

may be allowed to live and eventually find some permanent home. I say, sir, that that act is implicit in our acceptance of this charter; it is an act of human decency, an act of humanitarianism.

There is one other group about whom I should like to speak briefly, the Sudeten Germans. There were in Czechoslovakia some three to three and a half millions of these people. For seven centuries they had lived there on the borders of Czechoslovakia and Germany. They were the very backbone of the opposition to Henlein. The Sudeten Germans fought with great courage against the onslaught of fascism. But let us remember that there were collaborationists among them; there were fascists among them; there were those who welcomed the entry of Hitler. But let us also remember this before we condemn too freely. I am bound to say that had Hitler landed in Canada, had fascism invaded this country, we, too, would have seen who the collaborators were and who were the supporters of fascism, and we would have been appalled by what we would have seen. We perhaps are not guiltless. Therefore, let us look upon the situation of the Sudetens with a generous eye. These people fought against fascism, and now all of them are to be expelled from Czechoslovakia. Where are they expected to go? Who are these people who are to be expelled? May I quote here the words of one of His Majesty's ministers at Westminster, Mr. Noel Baker, who in 1938, before the shame of Munich, was sent over on behalf of the British Labour party to meet the Sudetens, to talk with them, and he did so. He gave them whatever encouragement he could in the face of that bitter betrayal. Later he made a broadcast in England on July 3, 1940, and this is what he had to say about those Germans and about the meetings he attended:

They were Germans, these party comrades, Germans by language and tradition and race, but Germans who were loyal to the Czech republic; Germans who hated the cruel Prussian militarism which Hitler had revived; Germans who believed in democracy and freedom; Germans who were prepared to die for freedom, Germans who day by day, and hour by hour, had to face the bestial terror which Hitler and the nazis had organized against them. I can still hear the deep fierce cheers resounding through the hall when Jaksch declared they would rather fight and die for liberty than yield.

And I remember how President Benes, in his lovely palace on the hill at Prague, told me that these German social democrats were nothing less than heroes; that they had shown us all what resolution, what nobility of mind, the fight for human freedom could evoke.

And now, with the hysteria which seems to be possessing so many parts of Europe, the

[Mr. Stewart.]

innocent and the guilty alike are being punished. Just the other day, September 6, the prime minister of Czechoslovakia, Doctor Fierlinger, at a press conference in London recognized only two categories of Germans still remaining in the country, those whose behaviour justified their internment in concentration camps, and less noxious ones. There, Mr. Speaker, in front of our eyes is the tragedy of a people. There is a people to whose assistance I think we could come. Whatever moral assistance we can give under the terms of this charter we must give. And they do not ask for much; they merely ask that the policy of deliberate starvation be abandoned; they ask that forced labour without pay be stopped; they ask that a minimum of human rights be observed, and they ask that UNRRA feed them and clothe them and assist them until they can be settled.

There is one further group of whom I must speak. I have already in this house, and only recently my colleague the hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre (Mr. Knowles) brought again to the attention of the House of Commons the tragic plight of the Jewish people in Europe. Even now, when fascism is beaten, they still suffer and languish in concentration camps. Even now, while I speak, innocent people are dying because nobody will stretch out a hand to rescue them. So long as we carry on in this inhuman and heartless way, so long as those days and months go by without help, then our own hands must become even more encrusted with the blood of the innocent and the guiltless.

The Jewish people were the first to suffer under fascism. What a tragic requiem indeed for them to be the last to suffer under the allies; what an epitaph that would be and what a shame to us! Let us remember that they were never attacked, they were never persecuted as citizens of Poland, or Germany or Roumania; they were persecuted as Jews. If they are to be persecuted as Jews, then I say they must be rescued as Jews; and what place of rescue is there to-day in this most Christian world? Is there a Christian nation which would stretch out its hand to save them? Not even this Christian country. Therefore, there is only one source of aid, and that is Palestine. We have been told that the Arabs will object, perhaps even to the length of going to war. I think we should view those objections with some suspicion, especially the quarters from which they emanate; they come from kings and princes and effendis who throughout all the years have been our active enemies as well as the active enemies of the people over whom they rule.