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RESTORATION OF JEWISH RIGHTS IN BALKANS IS ASKED; RESCUE WORK MAY BE SLOWED DOWN

ISTANBUL, Aug. 15. (JTA) -- The rescue of Jews from Hungary, Rumania and Bulgaria may soon take a new turn as result of a decision to press for the reinstatement of these Jews in their rights as full-fledged citizens of their native lands instead of seeking to rescue them by transporting them to neutral and Allied countries, it was disclosed here today by Ira Hirschmann, representative of the War Refugee Board.

The decision was taken by the War Rescue Board recently formed here which is composed of representatives of the Jewish Agency for Palestine, the Joint Distribution Committee, the Hias-IOA Emigration Association and the War Refugee Board. The new approach stems from the fact that anti-Jewish measures have somewhat relaxed in Hungary, Rumania and Bulgaria.

Reliable information reaching here indicates that active anti-Jewish persecutions have ceased in Rumania and in Bulgaria. Even the anti-Jewish propaganda has been halted. In Hungary, the deportations of Jews have definitely been discontinued, and Hungarian officials go out of their way to assure neutral diplomats that the Germans alone are responsible for the mass-deportation and extermination of thousands of Hungarian Jews. They emphasize that no Jew has been killed on Hungarian soil.

Stream of Jewish Refugees to Palestine is Cut Off

The steady stream of Jewish refugees from the Balkan countries to Palestine has been cut off since Turkey has ordered all her ships from the Black Sea to home shores after the break of diplomatic relations with Germany. Bulgaria has however agreed to furnish a limited amount of shipping on the Black Sea while Rumania agreed to allow the transit of Jews from Hungary to the Rumanian port of Constanza.

While relaxing the anti-Jewish measures, no satellite nation has as yet actually revoked its anti-Jewish laws. It is, however, known here that President Roosevelt's warning that those persecuting the Jews will be treated as war criminals had the most profound effect upon Hungary where the text of the warning was widely circulated after being dropped from Allied planes.

Jews from Rumania, Carried on Last Turkish Ships, Reach Palestine

JERUSALEM, Aug. 15. (JTA) -- A transport of 308 Jews arrived here today from Turkey after having come there last week from Rumania. Another transport is expected to arrive within a few days. These are the Jewish refugees who set out from Rumania last week on three Turkish boats, one of which, the "Mefkure" was sunk in the Black Sea. It is believed here that no more Turkish ships will venture on the Black Sea for the time being.

The Youth Aliyah office today announced that seventy-five more Jewish refugee children reached Palestine this week. Forty of them came from Bulgaria, ten from Tripolitania and fifteen from Greece. The remainder arrived directly from a German concentration camp.

ABOUT 1000 JEWS SURVIVE IN KAUNAS; MANY BURNED ALIVE BY GERMANS BEFORE THEIR RETREAT

MOSCOW, Aug. 15. (JTA) -- Less than 1000 Jews have survived in the liberated city of Kaunas, capital of Lithuania, it was reported here today. Of the thirty thousand Jews who lived there before the war and of the many thousands that were brought there by the Germans from Holland, Belgium, and Austria, only three thousand were yet living during the last days of the German occupation. This number was further reduced to one thousand when the Gestapo demolition units broke into the ghetto and blew up house after house prior to the retreat of the German army.

When the Russian army entered Kaunas, they found in the basements of the burning houses many bodies of Jews burned alive. One of the Jewish survivors, Nahum Diner, a lawyer, told the Russian officers that the Gestapo demolition squads killed with machine guns all those Jews who tried to escape from the houses set fire to by the Nazis.

Relating the gruesome details on the German mass-extermiation of Jews in Kaunas, Diner stated that as late as March 27, 1944, the German military commandant Gekke issued an order that all Jewish mothers forthwith deliver their children to the center of the city from which point they would be taken on trucks to a specially-arranged children's picnic. Efforts of the mothers to hide their children were in vain. More than 2000 Jewish children were carried away by force outside the city and massacred.

SURVIVING JEWS IN FLORENCE EMERGE FROM HIDING PLACES; WERE AIDED BY ITALIANS

FLORENCE, Italy, Aug. 15. (JTA) -- The surviving fragment of Florence Jewry, which formerly numbered 2500 souls, is beginning to emerge after eleven months of hiding as the Eighth Army forces, aided by Italian partisans, consolidate their hold on principal areas of the city.

It is impossible at present to state what proportion of the Jewish community survived the Nazi persecution and the final flare-up of Fascist Republican terror. But those Jews whom the correspondent of the Jewish Telegraphic Agency was able to locate under the present disorganized conditions, seemed optimistic that the number of surviving Jews will be larger than anticipated.

Vittorio Frille, one of the leaders of the Florence Jewish community, estimated that one-fifth of the total number of Jews in the city had been arrested and deported. This number included Rabbi Nathan Casuto, who, after the arrest, was known to have been taken to Venice. Several hundred Jews arrested prior to the Nazi occupation of Italy succeeded in escaping to the interior after the fall of Mussolini, Frille stated.

While many of the Florentine Jews escaped to Switzerland and in the direction of Rome, the majority went into hiding in Florence and in the vicinity where Italian friends sheltered and hid them. An unusually large number fled into the mountains to join partisan units.

As in Rome and in other Italian cities, many Jewish women and children found shelter in Catholic convents, and men in other religious establishments. The underground organization of the National Liberation Committee which began functioning as soon as the Germans occupied the city, aided these fugitives throughout the entire period of occupation, obtaining for them hideouts, identity papers, food and other necessities. Frille, for instance, had identity papers furnished to him by an Italian general.

