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ROMANIA ARRESTS BUKOVINA JEWS FLEEING TO BUCHAREST; PERSECUTIONS IN HUNGARY MOUNT

ZURICH, May 18. (JTA) -- The Rumanian authorities are determined not to permit Jews who fled from Bukovina and Moldavia to come to Bucharest, it was reported today by the German radio. The broadcast said that round-ups of Jews are being made in Bucharest and that many Jewish refugees from the war-torn provinces of the country were seized during these raids.

Rumanian Premier Antonescu has transferred the Commissar for Jewish Affairs from Lecca from the Labor Ministry to his own office which is now dealing directly with the Jewish question, the broadcast also reported.

Hungarian newspapers arriving today give detailed reports concerning the ghettos into which the Jews in that country are being moved. Jews from the small town of Nyregyhaza have been transferred to a tobacco shed eight miles from the town. In the city of Nagyvarad the section designated as a ghetto has been surrounded with high walls and planks have been nailed over windows of buildings facing the rest of the town. Jews may leave the ghetto only between 9 and 10 A.M.

In Szombathely, Jews are not allowed on the streets between 7 P.M. and 11 A.M., which is the last hour that the markets are open, making it difficult for them to purchase food.

Budapest newspapers report that the municipality has already ousted 417 Jewish officials and clerks. They also disclose that the director of the Budapest museum of the arts has been appointed to supervise the confiscation of art treasures owned by Jews. Many Jewish-owned collections have already been seized.

HEBREW COMMITTEE FOR NATIONAL LIBERATION ESTABLISHED; ATTACKED BY JEWISH GROUPS

WASHINGTON, May 18. (JTA) -- The establishment of a "Hebrew Committee for National Liberation" which will apply to the Allied powers for the same degree of recognition now accorded to other committees of liberation in exile, was announced here today at a press conference called by the initial members of the Committee.

The new group, spokesmen emphasized, considers itself "the temporary trustee of Hebrew national interests" and claims to represent the Jews of Palestine and of Europe. Its aim is "to redeem Hebrew national sovereignty." It will be financed by floating bonds to be repaid within ten years by the Free Palestine Government which will be established as result of the Committee's efforts. Peter H. Bergson, head of the new organization, said. He expressed the hope that \$1,000,000 could be raised.

A statement issued by Dr. Nahum Goldmann, representative of the Jewish Agency for Palestine, warned well-intentioned non-Jewish groups eager to help the Jewish people, "not to be misled by the bombastic phrases and claims" made by the newly-

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formed group which, he said, is "insignificant and substitutes noise for complete lack of standing, authority and influence in Jewish life."

The American Jewish Conference also issued a statement attacking the new group as "an irresponsible adventurer which comes to the American public without credentials and menaces the cause it presumes to espouse." Similar statements were issued by the American Zionist Emergency Council, the American Jewish Congress, the Hadasah and other national Jewish organizations, charging the Committee with undermining the Jewish Agency for Palestine.

The Hebrew Committee for National Liberation, it was announced at the press conference, will be led by Peter H. Bergson, who was also the organizer of the committee for a Jewish Army of Stateless and Palestinian Jews and of the Emergency Committee to Save the Jewish People of Europe. In a statement outlining its aims it said that it had been organized to obtain recognition of the Hebrew people of Europe and Palestine as a sovereign nation with the right of self-determination. It will seek representation in the councils of the United Nations and will demand the right for a Hebrew Army to fight on an equal footing with other United Nations armies against the Axis.

New Committee Will Not Speak for American Jews, It Says

"While the Hebrew Committee of National Liberation will not press the settlement of political and boundary problems of Palestine until the end of hostilities, it will insist however on the immediate opening of Palestine to all Hebrews who can manage to escape from Europe today," the statement said. "The ultimate goal of the Hebrew Committee of National Liberation is the establishment of a free Palestine with the Arab population as partners in a democratic and civilized Palestine, and with a legally constituted international authority in control of the Holy Places of all faiths."

"Let it be clearly understood" - the statement goes on to say - "that the Hebrew Committee of National Liberation does not attempt to speak for the Jews of the United States. They are an integral part of the American nation, an integral part of a nation made up of people of every descent. They do not 'belong' to Palestine, and thereby to the nascent Hebrew Nation neither, anymore than Justice Frank Murphy 'belongs' to the Irish Nation or Lt. Gen. William Knudsen 'belongs' to the Danish Nation, though they both certainly are proud of their ancestry."

