

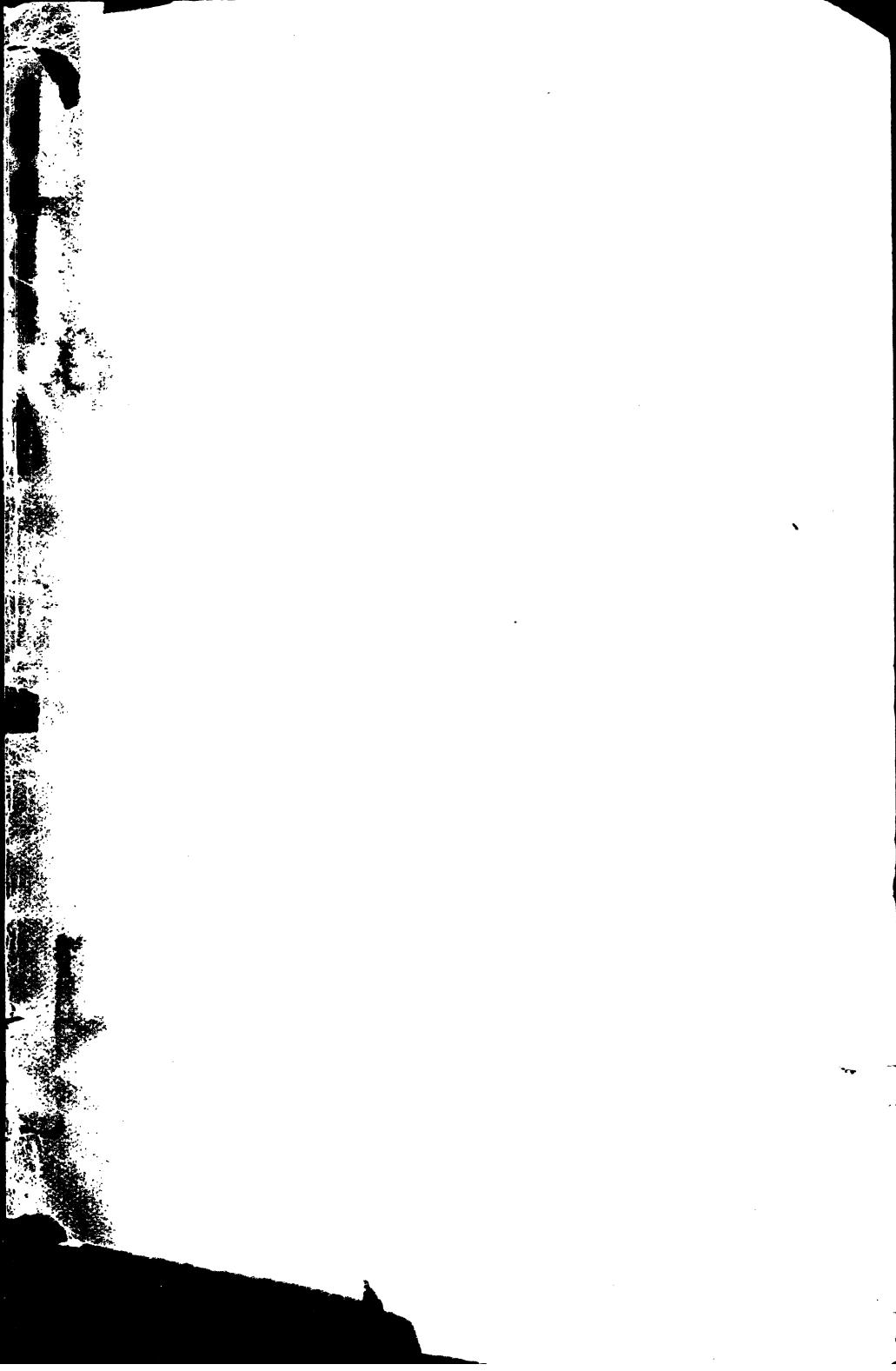
AUSTRALIAN COMM.
CENTRAL COMMITTEE

1941

JEWS AGAINST HITLER



price: FOURPENCE



JEWS AGAINST HITLER

**Appeal and Report of
International Conference
of Jews held in Moscow.
August 24th, 1941**

**Published by the Anglo-Russian
Parliamentary Committee,
Buckingham House,
6-7 Buckingham Street,
Adelphi + London, W.C.2**

Price: Fourpence

NOVEMBER 1941

CONTENTS

	<i>Page</i>
INTRODUCTION	3
APPEAL	7
SPEECH BY PROFESSOR SOLOMON MIKHOELS (<i>Actor</i>).....	10
,, PERETZ MARKISH (<i>Poet</i>).....	11
,, YERONIM KUZNETSOV (<i>Red Army Man</i>)	13
,, DAVID BERGELSON (<i>Writer</i>).....	14
,, PROFESSOR PETER KAPITZA (<i>Scientist</i>)	15
,, SERGEI EISENSTEIN (<i>Film Producer</i>).....	16
,, BORIS IOFAN (<i>Member of the Academy of Architecture</i>)	18
,, THEODORE PLIVIER (<i>German Author</i>)	19
,, S. MARSHAK (<i>Writer</i>).....	20
,, ILYA EHRENBURG (<i>Writer</i>).....	21
,, SHAKHNO EPSTEIN (<i>Literary Critic and Publicist Correspondent of American- Jewish Press</i>)	23

INTRODUCTION

ON August 24, 1941, a great International Jewish Meeting was held in Moscow. It is quite natural that such a rally should have been held. Throughout the centuries the Jews have been the target of every reactionary movement and the scapegoat for the miseries brought to the people by selfish, incompetent, reactionary rulers. Naturally enough, Hitler, when looking round for someone on whom to cast the blame for Germany's defeat in 1918, picked upon the Jews. Moreover, by directing national hatred against the Jews he diverted attention from the exploits of his thugs against the German people as a whole—whether Jews or Gentiles. By depriving Jews of professional and other posts he found employment for his own followers and Jewish property and money was a welcome addition to Nazi coffers.

