

# THE GHETTO

*Speaks*

No. 25

MAY 1, 1944

New York, N. Y.

## PRESS RELEASE

### Table of Contents

SPECIAL ENVOY FROM POLAND BRINGS SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION  
DIARY REVEALS APPALLING ATROCITIES  
S.O.S. FROM THE JEWISH UNDERGROUND LABOR MOVEMENT OF POLAND  
JEWS UNDER BULGARIAN PERSECUTION  
GREEK UNDERGROUND SAVES THOUSANDS OF JEWS  
AMG AND POLISH JEWS IN ITALY  
ARCHBISHOP OF YORK APPEALS FOR RESCUE OF JEWS  
GERMAN REASON FOR DEPORTATION OF JEWS TO POLAND AS VIEWED BY AN AMERICAN JOURNALIST  
SOCIALISTS THE WORLD OVER EXTOL JEWISH RESISTANCE IN POLAND  
ANNIVERSARY OF THE BATTLE OF THE WARSAW GHETTO  
POLES IN DETROIT PAY TRIBUTE TO THE JEWISH UNDERGROUND FIGHTERS IN POLAND  
REPRESENTATIVE OF THE JEWISH WORKERS OF POLAND A DELEGATE TO THE I. L. O. CONGRESS IN PHILADELPHIA  
ADDITIONAL MESSAGES COMMEMORATING THE BATTLE OF THE WARSAW GHETTO

ADAM CIOLKOSZ  
GEORGE DALLAS  
LOUIS LEVY  
FINN MOE  
JAN STANCZYK

**SHOULD YOU MAKE**  
use of this release, please  
forward a clipping to us.

330

## *Special Envoy from Poland Brings Supplementary Information*

---

We have just received a cable from our representative in the Polish National Council in London, Dr. Emanuel Scherer, pertaining to the Battle of the Warsaw Ghetto and the plight of the Jews in Poland. The cable reads as follows:

TALKED WITH NEWLY ARRIVED SPECIAL ENVOY FROM POLAND LT. JR. STOP MANY DETAILS HE TOLD ME ARE NOT FOR CABLE STOP HE SAW SOME OF OUR FAMILY STOP HE SAW THE BATTLE OF THE WARSAW GHETTO STOP AFFIRMED AND STRESSED THE BIG ROLE PLAYED BY GENERAL JEWISH WORKERS UNION STOP BESIDES THE POLISH FLAG THEY FOUGHT UNDER MANY RED SOCIALIST BANNERS STOP IT WAS REAL WAR IN THE CENTER OF CITY STOP INCREDIBLE HEROISM STOP HE WAS TOLD AND RECEIVED ORDER TO TELL THAT VERY MANY MEMBERS OF GENERAL JEWISH WORKERS UNION FELL IN FIGHT STOP HE SAID THEY PROBABLY SUFFERED BIGGEST LOSSES OUT OF THOUSANDS DEAD STOP VERY GOOD RELATIONS WITH POLISH WORKERS MOVEMENT WHICH IS MOSTLY HELPING JEWS STOP EXACT NUMBER JEWS NOW ALIVE UNKNOWN STOP MIGHT BE MORE THAN GENERALLY ASSUMED STOP HE TOLD ME SOME FIGURES ESTIMATED FOR WARSAW AND OTHER PLACES SUCH AS CAMPS WOODS AND SO ON STOP CANNOT CABLE STOP POLISH JEWS VERY ANGRY FOR NOT BEING HELPED STOP COUNTER MEASURES AGAINST FURTHER SLAUGHTER AND HELP IMMEDIATELY MUCH MORE HELP - THAT IS THEIR ALARMING CONSTANT CALL

EMANUEL SCHERER

MEMBER POLISH NATIONAL COUNCIL

### DIARY REVEALS APPALLING ATROCITIES

A Pole who kept a diary of German atrocities against Jews in Poland described therein several dreadful episodes concerning the rounding up and slaughter of Jewish children. Extracts of this diary have now reached England.

He tells how on August 12, 1942, he himself saw, while walking along a street in Warsaw, two carts

loaded with the bodies of Jewish children none of which appeared to be older than two.

On the 19th of August, he saw a group of between 150 and 200 Jewish children being driven through Gesia Street. "They were walking huddled together, pressing against each other in terrible fright. Some were crying, others biting their fingers in terror. German guards walked alongside with their guns pointed at them . . ."

"At the corner of Okopowa Street, I saw a group of Jewish women waiting. As soon as the children came near, one of the women ran up to the German guards and began telling him something, pointing to one child in the group. The German shouted at her, pushed her back and then raised his rifle and shot her. The children began to cry louder but were hurried on towards the station."

