

Workmen's Circle Leaders Plan Their Conspiracy

They sent agents to Boston, where they planned to take out an injunction against the admission of new members who had left the Workmen's Circle. The injunction was to check the activities of the Independent Workmen's Circle and would lead it to the brink of bankruptcy.

They were able to achieve in part this malicious plan. They wrecked the Independent Workmen's Circle. They could not, however, destroy the progressive wing. When we realized the nature of the plot, we decided to accept the compromise-motion of the court-appointed referee, who proposed that a special convention of the "Independent" be assembled. In accepting the compromise, we knew that under the circumstances the reactionary forces in the "Independent" might secure a majority. We were determined to build a new organization and if we could not achieve our aim by joining with the "Independent," we would establish our own organization instead.

We Are Forced to Build A New Organization

The Convention of the "Independent" took place on the 12th of January, 1930, and de-

spite all the maneuverings of the Workmen's Circle leaders, together with the reactionary leaders in the Independent Workmen's Circle, they had only three more votes than the progressive wing. The vote was 51 against 48, and even that was accomplished by way of a stratagem. Those who received the 51 votes had promised that they would admit the new thousands of members. The next day, however, when they had chosen their leaders, they refused to carry out the decision of the convention. We decided to build a new organization.

The very same month we dispatched a letter to all the branches and groups calling them to a national conference.

On the 30th of March, 1930, there were assembled the representatives of 157 branches of the Workmen's Circle and Independent Workmen's Circle and a number from minority groups as well. More than 200 delegates met the challenge with the decision to build a new national fraternal organization. When the report was read, these words were greeted with a long ovation, and a splendid demonstration, so that all felt that the founding of the International Workers' Order began a new chapter in the history of the American fraternal movement.

TOWARDS UNITY AND VICTORY

R. SALTZMAN

National Secretary Jewish-American Section I.W.O.



R. Saltzman

Our report to the last, the 5th Convention of the International Workers Order,* opened with the following words which characterize its birth and development: "Ten years ago, Jewish workers began to paint a splendid picture on the broad American canvas, on the United States map. These were not artists, but plain toilers. They, however, put all their faith, all their idealism and enthusiasm into the effort, so that other national groups were imbued with their vision

* This article is from the report delivered by Mr. Saltzman to the 6th National Convention of the Jewish-American Section I.W.O. July, 1944.

and soon one after the other, joined in the common work. The canvas is not yet finished, but the grand plan is clearly in evidence.

"The picture shows the gala-day of labor, a field-day for brotherhood, friendship, comradeship and selfaid, the celebration of a variegated culture, which grew more fascinating and richer during the decade in which we worked to build up our organization."

By employing this analogy we can say, in 1944, that the picture has been considerably enhanced during the last four years by the weighty contribution our organization and especially the Jewish-American Section of it, made to both the general, as well as Jewish, life of the country. The last four years were such as are sure to leave a permanent mark in the history of the United States and in the history of the Jews in our country. The canvas we began painting 4 years ago, glows deeper and brighter today.

We are tempted to tell you much more about this remarkable canvas, of which plain folk, the people, are the master

craftsmen, and which they will continue to paint in the years to come. Let us hope, that during the coming year, on our 15th anniversary, when the world will be freed from the terrible plague of fascism, it will be more fitting and proper to relate in detail the story of the formation and development of our organization. Now we limit ourselves to the all-important problems facing us.

The past four years which followed our last convention, have been the most critical in the history of mankind; and the most critical in the long martyrdom of the Jewish people.

These fateful years, however, have been no more than the unavoidable tempest which has been gathering for a number of years before the Second World War.

They began in that grievous day in 1933 when Hitler came to power and unleashed the military might of the German Junkers, first against the Jewish then against the German masses. At the beginning, he contented himself, of course, only with Germany, where the Jewish population was but 600 thousand. Hitler vowed he would completely annihilate the Jewish people. He has kept his oath. Even before the present World War began he destroyed

practically the whole of German Jewry; and proclaimed, at the same time, his aim was to annihilate the *whole Jewish people* in all countries.

Hitler indicated that he proposed to annihilate the Jewry of every country. Was it not a clear, though an indirect announcement to all the world leaders that he intended to establish a hegemony over the whole earth? How else could he destroy the Jews everywhere? Jews are to be found in all the odd corners of the earth, and to reach them he would have to conquer the world. The world rulers, however, were deaf, and allowed Hitler free rein in his anti-Jewish, liquidation campaign. They paid no attention and did not wish to comprehend the implications of the ugly warning this plunderer and destroyer of nations was about



A refugee child



In no man's land—mother and child, Jewish refugees from Poland

to perpetrate on the world, that he was preparing a war of total annihilation.

One may ask how Hitlerism was able to kindle so lurid a flame as to engulf the world? There is but one answer, one answer made crystal-clear by a thousand facts which confirm it.

Hitler used an old, tried and proved weapon, "divide and rule." He succeeded in creating divisions among the peoples and the nations, and, as long as he was successful in the use of this weapon, he was able to make great strides toward the domination of the world.

To the good fortune of the human race, the progressive leaders of the world recognized the immense peril of disunity. The democratic countries began to get closer together and to unite, and in uniting after humanity suffered huge sacrifices, took the first step to halt the onrush of the dark forces of Nazism.

Cairo, Moscow and Teheran are the highlights in the development of this unity among the nations, a unity forged in fire and blood.

In Defense of Our Country

Less than a month before the opening of our sixth convention, we struck at Hitler on the shores of France. The sixth of June, 1944, will remain one of the most important dates in human history. Tens of millions of human hearts trembled with emotion that early Tuesday morning. The first important consummation of the Teheran pact was then being implemented on the battlefields of France. The master-plan, whose object was to completely shatter the Nazis, was being put into effect. Bloody battles are now in progress. Thousands are being sacrificed. The struggle is a furious one. News is being relayed to us which fills us with joy. Heavy news must be expected as well. Our soldiers are fight-

ing a bitter and well-organized enemy. The final outcome of these battles, however, is certain. The victory will be ours.

On this very day, Tuesday, June 6th, we sent the following telegram to our Commander-in-Chief:

PRESIDENT
FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT,
WASHINGTON, D. C.

"IN THE NAME OF THE 45,000 MEMBERS OF THE JEWISH AMERICAN SECTION OF THE INTERNATIONAL WORKERS ORDER, WE WHOLEHEARTEDLY PLEDGE TO YOU ON THIS FATEFUL AND SOLEMN DAY OF THE INVASION OF FRANCE OUR COMPLETE AND UNSTINTED SUPPORT. "AS AMERICANS, WE REDEDICATE OURSELVES TO THOSE GREAT IDEALS OF DEMOCRACY AND FREEDOM FOR WHICH OUR COUNTRY UNDER YOUR GREAT LEADERSHIP HAS BEEN WAGING A WAR OF LIBERATION. AS JEWS, WE LOOK FOR THE QUICK DELIVERANCE OF OUR BROTHERS IN EUROPE, WHO HAVE SUFFERED DEATH AND HUMILIATION UNDER THE BRUTAL AND INHUMAN RULE OF NAZI FASCISM. WE STAND READY TO SPARE NO SACRIFICES, MR. PRESIDENT, IN ORDER THAT THE GREAT ORDEAL OF OUR FIGHTING FORCES AND THOSE OF OUR ALLIES MAY BE CROWNED WITH SUCCESS. "WE PLEDGE TO REDOUBLE OUR EFFORTS IN THE SALE OF BONDS, IN OUR BLOOD

DONATIONS, AND IN EXECUTING EVERY DIRECTIVE WHICH YOU WILL SEE FIT TO PLACE UPON US IN ORDER TO INSURE A QUICK AND DECISIVE VICTORY TO OUR ARMS.

