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FIRST BEDRIDDEN JEWS LEAVE GERMANY ON MERCY TRAIN; WILL REACH ISRAEL FOR PASSOVER

MUNICH, March 21. (JTA) -- The first transport of bedridden and chronically ill Jewish displaced persons--a vanguard of 4,000 "hard core" DP's who will be re-settled in Israel--left Munich tonight aboard a special mercy train bound for Venice from where they will sail to Israel on an Israeli ship.

The transfer of the "hard core" cases is sponsored by the Joint Distribution Committee together with the Jewish Agency and the International Refugee Organization. The first group is expected to reach Israel in time to observe Passover there. It includes invalids and incurables who have lived in hospital beds since their liberation by the Allied armies in 1945.

The movement of the first group was undertaken with extreme care. Twenty-four of the emigrants, patients of a hospital for chronically-ill people maintained by the International Refugee Organization at Bad Worishafen, near Munich, were taken from their beds this afternoon and carried on stretchers to waiting ambulances. They were then driven to the railway station and placed aboard two waiting hospital cars. Physicians and nurses of the Joint Distribution Committee staff supervised the movement and are accompanying the train to Venice.

From Bad Worishafen, where the emigrants had a hot meal prepared in the kitchen car, the train moved slowly to Munich. Here six more "hard core" cases were put aboard. At the same time, 150 healthy Jewish DP's from camps in the Munich area, who are also bound for Israel, boarded the train.

Plans for the transfer were drawn up two months ago by the Joint Distribution Committee, I.R.O. and the Jewish Agency. Last week, J.D.C. welfare workers completed the distribution of a new outfit of clothing to every refugee in the group. A gala farewell party was held at the hospital for those who were leaving.

9,000 Persons May Be Moved This Year Under "Hard Core" Transfer Plan

NEW YORK, March 21. (JTA) -- The emigration of the first group of "hard-core" displaced Jews from DP camps in Germany to Israel marks a major step toward the final solution of the Jewish DP problem in Germany, Austria and Italy, Moses A. Leavitt, executive vice-chairman of the Joint Distribution Committee, said in a statement issued here today.

Mr. Leavitt declared that a J.D.C. survey showed that about 4,000 Jewish "hard core" cases are in camps and installations in Germany, Austria and Italy, and that together with their dependents they make up a group of some 9,000 persons who, it is hoped, can be moved to Israel this year.

In Israel, they will be provided with a special rehabilitative care by a new welfare organization being set up jointly by the J.D.C., the Jewish Agency and the Israel Government. It is expected that with suitable welfare help about half of the "hard core" group can be re-established as self-supporting, independent individuals, the statement said. Mr. Leavitt added that Samuel Haber, J.D.C. director for Germany, had advised the New York office that if the present rate of emigration of both healthy and bedridden DP's continue, 1950 should see the last of the Jewish DP camps in that country closed.

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SENATE HEARS PLEA FOR PERMITTING ISRAEL TO BUY MUNITIONS IN UNITED STATES

WASHINGTON, March 21. (JTA) -- Sen. Irving M. Ives, of New York, said today in a statement on the Senate floor that the British are arming the Arabs while the State Department "persists in interfering" with Israel's efforts to buy munitions here for self-defense.

The Senator said that Israel should be given a chance to buy the munitions she needs from the U.S. "I insist it is only equitable and realistic for our State Department to adopt a more affirmative position on this question than it has demonstrated thus far. Arms must be made available to Israel just as they are being placed at the disposal of the Arab states," he stated.

At the same time it was learned that Senate Majority Leader Scott Lucas received the assurances of the State Department that this government will carefully observe the situation involving the current Near East arms race. Sen. Lucas had previously asked that the Department review its position.

The State Department also assured Sen. Alexander Wiley of Wisconsin that it does not believe that "serious measures are being taken in preparation for renewal of hostilities" in the Near East. Sen. Wiley, a member of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, had written Secretary of State Dean Acheson of his desire for continued peace in the Near East.

U.S. Army Chief of Staff General J. Lawton Collins left today for a trip to the Middle East. He plans to stop at Cairo with his staff and to visit other Near and Middle Eastern nations.

Arab diplomats angrily withdrew during the week-end from the annual conference of the Middle East Institute, complaining that they would not share the speakers platform with Israel Embassy officials. Moshe Yuval, Israel First Secretary, and Moshe Keren, Counselor, continued to participate until the end of the parley.

The Arabs explained that they could not sit with representatives of the Israel Government because such action might be taken to indicate that they concede the legal existence of Israel. The Middle East Institute is a private, non-profit organization concerned with informing government officials, businessmen and educators about the economics, history, culture, industry and current affairs of that part of the world.

