WASHINGTON, January 22, (TNS) — Brigadier-General William A. O'Dwyer, newly appointed director of the War Refugees Board, said today that he intended to press for action by the United Nations War Crimes Commission on crimes committed by the Axis nations against their nationals.

During his first press conference since he took over the job, General O'Dwyer was asked if he intended to continue the efforts of his predecessor, John W. Dodge, to have this 'government issue a clear-cut statement serving notice on the Germans that crimes against German Jews would be punished. O'Dwyer said firmly: "I certainly do." He added that he felt that if people behind the scenes who commit mass murders are reminded of what President Roosevelt has said about the punishment of war criminals, their potential and present victims would be in less danger.

"From what I've seen," said O'Dwyer, "the War Refugees Board has done a magnificent job, but there is still a great deal to be done. I must leave the details, and discover just exactly what the job to be done is." He noted that the fact that he will combine the unpaid referee job with his $20,-000-a-year post as Kings County District Attorney means that the work of the War Refugees Board has slackened. "On the contrary," he said, "I intend to go at it with renewed vigor. He said that 350,000 survivors, primarily Jews, are still in desperate need of help within many lines.

Declaring that he did not know whether or not the War Refugees Board would continue to function after the collapse of Germany, O'Dwyer said he had accepted the post until the job was done or until otherwise requested to leave. Congressional appropriations for the War Refugees Board extend only until June, 1945.