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DEMAND FOR TRANSFER OF JEWS FROM POLISH ARMY SUBMITTED TO BRITISH FOREIGN OFFICE

LONDON, April 25. (JTA) -- A demand that Jews in the Polish Army be transferred to British units was officially presented today to the British Foreign Office by Prof. Selig Brodetsky, president of the Board of Deputies of British Jews, during a conference with Parliamentary Under-Secretary for Foreign Affairs George Hall.

At the same time, it was learned that Foreign Secretary Anthony Eden will be asked in the House of Commons tomorrow to intervene with the Polish authorities to secure commutation of the sentences of one to three years imprisonment imposed upon a group of Jewish soldiers by a Polish court-martial sitting in Scotland. The Jews had left the British forces and sought admission into the British Army because they had been mistreated by anti-Semitic officers and non-coms.

The Polish Government today issued a five-point statement "explaining" the sentences meted out to the Jewish soldiers by the court-martial. The statement says that a minimum sentence of one year's imprisonment was imposed upon ten of the twenty-one defendants. The others were sentenced to from one to two years. Two of the soldiers who declared their readiness to rejoin the Polish Army were not tried at all, the statement declares. One of them was sentenced to seven days detention for absence without permission."

Court-Martial Verdict Can be Deferred Until After the War

The statement of the Polish Government reveals that the verdicts issued by the court-martial have been transmitted to the Polish military command, which is empowered to defer execution of the sentences until after the war, providing the men show "good will."

The statement also discloses that the trial of the Jewish soldiers was ordered by the Polish War Minister, Gen. Marjan Kukiel, after 207 Jews were transferred by British authorities from the Polish Army to the British forces. Six cases of alleged offenses against Jewish soldiers are now being investigated by the Polish military authorities, the statement said. Other cases reported during the trial will be investigated and guilty persons will be punished, the statement pledged.

Pointing out that usually a court-martial is held in camera, the government statement says that three Polish-Jewish leaders were admitted to the proceedings. The three were Dr. Ignacy Schwarzbart and Dr. Emanuel Szerer, members of the Polish National Council, and Anselm Reiss, a member of the Representation of Polish Jews.

The majority of the Jewish soldiers in the Polish Army have voiced no complaints and continue to serve there, the statement declared. It asserted that during the last six months 37 Jews have received commissions in the Polish Army. Also that during the war two Jews have been awarded the highest Polish military decoration, the "Virtuti Militari," 26 Jews have been given the "Cross of Valor," and three Jews

received the "Cross of Merit." "General Sosnkowski, Commander-in-Chief of the Polish Army, recently personally decorated two Jews of the Polish Commando unit in Italy," the statement pointed out.

British Public Uneasy about Mistreatment of Jews in Polish Army, Press Says

The British press today strongly condemns the conduct of the Polish authorities. The News-Chronicle says that "a thoroughly disagreeable impression has been created among all parties and classes as a result of the heavy sentence imposed on the Jewish soldiers. "Legally," the News-Chronicle continues, "responsibility for ending the anti-Semitism rests with the Polish authorities but a moral obligation rests on the British Government." The peoples of America, Russia and of all the United Nations will "watch closely to see how we handle the affair, which contains all the elements of the vile spirit of oppression which millions are giving their life to destroy," the paper concludes.

An editorial in the Daily Express says that the court-martial has created a spirit of uneasiness among the people of Britain. The Poles' right to try and sentence their own nationals, it adds, is unquestioned, but Britain has a right to know what is going on within its territory. The British people, the editorial continues, will be glad to learn that the reassurances of the Polish Government are not merely formal instructions, but indicate a determination to stamp out anti-Semitism in its armed forces.

It was learned today that Gen. Kukiel issued a circular to all Polish troops on March 13, warning that desertion would be punished by loss of citizenship of the offending soldier and his entire family. It added that "guilty persons will feel the effect of his action after his return to Poland." Dr. Ignacy Schwarzbart, Jewish member of the Polish National Council, told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency that upon being informed of the circular he had pointed out to the Defense Ministry that the law providing for denationalization of all members of a deserter's family had been repealed in 1942.

The Federation of Polish Jews announced today that it will hold a mass-meeting on May 3 to protest the conviction of the Jewish soldiers. Daniel Frankel, Labor M.P. who is vice-president of the organization, will preside. The Federation at the same time adopted a resolution pointing out that anti-Semitism in the Polish forces harms both Polish Jews and non-Jews.

American-Jewish Press Demands Annulment of Sentences

NEW YORK, April 25. (JTA) -- The entire Jewish press in the United States carries editorials today condemning the sentences imposed by the Polish court-martial in Great Britain on a group of about thirty Jewish soldiers who left the Polish Army because of anti-Semitism and came to London to join the British forces.

Demanding that the sentences which range from one to three years imprisonment be annulled and that Polish officers guilty of anti-Semitism be tried instead, the Jewish Daily Forward says that the anti-Semitism in the Polish Army, which reached a point where Polish Jews who are anxious to fight against the Nazis are forced to seek a transfer from the Polish armed forces, shows that "the Poles have learned nothing and have forgotten nothing."

"The Polish Government-in-Exile," the article says, "makes a serious mistake by thinking that the wild anti-Semitism in its army can be covered up and smoothed

over." The editorial advises the Polish Government "to root out anti-Semitic feelings from the army, if Poland really wishes to secure the sympathy of the democratic world."

The Jewish Day, in an editorial says that the verdict of the Polish court-martial is "shameful" and must not be allowed to stand. It emphasizes that the Jewish soldiers were not "deserters" as the Polish authorities claim, but were ready to join the British forces to be sent immediately to the front. "The Polish Army and the Polish Government-in-Exile must get rid once and for all of the remnants of anti-Semitism," the editorial says. "Those who speak in behalf of Nazi-tortured Poland must themselves not be stained with shameful Nazi activities."