SHARETT CALLS ON ARAB STATES TO BEGIN DIRECT PEACE NEGOTIATIONS WITH ISRAEL

NEW YORK, March 21. (JTA) -- "There will be no further war if the Arab world does not will it," Moshe Sharett, Foreign Minister of Israel, declared today in an interview with Cyrus L. Sulzberger, chief European correspondent of the New York Times.

Mr. Sharett warned of the "danger of a vicious circle" of rearmament which has been set off in the Middle East by Egypt and other Arab nations. He said that the Arabs cannot keep insisting that they want peace but continue to refuse to negotiate a peace with Israel. He called on the Arab League, which is due to meet in Cairo this Saturday, to make peace with the Jewish state through direct negotiations.

The Times also reports today from Cairo that "certain member states of the Arab League are considering a proposal to expel Jordan because of her alleged contacts with Israel during and after the Palestine war." The Times dispatch quotes as its source the party organ of the Wafd, which currently controls the Egyptian Government.

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ISRAEL AGREES TO TRANSFER GERMAN CHURCH PROPERTY TO ANOTHER RELIGIOUS BODY

GENEVA, March 21. (JTA) -- Aubrey S. Eban, Israel delegate at the United Nations, today accepted the principle that religious property which has not been returned to its former owners by Israel or cannot be returned shall be transferred to another church or religious or charitable agency representing the same religious beliefs.

The principle was incorporated in a French and British amendment to an American proposal before the U.N. Trusteeship Council that the property of German churches in Israel be returned to them. Mr. Eban asserted that the amendment "meets the psychological troubles" existing between Israel and anything that concerns Germany.

Mr. Eban and the Egyptian representative today fell out over whether Israel, in signing a protocol sponsored by the U.N. Conciliation Commission for Palestine, had agreed to accept the internationalization of Jerusalem. The Israelisaid that the protocol was drafted as a basis for territorial discussions not as a binding obligation.

SWEDISH OFFICIAL RECEIVED BY SHARETT; PRESENTS SWEDEN'S VIEWS ON BERNADOTTE CASE

TEL AVIV, March 21. (JTA) -- H. Lagerfeld, director-general of the Swedish Foreign Ministry, arrived here today and was received by Israel Foreign Minister Moshe Sharett and Dr. Walter Eytan, Lagerfeld's counterpart in the Israel Ministry.

Among other matters, the diplomats discussed the assassination of the late U.N. Palestine mediator, Count Folke Bernadotte. It is understood that Mr. Lagerfeld gave the Israel officials a copy of an official Swedish report on the case which is known to charge that Israel is doing little to track down and punish Bernadotte's murderers. It is also expected that the Swedish official will remain here until he receives Israel's reply to the charges in the report.

ISRAEL AND CZECHOSLOVAKIA SIGN TRADE PACT; ISRAEL SEEKS AGREEMENT WITH TURKEY

TEL AVIV, March 21. (JTA) -- Israel and Czechoslovakia signed a trade agreement in Prague yesterday, it was officially announced today. The pact provides that \$8,400,000 worth of Czech goods be imported by the Jewish state while Israel will send Czechoslovakia \$2,800,000 in citrus products, pharmaceuticals and other goods. The Czechs will send Israel iron and steel goods, food and glassware.

Moshe Bartov, deputy director-general of the Israel Foreign Ministry's economic division, left today for Ankara to start Israel-Turkish negotiations prior to conclusion of a trade agreement between the two countries, it was announced today.

ORTHODOX VILLAGE OF Bnei BRAK BECOMES THIRTEENTH TOWN IN THE JEWISH STATE

TEL AVIV, March 21. (JTA) -- The village of Bnei Brak, whose population is entirely Orthodox, yesterday became the 13th community in Israel to achieve town-ship status.

The town covers an area of nearly 2,000 acres and has a population of 12,000. Its industrial plants employ 200 men and women. The change in status was marked at a special ceremony attended by local officials and two Cabinet members--Minister of Interior Joseph Shapira and Minister of Welfare Rabbi I.M. Lewin.

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PASSOVER MATZOKS FOR HUNGARIAN JEWS TO BE PRODUCED THIS YEAR IN NATIONALIZED FACTORY

BUDAPEST, March 21. (JTA) -- Passover matzoks for Jews in Hungary will be baked this year in the nationalized matzok factories which formerly were community-owned, it was announced today. The matzoks will be produced under the supervision of a rabbinical commission.

