

MARCH 17, 1943

Plan for Vast Jewish Haven In S. America Being Studied

U. S. Reported Discussing Plan With Several Republics

By RAY JOSEPHS
Staff Correspondent



BUENOS AIRES, Mar. 17.—A vast plan for resettling thousands of Jews and other refugees in South America currently is being studied in several important Latin American capitals as one of the most important points in the United Nations' postwar program.

There is even hope, in some quarters, that resettlement can begin in the near future as a result of the U. S. Government's recent pledge to Great Britain of its wholehearted concurrence and co-operation in any steps toward immediate aid for European Jews.

It is reported that U. S. diplomatic representatives have been discussing the idea informally with heads of several Latin American republics, particularly those which have severed relations with the Axis.

Conference Soon

It is hoped here that the Anglo-American Refugee Conference, scheduled for Ottawa, may help resolve the issue on a basis permitting early action. It is believed that resettlement would be hastened if countries accepting refugees were paid for their maintenance until they are self-supporting.

South America, with a small population compared with its area and resources, is regarded by many as a natural solution for the problem of Europe's 7,000,000 victims of persecution.

Several important Latin-American Jewish organizations here and elsewhere in South America are seeking to sell the idea of large-scale resettlement, not only on the basis of humanitarianism, but as potential wealth builders for the countries involved.

It is pointed out that European Jews are particularly well qualified to aid in developing South American industry.

Jewish Haven

Spur to Industry

During the last decade industrial plants have sprung up in all Latin American countries and an increasing number of these *fabricas* have been founded by refugee *emigrantes* who have been welcomed because they supplied products no longer available from Europe.

The U. S. A. has been encouraging Latin American industry and funds from Washington's Export-Import Bank have supplemented the capital brought by refugees.

Argentina, with a population of about 13,000,000 and only 360,000 Jews could absorb thousands. Brazil, with 46,000,000 millions and only 75,000 Jews, could use many in developing its new industries. Chile, with 25,000 Jews in a 5,000,000 population, also has much room.

Nazi Propaganda Fails

Although the Nazis have sought to foment anti-Semitism throughout this continent, they have had little success—a factor that is considered important in any discussion of resettlement plans.

Argentina, where resistance might be expected to be greater than in other countries, has had unusual success with the Baron de Hirsch colonization project established more than 50 years ago.

Thousands of Jews were given a start by the philanthropy of a British financier and their children and grand children are still on the soil. Their contribution to Argentine economy is recognized as substantial.