

ANTI-SEMITIC ELEMENTS ASSUME POWER IN BOLIVIA AS RESULT OF COUP D'ETAT

SANTIAGO, Chile, Dec. 20. (JTA) -- President Enrique Penaranda of Bolivia, who is known for his pro-Jewish sentiments, and his pro-Allied government were overthrown today in a revolution maneuvered by pro-Nazi elements and headed by Victor Paz Estenssoro, a former finance minister who was arrested in 1941 in connection with an attempted pro-Nazi putch. Paz Estenssoro was reported to have set himself up in the President's palace.

Only a few weeks ago President Penaranda, escorted by members of his cabinet, paid a visit to an exhibition arranged in La Paz by the local Jewish community. The exhibition aimed at discrediting the anti-Semitic propaganda conducted by Nazi agents in the country to the effect that the Jews in Bolivia are "parasites" and constitute a dangerous element. The exhibition, showing the contribution of Jewish refugees to the development of the country, was highly praised by the now deposed President.

It is taken for granted here that the anti-Allied policy of the Argentine Government had much to do with the present coup in Bolivia which may affect the position of the 6,000 Jews there. The majority of the Jews in Bolivia are refugees from Europe.

It was recalled here today that Paz Estenssoro was among the Bolivian fascists who urged the segregation of all Jews in Bolivia in a remote undeveloped section of the country. The attempted coup of 1941 in which he was involved was carried out with the aid of the German Minister in Bolivia who was forced to leave the country immediately after the "putsch" failed.

JEWS IN ITALY SABOTAGE NAZI ORDER, GERMANS COMPLAIN; REFUSE TO SURRENDER WORKS OF ART

ZURICH, Dec. 20. (JTA) -- The Nazi Transocean news agency, today reports from Rome that practically all Jews in the German-controlled part of Italy sabotaged the order which provided that Jews register works of art in their possession with the local authorities no later than December 5.

"Even Jewish owners of antique shops did not report their valuables," the report says. "They claimed that they did not possess any works of art since the possession and the sale of such had been forbidden last year. At the same time, private owners of art stated that they had sold all their valuable possessions long before the registration order was issued."

The Rome radio today reported that the chief administrator in the Turin province has issued a decree ordering all persons owing money to persons of Jewish origin to declare their debts to a special administrative office in Turin which is empowered to collect such debts under the control of the local branch of the Ministry of Finance.

SENATE GROUP APPROVES RESOLUTION TO ESTABLISH U.S. COMMISSION TO SAVE EUROPEAN JEWS

WASHINGTON, Dec. 20. (JTA) -- The Senate Foreign Relations Committee today approved a resolution urging President Roosevelt to establish a commission of diplomatic, economic and military experts to "save the surviving Jewish people of Europe."

The resolution is identical with one introduced in the House, but is not concurrent with the House resolution which has apparently been killed by the House Foreign Affairs Committee after the testimony given there by Assistant Secretary of State Breckenridge Long.

U. S. GOVERNMENT READY TO CONTRIBUTE \$4,000,000 FOR FEEDING JEWS IN NAZI EUROPE

WASHINGTON, Dec. 20. (JTA) -- Members of the House Foreign Affairs Committee today revealed that the U. S. Government would be ready to contribute \$4,000,000 towards a \$10,000,000 project which provides for the purchase of food to be sent to the remnants of the Jewish population in parts of Poland and Czechoslovakia through the International Red Cross in Switzerland.

The balance, it was stated, would be covered by the British Government underwriting \$4,000,000 and by an unnamed American Jewish organization which is willing to put up \$2,000,000 with the permission of the Treasury Department. The statement was made on the basis of testimony given by Assistant Secretary of State Breckenbridge Long, testifying before the Committee concerning the Baldwin-Rogers resolution which provides for the creation of a commission to facilitate the rescue of the Jews of Europe.

With both houses of Congress adjourning tomorrow until Jan. 10, individual members of the Foreign Affairs Committee today continued to discuss among themselves, informally, the situation created by the resolution. It was pointed out by some members that adoption of this resolution would be difficult because a proposal for the setting up of a new commission in addition to the Intergovernmental Committee on Refugees could easily be interpreted to mean that Congress was criticizing or repudiating all that has been done up to now by the United States Government to alleviate the situation of refugees. On the other hand, it is felt that if the Foreign Affairs Committee does not recommend that Congress take the steps indicated in the resolution, this may affect the position of the Jews in Europe since it may be taken as a repudiation of their cause.