At the same time Hitler tried to give his brutalities an idealistic basis and having no real ideal which could inspire the German people to uphold the Nazi savagaries, Hitler and his henchmen propagated the fantastic idea of the "pure-blooded," "superior," Aryan and above all German race. This acted as a sop to the vanity of the unthinking among the German people and at the same time gave Hitler and his gangsters an excuse not only for the persecution of the Jews—with a ferocity which makes their persecution even under Tsardom appear almost like tolerance—but it also gave them a "philosophic" pretext for the subjugation of every so-called "inferior" race or nationality, including, of course, the Jews.

A JEWISH AUTONOMOUS REPUBLIC

In the U.S.S.R.—inhabited by nearly 200 different peoples—there is no national or race differentiation or antagonism. Here every nation is an equal among equals, and has the same rights in and duties to the State. Every nationality not only has the right, but is encouraged to develop its own national culture, its own press, literature, etc. Every nationality can and does use its own language and can have its schools, courts of law, etc., conducted in its own tongue.

The Jews are, of course, no exception to this rule ; like every other nationality they have the right to elect representatives and be elected to every State organ of Government. Every trade and profession, school, technical college and university is open to them as to all citizens of the Soviet Union. They have established their own Jewish theatres, which are ranked as amongst the best in the Soviet Union. Here plays are given in Yiddish, not only by Jewish writers but also by Russian, English, French, German and other playwrights, both classic and modern.

Where they live in a sufficiently compact group, the Jews, like other nationalities, are empowered to have their own schools, Soviets, etc. Like other citizens, Jews in the Soviet Union are free to follow their own religion or not according to their own conscience and to maintain synagogues, rabbis, etc., at the expense of their congregations.

Moreover, in order that those Jews who desire to maintain their distinctive nationality should have an opportunity to do so a naturally rich area in the Far East—Birobidjan—was set aside for them where a Jewish Autonomous Republic has been formed and with the help of the Central Government of the U.S.S.R., flourishing industries have been set up and various branches of agriculture have been developed. It goes without saying that many schools, clubs, théâtres, hospitals, etc., are functioning in this Republic as in all the national Republics throughout the U.S.S.R.

A REAL FATHERLAND AT LAST

Under such circumstances, it is only natural that the Jews of the U.S.S.R.—who have at last found a real Fatherland, a real hearth and home in the wide world which they have roamed so long and where they have suffered so much—should rise as one to defend their Fatherland when the Nazi barbarian hordes invaded it. But Hitlerism is a menace not only to the Soviet Union but also to every nation on this planet and above all to the Jews of every country. Hence the clarion call for a joint struggle against the Nazis which has come forth from this Conference of Jews in Moscow.

The Conference was addressed by the well-known Jewish poet, Peretz Markish, and the author, David Bergelson, who both spoke in Yiddish ; by a Red Army man, Yeronim Kuznetsov ; Professor Kapitza, noted Soviet physicist and a member of the Soviet Academy of Sciences and of the British Royal Society ; Ilya Ehrenburg, the well-known Soviét author and journalist ; the famous Russian cinema producer, Sergei Eisenstein, and the Russian writer, Samuel Marshak, both of whom spoke in English ; the German writer, Theodore Plivier, spoke in German ; Shakhno Epstein, journalist, a well-known correspondent of the Jewish-American Press ; and V. Boris Iofan, a member of the Soviet Academy of Architecture.

The famous Soviet-Jewish actor, Professor Solomon Mikhoels, was in the Chair.

After the stirring speeches of the above a moving appeal was adopted to the Jews of the entire world, calling on them to rise against the Fascist murderers who are drowning the towns and villages of Europe in the blood of its peoples.

This appeal was subsequently acclaimed with enthusiasm by the people of Birobidjan in factories, workshops, fields, schools and institutions.

To give one instance characteristic of hundreds: at a crowded meeting at a tailoring workshop on August 27, 1941, one of the workers, Skorb, said: "Eleven years ago we were fortunate enough to find a home in the Soviet Union, where the Jewish people have equal rights with all other peoples of the country. Unwillingly I recall the past when I worked in the furniture factory of a German named Shkolmann. How badly he treated us. When we asked once why our pay had been reduced he replied: 'If you don't like it, go on the streets.'" Skorb appealed to the workers to intensify their production drive. A resolution was unanimously adopted stating: "We shall never allow Hitler Germany to conquer the Soviet Union. In co-operation with the peoples of the Soviet Union we shall defeat the enemy. If it is necessary we shall go to the front and defend our honour, our freedom and our Soviet land to the last drop of our blood."

REPLY TO APPEAL BY JEWISH AGENCY FOR PALESTINE

There can be no doubt whatever that the appeal of the Jewish Conference at Moscow reflects the feelings and aspiration of Jews the whole world over.

Messages and greetings have been received by the Organisers of the Jewish Rally in Moscow from Jewish organisations and meetings of Jewish working people in all parts of the world.

The following message was sent by the Jewish Agency for Palestine in reply to the Appeal:—

"Your Appeal to world Jewry to unite against Hitler and all that he stands for has reached us, and we whole-heartedly respond to it. From the very outset Hitler has made the Jews his chosen victims. In the countries which, one by one, have fallen under his sway he has re-enacted his cruelties in an intensified degree. Fascists all over the world have followed his lead.

