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IMPRESSED POLISH JEWISH SOLDIERS REFUSE TO LEAVE CELLS; ASK TRANSFER TO BRITISH ARMY

LONDON, May 15. (JTA) -- Nineteen of the twenty-one Jewish soldiers who were impressed by Polish President Raczkiewicz after being sentenced to imprisonment by a Polish court-martial for leaving the Polish Army because of anti-Semitism, today refused to leave their cells unless they are allowed to transfer from the Polish forces to the British.

Meanwhile, the crisis in the Polish National Council precipitated by a motion offered by Socialist deputies last Saturday, demanding the resignation of Gen. Marjan Kukiel, Defense Minister for his failure to curb anti-Semitism in the Polish Army, continued today when the Council resumed debate on the motion. The all-day debate concluded in the evening in a tense atmosphere, when the Council adjourned until Friday without voting on the motion.

Representatives of the anti-Semitic Endek Party and of the Paderewski Party told the Council that their members will vote against the motion. The representatives of the Polish Peasant Party have not indicated their stand, but it is expected that their attitude will be made clear before Friday. Emanuel Szerer, Jewish Socialist, announced that he will vote for the motion.

Polish Cabinet to Meet on Crisis over Issue of Anti-Semitism

Members of the Polish Socialist Party are determined to press for adoption of the motion. They consider it a test case on which the future of Polish democracy depends. When the speaker of the Council, which is the Polish parliament-in-exile, tried to rule the motion out of order, they forced its retention by threatening to withdraw as a group.

As a result of today's debate, an important meeting of the Polish cabinet will take place on Wednesday to decide the attitude of the government on the issues, as well as what action should be taken by the cabinet if the motion is adopted.

Addressing the Council today, M. Meisner, one of the principal leaders of the Endek Party, said that the talk of anti-Semitism in the Polish Army is meaningless. He added that "among the Jewish soldiers are men who are no longer attached to Poland, and should not belong to the Polish Army."

Deputy Sopicki, of the Paderewski Party, told the Council that though his party "is not known as philo-Semitic" it advocated the combatting of anti-Jewish slogans in Poland even before the outbreak of the war because it considered them harmful to the interests of the country. Emphasizing that his group will vote against Kukiel's resignation, Sopicki suggested that the Polish Government initiate an "educational campaign" in the army based on the following three points: 1. Soldiers should be told of the common tragedy of Poles and Jews and of their common struggle;

They should be taught that racial hatred does not conform with the dignity of the military uniform; 3. The fallacy of the "Protocols of the Elders of Zion" must be exposed.

### Military Leaders Charged with "Crazy Ideas" by Deputy

An independent member of the Council, Arkabozek, told the session today that anti-Semitism is doing untold harm to Poland, "Anti-Semitism exists not only in the ranks of the army, but also among Polish civilians," he said. "To say that it does not exist would mean not to face the facts." He attacked the "crazy ideas" which are still held by important Polish military leaders. "There is a 'maffia' in the army which must be stamped out now, otherwise democratic Poland will remain an empty dream," he stated.

Szerer, challenging the statements of the Endek Party, said that anti-Semitism among Polish soldiers and officers "is not a bogey, but a reality." He pointed out that he opposed the transfer of Jewish soldiers from the Polish Army to the British because the Jewish Socialists in Poland consider Poland their home. This entitles them to ask for changes in the Polish military leadership, he declared.

At a mass-meeting last night called by the National Council for Civil Liberties to protest against anti-Semitism in the Polish armed forces, a resolution was adopted calling upon the British Government to arrange for the transfer of Jews from the Polish Army to the British. The meeting was attended by more than 2,000 persons, including many Allied soldiers. Tom Driberg, Independent member of Parliament, who was the first to raise the question of anti-Jewish discrimination in the Polish forces in England, was one of the principal speakers at the gathering.

### ROMANIAN JEWS SENTENCED TO DEATH FOR EVADING SLAVE LABOR FOR GERMANS

ZURICH, May 15. (JTA) -- Many Rumanian Jews have been sentenced to death for allegedly evading compulsory labor for the German war machine, according to a Bucharest dispatch by the Nazi Transkontinent press.

At the same time, Rumanian newspapers reaching here report that a Jewish slave laborer at a camp in the Banat district has been shot "for attempting to escape," while another has been sentenced to life imprisonment for fleeing the oil fields at Pesti which supply much of Germany's oil.

An announcement reported by the official German news bureau, DNB, today, indicates that there has been a general tightening of the anti-Jewish restrictions in Rumania. The broadcast said that the Ministry for Jewish Affairs, which functioned under the Labor Ministry, has been dissolved, and a similarly named organization has been created under the direct supervision of Marshal Antonescu.

German-language newspapers in Rumania, meanwhile, are calling on the government to take measures against Rumanian Jews who, it is alleged, are returning from Hungary, to which they fled when anti-Semitic laws were first introduced in Rumania in 1940.

### PALESTINE DIAMOND WORKERS STRIKE CONTINUING AS ARBITRATION EFFORTS FAIL

JERUSALEM, May 15. (JTA) -- Three thousand diamond workers remained out on strike today after efforts to arbitrate their dispute with employer groups were unsuccessful. The strike has tied up 35 firms for two months.

