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JTA

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106 EAST 41ST STREET, NEW YORK 17, N. Y.REPATRIATION OF CARPATHIAN JEWS NOT FORCED BY SOVIETS; ADMISSION TO FRANCE SOUGHT

PRAGUE, April 19. (JTA) -- Carpatho-Russian Jews now residing in Czechoslovakia are not being compelled by Soviet authorities to return to their home province, although the Russians have asked such Jews to register for repatriation, the Jewish Telegraphic Agency learned today.

Only those who ask to be repatriated are returned to the Carpathian district, which is now a part of the Soviet Union. According to unconfirmed information, only 83 have been sent back up to now and one transport weekly has been scheduled.

Meanwhile, the status of the Carpathian Jews here is still very unclear. From the conflicting announcements and reports to the effect that they could or could not choose Czechoslovakia citizenship, the fact that emerges is that the Government has still not issued any definite ruling on the subject. Such a ruling, however, is expected shortly.

In an attempt to relieve the economic distress of the several thousand who crossed into Bohemia and Moravia following the ceding of the Carpatho-Ukraine to the USSR, officials of the Prague Jewish community left this week for Paris to request French immigration visas for these Jews, who are mainly peasants or artisans.

Even their emigration, however, is complicated by the fact that only persons holding Czechoslovak citizenship certificates can apply for passports, and such certificates are difficult to obtain. The Prague Jewish community has succeeded in speeding up the issuance of the permits in the cases of Jews who already have all their documents needed for emigration.

Strength of Jewish Communities in Bohemia-Moravia Wdindles; Conversations Increase

Another problem confronting the community is the care of the thousands of Jews from Eastern European countries who cross Czechoslovakia en route to the American zone of Germany and eventually, they hope, to Palestine. With the aid of MERRA two camps have been established near Prague, with a capacity of 1,000 each, where the migrants can be housed and fed until they can make arrangements to continue their journey.

The Jewish communities of Bohemia and Moravia which are beset by these various difficulties are themselves not in a very healthy condition. Vital statistics for the first quarter of 1946 disclose that in the two provinces there were 25 Jewish births and 35 deaths. Two persons were converted to Jewry, while 72 left the Jewish faith, and there were only five marriages in accordance with Jewish law.

Czech Jewish community councils which have been applying for help to Jewish organizations abroad on an individual basis have been asked by the Supreme Council of Jewish Communities to channelize their requests through the Council and thereby avoid unequal distribution of relief.

AUSTRIA CHARGED WITH ENCOURAGING ANTI-SEMITISM, SABOTAGING PROPERTY RESTORATION

VIENNA, April 19 (JTA) -- The charge that the Austrian Government is encouraging anti-Semitism and is deliberately attempting to legalize the confiscations of Jewish property during the Nazi regime is made here by the newspaper "Arbeiter Zeitung" in an article reprinted by the official organ of the Vienna Jewish Community.

"It is shameful," the article says "to witness how Austria treats the surviving Jews and how the government is stubbornly attempting to legalize the robbery, looting, blackmailing, theft and other crimes committed against the Jews during the seven years of Nazi barbarism. The postponement of the promulgation of law to provide compensation for confiscated Jewish property constitutes nothing but legalization of the crimes.

"The government is badly advised-- and we believe deliberately so -- since in a country of more than six million it would be a small matter to give back what rightfully belongs to about 4,000 persons. To do so, however, there must exist an honest determination to act against the hundreds and thousands of Nazis who are still in high positions. Should the government act as the world expects it to, every one of the 4,000 Jews would become a propagandist for a democratic and free Austria, but the government seems to desire the contrary.

"Encouraged by the government's attitude, anti-Semitism is beginning to lift its head once again in Vienna and throughout Austria, openly and impertinently. The incidents which occurred on Sunday, March 24, between the Jewish sports club "Hakoah" and the sports club of the police, are typical. Part of the spectators provoked as wild an anti-Semitic demonstration as might have occurred in March, 1938. The world can imagine what would happen if the four occupation powers were not in Vienna. In that case, not one of the 4,000 Jews would be able to appear in the streets."

