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WAR DEPT. BLAMES HEAD OF ARMED FORCES INSTITUTE FOR ANTI-JEWISH COURSE SENT SERVICEMEN

WASHINGTON, June 26. (JTA) -- Responsibility for distribution of anti-Jewish propaganda among the U.S. armed forces through an official correspondence course established under the auspices of the Army and Navy has been placed by the War Department upon Col. Carl W. Hansen, commandant of the U.S. Armed Forces Institute at the University of Wisconsin.

A spokesman for the War Department today told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency that there were no "civilian specialists" involved in selection of the course. The course was a regular college course, and the primary responsibility for its selection rested with Col. Hansen, he stated.

The personnel of the U.S. Armed Forces Institute, the spokesman declared, is composed entirely of Army men. He refused to give the names of any other persons responsible for the selection and dissemination of the anti-Jewish course.

Pointing out that the anti-Jewish material selected by the U.S. Armed Forces Institute as a course in English composition for soldiers and sailors "was part of a regular college course used throughout the country," the War Department's spokesman told the J.T.A. that "under pressure of demands from overseas, we gathered material for grammar, English and other courses.

"When we reviewed the material thus hastily assembled," he continued, "we discarded the entire course of which the Siegfried material was a part, on the ground that it was not up to academic standards. This course was discarded even before we caught up with the anti-Jewish quotations from the Siegfried book."

The War Department's representative emphasized that copies of the course were scattered all over the world. "It has taken some time to call them in, so it may very well be that some were in soldiers' hands as late as April 1945," he said. "But the material therein is absolutely against the War Department's policy, as exemplified by the 'fact sheets' issued by the War Department specifically warning against racial and religious prejudice."

The Navy Department today continued to refuse to make any comment on the charge that it used the same course. A spokesman said that he understood that the course in question had been withdrawn and was not in use now. He added that the "cognizant office" had no statement to make.

PALESTINE OFFICE OPENED IN BUDAPEST; SOVIET AUTHORITIES PERMIT ZIONIST MASS-MEETING

SOFIA, June 26. (JTA) -- With the permission of Soviet military authorities, a Palestine office has been opened in Budapest to begin registration of Hungarian Jews desiring to emigrate to Palestine, it was reported here today. The Soviet authorities also granted permission for a Zionist mass-meeting in Budapest, arranged by the United Zionist Organization there, the report said.

EXTRADITION OF EX-MUFTI NOT DEMANDED BY ENGLAND; FRANCE MAY USE HIM AS POLITICAL WEAPON

PARIS, June 26. (JTA) -- British authorities have not asked the French Government to extradite to Britain the ex-Mufti of Jerusalem who acted as Hitler's and Mussolini's agent among the Arab people until Germany's defeat, it was reported here today. The Mufti was seized by French forces in Southern Germany.

At the same time, a Jewish Telegraphic Agency correspondent learned that French authorities do not intend to surrender the ex-Mufti at the present time. He is living in a comfortable villa under police surveillance and is reported to be getting "excellent treatment."

There is much speculation here as to the role which the ex-Mufti may still play in the Arab world as a result of the tense relations between France and Britain because of the situation in Syria. It is predicted by some circles that, utilizing the fact that the ex-Mufti is violently anti-British, the French authorities may use him for pro-French propaganda among the Arabs. In this connection, it is pointed out that when the ex-Mufti escaped from the British in Palestine, he was given shelter in Syria with the knowledge of the French authorities there.

The fact that the British Government has not yet asked France for the extradition of the ex-Mufti as a war criminal who headed the anti-British uprising in Iraq during the war and directed anti-British propaganda from Italy and Germany as an agent of the Axis, is taken here to mean that Britain is not particularly anxious to have him on her hands, since this would undoubtedly complicate the relations of the British Government with the Arabs in Palestine and elsewhere. As the situation stands now, it seems more convenient for Britain to have the ex-Mufti remain in French hands rather than become a problem for England.

It is difficult, for the time being, to ascertain here exactly what the status of the ex-Mufti is, and whether he is considered by the French to be a war criminal or merely a political prisoner who collaborated with Hitler. A semi-official French statement described him merely as being under house arrest in a Paris villa, and that every attention is being given him "because of his position in the Islamic world."

(In London, competent observers told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency yesterday that they consider it possible that the ex-Mufti might suddenly reappear in the midst of the boiling Middle-Eastern nest of intrigues. It was doubted whether punishment of a drastic nature will be meted out to the ex-Mufti even if he is surrendered to the British.)

