



How a Series of  
**DESPERATE ADS**  
Helped Save Jews  
During the Holocaust



## PETER BERGSON —

### *One Man's Efforts to Save European Jewry Against All Odds.*

Peter Bergson

One of the lesser-known but most important stories about the American Jewish efforts to save the Jews of Europe from the Holocaust is the story of the Bergson group, led by Hillel Kook using the pseudonym Peter Bergson. Kook was a leading Zionist activist in the British Mandate of Palestine and came to the United States in 1940. He became active in trying to raise awareness of the fate of the Jews in Europe after a small article, buried on the inside pages of the *New York Times* in November 1942, reported that up to two million Jews were already murdered by the Nazis. American members of his group included the writer Ben Hecht and the illustrator Arthur Szyk. They began a fund-raising and publicity campaign devoted to the rescue of European Jewry.

Unlike European Jewish communities that had centralized organizations and leadership, American Jews of that era were fractured along many different fault lines. There was not one single, united American Jewish community. Rather there were many small communities that shared the common denominator of "Jewish" but not much else.

The older, more established German Jewish community that arrived in the U.S. in the 1850s was, by 1940, completely Americanized. The small American Sephardic Jewish community were descended from the first American Jews who arrived in the 17th and 18th centuries.

The vast majority of American Jews, however, were the Yiddish-speaking immigrants, and their children, who came to the U.S. from Eastern Europe in the late 19th and early

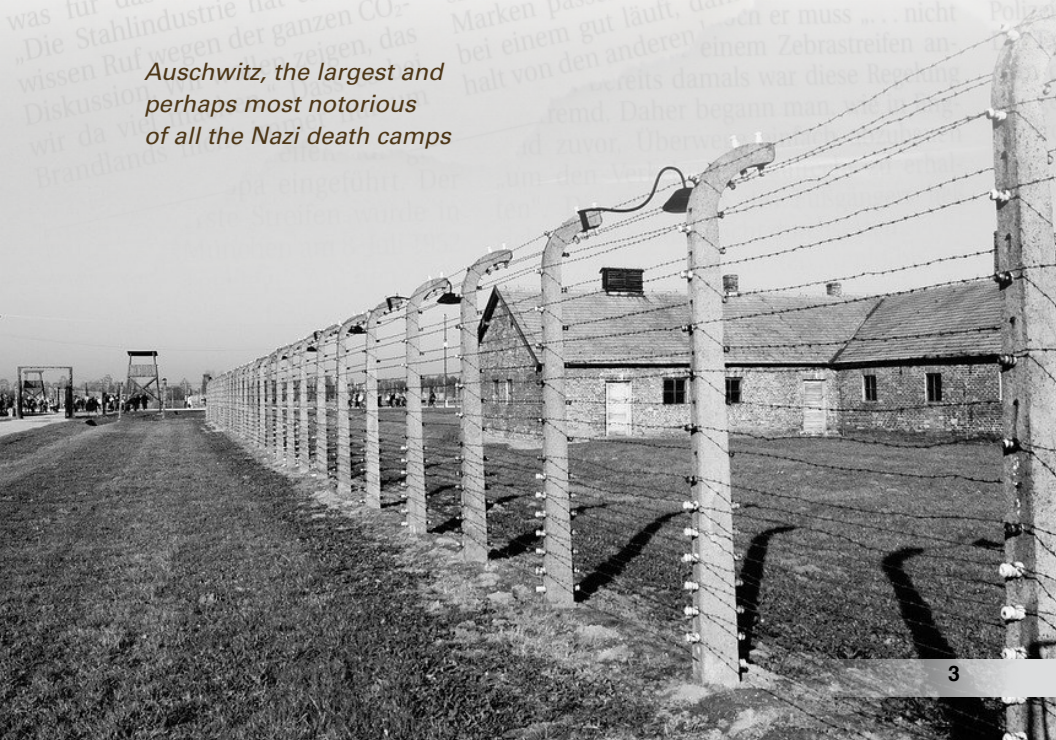


20th centuries. They were largely working class and still trying to find their place in American society.

Religious and political chasms also prevented a cohesive, unified American Jewish community. The American German Jews were mostly Reform, while most of the Jews from Eastern Europe were traditional or Orthodox. Politically, Jews ranged from capitalists, small business owners, liberals, communists, socialists, Zionists, non-Zionists, and anti-Zionists.

When news of the Holocaust reached American Jews, their lack of communal cohesion prevented them from agreeing on how to respond to the Nazi threat to Europe's Jews. This was exacerbated further by the huge ideological differences separating American Jews. Some advocated behind-the-scenes quiet advocacy, others supported the Zionist goal to establish a Jewish state, and others opposed that plan. This frequently sharp discord prevented a unified Jewish advocacy strategy to the president and Congress.

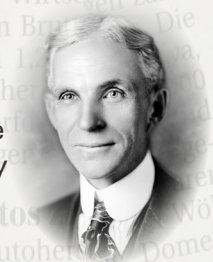
*Auschwitz, the largest and perhaps most notorious of all the Nazi death camps*





Nearly 1,000 uniformed men wearing swastika arm bands and carrying Nazi banners parade past a reviewing stand in New Jersey on July 18, 1937 (AP Photo).

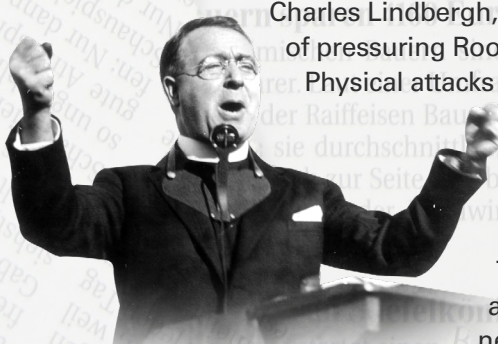
Making matters worse, this era (1930s to 1940s) was the most antisemitic period of American history. The pro-Nazi German American Bund was very active, even holding a mass rally of 20,000 people in Madison Square Garden in 1939. Many prominent Americans were overtly antisemitic. This included the industrialist Henry Ford, who published numerous antisemitic articles and books, Father Charles Coughlin, whose antisemitic radio show reached 30 million people weekly, and the aviation hero Charles Lindbergh, who had accused "the Jews" of pressuring Roosevelt to take America to war.



Henry Ford

Physical attacks on Jews were common, as was discrimination in housing, education, and employment.

Against this backdrop, the Bergson group stepped in. The group placed full-page advertisements in leading newspapers in late 1942.



Father Coughlin



*Charles Lindbergh*

These ads included "Jews Fight for the Right to Fight" in the *New York Times* and another, "For Sale to Humanity: 70,000 Jews, Guaranteed Human Beings at \$50 a Piece," in response to Romania's offer to send its Jews to safety if their travel expenses were paid.

This action set off a major controversy. A number of American Jewish leaders expressed outrage. Fearful of a strong antisemitic backlash, many Jewish organizations and leaders thought the campaign could result in increased antisemitism.