"WE ALSO PLEDGE BEFORE THE OPENING OF OUR NATIONAL CONVENTION IN MADISON SQUARE GARDEN, ON JULY THE FOURTH, TO SELL A MINIMUM OF ONE MILLION DOLLARS WORTH OF WAR BONDS. PLEASE ACCEPT OUR DEEP FEELINGS OF LOYAL AND PATRIOTIC SUPPORT OF YOUR LEADERSHIP OF OUR LAND IN ITS PRESENT TRIAL OF STRENGTH WITH THE DARK FORCES OF REACTION AND FASCISM. "VICTORY SHALL BE ACHIEVED BY US AND THOSE JOINED WITH US IN THE GREAT CRUSADE FOR THE FOUR FREEDOMS."

NATIONAL EXECUTIVE
COMMITTEE, JEWISH-
AMERICAN SECTION,
IWO.
R. Saltzman, National Sec'y.

Our declaration to the President on the day of invasion was one which reflected the deepest feelings in the hearts of our leadership and members. It expresses our unlimited wish to contribute all we can, that this war may be ended as soon as possible. This wish and our expression of it was, no doubt, much strengthened on the day of invasion. It represented the

attitude of our organization, however, from the very first day of the war. We will now redouble our efforts; we will mobilize all our strength to give our Government the greatest aid in this moment of crisis.

We wish to recall to you, on this occasion, the substance of our telegram sent the President on the 7th of December, 1941, on the day of the dastardly attack of Japan on Pearl Harbor:

"President Roosevelt,
White House,
Washington, D. C.

"Together with all Americans we regard with horror the shameless, unprovoked attack of Japan upon the United States. This is part and parcel of the Nazi scheme for world domination. It is part and parcel of the Nazi barbarism which has already devastated the fields and cities of Europe and China and which is now trying to conquer the last great strongholds of democracy—Great Britain, the Soviet Union, and finally the United States. This act of perfidy finds the people of the United States aroused to anger and indignation which will ultimately spell the doom of the hordes of barbarism. Irrespective of class, color, creed, political beliefs or



*Knitting for our Allies—
I.W.O. women's club*

national origin, the people of the United States stand united as never before to repel the common foe. The National Executive Committee of the Jewish Section, International Workers Order, representing 31,000 Jewish members in the United States, promises you our full and unlimited support, Mr. President, in the pursuit of this sacred struggle. As Jews we well know the horrible sufferings and persecution and annihilation itself which would result from an Axis victory. We pledge to mobilize our entire membership, men, women and children, all our resources, and our fullest energy in the interests of our country. We pledge that we will not rest until our world will be rid of this holocaust and menace to the peace and security of mankind."

We can say with assurance today, that we have fulfilled the sacred promise which we gave our President after Pearl Harbor. We have done all within our power to make our contribution the most substantial pos-

sible. We tried all the time to be a model for other organizations, fraternal and otherwise.

It would take too much time to dwell on details and to relate how our leadership, our branches and members, carried into effect their participation in the war effort and in the war campaigns. We shall give an accounting of our work at the first opportunity, for we shall then have to record the details, not only to our own organization, but to the whole Jewish public, even to the American public at large. We shall be able to record it with pride, for it is a summation of unselfishness and patriotism. Today, we shall content ourselves with a few brief remarks.

There was not a single call made by our President or by any other important leader of our country in respect of any war effort or campaign, but we gave an immediate response, with the full energy and devotion which such campaigns called for. From the Atlantic to the Pacific, in all centers where there were members and branches of our organization, they organized groups, sometimes their entire membership to give blood donations to the Red Cross. We took the initiative in a large number of cities to help our Treasury Department to sell all the bonds and

stamps we could. The organization of "Victory Houses" was a splendid example, which was profoundly appreciated not only by the Jewish community in which these actions were put into effect, but by government and national leaders as well.

Thousands of our members not only joined civil defense, but actually took over important posts. Thousands of our members helped to make the Red Cross campaign a great success; likewise all relief-work for those allied with us. It was due to our activity in all these efforts, that we were able, in our city conferences held last winter, to see the outlines of a picture which was a great honor to our organization. Our leaders seemed in a festive mood when they were able to point out to us the eminent guests we had at our Conferences. Among them were leaders of the Jewish Community Council, city representatives of the Treasury Department; Assemblymen and District Congressmen—they all came to welcome our organization; they all talked with enthusiasm about our contribution as a model one for other organizations. We wish to emphasize that this was the case not only in one city or district, but practically in all the im-

portant cities and conferences throughout the country.

According to the information available to us, we know that more than 8,795 of our members as well as their sons and daughters, are in the armed services. From the hundreds of letters we receive from them, it is evident, they are determined to make their greatest effort for our country. They fight with full consciousness of the objectives which our country and the United Nations have set as their goals in the war. The training, which our members received in our own organization, aids them in making a fuller contribution.

We were among the first organizations to support all the proposals, the "emergency" laws which our Commander-in-Chief laid before the legislative bodies. We voiced our support in good time and recorded our membership's opposition to all such forces of the country as hindered the President in carrying out his program for a quick victory and a safe, durable peace. We helped to mobilize the great American pub-



Pupils of the I.W.O. Jewish Schools in Chicago place a wreath at the Washington—Morris—Salomon Monument

lic to accede to the wishes of the responsible leaders of our country. We also helped to elect progressive representatives, both to the national and state legislatures, as well as to municipal bodies, in a number of our cities. We have now reached an important consideration which we wish to bring to the attention of the convention. It will have to express its opinions concerning it and become a mobilizing force in its behalf to a greater extent than heretofore.

Our convention assembles at a time when our country is preparing for the elections of 1944. The election of 1944 will determine the future des-

tiny of our country and in a measure also the fate of the world. Even more: on the issue of these elections depends our quick victory over our worst enemy, fascism, and the whole question of a durable peace. We know the mood of our membership and the sentiments of our assembled delegates. We do not hesitate an instant in recommending to you, unequivocally and with the greatest assurance, the re-election to a fourth term of our Commander-in-Chief, President Roosevelt, the man who stood at the helm in the most critical moment of history. He must remain at the helm until the ship reaches the sunny shore. He is not a partisan candidate—Presi-



President Franklin Delano Roosevelt

dent Roosevelt is the candidate of the whole American people.