JEWISH CHILDREN IN EUROPE FLEEING MONASTERIES; ASK RETURN TO JUDAISM

TEL AVIV, June 26. (JTA) -- Jewish boys are fleeing from monasteries where they were given shelter during the German occupation, and are appealing to Jewish organizations to return them to Judaism, it was asserted today by Richard Cohen, a former head of the Palestine Office in Zagreb, Yugoslavia, who arrived here last week aboard the Spanish steamer Plus Ultra.

Cohen told reporters that shortly before he left Switzerland a group of Jewish girl refugees, between the ages of 17 and 19, none of whom had any living relatives, were baptized.

(In London, Chief Rabbi Joseph Hertz protested yesterday against the "spiritual kidnapping" of Jewish orphans. In a letter to the London Times he demanded that the Allied governments issue a proclamation stating that Jewish children in Europe will not become "the property" of those who saved them from the Germans and cannot be deprived of their Jewish heritage.)

ROOSEVELT-CHURCHILL-STALIN MEETING AT YALTA FAVORED "JEWISH PALESTINE," BEN-GURION REPORTS

NEW YORK, June 26. (JTA) -- David Ben-Gurion, chairman of the executive committee of the Jewish Agency, today declared that to the best of his knowledge, the Palestine question was discussed at the Roosevelt-Churchill-Stalin meeting at Yalta, and that "it was discussed in favor of a Jewish Palestine."

Addressing a group of representatives of the American press, Ben-Gurion added that he believes that Russia will not oppose establishment of Palestine as a Jewish State, if the United States and Britain agree. He denounced the White Paper under which Jewish immigration to Palestine will soon end, and said that the Jews will resist enforcement of this policy by all means at their disposal.

"The White Paper further confines the Jewish community to a territorial ghetto, in which Jews will be entitled to settle only in a tiny area of about five percent of Palestine west of the Jordan," Ben-Gurion continued. "Now that Hitler's Nuremberg laws have disappeared, Palestine by the terms of the White Paper is in fact the only place in the civilized world where the law of the country discriminates against Jews." He added that the White Paper was never approved by the League of Nations. "On the contrary, it was declared by the Mandates Commission to be incompatible with the terms of the Mandate," he said.

JEWISH AGENCY REFUSES TO COOPERATE IN GOVERNMENT PROBE OF "ILLEGAL" LAND SALES TO JEWS

JERUSALEM, June 26. (JTA) -- The Jewish Agency has no intention of cooperating with the committee recently established by the Palestine Government to investigate the alleged sale of land to Jews in areas where such sales are prohibited under the White Paper, Moshe Shertok, Agency political chief, today told a press conference here. Shertok added that "there will not be any cooperation by the Jewish Agency in investigations based on the White Paper's principles."

He revealed that the Agency has been negotiating with the British Government since the end of hostilities in Europe for permission for its representatives to visit camps where Jews are still detained. These negotiations are still going on, but there is hope that the Agency representatives will be allowed, at least, to visit camps in the American occupation zone, Shertok said. He disclosed that inquiries are being made concerning the possibility of Jews in Russia who may wish to emigrate to Palestine securing exit visas.

The Agency, he also announced, has established a central office to reunite relatives abroad with surviving Jews in Europe. The cooperation of the Agency's offices abroad and Zionist groups in various countries is being enlisted.

PALESTINE WILL BE CHIEF TOPIC OF ARAB LEAGUE MEETING NEXT MONTH, SAYS OFFICIAL

JERUSALEM, June 26. (JTA) -- Palestine will be one of the chief topics on the agenda of the next meeting of the League of Arab Nations which will take place in Cairo next month, it was announced in that city by Abdul Rahman Azzam Bey, secretary-general of the league.

The Palestine Arab Party today submitted a memorandum to the High Commissioner protesting against the broadcasting by the Government radio station of speeches of Jewish leaders delivered at a mass-meeting in Tel Aviv last Monday.

The meeting was devoted to problems of rescuing Jews from Europe, and the speakers, who included Chief Rabbi Herzog and Isaac Ben-Zvi, devoted the largest part of their addresses to appealing to the Jewish population for contributions for the rescue fund.

STATUS OF OSWEGO REFUGEES CAN BE CHANGED TO AVOID THEIR REPATRIATION, CONGRESSMEN BELIEVE

OSWEGO, June 26. (JTA) — Five of the six members of the Congressional Subcommittee on Immigration who today concluded hearings at the emergency refugee shelter at Fort Ontario expressed the hope and belief after two days of testimony that something could be done within existing immigration laws to make possible the legal entrance into the U. S. of a large majority of the 969 refugees now living in the shelter.

The Congressman generally agreed that the calibre of the residents at the shelter was such that they would make good American citizens. The sub-committee generally looked with favor upon lifting the restrictions on the residents of the shelter in line with the recommendation made yesterday by Brigadier General O'Dwyer, executive director of the War Refugee Board.

