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ITALIAN POLICE CHIEF ARRESTED FOR SHOWING SYMPATHY TO DETAINED JEWS AT LA SPEZIA

LA SPEZIA, Italy, April 10. (JTA) -- The head of the political section of the Italian Police, who had been assigned to the Italian ship "Fede" on which 1,040 Jewish refugees are being detained, was removed from his post and arrested by the authorities because he manifested sympathy for the Jews, Jewish leaders told a correspondent of the Jewish Telegraphic Agency today.

The correspondent boarded the "Fede" illegally after thrice being refused permission to pay a legal visit to the detained refugees. He rowed two kilometers across the harbor to the pier where the ship was tied up, with its hapless but courageous human cargo defying the authorities to remove them.

The leaders of the refugees told the correspondent the full story of their aborted voyage and their struggle with the authorities. They revealed that when the Allied authorities were informed of their situation, a squad of armed Royal Marines arrived and took up posts on the deck, and sought to cow the refugees into leaving the ship for a camp at Chiavari, a few miles from La Spezia. The Jews, who had survived such extermination camps as Oswiecim, Buchenwald, Birkenau and Mauthausen, refused to move, and the marines finally withdrew.

This was followed by a series of conferences among various British officers and leaders of the refugees, with the British trying to persuade the passengers to disembark, but without success. The leaders on Monday served notice that they would refuse to confer further with the British, and that they would admit on board only an officer who carried a permit for them to proceed to Palestine. Earlier, they had warned that they were determined to sink the ship and drown with it rather than be removed.

Passengers Start Third Day of Hunger Strike; One Taken to Hospital

The refugees today were on the third day of a hunger strike to emphasize their determination to go to Palestine. One passenger was so ill as a result of two days of self-imposed starvation that he had to be removed to the La Spezia hospital. Only 11 children among the 1,040 passengers are exempted from the hunger strike. Even the pregnant women are refusing to eat. Scores of women are beginning to show signs of weakness after more than two days without food.

The ship somewhat resembles a Chinese junk, and hardly seems sturdy enough to withstand a two-weeks buffeting at sea. Its hold is divided into two sections separated by a corridor scarcely wide enough to permit a man to walk. On either side of the passage there are row after row of bunks in seven layers. The passengers are obliged to crawl over one another in order to get in or out. The only light or air comes from an opening in the deck above.

The only "document" that the passengers carry is a blue card on which there is a caption reading, "Permit to Enter Palestine," after which is listed the name of the

holder's father, his birthplace and nationality. Then the legend appears, "The bearer has been found qualified by representatives of the Jewish community of Palestine for repatriation to Palestine." Under the heading, "Authority," the following four statements appear:

"1. And they shall abide in the land I have given unto Jacob, My Servant, wherein your father abode, and they shall abide therein, even they and their children's children forever - Ezekiel 37."

"2. And with great mercies will I gather thee - Isaiah 54."

"3. Lord Balfour's Declaration of Nov. 2, 1917."

"4. The Mandate for Palestine."

The leaders of the refugees asked the correspondent to convey to the world the message that they were unflinchingly determined to get to Palestine, or to perish. They also asked that the American, British and Russian ambassadors in Rome come to La Spezia to investigate for themselves, adding that if an attempt to remove them forcibly is made it will end disastrously for the authorities as well as for the refugees.

Allied Commission Says No Force Was Used Against the Refugees

GENOA, Italy, April 10. (JTA) -- The liaison office here of the Allied Commission today denied the allegation that a squad of Royal Marines posted machine-guns on the deck of the "Fede" in an effort to cow the passengers into agreeing to a transfer to a camp at Chiavari, near the port.

Major Kane, of the British Army, said that a squad of sailors armed only with pistols boarded the ship, intending to sail it to Chiavari, but that when the Jewish refugees informed the officers that they were determined to "remain and die," unless permitted to proceed to Palestine, the sailors departed.

Major Kane also explained that Chiavari, where the authorities had offered the refugees temporary asylum, has never been a fascist concentration camp, but consisted of a group of comfortable villas which until recently was used as a rest camp for British troops.

Italian Government Asked to Appeal for Palestine Visas for "Fede" Refugees

ROME, April 10. (JTA) -- The Italian Government was today asked by Raphael Cantoni, chairman of the Union of Jewish Communities in Italy, to intervene with the Allied Commission to enable the departure to Palestine of the more than 1,000 Jewish refugees detained at La Spezia.

