UNIVERSITY OF JERUSALEM

A Statement by the World Jewish Congress

The unprecedented place which the present war holds in the history of humanity is due not only to its magnitude but to the ruthless lamentations with which it was interred and its allies. Not only have the laws of war as accepted by civilized nations been repeatedly violated, but new methods of warfare have been developed by Germany unprecedented in the history of Western nations and designed to assure German hegemony in Europe irrespective of the outcome of military operations.

Accordingly, the Germans have started and used biological warfare and have, determined whole groups and classes with the object of permanently weakening peoples who stand in the way of German expansion. The most monstrous of these crimes has been its purpose: the destruction of an entire people: the Jews of Europe.

This crime, which has been described by President Roosevelt as "one of the blackest crimes of all history," was the result of a carefully prepared and openly named policy. First in Germany and then in successively occupied territories, the Jews were systematically expelled, deprived of their means of livelihood, segregated in overcrowded ghettos and camps, subjected to a system of relentless starvation and forced labor. The murder of the Jewish population as a result of the appalling losses which this policy entailed did not prove rapid enough to satisfy Nazi designs. The Nazis and their satellites therefore resorted to the methods of wholesale deportations and mass murder. Millions of Jews have been sent to death in Europe and it is estimated that many hundreds of thousands will die in the future.

The leaders of the United Nations have repeatedly taken note of the crimes perpetuated by the Axis powers and have proclaimed it to be their resolve, in the words of Prime Minister Winston Churchill, "to place retribution for these crimes above all other purposes of this war." The declaration to this effect made by the government of the occupied territories on January 13, 1946 at St. James' Palace, London, was supported and endorsed by the Moscow Declaration of November 1, 1943, signed by the heads of the governments of Great Britain, Soviet Russia and the United States, "spreading in the interests of 38 United Nations.

In addition to the general warnings to the Axis powers, of which there have been a considerable number, they have been specifically warned that crimes against the Jewish population under their control would be punished. As early as August 1942, such warnings were contained in messages addressed by President Roosevelt and Prime Minister Churchill to a joint meeting of New York citizens. These warnings were made even more specific in the joint statement issued simultaneously in London and Washington on December 19, 1943, by the government of Great Britain, Soviet Russia and the United States together with the European governments-in-exile. In this formal statement condemning the Nazi policy of exterminating the Jewish people in Europe, these governments reaffirmed "their solemn resolution to ensure that those responsible for these crimes shall not escape retribution.

The World Jewish Congress accordingly urges the adoption of the following measures and principles:

1) The Axis criminal will be held to the death and no Axis criminal escaped punishment.

The text continues...
8) The terms of reference defining the competence and jurisdiction of the
War Crimes Commission, the proposed international tribunal and the national courts,
shall be the official statements issued by spokesmen of the United Nations. In
his address to the United Nations, the President of the United Nations, according to
the recommendation of the Allied nations, says: "In the terms of your desire it
was proposed to multiply by three, a hundred times in time of war. Accord-
ingly, the jurisdiction of the judicial authority to be set up to deal with it
must include the territories of Germany and her satellites, as well as the occupied
territories, and the courts for which the criminals will be held responsible must
include the courts of the occupied states, including the national courts.
Accordingly, national courts and the courts of occupied states, including the
national courts, will be placed under control of the Allied nations, and the crimes
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committed in the territories of the Axis powers, and their satellite states, will be placed under control of the Allied nations.
10) Representatives of the Allied Powers, to be elected and who shall represent the interests of the Allied Powers within the High Authority, will be responsible for the execution of the provisions of the present Act. The High Authority will have the power to enforce the provisions of the present Act by means of administrative measures.

11) The Commission for the Investigation of War Crimes, or whatever other body may be established for this purpose by the United Nations, will receive and examine all material evidence which may be submitted to it by the Allied Powers, and will make the necessary arrangements through the establishment of special tribunals and the appointment of special representatives to ensure that full weight should be given to the evidence assembled by such tribunals.

The re-establishment of normal society in Europe plainly requires that the Nazi criminals shall be brought to justice, and brought to justice without delay. There can be no peace and security so long as large numbers of self-confessed criminals are allowed to be at large and by their very presence to mock the promises of a new and better international order made by the spokesmen of democracy. Moreover, if those who are guilty of these crimes against the Jewish people are allowed to escape punishment, it cannot but have the effect of encouraging adventurers in the post-war world to use anti-Semitism as a means of obtaining power and thereafter as an instrument of aggression.