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ROOSEVELT ESTABLISHES REFUGEE RESCUE BOARD; JEWISH LEADERS HAIL MEASURE

WASHINGTON, Jan. 23. (JTA) -- Jewish leaders today hailed the Executive Order issued by President Roosevelt yesterday late in the afternoon, under which the President set up a War Refugee Board consisting of Secretary Stimson, Secretary Hull and Secretary Morgenthau, to take action for the immediate rescue from the Nazis of as many Jews and other persecuted minorities of Europe as possible.

The order was issued parallel with a statement from the White House emphasizing that "it was urgent that action be taken at once to forestall the plan of the Nazis to exterminate all the Jews and other persecuted minorities in Europe." The President's order said that the functions of the new board "shall include, without limitation, the development of plans and programs and the inauguration of effective measures for (a) the rescue; transportation, maintenance and relief of the victims of enemy oppression, and (b) the establishment of havens of temporary refuge for such victims."

Diplomatic Status Be Given To Special Attaches Abroad

President Roosevelt also instructed the State Department to appoint "special attaches with diplomatic status" on the recommendations of the board, and that these shall be "stationed abroad in places where it is likely that assistance can be rendered to war refugees." The President also directed that "the board and the State, Treasury and War Departments are authorized to accept the services or contributions of any private persons, private organizations, State agencies or agencies of foreign governments in carrying out the purposes of this order."

The board, the President announced, will have a full-time executive director to arrange for the prompt execution of the plans and programs developed and the measures initiated to effect the rescues. Mr. Roosevelt added that he expected to obtain the cooperation of all members of the United Nations and other foreign governments "in carrying out this difficult but important task."

In establishing the new board, which will function directly under him, the President declared in the executive order that "it is the policy of this government to take all measures within its power to rescue the victims of enemy oppression who are in imminent danger of death, and otherwise to afford such victims all possible relief and assistance consistent with the successful prosecution of the war." He added that the board will be charged with direct responsibility to him in seeing that the announced policy is carried out.

In delegating Henry L. Stimson, Secretary of War; Cordell Hull, Secretary of State, and Henry Morgenthau, jr., to take concrete action to save what he termed "civilian victims of enemy savagery," the President said that they will cooperate in their work with the Intergovernmental Refugee Committee, which in recent months has been disbanded, the United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration and other international organizations.

The Full Text of President Roosevelt's Executive Order

The full text of the Executive Order issued by President Roosevelt establishing the War Refugee Board reads as follows: "Whereas it is the policy of this Government to take all measures within its power to rescue the victims of enemy oppression who

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in imminent danger of death and otherwise to afford such victims all possible rescue and assistance consistent with the successful prosecution of the war.

"Now, therefore, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and the statutes of the United States as President of the United States and as Commander-in-Chief of the Army and Navy, and in order to effectuate with all possible speed the rescue and relief of such victims of enemy oppression, it is hereby ordered as follows:

"1. There is established in the Executive Office of the President, a war refugee board. The Board shall consist of the Secretary of State, the Secretary of the Treasury and the Secretary of War. The board may request the heads of other agencies and departments to participate in its deliberations whenever matters specially affecting such agencies or departments are under consideration.

"2. The board shall be charged with the responsibility for seeing that the policy of the Government, as stated in the preamble, is carried out. The functions of the board shall include, without limitation, the development of plans and programs for the inauguration of effective measures for the rescue, transportation and maintenance and relief of the victims of enemy oppression, and the establishment of havens of temporary refuge for such victims. To this end the board through appropriate channels, shall take the necessary steps to enlist the cooperation of foreign governments and obtain their participation in the execution of such plans and programs.

Board Authorized to Obtain Shipping Facilities

"3. It shall be the duty of the State, Treasury and War Departments within their respective spheres, to execute at the request of the board, the plans and programs so developed and the measures so inaugurated. It shall be the duty of the heads of all agencies and departments to supply or obtain for the board such information and to extend to the board such supplies, shipping and other specified assistance and facilities. The board may require in carrying out the provisions of this order. The State Department shall appoint special attaches with diplomatic status, on the recommendation of the board, to be stationed abroad in places where it is likely that assistance can be rendered to war refugees, the duties and responsibilities of such attaches to be defined by the board in consultation with the State Department.

"4. The board and the State, Treasury and War Departments are authorized to accept the services or contributions of any private persons, private organizations, State agencies, or agencies of foreign governments in carrying out the purposes of this order. The board shall cooperate with all existing and future international organizations concerned with the problems of refugee rescue, maintenance, transportation, relief, rehabilitation and resettlement.

"5. To the extent possible the board shall utilize the personnel, supplies, facilities and services of the State, Treasury and War Departments. In addition the board, within the limits of funds which may be made available, may employ necessary personnel without regard for the Civil Service laws and regulations and the classification act of 1923 as amended, and make provisions for supplies, facilities and services necessary to discharge its responsibilities. The board shall appoint an executive director who shall serve as its principle executive officer. It shall be the duty of the executive director to arrange for the prompt execution of the plans and programs developed and the measures inaugurated by the board, to supervise the activities of the special attaches and to submit frequent reports to the board on the steps taken for the rescue and relief of war refugees.

"6. The board shall be directly responsible to the President in carrying out the policy of this Government, as stated in the preamble, and the board shall report

him at frequent intervals concerning the steps taken for the rescue and relief of refugees and shall make such recommendations as the board may deem appropriate for further action to overcome any difficulties encountered in the rescue and relief of refugees."