"Now he has reached the Soviet lands. With deep sorrow we hear of your sufferings. But we are proud of the fight which you are putting up in the Soviet Armies, whose achievements have earned universal admiration and have strengthened faith in victory.

" That faith we did not and shall not lose, even in the darkest hours. Where enslaved, the Jews bear their fate with dignity ; where free—they fight. In Palestine, the Jewish community, numbering now 500,000, plays its part in the struggle. Ten thousand Jews have enlisted in Jewish units of the British Army and joined the British Air Force and Navy. They have fought with distinction in Libya, Abyssinia, Greece, Crete and Syria. Many more thousands eagerly await their turn to enlist, and should the enemy ever reach Palestine, the men and women of our people will fight as you do. Tens of thousands in other countries ask for a chance to serve in a Jewish Army, so that we might, as a people, take our place in the struggle for the common Cause.

" We send you our fraternal greetings. You may assure all your fellow citizens that the Jews of the world will not fail the common Cause."

APPEAL TO THE JEWS OF THE WORLD

JEWISH brothers of the whole world ! Many European Peoples and States have been trampled into the dust and bled white under the jackboot of Hitlerism. Fascism has enslaved entire nations. Every country which the Fascist cut-throats have villainously seized has fallen a prey to brigandage and violence. Plundered Poland, ravaged Czecho-Slovakia, dishonoured France have been fettered in heavy chains. A like tragic fate has fallen to the lot of Belgium, Holland, Norway, Greece, Yugo-Slavia and other countries. The Slav people have been exterminated ruthlessly. In Serbia alone the Hitler hordes have massacred 50,000 Serbs. Hundreds of towns and thousands of villages have been converted into smouldering ruins. This horrible catalogue of violence, plunder, murder and arson is called by the Fascist vandals with unparalleled cynicism "A New Order in Europe," while the blood-thirsty cut-throats are called by them, the "Bearers of a New Civilisation."

Jewish brothers of the whole world ! In the enslaved countries sanguinary Fascism has introduced its "New Order" with the help of the dagger and the gallows, fire and violence. With regard to the Jewish People blood-thirsty Hitlerism has outlined a gangster programme for their complete and unconditional extermination by all methods at the disposal of the Fascist hangmen.

NOT FASTING AND PRAYERS, BUT DEEDS

In Poland alone the Hitlerites have cruelly tortured and massacred over three million Poles and Jews, outraging daughters before the very eyes of their parents and splitting open the heads of children in the presence of their mothers. Those unfortunates who have remained among the living have been forced to see their daughters forced into military brothels and their sons sterilised.

Jewish brothers ! The Jewish People scattered by the will of historical fate throughout the world, have closely bound up their culture with the culture of the peoples of the whole world. In those countries which have been seized and enslaved by the Fascists, our unfortunate brothers were the first to fall victims. The blood of the Jews, tortured to death in the burned Synagogues of Rotterdam, calls aloud to the whole world.

Just as do the thousands of nameless graves in the cities and towns of Poland in which the Fascist monsters have buried their victims alive.

The blood that has been shed calls out not for fasting and prayers but for vengeance; not for ritual candles but for flames to consume the hangmen of humanity; not for tears but for hatred and resistance to the monsters and cannibals; and all this—not in words but in deeds. Now or never.

In the course of the entire tragic history of our long-suffering people from the time of the Roman Empire to the Middle Ages it is impossible to find a single period in which there has been such sorrow and misery as Fascism has brought to all mankind. And with what particular ferocity for the Jewish people!

FIGHTING FOR THE HONOUR OF MANKIND

Infuriated and intoxicated with blood and violence the Fascist monsters have attacked the country where the people have found a real Motherland—a Motherland which gave them a splendid life, freedom, happiness and a flourishing national culture. Here the Jewish people for the first time in thousands of years felt themselves at home, as equals among equals. On the fertile fields of the great Soviet Union, for the first time, the Jewish tiller of the soil took his place at the wheel of the tractor. Jews also took their place at the benches in factories and mills.

The doors of the universities were opened to them, they joined the Red Army, went into the mines, entered the laboratories. The Jewish people found a place for themselves in the great family of the peoples of the U.S.S.R. In genuine fraternal collaboration for a quarter of a century the peoples of the Soviet Union have been building up their security, their future, their national freedom. Now the peaceful fields of the multi-national Soviet people have been drenched in blood. Villages and towns which have temporarily fallen into the bloody clutches of the Hitlerite monsters are being destroyed. Highways and roads are strewn with the graves of savagely tortured and butchered peaceful citizens.

But the great freedom loving Soviet people and the glorious Red Army are displaying miracles of valour and heroism. The heroic Red Army is fighting on the Soviet fields of battle, not only for the peoples inhabiting the U.S.S.R., but for the honour

of all mankind. The Brown Plague which has brought the whole world sorrow and tears, torture and despair, must find its final grave on the blood-stained fields of the Soviet Union.

PRIDE IN JEWISH VALOUR

In the battles against the hangmen of the people—Hitlerism—the Red Army is bringing forth heroes, the like of which the history of mankind has never known. And in the lists of these glorious men, we read with pride the names of Jews who have gone forth to defend human culture against the Fascist barbarians. It is with pride that we see their names amongst those who are fighting the Hitlerite gangsters in the air, on the sea, and on land. It is with a feeling of profound admiration that we come across their names among the guerillas. And shoulder to shoulder with the men, the finest daughters of our people are also fighting.

