

"Jewish Honour Is At Stake!"

Appeal by Sir Wyndham Deedes and Professor Bentwich at Johannesburg Reception

LARGE AND REPRESENTATIVE GATHERING

"Jewish honour is at stake. Your money will be the key which will open the door and window to hundreds of thousands of young people before whom there is now a black wall with no future before them."

This statement was made at a reception given in the Carlton Hotel, Johannesburg, on Wednesday night, (organised by the S.A. Council for Austrian and Polish Jewish Relief) by Sir Wyndham Deedes, who has come to South Africa, together with Professor Norman Bentwich, to organise a campaign for funds on behalf of Austrian and Polish Jewry.

There was a large and representative attendance of Johannesburg Jewry. Mr. Justice Millin presided, and he was supported at the main table by Mr. Justice Greenberg (Judge-President of the Transvaal Provincial Division of the Supreme Court) and Mr. Maurice Franks, K.C. (President of the S.A. Jewish Board of Deputies).

Mr. Justice Millin said that no person who read the Jewish or even the general Press could be uninformed as to what was going on in Germany, and the countries controlled by it, and in Poland. No one could under-estimate the need for coming to the assistance of the many thousands of dispossessed and persecuted. The special purpose of that function was to organise assistance in South Africa for the Jews of Austria and Poland.

"In welcoming Sir Wyndham Deedes and Professor Bentwich," said Judge Millin, "we cannot but be conscious of the terrible burden of suffering and misery that is the occasion of their visit."

Sir Wyndham Deedes said the Jews of Austria and Germany stood in constant peril of extermination and extinction as a result of the treatment they were receiving there, or extinction at their own hands. It was stated on good authority that no less than 7,000 suicides occurred in Austria alone since the Anschluss. A ruthless war was being carried out against a defenceless people in Germany and Austria — not with guns, but with the help of decrees and regulations. The Jews of Germany had to bear untold indignities; the synagogues were being desecrated and destroyed; the Jewish children were not allowed to attend the schools. There was a daily life of terror and fright. The relief situation in Austria differed from that in Germany inasmuch as it had a very much heavier burden to bear.

"It is a terrible story of persecution, a story of a population living under constant threat of terror, a

story of people who are showing wonderful fortitude in adversity, a story which must stir those who hear it. Do your best for those people. Jewish honour is at stake."

"I can assure you that if the money is provided there are countries to which those Jews can be sent. There are countries which are prepared to place humanity before self-interest. Your money will be the key which will open the door and window to hundreds of thousands of young people before whom there is now a black wall, with no future before them."

Address By Prof. Bentwich

"We are in the midst of a war," declared Professor Bentwich.

There was an attempt ruthlessly to destroy the Jewish people. The war was being conducted against the Jews in many lands. The Jews, however, were not absolutely defenceless. Their armament was not guns and ammunition. Their armament lay in their own solidarity and brotherhood. They had to fight the campaign against those who made war on them by conducting a campaign of redemption, and to save the lives of the young people in Germany, Austria and in Poland in order to afford them a chance in life. It was up to the Jewish people to do it.

When he was in Poland recently, the impression he gained of the life of the Jewish people in Warsaw, Cracow and other places there was one of such immense misery and suffering that it was indelibly fixed on his mind. Despite it all, there was a great spring of hope.

The conditions were such that between two and three millions were really living below the limit of human existence.

That was the problem which had been constantly before the Jewish people for many years.

A solution could be found for the problem, and he appealed to this community to supply the material means. There had been an emigration from Germany of nearly 150,000, and there still remained in Germany about half a million Jews, of whom probably approximately 100,000 were young people. The Council for German Jewry had brought together the leaders of English and German Jewry, the Jewish Agency and the Jewish Colonisation Association, the main Jewish bodies in the whole world.

They had before them the definite programme of emigrating from Ger-

many within the next four years 100,000 persons, requiring an expenditure of millions of pounds. The leaders of Anglo-Jewry and the rank and file had assisted generously. He was sure that the community in this country would not just rank this cause as among their other charitable causes, but place it on a special level.

