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REFUGEES DETAINED AT LA SPEZIA CALL HUNGER STRIKE; INSIST ON SAILING FOR PALESTINE

LA SPEZIA, Italy, April 9. (JTA) -- The 1,040 Jewish refugees who were detained here as they were preparing to embark on the Italian steamer "Fede" for Palestine, today were on the second day of a hunger strike in protest against the authorities' refusal to permit the ship to depart.

The refugees, who are confined on the "Fede," announced their determination to remain until the ship proceeds to Palestine. Only children under 17, of whom there are a handful, and pregnant women numbering about 100 of the 340 women aboard, are exempt from the hunger strike.

Jewish community leaders here have telegraphed to the Pope, as well as to the American, British and Soviet ambassadors at Rome, and members of the Anglo-American inquiry committee now meeting at Lausanne, appealing to them to intervene on behalf of the detained refugees.

Dr. Umberto Nachon, representative in Italy of the Jewish Agency for Palestine, left today for Genoa to confer with officials of the Allied Commission regarding disposition of the refugees. He visited the passengers yesterday and reported that they were maintaining discipline and good spirits even in the midst of the hunger strike. The passengers have raised the Zionist flag alongside the ship's Italian emblem.

Police Chief Russo of La Spezia today told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency that had the refugees told him they were Jews, he would have allowed them to proceed without any interference. He explained that the police halted the lorries on which the refugees arrived for embarkation because they thought the Jews were fascists for whom the authorities were hunting. The suspicions of the police, he stated, were heightened by the fact that the refugees refused to answer any questions. For want of better quarters, since La Spezia is a badly battered city and port, the police put the refugees aboard the craft on which they intended to sail for Palestine.

Allied Commission Embarrassed; Jews Remove Vital Parts of Ship's Engines

Earlier reports had stated that the Italian authorities had arrested the refugees and had halted the ship on orders from the Allied Commission. Actually, the Allied Commission is now apparently embarrassed and is seeking to persuade the refugees, who came here without documents from all parts of Europe, to accept the status of displaced persons and to consent to be removed to a camp at Chiavari, a town near La Spezia. The passengers, however, have rejected all the blandishments of the authorities, reiterating their threat to sink their ship, and to drown with it, unless permitted to sail.

Further evidencing their determination to resist all efforts to move them, the passengers have removed vital parts of the ship's engines making movement impossible in the event the authorities try to transport them aboard the craft to some place other

than Palestine. The engines, however, can be repaired within two hours should the authorities relent and permit the "Fede" to sail for Palestine.

A 25-year-old Rumanian, Moshe Feldman, is providing strong and colorful leadership of the group, which is much cheered by the attitude of the Italian people and the Italian press. Many newspapers in north Italy have published sympathetic editorials and yesterday a delegation from the La Spezia Socialist and Communist parties boarded the "Fede" to express their sympathy with the refugees.

Truman and Attlee Asked to Intervene for Detained Jewish Refugees

JERUSALEM, April 9. (JTA) -- The Jewish National Council today sent cables to British Premier Clement Attlee and President Harry S. Truman, urging the immediate release of the Jewish immigrants who were arrested at La Spezia on April 4 when attempting to board a ship for Palestine.

The National Council also asked that permission be given to the emigrants to continue their journey to Palestine.

FRENCH GOVERNMENT ANNOUNCES EX-MUFTI IS FREE; WILL NOT HAMPER DEPARTURE TO ARAB COUNTRY

PARIS, April 9. (JTA) -- The ex-Mufti of Jerusalem is not under house arrest and is "free to come and go as he wishes," a French foreign office spokesman told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency today.

He said that the Mufti had never asked the French Government to send him back to Palestine, or any other place in the Arab world, and he denied that the Arab League has demanded his release.

(A Reuter dispatch from Paris quotes the foreign office spokesman as stating that if any Arab state was willing to accept the Mufti, France would place no obstacles in the way of his departure.)

The Quai D'Orsay spokesman denied that Britain had formally requested the Mufti's extradition, but admitted that the British had "asked" that he be turned over to them. The official said no nation or group had asked for the Mufti, with the exception of Yugoslavia, which formally requested last year that the Arab leader be turned over to it, but later withdrew its request. Zionist groups, he added, charge that the Mufti is responsible for anti-Jewish outrages and should be tried as a war criminal.

(The Paris correspondent of the British Broadcasting Company, Thomas Cadet, in a broadcast in London today, said that Britain had informed France that it did not consider the Mufti a war criminal, but rather a "quiescent.")

