

# THE GHETTO

*Speaks*

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Issued by the AMERICAN REPRESENTATION of the GENERAL JEWISH WORKERS' UNION of POLAND

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## *The Battle of the Ghetto of Warsaw as Viewed by Polish Clandestine Publications*

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We do not wish to diminish the historical significance of the gallant struggle for freedom and independence waged by the Polish Underground against the Germans, under whose occupation Poland has been since September, 1939. However, we deem it our duty to stress time and again the fact, that the Jews were the first who dared wage mass armed resistance against the Germans. The organized resistance of the entire Jewish community of Warsaw, known as the Battle of the Ghetto of Warsaw, which lasted more than a month (April - May, 1943), was an isolated, singularly heroic act of the Jews. We bring this illustration mainly in response to various Polish journalists, whose comments on the Battle of the Ghetto of Warsaw, published in numerous clandestine publications of Poland, follow. Some of these people even attempt to accuse the Jews of **taking up arms a little too late!** We should remember in this connection, that more than a year ago the Jewish Underground Labor Movement of Poland requested arms from Polish Governmental Agencies, and were refused. History will judge the controversy between the heroes of the Jewish community of Warsaw and these lofty Polish journalists.

**BIULETYN INFORMACYJNY** No. 17 (172), April 29, 1943, published the following editorial:

*"The last act of the great tragedy has begun. It is almost a year since the Polish community, tortured by the invader, has witnessed with horror, aversion and indignation an unheard of crime — the planned annihilation of the entire Jewish population of Europe. The pagan doctrine of the Nazis, that breathes with degenerate hatred, the peculiar systematic method of executing their criminal plans, which always distinguished the Germans, and the lack of organized active resistance on the part of the Jews, dragged to slaughter, made possible the greatest crime in the current history of mankind."*

*"Not before the preparations had been made, and the Polish Jews were shut within the ghetto walls, together with numerous transports of Jews from western Europe, did the Germans begin executing their crime. Led by detachments of S.S. men, German hangmen emptied home after home, neighborhood after neighborhood and town after town of all Jews, driving the evacuated victims*

*through roads literally strewn with corpses, and on trains, in a most barbaric fashion, to the slaughter camps of Treblinka, Belzec and Sobibor. There, German science found a way of carrying out the task of annihilating hundreds of thousands of persons, without leaving any trace of them. Small Jewish communities were liquidated on the spot. Only Jews whose work was of use to the German military machine, were left alive."*

*"The Polish community, witnessing this road to death, and, being well acquainted with the invader, has not had any illusions about the ultimate fate of the evacuees. The Poles were unable to comprehend the lack of resistance and struggle among the Jews against their German murderers, the zeal of the Jewish police, and the indifference of those Jews, who were temporarily left alive. The fatalistic attitude on the part of the Polish community in regard to the Jewish tragedy was augmented by the lack of any visible attempt by the civilized world to rescue the Jews."*

*"The second phase of the bestial annihilation of the Jews of Poland began a week ago. The Germans decided to evacuate the remaining forty thousand Jews of Warsaw. The ghetto responded with armed resistance. The Jewish Fighters' Organization (Zydowska Organizacja Bojowa — edit.) began the struggle against tremendous odds. With limited forces, meagerly equipped with arms and ammunition, deprived of water, blinded by smoke and fire, the Jewish warriors defended streets, and single houses, withdrawing silently, step by step, yielding ground slowly, not because of the Germans, who utilized their most modern weapons, but mainly because of the impossibility to stand the heat of the buildings, that had been set on fire. Their only victory would have been to help the escape of some of those who were imprisoned within the ghetto walls, and to increase German casualties. Their achievement will be death on the battlefield."*

*"Thus far, the passive death of the Jews has been useless, has not created new values. However, their death, with arms in hand, lent new splendor to the Jewish people, crowning their torment with the halo of soldiers fighting for their right to live. That was the opinion of the community of Warsaw concerning the armed resistance of the ghetto inhabitants. That is why we all listen so in-*

tently, and with approbation, to the sounds of the rifles of the defenders; that is why we watch, with worry, the smoke and the glares of the steadily increasing fires. The Jewish citizens of Poland, fighting behind the ghetto walls, have become our nearest of kin, are more readily understood by the Polish community of the Capital, than those victims who allowed themselves to be driven to death without offering any resistance."

