

Council of Rescue of the Jews in Poland

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CAZORLA

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8/18/44

attn: WRB
(FYI)
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EBA140 INTL CHG WORLD JEWISH CONGRESS EB 25/23 18 336P NLT

TO: ANZELM REISS
77 GREAT RUSSELL STREET
LONDON WC1

FROM: LEON KUBOWITZKI

NSL

NSL

BA 7500; BA 4600, 7000

NUMBER 148 INFORMED WEDNESDAY YOUR RESCUE PROGRAM FINALLY REACHED

WARREFUGEEBOARD WILL REPORT

(EXPLANATION TO CENSOR) ANZELM REISS IS A MEMBER OF THE RESCUE COUNCIL ESTABLISHED BY THE POLISH GOVERNMENT THIS COUNCIL SUBMITTED TO THE WAR REFUGEE BOARD A PROGRAM CONCERNING THE RESCUE OF POLISH JEWS. I TELL MR REISS THAT THIS PROGRAM HAS FINALLY REACHED THE WAR REFUGEE BOARD AND THAT I WILL KEEP HIM INFORMED OF DEVELOPMENTS

000471

Chas. [unclear]
WORLD JEWISH CONGRESS
CONGRES JUIF MONDIAL • CONGRESO JUDIO MUNDIAL

1834 BROADWAY
NEW YORK, 23, N. Y.

Files

LONDON
55 New Cavendish St., W 1

GENEVA
37 Quai Wilson

BUENOS AIRES
Corrientes 1979

JERUSALEM
Vaad Leumi P. O. B. 471

MONTREAL
1121 St. Catherine St. W

MEXICO CITY
Sonora 1744

August 8, 1944

CABLES: CONGRESS, NEW YORK
TELEPHONE: CIRCLE 6-1900

In reply refer to
No. 207

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

Dear Mr. Pehle:

I received a cable from Mr. Anselm Reiss, of the rescue committee established by the Polish Government in London, wherein he informs me of proposals he or his committee forwarded to the War Refugee Board "but alas, without reaction."

I would be very grateful to you for any information you would let me have to be conveyed to Mr. Reiss in reply to his abovementioned cable.

Sincerely yours,

A. Leon Kubawitzki
A. Leon Kubawitzki,
Head, Rescue Department

ALK:lw

See 17069 from
London, July 25 (air mail)



SECRET
THE FOREIGN SERVICE
OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

3 War Refugee Board (Thos)
WAR REFUGEE BOARD
AUG 3 1944
DEPARTMENT OF STATE

AMERICAN EMBASSY
LONDON, July 25, 1944.

AIRMAIL

CONTROL COPY

No. 17,069

SUBJECT: Activities of the "Council for Matters Connected with the Rescue of the Jewish Population in Poland".

file

3 W R B
3 War Refugee Board (Thos)
1 War (Im Bureau)

The Honorable
The Secretary of State,
Washington, D.C.

Sir:

I have the honor to refer to the Department's telegram No. 4539 of June 8, 4 p.m., and to the Embassy's telegram in reply No. 4737 of June 14, 4 p.m., regarding the proposals of Dr. Scherer of the Polish National Council in connection with financial help for Jews in Poland.

The matter was discussed with the Foreign Office, which has now advised the Embassy that a council for assisting Jews in Poland has been established on a more definite basis than was the case at the time Dr. Scherer made the proposals referred to. The communication from the Foreign Office is quoted below in full:

"Would you please refer to the note which you handed to me on the 12th June about the Council recently created by the Polish Government for the rescue of Jews in Poland.

According to a PAT communiqué which appeared in the 'Dziennik Polski' on the 13th May a 'Council for assisting the Jews' has been functioning for over two years past in German-occupied Poland as a part of the Polish underground administration. For security reasons it is however impossible to give details of the extensive and efficacious help which this Council has already given to the Jews in Poland. We have no reason to doubt that this Council exists and gives valuable help to persecuted Jews.

The PAT communiqué goes on to say that on the 20th April of this year the Council of Ministers decided to extend this charitable action by creating here in London a 'Council for matters connected with the Rescue of the Jewish Popula-

DECLASSIFIED
State Dept. Letter, 1-11-72
By R. H. Parks Date SEP 27 1972

000473

tion in Poland'. The execution of this resolution was entrusted to Monsieur Banaczyk as Minister of the Interior. He appointed to the Council three Aryan Poles, viz. Ciolkosz (Socialist Party), Kulerski (Peasant Party) and Sopioki (National Work Party), and three representatives of Polish Jewry, viz. Rabbi Babad, A. Reiss and Dr. E. Scherer. The last named is, like the three Aryan Poles, a member of the Polish National Council, on which he represents the "Bund", or Jewish Socialist Party.

According to PAT, besides the help which is already being given, the Polish Government intends to put considerable funds at the disposal of the newly created Council which, it is anticipated, will also obtain further funds from non-Polish sources.

The first meeting of the Council was held in London on the 25th May. Banaczyk made a long speech in the name of the Polish Government. Dr. Hertz, the Chief Rabbi, was present as a guest. On the proposal of Anzel Reiss, Ciolkosz was unanimously chosen to be chairman of the Council. Dr. Scherer was asked to draft the regulations laying down procedure, etc.

We have no doubt that the Polish Government is sincerely interested in the new Council and would like to see it doing real work. The three non-Jewish Poles on the Council are all persons of some standing, especially Ciolkosz, who is also a man of great energy."

It is presumed that the War Refugee Board would be interested in the foregoing information.

Respectfully yours,
For the Ambassador:


Howard Bucknell, Jr.
Minister-Counselor

SHB:LMW

000474

JUN 19 1944

Dear Mr. Leavitt:

In connection with the message which you recently received from Dr. Emanuel Scherer, member of the Polish National Council, we have been advised as follows by the American Embassy in London:

"According to the London representative of the Joint Distribution Committee, Mr. Hirwitz, who has talked with Dr. Scherer, the proposals are so nebulous that it is not believed that at this time anything definite should be done with respect to them. Dr. Scherer apparently has no concrete plan and has no definite idea as to how the money requested by him should be spent. It was indicated that such assistance as could be given Jews in Poland, in the main would consist of relief to them in Poland, rather than help in taking them out of Poland. Presumably it would be necessary, in order to use the money for this purpose, to secure Treasury licenses for expenditures in enemy-occupied territory and, as the War Refugee Board and the Department are aware, the British Government has requested that it be consulted before any such licenses are issued. It is stated by Randall, head of the Refugee Department of the Foreign Office, that Scherer has not approached him in this connection with his proposal.***

"It is believed by the Embassy that, because of the very indefinite nature of Scherer's plans and because of the wish of the British for prior consultation, at this time it would not be advisable to make any definite commitment to furnish funds to Scherer. It is believed however that he should be informed that any concrete proposals he may desire to make will be sympathetically received and that the Embassy

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FILE
RECEIVED
COMMUNICATIONS
SECTION
JUN 19 1944
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

naturally will be willing to discuss with the British the possibility of helping him in carrying out his relief plans."

Very truly yours,

(Signed) J. W. Pehle

J. W. Pehle
Executive Director

Mr. Moses A. Leavitt,
Secretary,
American Jewish Joint
Distribution Committee,
270 Madison Avenue,
New York, New York.

JW
FH:lab 6/19/44

I N C O M I N G C A B L E

1765

FA83 XAX GBR224/6 LONDON 97 19
NLT MOSES LEAVITT
AMERICAN JOINT DISTRIBUTION COMMITTEE
270 MADISON AVENUE
NEW YORK

LONDON

RECEIVED AND STENCILED
JUNE 20, 1944

6. FURTHER OUR 5 HAVE CONFERRED WITH POLISH MINISTER INTERIOR LONDON WHO
INFORMS THAT PROJECT IS PRIMARILY ONE OF FORWARDING ADDITIONAL SUMS FOR RELIEF
PROGRAMME SAME BASIS PRESENT ACTIVITIES STOP HE STATES THAT ANY AMOUNTS CAN BE
SAFELY TRANSMITTED BUT ADDITIONAL SUMS NOT FORTHCOMING FROM POLISH GOVERNMENT
ITSELF WHICH FEELS ITS CURRENT BUDGET INCLUDES JEWISH WORK ON CURRENTLY BEST
POSSIBLE BASIS STOP THEY ALSO TAKING STEPS DISCONTINUE PARCELS SCHEME FROM
LISBON ABOUT WHICH I HAVE NOTIFIED LISBON OFFICE STOP LONDON COMMITTEES
OPPOSING LATTER ACTION

DONALD HURWITZ

000477

PARAPHRASE OF TELEGRAM RECEIVED

FROM: American Embassy, London
TO: Secretary of State, Washington
DATED: June 14, 1944
NUMBER: 4737

CONTROL COPY

~~SECRET~~

We have investigated Dr. Scherer's proposals to the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee which were referred to the Embassy by the War Refugee Board for comment in Department's cable dated June 8, No. 4539.

According to the London representative of the Joint Distribution Committee, Mr. Hurwitz, who has talked with Dr. Scherer, the proposals are so nebulous that it is not believed that at this time anything definite should be done with respect to them. Dr. Scherer apparently has no concrete plan and has no definite idea as to how the money requested by him should be spent. It was indicated that such assistance as could be given Jews in Poland, in the main would consist of relief to them in Poland, rather than help in taking them out of Poland. Presumably it would be necessary, in order to use the money for this purpose, to secure Treasury licenses for expenditures in enemy-occupied territory and, as the War Refugee Board and the Department are aware, the British Government has requested that it be consulted before any such licenses are issued. It is stated by Randall, head of the Refugee Department of the Foreign Office, that Scherer has not approached him in this connection

DECLASSIFIED
State Dept. Letter, 1-11-72
By R. H. Parks Date SEP 27 1972

with his

*6/19/44
has not advised
of this message
JH*

not present

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with his proposal. ^B He adds that it is felt by the British Government that if possible, expenses for the relief or rescue of refugees in enemy-occupied territory should be handled through the credit scheme proposed in Lord Drogheda's letter to Mr. Riefler of April 8, 1944 and which the Embassy forwarded in its despatch 15061, April 17, 1944, Economic Warfare (Blockade) Series: 861. It is believed that there has been made available to the War Refugee Board a copy of this despatch.

It is believed by the Embassy that, because of the very indefinite nature of Scherer's plans and because of the wish of the British for prior consultation, at this time it would not be advisable to make any definite commitment to furnish funds to Scherer. It is believed however that he should be informed that any concrete proposals he may desire to make will be sympathetically received and that the Embassy naturally will be willing to discuss with the British the possibility of helping him in carrying out his relief plans.

WINANT

TREASURY DEPARTMENT

INTER OFFICE COMMUNICATION

DATE June 30, 1944

TO Mr. J. W. Pehle - War Refugee Board
FROM L. W. Casaday

Just before I left London Dr. Scherer handed me the attached material in response to your invitation, sent through me, several weeks ago.

I had several talks with Dr. Scherer and he gave the impression of having become (and perhaps understandably too) very embittered at the seeming indifference of the Allied governments towards the plight of European Jewry. He did not seem particularly impressed by the creation of the War Refugee Board nor did he expect much from it in the way of quick and concrete results. I think his attitude in this latter respect may have improved somewhat after I explained to him fully the Board's purposes and policies and described some of its activities.

Scherer promised several times to write me a letter setting forth his views on the work of the Board and making various concrete suggestions. Up to the time I left he had failed to do so but I list briefly below several suggestions which he offered from time to time in our conversations.

1. Better than the War Refugee Board (or any similar organization representing only one nation) would be a United Nations War Refugee Board staffed with outstanding personages of the highest caliber (like the War Refugee Board) and backed by the full authority and prestige of the highest officials of the United Nations. Scherer feels that the Intergovernmental Committee on Refugees is in no way comparable to the type of Board he has in mind.

2. Scherer would like a sum of money (in dollars) made available to him in London that he could draw upon at any time for urgent specific projects. He says that the difficulties of underground communication and travel are such that when a situation arises it usually must be met immediately or not at all and that there is no time to go about asking for funds, securing licenses, etc.

3. Scherer feels very strongly that arms and munitions should be made available at once to Jews in occupied countries. He thinks this is of greater immediate importance than the slower-moving plans for large-scale rescue.

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4. Scherer suggests that a special, trained staff be attached to Supreme Headquarters with the specific task of organizing the relief and rescue of European refugees. This staff should consist of uniformed officers and men who would enter Europe with or immediately after the invading troops. He thinks such a staff just as important and just as feasible as the staff of experts in uniform now assigned to Supreme Headquarters for civil affairs work *

L. M. Caradecy

* Miss Eleanor Rathbone also made this suggestion in a conversation I had with her on your instruction.

Dr. Emanuel Scherer
81, Hampstead Way
London, N.W. 11.
15.6.44.

L. W. Casaday, Esq.
Attache for the Treasury,
American Embassy,
1, Grosvenor Square, W. 1q

Dear Mr. Casaday,

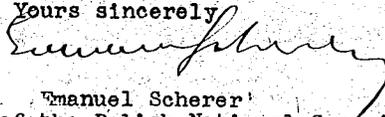
I very much regret that I have delayed in sending ^{you} the promised material. Some unforeseen circumstances caused this and once again I express my regret.

The enclosed material is a literal translation of the ^{five} reports received from the Underground Organisation of the General Jewish Workers' Union ⁱⁿ of Poland. A few passages of internal party interest have been omitted. I would be glad if, maintaining the secrecy, the contents of this document could be communicated to the leaders of the War Refugee Board in Washington.

By the way I enclose also for ^{you and} the War Refugee Board the report of the first meeting of the newly established Council of Rescue of the Jews in Poland. This Council works within the framework of the Polish Government, but it ~~is~~ a body based on representation of the Jewish and Gentile people of Poland.

