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RED CROSS SHIP SAILS FROM RUMANIAN PORT TO PALESTINE WITH 120 JEWISH CHILDREN

ANKARA, March 19. (JTA) -- The Swedish steamer Velcita, flying the Red Cross flag, has sailed from the Rumanian harbor of Constanza for Palestine with 120 Jewish refugee children, it was reported over the radio here today.

This is the first time since Rumania entered the war that a Red Cross ship has been allowed to take passengers from an enemy port to Palestine. Negotiations are now being conducted here for the transfer of adult Jews from Rumania to Palestine on Turkish vessels.

JEWISH REFUGEES FROM FRANCE REACH LISBON EN ROUTE TO CANADA

LONDON, March 19. (JTA) -- The Lisbon radio today announced that 210 Jewish refugees have arrived in Portugal from France en route to Canada. They are to sail aboard a Portuguese steamer together with another group of refugees.

(In Quebec, the enemies of immigration scored a victory during the week-end when the Legislative Assembly of the Province of Quebec unanimously adopted a motion, sponsored by the opposition, calling for the shelving of all recommendations relating to post-war immigration. Actually this motion amounts to a demand for the barring of new immigrants. The motion was introduced by ex-Premier Maurice Duplessis.)

JEWISH AGENCY WILL OPEN POLITICAL BUREAU IN CAIRO; POLICE ARREST 20 SUSPECTS IN TEL AVIV

JERUSALEM, March 19. (JTA) -- The Jewish Agency has decided to open a political bureau in Cairo, as well as to strengthen its offices in London and Washington, it was learned here today. The Agency, it is understood, has completed the draft of a memorandum to be submitted to the Palestine Administration and the British Government in London, which demands free Jewish immigration - to be controlled by the Agency - and the establishment of a Commonwealth.

In Tel Aviv over the week-end twenty suspects were arrested in connection with the gun battle which occurred on Rothschild Boulevard on Friday when police sought to capture four suspected terrorists.

POLISH SOLDIERS JAILED IN PALESTINE FOR ANTI-JEWISH DISTURBANCES

LONDON, March 19. (JTA) -- Several Polish soldiers in Palestine have been sentenced to prison by British authorities for taking part in anti-Jewish disturbances, it is reported today by the Sunday newspaper, Reynolds News.

The paper adds that the offending troops were jailed despite protests by Polish military authorities. Anti-Semitic pamphlets, believed to be printed by Polish circles in London, are being widely circulated among Polish units in the Middle East, the report states.

(A New York Times correspondent in Moscow, who was in Iran when large units of Jewish troops and civilians arrived there from Russia, writes today that Jewish civilians were segregated in a "ghetto" in the least desirable section of the refugee camp administered by the Polish authorities. The correspondent also charges that the Poles exerted pressure on the Iraqi Government to refuse passage to 300 Polish-Jewish refugee children who wished to leave Teheran for Palestine.)

LIADY, ONCE FAMOUS AS JEWISH RELIGIOUS CENTER, DESTROYED BY GERMANS; ALL JEWS KILLED

MOSCOW, March 19. (JTA) -- Jews in the United States, no doubt, still remember the town of Liady, in the Vitebsk area, which was famous for its "Liader Rebbe" and for producing taleisim and tefilin.

The town no longer exists. This correspondent just returned from the Vitebsk region and found only one single house intact in Liady. The rest are nothing but ashes and ruins. "Where are the people?" I asked an old Byelo-Russian who was rummaging in the ashes. The man silently pointed to the river. "There they are," he quietly said. "They are resting under the ground beyond the river."

I have seen all sorts of gruesome sights on the Russian front, but nothing can be compared with what I saw on the outskirts of Liady. Mounds of dead bodies piled three yards high filled a deep ditch. Nobody knew the number of dead buried there, but there were probably almost as many as there were people in Liady. Here lay babies and old people - all the Jews of Liady. In my presence the bodies of four infants were lifted from the grave. One of them still had a teething ring in its mouth. Then the bodies of two children and four women were brought up. The dead lay in postures that defy description. Next to me stood an old Byelo-Russian woman, crossing herself as the bodies were exhumed. Suddenly, she turned away from the grave and said to me: "Now they are only corpses, but to me they are neighbors whom I used to know well."

