

J.D.C. Sends \$1,000,000 to Poland.

New York.

Edward M. M. Warburg, Chairman of the Joint Distribution Committee, has announced that the J.D.C. has forwarded to Poland an emergency cash grant of \$1,000,000 for the relief of thousands of Polish Jews now being repatriated from Asiatic Russia.

Mr. Warburg disclosed that the special appropriation has been made at the request of Dr. Joseph J. Schwartz, Chairman of the J.D.C. European Executive Council, who was recently in Poland, currently in this country seeking aid for the Jews of Poland.

The establishment of a full-scale programme of relief and rehabilitation in behalf of the returnees, Mr. Warburg added, awaits recommendations from Dr. Schwartz and the completion of discussions with the Central Jewish Committee. About 90,000 Polish Jewish repatriates have already crossed the border after several years of war-time haven in the Soviet Union.

The million dollar allocation brings the total amount of J.D.C. cash forwarded to Poland in the past six months to \$1,750,000. These funds are in addition to over \$1,000,000 worth of supplies purchased in the United States and shipped to Jewish survivors in Poland, as well as extensive supplies purchased in Sweden and Switzerland for shipment to Poland, Mr. Warburg pointed out. He added that further relief shipments to Poland are being made by the South African Jewish War Appeal, the United Jewish Refugee and War Relief Agencies of Canada, and the United Jewish Overseas Relief Fund of Australia.

A cablegram from Dr. Schwartz in Poland, Mr. Warburg stated, has disclosed that the J.D.C. is now carrying out the emergency distribution of 200 tons of vitally needed foodstuffs, 32,000 pairs of men's, women's and children's shoes and 76,000 articles of clothing.

Government aid to the returnees ceases after three days, the J.D.C. has been advised, and the J.D.C.'s relief programmes provide the chief measure of aid to them.

Cabaret Singer Sentenced because of Satirical Songs.

Jerusalem.

Hilda Dulitzkaya, a 60-year-old cabaret singer, during her usual performance in a Mount Carmel cafe, Haifa, sang a number of new satirical ditties in which she referred to the mass arrests and the searches.

Troops waited for her outside the stage, told her to change her costume and dress in ordinary clothes. She was taken away in an armoured car. When her husband came to Jerusalem to enquire regarding her whereabouts, he was told by the authorities that his wife was sentenced to one year's imprisonment under the administrative regulations and is now in the women's prison in Bethlehem.

JOURNALISTS' PROTEST.

The imprisonment of Hilda Dulitzkaya is regarded as a dangerous precedent by Palestine journalists.

At their general meeting resolutions were adopted protesting against the artiste's imprisonment and against the general shackling of the local press by the censorship. Appeals were made to the world press and to international Journalists' Associations to intercede on their behalf.

Jerusalem.

Mr. Harry Sacher, former member of the Jewish Agency Executive, arrived here on July 7th and immediately proceeded to Dr. Weizmann's home in Rehovoth for the meeting of the remaining members of the Jewish Agency and Vaad Leumi Executives.

Conditions of Emigration from Poland.

The South African Jewish War Appeal is in receipt of a memorandum prepared by the J.D.C. office in Warsaw and summarising the conditions which apply to Jewish emigration from Poland.

The United States Consulates in Poland have not yet properly installed themselves and it is hoped that they will do so in the very near future. At the moment they are issuing visas only for temporary stay. By the end of July the Visa Consulate may begin to issue non-quota and preference visas. At least 10-12,000 quota cases are registered or affidavits deposited with the Consulate. A number of these cases have left Poland in the meantime. Minor children under 18 years or the spouse of an honourably discharged veteran (American citizen) may enter the United States without a visa in accordance with the Act of Congress passed in December, 1945.

There is at present a slow-down in the issuing of Swedish Transit visas as the quota of 400 approved by the Swedish Foreign Control Office is completely filled. There are at present over 500 cases on the waiting list in Stockholm. In issuing new visas, preference is given to persons wishing to join their families in Sweden.

