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AMERICAN JEWISH LEADERS MOURN ROOSEVELT'S DEATH; EMPHASIZE LOSS TO THE JEWISH PEOPLE

NEW YORK, April 12. (JTA) -- Leaders of American Jewry today joined the nation in mourning the sudden death of President Roosevelt whose friendship for the Jewish people was displayed in words and in deeds on many occasions, particularly in the last decade, the darkest in Jewish history.

Dr. Stephen S. Wise, president of the American Jewish Congress and a personal friend of the President, made the following statement to the Jewish Telegraphic Agency: "The loss is too great to be measured in words. His achievements had made an immortal of him in his own lifetime. Alas, death makes him take his place with those immortals who have wrought most for human freedom. I said of him after his recent re-election that he was the friend of man. History claims him, freedom sings his requiem, but he belongs to us. Above all, the Jewish people have never known a more understanding friend, who sorrowed over their oppressions and misfortunes and who sought with all his strength to bring about a new world where justice to Jews would be inevitable and the Jewish people would be restored in their ancient home."

Judge Joseph M. Proskauer, president of the American Jewish Committee, in a statement to the Jewish Telegraphic Agency, said: "President Roosevelt's tragic death at this critical time brings tragic sorrow not only to everyone of his stricken countrymen, but to citizens of every nation which is fighting for freedom and decency against barbarism and inhumanity. He led superbly in many fields of human aspiration, but above all he was a warrior for the principles of fraternity on which our Bill of Rights is based, and an indomitable foe of intolerance and bigotry. We mourn his loss as a champion in the age-old struggle to create a common brotherhood of man under a common fatherhood of God."

The American Jewish Conference issued a statement which reads as follows: "It is with great grief that we learn of the death of our beloved President. This grief befalls the world on the eve of victory over the forces of tyranny. A victory achieved because our late President gave the liberty loving people of the world supreme leadership in mankind's struggle for life and liberty for all men. It is one of the greatest of tragedies for the world now sorely needed his leadership in the establishment of a new order to secure the peace for future generations. As Americans and as Jews we of the American Jewish Conference join with our fellow-men everywhere in mourning the death of a man who symbolized the passionate desire to build a world founded on justice for all men."

Henry Monsky, president of the B'nai B'rith, declared: "The death of President Roosevelt is a cruel blow to all mankind. The people are bowed down in grief. One of the immemorial champions of human rights is gone. We vow that the struggle to which he gave his life will be carried on and we pledge that the victory which he was not destined to see will end in a peace worthy of his great life."

Dr. Israel Goldstein, President of the Zionist Organization of America, stated: "We are stunned by the tragic news. America has lost its famous leader. The United States have lost their architect-in-chief. The Jewish people have lost an

understanding friend. Zionism has lost a self-avowed supporter of its program. Coming at a time when Germany is practically finished, Japan is heading for defeat, President Roosevelt died on the mountain top of his career, seeing the promised land but not privileged to enter it. The Zionist Organization of America is in deep sorrow.

"President Roosevelt's meeting with Dr. Stephan S. Wise shortly after his return from his conference abroad left us assured that he would be an advocate of the Zionist solution of the Jewish problem through Palestine's reconstitution as a Jewish Commonwealth. We hope and pray that the spirit of President Roosevelt will go marching on. He will rank in American history with Washington, Lincoln and Wilson. A world order and international concord will be a monument to his memory."

SWISS GOVERNMENT SENDS ULTIMATUM TO JEWISH AGENCY ON TRANSFER OF 1,620 RESCUED JEWS

TEL AVIV, April 12. (JTA) -- The Swiss Government today officially informed the Jewish Agency for Palestine that if Palestine immigration certificates are not provided within a week for 1,620 Jews from the German concentration camp in Bergen-Belsen who were admitted temporarily to Switzerland, the entire group will be asked to leave Switzerland for a refugee camp in Algiers. The Swiss ultimatum was revealed at a press conference today by Elihu Dobkin, head of the Agency's immigration department.

(In London, the Agudas Israel Organization today told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency that German authorities have advised former Swiss Councillor Jean Musy, who is attempting to secure the release of imprisoned Jews, that "a large number of Jews" will be released from Theresienstadt and permitted to proceed to Switzerland. Leaders of the Agudas Israel added that they understood that two trainloads of Jews are at present in Germany ready to proceed to Switzerland under an arrangement reached between Musy and the Nazi authorities. They also stated that 23 Jews who are holders of South American passports were released from the Bergen-Belsen camp this week and transferred to a Red Cross camp in Würzburg.)

Mr. Dobkin also told the press conference that 1,000 dwelling units are now being completed in Palestine at a cost of two million dollars. Plans are being prepared for the building of another thousand units, he said.

WIVES AND CHILDREN OF JEWS KILLED IN TRANSNISTRIA ATTEMPT TO LYNCH PRO-NAZI OFFICIAL

BUCHAREST, April 12. (JTA) -- A crowd of enraged wives and children of Jews who were killed in Transnistria by pro-Nazi Rumanian authorities today attempted to lynch M. Mihaescu, who was appointed by former Premier Antonescu to collect gold, jewels and other valuables from the Jewish deportees.