"What happened to them? The same that happened to those I saw a week before. They were killed."

Another entry in this diary records what the same Pole saw in Lublin about the end of November.

"I was walking along the Grodzka Street towards the ghetto when all of a sudden I heard a terrible cry coming from a side street. A group of more than 100 Jewish children, boys and girls, of which the oldest could not have been more than eight or nine, was being driven through the street by about a dozen armed Germans. Some children were crying out: 'Mother! Mother!' If they halted they were prodded on by rifle butts."

"One child made a sign towards a window in Grodzka Street where a woman could be seen. The German guards immediately fired a shot at the window. The children were forced to walk on. I followed them part of the way towards the station and later was told that they were all packed into the wagon like herrings in a barrel so that many of them must have died before they reached the slaughter camp to which they were being taken."

"I have seen many, many terrible scenes in Poland since the Germans came in but I can never forget the faces of these terrified Jewish children who were being led to death."

## S.O.S. FROM THE JEWISH UNDERGROUND LABOR MOVEMENT OF POLAND

Dr. Emanuel Scherer, member of the Polish National Council in London, cabled the following S.O.S. from the Jewish Underground Labor Movement of Poland to President Roosevelt and Prime Minister Churchill:

I FEEL THAT IT IS MY DUTY TO PASS ON TO YOU THIS S.O.S. CALL SENT OUT BY THE SECRET HEADQUARTERS OF THE JEWISH UNDERGROUND LABOR MOVEMENT SOMEWHERE IN POLAND: "LIVES MUST BE SAVED BEFORE IT IS TOO LATE" STOP THE JEWS OF POLAND GO DOWN FIGHTING STOP HEROIC ARMED RESISTANCE OF THE GHETTOS OF WARSAW, BIALYSTOK, GENERAL STRIKE OF 150,000 JEWISH WORKERS BEHIND GHETTO WALLS OF LODZ, ARMED REVOLTS EVEN IN HORRIBLE DEATH CAMPS OF TREBLINKA, SOBIBOR, DAILY ACTIVITIES AND UNBREAKABLE DETERMINATION OF JEWISH UNDERGROUND LABOR MOVEMENT TO FIGHT NAZIS UNTIL THE LAST BREATH, STRENGTHEN THE DEMAND THAT WORLD DEMOCRACIES DO REALLY THEIR UTMOST TO SAVE THE LIVES OF REMNANTS OF THE JEWISH PEOPLE UNDER NAZI OCCUPATION STOP WE WELCOME WARMLY THE WAR REFUGEE BOARD CREATED BY PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT STOP THE VALUABLE RESCUE WORK IT CAN DO IS OF GREATEST IMPORTANCE STOP UNFORTUNATELY THE BULK OF THE JEWISH TORTURED POPULATION IN POLAND WILL NOT BE ABLE TO ESCAPE NAZI HANGMEN AND CANNOT BENEFIT FROM THE REFUGEE HELP STOP THE ONLY WAY TO KEEP REMNANTS OF THE JEWS ALIVE IS TO STOP NAZI MURDERERS STOP TO FIND MEANS AND WAYS AT THIS ZERO HOUR I BEG TO SUBMIT TO YOU THIS SUGGESTION ON BEHALF OF THE PEOPLE I REPRESENT - TO CREATE A SPECIAL INTER-ALLIED BODY - A COMMITTEE TO STOP MASS MURDER AND TO SAVE HUMAN LIVES UNDER NAZI OCCUPATION STOP SUCH A COMMITTEE, GIVEN HIGH STATUS AND WORKING IN CLOSE COLLABORATION WITH ALLIED MILITARY COMMAND, SHOULD EXPLORE AND APPLY EXTRAORDINARY MEASURES TO STOP THE EXTERMINATION OF ANY

PEOPLE JEWS OR NON-JEWS STOP LET ME QUOTE THESE WORDS COMING FROM THE HELL OF JEWISH MARTYRDOM AND DEATH IN POLAND: "THE CO-RESPONSIBILITY FOR OUR FATE RESTS ALSO ON THE WORLD DEMOCRACIES"

EMANUEL SCHERER  
MEMBER POLISH NATIONAL COUNCIL  
STRATTON HOUSE, LONDON

## JEWS UNDER BULGARIAN PERSECUTION

This is the first time, that we are publishing news about the fate of the Jews of Bulgaria, a country that voluntarily became a satellite of Hitler Germany.