At the same time, we must not forget that our President will need a Congress and a Senate which shall fully support his program and help to carry out his policies in the best manner. We, therefore, must mobilize not only our branches and memberships toward that end, but the whole community where we live, to help elect such representatives and Senators as truly support the unity of all nations that are behind a durable peace, who strive with all their powers to maintain the unity which was inaugurated and forged on a practical basis at Teheran.

I can find no better words to conclude this chapter on the war than the stirring phrases of the famous Soviet-Jewish journalist Ilya Ehrenburg:

"Before the war, we were rich in words, in high-sounding, compassionate words. When our victory is won, we will be even richer in words, for life will then have greater worth and variety. Now, however, we have but few words. We have only one word, in fact . . . a word to be most safeguarded and held most dear. We must pour our whole heart, our most earnest longing and hope into this word. It is the small word: Progress!"

IN STRUGGLE FOR JEWISH UNITY

Now we come to one of the most important chapters of our report—that of our contribution to Jewish unity.

Most unfortunately, we must admit, is the fact that although the Jews were the first victims of Hitlerism and endured hardships and sacrifices in the present war greater than any other people, still a large proportion of the Jewish leadership failed to understand all the terrible dangers that threaten our people and the necessity for being united.

We wish to support wholeheartedly the words of Mr. Monsky at the convention of B'nai Brith.

"Jews must fully comprehend that our continued disunity means the loss of the opportunity for the solution of our problems."

We may now ask, what contribution did our Jewish-American section make in this hour of destiny? What services have we rendered and what methods did we employ to achieve unity in Jewish life? Knowing, as we did, that the fate of the whole world—and of the Jewish people especially—was wholly dependent on the establishment of unity among the great nations and within their own ranks—we ask what did we

ourselves do to forge the unity of our own Jewish people?

Because the foes of unity in Jewish life are always challenging us with the statement that our organization began the fight for unity only after the 22nd of June, 1941, we shall attempt here, though briefly, to marshal a number of facts which will firmly establish that the Jewish-American section of our organization had conducted an uninterrupted fight for unity, practically from the first days of Hitler's coming to power.

In May 1933, the Second Convention of our organization was held. In the Unity Resolution which this Convention adopted, occurred the following statement:

"The overt dictatorship of the fascists in Germany has confronted the workers of the world with the problem of the need of organizing a united front against fascist aggression."

In another section of the same resolution a program is proposed for "the fight against fascism and its bloody terror against workers, Jews, intellectuals and anti-fascist elements in Germany—the organization of the broadest united front for the purpose of combatting it."

This resolution was distributed among all the fraternal organizations, and to a number of

important Jewish national bodies.

Indeed, we realized the necessity of unity and our need for working in its behalf as early as May, 1933, only a few months after Hitler's seizure of power in Germany.

We addressed a second communication to the Jewish national bodies on the 18th of August, 1934, wherein we wrote the following:

"Preparations for a new World War are being pursued feverishly. European fascism is about to hurl the whole of Europe into a desperate war which will eventually turn into a World War.

"Only the united action of all anti-fascist peoples can halt the advance of fascism, not only in the lands where fascism now rages, but also in the countries where it is not yet established."

In July, 1935, in connection with the special conference of the American Jewish Congress, held on the 22nd of July at the Pennsylvania Hotel, in an open letter to the Jewish Labor Committee, we proposed the following, among other recommendations:

"The summoners of the Conference should immediately select a united action committee, to represent all trends interested in waging the fight against po-



William Weiner and other speakers at Madison Square Garden rally against Nazi barbarism

groms and fascism in Germany.”

And further down, in the same letter, we said:

“We are ready to put all our branches, our entire machinery into this service in order to conduct a large campaign against fascism in Germany.”

In connection with the elections to the World Jewish Congress in Geneva, we wrote a letter on the 16th of March, 1936, to Mr. Louis Lipsky, then chairman of the Conference, in which we said:

“The condition of the Jews in certain countries is becoming more and more intolerable. The bestial persecution of the Jews in Hitlerite-Germany, the “cold” and now also bloody pogroms against the Jews in Po-

land, the insufferable situation of the Jewish masses in Roumania, Lithuania and the other Baltic countries, the growing anti-Semitism and aggravating discrimination against Jews in the United States—all these outrageous conditions must force each and every organization interested in the well-being of the Jewish people to plan a course of action.

“It is more than two weeks already that an uninterrupted pogrom has been raging in Poland. No effectual voice of protest has been heard to-date concerning it. This is due to the fact that no united force has been available in the United States to stand on guard to protect the interests of the Jews in the fascist countries, one that

could speak in the name of the whole people and call for immediate action, when such action might bring the maximum good to the persecuted groups.”

We did not rest content with the mere penning of communications and the adoption of resolutions. We carried the idea of unity to the large masses of the Jewish people.

In 1936 we realized that despite the intense desire of the membership of all Jewish organizations for unity, the leadership still constituted a destructive force which did everything it could to prevent this unity from realizing itself—we were still hopeful that perhaps this act of unification would be effected at the World Jewish Congress then convening in Geneva, in August 1936.

Unfortunately, this was not the case in the United States. Our organization, together with other Jewish national bodies, then called a conference, at which 476 Jewish organizations were represented, with a membership in good-standing of 133,679. This conference decided to send a delegation of five members, including two of our own organization, to Geneva. The memorandum forwarded to this Conference with our delegates to the World Jewish Congress at Geneva, stated:

“All who are determined to

fight for Jewish rights must, can and should unite their strengths in behalf of this fight. We also declare that all who oppose this unity will bear a heavy guilt for the disruption of our strength at a time when unity is urgently needed.

“We will work with all our



Group of children during an air-raid strength to put anti-Semitism out of the bounds of the law, out of bounds of civilization; that every incitement of an anti-Semitic nature be exhibited as most hideous and nastiest form of crime, which should be condemned not merely by Jews, but by all non-Jews as well.

“Let us establish a United Jewish World Congress, which should accomplish the great tasks of shattering the anti-Semitic movement and giving the death-blow to the pogrom-wave; let us do all we can to save the millions of Jews in the fascist and semifascist countries from the danger of total extinction which now faces them.”

To our very great regret, our expectations were not realized.

The forces of disunity managed to dominate the meeting, despite the fact that prominent delegates both from Europe and the United States favored unity and wanted to see the World Jewish Congress turned into a strong and unified instrument in behalf of the whole people.

At the end of the same year, 1936, a movement was started in Paris for the convening of a World Jewish Cultural Congress. This movement, too, had to overcome great obstacles proposed by the forces of disunity. Our organization took a very positive and constructive attitude, both in the calling of this Congress and at its meetings.

Among the seven delegates representing the United States, our organization had one member. Representatives of 22 countries participated in this Congress of Jewish Culture. The Jewish press in all countries considered it a significant event in Jewish life. The Congress enhanced our reverence for Jewish culture. Branches of the World Jewish Cultural Verband were formed in many countries. Unfortunately the Second World War destroyed much of the work achieved by this Congress.

The tasks and objectives of the World Congress of Jewish Culture, however, are issues of burning import today, no less



Desecration of the South Shore Hebrew Alliance in N. Y.

than they were before its establishment. Our need for these cultural-associations will become even greater after the present war. Our organization has made and will continue to make a significant contribution to this all-important cultural movement.

