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ALLIED DECREE ON RESTORATION OF JEWISH PROPERTY IN ROME CRITICIZED IN PALESTINE

JERUSALEM, June 14. (JTA) -- The annulment of the anti-Jewish laws by the Allied Military Government in Rome and the return of property to Jews there is hailed in the Hebrew press in Palestine today, but exception is taken to the reported AMG specification that their property will be restored to Jewish owners "if they return to their homes."

"It is unacceptable that expelled Jews who are unable to return to their homes should lose their looted property," the influential Hebrew newspaper Davar writes. "We assume that it is not the intention of the United Nations to dispossess orphans of their inheritance. This declaration may serve as a precedent for other countries wherein a greater number of Jews lived and a larger amount of property was pillaged. We cannot imagine that the United Nations will permit the heritage of murdered Jews to be taken over by local authorities."

"The Jewish victims," the paper continues, "have a right to demand that the United Nations establish a principle applying to all countries, under which any Jew is to get back his property, or its equivalent, without being compelled to return, even temporarily, to the land where his brethren have been murdered. This principle should provide that property of murdered Jews be handed over to their heirs, or be placed at the disposal of the Jewish nation for assistance to refugees."

RETURN OF JEWISH PROPERTY IN ALGIERS BRINGS JUDICIAL COMPLICATIONS

ALGIERS, June 14. (JTA) -- The thorny problem of restoration of Jewish property either confiscated under anti-Jewish laws, or transferred to non-Jews in advance of these measures in an attempt to evade confiscation, is now being studied here by the French Committee of National Liberation, which has been designated the "Provisional Government of France" by the French Consultative Assembly.

The problems facing the committee are typical of those that will arise in every German-held or German-dominated country as they are freed by the Allied armies. The decisions taken here may well set a precedent for all of liberated Europe.

One of the plans which is under consideration by the "Committee on Jewish Property" appointed by the Committee of National Liberation would divide the former Jewish property into three categories: property which was sold prior to extension of the anti-Jewish laws from France to Algiers, in anticipation of eventual confiscation; property which was sold after announcement that anti-Jewish laws would be introduced in Algiers, but before the property had been taken over by the authorities; and, finally, property which was seized by the Vichy administration and sold privately or at public auctions.

The majority of the confiscated property falls into the last category, since most Jews followed the advice of the Jewish Consistory and did not dispose of their property voluntarily, but retained possession until it was expropriated by the

authorities. Under an order issued April 3, 1943 - following abrogation of the Vichy anti-Jewish laws by General Henri Giraud - Jewish owners of confiscated property could reclaim their possession within one month, after which it would be assumed that they did not wish to do so. Most of the Jews filed claims within the one-month period, and their property was restored to them.

Status of Property "Voluntarily" Transferred Is Unclear

The difficulties that have now arisen concern persons falling into the first and second categories - that is those who disposed of their property voluntarily. The majority of these people now claim that they sold their property under pressure and that, therefore, they are entitled to have it restored on the same basis as that seized directly by the Vichy administration.

To support their claims, these Jews point to the United Nations declaration specifying that all transactions made under enemy pressure are null and void. Opposed to their claims is the principle of French judicial procedure which holds that voluntary transactions are valid.

Eminent jurists queried by the Jewish Telegraphic Agency said that the claims of persons falling into the second category are justified, but those of the first category - that is persons who sold their property even before any announcement of anti-Jewish laws - are untenable. These judicial authorities point out that the very announcement of anti-Jewish legislation constituted pressure, and transfers made after such an announcement should be nullified.

Besides the plan mentioned here, the Committee of National Liberation is studying other proposals on methods of restoring the Jewish property. No final decision has been reached as yet.

MASS-DEPORTATIONS OF JEWS FROM HUNGARY PREDICTED BY SWISS NEWSPAPER

ZURICH, June 14. (JTA) -- Mass-deportation of Jews from Hungary is predicted today in the Swiss newspaper Basler Nachrichten. The paper reports that pro-Nazi elements in Hungary are pressing for deportation, arguing that the segregation of Jews in ghettos "has merely aroused an unhealthy sympathy for Jews which is injurious to national interests."

The shortage of rolling stock is the only reason why deportation of Jews to occupied Poland has been held up temporarily, the Swiss newspaper says. It reveals that arrangements for such deportations are now being discussed with the Hungarian State Railways.

Observers here believe that the announcement made recently by Laszlo Endre, Hungarian Commissioner for Jewish Affairs, that the housing shortage will definitely be ended by the end of August also indicates the deportation of Jews in the near future.

