

MASS MEETING in MADISON SQUARE GARDEN

000011

CROSS REFERENCE ON . MASS. MEETING. IN. MADISON. SQUARE
GARDENS

FOR:

- Amendment to this License
- Extension of this License
- Renewal of this License
- Correspondence concerning this application .
- Other (Specify)

1. MATERIAL FROM MR. WEINSTEIN'S FILES

SEE:

000012

DATE
p: AUG 7 - 1944

50,000 Protest Allies' Failure to Save Jews

In one of the largest demonstrations of its kind, the voices of 50,000 people were raised yesterday in mass protest against Nazi atrocities and the failure of the United Nations to effect the rescue of the surviving Jews of Europe.

For more than two hours, the crowd, which jammed Madison Square Park and overflowed adjacent streets and sidewalks, heard speaker after speaker warn Germany and her satellites that the civilized world will exact payment in full for their crimes against the Jewish people.

In a resolution adopted by a voice vote, the rally urged the United Nations to facilitate the evacuation of Jewish children

from Hungary where they have permission to leave, and to open their territories to all Jews who can be rescued.

Message From F. D. R.

In a telegram President Roosevelt expressed "feelings of abhorrence of these desperate acts of the enemy" and pledged that "those who participate in these acts of savagery shall not go unpunished."

The names and the deeds, together with voluminous evidence, of those responsible for atrocities are being catalogued daily by the U. S. and all other United Nations, Asst. Atty. Gen. Littell revealed.

Sen. Brewster (R-Me.) said that

Congress is ready to ask Prime Minister Churchill to re-open Palestine to Jewish refugees "whenever the Commander-in-Chief finds it practicable to withdraw the military veto which has

been imposed."

Additional "free ports" for refugees was urged by Henry Monsky, president of B'nai B'rith. Other speakers included Dr. Geza Takaro of the First Magyar

Reformed Church, former Justice Proskauer, president of the American Jewish Committee, and Adolph Held, chairman of the Jewish Labor Committee. A telegram from Gov. Dewey was read by Dr. Stephen S. Wise, who presided. The rally was sponsored by the American Jewish Conference, its 63 affiliates, and eight other organizations.



THOUSANDS jammed Madison Square Park yesterday to attend a rally to protest against Nazi atrocities and the failure of the United Nations to rescue surviving Jews of Europe. Post Photo by Calvoco

000013

For Immediate Release

Add Mass Meeting Story

PROSKAUER MAKES EIGHT-POINT INDICTMENT OF
NAZIS AT MASS MEETING FOR HUNGARIAN JEWS

Declaring that "this great assemblage speaks the soul and the will of America and prosecutes the suit of America in the court of the conscience of the civilized world to stay the axe of the executioner and lift the lash of the torturer from the thousands of innocent and unoffending Jews who still have life but little more within the boundaries of Hungary," Judge Joseph M. Proskauer, President of the American Jewish Committee, presented a Bill of Indictment against Hitler and the Nazi regime at the monster mass meeting yesterday afternoon (July 31st) at Madison Square Park, sponsored by the 64 affiliated agencies of the American Jewish Conference with the cooperation of the American Jewish Committee and 7 other national organizations.

In presenting the indictment of civilization, and "to secure and achieve that unity and action necessary to save the remnant of Hungarian Jewry," said Judge Proskauer, "we must make clear to Christian and to Jew the essential and ultimate significance of the Hitler barbarism now seeking to impose on mankind the shame of its own ultimate in degradation."

The indictment made by Judge Proskauer charged the Hitler government with "the highest crimes in recorded history." He made the following points in his indictment:

1. That Hitler "brought upon a peaceful world the holocaust of war."
2. That he "debased war itself," devising "a new form of conquest that threw aside all those restraints with which chivalry and the laws of nations had sought to ameliorate the unbelievable horror of armed conflict."
3. That he "desecrated the shrines of religion with ruthless blasphemy, turning Monastery and Abbey, Cathedral and Church, Synagogue and Temple into ashes and rubble under his blasphemous onslaught."

(more)

000014

4. That "irrespective of military objectives he purloined the art treasures of nations and has wantonly destroyed the monuments of art which he could not steal."

5. That he turned back to "mediaeval darkness by subjugating to slavery the conquered men and women of the countries upon whose lands his armies have trampled."

6. That he created "a new climax of man's inhumanity to man" by using "cruelty for cruelty's sake and by torturing for the mere delight of the sadist torturer."

7. That he has "visited on the Jewish people, without even the faint trace of the shame and humanity of the common hangman, the most unabashed and calculated cruelty since the Jews wept by the waters of Babylon."

8. That "he has not only sought to destroy merely the religion of the Jews, but religion itself, and to substitute for the sublime cadences of the Decalogue and the Sermon on the Mount the raucous dissonances of a hymn of universal hate."

Sounding a note of optimism, Judge Proskauer gave thanks to the churchmen of the world,-- to Pope Pius XII, the Archbishop of Canterbury, Archbishop Francis J. Spellman, Presiding Bishop Henry St. George Tucker, and Bishop Francis J. McConnell,-- who "with scores of others are valiantly enlisting all the forces of Christianity in this holy cause of ameliorating the plight of the sufferers from Hitlerism."

He, too, "praised the stalwart endeavors of our great Allies, Great Britain and Russia, and that indefatigable service which was given by the leaders of our own beloved America,-- mighty powers who are using everything which in them lies for the salvation of these threatened and innocent victims."

7/31/44

#####

000015

FOR RELEASE MONDAY, JULY 31, 4:45
PM

EXCERPTS FROM ADDRESS BY DR. STEPHEN S. WISE, CO-CHAIRMAN
OF THE AMERICAN JEWISH CONFERENCE AND PRESIDENT OF THE
AMERICAN JEWISH CONGRESS, DELIVERED AT THE MADISON SQUARE
PART DEMONSTRATION IN BEHALF OF THE JEWS OF HUNGARY,
MONDAY, JULY 31, 1944.

American Jewry stands united in this day as never before in its history of three centuries. Faction and schism have been cancelled in the consuming desire to serve our brothers in Hungary threatened by hurt and crime and death. These, the Jews of Hungary, have lived as a devotedly loyal part of the population of their country, my own personal ancestors included, over a number of centuries. Jews and their Christian neighbors have lived together on terms of true comradeship and unshakeable friendship.

Over night Hungary, alas a Hitler satellite country, has become the destroyer of the Jews throughout the land. Some hundreds of thousands have been deported and doomed to the most horrible of deaths and the survivors, half a million or more, live in terror of their fate.

I thank God this day that we do not stand alone. The greatest and the noblest of earth have pleaded our cause, beginning with the President, the Pope and the King of Sweden. In many ways these great personalities and other of lesser stature have pleaded the cause of the Jew and the cause of justice. Great numbers of workers and their organizations in many lands have expressed their sympathy with the fate of Hungary's unhappy Jews. We know that the President and the Secretaries of State, Hull and Eden, have spoken and will speak again. Through the Pope, the President might even address himself to the rulers of Hungary in such terms of warning as he is best fitted to utter, in such solemn appeal as he alone can speak.