Mr. Cantoni suggested that the Allied Commission secure from the Palestine Government immigration certificates for the detained Jews to be deducted from the Palestine immigration quota for April.

American Jewish Conference Appeal to Truman to Aid Detainees

NEW YORK, April 10. (JTA) -- President Truman was asked today by the American Jewish Conference to intervene on behalf of the Jewish refugees detained at La Spezia so that they may proceed to Palestine, in a telegram sent to the President under the signature of Henry Molsky, chairman of the interim committee of the Conference.

PALESTINE CUT OFF FROM WORLD AS COMMUNICATIONS STRIKE PARALYZES RADIO AND TELEGRAPH

JERUSALEM, April 10. (JTA) -- Palestine was virtually cut off from the rest of the world today, as a general strike of communication workers paralyzed postal, telegraph, telephone and radio facilities.

The Palestine Broadcasting Service went off the air this morning, when technicians and engineers joined in the strike of postal employees which was proclaimed yesterday in Tel Aviv and is rapidly spreading.

Telephonic communications between Jerusalem, Haifa and Tel Aviv are cut and with the exception of a limited number of press cables, there was no cable communication between Palestine and other countries. There is a possibility that railway workers, who also have grievances against the Government regarding wages, will go on strike tomorrow.

This afternoon an impressive demonstration of Jewish and Arab workers paraded through the main streets of Jerusalem, flanked by police radio cars, but there were no disturbances.

It is understood that the strike was called as a result of the rejection by the Palestine Government of a report made in 1945 after an investigation of Palestine post office employees' grievances.

661 SINGING, SHOUTING YOUNGSTERS LEAVE GERMANY ON FIRST LEG OF JOURNEY TO PALESTINE

FRANKFURT, April 10. (JTA) -- Singing Palestinian songs and waving blue and white flags, 661 Jewish children from various camps in the American, British and French zones left here for France this evening on the first leg of their journey to Palestine.

Three-hundred of the children were ready to leave here at noon, but since the nearly 400 from the Munich area had not yet arrived, it was decided to shift the children to the Jewish Welfare Board's building here, where they could be fed while waiting. As the children lined up in military formation in Frankfurt's main station, shouting and singing, they were watched by passing Germans who maintained a cold silence and impassive countenances.

After lunch, the youngsters performed folk dances in the street outside the JWB building and when a group of correspondents arrived they were pulled into the circles of dancers. The children greeted with shouts of joy bags containing candy and soap which were donated by American newspapermen here at the behest of the JTA correspondent. The children from the British camps sang: "It's a Long Way to Palestine," parodying the famous British soldier song of World War I.

Among the young refugees from the British zone was three-year-old Judith Hirschfeld from Bergen-Belsen, who was the youngest making the trip, and red-haired 13-year-old Inga Leonhardt, who was taking care of her two brothers and two sisters ranging in age from five to 12. She has been caring for them for five years, since her parents were murdered at Belsen.

The oldest person in the group is Stanislaw Tottenberg, 65, from Warsaw, one of the few adults in the transport. He is going to join his children in Haifa.

POLISH JEW TELLS U.S. COURT HE WAS FORCED TO THROW LIVING PERSONS INTO CREMATORIUMS

DACHAU, Germany, April 10. (JTA) -- Izak Gruenberg, a Polish Jew, testified today before a U.S. military court trying 62 officials of the Mauthausen concentration camp that he had been forced to throw living persons into the camp crematoriums. Gruenberg said that an SS doctor named Willy Robert had ordered him to do so.

REPRESENTATIVES OF CENTRAL JEWISH BODIES ATTEND U.N. REFUGEE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

LONDON, April 10. (JTA) -- Representatives of a number of central Jewish organizations, including the World Jewish Congress, the American Jewish Committee, and Agudas Israel, are attending the sessions of the United Nations Committee on Refugees and Displaced Persons here as observers.

In a memorandum to the committee, the Agudas Israel today requested immediate consideration of the problem of Jewish war orphans who are still in non-Jewish homes throughout Europe. Declaring that it is the right of every child to take the religion of its parents, the memorandum says "to save the life of the orphan and then to rob it of its religious belief would amount to spiritual looting, contrary to the four freedoms."