SENATE FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE STUDYING PROPOSAL TO ESTABLISH "FREE PORTS"

WASHINGTON, June 14. (JTA) -- The Senate Foreign Relations Committee today discussed at length a resolution urging the United States to provide temporary havens of refuge for Jews from Nazi Europe at Ellis Island and other special centers, the JTA learned.

Since there was some opposition during today's executive session, Senator Guy Gillette, (Dem.-Iowa), who introduced the measure May 29th, requested that no action be taken until representatives from the War Refugee Board could appear.

POLISH PRIME MINISTER SAYS JEWS WILL BE WELCOME IN POST-WAR POLAND

WASHINGTON, June 14. (JTA) -- Prime Minister Stanislaw Mikolajczyk of the Polish Government-in-Exile today estimated that "between 800,000 and 900,000 Jews are still in Poland where they are being kept alive through aid being given to them by friendly Poles."

He said that the Polish Government might have to assume trusteeship for some confiscated property of Poles and Jews alike, before returning it to its rightful owners, and he gave assurances that Jews returning to Poland after the war would be welcome.

The Polish Prime Minister revealed these facts at a press conference here at which he emphasized that post-war Poland would be a "really democratic country" and that "every citizen, every religion, every race" would have full civil rights. He estimated that Jews constituted one half of the five million Polish citizens killed by the Nazis.

The war, the common suffering it entailed, said the Premier, had brought Poles and Jews closer together, and as a result anti-Semitism in the post-war period would be considerably diminished. He stressed that Poles were daily risking their lives to feed and care for Jews hiding from the Nazis in the forests and cellars of Poland, and stated that some of the Jewish fugitives had not seen the light of day for two years. "Polish priests," he reported, "were shot by the Nazis for giving aid to the Jews."

Scores Raising of Issue of Anti-Semitism in Polish Army

Asked about anti-Semitism in the Polish Army, which had caused the disciplining of Jewish soldiers who had asked to join British units, Mikolajczyk said that the raising of that issue was "disappointing." Neither the labor nor the Conservative party had raised it in the House of Commons, he said, attributing the agitation over Polish Army anti-Semitism to those who wished to hamper the Polish military effort.

He said he had visited the Panzer Division of the Polish Army in Scotland and talked with many Jewish soldiers who were even more "disappointed" than he that the issue had been raised. He asserted that the Jewish soldiers being trained in the Polish cadet school in Britain did not think it was a problem.

Queried about changes in the military personnel of the Polish Government-in-Exile demanded by groups in the Polish National Council, Premier Mikolajczyk called the matter an internal controversy and dismissed it by saying "it was not important." The question applied to demands that Gen. Marjan Kukiel, Polish War Minister, and Polish Commander-in-Chief Kasimierz Sosnkowski be removed as a result of their failure to curb anti-Semitism in the Polish forces.

Answering "certainly" to a question as to whether property confiscated from the Jews by the Nazis would be returned to their original owners, Mikolajczyk qualified this by saying that the matter was not a simple one. "Two and one-half million Poles have been removed from their homes and their property confiscated in western Poland," he explained. "Before ownership problems can be solved, the Polish Government might have to assume trusteeship for some confiscated property of Poles and Jews alike, but eventually, it will be restored to individuals who can establish their rights."

Asked if Jews would be represented in the post-war Polish cabinet, he said that the Jews would do well to agree among themselves whether they want to be accepted as full Polish citizens or want to be represented as a minority.

6/15/44

JULIUS SIMON ARRIVES FROM PALESTINE; CONFIDENT ABOUT COUNTRY'S POST-WAR PROSPECTS

NEW YORK, June 14. (JTA) -- "There is every reason for being confident that the adjustment from war to post-war economy can be carried out in Palestine smoothly and also that the country will be in a position to absorb large numbers of refugee immigrants on a self-maintaining basis," Julius Simon, president of the Palestine Economic Corporation, declared here today following his arrival by plane, via Lisbon, after a four-year' absence from the United States.

Mr. Simon, who is one of Palestine's outstanding economists, emphasized that if not for its modern economic development through Jewish endeavor during the two decades prior to outbreak of war, Palestine would not have been in a position to contribute so materially to the Allied war effort from the early days of the war. "That contribution," he said, "resulted from the introduction and wide-scale use of modern agricultural methods as well as the erection and expansion of a modern industrial structure in the country. Through expanded food production it was possible to reduce to a minimum the volume of food which had to be imported and it also became possible to provide certain fresh foods to the military forces. During the entire war period the irrigation systems were continuously extended, partly with government aid, in order to increase food crops.

