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JEWS IN FRANCE HOLD FIRST NATIONAL CONFERENCE SINCE LIBERATION; DISCUSS RELIEF NEEDS

PARIS, Dec. 15. (JTA) -- The first national conference of Jews in France since its liberation opened here today with 150 delegates representing twenty-six regional committees of the General Committee for Defense and Aid to Jews.

The conference, after reviewing the work of Jewish defense and relief under the occupation and since the liberation of the country, will study the present plight of the Jews in France and will seek to work out a concerted program for rehabilitation and reconstruction.

In the regional reports which were read at today's session there were numerous references and tributes to the kindness and sympathy displayed by Jewish soldiers of the American and other Allied armies. Reviewing the activities of the organization since its inception in 1943, Secretary General Adamitz announced that the committee had sent a memorandum to the Council of National Resistance describing the Jewish role in the resistance movement and requesting formal affiliation. The committee, he said, is also gathering material on the persecution of Jews during the period of German occupation, in order to publish a record of Jewish martyrdom.

Reviewing the present situation, Adamitz told the conference, "The Jews who remain in France saved their lives, but are ruined." He reported that 30,000 Jews are registered with the committee for relief. The Jewish masses are not only impoverished, he said, but are homeless, since they are unable to repossess their former homes. He urged the French Government to consider this fact.

The speaker described the special service established by the committee to help Jews find homes and recover their property. He warned of the continued need to fight anti-Semitism and charged that fifth-column elements are seeking to block the restoration of Jewish rights. The fate of the Jews in France is bound up with the fate of democracy here, he said and appealed to the Jews to make the utmost contribution to a speedy victory.

PALESTINE JEWS DISAPPOINTED IN THE UNITED STATES; CRITICIZE AMERICAN ZIONISTS

JERUSALEM, Dec. 15. (JTA) -- Disappointment at the deferment of the Palestine Resolution by the Senate Foreign Relations Committee is expressed in the Jewish press here. The newspapers charge American Zionists with "inspiring false hopes" by creating the impression that "big political achievements" were soon to be expected.

All the papers emphasize that whatever the reasons for the deferment of the resolution by the Senate committee, and for it being blocked in the House Rules Committee, the fact remains that American policy with regard to Palestine has undergone a change from October to December, and that there has similarly been a change of heart among American leaders.

12/15/44

JEWISH MEMBER OF CZECHOSLOVAKIAN GOVERNMENT DELEGATION ARRIVES IN MOSCOW.

MOSCOW, Dec. 15. (JTA) -- Dr. A. Rosenberg, a member of the Czechoslovak Government delegation to the liberated areas of Czechoslovakia, who is charged with studying conditions of the Jews in those areas, arrived here today en route to the liberated sections of his country.

Dr. Rosenberg will travel from Moscow to Czech territory via Lublin and will receive the full cooperation of the Polish Committee for National Liberation which informed the Czechoslovak Government that a number of Czech Jews who were deported by the Germans to Poland are now registered with the Jewish relief committee in Lublin. The Jewish member of the Czechoslovak Government delegation expects to meet with the Czech Jews in Lublin and, if possible, arrange for them to return home.

A conference between Dr. Rosenberg and leaders of the Jewish Anti-Fascist Committee took place here today at which the latter expressed its readiness to co-operate with Jews in liberated Czechoslovakia in various aspects of Jewish life. The Jewish Anti-Fascist Committee also appointed Dr. Rosenberg a member of the editorial board of the "Black Book" which is now being prepared by the committee in Moscow. It contains documents on German extermination of Jews in occupied territories.

UNRRA WILL INCLUDE JEWS IN ALL UNITS SENT TO AREAS WITH JEWISH POPULATION

LONDON, Dec. 15. (JTA) -- Jews will be included in all UNRRA units sent to areas where large numbers of Jews in need of relief reside, Herbert H. Lehman, director-general of the United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration, said today. Attempts will be made to provide kosher food for Jewish needy and to dispatch workers who can assist in the reconstruction of communal life, Mr. Lehman added.

Receiving H. A. Goodman, a leader of the Agudas Israel, Mr. Lehman said that UNRRA intends sending units to Poland and Czechoslovakia as soon as visas are received from the Russian Government. He disclosed that both the Polish Committee of National Liberation in Lublin and the Polish Government-in-Exile in London have requested UNRRA to send assistance to Poland.

The UNRRA director-general said that it was impossible to form a council of voluntary relief organizations, to work with UNRRA, but that proposals of all responsible organizations would receive consideration.

GERMANS STERILIZED THOUSANDS OF GREEK JEWS BEFORE DEPORTING THEM TO POLAND

CAIRO, Dec. 15. (JTA) -- The Germans sterilized thousands of Greek Jews, including women and children, before deporting them to Poland, it is reported here. A Prof. Conrad Eichenlab was sent from Berlin to supervise the sterilizations. He is accused of brutally mistreating his victims.

HENRIETTA SZOLD GRAVELY ILL; SUFFERING FROM PNEUMONIA AND PLEURISY

JERUSALEM, Dec. 15. (JTA) -- Grave fears were expressed here today concerning the condition of Henrietta Szold, 84-year-old founder of Hadassah and pioneer Palestine social worker. Miss Szold is suffering from pneumonia and pleurisy. For the past two days there have been slight changes in her condition, but no definite improvement.

SITUATION OF JEWS IN CHILE "GOOD," SAYS JEWISH MEMBER OF CHILEAN PARLIAMENT

NEW YORK, Dec. 15. (JTA) -- The situation of the 25,000 Jews in Chile is "good" and the bulk of the Jewish community, including 13,000 post-Hitler refugees, are a constructive force within the nation's economy, Dr. Natalio Berman, a member of the Chilean Chamber of Deputies, told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency today.

