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NEGOTIATIONS OPENED FOR ADMISSION OF LARGER NUMBER OF BALKAN JEWS TO TURKEY

LONDON, April 16. (JTA) -- Negotiations are now taking place with Turkish authorities to secure the admission into Turkey of a larger number of Jews from the Balkan countries in transit to Palestine and other lands of refuge, it is reported in the press here today.

At present, the Turkish Government allows only 150 Jewish refugees to enter Turkey weekly, en route to other countries. It is understood that the present negotiations aim not only at extending this quota, but also at amending the Turkish regulations so that it will be possible for Jews in Nazi-held territories to reach Turkey without complicated formalities. A liberal interpretation of Turkish frontier restrictions is also sought so as to enable Jews to escape into Turkey without being detained at the Turkish border.

While members of the Turkish cabinet are inclined to cooperate with the United Nations in making possible the rescue of Jews from Nazi territory, it is emphasized that by allowing victims of Nazi persecution to enter Turkey the Turkish authorities will not undertake to grant them permanent residence and consider Palestine to be the ultimate destination of the refugees.

HUNGARIAN GOVERNMENT ORDERS CONFISCATION OF ALL PROPERTY OWNED BY JEWS

ZURICH, April 16. (JTA) -- The virtual confiscation of all property owned by Jews in Hungary and the "Aryanization" of Jewish businesses was decreed yesterday in an order issued in Budapest by the pro-Nazi Hungarian puppet government. The decree covers real estate, jewelry, cash, securities and anything else of value.

According to a dispatch of the German Transkontinent agency the decree "imposes the obligation on every Jew to register his property with competent financial offices. The obligation to register includes non-Jews who are keeping property of any kind for Jews. From now on Jews are no longer allowed to possess securities or interest certificates belonging to them," the dispatch declared. All assets, including gold and jewels, must be deposited in banks under the decree, which promised that "safes belonging to Jews will remain sealed," though their contents must be registered.

Even postoffice savings accounts and other current accounts are subject to registration," the dispatch said, and "only 1,000 pengoes per month may be paid out to Jews from these sources," except for sums to be used specifically for wages, taxes and goods to be delivered. Under a special provision of the decree, Transkontinent said, the Minister of Trade in the puppet government is empowered to appoint a "business manager" for any commercial or industrial enterprise "at least one of whose partners is a Jew." "Any property coming under this order may be neither sold nor leased," the decree states. "Its transfer is also strictly forbidden."

Another decree issued by the Hungarian Government deprives all Jewish druggists their licenses, the Budapest radio reported. The Hungarian newspaper Pest reaching us today reports that the dismissal of all Jews working on Hungarian newspapers has been completed.

JCA NOT OFFICIALLY INFORMED OF \$2,500,000 LEVY IMPOSED ON IT BY ARGENTINE GOVERNOR

MONTEVIDEO, April 16 (JTA)-- Advice received here today from Buenos Aires state that the Jewish Colonization Association has not yet been advised officially of the order issued several days ago by the Governor of Entre Rios province in Argentina, imposing a levy of ten million pesos, approximately \$2,500,000, on the Association on the pretext that it has failed to pay taxes for the last ten years.

It was pointed out here that the move by the Governor is a deliberate attempt to deprive the Jewish Colonization Association of its land in Entre Rios where there are eleven prosperous JCA colonies with a Jewish population of 15,000 settled on 560,000 acres. The order of the Governor is considered illegal, since the JCA was recognized by the Argentine Government in 1933 as a charitable organization and exempted from all taxes.

The colonies of the Jewish Colonization Association in the provinces of Buenos Aires, Santa Fe and other sections of Argentina are not affected by the order which is a severe blow to the Jewish settlers in Entre Rios. The ten million pesos levy exceeds double the total value of the yearly production of the settlements. The Governor of Entre Rios and the Minister of Finance, Mainero, belong to the ultra-nationalist groups who have long been known for their anti-Jewish sentiments. The JCA colonies in Argentina have been in existence for more than fifty years. They were established with funds contributed by Baron de Hirsch.