Negotiations are on the way to increase the quota to 1,000 and it may be, with the beginning of the new quota year (July, 1946), the position will improve and Swedish transit visas will again be obtainable on the strength of the \$1,000 guarantee.

The French Consulate is issuing entry visas only upon authorisation from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Paris. Transit visas are issued if the applicant produces an end visa.

The British Consulate is issuing visas (1) to England on the strength of so-called invitations to specified categories of persons; (2) to Australia on the strength of an original permit or certified photostat copy of such permit; (3) to Palestine on the strength of certificates.

Except Mexico, there is no Consulate functioning in Poland for Latin America. It is expected that a Brazilian Consulate will be established within a short period of time.

The J.D.C. office in Warsaw is receiving numerous requests, particularly from Belgium and other countries, asking to obtain copies of birth certificates, death certificates or marriage licences. Practically all of the books and records of Jewish communities were deliberately destroyed by the Germans. Many of the civil registry records were destroyed by fire or otherwise during the war. As regards Warsaw, all the Jewish civil registry records are destroyed. The obtaining of such documents may take place only on the strength of a Court decision. The procedure is rather complicated and takes months until such documents can be received.

Polish citizens who intend to emigrate can obtain emigration passports within six to eight weeks provided all the necessary regulations are being complied with.

Jerusalem.

The Association of House and Property Owners has decided not to remain any longer in the Citizens' Union (Ichud Ezrachi), since this body was now pre-occupied with political affairs instead of devoting itself to economic matters. The Association issued a statement stressing its willingness to co-operate with all economic institutions in Palestine engaging in constructive activities.

J.D.C. - J.W.A. Helps Publish Rabbinic Responsa.

Jerusalem.

"Thanks for your noble assistance" have been extended by the Otzar Hapos'kim (digest of rabbinic Responsa on Jewish law and ritual) to the Joint Distribution Committee for a special cash grant made recently by the J.D.C. towards the publication of the first volume of the work.

The Responsa, in its new digest form, will contain questions, answers and interpretations of Talmudic law and custom. The Otzar Hapos'kim, a special project now employing 31 rabbis in this city, receives regular monthly support from the J.D.C. in addition to the special grant for publishing the Responsa.

Chief Rabbi I. Herzog, in his letter of thanks to the J.D.C. declared that the work "is of historical value to the theological scholars in general and to officiating rabbis in particular and is a matter of vital importance to-day when the great Torah centres in Europe, to our great regret, have been ruined and a colossal literature of generations demolished."

Jerusalem.

For the first time in nearly seven years a group of foreign archaeologists has resumed exploration work in Palestine. The party consists of Frenchmen, two of whom have been sent out here by the Louvre, while the remainder are scholars of the Dominican Convent in Jerusalem. The aim of their present excavations in Vadi Fara's, east of Nablus, is to unearth the Biblical town of Tirza, the first capital of the Kingdom of Israel, which was later replaced by Samaria.

Dr. Sommerstein Calls for Special Campaign for Polish Jewry.

Dr. Emil Sommerstein, Chairman of the Central Jewish Committee in Poland, who is at present leading a delegation of Polish Jews which has gone to the United States to discuss relief measures for the Jews of Poland, has cabled an urgent message to the South African War Appeal from New York calling on South African Jewry to take action to start a large campaign for the relief of those Polish Jews who have been repatriated from Soviet Russia to Poland.

Paris.

The Alliance Israelite Universelle has cabled to Dr. Weizmann saying that it is painfully moved by the tragic events in Palestine and expresses its sympathy and solidarity with Palestine Jewry, "whose free and industrious life is menaced, as well as with thousands of Jews in Central and Eastern Europe whose hope of settlement in the Homeland guaranteed by the Balfour Declaration is in jeopardy."

Budapest.

Following the withdrawal of Government objections to the publication of a Zionist organ, a new magazine, the "Cause of Palestine," has made its first appearance. The leading article criticises the attitude of the Government and the press, which, it charges, have either refrained from dealing with the Jewish problem or have labelled Zionism. The periodical says that as a result anti-Semitic incidents, such as the recent pogrom at Kunmadaras, have occurred.

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