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POLISH JEWS CONVERT SAMARKAND INTO TEXTILE CENTER; WILL NOT RETURN TO POLAND

SAMARKAND, Uzbekistan, Feb. 18 (JTA) -- Jews evacuated from Poland into Central Asia in the early months of the war have converted this ancient and colorful city into a textile manufacturing center which can be compared to the Balut section of Lodz which was populated before the war by thousands of Jewish weavers.

Many of these Jews are professional weavers from Lodz and Bialystok, while others pursued different occupations before the war, or had no skills at all. Today they are working in cooperative textile factories and, according to available information, are producing an average of 40,000 yards of fabrics daily. Some of these weavers have won awards as the best textile workers in the area.

All of the Jewish weavers were happy to hear that their native cities in Poland have been liberated, but none of them are planning to return to their former homes. They have settled in Samarkand for good. In some of the cooperative factories the Jews are training Uzbeks as weavers and are taking them in as full-fledged members of the cooperatives, thus creating friendly relations with the local population.

UNITED JEWISH FRONT AT SAN FRANCISCO CONFERENCE URGED BY BRITISH JEWISH LEADER

LONDON, Feb. 18. (JTA) -- Stressing the importance for Jews of the decisions reached by the Big Three at Yalta, Prof. Selig Brodetsky, president of the Board of Deputies of British Jews, declared today that steps must be taken immediately to ensure that "Jewry will speak as one voice at the forthcoming San Francisco conference, instead of having differences such as those which brought disaster in the past."

In this connection Prof. Brodetsky told a meeting of the deputies that an agreement has been reached between the Board and the American Jewish Conference and the World Jewish Congress, providing for permanent consultation on international Jewish problems. He said that the conference and the congress have already ratified the arrangement and urged that the board do likewise; and expressed the hope that other Jewish bodies would join in the agreement. Following his address, the Foreign Committee of the Board ratified the agreement, which will be presented for final approval to a special meeting of the organization called for that purpose.

Dr. Brodetsky said that steps have been taken to secure the cooperation of Russian Jewry, but asserted that "this is no easy matter." He also disclosed that the board is in touch with the Foreign Office concerning various Jewish aspects of the Bulgarian armistice terms.

The meeting approved a report by the board's Palestine Committee endorsing the statement of the Jewish Agency last week, which took issue with Viscount Cranborne, who had asserted in the House of Lords that Palestine could not at present absorb large numbers of immigrants, and which protested the planned transfer to an UNRRA camp in Algeria of 1,670 Jews saved from German camps.

2/19/45.

FRENCH GOVERNMENT CRITICIZED FOR FAILURE TO REJECT UNSATISFACTORY RESTITUTION LAWS

PARIS, Feb. 18. (JTA) — Marked disappointment was expressed here today as a result of the government's decision to proceed with the much criticized draft of the ordinance for restitution of property to Jews and other victims of Vichy discriminations, which the Cabinet voted last week to send to the Consultative Assembly.

Until the Cabinet's decision had been announced, it was hoped here that the government would reject the draft worked out by the Ministries of Finance and Justice, which falls far short of the expectations held out by previous government declarations, and would request a new draft more favorable to the victims of despoliation.

According to Le Populaire, Socialist spokesman, the present measure, as amended, establishes a distinction between the first acquirer of property under Vichy legislation, "who made himself an accomplice of the laws of rapine," and the second purchaser who may have acted in good faith. The paper calls this a "specious distinction" and urges the Assembly to remove it. The Catholic newspaper L'Aube stresses the difficulty and the delicacy of the problem "for purchasers who, perhaps, acted in good faith."

The newspaper Liberation, a resistance organ, recalling that France was a signatory to the United Nations Declaration on restitution of confiscated property, takes the view that "it should be considered 'a priori' evidence that all present holders of the property acted in bad faith. It should be up to them," the paper continues, "to prove the contrary under penalty of surrendering the property without compensation."