The statement made before the Foreign Affairs Committee by Assistant Secretary Long, concerning the numbers of refugees that were admitted to the United States in the ten years after Hitler came to power was challenged here today. Statistics of the Justice Department, it was pointed out, show that only 165,423 of the 580,000 immigrants admitted in the decade were Jews, although in that period hundreds of thousands of Jews sought entrance.

Citing refugees from Germany and Austria as an example of what was termed the State Department's failure to facilitate immigration, interested groups drew attention to the fact that although the immigration quota from those countries was 266,636 for the ten years 1932-1942, only 123,573 German and Austrian nationals were admitted, less than half the quota. The Polish quota was 65,240 for the same period, but only 28,579 were given visas, the Justice Department figures show.

FOOD RELIEF WILL REACH JEWS IN TRANSNISTRIA SOON, J.D.C. ANNOUNCES

NEW YORK, Dec. 20. (JTA) -- Food supplies will reach thousands of Jews in Transnistria, the Rumanian occupied part of the Ukraine early in 1944, it was announced today by the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee. This is the first project to be put into effect by any major American agency for feeding Jews in occupied Europe.

The first deliveries out of two hundred and fifty tons of foodstuffs purchased in Istanbul last October by Dr. Joseph J. Schwartz, European chairman of the J.D.C., will begin to move from Turkey toward the Balkans within a fortnight. Representatives of the International Red Cross will supervise the distribution of the supplies, in cooperation with Jewish leaders in the communities receiving assistance. Flour, vegetable fats, dehydrated vegetables and fruits, and soap are included in the 260 tons of vitally needed commodities.

RUMANIAN GENERAL STAFF ORDERS DISMISSAL OF JEWS; COURT RULES PENSIONS FOR JEWS

ZURICH, Dec. 20. (JTA) -- The Bucharest radio today announced that by order of the Rumanian General Staff no commercial or industrial enterprise in Rumania will be permitted to employ Jews even where there is a shortage of labor in industries filling orders for the army.

This order goes into effect tomorrow. In the future, the broadcast said, applications for employment filed by Jews must be submitted to the Commissariat for Jewish Affairs where they will be examined and where each case will be decided "on its individual merits."

Rumanian newspapers reaching here today report that the Supreme Court in Bucharest has ruled that Jewish civil servants who have been dismissed under the anti-Jewish laws are entitled to state pensions irrespective of the fact that they may not have been in the service for the number of years required under the pension regulations. This ruling is qualified by the proviso that the Jewish employees did not leave their posts of their own free will, but were removed because of racial laws.

BRITISH LABORITE TAKES SIDE OF ARABS ON PALESTINE ISSUE; SAYS JEWS PREVENT SELF-RULE

LONDON, Dec. 20. (JTA) -- Taking the side of the Arabs in the Palestine question, a Laborite member of the British Parliament, Andrew MacLaren, today asserts in the London Times that "the Arabs hope that the British Government will not modify the terms of the White Paper."

The Arabs, MacLaren writes, accept the White Paper as recognition of their case, although not satisfactory in all details. He adds that the Arabs feel that the Zionists have prevented any approach to self-government by insisting that it cannot be granted until the Arabs are a minority.

Declaring that Palestine has already made a notable contribution to the solution of the Jewish problem, he asserts that Palestine, in itself, cannot solve that problem. Both moderate Arabs and Jews, he concludes, desire a policy which will replace the present turmoil, and possible bloodshed, with peace and "traditional quiet."

REFUGEES RETURNING TO POLAND FROM PALESTINE WILL IMPROVE POLISH-JEWISH RELATIONS

TEL AVIV, Dec. 20. (JTA) -- Polish refugees now in Palestine will, on their return to Poland after the war, help to bring about better relations between Poles and Jews as a result of the "pleasant reminiscences" they will have, it was forecast here today at a press conference by Henryk Strassburger, new Polish Minister for the Middle East. Mr. Strassburger had high praise for Jewish achievements in Palestine, which, he said, was being developed with an "American tempo."

