EVENTS IN BERLIN
November 10 - 14, 1938.

Immediately after the celebration "for the fallen members of the movement", the synagogues in the entire Reich were set on fire with fire-bombs during the night of November 9th to 10th. Simultaneously the fire brigades appeared to protect the adjacent buildings. The news spread like wildfire amongst the Jews, who at first could not grasp the extent thereof. They hurried to the synagogues and breathed a sigh of relief as they saw the fire engines from the distance. Patiently they waited for the fire brigade to do something, but soon they understood the awful truth - the fire brigade only looked on. One dared to ask, "Why don't they do something?" "We have no orders," replied a fireman. The Jew was immediately arrested by the Gestapo.

In some instances, the Jews begged for permission to rescue the Scrolls of the Law from the fire, but all who came near and showed their interest in this, were arrested. "The Scrolls of the Law should be destroyed," said softly a policeman, "It is ordered." With great din the cupola of the new "Prinz Regent" synagogue fell and the fire in the Friedenstempel in the Posenstraße raged on for a long time.

Meanwhile the storm troopers sent to all Jewish stores, smashing the windows. This "work" was carried out by young boys from 16 to 19 years of age. There was no difficulty in choosing the Jewish shops, as these, by police regulation, are all marked with uniform large letters and inscriptions. The organisation of the pogrom was model. After this preliminary work, groups of adults of six men, - S.A. and S.S. troops in civilian clothes, - came along and walked in through the open windows, plundering the shops. They kicked over all the shelves and cupboards, and with crow-bars demolished everything. The population looked on silently in disapproval, but seldom did anyone dare to object aloud. The S.A. and S.S. men in civilian clothes threatened any who criticised with such cries, "You probably want to protect these Jew-dogs, eh?" In fear the people remained quiet.

While the plundering and robbing was going on in the businesses in the West End, the young troopers broke into the apartments in the North and Eastern part of the city, rescuing the valuable objects and demolishing the rest.

I happened to be in a small vegetable store in the center of the city toward noon as the son of the proprietor, (a woman) came in bringing a huge package of boxes. As he turned to go with a large stick in his hand, the woman said to him, "Why do you do this, my son? What if the police sees you?" To which the boy replied, "But what then, what then? I have a slip giving me permission."

Toward four o'clock in the afternoon, the newspapers appeared with an order from Goebbels to cease the plundering. This gave many the courage to approach the plunderers and to call the order to their attention. A man next to me, at 8 in the evening, as the plunderers were carrying things out
of a Jewish restaurant in the Joachimstalerstrasse, shouted, "Stop! Goebbels has ordered this to cease." But a man with a crow-bar, irritatedly replied, "I have the order from the President of the police, and will show you at once." The first man disappeared after this, and the plundering continued until all Jewish shops without exception had been destroyed.

Meanwhile, the Jewish organisations were demolished, locked, and the leaders arrested. The documents, particularly certificates and emigration papers, were confiscated or destroyed. Their funds were also confiscated. The Jewish Museum was expropriated, the director, Professor Landsberger, was arrested. The offices and rooms of the Gemeinde were sealed by the Gestapo.

The following day, the owners of the Jewish businesses were ordered by the policy to board up their shops by 11 A.M. and to clear up all the disorder caused by their own fault. After this, the owners were "advised" to speed up the "Aryanisation" of their businesses. On the boardings signs appeared, saying, "In the process of Aryanisation." The businesses were transferred at ridiculous prices. Behind the boarded-up windows people sat, broken, - people who yet a day before had hoped for a better future elsewhere, who were busy with emigration plans, and who hoped to sell their businesses in a normal way. And now they were being arrested according to a well-organised plan. Doctors, dentists, lawyers, professionals, important businessmen, artists - everyone well known and respected among German Jewry. After that the Stateless Jews (former Russians) were all arrested. On the third day, i.e., November 14th, the number of persons arrested amounted to more than a hundred thousand. If the people wanted were not at home, two officials waited until these unsuspecting persons came back. This is what is called "The Traps for the Jews". Special attention was given to the rich Jews. The proprietors of houses were "instructed" to go to the lawyer with the officials and to declare in front of him their "voluntary" transfer to the State of their property. Even the sick in the hospitals were not exempted. The people who were very ill died after their arrest. The people who were very ill died after their arrest. These arrests were taken in large numbers to the concentration camps - in the meantime these arrests still continue at the same rate. The frightened people, who had lost all their possessions, tried to save themselves and hoped to find shelter with their Aryan friends. But those who helped the Jews were punished by being arrested and now the people are roaming through the streets or in the environs in the fog. The hunt for the Jews, which is similar to that of chasing the fox, is a special pleasure for the pleasure hunting SS and S.S. troops. I have spoken to some of the despairing people. If no help comes from outside, then they would prefer to take their lives rather than fall in the hands of the Gestapo.