If the world did not before 1933 and 1939 know, it now understands the truth that organized wrong and hurt to the Jew invariably mean that civilization is renounced by the wrong doers, that Christianity is denied by them, that the doers of wrong to the Jew would destroy the eternal values which, through the Jew, his law-givers and his Prophets, God first gave to men.

We are not met this day to plot vengeance, nor even retribution. In all we are and do, we are law-abiding citizens of our beloved country and we have the satisfaction of knowing that our fellow-Americans share our grief and are resolved through our Government to do all that may rightfully and lawfully be done to save the unslain Jews of Hungary. It

000016

is the last goodly Jewish population of Europe which Hitler has not murdered. These are not combatants but civilians, not the young and the able-bodied but women and the aged and children who are marked for slaughter that a people may be exterminated, of whom he has killed four millions.

President and Pope, Archbishop and King, the people of our country and the workers of many lands, have spoken. Once again we beseech the three leaders of the United Nations, our great President, true leader of Democracy, Roosevelt, Churchill, Stalin to urge, to warn, to demand that this dastardly deed against the defenseless be not done. It is not the people of Hungary to whom warning and threat should be spoken, but Hitler's Hungarian quislings, covetous and murderous. This is their final test and they will be adjudged by their conduct in this hour. Mercy will not be shown to the merciless. To the plain people of Hungary we cry out - Save your proud country from this shame, help the Jews of your land to find refuge, be to them shelter and shield until the day of your liberation, which will be the day of victory for the United Nations.

Your leaders chose wrongly and you suffer. Now choose you rightly. End your sufferings and say to your masters - to the Jews you and we must do justice and show mercy. They are our neighbors, our friends, our brothers. We Christians are blessed by their gifts to us. As we pray for God's mercy, so let us be more than merciful, just and brotherly, to the Jews of our country. If we permit the Jews of Hungary to be destroyed, we will never, never be able to forgive ourselves and the world will forever think of us as if we, too, had been Nazis.

The awfulness of the hour calls for extraordinary measures. Let the leaders of the Democracies bethink themselves anew every day. Half a million Jews are in most terrible peril. They must not die. They must be free to live, to share in the building of a new and free world. God help proud Hungary to choose and to pursue the right.

PRESS RELEASE

American JEWISH CONFERENCE

521 FIFTH AVENUE NEW YORK 17, N. Y.
Telephone MUrray Hill 2-7197

FOR RELEASE MONDAY, JULY 31, 4:45 PM

Text of Declaration adopted at Mass Meeting Sponsored
by American Jewish Conference at Madison Square Park
July 31st, 1944

Meeting in the shadow of a tragedy unparalleled in human history, this great gathering of American Jews reaffirms its deep faith in the cause for which the Armed Forces of our nation and those of our gallant allies are shedding their blood on all battlefields. As a result of their magnificent achievements, the day of liberation for all the enslaved peoples of the world has been hastened and is almost at hand.

Heartened as we are by these signs of approaching victory, we are nevertheless moved to despair when we contemplate that by the time the war will be won, the largest part of the Jewish populations in Europe may have been exterminated. For millions have already been put to death and those who survive live in danger of a similar fate. The openly avowed threat of the Nazi regime to destroy every last Jew in the territories under its control today assumes gruesome reality.

Meeting under the open sky in this free City of New York, we call Heaven and Earth to witness that civilization will have suffered an overwhelming defeat if Hitler is allowed to achieve his purpose. For the Jew in every land under Nazi control was the first target of Hitler's attack on that land and subsequently on civilization itself. We declare that it is not yet too late to deny victory to Nazism also on this front and thus save thousands upon thousands for the day of liberation.

In the name of God and Humanity, and of those ideals for which the democratic world fights today, we appeal in the first instance to the President

000018

and the Government of the United States, and through them to the United Nations and to the neutral states, to employ the following measures of rescue without further delay:

I. By means of warnings, broadcasts and all other forms of communication, the Hungarian Government and people should be made to realize that they will not be allowed to escape full responsibility for the crimes now being committed on their territory; and that they themselves must make every possible effort to halt the death march and protect the Jews under their control.

II. In the light of Admiral Horthy's recent offer to the International Red Cross to release all Jewish children under ten who can obtain foreign visas, as well as adults with Palestine visas, we urge the United Nations to adopt immediately all measures leading to the evacuation of these people.

III. The protection of the United States and the other United Nations should be formally and openly extended to the helpless victims of Nazi persecution within the occupied territories.

IV. Appropriate measures should be taken to induce the Axis government to equalize the status of Jews in Nazi-occupied territories, who are deprived of freedom of movement, with that of prisoners of war, military or civilian, in accordance with the Geneva Convention of 1929.

V. Since Palestine is the nearest country of refuge for Jews in the Balkan countries, its doors should be fully opened to them by the Mandatory power, and Turkey, which is the most available country of transit, should be induced to open its frontiers.

VI. The United States and the other United Nations should declare that all territories under their administration are open to all

Jews who can be rescued and the neutral nations shall likewise declare that they will facilitate the transit of these people to the aforementioned territories.

VII. Since starvation continues to be one of Hitler's most effective weapons of destruction, all means should be taken by the United Nations, consistent with the war effort, to bring food and medicaments to the endangered Jews under the auspices of the International Red Cross.

VIII. All measures should be taken by the military authorities, with the help of the underground forces, to destroy the implements, facilities, and places where the Nazis have carried out their mass executions.

We solemnly declare that every hour of delay in implementing these measures increases the agony and suffering of those Jews who are still under Axis domination and adds new thousands to the death toll.

We cannot remain silent. We demand and confidently expect that the United States and the other United Nations will move swiftly to rescue those who can still be saved, and punish the guilty for their inhuman crimes.

~~P~~RESS RELEASE

American JEWISH CONFERENCE

521 FIFTH AVENUE NEW YORK 17, N. Y.

Telephone MUrray Hill 2-7197

FOR RELEASE MONDAY, JULY 31, 4:45 P.M.

EXCERPTS OF ADDRESS BY SENATOR OWEN BREWSTER OF MAINE AT
MASS MEETING IN MADISON SQUARE PARK, NEW YORK CITY, ON
MONDAY AFTERNOON JULY 31st, 1944, SPONSORED BY THE
AMERICAN JEWISH CONFERENCE

HUMANITY CALLING

All the sadistic tendencies of Nazi Germany find peculiar expression in their persecution of the Jew.

Christendom cries out against the horrors being perpetrated in Europe and Asia by men mad with lust for power. The ear and the heart of America has always been open to the cries of those who are in distress.

Cuba and the Philippines afford examples of American concern over persecution.

Armenia and its sufferings have been an object of national solicitude for America.

Twenty years ago under Calvin Coolidge the United States entered into a solemn convention with Great Britain concerning Palestine based on the mandate given Britain by the League of Nations.

Under the Mandate Great Britain undertakes to "place Palestine under such political administrative and economic conditions as will secure the establishment of the Jewish national home -- and the development of self-governing institutions."

Churchill as a private member of Parliament denounced the White Paper of 1939 as a gross violation of the Balfour Declaration and the Palestinian Mandate.

