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JTA

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PUBLISHED BY THE JEWISH TELEGRAPHIC AGENCY

106 EAST 41st STREET, NEW YORK 17, N. Y.

FIRST TRANSPORT OF HUNGARIAN JEWS BROUGHT TO POLAND; 7,000 CZECH JEWS "LIQUIDATED"

LONDON, June 11. (JTA) -- The first transport of deported Hungarian Jews has arrived in occupied Poland for "liquidation," it was reported in a radio message received here today from the Jewish underground movement in Poland. The message was sent through Polish government channels and was addressed to the Jewish members of the Polish National Council.

The message also reported that 7,000 Czech Jews were recently brought from Polesin to Poland and exterminated by gas in the "extermination camp" at Oswiecim. Before their execution the victims were forced to write letters abroad stating that "conditions in Poland are good." The underground communication urges Jews in Czechoslovakia to resist deportation by all possible means since transportation to Poland means certain death for them. It also appeals to non-Jews in Czechoslovakia to help Jews evade deportation.

ROME JEWS GET BACK THEIR CONFISCATED HOMES; ALL ANTI-JEWISH LAWS RESCINDED

NEW YORK, June 11. (JTA) -- One of the first acts of the Allied Military Government in liberated Rome was to rescind all anti-Jewish legislation and to restore to the Jews their homes and property, it was reported today from Rome by Alexander H. Uhl, foreign editor of the New York newspaper P. M.

Mr. Uhl estimates that between 4,000 and 5,000 Jews remain in Rome today as compared with the 12,000 who were there under the German-Italian administration. "Jews are coming out of their hiding places, and almost the first spot that you will find them is the synagogue," he reports. "For it is here that the one rabbi who thus far has come back is holding thanksgiving services three times daily. It is here that the scattered remnants of a people can find each other."

A full census will begin shortly, when each Jew will tell what he knows of those who are gone, Mr. Uhl reveals. About 3,000 Rome Jews were deported by the Germans to Germany or Poland. Of these, two-thirds were old men and children. The day before the Fifth Army entered Rome, about 1,500 Jews held in prison were carried away in sealed trainees. Forty-four Jews were shot in reprisal for a bomb attack on Nazi troops in the streets of Rome during the German occupation. Hundreds of Jews died from hunger and illness. The fate of the rest is still unknown, Uhl cabled.

Mr. Uhl describes how the Jews lived in mortal fear in the ghetto; how they were terrorized by German soldiers; how they were forced by the German authorities to surrender a ransom of fifty kilograms of gold under a twenty-four hours ultimatum; how sympathetic Christians helped them to raise the gold by offering their own jewels as gifts; how the Germans ransacked the Rome synagogue and confiscated 1,200,000 liras in cash held there for charitable work; and how - in spite of payment of the ransom - they arrested Jews in their homes and deported them to Poland in cattle trains, separating husbands from wives and parents from children. He disclosed that the Pope gave sanctuary to Jews, and that as soon as the first Allied units entered Rome, two officials of the Allied Military Government visited the synagogue to make contact with the Jews and see what could be done for them.

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CHIEF RABBI OF CZERNOWITZ ARRIVES IN PALESTINE; SHERTOK IN TURKEY ON RESCUE MISSION

JERUSALEM, June 11. (JTA) -- The chief rabbi of Czernowitz, Messulam Rath, arrived here today from Turkey. He was accompanied by 30 other Jewish refugees from Rumania. Czernowitz, which had a large Jewish population, was liberated by the Russians in April.

The Jewish Agency announced today that Moshe Shertok, chief of the Agency's political department, has left for Turkey in connection with facilitating the rescue of Jews from the Balkan countries.

The Irgun Zvai Leumi, outlawed Jewish terrorist organization, posted placards throughout Jerusalem today, hailing the Allied invasion of Europe, and demanding the establishment of an independent Jewish government "to represent Jewish interests at the peace conference." It called on Jewish youths to combat the present regime in Palestine "without injuring the Allied war effort."

