

**IRAQ ANTI-SEMITISM**  
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fices and businesses not to pay out any sums "due to the Jew," but to notify the Minister instead. The one exception made is that Jews may be paid salaries due them up to 100 dinars (\$280) per month. This, however, the AJC pointed out, is about the salary now paid a beginning clerk in inflation-ridden Iraq, and does not suffice for support of a family. Very few Jews, moreover, are in salaried posts in Iraq today; almost all in such jobs having been dismissed in the past year on government initiative, the AJC reported.

The Iraqi Minister of Interior is given complete control over any money due Jews or any proceeds from sale or lease of Jewish properties by terms of the recent legislation, which authorizes him to deposit all such funds in a bank and decide on their dispensation. The new anti-Jewish measures appeared in Iraq's Official Gazette of last March 3, copies of which have just reached Paris.

(Note to Editors: Photocopies of the relevant pages in the Official Gazette and English-language translation are available on request.)

Reports trickling through from Iraq, the American Jewish Committee declared tell of an increasingly dire situation for the few thousand Jews there. In the months since the Arab-Israel conflict of last June, approximately 100 Jewish heads of families and community leaders have been thrown into jail at one time or another, often on the pretext that this is necessary for their own "protection". About a score are still in jail, the AJC disclosed, despite intervention by Grand Rabbi of Iraq Sasson Khadouri for their release.

Other anti-Jewish action by the Iraqi Government since the war has included a house-to-house search of all Jewish homes and the drawing up of a register of all occupants. Jews have been forbidden to travel from their areas of residence, and are under constant surveillance. Even before the war Jews had to carry special identity cards, and no emigration by Jews, or travel outside Iraq, for any purpose, has been allowed during the past several years.

"Seen in the light of such facts, the statements by Iraqi President Abdel Rahman Arif last February 17 to the New York Times in Baghdad that 'The Arabs are not antagonists of the Jews' and that 'The Chief Rabbi of Baghdad always comes to see me at the palace on feast days and came to meet me this week' are sorry mockery indeed," the AJC declared.

Opening the way to new Iraqi Government confiscation of Jewish properties, too, the AJC reported, is a ruling handed down by the Iraqi Court of Cassation some weeks ago overthrowing a chain of precedents of the past 17 years. The Iraqi courts have now decided to recognize as "heirs" to Jewish properties in Iraq Jews who have left the country and have been de-naturalized.

Until now Jews outside the country were barred from inheriting and their share was distributed among any heirs remaining in Iraq. On the surface, the new ruling appears to be a more equitable procedure. In fact, it has the opposite effect, for the Iraqi Government does not allow the transfer of any money to Jews outside the country. In a series of laws since 1964, the Iraqi Government has revoked the citizenship not only of Jews who went to Israel, but also of the several thousand Iraqi Jews residing in the United States, Great Britain, France and other countries, although no such restrictions have been applied to Moslem Iraqis living abroad.

The result of this latest judicial maneuver is that the Government now can claim the share of any estate due to such foreign "heirs" and put it in the hands of a special Custodian of Jewish Property, under Iraqi legislation dating back to 1951, since 1951. The Iraqi Government Custodian has taken over, in one way or another, at least \$80 million worth of Jewish real estate and other properties -- the true value of which is today many times as great. Many properties were sold by the Custodian for a fraction of their worth. The remaining accounts have melted away in custodial fees, often as high as one percent per month, and into administrators' pockets.

**BEST FRIEND OF JEWS**



VICE PRES. HUMPHREY

CHICAGO (WNS) The United States "is not going to permit Israel to stand defenseless against any who would destroy her," Vice President Hubert H. Humphrey declared here at an Israel Bond meeting at which he said the greatest contribution to peace in the Middle East would be an agreement with the Soviet Union to curtail the arms race there. Referring to the Middle East position of the Johnson Administration, the Vice President said that President Johnson, in his January

communique following his meeting with Premier Levi Eshkol, indicated that the U. S. "will keep Israel's military defense capability under active and sympathetic examination and review in the light of all relevant factors, including the shipment of military equipment by others to the area." Others to address the meeting were Lt. Governor Samuel H. Shapiro of Illinois and Col. Jacob Arvey, honorary chairman of the Greater Chicago Committee for Israel Bonds.

**POLISH MAY DAY LIE**

LONDON (WNS) Polish Communist Party boss Wladislaw Gomulka, addressing a May Day parade in Warsaw, charged that the United States was discriminating against Americans of Polish descent while Jews in Poland were being treated as equals.

Denouncing the United States for becoming involved in what he called "a dirty anti-Polish campaign by making statements accusing Poland of anti-Semitism" Poland's troubled political figure called on "the ruling circles in the United States" to "check whether American citizens of Polish descent have the same opportunities that Polish citizens of Jewish descent have for living conditions and education and for occupying responsible positions."

The parade was marked by anti-Zionist manifestations and placards, with Gomulka

himself charging that Zionist circles in the West had failed to "lift a finger when Hitler genocide was exterminating Jews in subjugated Poland" and that those very Zionists were now whitewashing Hitler's German so as to justify acceptance of material claims from Germany, particularly by Israel. One of the placards read: "Zionists Out of Poland."

**ARAB BACKFIRES**

TEL AVIV (WNS) Seventeen Arab marauders were killed in clashes on the eve of Israel's Independence Day.

Twelve of the infiltrators were killed by an Israeli border patrol south of the Dead Sea, four in a clash in the Jordan Valley and one south of the Sea of Galilee.

At the same time it was reported that one Israeli soldier and two civilians were killed.

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