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BRITAIN REJECTS JEWISH AGENCY DEMAND FOR NEW PALESTINE IMMIGRATION CERTIFICATES

LONDON, Mar. 30. (JTA) -- Declaring that the British Government has information that "a great many Jewish refugees do not want to proceed to Palestine," Lord Devonshire, Parliamentary Under-Secretary for Colonial Affairs, yesterday announced in the House of Lords that the colonial Office has rejected a demand of the Jewish Agency for extra immigration certificates in addition to the quota assigned under the terms of the White Paper.

The rejection of the Agency's demand should not be interpreted as indicating a lack of sympathy for the Jews in Europe, Lord Devonshire said. As far as the allocation of Palestine immigration certificates is concerned, "the Jewish Agency had what it asked for," he declared. He added that rejection of the demand for new certificates was also motivated by the fact that Palestine's physical capacity does not permit the admission of more refugees from Europe.

Lord Strabolgi, emphasizing the plight of the Jews in liberated territories, protested against the transfer of rescued European Jews to an UNRRA camp in Algiers. He appealed to the British Government for the immediate issuance of immigration certificates to bring these Jews to Palestine.

FRENCH GOVERNMENT REFUSES TO ALLOW 200 JEWISH CHILDREN TO EMIGRATE TO PALESTINE

PARIS, Mar. 30. (JTA) -- The French Government has refused to grant permission for the emigration to Palestine of 200 Jewish children who were scheduled to leave this week, it was learned here today. As a result the sailing of the vessel on which they were to have travelled has been postponed, but not cancelled.

Refusal of exit visas for the children was ordered by the French government on the basis that the parents of these youngsters were deported by the Germans from France to unknown destinations and may still return to France and demand their children. Under the French law, parental authorization is required before a child may leave the country.

French authorities today stated that the government is contemplating the establishment of a special institution for the education of all children whose parents were deported from the country during the German occupation. These children will be educated at the government's expense.

In refusing the Jewish children permission to leave for Palestine, the French authorities made it clear that exit visas will not be granted even to youths over 18. Thus far, exit visas have been refused even to children who have relatives both in France and in Palestine who authorized their departure. Exit visas have also been refused to Jewish children whose parents have never been in France.

MOSCOW SYNAGOGUE CROWDED WITH CIVILIANS AND ARMY MEN DURING PASSOVER SERVICES

MOSCOW, Mar. 30. (JTA) -- Men and women, young and old, civilians and soldiers, crowded the Choral Synagogue here today and yesterday during Passover services at which messages from Marshal Joseph Stalin and from the Chief Rabbinate of Palestine were read by Samuel Chobrutsky, president of the Moscow Jewish Community.

For the benefit of religious Jews, the Moscow city administration arranged that matzoehs be sold in lieu of bread rations to all those who wanted them. Matzoeh bakeries were set up in various districts of the city.

In his message, Stalin expressed thanks to the Jews of the USSR for the contribution they made to the war effort. A special prayer for Stalin was held during the services. Many of the worshippers were given leave by their factories and offices to attend the Passover services in the synagogue.

In his Passover sermon, Chobrutsky reviewed the history of Jewish tribulations from the days of Pharaoh to Hitler and concluded by saying: "The Red Sea saved our ancestors from Pharaoh's hands, and the Red Army saved us from Hitler's hands."

40,000 JEWISH SOLDIERS OF ALLIED ARMIES OBSERVE PASSOVER IN ITALY; LARGE SERVICE IN ROME

ROME, Mar. 30. (JTA) -- At least 40,000 Allied Jewish troops in Italy - including the Jewish Brigade of the British Eighth Army - celebrated Passover yesterday at front-line services and at the American Army rest center here. Throughout the Mediterranean area, commanding officers were instructed to allow Jewish soldiers time off and provide transportation to the nearest Passover services, if they could not be spared for any length of time, or to go to Rome if possible.

Special planes brought Jewish troops here from every sector of the Italian front to participate in the united Allied services. Bearded infantrymen, mud-spattered artillerymen, medical corpsmen and flyers filled the American rest center's largest hall. The traditional "four questions" were asked by 18-year-old Pvt. Ray Fox, who is training for the infantry at a replacement depot. Captain Jacob Hochman, Jewish chaplain who conducted the services, replied in accordance with the ancient ritual.

On the Eighth Army's front, which is now dormant under pouring rains, the Jewish Brigade held their Seder services in the front lines. They ate matzoehs and drank wine from the colony of Rishon L'Zion in Palestine, whose wines are famous throughout the world.

This correspondent was aboard a special plane which carried 24 American front-line soldiers to Rome for Passover. Few had ever been in a plane before, but although the weather was rough and the transport pitched and tossed, the men were composed. They came from crack American divisions, such as the 34th, the 91st, 88th, and 85th, which have been fighting for a long time.

Troops of the U. S. 5th Army who could not get to Rome for services had their own at the unit's rest camp. Here Chaplain Aaron Paperman officiated, with Lieut.-Gen. Lucian Truscott, 5th Army commander, as guest of honor. Chaplain Robert Katz, of Steubenville, Ohio, officiated at the 85th Division's service; Chaplain Harold Goldfarb, of Cleveland at the 88th Division; Capt. Morris Shapiro, of Rochester, N.Y., at the 16th Evacuation Hospital; and First Sgt. Harry Grossman of Chicago, at the 8th Evacuation Hospital.

Civilian refugees throughout Italy were not neglected. About 50,000 pounds of matzoehs, as well as other supplies, were distributed to them.

JEWISH MEMBERS OF AMERICAN MISSION IN RUMANIA ATTEND SEDER AT CHIEF RABBI'S HOUSE

BUCHAREST, Mar. 30. (JTA) -- Jewish members of the American and British military missions in Rumania were the guests of honor at a Seder held in the house of Chief Rabbi Alexander Shafran here.

