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ESTABLISHMENT OF COURTS TO HANDLE CLAIMS OF GERMAN JEWS SEEKING RETURN OF PROPERTY

FRANKFURT, July 22. (JTA) -- Plans are under way here for the establishment of German civil courts to handle the claims of Jews and other anti-Nazis seeking the return of their confiscated or stolen property, Col. Leslie Jefferson, Chief of the Reparations and Restitution Division of the United States Group Control Council, said today.

Col. Jefferson's deputy, Lieut. Col. C.S. Reid, a former Atlanta jurist, is presently drawing up regulations under which these courts will operate. The military reparations chief, whose home is in Redlands, Calif. served in the army of occupation after the last war. He admitted that this time there is great difficulty in finding German judges for the new courts, six of which are to be set up.

Under the Nazis all judges were party members and some of them are the most vicious of the war criminals. The Group Control legal division, however, is sifting the lists of attorneys in an attempt to find some who either opposed the Nazis or refused to join the party.

Meanwhile, the local military government of Frankfurt has located two hundred sizeable properties which formerly belonged to Jews. Of these, eighty-eight have been totally destroyed by bombing, twenty are half-destroyed, and only about fifty-six are completely undamaged.

Steps are being taken to place these properties under military control, but the authorities doubt whether the majority of them will ever be claimed, since in most cases the original owners were murdered by the Nazis.

JEWISH POPULATION OF POLAND ALREADY TOTALS 200,000; MORE JEWS RETURNING DAILY

LONDON, July 22. (JTA) -- The Jewish population of Poland has reached two-hundred-thousand and the number is steadily increasing, Count Jan Drohojowski, technical adviser to Stanislaw Mikolajczyk, vice-premier of the Warsaw Government, declared today upon his return from the Polish capital.

Count Drohojowski said that the two-hundred-thousand figure was given him on July 15 by the Polish Foreign Ministry. The increase in the Jewish population, he said, is attributable to the return of Jews liberated from German concentration camps, and, to a smaller extent, the return of Jews from Russia and the eastern section of Poland which is now part of the Soviet Union. There are now 5,000 Jews in Warsaw and 11,000 in Lodz.

During the more than five years that the Germans occupied Poland, Count Drohojowski declared, on the basis of an investigation made by governmental authorities, 6,500,000 Jews were killed. Of them, 3,000,000 were Polish Jews, while the others were brought from all over Europe.

PRESIDENT TRUMAN REPORTED TO BE TAKING ACTIVE INTEREST IN SETTLEMENT OF PALESTINE PROBLEM

LONDON, July 22. (JTA) — President Truman is now taking an active interest in solution of the Palestine problem, the diplomatic correspondent of the Manchester Guardian says today.

Recalling that the President sent a representative to Europe a few weeks ago to investigate the situation of the remaining Jews there, the correspondent adds that it can be assumed that he had this envoy's report before the opening of the Potsdam conference.

Truman's decision to take a more active role in settling the Palestine issue came after the British Government rejected the Jewish Agency's request that it immediately proclaim Palestine a Jewish state and lift all restrictions barring the immigration of Jews, the article declares. The British reply is understood to have stated that no decision on Palestine, regardless of its contents, could be taken before a peace conference is held.

Pointing out that the world Zionist conference is slated to open next week, the correspondent says that the delegates are determined to press for an independent Jewish state and revision of the Palestine immigration policy. He asserts that the Jewish Agency has asked for the immediate issuance of 100,000 immigration certificates, and says that to refuse them is to kill the last hope of a tormented generation.

Referring to the recent charge by the Moscow radio that Soviet citizens in Palestine were being mistreated by "reactionary Jewish organizations," the article says that "it is clear that Russia is concerned with getting back from Palestine Jews from its newly acquired territories in the Balkans and Eastern Europe."

A political commentator in the Sunday Observer today says that the outcome of the British elections, which is to be announced on Thursday, will have greater influence on the Palestine problem than any decision that may be taken by the Big Three at Potsdam. He points out that the Labor Party, should it be victorious, is committed to establishment of a Jewish Commonwealth in Palestine and unfettered Jewish immigration. The Zionist conference, he says, will have to make all its decisions in light of what will be the shape of the new government.

CATHOLIC CLERGY HAS NO INTENTION OF HOLDING ONTO RESCUED JEWISH CHILDREN, SAYS PRIEST

PARIS, July 22. (JTA) — The Catholic clergy has no intention of holding onto the Jewish children its members helped to rescue during the German occupation, Father Chailley, noted resistance leader, and head of the resistance welfare organization, said today.

Addressing a mass-meeting called to mark the third anniversary of the first mass arrests of Jews in Paris, Father Chailley said that anti-Semitism is incompatible with Christianity and pointed to the rescue activities of the Church in behalf of Jewish children. Continuing, he added: "There is no question of our sequestering them as has been hinted recently."

Prof. Michael Fremant, who recently returned from imprisonment in the Buchenwald concentration camp, told the meeting that while 15 percent of the non-Jews deported from France by the Nazis have returned, hardly one percent of the Jews have come back. Speakers included representatives of the National Resistance Committee and the General Federation of Labor Representatives of the French Government, and the American and British embassies attended.

FORMER NAZIS PLACED IN CHARGE OF CAMPS WHERE JEWS HELD UNDER MISERABLE CONDITIONS

LONDON, July 22. (JTA) — Following an appeal sent over the week-end to the Big Three conference at Potsdam, urging that the Allied leaders take steps to save the remnants of European Jewry, the World Jewish Congress released a report on the condition of the "liberated" Jews in German camps, declaring that in some camps former Nazis have been placed in charge.