"The beginnings of Palestine industry were considerably enlarged during the war period. Through government initiative and through the ingenuity and resourcefulness of the Jewish refugee manufacturers who had re-established themselves in Palestine in the past decade, Palestine industry was quick to adapt its production to the requirements of the military forces and to numerous civilian needs previously satisfied through imports. In addition to items of apparel for soldiers and hundreds of items required by encampments, manufacturers produced technical and other equipment which were to a considerable extent directly used by the armies.

Palestine Became Only Producer of Potash After Fall of France

"It was fortuitous to the Allied Nations that a quarter of a century ago a Russian-Jewish mining engineer had devoted himself to the possibilities of extracting minerals from the Dead Sea and had persevered to develop extraction methods which by the time war broke out resulted in a large-scale production of potash," Mr. Simon continued. "With the fall of France, Palestine became the only producer of potash for agricultural, industrial and munitions purposes within the British territory. During the war period production more than doubled.

"In its various branches of service - that is, through its several subsidiary and affiliated companies, each devoted to a special field of economic development activity - Palestine Economic Corporation was able directly and indirectly to make a substantial contribution to the Allied war effort," he declared.

Mr. Simon was on a visit to the United States in June, 1940. When Holland was invaded he immediately departed for Palestine in order to be able to direct the Corporation's activities in an emergency. He remained in Palestine throughout the four years and played an active role in expanding Palestine's war effort and in laying the foundations for post-war activities.

CONGRESS HAS RIGHT TO BAR DISCRIMINATION IN EMPLOYMENT, SAYS SPONSOR OF FEPC BILL

WASHINGTON, June 14. (JTA) -- Testifying before the House Labor Committee in support of his bill for a permanent Fair Employment Practice Commission, Rep. Charles E. LaFollette said today that the right to work is a property right which Congress has the authority to regulate.

"Whether many of us realize it or not," he declared, "the Supreme Court recognition of the Wagner Labor Act has brought forth a new concept of property -- the right to work at gainful employment."

6/15/44

ARCHBISHOP OF CANTERBURY APPEALS TO SATELLITE POPULATIONS TO ASSIST JEWS

LONDON, June 14. (JTA) -- A resolution expressing concern at the increased peril facing the Jews in German-occupied countries in central and southeastern Europe was submitted to the Council of Christians and Jews today by the Archbishop of Canterbury. The resolution appeals to the peoples of these countries not to assist in the persecution of Jews and to aid them to evade the Nazis.

The resolution also expresses gratitude at the abolition of anti-Jewish legislation in North Africa and the liberated section of Italy, and expresses confidence that similar action will be taken in territory liberated in the future.

PALESTINE TERRORIST SENTENCED TO 12 YEARS BY BRITISH MILITARY COURT

JERUSALEM, June 14. (JTA) -- A British military court today sentenced 25-year-old David Meiri, alias Begin, to 12 years imprisonment for possession of a home-made bomb, a revolver and several rounds of ammunition.

The accused terrorist refused the services of an attorney and defended himself. Twelve years is the stiffest term meted out so far by military courts trying alleged terrorists, and had been imposed in only one or two cases previously.

METHODIST CONFERENCE DEMANDS FULFILLMENT OF JEWISH NATIONAL HOME PLEDGE

NEW YORK, June 14. (JTA) -- A resolution calling on the United States to take "appropriate action" so that the "international commitments made to the Jews in connection with a homeland in Palestine may be fulfilled at the earliest possible time," was adopted unanimously by the Northeastern Jurisdictional Conference of the Methodist Church, representing more than a million members of the Methodist Church in New England, New York, Pennsylvania, Maryland, New Jersey and Delaware.

This was announced today by Dr. Daniel L. Marsh, President of Boston University, who introduced the resolution, which demanded fulfillment of the pledge of a Jewish National Home "in the interest of justice, humanitarianism and future world peace," and condemned "all racial and religious bigotry and intolerance as undemocratic and un-Christian."

LIBERTY SHIP "MEYER LONDON" SUNK IN MEDITERRANEAN ON MAIDEN VOYAGE

WASHINGTON, June 14. (JTA) -- The Liberty ship Meyer London, named for the late Jewish labor leader from New York, has been sunk on its maiden voyage, it was revealed here today by the War Shipping Administration.

The vessel, which was turned over to the WSA on February 4, was sunk in the Mediterranean as a result of enemy action. All her crew were rescued by a British corvette.

HOUSE GETS RESOLUTION URGING CONGRESSIONAL CONDEMNATION OF ANTI-SEMITISM

WASHINGTON, June 14. (JTA) -- A resolution expressing the sentiment of Congress that persons spreading anti-Semitic or other racial propaganda are "playing Hitler's game" has been introduced in the House of Representatives by Rep. Samuel Dickstein (D-N.Y.). The measure, which was referred to the House Judiciary Committee, says that "there is no place in the lives of true Americans for such ideologies."