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TRANSPORT OF JEWISH ORPHANS LEAVES RUMANIA FOR RUSSIA; WILL BE REARED IN ODESSA

BUCHAREST, Dec. 17. (JTA) -- A transport of 520 Jewish orphans who were found in Transnistria when that territory was liberated by the Russian Army and who have been living in Bucharest for about six months, today left for Odessa where they will be raised in special children's homes.

At a farewell party given to the children, General Sergei Vinogradov, chief of the Russian Armistice Commission, delivered a speech in which he discussed the tragedy of the children whose parents were massacred by the Germans and by the pro-Nazi Rumanian administration in Transnistria. "I can assure you that the children will be free and happy citizens in our country and that they will grow to become scholars, workers and fighters of the Soviet Union," he said.

The Communist newspaper Rumania Libre today carries an article attacking the government's failure to take practical steps to restore to Jews the rights which were guaranteed them in the armistice signed with the Allies. As yet, goods seized from Jews by the previous regime have not been restored, the paper says, and ousted Jewish employees have not been reinstated. Expropriated Jewish businesses are still in the hands of persons to whom they were given or sold by the Antonescu Government, the article also points out.

RUSSIA WILL SUPPORT JEWISH INDEPENDENCE IN PALESTINE, SOVIET OFFICIAL DECLARES

TEL AVIV, Dec. 17. (JTA) -- The Russian press attache in Teheran, M. Baronav, speaking to a delegation of the Palestine Victory League, assured them that Russia will support Jewish independence in Palestine. He indicated that the Palestine question will be included in the discussions on Middle East problems which the United Nations must solve.

The delegation of the Victory League, returning to Palestine from Teheran where it delivered a transport of gifts for the Red Army, reported at a press conference here today that the Soviet authorities also extended an invitation to the Jews of Palestine to send a delegation to Minsk, capital of Byelorussia, to establish Jewish orphanages there for children of war dead. Prof. Barian, chief representative of the Russian Red Cross in the Middle East, who transmitted the invitation, also stated that a Russian medical delegation, which he will head, will soon visit Palestine to study the Jewish medical institutions.

The delegation was also told by Russian representatives in Teheran that the Soviet Government will have sixteen delegations at the peace conference, representing individual Soviet Republics, and that these delegations will all fight against the mandatory system. The Russian representatives in Iran all stressed Russia's appreciation of the fact that the Jewish people in Palestine is progressive and opposes fascist plans, members of the delegation told the press conference.

JEWS IN NORTHERN ITALY MANAGED TO ESCAPE NAZI DEPORTATION; MANY HIDING IN HILLS

ROME, Dec. 17. (JTA) -- A surprisingly large number of Jews in the recently liberated towns in northern Italy escaped death and deportation, and are now engaged in rebuilding their communal life, it was reported here today by Reuben Resnik, representative of the Joint Distribution Committee who just returned from a tour of the battlefield areas.

With the cooperation of the Allied Military Government, and carrying with him 1,500,000 liras in cash, Resnik visited four key centers for the purpose of re-establishing Jewish charitable and welfare activities, as well as reviving Jewish religious institutions.

In Leghorn, formerly one of the most important centers of Italian Jewish culture, he found 900 Jews of the 1,300 who lived there before the German retreat. Hundreds of others escaped the Germans and are reported to be hiding in the hills and in the nearby villages.

Leghorn's famous synagogue, one of the oldest and most beautiful in Europe, was destroyed, but the priceless antiquities were saved from German hands. Twenty-six cases of these antiquities were hidden in the hills and are now being brought back to Leghorn. A community kitchen feeding several hundred school children and a Jewish home for aged are already functioning.

In Pisa, where formerly only ninety Jews resided, there are now 300 Jews, including stateless scientists and scholars who sought refuge in Pisa because the university there offered them protection. Resnik also found 360 Jews in Lucca. In Viareggio he found about 100 destitute Jews. They formed a community committee while shells still crashed into town and they are now operating a children's school and a community kitchen.

BOARD OF DEPUTIES SUBMITTING PALESTINE MEMORANDUM TO COLONIAL OFFICE

LONDON, Dec. 17. (JTA) -- The memorandum on Palestine prepared by the Board of Deputies of British Jews will shortly be presented to the Colonial Office, it was announced today at a meeting of the deputies. At the same time, the Board's memorandum on foreign affairs will be submitted to the Foreign Office.

Presenting a report of the Board's Foreign Committee, Samson Wright said that it was considering means of strengthening the ties between Soviet and English Jews. He suggested that an English Jewish delegation be sent to Russia, while a Soviet Jewish delegation come here. Mr. Wright disclosed that the Board has submitted a memorandum to the Foreign Office on the situation of the Jews in Bulgaria and the German Jews in Belgium.

1,000 YUGOSLAV JEWS RETURNED HOME FROM CAMPS IN ITALY AT TITO'S REQUEST

ROME, Dec. 17. (JTA) -- Approximately 1,000 Jews are among 5,000 to 6,000 Yugoslavs who have recently been returned from relief camps in Italy to their homeland at the request of Marshal Tito.

Stateless persons and refugees from Germany, Poland, Czechoslovakia and northern Italy will be placed in the camps vacated by the Yugoslavs. Maximum use will probably be made of the camps only after the liberation of northern Italy. At present, only a few stateless persons are being moved there from camps in central Italy.

COUNCIL OF JEWISH FEDERATIONS AND WELFARE FUNDS WILL ASSEMBLE IN CINCINNATI

NEW YORK, Dec. 17. (JTA) -- The 12th annual General Assembly of the Council of Jewish Federations and Welfare Funds, which is the national association of the organized Jewish communities in the United States and Canada, will be held at the Netherland-Plaza Hotel in Cincinnati on February 9-12, bringing together the leadership of Jewish federations, welfare funds and community councils throughout the United States and Canada. Announcement of the plans for the Assembly was made today by Sidney Hollander, president of the Council.

