

The World Jewish Congress Collection

Series A: Central Files, 1919-1975

Subseries 1: Organizational History and Activities, 1919-1970

Box

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World Jewish Congress, reports, (English,
German, Spanish) 1944-1945

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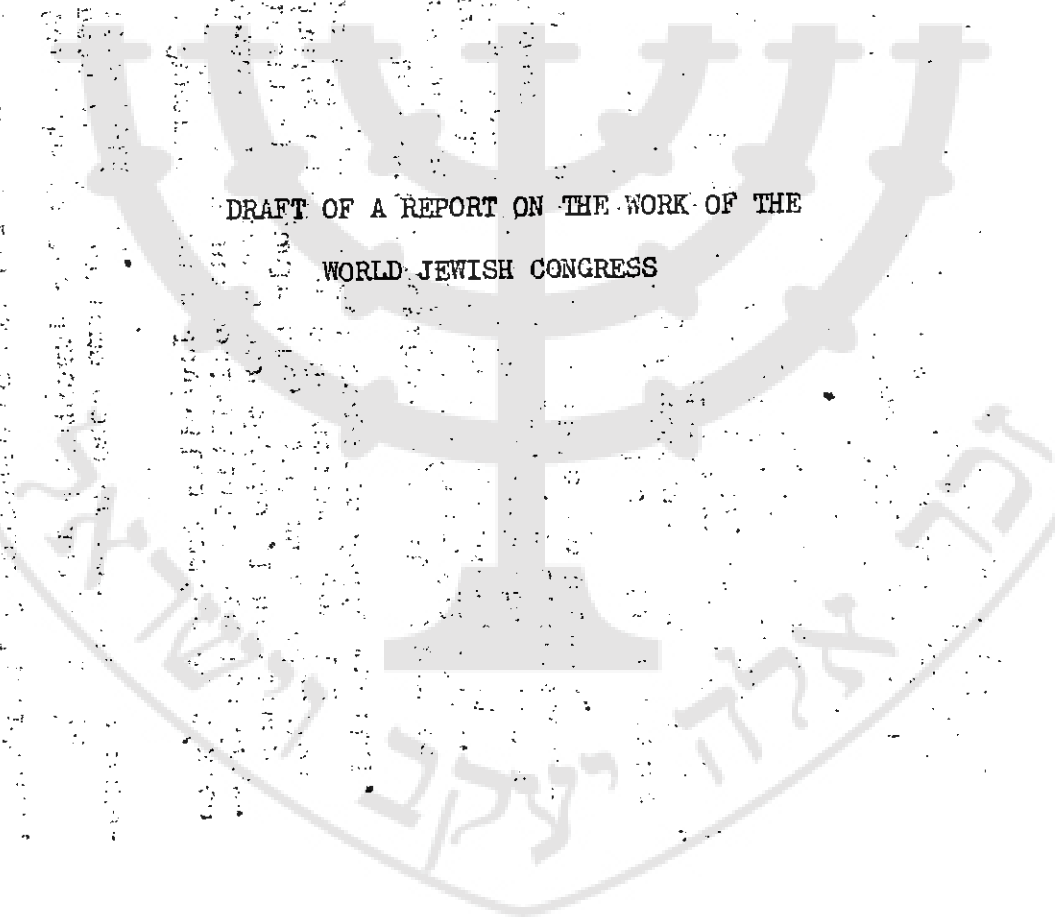




AMERICAN JEWISH ARCHIVES



DRAFT OF A REPORT ON THE WORK OF THE
WORLD JEWISH CONGRESS



Ordinarily, eight years after the creation of an organization there is no need to review the history of its founding. Such is however not the case with the World Jewish Congress. Very few people know that with the capitulation of France and the flight from Paris, where the main office was, its archives - consisting of address lists, filing cards and voluminous correspondence with almost all the countries of the world - had to be destroyed, for purposes of security. A few weeks before, a number of large cases containing the more important documents had been sent to Bordeaux for eventual shipment to the American Jewish Congress in New York, but, unfortunately, transportation then in Paris was so disrupted that, despite the timely foresight which had dictated this measure, the cases reached Bordeaux too late to be shipped and they too had to be burned by Congress friends who feared they might fall into the enemy's hands. The Paris archives existed in duplicate in Geneva and it was therefore hoped by the Congress people in France that with the burning of the documents in Paris and Bordeaux not all traces of the historical wealth and rare items was doomed to total destruction. However, by June 1940 the Germans were only a few kilometers away from Geneva and again it was feared that alien hands would seize the Congress material. Again, the friends of the Congress saw valuable documents going up in flames lit by their own hands. A few weeks before that when Holland and Belgium were invaded, the most important address lists and files had been sent from Geneva to the American Jewish Congress in New York. All important memoranda, minutes of meetings, resolutions, reports, etc. had been transferred to New York as a part of the regular routine of the Paris office; so that when, in 1940, the World Jewish Congress was transferred to New York, there was a nucleus with which to begin the work in the Western Hemisphere.

The following is not in any way to be regarded as a report on the work of the Congress - but merely as an attempt to give a picture

of its organizational structure.

Early in 1932, when the evil breath of Hitlerism first began to fan central Europe, Jewish leaders of vision saw the need for a World Jewish body which would concern itself with the problems of our people.

Nahum

In May of that year, Dr. Goldmann visited the U. S. and after conferring with Dr. Stephen S. Wise, returned to Europe with the idea of calling the first conference of the promulgated world Jewish body. From September 1932 until April 1933 the Executive Committee for the World Jewish Congress had its headquarters in Berlin, but after Hitler's rise to power, was transferred to Geneva. After the death of Leo Motzkin, Head of the Committee of Jewish Delegations, in November 1933, Dr. Goldmann was elected Chairman of the Committee of Jewish Delegations, and in 1934 the office of the Committee, which was in Paris, was designated as the headquarters of the Executive Committee for the World Jewish Congress.

The London office was established early in 1935 under Dr. Maurice L. Perlzweig and a conference of Jewish organizations was convened July 1936; the American Jewish Congress served as the U. S. branch for the preparatory work for the World Jewish Congress.

Before the Congress was definitely established there were three pre-Conferences:

- 1) August 5th to 8th 1932 in Geneva with 120 delegates
- 2) 1933 September 5th to 8th, Geneva with 52 delegates
- 3) 1934 August 20-23, Geneva with 78 delegates

These pre-Conferences resulted in the unanimously adopted resolution to call a democratically-elected World Jewish Congress. Up to this

time, there was the Executive Committee in charge of the activities and preparation of the first Congress. The members of the Executive Committee of the World Jewish Congress and of the Committee of Jewish Delegations were the following: Dr. Stephen S. Wise, Dr. Nahum Goldmann, Dr. J. Hellmann, Mr. J. Lestschinsky, Mr. Isaac Naiditch, Dr. M. Nureck, Mr. A. Reiss, Dr. Henryk Rosmarin, Rabbi Isaac Rubinstein, Dr. A. Silberschein, Dr. A. Tartakower.

Finally, from August 8-15, 1936, the first World Jewish Congress took place in the Batiment Electoral, the hall where the League of Nations assembled before the erection of the new League of Nations Building. 272 delegates from 33 countries participated in the first World Jewish Congress: Algeria, Argentina, Austria, Belgium, Brazil, Bulgaria, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Czechoslovakia, Danzig, Egypt, England, Estonia, Finland, France, French Protectorates and Colonies, Greece, Italy, Jugoslavia, Latvia, Libya, Lithuania, Morocco, Palestine, Peru, Poland, Portugal, Rumania, Spain, Switzerland, Tunisia, and the United States. The list of names of the delegates to the first World Jewish Congress is attached. After eight days of deliberation an Executive Committee, an Administrative Committee and a Council of the World Jewish Congress with the late Judge Julian W. Mack as Honorary President, was elected. Dr. Stephen S. Wise was elected Chairman of the Executive Committee of which the other members were Robert Bollack, Marc Jarblum, Israel Jefroykin, Dr. A. L. Kubewitski, Isaac Naiditch, Dr. M. Nureck, Rev. M. L. Perlsweig. Since the World Jewish Congress headquarters were to be in Paris, the members of the Executive Committee were chosen according to their propinquity to Paris.

The following were elected to the Administrative Committee of the Congress: Rabbi I. Alcalay, Dr. H. Baron, Ben Zvi, Rabbi Meier Berlin

M. Bialepolski, Dr. A. Blum, Rabbi S. Brod, Horia Carp, Dr. Meyer Ebner, Rabbi M. Eisendrath, Isidore Epstein, Dr. Joseph Fischer, Dr. A. Garfunkel, Leon Gellman, Abraham Goldberg, Dr. Angelo Goldstein, Dr. H. Gottlieb, I. Grunbaum, Dr. I. Hellmann, Dr. R. Howeche, Dr. M. Kleinbaum, Dr. M. Kramer, M. Kirschenbaum, Dr. S. Z. Kahane, Prof. Horace M. Kallen, W. Latsky-Bertoldi, Jacob Lestschinsky, Berl Locker, Dr. S. Margoshee, Prof. Jerome Michael, Dr. B. Mossinson, Nathan Perlman, E. N. Prylucki, Ing. A. Reize, Dr. H. Rosmarin, Rabbi I. Rubinstein, Dr. I. Schipper, Dr. I. Schwarzbart, Dr. A. Silberschein, Max Silverstein, Joseph Rafael Szeressowski, M. Szczupakiewicz, Dr. H. Sokal, Dr. Emil Sommerstein, Ing. R. Stricker, Dr. A. Tartakower, Dr. J. Tenenbaum, M. Ussishkin, David Wertheim, Dr. Grigory Wolff. One place each was reserved for representatives of the Union of Jewish Communities of Italy and Switzerland respectively; and two seats were set aside for representatives of the South American countries.

Dr. Goldmann, Chairman of the Administrative Committee, was head of the World Jewish Congress in Europe and divided his time between the offices in Paris and Geneva.

A Finance Committee was also established at the first World Jewish Congress under the chairmanship of Mr. Louis Sturs. The members of this Committee were J. Leichtman of New York, M. H. David, LCC of London and Henri de Toledo of Geneva.

In the course of the next few years, a number of the remaining European countries were affiliated with the World Jewish Congress - Holland, under the chairmanship of Professor David Cohen; Luxembourg, through the Luxembourg Jewish Community, under the chairmanship of Rabbi Dr. R. Serebrenik. By 1939 the World Jewish Congress counted among its affiliates all the European countries with the exception of Sweden, Denmark, Norway, Russia and Turkey. Five

countries were affiliated with the World Jewish Congress through their respective Union of Jewish Communities - which implied full membership of all adult Jews. These countries were Italy, Yugoslavia, Bulgaria, ~~Finland~~ Finland, and Switzerland. The Jewish Party of Czechoslovakia which represented three-fourths of Czech Jewry, also joined the World Jewish Congress. Palestine was represented through the Vaad Leumi, and in all other countries committees of the World Jewish Congress were established. It was the aim of the Organization Department of the World Jewish Congress that these WJC Committees should be established through the leading Jewish organizations of the respective countries with the cooption of several of the leading Jewish personalities.

In Paris, the World Jewish Congress office comprised: the Organization Department under Mr. Baruch Zuckerman (1937-38); the Economics Department under Prof. Georg Bernhard; the Political Department under Dr. Nahum Goldmann and M. Marc Jarblum; Research and Archive Department under Dr. Ernest Knopfmacher; Yiddish Department under Eliahu Tcherikower. Mrs. Kate Knopfmacher was Executive Secretary of the World Jewish Congress and in charge of the Paris and Geneva offices.

A vast amount of documentation on Jewish problems was collected, particularly on the subject of Nazism and anti-Semitism which was then beginning to make itself felt throughout Europe. 40 daily newspapers and 167 periodicals were read, clipped and filed away for future reference. The Congress library contained over 2,000 volumes, the great majority of which were devoted to the subject of Germany and Nazism. Gradually, non-Jewish scholars and organizations, the Foreign Office and the Quai d'Orsay turned to the World Jewish Congress archives for data which was not to be found elsewhere.

In Geneva, the World Jewish Congress maintained a constant contact with the League of Nations: submitted memoranda, petitions and lobbying among the delegates and foreign ministers. It was at this time that Dr. Max Beer edited the well-known "Bulletin du Congres Juif Mondial" which was interrupted by the outbreak of the war and the transference of the World Jewish Congress to the Western Hemisphere. The Juridical Counselor of the Geneva office was Professor Paul Guggenheim.

Following the Geneva Conference the British Section of the World Jewish Congress was established at a convention attended by several hundred delegates; Dr. Maurice L. Perlzweig ~~xxxxxxx~~ ~~xxxxxxx~~ was elected Chairman and Dr. Neah Baron, Honorary Secretary. In addition to these officers, the following were elected: the Marchioness of Reading as President and Prof. S. Brodetsky and Philip Guedalla as Vice-Presidents.