RETURN OF REFUGEES TO NATIVE LANDS RECOMMENDED BY INTERGOVERNMENTAL COMMITTEE

LONDON, Aug. 15. (JTA) -- The voluntary return of refugees to their old homes would be the best solution of the refugee problem, the Intergovernmental Refugee Committee was told by director Sir Herbert Emerson as it opened its fourth plenary session here today.

Representatives of 34 nations were present for the opening meeting, including Ambassador John G. Winant for the United States. Also present were observers for the Red Cross, the International Labor Office, Supreme Headquarters of the Allied Expeditionary Forces, the United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration, and representatives of voluntary relief organizations.

In his opening report, Sir Herbert said the committee was faced with the problem not only of returning refugees to their homes but of finding new homes for those unable to return. He emphasized that the Intergovernmental Committee, which was organized at Evian, France, in 1938, covered a field distinct from that of the UNRRA, since the latter was temporary, did not contemplate finding homes for refugees and would not operate everywhere.

Sir Herbert praised the "humanitarian action" taken by Sweden and Switzerland in aiding refugees but said they would not be able to absorb into their economic life all the refugees who had entered their countries. He revealed that the committee was in contact with the British and American governments on the problem of aiding Hungarian Jews and would ask member nations to help both by providing temporary and permanent homes and making financial contributions.

Project to Settle 100,000 Jews in Dominican Republic to be Revived

Sir Herbert disclosed that the pre-war plan to settle 100,000 Jewish refugees from Europe in the Dominican Republic may be revived after the war. He reported that the Intergovernmental Committee is in contact with the governments of Britain and of the United States with regard to the proposed emigration of Jews from Hungary, and said that the Committee intends to ask those governments both for temporary and permanent homes for the Hungarian Jews as well as for financial aid for their emigration.

The representative of the Mexican Government announced at the session that he had urged his government to grant visas for Hungarian Jewish children and their parents. The representative of the Polish Government reviewed the tragedy of the Jews in Poland and reproached the Intergovernmental Committee for not helping those Jews who could have been saved in the French city of Vittel prior to their deportation by the Germans to occupied Poland for extermination in gas chambers.

The plenary session of the Intergovernmental Committee, as it meets now, includes representatives from Argentina, Australia, Belgium, Bolivia, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Cuba, Czechoslovakia, Denmark, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, Eire, France, Greece, Haiti, Honduras, Iceland, India, Luxemburg, Mexico, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Norway, Paraguay, Peru, Poland, South Africa, Sweden, Switzerland, U.S.S.R., United Kingdom, United States and Venezuela.

It was emphasized at the session today that the Intergovernmental Committee attaches particular importance to the expected cooperation of various governments in alleviating the refugee problem. A resolution to this effect has been prepared by the Committee's executive.

150,000 PAY LAST TRIBUTE TO KATZNELSON IN TEL AVIV; MANY ESCORT BODY FROM JERUSALEM

JERUSALEM, Aug. 15. (JTA) -- More than 150,000 persons of Tel Aviv joined in last tributes to Berl Katznelson, one of the outstanding Jewish labor leaders of Palestine and editor of Davar, whose death occurred Saturday evening. A procession of cars and busses five kilometers long escorted the body from Jerusalem to Tel Aviv. Burial was at Kinnereth.

On the way from Tel Aviv to Kinnereth, the procession halted at each Jewish settlement, where the settlers, standing in lines at both sides of the road, bearing the white-blue blags of Zion, bowed in silence. The Palestine press is full of lengthy articles describing Katznelson's role in the upbuilding of the Yishub and the Zionist movement.

CONGREGATION IN NEBRASKA FORMED ON BASIS THAT RELIGION IS SOLE STATUS OF JEWS

LINCOLN, Neb. Aug. 15. (JTA) -- The formation of a new Jewish congregation "created upon the specific proposition that the status of Jews is solely that of a religion, and not in any part either racial or national," was announced here today, by Bernard S. Gradwohl its president.

The new group, carrying the name American Reform Congregation made public the text of its basic principles adopted, one of which reads: "We are Jews by virtue of our acceptance of Judaism. We are not a nation. We are solely a religion. We stand for the continuation of Judaism solely as a religion; and not as a national group, either in whole or in part. We stand unequivocally for the separation of Church and State. Our religion is Judaism. Our nation is the United States of America. Our nationality is American. Our flag is the Stars and Stripes. We look upon Palestine not as a Jewish nation, but as one of the places where those who are oppressed may find a haven of refuge. We consider it our sacred privilege to promote the spiritual, cultural and social welfare of our co-religionists there and elsewhere."

A resolution adopted by the new congregation criticizes the Central Conference of American Rabbis, the Union of American Hebrew Congregations, and the Hebrew Union College. "We are firmly convinced that the destiny of American Reform Judaism depends upon steadfast adherence to the fundamental principles of our faith," the resolution reads. "We regretfully record our feeling that the Central Conference of American Rabbis has abandoned them in large part; that the Union of American Hebrew Congregations has neutralized them; and that the Hebrew Union College has failed to adequately teach them."

COMMITTEE ON FAIR EMPLOYMENT PRACTICE ADJUSTS 702 CASES OF RACIAL DISCRIMINATION

WASHINGTON, Aug. 15. (JTA) -- Satisfactory adjustment of 702 cases during the six-month period from January 1 to June 30, 1944, was announced today by the President's Committee on Fair Employment Practice. The figure represents more than a third of all the cases closed during the half year.

ROOSEVELT NOMINATES CARUSI AS COMMISSIONER OF IMMIGRATION AND NATURALIZATION

WASHINGTON, Aug. 15. (JTA) -- Ugo Carusi was nominated by President Roosevelt to succeed Earl G. Harrison as Commissioner of Immigration and Naturalization. The nomination was referred to the Senate Judiciary Committee for consideration. Carusi has served as executive assistant to five attorney generals.