JEWISH LABOR COMMITTEE

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J. PAT
J. L. C.

The problem of the Free Ports as provisory shelters for the refugees fleeing persecutions, can be better understood in the light of history, showing the changes in the position of refugees and stateless persons in conformance to the evolution of the international law.

We are now accustomed to the tragic situation of refugees and stateless persons at the time between the two world wars, when men of highest honorability did lose the liberty of travel and immigration after being deprived of the citizenship in which they were born; and when thousands of refugees were condemned to jail as their temporary residence permits in some country expired and they were unable to obtain visas for any other country. Conditions were very different in the 19th century. After the breakdown of the revolution of 1848, democratic Germans fleeing to Switzerland were cordially invited by the Swiss Government to accept Swiss citizenship. When some inhabitants of Dobrudja, (conceded to Roumania after the Russo-Turkish war of 1878), did not carry out the necessary formalities for the obtention of new citizenship in proper time and had to remain stateless, this was such an unheard-of state of affairs for the specialists in the international law, that this exceptional situation had been quoted in all law text-books.

The only hope of millions of stateless and refugees, suffering in Europe today is the post-war establishment of an international control of emigration and of issue of immigration visas. The idea of such international control is accepted by the Delaware Conference of the Protestant churches in the United States.

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The notion of free ports and provisory shelters is a very old one. In mediaeval Europe, in 990, the church synods in France proclaimed the "Peace of God", in order to abolish private wars of the feudal lords. In the eleventh century, this unsuccessful effort was followed by the creation of the "Truce of God," which prohibited all private wars for four days in a week. At the same time the practice was introduced, giving strangers the right of shelter in monasteries and abbeys. It was the time when the Council of Clermont in 1095 demanded that during war women, priests and peasants should be respected as non-combattants and spared. The spirit of mediaeval Europe, guided by the conception of an United Christendom ruled by the Holy Roman See in spiritual matters and by the reconstructed Holy Roman Empire in secular matters, favored the freedom of travel.

On the eve of the creation of modern national states, one of the founders of modern international law, Franciscus de Victoria, asserted in 1532 that the right of free travel and free residence in foreign countries, and of free intercourse between nations is based on the law of nations (Jus Gentium). Victoria says that the Jus Gentium "either is natural law or is derived from natural law." He considers that all peoples find it inhuman to mistreat foreigners, and that friendly feelings are deeply rooted in human nature.

The "Mare Liberum" of Hugo Grotius, (1609), affirms that the nations have a natural right for travel, trade, communication and freedom of the seas.

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Emeric Crucé, in his "Le Nouveau Cinée," published in 1623, demands freedom of travelling and emigration and says: "What a pleasure it would be to see men go here and there freely and mix together without any hindrance of country, ceremonies or other such differences, as if the earth were as it really is: a city common to all." It is interesting to note that Crucé considers that the greatest obstacle in the way of travel and emigration in his time was only the diversity of monetary systems and of weights and measures. The problem of visas was evidently not so acute as today.

After the Protestant Reformation, the development of new national States, jealously struggling for their complete sovereignty, prepared the way for the setting up of the policy of closed doors that raged in Europe and America after the first world war of 1914. The international law did not succeed to realize the noble projects of Dubois, George of Podebrad, of Erasmus of Rotterdam and of Crucé, who dreamed of an international organization in the manner of the League of Nations, with an enforced arbitration. The international law stressed the sovereign independance of national states and, after the freedom of migrations in 19th century, the 20th century showed us the tragic consequences of the policy of closed doors.

In the period between 1919 and 1939, the idea of shelters sometimes assumed very ugly forms. When the Armenian and Russian refugees searched desperately for visas, some countries agreed to give them right of residence in one strictly difined district only. About 100 such refugees were confined on the Greek island of Syros, in conditions of extreme misery. Mr. Michael Hansson, President of the Governing Body of the Nansen International Office of the League of Nations tells us in his booklet, "THE REFUGEES

ON THE ISLAND OF SYROS," about long years of suffering of these innocent people, cut off from the hope of further emigration and living the life of such as are sentenced to deportation, (see Appendix).

It is vitally necessary to see that the idea of free ports and provisory shelters should not be allowed to degenerate into forms resembling those described by Mr. Hansson. Not only must the residents of these shelters enjoy complete freedom in day-time, as is the arrangements in the camps for refugees in Switzerland. It is most important that the first steps for an international organization of migrations should be taken, that visas and the possibilities of emigration should be prepared for these people by a contact of the diplomatic services of United States, Great Britain and other United Nations with those of the countries of eventual immigration. Before the great idea of an international direction of immigration, sponsored by the Delaware Conference is realized, the Great Powers can and must obtain for their disposal a certain number of visas, to be used for humanitarian purposes and for settlement of refugees and victims of persecution. Such an initiative of the Great Powers could be of great use by fostering in the countries bordering on Nazi-occupied Europe a spirit of good-will for temporary admission of new refugees; the hope for their settlement will be strenghtened by the fact of the establishment of the Free Ports and of preparation of visas for a further definite emigration.

Some of the refugees will be able to return to their homes after the conclusion of the peace, but it is as yet difficult to determine how big their number will be.

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APPENDIX

"THE REFUGEES ON THE ISLAND OF SYROS" -- pages 5 and 6. Michael Hansson, President of the Governing Body of the Nansen International Office for Refugees of The League of Nations.

In response to appeals made by the Nansen Office, the Belgian Government permitted 13 of these unfortunate beings to settle down in Belgium, and 15 were admitted into Yugoslavia. When, however, I was called upon to take over the management of the Office, the fate of more than 70 of them had still to be settled. It is true that they had been installed on the Island of Syros with the consent of the Greek Government, but on the understanding that, within a period of six months, they would be transferred elsewhere.

Then began a truly painful task, an incessant struggle, to find homes for these people, who had already undergone such hardship. Forced to abandon their homes and country, they had lost all their possessions, and having at last, after long years of privation and suffering of every description, found relative security, they had once again been driven away. At Syros they lived the life of such as are sentenced to deportation. They were deprived of the right to work and of all means of existence, and they had not the slightest idea what their final destination would be. The Nansen Office grants them the strictly indispensable financial assistance which allows them to exist. The depressing effect of enforced idleness on human beings, under such humiliating conditions, may easily be imagined!

The Greek Government, who have always shown such comprehension in refugee matters, authorized about twenty of these refugees to establish themselves definitely in Greece -- a very generous decision seeing that that country is, from an economic point of view, little favoured by nature and is, besides, overrun by large numbers of Greek, Russian and Armenian refugees.

Nineteen others were admitted to Norway where the authorities undertook to care for them up to the time when the majority would be able to earn their living. Sweden, likewise, accepted ten on the same conditions. Quite recently, nine others were transferred to South America, at their request, and at the expence of the Nansen Office.

At the time of writing these lines, there are still sixteen of these refugees on the island. The Greek Government, who have been patient for so long, are in their right in insisting upon the evacuation of these people. But what is to be their destination?

The Office has applied in vain to one Government after another. It has appealed for contributions in cash for the maintenance of these unfortunate people, or eventually for their transfer to South America. The Danish and Swedish Governments, two years ago, each granted the Nansen Office an amount of 20,000 crowns in favour of these refugees. Other countries have refused all help.

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APPENDIX. (contd.)

Such then is the state of affairs in this 20th Century! When two-thirds of the surface of the earth is uninhabited, a handful of men who, as far as it has been possible to ascertain, have broken no law, do not enjoy the most elementary of all human rights, the right to exist, and still less the right to earn their living as others do.

One may, however, ask whether these "outlaws" at Syros are mot favoured beings if one compares their lot with that of so many of their fellow-countrymen, perpetually hunted from one country to another after having, in many cases, passed long months in prison for failing to obey expulsion orders for the simple reason that no other country would accept them. That, however, is another story, one that belongs to the chapter dealing with the greatest social scandal of present times.

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SEP 12 1945

Dear Mr. Pat:

As you may know, the War Refugee Board will be dissolved on September 15th. Because of your deep interest in the work of the Board, I am sending you herewith for your confidential information a copy of the summary report of its activities.

It was only through the cooperation of the private agencies that it was possible for the Board to bring some measure of relief and hope to the suffering victims of Nazi oppression. I wish, therefore, to take this opportunity to thank you on behalf of the Board for the support and assistance rendered by your organization to this unique humanitarian undertaking.

Sincerely yours,

(Signed) William O'Dwyer

William O'Dwyer
Executive Director

Mr. Jacob Pat,
Executive Secretary,
Jewish Labor Committee,
175 East Broadway,
New York 2, N. Y.

Enclosure.

FH

FH:hd 9/5/45

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The Sun

APR 20 1945

DEWEY BACKS JEWS' RIGHTS

Supports Plea for Place at San Francisco Parley.

An appeal by Gov. Dewey for unity in America in support of President Truman and our delegation to the San Francisco Conference, and an assertion by Senator William S. Langer, Republican, of North Dakota, that Jews had earned the right to participation in the conference were on public record today as a result of two separate commemorations here of the second anniversary of the Warsaw Ghetto battle.

Gov. Dewey, in his first detailed discussion of the approaching meeting at San Francisco, emphasized that "so long as small nations of the world are insufficiently protected and have no voice in the family of nations, war always remains a threat." The Governor spoke last night at the opening of the exhibit, "Heroes and Martyrs of the Ghettos," arranged by the Jewish Labor Committee. The opening was attended by 700 persons, and 2,000 others who could not be accommodated had to be turned away. The exhibit, at the Vanderbilt Gallery, 215 West 57th street, will remain open through May 15.

Starting his address with a tribute to President Roosevelt as "a great leader," Gov. Dewey said that bi-partisan co-operation had been established at Dumbarton Oaks, and had flourished, but that many difficulties still remained to be overcome.

"There are those who would use these difficulties as an excuse to scuttle the whole effort," he continued, "but the objective is greater than the difficulties. The necessity for agreement is greater than the causes of disagreement."

The Immediate Task.

The basic task immediately before us, he said, is to provide on a permanent basis a new machinery.

"In all this we must remember that the terms of peace have not been written," Gov. Dewey said. "We must provide sufficient flexibility to make sure that with the growth of the opinion of mankind, we can correct our errors."

Other speakers included Mayor LaGuardia, William Green, president of the A. F. of L.; David Dubinsky, president of the International Ladies Garment Workers Union; Prof. Robert MacIver of Columbia University, and Adolph Held, national chairman of the Jewish Labor Committee.

Messages read at the opening of the exhibit were received from Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt, Herbert H. Lehman, Secretary of State Stettinius, Clement Attlee, Ernest Bevin, Thomas Mann and Prof. Albert Einstein. The exhibit consists of 2,500 pictures depicting the contributions of the Jews to civilization and culture, the rise of the Nazis and their extermination of Jews and the courageous resistance of the Nazis by both Jewish and non-Jewish people.

The right to Palestine as a political and national homeland for the Jews was emphasized by Senator Langer at the other Warsaw Ghetto battle commemoration meeting, which was held in Carnegie Hall under sponsorship of the American League for a Free Palestine, the Emergency Committee to Save the Jewish People of Europe, the Zionist-Revisionist Organization of America, and the National Jewish Council.

Senator Langer said that "we welcome to the ranks of the recognized United Nations countries some of those who short weeks ago were actual enemies of the United Nations and the cause of the United Nations. We lay down the red carpet and bow them into the council halls," he said. "But we don't open even the back door to a man or a woman who will speak for the few survivors of the brave bands of Hebrews who fought and still fight from the Rhine to the Jordan."

Herbert C. Pell, former United States representative on the War Crimes Commission; Frank Gervasi, author, and Peter H. Bergson, chairman of the Hebrew Committee of National Liberation, were among the speakers at the meeting, which was presided over by Alexander Wilf, vice-chairman of the American League for a Free Palestine.

