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JEWISH SHOPS IN BUDAPEST LOOTED; JEWS FLEE HOMES; SEEK ESCAPE FROM HUNGARY

STOCKHOLM, March 22. (JTA) -- Jewish shops in Budapest and other cities in Hungary are being pillaged by local anti-Semitic elements under the protection of the Gestapo and of German military units who are now the actual rulers of the country, it was reported here today.

The report, which reached Stockholm from reliable sources in Hungary, says that the Gestapo, together with Hungarian fascists, during the last three days has arrested many Jews, Poles and Social Democrats throughout Hungary. "Jewish shops were stormed yesterday and today in Budapest and other places," the report states.

Depicting the panic among the Jews in Hungary, the report says that "many young Jews have left their homes and are trying to reach Switzerland or Turkey." The contents of the report are confirmed by several Swedish citizens who arrived here today after having witnessed the German occupation of Hungary.

"Immediately after the occupation," one of the eye-witnesses told correspondents here, "Gestapo units surrounded all railway stations in Budapest. They stopped every person and asked him whether he was Jewish. Each passenger was scrutinized and asked to produce documents proving that he was not a Jew."

The Swedish travellers also confirmed reports that many refugees committed suicide in Budapest when the Hungarian capital was taken over by the Gestapo, which has made its headquarters in the Royal Hotel. Hundreds of Jewish refugees from Poland were arrested by the Gestapo on the first day of the occupation, these eye witnesses also disclosed.

Jews in Hungary Will Be "Eliminated," German Government Says

Swedish correspondents in Berlin were told today by a spokesman of the German Foreign Office that the "complete elimination of Jews from various phases of life" will be carried out in Hungary. A statement disseminated by the Nazi Ministry of Propaganda yesterday and published in the press here today reveals that Hitler demanded application of all the "Nuremberg Laws" to the 900,000 Jews of Hungary during his talks with Admiral Horthy.

Other reports from Berlin reaching here today point out that Hitler was willing to compromise on various other requests which he presented to the Hungarian Government, but not on the demand that the Jews in Hungary be treated as are Jews in Germany and in German-held countries.

Jewish groups in Sweden were making desperate efforts today to secure more information concerning the Jews in Hungary, especially as to the possibility of moving some of them through Turkey to Palestine. At a conference of representatives of Zionist organizations in the Scandinavian countries which is taking place here, a message from Jerusalem was read stating that the Hungarian Settlers Association in Palestine has submitted an urgent request to the Jewish Agency "to dispatch immediately 5,000 immigration certificates for Jews from Hungary," in view of the present situation.

HISTADRUTH SESSION IN PALESTINE DISCUSSES IMMEDIATE RESCUE OF JEWS FROM BALKANS

TEL AVIV, March 22. (JTA) -- The situation of the Jews in Hungary and the question of immediate rescue of Jews who can still be removed from the Balkan countries were the principal problems dealt with today at the opening session of the Council of the Histadruth, the Palestine Federation of Labor.

The Council was called originally to discuss the question of internal discipline and elect new officers. These items, however, will be taken up at the end of the session now that the rescue question has become urgent.

60,000 GREEK JEWS MURDERED IN OSWIECIM "DEATH CAMP," POLISH REPORT DISCLOSES

LONDON, March 22. (JTA) -- The 60,000 Greek Jews who were deported from their homeland to "unknown destinations" in the Spring and Summer of last year perished in the gas chambers of the dread Oswiecim "death camp" in Poland, it was disclosed today by the Polish Ministry of Information here. Most of the Greek Jews had been residents of Salonika or Athens.

The Polish report asserted that more than 500,000 persons have been murdered at Oswiecim since its establishment. Of these, the great majority were Jews, including, in addition to the Greek Jews, 50,000 from Czechoslovakia, 60,000 from Holland, Belgium and France, and tens of thousands of Polish Jews.

The Oswiecim camp has three crematoriums capable of consuming 10,000 bodies daily, the report asserts. The executions in the gas chambers take about fifteen minutes; immediately after which the bodies are taken to a crematorium. Because of a shortage of gas, Jews who were not yet asphyxiated were frequently placed in the crematorium, the report adds.

AMERICAN JEWISH CONFERENCE URGES EARLY CONGRESSIONAL ACTION ON PALESTINE RESOLUTION

NEW YORK, March 22. (JTA) -- Emphasizing that it speaks for 64 national Jewish organizations and for every major Jewish community in the United States, the Interim Committee of the American Jewish Conference today adopted a resolution expressing the hope that military authorities "will soon find it possible, consistent with the realities of the situation, to withdraw their objections so that Congress may proceed to express itself" on the Palestine resolution which calls for the opening of Palestine's doors for the free entry of Jews and for the ultimate establishment of a Jewish Commonwealth there.

"Palestine means life for thousands of refugees who are on Hitler's death list and its reconstitution as a Jewish Commonwealth will be assurance that the Jewish people, dispossessed and uprooted by the war, will be enabled to take its rightful place in the progressive world order to be established in the peace to come," the resolution of the Interim Committee said.

The Interim Committee "warmly welcomed" President Roosevelt's recent statement that the United States has never approved the White Paper and expressed the hope that it may be the forerunner of early action by Great Britain looking to the abrogation of the White Paper and the "establishment of an affirmative policy to implement fully the intent and purpose of the Balfour Declaration."

NATIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL ON COMBATTING ANTI-SEMITISM ORGANIZED BY JEWISH GROUPS

NEW YORK, March 22. (JTA) -- Formal organization of the National Community Relations Advisory Council was completed here yesterday - after representatives of 14 local community relations councils and the four leading national agencies in this field had been in session since Saturday - "at a meeting marked by complete harmony and a sincere purpose to develop a coordinated approach to Jewish civic protective problems," it was announced today by the Council of Jewish Federations and Welfare Funds.