The memorandum also stated that it was the inalienable right of every Jew to enter Palestine, and asked that measures be enacted to facilitate the reunion of families now split between Europe and Palestine. It pointed to the existence of such special immigrant categories in America and Great Britain.

Committee chairman Hector McNeil yesterday urged the formation of four sub-committees to perform the following functions: find countries of possible settlement and ascertain how many refugees each would accept; establish machinery for dealing with the refugees; financial and fact-finding.

HUNGARIAN WELFARE MINISTER CALLS FOR RUTHLESS DRIVE ON ANTI-SEMITISM; HITS ZIONISM

BUDAPEST, April 10. (JTA) -- Minister of Welfare Eric Molnar, lecturing before the political academy of the Communist Party, of which he is a leader, urged a "ruthless struggle" against anti-Semitism, which he said had helped to plunge Hungary into its gravest disaster, but castigated Zionism, as "reactionary, even if it proclaims Socialism."

Declaring that Hungarian Jewry has become fully Hungarian in language and culture, he pointed out that in the past Jews encountered constant friction as a result of anti-Semitism fostered by "feudalists and capitalists" who strove to create hostility among workers of different creeds.

An inter-party conference held here this week discussed the problems of restoration of confiscated Jewish property and the return of valuables belonging to Jews which were taken to Germany. The meeting drafted a new decree covering restoration of Jewish property which comes closer to meeting the demands of the Jewish community than the measures now in force.

Laszlo Ferenczy, a former lieutenant-col. of the gendarmerie has been sentenced to hang for his persecution of Jews during the period he acted as a liaison officer between the German occupation authorities and the Hungarian police. Surviving members of the "Jewish Council" set up by the Nazis testified that at the same time Ferenczy was promising to help Jews, he arranged for their deportation.

The bodies of 180 victims of the Nazis have been brought from the Balf Labor camp for reburial in a common grave here. Jewish and Christian services were held at the graveside.

NAZI COMMANDANT OF OSWIECIM CAMP WILL TESTIFY AS WITNESS AT NUREMBERG TRIAL

LONDON, April 10. (JTA) -- Rudolf Hoess, former commander of the Oswiecim concentration camp, who was recently captured in Schleswig-Holstein, in the British zone of Germany, is now held in the prison of the International Military Tribunal at Nuremberg, it is reported here. Hoess is wanted as a witness both by the United States prosecution and by counsel for Ernst Kaltenbrunner, former SS chief.

JEWISH LABOR COMMITTEE LAUNCHES \$1,000,000 DRIVE; U.S. ATTORNEY GENERAL HITS BIGOTRY

NEW YORK, April 10. (JTA) -- Emphasizing that the Department of Justice has always been "the inner fortress" for the protection of minorities in the United States and that "intolerance and bigotry are too expensive for even rich America," U.S. Attorney General Tom C. Clark tonight warned that only by constant vigilance can anti-Semitic organizations be repressed. He spoke at a dinner of the Jewish Labor Committee at the Hotel Roosevelt marking the launching of a \$1,000,000 drive to finance rescue work in Europe and the committee's educational campaign against anti-Semitism in this country.

Mr. Clark severely criticized those groups in the United States who seek either to reduce the present immigration quota, or to suspend it for several years. "There is no necessity for such legislation," he declared, pointing out that at no time during the past ten years has the number of immigration visas issued in any one year exceeded 40 percent of the quota. At the same time, he indicated that measures will be taken by the Government to bar immigrants "who may provide fuel for the inflammatory arguments of the intolerant."

Reviewing the tragedy of the Jews in Europe, the Attorney General said that "the death of the 6,000,000 Jews killed in this war gives the Jewish race a claim on the conscience of mankind." He expressed the hope that the idea of a "homeland of the Jewish people" may be realized soon.

President Truman Lauds Record of the Jewish Labor Committee

President Truman, in a message to the dinner, addressed to Mr. Clark and read by him, said: "I wish that you would tell our friends of the Jewish Labor Committee how pleased I am with their record and how happy I am that they are so fully engaged in the European food program. It warms my heart, in these days of sometimes captious criticism, to witness the work of groups such as this who in reality form the silent services of democracy. They work while others are expounding, and they work also while others are asleep. I will never forget their services to the people, to democracy, and to humanity."