Today as Palestine affords the nearest haven for a half million Jewish refugees from Hungary their road is blocked by the White Paper limiting Jewish immigration to 25,000 in plain defiance of the Balfour Declaration as made crystal clear in these words by Winston Churchill speaking:

"What is that but the destruction of the Balfour Declaration."

"What is that but a breach of faith."

"There is the breach."

"There is the violation of the pledge."

"There is the abandonment of the Balfour Declaration."

"What is called in the jargon of the present time a unilateral denunciation of an engagement."

000021

"There is the end of the vision, of the hope, of the dream."

"We are now asked to submit and this is what rankles most with me to an agitation which is fed with foreign money and ceaselessly inflamed by Nazi and Fascist propaganda."

Palestine can be thrown open to save a half million Jewish refugees from Hungary whenever British policy will find it possible to permit British honor to be redeemed.

Churchill has the key to unlock the doors of Palestine. Churchill has made it clear that restriction of Jewish immigration is a plain violation of the Balfour Declaration.

The Congress of the United States is ready to ask Churchill to reopen the doors of Palestine in accordance with the British pledge whenever the Commander-in-Chief finds it practicable to withdraw the military veto which has been imposed.

The military situation is changing for the better very rapidly and particularly in the Near East.

Reconsideration of the situation may well be expected daily in view of the tragic consequences involved in the present ban.

Arab oil must not be permitted to weigh in the balance with suffering humanity.

President Roosevelt has authorized the statement that the United States has never approved of the White Paper.

Governor Dewey has urged the abrogation of the White Paper and the opening of the doors of Palestine to the victims of Hitlerian persecution.

The Democratic National Platform contains the following resolution on Palestine:

"We favor the opening of Palestine to unrestricted Jewish immigration and colonization, and such a policy as to result in the establishment there of a free and democratic Jewish commonwealth."

The Republican National Platform contains the following resolution on Palestine:

"In order to give refuge to millions of distressed Jewish men, women and children driven from their homes by tyranny, we call for the opening of Palestine to their unrestricted immigration and land ownership, so that in accordance with the full intent and purpose of the Balfour Declaration of 1917 and the Resolution of a Republican Congress in 1922, Palestine may be constituted as a free and democratic Commonwealth. We condemn the failure of the President to insist that the mandatory of Palestine carry out the provision of the Balfour Declaration and of the Mandate while he pretends to support them."

"We favor the prompt extension of relief and emergency assistance to the peoples of the liberated countries without duplication and conflict between government agencies."

"We favor immediate feeding of the starving children of our Allies and friends in the Nazi-dominated countries and we condemn the New Deal administration for its failure, in the face of humanitarian demands, to make any effort to do this."

The historic role of America as the good Samaritan may well be implemented in modern form by extending aid to the starving millions of Europe and by continuing to urge the opening of Palestine to the persecuted Jews of Europe.

There is the logical and natural place for the Jewish National Home.

That is recognized in the Balfour Declaration and in the Coolidge Convention.

Both great political parties support this in their national platform.

Surely America will soon find it time to act.

Words no longer will suffice.

* * *

COPY

COPY

COPY

WESTERN UNION

THE WHITEHOUSE WASHINGTON DC JUL 30 1944

DR STEPHEN S WISE

AMERICAN JEWISH CONFERENCE
521 FIFTH AVE NYK

PLEASE EXPRESS TO THOSE GATHERED AT THE MEETING TO PROTEST THE
DEPORTATIONS AND CRUELITIES VISITED UPON THE REMAINING JEWISH
COMMUNITY OF EUROPE MY FEELINGS OF ABHORRENCE OF THESE DESPERATE
ACTS OF THE ENEMY. I REPEAT TO ALL CONCERNED MY EARLIER WARNING
THAT THOSE WHO PARTICIPATE IN THESE ACTS OF SAVAGERY SHALL NOT
GO UNPUNISHED

FRANKLIN D ROOSEVELT

332A JUL 31

000024

FOR RELEASE MONDAY, JULY 31, 4:45 P.M.

MESSAGE FROM GOVERNOR THOMAS E. DEWEY
TO MASS MEETING IN MADISON SQUARE PARK
HELD ON MONDAY, JULY 31st, SPONSORED BY
THE AMERICAN JEWISH CONFERENCE

"All Americans join in expressing horror at the persecution of the Jewish people in the Nazi-occupied countries of Europe. The heart of all America is with you in today's demonstration against the extermination of European Jews. If ever there was an example of man's inhumanity to man, it has been furnished by the beasts of Berlin, who set the whole world on fire, and who are now, fortunately, on the run, thanks to the brave men and women of the United Nations on the battlefields of Europe.

"There is symbolic justice in the fact that the first allied general to cross into German territory in this war is a Jew, General Cherniakhovsky.

"The Jewish people are not alone the victims in the present war, but the Jewish people have been singled out for wholesale slaughter by a maniac dictator, and the whole world is outraged by the unspeakable cruelties committed against them. We must do everything humanly possible to stay the bloody hand of Hitlerism in occupied Hungary, where there are still hundreds of thousands of Jews who can be saved. Let the Nazis and their satellites be warned that there will be a day of reckoning -- and soon -- for their crimes.

"As Governor of the Empire State, I convey to you the sympathy and support of the people of the State of New York."

THOMAS E. DEWEY

000025

PRESS RELEASE

American JEWISH CONFERENCE

521 FIFTH AVENUE NEW YORK 17, N. Y.
Telephone MUrray Hill 2-7197

For Release, Monday, July 31, 4:45 P.M.

Hungary and the New Captivity
~~A Message to Hungary and Occupied Europe~~

by

Norman M. Littell, Assistant United States Attorney General,
and Secretary of the National Committee
Against Persecution of the Jews

Delivered at Mass Meeting sponsored by the
American Jewish Conference, Madison Square Park, New York

We are not here to consider only the fate of 400,000 surviving Jews in Hungary. Hungary is only one of the satellite and conquered powers. What has transpired there in respect to the balance of about 1,000,000 Jews in pre-war Hungary merely repeats what has occurred in other satellite and conquered countries from the Aegean to the Baltic Sea.

Too many American citizens and citizens of other democracies refuse to believe, and label as "propaganda atrocity stories" the truth about the German policy of exterminating so-called "inferior races" in Europe today. Now that the collapse of Germany is rapidly approaching, and satellite governments are lingering only in the shadow of Hitler's waning power, we must squarely face the facts, for the facts of today will make the world of tomorrow.

Let us clearly perceive that we do not confront a problem of the Jews alone. Hitler himself laid down the pattern of his program and we would not believe him. He said: (*1)

"We are obliged to depopulate as part of our mission of preserving the German population. We shall have to develop a technique of depopulation. If you ask me what I mean by depopulation, I mean the removal of entire racial units. And that is what I intend to carry out - that, roughly, is my task. Nature is cruel, therefore we, too, may be cruel. If I can send the flower of the German nation into the hell of war without the smallest pity for the spilling of precious German blood, then surely I have the right to remove millions of an inferior race that breeds like vermin!"