In 1943, the Bergson group established the Emergency Committee for the Rescue of European Jewry. Among its members were Jewish and non-Jewish writers, public figures, and politicians who worked to disseminate information to the general public and to lobby the president and Congress to take immediate action to save the remnants of Europe's Jews. One of the key members was Congressman Will Rogers, Jr.

To get attention to their cause, they held plays and mass pageants and rallies across America. On March 9, 1943, the Bergson group produced a huge pageant in New York's Madison Square Garden entitled, "We Will Never Die," to an overflow crowd of 40,000. Edward G. Robinson, Stella Adler, and Marlon Brando participated. It went on to play in other major cities, including Washington, D.C., where First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt, six Supreme Court justices, and over 300 senators and congressmen watched it.

In October 1943, Bergson persuaded over 400 Orthodox



*Program from the 1943 pageant that brought awareness of the plight of European Jewry to the U.S. Artist: Arthur Szyk.*

rabbis to march on Washington to protest what they thought was the Roosevelt Administration's indifference to the plight of European Jewry. While President Roosevelt did not receive them personally, they were received by Roosevelt's vice president, Henry Wallace. They also met several prominent members of Congress, and Senator William Warren Barbour, a Republican from New Jersey met with the rabbis and



proposed legislation that would have allowed the rescue of as many as 100,000 Jews to emigrate temporarily to the U.S. A largely antisemitic Congress failed to pass it.

Many historians believe that this march on Washington, and pressure from Secretary of the Treasury, Henry J. Morgenthau, Jr., helped push Congress to hold hearings on the plight of Europe's Jews and contributed directly to the creation in January 1944 of the official War Refugee Board (WRB) to deal with Jewish and non-Jewish war refugees. At the time, the U.S. had a strict quota on the number of immigrants allowed into the country of 2 percent of the number of each nationality present in the U.S since the 1890 census. This meant only 28,000 Jews from Germany and Austria and 6,500 from Poland were allowed in. Yet, due to State Department pressure, these Jewish quotas often went unfilled.

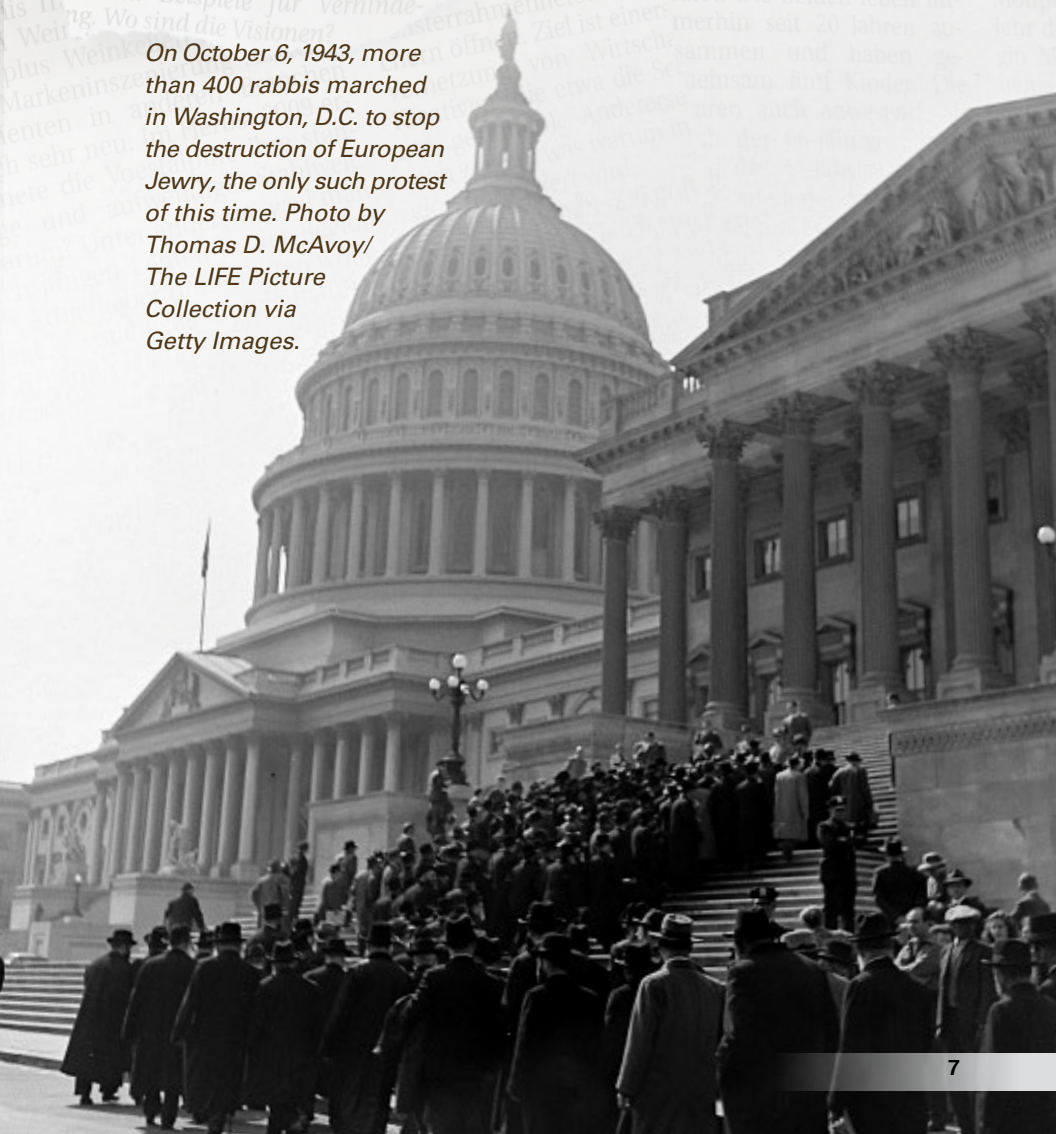
After the WRB was established, a U.S. government emissary went to Turkey to aid in the rescue of Romanian Jews. The WRB saved about 200,000 Jews, mostly from Hungary, with the help of the Raoul Wallenberg mission. Bergson and his group then shifted their focus back to the Palestine Mandate and worked towards the creation of the State of Israel.

It was not until years after World War II and Israel's reestablishment that American Jews came to appreciate and recognize the historic contribution made by Hillel Kook, a.k.a. Peter Bergson.

Bergson's contributions to saving Europe's Jews were eventually memorialized and popularized in a play, *The Accomplices*; a documentary movie, *Not Idly By: Peter Bergson, America and the Holocaust*; and a movie narrated by Dustin Hoffman, *Against the Tide*.

Following are advertisements placed in the *New York Times*, the *Chicago Sun*, and other publications by the Bergson group attesting to those desperate days.

*On October 6, 1943, more than 400 rabbis marched in Washington, D.C. to stop the destruction of European Jewry, the only such protest of this time. Photo by Thomas D. McAvoy/ The LIFE Picture Collection via Getty Images.*



# FOR SALE to Humanity 70,000 Jews

**Guaranteed Human Beings at \$50 a Piece**

Roumania is tired of killing Jews. It has killed one hundred thousand of them in two years. Roumania will now give Jews away practically for nothing.