Regarding my views about the tasks of this Council - they are comprised in the statement I made at the first meeting of the Council on 25th May 1944 /pages 12-17 of the second enclosure/.

Yours sincerely



Emanuel Scherer
Member of the Polish National Council

3 encl.

000482

Council of Rescue of the Jews
in Poland.

COMMUNIQUE FOR THE PRESS ISSUED BY THE POLISH GOVERNMENT
on May 11th, 1944.

A Welfare Committee for the Jewish population of Poland has been in existence in occupied Poland for the last two years, co-operating with the Polish Underground Administration. For obvious reasons details about the extremely useful and widespread activities cannot be published at present. The Committee was sponsored by the Polish Government who took upon themselves an appropriate part of the work in Poland and abroad.

On April the 20th, 1944, the Polish Government decided to extend the scope of the Committee by inviting the co-operation of Polish and Jewish social workers and organisations from abroad. Thus the Council for the Rescue of the Jewish Population in Poland came to life. In accordance with the resolution of the Government three eminent representatives of Polish political parties and three representatives of Jewish organisations have been appointed as members of the Council by Mr. W. Banaczyk, the Polish Minister of the Interior, viz: A. Ciołkosz, W. Kulerski, and S. Sopicki from the Polish National Council and furthermore Rabbi A. Babad, Mr. A. Reiss and Dr. E. Scherer, member of the Polish National Council.

Considerable sums of money will be put at the disposal of the Council by the Polish Government - in addition to those already provided - and it is expected that the Council will obtain further funds from non-Polish sources.

The new Council is based on the principles and experience gathered in the rescue work in Poland. It has been established upon the request of the representatives of Polish Jewry in Great Britain, U.S.A. and Palestine, and it is hoped that the official co-operation of all Jewish elements will result in a great increase of the effort to bring help and rescue to the Jewish population in Poland suffering under the most cruel persecution by the German invaders. The organisation of the Council has been prepared during extensive Polish-Jewish negotiations. Its first public session will take place in the course of the next week.

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S T A T E M E N T
by Mr. W. Banaczyk, Minister of the Interior at the first
meeting of the Council for Rescue of the Jews in Poland
on May 25th, 1944.

The Council for the Rescue of the Jews in Poland whose first meeting I have the privilege to open to-day is one of the numerous and various efforts of the Polish Government and the Polish people towards helping the Jews in occupied Poland, doomed by Hitler. The Polish Government have taken this initiative because they feel that they and the Polish people have already done their utmost to bring relief to the Jews and to arouse the conscience of the world for their sufferings, and, also, because they know that this is the last moment when it is still possible to bring an effective help to Jews and Poles alike. According to all evidence, Hitler being aware of his approaching defeat has decided to fulfill his threat uttered a few years ago: that the Jews would not be able, anyway, to witness and to rejoice at the downfall of Nazidom, as they would be annihilated a long time before. It is, therefore, a matter of the utmost urgency to mobilise all possible resources before it is too late. That is why the Polish Government have decided to supplement their action by the voluntary co-operation of all Polish and Jewish elements abroad.

I should like to stress that this our initiative is by no means something new and unusual. It is based on the long tradition of Poles and Jews living and working side by side for seven hundred years in the Polish Commonwealth. This tradition has been thus described by the Very Reverend Dr. Hertz, Chief Rabbi of the British Empire, in his speech of June 18th, 43. in these words:

"As long as Poland was powerful Polish Jewry enjoyed an inner autonomy and freedom equalled by no other contemporary Jewry. Further more it cannot be too often repeated that to Poland belongs the priority among European peoples in religious and cultural toleration".

We feel bound by this tradition. We felt bound by it in those remote days when the Jews, persecuted in all Europe, found hospitality and shelter in Poland. We felt equally bound by it after having regained our independence

when the mental attitude of the Polish people was still untouched by the surging wave of race hatred beyond our Western frontier. To this tradition we will remain faithful also in this most difficult period of our history when Poland is overrun by a cruel invader bringing with him hatred, prosecution and death.

The tragedy of the Jewish population in Poland unparalleled in history of mankind, has aroused in the hearts of all true Poles the deepest sympathy for the victims and a stern condemnation for the oppressors. I may recall here some words of the protest raised by the Polish population after the first mass executions of Jews had been started. The helpless Polish people, themselves victims of the vilest oppression, thus expressed their indignation:

"The world is looking silently upon these crimes, more horrible than anything in history. The mass extermination of millions of helpless men and women goes on and nobody raises a voice of protest. One should not put up with it any longer.

Whatever the motive of this conspiracy of silence it is a vile and mean attitude. Nobody should remain passive when witnessing a crime. Whoever looks silently on while men, women and children are being murdered becomes an accomplice of the murderer. He who does not condemn acquiesces.

That is why we, Poles and Catholics, raise our voices. We do not wish to be like Pilate. We cannot actively oppose the German murderers; we can do nothing, we can save nobody. But from the bottom of our hearts, filled with compassion, loathing and horror, we protest. That protest is demanded of us by God, by God who forbade killing. It is demanded by the Christian conscience. Every creature calling himself a man has the right to the love of his neighbour. The blood of the helpless calls to Heaven for vengeance. Anyone who does not support this protest is no Catholic.

At the same time we protest as Poles. We do not believe that the German atrocities will turn to Poland's benefit. On the contrary, we know that the seeds of crime are poisonous. He who does not understand this, he who dare

to connect the proud and free future of Poland with a base rejoicing in the misfortunes of his fellows, is neither a Catholic nor a Pole". We do not however, restrict our activities to mere protest; without underestimating the efforts and the achievements of Jewish organisations it may be stated that it was the Polish Government who first organised active help and relief for the Jews in Poland. In this task they were fully supported by the Polish people in occupied Poland whose fate is hardly less cruel than that of the Jews. We are taking a leading part in the struggle against Nazi campaign of destruction. It is well known and recognised by Jewish public opinion that it was due to the persistent and vigorous action of the Polish Government that the Allies raised their first protest against German atrocities.

Though for obvious reasons I can give no details I may say here that two years ago under the most difficult conditions we created in Poland a Jewish Relief Committee where all prominent Polish and Jewish elements were represented. This organisation is enjoying all our possible support and I may state here with justified pride that so far only the Poles were able to organise effective help for Jews in German occupied Europe, in spite of all the fiendish vigilance of the Gestapo. The constant help given by the Polish Government to numerous Polish refugees of Jewish faith may also be mentioned.

In occupied Poland any active help for Jews involves the most severe punishment for the Polish population. Many were shot for giving food to starving Jews, Polish children found guilty of sheltering a Jewish child were ruthlessly murdered. But in spite of this the Polish people remain faithful to their grand tradition and shelter and help the Jews wherever they are able to do so.

The Polish Government when declaring their fundamental attitude towards the Jews remained also faithful to this old age tradition. Immediately after the Government of General Sikorski had been formed it issued a declaration in December 1939 stating that all citizens irrespective of their creed or nationality enjoy equal rights and have to perform equal duties. This prin-

ciple has been repeated and developed in further declarations. All the above mentioned declarations cannot be regarded as purely formal statements. On the contrary, they proved to be of practical value for the Jewish population in occupied Poland. Against the background of German regulations discriminating the Jews and qualifying them as outcasts, exempt from the protection of law, these solemn statements about the Jews being rightful Polish citizens and the active help extended to them by the Poles in occupied Poland were a ray of hope for the Jews in their tragic humiliation. At the same time they acted as a uniting force for the Christian and the Jewish population of Poland making them feel not only as fellow-human being, but also as fellow-citizens of the same state. In occupied Poland the citizens rights are acquired not on the strength of any article of the Constitution but they have to be proved in every day's battle by constant effort and constant sacrifice for the common cause. This Citizen's Charter has been rightly earned by the Poles and by the Jews in Poland. The part played by the Jews in the defence of Warsaw in 1939 as well as the part played by the Poles in the defence of the Ghetto in 1943 will remain for ever the symbol of unity of Christians and Jews in Poland for the cause of their country and of humanity.

It is comparatively easy to display warm feelings of humanity and grand virtues of good citizenship in normal circumstances when human rights are respected and the performance of duties towards the community is regarded as an obligation. But it requires superhuman strength to do so in circumstances when all human feelings are considered as crimes and punished accordingly. To those who try to besmirch the name of Poland by accusing Poles wholesale of intolerance as well as to those who are inclined to charge the Jews with illoyalty on the strength of a few desertions we may therefore say: look at the reality as it exists in occupied Poland; there you will see a different picture. I am firmly convinced that the recent campaign started in connection with these incidents was injurious to Poles

and Jews alike. This statement must be clearly made before any further action can be organized, since all effective organizations can be based only upon mutual confidence and after the problem has been set out in its due proportions.

To cope successfully with any problem it is necessary: first, to assess correctly its scope and, secondly, to co-operate with those who are familiar with it. Unfortunately there still are people who do not grasp the vastness and the acuteness of the Jewish relief problem and for whom the sufferings of hundreds of thousands of Polish Jews murdered by Nazis in Poland are obscured by some minor incidents, exaggerated out of any due proportions. It seems to me that were the Germans trying to distract the opinion of the world from their atrocities they could choose no better way.

As regards the second condition we may state that co-operation is not possible when on account of a few isolated incidents a whole nation with one of the finest records in religious and racial tolerance is violently accused. Such unjustified accusations could be hardly regarded as a stimulant to our people in Poland to risk their lives every day by sheltering hundreds of thousands of Jews. Fortunately they do it as a duty towards humanity and towards Poland and do not care particularly for appreciation.

I have mentioned these few facts incidentally because in my opinion all misunderstandings and all obstacles likely to frustrate our efforts should be clearly exposed and removed before starting any effective work. At the same time I am bound to state on behalf of the Polish Government that all attempts at arousing the opinion of the world and of the Jewry against us will not and cannot distract us from the path chosen by us long ago; to try to help and rescue as many Jews in Poland as it is possible within the limits of our power.

STATEMENT OF RABBI A. BABAD, ON BEHALF OF THE COUNCIL
OF POLISH AGUDISTS IN GREAT BRITAIN.

Please allow me Gentlemen, on behalf of the Council of Polish Agudists here, as well as of our headquarters in Palestine and U.S.A., to express our sincere satisfaction with the formation of this Council for Rescue of the Jewish population of Poland, by the Government of the Republic of Poland. The "raison d'etre" of this Council is obvious to all those to whom the fate of persecuted Polish Jewry is not a matter of indifference, and the indication for any reasons is unnecessary. The co-ordination of all the efforts of the Government as well as of the Polish and Jewish people abroad, in the direction of rescue for the remnants of the once numerous Polish Jewry - is indeed the command of the hour. That is why the initiative of the Government in this respect was welcomed by all interested. I do not intend to belittle the value of the sincere sympathy nor of the expressions of indignation at the German barbarities with which we met in face of the superhuman tragedy that we are going through, and I do indeed appreciate the deeds of actual help and rescue of our doomed brethren, deeds which came from the part of the Government and the population of Poland.

I fully agree with the Minister when he says that this solidarity springs forth not only from a general sense of humanity but also from the sense of common citizenship. The nearly thousand years old Polish-Jewish relationship has made the fate of Polish Jewry closely linked to the fate of the Republic. From times immemorable we find ourselves in ranks of suffering Poland. While aiming at the moral as well as physical destruction of Poland it was there that Hitler has established the slaughterhouse for European Jewry. But we neither failed to take our place in the ranks of fighting Poland. We never shrank from discharging of our duties as citizens. The Minister is right in condemning the generalisation of faults. We, the eternal victims of an artificially constructed idea of collective responsibility, must beware of such generalisations. But we must not, on the other hand, ignore the symptoms of antisemitism wherever they may appear.

By overlooking their importance we would serve nobody, especially so if they concern the Armies of Poland in which all must fight the common enemy. We have to fight these symptoms with all resoluteness. And those whom the German's attempt at domination in Europe has thought nothing, must be made aware that the unsuitable treatment of comrades in arms harms the very cause of Poland.

But nothing can release us of our duties towards the Republic. We must not allow these regrettable events to be exploited against Poland. Arm in arm we must march towards a free Poland.

We are thankful to the Government for the formation of this Council and seem it unnecessary to add that the co-operation of its members is essential. We on our part are prepared to co-operate with all the organisations represented on this Council, and let us hope that it will be given unto us, by the help of God, to rescue the remnants of our brethren, so that for them too may shine the sun of Free, Great and Just Poland.

STATEMENT BY Mr. KULERSKI, MEMBER OF THE POLISH NATIONAL COUNCIL
/Peasant Party/

It can be said with a great deal of justification, I think, that every one knows about the fate of Jews in the German occupied countries but still very few believe in what they know. The crimes perpetrated by the Germans upon the enslaved people, especially upon the Jews and the Poles, seems sometimes too great to be grasped by the minds of those who have been spared the horrors of the German occupation.

There were manifold attempts to alleviate the lot of the oppressed and hunted but the results have been meagre and insignificant owing to their limited resources.

The Polish authorities have done their utmost to rouse public opinion, to shake the world from incredulous indifference and also to acquaint the German people themselves with actual facts and to make them realize that responsibility will weigh heavily on their shoulders once their brutal might has been broken and thrown into dust.

The response have been a few cartoons - not all of them sympathetic towards Poland - a few press articles, a few meetings of protest and some utterances threatening the war criminals with legal procedure after the war.

The Germans reacted a little more actively, they simply increased their terror against the people of Poland.

The only true response came from our martyred country itself. The Poles themselves engaged in a mortal struggle with their hereditary enemy, followed the lead given by their Government. Among them also the Polish peasant are playing their part. They co-operate with the other parties and with the Jews in a special body set up by the underground authorities with the object of bringing greatest possible help and assistance to the exterminated Jewry. The forests and the countryside are nowadays the main hiding place for the remaining Jews, hence a particularly responsible and dangerous task falls upon the shoulders of the Polish peasants. They loyally accept and discharge it, though very often at the cost of their lives and sometimes - as we are informed by recent reports - at the cost of whole villages burned down and exterminated.