Jewish brothers of the whole world ! They are fighting for you, too. They are offering up their young lives for your well-being too. For the Brown Plague, which grows all the more savage the nearer its end, will reach across the ocean as well. So long as Fascism exists all mankind is in peril. Our call is to warn you. Our word goes out to you as a clarion call for resistance and vengeance.

Let every day bring you closer to the hour of reckoning with the enemy. Let the sacred flame of vengeance burn brighter in your hearts with every hour. Let every minute find you ready for action.

You must do everything in your power to disrupt the economic resources of the Fascists in whatever part of the world you are. Penetrate into the most vital branches of the death-dealing industries of the Hitlerite hangmen and paralyse them at all costs. Boycott their products everywhere. Proclaim aloud everywhere and in all tongues the outrageous atrocities perpetrated by the Hitlerite cannibal hordes along their blood-stained path. Act with the noble self sacrifice of the indomitable guerillas. Not a single Jew must die without doing something to avenge the shedding of innocent blood by the Fascists. Develop everywhere widespread propaganda for solidarity with and active assistance for the Soviet Union which is putting up an heroic resistance to the bearers of death and destruction. Mankind will be freed of the Brown Plague. Your duty is to help to exterminate it. Do your bit in this sacred war.

The appeal was signed by the following : Professor Mikhoels, People's Artist of the U.S.S.R. ; Peretz Markish, poet ; David Bergelson, novelist ; Professor Nussinov ; Samosud, People's Artist of the U.S.S.R. ; Yakov Flier, pianist ; Emil Hillels, pianist ; Iofan, Member of the Academy of Architecture ; Rabinovich, artist ; Ermler, film producer ; Sergei Eisenstein, film producer ; Marshak, writer ; Halkin, poet ; Reizen, People's Artist of the U.S.S.R. ; Ilya Ehrenburg, author and journalist ; Doctor Bomash ; Professor Oistrakh, violinist ; Zak, pianist ; Kapler, writer ; Zazlavsky, journalist ; Zuskin, People's Artist of the R.S.F.S.R. ; Godiner, writer ; Kapitsa, Member of the Academy of Sciences, Member of the British Royal Society ; Shakhno Epstein, journalist ; Clara Young, actress ; Theodore Plivier, German writer.

OPENING SPEECH BY PROFESSOR SOLOMON MIKHOELS (ACTOR)

Jews of the whole world ! I address you as a citizen of the free Soviet Union where the Jews are the builders of a new society and new life. It is on you and your sons and daughters that Hitler has sharpened his highwayman's dagger. It is on scores and hundreds of thousands of Jews that he practised his poisonous sting, developed his cannibalistic instincts. On his banner he wrote among other crimes "The complete extermination of the Jewish people."

A NEW UNBOWED GENERATION

The world is groaning amid the drunken orgy of the insane killers. To-day when the great Soviet people, in alliance with the peoples of Britain and America, are waging war against the armed gang of Fascist murderers, to-day when the whole world is determined to stand up in defence of the peoples enslaved and oppressed by frenzied Fascism—you ancient Jewish people, tried in persecutions and humiliations, wherever your sons may be, in whatever latitude the Jewish heart is beating—harken !

The time is past when a people can submit abjectly to violence and merely beg the world to pity its injuries. No, a different generation has grown up in the new free Soviet country, a generation which has assimilated the great progressive ideals of humanity, a generation which has realised to the full the meaning of Fatherland because the Soviet Union has proved to be a beloved and cherished Fatherland for all the Soviet peoples. This generation knows no fear, refuses to be a victim of violence.

Together with all the citizens of our great country, our sons are fighting the enemy, they offer up their lives and blood freely in the great patriotic war for liberation, waged by the whole Soviet people. Our mothers themselves send their sons to battle for the cause of justice, for the great cause of our free Soviet Fatherland.

SEND YOUR SONS TO FIGHT AGAINST BROWN PLAGUE

Our fathers fight shoulder to shoulder with their sons and brothers, against the enemy who brings violence and total extermination to our people. And you, our brothers, should remember that your fate and the fate of your countries too are being decided here on our battlefields. Do not lull yourselves with the hope that the beastly Hitlerite bandits may spare you. Hitler is astute and mendacious and is trying to lull your vigilance.

Brother Jews of England ! Together with the Soviet Union your great democratic country is fighting for the annihilation of Fascism. I trust that you will be in the front ranks of this struggle.

Brother Jews of the U.S.A. and the whole Continent of America ! The people of the U.S.A. are rendering great assistance to all the democratic countries, fighting against humanity's worst enemy—German Fascism. I trust that you will be among the first to help make this assistance effective. Jewish mothers ! Even if you have but one son—give him your blessing and send him to fight against the Brown Plague.

To the liberation of all freedom-loving peoples ! Onward to battle against Fascism !

SPEECH BY PERETZ MARKISH (POET)

The towns and roads along which trampled the jackboots of the Hitler butchers are soaked with the blood of our people. All that remains of the towns and cities where Jews have lived for nearly 1,000 years are corpses and heaps of charred ruins and ashes. To the accompaniment of the death rattle scores of thousands of victims have been buried alive by the Fascist plague which has invaded Poland, France, Belgium, Holland, Norway and the Balkans—ancient Slav countries. Everywhere it has brought in its wake the axe and gallows, death and destruction, despair and tears.

Old people, women and children have been ruthlessly exterminated, mown down like grass, outraged and trampled underfoot.

AN EQUAL AMONGST EQUALS

The luckless Jewish people lay down-trodden, blinded like the biblical Job by everything that passed before their sight. Before they could recover from one outrage they were overtaken by another. Hundreds of thousands of desperate and homeless people rushed into the fields and roads in an endless stream. They froze to death, unclothed, unshod, starving, looted by the Hitlerite cut-throats who in this way demonstrated before Europe their "New Order" and "Teutonic civilisation." Rivers have overflowed their banks, damned by the bodies of old people, mothers and children, whom the Hitlerite brigands drowned at night-time.

