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A year has already passed. On the threshold of a new year, we are confronted with an international situation, which is more complex than ever before. The principal task for the year 1944 remains the same as in 1943 — the ultimate defeat of the evil forces of the Axis. However, the intricate problem of reconstruction and rehabilitation of a world in ruins, and of ensuring a lasting peace looms before us. It is our conviction, that such peace can be established only in a world where planned economy, equality and freedom prevail; that only a united and Socialist Europe can guarantee the independence of European nations and their peaceful cooperation. It is our firm belief, that only in such a truly liberated world will the tragedy stricken Jews be able to live on an equal footing with other nationalities and have the opportunity to work and live securely, as well as find the proper conditions for cultural development.

Our homeland, Poland, was the first to be overrun by the motorized hordes of Nazi Germany. They set the entire country ablaze. They unleashed Hell on earth. The suffering of the Poles under the heel of Nazi occupation is unspeakable. However, the fate of the Jews of Poland is even more dreadful. No words can describe their fate. The annihilation of an entire people is being systematically carried out by the Nazis. The Nazis have outdone themselves in their bestial treatment of the Jews of Poland, and of conquered Europe in general.

Not only the moans of murdered men, women and children have reached the astounded world from behind the gloomy ghetto walls. The heroic voice of the Battle of the Warsaw Ghetto, where the entire Jewish community, under the leadership of the Jewish Underground Movement, waged armed resistance against the mighty military machine of Germany, where people voluntarily chose a soldier's death, rather than be slaughtered as slaves, has reached the world and has caused the hearts of millions of men to beat quicker for the cause of freedom. The glare of the burning ghetto of Warsaw, visible the world over, lent new distinction to the martyred Jews of Poland.

The task that was not finished in 1943, shall be accomplished in 1944. Let us do our share, so that the new year should see the military defeat of

the Axis, a secure peace, a judgment day for the Nazi criminals, an independent, free and truly democratic Poland, and, the rescue of those Jews, who are still alive.

THE ORDEAL OF THE CHILDREN IN POLAND

We can now reveal various particulars about the untold suffering of Polish children since their country has been occupied by the Germans.

The first document is a report of a press conference, which was held in the Polish Embassy in London on the 26th of September, 1943, were Jan Stanczyk, Polish Minister of Labor and Social Welfare, discussed the dreadful plight of the children of Poland, under German occupation. Every fifth child, that has been born since the occupation, has died. According to a new order issued by Reichskommissar for Manpower, Saukel, Polish children from ten to fourteen years of age, are being conscripted for forced labor. Hundreds of thousands, over the age of twelve, have already been deported to Germany for this purpose.

During the liquidation of the ghettos, Jewish children were machine-gunned, electrocuted and suffocated to death in sealed gas chambers and trains. Reports, that have reached us, tell of the incident where German soldiers tore Jewish babies from the arms of their mothers and dashed their brains out on the pavements.

The second document is even more appalling. It is a cable, in code, from Poland to the Polish Prime Minister, Mikolajczyk, pertaining to the plight of the children. This cable, signed by an official representative of the Polish Government, who lives in hiding somewhere in Poland, was received in London on the 12th of October. The contents of the cable follow:

1. A SPECIAL MEMORANDUM ABOUT THE SITUATION OF OUR CHILDREN HAS ALREADY BEEN MAILED. I'M ONLY WIRING SOME SUGGESTIONS.
2. RATION CARDS FOR POLISH CHILDREN

T H E G H E T T O S P E A K S

SUPPLY NO MORE THAN 15% OF THEIR FOOD REQUIREMENTS.

3. THE PHYSICAL CONDITION OF THE CHILDREN IN THE CITIES, AS WELL AS IN THE VILLAGES, IS ALARMING. THE MORTALITY RATE HAS INCREASED, AND THE BIRTH RATE HAS DECREASED CONSIDERABLY.

4. LIVING CONDITIONS OF CHILDREN, AS A RESULT OF THE DEPORTATIONS AND REQUISITIONS OF HOMES ARE SUCH, THAT ALL TYPES OF DISEASE, PARTICULARLY TUBERCULOSIS, ARE RAMPANT. THERE IS A CATASTROPHIC LACK OF CLOTHING. IN THE FOUR YEARS OF WAR, WE HAVE RUN OUT OF ALL OUR SUPPLIES: RELIEF IS URGENT. THERE IS A DIRE NEED FOR OUTFITS FOR CHILDREN, SOCKS, STOCKINGS, SHOES, COATS, SWEATERS, LINEN, HANDKERCHIEFS, THREAD, CANVAS, ETC.