Urges Postponement of Settlement of Palestine Political Problems

Proclaiming the Hebrew Nation "a co-belligerent in the United Nations' war against the Axis tyranny," the statement continues; "In the present condition of our nation, we are dedicated to only one task - the rescue of our people. We, therefore, declare that the Hebrew Nation postpones the settlement of the political and boundary problems of Palestine until after victory when, as one of the United Nations, we are to partake in the postwar settlement of political territorial problems. Until that time we shall cooperate with and assist Great Britain as the Mandatory for Palestine. We do however insist, in the name of humanity, that the right and the ability of all Hebrews in Europe to find shelter in Palestine be facilitated by the Mandatory power, lest it be guilty of sacrificing them to their ruthless German murderers."

Emphasizing that the Jews "have contributed more fighters to the common struggle than most of the United Nations," the statement declares; "Because we are, in effect, a co-belligerent against the Axis, we consider ourselves one of the United Nations and shall seek recognition as such. And as the nation against whom more atrocities have been committed than against all the other United Nations combined, we surely should be represented on the United Nations Commission for the Investigation

War Crimes. We also seek a seat on the Board of the United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration and on all other United Nations councils in which the interests of our nationals are involved."

Zionist Emergency Council Calls New Group "Colossal Hoax"

The American Zionist Emergency Council, which speaks for all the major Zionist bodies in the United States, issued a statement branding the new Committee "a handful of young men who are attempting to perpetrate a colossal hoax upon the American people."

"We would warn the public, the press, and all official circles against being taken in by such a brazen fraud," the Council said. "The self-appointed 'Hebrew Committee of National Liberation' is made up of half a dozen adventurers from Palestine with no standing, no credentials, no mandate from anyone unless it be from the Irgun Zvai Leumi in Palestine, an insignificantly small pistol-packing group of extremists who are claiming credit for some of the recent terrorist outrages. Every movement on its lunatic fringe and irresponsible splinter factions, and it is natural that they should exist also in our midst. The danger is that uninformed people may be taken in and may be led to believe that a new Moses has arisen in Israel."

The American Jewish Conference, in a statement emphasizing that it speaks for national Jewish membership organizations and every Jewish community in the United States, said: "The so called 'Hebrew Committee for National Liberation' pretends to speak in the name of the 'Hebrew nation' in Palestine, but it has no mandate from the Jewish National Assembly, which is the authorized and democratically-elected spokesman of the Jews of Palestine. On the contrary, the leaders of this committee are linked with an extremist clique in Palestine, which amounts to less than one percent of the Jews of that country, and which has been outlawed by the Jews of Palestine because of its anti-democratic and terroristic tactics. It pretends to see a distinction between Jews and 'Hebrews,' which no Jew would be able to appreciate or understand, but which is intended to divide and disrupt the Jewish people. The real object of the Hebrew Committee is to destroy the Jewish Agency for Palestine, the official and internationally recognized body created by the League of Nations to act with the Mandatory Power to secure the cooperation of all Jews who are willing to assist in the establishment of the Jewish National Home."

Wise Says "Liberation Committee" Renders "Greatest Disservice" to Jews

Dr. Stephen S. Wise, speaking for the American Jewish Congress, condemned the new Committee of National Liberation as a group which has not "the slightest vestige of authority to speak for any important Jewish body in Europe or in Palestine."

"That Mr. Bergson and a few of his Palestinian associates, together with a handful of American dupes, should declare themselves to be the representatives of a 'Hebrew nation' would be a farcical jest if it were not a ghastly tragedy at a time when united effort for the rescue of Jews in Europe ought to be the aim of American Jews, together with a sustained effort to win American support for a free and democratic Jewish Commonwealth in Palestine," Rabbi Wise said. "This willful little committee of irresponsibles makes confusion worse confounded, and appears to be ready by its devices and unscrupulous tactics to render the greatest possible disservice to the Jews."

Dr. Israel Goldstein, president of the Zionist Organization of America, issued a statement in behalf of that body assailing the establishment of the Committee and its proposals.

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10 FLORENCE JEWS IN CAMPS; PROPERTY VALUED AT \$25,000,000 CONFISCATED

LONDON, May 18. (JTA) -- More than 500 of the 1,600 Jews living in the city of Florence, in northern Italy, have been placed in concentration camps, while the others are under constant police supervision, it is reported today by the Nazi Trans-cean news agency.

About 500,000,000 lire (\$25,000,000) worth of property have been confiscated from the Jews, the report said, as well as 100,000,000 lire (\$5,000,000) worth of ragogue property. Valuable works of art have also been seized.

Information reaching Polish circles here today states that many Italian Jews reported to Poland have recently been executed outside of Lwow as part of the German reparations to evacuate the city which is menaced by the Red Army.

ANTI-SEMITISM IS GERMANY'S MOST POTENT "SECRET WEAPON," SAYS NAZI LABOR CHIEF

ZURICH, May 18. (JTA) -- Anti-Semitism is Germany's most potent "secret weapon," Robert Ley, Nazi labor chief, writes in Der Angriff, personal newspaper of German propaganda Minister Goebbels, which reached here today. In an article entitled "Hitler's Secret Weapon," Ley says that "Judah must die to save humanity."

