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POLISH PRESIDENT ISSUES AMNESTY DECREE PARDONING ALL CONVICTED JEWISH SOLDIERS

LONDON, May 12. (JTA) -- Polish President Wladyslaw Raczkiewicz today issued a decree granting an amnesty to all 21 Jewish soldiers who were sentenced by a Polish court-martial to terms of imprisonment varying from one to two years on charges of leaving their units, because of anti-Semitism there, and attempting to enlist in the British Army.

At the same time it was announced that preparations were being made here to convene the first meeting next week of the "Council for the Salvation of the Jews of Poland," whose creation was announced yesterday by the Polish Government. The council will be composed of three Jewish members; Emanuel Szerer, Jewish Socialist deputy in the Polish National Council, Anselm Reiss, a member of the Representation of Polish Jewry and Rabbi Babad of the Agudas Israel, and three non-Jewish members of the National Council; Adam Ciolkosz, Socialist, Witold Kulerski, Peasant Party and Stanislaw Sopicki, Christian Democrat.

The official announcement said that the new group will cooperate with and expand the activities of the Welfare Council for Polish Jews, which was established in Poland two years ago with the assistance of the underground. The Polish Government will place considerable sums at the disposal of the new council, which, it said, was created to satisfy the demands of exiled Polish Jewish groups for participation in efforts to assist their brethren at home. It is expected that funds will be forthcoming from non-Polish sources as well.

HUNGARIAN GOVERNMENT ORDERS PURGE OF "JEWISH BOOKS" IN BOOK-STORES, LIBRARIES

ZURICH, May 12. (JTA) -- The Hungarian Government today issued an order to all publishers, book stores and libraries to surrender all books written by Jewish authors and local groups collecting paper for salvage.

Another order provides for the payment of ten pengoes by Jews applying for a travel permit. Twenty additional pengoes are to be paid by the applicants if the permit is granted.

Hungarian newspapers reaching here today report that a number of Hungarian non-Jews have been arrested in Budapest for providing Jews with documents identifying them as Christians. The same papers reveal that a large number of non-Jews visited the ghetto in Ungvar on the first day that the Jews were confined there. The visitors brought with them food and other presents for the Jews. As a result, the local police issued strict regulations prohibiting non-Jews from entering the ghetto premises without special permission.

A number of Christians refused to leave their dwellings in the ghetto in Kassa, the Hungarian papers report. They were warned by the local authorities that they could be treated as Jews if they insisted on remaining in the ghetto. In a number of provincial towns, Hungarian girls were arrested for strolling in the street with Jewish young men who were wearing the yellow badge.

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LABOR DELEGATES AT I.L.O. CONFERENCE DEMAND "FREE PORTS" AND PALESTINE IMMIGRATION

PHILADELPHIA, May 12. (JTA) -- Labor delegates from 24 countries attending the conference of the International Labor Organization here today issued a joint declaration calling upon the governments of the United Nations to take steps to keep "the gates of Palestine open for Jewish immigration" and to secure the establishment of "free ports" in all democratic countries for the purpose of providing shelter to refugees who succeed in escaping from Nazi countries "until such time as they will be able to go back as free men to their liberated native lands."

The declaration also asked the governments of the United Nations to recognize the remaining Jews of occupied Europe as prisoners of war and to repeat the warnings to the Nazis and their satellites that they will be called to account for their crimes against Jews and other civilians. It sent greetings to the surviving Jews in Europe who continue to fight for a civilized world and human brotherhood, and saluted the memory of the heroes of the Warsaw ghetto "who have fallen in the cause of freedom and democracy."

SWISS PROFESSOR TORTURED TO DEATH BY GESTAPO IN ROME PRISON

ZURICH, May 12. (JTA) -- Dr. Davide Ginsbourg, a former professor of Russian literature at Turin University, has died as a result of tortures suffered at the hands of the Gestapo in the Regina Coeli prison in Rome, it is reported today by the Swiss German-language newspaper Squilla Italica. The paper says that Ginsbourg had been sentenced to five years imprisonment by a special court for anti-Fascist activity.

The Popolo e Libertà, another Italian-language paper published in Switzerland, today carries details of the massacre of Jews at summer resorts along Lake Maggiore shortly after the Mussolini puppet regime was set up in northern Italy. The paper says that special detachments of trained "Jew-hunters" were sent to the Lake Maggiore region to round up and murder wealthy Jews and steal their possessions.

In one place sixteen Jews, including children were taken from a hotel to the lake-side, where they were machine-gunned and their bodies thrown into the water. For several weeks afterward the bodies floated ashore along the lakefront. Among them were those of two children clasping each other in their arms. The extermination had stayed 20 days, during which many Jews were deported. After their departure, the bodies of scores of Jews were found in shallow graves in different localities.

TENTH ANNIVERSARY OF BIRO-BIDJAN MARKED IN RUSSIA; PRESS LAUDS JEWISH ACHIEVEMENTS

MOSCOW, May 12. (JTA) -- The Moscow press today carries articles devoted to the tenth anniversary of the Jewish autonomous region of Biro-Bidjan, emphasizing Jewish achievements there.

Reports in the press from Biro-Bidjan describe the special celebrations there. Messages of congratulations to the Jews of Biro-Bidjan were telegraphed from here by the Jewish Anti-Fascist Committee and by the Association of Jewish Writers.

FINLAND TRANSFERS JEWISH SOLDIERS TO NON-COMBATANT UNITS

STOCKHOLM, May 12. (JTA) -- All Jews serving in the Finnish Army have been transferred to non-combatant units, the Swedish press reports today from Helsinki. No explanation for the move is given.