#### Jewish Organizations Acclaim Roosevelt's Establishment of a Refugee Board

NEW YORK, Jan. 23. (JTA) -- The American Jewish Conference today issued a statement expressing "profound appreciation to President Roosevelt" for his executive order establishing a War Refugee Board. The Conference promised to "make every possible contribution to facilitate the work of the new agency."

"The action taken by our President promises life to people who were otherwise doomed to destruction and will be welcomed by millions of Americans who have been deeply concerned with this pressing problem," the statement said.

At an all-day session of the Zionist Administrative Council attended by 150 representatives from all parts of the country, Dr. Israel Goldstein, president of the Zionist Organization of America, termed the establishment by President Roosevelt of a War Refugee Board an "important initial step in the direction of saving the remnants of European Jews who are threatened with extermination in the path of retreating hordes."

#### JISH GROUPS ARE BUYING LAND IN SYRIA AND LEBANON; LEBANESE PREMIER DISAPPROVES

LONDON, Jan. 23. (JTA) -- Jewish groups are now buying land in Syria and Lebanon through non-Jewish agents, the London Times reports in a cable from its Syrian correspondent.

The correspondent intimates that the Premier of Lebanon is not pleased with this development. "The Premier may have had this development in mind when he declared in the Chamber of Deputies that Lebanon does not want to become a focus of Jewish colonization, nor do the neighboring people wish to see Lebanon become a gateway to Jewish colonization elsewhere," the Times writer says.

#### ANGLO-JEWISH ASSOCIATION REAFFIRMS STAND AGAINST COOPERATION WITH JEWISH CONGRESS

LONDON, Jan. 23. (JTA) -- The Council of the Anglo-Jewish Association at its meeting today reaffirmed its attitude with regard to the planned collaboration of the Board of Deputies of British Jews with the World Jewish Congress.

The Council emphasized that under no circumstances will the Anglo-Jewish association be involved in any arrangement where international Jewish organizations, such as the World Jewish Congress, are equally involved. The statement is interpreted to mean that the Anglo-Jewish Association will refrain from cooperating with the Board of Deputies on questions concerning Jews abroad as long as the Board continues its alliance with the World Jewish Congress.

The statement expresses the hope that the Board of Deputies will reconsider its decision to form a liaison committee of its representatives and representatives of the World Jewish Congress, to exchange information and unify the plans of action with regard to Jews in Europe. The statement in its conclusion lays emphasis on the Anglo-Jewish Association's determination to make the contribution of the Anglo-Jewish community in the forthcoming peace-settlement discussion as effective as possible.

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RUSSIA PERMITS AMERICAN ORTHODOX GROUP TO SEND FOOD PARCELS TO RABBIS DUTY-FREE

NEW YORK, Jan. 23. (JTA) -- A first shipment of 1,200 parcels of kosher food, for Polish rabbis and yeshivah students now in Russia, was delivered last week by the Hatzalah, an orthodox Jewish relief committee, to the Russian War Relief for transportation to the U.S.S.R., it was announced here today.

The committee plans to send a similar quantity of kosher food each month for stranded rabbis and yeshivah students, the announcement states. An arrangement at this end, according to which the recipients are to pay no custom duty, has been agreed by the Soviet Government.

CONFERENCE PLANS TO RAISE \$500,000 TO PROVIDE REFUGEES IN EUROPE WITH MATZOTH

NEW YORK, Jan. 23. (JTA) -- More than 1,000 representatives of Jewish fraternal and other organizations, comprising the Council of Organizations of the United Jewish World, today voted to inaugurate a campaign for \$500,000 to provide refugees in Europe and other parts of the world with matzoth and other Passover necessities. The vote was made at a conference held at the Hotel Roosevelt.

Matzoth baked in Egypt and Palestine are being shipped to the JDC in Persia where they are packed for shipment to scores of thousands of Jewish refugees and refugees in Russia, it was announced at the conference.

RETURNED, BACK FROM PALESTINE, REPORTS ON WAR TIME PROGRESS OF COUNTRY

NEW YORK, Jan. 23. (JTA) -- Palestine industry produced \$50,000,000 worth of goods in the past year, Robert Szold, former president of the Zionist Organization of America, reported today at a session of the Zionist Administrative Council, on his return from a two months' visit to Palestine. Mr. Szold is the first American Zionist leader to visit Palestine since the outbreak of the war.

It was announced at the meeting that Israel Goldstein, president of the Z.O.A., will shortly leave for London to confer with leaders of the World Zionist movement on important matters involving the post-war status of Palestine. The session listened to a report submitted by the committee of the Z.O.A. to counteract the propaganda of the American Council for Judaism. A general plan of action was set forth, following a survey of the situation. Dr. James G. Heller of Cincinnati, announced that the Z.O.A. will be under the direction of Dr. Arthur J. Lelyed of Omaha, Nebraska, who will take a leave of absence from his congregation for this purpose.

NEW \$5 MILLION-DOLLAR COMPANY FORMED IN PALESTINE TO BUILD CHEAP DWELLINGS

JERUSALEM, Jan. 23. (JTA) -- A Jewish company with an initial capital of \$5,000,000 was organized here today to help relieve the housing shortage by building inexpensive modern houses.

Addressing a conference of the Kibbutz Meuchad, a Palestine Jewish labor group, being held in the settlement of Givat Broher, David Ben-Gurion called for unity among Jewish ranks, "from the extreme orthodox Agudas Israel to the Zionist-Revisionists and the Hashomer Hatzair, the left wing of the Histadruth."