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1,200 JEWISH REFUGEES ARRESTED IN ITALY WILL BE PLACED IN CUSTODY OF JDC

ROME, April 7. (JTA) -- The 1,200 Jewish refugees detained by Italian authorities aboard the 1,000-ton motor schooner "Fede" following their arrest on Friday as they were preparing to sail for Palestine will be placed in the custody of the Joint Distribution Committee, it was reported here today.

Benjamin Brook, JDC representative in Italy, and Dr. Umberto Nachon, Jewish Agency representative here, are already in the southern town of La Spezia, where the Jews were arrested. The Palestine office here has received a wire from the refugees, with an appeal that it be forwarded to President Truman and Prime Minister Attlee, in which they warn that if they are not permitted to enter Palestine, they "will sink the ship and drown with it, because we have reached the last stage of despair."

It is not expected here that any official action will be taken against the refugees. The only charge which could be placed against them is illegal possession of Allied stores, since each is understood to have had a ten-day supply of Allied rations.

Three non-commissioned officers who were detained in connection with the affair are reported to have been members of a Jewish military unit, which as part of the British forces had been ordered south from Udine. British circles here believe that refugees were loaded onto the trucks which brought them to La Spezia while the convoy was traveling southward.

British Reported to Have Ordered Arrest of La Spezia Refugees

JERUSALEM, April 7. (JTA) -- The Palestine Government is determined to oppose with all its resources "illegal" immigration above the 1,500 monthly quota it has temporarily set, and, therefore, ordered the Italians to arrest the La Spezia refugees, it is reported here today. The Government is understood to be preparing centers on the Aeolian Islands for captured visasless immigrants.

David Ben Gurion, chief of the Jewish Agency, addressing a Labor Party conference in Haifa last night, said that Jewish immigration to Palestine would continue as long as the Zionist movement exists in Europe. He said that the La Spezia incident is the first time Britain had fought Zionism outside of Palestine. The secret "Voice of Israel" radio, also commenting on the arrests in Italy, warned today that "nothing will be allowed to halt Jewish immigration."

The entire Jewish community is aroused by the reports from La Spezia, as well as reports concerning pogroms in Hungary and unrest in the DP camps in Germany. Editorials in today's papers declare that Palestine's Jews will not tolerate continuation of a hostile policy towards the remnants of European Jewry whose only crime is that they wish to leave Europe.

RIFKIND REPORT RECOMMENDING TRANSFER OF JEWISH DP'S TO PALESTINE RELEASED BY WAR DEPT.

WASHINGTON, April 7. (JTA) -- Rapid mass resettlement in Palestine of the remaining 100,000 Jews in Germany and Austria was recommended by Judge Simon H. Rifkind, Special Advisor on Jewish Affairs to General Joseph T. McNarney, European Theater commander, in a final memorandum he submitted to McNarney upon completion of his five-months service in Germany, it was disclosed today by the War Department. Judge Rifkind recently returned to the United States to resume his duties as United States district judge for the southern district of New York.

In issuing the memorandum the War Department stated that it represented "only the personal views" of Judge Rifkind and was being released "as the comment of a qualified observer on a matter in which there has been substantial public interest."

Rifkind emphasized that the problem of displaced Jews "is actually insoluble without Palestine," which, he said, is the sole hope of the majority of Jews in Germany and Austria. "Disintegration has already begun and may rapidly spread," he said, and "unless the world is prepared immediately to make a place for them, it will drive to despair and disaster this handful of a destitute people. All of them have but one earnest wish, to be quit of Europe, and most of them have one other compelling desire, to emigrate to Palestine."

Urges Number of Changes in Army Treatment of Displaced Jews

Rifkind recommended a number of changes to improve the effectiveness of policies regarding Jewish DP's. Revision of diet to vary the monotony headed his list, followed by more adequate rehabilitation and training projects, provision of more civilian rather than barracks type housing, intensification of the education and religious programs, "first class effort" in providing opportunities for employment, prevention of "peculiarly inappropriate" tendencies to intensify policing of the persecuted DP groups, non-Jewish as well as Jewish, and an educational program for newly arrived troops and military police for understanding treatment of the DP's.

However, the underlying problem of the displaced Jews, Judge Rifkind stressed, "will cease to be a problem, not when any specified agency has discharged its limited responsibility, but when the Jews concerned have been restored to normal life in an abode in which they strike permanent roots." He warned that the frustration of finding a place outside Europe in which to live was rapidly bringing the Jewish DP's "to the end of their emotional tether."

