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JEWISH NATIONAL COUNCIL CALLS ON PALESTINE JEWS TO COMBAT TERRORISTS

JERUSALEM, Feb. 20. (JTA) -- The Jewish population of Palestine was called on today to combat vigorously the persons responsible for the recent assassinations and bombings in which several government offices were destroyed and two police officials killed.

In a statement sharply condemning the terrorists, the executive committee of the Jewish National Council declared that "a band of lunatics is attempting to impose a regime of terror. These terrorists," the statement continued, "have indicated that they will not refrain from even the meanest crimes to carry out their intentions." It urged the Palestine Jews "to oppose these acts of terror with all their resources." In a note delivered to the Palestine press this past week, a secret Jewish military organization calling itself the "Irgun Zvai Leumi," assumed responsibility for the bombings and murders and stated that it would continue its activities until Palestine was opened to unlimited Jewish immigration.

WAR REFUGEE BOARD REPRESENTATIVE IN TURKEY MAPS OUT PLANS FOR RESCUE OF JEWS

ANKARA, Feb. 20. (JTA) -- Ira A. Hirschmann, vice-president of Bloomingdale Bros. Inc., in New York City, who is here as official representative of President Roosevelt's War Refugee Board in Turkey, today began mapping out plans to rescue and transport Jews and other refugees from occupied Europe. Mr. Hirschmann arrived here yesterday from Palestine where he had been conferring with Jewish leaders and Palestine Government officials.

In an interview with representatives of the press, Mr. Hirschmann made it clear that he was aware of the tremendous obstacles which face him in his talks of taking the Jews out of the hands of the Germans and their satellites. His duties, it was indicated, will be facilitated by the fact that he has been granted authority to deal with enemy governments.

Mr. Hirschmann emphasized his determination "not to leave any stone unturned" in attempting to save all persons facing death in Nazi Europe. At the same time, he appealed for aid to all individuals and organizations throughout the democratic world, stressing that it would be "a grievous crime" to permit anything to delay the work of rescue.

JEW WHO ESCAPED FROM TRANSISTRIA GIVES EYE-WITNESS REPORT OF RUMANIAN ATROCITIES

BERN, Feb. 20. (JTA) -- The first Rumanian Jew to succeed in escaping from Transnistria to Switzerland, today gave an appalling eye-witness account of how the Rumanian authorities drove thousands of Jews to death after having robbed them of all their belongings including their last shreds of clothing.

"Jews who happened to be wearing a good overcoat or good shoes were deliberately executed so that the Rumanian soldiers could get their clothing," the escaped Jew reported. "The soldiers and officers who escorted the deported Rumanian Jews to

Transnistria threatened that anyone carrying forbidden articles would be shot on the spot. Although the Jews weren't permitted to take with them any jewelry or more than 2,000 lei, most of the unfortunate people handed over to the soldiers whatever money and valuables they had."

The escaped Jew related how 6,000 Rumanian Jews, of whom he was one, were deported to a Transnistrian village named Pecorka. Most of the journey, he said, was made on foot under the most terrible circumstances. "Hundreds of the deportees, mostly women and children, died on the road before they even reached their destination," he stated. "Those of us who reached Pecorka were quartered in ruined dilapidated barracks. It was winter, but we were not permitted to keep the barracks heated, nor could we repair the barracks because we were not given any tools. Many persons were frozen to death."

Women Eat Grass to Still Their Hunger; Children Search For Food in Rubbish

The Jews in Transnistria had to live on a small piece of almost unedible black bread and a plate of soup a day, the eye-witness related. Anyone who had succeeded in holding on to some money bribed the Rumanian soldiers to get bread at exorbitant prices. A few succeeded in securing odd jobs and earned a little money, but the majority of the Jewish deportees literally starved.

"When Spring came," the escaped Jew continued, "nearly 4,000 of the 11,000 Jews who were interned in Pecorka had died of hunger or illness caused by starvation and cold. Many had been frozen to death after they exchanged their clothing and shirts for bread. I have seen with my own eyes how Jewish women ate grass in order to still their hunger. Jewish children whose fathers and mothers had died from starvation searched the rubbish heaps for potato peels which were considered luxurious food."

