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ROOSEVELT URGES PEOPLE IN NAZI LANDS TO SAVE JEWS; CITES TRAGEDY OF HUNGARIAN JEWS

WASHINGTON, March 24. (JTA) -- Emphasizing that the Jews in Hungary and in the Balkan countries "are now threatened with annihilation," President Roosevelt at his press conference today issued a statement calling upon the free peoples of Europe and Asia to open temporarily their frontiers to all escaping Nazi victims. He warned that "all who knowingly take part in the deportation of Jews to their death" shall be punished.

The President revealed that he has been in close touch with Prime Minister Churchill and Premier Stalin on the matter. He asked that every man everywhere under Nazi domination "hide these pursued victims, help them to get over their borders, and do what he can to save them from the Nazi hangman."

"Hundreds of thousands of Jews, who while living under persecution have at least found a haven from death in Hungary and the Balkans, are now threatened with annihilation as Hitler's forces descend more heavily upon these lands," the President said. "That these innocent people, who have already survived a decade of Hitler's fury, should perish on the very eve of triumph over the barbarism which their persecution symbolizes, would be a major tragedy."

Satisfied With Rescue Activities of War Refugee Board

The President said at his press conference that the work of the War Refugee Board is going very well and the Board has actually been getting people out. He announced the appointment of John W. Pehle, previously acting executive director, to the full directorship of the WRB.

Asked whether the United States would take part in offering haven, the President said that we are taking care of all the refugees we can get out now, in North Africa, for one place. When it was indicated that the question applied to haven in the United States, the President answered that there are not enough to come, for one reason.

Full Text of President Roosevelt's Statement

"The United Nations," the President's statement reads, "are fighting to make a world in which tyranny and aggression can not exist; a world based upon freedom, equality and justice; a world in which all persons regardless of race, color or creed may live in peace, honor and dignity.

"In the meantime in most of Europe and in parts of Asia the systematic torture and murder of civilians - men, women, and children - by the Nazis and the Japanese continues unabated. In areas subjugated by the aggressors innocent Poles, Czechs, Norwegians, Dutch, Danes, French, Greeks, Russians, Chinese, Filipinos - and many others - are being starved or frozen to death or murdered in cold blood in a campaign of savagery.

"The slaughters of Warsaw, Lidice, Kharkov and Nanking - the brutal torture and murder by the Japanese, not only of civilians but of our own gallant American soldiers and fliers - these are startling examples of what goes on day by day, year

in and year out, whenever the Nazis and the Japs are in military control - free to follow their barbaric purpose.

Calls Systematic Murder of Jews Blackest Crime in History

"In one of the blackest crimes of all history - begun by the Nazis in the day of peace and multiplied by them a hundred times in time of war - the wholesale systematic murder of the Jews of Europe goes on unabated every hour. As a result of the last few days, hundreds of thousands of Jews, who while living under persecution have at least found a haven from death in Hungary and the Balkans, are now threatened with annihilation as Hitler's forces descend more heavily upon these lands. That these innocent people, who have already survived a decade of Hitler's fury, should perish on the very eve of triumph over the barbarism which their persecution symbolizes, would be a major tragedy.

"It is therefore fitting that we should again proclaim our determination that none who participate in these acts of savagery shall go unpunished. The United Nations have made it clear that they will pursue the guilty and deliver them up in order that justice be done. That warning applies not only to the leaders but also to their functionaries and subordinates in Germany and in the satellite countries. All who knowingly take part in the deportation of Jews to their death in Poland, or Norwegians and French to their death in Germany, are equally guilty with the executioner. All who share the guilt shall share the punishment.

Urges Germans to Hide Jews and Rescue Them

"Hitler is committing these crimes against humanity in the name of the German people. I ask every German and every man everywhere under Nazi domination to show the world by his action that in his heart he does not share these insane criminal desires. Let him hide these pursued victims, help them to get over their borders, and do what he can to save them from the Nazi hangman. I ask him also to help watch, and to record the evidence that will one day be used to convict the guilty.

"In the meantime, and until the victory that is now assured is won, the United States will persevere in its efforts to rescue the victims of brutality of the Nazis and the Japs. In so far as the necessity of military operations permit this Government will use all means at its command to aid the escape of all intended victims of the Nazi and Jap executioner - regardless of race or religion or color. We call upon the free peoples of Europe and Asia temporarily to open their frontiers to all victims of oppression. We shall find havens of refuge for them, and we shall find the means for their maintenance and support until the tyrant is driven from their homelands and they may return. In the name of justice and humanity let all freedom loving people rally to this righteous undertaking."

HUNGARIAN-SLOVAKIAN BORDER CLOSED TO JEWS FLEEING HUNGARY

ZURICH, March 24. (JTA) -- The Berlin radio today announced that measures have been taken by the German occupational authorities to prevent the flight of Jews from Hungary to Slovakia.

"A considerable number of Hungarian Jews have tried to enter Slovakia during the last few days," the broadcast said. "They have all been turned back. Steps have been taken to prevent Hungarian refugees from crossing the Hungarian-Slovakian frontier and double guards have been stationed along the entire Slovakian border."

The broadcast added that "Slovak authorities are greatly pleased with the fact that more than a million Jews will be eliminated from the political and economic scene in Hungary," and are "cooperating" with the German military authorities in preventing any illegal crossing of their borders.

