



Abba Hillel Silver Collection Digitization Project

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MS-4787: Abba Hillel Silver Papers, 1902-1989.

Series V: Writings, 1909-1963, undated.

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180

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633

Protest meeting, re: Holocaust victims, 1943.

1) Memorial Tribute - Appeal to conscience of peoples & govt. -
Consecrate ourselves to unfinished Task of ridding ^{world} ~~earth~~ - crimes
& hitchers ~~scoundrels~~ ^{scoundrels} ~~the~~ ^{from} the earth.

2) We are a people of long memory. And our martyrs, the
their graves are nameless ones - unmarked by shaft or
monument, still live immortally within our hearts - and there
find their final resting place. And so to-night, when we
recall our most recent martyrs - the 20% tortured and slain at
the hands, the God-and-man accused Nazis - we firmly resolve
that (2)

3. The world was slow in becoming aware of what was transpiring
over there. Rather reluctant to be reminded.
A Domestic Affair! Jews were being persecuted. Why, that's
no thing new! ~~But~~ only slowly they ^{something new} realized that Nazi
persecution of Jews was only prelude - other peoples - Greeks,
Poles, Gypsies, & Slavs, part of a vast & sinister conspiracy
to subjugate all peoples - & extinguish all human rights
& liberties.

Only difference - all others - crushed & forever sustained.
Jews - exterminated! Frank Jews most - Moses!

We feared at first - that world's failure to react
violently, with burning indignation - with ~~any~~ sense of outrage,
to earlier persecutions of Jews in Germany. instigated by Hitler 10 yrs
was part of a widening orbit of insensitivity to human
suffering & degradation, that an age no longer had a vivid
conception of Great Tragedy because man had lost his
stature and his dignity.

To react to Great Tragedy, an age must think -

But in an day man has been so humbled by the State, so stripped of all rights, so cheapened in value, and so calloused by cruelty & immorality all around him - that his dignity is gone - And his suffering, serious bitter wrongs: arouse no longer any great human emotions, and call into being no appropriate actions to channel those emotions

Thank God that that has not been the case! Manland was only dazed, bewildered, and confused by raucous and clamorous propaganda. Nice it realized what was happening - and disentangled itself - it spoke out - the free peoples ahead of their governments - Religious leaders - men of God will everywhere - against this org. brutality & infamy!

Expressions of sympathy welcomed + appreciated. Evidence of human solidarity - which Nazis have failed to destroy. Pitiless Pity is not enough!

4. But not enough! For same Facts - 2 M. - 3 1/2 - 5 ~~Some they must be done to rescue them!~~ Something must be done to rescue them! (Different) - not interfere with successful prosecution of war!

- But within these limitations - much can be done - if governments will over-ride all ordinary pol. considerations - efficiency ^{Emergency} then does, & deliverance to doomed men

- Has every avenue been explored? End of 1942 - United Nations pledged to take firm morale was any taken?
- Did the govts whose representatives - Berlin - really aim
at some great act of deliverance - quiet pop. clamor?

(3)

Decisions still unreminded - terms / reference - designation
as purely informal + exploratory - opening statements - grand
that was the Fortuity like the earlier pre-war Erius Conf. has
been accomplished!

If so - and we pray that it will prove other wise - it will be
shocking evidence of a callousness as black as an iniquity.
and 3 1/2 M. will be left to await the ax of the executioner.
- hopelessly doomed.

5/ For Hitler intends to exterminate the J people - Announced it long ago!
- so da vernicht!

By Stages - gradually - to test out -

Up to 1935 - eliminate J. from public life.

Up to 1938 - Disfranchise them - Segregate them - Nuremberg Laws -
and ruin them even.

Since - Physical / final Extermination - at accelerated tempo

- war was his opportunity - and Poland - chief place

- herd gathered & herded them first into shelters

- and then led them
- on the way to the shelters - Warsaw - Cracow - Łódź -
Łódź

= Then led them out - to designated extermin. centers

gas chambers - machines guns - mass cremation

mass-murder carried out in Ukraine

6/ Systematically - efficiently - + legally - 7-covers - (Lidice)

Chief Jurist, the Gestapo - Karl Rudolph Werner Best

"History teaches that the annihilation of an alien people
is not contrary to the laws of life, provided the annihilation
is complete"

Last week the physically & mentally twisted dwarf - Paul
Goebbels - proclaimed - that "local Nazi authorities have been
given order to annihilate without any mercy the Jews ⁱⁿ Germany
and in occupied countries. Germany must destroy the Jews and
there can be no mercy. The slightest weakness in the solution
the J-question might endanger Germany as well as the whole of
Europe. The extinction of the J. race is of historic importance.
It cannot be stopped."