"The armed resistance of the ghetto of Warsaw is a grave blow to the already diminished prestige of Nazi Germany. It was the will of providence, that those same Germans who planned to erase the Jewish people from the list of existing nations, gave the Jews a chance to put up a laudable struggle and burdened the account of their crimes with a new item — the annihilation of an entire people. The German nation, that consciously carried out the crimes ordered by its leaders must be called to account for these crimes before an international court of justice. Such acts cannot be classed as crimes committed instinctively by a stupid herd."

"The approaching era demands that mankind be freed, once and for all, of a dreadful system of mass-slaughter, regardless of who perpetrates it. Should that not be achieved, the war will have been lost and the world will remain in its vicious, bloody circle."

"It is our Christian duty to help those Jews who escaped from the blazing ghetto until a regenerated Polish State will restore full security in our part of Europe and reinstate freedom and the rule of our old European culture."

**WRN**, the clandestine publication of the left wing of the Polish Underground, in its issue of May 21st, 1943, No. 10/116, published the following article entitled "The Waste of Poland":

"Once again Warsaw has become the prey of fires and explosives. The Germans are destroying house after house, street after street. They are laying waste to the entire northern part of Warsaw, where the Jewish populace is imprisoned. The cynical proclamation of the chief bandit of Warsaw, Herr Fischer, explains this barbaric act of destruction of an entire district of our Capital with the allegation, that Communists are hiding there. However, even the children in Poland know, that the Germans had to take such steps, because they were unable to suppress the resistance of the Jewish armed detachments, who defended themselves against new attempts

by the Germans to drive the Jews out of Warsaw toward — death. The Germans bestially tried to break the defenders by setting houses on fire, abolishing entire blocks with mines, destroying water installations and all other utilities of the whole neighborhood. Not only did the Germans try to break the defenders, but they committed these crimes because of their lust to destroy, at every opportunity, Polish property. Many public utility buildings were demolished by mines, field artillery and fires, exclusively and deliberately, so that the city should be ruined."

**PRZEZ WALKE DO ZWYCIESTWA**, No. 11/80, of the 20th of May, 1943, published the following declaration issued by the plenipotentiary of the Polish Government-in-Exile, who witnessed the Battle of the Ghetto of Warsaw:

"Added evidence of the barbarity and hypocrisy of the Germans is the crimes perpetrated against the Jews. More than a year has elapsed since the Germans, after persecuting the Jews for several years, commenced their mass-slaughter of the Jews throughout Poland. In the past few weeks the Polish Capital has become the scene of a bloody liquidation, by the German police and its hirelings, of the remainder of the ghetto of Warsaw. A cruel pursuit of killing those Jews, who are still hidden in the ruins of the ghetto, or who have escaped beyond it, is now being followed."

"The Polish nation, which is imbued with Christian sentiment, has never believed in two-sided ethics, and has always regarded the Germans' anti-Jewish beastliness with aversion. Since the 19th of April, 1943, the day when the struggle in the ghetto began, the Poles have treated the gallantly resisting Jews with due respect and compassion and have regarded the German murderers with all the contempt they deserve. Time and again we have expressed, in behalf of all the Poles, our deep condemnation of the anti-Jewish brutality of the Germans. We now renew these words of condemnation most insistently. The Polish community is, most rightfully, evincing compassion towards the hunted and persecuted Jews and is doing its duty by supporting them. We shall not stop giving them this support."