Accuse Austrians of Approving Nazi Mistreatment of Jews

The article claims that the Austrian press has been presenting a false picture to the world concerning the situation of the Jews in the country and their treatment by the government. Emphasizing that Austrian anti-Semitism "has always been most aggressive," it continues:

"It is not true that the Austrians, when they saw how the Nazis treated the Jews, rejected the Nazi methods by an overwhelming majority. The contrary is true. The overwhelming majority of the Austrian people approved of, and joined in, the Nazi methods. It is not true that many persecuted Jews found shelter with Austrians; the contrary is true. It is a historic fact that out of 200,000 Viennese Jews, not even 200 were saved by hiding with friendly Austrians."

SURVIVING POLISH JEWS PAY TRIBUTE TO WARSAW HEROES ON ANNIVERSARY OF GHETTO BATTLE

WARSAW, April 19, (JTA) -- At meetings and religious services throughout the country today, the surviving Jews of Poland paid tribute to the 40,000 who were killed in the Battle of the Warsaw Ghetto, which began April 19, 1943.

At a ceremony on the site of the ghetto, which is a mass of ruins covering the bodies of tens of thousands of Jews, Dr. Emil Sommerstein, president of the Central Jewish Committee, laid a wreath amidst the debris. Yesterday, the Warsaw City Council voted to mark the anniversary by renaming the streets in the ghetto after the leaders of the revolt.

DISSEMBARKATION OF OVER 1,000 REFUGEES MAY BE DELAYED BY PALESTINE DOCK STRIKE

JERUSALEM, April 19. (JTA) -- More than 1,000 Jewish refugees due in Haifa from France tonight or tomorrow aboard the French steamers Cairo City and the Champollion may be diverted to Tel Aviv, although there are no adequate docking facilities there, because Haifa dockers went out on strike yesterday in sympathy with striking railwaymen.

Continued efforts by the Government to end the strike of 50,000 railway, air, postal, telephone, telegraph and other government workers have been unsuccessful. A spokesman for the strikers said today that they were prepared to stay out until their demands for a higher basic wage and better working conditions are met. "There is 100 percent unity in our ranks," he declared.

The possibility that the work stoppage might spread was seen tonight when municipal workers in Jerusalem and laborers at the Haifa oil refinery threatened to join the walkout. The 15,000 refinery employees are demanding a wage increase to meet the rising cost of living.

The Jerusalem general post office is bursting with mail, which has been accumulating for ten days. Although a small amount has been sorted, most of the public is acceding to the strikers' request that they refuse to call for it. Limited rail service has been resumed with troops operating freight trains carrying food and fuel.

QUEBEC LEGISLATURE ADOPTS LAW COMPELLING SCHOOL BOARDS TO ADMIT JEWISH STUDENTS

MONTREAL, April 19. (JTA) -- The Quebec provincial legislature has adopted a bill compelling local school boards to accept Jewish children as students in the institutions under their jurisdiction.

The legislation was drafted by the Government following the refusal of the Protestant educational authorities in Outremont, a suburb of Montreal, to renew a contract under which Jewish children in the community were educated at Protestant schools. The Outremont school authorities charged that the Jewish community was not contributing sufficient funds to defray the expenses incurred in educating the Jewish children.

The problem arose as a result of the fact that Quebec, in place of the system of public schools existing elsewhere in Canada, has separate Protestant and Catholic systems. Jewish children have always attended Protestant schools.

The government bill, which has been hailed by Jewish leaders and condemned by the school authorities, is only a temporary solution of the problem, however, since it compels the admittance of Jewish children to Outremont schools only through June 30, 1947.

URUGUAYAN PRESIDENT INTERESTED IN IMMIGRATION OF JEWISH CHILDREN TO HIS COUNTRY

MONTVIDEO, Uruguay, April 19. (JTA) -- The President of Uruguay, Dr. Juan Jose Ameaga, expressed interest in the possibilities for immigration of Jewish children from Europe, in an interview with representatives of the Congress of Polish Jews in South America, which concluded its fourth convention here last week.

President Ameaga declared that it would be to his country's interests to admit a number of these children. He asked for further information on the number who could be brought to Uruguay, who would pay their passage from Europe, and who would support them after their arrival.

PLAY DEVOTED TO JEWISH HEROISM IN UNDERGROUND WAR AGAINST NAZIS OPENS IN MOSCOW

MOSCOW, April 19. (JTA) -- "Whom Time Obeys," a play based on the heroism of Jews in the ghettos of Lithuania and Jewish partisans, opened here last night at the Vakhtangov Theater, one of the major Moscow playhouses.