5. EVEN HEALTHY CHILDREN ARE DYING, TENS OF THOUSANDS OF THEM, BECAUSE OF:

- A) DEPORTATIONS AND THE ORDEAL OF LIVING IN CONCENTRATION CAMPS;
- B) THE POLICY OF COLLECTIVE RESPONSIBILITY APPLIED TO CHILDREN AND BABIES;
- C) FORCED LABOR OF ADULTS AND CHILDREN IN THE REICH, RESULTING IN AN ARMY OF HOMELESS AND DESERTED CHILDREN.

6. ALL TYPES OF EXISTING ESTABLISHMENTS FOR CHILDREN ARE BEING CLOSED AND DEPOPULATED BY THE GERMANS. THE INMATES OF THESE INSTITUTIONS ARE ARRESTED.

7. POLISH CHILDREN ARE FORBIDDEN TO ATTEND SCHOOL. THEIR TEXT BOOKS HAVE BEEN TAKEN AWAY AND THEIR TEACHERS IMPRISONED OR SENT TO LABOR CAMPS.

8. JEWISH CHILDREN HAVE BEEN ANNIHILATED. THEY ARE NO MORE.

9. THE LIVES OF POLISH CHILDREN WILL BE RUINED IF WE DON'T GET RELIEF SOON....

10. SUGGESTIONS REGARDING WAYS AND MEANS OF OBTAINING QUICK RELIEF FOR POLISH CHILDREN...(CANNOT BE PUBLISHED).

This terrible document is in our possession and we do not doubt its authenticity. Point eight of the cable — "Jewish children have been annihilated" — congeals our blood. Although the intentions of the person who sent the cable are beyond reproach, we refuse to believe, that the Nazis have already murdered all the Jewish children of Poland.

THE STORY OF A JEW FROM POLAND WHO REACHED SWEDEN

A representative of the Polish Socialist Party in Sweden sent us the following authentic copy of a story told at a press conference by a fugitive who miraculously reached Sweden from Poland:

In July, 1943, another Polish Jew, who succeeded in slipping out of Germany, reached Sweden on a Dutch steamer. His name is Severyn Freund. He is a 22-year-old merchant from Zamosc. He lived in Zamosc until the Autumn of 1942. He was a rich man, engaged in the drapery business. His father was the wealthy proprietor of a lumber mill. From the day that the Germans ordered all Jews to wear yellow arm bands, Freund provided himself and his wife with new identification papers on which his name appeared as Jan Wysocki. He paid a fabulous sum of about eight thousand Zlotys for the papers, but he thus gained the freedom of movement of a Pole.

He relates, that in the summer of 1942, the Jews of Zamosc got word of the mass-slaughter of the Jews of Warsaw. At that time, the Jews of Zamosc were as yet not confined within ghettos. There was in existence in Zamosc at the time a specially established "Yuden Rat." The situation of the Jews of Zamosc then was generally bearable. The Poles were far from friendly with the Jews; at any rate, they were indifferent towards them. However, with sufficient money, one could do quite a bit. That was how Freund succeeded in finding a special hiding place for his nineteen-year-old wife. He paid twelve thousand Zlotys for that.

The liquidation of the Jews of Zamosc began in the summer of 1942. The Jews were driven from their homes and summoned to the Market Place. The Germans murdered many of them right near their homes. The victims were ordered to march in lines and were driven to the nearby forests about eight or ten miles beyond the town. The Jews were shot there. Freund added, that the Gestapo sometimes availed

itself of the service of German and Czechoslovak Jews in order to speed up the annihilation of the Polish Jews. However, upon the completion of their job, those Jews were killed, just as the Polish Jews were. Of the eighteen thousand Jews of Zamosc, eight thousand were slaughtered in this forest. The hiding place of Freund's wife was discovered, and when he went to get her, he found her shot. The inhabitants of the village where she had been hiding told Freund that his wife had been shot by the Germans. The crowd took possession of her belongings. Freund buried his wife himself. The Germans also killed Freund's mother. He found a hiding place for himself for which he paid with twenty-two pieces of linen from the Widzew factory, worth 500 zlotys each. The landlord of his hiding place treated him cordially, almost as if he were a member of the family. A dreadful month-and-a-half elapsed. Not a single Jew remained in Zamosc. The landlord was afraid to take this chance any longer. He advised Freund to volunteer for forced labor in Germany. This was possible, because he had his Polish identification papers. Freund did this and was sent to work in Hamburg. After several months there, he was sent, with a group of other workers, to Norway.