*From reports reaching Cairo one peculiarity is immediately observed, the perfect synchronization with which anti-Semitic drives were carried out in the German and in the Bulgarian zones of Greece respectively. In the same way as the Nazis, the Bulgars at the beginning left the Jews alone; they only attempted to exterminate them by famine in the following manner:*

*Due to the difficult situation as regards foodstuffs in Eastern Macedonia and Western Thrace the two Greek provinces occupied by the Bulgars, food markets functioned only in the morning from 6 to 9 a.m. Nevertheless Jews were forbidden to leave their homes before 10 a.m. Due to this fact the Jews were unable to procure any food for themselves; and they were of necessity compelled to buy food from the black market. This, however, served only as a pretext for the Bulgars for new vexations and Jews were often sent to concentration camps for having bought a pound of bread outside the official market; furthermore their property was confiscated.*

*Other more cruel measures soon followed. The exercise of any business was forbidden to Jews as also was salaried work. This amounted to a total condemnation of the Jews.*

*Finally wholesale deportation was resorted to. With the arrival of the Rosenberg Committee in Saloniki new persecutions began simultaneously in the Bulgarian occupied zone of Greece.*

*In March, 1943, a delegate of that German Committee, in the S.S. uniform, arrived at Deniotica and gave confidential instructions to the Bulgarian authorities. The next day the Jews of the city were convoked on the Square*

of the Kommandantur. When they assembled the police carried out various brutalities against them; at the end a census of the Jews was made and a few days after they were packed in freight wagons, eighty persons per wagon, and were sent northward, probably to Poland.

The same events took place in Orestias and Soufli. In the latter city, after the Jews had been assembled, the German and Bulgar police shaved off the women's hair and compelled them to take off their clothes; the men were afterwards ordered to put on these women's garments. Finally they were marched off to Alexandroupolis, whence they were shipped off to Poland.

During the same time and under the same conditions the Bulgarian authorities carried out the extermination of Greek Judaism in the Hebros region, where they had prospered greatly under the Hellenic administration. A little later, at the beginning of April, 8,000 Jews from the cities of Kavalla, Serres and Komotini were hunted down and sent to special concentration camps at Gorna-Djumaja; 2,000 of these were then shipped to Poland under the most atrocious conditions of travel. Other deportations have followed and according to the most recent reports no Jew has remained in Western Thrace and Eastern Macedonia.

## GREEK UNDERGROUND SAVES THOUSANDS OF JEWS

The following astounding account of how the Greek Underground Movement managed to save the lives of thousands of Jews is an excerpt from an authentic report sent by Greek patriots to their representatives in the United States. This report arrived only recently, and we are grateful for the permission given us to make part of it public.

*"With the occupation of all of southern Greece by the Germans, about 15,000 Jews in Athens found themselves in tremendous danger. A tragic contest is now being carried out between the German authorities of occupation and the Greek people; the prize is the Jewish community in Athens. Here are the details of the struggle.*

*A few weeks after the capitulation of Italy, members of the Rosenberg Committee arrived in Athens. The Jewish community, with the example of the treatment of their brethren of Salonika in their minds, expected the worst; its leaders took counsel from certain persons of the Greek underground movement who advised them to take a firm*

*stand and who promised not only sympathy, but strenuous measures of opposition against any criminal plans of the Nazis.*

*Thanks to this encouragement the leaders of the Jewish community were able to confront the dangerous situation more effectively. At their head was the great Rabbi Barzilai, who proved equal to the difficult circumstances. On being asked by the Rosenberg Committee to give a complete list of members of the Jewish community, he managed to put off the matter for a few days and promised he would bring forward this list in three days. But that same evening, in a secret meeting he offered to destroy the whole communal record himself; this was immediately carried out and the Rosenberg Committee three days later discovered it had been outwitted.*

*These three days of respite were put to full use by the Greek underground, which was following closely the course of the matter. Public opinion had been rallied and thanks to the clandestine press the Jewish question had become a question of interest to the whole nation.*

*Thanks to popular support the Greek patriots decided to see that 15,000 Jews disappeared completely in thin air. Although this operation may appear incredible, it was carried out within a week. The Jewish families dispersed themselves; one Jew per house and a maximum of ten persons per neighborhood were harbored by Greek families of Athens and Piraeus and the suburbs.*

*However, it was difficult to keep them long under these circumstances and it was necessary to organize their dispersion into other parts of Greece. With the complicity of civil and ecclesiastical employees, and even members of the police who belonged to the Greek organizations of resistance, many hundreds of Jews were provided with identification papers with Greek names. Naturally the Rosenberg Committee adopted drastic measures promptly to break this new form of resistance. The newspapers were obliged to publish daily two decrees of the German Military Command on the subject.*