ADMISSION OF 1,000 REFUGEES TO UNITED STATES IS NOT ENOUGH, HOUSE IS TOLD

WASHINGTON, June 11. (JTA) -- Praising President Roosevelt for setting up the "emergency refugee shelter" at Fort Ontario, Rep. Samuel Dickstein of New York, chairman of the House Immigration Committee, told the House that providing temporary haven here for only 1,000 refugees was not enough of a contribution for the United States to make. He expressed regret that the President's project did not go far enough and said he hopes that Congress will act to admit an unlimited number of those escaping Nazi persecution.

In a statement to the Jewish Telegraphic Agency, Rep. Dickstein declared that chairman of the House Immigration Committee he would not cancel the plan to hold a hearing on June 21 on bills urging the establishment of "free ports" in the United States for refugees from Europe. Seven congressmen have introduced such bills.

(The New York Times, in an editorial approving of President Roosevelt's plan to establish a temporary refugee haven, said: "This is only a tiny fraction of the great mass of homeless and helpless people, of many faiths and many races, who have been victims of the Nazi terror. We hope, ourselves, that more than a mere thousand can be sheltered under an expansion of the present program. But neither those who come now nor the others who may be enabled to come later will come as permanent residents of this country, in excess of the immigration quotas. They will come merely on a temporary basis.")

Rep. John McCormack, House majority leader, told the House that there can be no issue of partisanship in the question of rescuing and alleviating the plight of oppressed Jews in Europe. "The noble traditions of this country cry out against such matters being made the subject of party politics," he said. "Democrats and Republicans have always joined their voices in support of the nation's historic position against tyranny and oppression."

"I am confident," McCormack said, "that all members of this House join with me in the feeling that every action required, consistent with the successful prosecution of the war, should be taken to rescue the Jews and other persecuted people from the barbarous persecution they are undergoing at the hands of the Nazis, and that at the proper time those guilty of these and future acts of barbarity be properly punished."

Praising the efforts of the War Refugee Board, Rep. McCormack declared: "It is true, that when viewed in the perspective of the great number in dire need and danger, only a little has been achieved thus far. A trickle of refugees has been assisted to escape, but a start has been made."

AMERICAN JEWISH CONFERENCE HAILS ROOSEVELT'S ORDER ADMITTING 1,000 REFUGEES

NEW YORK, June 11. (JTA) -- Welcoming President Roosevelt's action in establishing an emergency refugee shelter in the United States, the American Jewish Conference, in a statement today expressed the hope that Turkey will follow America's example and will permit refugees from "the Balkan trap" to cross its frontiers and that the British Colonial Office will throw open the doors of Palestine so that as many Jews as possible may enter.

"The establishment of a refuge in this country comes at a late hour, but it may yet help to stave off the death sentence which the puppet government of Hungary has decreed for the last surviving Jews of Europe," the statement said. "It brings a powerful champion to the side of these helpless and hunted people and it will thus encourage hundreds of thousands of decent Hungarians to resist their government's purpose, to shield Jews, and to assist many to escape. It will relieve congestion in the overcrowded refugee camps in Italy and elsewhere and thus make room for more who can make their way out of the Balkan trap.

"But the obligation to provide sanctuary for refugees must not rest upon our government alone. We trust that Turkey will follow the example which had previously been set by Sweden, Switzerland and Spain and now by our own government and open its frontiers so that those who may reach them will be permitted to cross to safety. And we urge the British Colonial Office to throw open the doors of Palestine so that as many Jews as possible may immediately enter the Jewish National Home."

Brith Abraham Convention Lauds Roosevelt's Rescue Action

ATLANTIC CITY, June 11. (JTA) -- President Roosevelt's announcement of the immediate admission of 1,000 refugees from Europe for temporary stay in this country, at Fort Ontario, in New York State, was hailed today at the opening session of the 57th annual convention of the Independent Order Brith Abraham in an address by Herman Hoffman, grand master of the Jewish fraternal order. The convention is being attended by 500 delegates from 400 lodges.