With the help of friendly co-workers, Freund escaped from a steamer in Oslo. Norwegians gave him shelter and led him to the Swedish border, by foot and bicycle. A German patrol caught up with them about 60 kilometers before Sweden. Freund was wounded in the arm, but nevertheless, he managed to escape and finally reached Sweden.

THE BATTLE OF THE WARSAW GHETTO DESCRIBED BY ONE WHO JUST ARRIVED IN LONDON FROM POLAND

Wojciech Bielak, who just arrived in London, left Warsaw in November, 1943. He is one of the most prominent leaders of the Polish Peasant Party and of the Polish Underground Movement. Immediately after his arrival in London, the Polish President appointed him member of the Polish National Council, where he will represent the views and ideas of the Underground Movement in Poland.

We quote below particularly that information which Mr. Bielak gave in an interview with the London "Daily Telegraph" regarding the situation of the Jews in Poland and of spreading defeatism among the Germans.

Describing the fighting in the Warsaw ghetto, Bielak said:

"Resistance there was directed by Polish officers who fought shoulder by shoulder with Jews. Poles also provided the defenders of the ghetto with arms. Many Polish families perished helping Jews. The Germans posted notices stating that anybody giving assistance to Jews would incur the death penalty, but this didn't deter Poles from concealing escaped Jews in their homes and many paid for it with their lives."

"During the battle in the Warsaw ghetto underground tunnels were discovered leading from the ghetto to Polish houses outside the walls. The Germans exterminated all whom they found there. After the ghetto had been liquidated, large numbers of Jewish children were wandering homeless in the vicinity of Warsaw. The Polish people took them in their homes and cared for them despite the fact that, according to notices posted everywhere, they were liable to death penalty."

The following incident is typical of the situation at that time:

"A German military policeman met a homeless Jewish child wandering along the road with a piece of bread in hand. The German policeman asked the child very gently and kindly who had given it to him. The child led the German to a village and pointed out the house. All inhabitants had been shot."

"Later when the Polish population found it impossible to give direct assistance to Jewish children they managed to give it indirectly, leaving food concealed at certain spots in the fields and woods."

"There is a very great difference in the attitude of the Germans in Poland this year compared with 1942. They no longer believe in victory. Originally arrogant German colonists are becoming much quieter in their behavior. The refugees evacuated to Poland from bombed German cities are rather quiet and don't want to offend local people. The Germans in Poland tell Poles very cautiously and in confidence: 'We have lost the war. For you Poles the world is ahead, new life is beginning, but for us the end is coming.'"

"Every defeatist sign among Germans is extinguished with the utmost ruthlessness. The same feeling prevails among Germans in the Reich who don't

believe in victory despite official optimism. Poles who are in a position to make contacts with Germans within Germany itself are unanimous in declaring that Germans are well aware that the inevitable end is approaching rapidly."

FIRST REPORT OF A MEMBER OF THE JEWISH UNDERGROUND YOUTH ORGANIZATION OF POLAND

When the Red Army was approaching the town of Zolotonosha in Poltava district, the partisans came across a number of Polish workers in the neighboring forests, who had been drafted by the Nazis for work in the occupied Ukrainian territories. Among them there were six Jews, two from Lodz, one from Warsaw, one from Tarnow, and one from Lwow. They had succeeded in obtaining identification cards, as Polish Catholics, and they lived as such for more than a year. They were drafted by the Nazis for labor service and sent to the occupied Ukraine, where they remained working until the Red Army freed them.

"My name is Naftali Nacht," said one of them, a young man of twenty-two. "I come from Lwow where my parents and I lived on Kazimierska Street. Before the war I was a student in the Polytechnic Institute at Lwow. Professor Bartel, the famous physicist, and former Prime Minister of Poland, who was killed by the Nazis, was one of my teachers. On the first day of their entry into Lwow a thousand Jews were killed. They arrested and murdered Jewish, Ukrainian and Polish intellectuals. They killed, besides Bartel, Professor Kleiner, the famous Yiddish poet Alter Kacizna, the Ukrainian poet Havreliuk, and others."