Early in September 1939, the headquarters of the World Jewish Congress were transferred to Geneva. Dr. Nahum Goldmann found it necessary to divide his time between Paris and Geneva. Dr. Adolf Silberschein joined the Geneva office in September 1939 for the Relief and Rescue work. After the departure of Mrs. Knopfmacher in August 1940, Mr. Gerard Riegner took over the secretaryship of the Geneva Office. In Mar. 1943M. Marc Jarblum, who had been doing rescue work in France, escaped to Geneva, where he joined the World Jewish Congress. In January and February of 1940, Dr. Goldmann again visited the United States, this time in the company of Dr. Perlzweig, later proceeding alone to South America. During that tour, he met with Jewish community leaders of Argentina and Brazil. Dr. Goldmann and Dr. Perlzweig returned to Geneva at the end of March with the idea of transferring the World Jewish Congress office to the Western Hemisphere. It was by now evident

that the Geneva office was becoming more and more a center for relief work, due to the geographical position of Switzerland and its serving as a magnet for refugees and war-victims in flight. The political activities of the Congress were by then concentrated in the Paris and London offices. After the capitulation of France, there was no longer a doubt in anyone's mind about the advisability of setting up the main bureau in the United States. Dr. Goldmann returned to New York in July 1940 and Dr. Perlzweig joined him at the end of the year. Dr. Tartakower, who had arrived in this country a few months earlier, assumed the pro-tem secretaryship of the New York office. Dr. Perlzweig became the Director of the Political Department and Dr. Beer, who had also arrived in New York at about the same time, became the liaison officer between the Congress and the Free government movements in the United States.

The headquarters of the World Jewish Congress were set up in the offices of the American Jewish Congress which had heretofore served as the United States branch of the WJC. Dr. Jacob Robinson was appointed the Head of the Institute of Jewish Affairs, which was jointly created by the American and World Jewish Congress. In the course of the four years of its existence, the Institute has amassed archives of inestimable value from the historical, sociological and economic standpoints, and has established contacts with similar institutions throughout the free world and has an unbelievably complete collection of Nazi and satellite periodicals.

In London, Dr. Perlzweig's place was taken by Mr. S. S. Silverman, MP, first as Chairman; in the course of 1941 Mr. Alex Easterman joined Dr. Baron as joint Hon. Secretary of the British Section and became Political Secretary of the European Division. The other officers of the British Section are: Vice-Presidents, in addition to Philip Guedalla, the Rt. Hon. Lord Melchett and Mrs. I.M. Sieff; Vice-Chairmen: Rev. Dr. A. Cohen, Norman Jacobs and Fred Nettler; Joint Treasurers: Alec Nathan, Ben Rubenstein. The Marchioness of Reading is President of the British Section.

About a year after the New York office was set up, the Executive Staff was joined by Dr. A. Leon Kubowitzki, who organized the European Representative Committees, Rabbi Irving Miller who became the General Secretary of the World Jewish Congress and Mr. Baruch Zuckerman, who took over the Inter-American and Organisation Departments. Dr. Tartakower, Rabbi Miller and Mr. Zuckerman were accepted as members of the Executive Committee. The U. S. Executive of the World Jewish Congress consists of: Rabbi I. Alcalay, Robert Bollack, Rabbi Dr. S. Federbusch, Leon Gellman, Rabbi Wolf Gold, Dr. Nahum Goldmann, Max Kopstein, Dr. A. L. Kubowitzki, J. Leichtman, Louis Levine, Louis Himpax Lipsky, Dr. S. Margoshes, Rabbi Irving Miller, Isaac Naiditch, Dr. M. L. Perlzweig, Dr. Jacob Robinson, Rabbi I. Rubinstein, Louis Segal, Carl Sherman, Louis Sturz, Dr. A. Tartakower, Dr. Joseph Tenenbaum, Mrs. A. H. Vixman, Dr. Stephen S. Wise, Baruch Zuckerman.

The officers of the World Jewish Congress in the United States are: Dr. Stephen S. Wise, Chairman of the Executive Committee; Dr. Nahum Goldmann, Chairman of the Administrative Committee;

Mr. Louis Lipsky, Chairman of the Council; Rabbi Irving Miller, Executive Secretary; Dr. M. L. Perlzweig, Head of the Political Department; Dr. A. Leon Kubowitzki, Head of the Rescue Department; Dr. Arish Tartakower, Head of the Department of Relief and Rehabilitation; Mr. Baruch Zuckerman, Head of the Organization Department and Inter-American Jewish Council; Dr. Jacob Robinson, Head of the Institute of the Jewish Affairs of the American and World Jewish Congress; Mrs. Kate Knopfmacher, Administrative Secretary.

We must now retrace our steps a few years. At the end of 1939, when it became obvious that the World Jewish Congress must be transferred across the ocean, the Executive of the Paris office delegated Dr. Jacob Hellman to go to Argentina for the purpose of establishing a South American office. This he did in Buenos Aires in January 1940. Mrs. Kate Knopfmacher, who left Geneva in August of the same year, was given a similar mission for Central America. In March 1941, she established the Central American office of the World Jewish Congress in Mexico City. Due to the activities of both these Latin American offices, the number of communities affiliated with the Congress increased considerably so that, today, with the exception of Paraguay, all Central and South American Jewries are members of the WJC families. Dr. Hellman is still the Director of the South American bureau, but Mrs. Knopfmacher is now in New York, where she has assumed the post of Administrative Secretary of the World Jewish Congress. The present Director of the Mexican office is Mr. Moises Glikowski.

In December 1941, Dr. Kubowitzki established the Jewish Representative Committees of the World Jewish Congress, composed of former leaders of silenced Jewish communities in Europe and who now found themselves in the United States. It must be clearly understood that the object of these committees was not to

assume present and future leadership for their respective communities, but merely to act as temporary custodians of their interests. The following are the Committees which were set up: Austrian Jewish Representative Committee, Siegfried Altman, Chairman, Dr. Oscar Kabbach, Secretary; Belgian Committee, Mr. Numa Torcsyner, Chairman, Mr. Jules Wellner; Bulgarian Committee, V. Nachmias, Secretary; Czechoslovakian Committee, Dr. F. Fried, Chairman, Prof. Hugo Perutz, Secretary; Danish Committee, Leo Nathan, Chairman; French Committee, Capt. Pierre Dreyfus, Vice-Chairman, Henri Torres, Chairman, Dr. Sasia Erlich, ^{General} Secretary; German Committee, Dr. Martin Rosenbluth, Chairman, Dr. Gerhard Jacoby, Secretary; Greek Committee, Simon S. Nessim, Chairman; Hungarian Committee, Mr. Maurice Honig, Chairman, Dr. ~~Mr~~ Julius S. Fischer, Secretary; Italian Committee, Dr. A. Treves, Chairman, Dr. E. Bernstein, Secretary; Latvia-Estonia Committee, Professor Max Laserson, Chairman; Lithuanian Committee; Dr. Lazar Lewenstein, Chairman; Luxembourg Committee, Dr. Frank Mayer, Chairman, Mr. S. Leib, Secretary; Dutch Committee, Rabbi D. A. Jeesurun Cardose, Chairman, Dr. B. Spier, Secretary; Polish Committee, Dr. A. Tartakover, Chairman, Mr. Moshe Poliakiewicz, Secretary; Rumanian Committee, Jacob Rosenthal, Chairman, Alexander Luncan, Secretary; Yugoslav Committee, Dr. Paul Neuburger, Chairman, Roman Smucer, Secretary. With the liberation of European countries, the respective Committee immediately establishes contact with the Jewish community in the mother-country and places itself at the service of its old community. To date, this has been the case with France (with the exception of Alsace), Italy (with the exception of Northern Italy), Bulgaria, Rumania, Luxembourg, Belgium and Greece.

In October 1941 Mr. Isaac Weissman assumed the agency of the WJC for rescue work in Portugal. It is thanks to the indefatigable work and devotion of Mr. Weissman that many unfortunates who escaped death across the border of France are alive today.

In October 1944 the Nordic Section of the World Jewish Congress was established in Stockholm under the Chairmanship of Chief Rabbi Dr. Marcus Ehrenpreis (who was accepted a member of the World Jewish Congress Executive in March 1944).

In September 1944, when his return to France was possible, Marc Jarblum resumed his rescue and relief work for the World Jewish Congress in Paris.

The following is a complete list of the various departments and collaborators of the New York office of the World Jewish Congress:



Ordinarily, 8 years after the creation of an organization there is no need to review the history of its founding. ~~AND Though the WJC had its birth in 1936~~ Such is however not the case with the World Jewish Congress. Very few people know that with the capitulation of France and the flight ~~from the Paris office~~ ^{where the main} ~~the~~ archives - consisting of address lists, filing cards and voluminous correspondence, with almost all the countries of the world - had to be destroyed, for purposes of security. A few weeks before a number of large cases containing the more important documents ~~ahad~~ been sent to Bordeaux for eventual shipment to the AJC in N.Y. But unfortunately ~~conditions~~ ^{timely} then in Paris ~~were~~ ^{was} so disrupted that, despite the foresight which had dictated this measure, the cases reached Bordeaux too late to be shipped and they too had to be burned by Congress friends who feared they might fall into the enemy's hands. The Paris archives existed in duplicate in Geneva and it was therefore hoped by the Congress people in France that with the burning of the documents in Paris and Bordeaux not all trace of the historical wealth and rare items ~~were~~ ^{was} doomed to total destruction. However, by June 1940 the Germans were only a few kilometers away from Geneva and again it was feared that alien hands would seize the Congress material. Again, the friends of the Congress saw valuable documents going up in flames lit by their own hands. A few weeks before that when Holland and Belgium were invaded, the most important ~~address lists and~~ ^{folders?} ~~files~~ had been sent from Geneva to the AJC in N.Y. All important memoranda, minutes of meetings, resolutions, reports, etc. had been transferred to N.Y. as a part of the regular routine of the Paris office; so that when, in 1940, the WJC was transferred to New York, there was a nucleus with which to begin the work in the Western Hemisphere.

Early in 1932, when the source of Hitlerism ^{first began to} began to make itself felt in central Europe, Jewish leaders of vision saw the need for a World Jewish body which would concern itself with the problems of our people.

In May of that year, Dr. Goldmann visited the U.S. and after conferring with Dr. Stephen S. Wise and Mr. Bernard S. Deutsch, the President of the AJC at that time, returned to Europe with the idea of calling the first conference of the promulgated world Jewish body. From Sept. 1932 until April 1933 the *"Executive - for the World Congress"* Committee of Jewish Delegations, headed by Leon Motzkin, had its headquarters in Berlin, but after Hitler's rise to power was transferred to Geneva. After the death of *head of the Committee of Jewish Delegations,* Leo Motzkin in November 1933, Dr. Goldman was elected Chairman of the Committee of Jewish delegations, and in 1934 the office of the Committee, which was in *Paris* Geneva, was designated as the headquarters of the Executive Committee of the World Jewish Con.

The London branch was established in 1935 under Dr. Maurice L. Perlzweig and in the U.S. the American Jewish Congress affiliated itself with the World Jewish Congress. *served as the*

Before the Congress was definitively established there were three pre-Conferences:

- 1) September 4-9, 1932 in Geneva with 120 delegates
- 2) 1933, Geneva
- 3) 1934, Geneva

These pre-Conferences resulted in the unanimously adopted resolution to call a democratically elected World Jewish Congress. Up to this time, there was an Executive Committee in charge of the activities and preparation of the first Congress. The members of the Executive Committee of the World Jewish Congress and of the and of the Committee of Jewish Delegations were the following: Dr. Stephen S. Wise, Dr. Nahum Goldmann, Dr. J. Hellmann, Mr. J. Lestschinsky, Mr. Isaac Naiditch, Dr. M. Nurock, Mr. A. Reiss, Dr. Henryk Rosmarin, Rabbi I. Rubinstein, Dr. A. Silberschein, Dr. A. Tartakower.

Finally, from August 8-15, 1936, the first World Jewish Congress took place in the Batiment Electoral, the hall where the League of

Nations assembled before the erection of the new League of Nations Building.

delegates from 33 countries participated in the first World Jewish Congress: Algeria, Argentina, Austria, Belgium, Brazil, Bulgaria, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Czechoslovakia, Danzig, Egypt, England, Estonia, Finland, France, French Protectorates, ~~XXXXXX~~ and Colonies, Greece, Italy, Jugoslavia, Latvia, Libya, Lithuania, Morocco, Palestine, Peru, Poland, Portugal, Rumania, Spain, Switzerland, Tunisia, and the United States. The list of names of the delegates to the first World Jewish Congress is attached. After 8 days of deliberation an Executive Committee, an Administrative Committee and a Council of the first World Jewish Congress was elected. *Will the Honorary President Judge Julian N. Mack be Honorary President?* Dr. Stephen S. Wise was elected Chairman of the Executive Committee of which the other members are Robert Bollack, Marc Jarblum, Israel Jefroykin, Dr. A. L. Kubowitzki, Isaac Naiditch, Dr. M. Nurock, Rev. M. L. Perlzweig. Since ~~the World Jewish Congress headquarters~~ the World Jewish Congress headquarters were to be in Paris, the members of the Executive Committee were chosen according to their propinquity to Paris.