As the Nazi desperation grows - as Frankfurter ^{overstated this} & Dehnbach
rendering their fury - not on Amer. territory - ^{in America} -
Russia - but upon helpless civilians - who can only
cry out back - Warsaw - immortal hero, this has

7/ Here is how they do it - ^{notified} Justi "Polish Govt in Exile"
presented to Govt. of United Nations . Dec. 10-1942

8/ There are 3 1/2 M. left. Can nothing be done for them?

A memorandum was presented - outlining in detail

We wonder =

9/ Sanctuaries - for those who have or can escape -

Facilitate - U.S. - L.B. - neutral countries.

Palestine - ① accessible - Transport. from S. East Europe

overland routes - short sea routes

② 21st. ages. Manifesto . The Jews, Pol.

solemnly declare their willingness and readiness to extend shelter
to all Jews who are leaving or who have left occupied territories,

to share their bread, to open their houses and to give their garments
as everything else, to save their brothers and sisters, fathers and
mothers, from being led like sheep to the slaughter house "

(3) Need man-power - acute labor shortage - Army

(4) Unproven Statutes - Homeland - facilities - we built it
current. 1/2

(5) White Paper - "Permanent Mandates Com^{mission}" foundations - villages
out, accord with obligations accepted by J. B.
Churchill - voted against. "an act of

Refrudation". Stopping of immigration in 5th June
"plain breach of a solemn obligation" - a new and
udden default" (Just p. 44)

"This vast, unhappy mass, scattered, persecuted wandering
Jews" - now turn to Pal - as to last desperate hope.

But to-day Churchill opposes White Paper - and
justifies this act of refruchation, + default!

- Need for Homeland - after the war - when will this be?

19. This War - for ideals - redemption, manhood from all forms
persecution, spanning + internal. inquiries.

what would we do with Ref. to Jew - under to the
surely, their mothers - prophecy, which Recent.
Program -

- If in case of Jews - no pol. power - no crimes - ravaged
act in spirit of justice, vision + statesmanship - beard trained

11). Emergency - Appeal - Resolution -

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The Mass Murder of Jews in Europe

Pursuant to direction of the Federal Council's Executive Committee we review in this issue a volume of documentary evidence concerning the systematic repression and progressive elimination of the Jews in Nazi-controlled Europe.

The suffering of the Jewish people in Europe is beyond anything the civilized imagination can picture. But the quantity of the evidence is so enormous, the sources are so varied and their correspondence in substance and import so close even in detail as to compel belief. While meticulous verification of the documentary evidence is of course impossible during wartime and must await the painstaking labor of historians, we believe that the account which follows gives an authentic picture of these tragic events.

Out of their own mouths the National Socialist leaders of Germany are convicted of deliberately preparing the campaign of extermination that is being pressed against the Jews throughout the continent today. The long-drawn-out, relentless process of physical depletion through starvation, mental wrecking through torment and fear, and spiritual degradation through incredible brutalization has culminated in a ferocious program of mass slaughter.¹

The intention to eliminate the Jewish people from German-ruled territory was indicated in Hitler's *Mein Kampf* long before the National Socialist Party came to power. That unbelievable document, however, failed to rouse the civilized world to its danger. In a public statement Willi Boerger, now a member of the German Privy Council, said at Cologne as early as January 31, 1931, that the day following an invasion would "see the death of every single Jew in Germany," and Dr. Joseph Goebbels' cry that "Jewry must perish" was quoted by the London *Sunday Referee* on July 30, 1933. Many such statements might be cited from Nazi publications as well as from public addresses and lectures. Perhaps the most explicit and revealing is the following from *Das Schwarze Korps* (official SS weekly) dated November 24, 1938:

"The Jews must be driven from our residential districts and segregated where they will be among themselves, having as little contact with Germans as possible . . . Confined to themselves these parasites will be . . . reduced to poverty. . . . And when we then, as we shall have to, compel the affluent Jews to maintain their 'poor' associates, they will all of them sink into delinquency. Let no one fancy, however, that we shall then stand idly by, merely watching the process. The German people are not in the least inclined to tolerate in their country hundreds of thousands of

criminals. . . . We would be faced with the hard necessity of exterminating the Jewish underworld in the same way as, under our government of Law and Order, we are wont to exterminate any other criminals, viz. by fire and sword. The result would be the factual and final end of Jewry in Germany, its absolute annihilation."