At the same time, we continued our effort to create a united movement by means of a Jewish Peoples' Committee in the fight against anti-Semitism, and in the defense of Jewish rights in countries the world over. We took an active part in the great Washington Conference, which was called by the Jewish People's Committee, in protesting the pogroms against the Jews in Poland and of the anti-Semitism and anti-Jewish

laws that had been established there.

The Jewish People's Committee thus prepared the ground for united action in Jewish life. By means of it, we aided in bringing the idea of unity to the large Jewish masses of the United States.

At the end of 1939, at the time of the Soviet-German pact, the anti-unity forces utilized all their opportunities to destroy all the work that had been accomplished in the direction of Jewish unity. Our organization at that time played an important historic role. We never ceased to continue our fight for unity, to cement all that had been achieved. We knew that it would not be long before the mountain of slanders and calumnies, which had been heaped against the Soviet Union, would crumble altogether; we knew that all these fabrications would soon enough be uncovered and that the large Jewish masses would see that they had been deceived and had been played into the hands of the bloodiest foe, into the hands of Hitler.

The contribution then made by our organization, the International Workers Order, will never be forgotten. We, in our organization, were a constructive and very sober force at a time when a storm of hysteria

and confusion raged about us and when so many lost both their faith and sense of balance in the confusion.

HITLER'S ATTACK ON THE SOVIET UNION

Then came the 22d of June, 1941, when Hitler made his dastardly assault upon the Soviet Union. The world-conflagration began also to approach the shores of our own country. The flames threatened to devastate our own land. We faced great, colossal tasks.

The leaders of our country reacted quickly, declaring that we must give the fullest aid and support to the Soviet Union, which was in the front-line of the struggle against the worst foe of the whole world. We attempted to translate the decisions of our leaders into terms of concrete action. On the one hand, we undertook the organization of aid to the Soviet Union, and, on the other hand, we redoubled our effort in the fight for unity, the need for which was more urgent than ever before. In our report to the Eastern Conference, which took place the 15th of November, 1941, we said:

"The Jews of the United States play an enormous role in the political, social and economic life of the country. Jew-



The National Executive Committee of the Jewish-American Section I.W.O.

ish life, more perhaps than the life of any other national group, is highly organized and possesses hundreds of organizations. If the work of these hundreds of organizations could be coordinated and centralized, we not only by ourselves would constitute a great aid to the government of our country, but might actually play an important historical role in behalf of both the United States and the Jews of the world.

"When the world is on fire, one may legitimately ask: 'For whom must we wait to effect a broad and substantial unity among the Jewish people? Are the sufferings and woes of the Jewish masses across the seas not considerable enough that we still hold back and do not join in a common effort and an interchange of ideas? Are we to continue to sit with folded hands and wait till the anti-Semitic serpent waxes stronger, more audacious and poisonous?'"

We are pleased to confirm the fact, that in our fight for unity the roots of the IWO grew stronger and deeper in Jewish life. The heroic resistance of the Red Army against the so-called invincible might of Hitlerism brought about a great change in public opinion. All the forces of Jewish life were deeply stirred. Everyone felt the great danger that lurked in the possible defeat of the Soviet Union by the might of Hitler; that it would mean the annihilation of perhaps two-thirds of the Jewish people dwelling in Europe, and a great threat to the United States, to our own freedom and independence.

The first message of the Jews from across the seas to the Jews of the world was the message of the Wilno rabbinate. It reached us in August 1941, and read as follows:

"The earth groans with the tears of our children, our wives and mothers. Hitler brings in-

famy and villainy against the Jewish people. . . Let us aid in the triumph of our dear liberator, the Red Army."

An electric charge swept through Jewish life in the United States. Everyone felt that these words had been written in blood and that the only possible reply was action, immediate action. The Jewish masses were ready to respond to the call of the rabbis. The evil forces in Jewish life in America, including the "Forward," immediately perpetrated the bloody lie that the message of the Wilno rabbinate was a pure invention. The elements represented by the "Forward" soon sought to blunt and stifle the compassionate hearts of American Jewry.

Then followed a second message—the call of the first Congress of the Jewish Anti-Fascist Committee in Moscow. In this message, the Soviet Jews told of the "sword and hangman's noose" and of the "brutal force and fire" that the Hitlerites were carrying against the Jews. They called for the organization everywhere of substantial action "in solidarity with and in the active aid of the Soviet Union, which was demonstrating its heroic resistance against the heralds of death and annihilation."

Both messages found a deep

echo in the hearts of the Jews the world over. Dr. Chaim Weizmann, the President of the World Zionist Organization, replied:

"We respond with our full hearts to the appeal made by the Jewish assembly in Moscow. . . . We are proud of the fight being conducted by the Soviet armies, whose successes have called forth the admiration of the whole world and have strengthened our assurance in the final triumph."

The "Board of Jewish Deputies" of England responded, likewise: "Your fight has revived the hopes of all free nations."

The Jews of Jerusalem organized a special radio-broadcast to Moscow. M. Ussishkin, the late leader of the National-Fund, Isaac ben Zvi, the head of the Hishadruth, and representatives of the Vaad Halaumi, participated in this program.

Replies were sent by the "Jewish Agency," the "Agudat Israel" and the "Beshomir Hazoir" of Palestine. The Jews of many Latin American countries promised aid. The call aroused the whole Jewish world like a storm. Everywhere the response was spontaneous, warm, and deeply fraternal. To our great sorrow, however, this was not the case in our own country. Here the forces of disunity, the

anti-Soviet elements in the 'Forward' and in the Jewish Labor Committee, did all their dark spirits allowed them to prevent the Jews in the United States, the second largest Jewish collective in the world, from stretching forth their fraternal hand and making their simultaneous reply with the Jewry of the rest of the world.

There were a number of Jewish organizations — among them our own Jewish-American Section — ready to answer the two calls with the warmth and the sacrifice they deserved. We wished to learn, however, and quite rightfully so, what response would be given to this appeal by the large national Jewish organizations. Weeks elapsed without any answer being made. Eminent representatives of American Jewish

communal life, creators and leaders of our Jewish culture, were most anxious to forward their reply. There was lacking, however, that organized, unified force of Jewish life that could assemble their voices in a common message.

It was on that occasion that one of the most eminent personalities of Jewish life in the United States, the late Dr. Zhitlowsky, approached us and said: "Give me your help; help me to gather representatives of all trends and parties. The Jews of the United States can and must make their response to Soviet Jewry. The outstretched hands of the Jews of the Soviet Union must be grasped warmly by the Jews on our side of the ocean."

We are happy we had the privilege of making our mod-



Folk reception for Michoels and Feffer at the Polo Grounds, N. Y., 1943

est contribution at that historic moment. We spared no effort in compiling the first list of important representative men of Jewry in the United States. Two hundred of the most prominent in the fields of Jewish literature, science and social welfare, under the leadership of two of the most eminent men in Jewish life, not only of the United States, but the world over, Albert Einstein and Dr. Zhitlowsky, carried through a broadcast to Soviet Jewry.