LIQUIDATION OF ALL SYNAGOGUES IN LODZ ORDERED BY GERMAN AUTHORITIES

LONDON, April 16. (JTA) -- German authorities in Poland have ordered the liquidation of all synagogues in Lodz, where many Jews are still living, employed at slave labor in German war factories. It is revealed in a report received here today by Dr. Ignacy Schwarzbart, Jewish member of the Polish National Council.

The deportation of Jews from Lodz was reported recently in connection with the retreat of the German armies on the Russian front. The information received today by Dr. Schwarzbart says that some synagogues in Lodz have been burned down, while others are being converted into public utility buildings. Property of Jews deported from Lodz is being distributed among Germans arriving from Lithuania and from other sections close to the Russian lines.

234 JEWISH REFUGEES FROM RUMANIA ARRIVE IN PALESTINE ABOARD TURKISH VESSEL

HAIFA, April 16. (JTA) -- Two-hundred and thirty-four Jewish refugees from Rumania - many of whom fled from Transnistrian labor camps during the confusion of the German retreat - arrived here late yesterday aboard the S. S. Maritza, chartered Turkish vessel. The refugees left the Rumanian port of Constanza on April 5.

The immigrants were met here by representatives of the Jewish Agency and the Rumanian Settlers Association. They were singing Hatikvah as the vessel docked. After a few days in the Athlit Immigration Station here, the immigrants will be allowed to proceed to various settlements which are prepared to receive them.

GERMAN OCCUPATION AUTHORITIES IN FRANCE EXECUTE 32 "JEWISH TERRORISTS"

LONDON, April 16. (JTA) -- The Paris radio announced today that 32 "Jewish terrorists" had been executed after a summary court martial. The broadcast did not reveal the activities for which the men were condemned.

WAR REFUGEE BOARD APPOINTS REPRESENTATIVE IN LISBON TO SPEED RESCUE OF JEWS

WASHINGTON, April 16. (JTA) -- The War Refugee Board has appointed Dr. Robert C. Dexter as special representative in Portugal, Executive Director John W. Pehle announced today.

Dexter, acting commissioner for Europe of the Unitarian Service Committee, has been in Lisbon since the fall of 1942. As special attache to the legation there, he will work with public and private agencies in developing programs and implementing measures for the rescue, transportation, maintenance and relief of refugees, according to the announcement.

Dexter spent three months in Europe surveying refugee needs in 1940. At that time he visited 13 countries and was instrumental in securing the release of 1,500 prisoners in Hungary. In 1938 he was head of the commission for service in Czechoslovakia and was decorated by the Czech Government-in-Exile for his work with Czech refugees.

Before the war he travelled in Hungary and Rumania and attended many sessions of the Assembly and Council of the League of Nations in Geneva. A graduate of Brown University, Dexter was for 10 years a social worker in the United States and Canada and taught social and political science at Skidmore College and Clark University. In 1926 he was one of 50 university professors sent to The Hague and Germany by the Carnegie Endowment.

War Refugee Board Defines Its Relations with Private Agencies

NEW YORK, April 16. (JTA) -- The War Refugee Board will work closely with governmental and intergovernmental agencies but will also depend on the facilities of "private agencies engaged over a long period in the task of rescuing and maintaining refugees," according to a definition of policy issued by John W. Pehle, executive director of the Board. The statement of policy, addressed to the national chairmen of the United Jewish Appeal, reads:

"The War Refugee Board will continue to do everything within its power to bring speedy rescue and relief to as many victims of enemy persecution as may be possible. To that end, and in carrying out the grave responsibilities which the President has assigned to the Board, it will continue to work closely with every governmental and intergovernmental agency whose facilities and resources are available for its use.

"At the same time, the Board will continue to utilize, to the extent practicable, the facilities and resources of private agencies in the furtherance of certain phases of its program. In this connection it is the Board's intention to use its best efforts to expand and accelerate the helpfulness of private agencies, such as yours, which have been engaged over a longer period in the task of rescuing and maintaining refugees and which have developed well-tested machinery for relief and rehabilitation. The emergency character of the Board makes this procedure desirable.