The camps, the report said, are "scandalously unsanitary" and the detainees are ravaged by disease, and many die daily. There is an acute shortage of doctors, nurses, medicines, food, bedding and clothing, it added. The report also charged that many of the persons held under these conditions, awaiting transport to their home countries, do not wish to be repatriated, because anti-Semitism is still rampant in their homelands.

The Congress revealed that in a letter sent on May 5, Prime Minister Churchill said that the care of the Jews found in camps was a military matter and that he was referring a request by the Congress to the War Office, expressing the hope that it would be given sympathetic consideration. Jewish leaders feel that the situation in the camps is not a result of any deliberate policy of the military authorities, but reflects their failure to grasp the seriousness of the situation.

CZECH DEMAND FOR "ASSIMILATION OF JEWS" DOES NOT MEAN END OF RELIGIOUS, CULTURAL FREEDOM

NEW YORK, July 22. (JTA) — The recent announcement by a Czechoslovak Government spokesman concerning the "assimilation of Jews," in Czechoslovakia did not mean that there would be any forced assimilation as far as religious or cultural freedom is concerned, Jan Masaryk, Czech Foreign Minister declared here.

In a conversation with Jacob Rosenheim, president of the Agudas Israel World Organization, Mr. Masaryk said that not only will individuals of Jewish faith or origin have complete freedom of conscience, but also Jewish religious communities will enjoy the unrestricted right of establishing educational and social institutions of any kind in accordance with their traditions. The right of Jews to teach their children the biblical and rabbinical scriptures in their original language and to maintain hospitals, orphanages etc. in accordance with the dietary laws will not be affected.

However, political minority rights, which were abused by the German minority in Czechoslovakia, will no longer exist for any minority group, even those who were friendly to the Czechoslovakian Government, Mr. Masaryk said. He stressed that the demand for political assimilation does not indicate any change in the friendly attitude of Czechoslovakia towards Zionist aspirations to create a state in its own territory.

NEW PROCEDURE FOR VISAS ANNOUNCED BY STATE DEPT.; ALIENS MUST APPLY DIRECTLY TO CONSULS

WASHINGTON, July 22. (JTA) — Regulations covering applications by aliens for United States visas were issued here yesterday by the State Department. It was announced several weeks ago that in view of the end of the war in Europe a new procedure would be adopted.

Under the new set-up, the State Department explained, "an alien seeking a permit to enter the United States, must first apply to the American diplomatic or consular office which is authorized to accept applications for visas in the district of the alien's foreign residence. Persons in the United States desirous of presenting evidence in support of visa applications should forward such evidence for the present to the consular officer." The State Department will no longer accept sponsorship documents nor initiate action in visa cases.

NEWS OF WESTERN EUROPE TO MEET IN PARIS; DELEGATES FROM SEVEN COUNTRIES EXPECTED

NEW YORK, July 22. (JTA) -- A conference of representatives of the Jews of western Europe will open in Paris on Sunday, August 19, under the auspices of the World Jewish Congress, it was announced today. Delegates are expected from England, France, Belgium, Holland, Italy, Sweden and Switzerland. The executive committee of the World Jewish Congress will be represented by Dr. Stephen S. Wise, Dr. Nahum Goldman, Dr. A. Leon Kubowitzki, Dr. Arish Tartakower and Baruch Zuckerman.

Among the problems to be discussed, according to Dr. Wise, will be "indemnification for private property destroyed or stolen from Jews by the Nazis or their satellites, and reparation for damages to Jewish community property; relief and rehabilitation of the surviving Jews and the reconstruction of their community life culturally and spiritually; and the plight of stateless and unrepatriable refugees, many of them still in camps."

ONLY JEW REMAINING IN BERCHTESGADEN PLACED ON AMERICAN MILITARY GOVERNMENT STAFF

NEW YORK, July 22. (JTA) -- The only Jew found in the town of Berchtesgaden, where Hitler's famous villa was located, has been hired by the military government as an interpreter, it is revealed by Patricia Lochridge, war correspondent of the Woman's Home Companion, in an article appearing tomorrow in that magazine.

Miss Lochridge, who was given the unique assignment of ruling Berchtesgaden for one day in order that she might give the American people an idea of the problems facing the Allied armies, discloses that military government officials ordered that any Jews who were found "were to be given additional food since they had long starved."

LAUNCH \$1,000,000 DRIVE FOR JEWISH INSTITUTE OF RELIGION; EINSTEIN HEADS CAMPAIGN

NEW YORK, July 22. (JTA) -- A nationwide drive for \$1,000,000 to be used for maintenance and expansion of the Jewish Institute of Religion of New York City was announced yesterday by Rabbi Stephen S. Wise, founder and president of the institute. At the same time, it was announced that Prof. Albert Einstein had accepted the honorary chairmanship of the drive.

In a message, Professor Einstein asserted that "in the past, Europe was the center of Jewish culture and education.... but the advent of Nazism drove Jewish culture and education and all free academic learning out of the continent. Spiritual and scientific teaching can thrive only on democratic soil. If the world is once again to know the value of cultural and spiritual inspiration we Jews in America must preserve and expand our institutions."

ARTHUR GILBERT, RABBINICAL STUDENT, ELECTED NATIONAL AZA PRESIDENT; HONOR WAR DEAD

DOYLESTONE, PA., July 22. (JTA) -- Arthur Gilbert, of Philadelphia, 18-year-old rabbinical student at the Jewish Theological Seminary of America, was elected grand aliah gadol or president of Aleph Zadik Aleph, B'nai B'rith's organization for boys of high school age, at the close of its war service conference, which replaced the 22nd annual national convention, at the National Farm School.

A highlight of the conference was a memorial service in honor of the more than 200 AZA members who have been killed in the war. The guest speaker was Sidney G. Kuzworn, member of the B'nai B'rith Youth Commission and chairman of B'nai B'rith's Americanism Commission.