The organization's support of the war effort was lauded by President Roosevelt in a message sent to the convention. "Brith Abraham has been unwearied in its support of the war effort on the far-flung battlefronts and in the maintenance of all those other services necessary in a unified attack on tyranny and totalitarianism," the message said. "I send hearty greetings to the 57th Convention in full confidence that in its deliberations it will subordinate everything else to the hastening of victory."

A 17-point post-war program for the normalization of Jewish life in Europe was outlined by Mr. Hoffman in an address at the opening session. He urged that the United Nations draw up at the peace table an "International Bill of Rights" based on the four freedoms and the Atlantic Charter. His other recommendations included the elimination of anti-Semitism through international law; destruction of any system of ideology that creates dictators; speedy trials to bring to justice those responsible for inhuman crimes against Jews and other faiths; complete abrogation of the British White Paper; and provisions of facilities for the rehabilitation of Nazi victims, with proper medical care.

In discussing the war, Mr. Hoffman warned that there is a rising tide of Fascism in this country, operating under the guise of narrow nationalism. "The recent emergence of groups in this country under the spurious cloak of so called nationalism is a warning to us that the right to maintain humanitarian and democratic principles will have to be continued by all thinking and forward looking persons," he declared. "To win the peace we need eternal vigilance. All democratic forces must unite to bring about a post-war program that will protect all minority groups - regardless of race, color or creed."

RELIEF TRICKLES TO JEWS IN THIRTY-FOUR LABOR CAMPS IN POLAND, REPORT STATES

NEW YORK, June 11. (JTA) -- Medical and other relief sent by the International Red Cross and by the Swiss section of OSE, the Jewish health society, to Jews in occupied Poland is reaching thirty-four Jewish labor camps, and Jews employed in German workshops, it was learned from a report reaching Jewish organizations here today.

The supplies are being distributed by a central Jewish relief body in Cracow, headed by Dr. Michael Weichart, noted Polish-Jewish leader, the report discloses. This relief agency, known as the Juedische Unterstuetzungsstelle, was liquidated some time ago by the German authorities, but was permitted to resume its activities in May, 1943.

During eleven months since the resumption of its relief work, the agency has received from the International Red Cross and the Swiss Ose, 649 shipments of drugs and nutritive products, including 91 transports sent by the Ose from Geneva in March, 1944. It has also received from Portugal several transports of "luxury products" such as tea, coffee, sardines, which, although they could not be distributed among the Jews in the labor camps, were exchanged for flour. The Cracow Jewish relief agency is especially in need of clothing, linen and food supplies for the Jewish labor camps, the report said.

CANADIAN MINISTER DENOUNCES ANTI-SEMITISM AT DOMINION LEGION CONVENTION

MONTREAL, June 11. (JTA) -- "Canada is too big, the pioneer work of many peoples too great, the service and sacrifice too widely distributed throughout the land to stand for any anti-Semitism, or anti-foreigner movements; we must work for unity," said Gen. L. R. LaFleche, Canadian War Service Minister, in a speech to the Dominion Convention of the Canadian Legion, now being held in Vancouver.

Stressing the contribution of the foreign-born elements to Canada's war-effort, the Minister added: "It is but natural that we should find their names in our lists of gallantry awards and in our lists of casualties. Ten percent of those killed in action are non Anglo-Saxon and non-French."

When the war is over many of these men will return to Canada and they deserve to be welcomed for the part they played in Canada's emergency, Gen. LaFleche stated.

LONDON SYNAGOGUES CROWDED WITH THRONGS PRAYING FOR ALLIED TROOPS IN FRANCE

LONDON, June 11. (JTA) -- All London synagogues and many others throughout England were crowded over the week-end with worshippers praying for the success of the invasion. Special prayers for the Allied soldiers fighting in France were recited in accordance with an order issued by Chief Rabbi Hertz. Sermons stressed the hope that the Allied troops will bring swift liberation to the enslaved Jews of occupied Europe.

CINCINNATI CONFERENCE OF AMERICAN RABBIS WILL HOLD ITS CONVENTION IN CINCINNATI

CINCINNATI, June 11. (JTA) -- The Central Conference of American Rabbis today announced that its 56th annual convention will be held in Cincinnati. It will open on June 23 and will last three days.