Warsaw, April 30, 1943

(Signature of the representative  
of the Government)

**ROBOTNIK**, No. 113, May 1, 1943, a clandestine publication, issued by some Polish labor groups, printed the following article under the caption "The Heroic Resistance of the Jews in the Ghetto of Warsaw":

*"After the liquidation of the ghetto of Krakow, the Nazis' "Vernichtungs Kolonne" deemed it proper to start the final liquidation of the ghetto of Warsaw by annihilating the forty thousand Jews there, who had escaped previous evacuations to the death camp in Treblinka. This time Hitler's hangmen were disappointed. The Jews of the ghetto of Warsaw, consisting mainly of workers, anticipated such a possibility and prepared to fight. Instead of an easily accomplished evacuation of people to those places, where they would be slaughtered en masse, the Germans are now compelled, due to the heroic armed resistance of the Jews of Warsaw, to wage war against them with field artillery and airplanes, and to besiege the ghetto according to the traditional rules of military science. The Polish population of our Capital sympathizes with the heroic Jews, but is simultaneously poking fun at the "heroes of Stalingrad"."*

*"During the first days of their armed resistance, the Jews hoisted two flags, a Polish and a Jewish one, in addition to a banner which called the Polish population to solidarity. The first three tanks, that the Germans brought into the ghetto, did not return at all. There is a persistent rumor, that the Jews captured the prison "Pawiak" and freed the captives. For several days dense clouds of smoke hovered over the ghetto . . ."*

\* \* \*

The following is a comment on the Battle of the Ghetto of Warsaw published by the American Delegation of the Polish Socialist Party (P.P.S.):

*"The 40,000 Jews remaining in the Warsaw ghetto took up arms in an heroic struggle against annihilation by the Gestapo. Armed with weapons provided by the Polish Underground, they did not fight for their lives, for their fate was known in advance. They fought to let the world know that they died as soldiers of the fighting Polish Underground."*

*"The picture of the Jewish workers and intellectuals battling with their meager arms against Hitler's detachments, which were equipped with tanks and machine guns, defending every house, furiously resisting the enemy and even inflicting losses upon him, will remain forever one of the most moving and dramatic episodes of this war, so full of dramatic moments."*

*"When the day of liberation comes, the flag of the Polish people will fly over the graves of these Jewish workers who saw their children die and who perished, not as passive victims, but as soldiers in a great cause."*

## SUPPLEMENTARY REMARKS ABOUT THE BATTLE OF THE GHETTO OF WARSAW

Authentic reports about the Battle of the Ghetto of Warsaw have just reached us through underground channels. A description of the course of this battle appeared in a previous issue of this publication. The following are supplementary remarks. A full and trustworthy description of this battle, which stands apart from any other act of heroic resistance thus far dared in Poland, is now being prepared. We will publish it in the near future.

The following data concerning the Battle of the Ghetto of Warsaw should be remembered:

1. Some time between the end of 1942 and the beginning of 1943, a Jewish detachment, organized for armed resistance, which is a part of the Jewish Underground Labor Movement, undertook the assassination of several Nazi hangmen, who were outstanding for their bloody persecution of the Jews.

2. The first act of armed resistance on the part of the Jews of the ghetto of Warsaw was staged on the 18th of January, 1943. At that time detachments of bloodthirsty S.S. men entered the ghetto allegedly because of the above-mentioned assassinations. Some ghetto inhabitants barricaded themselves. The desperate resistance was led by members of the Jewish armed formations. However, after several days, fighting ceased. The Jews suffered over a thousand casualties. The number of killed or wounded Nazis could not be ascertained.

3. When the first act of the Battle of the Ghetto of Warsaw terminated, the Jewish population there numbered only some 35,000 persons, mostly, if not exclusively, composed of young Jewish workers who had been left alive to serve German war industry. The Jewish populace, constituted as it was, was a great help to the Jewish armed formations in continuing the resistance.

4. Some time in March, 1943, responsible representatives of the Polish Underground finally agreed to

supply the inhabitants of the ghetto of Warsaw with arms, in order to enable them to resist the anticipated, new German attack.

5. The final battle began on the 18th of April, 1943, and lasted for more than five weeks. Even at that time the struggle did not cease entirely. To quote one of our reports: "After five weeks of struggle, the Germans drove away 20,000 Jews, but the rest continued the fight, from dugouts and cellars."