German newspapers reaching here reveal that there are still some Jews in Germany - and that these are attempting to flee the Reich. The papers report that recently 24 Jews were captured when they attempted to cross the Swiss border hidden in a freight car carrying charcoal.

REPORTED DANISH JEWS NOW DOING SLAVE LABOR IN NAZI WAR PLANTS

STOCKHOLM, May 18. (JTA) -- Danish Jews under 60, including men and women, are now employed at forced labor in German war plants, the Stockholm newspaper Svenska Argonbladet reports today.

The Jews are part of those who were deported from Denmark in November and December of last year. Most of the Danish Jews succeeded in fleeing to Sweden at that time, but it is known that at least 1,600 were deported.

Those working in the military factories are kept isolated from other workers at the plant. Older Jews, who are not sufficiently able-bodied to be used for forced labor are confined in a camp which is somewhat better than the usual Nazi concentration camps for Jews, the paper says. The inmates, however, are not permitted to receive parcels from friends abroad.

JEWISH SEAMEN PARADE THROUGH STREETS OF TEL AVIV AND HAIFA TO MARK "MARATIME DAY"

JERUSALEM, May 18. (JTA) -- Jewish seamen paraded through the streets of Tel Aviv and Haifa today as the entire Jewish community of Palestine observed "Maratime Day." Mass-meetings were held throughout the country and flags were flown from the buildings of Jewish national institutions.

The Hebrew press devotes editorials to the occasion, pointing out that Jewish development in Palestine can be greatly enhanced by maratime activities, and that there is much pioneering still to be done in this field.

UNRRA CONFERENCE POSTPONED; DIVISION FOR DISPLACED PERSONS EXTENDS ITS WORK

WASHINGTON, May 18. (JTA) -- Director General Herbert H. Lehman today announced that the Central Committee at a meeting called by him had decided to postpone the session of the Council of UNRRA which had been scheduled to be held in Montreal on June 23. The postponement was made necessary by the emergency restrictions on travel and telegraphic communications from the United Kingdom, which would have impeded effective preparation for the scheduled June meeting by European Governments.

The Central Committee of UNRRA has decided to meet at regular intervals to consider when circumstances make it possible to set a definite date for the session. It was agreed that forty-five days notice of any date set would be given to the member governments. When a new date is established, it is contemplated that the meeting will be held in Canada.

T. T. Scott, an Englishman, has been placed in charge of the London office of the Displaced Persons Division of UNRRA, it was learned today. Scott was formerly with the International Labor Office and has more than ten years experience with refugee services in Europe. He will work under the supervision of Fred K. Hoehler, director of the Displaced Persons Division, who expects to spend the major part of his time in Europe.

SYNAGOGUE COUNCIL APPEALS TO ROOSEVELT FOR ESTABLISHMENT OF "FREE PORTS"

NEW YORK, May 18. (JTA) -- The Synagogue Council of America, representing the religious voice of American Jews, today appealed to President Roosevelt for the establishment in the United States of "free ports" as a temporary sanctuary for refugees.

The appeal, signed by Rabbi Israel Goldstein, president of the Council, asked the President to take "heroic measures" to save the Jews that can still be rescued from the Balkans and other Nazi-dominated territories.

"We urgently plea for the establishment of 'free ports' that is, temporary emergency refugee camps, in the United States in which refugees may find a sanctuary for the duration of the war," the appeal said. "This will not only assure life for those who can escape from the Nazi hangmen and can be brought here, but it will prove an effective instrument for the implementation of your March 24th statement. It will encourage the people of Europe and Asia to resist Nazi savagery and it will in addition serve as an example to other nations who may be influenced to follow America's leadership and establish similar havens."

"Wonder Rabbis" Appeal to War Refugee Board to Speed Rescue of Jews

JERUSALEM, May 18. (JTA) -- A group of Chassidic "wonder rabbis," several of whom reached Palestine after fleeing Nazi-occupied territory, today appealed to the American War Refugee Board, the American Jewish press and the Jewish community in the United States to speed their efforts to save the remnants of European Jewry.

After a meeting with Chief Rabbi Isaac Herzog and Ben-Zion Uziel the rabbis adopted a resolution asking that the Allied countries open their gates to refugees and that free Jewish immigration to Palestine be allowed.

BRITISH EMPIRE PREMIERS' CONFERENCE DID NOT DISCUSS PALESTINE QUESTION

LONDON, May 18. (JTA) -- The conference of British Empire premiers, which has just concluded here, did not discuss the question of Palestine, it was learned today from authoritative quarters. It was reported prior to the meeting that the Palestine problem would be on the agenda of the prime ministers' parley.

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