**SEVENTY THOUSAND JEWS  
ARE WAITING DEATH  
IN ROUMANIAN  
CONCENTRATION CAMPS:**

Roumania Will Give These 70,000 Jews to the Four Freedoms for 20,000 Lei (\$50) a Piece. This Sum Covers All Transportation Expenses.

**ROUMANIA OFFERS TO DELIVER  
THESE 70,000 ALIVE TO PALESTINE**

**Attention Four Freedoms!!!**

NO SPIES WERE FOUND AMONG THE 300,000 JEWS WHO CAME TO PALESTINE SINCE HITLER ASSUMED POWER IN GERMANY.

THERE WILL BE NO SPIES SMUGGLED IN AMONG THESE JEWS.  
(IF THERE ARE YOU CAN SHOOT THEM)

**Attention Humanity!!!**

PALESTINE'S ARABS WILL NOT BE ANNOYED BY THE ARRIVAL OF 70,000 JEWS. THE ONLY ARABS WHO WILL BE ANNOYED ARE THE ARAB LEADERS WHO ARE IN BERLIN AND THEIR SPIES IN PALESTINE.

**Attention America!!!**

THE GREAT ROUMANIAN BARGAIN IS FOR THIS MONTH ONLY!

**IT IS AN UNPRECEDENTED OFFER! SEVENTY THOUSAND SOULS AT \$50 A PIECE!**

**The Doors of Roumania Are Open! Act Now!**

Write your congressman about this situation, and tell your friends to do the same. The four million Jews of Nazi-held Europe can be saved from the fate of their two million brothers already exterminated.

The Germans have dared to undertake this process of annihilation because they knew that the Jews are defenseless and forgotten.

The great, humanitarian people of the United States and Great Britain must be made aware of the facts.

To that end the Committee for a Jewish Army of stateless and Palestinian Jews has launched an intensive campaign to



I want to support your campaign to save European Jews by joining the honors of Axis barbarism to the knowledge of all civilized mankind. To help you publicize your message through the press, the radio and meetings throughout the country, I am glad to enclose my check in the amount of \$.....

Name .....

Address .....

(This contribution cannot be used for school transportation. Nothing can be done along these lines until the United Nations have made the necessary arrangements.)

PLEASE MAKE YOUR CHECK PAYABLE TO THE COMMITTEE FOR A JEWISH ARMY OF STATELESS AND PALESTINIAN JEWS, 416 W. 8th ST. LOS ANGELES

**RUMANIA WILLING TO  
SEND JEWS TO PALESTINE**  
Lack of Faith in Germany's Victory Seen in Rumanian Proposal

Newspaper reports from London reveal that the Rumanian Government has proposed to the United Nations to transfer 70,000 Rumanian Jews from Trans-Dniestr to such areas that will be assigned by the Allies.

This proposal was made through the medium of general diplomats. According to the reports, the Rumanian proposal implies that the Rumanian Government is ready to release the Jews from Trans-Dniestr in Rumania in return which would be permitted to displace the millions of the Yiddish in Israel and Poland.

The Jews would be first transferred under the supervision of ecclesiastic dignitaries to Bucharest, the capital of Rumania, where special accommodations will be made for them until the evacuation.

It is also reported that the Bishop of Bucharest and the Pope Nuncio will be in charge of the arrangements as well as the supervision of the transfer from Bucharest to the place of destination.

According to the proposal the Rumanian Government would levy a tax of 20,000 lei on each refugee to cover traveling expenses.

Although the Rumanian Government is ready to release the Jews from Trans-Dniestr to any other area that will be assigned by the Allies, it suggests, nevertheless, that the most convenient destination would be Palestine because of shipping facilities. Other destinations will create a serious shipping problem.

Political observers in London believe that the Rumanian intention is proof that German power and prestige in the Balkan area is declining, and there is a strong possibility in the victory of the United Nations.

But some officials, it is reported, in Palestine think that untrained organizations and individuals. First, they think there is danger in receiving such a large number of refugees at one time because there is the possibility that some may be among them. Secondly, there is the question of the Jewish refugees in Palestine may have acceptable effect upon the Arabs of that country and possibly those of neighboring countries.

The influential Manchester Guardian is discussing the present Jewish situation editorially, on Feb. 9, said:

"The Jews only symbolize what Hitler might do to the British if he gets the chance. If the refugees were British, American or Russian, the United Nations would be so anxious to do something despite all difficulties."

**Committee for a Jewish Army  
of Stateless and Paistianin Jews**

Los Angeles Office—416 W. 8th St.  
TUcker 7383 GRonite 6377  
CRestview 6-8853

This advertisement appeared in the New York Times, Feb. 16, 1943. It will appear in newspapers in Washington, D.C., Chicago, Philadelphia, Boston and other cities this week.



# THE RACES ARE WAITING FOR?

This is a message of reassurance and clarification to all those who have been disturbed by the report of Breckinridge Long, Assistant Secretary of State, made in a closed session of the House Foreign Affairs Committee which is holding hearings on the Resolution recommending the President to create a special commission to save the surviving Jewish people of Europe. This report has been interpreted as a move to kill or suspend the rescue resolution.

We who are dedicated to the task of saving the Jewish people of Europe from annihilation at the hands of Nazi Germany do not share the fears that the report released by Representative Sol Bloom (chairman of the House Foreign Affairs Committee) will have this effect. First, because we refuse to believe that it is the intention of anyone in the State Department to stand in the way of putting an end to the martyrdom of the Jewish people. And what is more important, because we know that an aroused and united American public wants the Resolution passed. We are confident that it will be passed.

### Jewish Disaster Not a Refugee Problem

Mr. Long's report, however, is likely to help the issue and to cause confusion in the minds of many people. Therefore some clarifications is necessary.

Mr. Long's statement contained some interesting statistics on the activities and endeavors of the State Department to alleviate the plight of refugees during the past decade. But there is nothing to do with the Jews who are facing death now in Hitler's Europe.

The Baldwin-Rogers Resolution is not concerned with refugees—those comparatively lucky people who have escaped death. For these refugees there exists the Intergovernmental Committee on Refugees; a committee which does not, and was never intended to deal with the problem of saving those who are still facing death in German-Occupied Europe. The Commission demanded in the Baldwin-Rogers Resolution is concerned with the fate of those who are not yet refugees.

Mr. Long's statistics on immigration into the United States—right or wrong—have no bearing on the Resolution in Congress. The practical measures for saving the Jews who are in Europe now do not include mass deportation from Eastern shores of America and their return to countries territories under the control of the United Nations, such as Cyprus, Palestine and North Africa, as well as Turkey and other neutral countries in Europe, which can absorb vast numbers of the people now trapped in the ghastly ghettos and execution camps of Poland.

### Irrelevant Statistics

But Mr. Long's statistics are incorrect. He has included in his figure of 580,000 refugees, admitted to this country since 1933, first, 378,498 aliens who were admitted in the United States of America and then, more countries "out of traveling or visiting abroad; also 118,680 immigrants from "non-quota" countries like Canada, Mexico, and the nations of Central and South America; also other smaller categories of "non-quota" immigrants like professors, ministers, etc.

