

He reassured the American Jews on his visit to the U.S.A. 20 years ago, about their hopes in Palestine, telling them that as, in the past, their small people, inhabiting a small homeland, had made a contribution to the cause of humanity such as no other nation," so in the future, too, they might "evolve there a system . . . of benefit to mankind."

For this Palestine was theirs again to go to if they wished. "One of the greatest vows in history had proclaimed it, and Britain's hand endorsed it."

PASSFIELD WHITE PAPER
Nine months, however, were not past when he was cabling from

South Africa to the British government concerning "our present Palestine policy which marks retreat from Balfour declaration. Declaration was definite promise to Jewish world that Policy of National Home was intended to rally powerful Jewish influence for Allied cause at darkest hour of war. As such it was approved by governments of the United States and other Allies and accepted in good faith by British government. It represents debt of honor which must be discharged in full at all costs. Circumstances of original declaration were far too solemn to permit of any wavering

now.
"I would most solemnly urge government statement should be issued that terms of Balfour declaration will be fully carried out in good faith, and government's Palestine policy be recast accordingly." The MacDonald Letter, reaffirming the validity of the Balfour declaration, was the result.

And he was not yet home from his American visit, says Mrs. Millin, when he had to protest with still greater indignation against the retreat from a course to which he had no less strongly pledged himself. For the news he had on board ship was that not only the Nationalists but practically the whole of his own party had, during his absence, voted for the second reading of a Quota bill designed almost entirely to restrain Eastern Europeans (in effect, Jews) from further immigration to South Africa.

"He sent urgent cables and arrived home to fight the third reading—long-handed and unavailing, except that, as he says, he saved the women and children" through his intercession provision was made for women and children overseas to join their husbands and fathers in South Africa.

"Four years later, when the Nazi feeling about Jews spread to other countries; and in the Union and South-West there was much Nazi propaganda (shirts, swastikas, youth

groups, attacks on Jews, 'Dear Friends in Africa' on the radio) because Germany wanted South-West Africa again; Smuts persisted in de-

fending the Jews and in his Rectorial address at St. Andrews made freedom his pointed theme; the United police had information that Smuts

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was not safe . . ."

RECOGNITION OF ISRAEL
It is how Smuts felt about the State of Israel.

Is it any wonder then, that on occasion for great rejoicing? he said that the success of the cause had been the one highlight in an era of tragedy and failure. General Smuts went on to say: "It is the most astonishing thing that has happened in our time. The triumph of one people against the greatest odds and in the most adverse circumstances, remains to me a mystery. It is the most astonishing thing that has happened in our time. The triumph of one people against the greatest odds and in the most adverse circumstances, remains to me a mystery. It is the most astonishing thing that has happened in our time. The triumph of one people against the greatest odds and in the most adverse circumstances, remains to me a mystery."

"I do not attempt to justify the times that were committed, but there is no doubt that the complex situation then contributed to the best result we have today."

"I am proud of the fact that the last important act while I was prime minister was the recognition of the State of Israel."

DENOUNCED ANTI-SEMITISM
South African Jewry's association with General Smuts has always been of the happiest, and when one looks back on this cordial relationship, one of the highlights is surely the sincere and loving address from General Smuts to South African Jews during the war—to be precise, on August 2, 1942. He said:

"Anti-Semitism is the manifestation of a canker which eats into the very heart of Christianity—a canker which must be eradicated, both in justice to the Jew and in protection of the very basis of Western civilization. I therefore believe that a stable post-war structure must provide for freedom and equality for the Jews also, and the implementation of the promise of a Jewish national home."

"The Jews were the first victims of that brutal and barbarous regime which had trampled upon so many of

the cherished principles of Western civilization. Indeed, they had been one of the chief targets of Nazism in its reckless career of nihilism, and their sufferings had been beyond description."

"The sorrows of the Jews have now been merged in the greater sorrows of mankind and I believe that in the liberation which will follow, the meaning of their sacrifice would be understood."

"It is an anxious time, and not least for Jewry. Many grave questions called urgently for consideration. There was suffering and sorrow on an unhealed-of scale, affecting thousands of homes and individuals. Help was urgently needed, and on a scale far above that called for in normal times."

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lems against the wider background of world events, and mindful of your responsibilities as South African citizens, I am sure your congress will give thought to the manner in

which the Jewish community in this country may play a yet greater part in our war effort.
"For although South African Jewry has made a contribution

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