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### BULGARIAN CABINET APPROVES LAW RETURNING JEWISH PROPERTY; ANTI-SEMITES ON TRIAL

SOFIA, Jan. 8. (JTA) — The Bulgarian Cabinet has approved a law providing for the return of certain categories of property seized from Jews by the former Nazi-dominated government, it was announced here today.

The law, a draft of which was made public on Dec. 27, contains the following provisions:

1. Sales of Jewish property to a third person by former governments or by individuals to whom it was assigned are declared invalid and the property reverts to the owners. The government will compensate the purchasers for losses suffered by them, if the property was purchased directly from it.
2. Simulated sales of Jewish property during the period of Nazi-domination, which were made to avoid confiscation, are considered lawful and the present status quo will not be disturbed.
3. Agricultural holdings will be returned to Jews only if they personally cultivated the land prior to its confiscation.
4. Pharmacies taken from Jewish owners will be returned to them.

The new law, as well as various problems facing Bulgarian Jews, were discussed at a two-day conference of the Central Jewish Committee and the Jewish Consistory which opened here yesterday. Revival of Jewish community life, plans for expansion of the Consistory's activities, and the general political situation insofar as it affects Jews were debated.

### Former Ministers Charged with Sanctioning Murder of Jews

At the trial of pro-Nazi and collaborationist cabinet ministers which is now proceeding here, the prosecution today charged that all of the defendants shared responsibility for the murder of thousands of Jews. Among their other crimes, the former officials are accused of ill-treating, robbing and persecuting Jews and delivering 20,000 Jews in Thrace and Macedonia to the Germans for execution in Polish death camps.

Replying to a question by the prosecutor as to why they had consented to persecution of the Jews, the accused replied that they opposed mistreatment of Jews, but did not have sufficient influence to prevent anti-Semitic measures. Christo Petroff, a member of the pro-German Boylov Government, added that he did not know that Jews were being massacred in Germany, and if he had known, he would have resigned immediately. The court rejected his explanation.

Many of the principal defendants are in the hands of the Russian authorities, who have promised to send them to Sofia shortly. Among them are Peter Gabrovski, who, as Minister of the Interior, introduced the first anti-Jewish measures, and Bogdan Filoff, a former premier, whose government actively persecuted Jews.

CENTRAL JEWISH COMMITTEE HEADED BY SOMMERSTEIN NAMED REPRESENTATIVE OF POLISH JEWS

LONDON, Jan. 8. (JTA) — The Central Committee of Polish Jews, which is headed by Dr. Emil Sommerstein, a member of the pre-war Polish parliament and Zionist leader, will act as the representative of all Jews in Poland, it was announced today over the Lublin radio. The committee consists of representatives of the Zionists, the Jewish Socialist Bund, the Workers Party and independents.

The broadcast said that the committee, in collaboration with the Association of Jewish Writers, will establish a "historical commission" to investigate war crimes against Jews. It also plans to set up a Jewish press agency, a Jewish publishing house and a commission to arrange for Yiddish radio broadcasts.

A pledge that there will be "no place in the revived democratic Poland for anti-Semitism" has been given by Gen. Michal Rola-Zymerski, Minister of National Defense in the new Provisional Government, in a letter to the Association of Jewish Partisans. The Lublin radio also said.

"All the nations of Europe have suffered martyrdom at the hands of the Hitler barbarians," Gen. Rola-Zymerski stated, "but none has suffered more than you. Jewish partisans groups, as well as the heroic defenders of the Warsaw and Bialystok ghettos, have contributed greatly to the idea of humanity battling for freedom. The Jewish nation can be proud of these partisans. There will be no place in the revived democratic Poland for anti-Semitism. The manifesto of the Committee of National Liberation guaranteed equal rights for all citizens of the Polish Republic. The Polish Army guards these rights with its arms."

NOTED PALESTINE ATTORNEY WILL DEFEND MOYNE ASSASSINS; TRIAL OPENS TOMORROW

JERUSALEM, Jan. 8. (JTA) — Asher Levitsky, noted Palestine attorney, is leaving here today for Cairo to join the defense staff of Ephraim Ben-Zuri and Eliahu Khakim, the two Jewish terrorists who go on trial Wednesday for the assassination of Lord Moyne last November 6. Levitsky defended Abraham Raichlin one of the defendants in the arms trial of Sept. 1943 which marked the beginning of the present British drive against arms bearing by Jews.

Meanwhile, it was announced today that the General Officer Commanding in Palestine has confirmed the verdict of the military court which convicted 23-year-old Abraham Eisenberg of illegal possession of arms, but has reduced his sentence from ten years imprisonment to five years "with special treatment." At his trial, Eisenberg, who is not a member of any terrorist organization, denied ownership of the arms.

Mordechai Korngold, 17-year-old member of the Revisionist orthodox youth organization, who was kidnapped from his home here last week, returned last night. He reported that he was blindfolded and taken by car from the place where he had been held captive to an isolated spot about 12 miles from Tel Aviv where he was released and given fare to get him back to Jerusalem.

RUMANIAN JEWS WILL OBSERVE FAST DAY IN MEMORY OF IRON GUARD VICTIMS

BUCHAREST, Jan. 8. (JTA) — The Rumanian rabbinate today proclaimed a day of fasting and prayers for Jan. 21, the fourth anniversary of the murder of 300 Jews during a pogrom begun by members of the Iron Guard.

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PALESTINE HOUSING SHORTAGE LEADS TO "INVASION" OF VACANT PREMISES BY HOMELESS REFUGEES

JERUSALEM, Jan. 8. (JTA) -- Palestine's housing shortage, which has been made more acute by the arrival of hundreds of immigrants in recent months, has led groups of homeless persons to "invade" unoccupied houses or apartments.