Jewish Labor Committee (neg file)

MAR 23 1945

Dear Messrs. Held and Dubinsky:

With reference to the exhibit to open on April 19th in commemoration of the heroic revolt of the Warsaw ghetto in 1943, I sincerely appreciate the invitation given me to address the opening of the exhibit and regret exceedingly that it will be impossible for me to be present.

The superhuman courage with which these martyrs defied their diabolic oppressors against overwhelming odds will long move the souls of free men everywhere and quicken the hearts of other victims of persecution and enslavement. It is right and fitting that their impassioned protest against passive submission to the Nazi outrages and indignities should be commemorated, and I feel it an honor to be able to appear as a sponsor of the commemorative exhibit and thus pay personal tribute to these valiant heroes and their tragic glory.

Sincerely yours,

(Signed) William O'Dwyer

William O'Dwyer
Executive Director

Mr. Adolph Held, Chairman,
Mr. David Dubinsky, Treasurer,
Jewish Labor Committee,
175 Broadway,
New York 2, New York.

EBT:inp 3/23/45

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EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
WAR REFUGEE BOARD
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

OFFICE OF THE
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dear Messrs. Held and Dubinsky:

I wish to thank you for your recent letter concerning the exhibit to open on April 19th in commemoration of the heroic revolt of the enslaved Jews of the Warsaw ghetto in 1943. I sincerely appreciate your invitation to address the opening of the exhibit and regret exceedingly that it will be impossible for me to be present.

The heroic revolt of those enslaved in the Warsaw ghetto deserves the commemoration and honor which is being accorded by your splendid action.

Sincerely yours,

William O'Dwyer
Executive Director

Mr. Adolph Held, Chairman,
Mr. David Dubinsky, Treasurer,
Jewish Labor Committee,
175 Broadway,
New York 2, N. Y.

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Telephone: GRamercy 7-3997

Jewish Labor Committee

175 EAST BROADWAY

NEW YORK 2, N. Y.

ADOLPH HELD, *Chairman*
JOSEPH BASKIN, *Secretary*
DAVID DUBINSKY, *Treasurer*
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A. MILLER
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N. M. MINKOFF
I. NAGLER
J. S. POTOFSKY
S. RIFKIN
J. ROBERTS
J. SCHLOSSBERG
S. SHORE
J. WEINBERG
M. WEINSTEIN
M. ZARITSKY
CH. ZIMMERMAN

L. ARKIN, Boston
H. BERGER, Philadelphia
J. BERNSTEIN, Detroit
M. BIALIS, Chicago
J. BLUME, Boston
S. CAPLAN, Baltimore
B. COHEN, St. Louis
A. W. KATOVSKY, Cleveland
A. KIRZNER, Toronto
J. LEVITT, Los Angeles
L. LEVY, Los Angeles
T. MEISEL, Mexico
S. OSHRY, Pittsburgh
M. RUBINSTEIN, Montreal
B. SHANE, Montreal
J. SIEGEL, Chicago
H. TURK, Baltimore
J. WEISBERG, Cleveland

March 20, 1945

Miss Florence Hodell
War Refugee Board
Washington, D. C.

Dear Miss Hodell:

I have spoken today to Gen. William O'Dwyer, the Executive Director of the W.R.B., in reference to an invitation which the Jewish Labor Committee, over the signatures of Messrs. Adolph Held and David Dubinsky, Chairman and Treasurer, respectively, of our organization, sent to him on February 28th, asking him to address the opening of our exhibit on Thursday evening, April 19th, at the Vanderbilt Gallery, 215 West 57th Street, N.Y.C. Gen. O'Dwyer told me that the invitation, sent to him at the War Refugee Board, had not been directed to him from your office.

He expressed regret that he could not be present with us on that date. When I suggested that he, nevertheless, send a message of sympathy for the heroes and martyrs who died in the Warsaw ghettos at the hands of the Hitlerites, he said that I refer this matter to you, and that he would take it up with you upon his arrival in Washington, in a day or so.

The General also agreed to give consideration to the question of his sponsoring this unusual event.

I herewith enclose an outline of the scope of the exhibition, to give you a better idea of our program in connection with this project.

Trusting to hear from you as early as possible, I remain,

Sincerely yours,
JEWISH LABOR COMMITTEE

Joseph Godson

Joseph Godson, Director
PUBLIC RELATIONS

afoe/23076
Jg:obb

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O U T L I N E
Of Exhibition To Be Opened On
APRIL 19, 1945
at the
Vanderbilt Gallery
215 West 57 Street
New York City.

MARTYRS AND HEROES OF THE GHETTOS --

An Exhibition Dedicated to the Second Anniversary

of the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising.

Prepared by:
- JEWISH LABOR COMMITTEE -
175 East Broadway
New York 2, N.Y.

INTRODUCTION

The primary theme of this exhibit will be to display dramatically the story of Jewish persecution under Nazism, with particular emphasis on the martyred Jews of the Warsaw ghetto, and their heroic resistance. To this end, the exhibit will feature a collection of amazing photographs and other visual material portraying Nazi atrocities against the Jews of Europe. It will be the aim of the exhibit to impress on the American public at large the brutality and the ruthlessness with which the Nazis have undertaken to exterminate the Jews; the heroism with which the Jews have attempted to resist; the necessity for prompt and effective aid to those Jews who still survive

In support of this primary theme, the exhibit will include supporting material which will establish the fact that Jewish resistance to Nazism is an issue of world concern. This material will depict the contributions of the Jewish people; will point out that the Nazi plan is directed not only against the Jews, but against all

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the peoples of the world; will, finally, plead for a new life for Jews throughout the world.

The contunity of the exhibit will be as follows:

SYNOPSIS

I - Jewish Culture in Modern Life
A. Jewish Contributions to Human Culture

Philosophy
Religion
Literature
Language
Art
Science
Commerce
Labor

B. Jewish Culture in the Europe of the Twentieth Century

This section will stress the fact that Jews in Europe lived a typical community life, participating in typical cultural and vocational pursuits, and accepting full community responsibilities. This will be conveyed through pictures of

People
Organizations
Ceremonies
Schools and Institutions
Other community activities

II - The Nazi Aim for World Domination
A. Against existing religion

Anti-Catholic
Anti-Christian
Anti-Semite
For Paganism

B. Against Other People

Anti-French
Anti-Negro
Anti-Russian
Anti-Semite
Anti-British
Anti-American
Anti-Polish
For the Herrenvolk

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C. Against Other Forms of Government

~~Anti-Democratic~~
For Nazism

III - Nazi Extermination of 5,000,000 Jews

Ghettos
Beatings
Burnings
Concentration Camps
Hostages
Destruction through:
Bombs
Gas Chambers
Crematoria
Anti-Jewish Campaigns through:
Newspapers
"Science"
Laws

IV - Jewish Resistance

A. The Men

B. The Tools

C. The Action

The material in this part of the exhibit will consist largely of photographs and other documentary evidence of the battle of Warsaw.

V - New Life

A. Reconstruction

B. Jewish Labor Committee Demands Upon United Nations' Conference

VI - Dedication to the Martyrs and Heroes of the Warsaw Ghetto

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Telephone: GRamercy 7-3987

Jewish Labor Committee

175 EAST BROADWAY

NEW YORK 2, N. Y.

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S. OSHRY, Pittsburgh
M. RUBINSTEIN, Montreal
B. SHANE, Montreal
J. SIEGEL, Chicago
H. TURK, Baltimore
J. WEISBERG, Cleveland

February 28, 1945

Honorable William O'Dwyer,
Executive Director,
War Refugee Board,
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. O'Dwyer:

On the occasion of the secon anniversary of that fateful April 19th, in 1943, when the persecuted, starved, enslaved Jews of the Warsaw ghetto had seized weapons and ammunition and launched a most heroic revolt against their Nazi tormentors, and died as a glorious symbol of man's resistance to tyranny and slavery, the Jewish Labor Committee is organizing a grand exhibition. It will open on April 19th, 1945 at the Vanderbilt Gallery, 215 W. 57th Street, New York, New York.

The valiant struggle in the Warsaw ghetto will always be remembered and commemorated all over the world as a most tragic, unprecedented, and outstanding event in the long history of civilization.

The exhibition which we plan to present is aimed, primarily at dispalying the growth of the Nazi evil, the destruction of more than five million Jews, and the heroism displayed by the martyrs in the fight for freedom. The exhibit will consit of authentic photographs, documents, diagrams, and pictorgraphs which were received by the Jewish Labor Committee from various sources.

It is needless to say that our organization is lending its greatest efforts to give the exhibit a most monumental character. To give this event the prominence it duly deserves, the Jewish Labor Committee is taking the liberty of respectfully inviting you to be one of a limited number of most outstanding Americans to address the opening of the exhibit on Thursday evening, April 19th. We herewith inclose an outline of the scope of the exhibition.

May we respectfully request that you reply as early as

possible-

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Hon. William O'Dwyer,
Executive Director,
War Refugee Board,
Washington, D. C.

February 28, 1945
(Page No. 2)

possible, since we would like to start printing our program and prepare the other necessary facilities for making our project as successful and as worthwhile as possible.

Sincerely yours,
JEWISH LABOR COMMITTEE

Adolph Held
Adolph Held
CHAIRMAN

David Dubinsky
David Dubinsky
TREASURER

P.S. -- We are sure that you will be most happy to lend your name to a list of distinguished sponsors, in order to most effectively spotlightethe event on a national scale.

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O U T L I N E
Of Exhibition To Be Opened On
APRIL 19, 1945
at the
Vanderbilt Gallery
215 West 57 Street
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Prepared by:
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In support of this primary theme, the exhibit will include supporting material which will establish the fact that Jewish resistance to Nazism is an issue of world concern. This material will depict the contributions of the Jewish people; will point out that the Nazi plan is directed not only against the Jews, but against all

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the peoples of the world; will, finally, plead for a new life for Jews throughout the world.

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Literature
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Other community activities

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A. Against existing religion

Anti-Catholic
Anti-Christian
Anti-Semite
For Paganism

B. Against Other People

Anti-French
Anti-Negro
Anti-Russian
Anti-Semite
Anti-British
Anti-American
Anti-Polish
For the Herrenvolk

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C. Against Other Forms of Government

Anti-Democratic
For Nazism

III - Nazi Extermination of 5,000,000 Jews

Ghettos
Beatings
Burnings
Concentration Camps
Hostages
Destruction through:
Bombs
Gas Chambers
Crematoria
Anti-Jewish Campaigns through:
Newspapers
"Science"
Laws

IV - Jewish Resistance
A. The Men

B. The Tools

C. The Action

The material in this part of the exhibit will consist largely of photographs and other documentary evidence of the battle of Warsaw.

?

V - New Life
A. Reconstruction

B. Jewish Labor Committee Demands Upon United Nations' Conference

VI - Dedication to the Martyrs and Heroes of the Warsaw Ghetto

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Jewish Labor Committee

New York Post
JAN 9 1945

Jewish Labor Committee Quits Conference Over Red Group

The Jewish Labor Committee which represents some 500,000 AFL and CIO members, has withdrawn from the American Jewish Conference in protest against the admission to that council of a Communist organization, it was learned today.

The American Jewish Conference was set up in 1943 to coordinate the activities of national Jewish organizations. The Communist group to which the Labor Committee objected is the Jewish section of the International Workers Order.

This IWO group, although denied membership in 1943, was admitted at the Conference's second annual session held last Dec. 3 in Pittsburgh.

Pamphlet Lists Charges

Withdrawal of the Labor Committee, of which Adolph Held is chairman and David Dubinsky treasurer, was made public in a pamphlet published today.

The committee's booklet, distributed only to its members, charged:

"The Jewish Labor Committee has more than once presented evidence to the American Jewish Conference with regard to the demoralizing activities of the Communists, their destructive influence and their frequent betrayals of purely Jewish interests, as well as workers' interests in general.