6. Thousands of resisting Jews were killed during the Battle of the Ghetto of Warsaw. Thousands of others were captured, and their fate is unknown. The Germans used their most modern weapons, including airplanes and field artillery. The Germans suffered thousands of casualties in dead and wounded.

7. On April 21, 1943, the third day of their armed resistance, the Jews of the ghetto of Warsaw hoisted banners on the ghetto walls calling on the Polish population for solidarity, asking the Poles to join the struggle.

8. According to Polish Governmental reports, the Warsaw ghetto ceased to exist at the end of May, 1943. All that remains of it is a desolate walled city of death and destruction to which access is still forbidden.

## ARMED RESISTANCE OF THE JEWS OF BIALYSTOK

*The following report concerning the armed resistance waged by the Jews of Bialystok was recently received by the representatives of the Jewish Underground Labor Movement of Poland, who are at present in London.*

At least 300 Germans were killed and several hundred wounded by Jews in a fight during the liquidation of the ghetto of Bialystok. The Jews had been collecting arms for some time in anticipation of such a move by the German police. Two of the leaders of the defense were young Jewish workers in a textile factory.

Wilhelm Fritsch, the Nazi Attorney-General at Koenigsberg, Eastern Prussia, was killed by a Jew during the battle of Bialystok ghetto. Fritsch, according to our report received in London, arrived in Bialystok

last February to supervise the liquidation of the ghetto there. He ordered the confiscation of Jewish property and also conducted a number of trials against Jews accused of sabotage in the local textile factories. He was assassinated as he left his home one evening. The Jew who killed him committed suicide.

The City of Bialystok has been a center of considerable Jewish resistance. It was known for its important textile industry where the Jewish Workers' Movement "Bund" was strong and well organized. In 1941, the Germans forced some 80,000 Jews into a ghetto which had been set up in the Northern part of the city. In June, 1942, the ghetto population had been, through deportation and starvation, reduced to 40,000 persons. Further systematic deportation started in January, 1943. The battle of Bialystok ghetto broke out on February 12th, 1943, when the Jews killed 300 Germans, among them 16 policemen.

The battle lasted for a week, until the 19th, and more than 1,000 fell. The report received by the "Bund" representatives in London describes the burying of these Jewish fighters and says it took place from the 20th to the 22nd and that they were interred in the center of the city near Artyleryjska Street.

German authorities issued a proclamation in German and White Russian declaring:—"The Jew was your enemy. We are introducing historical justice, we shall destroy the Jews until the last one. Do not show them any sympathy."

Needless to add, all efforts of the German hangmen to gain the sympathy of the White Russians for their mass-slaughter of the Jews, were in vain. These crimes, unprecedented in current history, only served to increase the burning hatred of the entire population towards the bestial invader.

\* \* \*

*To supplement our own report about the armed resistance of the Jews of Bialystok, we are reprinting here the following news item received by the Polish Telegraphic Agency.*

**JEWS BATTLE NAZIS IN BIALYSTOK.** Fierce street battles between Jews and Germans are taking place in Bialystok, big Polish industrial city, according to reports reaching the Polish Telegraphic Agency. The Jews are resisting the German attempts to liqui-

date the ghetto and send its inhabitants off to execution and imprisonment. The battles are equaling the intensity of Jewish resistance in Warsaw a few months ago. Jewish defiance of the Nazis is widespread. Broadcasts by SWIT, the Polish underground radio, say that, during August, Jews in the Treblinka concentration camp mutinied and set fire to the barracks and gas chambers where mass-slaughters of Jews had been carried out. SWIT appeals to Poles to help the Jewish resistance struggles and to shelter Jews escaping from German hands.

## **JEWES REVOLT IN THE DEATH CAMP OF TREBLINKA**

"SWIT", the Polish secret radio, reports about the mutiny of Jewish inmates in Treblinka Camp and states that they have burnt down almost the entire Camp and many of them succeeded in escaping. "SWIT" repeats the appeal to help Jews whenever it is possible. "SWIT" also reports that the fight between Jews and Nazis continues in the Bialystok ghetto.

