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RUSSIA JOINS INTERGOVERNMENTAL COMMITTEE ON REFUGEES; PERMITS POLISH JEWS TO EMIGRATE

WASHINGTON, Jan. 28. (JTA) -- The work of the Intergovernmental Committee on refugees assumed new importance today when it was learned in diplomatic quarters here that Russia has agreed to join.

Russia's decision to become a member of the Committee opens new possibilities for refugee relief and rescue work. Its decision is expected to be announced officially soon by headquarters of the Intergovernmental Committee in London.

(In London, Dr. Ignacy Schwarzbart, Jewish member of the Polish National Council, told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency today that the first group of Polish Jews in Russia who have relatives in Australia has been permitted by the Soviet authorities to emigrate to Australia, after their relatives secured Australian visas for them. The group, consisting of 23 persons, has already reached Persia. No details are available as to whether the group consists of Jews born in the part of Poland not claimed by Russia. Refugees born in the sections of pre-war Poland which are claimed by Russia are considered by the Soviet authorities to be Russian citizens.)

WAR REFUGEE BOARD ORDERS U. S. DIPLOMATS ABROAD TO SPEED IMMEDIATE RESCUE OF JEWS

WASHINGTON, Jan. 28. (JTA) -- The War Refugee Board which was established this week by President Roosevelt to save Jews and other persecuted minorities from Nazi hands, today announced that "all United States diplomatic and consular offices throughout the world have been instructed to do everything possible to effectuate this Government's war refugee policy as announced by the President, bearing in mind the urgency of the problem."

The Board also announced that "foreign governments are being approached to ascertain the extent to which they are prepared to cooperate." Immediate reports have been requested by the Board from American officials abroad, including information as to the permission granted to war refugees to enter each country, the encouragement and cooperation given to such entry, and the extent to which each country does not cooperate in permitting entry.

"Where refugees are refused entry at frontiers, the facts and reasons for such action have been requested," the Board disclosed. "Recommendations as to a possible line of action have been asked, with notation of special obstacles which may hinder rescue operations and methods of overcoming such obstacles."

The instructions were despatched following the first meeting of the War Refugee Board which took place on Wednesday, attended by Secretaries Hull, Stimson and Morgenthau. "All missions were advised that instructions have been issued by the President to the Secretary of State, the Secretary of the Treasury and the Secretary of War to endeavor to effect immediately the rescue and relief of Jews in Europe and of other victims of Nazi terror," the announcement of the Board stated.

The instructions to U. S. diplomats abroad for details concerning countries which hinder rescue of refugees may indicate a new policy of "tough talk" to neutrals that seek excuses to exclude refugees.

(Dr. Nahum Goldmann, chairman of the administrative committee of the World Jewish Congress, stated in London today that "there is reason to hope that Jewish

ports, especially from Europe, will be attached to the office of the Director of the War Refugee Board. Addressing a press conference, Dr. Goldmann lauded the establishment of the War Refugee Board as indicating that "the U. S. Government is determined to abandon routine methods for energetic rescue work.")

Hias Presents \$100,000 Check to War Refugee Board

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The Washington office of the Hias today announced that it has received a check for \$100,000 from its headquarters in New York for presentation to the War Refugee Board together with a copy of a letter addressed to President Roosevelt by Abraham Herman, Hias president.

Expressing the profound appreciation of the Board of the Directors of the Hias to President Roosevelt's executive order establishing the Board, the letter says; in accordance with Paragraph 4 of your executive order, the Board of Directors has the honor to inform you that it has resolved to place at the disposal of the War Refugee Board the services of its offices and personnel at home and abroad, and to defer its participation in the cost of the undertaking. In accordance with this resolution, it has this day forwarded to the War Refugee Board a contribution of \$100,000.

