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PALESTINE GOVERNMENT GRANTS 1,500 IMMIGRATION CERTIFICATES TO JEWS FOR CURRENT MONTH

JERUSALEM, March 17. (JTA) -- The Palestine Government today announced the allocation of 1,600 immigration certificates for the period March 15 - April 15. Of these, 1,500 will be assigned to Jews and 100 to non-Jews.

Two American engineers, John L. Savage, designer of the Grand Coulee and Boulder Dams, and James B. Hays, formerly with the TVA and chief engineer for the Commission for Palestine Surveys, told the Anglo-American inquiry committee at a closed session on Friday that the use of the Jordan River waters for irrigation and generation of electric power would add at least 1,500,000 people to the absorptivity of Palestine, it was disclosed here today.

Savage told a press conference that realization of the "Lowdermilk Plan" would annually add to Palestine's economic wealth a sum equal to the entire cost of the project--approximately \$250,000,000. Irrigation of semi-arid lands, historically among the most fertile in the world, would bring an additional 600,000 acres under cultivation, and provide a livelihood for a minimum of 400,000 farm population, he said. The development, which could be built in ten years, would provide immediate work for 4,000 people, according to Hays.

At the hearing, Hays said, he had pointed out that if the Jordan Valley had been in Southern California it would have been irrigated a century ago. The valley lies in the same latitude as Southern California and enjoys much the same conditions of temperature and rainfall, except that the growing season is longer in Palestine. Hays added that the Palestine Government did not seem interested in the project.

ANGLO-AMERICAN INQUIRY COMMITTEE UNIT HOLDS HEARINGS IN DAMASCUS; DUE IN BEIRUT TODAY

DAMASCUS, Syria, March 17. (JTA) -- The Orient Palace Hotel here was an armed fortress when a sub-committee of the Anglo-American Committee of Inquiry on Palestine arrived here late yesterday, after a visit to the Sea of Galilee. British security police and Syrian constables stood guard in the lobby and outside the rooms where the committee members are quartered.

At hearings scheduled for this afternoon (details of which had not been received when the Bulletin went to press) the sub-committee is slated to hear Moslem and Christian leaders, members of the Syrian parliament, spokesmen for political parties, the chamber of commerce and the press.

The probers were the guests of honor at a dinner at the British legation last night, and tonight will be tendered an official banquet by the Government. The sub-committee is leaving for Beirut tomorrow.

ABDULLAH AND BRITAIN REPORTED TO HAVE CONCLUDED AGREEMENT ON TRANSJORDAN INDEPENDENCE

LONDON, March 17. (JTA) -- Negotiations between Emir Abdullah, ruler of Transjordan, and the British Government have been concluded, Reuters reported today, quoting "authoritative diplomatic quarters." The agreement, which provides independence for Transjordan, will be signed "in the next few days," the British news agency said.

The Emir conferred here with Faris El Khoury, chief Syrian delegate to the United Nations, who is still in London. It is understood that the talks have not dealt with the project of Greater Syria which would embrace Syria, Transjordan, Lebanon, Palestine and Iraq.

Under the agreement between Emir Abdullah and the British Government, the Arab region as well as the Transjordan Frontier Force will remain under the supervision of British commander even after the independence of Transjordan is proclaimed. The Transjordan armed forces will continue to be supplied by the British and will be under British control.

JEWS IN GERMANY MARK FIRST FREE PURIM SINCE LIBERATION AT SERIES OF FESTIVITIES

FRANKFURT, March 17. (JTA) -- Celebrating their first Purim since liberation, the Jews of Germany last night attended the reading of the Megillah in Jewish DP centers and in the few remaining synagogues.

At the Zeilsheim DP camp near here the ceremony was held in the camp's public square, in front of the brick monument commemorating the 6,000,000 murdered Jews of Europe, with floodlights illuminating the scene.

Today, a series of parties and dances marked the holiday. Sidney Flatow, welfare director at Zeilsheim, who was formerly the executive director of a Jewish center in New York, organized a children's party in the afternoon, and a dinner-dance tonight, at which children presented the story of Esther. Hamen Taschen, candy and almonds were distributed. The Jewish community councils of Frankfurt and Berlin also had children's parties.

The Berlin community arranged a reception attended by 2,000 persons, including representatives of the four occupation powers. Here, also, children depicted the story of Esther.

ISRAELI JEWS WIN RIGHT TO HAVE SETTLERS FROM OTHER VILLAGES REMAIN THERE

JERUSALEM, March 17. (JTA) -- The Jews of Galilee today won the right to have male settlers reside in Birya, until the arrested male population of that colony is released.

At a meeting with the Galilee district commissioner this morning, representatives of the Council of Jewish Settlements in Galilee were informed that the Government would agree to 20 Jews remaining at Birya, if the hundreds of settlers who assembled there in recent days would leave by 2 p.m. today. The council representatives agreed.