The following were elected to the Administrative Committee of the Congress: Rabbi I. Alcalay, Dr. N. Barou, Ben Zvi, Meier Berlin, M. Bialopolski, Dr. A. Blum, Rabbi S. Brod, Horia Carp, Dr. Mayer Ebner, Rabbi M. Eisendrath, Isidore Epstein, Dr. Joseph Fischer, Dr. A. Garfunkel, Leon Gellman, Abraham Goldberg, Dr. Angelo Goldstein, Dr. H. Gottlieb, I Grunbaum, Dr. I. Hellmann, Dr. R. Howscha, Dr. M. Kleinbaum, Dr. M. Kramer, M. Kirschenbaum, Dr. S. Z. Kahane, Prof. Horace M. Kallen, W. Latsky-Bertoldi, Jacob Lestschinsky, Berl Locker, Dr. S. Margoshes, Prof. Jerome Michael, Dr. B. Mossinson, Nathan Perlman, E.N. Prylucki, Ing. A. Reiss, Dr. H. Rosmarin, Rabbi I. Rubinstein, Dr. I. Schipper, Dr. I. Schwarzbart, Dr. A. Silberschein, Max Silverstein, Joseph Rafael Szereszowski, M. Szczupakiewicz, Dr. H. Sokal, Dr. Emil Sommerstein, Ing. R. S. ricker, Dr. A. Tartakower, Dr. J. Tenenbaum, M. Ussishkin, David Wertheim, Dr. Grigory Wolff. One place each was reserved for representatives of the Union of Jewish Communities of Italy and Switzerland respectively; and

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~~Confidential~~

In Paris, the WJC office was rather elaborate; ~~with~~ the Organization Dept. under Mr. Baruch Zuckerman (1937-38); the Economics Dept. under Prof. Georg Bernhard; the Political Dept. under Dr. Nahum Goldmann and M. Marc Jarblum; Research and Archive Dept., Dr. Ernst Knopfmacher; Publications: Yiddish Department under Eliahu Tcherikower, the well known historian, and in 1938-39, for the Geneva office, Dr. Max Beer edited the ~~Dr. XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~ Bulletin du Congrès Juif Mondial. Mrs. Kate Knopfmacher was the Executive Secretary of the Paris as well as in charge of the Geneva offices.

In Paris, a vast amount of documentation on Jewish problems was collected, particularly on the subject of Nazism and anti-Semitism which was then beginning to make itself felt throughout Europe. 40 daily newspapers and 167 periodicals were read, and clipped and filed away for future reference. The Congress library contained over 2,000 volumes, the great majority of which were devoted to the subject of Germany and Nazism. Gradually, non-Jewish scholars and organizations ^{the Foreign Office and the Quai d'Orsay} turned to the WJC archives for data which was not ~~assembled~~ to be found elsewhere.

Early in the Boycott Committee of the WJC was founded, with Dr. Ernst Knopfmacher as its European director and Dr. Tennenbaum as its chief exponent in the United States. The WJC was the first Jewish organization to ~~promote~~ stress the importance of economic boycott as the strongest instrument against the wildfire growth of Nazism in Germany.

In Geneva, the WJC maintained a constant contact with the League of Nations: submitting memoranda, petitions and ~~having its people at the sessions~~ and lobbying among the delegates and foreign ministers. It was at this time that Dr. Max Beer edited the wellknown Bulletin du Congres Juif Mondial which was interrupted by the outbreak of the war and the transference of the WJC to the Western Hemisphere. The Juridical Counselor of the Geneva office was Prof. Paul Guggenheim, who made many valuable contacts with members of the League of Nations.

~~Following the Geneva Conference~~
Meanwhile, in the British Section of the WJC was established ^{at a conference attended by several hundred delegates} in London under the chairmanship of Dr. Maurice L. Perlzweig and with the following as officers: and Dr. Noah Baron, Honorary Secretary, was elected Chairman. In addition, the following were elected: the Marchioness of Reading as President and Prof. E. Broadbent and Philip Jacobson as Vice-Presidents.

Early in September 1939, the headquarters of the WJC were transferred to Geneva. Dr. Nahum Goldmann found it necessary to divide his time between Paris and Geneva. ^{Dr. Goldmann} In ~~January~~ ^{February} and ~~March~~ ^{April} of 1940, he visited the United States ^{this time} in the company of Dr. Perlzweig, later proceeding alone to

Insert at bottom of page 6

Dr. Adolf Silberschein joined the Geneva office in *Jan* 1939,
for the Relief and Rescue work. After the departure of Mrs. Knopfmacher
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Dr. Goldmann returned to Geneva with the idea of transferring the WJC office to the Western Hemisphere. It ~~had~~ ^{was} by now become evident that the Geneva office was becoming more and more a center for relief work, due to the geographical position of Switzerland and its serving as a magnet for refugees and war-victims in flight. The political activities of the Congress were by then concentrated in the Paris and London offices. After the capitulation of France, there was no longer a doubt in anyone's mind about the advisability of setting up the main bureau in the United States. Dr. Goldmann returned to New York in July 1940 and Dr. Perlzweig joined him *at the end of the month* shortly thereafter. Dr. Tartakower, who had arrived in this country a few months ~~later~~ earlier, assumed the pro-tem Secretaryship of the New York

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About a year after the New York office was set up, the executive staff was joined by Dr. A. Leon Kubowitzki, *who organizes the European Jewish Congress* ~~who established the~~ Rabbi

Irving Miller who ~~was assumed to be~~ became the General Secretary of the WJC and Mr. Baruch Zuckerman, who took over the Inter-American and Organization Departments. Dr. Tartakower, Rabbi Miller and Mr. Zuckerman were coopted as members of the Executive Committee. *The U.S. Executive of the W.J.C. consists of:*
~~Other coopted members were:~~

Copy E.H. list

The officers of the WJC in the United States are: (see p.4 - XV)

We must now retrace our steps a few years. At the end of 1939, when it became obvious that the WJC must be transferred across the ocean, the Executive of the Paris office delegated Dr. Jacob Hellman to go to Argentina for the purpose of establishing a South American office. This he did in Buenos Aires, in January, 1940. Mrs. Kate Knopfmacher, who ~~was assumed to be~~ left Geneva in August of the same year, was given a similar mission for Central America. In March, 1941, she established the Central American office of the WJC in Mexico City. Due to the activities of both these Latin American offices, the number of communities affiliated with the Congress increased considerably so that, today, with the exception of Paraguay, all Central and South American Jewries are members of the WJC families. Dr. Hellman is still the Director of the South American bureau, but Mrs. Knopfmacher is now in New York, where she has assumed ~~her old~~ post of Administrative Secretary. The ~~new~~ present Director of the Mexican office is Mr. Moises Glikowski.

In December, 1941, Dr. Kubowitzki established the Jewish Representative Committees of the WJC, composed of former ~~xxx~~ ^{of silenced Jewish communities in Europe} Jewish leaders who now found ~~and~~ themselves in the United States. It must be clearly understood that the object of these committees was not to assume present and future leadership ~~xxx~~ for their respective ~~communities~~ communities, but merely to act as temporary custodians of their interests. The following are the Committees which were set up: (Enumerate, giving present Chairman and Secretary)

(Schim... 1944)

European

With the liberation of ~~the respective~~ countries, the respective Committee immediately establishes contact with the Jewish community in the mother-country and places itself at the service of ~~the~~ its old community. To date, this has been the case with France, Italy, Bulgaria, and Romania, Luxembourg, Belgium, Greece, (Yugoslavia) (Poland) (with exception of Northern Italy).

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for rescue work in Portugal. It is thanks to the indefatigable work and devotion of Mr. Weissman that many unfortunates who escaped death across the border of France are alive today.

Schim In Oct 1944 the Nordic Section of the WJC was established in Stockholm under the Chairmanship of ^{Chief Rabbi} Dr. Marcus Ehrenpreis (who was coopted as a member of the WJC Executive in ^{Mar 1944}).

In September 1944, when his return to France was possible, Marc Jarblum resumed his rescue and relief work for the WJC in Paris.

The following is a complete list of the various departments and collaborators of the New York office of the WJC:

Dr. ...
...
Files & Archives

ORGANIZATIONAL REPORT

First ~~WJF~~ World Jewish Congress August 8-15, 1936, Geneva, in Batiment Electoral, the hall where the Assemblies of the League of Nations took place before the new League of Nations Building was erected.

Three pre-Conferences:

- 1) September 4-9, 1932 in Geneva with 120 delegates
- 2) 1933 - Geneva
- 3) 1934 - Geneva

These pre-Conferences resulted in the unanimously adopted resolution to call a World Jewish Congress democratically elected. Until the convocation of this first Congress, the Executive Committee of the World Jewish Congress was in charge of the activities and preparation of the first Congress. The members of the Executive Committee for the World Jewish Congress and of the Executive of the Committee of Jewish delegations were the following: Dr. Stephen S. Wise, Dr. Nahum Goldman, Mr. Robert Bollack, Rabbi S. Brod, LCC M. H. Davis, Israel Jefroykin, Dr. J. Hellmann, Mr. J. Lestschinsky, Mr. Isaac Naiditch, Dr. M. Nurock, Mr. A. Reiss, Dr. Henryk Rosmarin, Rabbi I. Rubinstein, Dr. A. Silberschein, Dr. A. Tartakower.

In May 1932, Dr. Goldman returning from the U. S., upon the request of Dr. Wise (American Jewish Congress) and Bernard S. Deutsch, (President of the American Jewish Congress at that time) called for the first Conference; he was assisted by Mrs. Kate Knopfmacher.

Committee of Jewish Delegations headed by Leo Motzkin, one of the components of the World Jewish Congress. Headquarters from September 1932 until April 1933 were in Berlin, but after Hitler's rise to power they were transferred to Geneva. After the death of Leo Motzkin in November 1933, Dr. Goldman was elected Chairman of the Committee of Jewish delegations, and in January 1934 the office of the Committee of Jewish delegations was declared headquarters of the Executive Committee of the World Jewish Congress. La siege sociale (legal seat) remained in Geneva.

The London branch was established in _____ under Dr. Maurice L. Perlzweig and in the U. S. the American Jewish Congress acted as branch of the World Jewish Congress.

In the first World Jewish Congress August 1936 _____ delegates took part from 33 countries. (Algeria, Argentina, Austria, Belgium, Brazil, ~~Canada, Czechoslovakia, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, French Protectorates, Greece, Italy, Yugoslavia, Latvia, Libya, Lithuania, Morocco, Palestine, Peru, Poland, Portugal, Rumania, Spain, Switzerland, Tunisia, United States~~). The names of the delegates to the first World Jewish Congress are listed attached. After eight days of deliberation, the first World Jewish Congress elected an Executive Committee, an Administrative Committee and a Council of the World Jewish Congress. Dr. Stephen S. Wise was elected Chairman of the Executive Committee. Members of the Executive Committee: Robert Bollack, Marc Jarblum,

Israel Jefroykin, Dr. A. L. Kubowitzki, Isaac Naiditch, Dr. M. Nurock, Rev. M. L. Perlzweig. As the headquarters of the World Jewish Congress were to be in Paris, the members of the Executive Committee were chosen according to their residence in the vicinity of Paris. The following were elected as Administrative Committee at the Congress: Rabbi I. Alcalay, Dr. N. Barou, Ben Zwi, Rabbi Meier Berlin, M. Bialopolski, Dr. A. Blum, Rabbi S. Brod, Horia Carp, Dr. Mayer Ebner, Rabbi M. Eisendrath, Isidore Epstein, Dr. Joseph Fischer, Dr. A. Garfunkel, Leon Gellman, Abraham Goldberg, Dr. Angelo Goldstein, Dr. H. Gottlieb, I. Grunbaum, Dr. I. Hellmann, Dr. R. Howscha, Dr. M. Kleinbaum, Dr. M. Kramer, M. Kirschenbaum, Dr. S. Z. Kahane, Prof. Horace M. Kallen, W. Latzky-Bertoldi, Jacob Lestschinsky, Berl Locker, Dr. S. Margoshes, Prof. Jerome Michael, Dr. B. Mossinson, Nathan Perlman, E. N. Prylucki, Ing. A. Reiss, Dr. H. Rosmarin, Rabbi I. Rubinstein, Dr. I. Schipper, Dr. I. Schwarzbart, Dr. A. Silberschein, Max Silverstein, Joseph Sprinzak, Louis Segal, Rabbi Jarry J. Stern, I. L. Szczeransky, Rafael Szereszowski, M. Szczupakiewicz, Dr. H. Sokal, Dr. Emil Sommerstein, Ing. R. Stricker, Dr. A. Tartakower, Dr. J. Tenenbaum, M. Ussishkin, David Wertheim, Dr. Grigory Wolff. For representatives of the Union of Jewish communities of Italy and Switzerland, one place each was reserved as well as two seats for representatives of South American countries.

List of the members of the Council attached.

It was decided that the members of the Executive Committee shall have a seat in the Administrative Committee; the members of the Administrative Committee shall have seat and vote in the Council. ~~The members of the three bodies have the right to appoint proxies.~~ All three bodies have the right of cooption.

~~There~~ A Finance Committee was also elected at the first World Jewish Congress, for whose cooperation the Executive Committee had the right to ask. Under the chairmanship of Mr. Louis Sturz, the members of the Finance Committee were: J. Leichtman, New York, M. H. Davis, LCC, London and Henri de Toledo, Geneva.

Dr. Goldmann, chairman of the Administrative Committee of the World Jewish Congress, was the head of the World Jewish Congress in Europe, dividing his time ~~xxx~~ between the office in Paris and Geneva.

League of Nations Assemblies, Council of the League of Nations in Geneva.

In the course of the next few years, a number of remaining countries were affiliated with the WJC - Holland under the chairmanship of Professor David Cohen; Luxembourg, through the Luxembourg Jewish community, under the chairmanship of Rabbi Dr. R. Serebrenik. In 1939 all European countries were affiliated with the WJC with the exception of Sweden, Denmark, Norway, Russia, Turkey. Five

countries, namely, Italy, Yugoslavia, Bulgaria, Finland and Switzerland, were affiliated with the WJC through the Union of Jewish communities of the respective countries, which applied full membership to all adult Jews of the countries in question. In Czechoslovakia, the Jewish Party which represented 3/4 of Czech Jewry represented the Congress and Palestine was affiliated through the Vaad Leumi. In all other countries, committees for the World Jewish Congress were established. In most of the countries the delegates to the Congress were elected through democratic elections, in all the other countries, the elections were held as democratically as possible.

The Geneva office was active in all work connected with the League of Nations. Petitions, memoranda, contact with the Secretariat of the League of Nations and at the sessions with the delegates and the foreign ministers. Juridical Counselor - Geneva office - Prof. Paul Guggenheim.