## **JEWISH GUERRILLA ACTIVITIES IN POLAND**

*It is obvious that only a small part of the guerrilla warfare waged by the Jews of Poland against their Nazi persecutors can now be revealed without involving them in still greater danger. The following is an excerpt from a report that was recently received.*

Several groups of Jewish guerrillas are particularly outstanding in Poland today. One of these groups, which numbers about 300 well-armed Jews, is operating in the Lublin area, causing much trouble to the Germans. In July, 1943, this group blew up 12 bridges, including 3 railway bridges. Another group, operating in the forests some 80 miles South of Lublin, is attacking German trains and killed some 50 Germans in the course of that month.

The Germans have sent out special S.S. units to capture the Jewish guerrillas, thus far without any success. The local population is cooperating with the Jews. In many cases the peasants leave their villages and work with them. In one village in the Krasnik area, the entire male population joined these guerrillas, including the priest.

## **LIQUIDATION OF THE JEWS IN THE WOLYNIA DISTRICT HAS BEGUN**

In Kowel, only about 50 Jews out of some 4,000 are still alive. Practically all Jews in Wlodzimierz have been slaughtered. Only 30 are still alive. Those Wolynian Jews who are left are either working on the land or in German war factories. A number are hiding in the forests. Many of them have joined sabotage and guerrilla units. In their efforts to catch these Jews, the Germans have ordered that "each village in the district must apprehend and deliver to the German authorities a contingent of Jews."

## **POLISH JEWS REGARD POLAND AS THEIR HOMELAND**

The following statement was issued by the American Representation of the General Jewish Workers' Union of Poland, on behalf of the Jewish Underground Labor Movement of Poland, in response to resolutions adopted by the American Jewish Conference pertaining to the fate of the Jews in Nazi Europe.

*At the American Jewish Conference, which was opened at the Waldorf Astoria Hotel in New York on the 29th of August, 1943, declarations were made and resolutions adopted pertaining to the fate of the Jews in Nazi Europe. In conjunction with the foregoing, the American Representation of the Jewish Underground Labor Movement of Poland, which is being led by the "Bund", deems it a duty to make the following statement:*

1) *The Jews, who have been living in Poland for eight hundred years, regard Poland as their homeland and are firmly convinced, that their destiny is inevitably bound with that of the entire population of that country.*

2) *Despite their constant bitter self-defense against the reactionary elements among the Poles, as well as against those Polish Governments that were anti-Semitic and semi-Fascist, the Jews of Poland who, throughout their struggle for real equality, had the support of the Polish labor and peasant movements, as well as of democratic individuals all over Poland, developed a modern Jewish national life with a culture and literature in their own language, which emanated to and influenced the Jewish communities abroad. Only a community, that is deeply rooted in its home-soil can assume such magnitude.*

3) *The majority of the Jewish population of Poland was opposed to the Zionist solution of the Jewish question. Shortly before the outbreak of the present war, in 1938 and 1939, when Poland was the scene of a sharp and bitter fight between anti-Semitic and Fascist elements on the one hand, and democratic elements on the other, the Jewish population of Poland, during municipal elections, clearly defined its stand, that its future must be assured in the country they had been inhabitants of for hundreds of years. In Warsaw, for example, in 1938, the Jews elected twenty councilmen, seventeen of whom were on the anti-Zionist list of the "Bund", two non-Zionists and only one Zionist. Similar results were obtained in all other larger cities of Poland.*

4) *The Jewish population of Poland, which consisted mainly of working people, did not consider anti-Semitism an unavoidable occurrence. The Jewish working masses were deeply convinced, that the development of mankind in the direction of democracy and equality, of planned economy and social security, of a new world based on the principles of democratic Socialism, will put an end to anti-Semitism as well as to every other kind of race hatred. In the independence and freedom of their homeland, Poland, and in the reconstruction of Poland into a truly democratic and Socialist State, they saw the assurance of their future. The Jewish working masses of Poland are, therefore, fighting for democracy and Socialism together with the Polish working masses.*

