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GERMANS SINK TURKISH SHIP CARRYING JEWISH REFUGEES; 250 PERISH IN BLACK SEA

ISTANBUL, Aug. 7. (JTA)--Approximately 250 Jewish refugees from Rumania perished today when the Turkish ship *Merkure* was sunk by German shell fire seven miles off the coast of Turkey. The refugees on board went down with the ship.

This is the first Turkish ship sunk by the Germans since the break of diplomatic relations between Turkey and Germany. The Turkish radio announced today that Jewish children holding Turkish visas have left Bulgaria and are on their way to Turkey overland. It also announced that Turkish consulates in Bucharest, Budapest and Sofia have been instructed to issue about fifty visas a week to Jews in these cities.

Reviewing for the first time the Turkish contribution to the effort of saving Jews from Nazi hands, the broadcast said: "Our government, acting on purely humanitarian principles, has shown considerable sympathy for the persecuted Jews in Central Europe and in the Balkan countries. During 1943-44 Jews from Hungary, Rumania and Bulgaria have been given travelling facilities to Turkey on their way to Palestine. Recently five groups of refugees which left the Rumanian port of Constanza on motor boats without any Turkish visas were permitted to land at Istanbul from whence they were transported in special trains to Palestine by way of Syria."

REPRESENTATIVES OF THIRTY-FIVE GOVERNMENTS WILL DISCUSS REFUGEE RESCUE PROBLEMS

LONDON, Aug. 7. (JTA) -- Thirty-five of the thirty-nine governments affiliated with the Intergovernmental Committee for Refugees will be represented by the ambassadors, ministers and other diplomatic representatives at the plenary session of the Intergovernmental Committee which opens in London on August 15, to discuss ways and means of saving Jews of Hungary and other countries in Nazi Europe, it was announced here today.

A report will be presented to the session on the activities of the Intergovernmental Committee since its reorganization in August 1943. The session will also discuss questions concerning the cooperation of the Intergovernmental Committee with other governmental organs interested in refugee problems, particularly the United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration, the War Refugee Board, the League of Nations' commission for refugees and the International Labor Office.

Considerable doubt as to whether the British and American governments are exerting their full energies in furthering the effort of rescuing Jews from Hungary is expressed today in the *Manchester Guardian*, one of Britain's leading daily papers.

"It would be criminal if lack of money, or even lack of ships, would be permitted to handicap the scheme offered by Admiral Horthy for the evacuation of Jews from Hungary," the paper writes. "If military or economic conditions prevent the issue of more permits for Jews from Hungary to enter Palestine - and this is highly questionable - then the Allies must make alternative arrangements now."

JEWISH PROPERTY IN HUNGARY VALUED AT FOUR BILLION DOLLARS; THREE MINISTERS OUSTED

BERNE, Aug. 7: (JTA) -- Estimating the Jewish property in Hungary at twenty billion pengoes - approximately four billion dollars - the Hungarian newspapers reaching here today from Budapest carry reports of various Hungarian cliques inside and outside the pro-Nazi government in a mad scramble among themselves to grab what loot they can before the fall of the present regime.

The Budapest radio today announced that three members of the present Hungarian cabinet had been "relieved of their posts." The three, responsible in no small part for the laws confiscating Jewish property, are: Bela Imredy, Minister of Economic Affairs; Andor Jaross, Minister of Interior, and Antal Kunder, Minister of Trade and Transport.

One of the Hungarian newspapers writing of the fight among officials pictures the grab for loot thus: "A Jewish fortune is liquidated, and certain elements start a deplorable campaign to grab it. This drive is not started by nameless workers, not by sweating peasants, not by little men in offices. No, it is started by those who always make an easy living and who have always had everything they wanted. They consider the Jewish fortune of twenty billions as free booty, and beat their chests with both hands, boasting that 'After all, either we have won or we have not. If we have, give us the Jewish villas, the pianos, the summerhouses and the great estates.'"