On the 15th of November arrests are still continuing with undiminished violence. This is intended to be a pressure on the payment of a billion marks.
under present conditions, is of no value in Franconia. They are glad to help their brethren to liquidate their holdings and to arrange emigration. I have visited several law offices. I found in each of them 50 to 100 Jewish clients lined up.

In many cities the private bank accounts of Jews are altogether blocked; in others they can draw 100 marks per week only.

Last week a new law has been decreed forbidding Jews to dispose of any of their property. Until further notice they are not allowed to sell even a broken chair.

Since the pogrom Jews are forbidden by law to sell stocks or bonds, even for the purpose of meeting their share of the billion mark levy. This was decreed apparently to avoid a panic and a depression on the Stock Exchange.

In Nuremberg and in other cities in Franconia, police stations and Government offices have separate waiting rooms for Jews. No Jew can go into the Aryan waiting room under heavy penalty. In Nuremberg the Jewish waiting room is in the Cellar and Jewish men and women are given instructions that they must get up from their benches every time an Aryan official enters the waiting room and they must remain standing until such official gives them permission to sit down. If they do not obey these orders they are beaten up.

The Jewish leaders I have had occasion to interview have not lost their heads, but the population is terror-stricken. So, for instance, are they awaiting with the greatest anxiety and fear the trial of Grunspan in Paris. They are afraid of a repetition of the pogroms in case Grunspan receives a favorable verdict.

Many files, documents and deeds in Jewish lawyers', notaries' and architects' offices were destroyed during the pogrom or taken away by the Nazi S. S. Now that the expropriation of Jewish property and stores is being pushed by the Nails, these lawyers, notaries, etc., are called upon to supply the documents, which in many cases they cannot do for the above mentioned reasons. If they are unable to produce the deeds to Government agents, they are accused of obstructing the Aryanization of Jewish stores, banks, etc., and are threatened to be thrown into concentration camps.

In smaller towns and even cities like Nuremberg with a population of 400,000, all shopkeepers were forced to put up signs "Jews not wanted here", and so the Jews cannot buy food, can get no haircuts and cannot even take a taxi.

One of my Jewish friends had to go to Berlin to arrange some legal matters. He was afraid to take a regular compartment on a day train, so he decided to take a sleeper, but in order not to be molested or insulted by an Aryan travelling companion (sleeping compartments have 2 berths) he bought tickets for both berths and since he had paid for the two berths, he had the happy idea to take along his wife, so she could get a haircut in Berlin.

While in Nuremberg, I intended to intervene with the authorities in the case of the Rabbi, Dr. Heilbronner, who is in a concentration camp. Before doing so I sought the advice of the Jewish leaders there. They are so terrorized that they thought I was out of my mind. They pleaded with me not to approach the Gestapo, because it might do them harm, if a foreigner, be
it Jew or non-Jew, would dare to aid Jews. I personally do not think any harm would result either for me or for them from my visit to the Gestapo, but seeing the frightened faces of my Jewish friends, I desisted from my intention and Dr. Heilbronner is still in the concentration camp. I was told he is a sick man and will not stand the rigid regime there.

IV. Further

At one o’clock during the night of November 9th to 10th, the whole Jewish population, men, women and even small children, were turned out from their houses and assembled in a large public place. All these people had to stand there until seven o’clock in the morning and then were taken to the Berolzheimer Hall, donated by the well-known family now living in the States. This hall is now occupied by the Hitler Jugend. Once there, women and children were allowed to go home and during the day the same permission was given to men over 60 as well as to former officers and to those who were severely wounded during the war. The few people who were able to produce documents showing they were about to leave the country within the next few days were liberated too. About 150 men out of a population of 1,000 Jews were sent either to prison or to concentration camps - 50 to Nuremberg and the rest to Dachau. The synagogue was burned down. At the Berolzheimer Hall several people were beaten up in the presence of others.