STAPO SENDS JEWS TO RECLAIM LAND IN POLISH MARSHES; MANY DIE OF MALARIA

GENEVA, May 15. (JTA) -- Several thousand Polish and other Jews have been given by the German authorities to the Konskie swamps of Poland and are now reclaiming a wide area of marshes under Gestapo supervision, it was reported here today by an eye-witness reaching Switzerland.

Hundreds of these Jews are dying every day from malaria and undernourishment, as a continuous stream of new arrivals from France fills the ranks of the Jewish slave-laborers, the eye-witness said. The swamps are being drained in connection with the fortifications the German military authorities are constructing in various sections of occupied Poland.

A report reaching here today from reliable sources in Poland states that Gestapo units are intensifying their raids throughout the country in an attempt to seize Jews living in hide-outs or possessing false "Aryan" identification documents. As part of these raids, the Podlasie forests have been surrounded and are being combed for fugitive Jews and Jewish partisans. A considerable number of Jews have been caught and executed, the report says.

A report received here from Vienna reveals that there are still several hundred Jews residing in the former capital of Austria. They are all married to "Aryans," and all of them must wear yellow badges. They are working in factories engaged in war production.

The population is courteous to these Jews, the report says. "Despite the fact that the Nazis have taken measures to curb public demonstrations of sympathy for Jews, many persons still greet the Jews in the street and offer them seats in street cars," it relates. Sympathy for Jews increased in Vienna especially after the distribution recently of leaflets by unknown groups describing the mass-annihilation of the Jews in Poland, the report says.

At the same time, it predicts that those Jews may be deported from the city soon, just because the population uses their presence to demonstrate disapproval of German brutality. The German authorities in Vienna continue their anti-Jewish propaganda in the press and in radio broadcasts, but the majority of the Viennese people are no longer impressed by it, the report stresses.

EPISCOPAL CONVENTION IN WASHINGTON URGES GOVERNMENT TO FIND HAVENS FOR REFUGEES

WASHINGTON, May 15. (JTA) -- A resolution urging the United States Government to take steps to find havens for war refugees was adopted here at the 49th annual convention of the Washington Episcopal Diocese.

Referring to President Roosevelt's statement of last March in which he stressed the Government's determination to secure haven for oppressed peoples of war-torn lands, the resolution asks "the executive and legislative authorities of the United States to take such action as may be expedient to implement this expression of the moral obligation now resting upon us as a free people."

The Emergency Committee to Save the Jewish People of Europe today sent a telegraphic appeal to President Roosevelt asking for the establishment of temporary rescue camps in the United States for Jewish refugees from Europe. "Those free ports should be established by our allies in Palestine, North Africa and throughout the free world," the appeal urged.

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WORKERS IN BIRO-BIDJAN CELEBRATE TENTH ANNIVERSARY OF THEIR AUTONOMOUS REGION

MOSCOW, May 15. (JTA) -- The tenth anniversary of the establishment of Biro-Bidjan, as an autonomous Jewish region of the USSR, is being marked by large scale activities there, despite the fact that the entire region is working full time at tasks connected with the war effort, according to reports reaching here today.

A special jubilee session of the Regional Soviet was held, followed by a gigantic mass meeting in the Park of Culture in the capital city, which is also named Biro-Bidjan, and by a sports and cultural festival marked by athletic contests and singing and dancing competitions.

Jewish pioneers, who cleared the land when Biro-Bidjan was still virgin forest, toured the region addressing meetings in offices, factories and homes concerning their experiences. On the eve of the anniversary an exhibit depicting the growth of Biro-Bidjan since its establishment was opened. A large section of it is devoted to graphs and photographs picturing the region's contribution to the war effort. Included were numerous photographs of Red Armymen from Biro-Bidjan now serving on the various fronts.

AMERICAN CONSUL SENDS FORMER AMERICAN CONSUL ON RELIEF MISSION TO EUROPE

NEW YORK, May 14. (JTA) -- S. Bertrand Jacobson, social worker and formerly a member of the U. S. Consular Service, has left for Europe on a mission for the HIAS - American Emigration Association, it was announced here today by Abraham Herman, president of the organization.

Mr. Jacobson will visit a number of countries for the purpose of organizing the migration overseas of such refugees for whom immigration permits to this country and other lands will be available in accordance with the rescue program of the War Refugee Board, the announcement said. He formerly served as American Consul in Oslo, Norway, in Alexandria, Egypt, and as American Vice Consul in Bordeaux, France.

NEW PARK NAMED FOR SWEDISH KING OPENED IN PALESTINE; GIFT SENT TO GUSTAV

JERUSALEM, May 15. (JTA) -- A recreation park named for King Gustav of Sweden, to mark his country's assistance to Jewish refugees, was opened yesterday in the settlement of Kiryat Motzkin in the presence of the District Commissioner, high army officers, Jewish notables and the Swedish consul. The consul was presented with an album containing maps and photographs of Palestine as a gift for King Gustav.

EUGEN STEINACH, AUTHORITY ON GLAND REJUVENATION, DIES IN SWITZERLAND

NEW YORK, May 15. (JTA) -- Dr. Eugen Steinach, who was famed for his theories on human rejuvenation through gland surgery, has died in Switzerland at the age of 83, according to information reaching here today. Dr. Steinach, whose theories aroused a controversy in medical circles, was born in the town of Hohenems, in the Austrian Empire, where his family had been prominent in Jewish affairs for several generations. He was educated in Switzerland and Austria and taught at universities in Prague and Vienna. Dr. Steinach was not in Austria when the Nazis invaded the country, and never returned.