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ROMANIAN PRIME MINISTER PROMISES THAT ALL TRANSYLVANIAN JEWS WILL BE REPATRIATED

BUCHAREST, Mar. 21. (JTA) -- Prime Minister Groza of Rumania today received the correspondent of the Jewish Telegraphic Agency and assured him that all possible measures would be taken by the Rumanian Government to bring back to their homes all the surviving Jews of Northern Transylvania who were deported to the notorious Oswiecim camp in Poland, as well as Transylvanian Jews who are now in Russia as war prisoners.

Of the 180,000 Jews who lived in Northern Transylvania in 1940 before it became part of Hungary, 140,000 were sent to forced labor, and of them only 60,000 returned. In 1944 about 300,000 Jews - practically the entire Jewish population of Northern Transylvania - were deported by the German-Hungarian authorities to Poland. So far only 80 Jews have returned to their homes.

The returning Jewish survivors reported that they were liberated from the Oswiecim camp by the advancing Russian troops. They stated that about 12,000 more Transylvanian Jews were liberated from Oswiecim and that these are at present in Cracow, capital of Western Galicia. The majority of them are sick and all are in need of clothing and food.

"I consider it one of my major duties to do everything possible in order to bring these Jews back to their home towns," Prime Minister Groza told the JTA correspondent. "I may find among them many of my schoolmates and personal friends. The necessary orders for their immediate repatriation will be issued to the proper authorities and medical and other aid will be sent to them."

It was estimated here today that there are about 8,000 Transylvanian Jews in Soviet Russia held as war prisoners. They were captured by the Red Army as part of the "Jewish Battalions" of forced laborers formed by the pro-Nazi Hungarian regime and sent to build fortifications on the front lines.

Rumanian Government Allocates Funds for Jewish Religious Institutions

The Ministry for Religious Affairs today announced that the sum of 120,000,000 lei - about \$800,000 at the pre-war rate of exchange - was allocated this week by the government as a yearly subvention for Jewish religious institutions. In addition, the government opened a special one-time account of 200,000,000 lei for Jewish religious needs as compensation for the last four years of the previous pro-Nazi regime during which the Jewish community was deprived of government subventions.

The three-day conference of the Yihud Party, which is composed of the Poale-Zion and Zeire-Zion groups, opened today in Bucharest with 61 delegates from all parts of the country participating. The conference wired greetings to King Michael, Prime Minister Groza and to the Jewish Anti-Fascist Committee in Moscow.

CZECHOSLOVAKIAN GOVERNMENT DENIES ANY DESIGN TO ORDER JEWS TO RETURN FROM PALESTINE

LONDON, Mar. 21. (JTA) -- The Czechoslovak Ministry of Social Welfare today issued a statement denying reports that Czechoslovakian Jews in Palestine will be ordered by their government to return to their liberated home towns.

The reports which brought the denial were published in the Palestine press in connection with a Czechoslovak repatriation commission which arrived there this week. Jewish refugees from Czechoslovakia were urged in the Palestine newspapers not to register with this commission.

"The commission was sent to Palestine to assist Czechoslovakian citizens who might want to be repatriated," the Czechoslovakian statement issued here today declared. "The decision as to whether to remain in Palestine or return to Czechoslovakia is left entirely to those concerned. The commission will not exercise any direct or indirect influence upon them."

GERMANY WARNED OF REPRISALS FOR MISTREATMENT OF JEWISH WAR PRISONERS

LONDON, Mar. 21. (JTA) -- Germany was warned today that if it mistreats Polish Jewish war prisoners, reprisals will be taken against Germans in Allied-occupied sections of the Reich.

The warning was issued by the Polish Provisional Government in Warsaw. It stated that if Germany does not cease its heinous crimes against Polish war prisoners, especially Jews who are reported to have been isolated behind barbed wire as a prelude to extermination, severest reprisals will be taken against the German population. The government's statement was reported here by its press agency.

PALESTINE HIGH COMMISSIONER OFFERS PLAN TO SETTLE MAYORALTY DEADLOCK IN JERUSALEM

JERUSALEM, Mar. 21. (JTA) -- The Palestine High Commissioner today submitted to the municipality of Jerusalem a proposal to solve the complicated problem of the appointment of a mayor acceptable to Jews, Moslems and Christians.

The proposal suggests that the municipality adopt a system of triple rotation by appointing successively for one year a Moslem, a Jew and a Christian to the mayoralty post. This arrangement would constitute a further step in the development of local self-government in Palestine, the High Commissioner believes.

District Commissioner James Pollock, who delivered the proposal of the High Commissioner to the members of the Municipal Council, appealed to them to display goodwill and tolerance and to accept the plan. The Palestine Government, he said, is ready to extend every assistance in carrying out this plan. The High Commissioner, he added, also decided to appoint an Arab member to the Municipal Council to fill the place of the late Mustapha Khalidi, former Jerusalem mayor, as well as two British members.

Daniel Auster, a Jewish member of the municipality, has been acting mayor since the death of Mayor Khalidi in 1944. The appointment of a new mayor was made impossible by the fact that the Arabs object to a Jew holding this post, while the Jews claim that they are entitled to it since they constitute the majority of the population in the city and especially since the last mayor was an Arab.

U. S. GOVERNMENT WILL BRING TO SAN FRANCISCO CONFERENCE A PLAN FOR MANDATED TERRITORIES

WASHINGTON, Mar. 21. (JTA) -- The United States Government is going to take to the United Nations' meeting at San Francisco, opening April 25, a fully matured plan for dealing with the complicated subject of mandated territories which include Palestine, the Jewish Telegraphic Agency learns on high authority.

