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Monday, April 24, 1944

BRITISH GOVT. URGED TO SECURE REVIEW OF SENTENCES IMPOSED ON POLISH-JEWISH SOLDIERS

LONDON, April 23. (JTA) -- The British Government was urged today to intervene to secure a review of the sentences of one to three years imprisonment meted out over the week-end by a Polish court martial to about 30 Jewish soldiers who were charged with "deserting" from the Polish Army, because of anti-Semitism there and seeking to transfer to the British forces.

A resolution adopted by the Board of Deputies of British Jews, which represents the bulk of English Jewry, expressed "deep concern" regarding the conditions in the Polish Army which culminated in the court martial proceedings and urged the British Government to consult with the Polish authorities so that "the findings of the court martial will be reviewed in light of the principles of the present struggle."

Meanwhile, the Moscow radio today broadcast a sharp attack on the verdict of the Polish military court. The deputy president of the Polish National Committee in Moscow was quoted as declaring that while thousands of Poles in Poland are helping Jews, the reactionary officers still commanding Polish troops abroad are condemning Jewish soldiers.

Polish circles in London pointed out today that the sentences imposed by the court martial, which met in Scotland, are not final until confirmed by higher Polish military authorities. They said that an official statement regarding the court's findings will be issued shortly. The severity of the sentences, they alleged, resulted from the accused soldiers' refusal to return to the Polish forces.

Resentment of British Jews Reflected at Meeting of Deputies

Even before the court's decision was announced, a delegation of 3,000 Jewish clothing workers had called on prime Minister Churchill yesterday, at his official residence 10 Downing Street, to protest the mistreatment of the Jews in the Polish forces. They were unable to see the Prime Minister, but left a letter arguing the case of the Jewish soldiers.

The resolution adopted by the Board of Deputies followed a turbulent meeting attended by a record audience, which reflected the resentment which has been aroused in the Jewish community here by the court martial's verdict. In addition to demanding reversal of the findings, the resolution asked that the British Government confer with the Poles in order to find a way of enabling Jewish soldiers to transfer to the British Army if they so desire. The situation created by the Polish military command not consistent with the principles for which the war is being fought, it said.

Addressing the meeting of the Board, Prof. Selig Brodetsky, president, said that British Jews will not rest content until the rights of the Polish Jewish soldiers are fully safeguarded. He expressed doubts, in the light of the events of the past few years, that the Polish Government could guarantee that anti-Semitism would be kept out among its troops, and demanded, consequently, that the Jews be allowed to transfer. Disclosing that a high Polish official had told him this week that the tales concerning anti-Semitism were "exaggerated," Prof. Brodetsky said that a large section of the British people would feel happier concerning the situation if at

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least, neutral observers had been permitted to participate in the inquiries into anti-Jewish discrimination which the Polish Government announced it had made.

Brodetsky rejected the argument of some Polish circles that the entire question was an internal one, of concern only to the Poles. Anti-Semitism, he said, was not an internal question no matter where it occurred, and less so since the incidents took place in an Allied army on British soil.

Other speakers backed Brodetsky's stand, and emphasized that the British Government must be held responsible for taking action to end the intolerable situation.

#### REMOVAL OF BUDAPEST JEWS TO GHETTO STARTED; ALL JEWISH FIRMS MUST CLOSE TODAY

ZURICH, April 23. (JTA) -- The transfer of Jews in Budapest from various sections of the city to "closed districts" is now in full swing, it was disclosed today in a broadcast by Laslo Endre, Hungarian Commissioner for Jewish Affairs. In the meantime, a curfew has been imposed upon Jews in the sections from which they are to be removed, prohibiting them from appearing on the streets between 7 p.m. and 7 a.m.

The Budapest radio today also reported that in accordance with the decree liquidating all Jewish firms, all Jewish enterprises must close as of today. Their owners can enter them only to help the authorities in taking inventories. The only Jewish commercial establishments that will be permitted to remain are those whose existence is essential to the Hungarian war effort. They will be managed, however, by special government commissars.

