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Washington Calling By Marquis Childs

By MARQUIS CHILDS

WASHINGTON—The crimes of the Nazis were so revolting and on such a scale that they left a sense of shock and horror. We found it hard to believe that human beings could commit such acts.

But the human memory is short-lived. The horrors of Maidanek and Dachau are like an evil nightmare which we want to put out of mind.

One reason may be because our own consciences are troubled. On the face of such mass crimes, there is a kind of collective responsibility. All mankind stands at the bar of justice.

The death factories and the horror camps have been destroyed. The surviving victims are being built back to health. That was fairly easy.

It is proving less easy to combat the vicious poisons that generated these horrors. From all reports, anti-semitism is a political reality throughout Europe. Although the Nazis liquidated four million or five million Jews—no one knows the exact number—the survivors are finding their lot extremely difficult.

Partly, this grows out of the seeds of the propaganda that the Nazis sowed all over the world. If the atomic bomb leaves behind deadly radioactivity, as some scientists say it does, the propaganda of hate and fear, likewise, leaves behind deadly infections in men's minds. Partly, the reason for Europe's current anti-semitism is the old, familiar one—economic insecurity.

The Germans were diabolically clever. Their own gauleiters and torturers took the juicy prizes wrested from the Jews in occupied countries, such as the ownership of department stores and other properties. To natives of the occupied countries, however, they gave the small rewards: the little jobs, the small privileges and perquisites.

This last adds up to a sizeable total when you consider that seven



Childs

to eight million European Jews were pushed out of the economic order entirely. Five years have passed since that happened.

To try to make present job-holders, be they Czechs, French, Belgians, or whatever, step out in favor of the Jews who held those positions is all but impossible. Even new liberal governments with the best will in the world are coming up against that blank wall.

What about migrating out of Europe, then? Isn't that a solution for Europe's million and a half surviving Jews? Here's another blank wall.

Immigration and quota systems operate in every country in the world to keep out all but a trickle of Europe's unwanted. That was true before the war. It is even more true today. In 1938, at a refugee conference in Evian, France, representatives of the major powers met to try to find some haven for men and women persecuted for race, religion or political beliefs. In the course of that conference, the representative from Australia, a country nearly as large as the United States, with a population of 7,000,000, said this: "Gentlemen, we in Australia have no racial problem, thank God, and we do not intend to have one started."

That remark sums up the futility of the Evian conference. Nothing was done. Millions marched into the death factories.

The Zionists say that the only door left open is a Jewish state in Palestine. About a half million Jews have gone there to form what is a flourishing community. They make what seems to me a very strong case, given the state of world opinion today.

At this point, however, you come up against a controversy boiling just beneath the surface of world news. The Arabs in the Middle East want to keep out any more Jews. Their leaders say they will fight to keep them out.

The British apparently take this threat seriously. They just sent the regent of Iraq home on a battleship as he loudly denounced the plan for any influx of Jews into Palestine.

Palestine may not be the final answer. But the world must find an answer. Anti-Semitism, as we have learned to our immense sorrow, is a poison that destroys both the poisoner and the poisoned.