Legal Preparation

When the National Socialist Party achieved power in Germany its moves to put into effect the program for elimination of Jews from German life were at first cautious and somewhat covert. The process has been well summarized by Bernard Dov Weinryb:

"In line with their method of gradualism which was applied to the struggle against religion, rearmament, territorial expansion and other problems, the Nazis also approached the Jewish question from a similar step by step point of view. The course of Nazi legislative action concerning Jews can be divided into three stages: the first stage of initial legislation (April, 1933, to September, 1935), the second stage of the Nuremberg Laws and their aftermath (September, 1935, to November, 1938) and the third stage of liquidation (November, 1938, to date).

"During 1933 and 1934, Jews were eliminated from the civil service, the professions and the cultural life of Germany. A *numerus clausus* was introduced in the schools. [That is, the number of Jewish pupils was restricted to a small proportion of the total school population.] Because the Weimar Constitution was not legally abolished, German Jews, in theory, still remained citizens with full rights, just as, paradoxically, Germany still remained a democratic state on paper. Only Jews from Eastern Europe, naturalized after September 9, 1918, were in danger of losing their citizenship.

"The legal abolition of Jewish emancipation took place during the second stage (September, 1935, to November, 1938). Segregation of Jews from many walks of German life was achieved by the Nuremberg Laws of September 15, 1935. The new citizenship law of the same series ended the equality of Jews as citizens. . . .

"The third stage, which began with the pogroms of November 10-11, 1938, marked the concentrated drive toward the goal of speedy annihilation of the Jews in Germany."²

"Segregated"

By the spring of 1939 the Jews of Germany found themselves without place or status in German life. They were German subjects but no longer German citizens.

¹ Some conception of the atmosphere which has bred these monstrous conditions may be gleaned from the book *Skeleton of Justice*, a study of the perversion and ruin of German justice that has helped to produce Nazi criminals for export. By Edith Roper and Clara Leiser. New York, Dutton and Company, 1941.

² *Jewish Emancipation Under Attack*. Pamphlet series, Jews and the Post-War World, No. 2, Research Institute on Peace and Post-War Problems of the American Jewish Committee, 386 Fourth Avenue, New York, N. Y. Pp. 38-39.

The story has been told and retold till all must be familiar with its outline. Prohibited from practice in the professions, in technical services and state services, from agriculture, from engaging in business or in trades, excluded from German schools and from the benefit of the country's protective laws, they were despoiled of their possessions. Banned from the use of certain areas and from public places of amusement or assembly, even their use of names was restricted to a limited list of "Jewish" origin, and each must wear the label "Jew."

All Jewish men over 16 and women over 20 were made subject to forced labor. Such labor has nothing in common with the *Arbeitsdienst* of the "Aryan" population but is the heaviest labor under enfeebling and degrading conditions.

Six hundred thousand free and equal citizens became a captive race in the land of their birth. Without legal rights, status, means of livelihood or means of escape, and subject to severe reprisals for any "illegality," they were marked for death.

"Liquidation" Begins

Following "*Anschluss*" with Austria an anti-Semitic program on the German pattern but considerably speeded up was introduced in that country. Its "success" convinced the Nazi leaders that it was safe to proceed more rapidly in Germany. The announcement in March, 1939, that Jews would be used for forced labor was followed in May by registration of all men and women, and in September by the order that all between the ages of 16 and 55 report for compulsory labor. One-fourth of the deaths reported between September, 1939, and March 20, 1940, according to the *Juedische Nachrichtenblatt*, were suicides. Following the order in September of 1941 that Jews wear yellow arm-bands 200 Berlin Jews had committed suicide by the end of October. Arrests and internment in concentration camps had followed the November pogroms of 1938 and by January, 1940, three of these camps had a population of 35,000. The death rate in Buchenwald in the year 1939-40 was reckoned at 30 per cent of the inmates of the camp.