The Communists have, during the past 25 years, done their utmost to break up and demoralize the Jewish labor organizations, to spread the most dastardly lies about organizations, institutions and labor leaders. They endeavored to split unions, to wreck the Workmen's Circle (national Jewish fraternal organization), and even to this day they spread malicious falsehoods about the Jewish Labor Committee."

Communist Link Cited

The labor leaders also charged that the IWO affiliate had "identified itself" with Communist isolationist propaganda. This included "falsehoods about our democratic institutions and the President of the U. S. during our country's greatest crisis, about the Jewish people and accusation of war-mongering..."

The pamphlet indicated that the Jewish Labor Committee would rejoin the conference if the IWO subsidiary was ousted.

March 16, 1945

MEMORANDUM FOR THE FILES

General O'Dwyer telephoned Mr. Pat today in connection with the attached letter and cable. General O'Dwyer stated that the program mentioned by Dr. Scherer for the delivery of food to persons in concentration camps and their evacuation by truck from Germany to Switzerland is the program of the War Refugee Board and that the details of the program are almost complete. With respect to the matter of exchange involving Jews in Germany for German civilians in areas occupied by the Allies, General O'Dwyer advised that we have no information. As to the help requested in connection with the going to Germany of "a prominent person from Switzerland", the General stated that there was not sufficient information in the cable to advise us what help was called for. He suggested to Mr. Pat that he arrange to have his representative in Switzerland get in touch at once with McClelland and give all details to him which would in turn be reported to the Board. Mr. Pat advised the General that he would do this.

F. Hodel

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THE PRESIDENT'S WAR RELIEF CONTROL BOARD
WASHINGTON BUILDING
WASHINGTON 5, D. C.

March 13, 1945

Dear Mr. O'Dwyer:

I am forwarding herewith a letter from Mr. Pat of the Jewish Labor Committee which came to us apparently in error.

Sincerely yours,

James Brunot

James Brunot,
Executive Director

Enclosure

Mr. William O'Dwyer,
Executive Director,
War Refugee Board,
Washington, D. C.

000702

Telephone: GRamercy 7-3987

Jewish Labor Committee

175 EAST BROADWAY

NEW YORK 2, N. Y.

ADOLPH HELD, *Chairman*
JOSEPH BASKIN, *Secretary*
DAVID DUBINSKY, *Treasurer*
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N. CHANIN, *Chairman, Office Committee*

Vice-Chairmen
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J. WEISBERG, Cleveland

March 12, 1945

Honorable William O'Dwyer,
Executive Director
War Refugee Board
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. O'Dwyer:

We herewith enclose a copy of a cable we have this day received from Dr. Emanuel Scherer, Berne, Switzerland.

Upon reading the contents of this cable, no doubt you will realize how important and urgent a matter it is. May we request that you do everything within your power to effectuate the request contained therein as early as possible. Kindly inform us of the action you plan to take.

Thanking you for your courtesy, I am

Sincerely yours,

Jacob Pat

Jacob Pat,
EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

JP:bf
ENC.
afoe/23076

00003

FROM: Emanuel Scherer
PLACE: Berne

DATE: March 6, 1945

In accordance with authentic reports and on the basis of a conference with competent persons in Switzerland, I want to inform you about the following:

There are new possibilities to rescue Jews immediately by deliveries of food and medicaments to the concentration camps in Germany through the International Red Cross, as well as by taking Jews out of Germany and bringing them temporarily to Switzerland or Sweden.

Washington's intervention is necessary as far as bringing help to the camps is concerned. At the present time such deliveries are impossible because of the lack of gas, the blockade, etc.

There is a possibility of bringing large numbers of Jews from Germany into Switzerland in exchange for German civilians who are now living on German territory that has been occupied by the Allies.

It would also be advisable to guarantee Switzerland delieveries of additional food for the new arrivals, which would last throughout their stay there.

I am in constant contact with the representatives of Switzerland's Jewry. They have promised to support this plan, which is independent and of a wider scope than the action of the Agudah through Mr. Musy.

A prominent person from Switzerland is going to Germany in this matter. Please obtain the consent of Washington and, through Washington the consent of London, because without such approval the realization of this plan is impossible. Pull all strings. This is the final moment

000704

for rescue. Periculum in mora. Cable Professor Hersch or me immediately care of Polish Embassy.

000705

The New York Times.
JAN 22 1945

$1,000,000 DRIVE OPENED

Jewish Labor Committee Seeks Fund for Work in Europe

The Jewish Labor Committee, representing Jewish trade unions affiliated with the American Federation of Labor and the Congress of Industrial Organizations, has launched a campaign for $1,000,000 to help finance the work of rescue, relief and reconstruction in Europe and intentify the struggle against racism, intolerance and anti-semitism, it was announced yesterday by Adolph Held, chairman of the committee.

The New York affiliates of the International Ladies Garment Workers Union, headed by David Dubinsky, have undertaken to raise $150,000 of the total sought.

File
94
W.R.B. Adm.

WAR DEPARTMENT
OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY
WASHINGTON, D. C.

4 January 1945

Mr. J.W. Pehle, Executive Director,
Executive Office of the President,
War Refugee Board,
Washington 25, D.C.

Dear Mr. Pehle:

I have your letter of December 29, 1944, enclosing a copy of a telegram of December 27 from the Jewish Labor Committee requesting advice as to steps being taken to remove Jews from areas in Belgium and Luxembourg that are in danger of being overrun by the Germans.

The Supreme Commander, Allied Expeditionary Forces, has advised us that evacuation of civilians from forward areas to rear towns is being continued. It is believed that he is taking all possible steps, consistent with military operations, to protect helpless civilians from the perils of German aggression and persecution.

We are glad to get the views of the Jewish Labor Committee and believe you may assure the Committee that refugees, displaced persons and other endangered elements of the civilian population will be evacuated from battle areas whenever military necessity permits this to be accomplished.

Sincerely yours,

JOHN J. McCLOY,
Assistant Secretary of War.

000007

DEC 29 1944

Dear Mr. McCloy:

There is enclosed for your consideration a copy of a telegram I have just received from the Jewish Labor Committee concerning the plight of the surviving Jewish population in Belgium and Luxembourg and asking that steps be taken to remove these Jews from the path of the German army. This matter is called to your attention despite the obvious difficulties involved in the action requested.

I would appreciate being advised of the War Department's reaction to the enclosed request.

Very truly yours,
(Signed) J. W. Pehle

J. W. Pehle
Executive Director

Honorable John J. McCloy,
Assistant Secretary of War,
Washington, D. C.

Enclosure.

original signed by Mr Pehle

FH:hd 12/28/44

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P
Y

WU37 DL PD

WUX PZN NEWYORK NY DEC 27 231P 1944

JOHN W PEHLE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

WAR REFUGEE BOARD WASHDC

GRAVELY CONCERNED FATE OF SURVIVING JEWISH POPULATION IN BELGIUM AND LUXEMBOURG,. PRESS CARRIED REPORT OF PLANS OF LOCAL QUISLINGS TO ANNIHILATE ALL REMAINING JEWS IN THE EVENT THESE COUNTRIES ARE AGAIN TEMPORARILY OVERRUN BY NAZI HORDES. SPECIAL POSITION OF THESE JEWS JUSTIFIES SINGULAR ATTENTION TO REMOVE THEM FROM POSSIBLE DANGER AREAS. WE PRAY THAT THIS BE DONE IN TIME, BEFORE THE CONSCIENCE OF CIVILIZED HUMANITY WILL BE FURTHER BURDENED WITH THE ACCUSATION OF BEING TOO LATE. AT THIS MOMENT, THE MINDS AND HEARTS OF ALL DEMOCRATIC PEOPLE ARE RIVETED TO THE FATEFUL BATTLES BEING WAGED BY OUR HEROIC ARMED FORCES IN THOSE COUNTRIES. WE PRAY FOR THEIR SUCCESS, AND FOR THE SPEEDY DEFEAT OF THE BRUTAL ENEMY. WE RESPECTFULLY SUBMIT THAT THE SAVING OF THE JEWS WHO ARE IN IMMINENT DANGER OF TOTAL EXTINCTION WOULD BE A MIGHTY BLOW TO OUR COMMON ENEMY. WE URGE THAT EXTRAORDINARY MEASURES BE TAKEN TO PREVENT THESE LONG SUFFERING PEOPLE FROM BECOMING AGAIN THE VICTIMS OF THE NAZI BUTCHERS. WE WOULD GREATLY APPRECIATE BEING KEPT INFORMED OF STEPS TAKEN.

JEWISH LABOR COMMITTEE 175 EAST BWAY NYK ADOLPH HELD, CHAIRMAN; DAVID DUBINSKY, TREASURER; JOSEPH BASKIN, SECRETARY; JACOB PAT, EXECUTIVE SECRETARY.

324P.

000709

DEC 29 1944

Gentlemen:

I have received your telegram of December 27, 1944, concerning the fate of the surviving Jewish population in Belgium and Luxembourg.

I wish to assure you that this Government is taking every possible and practicable step to meet the situation you describe.

Sincerely yours,

(Signed) J. W. Pehle

J. W. Pehle
Executive Director

Jewish Labor Committee,
175 East Broadway,
New York, N. Y.

original signed by mr Pehle

FH:hd 12/27/44

000710

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
WAR REFUGEE BOARD
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

OFFICE OF THE
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Gentlemen:

I have received your telegram of December 27, 1944, concerning the fate of the surviving Jewish population in Belgium and Luxembourg.

I wish to assure you that this Government is taking every possible and practicable step, ~~consistent with the successful prosecution of the war,~~ to save the ~~lives of all Jews still~~ in enemy-occupied ~~territory~~.

Sincerely yours,

J. W. Pehle
Executive Director

Jewish Labor Committee,
175 East Broadway,
New York, N. Y.

It meet the situation you describe

WU37 DL PD

WUX PZN NEWYORK NY DEC 27 231P 1944

JOHN W PEHLE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

1944 DEC 27 PM 3 25

WAR REFUGEE BLARD WASHDC

GRAVELY CONCERNED FATE OF SURVING JEWISH POPULATION IN BELGIUM AND LUXEMBOURG,. PRESS CARRIED REPORT OF PLANS OF LOCAL QUISLINGS TO ANNIHILATE ALL REMAINING JEWS IN THE EVENT THESE COUNTRIES ARE AGAIN TEMPORARILY OVERRUN BY NAZI HORDES. SPECIAL POSITION OF THESE JEWS JUSTIFIES SINGULAR ATTENTION TO REMOVE THEM FROM POSSIBLE DANGER AREAS. WE PRAY THAT THIS BE DONE IN TIME, BEFORE THE CONSCIENCE OF CIVILIZED HUMANITY WILL BE FURTHER BURDENED WITH THE ACCUSATION OF BEING TOO LATE. AT THIS MOMENT, THE MINDS AND HEARTS OF ALL DEMOCRATIC PEOPLE ARE RIVETED TO THE FATEFUL BATTLES BEING WAGED BY OUR HEROIC ARMED FORCES IN THOSE COUNTRIES. WE PRAY FOR THEIR SUCCESS, AND FOR THE SPEEDY DEFEAT OF THE BRUTAL ENEMY. WE RESPECTFULLY SUBMIT THAT THE SAVING OF THE JEWS WHO ARE IN IMMINENT DANGER OF TOTAL EXTINCTION WOULD BE A MIGHTY XXXX BLOW TO OUR COMMON ENEMY. WE URGE THAT EXTRAORDINARY MEASURES BE TAKEN TO PREVENT THESE LONG SUFFERING PEOPLE FROM BECOMING AGAIN THE VICTIMS OF THE NAZI BUTCHERS. WE WOULD GREATLY APPRECIATE BEING KEPT INFORMED OF STEPS TAKEN.