5) *The Jewish working population of Poland, that actively participated in the heroic defense of Warsaw at the beginning of the war, that has been suffering such hell, during these bitter years of war, in the Underground Movement, under the sadistic regime of the Gestapo; the Jewish masses of Warsaw, Bialystok and other cities, who were the first in their country to wage armed resistance against the Nazis in 1943, cannot be left, after the victorious end of the war, with the tragic prospect of — wandering again in search of a home. In its numerous underground leaflets and documents, the Jewish Underground Labor Movement of Poland has declared, that it is shedding blood in Poland today so that Poland, after the war, should be a truly free, democratic and Socialist State, where every citizen, regardless of race or creed, should have equal rights, and where Jews, as well as other minorities, will be able to develop their national and cultural life unhampered.*

6) *The American Jewish Conference would have the moral right to demand the establishment of a Jewish homeland in Palestine for Jews throughout the world, if it ap-*

*plied that same solution to American Jewry. We are, however, opposed to any effort made by the American Jewish Conference to present to the world an incorrect picture of the demands and wishes of the Jews of Poland. How oblivious the American Jewish Conference was of the aspirations of the Jewish masses of Eastern Europe, was demonstrated by the lack of a resolution demanding national rights for Jews, for which the majority of eastern European Jewry has been fighting for the past forty years.*

7) *The biggest crime that the civilized world has ever experienced is now being committed. Hitler's henchmen are slaughtering hundreds of thousands of men, women and children only because they are Jews. European soil is soaked with the blood of innocent Jews. The Nazis have set the annihilation of world Jewry as their goal. The tortured Jews of Nazi-occupied Europe appeal most urgently to the civilized world, and particularly to the Jews in free countries, for aid. However, the American Jewish Conference did not give the problem of rescuing the remaining Jews of Europe adequate consideration. The Conference failed to mobilize the Jews of America for this rescue work and, consequently, did not have the necessary energy with which to arouse the conscience of the democratic world in this matter.*

*The proclamation of purely Zionist demands by the American Jewish Conference may only serve to divert the attention of the public from the most urgent matter of the present moment.*

## **ANTI-SEMITIC BOOK — GIFT FOR POLISH SOLDIERS**

A book entitled "Kultura Polski" (The Culture of Poland), by Kazimierz Hartleb, which was recently reprinted in the United States by Roy Publishers, A.N., New York, has been designated as a gift to Polish soldiers and refugees, scattered throughout the world, from the Polish American Council. The Council asked Polish Governmental agencies to help distribute the book among the soldiers. To illustrate the anti-Semitic nature of the book, we are taking the liberty of reprinting here the following excerpts:

Page 50: *The Armenians don't mingle with Poles, nor with any other inhabitants of Poland, just as the Jews don't. However, the Armenians are a proud people, whereas the Jews are wicked and servile. It is easy to distinguish Armenians because of their dark*

*skin and protruding eyes, just as Jews are easily distinguished because of their stupid faces.*

Page 56: JEWS. *It is worthwhile to note the well-being of the Jews of Poland and particularly of those who live in Krakow and the Ukraine. The Jews of Krakow are the cleverest Jews of Poland and employ more ruses than the Jews in any other vicinity. The Jews of Krakow were the first to issue a Jewish publication. The Poles envy the Jews their wealth, particularly since the Poles are convinced, that the Jews acquired their fortunes by wicked means. The more superstitious the Poles became, the richer the Jews got. The Jews lived in Polish towns like worms in beautiful furniture, like moths in precious furs. The Polish landlords liked eating spicy foods, and the Jews sold them these foods. That is why the Jews got everything from the landlords for a sack of pepper. The Jews meant everything to the landlord. The landlords rented mills, inns, hotels and hamlets to the Jews. The Jew was his best secretary and his trusty servant.*

Page 298: *The period between 1926 and May 14, 1935 — the date of the death of Pilsudski — made the best contribution towards the health and the power of the Polish nation; particularly the new constitution, which was accepted in 1934, to replace the constitution of Poland, of 1922. Pilsudski remains in the memory of the grateful Polish people as their best teacher and founder of the ideology of independence, as a victorious and unshakeable leader. He was the ruler of Polish souls.*