Twelve thousand Polish Jews were expelled from Germany to Poland in October of 1938.

During 1939 and up to May, 1940, deportations were extensive. Jews were packed into cattle cars under indescribable conditions and shifted about the continent of Europe, most of those from Germany being sent East to Poland or to Czechoslovakian concentration centers. In October, 1940, most of the 9,000 Jews from the provinces of the Palatinate and Baden were shipped to unoccupied France and left to shift for themselves; subsequently the survivors were interned at Gurs. In the early part of 1942 many thousands were deported, and in June children over 14 years of age were seized for labor on Ukrainian farms.

On February 19, 1941, the United States Government received information that within four weeks only Jews of military age, employed in forced labor, or in concentration camps would remain in Germany. Of the 599,000 Jews in Germany in 1933 about 200,000 remained when war broke out. At the end of 1942 the number was 40,000. The *New York Times* of April 13 carries a report from the Swedish Israel Mission, a Swedish "Aryan" organization for aiding Jewish victims of German persecution. It says: "The Jews still in Berlin are vagabonds who have to get along without ration cards and without a fixed place of residence. They hide out with whoever dares to shelter them and feed them a bite to eat. . . ."

Conditions in Austria have been similar. In November,

1941, old ration cards were suddenly called in and new ones were not issued until two weeks had passed, not even the Jewish soup kitchens receiving any food. In July of 1942 Baldur von Schirach, Nazi Commissioner for Vienna, announced that death and deportations had left 300,000 rooms available for bombed-out Germans. By the end of 1942 Austria's 185,000 Jews had been reduced to between 12,500 and 15,000. The Swedish report quoted above puts the figure now at 7,000.

In the first concentration camp in Bohemia-Moravia at Terezin 50,000 Czech, German and Austrian Jews were interned in July, 1942. To make room for Baltic Germans repatriated from Russian-held territory Czech Jews had been transported *en masse* to the Lublin "reservation." By May, 1941, the Jews had been expelled from 83 towns and cities. Six thousand from Prague were sent to the Pripet marshes in the spring of 1942. The 80,000 Jewish population of the "Protectorate" had fallen by the end of 1942 to 115,000.

The situation in Europe under Nazi domination renders impossible accurate total statistics of the Jewish agony, or comparable figures for different areas. Even if it were feasible to secure accurate figures on arrests and on the population at the different points of incarceration at any given time they would soon be falsified. The constant shifting of masses of people, incoming and outgoing at each concentration camp, makes a ghastly motion picture. Available figures, therefore, are incomplete and circumstantial but those given here have been carefully checked as to source so far as is at present possible. The general picture is clear. Arrest, concentration, deportation—preceded and attended by starvation and brutality—and final disappearance.

Poland Becomes a Slaughter House

The original plan seems to have been to concentrate European Jews in a vast "reservation" at Lublin in Poland where the process outlined in *Das Schwarze Korps* should operate unchecked. Later, this plan was to some extent reversed, at least temporarily. Jews from Poland, France and some from Czechoslovakia were shipped into Germany for slave labor there. Many Jews are now laboring under compulsion on the Eastern front even within range of Russian artillery.

In place of the "reservation" for Jews ghettos were set up in a number of Polish cities. Later they were introduced in other countries. These ghettos are not what a Westerner pictures—the residential concentration of a city's Jewish population from which the inhabitants emerge to carry on their daily occupations, freely trading with the outside world. They are prisons and unbelievably overcrowded. Skilled laborers and artisans adjudged essential to the Nazi economy are permitted to work outside 10 hours a day for "the equivalent of 20 cents but 12 cents is deducted for the mid-day meal."³ The "unemployed" within are subject to constant raid and seizure for forced labor. The many instances reported by the Polish Government in Exile showing the cruelty employed toward these victims cannot be repeated in the space at our disposal.⁴

The *New York Herald Tribune* carried an April 11 Associated Press dispatch from London quoting the Polish Telegraph Agency as saying that "the Germans

³ *New York Times*, April 13, 1943. (Swedish Israel Mission report.)

⁴ See *The German New Order in Poland*. Published for the Polish Ministry of Information by Hutchinson and Company, London.

had erased the Jewish ghetto at Krakow in a three-day massacre which started on March 13 and also had eliminated the ghetto in Lodz. The Lublin ghetto has been reported empty. Jews have been almost entirely expelled from most of the towns situated in the Polish areas incorporated into the German Reich and partly from many towns in the General Government.