"I shall never forget the sight when I witnessed the execution of seven members of the Lwow Jewish religious community headed by Dr. Landsberg. For several days their bodies hung from the balconies. The Germans would not allow them to be removed. They photographed the bodies hanging from the trees, and forced the Jewish population to come out and watch the horrible sight. I was one of those who was compelled to stand there and look at them."

"Until the summer of 1942 the ghetto had not been walled off. But in the middle of that summer the Jews were forced to build brick walls around the ghetto.

The Germans then started the wholesale extermination of the Jews."

"The Gestapo divided the Jews into four categories: first, Jews who were appointed members of the Jewish Council, and Jews who were assigned to the militia to keep order; second, Jewish specialists in industry, required for military purposes; third, medical men, and Jews who could do hard labor; and, fourth, Jews, who were not fit for hard labor, whom the Gestapo termed 'Unnuetzliche Juden' (useless Jews). These were intellectuals, rabbis, religious students, people over sixty, and children under fourteen."

"The Jews, drafted into the militia, were called in to assist the Gestapo in raiding Jewish homes. Those who refused to do this were shot. Hospitals and orphanages were raided in the search for Jewish children. Dr. Glasgels, the famous children's specialist, was killed in his hospital, together with his wife, because they had hidden a number of Jewish children in the hospital cellar. Their son, Edek Glasgels, who had been at school with me, managed to escape. I afterwards learned that Edek had joined a partisan detachment, where he fought bravely until he was killed in one of the raids."

"A number of Jewish children were hidden by Polish families at the risk of their own lives, and a number were hidden even in the churches. But, very few, were saved."

"My younger brother and I were classed among the physically fit, and were left in Lwow. 35,000 Jews, my own parents among them, were loaded on trains and sent off to the Belzec concentration camp. I heard that my parents and the rest of those Jews were slaughtered in the Belzec camp."

"A week after my parents had been sent off, I received a letter from them, brought to me by a Polish railway worker. 'Dear children, they wrote, we have arrived at the new place. We do not know what awaits us.' The Polish railway worker told me that he had been in Belzec. It was a huge camp with two death chambers. One, an enormous room with a capacity of about a thousand people, was equipped with a high voltage power station, and electric wiring all over the floor. Before they were led into this room, the victims were stripped naked. As soon as the room was filled with people the electric current was opened,

T H E G H E T T O S P E A K S

and they were electrocuted. Hundreds of charred bodies was all that was left after a few seconds. The other death chamber was a soap factory, where the bodies were used for fat production."

"I don't know which of these two deaths my parents met. The Gestapo agents never made any secret about this 'Judenseife' (Jewish soap) and they often threatened the Jews of the ghetto by saying to them, 'We shall turn you into soap.'"

"Here and there Jews would resist, though they knew it meant certain death. I saw one Jew, a big strong fellow who had been a butcher, throw a heavy lock at the German overseer. The German fell to the ground bleeding. The other Nazis rushed up, stripped the Jew, tied him to an electric pole, and hurled knives at his naked body. When he was dead, they put a wooden board over him with the inscription, 'Resisted the German authorities.'"

"In the ghetto I had been a member of an illegal youth organization, which was in contact with organizations outside the ghetto. One day in October, 1942, I succeeded in escaping from the ghetto. Two Polish comrades were waiting for me at a place agreed upon before-hand. I tore the yellow badge with the Shield of David from my jacket."

"I obtained an identification card as a Polish Catholic. I studied the Catholic prayers so that I should not be caught. A Polish engineer, who sympathized with our movement, kept me hidden in his house for over a month. During this time I was preparing the ground to enable my younger brother to escape."

"At the end of 1941 the Germans announced that there were still 110,000 Jews in Lwow. At the beginning of 1943 there were no more than about 8,000 Jews left there."

"As a supposed Pole I watched the Jews being driven to and from the ghetto to work. There were sick and emaciated Jews who could hardly drag themselves along. At the end of December I succeeded in enabling my brother to escape. At that time the Germans were mobilizing Poles for the Army. I did not dare to present myself for medical examination, because they would see that I was circumcized. So, to avoid that, I and other Jews who were living as Catholics signed up for work in the occupied territories, which released us from military service. In January, 1943, we were sent to Kiev."