Other speakers included Matthew Woll, vice-president, American Federation of Labor; David Dubinsky, president, International Ladies Garment Workers Union; Sam B. Eubanks, executive vice-president, American Newspaper Guild; and Adolph Held, chairman of the Jewish Labor Committee.

SENATE BILL ASKS FOR RETURN OF JEWISH PROPERTY SEIZED BY ALIEN PROPERTY CUSTODIAN

NEW YORK, April 10. (JTA) -- Senator James Mead, of New York, announced today that he had introduced a bill in the Senate to permit the return by the Alien Property Custodian of property seized by him during the war belonging to Jewish residents of many countries. The bill will also provide for compensation where restitution in kind is unavailable.

The bill follows the precedent set by the Allied Armistice Commissions which have inserted, in all armistice agreements with former enemies, clauses in favor of victims of racial and religious persecution. It was based, Sen. Mead said, on studies by the American Jewish Congress.

ANGLO-U.S. INQUIRY COMMITTEE DENIES FALSIFICATION OF ITS RECORDS TO SHIELD MUFTI

NEW YORK, April 10. (JTA) -- The American Zionist Emergency Council today announced that it has received a cablegram from the American members of the Anglo-American Committee of Inquiry on Palestine, which is now preparing its report in Lausanne, Switzerland, repudiating the charge that the Committee's official transcript was falsified to shield the ex-Mufti of Jerusalem.

QUEBEC GOVERNMENT ASKED TO SECURE ADMISSION OF JEWISH CHILDREN TO MONTREAL SCHOOLS

MONTREAL, April 10. (JTA)--The Inter-Racial Committee for Democratic Action is petitioning the provincial government to adopt appropriate and adequate measures to assure that Jewish children be allowed to attend schools in Outremont, a suburb of Montreal, "as a matter of right and on an equal footing with the children of other religious groups."

The petition is being submitted in view of the fact that Outremont cancelled its contract under which it agreed to educate in its schools the Jewish children of that locality. A one year's extension has already been granted, but on June 1, 1946, Jewish children of Outremont will once more be barred from the schools unless the government finds some remedy for the situation.

Although Jewish children outnumber the non-Jews in the Outremont schools and the tax derived from Jews is greater than that received from non-Jews, under the present educational laws the Jewish children do not attend the schools "by right" but as a matter of grace. The school authorities in Outremont claim that they are incurring heavy losses in educating Jewish children, but this is disproved by the fact that the taxes paid by Jews are three times greater those that paid by Protestants.

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE TO EXTEND ANTI-BIAS PLAN WILL BE HELD AT OXFORD

NEW YORK, April 10. (JTA)--An international conference will be held at Oxford University in July to map means of extending the Springfield plan for inter-racial and inter-cultural tolerance throughout the world, it was announced here yesterday by Dr. Henry Noble MacCracken, president of Vassar College. The conference, Dr. MacCracken said, was suggested by Walter Simpson, director of the British Council of Jews and Christians.

BRITISH DECLINE TO TAKE PART IN FORUM ON PALESTINE ARRANGED BY OVERSEAS PRESS CLUB

NEW YORK, April 10. (JTA) -- The Overseas Press Club of America, an organization of American journalists who have worked as foreign correspondents, today announced that British officials here have declined to take part in a forum on the Palestine question, which the club arranged.

The forum is to take place at Town Hall on Saturday. Although a speaker for the British point of view had been promised last week, the Overseas Press Club was informed that the British did not wish to say anything while the Anglo-American inquiry committee was still working on its report. Speakers at the forum will include Louis Lipsky, Zionist leader; Rabbi Elmer Berger of the American Council for Judaism; and Rabbi Baruch Korpf, representing militant Zionism. Dr. Khalil Totah, executive director of the Institute of Arab American Affairs and Mr. K. Khairy of the Arab Office in Washington are scheduled to give the Arab viewpoint.

Frank Gervasi of Collier's; Ralph McGill, editor of the Atlanta Constitution who has just returned from a trip to Palestine for the Overseas News Agency; Joseph Levy, for years chief correspondent of the New York Times in the Levant and Henry Noble Hall, newspaperman and writer of the recent booklet "Why Palestine," will comment briefly on the forum speakers. W.W. Chaplin, president of the Overseas Press Club, correspondent and radio commentator, will act as moderator.

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