The ~~max~~ Paris office had the Organizational Department (1937-8 Mr. Baruch Zuckerman); the Economic Department under Prof. Georg Bernhard; the Political Department, Dr. N. Goldmann and M. Marc Jarblum; Research work and Archives of the World Jewish Congress, Dr. Ernst Knopfmacher; Publications - Yiddish Department - ~~E~~Tsherkower. Executive Secretary of the Paris office - Mrs. Knopfmacher.

In England under the chairmanship of Dr. M.L. Perlzweig, the British Section of the World Jewish Congress was established with Professor Brodetsky and Philip Guedala as Vice-Presidents; Lady Reading

In September 1939, at the outbreak of the war, the headquarters of the World Jewish Congress were transferred to Switzerland as a neutral country. Dr. Goldmann was partly in Geneva and partly in Paris. Dr. Goldmann, after having visited the U. S., together with Dr. Perlzweig in February and March 1940, and during this time Dr. Goldmann also visited Argentina and various other South American countries, returned to Geneva with the idea of the possibility of transferring the World Jewish Congress to the Western Hemisphere. The Geneva office became, during the first year of the war, more and more an office for the help of the war-stricken Jewish population of Europe. The political activities of the World Jewish Congress were concentrated more and more in the Paris office and in the British Section in London.

After the fall of France, it became clear that the headquarters of the World Jewish Congress had to be transferred to New York. Dr. Goldmann came to the U. S. in July 1940 and called Dr. Perlzweig from London to New York, where Dr. Tartakower had already arrived a few months before. The headquarters of the WJC were established in the offices of the American Jewish Congress, the branch of the World Jewish Congress for the United States. A few months later,

Dr. Leon Kubowitzki, Dr. Jacob Robinson, Rabbi Irving Miller and Mr. Baruch Zuckerman joined the offices of the WJC. Dr. Tartakow and Mr. Zuckerman and Rabbi Miller were coopted members of the Executive. Other coopted members of the Executive Committee were:

Officers of the World Jewish Congress are the following: Dr. Stephen S. Wise, Chairman of the Executive Committee; Dr. Nahum Goldmann, Chairman of the Administrative Committee; Mr. Louis Lipsky, Chairman of the Council; Rabbi Irving Miller, Executive Secretary; Dr. M. L. Perlzweig, Head of the Political Department; Dr. A. Leon Kubowitzki, Head of the Rescue Department; Dr. Arie Tartakower, Head of the Department of Relief and Rehabilitation; Mr. Baruch Zuckerman, Head of the Organization Department and Inter-American Jewish Council; Dr. Jacob Robinson, Head of the Institute of the American and World Jewish Congress; Mrs. Kate Knopfmacher, Administrative Secretary.

Relations with Latin America - At the end of 1939, the Executive of the WJC in Paris delegated Dr. Jacob Hellman to Argentina, where he established an office for the World Jewish Congress in South America in January 1940. Mrs. Knopfmacher, after leaving Switzerland in August 1940 and after touring South and Central America, was asked to establish an office of the WJC in Mexico for the Central American countries in March 1941. Due to the activities of both these representatives in Argentina and Mexico, the contacts with the already affiliated communities of Latin America were strengthened and new affiliations came into being, so that at present all countries of the Western Hemisphere are affiliated with the WJC with the exception of Paraguay. Dr. Hellman is still the Head of the Buenos Aires office, whereas Mrs. Knopfmacher in January 1944 proceeded from Mexico to New York to take over her duties in the central office. The new Director of the Central American office is Mr. Moises Glikowski. The offices of the WJC and the various committees of the WJC in the respective Latin American countries are working in the organizational field, in contact with Jewish and non-Jewish organizations, contacts with various governments and outstanding leaders of these countries in combatting anti-semitism, bringing pressure of public opinion on Jewish problems, dealing with immigration questions, etc.

Baltimore Conference - The WJC in 1936 decided to convoke a Congress every two (or three) years. However, as the period before the outbreak of the war was so troubled politically, it was not possible to hold democratic elections in the Jewish communities. Therefore, the Congress was postponed and it was not possible to convoke it. Consequently - (the Baltimore Conference in November 1941 - the Inter-American Jewish Council) and this War Emergency Conference.

Archives - in Paris the best documentation of Jewish problems especially as far as Nazism was concerned. The Foreign Office in London and the Quai Dorsay in Paris very often consulted our archives. Scholars and Jewish and non-Jewish organizations. 167 publications were read in the Paris office each day, of which 40 were daily papers, weeklies, monthlies, etc. Of political, economic and cultural character, in all languages. A library of about 2000 books especially from and on Nazi Germany.

Boycott Committee.

Dr. Max Beer, editor, of Bulletin du Congres Juif Mondial (in French), Geneva 1938 and 1939.

Geneva office was joined in 1939 by Dr. Adolf Silberschein for Relief and Rescue. Dr. A. Silberschein and Dr. Gerhard Riegner were in charge of the Geneva office from August 1940. They were joined in 1944 by Marc Jarblum, who escaped from France to Switzerland and who returned to France at the end of September 1944.

Office in Lisbon - under Mr. Isaac Weissman

Office in Stockholm with the Nordic Section under chairmanship of Dr. Marcus Ehrenpreis. Dr. Ehrenpreis was coopted member of the Executive in August 1944.

Establishment of Jewish Representative Committee, Advisory Council under the chairmanship of Dr. Leon Kubowitzki

Names of assistants to various departments.

Office Committee meetings twice a week.

Clerical staff - languages, translations, journalists.

Press Departments - Ben Hapern and A. Alperin. Jewish Comment.

Personal Inquiry Department (Mr. Finkelstein and Miss Hilb)

Relationship with the American Jewish Conference.

Before the flight from Paris, the archives of the WJC - all address lists, filing cards and correspondence, were destroyed. The most important documents were sent in 8 large boxes to Bordeaux to be sent to the American Jewish Congress, but unfortunately, communications in war-torn France were so bad, that these boxes came to Bordeaux too late to be shipped and had to be destroyed.

The archives in Geneva, which were partly duplications of the archives in Paris, were hidden from place to place during June and July 1940, since the Germans were only a few kilometers away from Geneva. At that time, our people were very much afraid that from

one moment to the other, the Germans might break the Swiss neutrality, and as a matter of precaution, the Archives were finally burned. At the time of the invasion of Holland and Belgium, the most important address lists and folders were sent from Geneva to the American Jewish Congress in New York. All important memoranda, proceedings, minutes of meetings, etc. were usually sent from Paris to the American Jewish Congress, so that now at least part of the documentation of invaluable importance has been saved ~~and~~ in the Archives of the American Jewish Congress.

AMERICAN JEWISH ARCHIVES



Development of Congress

The World Jewish Congress though organized in 1936 is an outgrowth of organizations created after the First World War.

Development of Congress

The various Jewish organizations have always recognized today as in 1918, that in appearing before a Peace Conference as the responsible agents of the Jews, any delegation must have the free and publicly ascertained authorization of all those concerned. The most directly concerned in postwar Jewish reconstruction, in 1918 precisely as is the case today, were the Jews of Europe.

Thus, upon arriving in Paris for the last Peace Conference, the American Jewish delegation cooperated with European Jewry and the Palestinian and Canadian Jewries to form the Committee of Jewish Delegations. Included in the Committee were the representative Jewish National Councils elected in the new states of Czechoslovakia and Poland, and in Eastern Galicia and Russia, together with the short-lived Jewish National Assembly of the Ukraine--delegations whose authority to speak for all the Jews of their countries was based on a general popular mandate.

The efforts of the Jewish delegations at the Peace Conference were crowned with a high degree of success. These Jewish demands were recognized and incorporated in international charters: the right to reconstitute the National Home in Palestine, which was embodied in the Mandate for Palestine; the civil emancipation of Jews who had been hitherto disfranchised in Eastern Europe; and the provision of rights and facilities for cultural and religious self-expression. The latter demands were realized in the international minorities agreements.

The acquisition of these rights, which were to be administered under the supervision of the League of Nations, resulted in the development of corresponding international Jewish representative bodies. One of these, the Jewish Agency, is specifically recognized in international law as representing the Jewish people, "for the purpose of advising and cooperating with the Administration of Palestine, ~~and~~ in such economic, social and other matters as may affect the establishment of the Jewish National Home and the interests of the Jewish population in Palestine, and subject always to the control of the Administration, to assist and take part in the development of the country."

An international Jewish representative body was also maintained for the purpose of safeguarding Jewish rights in the Diaspora, such as were established in the minorities agreements. After the peace conferences were completed, the Committee of Jewish Delegations did not disband, but it continued for sixteen years to watch over the implementation of Jewish rights in Europe. The Committee was active in numerous international conferences of organizations grouped around the League of Nations, and extended its interest into such fields as the organization of Jewish emigration and social welfare work.

* * *

After a decade of fruitful work in the '20s, it became clear that the Committee of Jewish Delegations ~~was not a strong~~ was not a strong enough organization for the tasks it was called upon to undertake in the '30s. Its representative character and authority were weakened by the dissolution of some of its constituents--the Jewish National Councils of Eastern Europe--and the lack of active assistance from others. At the same time, the structure of international order by which minority rights were upheld was being more and more openly

~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~
sabotaged. Emergency situations began to follow one another in rapid succession; and it was necessary for the Committee to intervene time after time in defense of Jewish rights. *(insert from p. 4)*

start In spite of the waxing disregard for international order, the ~~Committee~~ *Congress* was able to score several significant victories in defense of Jewish rights. *even during the period of its formation from 1932-1936.* The most striking cases were two in which Nazi

Germany was brought to book and prevented from carrying out its illegal designs against the Jews. The first was the famous Bernheim Petition in 1933 concerning Upper Silesia, regarding which part of its territory the Reich was bound by a treaty with Poland to respect the rights of minorities. By appealing to the League of Nations

combined office of the on the basis of this treaty, the Committee of Jewish Delegations *(which was at the same time the office of the World Jewish Congress in Frankfurt)* forced the German government to cancel its anti-Jewish laws during

the life of the treaty in at least one small part of the Reich. The second case of political activity which succeeded, even though there was no minorities treaty involved, was that of the Jews of the Saar.

It was feared before the January 1935 plebiscite in the Saar, that Nazi propaganda, conducted with the usual terrorist accessories, would result in a vote to join the Reich. In view of the danger

to the Jews, ~~the~~ *Congress Office* the Committee of Jewish Delegations intervened in Rome (the head of the Plebiscite Commission was an Italian) and in Paris, with the result that Germany agreed that, after the plebiscite, any Saar Jews who wished to emigrate would be allowed to withdraw their entire property in French currency. Of all the Jewish refugees created by Hitler the Saar Jews, thanks to the political activity of this Jewish body, presented the least difficulties in resettlement.

~~These successes were only peripheral, however~~ *now* In the Reich

Insert p. 57

itself, conditions went from bad to worse; and Jewish rights in other countries, such as Poland and Rumania, were also increasingly under attack. To meet the situation, it was felt, a body with renewed authority and wider representation was necessary. As a result, conferences were held in 1932, 1933 and 1934, in order to prepare for the organization of the World Jewish Congress. In August 1936, the Congress convened with delegates from thirty-three countries, representing either the entire Jewish community as an organized unit (e.g., Palestine, Canada, Switzerland, Italy, Yugoslavia, Bulgaria) of important groups of organizations within the community (e.g., the United States, Great Britain, Poland, France and Belgium).

After its formal organization in 1936 until the outbreak of the war

~~In the three years before the outbreak of the present war, the~~
World Jewish Congress continually had to intervene in defense of Jewish rights. The fight against Nazi Germany was prosecuted by a public boycott and, where possible, by recourse to international legal forums. Until Munich, the Congress, by appealing to the League of Nations, protected the Jews of Danzig from repeated attempts to introduce legislation of the Nazi type. During the two years of grace thus won, thousands of Jews were able to escape. In Poland, also, the "denunciation" of the minorities treaties, the laws against Jewish ritual slaughter of cattle, the so-called "Ghetto benches" to which Jewish students in universities were to be confined, the riots in Przytyk and Brzesc, and other manifestations of government-tolerated anti-Semitism demanded constant vigilance and activity on an international scale.

The Congress also conducted the successful fight in 1938 against the notorious anti-Semitic Goga government in Rumania. It was the Congress which drew the attention of the British and French government

to their moral obligations under the peace treaties; and the simultaneous intervention in Bucharest of these two powers was followed shortly thereafter by American intervention. Subsequently the Congress presented a petition to the League of Nations Council in Geneva, and following discussion of Congress representatives with leading statesmen of all nations who were present, the League formally received the petition and appointed a Committee of Three to examine the situation. There can be no doubt that the effort of the Congress in mobilizing official and public opinion in defense of the rights of Rumanian Jewry was a decisive factor in the fall of the Goga government which ensued. In the following year it was again the Congress which sent one of its officers to Bucharest where he was received by Premier Armand Calinescu, from whom he secured an undertaking that Jewish wrongs would be repaired and their status restored.

The three short years of World Jewish Congress activity before September 1939 sufficed to make it the address to which Jews everywhere instinctively turned in emergencies. The outbreak of the war radically altered the conditions under which the World Jewish Congress had to work. The international order which was the presupposition of its activities collapsed; and the Congress had to take on new tasks: in mobilizing Jewish resources everywhere for the fight against Hitlerism; in the struggle to rescue European Jewry; and in planning Jewish postwar reconstruction. Most of the European constituents of the World Jewish Congress fell subject to Axis tyranny; and the Congress, building up new strength in the Western Hemisphere, took up abroad the fight for their interests.