A sharp protest against the continued anti-Jewish propaganda in France, which largely revolves around the question of restitution, is published in Le Franc Tireur, another resistance publication, by Father Elie Corvin, who was a chaplain with the Maquis forces during the occupation. The article quotes leaflets which have been distributed here and warns that this is not a question for the Jews alone. In 1940, he recalls, anti-patriotic agitation began as a campaign against foreign Jews and was then extended to French Jews and eventually to all of the French resistance. The present campaign, he concludes, can be extended "to all who desire to clean and purify France."

ZIONISTS HAIL WORLD TRADE UNION CONFERENCE SUPPORT OF JEWISH NATIONAL HOME

LONDON, Feb. 18. (JTA) — Zionist circles here expressed gratification today at the adoption by the World Trade Union Conference of a report stating that "the Jewish people must be enabled to continue the rebuilding of Palestine as their national home."

Hanna Asfour, Arab delegate from Palestine, objected to the report, declaring that "we must not at this stage kindle a fire that is not out but dormant." After delegates of the Congress of Industrial Organizations, the Canadian Congress of Labor and the Mexican Labor Federation had expressed approval of the report and stated that their organizations were supporting the establishment of a Jewish National Home in Palestine, an amendment, offered by A. Carrillo of Mexico, was adopted providing for safeguarding of the "legitimate interests of other national groups and giving equal rights" to all inhabitants of Palestine.

The labor conference also urged international action to remedy the wrongs inflicted upon the Jewish people in the period since the Nazis came to power in Europe.

2/19/45.

JEWISH LEADERS IN RUMANIA ASK FASTER TEMPO IN RESTORING PRE-WAR STATUS OF JEWS

BUCHAREST, Feb. 18. (JTA) — For the second time within ten days Premier Radescu today professed his friendship for the Jews of Rumania in a broadcast over the government radio station. His statements evoked praise from Jewish leader here who emphasized, however, that restoration of Rumanian Jews to their pre-war positions is being carried out very slowly.

In his broadcast the Rumanian Premier said that it was "a great consolation" to him that he has been given the opportunity "to remove all traces of anti-Jewish persecutions of the last regime" and "to inaugurate an era of democracy and freedom for all". He mentioned the fact that under the pro-Nazi regime in Rumania he was sent to a "Jewish concentration camp" and confined together with interned Jews.

The position of Premier Radescu has become difficult during the last few days in view of the attacks against him by the National Democratic Front, a coalition of Socialists and Communists. A non-party man, Rodescu has been the head of the Rumanian Cabinet since last December.

The Bucharest radio said today that the General Staff has decided to re-examine all Jewish citizens who were rejected for compulsory labor services during the period when Jews were barred from army service. Persons failing to report, the broadcast said, would automatically be classified as fit for duty. At the same time, it announced that service in labor battalions will be counted as military service.

UNITED PALESTINE APPEAL ANNOUNCES LAUNCHING OF NATION-WIDE DRIVE FOR \$35,300,000 BUDGET

NEW YORK, Feb. 18. (JTA) — The launching by the United Palestine Appeal of a nation-wide campaign to meet its \$35,300,000 budget was announced today by Rabbi James G. Heller of Cincinnati, national UPA chairman.

The announcement said that the country will be divided into four campaign zones with a chairman for each. Joel Gross of Newark, N.J., a former chairman of the United Jewish Appeal of Essex County, will be campaign chairman for the East; Harold Goldenberg, president of the Federation for Jewish Social Service of Minneapolis, will be the chairman for the Middle West; Mortimer May, of Nashville, for the South; and Charles Brown, chairman of the 1944 campaign of the United Jewish Welfare Fund of Los Angeles, for the West.