The essence of the change which this government intends to propose and sponsor is that an international body be given the right of inspection in territories being administered by mandatory powers. This constitutes a considerable change from the method in force under the League of Nations whereby, each year, a questionnaire was submitted to the mandatory power and the representatives of that power concerned with the mandated territory had to answer questions.

The State Department feels that this entire system should be "tightened up." Instead of merely submitting a questionnaire, the international body which is being proposed should have the right to send its technical representatives, physicians, sanitary experts, economists and social analysts to the scene to make their own observations and report on what they themselves see and learn.

Russia is expected to take part in the general planning for mandates and colonies. In 1933, when Russia joined the old League of Nations, the Soviet Government was not only disinterested in the question of mandates but refused to have anything to do with it. But now the Soviet Government has agreed in informal conversations that this subject is to be placed on the San Francisco conference agenda and the Soviet may be expected to take its share of responsibility for whatever measures are advocated and whatever machinery is devised to deal with these problems.

AMERICAN ZIONIST COUNCIL LAUDING ROOSEVELT'S PALESTINE STATEMENT DEMANDS "ACTION NOW"

NEW YORK, Mar. 21. (JTA) -- Asserting that Jews everywhere "warmly welcomed" the declaration made by President Roosevelt last week to Dr. Stephen S. Wise, in which he reiterated his stand on Palestine, the American Zionist Emergency Council today issued a statement demanding "action now." The statement was issued following a six-hour conference of the members of the Council.

"We would be failing in our duty were we not to emphasize the sense of deep disappointment which has been aroused among Jews by the fact that no visible action is being taken to give reality to this program," the statement said. "The tragic plight of the Jewish people makes it imperative that the solution to which the President is lending the support of his great name and office be adopted and put into effect as soon as possible. In the interests of justice and humanity, there must be no further delay. We ask action now. Immediate steps must be taken to inaugurate forthwith the process of large-scale Jewish immigration into Palestine and the conversion of that country into a Jewish State."

"Mr. Churchill's recent intimation that a final solution of the Palestine problem will be deferred until the war is over is deeply disturbing," the statement continued. "Hundreds of thousands of Jews are today clamoring to enter Palestine. Survivors of unimaginable horrors, all but an insignificant few are prohibited from entering the land promised them. The Jews of the world are entitled to have the doors of Palestine opened immediately to free and unrestricted Jewish immigration. The need for action in this respect is of such urgency that it should not await the formal decision establishing Palestine as a free and democratic Jewish Commonwealth. At San Francisco and in succeeding conferences many matters affecting the Mandate system in general and Palestine in particular will come up for consideration. We affirm the right of the Jewish people to be represented and heard at these conferences through the Jewish Agency for Palestine, internationally recognized as the spokesman of the Jewish people on all matters affecting Palestine."

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LEADERS OF LARGE JEWISH WELFARE FUNDS WILL CONFER IN CLEVELAND ON FUND-RAISING PROBLEMS

NEW YORK, Mar. 21. (JTA) — On the initiative of several of the larger welfare-fund cities that are members of the Council of Jewish Federations and Welfare Funds, a conference will be held in Cleveland, March 31 - April 1, to discuss the development of inter-city cooperation in fund-raising and fund distribution, it was announced here today. The present conference is limited to a lay representative and the executive from each of the 15 largest welfare-fund cities. Methods of making the services available to the intermediate and smaller communities will be given consideration.

The plan for the conference arose out of a recent meeting of the executives from these cities held recently to consider mutual problems resulting from the dissolution of the United Jewish Appeal. The sessions in Cleveland are expected to explore further the possibilities of cooperative activities and to develop next steps and procedures, including conferences with the JDC, UPA, and NRS on working relationships.

PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT GREETES YIDDISH PRESS IN AMERICA ON ITS SEVENTY-FIFTH ANNIVERSARY

NEW YORK, Mar. 21. (JTA) — President Roosevelt addressed a personal message of greetings to Dr. Louis Héndin, president of the Jewish Writers Union, on the occasion of the seventy-fifth anniversary of the Yiddish press in the United States, which is now being observed in many Jewish communities. The President's message read as follows:

"Three-quarters of a century ago the first Yiddish newspaper in America — the Hebrew Times was published in New York. It seems fitting that those who strive today to carry forward the hopes of its founders should observe this seventy-fifth anniversary.

"Through the years, since the Hebrew Times was laboriously hand-lettered and lithographed, its successors have faced increasing responsibility and broadening opportunity in fostering and strengthening the ideals of freedom and democracy for which we fight today.

"When victory is achieved and peace comes once more to the world, I know the Yiddish press of America will continue to move ahead in devotion to the ideals which have marked its service to America."

ANGLO-JEWISH PUBLICATIONS PLEDGE THEMSELVES TO ELIMINATE NON-ESSENTIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

CHICAGO, Mar. 21. (JTA) — Complying with the rulings of the Office of Defense Transportation, the American Association of English-Jewish Newspapers today announced that all its member newspapers have pledged themselves to ban pleasure travel news and to eliminate non-essential travel announcements.

Other announcements of non-essential social nature will also be excluded from the columns of Jewish newspapers for the duration of the war. Announcements of engagements, marriages and births and news about servicemen's travel as well as travel of parents and relatives to visit men in service, are considered to be in the category of legitimate war-time news, the Association stated.

ORRACH, NEW YORK COMMUNAL LEADER, NAMED CAMPAIGN CHAIRMAN OF THE JOINT DEFENSE APPEAL

NEW YORK, Mar. 21. (JTA) — Nathan M. Orrbach, prominent in New York communal affairs has been named campaign chairman of the Joint Defense Appeal of the American Jewish Committee and the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith, it was announced today.