While here, Mr. Strassburger received a delegation of the Representation of Polish Jewry with whom he discussed ways and means of saving the Polish Jews in occupied Europe. He would not discuss, however, the evacuation of Polish-Jewish refugees now in Russia, stating that it was impossible to make plans at the present time.

NAZIS DEPORT 52 JEWISH CHILDREN FROM DENMARK TO GERMANY

LONDON, Dec. 20. (JTA) -- The British press today carries a report from Stockholm stating that 52 Danish Jewish children were deported to Germany last week from a Copenhagen freight station.

The children, the report says, ranged in age from 1 to 12 years. They had been interned in the Vester prison since the parents of most of them were deported in October. Persons who witnessed the departure of the children describe them as looking dirty and badly-dressed. They were taken from the prison in trucks.

POST-WAR RESTORATION OF JEWISH CULTURAL LIFE IN EUROPE DISCUSSED; PLAN PRESENTED

NEW YORK, Dec. 20. (JTA) -- A plan for the creation of an international commission of Jewish scholars and educators to act as an advisory body to the United Nations on the Jewish aspects of European cultural rehabilitation was outlined here last night by Dr. Theodor H. Gaster, executive secretary of the Conference on Jewish Relations, addressing a meeting of the Conference. The meeting was called for the purpose of discussing measures by which American Jews may help to re-establish Jewish cultural life and institutions in Europe after the war.

The functions of such a commission, Dr. Gaster said, would be fivefold: 1) To advise on the rebuilding of such institutions as have been destroyed and on the restoration of confiscated libraries, museums and similar institutions. 2) To serve as a temporary Board of Trustees to take charge of cultural institutions formerly owned by communities now dispersed. 3) To serve as assessors in the presentation of claims for indemnities in respect of Jewish cultural properties. 4) To assist in the reconstruction of the Jewish school system and in the re-establishment of centers of Jewish higher education, such as seminaries and university courses. 5) To supervise the presentation of Jewish material in textbooks and curricula which may be introduced into European countries by the United Nations in connection with programs of re-education.

Dr. Gaster stated that certain aspects of this program were already engaging the attention of American Jewish scholars, and that proposals of kindred nature had also been advanced in Great Britain. It was hoped, he said, that in time all efforts in this field would be united. At the same time he warned against any notion of merely restoring the pre-war status quo. Jewish cultural life, he said, must disavow parochial isolationism, and be integrated in the patterns of a new Europe. It must be prepared, if necessary, to undergo radical transformation.

Others who addressed the meeting, the second in a monthly series devoted to Jewish problems of the post-war world, were Dr. Bernhard Kahn, who described methods of Jewish cultural rehabilitation after the last war, and Dr. Max Weinreich, director of the Yiddish Scientific Institute, who described the nature and function of European Jewish institutions.

CANADIAN COMMITTEE ON REFUGEES SEEKS ENTRANCE OF MORE NAZI VICTIMS INTO CANADA

MONTREAL, Dec. 20. (JTA) -- Senator Cairine Wilson, chairman of the Canadian National Committee on Refugees, which is at present engaged in a campaign to secure 500,000 signatures to a petition which asks the government to admit more refugees into Canada, today issued an appeal to the Canadian people to support the drive. The appeal points out that "it is a myth, which has been often exploded, that refugees have taken jobs away from Canadians."

Emphasizing that Canada has so far admitted no more than 15,000 persons who escaped from Nazi tyranny, the appeal says: "We can do something more than express our sympathy for the victims and promise retribution for their persecutors. Both are morally important, but neither is enough. If Canada feels her responsibility as a democracy, she will choose the positive path of mercy for the persecuted rather than the merely negative one of punishment for the guilty."

Concern over the plight of victims of Nazism unable to find refuge in other countries was also expressed by delegates attending the provincial convention of the C.C.F. - Alberta Farmer - Labor party held in Edmonton. The convention promised that the Cooperative Commonwealth Federation will urge the government to make some provision to admit a just share of these refugees and victims of Hitlerism.

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