ANTI-SEMITIC POSTERS WARN SLOVAKIAN JEWS TO LEAVE THE COUNTRY; GERMANS BEHIND AGITATION

PRAGUE, March 17. (JTA) -- Posters demanding "Jews, Get Out" and "Jews, Go to Palestine," appeared this week in the Kassarok district of Slovakia, it was learned today.

Police, who removed the posters, were told that several weeks ago Germans living in the district attempted to incite reactionary Slovaks to attack Jews. Their plot was thwarted by Czech soldiers who notified the local Jewish community council. Most of the Kassarok Jews wish to emigrate, because of the anti-Semitic agitation in the area.

FORMER COMMANDANT OF OSWIECIM CAPTURED BY BRITISH; ARREST CLIMAXES NINE-MONTH SEARCH

LONDON, March 17. (JTA) -- The arrest of Rudolf Hoess, former commandant of Oswiecim death camp, was announced yesterday by British military authorities in Germany, who have been searching for him for nine months.

Hoess, who is considered by the British authorities as the "greatest individual killer" in history, was accused by Joseph Kramor, executed "Beast of Belsen," as being responsible for the gassing of millions of Jews. He was caught in the Flensburg area near the Danish border and immediately brought to British headquarters in Germany, where he is reported to have signed a confession labelled, "How I Gassed Two Million."

ROMANIAN JEWISH SCHOOLS FACE SHUT DOWN AS RESULT OF GOVT. FAILURE TO PAY SUBSIDY

BUCHAREST, March 17. (JTA) -- Ninety-seven Jewish community schools, with a registration of 15,000 students, are facing a shutdown because of the Rumanian Government's failure to pay a subsidy of 600,000,000 lei annually, which it had previously promised to Jewish schools.

When the Federation of Jewish Communities requested an increase in the subsidy in line with the official 300 percent rise in prices and salaries, the Government replied that it was unable to pay even the original subsidy, which was due last October. The Government's statement has aroused great indignation among the Jews, because thus far it has been paying subsidies to all religious communities except the Jews. The Federation is planning to present a formal protest.

FRENCH ZIONISTS URGE JEWISH AGENCY TO DEMAND REPARATIONS FROM GERMANY

PARIS, March 17. (JTA) -- The seventh annual convention of the Zionist Organization of France, proposing a plan for financing the immigration and resettlement of arriving European Jews in Palestine, has urged the Jewish Agency to demand reparations from Germany.

The conference also adopted resolutions calling for the abrogation of the White Paper and the establishment of a Jewish state in Palestine. Affirming the friendship between the Jewish and Arab peoples, the meeting went on record as protesting the unilateral separation of Transjordan from Palestine, demanded the trial of the ex-Mufti as a war criminal, and called for an end to the Arab League's boycott against Jewish goods from Palestine.

Pointing out the dangers to France and to the Jews of a united Germany, and stressing the historical support offered to Zionism by France, even before the issuance of the Balfour Declaration, the conference appealed to the French Government for continued aid to Zionist aspirations.

QUESTION OF ERITREAN DEPORTATIONS WILL BE RAISED IN COMMONS NEXT WEEK

LONDON, March 17. (JTA) -- The deportation of Palestinian Jews to a detention camp near Asmara, Eritrea, will be questioned in the House of Commons next Wednesday by Sami Zilliacus, Labor M.P. Zilliacus plans to ask Foreign Secretary Ernest Bevin to explain why the Jews were deported although no charge had been made against them.

ZIONISTS IN ROMANIA DECIDE TO CREATE "JEWISH BLOC" FOR PARLIAMENTARY ELECTIONS

BUCHAREST, March 17. (JTA) -- Representatives of all Zionist groups in Rumania today decided, in principle, to create a "Jewish bloc" for the forthcoming parliamentary elections, and to present a Jewish list of candidates.

JEWISH EDUCATION COMMITTEE GROUP CONFERS BROTHERHOOD AWARD UPON LEHMAN

NEW YORK, March 17. (JTA) -- Herbert H. Lehman, retiring Director General of UNRRA, received the annual Human Brotherhood Award of the League of Fraternal Organizations of the Jewish Education Committee at a ceremony today at the Waldorf-Astoria Hotel, attended by more than 1,200 Jewish leaders.

The award, previously conferred on the late President Roosevelt, Dr. Arthur H. Hays Sulzberger and Supreme Court Justice Frank Murphy, cited Mr. Lehman's long years of service as a public official, statesman, and leader in the Jewish community. It praised his achievements as head of UNRRA, declaring "that in dedicating his exceptional powers to bringing relief to those who suffer from the after-effects of the most cruel war in history, he is working to establish a community of interest among all peoples, out of which future peace must grow."

In accepting the award, Mr. Lehman deplored the lack of faith among "men and governments," and pleaded for a greater emphasis on religious values. "Men speak of the wonder of the survival of the Jewish people through the ages," he said. "It has survived because Jews have held fast to the tradition that thousands of years ago, on the slope of Mount Sinai, their fathers entered into a covenant for them with the Lord, and no force could compel the Jews to abandon the tradition of that covenant. Today men may accept or reject the literal truth of that tradition, but every Jew who knows the history of Jewish faithfulness to that tradition must feel that he is an unworthy descendant of a great line unless he too remains faithful to his spiritual ideals, whatever they may be. Jewish history teaches that spiritual ideals, in a people as well as in an individual, give strength and endurance transcending material wealth or power."

