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A REGRETTABLE EVENT (THE RECEPTION FOR MENACHEM BEGIN)

Anyone, no matter how perfunctorily acquainted with the terrorist activities in Palestine, supposedly knew who Menachem Begin was. If he did not, he could quite easily obtain all the necessary information before permitting his name to be used in connection with festivities in honor of Menachem Begin. Let us recall but a few of Begin's notorious activities.

Menachem Begin is the chieftain of Irgun Zvai Leumi, the fascist Jewish terrorist organization in Palestine responsible for many atrocities and murders committed before the establishment of the State of Israel on May 15, 1948. After the establishment of the Jewish State, he and his organization brought to the shores of Palestine an illegal transport of arms in defiance of the truce promoted by Count Bernadotte and agreed upon by Jews and Arabs alike. When the Israeli Government tried to prevent the unloading of these arms from the ship "Altalene", Menachem Begin's followers put up a bloody fight which cost several score Jewish lives. Menachem Begin is responsible for the demolition of the King David Hotel in Jerusalem and the casualties caused by this terrorist act. Menachem Begin is the "hero" who kidnapped and garroted two British sergeants and booby-trapped their bodies. He and his gang massacred the entire population of the Arab village Deir Yassin, includ-

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ing women and children, and he has the affrontery to boast openly about these gory deeds. He despises democracy and all it stands for, and quite frankly voices his adherence to the gospel of rule by force. He does not give a hoot for all the decisions of the United Nations about the future of Palestine if they happen to be against his goal — to expand Jewish nationhood all over Palestine and Trans Jordan by *all* means — not excluding a war — and expelling millions of Arabs from their centuries-old homesteads. He is as blind to the rights and sentiments of other people as Hitler was in Germany or Mussolini in Italy. He hates Britain just as the bosses of the Kremlin do. In short, he is a fascist, though, of course, a Jewish-made fascist.

With such a well-established reputation Menachem

Begin came to the hospitable shores of these United States, and nobody knows exactly for what purpose. Perhaps to raise money to expand his gang's activities, or, maybe, only to endeavor to increase his vote-catching ability during the next election in the State of Israel in January 1949, by cashing in on the sentiments of the Jewish community in the United States. Be it as it may, the reception he received in New York City was a remarkable event. He was greeted by the Jewish press (with but few exceptions) as an intrepid warrior for freedom and liberty, as a hero who had led his nation in a courageous fight against foreign tyrants. His fascist and terrorist deeds were extolled as glorious achievements. Those leaders of the Jewish community in the United States who were so proud of Menachem Begin and who gave him such a warm reception manifested in this way their real attitude toward the record of his terrorist gang. One might resent the fact, but

one must not close one's eyes and refuse to face the realities of our present Jewish life.

However, there was another element in the reception given to Mr. Menachem Begin, even more disturbing and discomfoting. It was the participation of Mayor O'Dwyer at the official reception in City Hall and the names of many prominent United States Congressmen and Senators on the list of the reception committee to honor Mr. Menachem Begin. This participation of official leaders of American democracy in honoring a leader of a former Jewish fascist organization is indicative. It was indeed a pathetic spectacle to watch representatives of American democracy showering honors upon a Jewish fascist. Fascism remains fascism even if it is of Jewish origin. The reception given Menachem Begin at his arrival in the United States had nothing to do with the real cause of the Jewish people. It was a regrettable event.