After thousands of years of wandering and persecution, the Jews have found in the Soviet Union a home and Mother country which has healed the innumerable wounds they suffered in the past.

Here in the Soviet Union the Jews were equals among equals. Here once more flourished their culture. Owing to the paternal care of the great Soviet State the Jewish people in less than 25 years were enabled to create an extensive Jewish literature, art and theatres which rank among the country's best. At the world music contests first prizes were received among other artists by the daughters and sons of our people, like the talented children of the people reared with loving care by our Fatherland and by all the peoples of the Soviet Union.

SOLDIERS IN SACRED WAR

In the Soviet Union Jews, like the other Soviet peoples, take their place as engineers, inventors, physicians, scientists and artists and many of them have been decorated with the insignia of Heroes of the Soviet Union. But the bloodthirsty patron of the Munich dens with his hordes of drunken cut-throats has attacked the sacred land which has become the cradle of a new human justice and the Motherland of all oppressed peoples.

Brother Jews ! You know that the Red Army which has covered itself with undying glory is offering unparalleled resistance to the frenzied Fascist gangs, is displaying miraculous

heroism. The finest sons of the Jewish people are in the ranks of the Red Army defending, arms in hand, not only the honour of the Soviet Union but the honour of entire humanity.

Brother Jews ! Our meek non-resistance to the butchers is the most shameful chapter in the history of our ancient people. Surely no one amongst you will permit our great history to be marred by passive expectation of death. And death is now on your threshold just as it was on the threshold of the ruined and enslaved countries of the Balkans. Brother Jews ! In our days seas and oceans have ceased to be impassable barriers. Every nation, every man is now mobilised for a decisive and stubborn struggle against the terrible monster. We have no right to confine ourselves to the reading of newspapers and tearfully sympathising with our ill-fated brothers ! Our children and posterity will never forgive such passivity. In every part of the globe—rifle in hand or piercing word on lips—you are called upon to be soldiers in this sacred war against Fascism. Do everything in your power to bleed white the enemy of humanity and of the Jewish people, just as we are doing here in the line of fire at the front.

We are one people and now we are one army !

SPEECH BY YERONIM KUZNETZOV (Red Army Man)

The Fascists intend to subjugate the whole world. Through war and bribery, frauds and violence, by every criminal method Fascism is destroying the freedom and culture of the peoples of the world. Fascism has plundered and enslaved the countries of Europe, has exterminated physically millions of fighters against the Hitlerite terror. The blood and tears of mothers, wives, sisters and children call all progressive people of the world, all working people to rise for the fight against Fascist barbarism.

Fascism wishes to enslave the Slav peoples and exterminate completely the Jewish people. Having trampled underfoot France, Poland, Czechoslovakia, Belgium, Holland, Greece, Norway, Yugoslavia and plundered and terrorised their populations, the Fascists treacherously attacked the great Soviet people. But the sinister murderers, who have resurrected the most horrible nightmares of the Middle Ages have miscalculated. Many millions of our Soviet people have risen like one man for a patriotic war against the Fascist enslavers and the Fascists will meet their death on the Soviet battlefields.

DESTROY FASCISM THAT HUMANITY MAY LIVE !

The Red Army is flesh and blood of the Soviet people and the powerful Soviet people surrounds its Army with warm care and affection. We Jews, whether rank and filers, commanders or political workers in the Red Army, live and fight on an equality with all the other peoples of the U.S.S.R., and together with all Red Army men and commanders, the sons of the Jewish people are fighting heroically to defend their Fatherland. The Soviet Union gave the Jews equality and happiness in the fraternal family of all the Soviet peoples. And the Jews are defending their country, are fighting for it to the last drop of blood, dealing telling blows to the Fascist army.

Citizens of the Soviet Union ! Russians, Ukrainians, Belorussians, Jews and all peoples of our multi-national country ! Annihilate the Fascist barbarians mercilessly, defend our Fatherland with tenacity and self-sacrifice ! All honest men and women, unite for the struggle against the Fascist bandits ! Destroy Fascism so that advanced and progressive humanity may live !

SPEECH BY DAVID BERGELSON (Writer)

The very existence of the Jewish people is now at stake and never before in the course of the entire preceding history of this much-suffering people has this question been so acute. Never before had the Jewish people been bleeding as they are bleeding now. But there is one thing that inspires our hearts with hope. In previous times when cruel injustice was perpetrated against the Jewish people they were alone and abandoned to their fate. They could look to none for support and protection. But now the Jewish people are not alone. This time the most ferocious foe of the Jews is at the same time the most ferocious foe of the French, Poles, Czechs, Serbs, and dozens of other peoples whose countries have been seized and enslaved by Fascism.

He is also the most ferocious foe of the great Soviet people and the peoples of Great Britain who with the assistance of the U.S.A. are waging a life and death struggle against Fascism. The Fascist hordes have lost 2,000,000 men within the first two months of war against our mighty and flourishing country. Our main armed forces are still intact and our whole country is resolved to annihilate the enemy once and for all.

JEWS WILL NOT SUBMIT

Hitler's fate is sealed, he will be wiped off the face of the earth. But he has not yet exhausted his criminal forces, he is raging, destroying everything that falls into his hands. What should the Jews in all countries do now? Is it possible that the Jewish people will submit and perish, the people who gave the world Spinoza, Heine, Mendelsohn, Bernais, Beaconsfield, Offenbach, Brandes, Levitan, Reinhardt, Einstein, and many other outstanding artists, thinkers and scientists? No, this shall never be!

