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ANTI-JEWISH LAWS ABOLISHED IN BELGIUM; MANY JEWS SURVIVED IN ANTWERP AND BRUSSELS

LONDON, Sept. 15. (JTA) -- All anti-Jewish laws in Belgium, introduced during the years of German occupation, have been officially abolished, it was reported here today from Brussels.

Mayor Van Demeulebrough of Brussels issued a proclamation expressing the sympathy of the Belgian population with the Jews. The proclamation assures Jewish widows and orphans whose husbands and parents were killed by the Germans that the crimes committed by Nazis against the Jews of Belgium will not be forgotten or remain unpunished.

It has been established that of the 90,000 Jews who lived in Belgium before the outbreak of the war, about one-half succeeded in reaching havens in the democratic countries during and after the German invasion. Of the remaining Jews, approximately 27,000 were deported by the Germans. There are today about 1,800 Jews in Antwerp. The number of Jews who survived in Brussels has not yet been established. The Brussels Jewish Community carried on its activities during the entire German occupation without any break. In Antwerp the Jewish community was liquidated.

The majority of the surviving Jews in Antwerp were given shelter by non-Jewish friends when the Nazis started deporting Jews from the city. Many of them joined the Belgian underground. A Yiddish underground newspaper was published in Brussels under the very nose of the Gestapo.

Many of the surviving Jews in Brussels were saved due to the intervention of Queen Mother Elizabeth who wrote a personal letter to Hitler demanding equal treatment for the Jewish population of occupied Belgium. Hitler answered that the Jews would not be harmed. He broke his promise in September, 1943 when raids on Jews started, followed by deportations to extermination camps in Poland. The Queen then sent a copy of Hitler's letter to the city's Chief Rabbi, while the Belgian Minister of Justice presented another copy of the same letter to the German Governor. This brought about a relaxation in the drive on Jews for a short while and helped some Jews to escape deportation.

PARIS MUNICIPALITY OPENS KOSHER CANTEENS FOR NEEDY JEWS; ANTI-JEWISH POSTERS REAPPEAR

LONDON, Sept. 15. (JTA) -- Two mobile Kosher canteens have been opened by the municipality in Paris to provide food for needy Jews, it is reported here today. The number of Jews returning to Paris from their hideouts is increasing daily, the report says, emphasizing that many of them are applying for relief.

Reports from Paris establish that 116 Jews, including twenty-two women, lost their lives in the fight for the liberation of the capital during the uprising against the Germans. One report says that French fascists are trying to spread anti-Jewish propaganda in Paris by describing Gen. de Gaulle's administration as "a Jewish government." Placards have been posted on Paris walls telling the French people that they will pay a high price for the abolition of the anti-Jewish laws. One placard carries the picture of Capt. Dreyfus with an inscription "Jewish traitors are the cause of France's misfortune."

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WORLD ZIONIST CONFERENCE PLANNED; JEWISH AGENCY MEMBERS IN U.S. NOTIFIED

JERUSALEM, Sept. 15. (JTA) -- With the liberation of all Europe in sight and with the resumption of Zionist activities in the countries already liberated, the executive of the World Zionist Organization today decided to convene a world Zionist conference "as soon as possible." Members of the executive of the Jewish Agency in the United States were notified of this decision by cable. This will be the first in world Zionist gathering since the 21st Zionist Congress which took place in Geneva in 1939 a week before the outbreak of the war.

All the various groups in Palestine which boycotted the elections to the Assefath Hanivocharim, the Jewish National Assembly, today held a joint meeting and adopted a resolution stating that the Assefath Hanivocharim does not represent all the Jews of Palestine and is not authorized to speak in their name, and that its decisions are not binding on those sections of the Yishuv which did not participate in the elections.

As the Jewish year concludes it was officially announced today by the Jewish National Council of Palestine that there are at present 560,000 Jews in the country. The announcement also estimated that 350,000 persons visited the Walling Wall during the past year, including Gen. George C. Marshal, Chief of Staff of the U.S. Army, British Admiral Cunningham, Soviet Ambassador Ivan Maisky and other prominent non-Jews.

