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TRIAL OF RUMANIANS CHARGED WITH MASSACRE OF 12,000 JEWS OPENS IN BUCHAREST

BUCHAREST, Mar. 8. (JTA) — The trial of Rumanians charged with organizing a pogrom in the city of Jassy on the 29th of June, 1941 during which 12,000 Jews were massacred opened here today before the special tribunal for war criminals.

The former chief of police in Jassy, during whose administration the pogrom took place and who is among the persons on trial, today testified that the chief instigator of the massacres was Prof. Horya Bulubeu, former rector of Bucharest University. Professor Bulubeu is at present on the medical faculty of Bucharest University. The trial is expected to last several days.

The Moscow radio today broadcast an article by Ilya Ehrenbourg, published in Pravda, demanding that no mercy be shown to Germans for the crimes they committed against Jews and others even if they "set their watches forward and pull down the 'Hitlerstrasse' street signs."

"Germany's crimes," Ehrenbourg pointed out, "cannot be obliterated by pushing the clock forward. The world now knows that the Germans killed six million Jews, they killed all Jews — from infants at the breast to the aged. Until quite recently, dragging out their sadistic pleasure, the Germans kept the last thousand living Jews near Elbing. Here there were architects from Prague, a composer from Amsterdam, doctors from Kovno, a professor from Belgrade. They were set naked on stools in the mid-winter frost, and icy waters poured over them. Then they were killed.

"Do the Germans think it is enough to take down street signs for these atrocities to be forgotten?" the article asks. "They come and swear: 'We know nothing about it, we are innocent'. But the evidence is there."

BRITISH-AMERICAN POSTPONEMENT OF SOLUTION OF PALESTINE PROBLEM DISAPPROVED IN SWEDEN

STOCKHOLM, Mar. 8. (JTA) — Editorials in Swedish newspapers today indicate that public opinion in Sweden disapproves of the fact that the solution of the Palestine question has been postponed by the Allies until after the war.

"Not only the Jews, but the entire world is tensely awaiting the Allied decisions on Palestine and on other questions concerning Jews," the Svenska Morgnbladet writes. The Dagens Nyheter, another leading newspaper, analyzing the Jewish problem advocates that Sweden open its doors to "a moderate Jewish immigration."

CZECHOSLOVAKIAN JEWISH LEADER RETURNS TO LIBERATED CZECH TERRITORY FROM ENGLAND

LONDON, Mar. 8. (JTA) — Dr. Ernst Frischer, leader of Czechoslovakian Jews here, today announced that he is returning to the liberated section of Czechoslovakia together with members of the Czechoslovakian State Council. He expects to leave London within a fortnight.

GREEK GOVERNMENT WILL FACILITATE RETURN OF SURVIVING DEPORTED JEWS, MINISTER PLEDGES

ATHENS, Mar. 8. (JTA) — The Greek Government will do everything possible to facilitate the return of any of the 45,000 Salonika Jews deported to Poland who may still be alive, Minister of Social Welfare Petros Levantis said today.

He also pledged return of confiscated Jewish property and indemnification of those whose property cannot be restored. Levantis said that he would propose to the government that all anti-Jewish laws be annulled immediately although, he said, they have actually not been in force since the Nazis were driven from Greece.

The minister paid tribute to the contributions made to the country's economy before the war by the 52,000 Jews of Salonika and added that one of the government's main duties is safeguarding the possessions of all deported Jews and making restitution to returning heirs and relatives.

GOVERNMENT COMMITTEE REPORTS ON CONDITIONS OF PALESTINE JEWISH INTERNEES IN SUDAN CAMP

JERUSALEM, Mar. 8. (JTA) — The government committee which flew to the Sudan last month to investigate the conditions under which 268 Jewish terrorist suspects from Palestine are confined, reported today that it had found that the water supply was ample, food rations good, and hygienic and health conditions satisfactory.

The committee, which was sent to the Sudan after relatives of the deportees had protested to the government that the prisoners were complaining of bad living conditions, also said that the military authorities have installed sufficient facilities to make the camp comfortable and disclosed that High Commissioner Lord Gort has approved the shipment of books and educational facilities there as well as the assignment of a rabbi and a shochet. The deportees will receive wine and matzcha for Passover.

