

Information received had made it clear that the Nazis had pursued a rigorous and brutal campaign against the Jews. The true facts were only known in Germany, but it seemed clear that prosecution had been intensified in Germany and German-occupied territories since last spring. This was evident in the mass deportations, the raiding of ghettos, and the evidence of mass executions. According to one unofficial estimate, of the six and a half million Jews formerly resident in Germany and in what are now German-occupied territories, fewer than two-thirds still survive. The remaining Jews had been used as slave labour, while those with special skills were used in German war industry. The Polish Government in London had taken up the cudgels on behalf of Polish citizens of Jewish race. The first essential step was to defeat Germany and thus liberate the Jews of Europe from Nazi control. The Allied authorities had been reluctant at first to issue a declaration of this sort for fear of worsening the position of the European Jews. The developments of the last few months, however, had made the declaration, with which Canada had associated itself, necessary.

3. punishment of German war criminals:

Mr. Blackburn raised the question whether Canada was associating itself with the contemplated measures aimed at the prosecution of German war criminals. Off-the-record, Mr. Wrong said that in his personal view he was dubious of the effectiveness of such proposals at the present time. The proposals were chiefly inspired by the European Governments in exile in London who had to think of their home populations.

4. Shackling of Prisoners of War:

Mr. Blackburn drew attention to the Reuters press cable of December 16 stating that the German Government had sent a formal reply to the appeal of the Swiss Government. In strict confidence, Mr. Wrong indicated that the Germans had answered the Swiss appeal to the effect that they would be glad to cease the shackling British and Canadian prisoners as soon as the British Government issued an order prohibiting the tying up of prisoners