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CONFISCATED JEWISH PROPERTY IN RUMANIA STILL MANAGED BY GOVERNMENT OFFICE

SOFIA, Sept. 25. (JTA) -- The Bucharest radio today announced that "Rumanized" Jewish property which has not been leased to Rumanians, or has no Rumanian tenants, will be turned over by the "Rumanization authorities" to house Jewish refugees until the question of restitution of confiscated Jewish possessions is settled.

The Sofia radio today carried a broadcast in Hebrew and in English repeating the official announcement of the Bulgarian Government that all anti-Jewish laws in Bulgaria have been abolished and the new regime will take "a positive attitude" towards the question of establishing a Jewish state in Palestine.

PARIS JEWS ROBBED OF PROPERTY WORTH TEN BILLION FRANCS, JEWISH LEADER ESTIMATES

PARIS, Sept. 25. (JTA) -- Jews in Paris have been robbed of property worth at least 10,000,000,000 francs in addition to household articles and furniture taken away from them during the German occupation, it was estimated here today by Avrom Alperin, president of the Jewish Unity Committee.

Chief Rabbi Julian Weill of Paris, told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency correspondent today that the world-famous library of the Alliance Israelite was removed from Paris immediately after the German occupation of the French capital. Rabbi Weill believes that the library, containing 50,000 rare books and manuscripts and other historical material on Jews, may be intact in the Institute for Jewish Research which the Nazis established in Frankfurt.

German Jews who managed to elude the Gestapo in Paris throughout the German occupation are now considered by the French authorities as enemy aliens and some of them have been interned in the Drancy camp where collaborationists are being held. The French authorities are ignoring, for the time being, the fact that these Jews have long been deprived of their German citizenship and are now stateless.

Maurice Brenner, a representative of the Joint Distribution Committee in Paris, who, using a false passport, conducted relief work for the Jews in France during the German occupation, today told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency correspondent how he travelled all over France supplying Jewish underground relief groups with funds which he received from the J.D.C. through Switzerland. He estimated that while the Vichy-established Union-Generale de Juifs de France gave relief to about 20,000 Jews, the J.D.C. rendered aid to more than 70,000 Jews in occupied France. In the early months of the occupation, there were sixty thousand Jews in Paris who needed relief, later their number dwindled to thirty thousand, and today there are about 12,000 who need full assistance while, another 12,000 need partial assistance, Mr. Brenner said.

One of the pressing problems is securing the return of 8,000 Jewish children scattered in homes throughout the countryside to prevent their deportation. There are also several hundred children in Switzerland where they were sent for safe-keeping.

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CHIEF RABBI OF FRANCE, BELIEVED DEAD, RETURNS FROM HIDING; MARSEILLE JEWS DESTITUTE

MARSEILLE, Sept. 25. (JTA) -- Chief Rabbi Issayo Schwartz of France, who disappeared in December, 1943, and who was believed to have been deported by the Germans, succeeded in escaping from the Gestapo and has returned to Lyon after hiding in the mountains for eight months, it was learned here today.

Rabbi Schwartz, who is over 60, had been in ill health even before he was seized by the Germans. He is reported to have arrived in Lyon in a complete state of exhaustion and hardly recognizable as a result of his ragged appearance and the fact that he shaved off his beard in order to protect himself while a fugitive.

Jewish defense leaders here report today that as many as 15,000 Jews may have escaped the Nazis in the Marseille area. They told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency correspondent that almost 7,000 Jews, half of whom are foreigners, are definitely known to be in the Bouches-Durhone department, which takes in Marseille. From the information coming into Jewish committee offices in the area they estimated that at least double that number will be found here eventually. There were about 30,000 Jews living in the department prior to the German occupation.

Local Jewish leaders estimate that about 3,000 Jews were deported from the Bouches-Durhone department, while many hundreds fled the district. Relief for the Jews who remained was administered by the "Union of Jews for Resistance and Relief" which was the central organization functioning on a nationwide - although underground - scale throughout France. Head of the Marseille branch was Maxim Crenieux, grandson of Adolphe Crenieux, father of the law granting citizenship to Algerian Jews.