All Jews, no matter where they are and regardless of their political views and outlook should without a moment's hesitation join the sacred war against Fascism, they should raise not only their voice but also their mighty hand to strike a deadly blow at Hitlerism!

Jews of all countries! Your place everywhere is in the armies of the coalition. Your place is at the advanced lines of the front. Your place is in guerilla detachments in Poland, Yugoslavia, in all other occupied countries where the Fascist rear is being undermined by the efforts of the people.

SPEECH BY PROFESSOR PETER KAPITZA (Scientist)

Permit me, a Russian scientist, to endorse the thoughts expressed by Jewish writers, representatives of art and science, military and public men at this Conference.

The arts and sciences of the world owe much to the Jewish people. For the last 2,000 years, as a result of historical circumstances, the Jews have been dispersed all over the world. Thus their work is closely bound up with the country in which they live. This enhances the international character of their creative activities and their influence on world progress. But it is precisely this position that often exposed them to savage persecution.

POGROMS AN OUTLET FOR BASE INSTINCTS

When some country is experiencing a period of dark reaction, the authorities provoke anti-Jewish excesses, offering an outlet for the basest instincts by organising Jewish pogroms. They attempt to divert the attention of the people from the true reasons for the difficulties of the country.

Thus it was in the darkest period of Tsarism, in the year 1905, after the unsuccessful Japanese War, when attempts were made to stifle the revolutionary forces of the country by means of Jewish pogroms.

From this point of view the persecution of Jews in Hitler Germany proves that that country is passing through one of the darkest, reactionary periods of its history. The systematic and savage persecution taking place at the present time in Germany is without precedent. Even in Russia there were Jews who, as a result of the social position they had won for themselves, of the work they had done to the advantage of world culture and science—prominent professors, doctors, writers—remained outside the sphere of persecution. There is no precedent in the history of mankind for the things that have been going on in Germany for the past decade. The greatest Jewish scientists—Professor Einstein, Frank, Haber—Nobel prizewinners respected by the whole world, together with other workers in the field of science and art have been driven from their native country. The case of Haber, whose scientific work played such an exceptional part in the German war effort during the last war, is particularly striking. Without his method of obtaining nitric acid from the air, Germany would have scarcely been able to hold out for a year for she was terribly short of the most essential raw material for the manufacture of explosives. And yet the Jew Haber was forced to leave Germany and he died in exile.

JEWISH SCIENTISTS MUST JOIN THE STRUGGLE

Scattered all over the world, exiled German Jews, after much suffering, found an asylum among the hospitable peoples of England, America and other countries.

At the moment when the entire civilised democratic world has joined in battle with Fascism, we firmly hope that Jewish scientists will join this struggle, contributing all their strength and knowledge to the liberation of the world from the scourge of Fascism, and to oppose all the attempts of a group of race theorists to subjugate or annihilate all other nations.

There is no doubt about the result of this struggle. The world cannot tolerate the barbarism of Hitlerite Germany. The more unitedly we help the war effort, the sooner will it be over, the greater the number of people we shall save from suffering and destruction.

SPEECH BY SERGEI EISENSTEIN (Film Producer)

As a Russian representative of the Soviet intelligentsia, and working as I do in the sphere of Russian cinematography and Russian art, the very principle of racial hatred is foreign and loathsome to me.

The great tradition of the Russian intelligentsia, which has found its highest form of development in the Soviet intelligentsia, has always been remarkable for its broad international viewpoint.

BRUTE IDEOLOGY AGAINST HUMANISM

This with us was inseparable from ardent love for our native land, and powerful national feelings, and had, nothing in common with cosmopolitanism which takes no account of kith and kin or Fatherland. The traditional tendencies of our international viewpoint have culminated in the creation of our multi-national state, in the free self-determination of its peoples, and the flourishing of their national culture and art.

Basing itself on the principles of equal fraternal rights, of spiritual and material values for each nation, for each people, our country regards with undisguised indignation any form of national oppression. The deeds of violence being committed in an historically unprecedented measure against Jewry by the Fascist criminals, cannot but evoke the fiercest hatred, the most burning indignation.

But the time for calls to indignation and condemnation has passed. The time has come to fight. The champions of brute ideology, the Fascists, and the champions of the ideals of humanism, the Soviet Union, and our great partners in the struggle, Great Britain and America, have met in mortal combat.

"WHAT HAVE YOU DONE?"

"Give me a fulcrum and I'll overturn the earth," said Archimedes. "Give us a fulcrum"—from the gloom comes the cry of the peoples oppressed by Fascism—"And we will deal with our enslavers." There is such a fulcrum. In this sacred struggle the Soviet Union is uniting all peoples who with sword in hand are ready to rise for the right to call themselves Czechs, Poles, Dutchmen, Belgians, Russians or Jews. The Slavs have risen and there should not be one Jew on the face of the earth who has not also sworn, by all possible means and with all his power to participate in this sacred struggle, and to carry out that oath to the letter. Because it is not only a matter of saving a nation that has given humanity great poets, thinkers and artists; because it is not only a matter of saving a people numbering many millions of human lives, but because it is a

matter of the triumph of humanism over brutality, barbarism, infamy and violence. Because it is a matter of the bright future of all humanity, irrespective of nationality.

"What have you done in this struggle?" history will ask of everyone of us living in these times and he or she will be disgraced for ever who cannot say with proudly lifted head—"All that was in my power."