Criticizes Conduct of UNRRA and Intergovernmental Refugee Committee

Judge Rifkind categorically stated that of the several governmental agencies responsible for DP's, "the Army is the only one that has to date made a substantial and noteworthy contribution." He sharply criticized UNRRA for refusal to contribute any supplies to DP's, for failure in the U.S. zone "to bring to its task the necessary initiative, administrative skill and imagination. Conspicuous has been its lack of drive to implement ideas conceived both within and outside its staff." He praised the devotion of field workers but deplored the lack of routine, technical knowledge concerning housing, clothing and feeding, and absence of "necessary executive capacity."

The Intergovernmental Committee on Refugees received even more rigorous criticism as an "impotent" organization which "has accomplished nothing in the way of resettlement of Jewish DP's and can accomplish nothing under its present poli-

as." He said the committee has taken no steps so far to facilitate settlement of Jewish DP's anywhere and "by appearing to act in this field has discouraged others from taking the initiative."

He recommended that the United States directly negotiate with other immigration-receiving nations to help remedy loss of valuable time.

Says World Jews Indebted to Army for Survival of European Remnants

Cataloguing many instances of "the Army's warmheartedness" in dealing with all displaced persons and ex-persecuted ones particularly, Rifkind declared that "the Jews of the world are everlastingly in debt to the Armed Forces of the United States for the survival of a remnant of Israel in Europe." He termed the rescue phases of liberation "traces of accomplishment," and lauded the "heroic and selfless devotion of many medical and combat officers, and thousands of anonymous American soldiers of all kinds."

Rifkind also praised the Army's "great accomplishments" in arrangements for the "semi-permanent living" conditions of "ex-persecutees." He mentioned the wide measure of personal freedom accorded them, encouragement of self-government and broad freedom of movement, higher caloric diet than that permitted the Germans, and priority in many items. He cited the provision of plane service to ferry in "scarcely needed instructors and supplies from Palestine."

He found especially noteworthy the accommodation and care extended to Jews who infiltrated from East European countries. He pointed out that the future of East European Jews constitutes the primary problem, since only a minor fraction of German and Austrian Jews remain in Central Europe.

"Many of the Jews who are today living in Poland, Czechoslovakia, Rumania and Hungary are baffled and perplexed, insecure in the present, fearful of the future," Rifkind reported. "Not so the Jews in Germany and Austria. They know what they want; they want to quit Europe, to live together, not dispersed among a population that regards them as aliens; they desire to live in the pattern of their own historic culture; they visualize the realization of their desires in Palestine."

Jews' Desire To Emigrate Responsible for Unrest in Camps

These considerations are "crucially germane" to the Army's task, Rifkind declared, in that they supply the clue to the "sense of excitement" found in Jewish displaced persons centers, "the high pitch of the publications, the mass meetings, demonstrations, petitions and general atmosphere of political fervor, in sharp contrast to the relative quietude in other DP centers. They provide the reason for the Jewish impatience with measures that give an atmosphere of permanency to their enforced residence in Germany, and their reluctance to do anything that appears to integrate them with the German population."

They also help to explain, he said, the increase of the Jewish population in the U.S. zone, while that of other DP groups decreases. Finding themselves unwelcome in their lands of origin, indigenous anti-Semitism flourishing, their families, friends and homes gone, "they find it impossible to take up normal living in a graveyard of memories."

Flatly declaring that life for these people is "impossible" in their home countries, and that "they cannot be repatriated," Rifkind said that the Jews entering the U.S. zone in Germany seek only "a provisional place of refuge as a staging and rehabilitation area for migration." He praised the Army's "sympathetic understanding thus far" of the search for asylum, and strongly urged continuation of that policy.

ELDERLY REFUGEES WILL BE ALLOWED TO REMAIN IN SWITZERLAND; OTHERS TO GET WORK PERMITS

GENEVA, April 7. (JTA) -- A considerable improvement in the position of the over 15,000 Jewish refugees in Switzerland is expected as a result of a conference this week-end of cantonal police heads, during which they unanimously approved the draft of a decree allowing elderly refugees to take up permanent residence in this country.

At the same time, they approved the issuance of labor permits to refugees, provided that Swiss interests were not affected adversely, but expressed the wish that refugees still be compelled to serve short terms periodically in the "land army" to relieve the acute shortage of farm labor.