When the Jewish Writers' and Artists' Committee was formed, under the direction of Prof. Albert Einstein, Dr. Zhitlowsky, Sholem Asch, Dr. Joseph Rosen, Dr. Abraham Flexner, Waldo Frank, Prof. Franz Boas, Lion Feuchtwanger, Ab. Goldberg, Rabbi Luckstein, B. Z. Goldberg, your National Secretary, and a series of other important representatives of Jewish life, a historic date was then recorded in the life of American Jewry.

The broadcast to Soviet Jewry left a deep impression on the Jews of the United States. Those who listened at their radios were moved by the message of Dr. Joseph Rosen, Rabbi Luckstein, Waldo Frank and Dr. Zhitlowsky. Their broadcast, answering the call of Soviet Jewry, spanned a bridge between the two largest Jewish

collectives in the world, that of the Soviet Union and our own.

Each broadcast dealt with the fate of its own country, with the fate of the Jewish people throughout the world, and with the need of uniting all Jewish energies in aid to the United Nations in mortal combat with the bloodiest foe of mankind.

The Jewish Writers' and Artists' Committee continued its activity with the historic meeting in Madison Square Garden, with bringing to America the outstanding delegation of the Soviet Jewish Committee, S. Michoels and Itzik Feffer, with their presentation to 50 thousand Jews in New York at the Polo Grounds. The tour of Michoels and Feffer to the most important centers in America followed. They met, everywhere, the leading representatives of the various trends of Jewish life (naturally with one exception — that of the anti-Soviet, anti-Unity trend.)

All this gave the Writers' and Artists' Committee a very significant position in the struggle for unity in Jewish life in the United States. We are especially happy to tell you, our esteemed delegates, that there is not a single representative in the Writers' and Artists' Committee who fails to give due regard for the great contribution which the Jewish-American sec-

tion of the International Workers Order made in the cause of unity.

It is also necessary to point out, that in the period the Jewish Writers and Artists Committee has been in existence, an enormously significant change has taken place in the ranks of the American Jewish Congress as well as among the most important representatives

world and given courage and hope to millions, now dwelling in the gloom of Nazi oppression."

Representatives of all organizations in Jewish life participated in the reception given to Michoels and Feffer—with the one exception, once more, the sad exception of the leaders of the Jewish Labor Committee and their journal, the "For-



Mass meeting of Jewish Writers and Artists, Madison Sq. Garden, N. Y.

of Zionism. The response of the American Jewish Congress was delivered simultaneously with that of the Writers and Artists Committee. The Congress cabled:

"Fellow Jews of the Soviet Union. . . . We salute through you the brave soldiers, workers and peasants of the Soviet Union, whose heroism in repelling the mechanized Nazi-hordes has inspired the whole

ward." The whole Jewish press, exclusive of the "Forward" took a positive attitude toward the representatives of the Soviet Union and to the activities of the Writers and Artists Committee.

Immediately after the first efforts of the Writers and Artists Committee, the Jewish Council for "Russian War Relief" was organized. The late Ab. Goldberg, one of the most respected

Zionist leaders in the United States, undertook to initiate and organize this Jewish Council. He turned to a number of important representatives of Jewish life, to men like Henry Hoffman, Grand Master of the Independent Order Brith Abraham; to Louis Levin, the past president of the Order of Brith Sholom; to John L. Bernstein, one of the most prominent leaders of the "Hias"; to Israel Goldstein, President of the American Zionist Organizations; to Rabbi Luckstein, President of N. Y. Board of Jewish ministers; and to a number of other prominent representatives of Jewish national bodies in the United States.

All these men always had a positive answer. All expressed their readiness to cooperate and declared that the Jews of the United States owed a great debt to the Soviet Union, and to the Jews of the Soviet Union and that it was absolutely necessary to create a unity of effort in Jewish life in our country that would constitute a practical reply to the call issued to the world by Soviet Jewry.

Before the Jewish Council had time to organize itself, however, when the first call to American Jewry was published in several Jewish newspapers, the leaders of the Jewish Labor Committee, together with the

"Forward," organized one of their ugliest campaigns to prevent the Jewish Council for "Russian War Relief" from coming to birth. On the one hand, they continued to shout that there was no need of a relief-organization for the Soviet Union since "lend-lease" would do all that was necessary for it. One of the leading anti-Soviet leaders of the Jewish Labor Committee had the audacity to write the following:

"... When the Jewish Labor Committee on an occasion inquired in Washington about sending medical supplies or like things to Russia, the representative of "lend-lease" remarked: You are naive people. How much can you spend on medical supplies or ambulances — 50 thousand or 100 thousand dollars. I want to tell you that the American Government is ready in accordance with its "lend-lease" policy to send these goods to Russia for millions of dollars and send them there regularly."

They knew that this representative of "lend-lease" was only an imaginary person, of their own creation, for the reason that at the very same time, about the 10th of June, 1942, when this attack was published in the "Forward," the chief of "lend-lease," Harry Hopkins, appeared at a large

meeting called by the "Russian War Relief" at Madison Square Garden, and together with other important men in the American government, called upon the people to provide the largest measure of aid for the Soviet Union. The deceit practiced by these anti-Sovieters was another attempt on their part to defeat the appeal of "Russian War Relief" from reaching the large American public, and the Jewish Council for "Russian War Relief" from reaching the masses for substantial aid.

At the same time, the anti-Sovieters tried to persuade American Jewry that they, the leaders of the Jewish Labor Committee would, somehow, assure aid to the Soviet Union. In the very same article, the same "gentleman" writes in the "Forward": "We are doing all that is possible that funds collected by us for Soviet Russia be expended to the last penny for relief in Soviet Russia."

The facts subsequently confirmed how the leaders of the Jewish Labor Committee, on the one hand, fought against all practical aid for the Soviet Union, while at the same time, they made use of the sentimental sympathies, prevalent among the Jewish masses for the Soviet Union, to collect large sums which they used for

harmful anti-Soviet ends, and in opposition to the interests of the Soviet Union.

Our organization played an important role both in the building up of the Council for "Russian War Relief," and also in helping the whole effort of "Russian War Relief," as well as uncovering the shameful procedures of the leaders of the Jewish Labor Committee. We aided the above-mentioned prominent Jewish leaders in assembling 1500 delegates, representing more than 700 Jewish organizations. The Jewish Council proposed a modest goal for itself—the collection of \$100,000 the first year—actually, however, it raised \$200,000! It proposed a goal the second year of a quarter million dollars in cash and materials, but reached in fact a sum exceeding one million dollars.

At the last conference, held a few months ago, there were delegates of more than 2200 Jewish organizations. There was not a single important leader of Jewish life who was not represented, directly or indirectly, at least—once more, however, with one sad exception—that of the leadership of the Jewish Labor Committee. The Conference proposed a goal of 2 million dollars in cash and materials, and we are certain, more, much more will be



Russian War Relief Rally

raised, as was done the first two years. Our organization, the International Workers Order, occupies a respectable position in the leadership of the Jewish Council. In all the campaigns conducted by the Council for "Russian War Relief," we have made a sizeable contribution. Neither our branches nor our leadership spared their efforts or energy in helping to make these campaigns a great success. In the many cities of the land, as well as in the national leadership, our representatives have always worked in full accord with those of other important national bodies.