The Jewish Morning Journal points out that anti-Semitism in the Polish Army is no new development. It has existed in all Polish military units wherever they were stationed, including Iran and even Palestine. "In England, anti-Semitism in the Polish armed forces has, however, reached a climax," it continues. "Jewish soldiers, unable to bear any longer the anti-Semitic poison, have begun to leave Polish units and seek a transfer to the British. They did not desert. They did not want to give up their fight against the common enemy. They simply wanted to fight in the ranks of more friendly people." The paper concludes by stating that "anti-Semitism would never have had any opportunity to spread in the Polish Army, had it not been encouraged by high commanding officers."

HUNGARY MAKES TWO JEWISH-POPULATED CITIES "JUDENREIN;" 24,000 JEWS WILL BE EXILED

ZURICH, April 25. (JTA) -- The entire Jewish population of the Hungarian towns of Munkacs and Ungvar - totalling about 24,000 - are to be expelled, it was reported today by the German-controlled Hungarian MTI news agency. The dispatch said that there are 10,000 Jews in Ungvar out of a total population of 25,000, and 14,000 in Munkacs, which has 31,000 inhabitants. The Jewish communities in the two towns date from the early 18th century.

The Budapest radio announced early today that the official gazette of the Nazi puppet government has published a decree barring Jews from employment in "any branch of agriculture or industry." Subsequent broadcasts, in French and German, indicated that the ban applied only to administrative and clerical positions, and that Jews could still be employed for manual work. The decree contains details of how persons can prove their non-Jewish ancestry through the birth certificates of their parents and themselves as well as baptismal certificates and other documents.

The German Transkontinent news service reports that the decree ordering the confiscation of all Jewish retail establishments in Hungary affects 18,000 shops in Budapest alone. Minister of Commerce Antal Kunder was quoted as declaring that shops taken over from Jews will be leased "to Christians possessing sound knowledge of trade and the necessary capital."

Premier Doeme Sztójay in an address to members of the former government party, reported in Budapest papers reaching here, ridiculed the charge that the anti-Jewish measures were burdening Hungarian economy. The government, he said, will facilitate the transfer of economic concerns to non-Jewish hands. The puppet-government's plans for the confiscated Jewish property were indicated by Deputy Gyorgy Olah who stated today that "the vast fortunes owned by Jews must be a basis for a thorough economic reconstruction." Police Chief Sopron, meanwhile, warned the public that persons assisting Jews to conceal or dispose of their assets will be arrested.

Hungarian professional circles are also being purged of Jews at a rapid pace. The Voellischer Beobachter discloses today that 1,303 Jewish lawyers have already been ousted from the Hungarian Lawyers' Chamber.

COURT IGNORES THREAT THAT SEDITION TRIAL WILL PROVOKE WAVE OF ANTI-SEMITISM

WASHINGTON, April 25. (JTA) -- Chief Justice Edward Eicher, who is presiding at the trial of 30 alleged seditionists here, apparently plans to ignore the tactics of defense counsels who are attempting to convince the government that the sedition trial should be called off by President Roosevelt in order to prevent "a wave of hostility and bias toward the Jewish race," it was indicated here today.

A request that the trial be halted and a threat to convert it into a platform for anti-Jewish propaganda was contained in a plea addressed to President Roosevelt yesterday by James Laughlin, attorney for the alleged seditionists Edward James Smythe and Robert Noble. The continuance of the trial, the plea said, would "see class arrayed against class and race against race." Should the trial not be called off, Mr. Laughlin said in his letter to the President, then it will last until November 8, when it will be discontinued "due to the fact that the people of the United States will vote a change in the Government on November 7."

Taking note of Henry Ford's protest against the attempt of the defense to drag him into the trial, Mr. Laughlin made public the text of a letter he sent today to Ford reminding him that twenty years ago he made "many utterances against prominent Jews." "Of course," the letter said, "it may be that this is an incident you would perhaps prefer to have forgotten, but nevertheless history has been made and your utterances and writings will remain in posterity as long as time endures."

The quest for a jury continued today with prospective jurors being asked whether they are readers of Anglo-Jewish publications and whether they hold the belief that "the Government of the United States, the Congress and public officials are controlled by Communists, International Jews and plutocrats."

PALESTINE MILITARY COURT SENTENCES JEWISH TERRORIST TO TWELVE YEARS IMPRISONMENT

JERUSALEM, April 25. (JTA) -- A British military court today sentenced 23-year-old Avtalion Iyov to 12 years imprisonment on charges of placing explosives in a Jaffa parking space which destroyed several trucks. This is the stiffest sentence imposed by military authorities here since the outbreak of the war.

Iyov, who had a loaded Italian pistol in his possession when he was picked up in Tel Aviv, protested during the trial that damaging statements attributed to him were made under duress. He alleged that he had been beaten by the police. The convicted youth, who is a member of a prominent Jerusalem family, was employed as a diamond polisher prior to his arrest.

A military court in Haifa today imposed the death sentence on four members of the South African forces stationed here for the murder of a chemist Moshe Yakubowitz last July, near Haifa. The chemist was killed when he resisted his assailants who were attempting to rob him.

CONGRESSMAN KLEIN WARNS HOUSE AGAINST RACIAL AND RELIGIOUS BIGOTRY

WASHINGTON, April 25. (JTA) -- A warning against racial and religious intolerance was voiced today on the floor of the House of Representatives by Congressman Arthur G. Kleih of New York.

"Whatever our personal proclivities, it must be clear to us that racial and religious bigotries among our citizens transcend the area of personal concern only," he said. "They become a national menace because they affect our national union and stability."