SPEECH BY BORIS IOFAN (Member of the Academy of Architecture)

Comrade Stalin, one of the greatest of humanists, teaches us that the most precious treasure on earth is man. The Soviet Constitution is based on the fraternity and equality of all peoples, and Americans who visited the New York World's Fair could see how the Soviet Pavilion, both in its architecture and exhibits sought to demonstrate the equality and friendship of all the peoples of the U.S.S.R. In the Soviet Union, the national culture of every one of its peoples is respected and its development encouraged. But in Germany the dregs of humanity who have seized power have been advocating and for several years practising the oppression, slaughter and deliberate extermination of a whole peoples by the most bestial methods.

UNIMAGINATIVE BARBARISM

They proclaim the right of one nation to dominate all other nations. Hitlerism has driven from Germany her finest painters, sculptors, writers, architects, scientists. Among these talented people large numbers are Jews. Hitlerism tramples underfoot and with all its unimaginative barbarous hatred is striving to destroy human culture, not excluding German culture, created by generations of the German people.

And now the filthy claws of the Fascist bandits are endeavouring to grip at our great country. But the great brotherhood of peoples of the U.S.S.R., contemptuous of death, have risen as one man to defend the freedom and independence of their country, as well as that of other nations and countries. This is the beginning of the end of criminal Hitlerism. The people of all countries, all nations, must exert their utmost effort until Hitlerism has been crushed. This refers in particular to the Jews whom Hitler is trying to exterminate brutally, deliberately. All freedom-loving peoples should devote all their strength, nay, their lives to the one single aim—the defeat of Fascism.

SPEECH BY THEODORE PLIVIER (German Author)

I am confident that the views I am expressing to-day are also held by the bulk of my unfortunate countrymen. Anti-Semitism was never widely prevalent in Germany. For the average German, this question scarcely existed. The speeches of Count Puschler and a handful of other anti-Semites in the old German Reichstag only earned for them the nickname "Museum Rarities" and their outbursts were but a source of amusement to newspaper readers. Similarly, Hitler's ridiculous racial theories when first promulgated were not taken seriously and were dismissed contemptuously as "race nonsense." The persecution of the Jews after the Hitler clique had seized power was only one phase, a link in the long chain of the persecution to which all classes of German society were subjected. It was only after the German people had been morally crushed and deprived of their will and voice that the terror against members of other races began to rage openly in the streets of German cities.

The fragile foundation on which Hitler is endeavouring to build his domination over all other races and peoples is the cry that the Germans are a "superior race"—hence follows his persecution of the Jews and the subjection to the Nazi yoke of practically all the nations of Europe, including most of the Slav peoples of Eastern Europe.

DECISIVE STRUGGLE AGAINST RACIAL FANATICISM

On the vast Belorussian, Ukrainian and Russian plains a decisive struggle is being waged against Nazi barbarism, against racial fanaticism—that crude and cruel scheme for the violent suppression of peoples. Hitlerism is not fighting for an idea, however primitive, it is not fighting for the Germany which it was the first to dominate and not for the German people which it was the first to subjugate. It is fighting only for the continuation of its own detestable existence.

But the Red Army is fighting for the freedom of their country, for the liberation of all the enslaved peoples, for the peaceful co-existence of free independent nations as well as for the liberation and independence of the German people themselves. The Red Army is dealing mighty blows against the German Fascist troops, and behind it stands an immense country with colossal natural wealth, an organised population and powerful

country. Moreover, the Soviet Union is fighting in alliance with Great Britain and has the material assistance of America. The Red Army is to-day battling on the advanced positions of a gigantic anti-Hitler front—it is the struggle of the whole world against Hitlerism—that blight on the path of humanity. Culture and civilisation will win, Hitlerism will vanish from the face of the earth !

As a German writer, I, too, raise my voice in indignant protest against the atrocities perpetrated by Hitler against the Jewish people.

SPEECH BY S. MARSHAK (Writer)

We are not concerned here only with the fate of one or other nation, for what befalls one people to-day may well become the lot of another people to-morrow. When the war broke out in far off Abyssinia a few years ago, Maxim Gorky, who was not only a great writer but also a great friend of all mankind, was pained beyond measure at the terrible suffering of that defenceless country. Abyssinia was being torn to pieces and Gorky realised that there Fascism was but sharpening its claws, and as he sat by his radio in the twilight listening to the news from afar, he exclaimed : "When will this accursed robber be caught and bound ? So long as he is at large he is a danger to all."

The robber of whom Gorky spoke is still plying his trade on the highways of Europe, threatening Africa, stretching out his bloodstained hand towards America.

He must not be left at large ! The struggle with Fascism is a common struggle, the affair of each and all. Science, art and culture—the result of centuries of work—are in grave danger. Indeed, the very foundations of human society are in danger, menaced by the deadly poison of the so-called race theory. Every man of that vast army so valiantly repulsing the heavy blows of the Fascist hordes is keenly alive to the fact that he is defending not only his own country but the principles of freedom, brotherhood and justice.

WHAT FASCISTS ARE FIGHTING FOR

The declarations and even more their daily acts show what the Fascists are fighting for. The fate of Poland, Norway, Denmark, France, Holland, Belgium, Czechoslovakia and Yugoslavia serves as an example for those countries that have not yet felt, and let us hope never will feel, the Fascist yoke.

Every day we meet people who have witnessed some unforgettable scenes of horror. In a village called Otvotske, near Warsaw, there was a Jewish children's home. During an air alert one of the staff was urging the children indoors when some Fascist raiders spotted the children and, flying low, released their bombs and killed every child.

