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31 JEWS CONVICTED OF POSSESSING ARMS FACE DEATH PENALTY; PRISONERS CLASH WITH COURT

JERUSALEM, June 26. (JTA) -- Thirty-one young Jews on trial here for illegal possession of arms were found guilty today by the British military tribunal which has been hearing their case since Monday. They will be sentenced tomorrow. All are liable to the death penalty.

When asked by the court whether they had anything to say, one of the defendants arose and said: "We are soldiers of the Irgun Zvai Leumi and we demand that we be given the status of prisoners of war." Several of the youths then attempted to make speeches, but they were stopped by the court.

The court and the defendants clashed this morning when, after hearing statements by the accused for two hours, the president of the court attempted to silence them, citing various legal precedents. Chayim Luster, 28, the oldest of the defendants, rose and said that in a recent Irgun broadcast the president had been charged with stating to other British officers that it was a pity that the Palestine Jews had not suffered the same fate as those in Europe, "because then we would be free to leave the God-forsaken country and return to England."

Luster was ordered to sit down and when he refused several guards rushed up to him. At this, all of the prisoners arose and began shouting. For a moment, it seemed as if the guards were going to shoot, but the president ordered them not to touch the Jews and Luster asked his comrades to resume their seats. Continuing his plea to be heard, Luster pointed out that even the defendants at Nuremberg are being allowed to make full statements. However, the court ruled against him.

"We Will Outlive Them," Shouts Girl Prisoner

As the 31 were leaving the courtroom to be transferred to the Bethlehem prison, Deborah Kalfuss, 21, the lone girl defendant, raised her hands above her head and shouted in Yiddish to the onlookers: "We will outlive them."

If the court tomorrow should mete out death sentences to all or any of the young Jews, the Irgun, which is still holding three British officers kidnapped last week, may have to decide whether to carry out its threat to shoot the officers if the prisoners are executed.

Troops and police assisted by planes continued to search the Sharon area today in a fruitless hunt for the three abducted officers. The searchers concentrated on Rehovoth and neighboring villages and citrus groves.

This afternoon armed men raided a diamond polishing plant at Pardess Katz and escaped with several thousand dollars worth of jewels and some cash.

It was announced today that settlers arrested last week at the colony of Beth Harava when they resisted a raid by troops hunting the kidnapped men have been sentenced to one month imprisonment.

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REFUGEE VESSEL BROUGHT INTO HAIFA HARBOR BY BRITISH DESTROYERS; 1,300 JEWS ABOARD

HAIFA, June 26. (JTA) -- The Panamanian vessel *Beauharnois*, renamed the Jewish *Wedgwood* for its present voyage, entered Haifa harbor tonight at 8 o'clock under escort of four British destroyers. Aboard were 1,300 visaless Jewish refugees.

The ship, which began its career as a United States naval corvette, was apprehended 100 miles outside of Palestine last night. She steamed toward Haifa under escort until about 3 a.m. this morning, when her captain, reported to be an American named Lichtman, notified the commanders of the escorting vessels that his engines had stopped.

When an officer from one of the escorts came aboard he was told that the passengers refused to enter the harbor unless the authorities promised that the vessel would be allowed to leave after it disembarked the refugees. The captain said that if the arrivals are to be deducted from the regular immigration quota, they are legal immigrants and the ship is not liable to confiscation. He refused to resume under his own power, and the ship drifted until 1:30 p.m.

After an attempt by the refugees to disembark into lifeboats, by means of landing nets thrown over the sides, was thwarted by the destroyers which placed themselves between the ship and the shore, the *Wedgwood's* engines were started shortly after 1:30 and it proceeded in the direction of Haifa. During the afternoon it made an attempt to evade the escorts, but was forced by the latter, which barred its way, to sail into Haifa harbor.

The passengers, among whom are many pregnant women and a large number of children, are expected to disembark tomorrow morning. They will be taken to the Athlit clearance camp. While they were still en route to Haifa several officials of the Jewish Agency boarded the vessel from a motorboat to confer with them.

U.S.-BRITISH EXPERTS HAVE HELD SEVERAL MEETINGS ON PALESTINE REPORT IN LONDON

LONDON, June 26. (JTA) -- American experts sent here by the State Department to discuss the Anglo-American Palestine report have held four meetings with representatives of the Foreign Office, according to informed quarters here.

At present, several sub-committees are working on various aspects of the problem, these sources said. They do not believe, however, that there have been any new consultations between Foreign Minister Bevin and Secretary of State Byrnes on Palestine.