Mr. Long's statistics are incomplete for they do not show that while in the ten and a half years between January 1, 1933, and June 30, 1943, only 478,900 immigrants out of the recorded quota of 1,500,000, were admitted to this country, and only 543,900 persons, permanently left the United States. They do not show that since the war, when the need for refuge became desperate, less than 100,000 refugees were admitted to this country, and of course not all of them were Jews.

But the decisive fact remains that all these statistics are irrelevant to the Baldwin-Rogers Resolution. For the sake of thousands of human lives these arguments must not be raised to cloud the issue, to provoke confusion and doubt.

### This Resolution Must Pass

BECAUSE—it will prove that the slaughter of an entire people is no longer possible by the United Nations that at long last the Jewish disaster has received consideration from America, the leader of the United Nations.

BECAUSE—it will weaken and strengthen the tortured millions of men, women and children in the ghastly ghettos of Poland and the Balkans; it will offer them the hope of escape to safety.

BECAUSE—it will inform the world that the time when the United Nations were weak and humiliated and impotent has passed; that the satellite countries of Europe, fearful of the advance of our American armies, must seek peace from the democratic nations against the day of reckoning, and must therefore cease to participate in Hitler's barbarous program of annihilation.

### But What Has Held Up Action?

President Roosevelt answered this when he declared that "the heart is in the right place, but it is a question of ways and means."

Now this Congressional resolution seeks to provide the ways and means. Nothing has been done because the machinery to save the Jews of Europe because the machinery for action did not exist. Nothing will be done so long as this machinery is lacking.

Confusion and distortion must be brushed aside. The people of America demand action.

You too must raise your voice. You too must stand up and be counted.

Let Congress know that the American people join us in the fight to save the surviving Jews of Europe—a cause which represents not only human lives but is also a test case of humanity and civilization.

## EMERGENCY COMMITTEE TO SAVE THE JEWISH PEOPLE OF EUROPE

One East Forty-fourth Street, New York 17, N. Y. MUrray Hill 2-7237

### EXECUTIVE BOARD

- |  |   |   |
|--|---|---|
| CO-CHAIRMEN:<br>Peter H. Bergson<br>Mans. Signis Underd  | Ben Hecht   | Sally Lurie<br>J. J. Amiel<br>Al Kassar<br>A. J. Bessah<br>A. J. Bessah   |
| VICE-CHAIRMEN:<br>Walter S. Bennett<br>Paul Francis G. McManus<br>Harold S. Hersh<br>Theresa S. Hersh<br>Oscar W. Fleisher | A. Michael Rafeski<br>Lisa Searle<br>Raymond W. Matthews<br>Ray. Andrew L. Senors<br>Dr. Maurice Wilensky<br>Mrs. Susan Dickstein | MEMBERS:<br>Nathan George Harwitz<br>E. Jabotinsky<br>Ruth Kasse<br>Eli Lengyel<br>E. Shadrin<br>Lawrence Lipson<br>Rud. Landau<br>Goro. Edward Martin<br>Geo. J. Howard McGrath<br>S. Martin |

## A United Public Opinion Demands the Immediate Passage of the Resolution to Save the Jewish People of Europe

**Wendell Willkie:** "... This resolution is of paramount importance. The urgency of the situation demands immediate action. The bill deserves the whitest spot of every American." (From a statement to the House Foreign Affairs Committee.)

**Mayor Fiorello H. La Guardia:** "... An adverse vote in the House would be fatally misconstrued and misinterpreted by our enemies and the world and would add to the terrible toll of human lives. An expression of Congress represents the viewpoint of the American people. I urge very definite consideration." (From his testimony before the House Foreign Affairs Committee.)

**Alfred E. Smith:** "I earnestly urge that the Foreign Relations Committee approve of the bill to effectuate a plan of immediate action designed to save the surviving Jewish people of Europe from extinction at the hands of the Nazis." (Telegram to Rep. Sol Bloom, Chairman, House Foreign Affairs Committee.)

**Dean Alfango:** "... In every speech Hitler has made, he never failed to attack the Jews. In no speech made by the 'United Nations' statesmen was Hitler ever answered. The tragedy of the Jews has been our own apathy." (Testifying before the House Foreign Affairs Committee, in his capacity as Vice-Chairman of the Emergency Committee to Save the Jewish People of Europe.)

### NATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS:

Representatives of the AFL and the CIO, representing many millions of American workers, appeared before the hearing of the House Foreign Affairs Committee urging the immediate passage of the resolution and promising support and cooperation with the rescue commission which will be created. Among the many other organizations who demanded action upon the resolution was the Executive Committee of the National Republican Club.

### THE PRESS OF THE NATION:

**New York Herald Tribune:** "... Certain it is that nothing will be accomplished to save Nazi-Europe's surviving Jews from a humanitarian cause." (From an editorial, December 14, 1943.)

**New York Post:** "... The creation of the commission called for by the resolution is a first step, and a necessary one, to halt the greatest massacre in history, so let us have it." (From an editorial, November 23rd, 1943.)

**New York World-Telegram:** "... The problem is immediate. It is humanitarian, not political. It is as much a Christian as it is the action of so-called Christian governments. The resolution calls for affirmation of the American position, assumption by America of leadership in doing whatever may be done to save lives now. We should not hesitate to lead in so imperative a humanitarian cause." (From an editorial, December 1st, 1943.)

**New York Daily Mirror:** "... This is not a Christian or a Jewish question. It is a human question, and concerns men and women of all creeds. The resolution should pass." (From an editorial, December 10.)

**Washington Post:** "It is a rare occurrence in legislative history for a bill or a resolution introduced in either house of Congress to have multiple sponsorship and the backing of members of both parties. ... The fact that so many distinguished lawmakers are backing this resolution suggests the urgency of the matter they recommend." (From an editorial, November 27.)

**Washington Sunday Star:** "... According to the Emergency Committee to Save the Jewish People of Europe—a group made up of distinguished Americans of different faiths—two main courses of action could be followed now. The first of these would be for the United Nations, particularly Russia, Britain and the United States, to make clear that although the recent joint warning to the Nazis on atrocities did not specifically name atrocities against Jews, the warning was nevertheless all-inclusive. The second would be to try to effect the transfer of Jews from Nazi-dominated countries to territories beyond Nazi control.

"In line with this approach to the problem, there are now pending in both houses of Congress identical resolutions. This [the resolution] is a helpful move serving to speed up the official adoption of a rescue program that is sorely needed. The plight of the European Jews cannot be exaggerated; their lot is worse than that of any other group within the reach of Hitler." (From an editorial, November 28.)

**Washington News:** "... The issue is not sectarian. The sole object here is to rescue as many as possible of those Hitler victims, pending complete Allied victory and the liberation of Europe from barbarism. ... Americans cannot be indifferent in this terrible emergency." (From an editorial, November 24.)

**Scraps-Howard Papers:** "... The suggested commission would find ways to provide temporary refuge in nearby neutral and Allied territory for all those who can get out of Nazi-controlled countries. ... The mere fact that the United States Government is concerned may have some effect in modifying the wholesale brutality, especially in such Nazi-satellite states as Rumania, Hungary, Bulgaria and Vichy France, where there is growing realization that the Allies are winning the war and will hold citizens to account." (From editorials, November 25th, 1943.)