Meanwhile, it was revealed here that the draft of a new constitution for the Jewish community in Hungary will be submitted soon to the Hungarian authorities for approval.

HJALMAR SCHACHT SUES JEWISH OFFICIAL OF BAVARIA FOR CALLING HIM A WAR CRIMINAL

MUNICH, March 21. (JTA) -- Hjalmar Schacht, financial expert of the Nazi regime, who was cleared of war crimes charges by the Allied war crimes tribunal at Nuremberg, but was later convicted by a German court of being a high Nazi, has instituted a libel suit against Dr. Philip Auerbach, Bavarian Commissioner for Persecutees, who publicly called Schacht a war criminal. Dr. Auerbach's charge was made in a letter to a German newspaper.

Gerhard Daum-Duckritz, former police chief of Koblenz, has been sentenced to two years and ten months imprisonment for mistreatment of Jewish and Polish prisoners in a concentration camp during the war.

A Cologne court has sentenced a German woman, Gertrude Risch, to three months in jail for publicly insulting Jews. Frau Risch remarked in a restaurant that she was "sorry that all the Jews had not been gassed."

POLISH JEWS TOLD NOT TO WORRY IF PRIVATE FIRMS ARE LIQUIDATED; ARE PROMISED EMPLOYMENT

WARSAW, March 21. (JTA) -- Local employment authorities in the city of Lodz today denied rumors to the effect that Jewish employees in private enterprise will not get jobs in cooperative enterprises or government service if the firms where they are now employed are liquidated.

The denial was made at a meeting of Jewish employees of private firms which have been compelled to go out of business. Addressing the meeting, an official of the Commission for Work and Public Welfare told the workers that the fact that they worked for private employers will not be held against them. "Anyone who lost his employment because the enterprise for which he worked was privately owned will receive full opportunity for employment in cooperative establishments or in government-operated industries," the official said.

HUNGARY PERMITS TRANSFER OF REMAINS OF JEWISH HEROINE TO ISRAEL

VIENNA, March 21. (JTA) -- The remains of Hannah Szenes, Hungarian Jewish heroine who was executed by the Hungarian fascists when captured on an Allied mission behind the Nazi lines during the war, arrived here from Budapest today.

The remains will be transported to Israel. An Israel Government delegation, including Miss Szenes' brother Gicrah Szenes, will accompany the coffin to the Jewish state. Miss Szenes parachuted into Yugoslavia in 1944 and joined a band of Hungarian partisans in operations designed to assist in the escape of Allied prisoners.

U.N. SECRETARY-GENERAL LAUDS B'NAI B'RITH ACTIVITIES FOR BETTER HUMAN RELATIONS

WASHINGTON, March 21. (JTA) -- Trygve Lie, Secretary-General of the United Nations, tonight greeted the triennial convention of B'nai B'rith, praising the organization for its work in behalf of "better human relations." He spoke at a banquet here.

"Just as B'nai B'rith is working for these results in the American community and the American nation, so the United Nations is working for the same objectives in the whole world," he said. "The human rights provisions of the United Nations Charter were greatly strengthened in San Francisco by the influence of the non-governmental organizations like B'nai B'rith, who were there as consultants or observers."

"Already the new republics of Israel and Indonesia have borrowed from the declaration in the drafting of the constitutional provisions for the human rights of their peoples," Mr. Lie pointed out.

CONFERENCE OF 24 NATIONS HEARS PLEA FOR INTERNATIONAL AID TO HEIRS OF NAZI VICTIMS

LAKE SUCCESS, March 21. (JTA) -- A plea urging the adoption of a draft international convention on the declaration of death of missing persons was made here on behalf of the World Jewish Congress by Dr. Maurice L. Perlzweig before the conference of representatives of 24 nations meeting here at the invitation of the United Nations.

"This is not a problem which is of concern to Jews alone," said Dr. Perlzweig. "There are many thousands of non-Jews who have resettled in various parts of the world who share the difficulties and anxieties which it is my duty to lay before this Conference. But the Jews are clearly in a unique position, not only because of the staggering numerical losses which they suffered, but because the survivors are now scattered in many countries throughout the world. It is this dispersion, and the consequent need to deal with many different governments, which makes this international measure necessary," Dr. Perlzweig said.

Dr. Perlzweig received his hearing after the W.J.C. had submitted a memorandum calling for the conference to adopt an international convention for the codification of existing national legislation which would enable hundreds of thousands of widows, orphans and other heirs, most of whom are survivors of Nazi persecution, to remarry, claim property and enable foster parents to legally adopt children orphaned by Nazi persecution.