FRENCH AUTHORITIES ASKED TO SUPPLY JEWS WITH VALID IDENTITY DOCUMENTS

LYON, France, Sept. 11 - Delayed. (JTA) -- Official action to aid thousands of foreigners, including hundreds of Jewish, Spanish and other refugees who fought in the resistance movement for the liberation of France, was urged here today by a delegation which called on Yves Farge, commissioner of the Republic for this region.

The delegation raised specifically the question of registration of nationals of enemy countries ordered by the military authorities, pointing out that this constituted a threat to hundreds of refugees who had fought for France. It also discussed the question of valid documents for thousands in the Lyon area who had to carry false documents to evade arrest by the Gestapo or the Vichy militia. Many of these who have been unable to obtain valid documents are faced with arrest if stopped for questioning today. The delegation also raised the question of permitting publication of papers in foreign languages.

These and other questions affecting Jewish community life were also discussed today with Acting Mayor Justin Godart by a Jewish delegation. The Lyon newspaper La Voix du Peuple, in an editorial on this problem, pointed out that thousands of Lyonnais were still able to circulate carrying false documents. The paper declared it "humiliating for patriots who have largely done their duty to France" to have to run the risk of arrest. It advocated the immediate opening in Lyon of a special bureau to issue valid identity papers to those for whom the resistance organizations vouched and for whom two witnesses stood sponsor.

Jewish groups here learned today that Leo Glaser, labor leader, and writer under the pseudonym of Nussbaum, who disappeared last month, was executed. French authorities have identified Glaser in a photograph showing a group of Nazi victims. Glaser, who was 55, was secretary of the Federation of Jewish Societies of France.

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COMPENSATION FOR JEWS IN RUMANIA ASKED; SPAIN INTERVENES FOR JEWS INTERNED IN REICH

LONDON, Sept. 15. (JTA) -- The abolition of anti-Jewish laws in Rumania is not sufficient, the London Times says today in an editorial urging that the Jews be compensated for the damages which they have suffered.

"It is to be hoped that restitution in general will be made to this unhappy community which suffered cruelly from the hands of the Gestapo and of the ferocious Iron Guard," the article says commenting on the terms of armistice with Rumania which provide for the immediate annulment of the anti-Jewish legislation.

The Agudas Israel organization was informed today that the Spanish Government has instructed its diplomatic representatives in Germany and in German-occupied territories to prevent the transportation of Jews holding Latin American passports to internment camps to which the International Red Cross has no access. The Agudah supplied the Spanish Embassy in London with a list of all such Jews who had been deported by the Germans from the French city of Vittel since April.

HIAS-ICA REOPENS ITS OFFICES IN RUMANIA; WILL ASSIST EMIGRATION OF JEWS

NEW YORK, Sept. 15. (JTA) -- The Hias-Ica Emigration Association has received permission from the Rumanian authorities to reopen its offices in Bucharest in order to assist in the emigration of Jews desiring to leave the country, it was announced here today by Isaac L. Asofsky, executive director of the Hias.

This information was received by the Hias office here from Dr. James Bernstein, European director of the Hias-Ica, who is now in Lisbon. Temporarily all contact with the Bucharest office must be cleared through the Lisbon headquarters of the Hias-Ica. David J. Schweitzer, special envoy of the organization, will cooperate with the reopened Bucharest office from Turkey. The work of the Hias-Ica in Rumania had been suspended since the country joined the Axis.

JEAN ZAY, JEWISH MEMBER OF FORMER FRENCH CABINET, ASSASSINATED BY VICHYTES

LONDON, Sept. 15. (JTA) -- The newspaper La France Libre reported today that Jean Zay, Jewish Minister of Education in Leon Blum's Cabinet, was slain by the Vichy militia in the same way they put to death Georges Mandel, Colonial Minister in the Blum Cabinet.

