

REVIEW OF EVENTS

By The Editors Of

Contemporary Jewish Record

It is as yet too early today to comprehend the full extent of the tragedy which has overtaken the world. The conflict has but started. It is now still limited to four countries. The extent of its possible spread is not as yet known. But the tragedy which has overtaken the millions of people in the war zone as well as the 3,500,000 Jews in Poland and the 800,000 Jews in Germany and her possessions is sufficiently great to defy the imagination and stir the deep sympathy of those who still be-

These past few months are memorable ones in the light of Jewish as well as world history. But the era of constant change in which we live makes necessary now and then the summarizing of what actually has taken place during a given period. By special arrangements with the editors of the Contemporary Jewish Record, and this magazine we bring you this timely resume of Jewish world events.

—THE EDITOR

lieve in mercy, justice and the protection of the weak.

Scarcely two months before Hitler's aggression against Poland, Herr Hans Ziegler, a ranking official in the Propaganda Ministry, emphasized, ac-

cording to a dispatch by the Jewish Telegraphic Agency, in his book entitled "Juden und der Weltkrieg," that one of the worth-while results of the coming world war would be the annihilation of the six million Jews in

East and Central Europe. Other warnings of the same dire character have been uttered by Nazi officials and publications for the past several years.

Today, two-thirds of the Jewish population in Poland is under Nazi occupation. Even the infrequent dispatches from the war front indicate that the Jews were the twofold victim of Nazi hatred and retaliation, first as citizens of Poland, and secondly, as Jews. The Nazi propaganda machinery is feverishly at work in an effort to drive a wedge between the Jews and the Poles. In line with its set policy, pursued before the hostilities commenced, Nazi propaganda attempts to convince the Poles that their enemy is the Jew and not the Nazi aggressor. At the same time, an effort is made to portray the Polish civilian resistance as stemming mainly from Jews, in order to justify wanton retaliation and goad the German soldiers and civilian population to more frightful acts. Frequent bombardments of Polish towns have been directed in many cases at the Jewish quarters. Polish Jews knew that their very existence is at stake in this war. For the part of Poland, occupied by the Nazis, there may be a puppet government, Slovak style, pending a change in fortune. For Jews there is but death, exile and persecution. Nor is there any escape for them. If the pattern established by the U.S.S.R. will be followed in the regions occupied by the Russian forces, Jews in these localities will face persecution for their religious beliefs, Zionist activities and democratic sympathies.

As was not the case in the last war, in which the Jews of Germany shed blood for the glory of the grateful "Vaterland," they are held there today as hostages to become again the scapegoats in the event of the defeat of the Nazi forces.

The problem of Palestine has attained a new complexion against the background of the new world situation. It continued to loom large until the outbreak of hostilities. It was evident from the utterances and actions of the Colonial Minister, Mr. Malcolm MacDonald, that the British Government was determined to put into effect the measures outlined in the White Paper, and to break the resistance of the Jewish community. This was reflected in the suspension of Jewish immigration into Palestine during the six months beginning October 1, 1939, as a retaliation for the continuous stream of "illegal" immigration of German and other refugees. Jews were heartened by the publication of the report of the League of Nations Permanent Mandates Commission, four of whose seven members declared the White Paper an unmistakable violation of the terms of the Mandate. In the meantime, attention was shifted to Geneva where the Twenty-First Biennial World Zionist Congress was opened on August 16.

The Congress met under the threatening clouds of war, a circumstance which influenced both the procedure and the tenor of the addresses and discussions. Because of the emergency situation in Zionism, elections were not held in a number of countries. The labor group was strongly represented as usual, and its coalition with the liberal General Zionists (Group A) still dominated the scene in spite of minor disagreements. The major differences which transcended all group lines ranged about the type of resistance to be undertaken against the British policy. While the Congress went on record as unanimously opposed to any compromise in Palestine at the expense of Jewish rights, (Continued on page 26)

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