Our organization has been commended on various occasions for its non-partisan approach in the work of building the Jewish Council, for the whole-hearted devotion of our effort, and our refusal to make capital of our honest, and substantial contribution.

We cannot leave this part of our report without telling briefly, at least, the story of the splendid campaign our organization conducted in response to the call upon us by the second Anti-Fascist Congress in Moscow. This Anti-Fascist Congress met in Moscow, the 24th of May, 1942. It issued a call to World Jewry to collect funds for 500 airplanes and tanks, which were to bear the names of Jewish heroes of history, the purpose being to have the worst enemies of the Jews confront on the battlefield the determination of the Jews in the Soviet Union and elsewhere, to destroy Hitlerism.

On the 28th of May, 1942, the "ITA" forwarded a cable from Jerusalem, in which it is reported, that the Histadrut had adopted a resolution in reply to the request of the Jewish Anti-Fascist Committee in Moscow, and in which it said;

"The Jews of Palestine will stand side by side with the Jews in the Soviet Union to the day of victory."

The English Jews replied that they were organizing to establish an action-aid committee for the Soviet Union, by way of their meeting the request of the Anti-Fascist Congress in Moscow.

When we, of the National Executive of the Jewish-American section of our organization, saw that the leaders of the Jewish Labor Committee were busy working at cross-purposes among the representatives of other organizations, and that the call was being wholly disregarded, and no response being forwarded; and that, despite the fact that spiritual leaders of American Jewry, like Rabbi Stephen Wise and others, were emphatically in favor of American Jewry answering this call in a very positive manner, such as undertaking a broad program of aid for the Soviet Union no action of aid to Soviet Union was in sight. But in the meantime, the baneful hand of the anti-Soviet elements were out to reach other groups of Jewish life, and sought by all kinds of diverse means to terrorize them, and prevent the Jews of the United States from making the decent response which they wished to make.

When we saw that no response was forthcoming from these important national Jewish organizations, our organization, the Jewish-American section of the IWO, decided to issue a call to raise 100 thousand dollars—for tanks and airplanes.

When our call was announced, the anti-Soviet forces began one of their most treacherous campaigns in opposition. The "Forward" did not content itself with its own means, its own journal and its Jewish Labor Committee, but sought to drag in the whole Jewish press in opposition to us.

It united with anti-Soviet forces of other newspapers, and together these attempted to attack our campaign in every way possible, to the extent that they even tried to drag in the former Soviet Ambassador Litvinov, claiming somehow that they had discovered that he was opposed to this campaign.

We conferred with the Soviet Ambassador, who gave us his blessings for the work, and who in his diplomatic way, said what he thought of these anti-Soviet groups. We can now inform you that the most cordial sentiments were expressed by the Jews during this campaign for the Soviet Union. Instead of 100 thousand dollars, we collected in the course of a few

weeks, close to 200 thousand. The Jewish rank and file repudiated with the deepest contempt the dastardly attacks of the Jewish Labor Committee spokesmen.

We should also mention here, that when the American Jewish Congress somewhat later organized its action group in behalf of the Soviet Union the "United Jewish War Effort," we participated also in its effort, and honored a pledge of 20 thousand dollars made by our organization through its national office, as well as by special campaigns in Chicago, Washington and other centers, so that our total was more than 50 thousand dollars!

THE BIRTH OF THE AMERICAN JEWISH CONFERENCE

The struggle for unity reached its climax in the calling of the American Jewish Assembly or, as it became known later, the "American Jewish Conference."

On the 23rd and 24th of January 1943, on the initiative of the President of the B'nai Brith, Mr. Henry Monsky, a conference was called at Pittsburgh where 32 national bodies were represented. This Pittsburgh Conference, despite the fact that it was called together without the usual publicity cam-

paigns, and despite also that the national organizations regarded it at first as merely another Jewish gathering, while the Jewish press paid little attention to its deliberations—despite all this it became a significant event in Jewish life.

The meeting of the Pittsburgh Conference was a manifestation of the fact that the soil was now ripe for the unification of Jewish life.

A united Jewish body, therefore, which could react on the most urgent Jewish requirements in this difficult period of World War, and which at the same time could prepare the great accounting with the enemies of the Jewish people afterwards, was now a necessity—so that that day would not find the Jews disintegrated and at cross-purposes for the accounting.

In commendation of the leadership at the Pittsburgh Conference, who were chiefly the leaders of the American Jewish Congress, of the World Congress, of the Zionist Organization and the B'nai Brith, it must be said, that they raised their issues on the proper high level, and adopted no partisan program: Judge Morris Rothenberg, Dr. Nahum Goldman and Rabbi Israel Goldstein formulated their views in the very best manner when they

said that we must unite all trends, all classes in Jewish life; that we must not demand any maximum program; that Zionists and non-Zionists must walk hand-in-hand; that it did not imply, of course, that any Jewish trend or faction must surrender its program, but that all must unite on a single program, that is expressive of the needs of Jewry, and one to which all can subscribe.

Having been an observer at the Pittsburgh Conference, we left it with the deepest conviction, that the decision to summon an American Jewish Conference of delegates chosen in every city where there is a Jewish Community and also from all Jewish national organizations, was basically sound, especially since the Conference would be constituted on the principle of equality and of proportional representation, so that all Jewish organizations would participate in it. We both felt and stated at the time that this Pittsburgh Conference promised to be one of the most significant events in the history of the Jews of America, that it was creating a basis for unity in Jewish life, a unity on which depended not only the continued existence of American Jewry, but also that of our brethren elsewhere in the world.

The National Executive

Committee of our organization took a decided stand both towards the Pittsburgh preliminary conference as well as to the decision to call a conference of all Jews in America. Although our organization had not been invited we did everything possible to popularize the Pittsburgh Conference among our people and to make clear to them the historical importance of those decisions reached at the Pittsburgh Conference which concerned the calling of an all-American Jewish Conference. The enemy forces of disruption were, however, soon busy once more with their nefarious work even before the actual convening of the Pittsburgh Conference. They did not, themselves, participate in the Conference. The "Forward" was altogether silent about it. The Jewish Labor Committee did not participate in it, yet by means of their connections they sought at the same time to check its efforts from the very beginning, when Mr. Henry Monsky issued his call to all Jewish national bodies to participate in the Conference.

Five days before the convening of the Pittsburgh Conference, we sent a telegram, in which among other things, we said:

"We are certain that this united assembly will be of ma-

terial assistance to our country's leadership by helping to mobilize all Jews in the war effort as quickly as possible against the enemy of all mankind, the most sinister foe the Jews have ever had. We wish your undertaking the greatest success."

Two days later, on the 20th of January, 1943, we received the following acknowledgment.

"Concerning your telegram, we wish to inform you, that we are inviting those organizations only who have an exclusive Jewish membership, none that are attached to general organizations.