They are carrying out faithfully the instructions of the Polish Government and their representatives in the country itself, every day sealing with their own blood and lives their allegiance to the Polish legal authorities, affirming the solidarity of the whole Polish population Christian and Jewish alike and testifying to the world that they are not only a people, not only a nation, but also a full grown state which, although temporarily submerged in horror and disaster, though void of real executive power and based on moral authority only, did not for a moment cease to exist and to govern the action of its citizens.

Within our country and within the scope of our limited possibilities exceedingly much is being done to save the doomed.

It rests with the outside world to see that these efforts are not in vain, to support and supplement them by organised action.

Hence we welcome the creation of this Council as one more effort on the part of our Government towards bringing more and better organised outside assistance to the Jewish populace in Poland.

The peasant party which I have the honour to represent will give to these efforts all the support it is capable of, just as our party comrades in Poland are contributing their full share towards this aim.

Yet it must be born in mind that Poland's endeavours alone will not suffice and that the amount of success depends entirely on the assistance of the rest of the world.

STATEMENT BY MR. ANZEIM REISS, MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF THE
REPRESENTATION OF THE POLISH JEWRY IN PALESTINE.
/comprising all zionist workers' and middle class
organisations and the Aguda/

It is doubtful if it suits our purpose to describe once more the deep tragedy of the Jewish nation. I am not going, therefore, to dwell upon the fiendish atrocities of the Germans perpetrated on Jews which are the climax of a deliberate and well-organised system to destroy millions of lives. I am not going to mention the streams of blood and the tortures inflicted by the torturers upon their victims before putting them to death. Our tragedy is so vast that all attempts at finding appropriate words for describing it must fail. It is the more terrifying because enacted in broad daylight, on the eyes of the civilised world, the world of democracy and progress, the world of culture and humanitarian feelings. So far no means have been found by this great and powerful world to stop this mass extermination or to organise an effective rescue for the innocent victims.

Against this sinister background the activity of the Polish Government of the late General Sikorski is set out in a clear light. General Sikorski reminded the whole world of its duties towards the suffering Jews in Europe. Unfortunately his appeal, a fine expression of goodwill and deep sense of duty towards mankind did not produce any appreciable results. The declaration of the United Nations whose importance is by no means underestimated by us was not followed by any effective action. What is more distressing - even attempts of the Jewish Community at organising some help are met with tremendous difficulties resulting from some incomprehensible legal niceties

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and interpretations. It is only due to the establishment of the War Refugees Board by Pres. Roosevelt at the beginning of this year that some real work has been started whose first results, small though they may be are already to be seen.

I should be unfair to our suffering brethren if I did not mention the deplorable fact that not all Jews are doing their duty as demanded by their conscience and the exigencies of our common fate. But I am bound to express my full appreciation of the splendid work done by Jewish Palestine. Their ceaseless activities have resulted in rescuing dozens of thousands of Jews and in giving moral support to hundreds of thousands more. Thanks to this help they feel that there are hearts deeply moved by their fate and throbbing in the same rhythm and that there are minds whose thoughts are running along the same lines with them.

We know a good deal about the help extended to Jews in Poland by their Christian compatriots out of their sense of duty as fellow citizens and fellow-men. Such cases are the best proof of what could be done if such action were organized on a larger scale and formed a part of the duties of the clandestine state administration in occupied Poland.

All that has been done up to the present time does not unfortunately meet the most urgent necessities. Much time has been wasted and it is now our sacred duty to correct what can still be improved and to make up for deficiencies to extend unstinted help to those for whom it is ^{the} only ray of hope.

It does not become to this moment to discuss in this Council the situation of the Jewish soldiers in our army. Some light has been shed on this question during the debate in the Polish National Council. Let us wait for the findings of the special commission and not prejudice them.

We welcome the present step of the Polish Government convinced that the recently established Council for the Rescue of the Jewish population in Poland will not spare any effort to discharge their duties and that everything will be done by the Government to enable the Council to achieve their noble aims.

The Representation of the Polish Jewry are fully confident that this action of the Polish Government will be regarded as the best proof of their determination to let their statements be followed by deeds of granting a completely equal citizenship to all Jews, to the common good of the Polish Republic and for the benefit of the Jewish citizens.

STATEMENT EXPRESSED BY MR. STANISLAW SOPICKI
MEMBER OF THE POLISH NATIONAL COUNCIL
/Christian Labour Party/.

We are undertaking to-day a task which, in my opinion, is very important and urgent. It is our duty to do our best to help the Jews. It is a duty commanded by our ethics and an obligation which no one of us should try to avoid. It is a duty of which the Clergy of all Christian denominations are fully conscious; we know in fact many instances of courage and self-denial displayed by clergymen denouncing and condemning Nazi atrocities perpetrated on Jews. In doing so they were in accord with the principles of the Catholic faith and with the attitude of the Vatican which repeatedly exposed the racial theories, preached by the Hitlerite party, as incompatible with the Catholic religion.

We should try to rescue the Jews from destruction even if they were complete strangers to us. But we are the more bound to do so since they are Polish citizens fighting side by side with us against the German invaders. By preventing the total extermination of Jews in Poland we save not only innocent and helpless men, women and children, but also our fellow citizens bound to take part in the reconstruction of post war Poland.

No nation has suffered in this war so heavily as the Jews. No community is so near to complete annihilation as the Polish Jews. The action of rescue and relief should therefore be organised on an accordingly vast scale.

In spite of all our efforts our task here, in London, will hardly bear any comparison with the sacrifices of the Poles in occupied Poland who risk their lives daily to save numerous Jews from the Nazi thugs.

hide them, provide them with food and help them to escape to safety.

We here in London, working in a peaceful atmosphere and in favourable conditions, should at least try to work with the same spirit and the same zeal displayed by those in Poland. A constant effort is necessary if all possible resources are to be exploited. A great and persistent propaganda should be launched to convince the incredulous and to move the hearts of those who are able to help but who in the course of this long and ruthless war have grown callous and indifferent to cries of mortal despair and agony.

I am firmly convinced that our efforts will be not in vain, that we shall be able to organise a fruitful co-operation of Poles and Jews in spite of all minor incidents and frictions that might develop here and there.

I hope to be able - apart from my personal active participation in the work of the Committee - to win for it the sympathetic support of my political friends and of all those who hold our convictions and ideals.

It is my firm belief that final victory is not far off, that Hitler will not achieve his aim to exterminate all Jews and that after victory a new life will develop out of the glorious ruins of the heroically defended Ghetto of Warsaw, of Wilno and Lwów and other centres of a democratic Poland that will secure equality and justice to all her citizens.

STATEMENT BY DR. E. SCHERER
MEMBER OF THE POLISH NATIONAL COUNCIL
/Jewish Worker's Union "Bund" in Poland/.

It is with mixed feeling that I take part in the opening session of the Council for the Rescue of the Jewish Population in Poland.

From the very first moment when the Jewish tragedy revealed itself urgent calls for effective steps towards rescuing the Jewish population have been made by the Jewish Workers' Movement which I have the honour to represent in this Council. We were the first to demand in the National Council from the Polish and other Allied Governments the creation of Polish

and Interallied organisations for the rescue of the Jews from biological extinction by the German occupants. I cannot but mention the name of Szaul Zygielbojm, my predecessor in the Polish National Council on behalf of the "Bund", who one year ago deliberately took his life so that this supreme sacrifice might force the world into effective action of rescuing the tortured and hunted Jews. Witnessing therefore, as I do now, the achievement of one of our aims I feel I should in normal circumstances express some satisfaction on this account.

But the conditions are so terribly abnormal, so far beyond the average misery experienced under German occupation, beyond even that unparalleled tragedy of our Polish brethren, that I must apologise for being unable to express satisfaction or appreciation.

There are many who do literally nothing to help the Jews. But even those who are active in some way are doing little, very little. All action undertaken either by Pres. Roosevelt or by Mr. Churchill or any other official circles fades into insignificance when compared with the tremendous tasks and duties facing the whole anti-Nazi world. The limited scope of these undertakings, the slowness and undue caution revealed in moments calling for bold action - all this is most depressing for us. Indeed a heavy responsibility awaits all, who have taken their duties so lightly.

There are however, a few people who have lived up to the greatness of their task. They are those numerous Poles - I do not know their number - who risk and often sacrifice their lives to rescue their Jewish fellow citizens. To those only who thus discharge their duties of brotherhood towards the Jews we owe our respect and appreciation. The spirit of sacrifice, solidarity and active mutual help displayed in their action should be a shining example for the United Nations. Had the same spirit permeated all the actions of the Great Democracies I feel that to-day we would not witness the mass slaughter of so many Jews, that to-day we would not face the task of saving only a few survivors of the Jewish population in Poland.

Too little and too late - words we have heard so often in the course of the last years - these words are constantly ringing in my ears when I read about the creation of the American War Refugee Board or any other American, English, or even our own action. Too little and too late - it has been our fate to experience the full tragedy of these sinister words.

For the millions of murdered Jews any help and relief is, literally, too late. Let us take care that at least for those for whom it is still not too late we do not do - too little!

We are all confident that the victory is not far off. Undoubtedly all Jews who survive to see the victory in a free and independent Poland as well as in other liberated countries of Europe will enjoy, together with their fellow citizens, their regained liberty. But the very proximity of victory, the fact that everything is ready for the final assault on Hitler's European fortress, may hamper the rescue work of our Committee. We cannot let it happen. We must remember: living nations only will achieve their liberation through victory. However short the span dividing us from victory, every day of our inactivity means new unnecessary victims among the already cruelly decimated Jewish population. On the eve of the final blow it will be our noble task to avail ourselves of the changed situation for rescuing as many victims as can be saved.

Within the scope of the activities of the Polish administration we can greatly contribute towards the solution of the problem by intensifying the financial subsidies for the rescue work. Furthermore, we must create in Poland such an atmosphere of tolerance as to make all our compatriots realize the necessity of increasing their efforts at rescue work which should become a common duty of all citizens. It is much to ask, I know, but I feel that I am entitled to it as a representative of a movement closely bound to Poland, the home of Jewish masses, a movement which has sacrificed everything in the common battle for a free, independent and fully democratic Poland.

There is yet another way of bringing help to the Jewish population:

an atmosphere to such an extent clear from any kind of antisemitic appearances and influences

to supply them generously with arms. This measure depends largely on the attitude of our Allies.

Even in this indescribable hell endured by the Jews under German occupation an armed Jew, a fighting Jew will not only safeguard his human dignity and make the murderers pay dearly for their crimes, but he might also have a slightly better chance of survival than an unarmed and helpless Jew. The pitched battles of the Jewish population in the course of ^{the} last year, the armed rising in the Warsaw Ghetto, the bloody clashes in Bialystok and other ghettos, the Jewish revolts in the camps of Treblinka, Sobibór and other, have resulted in scores of thousands casualties - but without fighting, without resistance, and, of course, without a help of the Polish population the casualties would not have been smaller - apart from the humiliation and degradation of a passive surrender.

Let me, therefore, repeat emphatically: An armed Jew, even when facing the full power of Nazi barbarism, will have more chances to save himself than an unarmed Jew. That is why the supply of sufficient quantities of weapons for the Jewish population in Poland is so important as a safeguard of their honour and of their lives.

When speaking of these three tasks awaiting us I fully realize that the main part of the work is beyond the limited possibilities of the Polish State. To save the Jewish population in Poland as well as in other countries of occupied Europe is the duty of all United Nations and, in the first place, of the powerful Western Democracies, Great Britain, and U.S.A. We have a right to demand from these powers great efforts to save a nation which out of 3 and half millions in Poland has suffered in this war casualties exceeding several times those of the British Empire and U.S. taken together. In my opinion this Council is an institution which whilst doing everything in their power to save the Jews, will also persistently egg on our Allies to do everything in their power to promote our aims.

We demand, in particular, the creation of an Inter-Allied Council for occupied countries for planning and directing the rescue work, just as Military Staffs are planning and conducting military operations.

We demand great supplies of food, medicines etc for the Jews in Poland.

We demand from our Allies sufficient quantities of weapons for the fight against the Nazi murderers.

We demand a persistent and systematic campaign amongst the German population directed against all perpetrators of Nazi crimes.

If there is no better way we demand that steps be taken to ensure for the Jews in Poland the status of prisoner of war. Even the worst treated prisoners of war are infinitely better off than the Jews in occupied Poland.

We demand asylum for those who managed to escape the Nazi grip. We insist, however, that the main effort ~~should be directed towards the rescue of Jews from the places where they used to live and whence they were unable to escape:~~ *of help & relief to Jews should be directed towards those places where Jews used to live and whence they were and will be unable to escape.*

We have put forward those demands not as humble beggars but with the full consciousness of the fact that the Jews are not only cruelly suffering, but also heroically fighting against the occupants, like any military unit surrounded by the enemy and gallantly repelling his attack, we have the full right to call for relief! relief!

At this first session of our Polish Council for the Rescue of the Jews we launch this appeal to the world.

We do not want any post war promises. We prefer instead immediate action. We do not choose to await compensations to-morrow for what we experience to-day. There is no compensation for the murder of a nation. We demand that at least in this eleventh hour the final attempt at completely annihilating Polish Jewry be thwarted and frustrated.

To the leaders of the Great Democracies I address these words of alarm, received by the H.Q. of the Jewish underground movement "Bund"

from one of the Nazi slaughter houses:

"The Democracies of the world are taking their share of responsibility for our fate"

Let us beware lest our help toward the remnants of the Jewish community be - too little and too late.