I could speak personally to people coming back from the concentration camps. They are able to buy their own food. Money and letters are allowed, thus, notwithstanding the prison food which is not good, they manage to get along fairly well. The head of every Jew entering the concentration camp is naturally shaved and he is put into prison garb, and as the days are rather cool they have difficulty in keeping warm.

The Jews who had been lying in the hospital were forced to get up, several even after serious operations. They had to stay in the open until the Nazis came in search of weapons as they claimed. One man whose name was Leach and who had been operated on a few days before, died from heart failure caused by fear.

In the meantime, people came arriving from Nuremberg and the outlying districts to the Fiurth Hospital. There were so many that they had to be laid on the floor, although the doctors and nurses gave their own beds away. This place which was built for 60 sick people is crowded with over 200, who are lying even in the basement like sheep. Two doctors only are left to take care of the hospital. All the Aryan nurses were forced to leave and the sick people now depend on two Jewish nurses and on volunteers among the Jewish women, who help these two nurses. One of the doctors was beaten up so badly that he can hardly walk and work.

It goes without saying that the few Jewish stores left were all demolished and all the merchandise destroyed or carried away by the Nazis. The Aryans are strictly forbidden to sell anything to the Jews, even to the hospital. The Jewish families depend on the generosity of their Aryan friends, who expose themselves to danger in order to supply them with what is necessary.

V. Frankfurt-an-Main

In this city the Nazis acted the same way as in other cities. All synagogues were burned down. People were taken from their homes and the houses destroyed. Another proof that this pogrom was organized in advance is
the fact that a home for aged people and children, still owned by Baron de Rothschild of London, was not touched, because it is foreign property and as such the Nazis would be liable for damages.

Children from an orphanage were chased out of bed. All were lined up and ordered to lie down on the ground in their nightshirts; then the S. S. whipped them; then they were ordered to stand up, lie down again, beaten again, told to stand up and this was repeated many times.

There are children in the concentration camps, but they are being released gradually after having spent 8 days there and even longer.

Children in homes are underfed, partly because of lack of food and partly because they refuse to eat non-kosher meat. They are kept in corners of destroyed orphanages with no roof over their heads. Many were beaten during the disorders and there is a look of fear and despair in their eyes, which I am afraid will remain with them for a long time, if not for life.

Valuable paintings and collections worth hundreds of thousands of dollars were destroyed by the vandals.

Nazi's obliged storekeepers to affix signs "Jews forbidden". In the case of Frankfurt, the Mayor ordered the removal of such signs in order to permit the Jews to buy food, fearing an epidemic.

Twenty-five children for England had to be prepared from Saturday till Monday. The trouble is lack of transportation. The only car was taken away by the Hitler Jugend.

VI. Wiesbaden

Torahs were spread on the streets and autos driven over them. Then the Jews were forced to clean them away from the streets and throw them in a bonfire.

VII. Krefeld

Synagogues were burned down. Jewish men and women were forced to clear up the debris and to clean the building stones and bricks in order to save "German wealth". The Nazis want to build new houses with this material.

VIII. Nazi on Natality

When travelling through Germany I was struck by the absence of small children and babies. Upon investigation I found out that very few Jewish children have been born since the Hitler regime. It is worth while mentioning that the present Jewish population in Germany shows a large percentage of old people. Whereas there are about 35% of old people over 60 years of age, and another 25% over 45 years, there are only 15% children between 6 and 18 years and very few babies.

IX. Conclusion

In my travels I have been to various cities and spoke everywhere with the Jewish leaders. All the organizations which have for their aim the emigration of the German Jews are handicapped by lack of funds and the closing of the Reichsvertretung. They are out of touch with each other and cannot carry on the work of emigration efficiently. They all hope that the Reichsvertretung will be permitted to open in the very near future and that then emigration will go forward more rapidly, provided naturally that other countries open their doors to receive the Jews coming from Germany.

Emigration is the one hope of escape.

Paris, December 1, 1938