JEWISH LABOR COMMITTEE 175 EAST BWAY NYK ADOLPH HELD, CHAIRMAN; DAVID DUBINSKY, TREASURER; JOSEPH BASKIN, SECRETARY; JACOB PAT, EXECUTIVE SECRETARY.

324P.

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00712

Files 1/13/45 Messrs McC & Akzin discussed matter with Mr Pat who agreed to await reply to his mail received Cable & JCRC letter regarding any action.

Telephone: GRamercy 7-3997

Jewish Labor Committee

175 EAST BROADWAY

NEW YORK 2, N. Y.

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DAVID DUBINSKY, *Treasurer*
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J. SIEGEL, Chicago
H. TURK, Baltimore
J. WEISBERG, Cleveland

December 23, 1944

Mr. John W. Pehle, Executive Director
War Refugee Board
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Pehle:

Yesterday we received the following telegram from Sylwin Strakacz, Polish Consul General in New York:

"IN REPLY TO THE CABLE OF THE JEWISH LABOR COMMITTEE TO THE PREMIER OF THE POLISH GOVERNMENT CONCERNING THE REQUEST MADE BY THE JEWISH LABOR COMMITTEE OF THE INTERNATIONAL RED CROSS ABOUT PROVIDING HELP FOR THE JEWS IN NAZI CONCENTRATION CAMPS IN POLAND THE POLISH FOREIGN MINISTER WISHES TO INFORM YOU THAT THE INTERNATIONAL RED CROSS DOES NOT POSSESS ADEQUATE FINANCIAL RESOURCES TO PURCHASE SUCH PRODUCTS STOP THE INCREASE OF ASSISTANCE TO POLAND IS POSSIBLE ONLY IF THE NECESSARY FUNDS WILL BE SUPPLIED TO THE INTERNATIONAL RED CROSS IN SWITZERLAND STOP THE ONLY BODY WHICH IS EMPOWERED TO RECEIVE AID FROM ABROAD AND TO DISTRIBUTE SUCH AMONG THE POPULATION IN THE TERRITORY OF THE GENERAL GOUVERNMENT IS THE COUNCIL FOR ASSISTANCE (RADA GLUWNA OPIEKUNCZA) STOP THE JEWISH POPULATION IS RECEIVING ASSISTANCE ON EQUAL BASIS WITH OTHERS FROM THE ABOVEMENTIONED ORGANIZATION"

You will recall that on November 14th we cabled the International Red Cross in Geneva, requesting that international body to provide food, medical supplies, and other assistance to the thousands of surviving Jews interned in concentration and labor camps in Nazi-occupied Poland. We sent a copy of this cable to the Polish Government in London, asking them to intervene in behalf of our appeal with the International Red Cross.

At the end of November, we received a reply from the International Red Cross, asking us to submit a list of the camps, and in which they stated that "upon receipt of these particulars we shall investigate whether responsible authorities will consent to scheme proposed." The Jewish

--- Labor

000713

Labor Committee at once cabled a list of the following thirteen camps, as they existed in September, 1944:

Laszow near Cracow, Stalowa Wola, Mielec, Pustkow, Czesntochowa, Piotrkow, Radom, Starachowice, Skarzysko-Kamienna, Krasnik, Budzyn, Blizyn, Pionki.

Almost a month has elasped since we submitted our list, but no reply has been received to date. Upon receipt of the telegram from the Polish Consul General, Sylwin Strakacz, we sent the following cable to the International Red Cross, reiterating our request of November 14, and also urging a clarification of the Polish Foreign Minister's assertion that they do not possess adequate resources to provide assistance to the Jews in the concentration camps of Poland:

"IN REPLY YOUR TELEGRAM NOVEMBER TWENTY FIVE ASKING US INFORM YOU OF CAMPS IN OCCUPIED POLAND WE WISH YOU TO ASSIST WITH FOOD AND OTHER SUPPLIES AND PROMISING THAT UPON RECEIPT OF PARTICULARS YOU WILL INVESTIGATE WHETHER RESPONSIBLE AUTHORITIES WILL CONSENT TO OUR SUGGESTION WE SENT YOU FOLLOWING CABLE ON NOVEMBER TWENTYEIGHT QUOTE JEWS POLAND EXISTED SEPTEMBER NINETEEN FORTYFOUR GALICIA FIRST LASZOW NEAR CRACOW SECOND STALOWA WOLA THIRD MIELEC FOURTH PUSTKOW STOP CONGRESS POLAND FIRST CZESNTOCHOWA SECOND PIOTRKOW THIRD RADOM FOURTH STARACHOWICE FIFTH SKARZYSKO KAMIENNA SIXTH KRASNIK SEVENTH BUDZYN EIGHTH BLIZYN NINTH PIONKI STOP KINDLY CABLE WHAT ACCOMPLISHED UNQUOTE TO DATE WE HAVENT HEARD FROM YOU STOP MEANWHILE WE AGAIN RECEIVED ALARMING REPORTS CONCERNING DESPERATE PLIGHT OF JEWISH CAPTIVES IN POLAND NAZI CAMPS STOP IMMEDIATE ASSISTANCE NEEDED AT ONCE ANXIOUSLY AWAITING YOUR REPLY RECEIVED TODAY FROM POLISH CONSUL GENERAL SYLWIN STRAKACZ IN NEW YORK REPORT POLISH FOREIGN MINISTER INFORMING THAT THE QUOTE INTERCROIXROGUE DOES NOT POSSESS ADEQUATE FINANCIAL RESOURCES TO PURCHASE SUCH PRODUCTS UNQUOTE TO PROVIDE HELP FOR THE JEWS IN NAZI CONCENTRATION CAMPS AND THAT QUOTE THE INCREASE OF ASSISTANCE TO POLAND IS POSSIBLE ONLY IF THE NECESSARY FUNDS WILL BE SUBBLIED TO THE INTERCROIXROGUE IN SWITZERLAND UNQUOTE PLEASE CLARIFY STORY POLISH FOREIGN MINISTER THAT YOU DONT POSSESS ADEQUATE FINANCIAL RESOURCES TO ASSIST CAPTIVES IN CAMPS."

We also cabled Tomasz Arciszewski, Premier of the Polish Government-in-Exile, expressing bewilderment at his information in reference to the Red Cross, and again urging intervention with the International Red Cross.

-- Needless

000714

Needless to say that we are very much perturbed by the lack of action on the proposal, as well as the information from the Polish Government that the obsticles to the acceptance of our scheme is a lack of funds. May we urge you to look into this whole matter, and inform us of the result of your efforts as early as possible.

Thanking you for your kind cooperation, and with best wishes for a very happy holiday season, we are,

Sincerely yours,
JEWISH LABOR COMMITTEE

Jacob Pat,
EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

afoe/23076
jp:jg:cbb

000715

Telephone: GRamercy 7-1987

Jewish Labor Committee

175 EAST BROADWAY
NEW YORK, N. Y.

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J. WEISBERG, Cleveland

November 21, 1944

Miss Florence Hodel, Special Assistant
to the Executive Director of the
War Refugee Board
Washington 25, D. C.

Dear Miss Hodel:

We very much appreciate the information you gave us las week, concerning captives in concentration camps.

We also want to thank you for your very kind letter of November 15th, informing us that the War Refugee Board has requested the State Department to dispatch our cable to the International Red Cross, through Minister Harrison in Bern, Switzerland.

Sincerely yours,
JEWISH LABOR COMMITTEE

Jacob Pat,
EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

afoe/23076
p:jg:cbb

00016

JUL 28 1944

Attention: Jacob Pat, Executive Secretary.

Dear Sirs:

This will acknowledge receipt of your letter of July 24, 1944.

Thank you for the information contained in the second paragraph of your letter. As to the first paragraph, you may be assured that the Board has, and is continuing to take all feasible measures as promptly as possible.

Very truly yours,

(Signed) J. W. Pehle

J. W. Pehle,
Executive Director.

Jewish Labor Committee,
175 East Broadway,
New York, New York.

Copy to: Mr. Lesser

LSLesser:tmh 7-28-44

L. S. L

000717

Telephone: GRamercy 7-3987

Jewish Labor Committee

175 EAST BROADWAY
NEW YORK, N. Y.

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H. TURK, Baltimore
J. WEISBERG, Cleveland

July 24, 1944

Mr. John W. Pehle, Exec. Dir.
War Refugee Board
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Pehle:

We have just received a cable from Dr. Emanuel Scherer, member of the Polish National Counsil in London, informing us that the American Embassy promised him to request the United States Government to speed up the rescue of the holders of South American passports, in the Vital camp. We hope that you will do everything possible in this matter.

We also wish to inform you that several days ago we received a cable from Dr. Scherer about relief and rescue work for the Jews of Poland, in which he told us that he is in receipt of reports from Poland, dated June, 1944, and signed by well-known Jewish labor leaders of the underground, asking for $150,000. In response to this call, we immediately dispatched, through the channels of the Polish Government, $50,000, and assigned Dr. Scherer to supervise this money. The Joint Distribution Committee sent another $100,000, through the same channels, and asked Dr. Scherer, and Dr. Schwartz~~man~~, the second Jewish member of the Polish National Counsil, to supervise the funds.

I know that this information will interest you.

Very truly yours,
JEWISH LABOR COMMITTEE

Jacob Pat,
EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

p:jg:cbb
afoe/23076

000718

File

JUL 17 [illegible]

Dear Mr. Pat:

I wish to acknowledge with thanks your letter of July 10, 1944, enclosing a copy of a cable which you received from Dr. Emanuel Scherer in London.

Very truly yours,

(Signed) J. W. Pehle

J. W. Pehle
Executive Director

Mr. Jacob Pat,
Executive Secretary,
Jewish Labor Committee,
175 East Broadway,
New York, New York.

EBT RBH RBHutchison:agr 7-14-44

000719

Telephone: GRamercy 7-3987

Jewish Labor Committee

175 EAST BROADWAY
NEW YORK, N. Y.

ADOLPH HELD, *Chairman*
JOSEPH BASKIN, *Secretary*
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H. TURK, Baltimore
J. WEISBERG, Cleveland

July 10, 1944

Mr. John W. Pehle
War Refugee Board
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Pehle:

I am sending you a copy of a cable which I received from Dr. Emanuel Scherer, in London, this morning.

I believe that you will find it of interest.

Sincerely yours,
JEWISH LABOR COMMITTEE

Jacob Pat
Jacob Pat,
EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

afoe/23076
cbb

000720

1944 JUL 10 A.M 11 49

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LONDON 60 4 0935 FIL

NLT JACOB PAT JEWISH LABOUR COMMITTEE
175 EASTBROADWAY NEWYORKCITY

JUST INFORMED 400THOUSAND HUNGARIAN JEWS DEPORTED POLAND ANNIHILATION 350 THOUSAND FACING LIQUIDATION NEXT DAYS STOP SUGGESTING AMONG OTHER PROPOSALS SWITZERLAND SWEDEN TURKEY GIVE THEM HONORARY CITIZENSHIP AND THIS WAY FULL PROTECTION STOP DO ALL POSSIBLE IMMEDIATELY STOP MAKING HERE ALL EFFORTS THROUGH POLISH RESCUE COUNCIL STOP DONT NEGLECT FINANCIAL HELP

EMANUEL SCHERER MEMBER POLISH NATL COUNCIL

000721

JUL 13 1944

Dear Mr. Pat:

I wish to acknowledge with thanks your letter of July 5, 1944, enclosing a copy of a telegram received by you from Emanuel Scherer, a member of the Polish National Council in London.

Very truly yours,

(Signed) J. W. Pehle

J. W. Pehle
Executive Director

Mr. Jacob Pat,
Executive Secretary,
Jewish Labor Committee,
175 East Broadway,
New York, New York.

RBHutchison:agr 7-11-44

000722

Telephone: GRamercy 7-3987

Jewish Labor Committee

175 EAST BROADWAY
NEW YORK, N. Y.

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July 5, 1944

Mr. John W. Pehle
War Refugee Board
Washington, D. C.

