

POINTS OF VIEW

By C. Gershater

Afghanistan Joins Uno

SUNDAY'S NEWSPAPERS brought the great news that UNO has acquired three new members: Sweden, Iceland and Afghanistan. All the good wishes are, of course, extended to Sweden and Iceland on their having been granted the status of full-fledged members of the United Nations.

As for Afghanistan, there are some queries. Before long an Afghanistan representative might be chairman of some UNO committee or other, dealing with refugees or displaced persons or trusteeships, or even Palestine. He will be passing opinions about the fate of Jews, who, unlike Afghanistan, still have to hang about in the corridors of UNO.

Tantamount To Slavery

HERE ARE SOME points made by the World Jewish Congress in a memorandum to the Security Council recently. They were made by the very people who hang about in the corridors of UNO while Afghanistan is a welcome guest.

(1) The 5,000 Jews now residing in Afghanistan are being subjected to a virtual reign of terror.

(2) Jewish citizens are deliberately excluded from employment in Government institutions. In a few special cases they are allowed to work under conditions tantamount to slavery.

(3) Under the influence of the Nazis all Jews of Afghanistan were concentrated in ghettos in Kaboul. The ghetto order has never been rescinded. Personal possessions and property were confiscated.

(4) Anti-Jewish propaganda actually emanates from the Government. The only newspaper published in Kaboul is issued by the Government. It repeatedly features anti-Jewish articles.

Many Children In Convents

"UNZER WORT" of October 10, which is published in Paris, contains a remarkable article by S. Gurwitz, asserting that thousands of Jewish children are still in French convents. The writer says that shortly after liberation all organisations were busy searching for Jewish children in the convents and amongst the peasants of France. But there was no concerted action, and as a result the search was largely a failure.

Some 2,000 children were rescued and now receive a Jewish education. M. Lublin, a Jewish engineer, has done excellent work. He has to pay ransom for the children, occasionally as much as 30,000 francs for one orphan.

The writer gives a few examples: Fanny Chaiet, a 17-year-old girl, was on her way to England as a fully trained nun when she was rescued. Edith Stern, born 1938, and Alexis Stern, born 1931, spent close on three years in a convent and were released with difficulty. Betty Kurtzbar, eight years old, wept bitterly because

she was not taken to church on Sunday shortly after her release. Susan Kessler was handed over by her parents during the war to a deaf-mute institute. She could speak a few words when she entered the institute, but being in contact with the deaf-mutes, she soon forgot the few words and when taken out, at the age of six, was almost completely dumb. She now speaks well and is preparing to travel to Palestine.

But there are many who have not been traced. A large number of Jewish children are in the churches of

IN connection with my recent reference to the ghetto hymn, "Ani Maamin," numerous readers have written to ask for the music. Special requests came from teachers and choir-masters. Several

Notre Dame de Sion. It is impossible to get out a single child from that institution. The children are being trained as monks or nuns.

Same In Belgium

THE SAME APPLIES to Belgium, where many children are still in the villages. In 1944 Allied aeroplanes bombed a German train carrying deported children past the village of Frichine. During the panic which ensued, the children escaped from the train and ran into adjoining villages. They were given shelter by the peasants and by Jesuit priests.

Was A Price Paid?

FOR REASONS which are explained this week by Louis Lipsky (see page 12), Zionist leaders have said very little about the informal talks

people suggested that the hymn should be introduced into our synagogues on Kol Nidrei night, and should also be sung at solemn gatherings. The music is reproduced on this page.

The musical score consists of ten staves of music. Below each staff are the Hebrew lyrics and their Latin transliterations. The lyrics are:

A-nee ma-min a-nee ma-min a-nee ma-min

bo'e-ma-nah she-ley-moh be-vec-as ha-moh-shi-ach

be-vec-as ha-moh-shi-ach a-nee ma-a-min be-vec-as

ha-moh-shi-ach be-vec-as ha-moh-shi-ach a-nee ma-a-min

A-nee ma-min a-nee ma-min a-nee ma-a-min

bo'e-ma-nah she-ley-moh be-vec-as ha-moh-shi-ach be-

vec-as ha-moh-shi-ach a-nee ma-a-min ve-af-al-pei-see she-

yie-ma-ney-ah in kol ach a-nee ma-a-min

ve-af-al-pei-see she-yie-ma-ney-ah in kol ach a-nee

ma-a-min

Handwritten Hebrew lyrics for the hymn "Ani Maamin":

אני מאמין (3) בקיאת הנשיח אני מאמין

בקיאת הנשיח (2) אני מאמין

בקיאת הנשיח (2) אני מאמין

אני מאמין (3) בקיאת הנשיח

בקיאת הנשיח (2) אני מאמין

אני מאמין (2) בקיאת הנשיח

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with the British Government. The only man who dealt with the subject in some detail in a public speech was Eliezer Kaplan. A fortnight ago there was a brief cabled report of his address to a Mapai election meeting.

The report said clearly that no agreement had been signed with the British Government as a result of the talks in London. Since then the Zionist leaders have been released and Mr. Creech Jones made it perfectly clear that the release was unconditional. It is, therefore, surprising to read in the Johannesburg Revisionist paper last Friday that: "The Yishuv is speculating on the price the Agency leaders paid for their release from Latrun. All evidence points to the fact that the price was not limited to the anti-terror declaration made by the Inner Zionist Council, and that further payments are coming."

This is, of course, a very crude and unworthy misrepresentation of a very delicate situation. Opposition to terror has been the policy of responsible Zionist organisations ever since the first outbreak of terror which occurred in Palestine. The latest statement issued by the Inner Zionist Council was in no way different from previous statements published on the same subject. At present, however, there is talk about national institutions taking direct action against terrorism. If that happens, it will merely be the culmination of an intolerable situation created by the extremists themselves, who refuse to bow to national discipline. It has nothing whatever to do with the negotiations.

The Detained Leaders Would Have Objected

MR. KAPLAN made this quite clear in his address when he insisted that the release of the leaders was not a matter of bargaining in London. The question of an ultimate solution and the temporary problems were treated separately at the negotiations. At one of the meetings Mr. Bevin clearly agreed that the two things must be treated separately. There were to be talks on a "truce" which must precede the discussions on major policy.

"One of our members formulated it to the Government as follows: 'In this question there is no place for bargaining. We want neither favours nor gestures. It is a question that concerns you. If you do not wish to negotiate with us, we shall remove the question from the agenda. But if you want our participation, we can only appear as a complete body and as a body which decides on its representatives.'

"I added the following words: 'If there are to be negotiations, it must be with such people as we appoint. If the talks succeed—all right. It happened to you before that you put Nehru in prison and issued against him a very harsh White Paper, yet later he became head of the Indian Government. If the talks do not succeed and you have the strength and the desire to do so, you will then intern whomever you wish.' And then I added: 'I have not had the opportunity of speaking with the detainees, but I am certain that if I came and told them that I make their release a subject for bargaining in political questions, they would be the first to deny me the right to do so.'

"We accepted the suggestion and I want to say that we did not reach the major policy because in the meantime the Palestine Conference was adjourned, and as you know it was ad-

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