"When the Red Army was approaching our town, Walter Ranke, who was my overseer, began to pack his things hastily, and gave me an evacuation pass. As soon as he was gone I made my way eastward. For nine months, I was afraid of my own shadow. Now I am a free man."

NAZIS PUT PRICE ON HEADS OF JEWS

Of the 4,000 Jews in Wlodawa ghetto, more than 3,000 have been deported and slaughtered in the slaughter camp of Sobibor. This is revealed in a new report which reached the Polish Government from home and was made known recently.

The same report also states that the ghettos of Piaski and Konska-Wola have been completely liquidated by the Germans.

Large numbers of Jews who have escaped from the ghettos are hiding in the forests in various parts of the country. The Germans have announced that rewards from 200 to 500 zlotys, together with the clothes and shoes of the victim, will be given to anyone informing the authorities of the whereabouts of these Jews in hiding. The informant must dig the grave of the Jew, who is always shot.

A FUGITIVE FROM WARSAW RELATES . . .

The following is an excerpt from a letter written by Lucjan Blit, a representative of the Jewish Underground Movement of Poland, who is at present in London, to the American Representation of the General Jewish Workers' Union of Poland. Mr. Blit tells of his conversation with a fugitive from the ghetto of Warsaw who recently reached London.

I should like to begin this letter with a report on my conversation with Tahari, who was in Warsaw until February, 1943. Until the end of September, 1942, he was in the Warsaw ghetto. He is a lawyer. In the ghetto, he worked on the Jewish committee, with the section for..... As he informs me, his closest associate was the younger..... He would meet with G....., N....., and less with X..... He heard about X....., who worked in a second section. He, Tahari, did not belong to any underground organization. However, he knows that such exists. Before the extermination, the majority of the

newspapers for the Polish underground organization were published in..... In connection with this, more than sixty Jewish printers were shot in June, 1942. The shooting of the bakers occurred because of the following reasons: The bakers were the aristocracy of the ghetto, from an economic point of view. They contributed funds for the underground work, and also published a Jewish newspaper, "The Baker." This newspaper failed. During the process of publishing the paper, a young physician, a member of the "Bund" (General Jewish Workers' Union of Poland), Tahari cannot recall the latter's name, was killed. Then came the repressive measures directed mainly at the bakers.

Some 500,000 Jews passed through the Warsaw ghetto in the course of the entire period (not a million, as had been stated). Many Jews did not enter the ghetto at all. Such was the case in Warsaw as well as in the smaller towns. Others fled from the ghetto. He, Tahari, fled with his wife. He made his exit from the ghetto along with a group of "Platzuvkashes," i.e., Jews who worked outside the ghetto and were returned to it at night. The standard of living in the ghetto varied; a small number had everything it needed, and the greatest majority suffered hunger. Yet life was organized in the ghetto. That is why Germans decided upon the massacre.

The Jews in the ghetto lost all respect for the Germans, who were regarded as cowards. He, Tahari, saw how three young Jewish workers disarmed a German policeman behind a wall and gave him a severe beating. The Jewish police endeavored to escape the duties connected with the evacuation. Eighteen hundred Jewish policemen were registered, but at the reporting station, on Ogrodova Street, no more than three hundred men would gather during the drive.

The Germans can be bribed. Through bribery, prisoners can be saved. In his opinion, those persons ostensibly led out to work, are all exterminated. However, the German accounts of the number sent out of Warsaw are exaggerated approximately 15 percent. Thus, there remained in Warsaw some 25,000 more Jews than the Germans had calculated. Indeed, the Germans wanted to take them out of the ghetto, in January, 1943. That was the occasion of the first armed battle, with which you are familiar.

How many Jews are still alive? He, Tahari, is optimistic, and believes that a half million Jews are still alive in the General Gouvernement. But, they will live only if they will receive relief. Of a group of his acquaintances, totalling fifty persons, thirty are out-

side the ghetto, and are in hiding. Naturally, this proportion cannot be regarded as the average of those saved. It does tell something, however.