From this old woman I learned that all the Jews in the town were shot by the Germans in April or May of 1942 and buried in this anti-tank ditch, which the Jews had been forced to widen and deepen before they were shot. When the ditch had been dug to a depth that satisfied the Germans, groups of 30 or 40 Jews were forced to lie down in the trench. German Tommy-guns walked to the edge of the ditch and fired into their victims crouched below. Some persons were killed, while others were only wounded, but as soon as the Nazis stopped shooting, a layer of earth was thrown over the dead and wounded alike. Those who sought to rise were finished off with blows from rifle-butts. Children who fought against going into the ditch were also clubbed and thrown in.

As the bodies were being carried up, a commission of doctors and military authorities stood by recording all the details. In reply to my question as to whether they knew what German unit was responsible for the massacre, a major answered grimly: "We don't know as yet, but we'll find out."

BRITISH JEWISH GROUPS AGREE ON COOPERATIVE EFFORT FOR JEWS IN EUROPE

LONDON, March 19. (JTA) -- The threatened split within the ranks of British Jewry as a result of jurisdictional disputes concerning efforts in behalf of European Jews has been averted, it was disclosed at today's session of the Board of Deputies of British Jews.

A projected agreement between the Deputies and the World Jewish Congress for the establishment of a liaison committee to deal jointly with the problems of aiding Jews in occupied countries has been dropped because of opposition from the Anglo-Jewish Association, which had threatened to sever all connections with the Deputies if the plan was put into effect. Prof. Selif Brodetsky, president of the Board, announced that the organization has made separate agreements with both the Congress and the Association for "exchange of information." In addition, the Board will consult with the Association "when matters of major importance arise" and also on post-war problems.

PALESTINE PRESS HONORS RABBI WISE ON OCCASION OF HIS 70TH BIRTHDAY

JERUSALEM, March 19. (JTA) -- The entire Hebrew press in Palestine devotes long articles to Rabbi Stephen S. Wise on the occasion of his 70th birthday, lauding his contribution to the Zionist movement and to the Jewish cause.

PALESTINE GOVERNMENT ANNOUNCES STIFFER TAX SCHEDULE FOR COMING YEAR

JERUSALEM, March 19. (JTA) -- The Palestine Government today announced a new tax schedule which, it said, will partially offset the expected \$16,000,000 deficit for the fiscal year 1944-45. The announcement of the new measures pointed out that expenditures during the fiscal period of 1943-1944 were about \$58,000,000, of which \$14,000,000 went to subsidize the cost of bread and \$10,000,000 to provide cost-of-living allowances for government employees.

The government deficit for 1943-1944 almost wipes out the surplus of \$16,000,000 which existed at the beginning of the fiscal year, a Tax Office spokesman said, adding that it was unlikely that there would be any reduction in government expenditures in the coming year. Consequently, he continued, it is necessary to find additional revenue totalling \$16,000,000.

The new schedule does not change the rate or scope of the income tax, except to remove certain classes of cooperative societies from the exempt category. The rural property tax, which was doubled last year, has been redoubled, while certain categories of land previously exempt will now be taxed. For instance, land used for fish hatcheries - which are found mainly in Jewish settlements - will be taxed at the same high rate as banana plantations.

Other forms of direct taxation are under consideration, it was learned here. Increases in indirect taxes will result from higher customs and excise levies on a wide range of articles including liquor, tobacco, and gasoline. An excise duty has also been placed on cement for the first time. Various license fees, including those for motor vehicles, have been raised.

PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT ENDORSES \$32,000,000 CAMPAIGN FOR JEWISH RESCUE

NEW YORK, March 19. (JTA) -- President Roosevelt, in a message to the national chairman of the United Jewish Appeal, today endorsed the \$32,000,000 nationwide campaign of the U.J.A. to provide funds to rescue Jews from Europe and to aid them in establishing themselves in Palestine and elsewhere. The President's message reads:

"The distress and suffering brought upon innocent victims by our Nazi enemies present a challenge to the American people. The false philosophies which have caused such widespread racial and religious persecutions are fully as abhorrent as the dreams of world conquest which have motivated the Nazi regime. They are in fact part and parcel of these insane ambitions.