One of the central characters in the drama, written by Tur and Lev Sheinin, is Rubenstein, a 72-year-old clock maker, who is summoned by the Nazi Gauleiter of Riga and ordered to repair his rare 15th century Gencs clock. In return, the watch-maker is promised his life.

Rubenstein repairs the valuable antique but plants a time bomb within it-- as he has been ordered to do by the partisan movement. He is murdered by the Nazis after he delivers the clock, but is revenged when it explodes three days later, and kills the gauleiter and his chief aides.

One scene is laid in the ghetto on Passover night. Rubenstein and one of his friends sit and recall seders of other years, when a crash of glass and a volley of shots is heard -- the Nazis are raiding the ghetto. The contrast between Passover nights during the pre-Nazi period and under the German occupation is one of the high points of the play.

The playwrights, two Jewish journalists born in Kiev, have four other plays running in Moscow theaters at present -- at the Kamerny Theater, the Lenin Komsomol Theater, the Theater Satire, and the Red Army Theater. During the war they served as war correspondents and both achieved the rank of captain.

Soviet Treatment of Jews in Siberia Described by Refugees Arriving Here

NEW YORK, April 19. (JTA) -- A report on the life of Jewish refugees from Poland in Russian camps in Siberia was given here today by one of the refugees, Leah Halberstam, at a press conference arranged by the Vaadatzala, the relief organization of Orthodox Jews.

The first Jewish refugee to arrive in this country from Siberia, Mrs. Halberstam said that although the Jews who were evacuated by the Russian authorities from the Galician part of Poland to Siberian camps at the outbreak of the war were compelled to live in barracks in temperatures which often fell to 70 degrees below zero, they appreciated the fact that the Russians did not separate families, were completely free from anti-Semitism, did not interfere with religious observances and showed consideration in many other ways.

"What surprised me most" said Mrs. Halberstam, "was that at no time was any comment made about our religion. Everybody knew we were Jews, but no mention of it was ever made by any official, nor was there any discrimination of any kind." Nurseries were provided for the children and all not directly concerned with the care of the youngsters were put to work chopping wood in the nearby forests. We started at four o'clock in the morning.

"After the pact between Poland and Russia, all Polish citizens were freed, and given permission to settle any place in Russia they wished. We went on to Kyzlorda, Kazakhstan. There we lived in homes and were assigned to work, receiving special pay for increased production. We bought our food in the Russian stores. There was very little to buy and we would have suffered greatly, were it not for the packages we received from Vaadatzala.

DISCRIMINATION AGAINST JEWS IN EMPLOYMENT INCREASING, ANTI-DEFAMATION LEAGUE REPORTS

NEW YORK, April 19. (JTA) -- Instances of "Jews being rejected and discharged from employment are sharply on the increase, and hotel and resort literature is filled with discrimination specifications," the B'nai B'rith Anti-Defamation League reported yesterday at a meeting of delegates from eighteen national and local organizations organized in the New York Metropolitan Council on Fair Employment Practice.

Reports by various organizations in the Council, which includes Protestant, Catholic, Negro, interfaith, interracial and labor groups as well as Jewish bodies, outlined methods evolved for dealing with manifestations of discrimination in employment. Several of the reports pointed out that discrimination by employers was on the upgrade in anticipation of the closing of the national Fair Employment Practice Committee office in Washington at the end of this month.

Among the participating groups were the Anti-Defamation League, the American Jewish Committee, the American Jewish Congress, the Jewish War Veterans, and the Jewish Peoples Committee.

The Brooklyn Borough Gas Company, which has previously been charged in the State Legislature with discrimination in hiring of Jews, was yesterday accused of hiring only one Jew within the last ten years. In a letter to Miss Mary Dillon, president of the company and president of the New York City Board of Education, the American Jewish Congress asserted that the number of Jews employed by the utility was less than three percent. This state of affairs, the letter said, "can scarcely be regarded as an accident in a company employing several hundred persons and operating in a city more than one-fourth of whose inhabitants are Jewish."