My dear Mr. Pehle:

For your information, we hereby enclose a copy of a telegram which we have just received from Emanuel Scherer, member of the Polish National Council in London.

Hoping you will find it of interest and use, I am,

Sincerely yours,
JEWISH LABOR COMMITTEE

Jacob Pat,
EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

afoe/23076
p:jg:cbb

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GBR773B LONDON 156 28 FIL

NLT JACOB PAT JEWISH LABOR COMMITTEE
175 EASTBROADWAY NEWYORK -

RECEIVED NW CABLE JEWISH WORKERS UNION SENT POLAND FEW DAYS AGO STOP ADDRESSED QUOTE SENDING CABLE DR SCHERER POLISH GOVERNMENTS DEPUTY UNQUOTE SIGNED USUALLY QUOTE JUST INFORMED BY SPECIAL ENVOY (i.e. arrived from Oswicim - J.P.) ABOUT NEW MASS MURDER BY GAS IN CAMP OSWICIM COMMITTED FOLLOWING ORDER FIRST JEWS THEN WAR PRISONERS AND SICK REGARDLESS ORIGIN ALSO POLES AND OTHERS STOP SIMILAR CRIMES OTHER CAMPS STOP HUNDRED THOUSAND HUNGARIAN JEWS BROUGHT OSWIECIM GAS EXECUTIONS STOP GERMANS PROMISED THEM BEFORE DEPORTATION EXCHANGE ABROAD UNQUOTE MESSAGE CALLS QUOTE BIG PROPAGANDA ACTION HIGHLY URGENT STOP ALL FORMS MUST BE USED RADIO NEUTRAL PAPERS LEAFLETS ALLIED STATEMENTS RED CROSS UNQUOTE...STOP CONFIDENTIAL REMARK ABOVE CABLE SOURCE INFORMATION THIS CASE GIVEN ALSO BY OTHERS STOP BESIDES MESSAGE CALLS NEW BIG HELP STOP AWAITING IMMEDIATELY STOP SENT ALL (i.e. Money - J.P.) RECEIVED ACCORDINGLY ALL YOUR WISHES-

EMANUEL SCHERER MEMBER POLISH NATIONAL COUNCIL

000724

JUN 20 1944

Dear Mr. Sherman:

For your information there is herewith enclosed a copy of a resolution recently adopted by the Emergency Advisory Committee for Political Defense and transmitted to the Governments of the American republics for implementation.

Very truly yours,

(Signed) J.W. Pehle

J. W. Pehle
Executive Director

Mr. Charles B. Sherman
Jewish Labor Committee
175 Broadway
New York, N. Y.

Enclosure

LSLesser:als 6/19/44

000725

Telephone: GRamercy 7-3987

Jewish Labor Committee

175 EAST BROADWAY
NEW YORK, N. Y.

File

ADOLPH HELD, *Chairman*
JOSEPH BASKIN, *Secretary*
DAVID DUBINSKY, *Treasurer*
JACOB PAT, *Executive Secretary*
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H. TURK, Baltimore
J. WEISBERG, Cleveland

April 28, 1944

Mr. Lawrence Lesser
War Refugee Board
Treasury Department
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Lesser:

We are arranging for a group of our active workers to meet with you at a luncheon on Wednesday, May 3d, at 1 P.M., in the Fifth Avenue Hotel, 5th Avenue and 9th Street.

Please contact me as soon as you get to New York.

Our Executive Committee is deeply appreciative of your interest and cooperation and welcomes the opportunity to express to you, personally, its sincere thanks for your favorable consideration.

Sincerely yours,

Chas. B. Sherman

Chas. B. Sherman

CBS:BS
af/oe
23076

000726

In reply please
refer to: 519

APR 18 1944

Dear Sirs:

Thank you for your letter of April 11, 1944, quoting a cable received by you concerning the latest developments in the tragic plight of the Polish Jews.

Your cooperation in making this information available is appreciated.

Very truly yours,

(Signed) J. W. Pehle

J. W. Pehle
Executive Director

Mr. Adolph Held,
Chairman,
Mr. Jacob Pat,
Executive Secretary,
Jewish Labor Committee,
175 East Broadway,
New York 2, New York.

EBT RBH RBHutchison:agr 4-17-44

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Telephone: GRamercy 7-3987

Jewish Labor Committee

175 EAST BROADWAY
NEW YORK 2, N. Y.

W. R. B. ×519
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To: Files
Ans.
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ADOLPH HELD, *Chairman*
JOSEPH BASKIN, *Secretary*
DAVID DUBINSKY, *Treasurer*
JACOB PAT, *Executive Secretary*
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J. SIEGEL, Chicago
H. TURK, Baltimore
J. WEISBERG, Cleveland

April 11, 1944

Mr. John W. Pehle,
Executive Director
War Refugee Board
Washington 25, D. C.

Dear Mr. Pehle:

For your information, we are hereby submitting to you the following cable which has reached us concerning the latest developments in the tragic plight of the Polish Jews:

"JUST HEARD NEW SOS CALL SAVE REMNANTS JEWS POLAND STOP NAZI MURDERED LATELY REMNANTS JEWS LWOW STOP KILLED MANY THOUSAND OF BIGGEST GHETTO LEFT IN LODZ STOP LIFE WHOLE JEWISH POPULATION LODZ 150,000 BEFORE BEGINNING PRESENT MASS MURDER NOW DIRECTLY THREATENED STOP FEW MONTHS AGO LODZ GHETTO DEFENDED ITSELF BY SUCCESSFUL GENERAL STRIKE STOP DEFEND THEM YOU NOW BY ADEQUATE ACTION STOP EVEN NOW MANY JEWS POLAND CAN BE SAVED STOP THEY SAY WORLD PARTICULARLY AMERICAN JEWS REMNANTS POLISH JEWS AWAITING SALVATION FROM YOU STOP MANUEL SCHERER MEMBER NATIONAL COUNCIL POLAND"

With heartfelt gratitude for your deep and everlasting interest in the Jewish tragedy, we remain

Respectfully yours,
JEWISH LABOR COMMITTEE

Adolph Held

Adolph Held, Chairman

Jacob Pat

Jacob Pat, Executive Secretary

afoe/23076
cbb

000728

MAR 25 1944

In reply please
refer to: 352

Dear Mr. Pat:

Thank you for your letter of March 17, 1944, enclosing a copy of an English translation of a report from the Jewish Labor underground organization in Poland.

Your cooperation in making this information available to us is appreciated.

Very truly yours,

(Signed) J. W. Pehle

J. W. Pehle
Acting Executive Director

Mr. Jacob Pat,
Executive Director,
Jewish Labor Committee,
175 East Broadway,
New York 2, New York

EBT EBTowleriagr 3-24-44

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Telephone: GRamercy 7-3987

Jewish Labor Committee

175 EAST BROADWAY
NEW YORK 2, N. Y.

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Filing Authority
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Ans.
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Date

ADOLPH HELD, *Chairman*
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M. RUBINSTEIN, Montreal
B. SHANE, Montreal
J. SIEGEL, Chicago
H. TURK, Baltimore
J. WEISBERG, Cleveland

March 17, 1944

Mr. J. W. Pehle, Exec. Dir.
War Refugee Board
Washington 25, D. C.

Dear Mr. Pehle:

I take pleasure in sending you an English translation of a report which the Jewish Labor Committee received from the Jewish labor underground organization in Poland.

Please take special notice of the financial report, which begins on page 13. If anything does not seem clear, kindly inform me, and I shall be sure to send you a detailed report on it.

Sincerely yours,
JEWISH LABOR COMMITTEE

Jacob Pat
Jacob Pat,
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

AOFE/2076
cbb

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REPORT

The current report covers the period from July 1 to November 15, 1943. The report for the preceding period -- from September 1, 1942 to the end of June 1943 -- is being submitted herewith, and is labeled with the letter "A". The current report, however, is labeled with the letter "B". (The first report has not yet arrived.)

FOR THE PERIOD OF JULY 1 TO NOVEMBER 15, 1943.

In presenting to you the report of our activity and endeavors, it is of the utmost importance to dwell upon the general plan and conditions among which we have had to work. The main factor determining the character of our activity has been Nazism's continued fulfillment of its plan to annihilate the surviving remnants of European Jewry.

1. CONTINUATION OF THE LIQUIDATION OF THE JEWS

Along with mass extermination -- which is already known to you and which has, in the preceding period, let to further slaughter of a large secrot of Jewry -- continued annihilation of Jews, in the various cencers where they live, is now taking place. This extermination is being conducted in various ways and without uniform intensiveness. In this regard, the familiar methods utilized in previous liquidations are being employed here -- methods of deceit, ceaseless barbarism, fiendishness. During the period covered by this report, complete liquidation has been affected in a number of ghettos in the area of the General Government, in Ostland, and in the areas which are joined in the Reich (excepting Lodz, where a ghetto of 30,000 Lodz Jews and some 100,000 Jews from abroad, still exists). The liquidation was carried out in familiar manner: some

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Jews were shot on the spot; others were led to the gas chambers of Tremblinka, Belzhitz, Sabibar, Oschenchim, and similar death centers. Still others were sent to Jewish labor camps, or herded off to newly-established camps. Finally, a very small group was left in the emptied and fire-consumed ghettos, to institute order there, and to aid in gathering and segregating the remaining fortunes of the Jews, so that the Germans might pillage it.

As a result of the liquidation campaigns, certain small groups, or "fortunate individuals", have succeeded in fleeing to the woods, or in hiding in neighboring cities. These centers are now being cleansed of Jewish elements -- with utmost ferocity.

During the period here described, liquidation was affected in the ghettos of Bendin (30,000 Jews), Czenstachow, Mieletz, Radom, Piatrkov (a few thousand Jews in each), Bialystock (30,000 Jews), and Wilno (15,000), and in the ghettos in a number of cities in eastern Galicia, for example: Strie, Zambor, Kolomay, Bukharach, Drohobitch and Borislov (each of which had 10,000 or 15,000 Jews).

While ghetto liquidation was going on, the groups who had hidden in the woods, in order to evade the liquidation catastrophe, were likewise exterminated. Consistantly, too, the Nazis are nabbing Jews who hide in the Aryan section. Those caught are summarily shot.

To add to this, the Nazis have sought out the groups hiding in the catacombs (whom we know as "Bunkers", and who fled from the burnt-down Warsaw ghettos). These groups are murdered on the spot.

During the period described in this report, the Nazis have continued to transport to Poland, Jews from abroad, i.e., from Western and Southern Europe (Bulgaria, Roumania, Greece, Yugoslavia, and recently, Italy too). The transferred victims are dispatched either to gas chambers or to Jewish labor camps.

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Recently -- probably in connection with the Nazi defeats on the Russian front -- a new period of liquidation of the labor camps, was ushered in. On November 3, 1943, the Nazis liquidated the Travniki camp (which contained 10,000 Jews, mainly from the Warsaw ghetto, who had been shipped to Travniki during the armed insurrection). This obliteration was affected in the deceitful manner characteristic of the Nazis. First of all, the men were led out of the camp under the pretext that they must dig ditches for military purposes. Then they were all stripped and machine-gunned to death. Subsequently, the women and children were led out -- and met a similar fate. This procedure was partially repeated on November 5, in the Paniatov camp (which contained about 15,000 Jews, who had likewise been herded from the Warsaw ghetto during the armed rebellion). Liquidation was the fate, too, of the Liblin camp, and partially of the Yanovsk camp, near Lwow, where 2,000 Jews were done to death.