Dr. Berman said that Jewish groups of all political and social shadings are represented in the Representative Committee of Chilean Jews, which carries on both philanthropic and civic protective activities. It also represents the Jews in all dealings with the government.

Attempts by fascist groups to spread anti-Semitism in Chile have failed, said Dr. Berman, who represents the unified Communist-Socialist Party in Congress, where he is completing his second four-year term. As an indication of the lack of anti-Semitism in Chile, Dr. Berman pointed to the fact that his constituency is completely non-Jewish.

Dr. Berman represented the Jews of Chile and Bolivia at the Atlantic City conference of the World Jewish Congress. On a recent visit to Bolivia, where the position of the Jews was very uncertain following the revolution of last year, Dr. Berman said that he found that the situation of the Jews has improved greatly.

TWELVE MEMBERS OF SENATE FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE FAVOR PALESTINE RESOLUTION

WASHINGTON, Dec. 15. (JTA) -- Twelve members of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, seven Democrats and five Republicans, which earlier this week postponed action on the Palestine Resolution at the request of the State Department, today made public a joint statement recording their personal approval of the resolution.

The twelve Senators constitute two-thirds of the total of 18 members of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee who actively participated in consideration of the Palestine Resolution. Their statement reads: "Although the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, at the request of the State Department, postponed action for the time being on the Palestine Resolution, we wish to record our own personal approval of the resolution which calls for the free entry of Jews into Palestine and full opportunity for colonization, so that the Jewish people may as soon as practicable reconstitute Palestine as a free and democratic Commonwealth."

The Senators are: Joseph F. Guffey, Pennsylvania; Claude Pepper, Florida; Bennett Champ Clark, Missouri; Elbert D. Thomas, Utah; James E. Murray, Montana; James M. Tamm, Delaware, and Robert R. Reynolds, North Carolina, Democrats; Senators Robert M. La Follette, Jr., Wisconsin, Progressive; Arthur Capper, Kansas; Gerald P. Nye, North Dakota; Henrik Shipstead, Minnesota, and James J. Davis, Pennsylvania, Republicans.

JOSEPH UTKIN, SOVIET SOLDIER POET, KILLED IN AIRPLANE CRASH

MOSCOW, Dec. 15. (JTA) -- Joseph Utkin, a prominent Soviet Jewish poet, who had seen active service in the Civil War and in the present conflict has been killed in an airplane crash, it was learned here today. He was 41.

In 1920, when he was 17, Utkin joined the Red Army and participated in many battles during the period of the intervention. He first attracted attention with several poems which had this period as their theme. When the Germans invaded the Soviet Union in 1941, Utkin joined the Red Army and was cited for gallantry in action, during which he lost his right hand.

SENATE HEARS PLEA THAT GERMAN ATROCITIES AGAINST JEWS BE CONSIDERED AS WAR CRIMES

WASHINGTON, Dec. 15. (JTA) -- A joint declaration by the United Nations proclaiming that crimes committed against Jews in Europe will be punishable as war crimes was demanded today by Senator Guy M. Gillette, Iowa Democrat.

In a speech prepared for delivery on the floor of the Senate, Gillette asked that the governments of the United Nations instruct their representatives on the war Crimes Commission that such was the case irrespective of the territory on which the crime was committed, and irrespective of the citizenship or its lack at the time of the victims death.

"Reports emanating from German-occupied Europe make it evident that Germany's campaign of mass murder against the Hebrew people is still continuing unabated," Gillette said. He emphasized that there are still approximately a million and one-half Jews in slave labor battalions, in concentration camps, and in other areas in German-occupied territories. "Unless some new and drastic measures be undertaken by our government and the other governments of the United Nations, even these survivors will be slaughtered by the Germans," he declared.

J.D.C. FORMS HEALTH COMMITTEE TO DEAL WITH POST-WAR NEEDS OF JEWS IN EUROPE

NEW YORK, Dec. 15. (JTA) -- The American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee, aligning itself with governmental, intergovernmental and voluntary agencies in preparing for the post-war health needs of Europe's war victims, announced today the formation of the Committee on Health, Nutrition and Medical Service.

Dr. Jacob J. Golub, Director of the Hospital for Joint Diseases, was named chairman. Dr. Golub, who has been on the J.D.C. executive committee for many years, was a member of a Health Commission with similar objectives which J.D.C. sent abroad after the last war.

Emphasizing J.D.C.'s policy of utilizing local resources in its work, Mr. Joseph Hyman, executive vice-chairman, pointed out that, just as after the last war, the Joint Distribution Committee will work with the Ose, a Jewish organization which has a history of effective operation in the medical and child care field, especially in Eastern Europe.

DAVID SCHWEITZER, HIAS-ICA REPRESENTATIVE, LEAVES PALESTINE; LAUDS JEWISH AGENCY

JERUSALEM, Dec. 15. (JTA) -- David Schweitzer, representative of the Hias-Ica Emigration Association, left here today by plane for London. He spent the last eleven months in Turkey and Palestine in connection with emigration activities. Before departing, he told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency that he was gratified at the harmonious relations which have been established between the Jewish Agency and the Association.

SIR LEONARD BENJAMIN, BRITISH BANKER AND PHILANTHROPIST, DIES; WAS 82

LONDON, Dec. 15. (JTA) -- Sir Leonard Benjamin, 82, Jewish banker and philanthropist, died here today. He was closely identified with Jewish social work. Sir Leonard was a former member of Parliament, and was a member of the Order of the British Empire. He was decorated by the Belgian Government for his activities in behalf of Belgian refugee children in the last war.