What is the attitude of the Poles towards the Jews? The attitude of the V. R. N. (left wing of the Polish Underground) and their associates is, as he expressed himself: "Zachwycajaca" (delightful). The same attitude is displayed by the average Pole. He knows of four cases in which ordinary Polish policemen led Jews, strange to them, out of the ghetto, and refused to take any payment for it, saying: "The money will be of use to you later." The large masses of people are the ones who are inclined to be more indifferent, and fear to endanger their lives because of the Jews. If persons of that group do something for the Jews, along these lines, they wish to be compensated for it. There is a minority which rejoices, that it will be rid of Jews. These are particularly persons who formerly supervised Jewish enterprises and have become owners of them. Some individuals aid the Germans not only against Jews, but also against the Poles. They are, however, exceptions. He spoke quite frankly, and I believe he had no grounds to paint a picture of the Poles for me that is brighter than that which he had seen.

When he was outside the ghetto, he heard of B..... (a leader of the Jewish underground). But, he did not meet him. His conclusion is: More and more help must be sent to the places where Jews are in hiding. One more matter: The official Nazi "Warsaw Zeitung", in a February issue, contained an item which stated that, according to information that paper possessed, twenty-five thousand Jews were in hiding in Warsaw. Recently, the Gestapo intensified its activity in rounding up these Jews, so that it might, in this manner, justify its remaining in Warsaw and dodge going to the Russian front. He, Tahari, believes one must not take the point of view that Polish Jewry no longer exists. Tahari is a pen-name.

"WE WHO ARE ABOUT TO DIE GREET YOU"

The American Representation of the General Jewish Workers' Union of Poland has just received, after some delay, a copy of a greeting, that the Jewish Underground Movement of Poland sent, through clandestine channels, to the Congress of the Swiss Socialist Party, which took place on September 6th, 1943. The greeting was read at the opening of the Congress and deeply impressed the seven hundred delegates who were there.

The Swiss Socialist press, in its reports on the Congress, printed the greeting under a caption, which is an old Latin proverb: "We, who are about to die, greet you," (Morituri vos salutant!).

The text of the greeting follows:

Dear Comrades:

The Jewish working class of Poland, that is being systematically annihilated by the occupant, greets you, fellow Socialists of free Switzerland, on the occasion of your Congress. Your struggles and victories for social democracy and democratic Socialism help strengthen the courage and the faith in ultimate victory of those, who are struggling and dying for this mutual ideal in all countries suffering today under the ceaseless blows of boundless brutality.

We are nearing the end of a frightful year, the like of which the working class of no other country has most certainly never experienced. At a time when we, in our country, are being tortured by a burglarious occupant, we have lost the heads of our Socialist Movement as a result of the execution in Soviet Russia of our two honored leaders, comrades Erlich and Alter, whose lives were full of self-sacrifice and who illuminated our road to Socialism. Unwaveringly they chose to die rather than betray that, to which they had dedicated their lives.

During this year, hundreds of thousands of us were deported and slaughtered enmasse by the Nazis. Sentenced to complete annihilation, segregated from the rest of the world by ghetto walls, our comrades in Warsaw arose with weapon in hand against the mighty occupant on April 18th of this year. That marked the first armed revolt, of an entire community, in an occupied country. There was no hope for an immediate victory. There was the desire, however, that the hangman should pay dearly for their lives. And, if death was their fate, they chose to die fighting, as Socialists, as revolutionaries, as "Bund-ists", as descendants of the Macabees. And, dying, they proclaimed their belief in the victory of international Socialism and of fraternity.

A quite successful attempt was made to still the noise of the planes and the roar of the cannons, that transformed the ghetto of Warsaw into a mass of ash and dust; the rifles and machine guns of those who defended their ideal and their human dignity; the moans of women and children, who were mortally wounded. The ghetto walls and military detachments were of great help in this respect.

In order to draw the attention of the world to the terrible tragedy of the Warsaw ghetto and the annihilation of an entire people, Comrade Szmul Zygielbojm, representative of our Party in the Polish Government-in-Exile in London, committed suicide. He consciously sacrificed himself and, in the will he left behind, he affirmed his unshaken belief in the ultimate victory of our mutual ideal — Socialism.

Dear comrades of Switzerland, which has been saved from extinction as if by a miracle! Those of the Jewish working class of Poland who have remained alive, locked in compulsory labor camps, send you their fraternal greetings and heartfelt wishes for the success of your work.