Jewish Refugee Is First Contributor to Board

The Treasury Department announced that the first contribution to the War Refugee Board was a check for \$10 from a Jewish refugee on a small bank in the midwest, it was accompanied by the following letter:

"Today we learned for the first time that President Roosevelt has ordered actual measures for the rescue of those Jews and other people still under Hitler's rule. My wife and myself are among the fortunate Jewish people, who after years of persecution and concentration camps found refuge and a real home in the blessed U.S.A. Our only sorrow concerns the fate of our dear mother, 77, and our friends, who were taken 16 months ago, out of their homes to some unknown place.

"I am 61, and my wife is 52, so we are not able to make much money, especially as we were not used to hard physical work. That is why we are not able to send more than this \$10 -- which we ask you to accept as our contribution for this good cause. We are living in this small Ohio town where we were received and accepted as equals among friends we never met before. We will show our gratitude to this country by doing everything in our limited power."

JEWISH AGENCY OBTAINS RELEASE OF GREEK JEWISH REFUGEES INTERNED IN SYRIA

JERUSALEM, Jan. 26. (JTA) -- A group of Greek Jews who succeeded in fleeing to Syria in a small boat will shortly arrive in Palestine, as a result of intervention by the Jewish Agency, it was learned today. The refugees have been interned at Haleb, in Syria, since their arrival there.

Chief Rabbi Isaac Herzog is leaving for Turkey next week in connection with plans to rescue Jews in the Balkan countries, it is reported today. He will be accompanied by Mordecai Eliash, legal adviser of the Jewish National Council.

The Hebrew press, as well as Jewish Agency circles, commented unfavorably today on the immigration schedule for the three months ending March 31, which was announced yesterday. It is understood that the Agency will demand additional visas, besides the 500 provided in the schedule, on the basis that there are thousands of refugees in Spain, Portugal, Turkey and some occupied countries anxiously awaiting an opportunity to emigrate to Palestine.

PANESSE CONFERENCE DECIDES TO ELIMINATE JEWS FROM ECONOMIC LIFE OF OCCUPIED LANDS

LONDON, Jan. 28. (JTA) -- Japanese political and social workers held a conference this month in Tokyo devoted to the question of the complete elimination of Jews from the economic life in all territories occupied by the Japanese army, the Jewish Chronicle reports today.

The report quotes a Japanese newspaper as stating that the conference decided severe anti-Jewish measures "in reprisal for Jewish pro-Allied activities."

UNDERGROUND EYE-WITNESSES CONFIRM ALL POLISH GHETTOS HAVE BEEN LIQUIDATED

TEL AVIV, Jan. 28. (JTA) -- Two representatives of the Jewish underground in Poland who reached Palestine this week told today how last September they witnessed the liquidation of the Tarnow ghetto during which the Germans flung aged persons and children from high buildings to their death on the pavements below.

Addressing a press conference, the Polish Jews confirmed that all of the ghettos in Poland have been liquidated. Those Jews who have not been executed are either confined in labor camps or hiding out from the Gestapo, they said. In Lwow, during the first day of Nazi occupation, 3,000 Jews were executed, while in Stanislawow 8,000 were murdered during a three-hour massacre in the Jewish cemetery. One of the Stanislawow victims, a young girl, cried out just before she was shot: "Our brethren in Palestine and America will avenge Jewish blood," the underground fighters disclosed.

They reported that the ghetto in Cracow was liquidated in March, 1943 when 10,000 Jews were slaughtered in Jerusalem Alley; and that the last remnants of the Jewish population of Vilna were wiped out some time in May of last year. In Bialystok, Zaglembie and other places bitter battles were fought between ghetto residents and German and fascist Ukrainian police who assisted in the executions.

Armed Resistance Spread Throughout Ghettos

LONDON, Jan. 28. (JTA) -- Armed resistance spread throughout all the ghettos of Poland before the Germans succeeded in liquidating them, and many Nazis were killed in pitched battles before Jewish resistance was crushed, it is disclosed in a report received from reliable underground sources.

At Tarnow, the report reveals, 7,000 Jews, mainly workers, engaged in a fierce struggle with Nazi soldiers who were sent to liquidate the ghetto. During the battle many Jews were killed and the survivors were loaded into closed trucks whose floors had been sprinkled with chemicals which asphyxiated them. Those who survived the journey are believed to have been executed when the trucks reached the Oswiecim "death camp."