9,000 POLISH JEWS BEING REPATRIATED FROM USSR THIS MONTH, REMAINDER WILL GO NEXT MONTH

MOSCOW, April 7. (JTA) -- Sixty thousand Polish Jews will be repatriated from the Soviet Union this month and the remainder will return to Poland in May, it was announced here today by the Committee of Polish Jews in USSR. Many of the Jews are reported to be apprehensive about conditions in Poland, because of reports of anti-Jewish terror there.

A total of 9,000 packages for Polish Jews in the USSR are still lying in post offices because they cannot be delivered to addressees who have been repatriated, it was reported at a conference of representatives of the Polish Embassy in Moscow and Yeringin, director of the International Communications Department. In addition several thousand parcels are still expected from Iran and Palestine.

The conference, which was called at the suggestion of the Committee of Polish Jews and the Union of Polish Patriots, decided to turn over packages for individuals to the Central Committee of Polish Jews in Moscow which will distribute them to the addressees wherever possible. Undeliverable cartons and those not addressed to individuals will be sent to frontier posts and areas in which the repatriates will settle for distribution there. Approximately 3,000 parcels will be sent to frontier points, and each district to which Jews will be repatriated in May will receive 300 packages.

JEVISH YOUTH, WOUNDED IN BATTLE FOLLOWING PALESTINE RAILROAD BLASTING, DIES

JERUSALEM, April 7. (JTA) -- Abner Ben Shemen, 18-year-old Jewish youth, who was wounded in an engagement near Batyam between British troops and a group of 31 Jews following the blasting of the Ashdod railway station last week, died yesterday in a government hospital at Jaffa.

The youth was buried in the Hachaelit Itzhak cemetery. Funeral services were conducted under supervision of a large force of policemen and not even the closest relatives of the boy were permitted to attend.

A report from Bagdad today says that a group of Iraqi Jews have asked permission to form a political party and start a newspaper which will appear this week with the object of combatting Zionism.

HUNGARIAN GOVT. PERMITS J.D.C. SHIPMENTS FOR JEWS TO ENTER FREE OF DUTY, FREIGHT CHARGES

SOFIA, April 7. (JTA) -- A decree permitting the transport of all Joint Distribution Committee relief shipments for Bulgarian Jews from the Bulgarian border to Sofia free of all taxes, customs, and freight charges was passed yesterday in the National Assembly. Previously all relief transports had been permitted to enter free of duty, but the J.D.C. had to pay half the total freight bill.

NEW GOVERNMENT ABOLISHES ALL REFERENCES TO RACE, RELIGION IN OFFICIAL PAPERS

PRAGUE, April 7. (JTA) -- References to religious preference or racial origin of Czechoslovak citizens will no longer be made on official forms of Government agencies in Bohemia and Moravia, Minister of the Interior Václav Nosek announced here today.

In instructions to all administrative agencies and national committees, Nosek said: "Reference to racial origin or religious denomination in official communications is contrary to the democratic spirit of equality of all citizens in a free country and must be considered a survival of the ideology introduced by the fascist occupation forces."

The instructions emphasized that "in the Czechoslovak Republic the concept of 'Aryans' and 'non-Aryans' does not exist," and that "the rights and duties of Czechoslovak citizens is unaffected by their racial origin or religious denomination." Those who were persecuted by the Nazis for religious and racial reasons are placed on an equal footing with those persecuted for political reasons. Those who in the 1930 census declared themselves of Jewish nationality, and who did not commit any acts against the Czechoslovak Republic, will retain full Czechoslovak citizenship, Nosek stressed.

Evidence at the war crimes trial here of Karl Herman Frank, former Reich Protector for Bohemia and Moravia, revealed that Theresienstadt was far from the "model" concentration camp the Nazis boasted it was, and that Jews were constantly being tortured.

Witnesses testified that Jews were questioned for long periods and frequently beaten during interrogation. One routine used in the camp was to ask an entering Jew what his profession was. If he replied "lawyer," or "doctor," or "teacher," he was beaten for not stating "simple worker." If he said he was a "worker," he was knocked down for attempting to conceal his former profession. Fourteen Czechoslovak guards were executed at Theresienstadt for humane treatment of Jews, one witness told the court.

