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RESIGNATION OF POLISH WAR MINISTER DEMANDED FOR FAILURE TO CURB ANTI-SEMITISM

LONDON, May 11. (JTA) -- The resignation of Polish Defense Minister Gen. Marjan Kukiel was demanded today during a heated debate in the Polish National Council on the question of anti-Semitism in the Polish armed forces.

At the same time, it was learned that President Wladyslaw Raczekiewicz has indicated that he is prepared to grant an amnesty to ten of the 21 Jewish soldiers convicted by a court-martial of leaving their units and attempting to join the British forces.

The sentences of these ten have been confirmed by Polish Commander-in-Chief Gen. Kazimierz Sosnkowski, while those imposed on the other eleven soldiers have been suspended until after the war, according to authoritative Polish sources. Jewish groups, however, are demanding that Raczekiewicz pardon all 21.

During the Council debate, Gen. Kukiel was severely criticized by Socialist and Jewish deputies for failing to curb anti-Semitism in the Polish Army. The attack on Polish High Command was led by Adam Ciolkosz, Socialist, and Emanuel Szerer of Jewish Socialist Party.

Gen. Kukiel Justifies Conduct of Polish High Command

Replying, Kukiel attempted to justify the conduct of the Polish military authorities and alleged that he was not responsible for the situation which had developed. He pointed to the publication by the army of a newspaper for the Jewish soldiers as an indication of its desire to wipe out anti-Semitism and rejected all demands that he resign.

Ciolkosz assailed the anti-Semitism and reaction prevalent in pre-war and present-day Polish governing circles. He said that they did not reflect the attitude of the democratic majority of the Polish people, adding that "Poles cannot accept one percent of anti-Semitism."

Asserting that the majority of the Jewish people in Poland wish to remain there and consider Poland their fatherland, Ciolkosz said that he, therefore, opposed the transfer of Jewish troops from the Polish to the British forces. He demanded, however, that all Jewish soldiers convicted of leaving their units be amnestied.

Szerer said that the High Command's handling of the situation had been unfortunate from its very inception. Ridiculing Kukiel's assertion that he had a paper prepared for the Jewish soldiers as a measure to combat anti-Semitism, Szerer said that he would have done better had he arranged to publish a paper for the non-Jewish soldiers containing material aimed at eradicating anti-Jewish prejudices among them.

Another deputy stated that Kukiel could not evade the issue by declaring that he did not accept responsibility for what has occurred. Anti-Semitism among the Polish people, the deputy said, was not sporadic as Kukiel had claimed but a chronic disease. He, so, asked that the Defense Minister resign.

## HUNGARIAN JEWS ORDERED TO LEAVE HOUSEHOLD EQUIPMENT BEFORE MOVING TO GHETTOS

ZURICH, May 11. (JTA) -- Hungarian newspapers reaching here today report that Jews moving from their homes in Budapest into the ghetto have been ordered not to move their stoves, electrical fixtures, blackout implements and air-raid shelter equipment. They must also submit to the authorities lists of their property held in storage.

The same papers report that 50,000 radios have been confiscated from Jews in Budapest and an additional 65,000 from Jews in provincial cities. Many of these sets are powerful enough to pick up broadcasts from London, Moscow and even New York, the anti-Nazi Hungarian papers state. Jews who intentionally damaged their radios before delivering them to the authorities have been ordered to repair them at their own expense, in addition to receiving other punishment, the newspapers reveal.

## ROOSEVELT RECEIVES FIRST REPORT ON ACTIVITIES OF WAR REFUGEE BOARD IN RESCUING JEWS

WASHINGTON, May 11. (JTA) -- President Roosevelt today received the first oral report on the activities of the War Refugee Board in rescuing Jews from occupied Europe. The report was given by John W. Pehle, executive director of the WRB, who spent fifteen minutes with the President.