Whether under German domination as a conquered power, or under German influence as a satellite power, the policy has been the same; to weaken and debilitate the so-called "inferior races" - the Jews were not alone. Vast areas of Europe have been depopulated. Millions of Frenchmen have been separated from their families; Dutchmen have been taken from the

*1 - "The Voice of Destruction" by Herman Rauschning, p. 137

000026

Netherlands to the Baltic States; and Poles and Czechs have been uprooted from their own countries to work in servitude elsewhere, while deliberate under-nourishment in occupied countries has increased rickets, anemia, and other diseases, including tuberculosis, which has increased as much as sixty percent in some countries. Millions of children who would have been born to the French, Poles, Bulgarians, Dutch, Norwegians, Yugoslavs, Greeks and Russians will never be born, thereby depressing population around Germany and creating future living space for the Huns.

No race has paid so dearly before this systematic policy of extermination as the 8,300,000 (*2) Jews in German-held Europe. By 1942 their story was being told in authenticated figures. The British Ministry of Economic Warfare in December of 1942 reported as deported to "unknown destinations" 280,000 Jews from Rumania; 73,000 from Alsace-Lorraine; 70,000 from France; 57,000 from Czechoslovakia; over 40,000 from Holland; 1,000 from Norway, in addition to tens of thousands from Poland, Germany, Austria and Czechoslovakia - a total of 500,000 for 1942 alone.

The numbers have swelled since, including a possible 600,000 from Hungary, of which about 113,000 went to labor camps in Germany and the balance to unknown fates.

Packed into freight cars, in the towns and cities of conquered countries, with floors of the cars covered with unslaked lime and doors sealed tight, less than one-third of such shipments would survive two days' travel in this automatic gas chamber. Sometimes freezing weather was sufficient, for cattle cars packed with human beings, had no heat. In one such case witnessed by an American friend of mine in Poland in 1941, when a transport train stopped on the snow-covered plains near Lublin and a German guard rolled back the doors and yelled "Raus!" ("Get out") - no one stirred, and he yelled again impatiently. None moved. All were dead.

Survivors of this diabolical technique of extermination, in other trainloads and truckloads, reached Poland (*3) from many countries. Two principal centers have been the concentration camps at Auschwitz and Birkenwald, although there were other points such as Minsk, where Austrian and Czech Jews were brought in large numbers. Families that had already been broken up at the city where they were loaded for shipment, were classified according to their capacity to work. At points of arrival, food was grossly inadequate and working conditions were so severe that the best of health would be undermined within a few weeks. After periodic inspections, cards were issued to those still capable of working, and the rest were herded off to concentration camps such as Birkenwald and Auschwitz, and crowded into barracks where poison gas completed the process of extermination.

*2 - "Hitler's Two-Year War on the Jews", N.Y., 1933, International Press, Page 300.

*3 - Sources of information as to concentration camps cannot be revealed for reasons of security.

Authenticated accounts fit together like parts of a jig-saw puzzle, revealing the hideous tragedy in Poland, which the Germans have made the official slaughter-house of European Jewry. Let us confront concrete examples: 4,000 Jews were delivered from Theresienstadt on September 7, 1943; all were killed in gas chambers at Birkenwald by March 7, 1944 - all except several pairs of twins delivered to the hygienic institute for medical experimentation. Human beings were regularly used as guinea-pigs for medical experimentation. Many were killed by phenol injections over the heart, and some preferred this method of death rather than the gas chamber. A large transport containing 7,000 Slovakian Jewish girls arrived at Auschwitz in March, 1942. Without exploring in detail the fate of these girls, by the spring of 1944 only 400 of them were still alive.

The regular practice on arrival of large transports of Jews in the spring of 1942 was to admit about ten percent of able-bodied men and about five percent of able-bodied women. The balance, including elderly people, women with small children, children separated from their families, and persons ill or otherwise unsuited for work, were taken directly to Birkenwald to the gas barracks.

Facts and figures as to transport after transport could be given. It is sufficient to say that by the end of February 1943, four newly constructed cremating furnaces and gas units had been put into operation in Birkenwald alone. They are in operation now. The two larger chambers have capacity for two-thousand persons each. A cyanide preparation is sprinkled from three openings in the ceiling by German guards wearing gas masks, and the occupants of the room are dead within a few minutes. The capacity of all four units is 8,000 persons per day.

The opening of the cremation furnaces at Birkenwald early in March 1943 was celebrated by the destruction of 8,000 Jews in ~~the~~ ~~Belzec~~, and was attended by Nazi officials and high-ranking army officers from Berlin, who declared themselves well satisfied after witnessing ~~the~~ *through a glass panel* ~~the~~ tragedy within the gas chambers.

The Germans leave no stone unturned to conceal from future generations the proof of these crimes. Similar camps such as Malkini Treblinka near Bialystok and Belzec near Bug, which were functioning a few months ago, have been completely eradicated, and no trace of them remains. There are no tell-tale burial grounds as in the earlier mass killings such as that at Lublin, Poland, when thousands were mowed down by machine guns. At Auschwitz, Birkenwald, and other camps, cremation of bodies destroys the evidence, and later the camps, themselves, with their gas chambers and cremation furnaces, will be destroyed. Investigations will confront skillfully prepared legal evidence, for the Nazis have preserved "liberation forms" which are carefully filled out with data on all those who were killed at the camps, and these are filed in archives to prove that these people were not killed but were released.

The transport of 4,000 Jews, which I mentioned, from Theresienstadt, arriving in Birkenwald in 1943, was definitely designated for six months of "quarantine." All of these people were forced on March 1, 1944, to write postcards to relatives in foreign countries, dated March 23 to 26, stating that they were in good health and asking for packages of food and clothing. All were killed on March 7 (except the several pairs of twins already mentioned.) Many of these cards were received in Switzerland, and unquestionably in other countries as well, and packages were sent in good faith.

Much of what happened during Germany's conquest in the occupation of Europe was successfully concealed or obscured, but now in the path of retreat the curtain of secrecy is rolled back. The Soviet Government has revealed incontrovertible evidence of what happened in Vilna, Brest-Litovsk, Bialystok, Minsk, Baranowice, Kiev, Riga, Luck, and countless other cities where mass executions in tens of thousands occurred.

The policy of extermination practiced in conquest and occupation is carried out systematically in the path of retreat. For example, after Germany retired before the Russian advance at Minsk, the last surviving members of the Jewish population whom the Germans had saved as mechanics, were locked in a building, gasoline was poured on the building, and all were destroyed by fire.

Without compounding further the concrete evidence, let us sum up the known facts in regard to Camp Birkenwald alone: Transports have arrived regularly from Holland, France, Belgium, Italy, Bulgaria, Rumania, Hungary, - from all points in conquered and occupied Europe. For a period of two years from April 1942 and April 1944, between 1,500,000 to 1,750,000 Jews were killed in the manner I have described.

In all Europe, it is estimated that approximately 4,000,000 Jews have been killed. This does not include the mass killings of non-Jews, Poles, Czechs and Russians, in carrying out the German policy of reducing Slavic populations.

Let no one think that the Nazi party only is to blame. The "master race" illusion has been trained and ingrained deeply into the German mind. Innumerable quotations from literary, political and military writers could be given. As the poet, Heinrich von Kleist, said:

"Kill - the world tribunal will not ask you
for the reasons!"