2. THE PRESENT CONDITION IN THE HIDEOUT CENTERS HARBORING THE JEWISH POPULACE

Four hideout centers presently harbor the Jewish populace; camps, woods, Aryan quarters, and camps for alien citizens.

a) In the labor camps, which are located in the vicinity of, or a little further from, the liquidated ghettos, projects have been launched wherein Jews work for the Nazis. The regime is a very harsh one: hunger, torture, death for the most minor infraction, or for any attempt to escape, anf finally, collective responsibility.

Then, too, Jews work outside the camp area -- in special sections where they are confined in barracks, or to which they walk from the camps. In these places, the Jews work alongside Polish workers. There are a few dozen such camps within the area of the General Government. There are, for example, two such camps beyond Cracow (in Plashev and on the Jewish cemetery in Yerisalimske

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Street) harboring 12,000 Jews; one camp in Lwow (following the most recent liquidation, that camp had 2,000 Jews), Piatrkov (2,000 Jews), Chenstachow (2,000 Jews), Travniki (10,000 Jews), Paniatov (15,000 Jews), Bachnia (a few hundred Jews), Tarnov (200 Jews), Rzheshav (a few hundred), Shebnia (a few thousand), Pystkov (a few thousand), Brod (10,000), Zlatchev (a few thousand), Borislov (2,000), Radom (2,000) -- the entire Radom ghetto was turned into a camp --, Skarzhisk, Starachavitz, Anapol (all with one thousand Jews each), and others.

Following the most recent liquidation of the Bialystok ghetto, a small portion of the populace was sent to the Travniki labor camp. After the liquidation of the Wilno ghetto, where the greatest portion of the Jewish inhabitants had been murdered, one surviving group was sent to a camp in Varanov, and another was sent beyond Kovno. But one ghetto remained -- in Lodz -- which has been turned into a vast factory for the Nazis.

b) <u>In the woods</u>. Of those who had escaped the pogroms in the ghettos, certain groups fled to the woods. Some were armed, others unarmed. Most of them, in order to stay alive, organized wild units which pillaged the areas. A small secrot joins the partisans. All are motivated by an intense elemental force, and by conditions which Nazi terror created in the woods. Hounded from place to place like dogs, and exterminated, these tragic wanderers live in conditons which are beyond description.

c) <u>In the Ayran quarters</u>. A third group of Jews lives scattered as Aryans, in the Aryan quarters of the larger cities. Some of them hide in homes, others work (mainly women, as servants), while still others are active in the underground movement. They live in dire privation. Their sole source of aid is the "Relief Council",

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which functions as a unit of the Polish Government Delegation, or the Jewish organizations (i.e. "Bund" and the Jewish National Committee). Their lives are often cut short by the Gestapo, because others have talkes and have reported them.

d) In camps for alien citizens. Some Jews are being harbored in camps for alien citizens -- at Vital (Alsace), and at Salzburg and Bergen, near Hanover. Numbering about 150,000, these are Jews whom Paraguay, or other South American countries, had granted citizenship. The living conditions in these camps are not uniform. Conditions prevailing in Vitel, for example, are good, while those in other centers, like Bergen, are unfavorable. According to reports which have recently reached us, the Bergen camp has been liquidated; however, this word has not yet been confirmed.

What about the numerical proportion of Jews in the various centers where they are found? This is extremely difficult to ascertain. We hay, however, assume that the camps harbor the greatest number of Jews. Next in line are the Aryan quarters, followed by the camps for alien citizens. The balance of the Jews find refuge in the woods.

3. OUR TASKS

In the light of the conditions here described, the extraordinary need of the Jews abroad, and our tasks, become clear. We were confronted with problems which organizations of numerically greater and stronger peoples, and of nations organized in states of their own, with vast, expanded machinery and financial machinery, would have been unable to tackle. And while nations -- particularly Poland -- overrun by the Nazi conqueror, are being held in the iron grip of the occupant, with masses of victims losing their lives daily, Poland's plight cannot be compared to ours. One nation

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after anoth has fallen from the heavy blows of the modenn Huns, yet none have been able to stem the mighty tide of brutality, though all the tides were much smaller than the one engulfing us now.

We, who are much weaker than the other nations, lacking strength, power and preparation; we, who are a minority that is being systematically annihilated, and of which but a mere shadow remains - How shall we cope with the vast tasks and needs which our tragic plight brings to the fore?

Another factor: In so-called normal times, such tremendous tasks would have called for a vast setup of manpower. However, we now lack it, since, unfortunately, nearly all the most important sector of our manpowere reserve has been destroyed. Compared with the large number of our various leaders and associates whom we could point to, prior to the war, and to a certain extent, in the first years of the Nazi occupation, there now remains but a very modest group which has harnessed itself to carry through our "Bund" organization's difficult tasks, along the channels of underground activity.

Yet, nothing frightens us -- whether it be the enormousness and unusual nature of the grave problems facing us, the seeming hopelessness of our efforts, the severe dangers haunting us at every turn, or whether it be the fact that such a small group is at work, and that, to make matters worse, death daily robs us of someone near and dear in our ranks. We go forward in our efforts because we are filled with determination to "see through" the tasks lying ahead. Our activity will still make it possible for a certain number of people to be spared from being consumed by the Nazi tide in the future. We live in full realization that it is our duty to proudly continue our glorious heritage of Socialist struggle.

Our task leads us, first of all, to the objective of keeping

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alive those fragments of Jewry which still survive. Let there, at least, be witnesses to the horrible crimes being commited; let there, at least, remain an element which will, along with others, wage the struggle against the common foe.

Our tasks are three-fole: (1) to extend relief and moral aid in widest capacity; (2) to conduct organizational, ideological activity, and all else associated with this work, and; (3) to wage active resistance against the enemy.

We cannot enumerate, nor dwell upon all of the various tasks before us, in this regard, and shall content ourselves with the mention of a few of the most important; relief distribution, legalization (documents), dealing with the consequences which result from blackmail of unfortunate Jews, preparation for active resistance, aid to prisoners, provision of food packages, clothes and medical assistance, establishment of various contacts in the respective localities and with the camps in the smaller cities and towns, handling of newspapers, letters and inquiries. All of which consumes a great deal of time, taxing both nerves and health.

4. COORDINATING COMMITTEE OF THE JEWISH COMBAT ORGANIZATION

In July, 1942, a Committee was established in Warsaw, to coordinate the efforts of our organization with those of the Jewish National Committee. The new group's activity in this regard, has brought fruitful results (armed insurrection of January, and April, 1943). Following complete liquidation of the Warsaw ghetto, the activity of the Coordinating Committee embraced the entire sphere of material relief for the Warsaw Jews, and for all of Poland. This Committee is neither a political body, nor a politico-communal representation of the Jewish populace; it is merely a unit coordinating the activity of both organizations in the field of relief and struggle. Paragraph II of the Committee's statutes statutes states: "Political

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matters shall be settled by each party in accordance with its world outlook." Within the Coordinating Committee, we have been active in aiding the smaller cities and towns, along with the camps in the field of relief and preparation for armed rebellion. We have assisted the Coordinating Committee with substantial sums for relief of Jews and non-Jews alike, who were active in the Relief Council for Jews, and had been arrested in their line of duty.

We have dispatched aid to various camps, amounting to hundreds of thousands of zlotys. The Coordinating Committee has neither a Treasury nor a Treasurer of its own; however, all matters are aired, agreed upon, and unanimously decided upon by both parties. In settling a number of Committee matters, many of our comrades play an important part (in trying and hazardous positions). The Committee spokesmen have conferred with the official military representatives of underground Poland, on preparation for the armed rebellion in the Warsaw ghetto.

5. ARMED STRUGGLES

During the period covered in this report, a number of armed insurrections flared up around many centers. These struggles represent a continuation of the chain of heroic deeds which the Warsaw ghetto initiated.

a) First of all -- Bialystock. This is one of the cities which had, before the war, been strongly influenced by the "Bund". Bialystock put up fierce resistance against the Nazis in mid-August, 1943, when they began to liquidate its ghetto. The armed rebellion lasted a month, and was conducted with remarkable heroism. At Bialystock, the Nazis again brought into play the methods and amunition which they employed at Warsaw. Nazi losses in the latter city were high. The Bialystock ghetto which numbered 30,000 sould -- many of them victims of the uprisings -- was liquidated. The surving pop-

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ulation was shipped to the Travniki labor camp.

b) Treblinka. This gas-chamber camp, where the Nazis annihilated hundreds of thousands of Jews, met total destruction, at the hands of the Jews who had been enslaved there, in the early part of August, 1943. The revolting Jews slaughtered the full 30-men guard unit of Nazis and Ukraines, which patrolled the ghetto. They seized the amunition, set fire to all buildings, destroyed all electrical communication lines, and blazed a path to the neighboring woods. Two hundred Jews fled there.

c) Worthy of mention are the rebellions in smaller proportions of the Jews of Tarnov, Bendin, Czenstachow, Borislov.

d) Heroism characterizing the Treblinka revolt, also marked the Sabibar rebellion. In Sabibar, too, hundreds of Jews were murdered. The revolt, which occured in October, 1943, culminated in the successful escape of a large number of Jews from that camp.

e) In conclusion, I should like to cite the heroic resistance which the Lodz ghetto Jews have displayed on a number of occasions, and which, while they were unarmed, was nevertheless intense and heroic. In February 1943, a general strike swept the Lodz ghetto, in connection with the Nazi launching of mass executions. The strike worked; the executions were halted.

To conclude further, I should like to mention the Jewish camps of Paniatov and Travniki, which prepared an armed rebellion with the aid of the Coordination Committee and Jewish compat organization, which dispatched funds, amunition and instructions to them. Revolt preparation, along with the relief effort, were carried forward by a Coordinating Committee (set up similarly to the Warsaw Coordinating Committee). In this body, our comrades, who, in the camps, comprise the greatest majority, are very actively preparing for the tasks ahead.

PARTISAN GROUPS

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As I have already previously noted, in connection with ghetto liquidation, certain groups periodically flee to the woods and sometimes affiliate with partisan groups which they meet along the way. We have devoted a great deal of attention to the matter of how to organize, link, and unite these units. We have also discussed the problem at a number of parlies with spokesmen of the Polish underground military organization. Before us, also, was the matter of arming the camps.

6. THE SMALLER CITIES AND TOWNS

During the period covered in this report, we manifested a great deal of concern for, and devoted maximum efforts towards, establishing and maintaining contact with the smaller cities and towns -- most importantly with the labor camps, which are scattered throughout Poland. This was the Coordinating Committee's responsibility, and subsequently, in the course of that body's existence, contacts were established with a number of cities by means of special representatives, aid of the Council which is a unit of the Polish Government's Delegate, and aid of the comrades of V.R.N. and of the Polish Democratic Party. By means of these spokesmen, letters bidding the Jews to maintain their courage, have been dispatched to the labor camps along with funds. Amunition, too, was provided. In almost all camps, we have been instrumental in the launching of similar Coordination Committees, which maintained contact with Cracow, Paniatov, Travniki, Piatrkov, Lwow, Ostrowicz, Radom, Kieltz, Czenstachow, Budzin, and a number of smaller centers such as Skarzhisk, Starochowicz, etc. Quite often, the camps establish a link with one another and share the information and data which they receive from us. We also established contact with Bialystock, immediately following the ghetto rebellion there. Pathetic indeed, are the letters which reach us from these centers of suffering, humiliation, and death.

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Thus, for example, we received a letter from Bialystock, in reply to a communication we had sent there. We quote: "Is it a dream, or a reality?" the letter began. "A voice of help from our comrades in Warsaw," it continued. The letter was written by Comrade K., of Bialystock, who had just fled the Jewish-Nazi struggle in that city, and found refuge at the home of the Polish Comrade P. Similar communications have come to us from the Plashev camps. The Plashev comrades sent part of the funds they had received from us to Tarnov.