According to French officials, the Mufti is quite happy in France, sees a constant stream of visitors, and is "looking over the situation in Palestine before deciding what to do."

BRITAIN NOTIFIES LEAGUE OF NATIONS IT INTENDS TO RETAIN PALESTINE MANDATE

GENEVA, April 9. (JTA) -- With the League of Nations, which is the holder of the Palestine Mandate entrusted to Britain, officially liquidating its activities, the British Government today notified the League that it intends to retain the Palestine Mandate until "fresh arrangements" are made.

This notification was given today by Viscount Cecil, representing the British Government at the last session of the League. He added that "the future of Palestine cannot be decided until the Anglo-American inquiry committee have rendered their report." He also reported to the session that Transjordan has been granted independence.

NUREMBERG COURT TO PREVENT WAR CRIMINALS FROM USING TRIAL FOR ANTI-SEMITIC PROPAGANDA

NUREMBERG, April 9. (JTA)--Following a charge by U.S. Prosecutor Robert Jackson that the defense was seeking to use the International Military Tribunal as a "sounding board" for its anti-Semitism, the court decided today to appoint a special official to pass on the relevance of all material submitted for printing by defense attorneys.

Jackson's ire was aroused by material printed by the court's presses for Alfred Rosenberg, which contained what he described as "violently anti-Semitic and irrelevant rubbish." He said that "the United States cannot print and disseminate this violent anti-Semitism. The defense believes we are here to try the issue of the causes of anti-Semitism, with this tribunal as the sounding board. The issue is not Rosenberg's philosophy, but we are charging the murder of four to five million Jews."

Eans Lammers, former chief of the German Chancellory, admitted yesterday that many thousands of German Government officials knew of the Nazi policy to exterminate the Jews. Called as a defense witness, Lammers testified that in 1942 Goering received orders from Hitler for the "final solution of the Jewish question," and that the Reichsmarshal had passed these orders on to Heinrich Heydrich, at that time deputy chief of the Gestapo, for execution. Lammers insisted that he did not understand the meaning of the term "final solution."

He was the first defense witness to confess that hundreds of Nazi leaders had been charged with the responsibility for executing the "final solution" and that they in turn passed these instructions on to hundreds and thousands of other lesser officials.

VIENNA JEWS ELECT NEW COMMUNITY COUNCIL IN FIRST ELECTIONS IN EIGHT YEARS

VIENNA, April 9. (JTA)--In the first free election in eight years, the Jews of Vienna yesterday voted overwhelmingly to retain the present administration of the Jewish community.

Of the 36 seats in the Jewish community council being contested, 33 were won by the candidates running on the joint list supported by most of the groups within the community. About 65 percent of the 4,090 persons eligible to vote participated in the elections.

The new council will meet within the next few days to choose a president of the council. It is almost certain that the incumbent, David Brill, will be re-elected.

JEWISH EMPLOYEES IN TEL AVIV POST OFFICE GO ON STRIKE; ASK HIGHER WAGES

TEL AVIV, April 9. (JTA)--A strike was declared today by more than 400 Jewish clerks and engineers employed by the postoffice. They are asking higher wages and better working conditions. The strikers have appealed to post office employees at Jerusalem, Haifa and other Palestinian towns to stand by, ready for a general strike, if the demands are not met.

This afternoon 300 postal and telegraph workers in Jaffa and workers of the power plant at Rehovoth also went out on strike. Telephone workers and operators are also expected to join the strike in Tel Aviv and Jaffa if the government does not yield to the demand of post office employees.

115 JEWISH ORPHANS LEAVE BRITISH ZONE IN GERMANY FOR PALESTINE

MUNICH, April 9. (JTA)--A transport of 115 Jewish orphans liberated a year ago from the Bergen-Belsen camp, left Hamburg today for Palestine. They were the first children in the British zone to receive Palestine visas. They are between 6 and 16

GEN. MORGAN SAYS 100,000 DISPLACED JEWS COULD BE TRANSPORTED TO PALESTINE IN ONE MONTH

GENEVA, April 9, (JTA) -- Lt. Gen. Sir Frederick E. Morgan, UNRRA director in Germany, today told the Anglo-American inquiry committee, which is now preparing its report in Lausanne, that all the 100,000 displaced Jews in Europe could be transported to Palestine within one month, it was learned here.

All indications point to the fact that the members of the inquiry committee are dividing their report into two parts. One part deals with the interim solution of the Palestine problem, while the second concerns the long-range solution.