In carrying out these wartime responsibilities, the World Jewish Congress fell subject to Axis tyranny; and the Congress, building up new strength in the Western Hemisphere, took up abroad the fight for their interests. In carrying out these wartime responsibilities, the World Jewish Congress has acted as the trustee of its silenced constituents; and its close contact with the governments-in-exile of their occupied countries has gained for it effective standing as their authorized representative.

Whom Does the Congress Represent?

As it stands today, the World Jewish Congress is the authorized representative of a vast body of Jews. First of all, it is only the remaining accredited body representing those Jews most concerned in the provisions of the postwar settlements--the Jews of Axis and occupied Europe. The authority which they granted to the World Jewish Congress in 1936 is now being exercised by their elected leaders, many of whom were brought to safety by the efforts of the Congress and have formed Councils and Representations to deal with the problems of their respective countries. The World Jewish Congress now has the cooperation and support of sixteen Jewish committees-in-exile, representing the Jews of Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia, Estonia, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Rumania, Yugoslavia and Luxembourg. During the war these ^{committees} ~~committees~~ have carried out important functions of liaison with their communities and have worked devotedly on behalf of their interests. As the Jewish communities of the liberated countries reestablished their own councils and assemblies (as has already occurred in the case of France) the World Jewish Congress' advisory representative committees may be expected still to perform important transitional tasks involving international questions.

In the United States, the affiliate of the World Jewish Congress is the American Jewish Congress, which while not representing the whole Jewish community in the United States, has the support of by far the great majority--as shown by the elections of delegates to the American Jewish Conference. In the rest of North and South America all Jewish communities are affiliated through their central representative bodies with the World Jewish Congress: ~~Suriname~~ Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Colombia, ~~Suriname~~ Costa Rica, Cuba, Curacao, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Peru, Trinidad, Uruguay, and Venezuela. All these countries participate in the Inter-American Council, formed at a conference in Baltimore in November 1941, and constitute a solid bloc of Jewish communities affiliated with the World Jewish Congress.

The Jews of Palestine are a particularly important community not only as a body of over half a million Jews, but because Jewish tradition and the circumstances of the present emergency as well, have precipitated them into a position of leadership. The organized Jewish community of Palestine through its representative body, the Vaad Leumi, is affiliated with the World Jewish Congress.

Within the free zones of Europe itself, the World Jewish Congress has active and important affiliates. Of these the most important is the British section, which has played a significant part in the political work of the World Jewish Congress, and whose standing is such that it has been of great assistance in approaching and dealing with the various governments-in-exile concentrated in London.

A vital listening post is Switzerland, where the World Jewish Congress maintains an office which has been of extreme importance not only for an accurate and reliable understanding of the current situation, but for the various invaluable contacts possible only

in this island of neutrality in the middle of Axis-dominated Europe. The organized Swiss Jewish Community, as a whole, is affiliated with the World Jewish Congress.

In Australia the Congress is building up a new affiliate which is the first attempt at an organized central body for this important community. During the past year, the Nordic Jewish communities of Sweden and Finland have affiliated with the World Jewish Congress. The Congress in its New York office has the assistance of a Danish advisory group; and after the war it is anticipated that a full Nordic Jewish conference will be affiliated with the Congress.

The Congress is also represented in Portugal; India and Egypt; in Kenya, Rhodesia, Tanganyika, Teheran; and wherever Axis-occupied territories are liberated, as has already occurred in Syria and North Africa.

War-Time Activities

The functions of the World Jewish Congress depended in large measure upon the existence of international standards of law and order which the nations were determined to uphold. Yet even in the midst of the wreckage of international order, the Congress has been able to employ its facilities of international Jewish cooperation to good advantage in dealing with the World-wide ramifications of Jewish problems. Because of this, the Congress has been of aid in many a tangled and intricate situation arising for uprooted Jews in this global war; and it has remained in close contact with the representatives of the embattled peoples who will one day rebuild the rule of law in international relations.

From the very beginning of the war, the world Jewish Congress, the only representative to the free world which the Jews of Axis Europe have today, has been vitally concerned with every possibility

of bringing aid and succor to the suffering Jewish masses. The Congress has constantly sought ways and means to aid them, and for this purpose maintains relations with the governments of the United States and Great Britain, with the governments-in-exile, with neutral countries, with the various Red Cross agencies including the International Red Cross, and with private Jewish relief agencies. It has sought consistently, throughout the war, to stimulate the search for methods of alleviating the unexampled suffering of the Jews in Europe.

It has been the task of the World Jewish Congress to receive, sift, and bring home to the governments and public opinion of the free countries the authentic facts of the horrible German program to exterminate the Jews.

The Congress' position in Europe is such that persons possessing information relating to the Jews turn naturally to the Congress as the proper agency to receive it. Through its listening posts in Geneva, London, Stockholm, and Istanbul, from witnesses arriving in Palestine and other havens, from underground sources, reports of the true situation flowed to the Congress. Carefully weighed and authenticated, this information was conveyed to the public, and the eyes of the world were finally opened to the frightful crisis of European Jewry. The need for emergency rescue measures was insistently urged by the World Jewish Congress and its affiliates in all free countries.

Unhappily, very little has yet been done in this desperate emergency to bring about effective rescue. Following the public meeting of March 1, 1943, organized by the American Jewish Congress together with other Jewish bodies and labor and church organizations, the United States announced the plan to hold an Anglo-American conference on refugees: and in due course such a conference was held in Bermuda. However, this conference did not bring full scale

attempt to rescue the Jews of Europe. It was not until January 23, 1944 that a body was established by one of the United Nations, specifically devoted to activities of this sort. The establishment of the United States War Refugee Board was only possible because of the great stirring of public opinion to which the reports of the World Jewish Congress distributed through a variety of channels substantially contributed. Moreover the record of rescue activities undertaken within Europe with the support of the World Jewish Congress have through emissaries of closely affiliated organizations was a powerful argument in convincing government authorities that the prospect of rescue was feasible. Since the establishment of the Board, the World Jewish Congress has remained in close contact, latterly through the agency of a special Rescue Department headed by Dr. A.L. Kubowitzki, which has been able to make valuable suggestions to the Board. The contacts of the World Jewish Congress within Europe have of course been made available to the War Refugee Board and its associates in neutral and other United Nations countries have worked faithfully in cooperation with the War Refugee Board. Their aid has been of significance in such cases as the effort to rescue the Jews of Hungary, the safeguarding of Jewish lives in Europe in cases where interned persons had papers of certain Latin-American countries, and on similar occasions.

With regard to another aspect of this question the World Jewish Congress view has been favorably received by the United Nations. The Congress has consistently demanded during the war that an attempt be made to deter Axis and satellite governments and Axis and collaborationist agents from anti-Jewish acts by warnings of punishment upon seizure. Following the first declaration on this subject by nine governments-in-exile at a conference in St. James' Palace in

London and the United States the World Jewish Congress, speaking for the Jewish people, obtained substantial results. Prime Minister Churchill and President Roosevelt on July 21, 1942, issued specific condemnations of the Nazi atrocities against the Jews. The President's letter, addressed to Dr. Stephen S. Wise, promised that "the perpetrators of these crimes (would be held) to strict accountability." A further measure in the campaign of deterrence was the United Nations' statement of December 17, 1942, condemning the crimes against the Jews and warning that full punishment of the criminals would be exacted. The most extensive use of this method of rescue occurred after the German occupation of Hungary in March, 1934. At that time very specific and stern warnings were issued by the President of the United States and by other Allied governments and were broadcast to the people of Hungary. These measures had the effect for some time of preventing the deportation of Jews to certain death in Poland. The World Jewish Congress has continued in close touch with the governments and commissions registering and studying war crimes, and is now directly represented in private, semi-official bodies in Great Britain with important assignment in this field.

Postwar Planning

The relations between the World Jewish Congress and the governments of the United Nations have been utilized to lay the foundation upon which postwar reconstruction may be begun. In the very midst of the war, both the free countries and the governments-in-exile have prepared for postwar reconstruction by declaring that the effects of the looting and the perverse anti-Jewish discrimination of the Axis are to be regarded as legally null and void. On January 5, 1943, a warning "to all concerned and in particular to persons in neutral countries" was issued by the United Nations, stating that they

"Intend to do their utmost to defeat the methods of dispossession practiced by the (enemy)...against the countries and peoples who have been so wantonly assaulted and despoiled." The following representatives of the United Nations have addressed their solemn engagements to the World Jewish Congress that after the war the Jews will be established under conditions of legal equality, and that the grievous damages they suffered will, as far as possible be repaired: Arthur Greenwood (British War Cabinet); General de Gaulle; and the governments-in-exile of Poland, Czechoslovakia, Greece, Belgium, the Netherlands, Norway, Luxembourg and Yugoslavia. In the Polish and Czechoslovak National Councils the official Jewish representatives, Ignacy Schwarzbart and Ernst Frischer respectively, are both leading members of the Congress.

In the case of the territories reoccupied by the United Nations, the World Jewish Congress has already been instrumental in securing important measures of rehabilitation. Among these are the communications of General de Gaulle to the World Jewish Congress undertaking that the Vichy anti-Jewish legislation is not to be applied in Syria and the Lebanon. The French Jewish Representative Committee, a body of French Jewish leaders under the aegis of the World Jewish Congress, bore the brunt of the campaign to restore to the Algerian Jews their French citizenship, which was withheld for a long time by the delay in declaring Vichy abrogation of the Cremieux Decree null and void. While this issue was still an open one, another act of discrimination against the Jews of North Africa had been remedied, thanks to the active interest of the French Jewish Representative Committee of the World Jewish Congress. Learning of secret orders by General Prioux discriminating against Jews in the French army, members of the Committee publicly protested these acts ordered by French officials who were allied with the democratic war effort. Dr. Stephen S. Wise, President

of the World Jewish Congress, submitted the Congress' information on this subject to the United States War Department in a letter of April 22, 1943. Subsequently Assistant Secretary of War McCloy notified Dr. Wise that all discriminatory practices against Jews by the French army had been specifically prohibited by an order of General Giraud on May 15th.

After continued friendly discussions, the de Gaulle government on October 23, 1943 declared that Cremieux Decree was once more in force. Since that time, numerous other countries have been liberated and the practice has been established that in enemy countries, armistices signed upon capitulation include the abrogation of discriminatory laws from which Jews have suffered and their release from internment camps. Experience has shown however that even in these countries the problems of Jewish rehabilitation are so complex that continued planning and negotiation on the part of various committees of the World Jewish Congress is called for. The various committees have been engaged in preparing material for analyzing the problem and in cooperation with the Institute of Jewish Affairs have arrived at certain conclusions which they are calling to the attention of their governments.

The Institute of Jewish Affairs--research body of the American and World Jewish Congress--is the central agency in the peace planning of the Congress. It receives the authenticated information of the various World Jewish Congress listening posts, together with other documentation collected through its ramified contacts with governmental and research agencies; it subjects this material to careful analysis, in the light of accumulated knowledge and practical experience of the Jewish situation; and on the basis of its factual analysis, it formulates proposals of rescue and postwar reconstruction. Because of its work the wartime political activity and postwar plans

of the World Jewish Congress have been based on a full and objective comprehension of the situation, insofar as thorough canvassing and careful analysis of the available data make this possible. The findings of the Institute have in part been made available to the public in periodical publications and through longer studies. No less essential is the service it performs by making its exhaustive archives and expert analyses available to governmental agencies and others who frequently consult the Institute in its special field.

The Institute of Jewish Affairs has readily been of extreme importance in relation to the International relief agency, UNRRA. Both at the First and Second Council Sessions of UNRRA, the World Jewish Congress consulted with various delegates on the basis of memoranda prepared in cooperation with the Institute of Jewish Affairs. Initial results obtained at the first conference in 1943 at Atlantic City were solidified and extended by the combined delegations of the World Jewish Congress and the American Jewish Conference at the Second Montreal Council Session. These theses of Jewish Affairs established by the Institute/~~XXXXX~~ (Relief and Rehabilitation by Zorach Warhaftig) were adopted by almost all the Jewish organizations represented in Montreal and his main points were also adopted by the UNRRA Council upon the motion of the American and British delegations.

In preparation for the War Emergency Conference, the Institute of Jewish Affairs working together with the various departments of the World Jewish Congress has developed concrete and detailed programs for the Restoration of Jewish Rights, the specific problems of relief and rehabilitation for Jews, the question of indemnification for property loss and damages and the problem of retribution for crimes.

On each of these problems, in addition to the draft programs the Institute of Jewish Affairs has prepared comprehensive monographs discussing in detail the problems involved. Materials of this sort prepared by the Institute of Jewish Affairs have already been widely used by agencies for Jewish and general post-war planning and they will ~~be~~ provide the basis at the discussion of the War Emergency Conference of the World Jewish Congress and the Second Session of the American Jewish Conference, at which occasions the lines of post-war Jewish demands will be thrashed out.

* * *

The problems of the Jewish people in the past have been such that their solution must be sought through international cooperation. There can be no doubt that this will be the case even more significantly in the future. The World Jewish Congress because of its representative character, its wide experience, its far-flung and well-organized contacts, through its constituent affiliates, with all parts of the world and with the governments which will shape the world's future, is an invaluable machinery for Jewish reconstruction. Thus in the period between the two wars, the Jewish people, through the Committee of Jewish Delegations and its historical successor, the World Jewish Congress, have in some measure kept alive that principle of international cooperation which now is generally recognized to be essential.