At Travniki, our comrades observed, in their own manner, the 46th anniversary of the founding of the "Bund". Quite often, a letter of ours, which reaches a surviving comrade somewhere in a far-off place buoys the hope of the suffering Jews and fortifies their endurance. We should like to cite one example: We dispatched 20,000 zlotys to Pyatikov for the camp there. Would that you were able to read the letter we received from there. "This has been the most glorious moment of our lives," they wrote. The individual there, to whom the funds had been sent, at once contacted other comrades and other camps -- at great personal risk -- and sent them some of the funds he had received from us. Too, he supplied us with a list of individuals in other camps, for contact purposes.

A plan has been evolved, and is now being perfected by the Coordination Committee, for the rescue of those confined in the camps. Wholeheartedly, and in realization of the importance of the task, we are devoting our efforts to the aid of those confined in the camps. We have sent, are sending, and shall continue to send, increasingly large sums to these camps. Thus far, hundreds of thousands of zlotys have already been dispatched. However, we know that the most important task now is to rescue as many individuals as possible from these confinement places. This is a task of such magnitude, that we are unable even to describe it to you. We have

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other rescue plans, too, which must not, however, be made public.

7. COUNCIL FOR RELIEF FOR JEWS

As an auxiliary of the "Delegate," a "Council for Relief for Jews" has been created (this body embraces spokesmen of the Polish Socialist Movement, Peasant Party, Polish Democratic Party, and "Bund", and Jewish National Committee representatives). We are working and cooperating with the Council, to give further aid to the Jews. We allocate part of our funds to the Council's Treasury. From August to November, 1943, we sent the Council a total of 300,000 zlotys.

8. Despite all misfortunes, the power of illusion still holds strong sway among the plagued Jews. The best example of this is the campsfor alien citizens, at Vital, or Hanover. Most of the letters which the Paraguayan Consul, in Switzerland, had sent to the Jews in the Warsaw ghetto -- with regards to conferring citizenship on them -- never reached those for whom they were intended, since they were already dead. These letters were subsequently auctioned off, so to speak, and sold to the highest bidders. This despicable job was done by Jewish Gestapo agents, who tricked Jews into paying large sums for the letters. The Jewish populate was under the illusion that the letters had the power of rescue. And so, from every corner, the mysterious word "Vital", the name of the camp, echoed forth. We resisted, refusing to make any move for receipt of these letters. We did not trust the Germans, and maintained that the maneuver was a new trap for the Jews. Then, too, we refused, as a matter of principle, to have anything to do with the Jewish Gestapo agents. Some of our comrades were dissatisfied with this attitude.

We have cabled you, inquiring whether the camps for alien citizens are under the auspices of the International Red Cross. We have received no reply. Unfortunately, the answer was not long in coming. It developed that at the camp beyond Hanover, to

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which 300 Jews from Warsaw had been shipped, all of the 300 were shot. Now, a new report, thus far unconfirmed, has reached us, to the effect that the entire camp at Bergen, beyong Hanover, is to be liquidated.

FINANCIAL REPORT

I shall now present the Financial Report.

Administration of our entire financ economy is conducted in such manner, as to be based upon direct receipt, and Treasury documents, along with the enumeration of the respective factors, persons, and positions recorded in the financial books. In a word, that administration rests upon rational bookkeeping. We are concerned, to a still greater extent, in making certain that the formal, as well as the meritoric, aspects of our economy, orderly. A Revision Committee functions within the central administrative body, balancing the incomes and expenditures, preparing the accounts, and signing the minutes of the Revision each month. This Committee, which enjoys our, and your organizational authority, confirms, on every occasion, the fact that our economy is a rational and exemplary one.

The basis of this economy is to affect absolute saving, wherever possible; to grant wide financial aid, wherever necessary, by exclusion of privileges of any kind, and finally; to take into consideration the needs of all who are under the supervision of this economy. We even extend aid to Aryans deemed necessary to receive assistance, because of their great personal value, and we grant aid to Jews of all kinds, irrespective of political affiliation, who have to be helped.

Because of technical reasons, presentation of a very detailed report of our financial activity, during the period covered in this report, is impossible. From the general figures which we have set forth you will, however, acquaint yourself with our entire financial

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economy, and will be able to arrive at your own conclusions regarding our activity, objectives, and needs.

And now, the crux of the Financial Report:

INCOME

We have received from you, in dollar banknotes, the following sums, which have been ~~as~~ paid to us in equivalent value:

a: October, 1942	5,000	dollars
December, 1942	5,000	"
February, 1943	10,000	"
April, 1943	13,000	"
Total	33,000	"

b: In addition, we have received, through the Delegation, the following sums in Polish Zlotys:

September 1, 1943	300,000	zlotys
September 2, 1943	345,000	"
September 3, 1943	150,000	"
Total	795,000	"

which amounted, in dollar valuation equivalent, to $10,000.

c: We also received, in Polish Zlotys (through the Delegate):

October 7	500,000	Zlotys
October 13	700,000	"
October 19	194,000	"
October 27	456,000	"
Total	1850,000	"

which amounted, in dollar valuation equivalent to $15,000.

EXPENDITURES

From the income, labeled under "a", we reimbursed the Delegation for a loan which we had secured from it, in the amount of 15,000 zlotys (we were entirely without funds). This amounted, according to the dollar evaluation equivalent at the time, to $500. Our expenditures, in dollars, follow:

A: Repaid Loans - your suggested indications and our allocations:

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a) $5,000 -- repaid a loan which our comrades had secured in the one-time Warsaw ghetto, to meet their needs (self-help, preparation for rebellion, press publications, etc.)

b) $2,000 -- our allocation, paid to the Administration of J.D.C.

c) $500 -- paid out, according to special indication to the right-wing Poale-Zion

d) $1,000 -- paid out, according to special indication to the left-wing Poale-Zion

e) $3,000 -- paid out, according to special indication to the right-wing Poale-Zion

f) $400 -- paid out at the beginning of March, 1943, to the Coordinating Committee and the Jewish combat organization, according to special indications

g) $300 -- repaid the debt to the Delegation

$12,200 Total

B: Our Budget Expenditures

During the period of mid-October, 1942 to July 1, 1943 (8½ months) our budget expenditures averaged $2,500 monthly. For 8½ months, this total $21,250. This sum, plus the sum enumerated under "A" ($12,200), brings the total to $33,450. Thus, the debts we incurred with private individuals amounted, on July 1, 1943, to $450.

What did our expenditures embrace? Maintenance of hundreds of families, homes, provision to these families of clothes, laundry, shoes, medical aid, and roofs over their heads (to the degree necessary), purchase of freedom for imprisoned individuals (we spent $2,000 for this purpose), and payoff to blackmailers. (We shall cite, as an example, the case of the Commander of a section of the Front, Comrade Rozovsky, whose life had twice been imperiled by

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blackmail. We spent 2,000 zlotys in an attempt to avert the danger that threatened him, but, after the second instance, he was killed.) Our funds were expended, too, in aid of families which survived. The period of June, July, August, 1943, was one of the trying and most tragic for us, since, in the face of the Nazi execution drive and the widening of our activity, the need for funds was more pressing than ever before. We incurred debts, and were constantly without funds. We were threatened by catastrophe. Mainly, the danger was grave for the children, women, and men who had been confined in their homes. At the same time, we launched a wide relief campaign for the camps, along with the Jewish National Committee. The camps aided included those at Panyatov, Travniki, Piatrkov, Czenstachow, Kroke, Lemberg, Kialtz, Radom, Lublin, and other points, to which we sent hundreds of thousands of dollars.

At that time, we incurred a debt with the Jewish National Committee, in the amount of 125,000 zlotys. From the previous period, we owed 292,000 zlotys. Upon receipt from you of the sums sent through the Delegation, in September and October, we were able to pay all debts, and we had the necessary sums on hand for accruing expenditures.

The sums for the subsequent period are constituted as follows:

July 1 to November 30, 1943.

INCOMES

(Previously Enumerated)

In addition:	September 1, 1943	300,000	zlotys
	September 2, 1943	345,000	"
	September 3, 1943	150,000	"
	Total in Spt.	795,000	"
	October 7, 1943	500,000	Z.
	October 13, 1943	700,000	"
	October 27, 1943	456,000	"
	Total in October	1,850,000	"
	Grand Total	2,645,000	Z.

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In addition, in dollars -- $8,000.

The balance is in process of presentation.

EXPENDITURES

1) Coverage of the $450 deficit for the period until July 1, 1943	40,000 zlotys
2: Repayment to the Jewish National Committee of its loan	125,000 "
3: Our sharing in the mutual expenditures of the Coordinating Committee (for camps, Jewish combat organization, etc.) which had been advanced by the Jewish National Committee for the period of May, 1943	292,000 "
4: Maintenance of, and provision for, individuals, realization of the budget, which amounts to 460,000 zlotys monthly, for July 1 to September 20, 1943 (5 months, 5 times $450,000)	2,250,000 "
Total	2,606,500 "

In view of the fact that our incomes, forthe above period totaled 2,645,000 zlotys, our treasury on November 30, 1943, amounted to 38,500 zlotys, or $8,000.

The previously-enumerated sums include our regular allocation for the Delegation's relief effort. This amounted to 275,000 zlotys, for the period from September 1, to the present date. We sent a special single remittance of 25,000 zlotys to the Children's Aid Division, which functions as a unit of the Relief Council. We emphasize here that neither our comrades, nor their families, who are being maintained by us, have benefitted, or are benefitting, from the funds of the General Council. The sums which our representative participating in the Council distributes, through our contact points, to a few hundred persons (400, this month), concern individuals who have nothing at all in common with our organization, but who are, nevertheless, included in the orbit of our activity, as a result of personal acquaintanceships, or other factors. ~~Natuar~~ Naturally, these sums were not included in our previous report. They constitute

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a separate account, subject to Council regulation, as are the sums of other factions represented in the Council. We are mentioning this here so that we will have a systematic resume and a clear picture of the entire situation.

One more point -- bearing upon the Coordinating Committee. Previously, I spoke about our activity in this field. The financial aspect of this activity may be explained as follows: The Coordinating Committee does not have a budget of its own. The expenses which it has from time to time, are incurred, as has been noted previously, on the basis of an understanding reached by both parties represented in the Committee. Each party contributes proportionately to the Committee from its treasury, according to a 40:60 (recently a 50:50) ratio. We, and the Jewish National Committee, cover this amount. The planning of expenditures take place within the sphere of the matters associated with the mutual field of activity.

We have conducted our financial economy in line with our organizational budgets, and in accordance with the urgent possibilities and needs.

It may, on the surface, seem paradoxical that at the very time when the annihilation of Jews is prodeeding so swiftly, and in such a wide scope, that our budget surges upward. This, however, is not accidental. The tremendous responsibilities which confront us -- aid to the Jews who are still surviving -- compels us to exert a great effort in this regard. Each individual -- not to speak of the entire living group in the camps and ghetto ruins, etc. -- is of inestimable communal value to us, and we must give them all consideration.

On concluding this portion of the report, I should like to call to your attention our ever increasing financial needs, and

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also the fact that we are soley dependent upon your aid. We do not wish to receive - nor shall we - aid from any other source. You alone can be the only source of help. Please bear this constantly in mind so thatthe recent plight which confronted us (when, for a few months we were entirely without funds and were threatened with catastrophe) shall not be repeated. Also, please make an exact listing of all sums which you have remitted to us, and send us, too, particulars about your future plans.

Kindly inform us whether you have dispatched sums intended for use by us and by the Jewish National Committee. We do not know about such action, and have never received mutual sums of this kind.

Will you be good enough to let us know too, whether any amounts have generally been dispatched to our country for all Jews there, and if so, through whom they were sent.

9. "YIDDISH UNTERSHTITZUNGS SHTELLE"

Following liquidation of the Krakau ghetto, and of other ghettos, the Nazis set up, at Krakau, and institution known as the "Yiddish Untershtitzungs Shtelle," which is headed by Dr. W. Unoficially, two Zionists of Krakau work along with this unit. Ostensibly, the purpose of this body is to distribute, among the labor camps, medical supplies and other articles, which Jewish organizations from abroad send through the International Red Cross. In reality, however, the above Nazi-created body is nothing but an instrument set up by the occupier to deceive the world with regard to its attitude towards the Jews, and to affect siezure of these supplies for the Brownshirts.