Mihaescu was being questioned by the public prosecutor who is preparing the case against persons accused of atrocities against Jews, when the women and children, who were summoned to the hearing as witnesses, attempted to seize him. He was saved by military police stationed in the court. The witnesses had testified, earlier, that Mihaescu not only confiscated jewels and valuables, but stripped his Jewish victims of all possessions, including their clothing.

The Bucharest radio announced today that 4,800 Jews being repatriated from the Soviet Ukraine (Transnistria) by Russian authorities have arrived in Rumania and that a total of about 17,000 are expected to be repatriated during April. The Union of Rumanian Jews is attempting to re-establish contact between the returning deportees and their families.

NUMBER OF JEWS IN VILNA GROWS TO 4,000; SPEEDY RETURN OF EVACUATED JEWS PLANNED

MOSCOW, April 12. (JTA) -- The number of Jews in Vilna has increased to 4,000 as compared with the few dozens that were there eight months ago when the city was liberated by the Red Army, it was reported here today by Perez Markish, Jewish writer who has just returned from a trip to Lithuania and Poland.

Addressing a meeting at the Writers Club in Moscow, Markish stated that the majority of the Jews who now live in Vilna were partisans. Others have been repatriated from the Soviet interior. It is expected that the number of repatriated Vilna Jews will increase soon, he reported.

Jewish cultural life in Vilna is gradually being revived, the Jewish writer said. An elementary school for Jewish children is now functioning and a Jewish museum has been opened. The Lithuanian Soviet Government intends to establish a Jewish high school, he said.

AMERICAN TROOPS LIBERATE 190 JEWISH SLAVE LABORERS IN HANOVER; ALL FROM POLAND

LONDON, April 12. (JTA) -- London newspapers report from Hanover, Germany, that when American advance units entered the city, they found 190 Jewish survivors in shacks, some of them so ill and starved that they may not live.

The survivors, all that remained of many Jews deported from Poland for slave labor in Hanover, are now being treated by American doctors. They are all lice-ridden, clothed in dirty rags and hardly look like human beings, the report says.

NEUTRAL PRESS DEcriES MERCY FOR GERMANS; DEMANDS PUNISHMENT FOR ANTI-JEWISH ATROCITIES

LONDON, April 12. (JTA) -- Swiss and Swedish newspapers received here today welcome the recent announcements by their respective governments that no asylum will be given to war criminals and stress the guilt of the entire German people, especially with regard to the persecution and murder of Jews.

The Stockholm Expressen says that "the systematic, well organized mass-murder (of Jews) will be remembered for all times as one of the most loathsome and most incomprehensible of all Germany's crimes. No pity campaign, however skillfully organized, can wipe out the terrible responsibility of the German people for the fate that has overtaken European Jewry."

The Zurich Weltwoche points out that when the Nazis created racial laws and attempted to make a whole class of human beings lesser than animals, "they not only broke down the dykes which protected Jews, but also, potentially, those which would have been capable of protecting the beaten German nation from the worst. Today," it concludes, "little can be done to stem the flood which is overwhelming Germany."

VICHY AGITATION IN NORTH AFRICA FAILED TO DISRUPT ARAB-JEWISH AMITY, SAYS OFFICIAL

PARIS, April 12. (JTA) -- Intensive anti-Jewish agitation by Vichy among the Arabs in French North Africa failed to destroy the "confidence and good-will" existing between the Arab and Jewish populations, Pierre Bloch, president of the Committee for Moslem Affairs of the French Consultative Assembly, told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency today. Mr. Bloch said that despite the Vichy agitation, there were no anti-Jewish disturbances by Arabs during the occupation.

AMERICAN LEGION HEAD PLEDGES SUPPORT OF FIGHT ON ANTI-SEMITISM; LAUDS JEWISH WAR RECORD

NEW YORK, April 12. (JTA) -- Deploing anti-Semitism as a "particularly vicious form of intolerance," Edward N. Scheiberling, national commander of the American Legion, declared here tonight that it is a national duty to stamp it out completely in the United States.

Addressing a dinner at the Waldorf-Astoria sponsored by the Joint Defense Appeal of the American Jewish Committee and the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith, Commander Scheiberling pledged the full support of the American Legion in efforts to crush intolerance, "blend the races and build the America our forefathers conceived."

"In our vast Army, Navy and allied forces," Mr. Scheiberling said, "are hundreds of thousands of Jews many thousands of whom have been decorated for meritorious service. In proportion to population, the Jewish people are contributing in full measure to the victory we are now achieving. The Jewish war record will live to shame those who would foster anti-Semitism."

The dinner marked the opening of the fifth annual campaign of the American Jewish Committee and the Anti-Defamation League for funds to support educational activities to preserve national unity. Guest of honor was Max J. Schneider of New York, who was honored for his contributions to Jewish philanthropies.