The Hungarian newspaper Pester Lloyd reports that two Hungarians arrested for the murder of two Jewish women who resisted looting at their homes "told the police that they did nothing but enforce the intentions of the anti-Jewish laws in their own way and as a matter of fact deserve a reward."

J.D.C. REPRESENTATIVE LEAVES FOR MEXICO TO STUDY "FREE PORT" PROPOSAL

NEW YORK, Aug. 7: (JTA) -- Moses A. Leavitt, secretary of the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee, left New York today for Mexico City to study the Mexican Government's proposal for establishment of a "free port" for Jewish refugees. The offer of President Avila Camacho, making available a temporary haven for oppressed Jews, was announced a few days ago. Jewish leaders, now in Mexico City, urged Mr. Leavitt to make the trip so that his knowledge and experience in the field of refugee rescue may be available at once.

Rep. Sol Bloom, chairman of the House Foreign Affairs Committee today hailed the announcement that refugee camps will be established in Mexico as "a heartening step toward the alleviation of the suffering of the unfortunate refugees from Hitler-persecution."

"The United States," he said, "is very glad to have a sister republic follow our example in the establishment of free ports. The Mexican Government as well as other of the South American countries, have been very cooperative in giving refuge to those who could get there. I would like now to see all of the other nations of South America, and Allied and neutral Europe follow suit in setting up temporary havens. The civilized peoples of the world must take the responsibility of saving all those who can be saved."

Mexican Labor Leader Lauds "Free Ports" Plan in Mexico

MEXICO CITY, Aug. 7: (JTA) -- Lombardo Toledano, prominent leader of the Mexican Labor Federation, today lauded the announcement by the Mexican Government of its readiness to establish a "free port" for Jewish refugees from Europe.

"This decision," he said, "will raise even higher the name and prestige of Mexico and of our President Avila Camacho."

RESCUE OF HUNGARIAN JEWS DISCUSSED IN CANADIAN PARLIAMENT

OTTAWA, Aug. 7. (JTA) -- The question of saving Hungarian Jews from being deported to extermination camps was raised in the Canadian parliament by four deputies, all asking the Canadian Government for prompt action. Two of the deputies, Stanley Knowles and Arthur Roebuck, demanded the immediate revocation of the British White Paper in order that all Jews from Hungary who can reach Palestine via Turkey may be admitted.

Premier King, in replying to the deputies, said that he raised the Palestine question at the recent conference of Dominion Prime Ministers which was held in London. He added that he was not at liberty to make public the content of the discussions at the conference on this question.

A delegation of the Canadian-Palestine Committee today appeared before the Under-Secretary of State for External Affairs and urged that the Canadian Government cooperate in obtaining the release from Hungary, through the International Red Cross, of all Jewish children under ten years of age and all adults holding Palestine visas. The delegation urged since Palestine is the nearest country of refuge for the Jews of Balkan countries, its doors should be opened fully by the Mandatory Power, while Turkey, the most available country of transit, should be induced to open its frontiers so long sealed against the passage to Palestine of European Jewish refugees. The delegation also made representations to the Dominion Government against the possible partition of Palestine.

HIAS-ICA REGISTERS REFUGEES IN CASABLANCA "FREE PORT" FOR EMIGRATION TO UNITED STATES

NEW YORK, Aug. 7. (JTA) -- Registration of refugees entitled to emigrate to the United States under the existing immigration quota is now being conducted by a representative of the Hias-Ica Emigration Association in Camp Fedala in Casablanca, North Africa, it was announced today by the Hias-Ica headquarters here.

There are today about 500 Jewish refugees in Camp Fedala which is one of the "free ports" established by the Allies for victims rescued from Nazi Europe. Most of the refugees at the Fedala camp were given temporary asylum in Spain before being transferred to North Africa. A list of all the Jewish refugees at Camp Fedala is now available at the Hias-Ica offices in New York for those seeking to locate missing relatives who may be in this camp.