Hungarian newspapers reaching here today carry a warning stating that "Jews who are using Mogen David Badges made of white linen on the pretext that there is a shortage of yellow material, will be prosecuted. The papers also report that Jews will be expelled from membership in the National Federation of Hungarian Industrialists

#### HIGH OFFICIALS OF QUISLING GOVERNMENT CHARGED WITH STEALING MILLIONS IN JEWISH PROPERTY

STOCKHOLM, April 23. (JTA) -- High officials of the Quisling government of Norway are accused of misappropriating millions of dollars in cash and valuables from confiscated Jewish property, it is reported today in the Stockholm newspaper Morgen Tidningen.

The paper says that an investigation has disclosed that all sorts of valuables, including furniture, household goods, furs, clothes, and other rationed goods, were taken from homes formerly occupied by Jews and distributed among the acquaintances of the Quisling officials. The puppet government's state police are charged with stealing any thing of value they could lay their hands on during searches of Jewish premises. It is estimated that during February, 1, 700,000 kronen (nominally \$850,000) in cash and about \$250,000 in various goods were taken.

Among the prominent persons reported to be involved in the thefts are a member of the cabinet, Rolf Fuglesang, who is secretary of the Nasjonal Samling, the Quisling party, Police Chief Ramarthinson and Rolf Holm, Quisling party leader in Oslo county.

#### JEWISH AGENCY NEGOTIATING FOR VESSELS TO TRANSPORT REFUGEES TO PALESTINE

JERUSALEM, April 23. (JTA) -- The Jewish Agency is negotiating for several large vessels to be used for transporting Jewish refugees to Palestine, it was disclosed today by Eliahu Dobkin, Agency immigration chief, addressing a meeting of the Keren Hayesod at Petach Tikvah.

TWO PROMINENT EUROPEAN RABBIS REACH PALESTINE FROM RUMANIA AND HUNGARY

JERUSALEM, April 23. (JTA) The "Wisznitzer Rebbe" and the "Munkaczzer Rebbe," two of the best-known "miracle rabbis" in Europe, arrived here today after escaping from the Nazis. They were met at the Syrian-Palestine border by hundreds of followers, by representatives of central Jewish bodies and by many Palestine rabbis who accompanied them to Haifa.

The Wisznitzer Rebbe, who left Rumania only three weeks ago, told newspapermen that in the confusion following the retreat of the German Army, almost all Rumanian Jews who had been deported to Transnistria escaped from the places where they were confined. The 29-year old Munkaczzer Rebbe said he was deported from Munkacz, Slovakia, to Poland but managed to escape and had been hiding in Budapest for two years. He left Hungary two months ago and spent several weeks in Turkey.

Eye-witness accounts of the extermination of the Jewish population of Bessarabia and Hungarian-held Carpatho-Russia were given at a press conference here by Jews who succeeded in escaping from those regions within the last month.

Dr. Eliahu Weinstein, former publisher of the Czernowitzer Morgenblat, a German-language Jewish newspaper, who arrived in Palestine two weeks ago after a danger-fraught voyage across Rumania and the Black Sea to Turkey told correspondents that of the 250,000 or 300,000 Jews who lived in Bessarabia prior to the outbreak of the Russo-German war, only few remain. He was deported to Transnistria on August 16, 1941, only a month after the German-Rumanian invasion, but the province had been made almost "judenrein" by then, Dr. Weinstein said. He disclosed that the Czernowitz ghetto was established on November 11, 1942, on the same day that thousands of Jews in that city were murdered.

Another recent arrival, a Mrs. Jakubowicz, who had been active in the hechalutz movement in Carpatho-Russia, told the press conference that more than 90,000 of the 150,000 Jews in the area have been killed either by pro-Fascist Ukrainians, the Hungarian occupation forces or the German Gestapo. Mrs. Jakubowicz, and her family of seven, fled to Stanislawow, in Poland, arriving there on the day the Germans were conducting a massacre of 30,000 Jews in the local Jewish cemetery. Her entire family was wiped out.

TURKISH ASSISTANCE TO JEWS FLEEING BALKANS PRAISED BY CHIEF RABBI HERZOG

HAIFA, April 23. (JTA) -- Turkey's cooperation in assisting Jewish refugees from the Balkans to emigrate to Palestine through its territory, was praised here today by Chief Rabbi Isaac Herzog, who recently returned from a visit to that country in connection with rescue plans.