*The first decree obliged all heads of families to declare any stranger in their home even if this stranger were there for only a day. Heavy penalties were the sanctions of non-conformance with this order. According to the second decree all Greek citizens of Jewish faith were ordered to return to their domiciles and to announce their return to the police. Any infraction to this order was punished by death. Notwithstanding the severity of the sanctions contained in these decrees, they remained without effect;*

only 250 Jews conformed with the orders, an indication of how strongly the Greeks persisted in giving asylum to Athenian Jews. Many Christians adopted Jewish children who thus escaped legal deportation measures, while others with relatives in the country, escorted there in person the persecuted, submitting themselves to the dangers of clandestine travel.

*This narration should not be terminated without the mention of the courageous and noble behavior of the Archbishop of Athens as regards the Jews. On more than one occasion he was interned by the German authorities and, though his attempts proved fruitless, he set up a shining example of Christian solidarity with a persecuted race."*

## AMG AND POLISH JEWS IN ITALY

A number of Jews, who escaped annihilation at the hands of the Germans in Poland, succeeded in reaching Italy only to meet persecution there and the horrors of concentration camps established by the Mussolini regime. Other Polish Jews, mostly workers and artisans, were brought to Italy by the Germans for various types of compulsory work for Germany's military needs. When the victorious British and American Armies marched into Italy, those Jews, along with all other victims of Fascism and Nazism, were liberated. The Hon. John J. McCloy, Assistant Secretary of War, in his address before the American Labor Press Association at the Hotel Park Central in New York on the 5th of March, 1944, describes his first personal contact with the Jews from Poland in Italy as follows:

*The public was invited to register for work. The offices immediately were overrun by men, women and children of all ages who desired employment. We never had any great difficulty getting Italian workers to perform the jobs of repairing roads, the railroads, clearing debris, burying the dead, working the docks and warehouse. The Fascist practice of giving preference in jobs to members of their party was abolished. TEARS OF JOY WERE SHED BY JEWISH WORKERS WHO COULD GET JOBS FOR THE FIRST TIME IN MANY YEARS, AND THUS OBTAIN FOOD FOR THEIR STARVING FAMILIES. Our rule required that employment be given on an equal basis regardless of race or creed. Some preferences based on need were given to released political prisoners and to those who had been denied employment under Fascism because of religion and anti-Fascist activity or refusal to join the Fascist party, as*

*well as to heads of certain families who could show great economic need.*

## ARCHBISHOP OF YORK APPEALS FOR RESCUE OF JEWS

"Humanity and Christianity alike demand that every effort should be made while there is still time to rescue as many as possible from the horror of great darkness caused by the most atrocious crime that has ever blackened the pages of human history."

This moving appeal to rescue the victims of Hitler's persecution was made by the Archbishop of York at a large public meeting in London recently. The meeting was arranged by the National Committee for Rescue from Nazi Terror and was presided over by Mr. David Greenfeld, M. P. Representatives of the United Nations were present and Allied Governments sent separate official representatives.

Among official representatives were the Norwegian Minister, Major Nielsen, Yugoslav and Mexican Ambassadors, representatives of the Polish Prime Minister and Ministry of Home Affairs, and the Czechoslovak Minister of Defense. In the audience, numbering nearly 1,000, were many men in the various uniforms of the United Nations.

In his appeal to the Allied Governments to take immediate steps to rescue as many as can still be rescued, the Archbishop made some suggestions which, he said, if followed earnestly, would still save thousands. He proposed that neutral states should be encouraged to admit refugees "and as far as it is consistent with national security we should be ready to give temporary homes to all who can reach these shores . . ."

"The British Government will receive widespread support for any steps it now takes to rescue some of these unhappy people. The great mass of the English people passionately urge that we take our full share in rescuing the victims. We were not afraid to stand up alone when France fell and just as we resisted the Nazis alone so we must go forward to help the Nazi victims. I am a Christian and as a Christian I say that Christianity and humanity call on us to take part in the crusade for humanity."

The Archbishop declared that since the outbreak of the war nearly 3,000,000 Jews have been killed.

## GERMAN REASON FOR DEPORTATION OF JEWS TO POLAND AS VIEWED BY AN AMERICAN JOURNALIST

It may be wondered why the Germans take the trouble to deport Jews from the various countries they hold to Poland, only to massacre them there. Why not do their killing on the spot? The answer is not simply that they have organized specially equipped concentration camps, intended for mass-murder, in Poland. The deportation is a precautionary measure. The Germans fear that if their killings were carried out in the countries where the Jews are arrested, the indignation of the local populations would be so great as to become dangerous to themselves — particularly in their relations with other nations after the war.