B'NAI B'RITH PROVIDES HOSPITALITY HOUSES AND SYNAGOGUE FOR REFUGEES AT FORT ONTARIO

OSWEGO, N. Y., Aug. 7. (JTA) -- At the request of the U. S. Department of Interior, the B'nai B'rith has equipped and furnished four hospitality houses, a nursery and two arts and crafts rooms for vocational and therapeutic purposes at the Emergency Refugee Shelter at Fort Ontario. In addition, the National War Service Fund of the B'nai B'rith has made possible the installation of complete synagogue facilities, including several Torahs, altar cloths and shofar, furnished through the B'nai B'rith Lodge of Rochester, New York.

Government officials invited the B'nai B'rith to assume the responsibility because the B'nai B'rith National War Service Committee has already furnished similar facilities for the armed forces at various army and naval posts throughout the country. The funds for such purposes are contributed to the National B'nai B'rith War Service Fund by the seven American districts of the order. Robert Lurie, National B'nai B'rith War Service department representative, completed the arrangements for the Oswego camp. Among the refugees is a prominent European physician, Dr. Rafille Margulis, chairman of the executive committee of the Yugoslavian district Grand Lodge of B'nai B'rith.

SENATOR GILLETTE ASKS FOR ESTABLISHMENT OF MORE "FREE PORTS" IN THE UNITED STATES

NEW YORK, Aug. 7. (JTA) -- The immediate setting up of temporary refugee shelters in the United States in addition to the one established by President Roosevelt at Fort Ontario was urged today by Senator Guy Gillette, Iowa Democrat, addressing the opening session of the two-day National Conference to Save the Jewish People of Europe, held at Hotel Commodore.

In a report submitted to the conference, the Emergency Committee to Save the Jewish People of Europe claims credit for having proved to the leaders of the Allied and neutral nations and to the general public that large numbers of European Jews could be saved during the war without impairing the war effort and that it brought the facts of the problem and the need for government action to the attention of the topmost leaders in our Government.

"From its inception, the Emergency Committee campaigned for the establishment of temporary rescue camps in neutral countries and in territories controlled by the United Nations," the report said. "With the creation of the War Refugee Board, the first aim of the Committee - the establishment of a mechanism - was accomplished. The next immediate problem was to set up specific camps and shelters. Here, too, the Committee found support in the press, especially in the suggestion of Samuel Grafton that "Free Ports" be established. It was obvious that the United States must take the initiative in order to bring pressure on other Allied and neutral countries. On April 18th, John W. Pehle, Executive Director of the War Refugee Board, declared that the Board was considering the establishment of rescue camps in the United States."

Predicting that the tempo of Jewish massacres in Nazi Europe "may be greatly speeded up as Hitler's day of reckoning draws near," the report urged the immediate perfection of all plans of rescue.

"At the present time several hundred thousand Jews in Hungary can be rescued if sufficient temporary shelters can be found for them in Allied and neutral countries," the report stated. "Other satellite nations may soon follow Hungary's example, if the United Nations act speedily and decisively to move these people to places of safety. If this is not done - all of us will share the guilt of the Nazi butchers. Future generations will write their own condemnation of a group of nations, who had it in their power to save the lives of hundreds of thousands of innocent people, and would not raise their hands to give the signal."

UNITED JEWISH APPEAL AGENCIES SPEED RESCUE MEASURES FOR HUNGARY'S JEWS

NEW YORK, Aug. 7. (JTA) -- Special measures are being taken by the agencies of the United Jewish Appeal to save as many as possible of the 400,000 Jews remaining in Hungary, it was reported here today.

Immediately following the announcement by the Horthy Government that it would allow all children under ten to leave the country and that adults would be permitted to go to Palestine if entry visas could be provided for them, the Joint Distribution Committee, and the United Palestine Appeal ordered their representatives in Turkey to proceed with the evacuation and transportation of as many Jews as could be brought out of Hungary and removed from the reach of Nazi extermination squads. The Joint Distribution Committee has undertaken to pay for the transportation of both children and adults who can leave Hungary.