Summing up the two-day session, Chairman Samuel Dickstein said that "the committee has been much impressed by the testimony heard." He hopes to call a meeting of the entire House Immigration Committee sometime immediately after the 4th of July. Should the committee agree, Chairman Dickstein hopes that it will send a recommendation to President Truman urging him to issue an executive order that will reinterpret the original Presidential order of the late President Roosevelt before the refugees were brought to this country.

Meanwhile, Congressman Dickstein sees three possibilities:

1. The release on parole to relief and welfare organizations of such persons as can get the approval of appropriate governmental representatives.
2. The release on bond of all the residents at the shelter. Congressman Dickstein expressed the belief that there were individuals and organizations such as the IES, National Council of Jewish Women, and HIAS which would gladly cooperate in providing such bond.
3. Declare all the residents at the shelter to be illegal immigrants, thus turning them over to the Immigration Dept., making it possible for them to be treated as all other illegal immigrants. This would enable the individual refugee to make application for a change of status, and to leave the country temporarily after a pre-examination to accomplish such change of status.

PENSION PLAN FOR CONSERVATIVE RABBIS ANNOUNCED BY RABBINICAL ASSEMBLY; FINKELSTEIN HONORED

NEW YORK, June 26. (JTA) — A pension plan for Conservative rabbis, which will provide insurance during their lifetime and an annuity after the age of 65, or earlier if the rabbi should desire to retire before he reaches 65, was announced today at the 45th annual convention of the Rabbinical Assembly of America. The plan will be administered by a pension board consisting of eleven members—two from the board of the Jewish Theological Seminary, three from the Rabbinical Assembly, three from the United Synagogue and the presidents of the three organizations.

At a dinner tonight, arranged by the assembly, prominent Jewish and non-Jewish educators paid tribute to Dr. Louis Finkelstein, on the occasion of his 50th birthday. Dr. Finkelstein completed five years as president of the Jewish Theological Seminary. Dr. Stephen S. Wise, Dr. Mordecai Kaplan and Dr. Louis Ginzberg were among the speakers.

CENTRAL BODY OF JEWISH FEDERATIONS ACCEPTS PLAN FOR NATIONAL ADVISORY BUDGETING

DETROIT, June 26. (JTA) -- The Board of Directors of the Council of Jewish Federations and Welfare Funds meeting here approved in principle a report favoring national advisory budgeting subject to the acceptance of such a program by its member welfare funds, federations and community councils, it was announced today.

The program, if adopted, would provide for the review by a representative national committee of the budgets of national and overseas agencies, and reporting of the findings to the member agencies as a guide in distributing the funds raised by each community.

National Advisory Budgeting is defined in the proposal under consideration as a review by a national committee selected by the Council or by the welfare fund members of the Council. It is assumed that the Committee appointed for this task would be acceptable both to the member agencies of the Council and to the national and overseas organizations as an impartial and objective group concerned primarily with reaching equitable decisions which would be helpful to fund raising and to local budgetary procedures.

The national and overseas agencies would, under the proposal, determine what their budgets should be. The national committee to be established would then review the budgets, and after objective and thorough study, would attempt, together with the national and overseas agencies, to arrive at joint decisions on the amount of funds required to carry out the specific programs. These would be recommended - in an advisory way - to the welfare funds as minimum goals for fund-raising and fund distribution.

Where joint decisions could not be reached, the Committee would advise the welfare funds as to the part of the agency's budget and program of work which had been agreed upon and would present both sides of the major items of difference. The Committee would not attempt to establish local quotas. The decisions reached by the Committee could be utilized by the member agencies which desired to do so as a guide in determining the distribution of the maximum funds raised in each local community.

The establishment of a national advisory budgeting service for the member agencies of the Council was proposed at the 1941 Assembly in Atlanta, following action by various regions calling for such a service. A referendum of the Council's agencies at that time resulted in the decision by the 1942 assembly to launch a limited program as a three-year experiment at the end of which time the matter was to be given further consideration. As a first step, a budget research committee was appointed by the board of directors under the chairmanship of Jacob Blaustein to carry out and evaluate the limited program. The board's most recent action was taken on the basis of a report and recommendations submitted by Mr. Blaustein.

EMERGENCY COMMITTEE TO SAVE THE JEWISH PEOPLE OF EUROPE ANNOUNCES ITS DISSOLUTION

NEW YORK, June 26. (JTA) -- The dissolution of the Emergency Committee to Save the Jewish People of Europe, which has been in existence for two years, was announced here by the executive committee of the organization.

A statement issued by the executive criticizes Great Britain for closing the doors of Palestine to the Jews of Europe, and urges support for the American League for a Free Palestine which was formed recently by the same group.

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