Speaking in the House of Representatives today, Rep. Thomas J. Lane, (Mass. Dem.) and Rep. Clare Boothe Luce, (Conn. Rep.) supported the establishment of "free ports" in the United States to give shelter to refugees from Europe for the duration of hostilities without affecting the existing immigration laws.

"For 11 years now Americans have been deploring the fate of Europe's refugees," Mrs. Luce said. "While we deplored and lamented, millions of refugees were savagely ordered by Hitler's henchmen. Others escaped death only to wander as refugees across the face of a world which was sympathetic but coldly inhospitable. They have life but no place to live. They have not been able to find a temporary haven of shelter until the storm of war blows over and they can return to their old homes or settle in a new and permanent home. The idea of free ports for refugees deserves the most serious thought and investigation by those who want to offer some small comfort and hope to their stricken fellowmen."

Rep. Lane called upon "those who treasure our American traditions of speaking out for the oppressed and offering them the sanctuary of our free institutions" to assist the work of the War Refugee Board "so that all the world will know that Americans are wholeheartedly united in the humanitarian task of rescuing those whom hostility and terrorism threaten to annihilate."

## CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEE VOTES TO HOLD HEARING ON CREATION OF PERMANENT F.E.P.C.

WASHINGTON, May 11. (JTA) -- The House Labor Committee today voted to hold open hearings on the proposed legislation creating a permanent Fair Employment Practices Committee to check racial bias in employment. No date for the hearings have been set. A number of bills to this effect were introduced in January.

Headed by Sidney Hollander, president of the Council of Jewish Federations and Welfare Funds, a delegation of representatives of more than a dozen national organizations met several days ago with Rep. Mary T. Norton, chairman of the House Labor Committee. Today Mr. Hollander issued a statement calling the committee's decision to hold hearings "an encouraging step."

"The need for such an agency on a permanent, statutory basis," he said, "cannot be denied and we are confident that facts which can and will be brought out at the hearing will underscore this need and pave the way for passage of this vitally important legislation."

ENGLISH OFFICIAL AGENCY DENIES REPORT OF PLAN TO PREVENT RETURN OF JEWS TO POLAND

NEW YORK, May 11. (JTA) -- The Polish Telegraphic Agency, official organ of the Polish Government-in-Exile, today made public an "authorized denial" of a report carried by the New York Jewish newspaper "The Day," which gave details of an alleged confidential document sent to the Polish Government-in-Exile by its representative in occupied Poland in which it was recommended that Polish Jews not be repatriated after the war.

"The Polish Government never received such a report from its delegate in Poland," the denial said. "Nor did the delegate or any of his subordinate departments send such a report. This fact was confirmed six months ago and communicated to the Polish National Council in London upon the appearance of the first of such versions concerning the contents of an allegedly official report from Poland in the sense of the particulars quoted by the Jewish Day."

"It must be stressed that information concerning alleged plans regarding the future Jewish population in Poland, presented in the above mentioned paper, are contrary both factually and spiritually to information as well as conclusions coming from Poland from the Polish Government's delegate and his executive departments as well as from the Council of National Unity on which the government in Poland is based. These reports are obviously contrary to policy rulings and plans of the Polish Government," the statement said.

MONSKY RE-ELECTED PRESIDENT OF B'NAI B'RITH FOR THIRD TERM

NEW YORK, May 11. (JTA) -- Henry Monsky was re-elected president of B'nai B'rith, at the close of its national war service centennial convention last night at the Hotel New Yorker. This will be Mr. Monsky's third three-year term.

Re-elected vice-presidents were: A. B. Freyer, Shreveport, La., and Frank Goldman, Lowell, Mass.; Harry K. Wolff, San Francisco, Calif., was chosen vice-president to succeed David Blumberg of Los Angeles. Other members of the national executive committee, which governs B'nai B'rith between triennial conventions, elected were: Sidney G. Kusworm, Dayton, Ohio; Judge Joseph L. Kun, Philadelphia; Al Fasse, Portsmouth, Va.; and Benjamin Samuels, Chicago. The Honorable Alfred M. Cohen was re-elected honorary president of B'nai B'rith. At a meeting of the executive committee, following the convention, Maurice Bisgyer, Washington, D. C., was re-elected secretary and Sidney G. Kusworm, Dayton, Ohio, was re-elected treasurer.