At our suggestion, the Jewish National Committee agreed that the proposal which the head of the "Yiddish Untershtitzungs Shtelle" had made to us concerning his collaboration with us, and with the Relief Council, be turned down. The Coordinating Committee has adopted a negative position towards theYUS and has cabled you and Dr.

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Schwartzbord to the same effect. In that cable, the Committee sounded a warning to public opinion abroad, against the Y.U.S. and the entire matter, and demanded that shipment of medical supplies and other articles to Y.U.S. be halted at once. The Coordinating Committee reaffirmed its previous position, following the Y.U.S. representatives' suggestion that we alter our stand.

After a certain period had elapsed, the Y.U.S. spokesman announced that they would heed the Coordinating Committee's decision, and would turn over to the Committee all remaining articles which their group had in its possession. Of course, they did not keep their word. We can draw our conclusions therefrom.

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TREASURY DEPARTMENT

he wrote

INTER OFFICE COMMUNICATION

DATE March 4, 1944

TO Miss Hodel

FROM Lawrence S. Lesser

The Jewish Labor Committee (Leon Dennen) asked me the other day whether we would permit them to send funds through Switzerland to Shanghai to take care of sixty of "their people" at $20 per month a head. Dennen says that he is advised that the JDC is not taking care of these people. What do you think?

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In reply please
refer to: 200

FEB 25 1944

Dear Mr. Held:

Thank you for your letter of February 16, 1944, outlining a program for the rescue and relief of Jewish refugees.

I assure you that your suggestions will receive prompt consideration.

Very truly yours,

(Signed) J. W. Pehle

J. W. Pehle
Acting Executive Director

Mr. Adolph Held,
Chairman,
Jewish Labor Committee,
175 East Broadway,
New York 2, New York.

EbT RBHutchisoniagr 2-24-44

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Telephone: GRamercy 7-3987

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Jewish Labor Committee

175 EAST BROADWAY
NEW YORK 2, N. Y.

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February 16, 1944

Mr. John W. Pehle,
Acting Executive Director
President's Refugee Board
Washington 25, D. C.

Dear Mr. Pehle:

In reply to your letter of February 8th, the Jewish Labor Committee is happy to present its program for the rescue and relief of Jewish victims of the enemy power.

As you have indicated in your letter, the President's Board is cognizant of the difficulties involved in the preparation of such a program. Moreover, the creation of the President's agency for the rescue of members of persecuted religious and political minorities, which will indeed bring profound gratification to all humanitarian organizations, has radically changed our program of rescue which will have to be supplemented following our consultation with our legal and underground representatives abroad.

At this time, we wish to submit the following:

1: Rescue of Jews from Poland and Relief in Poland - Ever since the Nazi invasion of Poland, the Jewish Labor Committee, through its anti-Nazi underground channels in Poland and through the Ministry of Finance of the Polish Government - in - Exile, has been systematically sending aid both to the

- Polish -

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Polish underground and to members of the Jewish people who are today in hiding in various corners of the country. It must be understood, however, this aid has been limited and did not embrace the thousands of Jews who, escaping death and torture from Nazi concentration camps and death-chambers, as yet remain alive in Poland. It is doubtful whether Hitler will relinquish his openly-proclaimed plan to exterminate all the Jews in Eastern Europe in the event of a German retreat. Nevertheless, all attempts to rescue those who are still alive must be made at once. In this connection a realistic plan, it seems to us, would be:

a) To establish in a neutral country or in a territory controlled by the Allies a haven for Jewish refugees from Poland. In our opinion, one of the first steps to be taken should be the conclusion of an agreement with the Government of Turkey, in order to obtain the consent for the establishment of temporary shelters, capable of accommodating the thousands who may be saved from the concentration camps and ghettos. Similar agreements should be concluded with the Governments of Sweden, Switzerland and Spain.

Means should be found to establish a route for the passage of refugees to these countries.

b) In view of the fact that the time is short and the danger grave, it would be expedient for the International Red Cross to establish contact, through the government of a neutral country, with the Government of Germany and seek its consent to organize the evacuation from Poland of a number of Jews, particularly older people and children who are dying slowly of starvation and are menaced by mass extermination.

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To this end, too, it would be necessary to obtain - either through the International Red Cross or through the Government of a neutral state - the consent of the Governments of Hungary, Roumania and Bulgaria, to permit the free passage of trains carrying refugees across their territories.

In the meantime, it would be necessary for the International Red Cross to establish a commission that would seek to ascertain the number of Jews remaining alive in Poland (although the Jewish Labor Committee has received through underground channels some information on the number of Jews remaining alive in Poland it is, of necessity, incomplete and conflicting) and also to feed those scheduled for evacuation.

2: Rescue from France and Relief in France and Switzerland - According to the latest information received by us from Switzerland there are today about 500 anti-Nazi labor and political refugees in Switzerland who receive aid from the Jewish Labor Committee. Within the past few weeks 120 more persons crossed the French-Swiss border, and about 70 are waiting on the border for evacuation. Most of these people have Swiss visas secured for them by the Jewish Labor Committee.

As we already reported, some time ago a committee to alleviate the distress of these refugees was formed in Geneva by a group of prominent French political figures and trade union leaders, who are themselves refugees from Nazism. The Jewish Labor Committee is maintaining close contact with the two friends in Switzerland, Dr. B. Tchlenov, who is

* connected *

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with the International Red Cross in Geneva, and Dr. L. Hersh, Professor of the University of Geneva. Our contact man with the French labor underground movement who was, until recently, in France, is also now in Switzerland engaged in aiding these anti-Nazi refugees.

It is our firm conviction that with the aid of the President's Refugee Board, the rescue of people from France into Switzerland may be greatly expanded and thousands more Jews ant anti-Nazis rescued.

Through this Committee in Switzerland, and in cooperation with Dr. A. Freudenberg, representative of the Protestant Churches, and the Hungarian Social Democratic Party, the Jewish Labor Committee is now working on the evacuation of people from Poland into Hungary. Here, too, with the aid of the President's Refugee Board and the Hungarian anti-Nazi underground, the evacuation process can be accelerated and thousands more refugees rescued.

3: Relief for Refugees in Shanghai - There are today in Shanghai about 60 families - refugees from Poland - of prominent labor leaders, writers, teachers and scientists, to whom the Jewish Labor Committee has been sending help.

It is our understanding that American citizens who find themselves in Shanghai receive $50.00 monthly from the American Government through the International Red Cross, and with the aid of the Swiss Consulate. We, therefore, suggest that ways and means be found to give these sixty families and all other refugees, status similar to that of United States Citizens. The Jewish Labor Committee, and other organizations which may be interested, would deposit monthly with the International Red Cross, necessary funds for transfer

to

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to the refugees in Shanghai who, according to our latest reports, receive no relief at all, and find themselves in an extremely tragic situation.

These are the things that must be done immediately. Further plans will supplement this.

Sincerely yours,
JEWISH LABOR COMMITTEE

Adolph Held

Adolph Held,
CHAIRMAN

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MEMORANDUM

February 14, 1944

JEWISH LABOR COMMITTEE

Messrs. Adolph Held and Leon Dennen of the Jewish Labor Committee were in this afternoon. Mr. Held is president of the Amalgamated Bank (organized by the Amalgamated Clothing Workers Union) and a director of the JDC. Mr. Dennen expects to go to Turkey shortly as a representative of the International Rescue & Relief Committee.

Mr. Held stated that the Jewish Labor Committee's Swiss associates had many underground contacts in Poland and Hungary who were active in bringing refugees from Poland into Hungary. He said that this operation cost approximately $200 per head and was facilitated by the Polish government-in-exile through its diplomatic representatives in Budapest and the underground movement in Poland. Both Mr. Held and Mr. Dennen stated that while they had hoped that the recent license issued to their Committee would facilitate this movement, it had not as yet done so as they have not yet been able to secure the requisite Swiss francs. They explained that the present free market is somewhere around, if not above 40¢, and that even at that rate francs were hard to get. They also stated that they had applied to the Federal Reserve Bank, but that they were told that cables would have to be sent to Switzerland, many questions answered, and considerable time consumed. They hoped that the Board could find some means of aiding them to overcome this obstacle.

Mr. Held said that he was familiar with refugee work, having been in Poland as the representative of the JDC and the HIAS between 1920 and 1925. He stated that influential persons in the present Polish government-in-exile were active liberals in Poland at that time who had taken strong action on behalf of the Ukranian and Jewish minorities whose political rights were then under attack. Mr. Held said that his organization had found the Polish government-in-exile extremely sympathetic and helpful.

Mr. Dennen will call again before leaving for Turkey.

It is recommended that immediate action be taken to supply the Jewish Labor Committee with the Swiss francs necessary to the effectuation of the transactions which have already been licensed.

Lesser

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MEMORANDUM FOR THE FILES

January 28, 1944

Mr. Leon Dennen of the Jewish Labor Committee, 175 East Broadway, New York City, called today at the suggestion of Mr. Gray in Secretary Hull's office to get information concerning the new War Refugee Board and to discuss the plans of his Committee to send money to Switzerland for the rescue of Jewish labor leaders and scholars in France and Poland. Mr. Dennen explained that the Jewish Labor Committee represents all Jewish labor groups in the United States and was set up in 1933 by B. C. Vladeck of New York for the purpose of rescuing Jewish labor leaders and scholars from the Nazis. The Committee is not a member of the National War Fund but is a member of the Rescue Committee of the American Jewish Conference. The president is Adolph Held, president of the Amalgamated Bank, and the treasurer is David Lubinsky. It was stated that the Committee has been sending funds to Switzerland for some time for the relief of refugees in this country; that the representatives of the Committee in Switzerland are in close touch with the underground movement throughout central Europe and that in all probability some of the funds which have been sent in the past for refugee work in Switzerland have been used for some of the underground activities and the evacuation of refugees into Switzerland.

The Committee is familiar with the license recently granted to the Union of Orthodox Rabbis permitting certain operations with respect to the rescue of Jews in Poland and Slovakia. The Committee has under consideration the sending of $50,000 to Switzerland for the purpose of rescuing Jewish scholars and labor leaders from Poland and France. Mr. Dennen was advised that prompt consideration would be given to any request to send money to Switzerland for the aforementioned purpose and he stated that, as soon as he had an opportunity to contact his Committee in New York, he would communicate with us and request the appropriate license.

Mr. Dennen stated it was his view that the War Refugee Board should concentrate immediately on the question of evacuations into Turkey and temporary settlement of the refugees in that country. He stated that his Committee had many reports and information in their files which they would be glad to make available to the War Refugee Board. He will send at once certain reports and information that may be helpful in working up immediate projects. He also stated that, if he is successful in being deferred from the army, he is to take off shortly for Europe to carry on rescue work for his Committee. It is contemplated that one of the first countries he will visit is Sweden where he states there are many opportunities to carry on evacuation work from Finland, Norway and even Poland through the port of Danzig. He stated that he would contact the War Refugee Board before making any such trip.

Mr. Dennen stated that the War Refugee Board should consider contacting the International Rescue and Relief Committee, 2 West 43rd St.,

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New York City, whose chairman is Frank Kingdon. Dorothy Thompson, L. Hollingsworth Wood and William Allen White are some of its members. Miss Sheba Strunsky is its Executive Secretary. This organization has been devoting a great deal of time and money to the problem of rescuing political refugees from Nazi oppression. It is non-sectarian and a member of the National War Fund and has considerable money available for rescue work. The Jewish Labor Committee works closely with the International Rescue and Relief Committee.

F. Hodel

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