On the recommendations for dealing with the immediate problems, there seems to be no differences of opinion among the members, except that the American members want to have all the displaced Jews admitted to Palestine by the end of the year, while the British want to spread out the 100,000 over a period of years. Essentially there is some agreement among all the members on the necessity of abrogating the White Paper restrictions on Jewish immigration and land purchase.

There are serious differences however, with regard to the long-range solution of the Palestine problem, with the following three plans under consideration: 1. Re-affirmation of the Palestine Mandate; 2. Proclamation of Palestine as a bi-national state of Jews and Arabs; 3. Partitioning of Palestine into separate Jewish and Arab states. While only a minority of the committee is at present in favor of partition, the possibility of favorable action on this proposal is not excluded, it is believed by interested circles here.

RIFKIND ASKS UNITED NATIONS TO ASSURE EMIGRATION OF JEWS FROM GERMANY AND EASTERN EUROPE

NEW YORK, April 9, (JTA) -- An urgent appeal to the United Nations Committee on Refugees and Displaced Persons now meeting in London and to the Anglo-American inquiry committee, now deliberating in Switzerland, to assure to the displaced Jews in Germany and to Jews in Eastern European countries "emigration to the places of their choice, including Palestine," was made tonight by Judge Simon H. Rifkind, at the first annual meeting of the New York Chapter of the American Jewish Committee, at the Hotel Biltmore.

Judge Rifkind, who recently returned from Europe where he acted as advisor on Jewish problems to the U.S. military command, declared that "among the displaced Jews in Germany and Austria there is substantial unanimity on this proposition: they want to quit Europe. That continent is to them a graveyard of memories. They have chosen the road of their own salvation. It leads straight to Palestine. No power on earth can divert them, because they are prepared to accept death rather than surrender."

The meeting was attended by several hundred leading members of the New York Jewish community. Ralph E. Samuel, who presided, was re-elected chairman of the N.Y. chapter. Alan M. Stroock, vice-chairman of the executive committee of the American Jewish Committee, delivered a report on the recently held London conference of Jewish organizations, in which some 70 delegates of Jewish bodies in 13 countries participated.

Mr. Stroock, who was chairman of the program committee at the conference, declared that there was unanimous agreement on coordinated action by Jewish organizations in various countries designed to assure equality for all in the peace treaties soon to be concluded with former enemy countries and on implementation and enforcement of the human rights provisions in the United Nations charter.

On the subject of Palestine, Mr. Stroock said, there was general accord on the necessity of re-opening Palestine to large-scale Jewish immigration and on removing existing restrictions on the sale, purchase, and development of land.

HOUSE GETS RESOLUTION ASKING U.S. TO WITHHOLD RECOGNITION OF TRANSJORDAN'S INDEPENDENCE

WASHINGTON, April 9. (JTA) -- Accusing Britain of "sabotaging" the Anglo-American Committee of Inquiry on Palestine "by presenting it with the independence of Transjordan as a fait accompli," Representative Emanuel Celler, New York Democrat, on the floor of the House today introduced a concurrent resolution asking that the United States Government withhold recognition of Transjordan as an independent state and request all members of the United Nations to take a similar stand.

The resolution emphasized that Britain's action is a "violation of the solemn terms of the mandate over Palestine which includes Transjordan" and also violates the Anglo-American convention of 1924 "which protects the rights of American citizens in all of Palestine, including Transjordan, and which precludes unilateral infractions of its terms by the parties signatory."

The resolution also charged that by unilaterally granting independence to Transjordan, Britain violated the United Nations charter. "The attempted bestowal of independence upon Transjordan is contrary to the purpose of the Anglo-American Committee of Inquiry on Palestine," the resolution points out.

Former Senator Guy M. Gillette of Iowa, president of the American League for a Free Palestine, announced that the organization would ask the State Department to bring before the United Nations the subject of the independence of Transjordan.

REPORTS ON ANTI-SEMITISM IN POLAND ARE EXAGGERATED, POLISH MINISTER SAYS IN WASHINGTON

WASHINGTON, April 9. (JTA) -- Jan Stanczyk, Polish Minister of Labor and Public Welfare, said reports of anti-Semitism in Poland were exaggerated by Polish Jews leaving the country for the United States zone of Germany, in an understandable effort to provide reasons for their emigration.

