

Finally, I wish to add the following remarks:

- (a) The purpose of our escape from Auschwitz, and of our Report, was to warn the remainder of the Jewish population of Europe which still survived, particularly in Hungary, of their imminent fate. It was our belief that the widest possible publicity should be given to the Nazi policy of total annihilation, so that the earmarked victims would be alerted in time, and would then take all possible action to avoid the fate of the rest of European Jews, in particular by resisting the efforts of the Nazis to segregate, concentrate and to deport them. Our report was placed in the hands of Hungarian Judenrates in April, 1944. At that time we still had good reasons to believe that the Judenrates in Hungary were not yet aware of the true nature of the "resettlement" and of the existence and purpose of the Auschwitz-Birkenau complex.

Our warning, however, never reached the general Jewish population of Hungary. Instead, more than 400,000 of them passively boarded the trains, and more than 99% of them arrived in Auschwitz believing that their families are moved to "resettlement areas". As we well know, all these masses of people from Hungary died in Auschwitz in May and June, 1944. This was possible only because of the deliberate suppression of our Report by the Jewish Councils, in the interest of the so-called "negotiations" with the Nazis undertaken by the Jewish leaders in Hungary. By failing to inform the deportees in Hungary about the true objectives of "resettlement", these leaders bear a heavy burden for the subsequent tragedy, which in loss of human life was equivalent to that of at least three Hiroshimas. The post-war attempts to white-wash the activities of this group, as for example, in the book by A. Bliss, "A Million Jews to Save", has seriously distorted the history of these events, and attempted to give a varnish of respectability to what I call in my enclosed articles "Kastnerism". What is my understanding of this word, you might gather from my enclosed article, as published in Jewish Currents ("Footnote to Auschwitz Report"). Probably you can gather my attitude to this problem: the cornerstone of the Nazi annihilation policy consisted in keeping secret the true objectives of the "resettlement"; disinformation of victims (or withholding of vital information) was the cornerstone of the successful mass-murder, "negotiations" with Eichmann were only an alibiism, and a cover for treason and collaboration with Nazis, who spared the lives of some of the prominent Jews and at the same time swept hundreds of thousands others into the Auschwitz death factory.

- (b) My escape (and Wetzler's) from Auschwitz was planned and carried out without the help of any organization, especially not some legendary "Jewish resistance group" operating from Slovakia or from anywhere else. It appears to me that such a group was formed only recently in Jerusalem in order to improve not only the Jewish future, but also the Jewish past.