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CHRISTIANS ARRESTED IN BUDAPEST FOR TRYING TO HELP JEWS FLEE THE GHETTO

ZURICH, July 2. (JTA) -- A number of Christians were arrested in Budapest today on the charge of trying to assist Jews to flee the ghetto by supplying them with false identification documents, the Budapest radio reports.

The report revealed that 960 Christians in the city of Oradea-Mare, the capital of Transylvania, will be placed on trial "for accepting and hiding Jewish property." The accused include many of the most prominent Christian families in the city.

The Nazi Transkontinent Press today reported the arrest of a prominent Jewish merchant in Budapest, who is accused of promising to pay 60,000 pengoes (approximately \$12,000) to a railroad conductor to allow him to travel by train to a certain farm where, the authorities charge, the manager was ready to hide him for a remuneration of 30,000 pengoes (approximately \$6,000). A raid on the house of the farm manager allegedly resulted in the discovery of valuables belonging to the Jewish merchant worth many hundreds of thousands of pengoes. The conductor and the farm manager have also been arrested, the report said.

Hungarian newspapers reaching here today report that the government commission dealing with Jewish affairs and with the administration of confiscated Jewish property is operating from a building of eighty rooms on Honved Street in Budapest. More than 300 officials are employed by this commission.

In the county of Borosod, Jews are being used for agricultural labor in groups of 30 under military guard, the papers disclose. Alleging that the Jews desire to do this work, the governor of Borosod stated that "the Jews are now keen to dig, something which they previously abhorred, in the hope that they will thus escape confinement."

Slovakian newspapers received here call for cooperative ownership of confiscated Jewish property, "since few people are able, even with the help of large loans, to purchase such property." Interest in Jewish real estate has decreased, "since it has been realized that confiscated houses cannot be obtained for nothing," one paper says.

Hungarians Surpassing Germans in Annihilating Jews, London Hears

LONDON, July 2. (JTA) -- The special correspondent of the Manchester Guardian in Turkey today reports from Ankara that "the Hungarians are surpassing their German masters in cruelty in annihilating the Jews."

The correspondent confirms that 400,000 Jews have already been "liquidated" in provincial towns in Hungary. Some of them have been deported to Poland while others were transported to labor camps where they work under appalling conditions. The liquidation of the Jews in Budapest is going on in great speed, the correspondent adds, disclosing that many are being deported to Poland in sealed trucks.

JEWISH AGENCY SPOKESMAN ATTACKS BRITISH PLAN FOR LIBYAN REFUGEE SHELTER AS "WORTHLESS"

JERUSALEM, July 2. (JTA) -- The British plan to establish a temporary refugee shelter in Libya for persons escaping from German-held Italy and Yugoslavia was attacked as "worthless" today by Isaac Gruenbaum, a member of the Jewish Agency.

Gruenbaum said that the plan, which was first disclosed by American Under-Secretary of State Edward R. Stettinius, Jr. last week, "offers nothing since it is not accompanied by practical measures, such as sending transportation." While the shelter might be of some value to Jews in Rumania or Bulgaria, who are menaced by death, Gruenbaum added, it would not help the Jews from Italy, since they would continue a unsettled, unproductive life in camps.

The Agency member charged that the plan was intended to avert pressure for solution of the Palestine problem. "We will certainly be glad if this act increases the number of Jews saved," Gruenbaum stated, "but in the meantime there remains the suspicion that the plan will remain only on paper to weaken pressure concerning Palestine."

JEWISH SETTLERS RETURN TO THEIR HOMES IN CRIMEAN COLONIES DEVASTATED BY GERMANS

MOSCOW, July 2. (JTA) -- Jewish settlers in the Crimean colonies established by the Agrojoint are beginning to return to their homes, especially in the Iarindorf and Freidorf districts, it was reported here today by Major Zalman Galbukh from Simferopol, capital of the Crimea.

Major Galbukh reports that the Germans, prior to their retreat from the Crimea, demolished everything they could lay their hands on. They burned down Jewish colonies, destroyed schools, blasted bridges and set railway stations afire.