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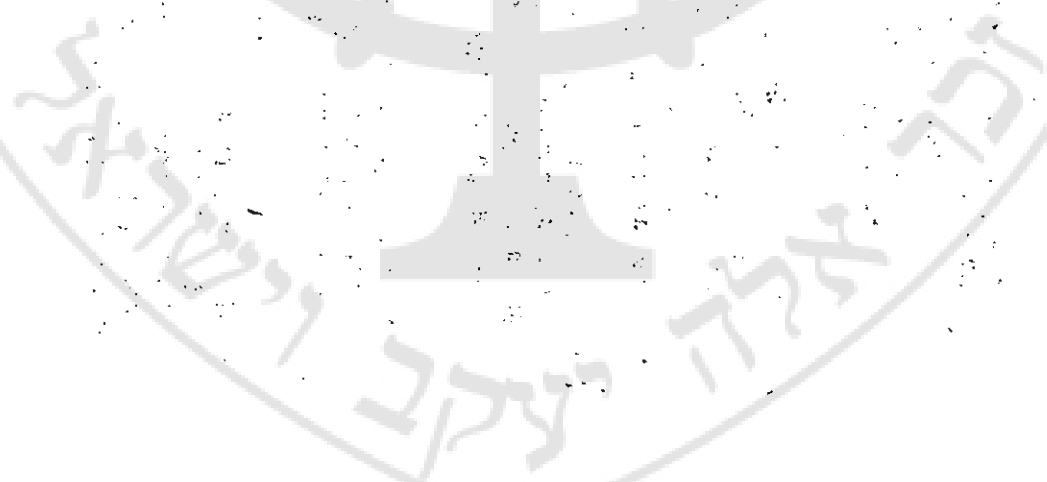
Ben Halpern



AMERICAN JEWISH ARCHIVES



~~1942-1943~~



A Statement of Policy

Adopted by the

World Jewish Congress

Executive Committee

PUNISHMENT OF WAR CRIMINALS

THE unprecedented place which the present war holds in the history of humanity is due not only to its magnitude but, to the ruthless lawlessness with which it has been waged by the Nazi regime and its allies. Not only have the laws of war as accepted by civilized nations been repeatedly violated, but new methods of warfare have been developed by Germany unprecedented in the history of Western nations and designed to insure German hegemony in Europe irrespective of the outcome of military operations.

Accordingly, the Germans have devised and waged biological warfare and have exterminated whole groups and classes with the object of permanently weakening peoples who stand in the way of German expansion. The most monstrous of these crimes has had as its purpose the destruction of an entire people: the Jews of Europe.

This crime, which has been described by President Roosevelt as "one of the blackest crimes of all history," was the result of a carefully prepared and openly avowed policy. First in Germany and then in the successively occupied territories, the Jews were systematically degraded, deprived of their means of livelihood, segregated in overcrowded ghettos and camps, subjected to a system of planned starvation and forced labor. The reduction of the Jewish population as a result of the appalling losses which this policy assured did not prove rapid enough to satisfy Nazi designs. The Nazis and their satellites therefore resorted to the methods of wholesale deportation and mass murder. Already millions of Jews have been done to death in Europe; and the process continues.

The leaders of the United Nations have repeatedly taken note of the crimes perpetrated by the Axis powers and have proclaimed it to be their resolve, in the words of Prime Minister Winston Churchill, "to place retribution for these crimes among the major

purposes of this war." The declaration to this effect made by the governments of the occupied countries on January 13, 1942 at St. James' Palace, London, was expanded and reinforced by the Moscow Statement of November 1, 1943, signed by the heads of the governments of Great Britain, Soviet Russia and the United States, "speaking in the interests of 32 United Nations."

In addition to the general warnings to the Axis powers, of which there have been a considerable number, they have been specifically warned that crimes against the Jewish populations under their control would be punished. As early as August 1942, such warnings were contained in messages addressed by President Roosevelt and Prime Minister Churchill to a mass meeting of New York citizens. These warnings were made even more specific in the joint statement issued simultaneously in London and Washington on December 17, 1942, by the governments of Great Britain, Soviet Russia and the United States together with the European government-in-exile. In this formal statement condemning the Nazi policy of exterminating the Jewish people in Europe, these governments reiterated "their solemn resolution to insure that those responsible for these crimes shall not escape retribution."

The World Jewish Congress accordingly urges the adoption of the following measures and principles:

1) The necessary measures will be taken to insure that no Axis criminal escapes punishment.

2) The terms of reference defining the competence and jurisdiction of the War Crimes Commission, the proposed international tribunal and the national courts, shall be the official statements issued by spokesmen of the United Nations. In his statement of March 24, 1944, the President of the United States, referring to the extermination of the Jewish people, says that it was "begun by the Nazis in the day of peace and multiplied by them a hundred times in time of war." Accordingly, the jurisdiction of the judicial machinery to be set up to deal with it must include the territories of Germany and her satellites, as well as the occupied countries, and the acts for which the criminals will be held responsible must include all forms of persecution of racial, religious, and political minorities committed

in the course of and incidental or preparatory to the war by the Axis and their satellites and collaborators after January 30, 1933 in countries under their control.

3) The commanders of the armies of liberation will be furnished with instructions on the problem of war criminals and their apprehension, and on the measures to be taken to assemble and safeguard the evidence of their crimes. Accordingly, all members of the SS and the Gestapo, as well as other persons suspected of having committed war crimes, including members of local quisling regimes, will be placed under arrest by the Allied military authorities as their armies advance in the liberation of occupied territories and in the occupation of the territories of the Axis powers.

4) Provision for the surrender of criminals will be included in armistice terms. It will be made clear that no criminal will be permitted to evade punishment, whether through conflict of jurisdiction or escape to neutral countries. Like all other war criminals, the violators of Jewish rights will be declared common criminals whose surrender or extradition all countries, whether Axis, satellite, neutral or non-belligerent, will be required to grant.

5) In the list of crimes made punishable, the attempt to annihilate the Jewish people in Europe, and all acts of violence against Jews in the occupied countries and within the territory of the Axis nations and their satellites in whatever form, will find their explicit and proper place together with other violations of law by the Axis and quisling criminals.

6) In all trials of Axis leaders who excelled themselves both in war crimes of a general character and in those directed against the Jewish population, adequate attention will be given to the specific counts dealing with their anti-Jewish acts.

7) The United Nations whose territories were occupied by the enemy will prosecute with all the required energy and vigor those responsible for the inhuman treatment meted out to the Jewish population, irrespective of nationality.

8) The prosecution of those responsible for the criminal treatment meted out to the Jews in Nazi Germany and in the territories

of her satellites will be within the jurisdiction of an International Court of Criminal Justice. In no case will the trial of those accused of punishable acts under this head be entrusted to German courts or courts of the satellite States.

9) Representatives of the respective Jewish communities will be admitted to the prosecuting offices and courts as *amici curiae* and provision will be made to this effect.

10) Representatives of the Jewish Community (World Jewish Congress) will be admitted as *amici curiae* before the International Prosecuting Body and the International Court of Criminal Justice, whose constituting acts will contain the necessary provisions to this effect.

11) The Commission for the Investigation of War Crimes, or whatever other body may be established for this purpose by the United Nations, will receive and give due consideration to all material which may be submitted to it by the World Jewish Congress and its associated bodies, and will make the necessary arrangements through the establishment of special machinery and the appointment of special representatives to insure that full weight should be given to the evidence assembled by Jewish bodies.

The re-establishment of ordered society in Europe plainly requires that the Axis criminals shall be brought to justice, and brought to justice without delay. There can be no peace and security so long as large numbers of self-confessed criminals are allowed to be at large and by their very presence to mock the promises of a new and better international order made by the spokesmen of democracy. Moreover, if those who are guilty of monstrous crimes against the Jewish people are allowed to escape punishment, it cannot but have the effect of encouraging adventurers in the post-war world to use anti-Semitism as a means of obtaining power and thereafter as an instrument of aggression.

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Accordingly, the Germans have devised and waged biological warfare and have exterminated whole groups and classes with the object of permanently weakening peoples whose resistance might stand in the way of aggression. The most monstrous of these crimes has had as its purpose the destruction of an entire people: the Jews of Europe.

This crime, which has been described by President Roosevelt as "one of the blackest crimes of all history," was the result of a carefully prepared and openly avowed policy. First in Germany and then in the successively occupied territories, the Jews were systematically degraded, deprived of their means of livelihood, segregated in overcrowded ghettos and camps, subjected to a system of planned starvation and forced labor. The reduction of the Jewish population as a result of the appalling losses which this policy assured did not prove rapid enough to satisfy Nazi designs. The leaders of the Nazi regime and their satellites therefore resorted to the methods of wholesale deportation and mass murder. Already millions of Jews have been done to death in Europe and it is doubtful whether more than a minority of those who remain will survive the war.

The leaders of the United Nations have repeatedly taken note of these crimes perpetrated by the Axis powers and have proclaimed it to be their resolve, in the words of Prime Minister Winston Churchill "to place retribution for these crimes among the major purposes of this war." The declaration to this effect made by the governments of the occupied countries on January 13, 1942 at St. James' Palace, London, was expanded and reinforced by the Moscow Statement of November 1, 1943, signed by the heads of the governments of Great Britain, Soviet Russia and the United States, "speaking in the interests of 32 United Nations."

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The World Jewish Congress accordingly urges the adoption of the following measures and principles:

- 1) The necessary measures will be taken to insure that no Axis criminal escapes punishment on merely technical grounds.

2) The terms of reference defining the competence and jurisdiction of the War Crimes Commission, the proposed international tribunal and the national courts shall be the official statements issued by spokesmen of the United Nations. In his statement of March 24, 1944, the President of the United States, referring to the extermination of the Jewish people, says that it was "begun by the Nazis in the day of peace and multiplied by them a hundred times in time of war." Accordingly, the jurisdiction of the judicial machinery set up to deal with it must include the territories of Germany and her satellites as well as the occupied countries, and the acts for which the criminals will be held responsible must include all forms of persecution of racial, religious, and political minorities committed in the course of and incidental or preparatory to the war by the Axis and their satellites and collaborators after January 30, 1933 in countries under their control.

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4) In the list of crimes made punishable after the end of hostilities, the attempt to annihilate the Jewish people in Europe and all acts of violence against Jews in the occupied countries and within the territory of the Axis nations and their satellites in whatever form since 1933, will find their explicit and proper place together with other violations of law by the Axis and quisling criminals.

5) In all trials of Axis leaders who excelled themselves both in war crimes and of a general character and in those directed against the Jewish population, adequate attention will be given to the specific counts dealing with their anti-Jewish acts.

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8) All these violators of Jewish rights, like all other war criminals, will be declared common criminals whose surrender or extradition the Axis countries, their satellites, and the neutral countries will be required to grant.

9) Representatives of the respective Jewish communities will be admitted to the prosecuting offices and courts as amici curiae and provision will be made to this effect.

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The re-establishment of ordered society in Europe plainly requires that the Axis criminals shall be brought to justice. There can be no peace and security so long as large numbers of self-confessed criminals are allowed to be at large and by their very presence to mock the promises of a new and better international order made by the spokesmen of democracy. Moreover, if those who are guilty of monstrous crimes against the Jewish people are allowed to escape punishment, it cannot but have the effect of encouraging adventurers in the post-war world to use anti-Semitism as a means of obtaining power and thereafter as an instrument of aggression.



The World Jewish Congress

Founded in 1936 to afford Jewry unified representation for the protection of Jewish rights everywhere, the World Jewish Congress ---

Maintains agencies in 38 countries;

Has established effective contacts with the governments and foreign offices of Allied and neutral countries, with which it constantly intervenes on behalf of Jewish communities;

Has organized 17 Jewish Committees-in-Exile which, speaking for the captive European communities, labor for relief and rescue of their respective groups and give intensive consideration to plans for reconstruction after the war;

Established the evidence of the Nazi mass killings, awakened public opinion, and initiated efforts leading to the United Nations' declaration of protest, and the resultant rescue conferences;

Presented the Jewish case through carefully documented memoranda at the Bermuda Conference and also at the Conference of the United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration (UNRRA), where the intervention of Congress representatives brought important favorable results, including the assignment of four million dollars by our Government together with a similar contribution by the British Government to the International Red Cross for work among Jewish refugees in Nazi-occupied countries.

Led in moves for rescue action through diplomatic channels in many countries;

Organized and maintains the Inter-American Jewish Council, an instrument of Jewish solidarity serving the communities of North and South America.

Was instrumental in securing the assistance of the U. S. and British Governments in admitting into Sweden 10,000 Jews who were ordered deported from Denmark by Hitler;

Initiated the action which resulted in the restoration of the Cremieux Decree restoring citizenship to 144,000 Jews in Algeria.

Moved to effect the abrogation of the decree which suspended Yiddish newspapers in Argentina.

Publishes a weekly treatise on Jewish Affairs, "Jewish Currents".

February, 1944

THE WORLD JEWISH CONGRESS

Development of Congress

The World Jewish Congress though organized in 1936 is an outgrowth of organizations created after the First World War.

The various Jewish organizations have always recognized today as in 1918, that in appearing before a Peace Conference as the responsible agents of the Jews, any delegation must have the free and publicly ascertained authorization of all those concerned. The most directly concerned in postwar Jewish reconstruction, in 1918 precisely as is the case today, were the Jews of Europe.

Thus, upon arriving in Paris for the last Peace Conference, the American Jewish delegation cooperated with European Jewry and the Palestinian and Canadian Jewries to form the Committee of Jewish Delegations. Included in the Committee were the representative Jewish National Councils elected in the new states of Czechoslovakia and Poland, and in Eastern Galicia and Russia, together with the short-lived Jewish National Assembly of the Ukraine-- delegations whose authority to speak for all the Jews of their countries was based on a general popular mandate.