As for the Polish Jews, who are being killed on their own soil (along with a good many Poles), the case, in the German view, is slightly different. The Nazis have inherited from the Teutonic Knights a disdain for the Poles so great that they consider them inferiors whose good opinion is of no value; in any case, if they are allowed time, they intend to exterminate or absorb the Poles anyway, and therefore feel that they need not concern themselves with their feelings.

So Polish Jews die on Polish soil because the Nazis don't care what the reaction may be; and foreign Jews die there too, because the Nazis believe cynically (and, one is impelled to fear sometimes, with a certain amount of reason), that it is a case of "out of sight, out of mind." As long as the inhabitants of the occupied countries are not forced to be witnesses of the deaths of their Jewish neighbors, they may find it possible to quiet their consciences and forget the crime.

## SOCIALISTS THE WORLD OVER EXTOL JEWISH RESISTANCE IN POLAND

A message of "sympathy and solidarity" to the Jewish underground resistance movement in Poland was sent from London by the International Socialist Consultative Committee. The message expressed appreciation of the efforts and achievements by Jewish underground fighters in Poland against the common enemy and the hope that the day of liberation is near. The message was sent following a meeting of the Committee under the chairmanship of M. Camille Huysmans at which Dr. Emanuel Scherer, Bundist Repre-

sentative of the Polish National Council, spoke on Jewish resistance.

## ANNIVERSARY OF THE BATTLE OF THE WARSAW GHETTO

The first anniversary of the Battle of the Warsaw Ghetto was solemnly observed by the Jewish population of New York, as well as by Jewry throughout the United States. Numerous meetings were held and all of them were well attended. Practically the entire press published articles and columns commemorating the anniversary of the unique, heroic uprising of the Warsaw Jews against Nazi Germany. The Jewish Labor Committee appealed to the factories and workshops of New York for a ten minute stoppage.

The commemoration of the first anniversary of the Battle of the Warsaw Ghetto began on the 12th of April, 1944, with a meeting that was summoned by the American Representation of the General Jewish Workers' Union of Poland. This impressive meeting took place in the grand ballroom of the Capitol Hotel in New York, and was attended by over a thousand delegates of Jewish labor organizations of New York.

Among the speakers were: Joseph Baskin, General-Secretary of the Workmen's Circle, Joseph Weinberg, in behalf of the Jewish Labor Committee, Israel Feinberg, in behalf of the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union, and I. Levin-Shatzkes, in behalf of the Jewish Socialist Verband of America. Al-oizy Adamczyk, speaking in behalf of the Polish Socialist Party, expressed the solidarity of the Polish working masses with the Jewish workers of Poland, who are fighting until their last breath, for the liberation of Poland, for freedom and Socialism. Prominent Jewish men of letters such as A. Reisin, H. Leivick, S. Niger, A. Glantz, B. Bialostotzky and I. I. Trunk attended the meeting and thus paid tribute to the fallen heroes of the Battle of the Warsaw Ghetto.

S. Mendelson, the chairman of the meeting, read messages that lauded the uprising, which were sent by: Mrs. F. D. Roosevelt, Governor Dewey, Mayor La Guardia, Philip Murray, president of the Congress of Industrial Organizations, Matthew Woll, vice-president of the American Federation of Labor, David Dubinsky, president of the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union, Sidney Hillman, president of the Amalgamated Clothing Workers of America, and others.

## POLES IN DETROIT PAY TRIBUTE TO THE JEWISH UNDERGROUND FIGHTERS IN POLAND

*The meeting of the Polish Branch "Spojnia" of the Wayne County Socialist Party, Detroit, which was addressed by: W. Kulawski, St. Angerman, Consul of the Polish Republic, and P. Schwartz, representative of the Jewish Socialist Party "Bund" of Poland, passed the following resolution:*

"We, American citizens of Polish extraction, pay tribute to the heroic underground struggle, that is being waged in Poland. We express our admiration for those, who are stubbornly fighting against Hitler's hordes, in order to establish an independent, democratic, people's Poland."

"We express our particular admiration for the heroes of the Battle of the Warsaw Ghetto, who took up arms against our common enemy despite tremendous odds. The Polish citizens of Jewish extraction, who participated in the famous Battle of the Warsaw Ghetto, that took place during April and May of 1943, lent new glory to our banner of freedom."

"We honor and pay tribute to the fallen heroes, who defended the dignity of Poland!"

