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GERMANS SET FIRE TO JEWISH GHETTO IN BUDAPEST; MANY JEWS KILLED AND THROWN INTO DANUBE

BUCHAREST, Jan. 26. (JTA) -- German troops set fire to the Jewish ghetto in Budapest prior to retreating from that part of the city, which is now in the hands of the Russian Army, it was reported here today by a refugee who fled from Budapest less than a week ago.

"Many Jews were burned alive in the flames," the eye-witness related. "Others succeeded in escaping. A considerable number of Jews who attempted to get out of the burning ghetto were killed by the Germans."

At the same time they set the ghetto afire, German soldiers surrounded the houses where Jews who were holders of Swedish, Swiss and Latin American identity documents had been living "under special protection." The Jews were dragged from their houses and machine-gunned. Their bodies were later thrown into the Danube. Many Jews held in Budapest prisons were also killed by the retreating Germans. However, a large number of Jewish prisoners were rescued by the Russian Army, the eye-witness said.

5,000 JEWS FOUND IN LODZ; 5,000 REPORTED RESCUED IN CZENSTOCHOWA; FEW IN WARSAW

MOSCOW, Jan. 26. (JTA) -- Polish Ambassador E. Modzelewski today told the correspondent of the Jewish Telegraphic Agency here that about 5,000 Jews have been liberated in the city of Czenstochowa by the lightning advance of the Russian Army. Most of them were working as slave laborers for the Germans in local engineering works.

It was also reported here today from Lublin that about 5,000 Jews were found in Lodz by the Russian troops. Most of them were Jews brought to Poland from other German-occupied countries.

A handful of Jews dared the German terror and lived among the ruins of Warsaw until the liberation of the city enabled them to emerge, the Polish Ambassador stated. He revealed that in the liberated part of Poland east of the Vistula river - the section liberated by the Russian Army prior to its present offensive - no more than 500 Jewish children were found. The number of the surviving Jewish adults there is now about 20,000, he said. "The Germans made doubly certain that Jewish children were murdered," he added.

The Central Committee of Polish Jews in the USSR today sent a message of greetings to the Provisional Polish Government, assuring it that efforts will be made to help the destitute and the homeless Jews in liberated towns.

Zionist Groups in Liberated Poland Plan to Establish Federation

With more and more Polish territory being liberated by the Red Army, the Central Jewish Committee in Lublin decided to reorganize its activities. The Committee, under the chairmanship of Dr. Emil Sommerstein, is a coalition body composed of representatives of Zionists, Bundists, Democrats and Communists who have an equal number

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of seats in the presidium, in addition to one representative of each of the independent Jewish groups and of the Jewish partisans.

While pre-war Jewish political parties are now being reestablished, the Zionist groups, including the Mizrahi, Poale-Zion and Hashomer Hatzair, are now negotiating for the establishment of a Zionist Federation to represent all the Zionist bodies in liberated Poland. The move to consolidate the Zionist movement has not yet fully crystallized, but all Zionist groups are firmly backing the Polish Provisional Government, are collaborating with the Polish Army and are cooperating in the work of restoring the economic life of the country. At the same time, they are watching developments in Palestine.

The Jewish members of the Polish Workers Communist Party, represented in the Central Jewish Committee by Melech Bitter, have gone on record as advocating a united front of fraternal collaboration with the Jews of Russia, England, the United States and Palestine. Dr. Emil Sommerstein is the recognized leader of the General Zionists in Poland. The Zionist State Party is led by Dr. Feldszhu. The leaders of the Hashomer Hatzair are M. Kosower and Abe Kowner. The Jewish Socialist Bund Party is led by Gregory Jaszunski, a former leader of the Jewish Socialist organization "Zukunft" in Warsaw.

Dr. Michael Szuldenfrei, of Cracow, was today appointed legal adviser of the National Council of Poland. He is one of the Jewish members of this body.

COVENANT OF LEAGUE OF NATIONS CITED TO OPPOSE ESTABLISHMENT OF JEWISH COMMONWEALTH

LONDON, Jan. 26. (JTA) -- Sir John Hope Simpson, who was sent by the British Government to Palestine in 1930 to investigate land and immigration conditions there and who subsequently recommended that Jewish land-buying and immigration be restricted, today voiced opposition to the establishment of a Jewish Commonwealth in Palestine.