General Count von Haeseler said in an address to his troops in 1893: (4*)

"It is necessary that our civilization build its
temple on mountains of corpses, on an ocean of
tears and on the death cries of men without number."

*4 - "Europe and the German Question by F. W. Foerster, Page 126

In 1914 General von Disfurth said: (*5)

"Every act, no matter what the nature, committed by our troops for the purpose of discouraging, defeating, and destroying our enemies is a brave act and a good deed, and is fully justified. . . . We should not worry about the opinions and reactions in neutral countries. Germany stands as the supreme arbiter of her own methods, which in time of war must be dictated to the world . . . They call us barbarians. What of it? We scorn them and their abuse. For my part, I hope that in this war we have merited the title of barbarians."

The Nazis are the natural heirs of the Junker heritage. As Jankow Janeff, one of the spiritual leaders of the Nazis and a member of the staff of Alfred Rosenberg said: (*6)

"The new Europe will be a continent restored to barbarism... Christianity no longer can help us! . . . Anything that is soft, or alien to our nature, will be destroyed. . . . Only he who is hard enough, he who knows the joy of cruelty, can be historically effective today. . . . Only he who shrinks from nothing can today claim the right to work for the future."

Certain Junker generals are differing with Hitler now on technical military grounds, because their own estates in Prussia are threatened with the Russian tidal wave in the East, and because of sure defeat before the attacks of our men and the Allied forces in the West, and not because they disagree with Hitler's objectives or are at last converted to love for democracy and respect for human rights. Hitler, as the natural heir of Pan-Germanism, summed the matter up for three generations of Germans: (*7)

"Terror is the most effective political instrument. I shall not permit myself to be robbed of it simply because a lot of stupid, bourgeois molly-coddles choose to be offended by it . . . My behavior in wartime will be no different. The most horrible warfare is the kindest. I shall spread terror by the surprise employment of all my measures. The important thing is the sudden shock of an overwhelming fear of death."

and by the fine irony of history, led by a Jewish General Cherniak-Hovskiy

The nation-subscribed guilt in Germany reaches far down into the ranks. It is no defense against charges of ruthless slaughter and extermination to say that German soldiers were compelled to obey orders. Can anyone imagine any of the boys from New York, Texas, Indiana, Wyoming, or any other state, machine-gunning defenseless women and children because they were ordered to do so? Clearly not. They would simply refuse to obey an order which violated their basic instincts of decency and humanity, and heaven help the officers who might give such an order!

*5 "Hamburger Nachrichten", November, 1914

*6 "Heroism and World-Petr" by Jankow Janeff, 1937.

*7 "The Voice of Destruction" by Hermann Ra uschning, page 83.

000030

Indeed, it is our very instincts of decency and humanity which now could impede the meting out of justice, for our minds recoil at the truth before us, and we are inclined not to believe the facts. The Nazi relied upon this. In addition to obscuring and destroying the evidence of crimes, as I have related, Hitler relied upon the incredulity which goes with the good will of the Democracies and upon our traditional willingness to forgive and forget.

We must face the facts. Helpless women and children have faced them in death, surely we can face them in life, and make a solemn pledge that these dead shall not have died in vain. At the crossroads of civilization, this is our sacred responsibility to humanity. What Thomas Jefferson said in 1802 is truer than ever today:

"Nor are we, acting for ourselves alone, but for the whole human race. . . The eyes of suffering humanity are fixed on us with anxiety as their only hope . . ."

In the eyes of humanity, in the light of history, and in legal fact, we are dedicated to the fundamental concept that,

". . . all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness."

One hundred and fifty years ago we embarked bravely on the eternal voyage for greater fulfillment in the unlimited possibilities of spiritual and mental development of the individual. These aims are not secured by declarations. They are not self-operating, nor can they stand alone in a world where the light of justice has gone out. Basic to them all is one fundamental concept - that of individual justice. In our great land no man may be imprisoned without cause. No man may be punished without trial. Here, who would live by violence, robbery, and murder, is pursued, apprehended, and punished under law.

Let us supply these simple standards of our daily lives which are common to every democracy, to countries which would live among us in the family of nations. Let every citizen insist, in dealing with a nation which has run amuck in murder unprecedented in the history of mankind, that our Government join with others in demanding inexorable judgment of the guilty.

For the German nation, let free peoples everywhere dedicate themselves to holding this nation in check, by every necessary means, until education has eradicated mad and barbaric concepts of the so-called "master race", and until that nation has learned for itself the lessons of humility and respect for other members of the family of nations.

such
This, however, is not enough. As to the individuals in Germany, guilty of the crimes which we have witnessed, there must be punishment that all future generations may remember, for even as the collapse of Germany draws near, plans and threats of the next war to come are emanating from the Reich. As recently as July 7, 1944, Goebbels said in a mass meeting broadcast

throughout the nation:

"We know perfectly well that for us there will be no possibility of refighting this conflict in ten, twenty or fifty years' time if now, at the decisive moment of our history, we do not show ourselves capable of withstanding the united onslaught of our enemies."

Here is the latest admission from the mouth of one of the leading war criminals, of Germany's historic mission, of its unconcealed plans for World War III if Germany should lose World War II, as it is now losing. Can world justice meet the challenge and by adequate punishment give future generations of Germans something to remember, - something to show that murder does not pay?

Let me state here and now that your Government will know who the criminals are in Germany when the day for their judgment comes. Lest anyone doubt this, and for the sake of enslaved millions, and those in concentration camps facing continued brutality, let me state here and now a few of those names on the lists of war criminals. I have told you what has happened - what is happening - at Auschwitz and Birkenwald. Let me address this message to the perpetrators of crimes there:

To Lager Fuhrer Grabner, Head of the Gestapo Political Section, to Untersturn Fuhrer Schwarz Huber from Tyro, Commandant of Birkenwald, to Lagerkorn and Anthooss, to Dr. Entrest, Camp physician who has supervised the inoculation of so many men to their death, to Oberschar Fuhrer Politsch and Scharf Fuhrer Stiwetz and storm troopers S. S. Scharf Fuhrer Mykloff and S. S. Mannkler - to name only a few, I say beware, beware, for your days are numbered and your crimes are known.

To the high-ranking policy-determining Nazi officials and representatives of the military who elbowed each other out of the way to see through the peepholes into the gas chamber of Birkenwald at its ceremonial opening in March, 1943, and who pronounced the operations of this wholesale murder plant a marked success, we know you. Justice will overtake you.

Already trials have commenced in Algiers. Officers in charge of the concentration camp, De Jeuon at Bou Rezj, are on trial. The proof of their brutalities will lead them to the firing squad.

To those in satellite or conquered countries who carried favor with the would-be Master Race by aiding in their brutal acts of tyranny, - to such men as Fibigs, Granowskis, Valdis and the brothers Briker, the owners of the hotel at Goldingen - the eldest of whom threw a little girl, Hella Holzmann, into the air and shot at her; to others such as Dreika, Minners and Psogdanova of Modoln, in Latvia - to each and every one of you in numbers beyond the possibility of mention here, and to all others who might yet be induced to join in such acts of barbarism, know that your deeds are recorded and the proof is filed.