Representatives of the Council's 261 member agencies will discuss and formulate plans for adequate machinery to meet wartime and post-war needs both here and abroad. The major problems to be considered at Assembly sessions include: the financing of overseas, national, and local operating and capital requirements in 1945; planning for individual and family needs of both civilians and veterans in the war and post-war periods; year-round programs for combatting anti-Semitism; budgeting problems; and development of broader community participation and understanding.

The 1945 General Assembly, Mr. Hollander stated, comes at a significant period for American Jewish community organizations, all of which are operating under the pressures of war-created problems. With the end of the European war and fascist oppression of minority peoples in prospect, long-term planning of relief and rehabilitation is now foremost in the minds of American Jews. These problems are a grave concern of American Jewish communities and will feature the agenda of the Assembly.

U.S. JEWISH POPULATION WAS 5,199,000 IN 1943; INCREASED DURING LAST SIX YEARS

PHILADELPHIA, Dec. 17. (JTA) -- In the six years ending June 30, 1943, the Jewish population of the United States rose to 5,199,000, representing an increase of 428,344, the 46th volume of The American Jewish Year Book, issued yesterday, discloses. The ratio of the Jewish to the general population in 1943 is estimated at 3.7 percent. In 1937 it was also 3.7 percent.

The Year Book, the current issue of which is dated 5705, or 1944-45, is the standard reference work of facts and figures of Jewish life throughout the world, with emphasis on the American Jewish community. Edited by Harry Schneiderman for the American Jewish Committee, of which he is assistant secretary, and compiled by the Committee's research staff, the Year Book is published and distributed by the Jewish Publication Society of America.

The breakdown of the rise in Jewish population from 1937 to 1943 shows an estimated natural increase of 279,000 and a net increase from immigration to this country of 149,344. The estimated Jewish population, the Year Book points out, is "derived from reports submitted by the various congregations and local communal leaders and, in some communities, through actual enumeration," an enumeration supplemented by research.

Declaring that "there is hardly a Jewish family that is not represented among our gallant American men and women fighting in the onward march to victory," Louis Kraft, executive director of the Jewish Welfare Board, writing on Jews in the armed forces, reveals that more than 2800 Jewish boys received decorations for bravery in action in the period under review. Thirty of them won ten awards or more each, for a total of 345 decorations. The Year Book records the names of these heroes. Mr. Kraft reports also that during the High Holy Days of 1943 an estimated 335,000 servicemen attended religious services in all parts of the world.

RUSSIAN JEWISH LEADERS SEND BIRTHDAY CONGRATULATIONS TO WEIZMANN

NEW YORK, Dec. 17. (JTA) -- Birthday greetings to Dr. Chaim Weizmann have been received here from Prof. Solomon Mikhoels and Itzik Feffer, leaders of the Jewish Anti-Fascist Committee in Moscow, it was announced today by the committee organized to celebrate Dr. Weizmann's birthday. The message from Mikhoels and Feffer, who toured the United States last year as representatives of the Jews of the USSR, says:

"We cordially congratulate you on your seventieth anniversary. It is being marked in these days of heavy trials for our people but also in days when on the sky of our long suffering people have appeared rays of victory over the treacherous enemy. We have a right to say with pride that the Jewish people has not wavered in the minutes of mortal danger but united its forces in the struggle against the enemy. The traditions of the Maccabees and of Bar Kokhba have come to live with new force in the ranks of our finest sons and daughters.

"United with all freedom-loving nations and our destiny linked with the destiny of progressive mankind, with the heroic Red Army and the armies of Great Britain and the United States, we courageously look forward to the time when in the family of the free nations Jews of the whole world will attain to a happy, creative and free life. We wish you many years of health and fruitful activity."

ENGLISH JEWS MOURN PHILIP GUEDALLA; NOTED HISTORIAN AND AUTHOR WAS ACTIVE ZIONIST

LONDON, Dec. 17. (JTA) -- The Board of Deputies of British Jews today paid tribute to Philip Guedalla, historian, biographer and essayist, who died yesterday at the age of 55. Dr. Israel Feldman, acting president of the Board, described Guedalla as "a great author, a distinguished member of the Jewish community, and a Zionist who had to his credit great work for the Zionist cause in past years."

Educated at Rugby and Oxford, Guedalla became a barrister in 1913 and practiced law for ten years. During the last war he served on several government boards. He ran for Parliament several times after the war but was never elected. About 1923 he abandoned the practice of law to devote all his time to historical writings, which soon won him great repute. He was the author of numerous works on modern European history, especially the Napoleonic period.

Guedalla's father was one of the early Zionists, and he followed in his footsteps. From 1924 to 1929 he was president of the British Zionist Federation. He was also active in non-Zionist Jewish activities and was at one time president of the Jewish Historical Society.

PALESTINE ARCHAEOLOGISTS BEGIN EXCAVATING ANCIENT CITY; DIGGING FINANCED BY HISTADRUTH

TEL AVIV, Dec. 17. (JTA) -- The Palestine Exploration Society, headed by Dr. Benjamin Meissels, today began excavations at the site of ancient Beth Yerach, which is situated near where the River Jordan flows into the Kinnereth.

Beth Yerach is mentioned in the Bible on many occasions. It was midpoint on the caravan route between Egypt and Mesopotamia and had a large population in the third century, and, perhaps, earlier. It was abandoned for unknown reasons and resettled in the period of the second Temple.

The excavations are being financed by the Histadruth in honor of Berl Katznelson, late labor leader and editor. Katznelson's widow, David Remez, secretary general of the Histadruth, and other leaders of the labor federations were present when excavations were started.