At present this organization is the only functioning Jewish group in Marseille, with the exception of the local branch of the Jewish Consistory, whose head is 82-year-old George David, dean of the Marseille bar. David remained in the city all during the occupation and was relatively unmolested except for an interrogation by the Gestapo last July.

Thousands of Jews Saved by Daring Raid on Vichy Bureau

The Jewish defense group saved the lives of thousands of Jews by a daring raid on the Marseille office of the Vichy-created "Union of Jews of France," during which all records of Jews residing in the department were destroyed, preventing them from falling into the hands of the Gestapo. The raid was made on New Year's eve in 1941 by a band of five armed Jews led by a former Paris journalist whose name must remain secret. In addition to destroying the files they seized several typewriters and mimeographing machines which were used subsequently to turn out underground Jewish anti-Nazi propaganda.

As in the other cities of France, hundreds of Marseille Jews fought in the ranks of the French Forces of the Interior. In addition to these individuals there was a completely separate Jewish unit composed of 60 men and 40 women. In the last day of the battle for Marseille this unit lost five killed and seven wounded. At present there is another Jewish unit in the "Marseille Division" of the FFI which is battling the Germans.

An important job being done by still another Jewish FFI unit is the rounding up of traitors and collaborationists, especially officials who administered the anti-Jewish laws and administrators of confiscated Jewish property. This unit has already recovered Jewish property worth 500,000 francs which is being held by the authorities for the owners.

The Jewish defense group is now housed in the sumptuous quarters of the Vichy commissariat for Jewish Affairs, which was furnished with loot seized from Jewish

homes. In fact, many persons who come there to seek relief recognize valuable objects which were taken from their own homes.

Files of Vichy Commissariat Will Facilitate Return of Jewish Property

When the building was captured the FFI found intact 25 cases containing dossiers on various Jewish businesses and properties. These will be of immeasurable help in restoring property to its rightful owners. A brief study of these files by the JTA correspondent indicated that the Gestapo and its Vichy henchmen had undertaken the expropriation of Jewish property and the destruction of the Jewish community on an amazingly systematic plan.

The hope that the Jews of America will provide the urgently needed relief requirements of the Marseille Jews was voiced by Jewish leaders today. They pointed out that the local Jews, who were mainly small businessmen, and professionals and artisans, are destitute and in no position to resume even a semblance of their pre-war existence, while the refugees here are in even a worse position. They are unable to return to the parts of France from which they fled until transportation facilities are re-established and the government permits free movement.

Many of the Jews are in such a bad physical and mental state as a result of the hardships that they have undergone that even if jobs can be found for them, it is doubtful whether they can fill them until they are rehabilitated.

Another problem facing Jewish groups is the staggering burden of maintaining hundreds of children who were orphaned when their parents were deported. Jewish leaders fear that in coming months their problems will be increased rather than lessened.

JEWISH ORGANIZATIONS PRESENT PLEA FOR SPECIAL RELIEF MEASURES TO UNRRA COUNCIL

MONTREAL, Sept. 25, (JTA) -- A plea for special assistance by the United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration for Jews in liberated and enemy-held territory and for resettlement and repatriation of Jewish refugees who have either been compelled to flee their homes or been forcibly deported, was presented over the week-end to the joint UNRRA committee on Health, Welfare, and Displaced Persons by Saul Hayes, executive director of the Canadian Jewish Congress on behalf of major American and Canadian Jewish organizations.

The groups for which Mr. Hayes spoke were the American Jewish Committee, the American Jewish Conference, World Jewish Congress, Canadian Jewish Congress and Agudas Israel. It is also known that the Joint Distribution Committee approved the proposals, which were drawn up at a meeting of representatives of all the Jewish organizations. At that time it was agreed that a single Jewish program would be submitted by a spokesman jointly chosen by all the groups.