Asserting that the Balfour Declaration did not provide for the conversion of the whole of Palestine into a Jewish National Home, Sir John writes in the Spectator, leading British weekly, that the Palestine Mandate must be interpreted in the light of Art. 22 of the Covenant of the League of Nations, which says that the well-being and the development of the peoples in the mandated territories is a sacred trust of civilization.

"By no stretch of interpretation can Article 22 be deemed to justify the replacement of the Arabs by a Jewish population or the erection of a Jewish government in Palestine," Sir John argues. He refers to the Churchill White Paper issued by the British Government in 1922, which interpreted the terms of the Palestine Mandate, and set forth official policy in a manner designed to limit the interpretations which had previously been placed on the Balfour Declaration, and which set up the principle of economic absorptive capacity for the regulation of Jewish immigration into Palestine.

JEWISH LEADER TESTIFIES BEFORE PEOPLES COURT IN BULGARIA ON ANTI-JEWISH ATROCITIES

SOFIA, Jan. 26. (JTA) -- Dr. Israel Kalmi, Bulgarian Jewish leader, today appeared before the Peoples Court to testify concerning the anti-Jewish atrocities committed at the order of members of the deposed pro-Nazi cabinet during the German domination of Bulgaria.

Dr. Kalmi described pogroms in which hundreds of persons were killed and said that conditions at the labor camps to which Jews were sent were "the worst kind of slavery."

JEWIS WILL HAVE VOICE IN PUNISHMENT OF GERMANS GUILTY OF ANTI-JEWISH CRIMES

LONDON, Jan. 26. (JTA) -- Jews will be offered an opportunity to participate in deciding on the punishment for Germans guilty of crimes against the Jewish population, it was stated here today by a prominent British personality whose name cannot be made public. He predicted such offenders will definitely be punished by the Allies.

Asked for an explanation of the reported differences of opinion between the Allied War Crimes Commission and British official circles on the question of whether Nazi crimes against Jews of German and Austrian nationality come under the category of war crimes, the same source emphasized that "these crimes are something quite different than crimes against German nationals in general, and will be dealt with accordingly."

(In Washington, today, Acting Secretary of State Joseph C. Grew announced that Herbert C. Pell will not be returned to London as American member of the United Nations War Crimes Commission. Grew said that Lt. Col. Joseph V. Hodgson, former Attorney General in Hawaii, would replace Pell. It has been reported that Pell was reluctant to return because of British opposition to punishment of crimes against Jews as such.)

COUNCIL OF JEWISH FEDERATIONS HAS TAKEN NO STAND ON NATIONAL BUDGETING, BLAUSTEIN SAYS

NEW YORK, Jan. 26. (JTA) -- Jacob Blaustein, chairman of the Budget Research Committee of the Council of Jewish Federations and Welfare Funds, today declared that the statement issued yesterday by the executive committee of the American Jewish Conference opposing national budgeting is based on misinformation.

The General Assembly of the Council in January 1944, Mr. Blaustein stated, asked that the subject of national budgeting be restudied during the year for a report to the next Assembly. In the process the Budget Research Committee has sounded out the views of the national and overseas agencies, and of the leaders of the larger welfare fund cities. It is now in the process of reviewing its findings and reporting them to the Board of Directors of the Council. Neither the Budget Research Committee nor the officers of the Council have as yet reached any decision or taken any position on the question.

"Premature action by outside bodies is unfortunate," said Mr. Blaustein, "since pending the above study and decision, neither the Council, its Board of Directors, nor the Budget Research Committee is recommending national budgeting, although there is considerable sentiment on the part of welfare fund leaders for a better organized and more systematic method of advising local funds on legitimate agencies and the extent of their needs."

PREPARATION OF A JEWISH STATE IN A PARTITIONED PALESTINE URGED IN LONDON

LONDON, Jan. 26. (JTA) -- Creation of a Middle East Department in the Foreign Office to deal with that area, including Palestine, was advocated today by the Economist, influential British newspaper, "in order to satisfy a crying need for a policy in the Middle East."

Stressing that self-government for Palestine could not be postponed indefinitely, the Economist urged solution of the Palestine problem by the creation of a Greater Syria -- to include the now independent states of Syria and Lebanon, as well as Transjordan and parts of Palestine -- and the establishment of an independent Jewish state from the remainder of Palestine.

"This would not meet in full the Jewish claim for all Palestine, but would give them control over immigration within a larger area than envisaged under various partition schemes," the article says.