**Hearst Newspaper Chain:** "... There is little time to be lost. ... Mr. Peter Bergson, Co-Chairman of the Emergency Committee to Save the Jewish People of Europe, declared before the House Foreign Affairs Committee that 1,000,000 additional Jews would be murdered by the Nazis before the Armistice." This is too ghastly to contemplate. What is required now is action." (From editorials, December 10th, 1943.)

**Christian Science Monitor:** "It was in 1933 that a war of annihilation against the Jewish people in Europe—some eight million persons—was symbolically begun by the newly risen power in Germany. Today, ten years and more than three million victims later, the United Nations still have failed to take any direct decisive action to rescue the innocent subjects of the Nazi's blood purge.

"An opportunity to redress, in a small degree, this sin of omission is offered in the resolution. ..." (From an editorial, December 6th, 1943.)

**Chicago Daily News:** "Congress should pass without delay the Gillette-Taft-Baldwin-Rogers joint resolution for the establishment of a commission to devise and execute measures for the rescue of as many as possible of the 4,000,000 Jews in Axis-controlled Europe, most of whom may be massacred or starved. ..." (From an editorial, December 7, 1943.)

### SENATORS AND CONGRESSMEN WHO INTRODUCED THE RESCUE RESOLUTION

SENATORS: Guy M. Gillette, Allen J. Elander, Homer Ferguson, Joseph F. Guffy, Edwin C. Johnson, James E. Murray, George L. Radcliffe, Elbert D. Thomas, Robert A. Taft, Frederick Van Nuys, Sheridan Downey, Bennett Champ Clark.

REPRESENTATIVES: Will Rogers, Jr., Joseph Clark Baldwin.

### WON'T YOU HELP?

This Committee considers it a sacred duty to do all humanly possible to save the Jewish people of Europe. Our offices and representatives in Washington and in London, in Poland, in Paris. But we need your financial help. ... We operate solely through voluntary contributions. ... Your support will be decentralized in the scope and effectiveness of our fight to save the Jewish people of Europe.

EMERGENCY COMMITTEE  
TO SAVE THE JEWISH PEOPLE OF EUROPE  
1 East 44th Street, New York 17, N. Y.

I enclose my contribution to enable you to carry out your tremendous task in the name of \_\_\_\_\_

NAME OF \_\_\_\_\_  
ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

(By a mailing of the Treasury Department, contributions to this Committee are tax exempt) Please make checks payable to Mrs. JOHN GUNTHER, Treasurer



# HOW WELL ARE YOU SLEEPING?

*Is There Something You Could Have Done to Save Millions of Innocent People—Men, Women, and Children—from Torture and Death?*

With the irresistible advance of the heroic Russian armies, regaining their native soil, the monstrous treatment the Germans mete out to Jews receives new confirmation. Stories of horror which must shake the conscience of humanity—if civilization is to survive—are being published by eyewitnesses. One of these horror stories is reproduced on this page. Have courage and read it!

Perhaps you will recoil. It may disturb your sleep at night. But it may also fill you with anger, with zeal to do something to stop such atrocities, to rescue the Jews who survive.

Not because they were Poles or Dutchmen, not because they were Jews, more than two million men, women and children have been deliberately murdered by the Germans.

The Jews of Europe have suffered more fatalities from atrocities than all the European Nations combined. In the face of such a tragedy it is folly, indeed it is sinful, to debate whether Jews are a religion, a nation, or a race—to insist on calling them "refugees"—and thus to remain passive to their disastrous plight, ignoring it and surrounding it with silence.

They are a specific group of human beings whom our common enemy has publicly threatened to exterminate entirely. This Committee believes it is an inescapable duty of all Americans to actively oppose Hitler in this respect also, and to do all that is humanly possible to save the four million Jews who are still alive in Europe.

### These Four Million Can Be Saved!

Experts agree on that. Sweden and Denmark have just proved it by saving six thousand Jews in a few days.

They are safe for only one reason: the doors of a neighboring country were unlocked.

And because of that fact, the escaping Jews found the resources and energy to reach those doors of safety. What Sweden did so simply, so humanely, other nations are being urged to do, must do if their consciences are to be clear for the peace to come!

Read what this committee has already accomplished, what its further plans are.

### Our Program of Action!

AT THE EMERGENCY CONFERENCE HELD IN NEW YORK, ON JULY 20-25, 1943, EXPERTS FROM ALL PARTS OF THE UNITED STATES FORMULATED A PROGRAM OF EFFECTIVE ACTION THAT CAN AND MUST BE TAKEN NOW TO SAVE THE JEWISH PEOPLE OF EUROPE. THEY URGED THE GOVERNMENTS OF THE UNITED STATES AND THE UNITED NATIONS TO ADOPT A PLAN EMBRACING THE FOLLOWING OUTSTANDING MEASURES:

1. To create a Governmental Agency specifically charged with the task of saving the Jewish people of Europe.
2. To seek permission from the Axis-nation countries, through the International Red Cross, neutral countries, or the Vatican, to insure Jews the same treatment given to other outsiders.
3. To relieve the starvation and disease which are decimating the Jewish people in Axis-occupied Europe.
4. To insure that the Axis-nation countries, which now seek to gain the goodwill of the victorious Allies, withhold their Jews from Hitler's slaughterhouses and permit them to leave their borders.
5. To urge neutral countries—Sweden, Iceland, Portugal, Spain, Switzerland, and Turkey—to grant the Jewish people temporary asylum.
6. To request neutral countries to grant transit facilities to all Jewish people passing from Axis-occupied areas to any United Nations territory, regardless of whether the passage involves no border, immigration, or quarantine.
7. To obtain from the Governments of the United Nations emergency asylum with the understanding that when the war terminates will be a removal of the restrictions if they are not wanted by the receiving country.
8. To insist that Great Britain, pending this tragic emergency, open the doors of Palestine, which 600,000 Jews have expressed their desire to share their homes and food with their suffering brothers, thus putting an end to the discriminatory immigration laws that exclude only Jews from their own country.

## THIS COMMITTEE CAME INTO EXISTENCE TO ACHIEVE THE RESCUE OF THE JEWS OF EUROPE

### Here is Part of Its Record:

Our offices and representatives in Washington and in London, in Palestine and in Turkey, are urging the respective governments to undertake large-scale action to save the four million Jews in Europe's death trap.

We brought the problem of the Jewish disaster to the masses of American people by nation-wide advertising in the leading newspapers in this country and through national radio-broadcasts, as well as through books, periodicals, and leaflets.

We organized mass expressions of public opinion demanding immediate action, through a mass petition movement, mass rallies and dramatic pageants.

We organized the pilgrimage of five hundred Rabbis to Washington.

We requested and obtained the week of compassion and prayer by six thousand Christian Churches.

We initiated the movement to pay tribute to Sweden and Denmark.

We organized the protest against the omission of the Jewish disasters from the Moscow statement on atrocities.