Those of us, who will remain alive after the present bloody deluge, will continue — you can rest assured — together with the entire working class of Poland, with the international proletariat, with you — organized workers of democratic Switzerland — our mutual struggle for a new world, that will be devoid of class distinction and race-hatred, for a fraternal world of free people.

Long live international Socialism!

GENERAL JEWISH WORKERS' UNION
OF POLAND ("BUND")

DR. EMANUEL SCHERER'S ATTITUDE TOWARDS JEWISH PROBLEMS

Dr. Emanuel Scherer, member of the Central Committee of the General Jewish Workers' Union of Poland, who was appointed as a representative of the Jewish Underground Movement of Poland, to the Polish National Council, upon the death of Szmul Zygielbojm, arrived in London, to take up his duties, during the early part of November, 1943. On his arrival, he gave the following interview to the "Polish Jewish Observer":

"Before I left New York," he said, "we had an Executive meeting at which we discussed matters relating to the difficult and complicated problem of the direction of the Jewish underground movement in Poland, a matter which for obvious reasons cannot be discussed publicly."

Discussing Mr. Zygielbojm's policy towards the Polish Government, Dr. Scherer intimated that his own attitude would be roughly the same. "Of course," he added, "there have been many changes since Mr. Zygielbojm's statement in the Council. There have been changes in the first place in the war situation. We are nearer to victory now and there is the problem of building our freed fatherland in a free Europe."

"Changes have also taken place, unfortunately very tragic ones, in the situation of the Jews under Hitler's occupation. But none of these changes have in the main altered our basic policy and our attitude to the Polish Government."

"General Jewish Co-operation"

On the question as to his possible cooperation with Dr. Schwartzbart, the other Jewish representative on the Council, Dr. Scerer said: "Let us not be led astray by beautiful phrases. Much has been written about this question of so-called 'general Jewish co-operation' and there has also been experience. But my own experience, in America, for instance, where I have been for some time, is that all those who speak so much about cooperation and Jewish unity destroy it whenever it is not compatible with their Party interests."

"Let me quote you the case of the dissolution of the Joint Emergency Committee for European Jewish Affairs brought about by the votes of the supporters of Zionism against those of the non-Zionists. It should be remembered that this organization now dissolved by the Zionists was created for the very great and urgent problem of trying to meet the dangers threatening the Jewish people as a result of Nazi barbarism."

"The fate of the Joint Emergency Committee in America justifies our attitude towards the question of so-called general Jewish cooperation. I do not think that we could expect different results in the Polish National Council. Besides cooperation with the other Jewish members in the Council does not depend on me alone. Much depends also on whether it is possible to find a platform for cooperation."

"This platform can only have one fundamental basis, namely, that the fatherland of Polish Jews is Poland and only Poland in the same way that England and only England is the fatherland of English Jews."

Will Defend All Jewish People

"The Jewish problem can only be solved where the Jews live. In the case of Polish Jews that is Poland, where their needs can be met in the same manner as those of the non-Jewish population."

"The attitude of the Bund," he continued, "to this question of general Jewish cooperation does not necessarily mean unwillingness to defend the whole Jewish population against wrongs. In Poland before

the war, we were the most decided and most successful, I should say, defenders of the Jewish masses which was acknowledged through the confidence shown by them in our Party."

"We have not changed our attitude. Our underground movement is a movement of the workers, but it carries on it the main burden of the whole resistance movement of suffering Polish Jewry."

"I am not anxious, of course, to make Bund propaganda out of the Jewish resistance movement in Poland. It is too sacred for that. But for the sake of truth, I must say that without the Bund, there would be no really effective Jewish resistance in Poland today, there would not be that great fighting movement out of which arose the epic of the Battle of the Warsaw and other ghettos."

"It was from the spirit and tradition of the Bund organization that a Jewish workers' underground movement arose immediately after the Germans invaded Poland and has remained the center of that movement ever since."

"One more thing I would like to underline. Before the war, the only contact of the Jewish working masses with the Polish working masses was through the Bund, because the Bund cooperated with the Polish Socialist Party as well as with the Trade Unions. Today this cooperation continues and through it the walls of the ghetto have been broken down."

Dr. Scherer then dealt with the vital importance of mobilizing all efforts to rescue the Jews from German extermination. "At this moment," he declared, "no matter is more urgent than to save the Jews from the German hangmen and all those who actually want to help us — not by mere words — should work to that end. Promises of rescue tomorrow are insufficient."