"Long live a free, an independent, a democratic and a people's Poland!"

"Long live our vast and strong United States of America!"

"Long live Socialism!"

FRANC OSTROWSKI, Chairman

ANTONI ZARCZYNSKI, Secretary

## REPRESENTATIVE OF THE JEWISH WORKERS OF POLAND A DELEGATE TO THE I. L. O. CONGRESS IN PHILADELPHIA

Ch. Wasser of the American Representation of the General Jewish Workers' Union of Poland who, in pre-war Poland, was a leading figure among Jewish trade unionists and a member of the National Council of the Polish Trade Unions, was appointed by the Polish Government-in-exile as one of the labor experts of the Polish Delegation to the Congress of I.L.O. in Philadelphia, which opened on the 20th of April, 1944. The chairman of the Polish delegation to this Con-

gress is Minister Jan Stanczyk, well-known Socialist leader of Poland.

The Polish Delegation to the I. L. O. Congress also invited S. Milman of the General Jewish Workers' Union of Poland to participate in its work.

## ADDITIONAL MESSAGES COMMEMORATING THE BATTLE OF THE WARSAW GHETTO

*The April issue of "Ghetto Speaks" was dedicated exclusively to the first anniversary of the heroic uprising of Warsaw's Jewry, that broke out on the 19th of April, 1943. This issue comprised messages from numerous prominent personalities. The following messages reached us, when the April issue had already been printed. We want to express our deep appreciation to all who participated with us in paying tribute to the fallen heroes of Jewish armed resistance against Nazi Germany.*

---

### ADAM CIOLKOSZ

*Member of the Central Committee of the  
Polish Socialist Party*

### FROM YOUR ASHES AVENGERS WILL ARISE !

No European country has suffered as bitterly as Poland under the onslaught of German fury. The Nazis follow their plans for the destruction of the entire nation cold-bloodedly and systematically. By the beginning of 1944, the number of victims reached the staggering total of five to six million.

The Germans have been especially thorough and merciless in carrying out their plans with regard to one section of the population of our Republic. It is estimated that they have murdered two and a half million Jews in Poland. The extermination of the Polish Jews has no parallel in the history of mankind. One must go back to the darkest pages of history to find events bearing some measure of comparison with this destructive orgy. The imagination of civilized man cannot encompass the horror of the tortures inflicted upon millions of people. But these millions were helpless to escape them . . . Enclosed within ghetto walls, surrounded by heavy cordons of vicious German jailers, they lived with the sole hope that Allied victory might come before the day of death. This terrible race between the day of victory and the day of death at the hands of the German invader was a daily torment in

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

the heart of every man, woman and child. Which would come first? Every day that passed brought nearer the moment of victory, the moment of freedom. Every day was as long as a century, and as full of suffering.

But millions of Poles and millions of Polish Jews were never to see the day of victory. Their tragedy is the tragedy of all Poland. Behind us lie seven hundred years of history, seven hundred years of national life, shared alike by Gentiles and Jews. In our history, as in that of every other nation, we have had pages of joy and of sorrow, our national ups and downs, but above all there has always towered the irrefutable fact that we have lived together these many centuries. Polish Jews are steeped in the traditions of our land, are indissolubly bound to it, have become an integral part of it. The extermination of millions of Polish Jews means that a vital part of Poland's population has disappeared. This unequalled historical tragedy, affecting millions of human beings, is not the tragedy of the Polish Jews alone; it is the tragedy of Poland.

The Polish Labor Movement knows the Jewish Labor Movement of Poland not through paper contacts, but from the daily struggles in which the Jewish worker stood side by side with the Polish worker, sharing his destiny and his hopes. We always knew and we know today that only through struggle shall we shape the future of the world, that sacrifices are often necessary to achieve a better and more just existence. And in the historic battle of the Warsaw Ghetto we immediately recognized the spirit of the Jewish Labor Movement, the General Jewish Workers' Union of Poland, "Bund".

This struggle required the highest spirit of sacrifice. From the very first it was a hopelessly unequal fight, inevitably doomed to failure. And yet, there have been other such fights in history. The Polish people have many times engaged in such unequal struggles, which, though they ended in defeat, became the departing points for new liberating movements and eloquently testified to our fight for national independence. Although the price paid in it was far more terrible, the battle of the Warsaw Ghetto shares in this glorious tradition and will bear similar fruit.

