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Thursday, February 3, 1944

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40,000 JEWS SERVING WITH BRITISH FORCES IN MIDDLE EAST, WAR MINISTER REPORTS

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A Holy Scroll from the Great Synagogue of Tel Aviv has been received by one of the Palestine Jewish units fighting in Italy, it is learned here. In a letter acknowledging receipt of the Torah, the Jewish commander of the unit said that it would be loaned to the Jewish community in the area where the unit was stationed for use in their newly reopened synagogue.

NO JEWS REMAIN IN NAZI-OCCUPIED CROATIA; REGISTRATION OF JEWS IN SLOVAKIA STARTED

STOCKHOLM, Feb. 2. (JTA) -- The Budapest correspondent of the Stockholm newspaper Dagens Nyheter reports today that he has learned reliably that not a single Jew remains in Nazi-occupied Croatia. All of the Jewish residents have either been deported or killed.

The correspondent adds that leaders of the Ustachi, the Croatian storm-troops who have been responsible for the murder of thousands of Jews, are now living in the homes of wealthy Jews who were massacred. Officials of the puppet government and members of the German occupation forces have also taken over former Jewish dwellings.

The registration of all Jews in Slovakia started yesterday in accordance with the special order issued last week at the request of the German authorities, it was reported today from Budapest by the Hungarian news agency "Mit." It will be completed within one week, after which the Jews will be handed over to German authorities for deportation to Poland, the Hungarian news agency stated.

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FIRST TRANSPORT OF 742 JEWISH REFUGEES FROM PORTUGAL AND SPAIN LANDS IN PALESTINE

HAIFA, Feb. 2. (JTA) -- After being on the high seas for only eight days, the Portuguese liner Nyassa arrived here late yesterday with 742 Jewish refugees from Europe. This is the first transport of Jewish refugees to reach Palestine through the Mediterranean since 1940.

Representatives of the Jewish Agency and of other Jewish organizations met the refugees at the pier and assisted them in the landing formalities. Many of them were taken to temporary quarters while others immediately rejoined their families and friends from whom they had been separated for a number of years, after fleeing to Portugal and Spain from Nazi persecution in various European lands.

The Nyassa sailed from Lisbon on January 23 with 172 passengers and took on an additional 570 Jewish refugees at Cadiz, Spain. The majority of the refugees were stateless, while the remainder were nationals of various occupied countries. The ship was chartered by the Joint Distribution Committee and the refugees were escorted by David J. Schweitzer, special European representative of the Hias-Ica Emigration Association. -- The Hias contributed \$70,000 to the transportation costs.

The Jewish Agency for Palestine today indicated that it intends to allot a number of its current immigration certificates to refugees still in Portugal and Spain. Some of the certificates will be used for Jewish refugees who are held in concentration camps in Italy awaiting liberation.

Palestine authorities today stated that the first Jewish refugee to be permitted to return to Palestine from internment on the Island of Mauritius will be Mrs. Rose Lang whose husband was recently repatriated to England from a German prison camp. Mrs. Lang was among the refugees who were deported from Palestine as illegal immigrants. The Colonial Office said that an exception will be made in her case "in view of the special circumstances."

69-YEAR-OLD JEW WINS DISTINGUISHED FLYING CROSS; OLDEST MAN IN RAF ON ACTIVE SERVICE

LONDON, Feb. 2. (JTA) -- Holder of the Distinguished Service Cross and the Military Cross for service in four of Britain's wars, 69-year-old Wing Commander Lionel Cohen of the Royal Air Force has added the Distinguished Flying Cross to his decorations on the eve of his 70th birthday.

The oldest man in active service in the RAF, Cohen has been participating in continuous operations since 1940. He is a qualified aerial gunner in the Coastal Command, has made 45 operational flights and has been an RAF liaison officer with the Navy. The official citation accompanying his DFC stated, "His untiring energy and courage have set a magnificent example."

Cohen began his military career in 1893 in the campaign against the Matebele tribe in Africa. He fought in the Boer War and in World War I. Between periods of soldiering, Cohen has been a gold miner, a prospector, a reporter, dairy farmer and stock broker.

AMERICAN JEWISH CONFERENCE URGES SUPPORT OF SENATE RESOLUTION ON PALESTINE

NEW YORK, Feb. 2. (JTA) -- The American Jewish Conference today called on its sixty-four affiliated national Jewish organizations and its delegates throughout the United States to lend "their utmost support" to the Wagner-Taft resolution which was introduced in the Senate at Washington yesterday and which urges the United States "to use its good offices and take appropriate measures to the end that the doors of Palestine shall be opened for free entry of Jews into that country and that there shall be full opportunity for colonization so that the Jewish people may ultimately reconstitute Palestine as a free and democratic Jewish Commonwealth."

2/3/44

MAGNES ASKS IMMIGRATION OF 500,000 JEWS INTO BI-NATIONAL STATE IN PALESTINE

JERUSALEM, Feb. 2. (JTA) -- A plea for the admission of an additional 500,000 Jews in order to achieve Arab-Jewish parity in Palestine, with equality of political rights and duties in a bi-national state, was issued today by Dr. J. L. Magnes, leading Jewish advocate of a Palestine Arab-Jewish state within a Levant Federation.

The inclusion of Palestine in a federation which has a population of five million Arabs would invalidate the Palestine Arabs' fear of being swamped by Jews, and might induce other countries of the Federation to admit Jewish immigrants, Dr. Magnes stated.