Under-Secretary for Foreign Affairs Hector McNeil, replying to a question in the House of Commons today, said that the recent statement by Brigadier John Glubb Pasha, commander of the Arab Legion, that implementation of the Anglo-American inquiry report would lead to an Arab uprising in the Middle East was "totally unauthorized."

McNeil asserted that the British had no authority over Glubb, because he was not the commandant of the Transjordan Frontier Force, an Arab unit within the British Palestine forces, but commander of the Arab Legion, which is the Transjordan army.

ARAB HIGHER COMMITTEE SAYS SALE OF LAND TO JEWS IS TREASON AND WILL BE PUNISHED

JERUSALEM, June 26. (JTA) -- The four-man Arab Higher Committee today addressed a manifesto to "the Arab nation," declaring that the sale of Arab lands to Jews was "a national crime and high treason, punishable as such." The manifesto was signed by Jamal Bussasini, vice-chairman of the committee, of which the Mufti is the head.

40,000 JEWISH REFUGEES FROM EASTERN EUROPE EXPECTED DURING SUMMER, RABBI BERNSTEIN SAYS

FRANKFURT, June 26. (JTA) -- Some 40,000 Jews from Poland and other Eastern European countries are expected to enter the U.S. zone of Germany this Summer, Rabbi Philip S. Bernstein, Advisor on Jewish Affairs to Gen. Joseph T. McNarney, said today. He branded as "fantastic and without basis in fact" a statement made earlier this week by a group of American Army officers that if the flow of Jewish refugees is not halted, the Army will eventually have to feed, clothe, and house up to 3,000,000 Jews.

In his first public statement since assuming office, Dr. Bernstein told a press conference here that a news agency report published yesterday which stated that he had advocated the halting or limiting of immigration to the American zone was completely erroneous and that the news agency had already apologized to him,

Pointing out that he had just completed a study of the present influx of Jews from Poland and elsewhere, Dr. Bernstein declared that the "known increase in infiltrates during May was 5,933." In the same month departures numbered 1,171, leaving an increase of 4,732. This figure has risen somewhat in June, he continued, but will be under 10,000.

He attributed the increase partly to the favorable summer weather and partly to active anti-Semitism in Poland. He said that the Polish Government was opposed to anti-Semitism but was unable to halt it. He cited the Government's attempts to restore Jewish property as one of the factors which is causing anti-Jewish violence.

"Eighty thousand Polish Jews who fled to Russia have been repatriated," Dr. Bernstein asserted. "They are returning destitute and to a hostile environment where they find no possibility of re-establishing their lives. These 80,000 plus an additional 60,000 who are eligible for repatriation plus a small number in Poland who survived the war constitute the principle group from whom infiltration may be expected during the year. The total possible number will amount to 150,000 not 3,000,000 as reported."

"The suggestion that all the Jews in the Soviet Union might seek to move to the American zone is utter nonsense. The Soviet Union does not permit citizens to emigrate. A handful of old-time Russian Zionists may possibly wish to go to Palestine, but the great bulk brought up under the Soviet regime have indicated no desire to emigrate," he declared.

Stating that he believed that the establishment of facilities for the newly-arriving refugee Jews can be done without disturbing the basic situation, he added: "If it should impose some slight extra burdens on the German economy, this would not be without justification. It was the Germans who robbed these people of their possessions, murdered their families and spread the poison of Nazi anti-Semitism throughout Europe."

TRUMAN REPORTED TO FAVOR GETTING JEWS OUT OF CENTRAL EUROPE "RIGHT AWAY"

WASHINGTON, June 26. (JTA) -- Edward Jacobson, former business partner of President Truman in Kansas City, called on the President today to discuss the Palestine situation. He was accompanied by Rabbi Arthur Lelyveld of New York, director of the Committee on Unity for Palestine.

Mr. Jacobson said that President Truman is "all for getting the Jews out of Central Europe right away." Rabbi Lelyveld said that Mr. Truman's attitude was "most reassuring as an indication of the President's concern in facilitating the rapid transfer to Palestine of the 100,000 Jews."

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HUNGARIAN JEWS QUESTION POSTPONEMENT OF KUNMADARAS TRIAL; CALL ON DEPUTY PREMIER

BUDAPEST, June 26. (JTA) -- The postponement of the trial of the instigators of the anti-Jewish riot in Kunmadaras, in which three Jews were killed and several wounded, does not mean that the Government is contemplating leniency or intends to hush up the affair, Jewish leaders were told today by Deputy Premier Arpad Szatzits.