In order to prevent the distribution of this reactionary and anti-Semitic material among Polish soldiers and refugees through governmental channels, the American Representation of the General Jewish Workers' Union of Poland sent the following cable to the Polish Minister of Labor and Social Welfare, Jan Stanczyk:

**WE CALL YOUR ATTENTION TO THE FACT THAT THE POLISH AMERICAN COUNCIL RADA POLONJI IS TRYING TO DISTRIBUTE THROUGH POLISH GOVERNMENT CHANNELS THOUSANDS OF COPIES OF BOOK KULTURA POLSKI BY KAZIMIERZ HARTLEB AS GIFT FOR POLISH SOLDIERS AND REFUGEES STOP BECAUSE BOOK CONTAINS ANTISEMITIC CHAPTERS AND SEEKS TO INFLUENCE READERS FOR SEMI-FASCIST POLISH GOVERNMENT AS EXISTED BEFORE OUTBREAK OF WAR WE ASK YOU TO TAKE THE NECESSARY STEPS.**

We have already been assured, in response to our cable, that the necessary steps have been taken.

## A POEM ABOUT SZMUL ZYGIELBOJM

Szmul Zygielbojm, representative of the Jewish Underground Labor Movement of Poland and member of the Polish National Council in London, who committed suicide in May, 1943, in order to call the attention of the world to the annihilation of the Jews in Poland by the Nazis, deeply touched the conscience of Jews as well as Poles. Numerous prominent Polish men of letters have already published articles dedicated to the memory of this heroic man. The following is a poem, entitled "To the Jews", which was written by one of the well-known Polish poets, Wladyslaw Broniewski, which was inspired by Szmul Zygielbojm's suicide.

Mr. Broniewski represents that generation of Polish poets, that was reared during Poland's independence — between the two World Wars. His poetry has imbued men and women throughout Poland with the desire to fight for democracy and social justice. We would like to express our gratitude to Christina Swiniarska for her English translation of the poem.

### TO THE JEWS

By WLADYSLAW BRONIEWSKI

To the Memory of Szmul Zygielbojm

*From Polish towns and cities are heard no cries of despair  
For the Warsaw ghetto defenders fell like an army guard.  
My words I soak in blood, my heart I drench with tears,  
For you, O Polish Jews, a Polish errant bard.  
Not people but blood-stained beasts, not soldiers but executioners,*

*Carry the scourge of death for you, your children and wives.*

*They choke you in lethal chambers, they slay you in lye-filled cars,*

*Deriding your helpless mien, as they take away your lives.  
You lifted up a stone, to hurl at the cannoner  
Who with precision and skill aimed at you his gun.  
Oh, all ye Sons of Maccabees, you too know how to die,  
In this hopeless war, four years ago begun.*

*It should be deeply engraved, in every Polish heart,  
That our home was invaded, that our brothers were killed.  
That we have been united by the firing squad and  
Oswiecim*



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

*By each nameless grave, and each human heart stilled.  
Above the Warsaw ruins, one peaceful sun will rise  
When strife of many years will end with victory.  
To each man will be given life, liberty and law.  
One race alone will rule, of men noble and free.*

## **HIS LEFT HAND SHALL NOT KNOW WHAT THE RIGHT ONE DOES . . .**

We are in receipt of another document pertaining to the tragic case of Henryk Erlich and Victor Alter.

When the two prominent leaders of the Jewish working masses were suddenly rearrested in Kouibychev in December, 1941, a sharp controversy arose between the Polish and Russian Governments concerning the citizenship of the two arrested Poles of Jewish faith. The Russian Government insisted that they were **Russian citizens** and, therefore, denied the right of the Polish Government to intervene in behalf of the two prisoners. In conjunction with this, the Soviet Ambassador in Washington, Maxim Litvinov, in a letter to William Green concerning the execution of the two prominent anti-Fascists and Socialists by the Soviet Government, dated February 23, 1943, wrote:

"I am informed by Mr. Molotov, People's Commissar of Foreign Affairs, of the receipt by him of a telegram signed by you concerning two **Soviet citizens**, Alter and Erlich . . ."

