

Last Call for a Jewish Army

AN APPEAL TO "AUFBAU" BY PIERRE VAN PAASSEN

The serious position of the Allies in Libya and the resultant grave threat to the whole Middle East are being stressed weekly by your paper. It is only too sure that the United Nations may yet suffer their heaviest defeat if the Axis succeeds in breaking through this Allied life-line. Military developments underscore more than ever the need for summoning forth every ounce of strength available in this area. Yet in the face of this eleventh-hour warning that the whole Middle Eastern Front may collapse as tragically as the front in the Far East, the British Government still refuses to establish a Jewish army of Palestinian and stateless Jews—an army of 200,000 men who, because of their hatred for Nazism and their love for their homeland in Palestine could play a signal part in stemming the Axis' drive towards Suez. Only seventy-five miles from the Egyptian border these Jewish boys, roaring to go, are waiting empty-handed, unarmed, only because a shortsighted policy—a policy responsible for the defeats of Singapore, Burma, Malaya and Java—refuses to sanction a Jewish military force. That Jewish Army, which can be made a reality almost overnight, that army which could turn defeat into victory, is not called into life because of the stupid political (not military) policy of the British Colonial Office. Not to allow the Jews in Palestine and the Middle East to fight under the Jewish banner against the common enemy of Mankind is to betray the very principles for which this war is being waged. It robs the Atlantic Charter of any and all significance. It also means risking the loss of one of the key positions of the United Nations merely because some groups refuse to translate this Roosevelt-Churchill Charter into reality.

We appeal to you as a moulder of American Public Opinion which exercises so irresistible an influence in England also—we appeal to you to help us in our efforts to establish a Jewish army.

PIERRE VAN PAASSEN

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