

"OPINION"

000760

JUN 7 1944

Dear Dr. Wise:

It was very good of you to send me a copy of your editorial in the May issue of "Opinion." I hope that we shall be able to measure up to your hopes and expectations.

Sincerely yours,

(Signed) J. W. Pehle

J. W. Pehle  
Executive Director

Dr. Stephen S. Wise,  
Chairman,  
American Zionist Emergency Council,  
342 Madison Avenue,  
New York 17, New York.

*Original signed by  
Mr. Pehle*

FH:lab 6/6/44

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CHAIRMAN  
DR. STEPHEN S. WISE  
40 W. 68 St.  
New York 23

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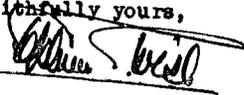
May 25, 1944

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

Dear Pehle:

I do not know whether I ever sent you this --  
an editorial which I wrote in the May number of  
"Opinion", edited by me. Indeed, the War Refugee  
Board is the one beacon of hope that obtains at  
present for my unhappy and imperiled people.

With warmest greeting, dear Pehle, I am

Faithfully yours,  


SSW:FE  
Enc.

Stephen S. Wise ✓

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# OPINION

## *A Journal of Jewish Life and Letters*

Volume No. XIV. No. 7

May, 1944

STEPHEN S. WISE, *Editor*

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### *A Beacon of Hope*

AMIDST the encircling gloom of these tragically threatening days, we may not forget that the War Refugee Board, under the general command of Secretaries Hull, Morgenthau, and Stimson, and under the immediate direction of John Pehle, is the one bright light that shines. The Board, together with Mr. Pehle and with the additional help of Sir Herbert Emerson of England, have addressed themselves to their task with vigor and statesmanship. Much may still be done that perhaps should have been attempted long ago. But what matters now is not that it was not heretofore done, but that it is being earnestly attempted today with the help of our country's moral and material resources; and with the cooperation of such bodies as the Joint Distribution Committee, the Jewish Agency, and the World Jewish Congress.

OPINION repeats, dark as is the hour, the light of the War Refugee Board gleams as a beacon of hope to a sorrowful world. One is happy to note that among the contemplated measures is the creation of "free ports," or, as one prefers to think of them, "refugee rescue camps." In these, without their political status being affected, the limited number of Hitler's victims who may reach these shores, may be sheltered until such time comes as the post-victory decisions may give the answer to the problem of their lives. Surely President Roosevelt and his associates have undertaken that which may prove salvation and benediction to not a few of Israel's unhappy and bleeding sons and daughters! May the work of the War Refugee Board fulfill the high promise of them that through it plan to save those who otherwise must perish amidst the darkness of this day.

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### A Great Englishman

AGAIN AND AGAIN in recent years Zionism has suffered the loss of its generous and devoted friends. Within the same month the cause of Zion has suffered the passing of two of its most faithful Christian supporters, Lord Josiah Wedgwood and Col. Anthony Cazalet. And now for the third time within a year, Zionism is bereft in the sudden and tragic death of one whom Zionists have come to think of as an invincible helper. Major-General Orde Wingate, who died in China in an airplane accident, will long be remembered as one of the most extraordinary and precious of the friends of Zionism. He was merely a captain or major in the English Army when, some years ago in Palestine, he taught young Jews how to prevent the cutting of the pipeline leading to Haifa, and gave them every help that a military genius—for such he was—could give.

One was reminded by his personality of the heroic Gordon, and he had much of the unpredictable power of the late Col. Lawrence. Literally, he went into battle with a sword in one hand and a Bible in the other. He lived in Jewish settlements in order to master Hebrew, and was accustomed to write his military orders in Hebrew for the benefit of the young Jews. He was one of the most fascinating and romantic figures that have touched the life and future of Palestine. Ten thousand pities that his genius for helpfulness should be lost to the people whom he loved and who so greatly needed him! We must of course find some comfort in a fitting memorial of Wingate in Palestine that is being planned. But what hurt and what loss his early death means is beyond all telling. Long will Israel cherish his memory, and a reborn people in their ancient homeland will yet constitute the truest remembrance of a great Englishman, a great soldier, a great Oheb Yisroel.

### Hungary's Jews

NONE could be more tragic than the threat to the Jews of Hungary and Rumania. One might moralize that Hungary is faring as terribly as the country and its people deserve, for they made an unholy alliance with Hitler and they are merely paying the penalty. But without passing upon the moral merits of the problem, it will remain one of the questions, which only the post-war amassing of information will answer, whether the Hungarian Government or people were free to remain outside of the Nazi orbit once the war came. In any event, Hungary and Rumania are now drinking the bitter cup which is overflowing with hurt and shame to these countries. They could hardly have fared worse had they denied and defied Hitler at the outset.

But OPINION is most especially concerned about the impending fate of the Jews of Hungary. Tragic news comes to this country through indisputable channels that three vast extermination camps are being prepared for 600,000 and more Jews, and, alas, it is true that, while Hitler never keeps a promise, he seems never to fail to execute the most terrible of his threats. Our

Government will do what it can. It is already speaking almost continuously, through broadcasting channels, to the people of Hungary, warning and at the same time beseeching them to the end that the Jews of Hungary, who have been so large a part of its strength for many generations, be saved through being hidden away and secreted by the good will and the friendliness of their Christian neighbors.

OPINION believes that this appeal is likely to be heeded, and still, who dares believe that the Jews of Hungary will be saved unless, as is to be hoped, Russia crash into Hungary with all its undiminished strength, and thus save a country which was misled into warring upon the Soviet Union. OPINION ventures to hope that the people of Hungary will rise to the opportunity which faces them. It is the Kossuth tradition and not the Horthy tradition that must obtain if the largest Jewish settlement in Hitler-Europe is to be saved.

### "Mr. Emmanuel" Over Berlin

JAMES Waterman Wise, to whom Louis Golding dedicated his best-seller, "Mr. Emmanuel," received the following message from the author in London: "Did you read about the exploit of my friend, young flying officer Jerry West of the RAF, who dropped a copy of 'Mr. Emmanuel' on Berlin, with a special parachute made all for himself and bearing a transcription of Mr. Emmanuel's address to Herr Heinkes out of the final pages of the book? The copy was endorsed by myself in the absence of Mr. Emmanuel and by all the members of the flying crew and the ground crew. Then the lad came up to London to get a decoration from the King at Buckingham Palace. That evening, I entertained the whole crew for dinner at the Savoy, then they came back and spent a night at my house, discussing their starry adventures. The next day they went out again to bomb Berlin. They have never come back again. Their action in dropping 'Mr. Emmanuel' on Berlin was, I think, one of the most beautiful gestures the young Christian chivalry of Britain could have performed to do honor to the Jewish people and to express their contemptuous hatred of the Nazi abomination."

### Friend of Zion

JUST as world Jewry begins to think more calmly of the great loss it has suffered in the death of General Orde Wingate, comes the saddening news of the passing of Lord Snell of Plumbstead. It will be remembered that he was a member of the Commission which issued a lamentable report on Palestine, but it will never be forgotten that he wrote the dissenting report, and from the day he went to Palestine became one of its sturdiest and most valued friends. Born amid the lowliest, he became a Peer of the British realm and President of the Council of London. His humility as Commoner and as human being was unchanged by honors and dignity and fame. But world Jewry will longest remember him as a gentleman who, because of his ethical ideals as