200 DELEGATES TO MASS. JWA CONFERENCE PLEDGE SUPPORT TO \$100,000,000 DRIVE

WORCESTER, Mass., March 17. (JTA) -- The Jews of Europe hold first priority for swift restoration to their rightful place as first class citizens of a free world and must be accorded this recognition by the United Nations before homelessness, starvation and anti-Semitism further decimate their ranks, Lt. Col. Judah Nadich, former adviser on Jewish affairs to General Eisenhower, declared here today before 200 delegates from 53 Massachusetts communities who met at the Sheraton Hotel at a state-wide conference of the United Jewish Appeal.

The 200 delegates pledged their communities to give "unreserved support" to the JWA \$100,000,000 campaign. Among those addressing the conference were Renzo Levi of Rome, president of the Jewish Relief Organization of Italy; Leo Hermann of Jerusalem, international secretary of the Palestine Foundation Fund, who recently arrived in this country following an extended tour through Europe and the Middle East; and Milton Sussman, Pittsburgh attorney, who reported to the delegates on conditions in Dachau concentration camp when it was liberated by Allied troops.

HADASSAH SENDS PURIM GIFT OF \$250,000 TO JEWISH AGENCY FOR CHILD CARE IN PALESTINE

NEW YORK, March 17. (JTA) -- A gift of \$250,000 was cabled today by Hadassah to the youth immigration department of the Jewish Agency for the maintenance and education of Jewish refugee children being brought to Palestine from various European countries.

The gift, made in honor of the nation-wide Purim observance of the 34th anniversary of the founding of Hadassah, brings the organization's contribution for child welfare in Palestine to a total of \$615,000 since the beginning of the year. The society is pledged to donate \$1,000,000 for child rehabilitation in Palestine by the end of this September.

ALL JEWS IN POLAND SEEK EMIGRATION, REPRESENTATIVE OF JEWISH LABOR COMMITTEE REPORTS

NEW YORK, March 17. (JTA) -- The only hope of the surviving Jews in Poland is emigration, Jacob Pat, executive secretary of the Jewish Labor Committee, who has just returned from a trip to that country, reported at a press conference here.

"It does not matter to them where they go, as long as they are permitted to enter any country," he said. "They would leave for Palestine, for the United States, or for any country where they could live among Jews."

Anti-Semitism is prevalent throughout Poland, Mr. Pat declared. He pointed out that the Government is doing its best to check it, but asserted that it faced an impossible task in view of the fact that a very large majority of the Polish population is deeply anti-Semitic. "Many Poles cannot forgive the fact that there are still Jews left alive today in their country," he reported.

Despite the terror under which the surviving Jews live, they are making every possible effort to re-establish their communal and cultural life, the Jewish Labor Committee representative stated. He added that large transports of Polish Jews are arriving from the USSR to Poland. He estimated that there are at present about 80,000 Jews in Poland, including many who are still afraid to admit that they are Jews and who use non-Jewish identity documents.

Many of the 4,000 Jewish children who survived are still in Christian homes and must be "bought" from the Poles who gave them shelter during the Nazi occupation and who are now asking compensation, Mr. Pat said. He added that during his stay in Poland he personally "liberated" forty-two Jewish children from Polish peasants by paying the cost of their maintenance during the occupation years.

ZIONIST-REVISIONISTS IN SO. AFRICA DECIDE TO PARTICIPATE IN WORLD ZIONIST CONGRESS

JOHANNESBURG, March 17. (JTA) -- The New Zionist Organization of South Africa today issued a call to the Zionist-Revisionists throughout the country to buy "shekels" in order to be able to vote in the elections to the forthcoming World Zionist Congress. The Jewish press lauds the decision of the Zionist-Revisionists to participate in the Congress.

FIRST CONFERENCE OF AUSTRALIAN ORTHODOX RABBIS CONCLUDES IN SYDNEY

SYDNEY, Australia, March 17. (JTA) -- The first country-wide conference of orthodox rabbis in Australia concluded here today. Rabbi Israel Porush, in one of the featured addresses of the convention, pointed out that "one of the dangers" facing the minority in the "geographically remote country is stagnation." He asserted that the only way to avoid this is "personal contact" between the rabbis and their widespread congregations.

OSE ESTABLISHES NEW BRANCH IN ITALY; JEWISH LEADERS ATTEND FIRST MEETING

NEW YORK, March 17. (JTA) -- The World OSE Union announced today the establishment of a branch of its organization in Italy, with offices in Rome. The first meeting of the organization was attended by the Chief Rabbi of Rome, Professor David Prato; Giuseppe Nathan, chairman of the Union of Jewish Communities in Italy; Dante Alimanti, former president of the Union and many others.