HEARING FOR FORMER SILVER SHIRT LEADER SET FOR JULY; HIS EXTRADITION IS SOUGHT

INDIANAPOLIS, March 21. (JTA) -- A circuit judge in Noblesville, Indiana, yesterday set July 3 as the date of a hearing on a writ of habeas corpus requested by William Dudley Pelley, former head of the Silver Shirts, whose extradition has been requested by the North Carolina authorities. A similar action is pending in Terre Haute.

DAVID BERNSTEIN NAMED ASSISTANT TO FEDERAL SECURITY ADMINISTRATOR EWING

WASHINGTON, March 21. (JTA) -- Federal Security Administrator Oscar R. Ewing designated David Bernstein as Assistant to the Administrator. Mr. Bernstein formerly directed the Office of Special Services of the Philippine Government-in-Exile in Washington and acted as special adviser to two Presidents of the Philippines, Manuel L. Quezon and Sergio Osmena.

LEADERS OF REFORM JUDAISM SEEK TO FORMULATE STATEMENT ON BASIC THEOLOGICAL ISSUES

CINCINNATI, March 21. (JTA) -- Vital theological issues concerning Reform Judaism were discussed today at the Institute on Reform Jewish Theology held here under the auspices of the Central Conference of American Rabbis. The Institute, which is being attended by more than 60 rabbinical scholars and educators, will conclude tomorrow with a declaration restating the basic religious convictions of the Reform movement.

Dr. Leo Baeck, president of the World Union for Progressive Judaism, addressing a symposium on Jewish theology, "tentatively" defined Jewish theology as the way in which "at any time Jewish tradition tries to express itself anew." Rabbi Samuel S. Cohen, Professor of Jewish Theology at Hebrew Union College, said that the Reform movement, like the older expressions of Judaism, must continually reorient itself in the ever-varying cultural and intellectual climate of the times.

Rabbi Moses Cyrus Weiler, president of the Jewish Reform movement of South Africa, addressing a session of the Institute, said that Liberal Jews the world over look to organized American Reform Jewry as the fountainhead of the movement. He emphasized the responsibility which rests on those who participate in the Institute. He was greeted by Dr. Nelson Glueck, president of the Hebrew Union College.

UNION OF ORTHODOX JEWISH CONGREGATIONS OF AMERICA ANNOUNCES EXPANSION PLANS

NEW YORK, March 21. (JTA) -- A four-point expansion program for American Orthodox Jews designed to strengthen and coordinate the activities of this section of the American Jewish population, was announced today by William B. Herlands, president of the Union of Orthodox Jewish Congregations of America. Mr. Herlands declared that the Union will concentrate its initial efforts in the fields of community service, kashruth, public education, and synagogue activity.

"Immediate steps will be taken to affiliate with the Union the large number of Jewish congregations professing Orthodox principles," he said. "Regional offices with field directors will be set up to carry out the Union's program. Orthodox Jews have a great responsibility to demonstrate to the world that a way of life rooted in spiritual and ethical concepts can flourish in an atomic era and a hydrogen bomb-conscious civilization. The Union feels that it can give leadership not only to Judaism but also make the community-at-large understand and appreciate the values of religious principles," Mr. Herlands stated.

CHIEF RABBI OF BRITISH EMPIRE ARRIVES IN JOHANNESBURG; REPORTS ON KENYA AND RHODESIA

JOHANNESBURG, So. Africa, March 21. (JTA) -- Chief Rabbi Israel Brodie of the British Empire arrived here today and was welcomed at the airport by representatives of the South African Board of Jewish Deputies and other leading Jewish organizations and institutions.

At a meeting with representatives of the Jewish press, Rabbi Brodie, who has just completed a tour of Kenya and Rhodesia, reported that the question of shechita--Jewish ritual slaughter--was "acute" in those areas, as was the problem of Sabbath observance. The British Chief Rabbi said that the shortage of trained rabbis in outlying areas in the British Commonwealth could be met by the institution of the system of "rotating rabbis" among small communities.

WORLD ZIONIST ORGANIZATION AWARDS FELLOWSHIP FOR COMPILATION OF JEWISH MUSIC ANTHOLOGY

NEW YORK, March 21. (JTA) -- A one-year fellowship for the compilation of an anthology of Jewish music has been awarded by the World Zionist Organization to Chaim Vinaver, conductor of the Vinaver Chorus, it was announced today by the Department of Culture and Education of the W.Z.O. The anthology will include synagogue litany, Chasidic music and the works of composers in contemporary Israel.

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