The following is an authentic copy of a cable received by the Polish Government-in-Exile from its Embassy in Kouibychev:

KOUIBYCHEV, APRIL 17, 1943. THE MANAGEMENT OF THE INTOURIST (well known travel bureau controlled by the Soviet Government - edit.) RECENTLY ASKED US TO PAY A BILL TO THE HOTEL METROPOLE IN MOSCOW AMOUNTING TO 2,577 RUBLES INCURRED BY ERLICH AND ALTER FOR THEIR STAY AT THE HOTEL FROM THE 13th OF SEPTEMBER UNTIL THE 15TH OF OCTOBER 1941 STOP UPON CHECKING THE MENTIONED AMOUNT WE SENT THE MONEY TO THE INTOURIST EMPHASIZING THE FACT THAT THE EMBASSY AGREED TO PAY THIS BILL BECAUSE THE REQUEST PERTAINED TO POLISH CITIZENS.

## **CABLE TO THE PREMIER OF SWEDEN CONCERNING THE JEWS OF DENMARK**

The American Representation of the General Jewish Workers' Union of Poland sent the following cable

to Premier Per Albin Hannsson of Sweden on the 5th of October, 1943, in appreciation of the efforts made by the Swedish Government to rescue the Jews of Denmark:

TO YOU AS CHAIRMAN OF THE SOCIALIST PARTY OF SWEDEN AND PREMIER OF THAT COUNTRY WE DEEM IT OUR DUTY TO EXPRESS OUR ADMIRATION FOR THE BRAVE AND HUMANITARIAN STEPS TAKEN BY THE SWEDISH GOVERNMENT TO RESCUE THE JEWS OF DENMARK NOW IN THE CLUTCHES OF THE NAZIS STOP DURING YEARS OF UNTOLD SUFFERING OF THE JEWS UNDER THE NAZIS THIS IS THE FIRST TIME THAT A GOVERNMENT OFFICIALLY ISSUED A STATEMENT ANNOUNCING ITS READINESS TO GRANT ASYLUM TO THE TORTURED JEWS OF A NEIGHBORING COUNTRY.

## **GREETINGS TO THE ANNUAL CONVENTION OF THE AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR**

The American Representation of the General Jewish Workers' Union of Poland sent the following wire, in behalf of the Jewish Underground Labor Movement of Poland, to the annual convention of the American Federation of Labor, which took place during the beginning of October, 1943, in Boston:

IN BEHALF OF THE UNDERGROUND MOVEMENT OF THE TORTURED JEWISH WORKERS OF POLAND NOW WAGING ARMED RESISTANCE AGAINST THE NAZI HANGMEN WE EXTEND OUR BEST WISHES AND GREETINGS TO THE DELEGATES ASSEMBLED AT THE SIXTY-THIRD ANNUAL CONVENTION OF THE AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR STOP WE ARE DEEPLY CONVINCED THAT AMERICAN LABOR WILL FIND WAYS AND MEANS NOT ONLY OF SPEEDING THE ULTIMATE VICTORY OVER THE EVIL FORCES OF THE AXIS BUT OF ESTABLISHING A LASTING PEACE BASED ON PRINCIPLES OF DEMOCRACY EQUALITY AND SOCIAL JUSTICE WHICH WILL ENABLE JEWS THROUGHOUT THE WORLD TO REMAIN IN THEIR NATIVE COUNTRIES WITH THE SAME STATUS AS NON-JEWS.

William Green, President of the American Federation of Labor, wired the following reply:

I ACKNOWLEDGE RECEIPT OF YOUR TELEGRAM OF OCTOBER FIFTH STOP YOUR MESSAGE WAS PRESENTED TO THE CONVENTION AND IS INCLUDED IN PRINTED PROCEEDINGS OF THE CONVENTION STOP ACCEPT MY THANKS FOR YOUR MESSAGE.