Deportation Used for Blackmail; Jewish Millionaires Begged

The entire scheme of mass-deportation of Jews from Rumania to Transnistria was merely a means of blackmail, the escaped Jew pointed out. "Enormous amounts were asked by the Rumanian authorities from Jews who sought to avoid being deported. Sometimes, they ran into millions of lei. Those Jews who were known to be wealthy were so exploited by the Rumanians that in the end they were reduced to beggary," he said.

The eye-witness revealed that a Jewish lawyer from Csernowitz named Zimmer, who was among the deportees, wrote to the Rumanian governor of Transnistria asking that he help him submit to Premier Antonescu an appeal in behalf of the deported Jews. Since Zimmer was a school-mate of the governor, his plea was taken into consideration. He was permitted to present a petition asking that Jews in Rumania be allowed to collect relief funds for the Jews in Transnistria and also to send them clothing and medicine. Antonescu, after long deliberations, permitted Jews in Rumania to spend twenty-five million lei a month for this purpose on condition that the relief funds collected were to be deposited with the National Bank of Rumania through which the money was to be transmitted to Transnistria. This transaction resulted in a third of the funds collected for the Jewish deportees remaining with the National Bank as compensation.

HITLER'S PERSONAL PHYSICIAN LAUDS EINSTEIN IN PRESENCE OF GERMAN AMBASSADOR

LONDON, Feb. 20. (JTA) -- The contributions of Prof. Albert Einstein to world science were lauded in Bern recently, by Dr. Ferdinand Sauerbruch, Adolph Hitler's personal physician, at a meeting attended by the German ambassador to Switzerland, it is reported today by the Sunday Dispatch. The newspaper adds that Dr. Sauerbruch delivered a dramatic appeal for humanity to master technical science before western civilization collapses.

INFLATION IN PALESTINE IS JEOPARDIZING COUNTRY'S ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

JERUSALEM, Feb. 20. (JTA) -- Palestine economic circles are closely following the trade talks with Egypt, which opened here last week, in the hope that they will lead to the first concrete measures against the inflation which is jeopardizing the entire future of Palestine industry.

The chief interest here centers primarily on the possibility of immediate alleviation of Palestine's supply situation rather than markets for the local industrial production, which has multiplied two and a half times since the outbreak of the war. There is, however, realization of the fact that the country will be unable to compete in foreign markets unless the present extremely high production costs are sharply reduced to the level prevailing in other industrial exporting countries.

The principal factor in the high production costs is the inflation, which is manifest in every aspect of the country's life, resulting in a cost of living at least double that of Britain, according to official statistics, and actually three to four times Palestine's pre-war level, according to labor economists here. The extent of this inflation is shown by the almost six-fold increase in currency circulation since 1939 and the doubling of bank deposits. At the same time there has been a radical decrease in available supplies to the point where the average worker is unable to maintain nutrition standards.

Up to the present efforts to combat the inflation and reduce the cost of living have proven almost universally unsuccessful, and only this week the official cost-of-living scale was boosted another three points. Economists here argue that the only possibility of starting a price deflation cycle would be to import moderate quantities of consumer supplies. It had been hoped that these would come from Egypt. Egypt similarly requires manufactured goods, which its own infant industries are unable to provide and are unobtainable from pre-war sources. The original intention of the Egyptian Government, when it broached the proposal to the Palestine Government for the talks which opened here, was to offer foodstuffs in exchange for manufactured goods.

Since the talks were scheduled, however, the extent of the epidemic in upper Egypt, where a combination of malnutrition and malaria is taking thousands of lives, requires a diversion of considerable foodstuffs for the affected areas. This, it is believed, may make impossible food shipments to Palestine. The possibilities of reciprocity between the two countries, with each complementing the other's needs, were stressed at a luncheon the Palestine administration tendered today to the Egyptian mission. High Commissioner Sir Harold A. MacMichael stressed that the days of self-sufficiency were gone and that all countries were now interdependent. Palestine wanted food and raw materials from Egypt, he said, pointing out that industry could not be kept going on oranges and potash.