Other guests at the Seder included Jewish soldiers from Palestine who were taken prisoner by the Germans and who were released by the Russian troops in liberated parts of Poland and Germany.

AMERICAN SOLDIERS CELEBRATE PASSOVER IN PARIS IN FORMER GERMAN SOLDIERS' CLUB

PARIS, Mar. 30. (JTA) -- Six-hundred Jewish officers and men, and women, celebrated Passover here at a Seder in what was formerly a German soldiers' club. Major Judah Naidich, of Baltimore, Chief Jewish Chaplain in this theater, officiated and Lieut.-Gen. John Lee and Lieut. Curtiss Tiernan, a Catholic chaplain, were the guests of honor.

The services were somewhat abridged, but matzoh and wine were plentiful and the hall was filled with Passover songs. Major Naidich pointed out that Passover, marking the liberation of the Jewish people, was being observed this year on the eve of the liberation of the world. He read a cable of greetings to the Jewish men and women of the American forces from Walter Rothschild, on behalf of the National Jewish Welfare Board. A similar Seder was held in Red Cross headquarters here with Chaplain Capt. Erwin Hyman, of Syracuse, officiating.

JEWISH MEDICAL COMMISSION LEAVES GENEVA FOR YUGOSLAVIA; CARRIES AID TO JEWS

GENEVA, Mar. 30. (JTA) -- A medical commission of six doctors and eight assistants, organized here by the Joint Distribution Committee and the OSE, left Switzerland today for Yugoslavia to organize medical aid for Jews there.

The commission carried ten tons of medical supplies, condensed milk and other products. On reaching Belgrade, it will place itself at the disposal of Dr. Konfino, president of the Belgrade Jewish Community. It will also give medical aid to non-Jews. Latest reports received here estimate that there are now about 10,000 Jews in liberated Yugoslavia, of whom 600 are in Belgrade.

TEL AVIV ADOPTS CURRENT BUDGET TOTALLING NEARLY \$8,000,000; TAX RISE DUE

TEL AVIV, Mar. 30. (JTA) -- The municipal council of Tel Aviv adopted this week a budget of nearly \$8,000,000 to cover current expenditures. The increased budget will necessitate a three percent increase in the city's tax rate.

PARIS MUNICIPAL COUNCIL DECIDES TO NAME STREET AFTER GEORGE MANDEL

PARIS, Mar. 30. (JTA) -- The Municipal Council here today resolved unanimously to name one of the city's most important thoroughfares after Georges Mandel, French-Jewish statesman who was killed by the Germans during the occupation. Mandel was a member of the French cabinet at the time of France's capitulation in June, 1940.

It was announced here today that Pierre Bloch, leader of the Socialist Party, has been appointed by the French Consultative Assembly to be chairman of its Committee on Moslem Affairs.

The Jewish Boy Scout organization here has decided to raise funds for the purchase in Palestine of land for a colony dedicated to members killed during the resistance to the Germans in occupied France.

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PALESTINE MAY TAKE PLACE OF EGYPT AS BRITISH MILITARY BASE, WASHINGTON OFFICIAL SAYS

WASHINGTON, Mar. 30. (JTA) -- A Washington official in close touch with Near Eastern affairs told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency today that enlargement of the British military establishment based on Palestine indicates that that country will probably take the place which Egypt has heretofore occupied in Empire defense.

The growing movement for autonomy in Egypt, which is now largely independent of the British - illustrated by Egypt's refusal to declare war on the Axis until Feb. 26, 1945 - is held partly responsible for this shift.

The effect of the growing importance of Palestine for Empire defense on the status of Palestine is uncertain at the present time. It is known that the British would like the United States to share in the mandate responsibility for Palestine, but not to take part in the actual administration of that territory.

MILITARY LIFE SHOWS RACIAL DISCRIMINATION HAS NO PLACE IN AMERICA, PACIFIC COMMANDER SAYS

NEW YORK, Mar. 30. (JTA) -- In the armed forces members of all faiths have been brought closer together and it has been demonstrated that bigotry and discrimination have no place in American civilian or military life, Lieut. Gen. Robert C. Richardson Jr., Commanding General, Pacific Ocean Areas, said in a message received here and made public yesterday by the Jewish Welfare Board.

"The rosters of the Army, Navy, Marine Corps and Air Force contain a substantial percentage of members of the Jewish faith," the message said. "In the Army, men are judged and valued not by their religious or racial antecedents, but by their character and performance. On the basis of the character and performance of the Jewish men and officers, I am able to pay this well-merited tribute to them. They have done splendid work in the armed services, particularly in the combat zones.

"When the definitive history of this war comes to be written, it will be seen that men and women of all races and religions have contributed in significant measure to the final triumph over the monster fascism. We have all earned the right to peace, serenity and freedom from molestation."

GUILD FOR JEWISH BLIND REPORTS EXPANDED ACTIVITIES FOR CIVILIAN AND VETERAN BLIND

NEW YORK, Mar. 30. (JTA) -- The New York guild for the Jewish Blind today issued its annual report emphasizing the revision and expansion of its activities and the services given during the year to civilian and veteran blind. During 1944 the guild's census, representing the total cases registered as of Dec. 31, was 3,511, while field visits and office consultations to clients totaled 2,797.

SONNENREICH RESIGNS PRESIDENCY OF THE UNITED ROMANIAN JEWS OF AMERICA

NEW YORK, Mar. 30. (JTA) -- The United Rumanian Jews of America today announced that Charles Sonnenreich, president of the organization, has submitted his resignation which was accepted by the administrative committee with regret. He held office for six years. Max Schoenfeld, first vice-president, has been designated as acting president until the next convention to be held in June of this year.