Of the 150,000 Jews who emigrated from Germany, 45,000 went to Palestine where they were playing their full part in the great life of the Yishuv which, with all the troubles of the moment, was one of the great achievements since the world war. Emigration was going on to other countries. It had been directed in the last year principally to the United States. Now they had to contemplate an emigration not of 25,000 a year, but of 50,000 a year, because to the problem of Germany they must add the problem of Austria, Czechoslovakia and Poland. For that they would need each year more than twice the sum which had been obtained in the past year, or at least one and a half million pounds.

Within the next four years they would need at least six million pounds for the emigration of 200,000 Jews.

Many countries were prepared to help them, and many Governments were prepared to play their part. They had to make a great effort to save the Jewish mind. One of the most outrageous and terrible things in this persecution was the exile of Jewish brains.

The Jews were a people of the mind. The Jews were a people of culture, and they had to enable all those creative brains of their race to find a home. Many universities had come to their assistance, and found positions for the exiles.

A number of generous contributions was then announced.

Mr. Justice Greenberg, in proposing a vote of thanks to Sir Wyndham Deedes and Professor Norman Bentwich, expressed appreciation for the great work which they were doing on behalf of stricken Jewry. During the course of his remarks, Judge Greenberg referred to the growing poison of anti-Semitism. There was perhaps, just one hope in the darkness of the general menace — the gradual realisation that the attack on Jews and Judaism was but a prelude to a general attack on Christianity and religion.

Mr. Kirschner Flying to London

To Attend Actions Committee Meeting

Mr. N. Kirschner, chairman of the S.A. Zionist Federation, is proceeding to London on November 3rd by air, for the purpose of attending a meeting of the General Council (Actions Committee) of the Zionist Organisation, which opens in London on November 11th.

COUNTRY ACTIVITIES

(From Our Own Correspondents)

DEWETSDORP

A pleasant function took place at the residence of Mr. and Mrs. Lazar Sacks on the occasion of the celebration of the Barmitzvah of their eldest son Maurice. Many visitors from the surrounding country and the Rand were present. As a result of the function a handsome sum was donated to the synagogue.

On Monday Oct. 24th the local Hebrew Congregation gathered at the residence of Mr. and Mrs. H. Lief on the occasion of the Bris Milah of their sixth son.

RIVERSDALE.

A MOST enjoyable and successful social was held on Tuesday evening at the Bet Hasofer Hall when almost the whole Congregation attended.

The cheder children contributed several songs and recitations and speeches were delivered by Rev. Zlotnick and others. A sale of a cake by American auction realised over £10, which sum is being donated to the relief of Polish and Austrian Jewry.

SPRINGS

A successful literary afternoon was held under the auspices of the Springs Women's Zionist League, at the residence of Mrs. G. Heilbrunn, Selection Park, on the 21st August.

The meeting was addressed by Dr. Deborah Katzen, who chose as her subject "Women's and Children's Work in Palestine."

Invitations had been extended to all sections of the community, and it was gratifying to note the number of non-Jewish women who availed themselves of this invitation.

Dr. Katzen's talk made a profound impression on the audience. She also replied very ably to questions put to her.

The acting Chairman, Mrs. S. Epstein, in welcoming the non-Jewish visitors, expressed the hope that they would attend future meetings and functions held by the Society.

RENDEZVOUS (O.F.S.)

On the occasion of the Bris Milah of the infant son of Mr. and Mrs. B. Fox of Rendezvous, the sum of £11.16.6 was raised on behalf of the S.A. Jewish Orphanage in Johannesburg.

VOLKSRUST

The S.A. Jewish Orphanage has received from Mrs. B. Zulman, hon. secretary of the local branch, the sum of £7/17/6 being £4/7/6 sundry subscription collections from local members, and £3/10/- proceeds of sale of second hand clothes by Mrs. B. Fine, Snr.

KOPJES

A very pleasant evening was spent at the residence of Mr. and Mrs. Louis Lazarus when they celebrated the first birthday of their infant daughter, Maureen Hillary. A collection made for the local Zionist Society realised the amount of £2.

CORNER LOUNGE

Eloff Street, cor. Pritchard Street — JOHANNESBURG.

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