Replying to the American Jewish Congress, Miss Dillon issued a statement reading: "Your generalized and unsupported charges that this company has had a policy or has been engaged in a practice of discrimination in employment against any qualified employee on account of race, creed, color or national origin is wholly untrue and is all the more reckless since no effort has been made by any representative of your organization to ascertain the facts from any officer of this company or any responsible person handling employment for the company. I have forwarded your letter to the chairman of the State Commission Against Discrimination and requested him to make an impartial investigation of the facts, which I am sure will demonstrate the lack of any basis for your accusations against this company or against me personally as its president."

BOLIVIAN JEWS PREPARING DRIVE AGAINST ANTI-SEMITIC TEXTS USED IN PUBLIC SCHOOLS

LA PAZ, Bolivia, April 19. (JTA) -- Jewish organizations here are planning to protest the dissemination of anti-Semitic propaganda in the public schools through the use of biased text books.

One of the books that educational authorities will be asked to withdraw from the schools is "Bolivia's Political Geography," written by Alfredo Ayala, an instructor at the German College here. The book, which has been in use in the public schools since 1943, asserts that Jewish immigrants have contributed nothing to the welfare of the community. "This race is undesirable," Ayala's geography says, adding charges that Jews have not helped to increase trade and industry in the country.

MORE REFUGEES EMIGRATE FROM SHANGHAI UNDER JOINT DISTRIBUTION COMMITTEE PROGRAM

NEW YORK, April 19. (JTA) -- Nineteen more Jewish refugees from Shanghai left China this week for permanent homes in other countries, the local office of the JDC reports. The first 39 emigrants from Shanghai left last month under the JDC emigration program.

PALESTINE ECONOMIC CORPORATION RESUMES PAYMENT OF DIVIDENDS DISCONTINUED DURING WAR

NEW YORK, April 19. (JTA) -- The resumption of dividends was announced today by the Palestine Economic Corporation, following a meeting of its board of directors yesterday at which it was decided to pay a \$4.00 dividend per share on the corporation's common stock.

Robert Szold, chairman of the Board, in making the announcement declared: "We discontinued dividends at the outbreak of the war because of the uncertainty of conditions, and because we felt it prudent to plough back any earnings. The vitality of the economic structure of Palestine has made comparatively easy the transition to wartime operations. Our subsidiaries in Palestine are in sound condition."

The Palestine Economic Corporation is the largest American business enterprise in Palestine, with capital, surplus and reserves in excess of \$4,000,000. The corporation was founded in 1925 by Justice Louis D. Brandis, Judge Julian W. Mack, Felix M. Warburg, Herbert H. Lehman, Bernard Flexner and others, "to give material aid on a strictly business basis to productive Palestinian enterprises, thereby furthering the economic development of the Holy Land and the resettlement there of an increasing number of Jews."

L. GREENMAN, PRESIDENT OF N.Y. FEDERATION OF REFORM SYNAGOGUES, RECEIVES AWARD

WASHINGTON, April 19. (JTA) -- Col. Frederick F. Greenman of New York, vice-president of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations and president of the New York Federation of Reform Synagogues, has been awarded the Legion of Merit following his separation from the army after more than three years of service.

The Legion of Merit was presented to Colonel Greenman, in the Office of the Foreign Liquidation Commissioner, for "outstanding service" to his country.

PALESTINE JEW RECEIVES PRIZE FROM BUENOS AIRES MEDICAL FACULTY FOR SCIENTIFIC WORK

BUENOS AIRES, April 19. (JTA) -- Dr. Mario Weissmann, Argentinian Jew, has been awarded one of the three annual prizes given by the Faculty of Medicine of Buenos Aires for the best scientific work of the year.

NATIONAL SOCIETY FOR JEWISH LITURGICAL MUSIC WILL BE ORGANIZED IN THE UNITED STATES

CINCINNATI, April 19. (JTA) -- A national society for Jewish liturgical music will be organized, shortly, it was decided at a recent meeting of a number of leading rabbis, musicians and laymen at the Jewish Welfare Board. The organization is the outgrowth of a recent Jewish Liturgical Music Institute held at the Hebrew Union College.

HERMAN GILMAN ELECTED HEAD OF 1946 COMBINED JEWISH APPEAL IN BOSTON

BOSTON, April 19. (JTA) -- Herman Gilman has been elected general chairman of the 1946 Combined Jewish Appeal, it was announced today. He succeeds Louis E. Salvage who was head of the CJA during two record-breaking drives.