BELATED PURIM SERVICES HELD IN GOEBBELS CASTLE BY AMERICAN JEWISH TROOPS

MUESCHEN-GLADBACH, Germany, Mar. 8. (JTA) — Belated Purim services were held here yesterday in a castle belonging to Dr. Joseph Goebbels by front-line troops who were too busy fighting last week to pause for the traditional observances.

Capt. Manuel Poliakoff of Baltimore, a Jewish chaplain, carefully arranged the candles over a swastika-bedecked bookcase in Goebbels' main dining room. Pfc. Arnold Belsch of Headville, Pa. and Corp. Martin Willen of Baltimore assisted the chaplain.

The services were attended by a large crowd which filled the vest room. Jewish and non-Jewish soldiers were in the audience, and the Jews explained to their Christian comrades about Hanan and why it was so fitting that Purim services should be held in a castle belonging to Goebbels.

ZIONIST FEDERATION IN BULGARIA SENDS GREETINGS TO STALIN FOR LIBERATING JEWS

SOFIA, Mar. 8. (JTA) — A message of greetings to Joseph Stalin was wired today by the executive board of the Zionist Federation of Bulgaria and by the Palestine office here congratulating the Russian leader on the exploits of his armed forces.

"The Red Army liberated the remnants of the unfortunate and humiliated European Jewry," the message said, expressing the hope that Germany will soon be defeated and that the "foundations for a permanent and just peace for all nations" will be laid.

EMERGENCY COUNCIL DEMANDS ZIONIST REPRESENTATION AT SAN FRANCISCO CONFERENCE

NEW YORK, Mar. 8. (JTA). — Declaring that "the very issues for which the war is being fought lie at stake," the American Zionist Emergency Council today demanded Jewish representation at the forthcoming United Nations Conference in San Francisco on April 25 "in regard to all matters affecting Palestine and the future thereof of the Jewish people."

In a formal statement issued here the Council asserted that Prime Minister Churchill's statement postponing a decision on Palestine until the end of the war "makes it even more imperative that authorized spokesmen for the Jewish National Home be accorded the same right and opportunity to be heard as accorded all other countries." It pointed out that Arab nations in neighboring countries will be represented as such, and that Jewish Palestine should be entitled to participate in decisions which will affect its entire future.

"The ghosts of 5,000,000 Jewish dead already haunt the forthcoming Conference in San Francisco," the statement declared. "We ask the world how great must this ghastly company grow before the voice of those still living will be heard?" The Council added that an intolerable situation will be created next month when under the British White Paper all Jewish immigration into Palestine ceases "at a time when hundreds of thousands of Jewish victims of Nazism are appealing for the right to rebuild their shattered lives among their own people in Palestine."

The statement emphasized that although 39 nations have been invited to the Conference, among them nations "which had to be coerced not to betray the democracies," the Jewish people alone, first victims and adversaries of Nazism, are ignored. It also pointed out that the subject of mandates will be discussed at the Conference, and asked, "How in the name of common decency and justice can the Jews, whose very existence as a people is bound up with mandated Palestine, not be represented?"

Zionist Leaders Warn Against "Hasty Conclusions" on Palestine Issue

NEW YORK, Mar. 8. (JTA) — A plea to the Jewish public against forming hasty conclusions concerning the Yalta conference in relation to the Palestine issue was made by Zionist leaders at a meeting of the National Executive of the Zionist Organization of America on Tuesday night in New York, it was announced here today. Jewish public opinion was counseled to withhold judgment on the actions of Roosevelt and Churchill until definite word will have been ascertained regarding decisions reached on Jewish problems and Palestine.

In a keynote address Dr. Israel Goldstein, ZOA President, declared that "the prepared and ad libb remarks by Roosevelt and Churchill have evoked feeling of let-down among Jewish people since we had a right to expect hopeful message in the face of the Jewish tragedy and the justice of our demands. At the same time he added we are not warranted to interpret their words in a manner tending to plunge the Jewish public into deep pessimism and despair.

