, says that Palestine must take first place among the projects for permanent settlement of Jewish victims from Nazi hatred, but rejects the idea of a Jewish State. "Assimilation succeeded in Britain, in the Dominions and in the United States, and if Nazi persecution is taken as proof of its failure, then the same could be applied to the idea of democracy which has been destroyed by the Nazis," he argues.

AUTOMOBILE WORKERS UNION ASKS ROOSEVELT FOR ACTION TO RESCUE EUROPEAN JEWS

WASHINGTON, Dec. 15. (JTA) -- Emphasizing that it speaks in the name of more than 1,000,000 American workers, the executive committee of the United Automobile, Aircraft and Agricultural Implement Workers of America today announced that it has decided to submit to President Roosevelt and to the State Department a resolution asking for the rescue by the Allied governments of Jews in Nazi-held countries and for the revocation of the British White Paper on Palestine.

The resolution, which will also be transmitted through the State Department to the British Foreign Office, calls upon the governments of the United States and of Britain to give all possible support to the following program, in accordance with the pledge given to restore religious tolerance and racial security to all peoples on earth:

1. Prompt and effective action to rescue as many of the helpless victims of Nazism as possible; to evade this responsibility is to cast doubt on the integrity of the cause for which we fight.
2. Positive action by the governments of the United Nations to establish havens for those Jewish people who can still be saved and extricated from Nazi-dominated countries.
3. Immediate withdrawal by the government of Great Britain of the Chamberlain White Paper of 1939 under which Jewish immigration into Palestine is restricted and under which this Jewish national homeland will be closed to Jews forever starting April, 1944.

12,000 JEWS REPORTED SERVING IN CANADIAN ARMED FORCES

MONTREAL, Dec. 15. (JTA) -- Twelve thousand Jewish men are now in uniform overseas and Canada, according to a report submitted to the Dominion Council of the Canadian Jewish Congress.

This represents 7.12 percent of the Canadian Jewish population of 168,359, as compared with a total of 6.8 percent of all Canadians in service.

Jewish men came to Canada to enlist in the armed forces from 26 American states and from Bermuda, Argentina, Jamaica, Mexico, Palestine and South Africa, the report said.

FEDERAL LEGISLATION ASKED TO CHECK RACIAL DISCRIMINATION BY RADIO STATIONS

WASHINGTON, Dec. 15. (JTA) -- Federal legislation to prevent discrimination against minorities by radio stations and to guarantee that foreign-language educational programs will not be curtailed, was demanded here yesterday at hearings of the Senate Inter-State Commerce Commission on the Wheeler-White Bill.

Luigi Antonini, an official of the International Ladies Garment Workers Union, charged that radio stations were cancelling more and more foreign-language programs in Italian, Yiddish, Spanish and other tongues. Edward Brown of the National Negro Congress asked that the present Communications Act be extended to bar the broadcasting of "terms of opprobrium toward any race, creed or color."

AMERICAN ZIONIST LEADERS REACH MEXICO ON KEREN HAYESOD MISSION

MEXICO CITY, Dec. 15. (JTA) -- Louis Lipsky and Emanuel Neumann, American Zionist leaders, arrived here today to conduct this year's Keren Hayesod Campaign in Mexico. The Ministry of Education has permitted the use of The Palace of Fine Arts for a reception which the Zionists in Mexico City are arranging for the two American guests at which several thousand Jews are expected.