



(Above) The scientific approach makes the soil yield its fruit.
(Below) Young refugees from Poland on their arrival in the homeland.



AN HISTORIC OPPORTUNITY

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PHYSICALLY and spiritually the lights are being re-kindled. The lights have gone on again in the hearts of those who were prisoners of Fascism and in the hearts of those who only a short time ago were being mercilessly pounded by the Nazi war machine which is now happily on the defensive as a result of the growing striking power of Allied arms.

And while the lights are being turned up again, what is happening to our people behind the walls of "Fortress Europe"? Are we to see the demoniacal desperation of the Nazi war lords, faced with sure defeat, converted into a final, blood-thirsty act of vengeance against every last Jew in their clutches? Liberation has come to thousands. But death still threatens millions.

The statements and declarations which have been made by the United Nations and by President Roosevelt, Prime Minister Churchill and Marshal Stalin, warning that the perpetrators of atrocities and the instigators of massacre and murder would be brought to justice, have not yet brought about a cessation of those horrible crimes against the Jewish people. Perhaps the repeated and vigorous warnings of retribution may prevent the ghastly bloodbath.

Such declarations are vital and important for the survival of the conquered peoples in the European death house. But they do not entirely answer the desperate need of this eleventh hour. Resolute steps to bring the guilty to justice may act as a deterrent to further devastation. But while that procedure may save Jews from death, it will not necessarily save them for life or for freedom, unless other declarations follow—declarations which will give them hope not only of escape, but of renewal, rehabilitation and revival.

BY THE official and unanimous character of the declarations of denunciation of atrocities, by the promise of full and severe punishment for the criminals, the world has formally recognized the injustices that have been heaped upon our people and other peoples whose lives have been trampled by the Nazi dreadnaught of pillage and torture.

It should follow logically therefore that some concrete and concerted measures be taken in the immediate future to rehabilitate the victims. Not only by the enormity of the injustice that has been practiced upon them, but by the great powers of constructive effort which they have demonstrated in Palestine, the Jews have earned the opportunity to extricate themselves from the morass of hate fury of a Europe reduced to rubble physically, pulverized into dust spiritually—a Europe in which the seeds of anti-Semitism have been planted too deep by the forces of Nazism to be completely uprooted for decades to come.

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founded with Keren Hayesod funds and another 37 assisted by it. Twenty-eight new villages were established during the war. The agricultural community has been able to adjust its production to the special needs of these times and to the war effort as a result of the creative force of the mixed farming system initiated by the Keren Hayesod.

Urban trade and industry, the natural sector of private initiative, have also been materially and considerably aided by the Keren Hayesod, either through straight grants or guarantees, by investments in key industries or in undertakings of national Jewish importance. Urban settlement was given powerful impetus by the General Mortgage Bank of Palestine founded with Keren Hayesod funds. The investments by the Keren Hayesod in urban settlement by the end of June, 1943, aggregated £1,000,000 or 8.2% of its outlay since 1921.

KEREN HAYESOD has also borne the burden of maintaining the public services of Palestine Jewry, such as education and health, during the initial period of the Fund's existence; and to the extent that the Jewish population is expanding, the responsibility for the upkeep of these services is being increasingly assumed by the local organized Jewish institutions. Palestine Jewry and its economic system have grown, progressed, been strengthened in spite of the many obstacles they have had to overcome. The Jewish population showed its strength by contributing out of its own resources substantial amounts for defense, war needs, and other present-day purposes. A striking demonstration of the Yishuv's powers and potential at this time may be gathered by contrasting its sound position today with the calamitous economic conditions of the last war in Palestine.

Two fundamental objectives were set when the Keren Hayesod was established 23 years ago: the centralization of national capital and the levying of a voluntary tax on the Jewish people for the construction of Eretz Israel. If anything has been definitely established without a scintilla of doubt during that epoch—marked by innumerable fluctuations and setbacks, yet inspired by the force of a dynamic idealism—it is that the advancement of the settlement

effort at the tempo required by the circumstances would not have been possible without the aid of a co-ordinated national capital.

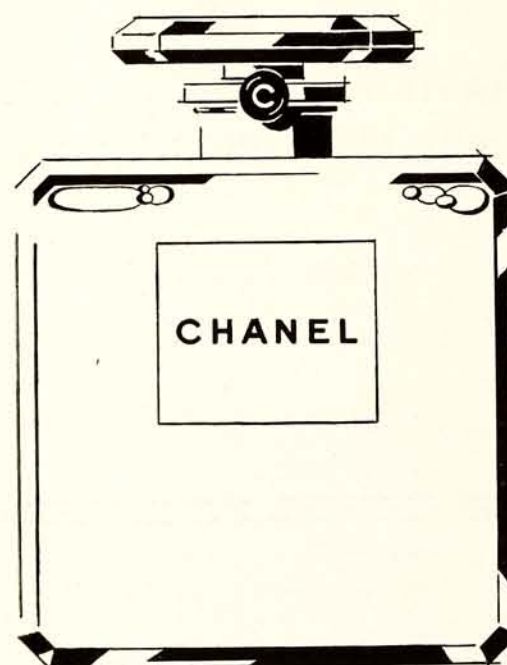
Many tasks confront the Keren Hayesod. We cannot escape the thought today, facing the awful tragedy of Israel, of how much more confidently we might have turned our eyes to the future had the Keren Hayesod come closer to the goal which it originally set itself. It is sufficient to pose this premise to recognize the compulsion lying upon us. Nothing can bar the road to our future if every one of us, and every one among the Jewish people, discharges his and her obligation in the fullest recognition of the tremendous and ineluctable responsibility which is our duty to Israel.

Historic Opportunity

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It is one of the principal objectives of the United Nations to erase from the memory of civilization the horrors which culminated in the present global war. It must be self-evident to the statesmen who are grappling with this task that if the Jewish problem is left unsolved, if tens and hundreds of thousands of men, women and children are permitted to live a twilight existence in the back alleys and ditches of the European continent, their plight will once again become the fertile ground for renewed attacks and disturbances.

AN HISTORIC opportunity lies before the United Nations not only to place millions of Jews on the road to salvation, but to employ their skill and their energy in the development of the Middle East. Instead of White Papers shutting the gates of Palestine to the homeless pleading for admission, the government of Great Britain should issue new pledges and new declarations of wider development for the Jewish homeland. That would indeed be in consonance with the spirit of the new world of freedom and equal opportunity. By their remarkable contributions to the war, the Jews of Palestine have eloquently demonstrated their capacity for the tasks of peace, for the job of reconstruction and economic, social and cultural development. The great and enduring structure of the Jewish National Home is a firm foundation for the greater and more resplendent structure of a Jewish Commonwealth. That Commonwealth can and will reflect the highest qualities of nationhood in the noblest traditions of Israel.



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