GESTAPO ORDERS SENDING JEWS TO CAMPS UNEARTHED; MAY AID IN TRACING MISSING JEWS

FRANKFURT, April 7. (JTA) -- Orders issued by the Gestapo in Frankfurt sending some 15,000 Jews to concentration camps have been unearthed here by American investigators, it was announced today. The old travel orders were discovered in the cellar of the criminal police building.

It is expected that the papers will eventually be turned over to Jewish organizations to facilitate the tracing of many Jews whose whereabouts are still unknown. However, they must first be cleared by U.S. military authorities who are now examining them.

SOUTH AFRICAN MATZOH RATIONING BREAKS DOWN; BOARD OF DEPUTIES APPEALS TO RETAILERS

JOHANNESBURG, April 7. (JTA) -- Control of the distribution of matzohs in South Africa has broken down and the Board of Deputies of South African Jews today appealed to retailers to make an equitable distribution despite the breakdown on the manufacturing and wholesale levels.

During the war years, the Government allocated wheat for matzoh baking to manufacturers provided the Board of Deputies controlled the distribution. This arrangement was satisfactorily carried through until the end of the war. This year because of the importation of a considerable amount of matzohs, the manufacturers have withdrawn from the rationing system and will sell on the open market. The importers offered to submit to the same Board of Deputies' control, but local manufacturers refused to continue cooperating with the Board.

ZIONIST GROUPS APPEAL TO EVERY JEW IN AMERICA TO BECOME ELECTOR TO ZIONIST CONGRESS

NEW YORK, April 7. (JTA) -- A joint proclamation calling upon every Jew in the United States to purchase a "shekel" and thereby become an elector to the 22nd World Zionist Congress which is scheduled to take place in Palestine this summer, was issued here today by the Zionist Organization of America, Hadassah, Poale Zion, Miz-rachi, Hashomer Hatzair, Left Poale Zion and the Jewish State Party.

The proclamation calls attention to the "crucial importance of this first post-war international assemblage of Zionists following upon the greatest catastrophe in Jewish history and the decimation of European Jewry."

J.D.C. APPROPRIATES \$3,819,250 FOR APRIL RELIEF PROGRAMS FOR JEWS IN EUROPE

NEW YORK, April 7. (JTA) -- Appropriations of \$3,819,250 for April by the Joint Distribution Committee for the relief and rehabilitation of Jewish survivors overseas bring the agency's total allocations this year to more than \$17,574,000, it was announced today by Dr. Joseph C. Hyman, executive vice-chairman.

One-half million pounds of relief supplies were shipped by the Joint Dis-tribution Committee from New York yesterday and today on the SS Sea Nymph and SS Loui-sa M. Alcott headed for Austria, Czechoslovakia, Hungary, France, Germany and Yugo-s-lavia, where they will be distributed among the Jewish survivors by J.D.C. representa-tives stationed in Europe. Approximately 432,600 pounds of the supplies shipped were foodstuffs; the balance clothing.

METHODIST RELIEF COMMITTEE CONTRIBUTES \$10,000 TO UNITED JEWISH APPEAL

NEW YORK, April 7. (JTA) -- A contribution of \$10,000 has been made by the Methodist Committee for Overseas Relief to the United Jewish Appeal campaign for \$100,000,000, the U.J.A. has announced.

In presenting the gift, Bishop Herbert Welch, chairman of the Methodist com-mittee, expressed the hope that it "will serve as a token of the spirit in which we join with you in the common task of bringing relief to the suffering and hope to the oppressed and despairing."

Acknowledging the donation, Edward M.M. Warburg, chairman of the Greater New York campaign, of the U.J.A. declared: "The generous and sympathetic assistance that has come to us from our Christian neighbors is a source of the deepest encouragement in our great united effort to bring hope and healing to the shattered remnants of the Jewish people."

PRESIDENT TRUMAN GREET'S BROOKLYN JEWISH CENTER ON ITS TWENTY-FIFTH ANNIVERSARY

NEW YORK, April 7. (JTA) -- The twenty-fifth anniversary of the establishment of the Brooklyn Jewish Center was marked here tonight by a dinner at the Hotel St. George. The dinner, which concluded a three-day celebration of the anniversary, was attended by 1,300 members of the Center.

A message of congratulations was received from President Truman who said, "I trust that the sphere of usefulness of the Center in the spiritual life of the community will ever widen." Other messages were received from Dr. Chaim Weizmann, president of the World Zionist Congress and the Jewish Agency, Gov. Thomas E. Dewey and Mayor William O'Dwyer.

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