The Polish Government on May 3, 1941, presented to the Governments of the Allied and Neutral Powers a survey of acts of violence perpetrated against the population of Poland which has been published as the Polish "Black Book." In another Note addressed to the Governments of the United Nations on December 10, 1942, it was pointed out:

"In recent months these persecutions have been directed with particular violence against the Jewish population, who have been subjected to new methods calculated to bring about the complete extermination of Jews, in conformity with the public statements made by the leaders of Germany."⁵

The Note further stated:

"The Polish Government consider it their duty to bring to the knowledge of the Governments of all civilized countries the following fully authenticated information received from Poland. . . .

"... the [Warsaw] ghetto was completely closed and its entire area was surrounded by a brick wall, the right of entry and exit being restricted to the holders of special passes, issued by the German authorities. All those who left the ghetto without such a pass became liable to sentence of death, and it is known that German courts passed such sentences in a large number of cases.

"... The food rations for the inhabitants of the ghetto amounted to about a pound of bread per person weekly, with practically nothing else. As a result, prices in the ghetto were on an average ten times higher than outside, and mortality due to exhaustion, starvation and disease, particularly during the last two winters, increased on an unprecedented scale. During the winter of 1941-1942 the death rate, calculated on an annual base, has risen to 13 per cent, and during the first quarter of 1942 increased still further. Scores of corpses were found in the streets of the ghetto every day.

"At the time when the ghetto was established the whole population was officially stated to amount to 433,000, and in spite of the appalling death rate it was being maintained at this figure by the importation of Jews from Germany and from the occupied countries, as well as from other parts of Poland.

"The outbreak of war between Germany and Soviet Russia and the occupation of the Eastern areas of Poland by German troops considerably increased the numbers of Jews in Germany's power. At the same time the mass murders of Jews reached such dimensions that, at first, people refused to give credence to the reports reaching Warsaw from the Eastern provinces. The reports, however, were confirmed again and again by reliable witnesses. During the winter of 1941-1942 several tens of thousands of Jews were murdered. In the city of Wilno over 50,000 Jews were reported to have been massacred and only 12,000 of them remain in the local ghetto. In the city of Lwow 40,000 were reported murdered; in Rowne 14,000; in Kowel 10,000, and unknown numbers in Stanislawow, Tarnopol, Stryj, Drohobycz and many other smaller towns. At first the executions were carried out by shooting; subsequently, however, it is reported that the Germans applied new methods, such as poison gas, by means of which the Jewish population was exterminated in Chelm, or electrocution, for which a camp was organized in Belzec, where in the course of March and April, 1942, the Jews from the provinces of Lublin, Lwow and Kielce, amounting to tens of thousands, were exterminated. Of Lublin's 30,000 Jewish inhabitants only 2,500 still survive in the city. . . .

"... As from July 20th, 1942, the guarding of the [Warsaw] ghetto was entrusted to special security battalions, formed from

the scum of several Eastern European countries, while large forces of German police armed with machine guns and commanded by SS. officers were posted at all the gates leading into the ghetto. Mobile German police detachments patrolled all the boundaries of the ghetto day and night.

"... flying squads of German police entered the ghetto, breaking into the houses in search of Jewish intellectuals. The better dressed Jews found were killed on the spot, without the police troubling even to identify them. . . .

"On the morning of . . . July 22nd, 1942 . . . the Jewish Council . . . were informed that an order had been issued for the removal of the entire Jewish population of the Warsaw ghetto and printed instructions to that effect were issued in the form of posters, the contents of which are reproduced in Annex 1 to this Note. . . . The number of people to be removed was first fixed at 6,000 daily. . . . Persons subject to deportation were to be delivered by the Jewish police not later than 4 p.m. each day. Members of the Council and other hostages were to answer for the strict fulfilment of the order."

The required number was later raised and on July 24, 1942, "10,000 persons were actually assembled for deportation, followed by 7,000 persons on each subsequent day. . . .