STATEMENT OF Mr. Adam CIOKOSZ
MEMBER OF THE POLISH NATIONAL COUNCIL
/Polish Socialist Party/

As the last speaker I shall endeavour to be as brief as possible for the following reasons:

Our Council although nominated by the Polish Government is not a Government Department. It is a social organization. To the Government became the nomination of persons indicated by the various groups. I have been designated by the Polish Socialist Party and in accepting for once the suggestion of my political friends the Government have acted very wisely. I hope that this just principle will be applied also in other fields of public activities. The Government is supported and respected by us and we take the responsibility for its actions; it is only but proper to await the same respect on the part of the Government. It is with deep satisfaction that I take notice of this expression of mutual respect which should be of advantage for both the social element and the Government as well.

I have mentioned already that I am representing here the Polish Socialist Party. Thus I need not declare any further what ^{is} the attitude of myself and my party towards the Jewish population in Poland. This attitude has been known for over 50 years. All I have to say about it was said by me in Poland before the war. I could only repeat here, once more, all my numerous speeches, appeals and press articles and I should not like to bother you. But it ought to be stressed here that this our attitude as regards this issue has been confirmed by the events of this war. I am very glad that our views have been so generally accepted by

all Poles so as to become the official declaration of the Government as it was just expressed by the Minister of the Interior. Repeatedly we have issued warnings that racial discrimination is the vanguard of Poland's enemies. This was the case in Tzarist times and his Black battalions, this was the case also in the times of Nazi fascism. True enough Jews could be found in all social classes and all political camps, but we never had any doubts about it that racial hatred was foreboding attacks on democracy - nay - on our culture and civilisation. To a certain degree the present war is a mortal struggle of forces defending on one side human civilisation and on the other of forces bringing them the destruction of all culture and human progress. The German rule in Poland is a terrifying proof and I should say a devilish proof of what antisemitism means when put to practical and final consequences. I hope, nay, I am positive that racial ⁱⁿ tolerance has died out in Poland completely. First of all, the very Polish character prevents us from indulging in such savage deeds as have been perpetrated by the Nazis. Secondly, Poles know from their own experience of the last five years that the devilish machinery of the German atrocities does not stop at the destruction of Jews: The number of Christian in Poland slaughtered by the occupants equals that of murdered Jews. The very fact that we are facing the same ruthless foe who is meting out the same fate to Jew and Christian alike has forged strong bond of solidarity and brotherhood of all Polish citizens in their misery.

Thirdly the Polish Jews have proved beyond any doubt - if there ever was any - that they regard Poland as their homeland and are anxious to fight and can do so even in circumstances when their fight must arouse the deepest admiration of the whole civilised world.

In September 1939 they defended Warsaw in the ranks of the workers' battalions in April and May 1943 they defended the Warsaw Ghetto in the ranks of the Jewish Organisation for Armed Resistance. There can be no Pole but who pays homage to their mortal struggle requiring from them their last ounce of resolution, courage and self denial. We may add that in the ranks of the 2-nd Polish Corps which has gained immortal glory for the Polish colours at Monte Cassino, Polish soldiers of Jewish origin are taking their due share. They are fully aware of the fact as we are too, that the place for the Polish Jew in this war is nowhere but in the ranks of the Polish Army, fighting side by side with the armies of democracies against Adolf Hitler.

I should hate to waste one word in the defence of the currents of intolerance in pre-war Poland. The Polish working class never submitted to them - on the contrary opposed them most decidedly. The Polish peasant proved immune against this disease. The best representatives of the Polish intellectual class, men of science and letters, artists, they all condemned antisemitic tendencies infiltrating formerly from the East and, more recently from the West. The soul of the overwhelming majority of the Polish population remained sound and unstained. When on the eve of September 1939 Poland had to choose her place in the world she neither hesitated nor faltered. Need I remind you that Poland was the first country of the world to resist by the force of arms the full fury of the German aggression? And need I remind you of the horrible price Poland has paid and is paying constantly for her superhuman resistance?

I should like to add that the common fight of the Christians and Jews in Poland must lead to final common victory. Alas, millions of our fellow-citizens will not live to see the dawn of liberty. Our Council is called "The Council for the Rescue of the Jewish Population in Poland". But it would be more appropriate to call it "Council for the Rescue of the Remnants of Polish Jewry". It is true also that help is necessary for both Christians and Jews in Poland. But it is also true that without the help of the Christians the Polish Jews who have escaped out of the ghetto walls - could have no chances of dodging the Nazi bloodhounds. Our Council is, strictly speaking, but a reflection of what in the most difficult conditions has been organised in underground Poland a long time ago. In times when every silly, unnecessary and injurious remark uttered in Polish barracks in Scotland is reverberating all over the world it becomes to us Poles to bear constantly in mind that our compatriots in Poland deem it to be their most sacred duty to bring help to Jews hunted by the Germans. We must remind the world that the Polish nation should be judged primarily by the true qualities of its character, revealed in the very facts of organizing the Underground help for Jews in Poland. Do not forget that the Poles are paying with their own lives for participating in this work of rescue.

This work does not comprise Polish Jews only, Poland has been chosen by the Germans to be the slaughter house for all Jews of the continent. Did not your blood curd at the news of transports coming to Poland from Greece, Belgium, Norway, Slovakia, from all the twelve temporarily subjugated countries? But we, Poles, the rightful owners of the Polish soil, have the duty to help Dutch or Hungarian Jews sent to Poland to meet their death in German camps of slaughter. I may add that this duty is performed by us within the scope of our possibilities.

I should like to be sincere, We help the Jews not because they are Jews, We do so first because they are our fellow-citizens, citizens of the same Polish Republic, one mother for all children, We do so, secondly, because we see clearly our duty of man towards man, The fullest expression of humanity is to bring help to the suffering, to the oppressed, to the innocent victims of murderers as the fullest expression of solidarity is the solidarity of the persecuted and doomed to extermination by ruthless oppressors. For me as a socialist it is only natural to participate in the work of this Council. Nevertheless I should like to state that, as I understand it, there cannot be and there are no political propaganda or prestige aims in it. Its sole task is simply to save one human being through the efforts of another human being from the mad ravings and lust for destruction of Nazi monsters.

Our Council does not aim at taking over the duties of a guardian of the Jews. The relations are not those of protecting and protected. Its character is best described by its composition, which I should like to express in one word: - solidarity. Solidarity in misfortune, May it be followed in future by the solidarity in constructive work, when we proceed to rebuild our administration, our economic and cultural life in the spirit of a true and genuine democracy.

Gentlemen, you have shown your confidence in me by electing me your chairman. I fully appreciate this honour, My Polish colleagues will understand if I say that I am particularly proud of the confidence given me by our Jewish friends, I think I should be obliged to present to you

my programme. I shall abstain from doing so at this moment. The time for words has passed. Only facts and deeds count. You know, I presume, that I can work, and I hope that with this our team we shall achieve the highest results possible under conditions created by the German occupants in Poland.

We have to express our thanks to those who have contributed to the creation of this Council for their heartfelt understanding. From the very bottom of our hearts we should express - perhaps not our gratitude as the discharge of duties is not accepted by thanks - but full appreciation to those in Poland, who have been carrying on for a long time the noble mission of saving whatever could be saved.

History perhaps will reveal and hand down to posterity the names and the deeds which are the proof of the greatness of the Polish soul shown in their work of rescuing Jews persecuted by the Germans, trailed and hunted down from one hiding place to another. I have before my eyes the vision of a Polish workman, one of the many, executed by the Germans in Skarżyska Kamienne, for helping Jews. He mounted the gallows with courage and determination and when the noose was slipped on his neck he called out: Long live Poland!

Let us pay tribute to these martyrs. May their shadows bless our endeavours. Quod fortunatum sit. Gentlemen let us start work.

Strictly secret and confidential

A.

To the ~~R~~epresentation of the "BUND" in London.

Dear comrades,

I have an ^{opportunity} opportunity of sending you a letter, unfortunately very limited in size. I take the advantage of this occasion to send a report /with reference to the last memo of 31.8. last year/ - covering the period between 1.9.1943 up to date/x/. Owing to the lack of space I shall limit myself to the Jewish sector only.

Within the framework of the general action of extermination, mentioned previously, - which had expressed itself in the mass "man-hunts" for work in Germany, camps and prisons, in continues mass arrests, shooting and forced evacuation of villages, towns and whole districts of our country - took place an intensified liquidation of the surviving part of the Jewish community. While up to the 31st August the occupants exterminated about 1.5 million Jews - in the present period they have exterminated an equal amount, leaving alive a mere 250.000 survivors: a number which is ~~decreasing~~ decreasing daily.

The period in question is characterised by two stages of liquidation: the first is the continuation

/x/ This Report designated by the letter "A" and dated Warsaw 22.6.1943, was sent later with the report "B" and both have reached this country in February 1944.

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of the previous phase of the liquidation, meaning the extermination of the great majority of Jews i.e. of women, children, old and the sick etc. either on the spot or in death camps. In the ghettos were left only so called "productive barrack elements" in so called "shops" i.e. big German works, hermetically separated from each other. Another small fraction was sent out to various sorts of heavy work in the East, to penal camps and labour camps. The conditions of life and work in the trenches and posts outside the Ghettos and camps - are cruel. Starvation and cold, knout and bullets specially contrived torture and trampling the manhood down this is everyday's occurrence in the life of these slaves of the Nazis. Consequently a number of ghettos which remained, very much shrunk numerically, were of the "shops" /factory settlements/ character. However, in these ghettos were hiding in the "shelter" the so called "illegal" people i.e. those who succeeded in escaping the "evacuation" but failed to get into the "shops".

In the Warsaw ghetto, e.g. in the previous period there were about 35.000 in the "shops" while between 10.000 - 20.000 of those who failed to get into the "shops" were hiding: in Lwow there were about 20.000, in the Krakow ghetto 10.000, in Czestochowa district between 10 - 20.000. In many larger and smaller towns, where there had been no action/x/ before, the evacuation was carried out at once, sometimes with certain

/x/ "Action" - a popular name for deportation and mass murder of the Jews.

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deviation from the general German pattern.

In addition to this, in this period, transports from Western and Southern Europe continued to pour in into the death camps, penal and labour camps.

The German military failures are followed by intensified cruelty, violence and speed of the liquidation. The second ~~phase~~ stage of this period in question included the liquidation of the already shrunken ghettos, which consisted in transfer and forced evacuation of the "shops" /factory settlements/ to the camps. Now it was a matter of the complete purge of towns of the Jewish. The ghettos disappear altogether, and the camps remain, where the remnants of the Jews are contained e.g. the Poniatow camps, Trawniki /about 25.000 Jews from Warsaw ghetto/; camps in Plaszow, Biezanow near Krakow, Janow near Lwow, Skarzysko, Ostrowiec, Starachowice, Piotrkow, Czestochowa and in other towns mainly in South Eastern Poland or in the II Kielce district.

The characteristic feature of the present period of liquidation are the acts of active armed resistance. While in the previous stage there were only sporadic cases and from larger and smaller towns here and there came news of partial resistance, so now a fundamental change has taken place. In this respect in the forefront is the Warsaw Ghetto.

The first clash in the Warsaw ghetto occurred on 19-23 January 1943. The fighting which then took place between the armed German Gendarmerie and S.S. men on one side

and, on the other side, the Jewish Fighters' Organisation, appearing for the first time, roused high expectations of more vigorous action in the future and was a compromising surprise for the Germans - a prelude of the fighting yet to come...

Unfortunately the lack of space makes it impossible for us to describe the events in full, giving an idea of their magnitude and colour, nor can we give the sequence of the events in a manner that pays the full tribute due to the dignity of those events. This will be done one day - and done it should be... Here only a few fragmentary remarks. - What was going on in April and May in Warsaw, that Jewish - German war, that as it has been named the Battle of Ghetto-grad - this really does surpass any analogy from the history, either of our own or of any other nation. Various were the stages of this war, its forms and methods, imposed by the peculiar set of circumstances; and on their background were performed various defensive - offensive acts of the partisan warfare. The unforgettable, deeply moving images of the ghetto, enwrapped in the clouds of smoke, lit by the enormous glow of blazing fires, this staccato clatter of machine guns, the roar of howitzers, the pandemonium of the heavy artillery - exploding mines, crashing buildings - and these people of ours living amidst the inferno... It seems that there is no master of pen, brush or sound, who could represent in full the Great Event which was happening before our eyes, neither could he express what we all experienced in those terrible, tragic and yet - great days.

The main battles lasted from the 19 April 1943 for

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about one month, but even afterwards up to the end of May some centres of the resistance were still active. The action was directed by the Jewish Fighters' Organisation, which was the backbone of the struggle. It was the armed organ of the Coordinating Commission of the General Jewish Workers' Union "Bund" of Poland (Expt. also Jewish Labour Party "Bund" of Poland, or simply "Bund") and the Jewish National Committee. Neither the Revisionists nor the "Agudah" did belong to this organisation. The Revisionists created their own small "organisation of Revenge" which after two days battle ceased fighting. - In the Jewish Fighters' Organisation predominated the youth and the working class elements - the youngest, 13 years old Lusiek /of the Junior "Bund"/ - the eldest, 40 years of age. All idealists of different parties. The brotherhood-in-arms of Bundists, Chalutzim, Shomrim, etc. - exemplary.