"The War Refugee Board is working closely and will continue to work closely with the President's War Relief Control Board. In so far as the War Refugee Board will depend on the experienced private agencies to execute its objectives, it will be glad to see a generous response on the part of the American people to the fund-raising efforts of such bodies. While authorized to accept contributions, the War Refugee Board has no present intention of embarking upon a campaign for the solicitation of funds from private persons. It hopes rather that the organizations which already enjoy the confidence of the country and which have done extensive work in the field of emergency aid and relief will be the media through which the sympathy of Americans for the purposes of the War Refugee Board will be concretely expressed."

ZIONIST ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL HEARS DEMAND FOR "GRAND SHOW-DOWN" ON PALESTINE

NEW YORK, April 16. (JTA) -- A demand for a "grand show-down" on the Palestine problem, which will guarantee both free Jewish immigration and the establishment of Palestine as a Jewish Commonwealth, was voiced here today by Dr. Israel Goldstein, president of the Zionist Organization of America, addressing 200 Zionist leaders from all sections of the country attending a meeting of the administrative council of the Zionist Organization.

The council, which is the ruling body of the ZOA between conventions, adopted a resolution urging immediate action by the United Nations to save the estimated 2,000,000 Jews in the Balkan countries and Hungary. It also called on its nation-wide membership - which now totals over 100,000, according to a report delivered at the meeting - to arrange special observances on April 19 to mark the first anniversary of the battle of the Warsaw ghetto.

Reporting on behalf of the Jewish National Fund of America, Mendel N. Fisher, its executive director, announced that a total of \$2,144,000, was remitted to Palestine for new land purchases during the first six months of the fiscal year. Judge Morris Rothenberg, president of the JNF, announced at the meeting the establishment of a colony in Palestine in honor of Dr. Stephen S. Wise on the occasion of his 70th birthday. The funds for this colony will be raised by the Zionist Organization of America and its constituent organizations. Judge Bernard A. Rosenbaltt, president of the Keren Hayesod, reported that during 1943 a total of \$2,781,000 was remitted to Palestine through this fund for Jewish colonization, immigration and other reconstruction activities conducted under the supervision of the Jewish Agency for Palestine. An additional \$1,250,000 was remitted through the fund for Jewish colonization and immigration in the first quarter of 1944, with an additional \$500,000, due to be remitted in the very near future.

HEBREW UNION COLLEGE CONFERS DEGREES ON ROSENBERG, ROSENWALD AND PROF. BARON

NEW YORK, April 16. (JTA) -- The honorary degree of Doctor of Jewish Law were conferred today upon Prof. Salo W. Baron, James N. Rosenberg and William Rosenwald at the Founder's Day ceremonies of Hebrew Union College, held at Central Synagogue. The Founder's Day ceremonies are held annually under the auspices of the New York City alumni of the college in honor of Isaac Mayer Wise, who founded the institution in 1875.

TEN ARGENTINE JEWISH LEADERS WILL ATTEND WORLD JEWISH CONGRESS PARLEY IN NEW YORK

NEW YORK, April 16. (JTA) -- An Argentinian delegation composed of ten of the foremost leaders of the Jewish community of that country and a delegation of eight representatives of all the Jewish organizations and institutions of Chile are expected to arrive soon in New York for the War Emergency Conference of the World Jewish Congress, convoked for May 20th, it was announced here today. The Argentinian and Chilean delegations will participate in the Conference, together with the Jewish representatives of 36 other Allied, neutral and liberated countries.

ORT OPENS NEW SCHOOL IN CHILE TO GIVE REFUGEES MECHANICAL AND ELECTRICAL TRAINING

NEW YORK, April 16. (JTA) -- A new ORT school which will offer refugee youths and adults courses in electrical and mechanical engineering was opened in Santiago, Chile, today, according to a cabled report reaching the American ORT here. Heavy machinery purchased in the United States and Argentina has been installed in the school. The opening ceremonies were attended by government officials.