(Signed)

Bizgeyer, B'nai Brith."

We considered this telegraphic reply as in the nature of a misunderstanding and our conversation with both Mr. Henry Monsky and Mr. Bizgeyer proved that they, too, were not sure about the matter, and that the reply sent us had been formulated by a source which tried to hinder the development of the American Jewish Conference. We did not become peeved at the organizers of the Conference and certainly not toward the idea involved in the Pittsburgh Conference. In a series of resolutions to the Executive Committee of the Jew-

ish Assembly we made clear our role in Jewish life. On the basis of our daily efforts, our contribution to Jewish cultural life, and Jewish communal life, and by means of our documents, we made it clear that it was ridiculous to speak of the Jewish-American section of the International Workers Order as but a part of a large organization, possessing no independence of its own; we proved that we were not merely a dependent section of a general organization, but that we had our own roots deep in Jewish life and that all problems, which concern the life of the Jewish people, are an integral part of our whole program; that in fact we have been a vital limb of Jewish Communal life from the very first day, which saw the birth of our organization. We pointed out that the very raising of the question whether the Jewish-American section of the IWO should be admitted or not was in itself a symptom of an unhealthy state in Jewish life and an insult to the 40 thousand men and women belonging to our section, as well as to the American Jewish Conference itself.

We asked: "What kind of anti-fascist united front can an American Jewish Conference display, in demanding Jewish rights for all countries when by itself it chooses to exclude or-



Judge Anna Kross leads I.W.O. delegation to American Jewish Conference

ganizations, like our own, that have tens of thousands of active anti-fascist Jewish families in it? How will the Jewish Assembly be able to combat discriminations against its people, when it practices discrimination itself?"

After our statements were reviewed by the Committee responsible for the convening of the American Jewish Conference, we were informed, that though we were not admitted as members of the Conference because we were attached to a general organization, the secretariat of the American Jewish Conference, nevertheless, wishes to state that:

"The Committee hopes that your organization will participate actively in the general elections, which are to be held, to choose delegates to this Assembly through the various local organizations, which will be organized for that purpose."

Being dissatisfied with the first part of this decision, which denied our organization representation in the Executive of the American Jewish Conference we considered the rise of a tendency toward unity to be a substantial victory in that, according to the decision of the secretariat of the American Jewish Conference, our branches in the various cities would participate in the elections, support the best candidates, work for the program that was adopted in Pittsburgh, and aid in broadening the Pittsburgh program to the best interests of Jewry.

Immediately after the secretariat of the American Jewish Conference announced its decision, a number of the leaders launched a drive to sabotage the very decisions so adopted, and to manoeuvre that our branches be not permitted to

participate in the elections in the large cities of the country. The forces of disunity were, however, not as uniformly successful as they hoped to be. Our organization was allowed full participation in Chicago, Pittsburgh and in 28 smaller towns. The leaders of these 30 centers willingly acknowledged the important role our organization played in Jewish life. Despite all the scheming, therefore, attempted by the anti-unity forces of the "Forward" and the Jewish Labor Committee in cooperation with some anti-unity elements within the conference, their efforts to check the growth of unity failed in large measure. They had their way, however, in some of the large centers like New York, Philadelphia, Boston, Cleveland, Detroit and Los Angeles — with only a bare majority in some localities. In these cities, they were able to defeat the decisions adopted by the Secretariat of the American Jewish Conference and to disrupt the plans for unity in Jewish life

There can be little doubt but that this political scheming on their part exerted a harmful influence upon the American Jewish Conference. There can be no difference of opinion on that subject. The anti-unity forces, the leaders of the Jewish Labor Committee came to the

Conference, not to help it in its creative program, but rather by all means at its disposal to check its progress. Working in conjunction with the die-hard elements they tried every possible manoeuvre to prevent the question from reaching the Conference itself. They even repudiated the intention of the Conference, and the clear interpretation of its chairman at the first session, of allowing us to bring our appeal before the Credential Committee, which would then make its report to the Conference. They even prevented us from reaching the Credential Committee and wished us to appear before the General Committee. They schemed so that the question would not reach the Conference at all. The voting, in the General Committee demonstrated that even in its group, which had been selected with all possible circumspection, there were yet a goodly number who fought for complete unity in Jewish life, and demanded that our organization be admitted to the Conference.

Immediately after the conclusion of the American Jewish Conference, we issued a statement in which we showed that the Conference must not on any account be judged from the

point of view of its errors and the discriminating tactics of a portion of its leadership; that instead it must be evaluated from the standpoint of its broad national vision and its potential influence, so that the Conference must be considered as the first important step taken by American Jewry in its struggle to assure its national security.

We announced, that our organization would energetically support each and every step the American Jewish Conference would take in the interests of the Jewish people. We also declared, at the same time, that we would continue the fight to have our organization represented in the Conference, because we intend to propose a program in which all trends of Jewish life may find a basis for unity, a program which derives from the very life-interests of the Jewish people.

Our Proposed Program for the Jewish People

What was the nature of the program we wished to lay before the American Jewish Conference? We had already formulated it in part at the Pittsburgh Conference and gave it the widest dissemination at the time. Instead of merely repeating it here, we propose, in the

light of the new developments, rather to re-formulate it and to present our full action-program, a platform which could be adopted by all factions of the Jewish population in the United States. Our sole criterion in the formulation of this program has been the needs of our people in America and the world over. We consider it a program thoroughly acceptable to American Jewry as a whole, and to the Jewish Conference, the broadest instrument of Jewish unity, in particular.

1. The American Jewish Conferencé and its authorized, duly elected Committee can and must become the center of unity in American Jewry in full realization of the most important tasks now confronting us: the full unification of the Jews of America to enable them to make their largest contribution, both toward a quick victory over fascism and for a durable peace. This involves the mobilization of American Jewry in all its forces and resources to win the war.

2. Teheran was and still looms as the brightest milestone in the United Nations' effort to achieve unity. The program accepted at Teheran laid the foundation for the closest collaboration between the United States, Great Britain, the Soviet Union and China. In



Leaders of Jewish-American Section at the Solomon Michoels, Itzik Feffer and Madam Nora Zhitlovsky celebration.

the unity of these nations lies the solution of all the aching problems, now besetting the United Nations, generally speaking, and the Jews, especially. It should, therefore, be the responsibility of the American Jewish Conference and all its affiliated bodies, to see to it that our substantial and important Jewish collective in the United States, five-million strong, stand body and soul in full support of the decisions reached at Teheran, so that they may, by so doing, encourage all other national groups in the United States and America to

stand as firmly for the principle of unity.

3. The United Nations should aid in the reconstruction of the ruined Jewish settlements, and such full aid be given to the deported and tortured Jews that they might be able to return to their homes and rebuild their ruined existence.

4. Equal rights for the Jewish people, politically, economically and nationally. Jews should be guaranteed access to all phases of economic life, to important industries, to state-controlled enterprises. There must be full equality of rights

for the Jewish population from the very first moment when reconstruction operations are resumed. Anti-Semitism must be outlawed in each and every state.