Discussing the repatriation of refugees at a press conference yesterday, Dr. George L. Warren, American chairman of the Committee on Displaced Persons, said that priority in repatriation will be given to groups in internment camps rather than individuals. He cited as an example Poles now in Mexican camps, among whom there are some Jews. He stated that UNRRA will not assist refugees being helped by private relief organizations. Dr. Warren stressed that UNRRA could not force any country to receive its former nationals.

The feeling here, as the session of the UNRRA council prepares to close, is that the meeting dealt successfully with vital Jewish problems including the question of Jewish nationals of enemy countries and recognized, finally, that the problems of the Jews of Europe must be dealt with separately.

J.D.C. SPENDING OVER \$20,000,000 IN 1944, NEW ENGLAND CONFERENCE TOLD

BOSTON, Sept. 25. (JTA) -- By the end of 1944 the Joint Distribution Committee will have appropriated over \$20,000,000 for the year to provide relief, emigration assistance, reconstruction aid and cultural help to hundreds of thousands of victims of war and persecution overseas, it was reported today at a New England conference marking the 30th anniversary of the founding of the agency.

The conference, which met in all-day session at the Copley Plaza Hotel here, was attended by 650 Jewish community leaders from all New England states. An afternoon mass meeting, at which Jerome Kohn, of Hartford, Conn., presided, climaxed the conference. Addressing the meeting were Louis Broido, executive vice-president of Gimbel's, and a member of J.D.C.'s executive committee, and Dr. Frank Kingdon noted educator and commentator.

In his address, Mr. Broido said that the more than \$20,000,000 J.D.C. is allotting for 1944 represents its largest annual appropriation and will bring to over \$150,000,000 the amount spent by the agency "since it was founded 30 years ago to meet the emergency of the first World War." The reasons for the "all-time high 1944 figure," he said, "are the possibilities for help in new areas opened up by Allied victories and opportunities for large-scale rescue of Jews from Europe." The conference was greeted by Governor Leverett Saltonstall of Massachusetts.

CREATION OF "JEWISH PEOPLE'S RESTORATION FUND" WITH PROPERTY OF MURDERED JEWS URGED

NEWARK, N. J., Sept. 25. (JTA) -- Urging that the property of the Jews slain by the Nazis should be used for the relief, rehabilitation and resettlement in Palestine of Jews who have survived, Rudolf Sonneborn, New York industrialist and chairman of the National Council of the United Palestine Appeal, proposed yesterday the creation under the auspices of the United Nations of "the Jewish People's Restoration Fund" and suggested that an immediate advance of \$500,000,000 on account of that Fund should be made by the American-British-Russian Governments, with the bulk of it being used for the transfer of half a million Jews to Palestine within a maximum time period of the next three years.

Mr. Sonneborn's proposal was heard by over 700 leaders of Jewish communities throughout New Jersey attending an emergency conference of the United Palestine Appeal at the Essex House in Newark to consider measures to speed the rebuilding of Palestine at the end of the war. Speakers included Dr. James G. Heller, of Cincinnati, national chairman of the U.I.A., Pierre van Paassen, writer and correspondent and Joel Gross, Newark, chairman of the conference.

One of the resolutions adopted by the conference called upon the participants in the Dumbarton Oaks conference to scrap the 1939 British White Paper on Palestine, which would bar further Jewish immigration there. The British White Paper was branded as "legally, morally and humanly indefensible." At the same time the conference adopted a resolution praising the British Government for forming a Jewish Brigade as urged by the Jewish Agency for Palestine.

DR. ISRAEL KLIGLER BURIED ON MOUNT OF OLIVES; NOTABLES ATTEND FUNERAL

JERUSALEM, Sept. 25. (JTA) -- Dr. Israel J. Kligler, American head of the Hebrew University's Department of Bacteriology and Hygiene, was buried today on the Mount of Olives following impressive funeral services and an eulogy delivered by Dr. Judah L. Magnes, president of the university. Hundreds of persons, including American Consul-General Lowell C. Pinkerton, the Polish consul, members of the faculty of the Hebrew University and representatives of all Jewish institutions and scientific groups, attended the funeral. Dr. Kligler died suddenly Saturday night from a heart attack.