FILM SHOWS FATE OF JEWISH CHILDREN IN POLAND BEFORE AND AFTER GERMAN OCCUPATION

LONDON, Feb. 20. (JTA) -- A film showing how Jewish children lived in Poland in pre-war times and how they were "liquidated" by the Germans after the occupation of the country was presented here today before an inter-Allied audience which included members of the Polish cabinet.

The film is based on the moving picture "Children Must Laugh" taken in the Medem Sanatorium for Jewish children near Warsaw before the outbreak of the war. The picture was shown in the United States shortly before the Nazis invaded Poland. A new chapter has been added telling the story of what has happened to the Jewish children in Poland under the German occupation.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 20. (JTA) -- A ten-minute plea against anti-Semitism was made on the floor of the House of Representatives by Rep. Usher L. Burdick, North Dakota Republican.

Pointing out that the Jews constitute "sixty-five one-hundredths of one percent of the population of the earth" and about four percent of the total in the United States, Burdick called it "cowardly for people to take part in a movement to drive this weak minority out of its midst and deny them the same protection, the same privileges, and the same opportunities which we who are not Jews enjoy."

"For some years now," he said, "and especially in the last four or five years, there has developed in this country a deep-seated prejudice against Jewish people. Many men, occasionally a member of Congress, unable to contain themselves longer, denounce the Jews. Men who entertain anti-Semitic views are just as wrong as they are unjust. I do not say there are no bad men, criminals, or undesirable people of the Jewish race in this country. There are such people among the Jews as there are among all peoples. But as a racial group they deserve the credit of being as good as any other group."

Burdick denounced those who charge too many Jews are filling government positions. "Every Jew under the Federal Civil Service received the best rating or he would not have been called," he said. "If the young Jewish people are studious and are earnest and faithful students and master the subjects taught in our schools, what is there in this Government or our way of life to prevent them from advancing themselves solely upon merit?"

PROSKAUER APPEALS FOR TOLERANCE IN NATION-WIDE TRI-DENOMINATIONAL BROADCAST

NEW YORK, Feb. 20. (JTA) -- An appeal for tolerance and good-fellowship as a means of fostering post-war peace and understanding was voiced in a nation-wide radio broadcast last night by Judge Joseph M. Proskauer, president of the American Jewish Committee; former Governor Alfred E. Smith; and John Foster Dulles of the Federal Council of Churches of Christ in America.

Judge Proskauer warned that lip service to tolerance was not sufficient. "In America we have dreamed the dream of a land where all men should be free and equal," he said. "It is for us to make that dream a reality. The democratic way of life is truly Christian and truly Jewish. It is the political expression of the supreme cadences of the Sermon on the Mount and the Decalogue; and to make and keep America great and free we must follow this faith. The exquisite teaching of love that came from Him who said 'suffer little children to come unto me' and the sublime admonition of the great Jewish teacher 'Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself' must be the mainspring of our lives hour by hour and day by day."

EMIL LUDWIG SAYS HITLER'S ANTI-SEMITISM CAN BE EXPLOITED BY ALLIES TO SPLIT GERMANS

NEW YORK, Feb. 20. (JTA) -- The suggestion that the Allies exploit Hitler's anti-Jewish propaganda to foster the dissension already reported to be existing between the Nazis and other groups in Germany, is made by Emil Ludwig, noted German-Jewish writer, in a letter to the New York Times.

"Hitler's fanaticism against the Jews could be exploited by the Allies," Mr. Ludwig writes. "The Three Powers should send a proclamation to the German people through leaflets and to the German Government through neutral countries; threatening that further murdering of Jews would involve terrible retaliation after victory. This would drive a wedge into the already existing dissension of the generals and the Nazis, and also between ultra-Nazis and other Germans."