The efforts of the Jewish delegations at the Peace Conference were crowned with a high degree of success. These Jewish demands were recognized and incorporated in international charters: the right to reconstitute the National Home in Palestine, which was embodied in the Mandate for Palestine; the civil emancipation of Jews who had been hitherto disfranchised in Eastern Europe; and the provision of rights and facilities for cultural and religious self-expression. The latter demands were realized in the international minorities agreements.

The acquisition of these rights, which were to be administered under the supervision of the League of Nations, resulted in the development of corresponding international Jewish representative bodies. One of these, the Jewish Agency, is specifically recognized in international law as representing the Jewish people, "for the purpose of advising and cooperating with the Administration of Palestine, in such economic, social and other matters as may affect the establishment of the Jewish National Home and the interests of the Jewish population in Palestine, and subject always to the control of the Administration, to assist and take part in the development of the country."

An international Jewish representative body was also maintained for the purpose of safeguarding Jewish rights in the Diaspora, such as were established in the minorities agreements. After the peace conferences were completed, the Committee of Jewish Delegations did not disband, but it continued for sixteen years to watch over the implementation of Jewish rights in Europe. The Committee was active in numerous international conferences of organizations grouped around the League of Nations, and extended its interest into such fields as the organization of Jewish emigration and social welfare work.

After a decade of fruitful work in the '20s, it became clear that the Committee of Jewish Delegations was not a strong enough organization for the tasks it was called upon to undertake in the '30s. Its representative character and

authority were weakened by the dissolution of some of its constituents-- the Jewish National Councils of Eastern Europe--and the lack of active assistance from others. At the same time, the structure of international order by which minority rights were upheld was being more and more openly sabotaged. Emergency situations began to follow one another in rapid succession; and it was necessary for the Committee to intervene time after time in defense of Jewish rights. In the Reich itself, conditions went from bad to worse; and Jewish rights in other countries, such as Poland and Rumania, were also increasingly under attack.

To meet the situation, it was felt, a body with renewed authority and wider representation was necessary. As a result, conferences were held in 1932, 1933 and 1934, in order to prepare for the organization of the World Jewish Congress. In August 1936, the Congress convened with delegates from thirty-three countries, representing either the entire Jewish community as an organized unit (e.g., Palestine, Canada, Switzerland, Italy, Yugoslavia, Bulgaria) or important groups of organizations within the community (e.g., the United States, Great Britain, Poland, France and Belgium).

In spite of the waxing disregard for international order, the Congress was able to score several significant victories in defense of Jewish rights, even during the period of its formation from 1932 - 1936. The most striking cases were two in which Nazi Germany was brought to book and prevented from carrying out its illegal designs against the Jews. The first was the famous Bernheim Petition in 1933 concerning Upper Silesia, regarding which part of its territory the Reich was bound by a treaty with Poland to respect the rights of minorities. By appealing to the League of Nations on the basis of this treaty, office of the Committee of Jewish Delegations (which was at the same time the office of the World Jewish Congress in formation) forced the German government to cancel its anti-Jewish laws during the life of the treaty in at least one small part of the Reich. The second case of political activity which succeeded, even though there was no minorities treaty involved, was that of the Jews of the Saar. It was feared before the January 1935 plebiscite in the Saar, the Nazi propaganda, conducted with the usual terrorist accessories, would result in a vote to join the Reich. In view of the danger to the Jews, the Committee Congress office intervened in Rome (the head of the Plebiscite Commission was an Italian) and in Paris, with the result that Germany agreed that, after the Plebiscite, any Saar Jews who wished to emigrate would be allowed to withdraw their entire property in French currency. Of all the Jewish refugees created by Hitler the Saar Jews, thanks to the political activity of this Jewish body, presented the least difficulties in resettlement.

After its formal organization in 1936 until the outbreak of the war, the World Jewish Congress continually had to intervene in defense of Jewish rights. The fight against Nazi Germany was prosecuted by a public boycott and, where possible, by recourse to international legal forums. Until Munich, the Congress, by appealing to the League of Nations, protected the Jews of Danzig from repeated attempts to introduce legislation of the Nazi type. During the two years of grace thus won, thousands of Jews were able to escape. In Poland, also the "denunciation" of the minorities treaties, the laws against Jewish ritual slaughter of cattle, the so-called "Ghetto benches" to which Jewish students in universities were to be confined, the riots in Przytyk and Brzesc, and other manifestations of government-tolerated anti-Semitism demanded constant vigilance and activity on an international scale.

The Congress also conducted the successful fight in 1938 against the notorious anti-Semitic Goga government in Rumania. It was the Congress which drew the attention of the British and French government to their moral obligations under the

peace treaties; and the simultaneous intervention in Bucharest of these two powers was followed shortly thereafter by American intervention. Subsequently the Congress presented a petition to the League of Nations Council in Geneva, and following discussion of Congress representatives with leading statesmen of all nations who were present, the League formally received the petition and appointed a Committee of Three to examine the situation. There can be no doubt that the effort of the Congress in mobilizing official and public opinion in defense of the rights of Rumanian Jewry was a decisive factor in the fall of the Goga government which ensued. In the following year it was again the Congress which sent one of its officers to Bucharest where he was received by Premier Armand Calinescu, from whom he secured an undertaking that Jewish wrongs would be repaired and their status restored.

The three short years of World Jewish Congress activity before September 1939 sufficed to make it the address to which Jews everywhere instinctively turned in emergencies. The outbreak of the war radically altered the conditions under which the World Jewish Congress had to work. The international order which was the presupposition of its activities collapsed; and the Congress had to take on new tasks: in mobilizing Jewish resources everywhere for the fight against Hitlerism; in the struggle to rescue European Jewry; and in planning Jewish post-war reconstruction. Most of the European constituents of the World Jewish Congress fell subject to Axis tyranny; and the Congress, building up new strength in the Western Hemisphere, took up abroad the fight for their interests. In carrying out these wartime responsibilities, the World Jewish Congress fell subject to Axis tyranny; and the Congress, building up new strength in the Western Hemisphere, took up abroad the fight for their interests. In carrying out these wartime responsibilities, the World Jewish Congress has acted as the trustee of its silenced constituents; and its close contact with the governments-in-exile of their occupied countries has gained for it effective standing as their authorized representative.

Whom Does the Congress Represent?

As it stands today, the World Jewish Congress is the authorized representative of a vast body of Jews. First of all, it is only the remaining accredited body representing those Jews most concerned in the provisions of the postwar settlements--the Jews of Axis and occupied Europe. The authority which they granted to the World Jewish Congress in 1936 is now being exercised by their elected leaders, many of whom were brought to safety by the efforts of the Congress and have formed Councils and Representations to deal with the problems of their respective countries. The World Jewish Congress now has the cooperation and support of sixteen Jewish committees-in-exile, representing the Jews of Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia, Estonia, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Rumania, Yugoslavia and Luxembourg. During the war these committees have carried out important functions of liaison with their communities and have worked devotedly on behalf of their interests. As the Jewish communities of the liberated countries reestablished their own councils and assemblies (as has already occurred in the case of France) the World Jewish Congress' advisory representative committees may be expected still to perform important transitional tasks involving international questions.

In the United States, the affiliate of the World Jewish Congress is the American Jewish Congress, which while not representing the whole Jewish community in the United States, has the support of by far the great majority-- as shown by

the elections of delegates to the American Jewish Conference. In the rest of North and South America all Jewish communities are affiliated through their central representative bodies with the World Jewish Congress: Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Curacao, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Peru, Trinidad, Uruguay, and Venezuela. All these countries participate in the Inter-American Council, formed at a conference in Baltimore in November 1941, and constitute a solid bloc of Jewish communities affiliated with the World Jewish Congress.

The Jews of Palestine are a particularly important community not only as a body of over half a million Jews, but because Jewish tradition and the circumstances of the present emergency as well, have precipitated them into a position of leadership. The organized Jewish community of Palestine through its representative body, the Vaad Leumi, is affiliated with the World Jewish Congress.

Within the free zones of Europe itself, the World Jewish Congress has active and important affiliates. Of these the most important is the British section, which has played a significant part in the political work of the World Jewish Congress, and whose standing is such that it has been of great assistance in approaching and dealing with the various governments-in-exile concentrated in London.

A vital listening post is Switzerland, where the World Jewish Congress maintains an office which has been of extreme importance not only for an accurate and reliable understanding of the current situation, but for the various invaluable contacts possible only in this island of neutrality in the middle of Axis-dominated Europe. The organized Swiss Jewish Community, as a whole, is affiliated with the World Jewish Congress.

In Australia the Congress is building up a new affiliate which is the first attempt at an organized central body for this important community. During the past year, the Nordic Jewish communities of Sweden and Finland have affiliated with the World Jewish Congress. The Congress in its New York office has the assistance of a Danish advisory group; and after the war it is anticipated that a full Nordic Jewish conference will be affiliated with the Congress.

The Congress is also represented in Portugal; India and Egypt; in Kenya, Rhodesia, Tanganyika, Teheran; and wherever Axis-occupied territories are liberated, as has already occurred in Syria and North Africa.

War-Time Activities

The functions of the World Jewish Congress depended in large measure upon the existence of international standards of law and order which the nations were determined to uphold. Yet even in the midst of the wreckage of international order, the Congress has been able to employ its facilities of international Jewish cooperation to good advantage in dealing with the world-wide ramifications of Jewish problems. Because of this, the Congress has been of aid in many a tangled and intricate situation arising for uprooted Jews in this global war; and it has remained in close contact with the representatives of the embattled peoples who will one day rebuild the rule of law in international relations.

From the very beginning of the war, the World Jewish Congress, the only representative to the free world which the Jews of Axis Europe have today, has been vitally concerned with every possibility of bringing aid and succor to the

suffering Jewish masses. The Congress has constantly sought ways and means to aid them, and for this purpose maintains relations with the governments of the United States and Great Britain, with the governments-in-exile, with neutral countries, with the various Red Cross agencies including the International Red Cross, and with private Jewish relief agencies. It has sought consistently, throughout the war, to stimulate the search for methods of alleviating the unexampled suffering of the Jews in Europe.

It has been the task of the World Jewish Congress to receive, sift, and bring home to the governments and public opinion of the free countries the authentic facts of the horrible German program to exterminate the Jews.

The Congress' position in Europe is such that persons possessing information relating to the Jews turn naturally to the Congress as the proper agency to receive it. Through its listening posts in Geneva, London, Stockholm, and Istanbul, from witnesses arriving in Palestine and other havens, from underground sources, reports of the true situation flowed to the Congress. Carefully weighed and authenticated, this information was conveyed to the public, and the eyes of the world were finally opened to the frightful crisis of European Jewry. The need for emergency rescue measures was insistently urged by the World Jewish Congress and its affiliates in all free countries.

Unhappily, very little has yet been done in this desperate emergency to bring about effective rescue. Following the public meeting of March 1, 1943, organized by the American Jewish Congress together with other Jewish bodies and labor and church organizations, the United States announced the plan to hold an Anglo-American conference on refugees: and in due course such a conference was held in Bermuda. However, this conference did not bring a full scale attempt to rescue the Jews of Europe. It was not until January 23, 1944 that a body was established by one of the United Nations, specifically devoted to activities of this sort. The establishment of the United States War Refugee Board was only possible because of the great stirring of public opinion to which the reports of the World Jewish Congress distributed through a variety of channels substantially contributed. Moreover the record of rescue activities undertaken within Europe with the support of the World Jewish Congress have through emissaries of closely affiliated organizations was a powerful argument in convincing government authorities that the prospect of rescue was feasible. Since the establishment of the Board, the World Jewish Congress has remained in close contact, latterly through the agency of a special Rescue Department headed by Dr. A. L. Kubowitzki, which has been able to make valuable suggestions to the Board. The contacts of the World Jewish Congress within Europe have of course been made available to the War Refugee Board and its associates in neutral and other United Nations countries have worked faithfully in cooperation with the War Refugee Board. Their aid has been of significance in such cases as the effort to rescue the Jews of Hungary, the safeguarding of Jewish lives in Europe in cases where interned persons had papers of certain Latin-American countries, and on similar occasions.

With regard to another aspect of this question the World Jewish Congress view has been favorably received by the United Nations. The Congress has consistently demanded during the war that an attempt be made to deter Axis and satellite governments and Axis and collaborationist agents from anti-Jewish acts by warnings of punishment upon seizure. Following the first declaration on this subject by nine governments-in-exile at a conference in St. James' Palace in London and the United States the World Jewish Congress, speaking for the Jewish people, obtained substantial results. Prime Minister Churchill and President Roosevelt on

July 21, 1942, issued specific condemnations of the Nazi atrocities against the Jews. The President's letter, addressed to Dr. Stephen S. Wise, promised that "the perpetrators of these crimes (would be held) to strict accountability." A further measure in the campaign of deterrence was the United Nations' statement of December 17, 1942, condemning the crimes against the Jews and warning that all punishment of the criminals would be exacted. The most extensive use of this method of rescue occurred after the German occupation of Hungary in March, 1944. At that time very specific and stern warnings were issued by the President of the United States and by other Allied governments and were broadcast to the people of Hungary. These measures had the effect for some time of preventing the deportation of Jews to certain death in Poland. The World Jewish Congress has continued in close touch with the governments and commissions registering and studying war crimes, and is now directly represented in private, semi-official bodies in Great Britain with important assignment in this field.