"The actual process of deportation was carried out with appalling brutality. At the appointed hour on each day the German police cordoned off a block of houses selected for clearance, entered the back yard and fired their guns at random, as a signal for all to leave their homes and assemble in the yard. Anyone attempting to escape or to hide was killed on the spot. . . . Wives were torn from their husbands and children from their parents. Those who appeared frail or infirm were carried straight to the Jewish cemetery to be killed and buried there. On the average 50-100 people were disposed of in this way daily. After the contingent was assembled, the people were packed forcibly into cattle trucks to the number of 120 in each truck, which had room for forty. The trucks were then locked and sealed. The Jews were suffocating for lack of air. The floors of the trucks were covered with quicklime and chlorine. As far as is known, the trains were dispatched to three localities—Tremblinka, Belzec and Sobibor, to what the reports describe as 'Extermination camps.' . . . It is reported that on arrival in camp the survivors were stripped naked and killed by various means, including poison gas and electrocution. The dead were interred in mass graves dug by machinery. . . .

"According to the most recent reports, 120,000 ration cards were distributed in the Warsaw ghetto for the month of September, 1942, while the report also mentions that only 40,000 such cards were to be distributed for the month of October, 1942. The latter figure is corroborated by information emanating from the German Employment Office (*Arbeitsamt*), which mentioned the number of 40,000 skilled workmen as those who were to be allowed to remain in a part of the ghetto, confined to barracks and employed on German war production.

"The deportations from the Warsaw ghetto were interrupted during five days, between August 20th-25th. The German machinery for the mass slaughter of the Jews was employed during this interval on the liquidation of other ghettos in Central Poland, including the towns of Falenica, Rembertow, Nowy Dwor, Kaluszyn and Minsk Mazowiecki.

"... all the reports agree that the total number of killed runs into many hundreds of thousands of innocent victims—men, women and children—and that of the 3,130,000 Jews in Poland before the outbreak of war, over a third have perished during the last three years."

Similar methods were employed to empty the vast camp at Lublin.

In Other Countries

Reports that are available indicate the following depletions of Jewish populations in European countries since the beginning of the war: *Bohemia-Moravia* has 15,000 Jews left of the original 80,000; *Belgium* only 8,000 out of 75,000. Sixty thousand of the *Netherlands* 180,000 Jews have been deported. Of 80,000 in *Yugoslavia* 400 escaped and the rest have been killed, imprisoned or de-

⁵ *The Mass Extermination of Jews in German Occupied Poland*. Published on behalf of the Polish Ministry of Foreign Affairs by Hutchinson and Company, London. See pp. 3 and 4-10.

ported. In Greece out of 78,000 all aged from 18 to 45 have been drafted for forced labor. From France 65,000 out of 340,000 have been deported. In Rumania not more than 270,000 are left of 900,000. Of the 185,000 deported to prison camps in Transnistria some 75,000 have perished. Of 50,000 Bulgarian Jews 9,000 remain. Of Slovakia's 90,000 Jews 70,000 have been deported. Reports from Latvia are incomplete but the experience of Riga indicates that 4,000 or 5,000 may remain out of 32,000. Lithuania appears to have a similar record for its 150,000. A recent report issued by the Russian Government describes appalling massacres in Russian territory.

600,000 40,000 Vajsbach
185,000 "Flesh of Our Flesh" 7,000

Repetition of place names and figures numbs the imagination so that comprehension and sympathy are constricted. But if, as has been roughly estimated, 2,000,000 of Europe's Jews have perished it means that one out of every three of the desperate souls driven along that dreadful road of slow starvation and breaking spirit has reached the end of endurance. It may have come in short, swift terror from a Gestapo revolver as it did to a child fled from the Warsaw ghetto. Or in lewd humiliation as it did to two well dressed women dragged from the street to the ghetto, forced to undress, and shot. It means also the long frantic waiting at home for those who do not come. A boy of 8 sees his grandparents led off to die, his father seized, and witnesses many beatings and killings. During a raid he hides his small sister in one room and himself in another for double safety. Hearing his little sister discovered and taken he shivers alone. All suffer this anguished slow draining of the reservoir of being.