Now, we are able to state with satisfaction that the President, at his press conference on November 6, and Secretary Hull, in his historic appearance before the joint session of Congress, specifically mentioned their concern with the Jewish tragedy. The "ring of silence around the catastrophe of the Jewish people was broken."

More than that. In all our activities, we put forward as the first and most immediate demand, the creation of a specific Governmental Agency with the task to effectuate the rescue of the millions of Jewish people still alive in Europe.

### Now a Bipartisan Resolution Has Been Introduced in the Senate and House Demanding the Creation of Such an Agency

This resolution recommends to the President:

"...The creation by the President of a commission of diplomatic, economic and military experts to formulate and effectuate a plan of immediate action designed to save the surviving Jewish people of Europe from extinction at the hands of Nazi Germany."

This resolution was introduced by leaders of both Parties; in the Senate by Senator Guy M. Gillette and eleven of his colleagues; in the House, by Congressman Will Rogers, Jr. (D) of California, and Joseph Clark Baldwin (R) of New York.

The hearings of the Foreign Affairs Committee of the House have just opened. Prominent men from all walks of American life are testifying, urging this resolution's passage. Wendell Willkie declared this resolution of "paramount importance. The urgency of the situation demands immediate action. The bill deserves the wholehearted support of every American."

### You Can Do Your Part, Too!

Wire or write to your Senator and Congressman. Write also to the members of the Foreign Affairs Committee of the House. Demand their co-operation!

You can do your part, too, to carry out our tremendous plan of activities. You can help us mobilize public opinion from coast to coast. You can help us keep alive our headquarters in Washington, London, Palestine, and Turkey to continue our work for the people in deepest agony and despair. For each day dozens thousands that can be saved. This is strictly a race against death!

This Committee is asking the American people for substantial financial support with which it will be enabled to carry on its work for the rescue of the Four Million martyred Jews in Europe.

We need your financial help immediately—NOW! You can sign your name below and enclose your contribution to speed the effectiveness of our work to save the Jewish people of Europe. Whatever you give is evidence of your conviction that human life is worth saving!

## Nazi Massacre Of Kiev's Jews Told by Witness

Victims Stripped, Lined Up at a Alley, Shot; Babies Merely Thrown in Air

German troops massacred Kiev's Jews during the first days of the Nazi occupation of the now-battered Ukraine capital, robbing them of their clothes and jewelry and lining them up naked at the edge of a gully, where they were shot, the Russian Tass News Agency reported yesterday.

Tass quoted an eyewitness story written for the Moscow newspaper "Izvestia" by Dmitri Orlov, assistant of Kiev.

"Several days after the Germans entered Kiev (on Sept. 20, 1941) I went to Lovyansky Street. An incessant procession of people was streaming through it, and both sidewalks were lined with German patrols. . . . The Germans were driving the Jews to Babiy Yar gully, beyond the city. "It also stenchily made my way to that place. I was able to catch the sight of what I saw there only for ten minutes, and after that everything went black before my eyes."

"The Germans forced the people to undress, and then methodically gathered their clothes and loaded them on trucks. In separate trucks they put underwear. "Then they took from the naked people—there were men and women among them—what they had, and dumped it in a gully, allowing it to fall at the edge of the gully and into the water. "The Germans did not waste any bullets on little children, but simply buried them alive into the gully. "Those who were waiting their turn stood silently. Some sang for ten minutes, and after that those who laughed wept already."

"And this thing lasted three days. All those whose the Germans had not, as yet, driven to their death here, what was in store for them, the old man put up a prayer, the children scattered in their homes for prayer, then they went to Lovyansky Street. The crowds were supported by one another. Some were weeping, and, And all of them were killed."

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# THIS IS STRICTLY A RACE AGAINST DEATH!

*Is There Something You Could Have Done to Save  
Millions of Innocent People—Men, Women,  
and Children—from Torture and Death?*

With the irresistible advance of the heroic Russian armies, regaining their native soil, the monstrous treatment the Germans mete out to Jews receives new confirmation. Stories of horror which must shake the conscience of humanity—if civilization is to survive—are being published by eyewitnesses. One of these horror stories is reproduced on this page. Have courage and read it!

*Perhaps you will recoil. It may disturb your sleep at night. But it may also fill you with anger, with zeal to do something to stop such atrocities, to rescue the Jews who survive.*

Not because they were Poles or Dutchmen, not because they were peasants or officers—just because, and only because, they were Jews, more than two million men, women and children have been deliberately murdered by the Germans.

# My Uncle Abraham Reports...

By Ben Hecht

I have an Uncle who is a Ghost.

But, he is no ordinary Ghost like so many dead uncles.

He was elected last April by the Two Million Jews who have been murdered by the Germans to be their World Delegate.

Wherever there are Conferences on how to make the World a Better Place, maybe, my Uncle Abraham appears and sits on the window sill and takes notes.

That's how he happened to be in Moscow a few weeks ago.

My Uncle Abraham sat on the window sill of the Kremlin and listened with great excitement, to one of the Finest Conferences he has ever attended since he has been a World Delegate.

He heard every word that Eden, Molotov and Hull spoke.

Last night my Uncle Abraham was back in a Central Place where the Two Million murdered Jews meet. It is the Jewish Underground. Only Ghosts belong to it.

When the Two Million Souls had assembled, my Uncle Abraham arose and made his report to them as World Delegate.

"Dishonored dead," said my Uncle Abraham, "Follow Corpses, and Ghosts from All Over. Of the Moscow Conference I have this to report. The Conference made a promise that the world was going to punish the Germans for murdering all the different peoples of Europe—Czechs, Greeks, Serbs, Russians, French hostages, Polish officers, Cretan peasants. Only we were not mentioned. In this Conference, which named everyone, only the Jew had no name. He had no face. He was like a hole in Europe on which nobody looked."

A Ghost from the Lime Kilns of Warsaw spoke.

"Why is this?" asked this Ghost, "why is it that we who are dead are without a Name in the Conferences of Fine People?"

"This I do not know," said my Uncle Abraham. "I can only report what exists. Jews do not exist, even when they are dead. In the Kremlin in Moscow, in the White House in Washington, in the Downing Street Building in London where I have sat on the window sills, I have never heard our name. The people who live in those buildings—Stalin, Roosevelt and Churchill—do not speak of us. Why, I don't know. We were not allowed by the Germans to

stay alive. We are not allowed by the Four Freedoms to be dead."

A Woman Ghost from the Dynamite Dumps of Odessa spoke.

"If they didn't mention the two million murdered Jews in the Conference, isn't that bad for four million who are still alive? The Germans will think that when they kill Jews, Stalin, Roosevelt and Churchill pretend nothing is happening."

And from the Two Million Ghosts came a great cry.

"Why is this silence? Why don't they speak of us?"

My Uncle Abraham raised his hand.

"Little Children," my Uncle Abraham spoke: "Be patient. We will be dead a long time. Yesterday when we were killed we were changed from Nobodies to Nobodies. Today, on our Jewish tomb, there is not the Star of David, there is an Asterisk. But, who knows, maybe Tomorrow—!"

This ended the Meeting of the Jewish Underground.

My Uncle Abraham has gone to the White House in Washington. He is sitting on the windowsill two feet away from Mr. Roosevelt. But he has left his notebook behind.