Emphasizing that the punishment of those found guilty of provoking the Kunmadaras incident "must be exemplary," the Deputy Premier said that the trial, which was scheduled to take place early this month, has been postponed because the Minister of Justice was abroad. His return from the United States is expected within a few days.

Serious differences are developing here between rabbis and priests over bodies which are being exhumed from mass-graves on the sites of former labor camps. The rabbis insist on burying these bodies in accordance with Jewish ritual claiming that practically all of the dead were Jews. The priests, however, oppose this. The situation has reached a point where the Ministry of Welfare has found it necessary to appoint a special arbitration body in an attempt to settle the problem.

SLOVAK QUISLING CHARGED WITH EXTORTING \$40,000 ON PROMISE TO SAVE JEWS FROM DEPORTATION

BRATISLAVA, Czechoslovakia, June 26. (JTA) -- Anton Vasek, Commissioner for Jewish Affairs in the Nazi puppet Slovak Government, was charged today at his war crimes trial ~~here with having~~ deported 50,000 Slovak Jews to Oswiecim, of whom only 250 survived, and of accepting a bribe of 2,000,000 crowns (nominally \$40,000) for sparing other Jews. The prosecutor said that for an additional 1,000,000 crowns Vasek promised to halt all deportations. He pointed out that Vasek had written several anti-Semitic books and actively collaborated with the Germans.

Replying to the accusation, Vasek said that he was only a public official carrying out the orders given him. Personally, he added, he was pro-Jewish. His anti-Semitic writings, he said, were only a cover-up to enable him to help the Jews. Vasek claimed that he had improved the conditions under which Jews were held in camps.

Official observers of the Union of Jewish Communities in Slovakia, the World Jewish Congress and Zionist organizations are attending the trial.

UNRRA ASKED TO FACILITATE REPATRIATION OF AUSTRIAN JEWISH REFUGEES IN SHANGHAI

VIENNA, June 26. (JTA) -- UNRRA authorities here today received a joint request from the Vienna Jewish Community Council and the HIAS urging them to facilitate the repatriation of 1,500 of the 4,500 Austrian Jews in Shanghai.

Although the Austrian Government seems willing to assist refugee Jews to return if they so desire, very few have applied for repatriation. The reason for this is believed to be the fact that the refugees are fearful concerning the future of Jews in this country.

SPAIN CHARGES JEWS WITH "TOTALITARIAN METHODS" IN PALESTINE; DEFENDS BRITISH ATTITUDE

LONDON, June 26. (JTA) -- Charging the Jews with using "totalitarian methods" in their fight for Palestine, the Madrid radio broadcast a news commentary indicating that Spain intends to exploit the Palestine situation for anti-Jewish propaganda.

The broadcast declared that "the Jews have not shown the slightest gratitude to Britain which defeated Hitler and with whose help they have now secured a position in Germany which they merit neither by work nor by numbers."

CENTRAL CONFERENCE OF AMERICAN RABBIS ASKS IMMEDIATE ADMISSION OF 100,000 TO PALESTINE

CHICAGO, June 26. (JTA) -- Immediate implementation of the recommendation that 100,000 Jews be admitted to Palestine was urged upon the British Government today in a resolution adopted by the 400 Reform rabbis attending the 57th annual convention of the Central Conference of American Rabbis.

Other resolutions praised President Truman for "re-implementing" the immigration laws so as to facilitate the immigration of refugees and appealed to the Soviet Union to give Jews and other religious groups "larger opportunity to secure religious instruction and to develop religious institutions."

Calling attention to the fact that "Nazi and fascist persecution has wiped out huge numbers of Jews, and great institutions of Jewish learning have been destroyed," the resolution expresses the hope that "our relations with Russian Jewry, the only large Jewish group left in Europe, will become closer with the passing of time." The Russian Government, through its ambassador in Washington is asked to "revoke all laws prohibiting religious instruction to people under eighteen years of age, and to permit the opening of religious seminaries for the training of rabbis and religious teachers."

BELGIAN JEWS HOLD FAREWELL CEREMONY FOR MEMBERS OF JEWISH BRIGADE LEAVING FOR HOME

BRUSSELS, June 26. (JTA) -- The Zionist Federation of Belgium held a farewell ceremony here for the members of the Jewish Brigade who are leaving shortly for Palestine where they will be demobilized.

Earlier Brigadier Ernest F. Benjamin, commander of the Brigade, accompanied by his staff officers laid a wreath of blue and white flowers on the tomb of Belgium's Unknown Soldier. They also laid similar wreaths on the graves of Jewish heroes of the resistance movement.