An eye-witness brought this report to the Polish Government in London:

"A particularly tragic problem is the children of the ghetto. I have already related how thousands of children whose parents had died roamed the ghetto streets, and were hunted down and killed off like beasts. . . . It is known however that about 150 Jewish children were fortunate enough to escape and are now roaming the streets outside the ghetto, begging in the houses of Poles. I saw some of these children on numerous occasions. I shall never forget them. They look less human than little monsters—dirty, ragged, with eyes that will haunt me forever—eyes of little beasts in the last anguish of death. They trust no one and expect only the worst from human beings. They slide along the walls of houses looking about them in mortal fear. No one knows where they sleep. From time to time they knock at the door of a Pole and beg for something to eat. Most of them follow a similar procedure: they knock at a door and run away to a distance ready to flee since no one can predict what kind of a creature will emerge from behind the locked door. . . ."

In the Underground service this eye-witness acted as a member of the Polish police force organized by the Nazi authorities. He describes deportations from the Warsaw ghetto. Many were killed or died before they reached the "sorting point" (Obuz Razdzielczy). There in "a huge barracks, only about one-half of which is covered with a roof" were "about 5,000 men and women." "Every few hours new transports of Jews, men and women, young and old, would arrive. . . ."

"It is humanly impossible to convey the impression that these five thousand people made upon me: they are no longer in the image of men—skeletons with eyes dead with resignation. Naked, frightened, they are in constant motion with convulsive nervous movements. A child is lying with its face towards the roof. It is in the last agony of death. But no one pays any attention to it. Amidst this indistinguishable mass I spot an old man completely nude. . . . He makes no impression on the people who surround him. The guards keep on shooting at the throng. Corpses are

scattered everywhere. Convulsively moving men step over the corpses, barely noticing the dead. Every few minutes the guards pick a number of men to clear the dead which are piled up alongside the fence. This, too, is done without any emotion, without a single expression on their faces as though they are completely oblivious of what they are doing. These are no longer normal beings but one large convulsive mass breathing its last. . . .

"En route from the camp to the tracks is a specially constructed narrow passage lined by a weak fence of boards. Armed guards are stationed along both sides of the fence. From behind the people are driven by guards who lash out mercilessly with their whips. . . . Anyone who as much as touches the fence is shot at by the guards who are lined alongside. . . . In this manner hundreds are killed on a stretch of several metres. But they are the lucky ones. . . .

"The narrow passage leads to an open door of a cattle car. These are the famous cars designed for '40 people or 8 horses.' We have measured these cars and found that if human beings were to be loaded there tightly pressed together and completely nude, they could hold only 90. Yet 140 people are loaded into these cars. Special SS. men with guns and whips are stationed on both sides of the entrance. . . .

"In panic and fear the emaciated skeletons perform acrobatic feats. A moment comes when the last inch of the car is loaded to capacity but human beings are still being driven into it: *einsteigen! einsteigen!* People begin to climb over the heads of their neighbors, holding on by the hands, feet or hair of those who are already inside. Thus 50 more manage to get into the car which is then locked. . . .

"A long train thus packed with several thousand men, women and children is switched to a siding where it remains from two to eight days. The doors are never opened. Those inside suffer inhuman agony. They have to perform natural functions over the heads of the others. Many cars are painted with lime which begins to burn from the dampness of the human urine and increases the tortures of the barefoot and the nude."

An eminent American Jew recently wrote: "Today, in the shambles of Poland, I can see the faces of Jews going to their death, illumined and ennobled. . . . They would not change places with their executioners."

But that was another world!—where human death was still allowed its dignity.

An Appeal to Christians

A statement adopted by the Federal Council of Churches on March 16 said, in part:

"We urge Christian people throughout the country to give their moral support to whatever measures afford promise of rescuing European Jews whose lives are in jeopardy. We appeal to our government, which has announced a plan for a joint conference of representatives of the American and the British governments on the subject, to give full consideration to the following proposals:

"a. To offer financial assistance for the support of refugees that neutral governments (for example, Switzerland, Sweden, Spain, Portugal and Turkey) may receive from areas under Nazi control, as a result either of infiltration across their borders or of negotiations with the Axis powers, with the expectation that, after the war, such refugees would be repatriated.

"b. To provide places of temporary asylum to which refugees whom it may be possible to evacuate from European countries may be removed, these refugees to be supported in camps for the duration of the war, with the understanding that they will then be repatriated or be provided with permanent homes in other ways."

NOTE—A packet of church statements and worship suggestions with reference to the plight of the Jews is available for 10 cents from the Commission on Worship, 297 Fourth Avenue, New York, N. Y.