Before adjourning the convention adopted a resolution "expressing B'nai B'rith's appreciation of the purpose and achievement of the committee appointed by the President of the United States and known as the Fair Employment Practice Committee in eliminating un-American practices in the field of employment."

Extension of the B'nai B'rith war service program to include the sponsorship of Army and Navy hospital ships by providing them with a regular supply of recreational material was authorized by the convention. Taking note of the efforts of the English-Jewish press to establish a code of ethics and a set of standards for business and territorial practices and to establish a national organization to implement this code and these standards, the convention declared "we look forward with great satisfaction to the adoption of this program which the editors and publishers of the English-Jewish press are creating and we hope that these efforts will meet with the approval and support of the American Jewish community."

JEWISH POLICEMAN MURDERED IN JERUSALEM BY UNKNOWN ASSAILANTS

JERUSALEM, May 11. (JTA) -- A Jewish plainclothesman, Hayim Butovics, was shot and killed on the threshold of his home today by two unknown assailants. The murdered policeman left a wife and two children. Why he was singled out for assassination by the terrorists is not known.

5/12/44

BRITISH WAR OFFICE GIVES HIGH PRAISE TO PALESTINE WOMEN SOLDIERS

LONDON, May 11. (JTA) -- High praise is paid the members of the Palestine Auxiliary Territorial Service, the equivalent of the American WAC, in an official statement released today by the War Office. Although listing in detail the various important tasks that the PATS are doing, the statement fails to mention that they are women.

Among the work being done by the Palestinian women are many "hush-hush" jobs weapons details of which have not yet been made public. At a base workshop in Egypt they repair and assemble American "bazooka" guns - the portable anti-tank gun developed by American engineers, tanks, military radios, diesel engines, periscopes, rangefinders and a multitude of other armament.

Describing the PATS as former office workers, factory workers, students, nurses, and domestic servants, the War Office says that "when the war is over, the men of the Royal Army Ordnance Corps and the Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers will never forget the good work of the girls from Palestine."

PHILADELPHIA CHARTER" OF I.L.O. ASKS EQUAL RIGHTS FOR PEOPLE OF ALL RACES

PHILADELPHIA, May 11. (JTA) -- The conference of the International Labor Organization now meeting here adopted last night a "Philadelphia Charter" in which it affirms that;

All human beings, irrespective of race, creed or sex, have the right to pursue both their material well-being and their spiritual development in conditions of freedom and dignity, of economic security and equal opportunity.

The attainment of the conditions in which this shall be possible must constitute the central aim of national and international policy.

ROMANIAN JEWS IN AMERICA WILL RAISE FUND TO RESCUE JEWS FROM HOMELAND

NEW YORK, May 11. (JTA) -- A campaign to raise a fund for rescue of Jews from Rumania will be proclaimed by the two-day 36th annual convention of the United Rumanian Jews of America which will open this Saturday at the Hotel Edison, it was announced here today.

The convention will be addressed by Dr. Stephen S. Wise, Ira A. Hirschmann, and a number of other prominent speakers, the announcement said. The delegates will discuss the problem of sending a representative to Rumania, immediately after the cessation of hostilities, for the purpose of rendering aid to the Jews there and to establish the necessary contact between American Jews and their relatives in Rumania.

HEBREW UNIVERSITY SCHOLAR NAMED HEAD OF PUBLICATIONS DIVISIONS OF ABYSSINIAN GOVERNMENT

JERUSALEM, May 11. (JTA) -- Eliezer Ullendorf, a graduate student in philology at the Hebrew University, has been named editor of all government publications of the Abyssinian Ministry of Information, it was learned here today. Ullendorf studied the Abyssinian language at the university for several years.