DEMAND FOR 1,000,000 PALESTINE IMMIGRANTS BASED ON REALISTIC SURVEY, SAYS AGENCY TREASURER

NEW YORK, April 12. (JTA) -- The Jewish Agency's demand that 1,000,000 Jews in liberated Europe be assisted to settle in Palestine after hostilities have ceased is not merely a dramatic slogan, but is based on a realistic survey of the country's absorptive capacity and ability to provide employment and shelter for the immigrants, Eliezer Kaplan, Agency treasurer, told a press conference here today.

Mr. Kaplan, who arrived by air this week, said that his chief reasons for coming here at the present time were to strengthen the economic ties between Palestine and the United States so that Palestine may best utilize its potentialities for absorption of immigrants, to urge the American people to support the opening of Palestine to free immigration and to stimulate American Jewry's response to the 1945 United Palestine Appeal drive for \$35,300,000.

The Agency treasurer appealed to the governments of the United States, Great Britain, Russia and the other United Nations to facilitate the transfer to Palestine of 20,000 homeless Jewish orphans from Europe. Mr. Kaplan expressed the hope that the Allied nations would not only aid in securing the children's entrance to Palestine, but would make financial contributions from inter-governmental sources toward this end.

FIRST PALESTINE PHILATELIC EXHIBITION OPENS; CONTAINS RARE JEWISH AND HEBREW STAMPS

TEL AVIV, April 12. (JTA) -- The first Palestine philatelic exhibition, comprising 118 private collections, opened here today. Included are some of the largest collections in the world containing stamps valued at thousands of dollars.

Rare collections of Jewish and Hebrew stamps from various countries are also on view. A section of the exhibition contains suggested designs for new stamps to replace the present ones, which were described as "unsatisfactory" by Postmaster General Webster addressing the formal opening of the exhibit.

The Palestine Government announced today that Prof. Robert Bacci, prominent statistician, has agreed to direct the country-wide census which is scheduled to be held towards the end of 1946.

J.D.C. STATIONS REPRESENTATIVE IN BELGIUM; THIRD OF SURVIVING JEWS REQUIRE RELIEF

NEW YORK, April 12. (JTA) -- The Joint Distribution Committee today announced that Laura L. Margolis, veteran overseas staff member of the organization, has reached Belgium and will remain there as permanent J. D. C. representative.

In making this announcement, Joseph C. Hyman, executive vice-chairman, emphasized that there are approximately 20,000 Jewish survivors in Belgium today and that no less than 7,000 of them require immediate assistance. There are also more than 3,000 children whose parents have been killed or deported.

The situation is further complicated because approximately 5,000 refugees from Germany and Austria are now in Belgium. They are prohibited from working and many of them are in need. "The Joint Distribution Committee is allocating \$50,000 monthly to relieve this distress," Mr. Hyman said.

COMMITTEE TO DEVELOP SOILLESS FARMING IN PALESTINE FORMED IN NEW YORK

NEW YORK, April 12. (JTA) -- The formation of a committee for the development in Palestine of hydroponics, a method of soilless farming invented by an American scientist, was announced today at a gathering in the Hotel Commodore. Louis P. Rucker of New York, is chairman of the group.

Professor William C. Gerioka, of Berkeley, California, originator of hydroponics, and Dr. S. E. Soskin, noted Palestinian agricultural expert, were on hand to explain the new method of farming and its importance as a means of increasing the productive and absorptive capacity of Palestine. They displayed to the group of business and communal leaders who attended the gathering a hydroponics tank with tomatoes, beet roots and celery growing in a solution of inorganic salts, instead of earth.

"Palestine," Dr. Soskin said, "has a mild climate and ample sunshine but its southern part, known as the Negev, which comprises nearly half of the country's total area, is semi-arid. Under existing conditions, the Negev cannot be exploited for farming until such a time as sufficient water can be provided to settlers in that region by irrigation, and even then it would be costly, demanding large quantities of both water and chemical fertilizers." Dr. Soskin said that the introduction of hydroponics in the Negev would mean immediate settlement and cultivation of the land.

YOUNG GERMAN-JEWISH REFUGEE SOLDIER KILLED IN HOME TOWN WHILE BATTLING NAZI TROOPS

CLEVELAND, April 12. (JTA) -- Pfc. Curtis Field, who was brought to Cleveland by the National Refugee Service some ten years ago from the city of Fuerth, Germany, was killed in his home-town on Feb. 28, while battling German troops, it was revealed today. The Jewish Childrens' Bureau, which took over the care of young Field after he was brought here by the NRS, announced that it was informed yesterday of his death in Fuerth.

BODY OF YOUNG FRENCH JEWISH UNDERGROUND LEADER REBURIED WITH MILITARY HONORS

PARIS, April 12. (JTA) -- The body of Maurice Lowenberg, 27, Jewish underground leader who was tortured to death by the Gestapo last July, was re-buried yesterday with full military honors.

Lowenberg, who was known under the alias of "Cashou," organized, together with members of the Zionist Youth group, an extensive network of camouflage, which saved many Jews from arrest.