During their occupation of the Crimea, the Germans distributed a tremendous amount of anti-Jewish literature calling on the non-Jewish population to move into the Jewish colonies and take the land and the property for themselves, Major Galbukh learned. None of the Russian colonists accepted the German offer.

Many Russian settlers who were intermarried to Jews left their settlements in order to save their families. They are now returning to their homes together with their Jewish neighbors.

MOSCOW GOVERNMENT ESTABLISHES SPECIAL COUNCIL TO DEAL WITH RELIGIOUS GROUPS

LONDON, July 2. (JTA) -- The Moscow radio today announced the formation of a Council on Religious Affairs by the central government to deal with questions concerning the Christian, Jewish, Mohammedan and Buddhist religions.

The Council will serve as a liason body between the Soviet authorities and the representatives of the various religious groups throughout the U.S.S.R., the announcement said.

The Moscow radio also reported that the Supreme Soviet had issued a decree granting the right to retain Polish citizenship to all inhabitants of the western Ukraine and western White Russia who are in the Polish Army, in Russia or fighting in guerrilla bands. These territories are the sections of pre-war Poland claimed by the Soviet Union. The decree will affect many Jews who formerly lived in those areas and who are now members of the Polish Army commanded by Gen. Zygmund Berling, or of partisan bands behind the German lines.

TWENTY MILLION DOLLARS SPENT IN SIX MONTHS FOR JEWISH RELIEF AND RESCUE WORK

NEW YORK, July 2, (JTA) -- The record sum of \$20,600,000 has been spent in six months for Jewish relief and rescue work, jointly by the Joint Distribution Committee, the United Palestine Appeal and the National Refugee Service, it was reported today by the United Jewish Appeal.

During the first six months of 1944, the Joint Distribution Committee appropriated the sum of \$10,459,477 for its world-wide relief, rescue and rehabilitation activities, the report said. The J.D.C. appropriations for the first half of this year exceeded by more than \$5,200,000 the allocations during the same period of 1943.

For the work of refugee settlement, agricultural and industrial development, and war mobilization in Palestine, the agencies in Palestine which receive their American support from the United Palestine Appeal spent the sum of \$9,629,000 in the first six months of the Jewish year, from October 1, 1943, to April 1, 1944. The bulk of this amount was contributed through the United Jewish Appeal. In the same period of the preceding year, the Palestine agencies including the Palestine Foundation Fund and the Jewish National Fund spent \$6,122,064.

In the six months ending yesterday, the National Refugee Service had expenditures totaling approximately \$532,000 for migration adjustment, retraining, and other services provided for refugees in the United States, the report said.

SPIEGLER RESIGNS FROM HIAS OFFICE IN WASHINGTON; NEW YORK ATTORNEY TO TAKE HIS PLACE

NEW YORK, July 2, (JTA) -- Louis E. Spiegler, counsel to the Washington Bureau of the Hebrew Sheltering and Immigrant Aid Society, has resigned his position to resume private legal practice, Abraham Herman, president of HIAS announced today.

Mr. Spiegler's resignation went into effect as of July 1st. He was succeeded by Abraham Rockmore, prominent New York attorney, who has been in charge of the Philadelphia branch of the HIAS legal bureau. Isidore Hershfield, prominent figure in Jewish immigrant aid work during the past two decades, remains in the service of the organization as Counsel Emeritus of the Washington Bureau.

Mr. Spiegler has been in the service of the HIAS since 1939. He is a member of the national executive of the Zionist Organization of America and a director of the United Jewish Appeal of Washington, D. C.

BRITISH COMMANDING GENERAL CONFIRMS SENTENCES IMPOSED UPON TWO TERRORISTS

JERUSALEM, July 2. (JTA) -- The General Officer Commanding British troops in Palestine has confirmed the sentences imposed by a military court on Chasia Shapiro, 19, and Anshel Shpilman, 27, it was announced here today.

Miss Shapiro, who is the first woman terrorist to be seized by the police, was sentenced to four years imprisonment, while Shpilman received ten years. The two were found guilty of illegal possession of a revolver, several rounds of ammunition and a small bomb. They were arrested in Miss Shapiro's room in Tel Aviv on March 10.