The general attitude of the people was diametrically different from that of the previous year. The opinion that this heroism and determination were a mere product of despair would be wrong and unjust. More than a few of the fighters had had an opportunity to get out of the ghetto. They would not do it, for they were guided by their strong determination to fulfil the tasks arising from the high ethical imperative - the task of inflicting punishment on the enemy, fight for dignity, honour, struggle against Fascism - enemy of mankind and their own nation. On the German side there was carelessness bordering on cowardice. As the battle dragged on,

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the halo of the German invincibility started fading - and the great possibilities and hopes in the struggle against the occupants were becoming apparent to the Polish nation. In this Jewish-German war the Underground Poland found an incentive that strengthened the significant spirit of resistance against the Germans. For this reason the Germans let go their mad fury - blasting to smithereens and razing to the ground the whole ghetto. On the fifth day of the battle we issued an impressive proclamation of the Jewish Fighters Organisation in which those who were in the fight, sent their battle greetings to the Underground Poland and to the Capital. Groups of the Polish Working Class movement replied by declarations of solidarity and admiration. Generally, the attitude of the whole Polish Underground Movement was characterised according to the approach of different groups to the Jewish problem - mainly by respect for the defenders and by the gravity in face of the struggle. The Capital and the country were electrified by the fighting.

During the fighting we were issuing on behalf of the Co-ordinating Commission of the "Bund" and the Jewish National Committee regular, almost daily communique from the battlefield which were printed in the official bulletin published by the secret civil authorities and broadcasted by the radio station "Dawn" /Swit/.

The result of the fighting was on the Jewish side - several thousand killed - burnt alive, shot or gassed - about 25.000 taken to the camps in Trawniki, Poniatow, Majdanek and

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the concentration camp in Lublin - and blown up by mines, shells etc., and gutted out by blazing fires debris and stumps of ruined houses, were all that was left. The ghetto of Warsaw is one big cementary. In its cellars there is still flickering live of perhaps some hundred or even thousand of survivors facing their final agony. Just two days ago arrived here a 13 years old boy with a note from there, dated 10.6.1943 - a "sign of life" in that world of modern catacombs.

The bombardment of Warsaw in 1939 caused the destruction of 75.000 dwelling rooms. In the war with the Ghetto the destruction amounts to over hundred and several thousand dwellings. The German losses - over 1000 dead and wounded and enormous material losses in the establishments engaged on work for the German war industry which were demolished and burnt out by the Jewish Fighters' Organisation.

When various combat groups of the Jewish Fighters' Organisation could not continue the fight - among other reasons because of the lack of ammunition - they began to concentrate their efforts of getting out of that inferno. About 200 men of the Jewish Fighters' Organisation remained there. The first man of the J.F.O. to bring the news from the battlefield was Z. FRYDRYCH /member of the "Bund" Party/

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active in the Workers' Sport Club the "Morning Star" / - a veteran soldier of the Polish Army, he was a man of uncommon courage and bravoure. Shortly afterwards he was shot by the enemy after capture with a group of fighters outside the walls of the Ghetto. He got through to us in dramatic circumstances, after digging a tunnel in order to carry out the tasks entrusted to him.

Full of almost fantastic moments of suspense and danger was the escape by slipping through along sewers of remainder of the survivors of the J.F.O. - Two larger groups of J.F.O. amounting to about 70 succeeded in escaping to forests in thrilling circumstances. Several other groups found their death either at the outlets of the sewers or after leaving them with arms in hands. About 60 died probably in the sewers which were picketed by the German Army.

Thus the Warsaw Ghetto, like many other ghettoes officially has ceased to exist. In an official announcement which imposed death penalty for all Jews and those who hide them, - already the ghetto is referred to as "former Jewish district".-

During the liquidation of the ghettoes in the present - the second stage - from many sides reaches us the appeal for arms, but very few weapons are available, in

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fact none at all. This is why there are no more battles comparable with that of Warsaw but in various places the acts of resistance are more numerable than in the previous period. The example of Warsaw has had a stirring effect. Unfortunately the circumstances did not allow to prepare for similar fighting.

In the present moment there are four sectors, where the surviving Jews in Poland can be located. There are: the ghettos, the Labour and Concentration Camps, forests and Aryan districts of towns and villages.

There are hardly a few larger ghettos left: In Zagłębie Dąbrowskie, Łódź, Białystok, Wilno, Radom and probably a few smaller. All these sooner or later will share the fate of others already liquidated. Then there will remain three groups of centres of Jewish life. Each of them has its peculiar character and way of living. The smallest numerically is the centre in the forests, where live either Jewish or mixed partisan groups. The most numerous are Labour and Penal camps with ~~notorious~~ orious conditions of life and work: bullets, the knout, tortures, hunger. The last centre are the Aryan districts where Jews live in dispersion disguised as Aryans. This centre is entirely conspiratory. In the Aryan districts and now in the cities, totally purged of the Jews the presence of the Jews is forbidden. Every

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Jew or man of Jewish origin is considered a criminal, who, if detected, should be punished by death on the spot. For this reason, the Jews who live in the towns must in every detail imitate their neighbours and in no way differ from them. Hence a tragic dualism of life, particularly in the face of the exceedingly difficult housing problem - the accommodation is scarce and very expensive and difficult to get - /if at all, as sub-tenants only/. The position gets worse and worse as the pressure of the authorities grows against those who hide or otherwise assist the Jews. This causes psychosis in the community purposely fostered and created by the occupants - the Jewish psychosis. As the German pressure grows, the action of hunting and liquidation the Jews becomes more intensified. Whole packs of detectives and all sorts of uniformed and plain-clothes policemen and ~~spies~~ spies are busying themselves day by day in the streets and public places to fish out new victims. This makes an excellent field for blackmail which becomes a calamity. There are persons who many a times have had to yield to blackmail. The blackmail robs its victims of their property indoors, not of money and valuables alone, and in the streets even of shoes and clothing. The fight against the blackmail is being carried out. It is in the interest of the whole Polish underground movement.

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Under such circumstances it has become the fate of the Jews to live in the Aryan districts under continuous tension and uncertainty whether, either because of their appearance or of accident or behaviour, a disaster does not befall them at any moment - independently of the general pressure of the cruel German terror applied to the whole population. - All the above mentioned centres of Jewish life /4 or rather 3 of them/ will be subjected sooner or later to the complete liquidation. This liquidation is taking place already - this is its last stage. The only victory so far - the only complete victory which Hitler will achieve despite his ignominious defeat, will be his triumph over millions of defenceless Jews slaughtered - an unpunished crime.

The quickest and the most direct action of saving them is the paramount task of the present moment. The surest way is to bring the war to the end - and until that moment is to apply the method of realisation, with further warning particularly as the number of German prisoners is considerable. If however this is out of question as real means, owing to the passive attitude of our mighty Allies - there is one way of rescue - the road of an international agreement providing for an exchange. All other means - financial assistance - and getting people out of prisons and camps and supplying them with documents and rescuing from blackmail, these all are important things and they are being done by us - things both difficult and nerve-wrecking and causing considerable expense, but they are mere palia-

palliatives; and then, these provide a solution for individual cases only and by no means for the Jewish community taken as a whole. Our forecasts of 10 months ago included the report of 31 August last year /1942/ have proved themselves right, and so in future they will prove themselves right to the last word, if a great action as one proposed by us is not carried out immediately - now - in the very last moment

With this background of conditions and circumstances unprecedented in history - it has become our task to carry out the organising work. Great tasks which in the crucial points such as this one, face any socialist working ~~class~~ class organisation - in this period must have acquired the character of a struggle to save human beings from physical death and primarily of preparations to further armed struggle. This constituted almost the essence of the organising work, it determined almost every step. Owing to the force of circumstances, there existed two organisational centres one inside the ghetto, the other one outside....

As a result of preparations for active armed resistance a decision was ~~taken~~ taken to co-ordinate our efforts leading to the armed struggle against the occupants, with the effort of other Jewish organisations grouped around the Jewish National Committee to which belonged the Zionist organisations and their youth groups. The Co-ordinating Commission of the Jewish Labour Party "Bund" and the National Jewish Committee

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came into being and as its organ the Jewish Fighters' Organisation was created which limited its activity to the fighting sector of the active resistance in Warsaw. The Coordinating Commission in the territory outside the ghetto had the representation of two men - the "Dund" and the Jewish National Committee had one man each, attached to the secret headquarters of the military authorities. The task of this representation was to obtain arms and supplies possibly from outside, in case of a new action of liquidation in ghetto and to deal with the matter of the participation of Jews in the partisan units. Our outstanding contribution was supplying the Jewish Fighters' Organisation with explosives and the production of ammunition for active resistance here in the ghetto. In this respect the services of Comrade ^{Michael Klepfer} KLEPISZ an engineer, were invaluable. He was killed in the last battle. In addition we increased considerably the funds of the Coordinating Commission and the Jewish Fighters' Organisation with our contributions.

The outside - the - ghetto centre maintained contacts with civil and military authorities of the Underground Poland and her organisations W.R.N. and P.P.S. /initials stand for the Polish Socialist Movement/ then the contacts with the provinces and with you; and it played a great part in the work for the armed action and performed important functions during the battle of the ghetto against the Germans. The outside-the-ghetto Centre has been sen-

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to
ding/you the messages - considerably fewer messages how-
ever have been received from you.

One of the sectors of the work of the centre outside the ghetto - was our participation in the Council for Help to the Jews, on which there was a Jewish representation consisting of two men. The "Bund" and the Jewish National Committee had one man each. To the Council belong the W.R.N. / i.e. Polish Socialist Party/ - chairman, the Peasant Party /vice-chairman/, the "Bund" /vice-chairman/, the Democratic Party /treasurer/. The Polish Democratic Organisation /housing section/, the Jewish National Committee /secretary/ and one man on behalf of the Representative of the Government. We do not draw on the Funds of the Council, as long as we have our own funds. The budget of the Council from the original sum of 50.000 grew to the amount of 555.000 for June /1943/, of which 150.000 are allocated for the Provinces. The Warsaw Council is a central body and the councils in Lwow and Krakow are district bodies and receive funds from the Central Council. In Warsaw there about 1.000 recipients of the relief. The average rate is about 300 - 400 zloty which obviously does not cover even the modest maintenance cost. In addition to the financial help the most effective is the extremely useful help with the documents, given free

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of charge to every Jew. The council issued a proclamation regarding the assistance and fight against the blackmail. During the ^{Expt:} action/ as mentioned above i.e. deportation and mass murder of the Warsaw Ghetto, which then began./ in summer last year /1942/ our organisation published /inside the Warsaw Ghetto a paper the "Storm" containing a call for resistance and in November and December 1942 appeared further two issues of our paper. In April 1943 appeared the last issue of our organ in the Warsaw Ghetto - all in Jewish language.

Besides these matters of general character perhaps the most effort, time and nerves are spent on technical activities, connected with our people assistance in financial and housing problems in connection with mass arrests. Here we ought to point out that while the whole Poland works under the conditions of conspiratory life, in comparison with which the conspiracies of the Tsarist times had been simply bucolic - so in proportion our conspiratory work is hundred times harder, which for others is just beyond comprehension. We are a double conspiracy : both as Jews and as a Political Organisation of the Underground Poland. And this explains everything. We live under the pressure of the terror. People perish daily. Lately,

after slipping through after the heavy fighting in the Ghetto, died as a result of a blackmail a member of our Central Committee Abr. KWILATEK /one of the very few most outstanding chief leaders of the Jewish Underground Movement since its creation in October 1939 Played a leading part in organisation of the Jewish Labour Sector of defence of Warsaw during September 1943/, an engineer and ROZOWSKI /a brave commander of a sector of the front in the Ghetto/. Altogether it is not possible to enumerate all who lost their lives. Our organisation particularly was decimated after a great police raid which resulted from an incident during the distribution of our secret publications, - everywhere in the provinces still before the official liquidation of the Ghettoes. In Krakow, Lublin, Tomaszow, Czestochowa, Radom, Piotrkow many of our most important comrades who were active there were arrested and taken to Oswiecim where they were murdered. ~~They~~ escaped from Radom and was hiding from the Gestapo in the Warsaw Ghetto from which he was taken away together with his family to Tremblinka during the "action". From ~~where~~ still before the "action" and during it, all the more prominent active members were killed, ~~Escaped~~ /his family lost their lives/ and who later on was taken away to Tremblinka.

Sorts -
instead of
names of
persons or
towns.

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In Lwow owing to a denunciation lost his life
(a very famous counsel in Poland)
comrade Leib Landau. About Sonia Nowogrodzka you have learn
ed already from the telegram - she was sized in August
last year /1943/ and taken to the trucks. We have lost in
here a brave member of the Central Committee. I shall not
mention any more people.

Now I shall give you the names of the people who are
with me and either work actively or are under our care and
in whom you are interested.....

In the camps, are still alive numerous groups of our
Party members who are carrying there the self-help work and
organising and preparation for the fight. Also in there are
many of our comrades with whom we maintain contacts.

After having received the details of the news of the
terrible execution of Henryk Erlich and Victor Alter
during a conference which we are holding then on some
organisational matters, we made a solemn protest against
this unheard of crime. The resolution was sent on by
us to the Polish Socialist Press and was published in the
periodical W.R.N. Then following the death of Comrade
Szmul ZYGIELBOJM /in may 1943 in London/ which made on us
a crushing impression we sent to the chairman of the Nation

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al Council of the Republic of Poland a telegram, the contents of which are known to you.

I am coming to the end of this sketchy report for the period between the first of September 1942 and June 1943. I have not mentioned many matters. Perhaps I shall do it next time. But I cannot finish the report without making the following remarks. We have to face great things, greater than anything any nation ever has had to live through. But in the analysis and the reflections on this subject I cannot but emphasize the blows that have struck us are the result of the war activities of Fascism - a decidedly reactionary and counter-revolutionary movement. Thus our old attitude our point of view have found confirmation in the sad reality, which has affected us so tragically. This is why if our situation imposes on us an almost exclusive preoccupation with the Jewish sector and this we do from the point of view of the whole Jewish Community and according to our political attitude, - we still do not forget the position taken as a whole: the situation of whole Poland and all the peoples in their fight for freedom and we understand clearly what is the world fighting for and what goal it tends. But at the same time we know - that we active here

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in our party - most probably will not be able to collaborate with other fellow organisations in building the fundamentals of the New World of Peace and Social Justice. And this we regret most. We do not doubt that although the Jewish Community has paid its enormous tribute towards the creation of such a world, and within it we too, and not numerically only - still we shall carry on with our duty - until the last breath.