GESTAPO HERDS THOUSANDS OF HUNGARIAN JEWS INTO THREE CONCENTRATION CAMPS

BERN, March 24, (JTA) -- Thousands of Hungarian Jews arrested by the Gestapo in Budapest and other parts of occupied Hungary are now being held in three concentration camps, awaiting deportation to Poland for extermination in gas chambers or forced labor in Upper Silesian coal mines, it was reported here today.

A brief S.O.S. reached here today from Jews in Hungary in the form of a carefully worded telegram of twenty words, which can all be reduced to the single word "Help!" The message discloses that the camps where the arrested Jews are being held are located in Ersekuyvar, Ipolysag and Fuelek.

The first eye-witness account to reach here said that thousands of Jews, Social Democrats and various anti-Nazis swarmed over the countryside outside of Budapest after dark Sunday, making for the Slovakian frontier 70 miles away. Few trains left Budapest that night, and to board them required at least three special permits.

Carefully evading the main highways, the refugees, laden with bundles, tramped northward. Many were caught before they had a chance to reach the outskirts of Budapest. The rest marched for three consecutive nights, sleeping during the day in barns and woods along the way. Refugees from other towns were met by those from Budapest.

On Wednesday they approached the frontier. It is estimated that 10,000, divided into groups led by local guides, were prepared to cross into Slovakia at points usually not heavily guarded. But they were too late. The Slovak government had moved up reinforcements to guard the frontier, and along the 400-mile stretch from Bratislava to Kosice, there was not a loophole for the despairing refugees. Thousands were arrested, while Hungarian peasants sympathetically provided first-aid and shelter for others who were not seized, but who were too wary to flee elsewhere.

Confiscation of Jewish Property in Hungary Urged in Radio Broadcasts

LONDON, March 24. (JTA) -- German-controlled Hungarian radio stations have unleashed a barrage of violent anti-Jewish propaganda, branding the Jews in the country "an alien and dangerous element which must be deprived of all rights and excluded from economic life."

The broadcasts, repeated several times a day in various forms, also urge the confiscation of Jewish property and point out that this can now be achieved with the aid of the German Army. Articles from pro-Nazi Hungarian newspapers demanding "a strict policy with regard to the Jews" are also being broadcast over the Budapest radio and other stations.

The London News Chronicle, a leading daily newspaper, today expresses the opinion that "the massacre of Jews in Hungary will not be delayed long." It predicts that pogroms against Jews are likely to take place in Rumania also as a result of the new situation. "There is now no country to where the unhappy Jews of Hungary can escape," the article says.

Other London newspapers carry similar articles emphasizing the tragedy of the Jews in Hungary and pointing out that some of them would have had an opportunity of leaving the country even before the end of the war had Hungary not been occupied.

POLISH-JEWISH UNDERGROUND ASKS ROOSEVELT, CHURCHILL TO SET UP INTER-ALLIED RESCUE BODY

LONDON, March 24. (JTA) -- An appeal from the Polish-Jewish underground for the immediate establishment of an inter-Allied body empowered to stop the mass-murder of Jews was sent to Prime Minister Churchill and President Roosevelt today. The message was received by Emanuel Szerer, Jewish deputy in the Polish National Council, who forwarded it to the heads of the British and American Governments.

A Polish underground newspaper received here today carries an article asserting that the overwhelming majority of the population of occupied Poland is doing everything possible to assist the Jews there, and "more than one Pole has given his life" in this task. It denounced "those few members of the underworld" who have betrayed Jews to the Germans or who have claimed that Poles need not interest themselves in the fate of their Jewish fellow-citizens.

At the same time, it is reported here that a Polish priest, Father Ulatowski of Lodz, has been sent to a concentration camp for issuing certificates to Jewish women attesting that they were Catholics, in order to save them from the Gestapo.

Jewish circles here today were in receipt of still another report from underground sources. This gave additional details of the revolt at the Treblinka "death camp" last year, revealing that 200 Jews and 50 Germans were killed during the outbreak. The report also stated that there were 5,000 Jews in the Vilna ghetto as of last September, after 6,000 had been shipped to Estonia for forced labor.

CANADIAN PARLIAMENT GETS BILL TO OUTLAW RACIAL PROPAGANDA

OTTAWA, March 24. (JTA) -- A bill to make race and religion baiting illegal has passed its first reading in the federal parliament. The bill seeks to amend the criminal code so as to make illegal the utterance or publication of statements tending to set race against race and one religious group against another.

The bill was introduced by Angus MacInnis (C.C.F., Vancouver East,) who said that the purpose of the measure was to prevent dissemination of material calculated or likely to cause discrimination or disharmony on account of race or religion.

Persons guilty of publicly uttering or publishing such statements would be subject, on conviction, to a fine ranging from \$50 to \$200, or to a jail term of from one to two months. The bill would increase the penalties for offenders.

ELIAS SOURASKY, MEXICAN JEWISH LEADER, CONFERS WITH AMERICAN ZIONISTS ON PALESTINE

NEW YORK, March 24. (JTA) -- Elias Sourasky, a prominent leader of Mexican Jewry, today completed a series of conferences with leaders of American Zionist institutions devoted to the Palestine question and to the participation of Mexican Jews in Zionist efforts.

Mr. Sourasky attended the Washington dinner arranged by the American Palestine Committee, which was addressed by Vice-President Wallace. He also discussed various Zionist political problems with the leaders of the American Zionist Emergency Council, and held meetings with the officers of the Jewish National Fund and of the Keren Hayesod.