In the town of Stryj, where only 250 persons were left in the ghetto when the Germans came to liquidate it, several German policemen were killed by the Jews who fled to the neighboring woods. Most of them were subsequently killed by pursuing Gestapo detachments.

In an attempt to avert armed resistance, the Nazis adopted a new method, the report says. In Sosnowice, the Jews were told that they were going to be exchanged for Germans and would be sent to Chile. When all the ghetto dwellers had been assembled, and after they had been permitted to write letters to relatives abroad telling about the projected exchange, they were lined up and shot.

100 CHRISTIAN MINISTERS URGE ROOSEVELT TO SEEK ABOLITION OF WHITE PAPER

NEW YORK, Jan. 28. (JTA) -- The Christian Council on Palestine, representing 100 ministers, today released for publication a resolution calling upon President Roosevelt and Secretary Cordell Hull "to use all appropriate measures" with the British Government for an early withdrawal of the White Paper which would close the gates of Palestine to Jewish immigration.

"We join with a large majority of the English people in confidently following Winston Churchill who, in 1939, denounced the Chamberlain-MacDonald White Paper on Palestine as a breach and repudiation of the Balfour Declaration," the resolution reads. "We range ourselves also on the side of the Permanent Mandates Commission of the League of Nations under whose political authority Great Britain administers Palestine; this Commission condemned that White Paper at the time of its promulgation as an indefensible and flagrant breach of international good faith." Beyond all other considerations we call for the abrogation of the White Paper on the grounds of justice and mercy and in the interests of our common humanity.

"We, therefore, urge President Franklin D. Roosevelt and Secretary of State Cordell Hull to use all appropriate measures with the British Foreign Office to secure at the earliest possible date the withdrawal of that White Paper which denies immigration into Palestine after March 31, 1944. We ardently request all humanity-loving people to demand liberal immigration into Palestine according to its absorptive capacity within the intent of the Balfour Declaration and the mandate of the League of Nations, and urge our Government to use its good offices to this end."

SYNAGOGUES TO PRAY FOR REFUGEES EN ROUTE TO PALESTINE; SCHWEITZER ESCORTING GROUP

NEW YORK, Jan. 28. (JTA) -- The Joint Distribution Committee today announced that a circular letter has been sent to all Jewish congregations in the United States requesting that prayers be offered for the safe arrival of the 740 Jewish refugees now en route from Spain and Portugal to Palestine on the first commercial trans-Mediterranean voyage since June, 1940. The letter was signed by Rabbi Jonah B. Wise, vice-chairman of the J.D.C.

The office of the Hias-Ica Emigration Association today received a cable from its representative in Spain stating that the Portuguese ship Nyassa which is carrying these refugees to Palestine left Spain yesterday after taking on 560 Jewish refugees who have been in Spain for a long time awaiting emigration. About 180 Jewish refugees boarded the vessel in Lisbon several days ago. Mr. Raphael Spanien, the representative of the Hias-Ica Emigration Association in Spain, supervised the embarkation, the cable said.

The refugees are being escorted by David J. Schweitzer, special envoy of the Hias-Ica Emigration Association. The Joint Distribution Committee is bearing almost the entire transportation costs of \$460,000. This group will bring to over 12,500 the number of refugees whom the J.D.C. has helped to escape from Europe to the Western Hemisphere and Palestine since Pearl Harbor.

BILL TO BAR RACIAL PROPAGANDA FROM THE MAILS APPROVED BY HOUSE SUBCOMMITTEE

WASHINGTON, Jan. 28. (JTA) -- A special subcommittee of the House of Representatives yesterday approved a bill to bar hate literature from the mails. The bill gives the Postmaster General power to decide what constitutes objectionable material. It provides a fine of \$1,000 and a year in jail for sending through the mails material tending to arouse hatred against any individual or group.