He explained to a press conference at the Polish Embassy that the 80,000 surviving Jews in Poland "do not want to live in their own cemetery," that some wish to go to Palestine, that others are too old to begin creation of a new life in a devastated country, and therefore "understandably" exaggerated the degree of anti-Semitism. He said that murders by some criminal bands for purposes of robbery are attributed to ideological reasons.

"We are accused of having too many Jews in high administrative posts," he said, declaring that a high number of "very able Jews" hold important government and industrial positions. He cited the Minister of Industry and Deputy Ministers of Labor, Shipping and Foreign Trade, and Justice, as well as the very responsible post of Under-Secretary of State for the Prime Minister.

The chief source of anti-Semitism is among the small tradespeople who fear the competition of returned Jews, and among anti-government and anti-Russian "conspirators" who use anti-Semitism to conceal illegal activities, Stanczyk said.

300 JEWISH REFUGEES FROM EUROPE LAND IN NEW YORK; MAJORITY ARE WOMEN

NEW YORK, April 9. (JTA) -- More than 300 Jewish refugees from Europe arrived here yesterday on the Swedish ship "Drottningholm" which brought 800 passengers on her first post-war trip to this country. The majority of the Jewish passengers were women liberated by the Allied armies from various Nazi camps.

The Vead Patzals, an American Jewish orthodox relief group, today announced that its representatives in Switzerland have succeeded in bringing out of Poland 223 homeless Jewish children. Of them, 150 will be housed, fed and educated in the orthodox Jewish tradition in Czechoslovakia and 73 in France, the announcement said.

CONSTRUCTION ON HEBREW UNIVERSITY MEDICAL SCHOOL EXPECTED TO BEGIN SHORTLY

NEW YORK, April 9. (JTA)--Construction on the New Hebrew University medical school on Mt. Scopus in Jerusalem is expected to begin within the next few months, Sir Leon Simon, chairman of the executive committee of the University, disclosed today.

Pointing out that of the 15,000 Jewish physicians in the sections of Europe which were occupied by the Nazis, only about 300 can be accounted for, Sir Leon said that the new medical school will furnish a source of doctors for the devastated European Jewish communities and for the entire Middle East. About 50 students will be admitted yearly during the school's first few years, but it is hoped eventually to train 200 annually, he said.

The faculty for the school is being recruited here and in Europe, Sir Leon revealed, but the institution will be run along Anglo-American lines. A board of American Jewish physicians will act as advisors. At present, a \$4,000,000 campaign for the school is under way in the United States.

GERALD L.K. SMITH, "AMERICA FIRST" HEAD, SENTENCED TO 60 DAYS IN JAIL

CHICAGO, April 9. (JTA)--Gerald L.K. Smith, head of the America First Party, was yesterday sentenced to sixty days imprisonment for contempt of court. The charge arose from his issuance of a statement attacking the jurisdiction of the court during a disorderly conduct trial in which Arthur Terminiello, suspended Alabama priest, was convicted and fined.

The original disorderly conduct charges filed against Terminiello, Smith, and Fred Kister, Smith's aide, resulted from a meeting organized and addressed in Chicago by the three. Terminiello and Smith's publicity agent, Don Lohbeck, still await sentencing on the contempt of court charge.

In sentencing Smith, Judge John V. McCormick said: "If the conduct of you and your associates in and toward an American court of law affords a test of your attitude toward other American institutions, it behooves Americans to look squarely at the philosophy which confronts them."

B'NAI BRITH WOMEN'S CONFERENCE PLEDGES ALL-OUT SUPPORT FOR TRUMAN CONSERVATION PROGRAM

WASHINGTON, April 9. (JTA)--B'nai B'rith women will attempt to rally all-out support for President Truman's food conservation program and will collect 1,000,000 signatures throughout the nation pledging complete support of the food savings drive, Mrs. Arthur G. Laufman, president of the Women's Supreme Council of B'nai B'rith, announced at the conclusion of the group's annual three-day meeting here.

Mrs. Laufman, representing the B'nai B'rith women, received the Treasury Department's "Distinguished Services Rendered" citation for the sale of \$291,238,000 worth of war bonds during the war. Mrs. Carmel Gilbert, president of the B'nai B'rith women in England, addressed the meeting and described the British food conservation system. She is visiting this country to obtain financial assistance for the support of refugee children in England.

GOETZ RE-ELECTED PRESIDENT OF FEDERATION OF JEWISH PHILANTHROPIES OF NEW YORK

NEW YORK, April 9. (JTA)--Norman S. Goetz was re-elected for a second term as president of the Federation of Jewish Philanthropies of New York at a meeting of the board of trustees it was announced today.

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