Affectionate Greetings

for the Central Committee

signed (-)

Warsaw, 22.6.1943.

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Strictly secret and confidential

TO THE REPRESENTATION OF THE BUND IN LONDON /TO HAND
OF DR. EMANUEL SHERER, MEMBER OF THE POLISH NATIONAL
COUNCIL IN LONDON/.

In June of the current year I was notified of the possibility of sending you a brief report. I have availed myself of this opportunity to write you a report further to my memorandum of the 31 August 1942, sent to you last year, covering the period 1st September 1942 to the end of June 1943. To my regret technical obstacles prevented it being sent to you. Now I have been invited to compile a general report without any limits as to its lengths. Owing to lack of time and the pressing organisation of other matters I am limiting myself now to the rendering of a report covering only the period 1st September 1942 to the end of July 1943. I am appending my above mentioned memorandum which I shall designate by the letter "B"/.

B. REPORT OF PERIOD 1st JULY 1943 TO 15th NOVEMBER 1943.

In reading this report of our work and struggle it is necessary to bear in mind the background and conditions which have called forth this work. The fundamental and essential factor which has determined almost all our activities has been the continued realisation of the Hitlerist programme of annihilation of the now small remnants of the Jewish population.

1/. The continuing annihilation of the Jews.

You are already cognisant of the mass liquidations in former periods which resulted in the annihilation of the vast majority of the Jewish population. This annihilation is continuing at the

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time of writing this report, in various Jewish centres which have arisen after the past mass-executions, and the methods employed continue to be both treacherous and barbariously bestial.

There has taken place during this period the total liquidation of the shrinking population of the Ghettos of G.G. of Ostland and Reich which had already been reduced by former action /with only the exception of Lodz where there still exists a Ghetto containing approximately 30,000 Jews of Lodz, and approximately 100,000 foreigners/. The liquidation was carried out by already notorious methods: part were shot on the spot, part driven out to gas-chambers at Treblinka, Belzhits, Sobiebor, Ostwentin, and other factories of death /the bodies being afterwards burnt in crematoria/, part-mostly males in the prime of life-were consigned to existing or newly formed Jewish labour camps, finally the smallest minority was left in the deserted and ruined Ghettos for keeping order there and the rounding-up and segregation of remaining ~~Jews~~ movable Jewish property for looting by the Germans.

In consequence of these liquidations some small groups and single individuals, "the lucky ones", succeeded in escaping into the woods or to nearby towns, which by now are almost completely "purged" of the Jewish element.

In the period described occurred the liquidation of the Ghettos of Bendzin /30,000/, Czestochowa, Tarnow, Rzeszow, Przemysl, Mielec, Radom, Piotrkow, /containing a few thousand each/, Bialystok /30,000/, Wilno /15,000/ and towns of ~~Western~~ Eastern Galicia such as Stryj, Sambor, Kolomyja, Buczacz, Drohobycz, Boryslaw and others /some of a few thousands, others with scores of thousands population/.

Parallel with the liquidation of the Ghettos there went on the

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hunting-down of the groups who had taken to the woods. Also there continued the seeking out and extermination of Jews who had escaped and hidden themselves in Aryan districts. Besides this the Germans hunted down groups who were lurking in the catacombs here called "bunkry" of the burnt out Warsaw ghetto and liquidated these groups on the spot.

During the same period covered by this report there has continued the importation into Poland of foreign Jews from Western and Southern European regions-from the vassal States of Bulgaria, Rumania, Greece, Yugoslavia and lately from Italy. Part of these were consigned to gas-chambers and part to the Jewish labour camps.

Lately-in fact only a week ago-probably in connection with the set-backs of the Germans and the approach of the Russian front westwards-there has begun a new phase:

The liquidation of the camps.

On the 3rd November of the current year the Germans liquidated the camp at Trawniki, containing approximately 10,000 Jews of whom the majority had been brought from Warsaw Ghetto at the time of the armed resistance. It was carried out by the Germans' usual treacherous method, the men first led out of the camp on the pretext of digging trenches, then stripped and machine-gunned on the spot. Then the women and children were led out in similarly disposed of by the Hitler assassins. The same occurred partially on the 6th November in the camp at Poniatowo/approximately 15,000 brought from Warsaw at the time of the battle in the ghetto/ in the camp at Lublin and partially in the camps at Janow near Lwow ^{where} ~~where~~ nearly 2000 Jews were exterminated.

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II. Actual Number and Location of the Jewish Population.

At present Jews are located in four fundamentally differing communities: in camps, in the woods, in Aryan neighbourhoods and in foreign camps.

/1/ In labour camps, which are situated either in former Ghettos /this is the smallest category/ or /most frequently/ outside towns around which are located enterprises producing for Germany in which Jews are set to work. Discipline in these is harsh, hunger, torture, shooting for the smallest breach of discipline or for escape attempts - for which scores are made to answer - prevail. Jews are also working outside the camps in so-called "outposts" to which they are attached in barracks or where they go from the camps. There they work either alone or alongside Polish workmen. There are scores of these camps of varying size in the territories of the General Government such as: two near Cracow /in Plashow and on the Jewish Cemetery of Jerusalem St./ which contain some scores of thousands of Jews; In Lwow Janow camps /where about 2000 remained after the latest liquidation/, Piotrkow /about 2000/, Czestochowa /about 2000/, in Trawniki /about 10,000/ just now liquidated, in Poniatowa /about 15,000/ just now partially liquidated, in Bochnia /several hundreds/, in Tarnow /about 200/ partly transferred to the camp at Plashow, in Rzeszow /a few hundreds/, in Szednia near Jaslo /a few thousands/, in Mustkow near Debica /a few thousands/, in Brody /about 10,000/, in Zloczow /a few thousands/, in Blizin Kielce /2,000/, in Radom whose Ghetto has recently been turned into a camp /2000/, in Skarzysko-Kamienna, Starachowice, Annapol, Sw. Krzyz /1000/ and elsewhere.

After the recent liquidation of the ghetto in Bialystok a tiny part of the population was sent to Trawniki, while after the

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liquidation of the Wilno ghetto, during which a considerable part were killed on the spot, part were sent to the camp at Woronowo and part to the Kowno region. Finally there remains the Lodz ghetto which is one huge factory working for the Germans.

/2/ In the woods. A few groups who had succeeded in evading the pogroms in the ghettos escaped by various roads and methods into the woods and are now living there, armed and unarmed. The majority of these - from sheer necessity to live - have formed themselves into robber-bands living on the countryside; a very small part have joined the partisan groups of their respective localities. All these are at the mercy of the elements and conditions created by the German terror. They are living as nomads, hunted and baited on all sides, harried from place to place and finally exterminated.

/3/ In Aryan districts. The third group is scattered in the Aryan districts of various large towns, living there as Aryans; they are either hidden in houses, working professionally /especially women as domestic servants/ or working in the underground movement. They are often living in great want, which is being relieved by the Council of Aid /see below, chapt. 7/, and Jewish organisations i.e. the Bund and the Jewish National Committee. This meagre existence is often abruptly terminated - most frequently as a result of denunciation and blackmail, or the descent of the Gestapo and liquidation.

/4/ In foreign camps. The fourth group is located in foreign camps: in Vitel/Alsace/, Salzburg and Bergen/near Hanover/. Their total number is scores of thousands. These are the Jews who have obtained Paraguayan or other citizenship. Conditions of life in these camps, in so far as we have received news of them, varies. In one, Vitel, they appear to be good. In another, Bergen, they seem to be very harsh. Lately

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we have had rumours that this camp at Bergen has been liquidated. This news is as yet un-investigated.

The structure of the communities, enumerated above, varies. Their proportional numbers are very difficult to establish with accuracy, especially in this last period, on account of considerable fluctuation. However, the probability is that the largest percentage of Jews is to be found in the camps and the rest in the Aryan districts. A considerably smaller percentage is to be found in the foreign camps, and the smallest constitutes the groups located in the woods.

III. Our Problems.

Out of the background of this unusual situation and the extraordinary conditions created by the terrorist measures of the invader against the Jewish population, or to be precise, its remains, arise completely unusual needs and problems. We are facing gigantic problems which would be incapable of solution by even organisation of more numerous and powerful nations functioning as governments with well and widely established administrative facilities and disposing not only of material, spiritual and physical powers incomparably greater than ours; but also, which is more important, not existing under such incredibly hard conditions as those in which we live - although these nations, especially Poland, are held within the iron shackles of occupation and flow daily with the heartsblood of the flower of their manhood.

These fell under the blow of the iron fist of the present-day Huns, nation after nation, each one stronger than the last, equipped with highly organised administrations and, above all, disposing of trained armed forces for scores of hundreds of years. And not one of these was

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able to dam the cruel wave, which even so was less terrible than the one which has engulfed us. How is it then that we, so much weaker than these, without those elements of power, without that opportunity of preparation, a vanishing minority of whom only shadows remain - how is it that we, living under these wild circumstances, are able to tackle the enormous problems and demands arising from the tragic situation whose outlines we have traced here? And how is it that we are able to carry on the work and wage the struggle which in the face of the iron rigour with which the programme of slaughter to the last man is being executed, appear to be as hopeless as the task of Danaid:

To conclude: even in half-way normal times the tackling of such ~~things~~ huge problems would have called for correspondingly vast organisation of workers, which does not exist now when almost all, alas, have perished. Compared with the great number of various social workers of whom we disposed before the war and even to some extent during the first year of the present invasion, there remains now a mere fraction which has harnessed itself into the hard yoke of our Bund activities and underground warfare. But ~~without~~ nothing discourages us. Nothing daunts us: neither the huge mass of new, varied and incredibly difficult ~~problems~~, nor the hopelessness of our efforts and the danger which threatens us at every step, nor even that there are so few of us and of these few so many of our dearest and closest are periodically snatched from us - by death.

We are working and we will continue in the spirit of a doctor who has before him a hopeless patient and still sees it as his duty to continue his efforts until the very last moment, in the spirit of the captain of a sinking ship, who continues to do all he can for a

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the rescue of the drowning, himself remaining at his post to the last. We are doing this for the slender chance that we may still be able to save something for the future. We carry on our work spurred on by our indomitable will to continue the struggle against the enemy. We carry on with our work in the knowledge that it is an honourable and to our socialist past founded on a fighting tradition.

Our problems at present are as follows: the need at all cost of keeping alive those remnants who are still living, and not only in the strict organisational sense but in general, so that there shall remain a reserve for the future, as witnesses of the crimes who will form others in the common struggle against the perpetrators of these crimes, and for ideological and organisational problems - i.e.

- /1/ material and moral aid on a large scale,
- /2/ active resistance against the common enemy,
- /3/ organisational and ideological work and all that is connected with these problems.

Here are our problems. It is impossible to retail all our activities and describe in detail all that enters into our scope. They range over: housing questions, distribution of material assistance, legalisation /documents, registration etc./, the serious consequences of blackmail, preparation for active resistance, arrests, parcels, clothing, medical supplies, contacts made locally and with provincial camps, letters, newspapers, secret journeys, meetings and many similar activities - these absorb our time, our nerves and our health.

IV. CO-ORDINATION COMMISSION AND JEWISH FIGHTERS' ORGANISATION.

As you are aware, a commission for active resistance was

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formed in the area of Warsaw Ghetto after the July liquidation of last year /1942/; it co-ordinated the efforts of our organisation /Bund/ with those of the J.N.C./Jewish National Committee/. This work has yielded positive results /armed struggle in January, ~~XXXX~~ and armed uprising in April and May of 1943/. After the total liquidation of the Warsaw Ghetto the then factually existing co-ordination body in the Aryan districts became the formal one in July and embraced a wider range both materially and territorially, i.e. material aid and all Poland. This ~~was~~ not and is not a body ^{of} political character, even less a political and social representation of Jewish society, it exists solely on account of its usefulness in co-ordinating the efforts of both parties in their spheres of work and struggle. Neither of the parties in this agreement ever intended to attribute political significance to this body. "Political questions - as stated in the second paragraph of the constitution of the C.C. /co-ordination Committee/- which each of the co-ordinating parties conduct themselves in accordance with their views - are excluded from the co-ordination".

On the basis of mutual decisions we have carried out co-ordinating activities here in Warsaw and in the provinces in connection with the camps, and in the spheres of self-help and preparation for armed resistance. As regards the former activity in the Warsaw area, we have helped in the capacity of the C.C. various individuals which did not come within the sphere of our organisation or that of the J.N.C. and did not, due to lack of money, receive help from the Council of aid. /On this subject see chapter VII/. We have also in the capacity of the C.C. delegated considerable sums to the rescue not only of Jews but non-Jews after their arrest, ~~xx~~ as well as to

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non-Jews working in the field of self-help on behalf of the Council in the case of their arrest.

As regards the provinces we have sent to various centres in camps sums up to scores of thousands of Zlotys. I enumerate these in greater financial detail further in this report, here I only wish to point out that the C.C. does not possess its own treasurer or fund but acts in accordance with each individual case.

In carrying out the decisions which enter the sphere of activity of the C.C. various of our comrades play their part which often involves them in extremely difficult and dangerous missions. As regards preparation for armed resistance two members of the C.C. or of the Jewish Fighters' Organisation *(one for the Bund, the other for N.C.)* were in contact with the official military representation of Underground Poland. You will find a more detailed account of the typical activities of the C.C. in further sections of the report.

V. ARMED RESISTANCE

A.