"The United Jewish Appeal is one of the agencies through which the American people can make their contribution to the fight for decency, human dignity, and freedom for all to live in peace. The work of relief and reconstruction here and abroad envisaged by the appeal is an important part of the humanitarian front."

GENERAL STRIKE IN PALESTINE DIAMOND INDUSTRY PROCLAIMED

TEL AVIV, March 19. (JTA) -- A general strike was proclaimed today in the diamond industry following a referendum taken among the workers. More than 1,600 workers voted to strike while 600 voted against striking. Higher wages is the issue which precipitated the strike.

BRITISH ZIONISTS HIT NAHAS PASHA DEMAND FOR RELEASE OF EXILED ARAB EXTREMISTS

LONDON, March 19. (JTA) -- The Zionist Review, official organ of the British Zionist Federation, today criticized the Egyptian Premier Nahas Pasha's demand for the release of Jamal Hussein and Amin Tamimi, Palestine Arab leaders exiled for anti-British activities.

"The demand of the Prime Minister of 'neutral' Egypt that the British Government should free Quisling traitors who have been in Hitler's pay, and bring them to Cairo as representatives of Palestine Arabs, shows a complete indifference to the war effort of the United Nations and the great principles for which the war is being fought," an editorial in the Zionist periodical stated.

LEADER OF UNION OF AMERICAN HEBREW CONGREGATIONS JOINS CONFERENCE INTERIM COMMITTEE

CINCINNATI, March 19. (JTA) -- Adolph Rosenberg, chairman of the executive of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations, has agreed to become a member of the Interim Committee of the American Jewish Conference, it was announced here today.

The Union of American Hebrew Congregations has welcomed into membership its three hundred and thirteenth affiliate congregation. The new affiliate congregation is a refugee group of worshippers, the first refugee congregation to join the UAHC circle.

JOINT DISTRIBUTION COMMITTEE WILL SEND TWO WOMEN TO OVERSEAS POSTS

NEW YORK, March 19. (JTA) -- Miss Laura L. Margolis of Cleveland and Miss Gertrude D. Pinsky of Cincinnati, the only two women on the overseas staff of the Joint Distribution Committee, will leave shortly for foreign posts, it was announced by the JDC today. Their departure will bring to nine the number of additional Joint Distribution Committee aides who have sailed for overseas stations within the past year.

Miss Margolis, will leave for the J.D.C.'s European headquarters in Lisbon. Miss Pinsky, former field secretary of the National Council of Jewish Women, is bound for Montevideo, Uruguay, where she will act as consultant in the coordination of the Jewish community's welfare activities as part of the J.D.C.'s program of rehabilitation for many of the 125,000 Jewish refugees who have found new homes in Latin America since the Hitler era.

B'NAI B'RITH ESTABLISHES FELLOWSHIP IN MEMORY OF WILLIAM ALLEN WHITE

WASHINGTON, March 19. (JTA) -- In memory of the late William Allen White, world-famous editor of the Emporia Gazette, whose journalistic career was marked by a life-time crusade against bigotry and intolerance, B'nai B'rith, through its National Bittel Commission, has created the William Allen White Inter-faith Fellowship at the University of Kansas, it was announced here today by Henry Monsky, president of B'nai B'rith.

DR. AVIGDOR MANDELBERG, RUSSIAN-BORN ZIONIST PIONEER, DIES IN TEL AVIV

TEL AVIV, March 19. (JTA) -- Dr. Avigdor Mandelberg, a Russian-born pioneer Zionist, died today at the age of 75. Dr. Mandelberg, who was one of the founders of the Victory League for Russia here, headed the delegation which recently took several ambulances to Teheran for presentation to Soviet authorities. He was born in St. Petersburg in 1868.