FIRST MOSCOW CENSUS IN LIBERATED TERRITORIES SHOWS GERMANS EXTERMINATED 99% OF ALL JEWS

NEW YORK, Feb. 18. (JTA) — An official report on the number of Jews who have survived Nazi occupation has been received from Moscow by the World Jewish Congress, revealing that in 38 liberated Russian and Polish cities and towns the aggregate Jewish population has been reduced from a pre-war 400,000 to 3,122, less than 1 per cent. Dr. Stephen S. Wise, president of the Congress, disclosed today.

The information is the result of a comparative census by the Jewish Anti-Fascist Committee in Moscow. The survey shows that the cities of Lublin, Vilna, Bialystok, and Kovno, which had an aggregate Jewish population of 203,000 before the war, now have 1,878. The metropolis of Riga, which in 1939 had tens of thousands of Jews and, later, 100,000 more whom the Nazis deported from the Ukraine, today has only 168. In some towns not a single Jew was found by the Soviet armies.

BRITISH EMBASSY CITES ARMISTICE PACTS AS PROOF OF BRITISH INTENT TO HELP JEWS OF EUROPE

WASHINGTON, Feb. 18. (JTA) — The British Embassy here, in a letter to the Jewish telegraphic Agency drawing attention to the terms of the Allied armistice pact with Italy, emphasized that the provisions of this pact, dealing with the position of the Jews, as well as similar provisions in the armistice pacts with Rumania and Bulgaria, "give the best proof of the fact that the British Government is doing its best to help the remaining Jews of Europe." The letter reads:

"In case you have not already seen the terms of the armistice with Hungary, I thought you might be interested to see the text of the article which deals with the position of the Jews. The article in question is No. 5 and it reads as follows: 'The Government of Hungary shall immediately release all persons irrespective of citizenship and nationality, held in detention in connection with their activities in favour of the United Nations or because of their sympathies with the United Nations cause, or their racial origin or religious beliefs and shall repeal all discriminatory legislation and disabilities arising therefrom. The Government of Hungary undertakes to take all necessary measures to ensure that all deported persons and refugees within the limits of Hungarian territory, including Jews and persons without citizenship, enjoy at least the same degree of protection and security as its own citizens.'

"These provisions for the protection of the Jewish population should be of very real assistance. You will recall that similar provisions were inserted in the armistices with Rumania and Bulgaria. They also, I think, give good proof of the fact that the British Government is doing its best to help the remaining Jews of Europe," the letter concludes.

DRIVE FOR \$3,500,000 WILL BE LAUNCHED IN AMERICA FOR MEDICAL SCHOOL IN PALESTINE

NEW YORK, Feb. 18. (JTA) — The American Friends of the Hebrew University, the Hadassah, and the American Jewish Physicians' Committee have agreed to engage in a combined effort to raise \$3,500,000 for the establishment of an undergraduate medical school including adequate clinical facilities at the university, it was announced here today.

"According to a careful investigation that was made in Palestine by Hadassah and Hebrew University authorities, the indications are that there will be a shortage of physicians in Palestine within the next ten years, and that this shortage may be of serious dimensions", the announcement said. "Even if the Medical School developed with a maximum degree of speed, it could not develop physicians within ten years. On the basis of these facts it was urgently recommended by these authorities that the school be established as soon as possible".

ARNE LAURIN, INFLUENTIAL CZECH JEWISH JOURNALIST, DIES IN NEW YORK; WAS 56

NEW YORK, Feb. 18. (JTA) — Arne Laurin, prominent Czech journalist and a close collaborator of Thomas Masaryk, first President of Czechoslovakia, and of Dr. Edward Beneš, died here last night. He was 56. Mr. Laurin, who was Jewish, came to the United States in 1939 after the Munich pact, which, he foresaw, meant the end of an independent Czechoslovakia. He was in charge of the archives of the Czechoslovak consulate here.

As editor of the Prager Presse, official spokesman of the Czechoslovak Foreign Office, Mr. Laurin worked closely with both Masaryk and Beneš and was an influential behind-the-scenes figure in Czechoslovakia from its inception. He was born in Hrncoire, near Prague, in 1889.

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