In the period covered by this report - probably as a result of the deep-seated causes which called forth the armed uprising of the Warsaw ghetto, and consequent on the atmosphere created throughout Poland by their struggle - there followed a series of acts of armed resistance by Jews in various centres. - Acts which form another link in the whole chain of actions which were begun by the heroic struggle in Warsaw and which have themselves attained this level of heroism.

/1/ First of all Bialystok. This is one of the many pre-war centres of Jewish productive work under the strong influence of the Bund which had actively resisted the German assassins in the middle

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of August of the current year /1943/ they began the liquidation of the ghetto. Armed resistance continued for about a month and was a feat of great determination and gallantry. The Germans who employed in this struggle the same methods and arms they used in Warsaw, killed then a considerable part of the victims of the 30,000 in the Bialystok ghetto, many others perished in the liquidation and an inconsiderable part were deported to Trawniki.

/2/ Treblinka. The camp of gas-chambers in which the Hitlerites have annihilated thousands of Jews- has been destroyed, at the beginning of August of the current year, by the Jews who were working there. The revolting Jews killed 30 of the German-Ukrainian garrison of the camp, removed their arms, burnt the buildings of the place of executions, destroyed the installations and organised the escape into the nearest woods of about 2000 Jews.

/3/ Acts of armed Jewish resistance on a considerably smaller scale in Tarnow, Bedzin, Czestochowa, Boryslaw, have taken place in connection with the liquidation of the ghettos during the period covered by this report.

/4/ A desperate and heroic action similar to that of Treblinka took place in Sobibor, another place of execution of hundreds of thousands of Jews. This happened in October of the current year when there escaped from there a considerable number of Jews.

/5/ Finally an un-armed but nevertheless very serious act of resistance was undertaken by the Jews of the Lodz ghetto in February of the current year in staging a GENERAL STRIKE in connection with the mass-executions started by the Germans, which executions were stopped as a result of this action. In conclusion, it should be noted that in many other camps, especially Poniatow and Trawniki the C.C.

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and the Jewish Fighters' Organisation were also active in the preparation of armed resistance, having sent to them financial aid, arms, instructions and liason officials.

Preparatory action for armed resistance as well self-aid was directed inside the camps by similar C.C.'s to ours in which our comrades in these camps constitute the largest groups and sometimes even the largest percentage and played a very active and prominent part.

B. PARTISANS.

As has been stated above, arising from the liquidation of the ghettos and finally their total destruction and as a result of the cruel regime in the Jewish camps, from time to time some /especially active/ groups of Jews manage to escape from these centres of annihilation into the woods, and there form groups /so-called "requisition-groups"/ or, more rarely, join partisan groups of their respective localities. The question was how the J.F.O. could weld these isolated groups organisationally. In this connection consultations took place between the official military representative of Underground Poland and the C.C. or J.F.D. who, however, was dubious of the possibilities of this solution. He was also critical of the army of the Jewish camps. However, his attitude has become more favorable, which logically should have also inclined him more favourably towards them as partisans, since if the army of the camps results in their destruction and a break-out from them into the woods, then it will be necessary to provide the fugitives with the means of continued existence, which in fact

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means a artisans existence.

C. INSURRECTION BRANCH IN WARSAW. is already formally organised. A few more Jews belong to it under the leadership of an officer of the Polish army. This branch - when it is factually established - will act up to its name in the moment of general insurrection against the invaders in common with other branches of which it will form an integral part. This was the putcome of consultations between the C.C. and or J.F.O. with official underground authorities.

VI. The Provinces.

*Particularly secret
and confidential*

One of our main tasks during the period covered by this report has been to institute and maintain contact with the provinces, i.e. Jewish camps scattered throughout Poland. In the first place we ourselves, and then in common with C.C. established a life contact by means of couriers, we have also had the help of the C. of A. /at first through the help of comrades from the P.P.S. - Polish Socialist Party - and the Democratic Party/. Thanks to all this we are able to transmit to the camps letters of instructions, words of encouragement, money and arms. In all these camps bodies analogous to our C.C. have been organised. We first established and maintained contact with Cracow, Poniatow, Trawniki, Piotrkow, Lwow, Ostrowice, Radom, Kielce, Czestochowa, Bedzin and many other smaller places, such as Skarzysko - Kamienna, Starachowice, Blizin. Also certain camps established contact with neighbouring ones, transmitting to each other information they received from us and sharing funds we sent them. We were fortunate enough to

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establish ~~xxx~~ ad hoc contact with Bialystok immediately following the armed uprising of that ghetto. We receive deeply moving letters from these centres of suffering and death. As an example: "Dream of reality - the voice of help from the comrades of Warsaw..." writes with tears comrade K. who has just escaped from the struggle in Bialystok and is now hidden by a Polish comrade who has taken him and another comrade into his care. Similar letters have come to us from our comrades in camp at Plaszow near Cracow, who had been in contact with our comrades at Tarnow and shared with them financial aid sent by us. From Trawniki /now liquidated/ we have had news that our comrades there - naturally in their own strange fashion - celebrated the forty sixth anniversary of our party /The General Jewish Workers' Union Bund was founded in 1897/. In a word we are endeavouring to reach everywhere with moral and financial help. As you know, it is often the case that an isolated individual receiving money and a letter will draw from it the encouragement he needs for continued struggle and endurance. As for example when we transmitted into the hands of one of our comrades there 20.000 zlotys for distribution among all in the Piotrkow camp. If only you had been able to read the letter which we received from them. His words moved us to tears " it was - he writes - the most wonderful moment of my life". In those ghastly conditions in which they live he contacted his ideological comrades, he got through to other working centres, shared the money among them, gave them news he had received from us, managed by some fantastic means even to send money to Skarzysko and Blizin where are sent comrades from Cracow. He has given us

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their names and from these we had got an address for organisation for Skarzysko and Blizna. Thanks to this we conceived a plan which has now been fully evolved. All this widens our contacts and furthers our work. Our attitude towards to ever widening ~~contacts~~ calls made upon is one of intense keenness fully aware of our responsibility. We have sent financial aid to these camps which I shall give in detail further in this report. The most important thing however, is that all this work should not be in vain and that at any rate we should rescue these hells at least some small groups for our future's sake. However the task is so grimly difficult that one's heart fails one, especially since there has begun the liquidation of the camps themselves.

VII COUNCIL OF AID TO THE JEWS: *)

The activities of the C.C. and the C. of A. to the Jews are given closer welded together because of their common ground of material aid. The C. of A. is giving free aid to all Jews and is rendering valuable assistance in matters of ~~legislation~~ legalisation. It is assisting our work in the camps which we are enabled to reach through the C. of A. From the time of our receiving considerable sums from abroad, we and the J.F.O. have deposited funds into the treasury of the C.C. our shares from these from August to November amounted to 300.000 zlotys of which I give details in the financial section of this report. Finally there are social questions such as the matter of the J.V.S./see below, chapter IX/ to whom the attitude of the C. of A. has been determined on the basis formulated by the C.C.

*) expl. - see next page.

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VIII THE QUESTION OF THE JEWISH CAMPS FOR FOREIGNERS

Unfortunately, despite the mass tragedy of the Jews, there are still illusions which persist amongst them. Proof of this lies in the question of the Jewish camps for foreigners in Vitel or Hanover. A considerable number of letters which are sent to the Consulates of Paraguay in Switzerland for the Jews of the Polish ghettos - letters containing promises of Paraguayan citizenship - have not reached addressees who had been murdered during the liquidation of the Warsaw ghetto. These letters became objects of speculation, having passed into the hands of canaille-Jewish confidential agents of the Gestapo - who sometimes extract enormous sums for them. In certain incorrigible Jewish circles these letters came to be regarded as safe-conducts. This mood spread until everywhere one heard the word: "Vitel". It assumed the nature of a psychosis among doomed and desperate Jews and was deliberately fostered by the Jewish confidential agents of the Gestapo. This mood even infected certain of our comrades - in general pretty logical men - who were for a time discontented with our central direction because we were critical of this affair.

^{ad page - 15.)} The Council of Aid to the Jews /C. of A./ is a body organised by and working under the delegate of the Polish Government inside Poland, i.e. the Deputy Prime Minister of Underground Poland.

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which we viewed as a new German ~~affair~~ snare for the Jews, holding as we do to the principle that it is impossible to negotiate anything through the Jewish Gestapo agents. To settle the matter we telegraphed to you for clarification as to whether these camps came under the protection of the Internationale Red Cross. We had no reply / the reply was sent but obviously did not reach the addresses. - E.S./ However, we had not long to wait for the shattering of this tragic new illusion. It appears that in the third transport which was to go to "Paradise Camp" for foreigners near Hanover 300 Jews of those who had been designated for this camp were arrested and then shot in Pawiak /prison in Warsaw/. And lately we have had a rumour, not yet investigated, of the liquidation by now notorious German methods of the above mentioned camp at Bergen, near Hanover. After these shootings the voice of the malcontents was silenced.

IX. J. U. S.

After the liquidation of the ghetto of Cracow and others, the Germans created an institution so-called "Judische Unterstutzung Stelle" /Jewish Aid Post/ under the direction of Dr. Weichert with the unofficial collaboration of two important personages of the Zionist organisation in Cracow. This organisation J.U.S. pretends to have as its function the distribution among the Jewish camps in General Gouvernement

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of medical and other supplies sent by Jews from abroad. In reality it is a diversionary trick by the Germans whose aim it is to deceive public opinion abroad about its relation to the Jews and to use it as a means for grabbing for themselves these necessary medicines. The C.C. in agreement with our proposals, which had been approved by our co-ordinating partner - negatived the offers of collaboration made to us through the director of J.U.S. The C. of A. which took the same stand as the C.C. on this question reported to it to the Government Delegation. C.C. telegraphed to you and to Dr. Schwartzbart ^{Expl:} [there are two Jewish members of the Polish National Council in London (the Polish Parliament in exile) - Dr. ^{E.} Scherer, the representative of the "Bund" and Dr. I. Schwartzbart, the representative of the Zionist movement], about this matter warning opinion abroad against the J.U.S. and the whole affair and demanding that no further supplies of medicines etc. be sent to the J.U.S.

C.C. upheld its decision when it was approached by the "gentlemen of the J.U.S. to reconsider it and after a while these announced that they would abide by C.C.'s decision and would transfer all remaining supplies to C.C. However, as we had foreseen, they are still delaying this transfer. We shall see that the C.C. acts in accordance with the principles of their decision of this matter.

X. OUR WORK OF ORGANISATION IN OTHER SECTORS.

/1/ In the period described we have been continued

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to be in contact with the Government Delegation. The scope of our contacts consisted of the receipt of funds sent by you and communication with you. These contacts took place to be in contact with the Government Delegation. The scope of our contacts consisted of the receipt of funds sent by you and communication with you. These contacts took place through the co-operation of the Jewish section of the Minority departments of the Government Delegation.

in order
/2/ Questions of armed resistance, especially the question of arming Jewish camps, of Jewish partisan groups, of the Jewish insurrection branch in Warsaw and eventually in all Poland, were the subjects of our consultations with the official military representative of the Underground, through C.C. and/or J.F.O. as has been already mentioned above. Our attitude was that of the mixed Polish Jewish Partisan groups and insurrection branches.

/3/ Also in the current period we have continued to maintain contact with the Polish Socialist Movement, contact which has been especially warm with the W.R.N./Polish initials stand for Liberty, Equality, Independence, which is the name of the underground Polish Socialist Movement./ and Democratic Party with whom we meet first of all in work of the C. of A.

/4/ Our internal work is carried out ^{and directed} by the Central Administration /Central Executive Committee/ ~~directed by~~...
Bulletins, /internal and annual/ *✓*

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and questionnaires on Jewish and other problems are prepared.

/5/ Our contact abroad: i.e. with you - and this is one of our most tender ~~xxx~~ spots. ^(Szmul Lyselbojm) During Arthur's ~~x/~~ ^{period} in office we have used to receive signs of life from you from time to time, but from the moment of his tragic death there has been absolute silence despite the fact that we either on behalf of the Bund or through the C.C. - have sent you a whole series of general and informatory telegrams and especially telegrams on the subject of sending us money, lack of which was stragling us and threatening our people with utter catastrophe. We hope that there is at least going to be a radical improvement in this and that you will - after a lapse of several months - now keep us systematically informed by letter and telegram and in our own and other publications of what you and others are doing and thinking about our own and general affairs.

particularly

/6/ Next time we shall write more ~~xx~~ fully about the main problems of Jewish "life" here and abroad, and of long-term problems and our attitude towards these. For, despite all the menace of our situation and our pre-occupation with the concrete and heavy problems of our immediate circumstances, we nevertheless maintain-as a socialist group - our active interest in general questions.

/7/ I give below the resolution of our Central Administration of 9th May 1943 which I mentioned briefly in a former report. It sets forth the facts about the execution of comrades Heinrich and Victor. This resolution says: "shocked
x) Szmul Lyselbojm represented the Bund in the Pol. Nat. Council until his suicide, committed in London, May 1943. In November 1943 ~~xxxxxx~~ Dr. Emanuel Scherer took up his duties in the Pol. Nat. Council.

to our depths by the news which reached us in the heat of the
the
Warsaw battle of/execution by the Soviet authorities of Comrades
Heinrich Erlich and Victor Adler and the official justification
of these sentences /propaganda among the Red Army for an immedia
te separate peace with Hitler/ we we categorically condemn this
act before all the world of socialism and freedom as a crime,~~an~~
and protest against the attempts to dishonour their stainless
names. The crime committed against the persons of these our best
comrades who fell the victims of their convictions as fighters
for the ideals of freedom and revolutionary socialism, does ir-
reparable harm not only to the Jewish and Polish Labour and
Socialism movement but also to the whole international Socialist
movement. It does so especially at the present historical
moment of upheaval when there is needed above all the consolida-
tion of the entire working-class for the destruction of fascism
and the struggle that awaits it after this is accomplished for
the socialist reconstruction of the world.