Speaking in similar vein, Herman Shulman of the Zionist Emergency Council reported on the plans mapped to launch a nationwide effort to secure representation for the Jewish people at San Francisco. He indicated that it is the present understanding that no attempt will be made at San Francisco to dispose of territorial questions but that only the structure of the postwar world order will be considered including the mandate system of category "B", Palestine as mandate "A" may be excluded. Other speakers included Dr. Nahum Goldman, Meyer W. Weisgal, Judge Bernard Rosenblatt, Daniel Frisch, Mendel Fischer and others. Saul S. Spiro, ZOA Secretary, reported that membership since October 1 exceeded 80,000, an increase of over 20,000 for the same period last year.

J.D.C. OCCUPIES A RESPECTED POSITION IN PALESTINE, OVERSEAS REPRESENTATIVE REPORTS

NEW YORK, Mar. 8. (JTA) -- "The Joint Distribution Committee, through its support of Jewish institutions and special projects in Turkey and Palestine, has become a major factor in Jewish life in the Middle East," Mordecai Kessler, J.D.C. overseas representative who has just returned after twenty months in the Middle East and North Africa, reported at a press conference here today.

Outlining the J.D.C. program in the Middle East and Palestine, Mr. Kessler stated, "The J.D.C. sends \$10,000 monthly to Turkey to assist the impoverished Jewish communities which have been extremely hard hit by discriminatory taxes. Since these communities are so poor, the J.D.C. has had to establish special loan banks - credit institutions - and has had to rebuild hospitals and orphanages. The J.D.C. achieved these results by working with local Jewish communities in Istanbul, Ankara, Izmir, Brussa and Edirne."

The J.D.C. occupies a respected position in Palestine, Mr. Kessler added, since many of its present inhabitants were brought there under J.D.C. auspices, which includes rescue from Nazi danger spots, maintenance while waiting for embarkation, and the procuring of ships for transportation. In cooperation with the War Refugee Board and the Jewish Agency, the J.D.C. transported 8,000 Jewish refugees from the Balkans to Palestine during 1944.

"Much of our work in Palestine," Mr. Kessler continued, "is directed toward the rebuilding and maintenance of the Jewish institutions that have been destroyed in Eastern Europe and which have been transferred to Palestine. In this connection, the J.D.C. has made a yearly grant to the Hebrew University in Jerusalem, and, during 1944, appropriated approximately \$325,000 for the support of refugee rabbis and yeshivot - advanced religious schools."

Mr. Kessler told of the special nutrition program arranged by the J.D.C. for students and rabbis and which was necessitated by their poor health conditions. Another J.D.C. project was the "make-work" program which included forty-seven refugee rabbis, and which was based on the compilation of a traditional Jewish literature, the Responsa Coda, which is now being published under the auspices of Rabbi Isaac Herzog, Chief Rabbi of Palestine. Mr. Kessler also emphasized that Jewish industry in Palestine had been aided by recent J.D.C. purchases there for shipment to distressed Jews in other countries. Approximately \$200,000 worth of clothing has been ordered for Jews in Poland; 30,000 pairs of shoes and medical supplies have been bought for shipment to Romania and Bulgaria; and special Passover packages for Jewish families in Asiatic Russia have been provided.

ORT STUDENTS PERMITTED TO REMAIN IN SWITZERLAND; OTHER REFUGEES WILL BE REPATRIATED

NEW YORK, Mar. 8. (JTA) -- Jewish refugees in Switzerland attending the training schools of the ORT, Jewish Organization for Rehabilitation Through Training, as well as those working in ORT institutions, will be permitted to remain in the country, Dr. David Lvovitch, vice-president of the World ORT Union, announced today.

The announcement was made on the basis of a cable received from Aron Syngalovski, leader of the ORT in Europe, who negotiated with the Swiss authorities to secure permission for ORT students and workers to remain in Switzerland when the repatriation of other Jewish refugees to their native lands is ordered by the Swiss Government.

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