"Questions involved in combatting anti-Semitism, which have frequently caused divergence among Jewish groups, were discussed with forthrightness and candor," the announcement said. "In every instance conclusions were reached by unanimous vote including a program for joint planning in dealing with some of the major problems, establishment of the National Community Relations Advisory Council as an organized body and election of the first officers and executive committee."

To serve as its first chairman, the Advisory Council elected Edgar J. Kaufmann of Pittsburgh, long active in the effort to bring about coordination in community relations work. Jerome Rothschild, chairman of the Philadelphia Anti-Defamation Council, was elected secretary-treasurer along with an executive committee consisting of Joseph M. Proskauer, president of the American Jewish Committee; Dr. Stephen S. Wise, president of the American Jewish Congress; Henry Monsky, president of B'nai B'rith; Adolph Held, chairman of the Jewish Labor Committee; Sidney Hollander, Baltimore; Philmore J. Haber, Cleveland; Maurice B. Fagan, Philadelphia; and Robert Segal, Cincinnati. Alternates were also designated. Mr. Haber, co-chairman of the Organizing Committee, served as temporary chairman of the session.

Immediately following the close of the meeting, the newly elected executive committee met, organized, and took action in accordance with the instructions of the Advisory Council to initiate joint planning on several major problems which had been discussed. Preliminary plans were also made for considering membership matters, establishing headquarters and initiating the work.

JEWISH COMMUNITY LEADERS TOLD MORE CHARITY FUNDS CAN BE RAISED IN 1944

TRENTON, N. J. March 22. (JTA) -- Jewish communities in the United States can set their fund raising goals 30 to 50 percent higher than last year in the confident expectation of realizing them, Jewish leaders were told at the annual conference of the Central Atlantic States Region of the Council of Jewish Federations and Welfare Funds held here this week, attended by more than 150 representatives of communities in Delaware, Maryland, Washington D.C., New Jersey, Virginia and Eastern Pennsylvania.

Speakers emphasized the wisdom of setting aside reserves to meet post-war uncertainties. The conference unanimously passed a resolution urging the United States to "use its good offices" with Great Britain for the abrogation of the White Paper on Palestine.

The delegates also adopted a resolution calling upon the CJFWF to "take an aggressive role in bringing about merger and/or coordination of Jewish national agencies now functioning in similar fields to the end that these agencies shall have an integrated, efficient, and economical program of meeting Jewish needs." Another resolution urged the Council to develop a more active program of community budgetary guidance and "to determine satisfactorily the validity of agency claims, the need for the agency, any possible overlapping or duplication of service, and the justice of its budget demand, and that communities be given frank and forthright advice."

AGRICULTURAL CONTRIBUTIONS OF JEWISH FARMERS TO AMERICAN WAR EFFORT LAUDED

NEW YORK, March 22. (JTA) -- Jewish farmers in the United States are active on the food production front and are making a notable contribution to the war effort, it is emphasized in the annual report of the Jewish Agricultural Society issued here today. The report estimates that over 100,000 Jews in America derive a living from the land and they own more than a million acres of land.

The Jewish farmers, the report says, have become a well integrated part of American agriculture, and there is no branch of farming which Jews have not entered, or where they did not succeed as practical farmers. A number of Jewish farmers are large scale agricultural producers and the total of Jewish farm production is quite impressive, the report states, pointing out that Jewish farmers are to be found in every state, but the bulk of them are in the Eastern states.

The annual report, submitted by Gabriel Davidson, managing director, deals with the work of the Jewish Agricultural Society to strengthen and enlarge the American Jewish farm class, and it also tells of the Jewish farmers' sons and daughters, who are serving in every branch of our combat forces. Since its founding, the Society has granted 14,371 loans, aggregating \$8,907,000 to Jewish farmers in 40 states. Among the successful Jewish farmers are many refugees from Nazi Europe. Since 1939 the Society has settled 739 families on land. The first five years are usually the crucial years in the life of any new farmer, the report says, adding that "nevertheless 692 families of these are still on the land, in spite of the various war dislocations."

ITALIAN CLERGY SHELTERS FUGITIVE JEWS FROM FASCISTS

WASHINGTON, March 22. (JTA) -- The Office of War Information today reported from Switzerland that many members of the Italian clergy are sheltering Jews and escaped war prisoners and thus exposing themselves to Neo-Fascist reprisals. Several examples of the courage shown by priests and the persecution to which they are exposed were given by the Swiss newspaper Popolo e Libertà, the OWI said.

JEWS IN MEXICO DECIDE TO INTERVENE FOR TERRORIZED JEWISH INTERNEES IN SANTA ROSA

MEXICO CITY, March 22. (JTA) -- The Jewish Central Committee, at a stormy meeting here, decided to authorize its newly-elected executive committee to take steps to secure alleviation of the plight of the 25 Jewish refugees interned in the Santa Rosa Polish refugee camp.

The decision was taken in view of the fact that the interned Jews continue to complain that they are being terrorized by Polish residents of the camp as well as by the Polish camp administration. Arturo Wolfowitz, Mexican Zionist leader, was elected president of the Central Committee.

CANADA LIFTS BAN ON IMPORTS OF MATZOH PRODUCTS FROM UNITED STATES

WASHINGTON, March 22. (JTA) -- Matzoh products for consumption in Canada during the Passover season which are entered at customs through April 15 will be accorded free entry by Canadian authorities, the Department of Commerce announced today.

The ban on imports of these products from the United States will be waived again this year and permits will be granted to importers for quantities not in excess of their 1942 importations.