5. We must demand from the United Nations that the confiscated possessions of the Jews in the countries occupied by the Nazis be returned to them. Wherever no heirs have survived, the returned possessions should be delivered over to the authority of the Jewish Kehilah or commercial agency, in the aid of reconstruction of such cultural and social institutions of Jewish life as have been destroyed.

6. The Jewish Yishuv in Palestine is the concern of all Jews, of Zionists and non-Zionists, alike. All Jews must realize that the Jewish settlement in Palestine is an integral and important section of the Jewish whole, that its destiny and future is closely bound up with the fate and future of the Jewish people the world over. The American Jewish Conference can and should unite on a program with respect to Palestine on which all trends of Jewish life can be in basic agreement, a program which should fight for the right of the Jewish community in Palestine; against the White Paper; for the unhindered development of

the settlement, as a free national Jewish community in fraternal cooperation with the Arabian peoples.

7. To be able to make our greatest contribution, to strengthen the bond and the amity between the United Nations, as well as assure the security of the Jewish people, we must also strengthen the fraternal bond and solidarity between American Jewry and the Jews of the Soviet Union, with the Jews of Palestine, England, and all other countries. The Jews of the world should work to cement unity in all countries where they dwell, and at the same time forge their own national unity among all their groups, wherever they are settled.

8. The American Jewish Conference should accept the responsibility of coordinating all relief-activities for the Jewish settlements, the world over, so that the coordinated relief-agencies not only embrace those already in existence, but also those other settlements, which may come into being as a result of the present conflict.

9. The American Jewish Conferences, in closest cooperation with the Rescue Committee, which has been appointed by President Roosevelt, should mobilize all national Jewish bodies to work in the closest bond with the aforesaid Committee,

so as to rescue the largest possible contingent of Jews that can be salvaged from the lands now under the claws of Hitler.

10. The conference should adopt an American program, whose first aim should be to stamp anti-Semitism as a crime in our own country and to place it outside of the law. The program should, at the same time, assure us that the American Jewish settlement would remain a national entity, capable of preserving its individual uniqueness and integrity, of building its national culture, in line with its historic traditions, its life and the future of the Jewish people.

All this—the preserving of our Jewishness—to be achieved by permitting and encouraging our Jewishness to flow into the broad stream of American life, to blend with all the other national entities in America, and through it enhance the unity and strength of our country.

All trends of Jewish life can and should unite on such a project-program. This proposed program could well be the basis of action for all national bodies, of whatever trends in Jewish life. It is no partisan proposal. It is rather a program that can be accepted by all parties and factions of Jewish life. It does not imply that the various factions, groups and shades of opinion

must surrender their own program or special party-approval to the solution of Jewish problems. Not at all! It is but a program which will serve the interests of all, and that derives from the deepest need of Jewish life.

To summarize: How much unity have we achieved in Jewish life? We can answer this question with the fullest assurance by saying that despite the fact there are many anti-unity forces in Jewish life and disruptive elements that lie in wait for the American Jewish Conference, both within and without; despite, the fact that American Jewish Conference has not yet succeeded in firmly establishing itself in Jewish life; despite the fact the forces of disunity within the Conference did all they could to reduce the prestige of the American Jewish Conference—despite all these the American Jewish Conference still remains a powerful instrument for unity in Jewish life. The Jewish rank and file of whatever trend or shade of opinion want the Conference to become the instrument they hoped it could become when it convened in August, 1943.

As far as we are concerned, despite the fact that we are not yet represented in the Conference, we shall do all in our power to help sustained the

American Jewish Conference, to publicize its significance among the Jewish masses, and to help the forces of unity of the American Jewish Conference to transform it into one of the best instruments in behalf of the Jews in America, and the whole world.

The second very important instrument created in Jewish life was the organization of the Jewish Writers' and Artists' Committee. This committee has accomplished a great historic work. It helped in a material way to prepare the ground for the American Jewish Conference. It demonstrated in concrete terms that it was possible for all trends in Jewish life to work together. Thus by way of

example, it undertook the colossal project of research and composition of the Black Book, that holy tome which records the last great tragedy of the Jewish people and prepares for the United Nations an accounting of our national misfortune for the day of reckoning to come.

We of the International Workers' Order must support this project with our full devotion and see to it that it is completed as rapidly as possible and become available to all the rulers of the world, all political leaders and public spokesmen, so that the demands of the Jewish people become demands of the United Nations in our behalf.



A class in one of the 100 I.W.O. Jewish Children's Schools

The two important publications — "Einikeit" and "New Currents," which the Writers' Committee has organized and issues for us, are very important instruments for the assurance of unity in Jewish life.

Since we are unable at this point to review the full program of the Writers' and Artists' Committee, we will only say that the rank and file of the Jewish masses were able to duly appraise the work of the Committee from the very first day of its coming into being, and that we owe it the fullest support in all its further efforts.

The Jewish Council for "Russian War Relief" has been not merely one of the most important aid-agencies in Jewish life, but also a link in the chain of national unity. From the first day of its organization, we have done all our relief-work for the Soviet Union through this agency. We have now proposed to a representative of the Soviet Government that we be assigned a relief project for one of three established Jewish centers: Kazakstan, or the Volga region, where according to information available to us, there are now hundreds of thousands of Jews. If the representative of the Soviet Government confirms this project for us, we shall conduct our work in its behalf through the Jewish

Council for "Russian War Relief." We shall be more than satisfied, if this project becomes the project also of the fraternal Jewish organizations in America. These organizations by giving their *landsmanshaften* the opportunity to rebuild their ruined native towns, would also make a substantial contribution at the same time in the consolidation of such new communities as have been created as a consequence of the present war and many of which are bound to remain as new Jewish settlements.

The contribution of our organization in recent years to the Joint Distribution Committee, to the various "charity" institutions, to the sanitariums; the roles which our members play in the campaigns for the "United Jewish Appeal," in the Community Chest campaign, as well as in war-relief projects, such as the Red Cross, the USO and the National War Fund as a whole—all that has brought our organization into the closest contact with the most important representatives of Jewish life. They have all recognized our organization to be a constructive force, a constructive aid-agency in Jewish life. We can, therefore, say that despite the disruptive forces in Jewish life, our unity is being established, and that the contribu-



In the classroom (I.W.O. Jewish School)

tion of the Jewish-American section of our organization, especially during the last four years, is being accurately appraised on the basis of its merits. In none of our actions have we shown a partisan approach. The most important representatives of Jewish life have, of their own accord, on various occasions, lauded our contribution to the creation of unity among our people.

We wish to express our gratitude to Judge Anna Kross for leading our delegation to the American Jewish Conference

and eloquently appealing to the Conference, in the cause of Unity, for our admittance to its deliberations.

We shall continue this sacred work, which we have begun, with ever greater devotion. All our branches, all our executive committees will root themselves even deeper in Jewish life, and become an integral part of that life, so as to aid in the solution of those difficult problems which confront American Jewry and the Jewish people throughout the world.

The Jews and Their Habitat

Statistical Data on the Jewish Population in the Separate Countries