Osherovich, a writer from Kaunas, related how some refugees were hiding in a coppice at the edge of a swamp. A tiny girl ran out of the shelter of the trees in the direction of the swamp and her mother ran after her. The German airmen who were circling over the spot noticed the woman's white dress, flew low and released one bomb after another, although they could not but see that there was not a single building, not a living soul in sight save that woman and small child. Frantic with terror, the child ran into the swamp where she was drowned in the mire.

These are but two common, everyday episodes from the thousands the refugees have related. The innocent blood which is being shed cries out for vengeance. The day will come when the Fascists will be sucked down and drowned in a sea of blood as that little Jewish girl was sucked in the swamp when the Fascist airmen were bombing her.

SPEECH BY ILYA EHRENBURG (Writer)

As a boy I saw a Jewish pogrom which was engineered by the Tsarist police and a gang of hooligans, but the Russian people gave shelter to the Jews. I remember how my father brought home Leo Tolstoy's letter copied on a scrap of paper. Tolstoy lived in the house next door and I used to see him frequently. I was then ten years old, but I knew that he was a great writer. When my father read to us Tolstoy's "I Cannot Keep Silent"—in which he expressed his indignation at the Jewish pogroms—my mother wept.

HITLER'S HATE TO CREDIT OF JEWS

But the Russian people were not guilty of the pogroms and the Jews knew this. I never once heard a Jew say anything bitter against the Russian people. I myself grew up in a Russian city, Russian is my native language and I am a Russian writer. Like every Russian I am now defending my native land, but the Nazis have brought to my mind another thing: my mother's name was Khana. I am a Jew and I am proud of the fact.

Above all, Hitler hates us and this is to our credit. Last summer I saw Berlin—that den of robbers. I had also seen the German army in Paris—it is an army of ravishers.

All humanity is now waging war against Germany—not for territory—No!—only for the right to breathe. What horrors these “Ayran” beasts are committing against the Jews! They kill children before the eyes of their mothers, compel old men to clown in their agony. Rape girls. They murder, torture, burn people alive. Byelostok, Minsk, Berdichev, Vannitsa, will remain as terrific landmarks in the memory of humanity.

But the fewer words now the better; not words but bullets are needed. They take pride in being beasts. They themselves have said that they put Feonia cows above Heine’s poetry. They insulted the French philosopher, Bergson, before his death—to these savages he was only “Jude.” They ordered the books by the Polish poet Tuvim to be sent to soldiers’ latrines: he is “Jude”! Einstein—“Jude”! Shagal—“Jude”! How dare they speak of culture when they rape ten-year old girls and bury people alive! My country, the Russian people, the people of Pushkin and Tolstoy will not relinquish the struggle till victory is won.

AMERICA! NO OCEAN WILL SAVE YOU!

I appeal to American Jews as a Russian writer and as a Jew. No ocean will save you. Listen to the guns booming around Gomel! Listen to the cries of the tormented Russian and Jewish women in Berdichev! No cotton wool can stuff your ears sufficiently to keep out their groans, nor can you close your eyes sufficiently to keep out the sight of their suffering. Your present peaceful dreams will be disturbed by the voices of the Ukrainian Leahs of Minsk, the Rachels of Byelostok, who are lamenting their children torn to pieces.

Jews! Savage beasts are aiming at our very heart and our place is in the front ranks. We shall not forgive those who remain indifferent, but shall curse those who wash their hands of our cause. Help all those who are fighting against the ferocious enemy. Come to the assistance of Britain and Russia! Let each do what he can. Soon he will be asked: What have you done to end Hitlerism? He will have to answer before the living. He will have to answer before the dead. He will have to answer his own conscience.

SPEECH BY SHAKHNO EPSTEIN (Literary critic and publicist, Correspondent of American-Jewish Press)

"Our attitude towards the Jewish people," said Molotov at the Extraordinary Eighth All-Union Congress of Soviets, "follows from the principles of our Lenin-Stalin national policy and from the oppressed position of the Jews in many countries. Our fraternal sympathies for the Jewish people are determined by the fact that the Jewish people, along with the most advanced nations, have produced numerous eminent representatives of science, technology and art and many glorious heroes of revolutionary struggle against the oppressors of the working people, and in our country the Jews have advanced and are continuing to bring forward remarkably talented leaders and organisers in all branches of construction and the defence of the cause of Socialism."

CLOSE ALLIANCE WITH FREEDOM-LOVING BRITAIN

Hitler, that vicious executioner and enslaver of peoples, countries and cultures, has set himself the aim of exterminating the Jewish people. All the atrocities that accursed Fascism has perpetrated against our brothers and sisters in Germany, Austria, Czechoslovakia, Poland, France, Rumania, Belgium, Holland, Greece and Yugoslavia—and that it is perpetrating against Jews in every Soviet town and village which Hitler's murderous bands have temporarily succeeded in invading—is done in fulfilment of the programme of the Nazi Party.

The multi-national Soviet people and its heroic Red Army are now bearing the brunt of the struggle against the Hitler tyranny, but the Soviet Union is in close alliance with great freedom-loving Britain and has the support of the powerful United States. With the assistance of these two mighty Powers and forming a united front with all the Slav and other peoples groaning under Hitler's jackboot it will be our happy lot to free the world of Fascist barbarism.

Friends, brothers and sisters! Jews of Great Britain, the United States, and all other countries! A great and sacred task confronts you. By words and by deeds in every way open to you do your utmost manfully to assist the complete defeat of the Fascist fiends. There is no more momentous and sacred task for every Jew, for every freedom-loving man. Remember, so long as Fascism still manifests any spark of life, no people in any part of the globe can have any assurance that the horrible fate which has befallen millions of people who have been tortured to death and enslaved by Hitler's bands may not also reach them.



(T.U. 44 hours)
9-11 Tudor Street
London—E.C.4
16470