"It seems to me that this problem is just as important as military operations of the Allied Nations. There should be a special council of rescue which would devote all its time and energies to this purpose. I am convinced that such a council, given the proper powers, would find effective means to bring pressure on the German murderers."

Underground Demands Reprisals

"Can anything concrete be done? Well, we have received both from the Jewish and Polish underground in Poland demands for reprisals on the

Germans in order to stop extermination of the Jews."

"As to delivering food to the ghettos, I believe that this can be done, although it is complicated. Food is being sent to Greece and this shows that it can be done. . . . And remember that a pound of bread sent there now means more than ten pounds sent later."

As to whether the Bund Party is likely to revise its attitude to the World Jewish Congress, Dr. Scherer replied by saying that this organization was an instrument of the Zionist Party and as the Bund cannot change its attitude towards Zionism, it cannot change its policy towards the Congress.

Our last question to the new Jewish representative was, how does he visualize the political, cultural and economic life of Jews in post-war Poland?

"I believe," he said, "that Hitler will not succeed in destroying the Jewish people and although we have lost terribly, the Jews will survive the hangmen. The future of Polish Jewry is linked very closely to the future of a free and independent Poland."

"Poland after the war must adopt the path of democracy and Socialism. Objectively, there is no other way for our country to secure her independence and freedom. In a democratic and Socialist Poland, which will be a member of a Socialist Europe, the Jewish population will be able to benefit fully from real equality of citizenship, and develop its own national life."

ERLICH ALTER MEMORIAL MEETING

A memorial meeting, marking the second anniversary of the execution of the two leaders of the Jewish Labor Movement of Poland, Henryk Erlich and Victor Alter, was held at the Hotel Pennsylvania in New York, on the 28th of December, 1943.

More than five hundred guests, representing various American Jewish labor organizations, met to express their grief and pay homage to the memory of the two prominent international Socialists.

Joseph Baskin, general-secretary of the Workmen's Circle, Nathan Chanin, of the Jewish Labor Committee, Joseph Weinberg, of the Jewish Socialist Verband, and Israel Feinberg, general-manager of the Joint Board of the Cloakmakers' Unions, were among the speakers. S. Mendelson, member of the executive committee of the American Representation of the

General Jewish Workers' Union of Poland, presided. Emanuel Nowogrodsky, Ch. Wasser, J. Gutgold and S. Hertz addressed the meeting in behalf of the numerous branches of the Jewish Labor Movement of Poland, which were led by Erlich and Alter.

Wladyslaw Malinowski, in behalf of the Polish Socialist Party and Raphael Abramowitch, in behalf of the Russian Social-Democratic Party, paid tribute to the memory of the two martyrs of the Jewish Labor Movement of Poland.

David Dubinsky, president of the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union, unable to attend the meeting, sent the following message:

Today, on the anniversary of the tragic deaths of Victor Alter and Henryk Erlich, I am as deeply convinced of their innocence and martyrdom as I was a year ago when I joined with you in the protest against their execution.

I feel that I can safely brush aside the personal attacks made upon me and upon our movement because we had dared to utter our protest against a political atrocity. Our admiration — in word and action — for the great people of Soviet Russia and for the magnificent achievements of the Red Army has ever been boundless and clearly outspoken. Nevertheless, I have always felt that this solidarity with Soviet Russia in our common fight against the barbarity and inhumanity of Fascism does not imply the surrender of our right to condemn political injustices committed by any of our allies.

I am hopeful that when the worldwide struggle against Fascism will have been crowned with success with the aid of all the nations fighting for freedom and civilization, and the passions of the current storm will have subsided, Soviet Russia and its Government will recognize the grievous error it made in executing Alter and Erlich and will clear their names and aid in the rehabilitation of their characters among the noblest figures of our time.

Together with all lovers of freedom and uncompromising democrats, I am looking forward to a post-war world in which Soviet Russia and the democracies of the Western World will be able to work out their destinies with recognition of mutual respect and responsibilities, in the spirit and faith of the Teheran concord. In such an atmosphere of genuine world cooperation, the tragic error exemplified in the execution of Alter and Erlich may never occur again and the sympathetic understanding of and wholehearted cooperation with Soviet Russia will continue unbroken in the years to come.