Heinrich Erlich and Victor Adler will live for ever in ~~the~~
the history of the Bund, in the annals of fighting Poland, in
modern Polish society and international socialism as great
leaders, as standard-bearers ~~in action and spirit, as~~ of the un-
compromising struggle with fascism, as revolutionaries in action
and spirit, as shining beings who suffered the tragic death of
martyrs.. Signed: Central Executive Committee of the Movement of
the Jewish Working masses in Poland /x/.

/x/ This is the name, under which hides the underground organisa-
tion of the General Jewish Workers' Union /Bund/ of Poland.

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This protest we transmitted to the Underground Socialist Press of our country and it was published in "Material and Documents of the Movement of the Working Masses in Poland".
/organ of W.R.N./

VI. FINANCIAL REPORT.

I now pass on to the financial Report. By way of introduction I think it fit to point out to you the following which will doubtless afford you satisfaction: Our political organisation is known among the Jewish community for its integrity from all points of view, and to this tradition of financial integrity of our former movement we have remained faithful. In undercover conditions about which our oldest underground workers /x/ can have conception /not being with us/ we conduct our finances on a basis of strict documentation by accounts, receipts of the people and authorities concerned, entries into books, in a word in accordance with rational accountancy practice. Even more, I would wish to call your attention to the actual contents of our financial policy. A control committee works inside our central administration monthly checking incoming and out-going sums and examining protocols. This committee which enjoys your and our confidence, affirms that in each case our financial affairs are rationally conducted and in order. The guiding principle of our financial policy is strict economy

/x/ that means the times of conspiracy under the Tsarist Russia

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wherever possible and generous help where it is required.

There are no special privileges for anybody with due attention to the needs of those who come within our protection. Some of these are entirely supported by us - such as aparty comrades and their families or individuals not connected with us organisationally, but persecuted by fascist rule, and even Aryans to whom we extend our help *on their personal merit*

*| continued - p. 24 |
to p. 25*

~~next~~ and Jews in general regardless of their politics who are in need of assistance. For technical reasons we are unable in this report to give in detail the figures covering this long period. However from the general figures we give below you will be able to inform yourself of our general financial activity and draw your conclusions on the action we have taken to meet our problems and needs.

all parts carefully checked & confirmed

I. INCOMES

We have received from you ~~the amount of 33,000 Dollars~~ in Dollar banknotes:

A. Oct. 1942	5,000
Dec. "	5,000
Jan. 1943	10,000
Apr. "	13,000
Total	33,000 Dollars.

B. Further we have received ~~the amount of 795,000 Zlotys~~ in Polish Zlotys:

1st Sept. 1943	300,000
2nd Sept. "	345,000
3rd Sept. "	150,000
Total	795,000 Zlotys
which in Dollars is	10,000 Dollars.

C. We have also received ~~the amount of 1,850,000 Zlotys~~ in '43 in Zlotys:

7 Oct. 1943	500,000
13 " "	700,000
19 " "	194,000
27 " "	456,000
Total	1,850,000 Zlotys
In Dollars	15,000 Dollars.

II. EXPENDITURE

From the incomes enumerated in para. A. we have paid back to the Delegation our debt of 15,000 Zlotys (we have been penniless) which on the then exchange rate was 300 Dollars. In Dollars we paid out:

A. Repayment of debts according to your instructions and incurred by us.

- a) 5,000 Dollars repaid which our comrades had borrowed from the then Warsaw ghetto for our organisational needs (self-help, publications, preparation for resistance etc.)
- b) 2,000 Dollars paid out by us to the management of JOINT
- c) 500 Dollars paid out on your instructions POALEJ SION (Right wing)
- d) 1,000 Dollars " " " " " " (Left wing)
- e) 3,000 Dollars " " " " " " (Right wing)

~~the amount of 15,000 Dollars~~

- f) 400 Dollars on the instructions of our comrades in the Warsaw Ghetto we paid at the beginning of May 1943 to C.C. and F.O.
- g) 300 Dollars returned to the delegation

Total 12.200 Dollars.

B. EXPENSE BUDGET

For the period middle of Oct. 42 to 1st July 43 i.e. for 8½ months, our budget of expenditure averaged 2.500 Dollars monthly: total for 8½ months to 21.250 Dollars plus total of A 12.000 " Total 33.450 Dollars

So that on the 1st July ⁽¹⁹⁴³⁾ we were in debt to private individuals for 450 Dollars.

What were our expenses ?

The maintenance of several hundreds of our comrades and their families, housing, clothing, laundry, footwear, medical supplies, hiding places (where necessary) buying out of prison (to this end we paid out 2.000 Dollars), paying off blackmailers (e.g. The Commandant of the sector of the front OF, Comrade Rozowsky was twice blackmailed to the sum of 20.000 zlotys, but nevertheless he perished) Aid to people in the provinces and in hiding in Aryan districts and for families of our comrades who are still alive. The period June, July, August of the current year, when, in consequence of the stronger liquidationary action, we have been faced with ever greater demands was for us financially the most tragic time.

We were in debt and without funds all the time. We were threatened with catastrophe especially for the women and children and those who were obliged to keep to their houses. At the same time we and the JNC began our widespread activities among the camps (Poniatow, Trawnik, Piotrkow, Cracow, Lvov, Kielce, Radom, Lublin and many others) sending there hundreds of thousands of Zlotys. We became indebted to the JNC for the sum of 125,000 Zlotys and 292.000 zlotys from the previous period.

And only from the sums which we received from you through the Delegation in Sept. and Oct. were we able to repay our debts and have the necessary funds for our current budgeted expenditure. An account of this period follows:

From 1 July 43 to 30 Nov. 43

I N C O M E (enumerated above)

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1. 9. 43	300.000 Zlotys
2. 9. 43	345.000
3. 9. 43	150.000
	<u>795.000</u> Zl. Sub total
7.10. 43	500.000
13.10. 43	700.000
19.10. 43	194.000
27.10. 43	456.000
	<u>1.850.000</u> Zl. Sub total
Σ Total:	
	2.645.000 Zlotys
	In Dollars: 8.000 Dollars

The rest is in transit.

EXPENDITURE

- 1) Covering the deficit for 1st July 450. Zols. i.e. 40.000 Zlotys.
 - 2) Repaid to JNC 125.000 "
 - 3) Our share in general expenses of J.C. which were paid on our behalf by JCN for May-Oct. 15.43 292.000 "
 - 4) Maintenance and equipment of people and budgeted expenditure, which averaged 450.000 monthly, i.e. for period 1st July to 30. Nov. 43 - 5 months, is 5 x 450.000
- Total 2.645.000 "
- 2.606.500 Zlotys.

As the income for this period was 2.645.000 "
 it follows that our cash in hand for 30. Nov. 43 is 38.000 "
 i.e. 8.000 Dollars.

The above stated expenditure figures is our permanent share in the ^{Council of} ~~organization~~ totalling from 1st Aug. 43 to the present day: 275.000 Zl.
 Besides this we paid into the special childrens protection department of the C. of A. the sum of 25.000 "
 Here we should like to emphasize that our comrades and their families who are exclusively supported by us do not take anything from the C. of A. funds. There are also sums which our representative on C. of A. deals out via his links among hundreds of individuals who are in no way connected with our organisation. Obviously we do not list these sums in this report: for these, as for the monies of other organisations passing through C. of A. special accounts are kept by C. of A. We mention these sums here merely for the sake of clarity and order. Finally one more point. This concerns the Co-ordinating Commission of the J.N.C. and Bund whose activities I have already described. Their financial side is run as follows:

The Co-ordinating Commission does not possess its own Budget or accounts. As I have mentioned before, by the agreement of both sides its expenses are conducted ad hoc for mutually agreed purposes of self-help and J.F.O. Each partner pays in sums from

1) ~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~
 see p. 15

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their organisation funds in the proportion of 40 to 60, and lately 50/50, covered by the Bund and the J.N.C. The planning of the expenditure incurred in the activities of co-ordination is carried out mutually. We conduct our own finances on the basis of our budget according to actual possibilities and needs. The following explanation may be of value to you. It may appear paradoxical that in the very period when the extermination of the Jewish population is accelerated and increased, our budget expands.

This however is now accident. The enormous responsibility which lies on us for the fate of the few remaining of that vanishing race obliges us to extraordinary exertions. Each individual, not to mention whole groups still living in camps, catacombs, etc., becomes for us of priceless social value, to whom we must extend our protection. The paradox of our position is only illusory, it is only another witness of the extraordinary circumstances in which we work.

In concluding this portion and all our report we wish to call your attention to the fact of our ever-widening financial needs and to that of which you are already aware - that we as an organisation are dependent solely on your help, since we do not want to and should not receive help from anywhere except our Party Representation. Remember this all the time, so that there shall be no repetition of the immediate past when for several months we were penniless and threatened - as were through us hundreds of families - with catastrophe. Compile a detailed list of the sums you have sent us over the whole period and let us know of your future plans.

whether
Finally please reply as to ~~where~~ you have ever sent any general funds for us and the JNC as we have no knowledge of this and have received none.

Apart from this I should like to know whether any sums were sent to our country for all Jews in general and by whom.

We send you herewith ~~my~~ sincere comradely greetings with the request that you will notify us immediately of the receipt of this document.

For the Central Administration of the Jewish Working Masses in Poland."

Warsaw, 15. Nov. 1943.

Signed :
(-)
(a pen name)

x) Explanative - p. 21 (x)

ORIGINAL TEXT OF TELEGRAM SENT

FROM: Secretary of State, Washington
TO: American Embassy, London
DATED: June 8, 1944
NUMBER: 4539

RECEIVED
JUN 15 3 20 PM '44
Control to [unclear]

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ CONTROL COPY

The American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee has received the following message from Dr. Emanuel Scherer, Member of the Polish National Council: "Elected by just created council for rescue Jews in Poland to report budget; consider duty consult you before making definitive proposals. Accordingly my knowledge large scale financial help delivered quickly could contribute very much to save those still alive. This kind help relatively easy. Think budget not less than 2 to 4 millions dollars should be proposed until end year for rescue relief all Jews now Poland not only Polish Jews. Help Jewish underground political activities apart this cable doesn't deal with. For many reasons think not less 60% should give Polish government 40 Jewish resources. Please let me know your opinion to what extent your help possible. Because matter very urgent awaiting answer quickly possible address Polish National Council, Stratton House, London W 1. Matter strictly confidential."

The American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee has asked the advice of the War Refugee Board and the latter would appreciate your views before commenting.

DECLASSIFIED
State Dept. Letter, 1-11-72
By R. H. Parks Date SEP 27 1972
STETTINIUS
(Acting)

000551

CABLE TO AMBASSADOR WINANT, LONDON

The American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee has received the following message from Dr. Emanuel Scherer, Member of the Polish National Council: QUOTE Elected by just created council for rescue Jews in Poland to report budget consider duty consult you before making definitive proposals STOP Accordingly my knowledge large scale financial help delivered quickly could contribute very much to save these still alive STOP This kind help relatively easy STOP Think budget not less than 2 to 4 millions dollars should be proposed until end year for rescue relief all Jews now Poland not only Polish Jews STOP Help Jewish underground political activities apart this cable doesn't deal with STOP For many reasons think not less 60% should give Polish government 40 Jewish resources STOP Please let me know your opinion to what extent your help possible STOP Because matter very urgent awaiting answer quickly possible address Polish National Council Stratton House London W 1 STOP Matter strictly confidential. UNQUOTE

The American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee has asked the advice of the War Refugee Board and the latter would appreciate your views before commenting.

June 7, 1944
10:15 a.m.

L.S.L.
LSLesser:als 6/6/44

cc:Sec'y, Abrahamson, Cohn, DuBois, Friedman, Hodel, Laughlin, Lesser, Mann, Stewart, Central Files, Cable Control Files.

000552

INCOMING CABLE
LONDON

1712
REC'D JUNE 1, 1944
STENCILLED JUNE 1, 1944

NAAL59 INTL VIA DLY-LONDON 151 1/52 29

NLT AMERICAN JEWISH JOINT DISTRIBUTION COMMITTEE
NEW YORK N.Y.

ELECTED BY JUST CREATED COUNCIL FOR RESCUE JEWS IN POLAND TO REPORT BUDGET
CONSIDER DUTY CONSULT YOU BEFORE MAKING DEFINITIVE PROPOSALS stop ACCORDINGLY
MY KNOWLEDGE LARGE SCALE FINANCIAL HELP DELIVERED QUICKLY COULD CONTRIBUTE
VERY MUCH TO SAVE THOSE STILL ALIVE stop THIS KIND HELP RELATIVELY EASY stop
THINK BUDGET NOT LESS THAN 2 to 4 MILLIONS DOLLARS SHOULD BE PROPOSED UNTIL
END YEAR FOR RESCUE RELIEF ALL JEWS NOW POLAND NOT ONLY POLISH JEWS stop
HELP JEWISH UNDERGROUND POLITICAL ACTIVITIES APART THIS CABLE DOESN'T DEAL
WITH stop FOR MANY REASONS THINK NOT LESS 60% SHOULD GIVE POLISH GOVERNMENT
40 JEWISH RESOURCES stop PLEASE LET ME-KNOW YOUR OPINION TO WHAT EXTENT YOUR
HELP POSSIBLE stop BECAUSE MATTER VERY URGENT AWAITING ANSWER QUICKLY POSSIBLE
ADDRESS POLISH NATIONAL COUNCIL STRATTON HOUSE LONDON W 1 stop
MATTER STRICTLY CONFIDENTIAL

DR. EMANUEL SCHERER
MEMBER POLISH NATIONAL COUNCIL

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