At a mass meeting in the evening at the Palais des Beaux Arts, largest hall in Brussels, the Brigade was acclaimed by various prominent speakers including Defense Minister Gen. J. Severin, and Brigadier Benjamin was presented with a certificate indicating that 1,500 trees would be planted in Palestine in his name. Benjamin thanked the Belgian Government and people and the Jews for their hospitality to the members of the Brigade. The Brigade has announced that it will inscribe former Prime Minister Winston Churchill in the J.M.F. Golden Book in appreciation of his efforts to secure the creation of the Jewish Brigade.

BULGARIAN PARLIAMENT PASSES LAW ENABLING JEWS TO RECEIVE PARCELS FREE OF DUTY

SOFIA, June 26. (JTA) -- A law exempting from customs duty all parcels of clothing sent from abroad for the personal use of Bulgarian residents was passed by the parliament today. Jews will be the chief beneficiaries of this law, since most incoming packages are for them.

J.D.C. DISTRIBUTES 33 TORAHS TO FRENCH JEWISH COMMUNITIES DESPOILED BY GERMANS

PARIS, June 26. (JTA) -- Thirty-three Torahs were today distributed by the Joint Distribution Committee to various Jewish communities in France whose synagogues were destroyed by the Germans, at a ceremony at the Rothschild Synagogue in Paris. Many of the scrolls were donated by the Mizrahi organization in America.

JEWISH LEADERSHIP TRAINING PLAN PROPOSED AT RABBINICAL ASSEMBLY CONVENTION

NEW YORK, June 26. (JTA) -- A plan for Jewish leadership education for careers in the rabbinate and other Jewish professional and lay positions was presented today at the Rabbinical Assembly convention being held here by Rabbi Moshe Davis, dean of the Teachers Institute of the Jewish Theological Seminary.

The plan, which has been tested for one year in 35 congregations throughout the country, provides for education in the local communities under the close supervision of the Teachers Institute and the Seminary. Based on the experiences of the 160 young men and women who pioneered the Jewish Leadership Training Fellowship, the program will provide for studies in the Bible, Talmud, Hebrew language, Jewish history and other subjects which will be taught by local rabbis.

The project conducted by Rabbi Morris Silverman of the Emanuel Synagogue in Hartford, Conn., was singled out by Dr. Davis as a model. The original plan was evolved by Rabbi Robert Gordis, president of the Rabbinical Assembly, Dr. Davis, Dr. Mordecai Kaplan, former dean of the Teachers Institute, and other Jewish educational leaders.

ARCHBISHOP OF CANTERBURY APPEALS FOR PUBLIC SUPPORT IN FIGHT AGAINST ANTI-SEMITISM

LONDON, June 26. (JTA) -- The Archbishop of Canterbury, in a letter to the London Times, yesterday attacked anti-Semitism as the "most tragic example" of racial and religious intolerance which still threatens basic human rights a full year after the end of World War II.

The Archbishop joined other religious leaders, including the Catholic Archbishop of Westminster, the Moderators of the Scottish Free Churches, a deputy of the Chief Rabbi of the British Empire, and representatives of the Council of Christians and Jews, in an appeal for public support of the work of the Council. He declared that the efforts of the Council were "more urgent today with the whole future of world Jewry in jeopardy and with racial prejudice and intolerance actually on the increase in many parts of the world."

COLLEGE HEAD SAYS UNIVERSITIES FOSTER RACE PREJUDICE IN U.S.; ATTACKS QUOTA SYSTEM

ATLANTIC CITY, June 26. (JTA) -- Attacking the quota systems in American higher educational institutions, Dr. Edward J. Sparling, president of Roosevelt College of Chicago, speaking at the closing luncheon of the 40th annual convention of the Order Brith Sholem, charged that "American colleges and universities are directly responsible for a great amount of the race prejudice in the United States."

Dr. Sparling placed responsibility for quota systems and other undemocratic practices in American schools on the "reactionary influence and prejudices" of the boards of directors. "The policy makers of our colleges and universities are defeating American democracy by the establishment of quotas for minority groups in our country" and are forcing thousands of American youths to go abroad for their education, he declared.

Frank A. Simons of Philadelphia was elected grand master of the organization.

MAYOR O'DWYER ISSUES CALL TO AMERICAN COMMUNITIES TO FIGHT AGAINST RACIAL DISCRIMINATION

NEW YORK, June 26. (JTA) -- A call to the American people to organize and fight racial discrimination was voiced here yesterday by Mayor William O'Dwyer in a message delivered at a special showing of an Army film, "Don't be a Sucker," which is presently being shown to returning soldiers as part of an educational program designed to counteract "hate talk." The film will be released throughout the country July 4.