I do not know how many Jews have survived in Poland, hiding in forests and inaccessible places, living the life of hunted animals. Only a small percentage managed to flee and find refuge in foreign countries throughout the world. The question has been raised whether the Polish Jews scattered in Russia, India, Persia and America would be allowed to

return to Poland after the war. Guarantees and assurances have been asked. There should be no such question. There should be no doubt of anyone's right to return home, to **his own** country. The Polish Jews who have escaped the bloody deluge will go back to **their home**, to Poland, when the enemy is driven out.

But those who have not survived . . . We shall not even find their graves. The Germans burnt their corpses. They scattered their ashes in the fields and ground their bones for fertilizer. All that remains is the memory of the terrible massacres, the massacres perpetrated on Polish soil by the Nazi murderers who had brought the Jews of all other occupied countries to our country to be murdered. That bloody memory and the memory of the struggle of the Warsaw ghetto will remain forever.

I have called this struggle "the second battle for Warsaw." As such, it has passed into our history; as such, it has become the property of all Poland and one of the proudest chapters in our long fight for national independence. The Warsaw Jews did not fight to save their own lives. They fought for their dignity, trampled and scorned by the fascist tormentors. They fought for an independent and just Poland, a people's Poland. They fought under the aegis of an invisible white-red banner.

Once more in the long history of her martyrdom Poland has become a country of graves. Once more our heroic and unhappy country lives the words of the hundred-year-old revolutionary song: "Those who survive will be free, and those who have died have found their freedom."

The defenders of the Warsaw ghetto have found their freedom. Dear, beloved comrades of the "Bund", and you, the fighters of the ghetto, long live the story of your fight! We hail your sacrifice, we hail your heroism!

From your ashes avengers will arise and sweep the world free of the brown evil!

*Adam Ciolkosz*

## GEORGE DALLAS

*Member of the National Executive Committee of the British Labor Party and Chairman of the International Department of the British Labor Party*

The unique fight for life of the Jews of Warsaw will stand out for all time as one of the most heroic in the age-long struggle for human liberty.



By their fearless conduct they have won the admiration of the entire civilized world. Their magnificent fight will never be forgotten. Multitudes have died, but their death will not be in vain. Their sacrifice has been and will be for time to come an inspiration to all fighters for freedom. It is difficult for even the best of us to conceive how dreadful their sufferings and tortures must have been. Without any question it must have been terrible beyond words. Yet, in spite of all their sorrows and sufferings, they fought on. Their struggles are imperishable and will remain enshrined in our hearts forever. Nor will the world ever forget the fiends who were responsible for all the massacres and the unspeakable atrocities that have been inflicted on the Jews in Poland. These horrible and inhuman crimes are an indelible stain on the character of the German people. It is almost unbelievable that any nation could descend to such degrading bestialities. We must make it absolutely impossible for these horrors ever to be perpetrated again in the future. This is the very least that we owe to our dead brothers and comrades and to the coming generations. Let us dedicate ourselves to this task. No effort must be spared in the work of building a nobler and more humane civilization, based on justice and liberty for all peoples regardless of race, color or creed. We honor the dead. We shall work unceasingly to safeguard the living.

*George Dallas*

## LOUIS LEVY

*Representative of the Socialist Party of France*

Civilized humanity was deeply moved by the reports of the battle in the Ghetto of Warsaw. The heroic struggle, waged by the Jews of Poland, and particularly by the Jewish Socialists of Poland, filled the hearts of all those who are imbued with the old spirit of the Socialist Internationale, with a feeling of pride and admiration. The massacres, that occurred there would have thrown us into a state of incurable hopelessness, had not the thought of your noble fighters returned to us the certainty about the future.

French Socialists, who were good comrades-in-arms of Erlich, Alter and Zygielbojm send you, dear friends of the "Bund," their fraternal greetings and the assurance of their unshaken solidarity.

*Louis Levy*

## FINN MOE

*Leader of the Norwegian Labor Movement*

There is no Norwegian who is not filled with horror when he sees the reports of the barbaric treatment of the Jews in Poland. However, these reports fill him not only with horror, but also with pride. Because the activities of the Jewish "Bund," particularly, show that the most inhuman brutalities cannot break those, who have dedicated their lives to the fight for a better world. The reports of the Battle of the Warsaw Ghetto will therefore inspire all Norwegians in their own fight against Nazism.

It will inspire them in the same spirit as did the Norwegian Church when it made its noble protest against the persecutions of the Jews, that took place in Norway towards the end of 1942.

The Norwegian Church, through its temporary leadership, the Provisional Church Council, openly expressed its detestation in a forthright letter to the "Minister President," Quisling.