AMERICAN JEWISH CONFERENCE WILL CONVENE IN CHICAGO; SESSION SET FOR SEPTEMBER

NEW YORK, May 12. (JTA) -- The American Jewish Conference will reconvene for its second session in Chicago on September 2, it was decided today by the Interim Committee of the Conference, meeting here.

The 502 delegates will meet on the anniversary of the adjournment of the first session which was held in New York last Fall and which adopted resolutions on the rescue of the Jews of Europe, their post-war reconstruction and the implementation of Jewish rights to Palestine. The second session will continue through September 4.

CAPTURED NAZI'S DIARY GIVES EYE-WITNESS ACCOUNT OF EXTERMINATION OF JEWS IN POLAND

MOSCOW, May 12. (JTA) -- A diary taken from a captured Nazi non-commissioned officer, excerpts of which were made public here today, discloses the ferocity with which the Germans wiped out the Jewish communities of Poland.

The diary, which covers two months in the fall of 1942, gives eye-witness details of the extermination of the Jews in the Chelm and Lublin regions. The author Obergefreiter Karl Johannes Drekkel, attached to the 51st Reserve Battalion. Some of the excerpts follow:

"October 1 - Anti-Jewish campaign intensified; 10,000 Jews shot ranging from the very old down to infants. All of them were loaded into carts and taken to common graves.

"November 2 - Raid on Jews. Three to four thousand Jews killed daily. They're sent off to their last march in columns and put to death by gas and charges of high voltage electricity.

"November 7 - Five-hundred more Jews killed. Bunches of hand grenades were thrown into the sections of the city they inhabit.

"November 12 - A general massacre of Jews occurred for four days running. Men who had just given birth to children and aged people who were half-dead and looked like skeletons were dragged out, forced to their knees and shot. Naked bodies of men and women lay about for six days.

"December 4 - Into the ghetto again. Corpses lie about everywhere. Old houses being pulled down. Typhus and dysentery have broken out."

Jewish Workers in Poland Send Greetings to Russian and Polish Armies

MOSCOW, May 12. (JTA) -- A message from the underground "Union of Jewish Workers" in Poland commemorating the first anniversary of the battle of the Warsaw Ghetto has been received here, it was announced today.

The message, which is dated Warsaw, April 19, 1944, greets the "victorious Red Army, the Polish Army of General Sygmond Berling and the Jews throughout the world," on behalf of the remnants of the Jewish community of Poland.

AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT AGREES TO ADMIT JEWISH REFUGEE CHILDREN

CAMBERRA, Australia, May 12. (JTA) -- The Australian Government today advised the Welfare Guardian Society here that it will permit the entry of 100 Jewish refugee children. The young refugees will receive agricultural training under the supervision of the society. Twenty refugee boys were admitted some time ago, and their achievements convinced the government that it would be advisable to admit others.

ISIS IN JERUSALEM MUNICIPALITY STIRS HOSTILITY BETWEEN JEWS AND ARABS

JERUSALEM, May 12. (JTA) -- The crisis in the Jerusalem municipality precipitated by the walk-out of the Jewish aldermen in protest against the anti-Jewish remarks of the Jerusalem mayor, Mustapha Bey Khalidi, at a conference of Arab mayors, is the subject of heated discussion in both the Jewish and Arab newspapers. The Palestine administration has refrained from commenting.

The Jewish press points out that Jews constitute a majority of the population of Jerusalem. An Arab occupying the delicate position of mayor of such a city must, therefore, be more tactful in his attitude towards the Jews, the newspapers emphasize. If he does not desire, or is unable to change his attitude, then he should leave his post," the Davar writes. Other papers write in similar vein, drawing attention to the fact that Khalidi secured the position of Jerusalem mayor by appointment and not through Arab votes.

The Arab newspapers laud the action of Mayor Khalidi and announce that he will not apologize to the Jewish aldermen. "We are not interested in knowing when the Jewish aldermen will return to the Municipal Council," the Falastin writes. The Falastin says that the Arab mayor could not use any better expression than "Go with peace" as a send-off to the Jewish councillors.

FULL UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN DR. WEIZMANN AND BEN-GURION REPORTED BY SHERTOK

JERUSALEM, May 12. (JTA) -- A report on his visit to England and the liberated part of Italy was submitted today by Moshe Shertok, head of the political department of the Jewish Agency, to the session of the Small Zionist Actions Committee. Shertok revealed that Jewish military units from Palestine are doing "very important rescue work" in Italy. A full understanding has been achieved between Dr. Chaim Weizmann and David Ben-Gurion on collective responsibility in the political work of the Jewish Agency, he said.

Elections for the Assefath Haniycharim, the Jewish National Assembly, will be held on July 5, it was announced here at the conclusion of the 18th and final session of the present Assembly. Before adjourning the session approved a grant of \$712,000 to cover the budget of the Jewish National Council for the coming fiscal year.

ROSENWALD FUND MAKES 37 AWARDS FOR WORKS IN ARTS AND SCIENCES

CHICAGO, May 12. (JTA) -- The Julius Rosenwald Fund last night announced that it has awarded 37 fellowships for study, research, writing and painting, and other scientific and sociological works.

The awards, which average \$1,700 each, went to both men and women. In addition, fellowships of \$500 plus tuition were given eighteen college seniors to enable them to do graduate work.

PALESTINE JEWISH ARCHITECT WINS AWARD FOR DESIGN OF DAMASCUS MUNICIPALITY BUILDING

JERUSALEM, May 12. (JTA) -- A Palestinian architect, Asher Gram, has won the first prize of 4,000 Syrian liras for his design of a new municipal building for the city of Damascus. The contest was open to architects in all countries of the Middle East.