To officials and citizens in the Hungarian Government, to Andre Yards, Chief of the Jewish Department of the Ministry of the Interior, to Laszlo Endre, Deputy Chief of the Jewish Department of the Ministry of the Interior, to Prime Minister Sztoday, former Ambassador to Germany, to Laszlo Baky, Deputy Chief of that department, to Magy Lajos Dovenyi, Liaison Officer.

000032

between Hungary and the German Armies, to Oezrari Zrokai, Head of the Central Police, to Tibor Kelody, Mayor of Budapest, to Bela Imredy, former Premier and leading pro-Nazi, and even to Lassa lo Megey, Mayor of Ungvar, Hungary, who cleared the streets and ordered all highway communications stopped when Christian citizens brought food and clothing to those gathered for transportation and ultimate extermination. To these and others in Hungary who hold the destiny of the fate of 400,000 surviving Jews, the eyes of outraged humanity are upon you. We hail as an early sign of your escape from the would-be Master Race, Hungary's agreement with the American Red Cross that these refugees may leave unmolested. We hail the welcome offered to these refugees in neutral countries such as Sweden and above all, in Palestine, for in these things we see that humanity survives in Europe. All will be weighed in the scale when the day of judgment comes. (insert A)

Only a few names have been given here. To many thousands more of the German prison-keepers of Europe, your names and your deeds are known. They are catalogued day by day here in a card-index system, supported by voluminous files of evidence. Similar records are kept by every government in exile, and by every allied nation. The day of reckoning is coming, as surely as your defenses are crumbling under attack from without and disintegration from within. Until that day of reckoning, we warn you and we advise you in the name of outraged humanity, in the name of all allied nations, and in these words recently proclaimed by Franklin D. Roosevelt, President of the United States:

"...we...proclaim our determination that none who participate in these acts of savagery shall go unpunished. The United Nations have made it clear that they will pursue the guilty and deliver them up in order that justice be done. That warning applies not only to the leaders but also to their functionaries and subordinates in Germany and in the satellite countries. All who knowingly take part in the deportation of Jews to their death in Poland or Norwegians and French to their death in Germany are equally guilty with the executioner. All who share the guilt shall share the punishment.

Hitler is committing these crimes against humanity in the name of the German people. I ask every German and every man everywhere under Nazi domination to show the world by his action that in his heart he does not share those insane criminal desires. Let him hide these pursued victims, help them to get over their borders, and do what he can to save them from the Nazi hangman. I ask him also to keep watch, and to record the evidence that will one day be used to convict the guilty."

(A) Let Hungary hear today the voice which spoke about 3500 years ago to ~~another tyrant~~ Pharaoh, "Let my People go!"

May the United Nations dedicate themselves to this purpose, for then and then only will it be engraved deep in the annals of history, where all future generations may see, that the human spirit cannot be chained by tyranny. Then, and then only, will the prison doors of Europe swing open, and those who survive within, will come forth into a world free of fear, with faith in justice restored. Let us not forget, it was they who, pacing their prison cells, have taught us anew what freedom means. In closing, I quote the immortal lines written of a prisoner, who, for resisting tyranny in another age, wore smooth the stones in his prison cell in the Castle of Chillon;

Eternal spirit of the chainless mind!
Brightest in dungeons, Liberty thou art,
For there thy habitation is the heart -
The heart which love of thee alone can bind;
And when thy sons to fetters are consigned -
To fetters, and the damp, false, dayless gloom,
Their country conquers with their martyrdom,
And freedom's fame finds wings on every wind.
Chillon, thy prison is a holy place,
And its sad steps and alter for 'twas trod.
Only his very steps have left a trace,
By Bonniard. May none these marks efface,
For they appeal from tyranny to God.

PRESS RELEASE

American **JEWISH CONFERENCE**
521 FIFTH AVENUE - NEW YORK 17, N. Y.
Telephone MUrray Hill 2-7197

Address by HENRY MONSKY, President of B'NAI B'RITH
and Co-Chairman of AMERICAN JEWISH CONFERENCE at MASS MEETING.

We are gathered again to give expression to the profound feeling of revulsion that every person of decent instincts must have toward the murder and massacre of hundreds of thousands - yes, millions - of our co-religionists, unfortunate victims of the Nazi campaign of annihilation, executed so ruthlessly by Quislings and puppet regimes.

It is gratifying that this meeting, initiated by the American Jewish Conference, marks the first important effort of complete cooperation on the part of all agencies in Jewish life, whose fields of service touch the problem created by the gravest tragedy in the long dark history of the people of Israel. This meeting is the symbol of joint effort and common action - indispensable imperatives if we are to serve with any measure of benefit in this hour of crisis.

The reports on the slaughter of Hungarian Jews are so shocking as to be wholly incredible were it not this awful human sacrifice is readily recognized as just another tragic manifestation of the same barbaric and cruel inhumanity which has characterized the Nazi program of extermination and devastation, in whatever land they have invaded and infested, with their philosophy of hate and their mad lust for power and conquest.

One hundred thousand Jews, we are told, were recently deported from Hungary to Poland and were gassed in the German death camp of Oswiecim - yes, we are told that 400,000 Hungarian Jews have already been deported, and in that same report we are told that 350,000 more of them faced immediate annihilation. While it is true, as Foreign Secretary

000035

Anthony Eden of Great Britain said recently, "The hope of terminating this tragic state of affairs must remain the speedy victory of the Allied Nations," we note with satisfaction the attitude and the activities of our Government and of its Allies, which we believe to be responsible for the most recent report that the Hungarian Government will permit no more deportations and will grant visas.

Such procedure is consonant with the traditions of the Hungarian people. Hungary struck for freedom when it was a member of the Austro-Hungarian Confederation in 1848. Kossuth, Hungarian national leader, favored Jewish equality, and the National Assembly declared for complete civil and political rights for Jews in 1849. While this policy was temporarily impaired and not implemented, restrictions were removed and official equality proclaimed in 1895, when Judaism was recognized as one of the legal religions of the country.

Except for Nazi control and artificial stimulation, Hungary and its people would be expected to respond to an appeal based upon the principles of decency and morality. Proof of this appears from the reports of the noble and heroic efforts of so many Hungarians, at the risk of their own lives, to shield, protect, conceal and aid their Jewish neighbors against devastation, confiscation of property, and murder.

We may be grateful for the courage and strength of such great church leaders as Justinian Cardinal Seredi of Hungary, who, in a recent speech delivered at Budapest, condemned the Nazi racial theories and demanded that Hungary give protection "to all who are menaced on account of their beliefs or their race." He warned that "the Church will deny sacraments to those who have helped to carry off others and send them to forced labor for ideological reasons, as is the case with the Jews in Hungary. Hungary must remain a state based on her own justice and must

not bow to alien injustice."

Appeals have been made by Pope Pius XII, by the Archbishop of Westminster, the Catholic Primate of Great Britain, the Archbishop of Canterbury, and by the responsible government officials of Great Britain and the U. S., including our President and Secretary of State, and these have undoubtedly retarded in some measure, the wholesale murder of Jews in Hungary, and have brought some hope in the promise of cessation on the part of the Hungarian Government of further deportations and of permission for emigration.