### Statement on Atrocities Spined by President Roosevelt, Prime Minister Churchill and Premier Stalin.

The United Kingdom, the United States and the Soviet Union have received from many quarters evidence of atrocities, massacres and cold-blooded mass executions which are being perpetrated by Hitlerite forces in many of the countries they have overrun and from which they are now being steadily expelled. The brutalities of Nazi domination are no new thing, and all peoples or territories in their grip have suffered from the worst form of government by terror. What is new is that many of these territories are now being redeemed by the advancing armies of the liberating powers and that in their desperation the Hitlerite and Italian ruffians are committing their ruthless cruelties. This is now witnessed with particular clearness by monstrous crimes in the territory of the Soviet Union which is being liberated from Hitlerite and Italian domination and, accordingly, the aforementioned Allied powers, speaking in the interest of the thirty-two United Nations, hereby solemnly declare and give full warning of their declaration as follows:

All the time of granting of any armistice to any government which may be set up in Germany, those German officers and men and members of the Nazi party who have been responsible for or have taken a consenting part in the above atrocities, massacres and executions will be sent back to the countries in which their abominable deeds were done in order that they may be judged and punished according to the laws of these liberated countries and of the free governments which will be compiled in all possible detail from all these countries, having respect especially to those parts of the Soviet Union, to Poland and Czechoslovakia, to Yugoslavia and Greece, including Crete and other islands, to Norway, Denmark, the Netherlands, Belgium, Luxembourg, France and Italy.

Thus, Germans who take part in wholesale shooting of Polish officers or in the execution of French, Dutch, Belgian or Norwegian hostages or of Cretan peasants, or who have shared in slaughters inflicted on the territories of Poland or in the murder of Jews here, except clear of the enemy, will show they will be sent back to the scene of their crimes and judged on the spot by the peoples whom they have outraged. Let those who have hitherto not imposed their hands with innocent blood beware lest they join the ranks of the guilty, for most assuredly the three great powers will pursue them to the uttermost ends of the earth and will deliver them to their accusers in order that justice may be done.

The above declaration is without prejudice to the cases of German criminals whose offenses have no particular geographical localization and who will be punished by joint decision of the governments of the Allies.

## HELP Prevent 4,000,000 People from Becoming Ghosts

There are four million Jews still alive in Europe.

**They can be saved. Experts agree on that.**

Sweden and Denmark have just proved it by saving 6,000 Jews in a few days. This Committee considers it a sacred duty to do all humanly possible to save them.

Our offices and representatives in Washington and in London, in Palestine and in Turkey, are steadily working in this direction, trying to get large-scale government action. This action will have to express itself in the creation of an Intergovernmental Agency to save the Jewish people of Europe and in declaring the doors of Palestine and other countries under United Nations control open for escaping Jews. For, it is now strictly a race to time against death.

*Every day that passes dooms thousands who can be saved.*

This Committee is asking the American people for a half million dollars with which it hopes—and believes—results can be secured effecting the rescue of the four million martyred Jews in Europe.

We need your financial help immediately. By your support will be determined the speed, scope and effectiveness of our work to save the Jewish people of Europe.

## Emergency Committee to Save the Jewish People of Europe

One East Forty-fourth Street, New York 17, N. Y. MURRAY Hill 2-7237

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 1 East 44th Street, New York 17, N. Y.

I hereby join your efforts to obtain immediate United Nations action to save the Jewish people of Europe. I enclose my contribution to enable you to carry out this tremendous task in the sum of

\$ \_\_\_\_\_

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Please make checks payable to Mrs. JOHN GUNTHER, Treasurer

# Ballad of the Doomed Jews of Europe

by Ben Hecht

FOUR MILLION JEWS waiting for death.  
Oh hang and burn but—quiet, Jews!  
Don't be bothersome; save your breath—  
The world is busy with other news.

Four million murders are quite a smear  
Even our State Department views  
The slaughter with much disfavor here  
But then—it's busy with other news.

You'll hang like a forest of broken trees  
You'll burn in a thousand Nazi stews  
And tell your God to forgive us please  
For we were busy with other news.

Tell Him we hadn't quite the time  
To stop the killing of all the Jews;  
Tell Him we looked askance at the crime—  
But we were busy with other news.

Oh World be patient—it will take  
Some time before the murder crews  
Are done. By Christmas you can make  
Your Peace on Earth without the Jews.

## You can prevent their doom

### DEMAND OPEN DOORS TO PALESTINE

Do you remember all the high, brave words of the United Nations' statesmen—saying that the Jews of Europe, the Four Million Unmurdered Ones, must be saved and would be saved?

What has been done?

Nothing!

This isn't quite true.

One thing was done. The statesmen met, conferred, debated, and cut off all hope of escape for the surviving Jews of Europe.

*Palestine had been the only land eager and ready to receive the Four Million Jews still surviving the great German murder campaign*

The doors of Palestine have been closed in the face of the Jews.

Rather than offend the *amour propre* of some unreliable Arab politicians, the United Nations have condemned all the surviving Jews of Europe to death—by closing the only avenue of escape, Palestine.

The murder of the Jews is in full progress.

They are being exterminated at the rate of thousands a day.

*If you are not too busy, and there are not too many things on your mind, if you believe there is something a little amiss with allowing Four Million human beings to be murdered in German lime kilns and gas chambers—Four Million who might be saved—write to a Statesman, a Congressman, a Senator, an Alderman, a Judge, a Mayor, a President.*

Ask them why the door has been closed.

Ask them whether the world profits more from catering to the political whims of a few Arabs than from saving the lives of millions of men, women and children who are dying because the doors are shut.

Help us to carry out the campaign we are launching to "save the Jews of Europe by opening the doors of Palestine."

### COMMITTEE FOR A JEWISH ARMY OF STATELESS AND PALESTINIAN JEWS

National Headquarters, 535 Fifth Ave., New York 17, N. Y. Murray Hill 2-7237

This Committee, under the Chairmanship of Senator Edwin C. Johnson, is dedicated to the task of saving the lives and dignity of the Hebrew people of Europe and Palestine. It has gained the moral support of leaders from all walks of American life.

Seventy military authorities, 40 Senators, 210 Congressmen, 22 Governors, 115 government officials, 82 jurists and justices, 80 mayors, 314 clergymen and rabbis, 54 labor leaders, 290 educators, 422 authors, newspapermen, columnists, 254 artists, 112 lawyers and attorneys, 98 doctors, and many hundreds more have endorsed the principles and objectives of this movement by signing the "Proclamation on the Moral Rights of the Stateless and Palestinian Jews."

#### —WE NEED YOUR HELP—



I want to support your campaign to "Save European Jewry by opening the doors of Palestine"—to help publicize your messages through the press, radio and public meetings throughout the country. I am glad to enclose my check in the amount of \$\_\_\_\_\_.

Name .....

Address .....

PLEASE MAKE YOUR CHECK PAYABLE TO ALEX WILF, TREASURER, COMMITTEE FOR A JEWISH ARMY OF STATELESS AND PALESTINIAN JEWS, 535 FIFTH AVENUE, NEW YORK 17, N. Y.