This document, like so many issued by the Norwegian Church during its struggle for freedom of worship in Norway, is couched in noble and dignified language. The main part of it is as follows:

"To Minister President Quisling, Oslo.

"The Minister President's law, announced on the 27th of October this year, about the confiscation of Jewish property has provoked tremendous sorrow among our people, and the position was made worse by the decree ordering the arrest of all Jewish men over the age of fifteen.

"When we now approach the Minister President it is not in order to defend the Jews where they may have sinned. If they have committed a crime, they should be tried, judged and punished according to Norwegian law, like all other citizens. But those who have not committed any crime should enjoy the legal protection our country offers.

"For 91 years the Jews have had the legal right to dwell and earn a living in our country. Now their property is taken away without warning, and then the menfolk are arrested, so that they are prevented from supporting their wives and children who are left without means. This conflicts not only with the Christian commandment about neighborly love, but also with the

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

---

simplest conceptions of justice. For these Jews are not accused of any contravention of the country's laws, and still less has anything been found against them by legal procedure. Nevertheless, they are punished as harshly as only a very few criminals are punished. **They are being punished because of their race, solely because they are Jews.**

"With the force of this knowledge we therefore exhort the temporal authorities and say in the name of Jesus Christ: **Stop the persecution of the Jews. Stop the racial hate which is being spread in our country through the press.**"

In the same noble spirit the Norwegian people consider the Jews today — especially the very active "Bund" — as their comrades-in-arms in their struggle for freedom and human decency.

*Finn Moe*

## JAN STANCZYK

*Polish Minister of Labor and Social Welfare.*

On the anniversary of the battle of the Warsaw Ghetto, let us bow our heads in a minute's silence to honor its dead.

In Poland, seemingly conquered but unconquerable, fighting ceaselessly and stubbornly, Warsaw is the most heroic bastion of the struggle for freedom and independence.

The armored Nazi hordes beleaguered it in September, 1939. But the people of Warsaw, the residents of Wola and Smocza, Czerniakowska and Krochmalna, Marszalkowska and Nalewki, came out to defend their city. In those memorable days the Polish gentile worker, side by side with the Jewish worker, waged an unequal fight against the armored barbarians of brown Fascism.

At the end of the bitter struggle Warsaw, a city of graves and bloody ruins, was conquered, but did not surrender. The Jewish workers, who in pre-war Poland had fought together with us, the Polish workers, in our common trade-unions, and had taken part side by side with us in political work for freedom and democracy, these Jewish Socialist workers, gathered about the "Bund," now entered the underground struggle against the enemy of their country and of freedom.

In its defeat, the Polish people was to suffer a hard and bloody fate, but the fate of the Jews of Poland was the most terrible, the most tragic, for Hitler had set out to annihilate all Jews. He ordered his bloody henchmen to exterminate the entire helpless Jewish population of Poland.

But the victims did not submit. In April, 1943, the second battle for Warsaw began within the walls of the ghetto. It was not a fight for the ghetto, for one small area; it was a fight for the entire city of Warsaw; the walls erected by Hitler's order could never divide Warsaw in half. On both sides of the ghetto walls one heart was beating. In the fight itself there was but one heart, the heart of the people of Warsaw, of the Polish workers, Gentiles and Jews, of the tortured city. Inside the ghetto and out of it there burned the same love of freedom and the same stubborn will to fight the oppressors.

This tragic and heroic fight, led by Jewish workers brought up in the traditions of the Socialist movement, lasted six weeks. It was a fight in which there was no hope of victory. Death was the only possible reward to those who took up arms against the most brutal and powerful tyranny in the history of mankind.

Over the walls of the Warsaw Ghetto, that symbol of slavery and humiliation, the flaming flag of struggle and heroism was unfurled. Our generation and generations to come will forever remember the superhuman courage of the Jewish fighters. We shall ever bow our heads before the heroism of those who fought and died in defense of the honor and freedom of their people — the tragic Jewish people which, by revolt and martyrdom, has earned the admiration and love of all the freedom-loving peoples of the world.

This fight of the defenders of the Warsaw Ghetto, as well as those waged in the other ghettos of our homeland, is a bloody and heroic struggle not only for an honorable death, but also for the right to freedom in future Poland, freedom and justice for those who will see the moment of liberation. The resurrection of an independent Poland, whose internal life will be based on principles of true brotherhood and freedom for all her citizens, will not only be the realization of ideals sacred and dear to the fallen fighters of the Warsaw Ghetto, but will also be the payment of a debt of gratitude to all the Poles, Gentiles and Jews, who had suffered and died heroically for the cause of freedom.

*Jan Stanczyk*