Zay, who had been condemned to prison for life by Vichy on charges of "desertion," was taken from his cell by the militia and put in an automobile. In the car sat another "prisoner" who had been planted there by the militia. This man suggested to Zay that they "escape." Zay, unsuspecting, had hardly moved out of the car when he was mowed down by the militia guards.

The newspaper called on the Minister of Justice in the French Provisional Government to investigate the assassinations which they said were carried out by Bernard's militia because "they were Jews and anti-Germans." Mandel was killed on July 1 last, according to a Vichy announcement which said he had been shot while being transferred by automobile from one prison to another.

TWELVE SYNAGOGUES BLASTED DURING FLYING BOB BLITZ ON LONDON

LONDON, Sept. 15. (JTA) -- Twelve synagogues, a cemetery and an East End home for the aged were damaged by flying bombs during the recent 89-day blitz on London, it was revealed here today.

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UNRRA SESSION OPENED IN MONTREAL; JEWISH OBSERVERS TO MEET MEMBERS OF COUNCIL

MONTREAL, Sept. 15. (JTA) -- A number of Jewish observers, sent by American Jewish organizations interested in relief activities, arrived here today from New York on matters connected with the session of the Council of the United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration which opens tomorrow in this city.

Dr. Joseph Schwartz, European chairman of the Joint Distribution Committee, who is one of the observers, will be the guest of the executive committee of the Canadian Jewish Congress at a luncheon at which he will report on the UNRRA's influence on the Jewish position and its future in Europe. Other observers represent the World Jewish Congress and other Jewish groups. Only delegates are permitted to attend the conferences of the UNRRA, and the observers work is limited to meeting members of the Council privately.

STATUS OF STATELESS REFUGEES WILL SOON BE STABILIZED IN LIBERATED COUNTRIES

WASHINGTON, Sept. 15. (JTA) -- Stateless persons in France, Belgium and Holland will not have to wait until the entire military operation is completed before taking the preliminary steps toward acquiring a home, Patrick Malin, vice director of the Inter-governmental Committee on Refugees, said today.

Malin, who recently returned from London to attend the United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation meeting in Montreal told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency that a French national, nominated by the French government, will be named to represent the Inter-governmental Committee within a matter of days. "Then," he said, "the question of the future of stateless persons, those holding Nansen passports, and the Spanish political refugees will be given immediate attention."

Declaring that he "pessimistically estimated that at least 10 percent of the 25,000,000 displaced persons would not be able to be repatriated during the first mass repatriation," Malin said there were for the "non-repatriables" three possibilities: 1. the eventual return to former places of residence over a longer period of time; 2. the creation of new homes--through immigration or settlement; 3. absorption in the country of asylum.

Only a small part of the two and one half-million non-repatriables will be Jews, Malin predicted, because of the mass exterminations. Displaced Dutch, French, and Belgian Jews are expected to return home, and only small numbers of Austrian and German Jews still remain alive. Those who emigrated early in the Hitler regime will probably want to remain in their adopted countries, Malin contended.

Asked about Palestine, Malin said that the Inter-governmental Committee could have no "political opinion" about the country but that every attempt would be made to use as much of the immigration quota as possible for refugees.

CHIEF RABBI OF BRITAIN, IN ROSH HASHONAH BROADCAST, APPEALS FOR PALESTINE IMMIGRATION

LONDON, Sept. 15. (JTA) -- Chief Rabbi Dr. Joseph H. Hertz, in a radio broadcast to the United States today emphasized that hardly one-fourth of European Jewry is likely to have survived.

"The ineffable horror of its appalling martyrdom should open the eyes of all to the exceptional claim for humane consideration by the free nations that those survivors possess," the Chief Rabbi said. "Their rehabilitation to pre-war status will not by itself meet the situation unless that axiomatic measure of plain justice is accompanied by the open door to Palestine and full international recognition of Zionist constructive achievements."