Meanwhile, it was learned here today that Premier Nuri es-Said of Iraq, who is now in Palestine for medical treatment, is attempting to bring about a united front among the Arabs in Palestine. He conferred over the week-end with leaders of various Palestine Arab groups as well as with Emir Abdullah of Transjordan. His anxiety to see Palestine Arabs unified is believed motivated by the fact that such unity is a prerequisite to their participation in the projected Pan-Arab Federation.

The expected arrival in Cairo from London of Lord Moyne who has just been appointed resident Minister in the Middle East, will mark the beginning of intensive efforts to arrive at some definite solution of the Palestine problem according to reports from the Egyptian capital. Another report from Cairo states that there is strong belief there that the terms of the White Paper will be enforced, with some modifications regarding Jewish immigration.

PALESTINE EXPORTS \$1,000,000 WORTH OF MEDICAMENTS; CITRUS INDUSTRY FACES CATASTROPHE

JERUSALEM, Feb. 2. (JTA) -- The ups and downs of Palestine's economic system are illustrated by various reports on exports of Jewish-made products made public today.

One report discloses that more than \$1,000,000 worth of Palestine-produced medicaments were exported to neighboring countries last year. At the same time, it was announced at a press conference today that the situation in the citrus industry is "catastrophic."

Jewish orange growers speaking at the conference said that if the Palestine Government does not buy, immediately, 100,000 tons of citrus fruit at a price of \$24 per ton, the entire industry will be ruined. They emphasized that \$100,000,000 have been invested by Jews and Arabs in orange groves and that twenty percent of the country's population makes a living from the citrus industry.

The local Jewish chamber of commerce in Haifa has received recently many offers from firms in India, Egypt, England, and Turkey, expressing their desire to renew trade relations with Palestine as soon as shipping facilities are available. The city of Tel Aviv has adopted a municipal budget of \$5,200,000, which is \$1,200,000 increase over last year. Most of the additional funds will go for health, education and social welfare activities.

H. F. Robertson, who has just completed a study of Jewish communal agricultural settlements for the Colonial Office, left for London today. The Hebrew newspaper Haaretz says that he has submitted "a very favorable report."

FRENCH CANADIAN GROUPS DIFFER ON PROPOSAL FOR POST-WAR JEWISH IMMIGRATION

MONTREAL, Feb. 2. (JTA) -- Reiterating his assertion that Canada is now one of the few countries where another 60,000,000 people may live comfortably, Jean Charles Harvey, editor of the local French newspaper *Le Jour*, told a local audience that the sane post-war immigration policy that he is advocating is one of the first methods of avoiding inflation and bankruptcy in Canada.

He emphasized that periods of active immigration in any country have always coincided with increases in prosperity, wealth and civilization. Mr. Harvey, who is an outstanding French Canadian journalist, has on many occasions championed the cause of French Jewry and used his influence to thwart the agitation of the anti-Semitic press.

The City Council of Verdun, Montreal suburb, however, has adopted a resolution submitted by the so-called "League Nationale," a French Canadian organization, which demands that the Federal Government stop facilitating the entry of refugees into Canada. The resolution expresses the fear that the Province of Quebec will be flooded by refugees from Europe and decries the efforts of the United Jewish Refugee Committee to bring a number of Jewish families to Canada. The League, it is understood, is now preparing to submit similar resolutions to all other municipalities in the province where a strong anti-immigration sentiment prevails.

BILL ESTABLISHING STATE FAIR EMPLOYMENT PRACTICE BOARD INTRODUCED IN NEW YORK

ALBANY, Feb. 2. (JTA) -- A bill establishing a state board on fair employment practice and defining unfair and discriminatory practices which will be punishable, was introduced in the New York State Senate and Assembly today. Sponsors of the measure are Senator William Condon, chairman of the upper houses's Committee on Labor and Industry, and Assemblyman Robert J. Crows.

The bill, which was drawn up by the American Jewish Congress, recognizes for the first time in the history of New York State the right to work as a civil right of every citizen, regardless of race, color or religion.

SETTLEMENT FOR JEWISH WEAVERS FROM POLAND OPENED IN PALESTINE

JERUSALEM, Feb. 2. (JTA) -- The cornerstones for a textile factory and ten workers' dwellings were laid today in the new colony of Ramath Yishai, in the Jedda district, which will be inhabited by Jewish weavers who formerly lived in Lodz and Bialystok. The colonists will also engage in agricultural activities. Ishai Adler, whose name the settlement bears, has donated \$40,000 toward formation of the colony.

CENTRAL CONFERENCE OF AMERICAN RABBIS ISSUES 53RD YEARBOOK

NEW YORK, Feb. 2. (JTA) -- The Central Conference of American Rabbis today announced the publication of its 53rd Yearbook containing the proceedings of the last annual conference held in New York. The Yearbook is edited by Isaac E. Marcuson.

The 340-page volume contains two resolutions on Zionism. Resolution one reaffirmed the previous declaration of the Conference that it would take no official stand on Zionism, but asserted the belief that Zionism and Reform Judaism are not incompatible. The second resolution - "without impugning the right of Zionist or Non-Zionist to express and to disseminate their convictions within and without the Conference" - asks the American Council for Judaism to terminate its existence for the sake of amity.