Addressing a meeting called by the Palestine War Needs Fund, Dr. Herzog thanked Turkey, in behalf of the Jewish people, for "the facilities it has extended to refugees passing through. Its conduct is in line with Turkey's humanitarian record," the Chief Rabbi continued. He expressed confidence that the Turkish authorities would continue to increase aid to refugees.

FASCISTS COMPLAIN THAT JEWS IN ITALY ARE NOT SUFFICIENTLY PERSECUTED

ZURICH, April 23. (JTA) -- The complaint that "nothing is actually being done in Italy about the Jews" is voiced in the Republica Fascista, organ of the Nazi-controlled Italian regime, reaching here today.

"Everybody is blissfully asleep with regard to the Jewish question," the article says. It indicates that "Jews will soon be deprived of freedom of movement" and warns Italian women not to be "Hebrew-minded" and not to show any pity for Jews.

ATTORNEY FOR ACCUSED SEDITIONIST DEMANDS COURT IMPOUND RECORDS OF ANTI-DEFAMATION LEAGUE

WASHINGTON, April 23. (JTA) -- James J. Laughlin, attorney for Edward James Smythe, one of the 30 alleged seditionists on trial here, filed a formal motion in District Court yesterday directing it to impound the records of five organizations including the Anti-Defamation League of the B'nai B'rith.

Laughlin charged the records would show that these organizations are allied together in a general conspiracy to besmirch and defame the good name of certain patriotic citizens such as "General Douglas MacArthur, Gov. John W. Bricker, Senators Gerald P. Nye, Burton K. Wheeler and Arthur E. Vandenberg, and Representatives Hamilton Fish, Clare Hoffman, and John E. Rankin. The trial will resume tomorrow morning.

AMERICAN PALESTINE INSTITUTE STARTS SURVEY OF PALESTINE'S ECONOMIC POSSIBILITIES

WASHINGTON, April 23. (JTA) -- A survey of the economic potentialities of Palestine in the next decade is now being prepared by the American Palestine Institute under the supervision of Robert R. Nathan, former chairman of the Planning Commission of the War Production Board, it was announced here today.

"Consideration will be given to both agricultural and industrial possibilities," the announcement said. "While emphasis will be placed upon raw materials and other resources available within Palestine and in the Middle Eastern area, the investigation will also aim to indicate opportunities which may present themselves to manufacturers, traders, and investors from other countries. Markets throughout the Middle East and elsewhere will be studied.

"An analysis will be made of the capacity of Palestine to absorb new settlers; the rate of absorption of immigrants under varying assumptions; the related capital investment required; and the probable direction of economic development. The report will be primarily an economic appraisal, rather than an engineering survey. However, results of previous engineering surveys will be utilized, and the services of engineering consultants as well as industrial experts will be utilized," the statement emphasized.

As part of the preliminary investigation, a staff of professional economists has for some time been engaged in evaluating all the available publications and other materials which have been gathered in the United States. In addition, Mr. Nathan, with a number of associates will shortly travel to Palestine to conduct a personal investigation there and in the Middle Eastern areas, for the purpose of obtaining first-hand information and a realistic insight into the related problems.

The American Palestine Institute, for which the survey is made, is an organization incorporated in 1942 as a membership corporation in the State of New York for the purpose of conducting research into the economic potentialities of Palestine and the Middle East, and disseminating economic information concerning this area. The Institute is a non-political, non-profit organization, which is not affiliated with any other organization and is financed by private contributions from individuals.

By the provisions of the contract, Mr. Nathan and his associates have complete independence in conducting this study and in the formulation of the findings. In announcing the survey, Mr. Nathan emphasized the fact that it is not an official government project, and that the survey is not concerned with political matters. While it is recognized that political considerations are very important in determining policies concerning the future development of Palestine and the Middle East area, these political considerations are regarded as outside the scope of the present survey, which is designed to deal solely with the economic aspects of the subject, Mr. Nathan said.