World-wide condemnation by the forces of righteousness, by the free nations and by the churches; the impact of the moral indignation of all free-loving men, have been helpful. The pressure of adverse public opinion on this ruthless disregard of the sacredness of human life has had its effect; but nothing short of practical measures of rescue will actually save the lives of those who may yet be saved.

An extension of the achievement of the War Refugee Board; the establishment of additional free ports in America and elsewhere; the opening of the doors of Palestine, which stands as a beacon light of hope to these thousands of human souls in despair and as a haven of refuge in their hour of tragedy; these and other like measures should be sponsored and inaugurated by the governments of the United Nations, thus making possible collaboration by all of our various private agencies, and offering some realistic hope for rescue during the period yet remaining, before complete victory of the forces of justice over the forces of evil - that victory which now happily seems to be in sight.

000037

Address by ADOLPH HELED, Chairman, JEWISH LABOR COMMITTEE,
at Mass Protest Demonstration Against Hitler Atrocities.

Monday, July 31, 4:45 P. M.,
Madison Square Park
24th Street & Madison Avenue

We are gathered here today to give expression to our grief and indignation at the brutalities perpetrated by the Nazis upon European Jewry. We have come here to demand that the United Nations shall now, in this last hour, do everything possible to rescue and save the survivors.

Let us quicken the conscience of a free world to the enormity of the crimes of the Nazi butchers against our helpless brothers in the ghetto hell-holes of Europe. Let the persecuted in the ghettos, in the concentration camps, know that we are with them in their most tragic hours.

At this moment, we see before us the flames of burning German cities, the Sdoms and Amoraht of the world. Our hearts are beating with joy as the armies of America, England, and Soviet Russia, march forward in occupied and enslaved Europe and in the Pacific. The last hour of Nazism is approaching.

While we rejoice at the steady progress of our Allied armies, we Jews are horrified at the inhuman atrocities committed in Minsk and Pinsk, Bucharest and Budapest, Warsaw and Wilno, Bialystok and Lublin, Berdichev and Lemberg. Each cable telling that no Jews were left in the formerly great Jewish cultural and social centers saddens us and calls upon us fortunate ones; save us, rescue, help!

Together with the most brutal death-march of our people, we have also witnessed the unsurpassed gallantry of the heroes of

000038

the revolts in the ghettos of Warsaw, Bialystok, Lemberg, Lublin, Susnowitz, Tarnow, and others. We shall never forget our brother and sister partisans in the forests, in the mountains, and on the highways. These epic stories call for greater sacrifices in the war which our country, together with all the other United Nations, is at present engaged in.

Our hearts burn with hatred against the murderers. We urge that the criminals be called to account for their ghastly crimes, for the murder of Jewish children, for the slayed Jewish men and women. We demand justice! We demand vengeance for the murder of our people!

We cannot fail to admit the painful truth that not everything possible was done for the rescue of our brothers and sisters overseas. It is our belief that the United Nations have not performed their duty and obligation to the worst victims of Hitlerism -- the Jewish people!

We believe that tens and hundreds of thousands of Jews are still alive. Jews are still to be found in Hungary, Rumania, and Poland. The Nazis, however, have proclaimed it their mission to slaughter the last remaining Jew before their inevitable defeat. We must rescue the surviving Jews from the clutches of the butchers. The death march must be halted!

We know that in the Nazi-occupied countries labor people, trade-unionists, and friends of a democratic world order are still alive. To these people we appeal; Defend the surviving Jews, protect their children, save the women and aged. To the Hungarian people and to the Hungarian labor movement we say: Rise up against the murderers, and massacres of hundreds of thousands of Jews still living among you; resist the Nazi beasts!

We call upon President Roosevelt, our Government, and the governments of the United Nations; Open the doors of your countries for the Nazi victims who may still be saved; provide the necessary transportation facilities so as to accelerate their rescue

To the governments and to the International Red Cross we say: Extend your protection to the Hitler-trapped Jews; provide them with food and medical supplies.

Governments of the free nations: Can there be something more just and humanitarian than a declaration by the United Nations placing under their protections the Jews in the ghettos and in the concentration camps? The Jews who are threatened with extinction must be declared temporary citizens of the Allied countries.

We are marching to victory. Only yesterday the radio announced that in Warsaw the resounding cannon-shots of the approaching Soviet Army can be heard. Across the ~~Vistula~~ Vistula River Russian shells are plopping into the suburb of Praga. Today we were informed of new and decisive victories by the British and American forces on the Normandy peninsula. The enemy is being hit along the entire front. Nazi Germany - bestial Germany - is undergoing an earthquake. The Nazi generals are annihilating one another. In desperation, Hitler and his gang are looking for an escape. No! They shall not have it!!! They shall all be prosecuted for their crimes. The days of justice are at hand.

We believe that in the new world - a world of social and political justice - true freedom and peace will be achieved. It is our fervent hope that in the new world the Jews, as well as the other peoples will be free and equal.

The darkness will vanish. The dawn of a new day is close.

Let us rescue the survivors so that they themselves shall, with our assistance, be able to build on the dead past a free and just world.

000040

23 Wall Street
New York 8

May 17, 1944

THOMAS W. LAMONT

Dear Mr. Weinstein:

When I wrote Judge Proskauer the other day I did not have before me your letter of May 12th with its enclosure. I want to emphasize once more my great sympathy with the whole refugee problem. It is one that is infinitely complex and yet commands the instantaneous sympathy of every one of us. But I am sorry that so far as my active participation is concerned this spring, whether it be as a speaker at your projected meeting or whether it is as a member of your Executive Committee, it is simply out of the question. I do hope you will understand.

Sincerely yours,
Thomas W. Lamont

I. K. Weinstein, Esq.,
Executive Office of the President,
War Refugee Board,
Washington 25, D. C.

000041

23 Wall Street
New York 8

May 16, 1944

THOMAS W. LAMONT

Dear Judge Proskauer:

Replied to yours of the 11th, I have heard about both Mr. Pehle and Mr. Weinstein and of their high reput. But I had a prolonged illness this last winter and I am taking it very easily this spring and summer. In fact, I promised my doctor not to take on any new assignment of any kind until autumn. I know perfectly well beforehand that I am not going to be able to give a favorable response to Mr. Weinstein's invitation whatever it may be. Therefore I don't wish to waste his time in coming down. I cannot refuse to see him if he comes, but this particular assignment, whatever it is, is not for me at this particular moment.

Will you make a date to meet me on one of the first steamers going across the Atlantic after the war with Germany ends? I recall so pleasantly our previous voyages together.

Sincerely yours,

Thomas W. Lamont

Hon. Joseph M. Proskauer,
11 Broadway,
New York 4, N.Y.

000042

May 12, 1944

Mr. Thomas W. Lamont
23 Wall Street
New York, N. Y.

Dear Sir:

The enclosed memorandum is being forwarded to you at the suggestion of a gentleman in your office. It is hoped that it meets with your approval.

Respectfully yours,

I. M. Weinstein,
Special Assistant to
the Executive Director.

Enc.

000043

MEMORANDUM

Re: Mass Meeting in Madison Square Garden under Auspices of Christian Committee to Aid European Jews.