[By a ruling of the Treasury Department, contributions to this Committee are tax exempt.]

# A Report of Failure and a Call to Action

## We failed to persuade Governments to take steps to save the Jewish people of Europe.

### Now We Must Turn to Mass Action

The foremost duty of workers in a humanitarian cause is to be honest and sincere with themselves as well as with the public. Nothing is more harmful to the cause one serves than the normal urge to delude oneself with glimpses of success or victory; nothing is more dangerous than to be satisfied by mere words of sympathy and pity from high places. No matter how disagreeable it may be, we refuse to delude ourselves and we refuse to take words as a substitute for deeds.

No, we don't cherish any illusions; during the months between the closing session of the Emergency Conference to Save the Jewish People of Europe and today, nothing has been done by the Allied Governments to stop the slaughter or to alleviate the torments of five million people.

Two months have elapsed since the experts attending the Emergency Conference to Save the Jews of Europe worked out a program that would enable hundreds of thousands of Jews to escape the death sentence passed upon them by Hitler—death by starvation, death in gas chambers, death in front of machine-gun squads.

Two months have passed since this program was presented to our President, to Secretary of State Cordell Hull, to the leaders of both Houses of Congress, to the Ambassadors of the United Nations.

### Meanwhile we took other steps

Our co-chairman, the courageous and dynamic Congressman Will Rogers, Jr., flew to England to submit and discuss this program with the British Government. Upon his return he frankly declared:

"I have seen and talked to many leading personalities there: Members of Parliament of both houses, and of all parties and affiliations. I have discussed the problem extensively with Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs Richard K. Law, Mr. Eden being absent from London during much of my stay there, and with numerous other Government officials, as well as with our Ambassador to Great Britain, John Winant, and the newly appointed American Vice Director of the Intergovernmental Refugee Committee, Patrick Murphy Malley."

We sent delegates to Turkey and Palestine. They called upon states authoritatively that it is possible to rescue the Jews of Europe if only the doors of the havens of refuge are unbolled by the United Nations. Hundreds of thousands could escape from the Balkan countries to Palestine if the discriminatory immigration restrictions of the White Paper are lifted and the Jews are freely admitted to their own homeland.

On this, too, there has been no official action

## MASS PETITION MOVEMENT IS LAUNCHED

*WE are not giving up the struggle. On the contrary, we appeal to you to join us in the fight. With the active help of all humane and public-spirited Americans we shall not fail. We must not fail. The lives of four million innocent and helpless human beings are at stake. Democratic governments cannot resist forever the pressure of public opinion. Ultimately they must yield. The voice of indignant Americans can make them do so before it is too late.*

### 500 RABBIS GO TO WASHINGTON TO PETITION PRESIDENT

Upon the approach of the High Holy Days of the Hebrew New Year and the Day of Atonement, every Jew prepares the balance sheet of his own conscience, and in this particularly horrible year each asks himself whether he has done everything possible to discharge the heavy responsibility each man must bear for the slaughter of an entire people in Europe.

On Wednesday, October 6, 500 leaders of the Rabbinate, representing American Orthodox Jewry of close to 3,000,000 members of congregations and communities, are going to Washington to impress upon our Government the tragic plight of the Jews of Europe. They will be led by Rabbis Israel Rosenberg, president; Haim I. Bloch, vice president; Juda I. Seltzer, executive director; and Reuben Lovinsky, secretary, of Union of Orthodox Rabbis of the United States, and by Eliezer Silver, co-president Union of Orthodox Rabbis and president of Agudat Israel of America; Wolf Gold, vice president Union of Orthodox Rabbis and honorary president Mirachi Organization of America; and Solomon N. Freedman, president Union of Grand Rabbis of the United States.

Following solemn services at the Lincoln Memorial for the two million Jewish victims, they will go to the White House and will also be received by Vice President Wallace as well as by a group of representative members of both Houses of Congress, headed by Majority and Minority leaders, Senators Alben W. Barkley and Charles McNary, to whom they will present the petition which pleads for the millions that are still alive.

### PETITION

The extermination of an entire people arouses the decent instincts of mankind to demand that immediate and effective measures be taken to stop such barbarous actions.

We, Americans, have always upheld the rights of men to "life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness," and have engaged in two world wars on the side of humanity, civilization and democracy.

Therefore, we, the undersigned Americans of the Executive and Legislative branches of our Government to create a special Intergovernmental Agency to save the Jewish people of Europe, with powers and means to act at once and on a large scale.

We also respectfully petition our Government to convey to the British Government, which was entrusted with the Mandate for Palestine, the conviction of Americans that it is against all justice that the Jews alone, of all peoples, are not allowed free entry to Palestine, and the desire of Americans that the doors of Palestine be opened to all European Jews escaping the death trap of Europe.

We hereby appeal to the President and the Congress of the United States, the guardians of America's humanitarian tradition, to take this action at once.

### 6,000 CHRISTIAN CHURCHES HOLD DAY OF INTERCESSION SERVICES

A call to "set aside Sunday, October 10, as a Day of Intercession, when the Christian Churches may lift up their voices to God on High beseeching Him to ameliorate the lot of the Jewish people and to usher in an era of enlightenment and justice," has been issued by the Rt. Rev. Henry St. George Tucker, Presiding Bishop of the Protestant Episcopal Church, the Rt. Rev. Francis J. McConnell, Resident Bishop of the Methodist Church, and the Rev. Dr. Henry Sloane Coffin, Moderator of the Presbyterian Church.

"Will you not join us in our day of special prayer by speaking of the plight of the European Jews from the pulpit and offering up words of intercession for them and urging immediate action to alleviate their lot?" reads the appeal. "Will not the members of your congregation form themselves into a committee to work with the Emergency Committee to Save the Jewish People of Europe?"

The fate of millions of human beings lies in the hands of the American people. If Americans call for action, they will get results. If they implement the prayers of the Day of Intercession by organizing committees in their communities to make known the will of the American people, they will save thousands of Jewish communities in France and Denmark, in Rumania and Hungary, in Bulgaria and even in Poland.

If YOU speak up, Governments will listen.

## WE HAVE FAITH IN AMERICA

*We know that the conscience and humanity of Americans will not accept a policy of inaction in a matter of life and death to millions of people. We have faith that the force of your indignation will enable us to carry out the plans for the rescue of European Jewry before it is too late.*

*We therefore call upon you for moral and material help in our fight. Add your name to the millions of signatures that will make this petition a powerful instrument of public opinion. Make your generous contribution to enable us to reach our fellow-Americans in every part of our great country. Let America's voice be heard and known.*

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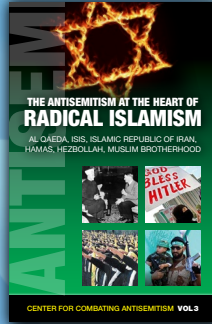
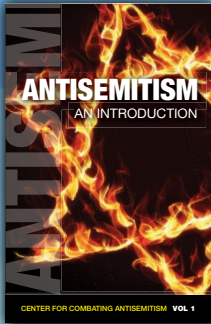
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