A number of refugees newly arrived from the Balkans, and unable to find even temporary shelter, broke into the vacated building of an insane asylum at Bnei Brak, and into several private homes at Nathanya. In the latter colony, a group of Yemenite refugees yesterday "invaded" the villa of Dr. Bernard Joseph, legal advisor of the Jewish Agency, who is now in the United States.

AMERICAN JEWISH PUBLISHERS ASSOCIATION MEETS IN CHICAGO; REP. BLOOM LAUDS WEEKLIES

CHICAGO, Jan. 8. (JTA) -- Establishment of a "Jewish Press Week" was urged here yesterday in a resolution adopted at the concluding session of a two-day convention of the American Association of English-Jewish Newspapers. The editors and publishers attending also urged that conflicting Zionist groups settle their differences.

The Association, which was established informally at a meeting in Indianapolis last year, was officially set up at the convention. Philip Slomovitz of the Detroit Jewish News was elected president. Other officers are, Irving Rhodes of the Wisconsin Jewish Chronicle, first vice-president; Robert Gamzey of the Inter-Mountain Jewish News, Denver, second vice-president; Jack Fishbein of the Chicago Jewish Sentinel, secretary; and Leo Frisch of the American Jewish World, Minneapolis, treasurer. On the executive board, in addition to the officers, are Samuel Schmidt of Every Friday, Cincinnati; Albert Golomb of the American Jewish Outlook, Pittsburgh; Dr. Joseph Brin of the Jewish Advocate, Boston; and Lewis Solomon of the Southwestern Jewish Press, San Diego.

The delegates attended the 35th anniversary celebration of the Chicago Jewish Sentinel at the Hotel Sherman here. Addressing the meeting, Rep. Sol Bloom of New York declared that "the Jewish community weekly is as important to the Jewish home as a trade paper is to a business enterprise." The convention decided on an expanded program for the coming year, with chief emphasis on raising of editorial and business standards.

FIRST MEETING OF JEWISH RELIGIOUS YOUTH SINCE LIBERATION HELD IN LYON

LYON, Jan. 8. (JTA) -- Fifty-five delegates from Paris, Marseille, Toulouse, Lyon and other cities met here over the week-end at the first conference of Jewish religious youth of France held since its liberation.

The meeting voted to submit to the British ambassador in Paris an appeal for the admission into Palestine of all French Jewish orphans, and thanked the Joint Distribution Committee for its work in France.

PHILADELPHIA HOLDS CEREMONIES MARKING 160TH ANNIVERSARY OF HAYM SALOMON'S DEATH

PHILADELPHIA, Jan. 8. (JTA) -- Haym Salomon, Jewish patriot who helped finance the Revolutionary War, was honored by the city of Philadelphia yesterday on the occasion of the 160th anniversary of his death. Patriotic, historical, fraternal and veterans groups participated in ceremonies held in the Mikvah Israel cemetery here.

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AMERICAN RED CROSS STOPS TRANSMITTING VISA MESSAGES TO REFUGEES IN ENEMY TERRITORY

WASHINGTON, Jan. 8. (JTA) -- The American Red Cross will no longer transmit messages concerning visa petitions or Palestine immigration certificates to persons in enemy or enemy-held territory, it was announced last night.

A spokesman for the Red Cross said that the service was being discontinued at the request of the Office of Censorship, which feels that transmission of such messages is not practicable at present.

\$350,000 BUDGET ADOPTED BY AMERICAN OSE; PLANS HEALTH FACILITIES FOR LIBERATED EUROPE

NEW YORK, Jan. 8. (JTA) -- A \$350,000 budget to finance child care and medical activities of the OSE (Jewish Health Union) abroad during 1945 has been adopted by the organization's board of directors, it was announced today by Dr. Israel Wechsler, head of the Neurological department of Mt. Sinai Hospital, who is chairman of the board. The bulk of the funds, which will be supplemented by a grant from the Joint Distribution Committee, will be raised outside the United States.

The primary task of the American OSE during 1945, Dr. Wechsler said, will be the establishment of new health facilities in liberated European territories and continuation and expansion of its child care activities in Europe and Palestine. He revealed that the organization plans to establish several fully-equipped hospitals, children's homes and polyclinics for the Jews in the liberated areas of Poland. These institutions will be operated by the TOZ, the Polish affiliate of the OSE, if conditions permit, or will be turned over to the Jewish communities for local operation. The entire pre-war staff of TOZ has been murdered by the Germans.

Dr. Wechsler also announced that the OSE in Palestine, which started functioning this past year, has begun equipping a sixty-bed tuberculosis sanatorium for children at the colony of Natania. The sanatorium will occupy buildings donated by the Jewish Agency for Palestine and has been established in cooperation with the Parents' Council of the Jewish schools in Tel Aviv.

FRENCH SCHOLARS AND JEWISH LEADERS HONOR PROF. VICTOR BASCH AT MEMORIAL IN PARIS

PARIS, Jan. 8. (JTA) -- An impressive tribute to the late Dr. Victor Basch, Jewish educator and philosopher who was murdered by the Vichy militia, was paid yesterday at a memorial meeting in the Richelieu Amphitheatre of the Sorbonne.

Included in the large audience were members of the Sorbonne faculty, students, representatives of French intellectual life, resistance leaders and leaders of the Jewish community. Chief speaker was Prof. Paul Langevin, Nobel prize-winner who succeeded Prof. Basch as president of the League for the Rights of Man, which fought for many liberal causes and against anti-Semitism before the war. Prof. Gustav Roussy, rector of the University of Paris also spoke. Extracts from Dr. Basch's philosophical and humanitarian writings were read.

Prof. Basch, then 84, was taken from his home last January by members of the Vichy militia, and murdered, together with his wife, in a suburb of Lyon.