The War Refugee Board was established by President Roosevelt on January 22, 1944. Its members are the Secretaries of State, Treasury and War. The operational staff is headed by John W. Pehle, whose appointment as Executive Director was announced by the President March 24, 1944. In the Executive Order establishing the Board, the President directed it (1) to rescue those persons in imminent danger of death in Nazi-occupied Europe and (2) to find suitable havens of refuge for those saved.

The Board has appointed field representatives in Ankara, Turkey, Lisbon, Portugal, Casablanca, North Africa, Berne, Switzerland, Stockholm, Sweden, and is preparing to send field directors to other European capitals. Through the efforts of the administrative staff and the field workers, the Board has already saved thousands of lives.

Due to the Nazi occupation of Hungary and the increased military activity throughout the Balkans, the movement of refugees into Turkey has been reduced to a trickle. Aware of the dangers faced by the Jews and other persecuted minorities in Hungary and the rest of the Balkans, the President issued a statement on March 24, 1944, in which he restated this country's determination to punish all persons guilty of such crimes as the Nazi military and Gestapo have made all too familiar. The President's statement was

000044

broadcast to all European countries and hammered home through all the facilities of O.W.I. and B.B.C. The Board has received reports that the President's statement made a deep impression throughout Europe. Particularly in the Balkans, we have learned through neutral sources, it gave new hope to the persecuted and caused the satellites to lose some of their enthusiasm for collaborating with the Nazis.

The President's statement and the reaction to it established a new pattern for the Board. It was decided that the rescue efforts be supplemented by a plan of psychological warfare. To implement the psychological warfare program, the Board obtained statements from leading personalities, expressing support of the President's March 24th statement. In addition, repeated warnings to halt persecutions have been beamed to Europe. Collaborators in the satellite countries have been identified by name and warned of the day of reckoning. Appeals have been directed to the decent citizens in occupied territories asking them to help the Jews and other persecuted minorities to hide in the forests, in the mines, in the quarries, and to assist them to escape across the borders into neutral countries.

The Board's psychological warfare program would be greatly advanced by a spectacular citizens' demonstration of support of the work of the mission of the War Refugee Board. A mass meeting in Madison Square Garden under non-Jewish sponsorship would obviously be a source of highly valuable material for O.W.I. broadcasts to Europe. In order to make the

000045

broadcast properly effective, the sponsoring committee should consist of top-ranking leaders of American life. In that connection, Mr. John W. Davis was approached. He agreed to be chairman of such a meeting, though not of the organizing committee.

The next task, therefore, is to organize a small executive committee, made up of Mr. Lamont, Mr. Rockefeller, Mr. Alfred E. Smith and such others as later may be designated. Invitations would then be sent out over the names of the executive committee members, asking leaders of American industry, banking, education, agriculture, science, art, etc. to join the committee in sponsoring the meeting.

If the executive committee is organized early in the week of June 12, the meeting can be held in the week of June 19. That would give ample time to make all necessary preparations. The program of the meeting would be, tentatively, something like this:

Speeches by John W. Davis, Thomas W. Lamont, Alfred E. Smith, and a high official of the Government;

Short speeches by John W. Pehle, representatives of Labor, Farm Groups, and the United Nations.

The feature of the meeting would be a dramatic presentation called "THE ROLE OF DISHONOR", an original script and musical score of tremendous vitality. It names the leaders of the European and Asiatic conflict. It

000046

names their collaborators and jackals and brands all of them as criminals. Mr. Davis read this script and said that if properly done it would be most effective. The plan, of course, is to do it properly with the finest actors in the theatre and the movies. A copy of the script is available for inspection.

The meeting would not be a mere publicity stunt. It ties in directly with the Board's psychological warfare program, and that program is an integral feature of the Board's life-saving mission. The request that Mr. Lamont join the executive committee sponsoring the proposed meeting is based on the conviction that a public demonstration under his leadership would be of inestimable value.

000047

PROSKAUER ROSE GOETZ & MENDELSON

(ROSE & PASKUS)

11 BROADWAY

NEW YORK 4

JOSEPH M. PROSKAUER
ALFRED L. ROSE
NORMAN S. GOETZ
WALTER MENDELSON
J. ALVIN VAN BERGH
GEORGE F. KURZMAN
BERNARD D. LANG
BURTON A. ZORN
ALFRED APPEL
WILBUR H. FRIEDMAN
CHARLES LOOKER
EUGENE EISENMANN

BENJAMIN G. PASKUS
COUNSEL

CABLE ADDRESS
"ROPUT"

TELEPHONE
DI0BY 4-4240

May 11, 1944.

Mr. John D. Rockefeller, Jr.,
30 Rockefeller Plaza,
New York City.

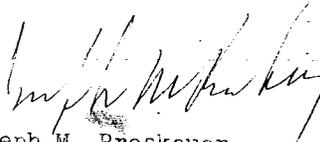
Dear Mr. Rockefeller:

Mr. I. M. Weinstein is the Special Assistant to Mr. J. W. Pehle, who is the Executive Director of the War Refugee Board recently appointed by the President and which you will remember consists of the Secretaries of State, Treasury and War. He has asked me to aid him in executing an assignment from the Director to arrange a mass meeting in Madison Square Garden under non-Jewish sponsorship. He tells me that Mr. John Davis has agreed to act as chairman of the meeting, but not of the committee.

I think you would be doing a very useful thing if you would give Mr. Weinstein a hearing in his endeavor to enlist your support for this project.

With kindest regards,

Yours faithfully,



Joseph M. Proskauer

JMP/KP

000048

PROSKAUER ROSE GOETZ & MENDELSON

(ROSE & PASKUS)

11 BROADWAY
NEW YORK 4

JOSEPH M. PROSKAUER
ALFRED L. ROSE
NORMAN S. GOETZ
WALTER MENDELSON
J. ALVIN VAN BERGH
GEORGE F. KURZMAN
BERNARD D. LANG
BURTON A. ZORN
ALFRED APPEL
MILBUR H. FRIEDMAN
CHARLES LOONER
EUGENE EISENMANN

BENJAMIN G. PASKUS
COUNSEL

CABLE ADDRESS

"ROPUT"

TELEPHONE
DIGBY 4-4240

May 11, 1944.

John C. Burke, Esq.,
E. Altman & Co.,
34th St. & Fifth Ave.,
New York City.

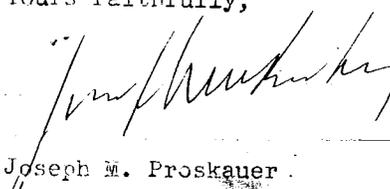
My dear Burke :

Mr. I. M. Weinstein is the Special Assistant to Mr. J. W. Pehle, who is the Executive Director of the War Relocation Board recently appointed by the President and which you will remember consists of the Secretaries of State, Treasury and War. He has asked me to aid him in executing an assignment from the Director to arrange a mass meeting in Madison Square Garden under non-Jewish sponsorship. He tells me that Mr. John Davis has agreed to act as chairman of the meeting, but not of the committee.

I think you would be doing a very useful thing if you would give Mr. Weinstein a hearing in his endeavor to enlist your support for this project.

With kindest regards,

Yours faithfully,


Joseph M. Proskauer


JMP/KP

000049