Postwar Planning

The relations between the World Jewish Congress and the governments of the United Nations have been utilized to lay the foundation upon which postwar reconstruction may be begun. In the very midst of the war, both the free countries and the governments-in-exile have prepared for postwar reconstruction by declaring that the effects of the looting and the perverse anti-Jewish discrimination of the Axis are to be regarded as legally null and void. On January 5, 1943, a warning "to all concerned and in particular to persons in neutral countries" was issued by the United Nations, stating that they "intend to do their utmost to defeat the methods of dispossession practiced by the (enemy)against the countries and peoples who have been so wantonly assaulted and despoiled." The following representatives of the United Nations have addressed their solemn engagements to the World Jewish Congress that after the war the Jews will be established under conditions of legal equality, and that the grievous damages they suffered will, as far as possible be repaired: Arthur Greenwood (British War Cabinet); General de Gaulle; and the governments-in-exile of Poland, Czechoslovakia, Greece, Belgium, the Netherlands, Norway, Luxembourg and Yugoslavia. In the Polish and Czechoslovak National Councils the official Jewish representatives, Ignacy Schwarzbart and Ernst Frischer respectively, are both leading members of the Congress.

In the case of the territories reoccupied by the United Nations, the World Jewish Congress has already been instrumental in securing important measures of rehabilitation. Among these are the communications of General de Gaulle to the World Jewish Congress undertaking that the Vichy anti-Jewish legislation is not to be applied in Syria and the Lebanon. The French Jewish Representative Committee, a body of French Jewish leaders under the aegis of the World Jewish Congress, bore the brunt of the campaign to restore to the Algerian Jews their French citizenship, which was withheld for a long time by the delay in declaring Vichy abrogation of the Cremieux Decree null and void. While this issue was still an open one, another act of discrimination against the Jews of North Africa had been remedied, thanks to the active interest of the French Jewish Representative Committee of the World Jewish Congress. Learning of secret orders by General Prioux discriminating against Jews in the French army, members of the Committee publicly protested these acts ordered by French officials who were allied with the democratic war effort. Dr. Stephen S. Wise, President of the World Jewish Congress,

submitted the Congress' information on this subject to the United States War Department in a letter of April 22, 1943. Subsequently Assistant Secretary of War McCloy notified Dr. Wise that all discriminatory practices against Jews by the French army had been specifically prohibited by an order of General Giraud on May 15th.

After continued friendly discussions, the de Gaulle government on October 23, 1943 declared that Cremieux Decree was once more in force. Since that time, numerous other countries have been liberated and the practice has been established that in enemy countries, armistices signed upon capitulation include the abrogation of discriminatory laws from which Jews have suffered and their release from internment camps. Experience has shown however that even in these countries the problems of Jewish rehabilitation are so complex that continued planning and negotiation on the part of various committees of the World Jewish Congress is called for. The various committees have been engaged in preparing material for analyzing the problem and in cooperation with the Institute of Jewish Affairs have arrived at certain conclusions which they are calling to the attention of their governments.

The Institute of Jewish Affairs--research body of the American and World Jewish Congress--is the central agency in the peace planning of the Congress. It receives the authenticated information of the various World Jewish Congress listening posts, together with other documentation collected through its ramified contacts with governmental and research agencies; it subjects this material to careful analysis, in the light of accumulated knowledge and practical experience of the Jewish situation; and on the basis of its factual analysis, it formulates proposals of rescue and postwar reconstruction. Because of its work the wartime political activity and postwar plans of the World Jewish Congress have been based on a full and objective comprehension of the situation, insofar as thorough canvassing and careful analysis of the available data make this possible. The findings of the Institute have in part been made available to the public in periodical publications and through longer studies. No less essential is the service it performs by making its exhaustive archives and expert analyses available to governmental agencies and others who frequently consult the Institute in its special field.

The Institute of Jewish Affairs has readily been of extreme importance in relation to the International relief agency, UNRRA. Both at the First and Second Council Sessions of UNRRA, the World Jewish Congress consulted with various delegates on the basis of memoranda prepared in cooperation with the Institute of Jewish Affairs. Initial results obtained at the first conference in 1943 at Atlantic City were solidified and extended by the combined delegations of the World Jewish Congress and the American Jewish Conference at the Second Montreal Council Session. These theses established by the Institute of Jewish Affairs (Relief and Rehabilitation by Zorach Warhaftig) were adopted by almost all the Jewish organizations represented in Montreal and his main points were also adopted by the UNRRA Council upon the motion of the American and British delegations.

In preparation for the War Emergency Conference, the Institute of Jewish Affairs working together with the various departments of the World Jewish Congress has developed concrete and detailed programs for the Restoration of Jewish Rights, the specific problems of relief and rehabilitation for Jews, the question of indemnification for property loss and damages and the problem of retribution for crimes. On each of these problems, in addition to the draft programs the

Institute of Jewish Affairs has prepared comprehensive monographs discussing in detail the problems involved. Materials of this sort prepared by the Institute of Jewish Affairs have already been widely used by agencies for Jewish and general postwar planning and they will provide the basis at the discussion of the War Emergency Conference of the World Jewish Congress and the Second Session of the American Jewish Conference, at which occasions the lines of postwar Jewish demands will be thrashed out.

AMERICAN JEWISH

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The problems of the Jewish people in the past have been such that their solution must be sought through international cooperation. There can be no doubt that this will be the case even more significantly in the future. The World Jewish Congress because of its representative character, its wide experience, its far-flung and well-organized contacts, through its constituent affiliates, with all parts of the world and with the governments which will shape the world's future, is an invaluable machinery for Jewish reconstruction. Thus in the period between the two wars, the Jewish people, through the Committee of Jewish Delegations and its historical successor, the World Jewish Congress, have in some measure kept alive that principle of international cooperation which now is generally recognized to be essential.



STATEMENT ON THE STRUCTURE AND PROGRAM OF THE WORLD JEWISH CONGRESS

The World Jewish Congress is a federal organization composed of Jewish communities and organizations in forty countries throughout the world. Its headquarters are in New York where it works in the closest cooperation with the American Jewish Congress which is its largest constituent. It cooperates also with the American Jewish Conference, with which it has a Joint Planning Committee.

The Congress is represented in every country by its local constituent, but in addition maintains offices under the direct control of the Executive at Geneva, London, Buenos Aires, Sydney, Lisbon and Stockholm. This network of offices and affiliations gives the Congress unique facilities for following the course of events everywhere throughout the world, including occupied countries, with the Jewish underground movements with which the Geneva office has been in unbroken liason since the outbreak of the war.

The program of the World Jewish Congress covers the following departments:

1) Organization

Constant contact is maintained with Jewish communities throughout the world, which are kept informed, and new communities and organizations are added from time to time to the affiliates of the World Jewish Congress. They are supplied with information on the course of Jewish events and their resources and personnel are mobilized in the service of Jewish causes. In some countries the Congress has been instrumental in creating representative Jewish bodies where none had existed. In some parts of the globe, the Congress has created regional groupings for neighboring

communities with common needs which can best be served by cooperation. Thus, the Baltimore conference of 1941 was the first occasion on which the Jewish leaders of Latin American countries came together in an effort to formulate and solve problems in common. More recently there was established an Inter-Scandinavian Jewish Congress, within the framework of the World Jewish Congress, that met the needs of the Jewish communities of Sweden, Norway, Denmark and Finland. The Congress through its Organization Department seeks to give practical expression to the desires and need for Jewish unity on all matters in which Jewish communities have a common concern, practically in international affairs.

2) Political

The Political Department has established cordial relations with members of virtually every civilized government throughout the world. Through these associations it seeks to secure understanding for the needs and hopes of the Jewish people everywhere and support for the program which has been adopted and submission at the international conferences which are engaged in framing the peace settlement. The department has successfully intervened on behalf of Jewish communities and groups not able to defend themselves against anti-Semitism and has from time to time secured the interest and sympathy of the great democratic powers in support of Jewish minorities fighting for their rights.

Experience has now demonstrated that anti-Semitism is an international movement and can only be fought successfully on an international scale; the Congress has been able to secure successes in this field because

it has been able to engage simultaneously the interest of all the governments concerned.

The Congress was the first organization to present authentic evidence, which was accepted by the governments after careful inquiry, demonstrating the existence of an organized plan to exterminate the Jews of Europe. It was the first organization working simultaneously in London and Washington to secure official condemnation by the United Nations of this policy of extermination, and it was the first body of any kind to secure permission under official guidance to undertake the work of rescue in occupied territories. In addition to its governmental context, the representatives of the Political Department throughout the world maintain the closest cooperation in matters of common interest with both national and international unofficial bodies. It is, for example, represented on the international Executive of the Free World Association and other similar bodies.

3) Reconstruction

The Congress has both a special obligation and special opportunities to play a creative part in the reconstruction of Jewish communal life in Europe. In this task it has the assistance of 18 representative committees composed of some of the foremost Jewish leaders of all the countries which were at one time occupied by the enemy. In addition, experts of the Institute of Jewish Affairs have drafted a detailed program covering the problems of Relief, Restoration of Rights and Status and Restitution and Indemnification, which will call for constant and unremitting activity in every liberated country.

Members of the Congress are assigned to every liberated country at the earliest possible moment to act as liason with the offices in New York and London. This work is increasingly directed from the Congress office in London which is the European headquarters for the work of UNRRA, the Intergovernmental Committee for Refugees, etc., and an immensely important part is also played by the Geneva office which has the support of the Federation of Swiss Jewish communities, which has been affiliated with the Congress from its inception.

4) Inter-American Jewish Council

The Inter-American Council was established at a conference held in Baltimore in 1941. In addition to the American Jewish Congress, the superior representative body of every organized Jewish community in the Western Hemisphere is associated with this council. The importance of its purpose was attested to by Mr. Sumner Welles, the Acting Secretary of State, who addressed the first meeting of the council. Through this organization, the first attempt is being made to deal on a cooperative basis with all the problems which are common to the Jewish communities of Latin America. Apart from the numerous political questions which arise from time to time, one of their most urgent tasks is to provide for the maintenance and development of Jewish cultural values. Any of these communities are too small and of too recent establishment to have the resources and personnel necessary for dealing with these problems by themselves. If the Jewish life of South America is to be maintained at its full strength, it is obvious that it must have help and guidance from a body which mobilizes the resources of all of them. This is what the Inter-American Jewish Council sets out to do, and it is a work which has become immensely more urgent since

the tragic events in Europe have destroyed so many centres of Jewish life and learning.

5) Public Relations

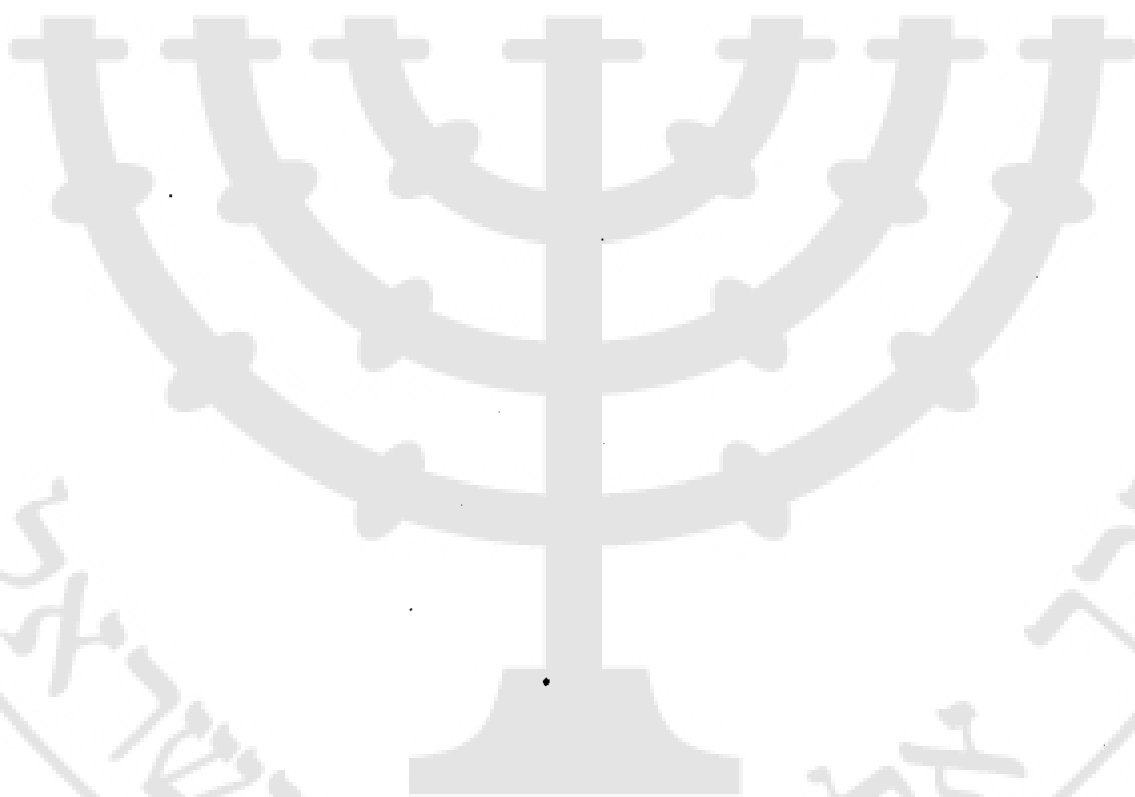
The maintenance of the work of the World Jewish Congress must in a measure depend on the maintenance of an adequate ^{system} ~~source~~ of public relations. It is no longer possible to defend Jewish interests adequately by appeals to the public opinion of one country alone; nor can the struggle for Jewish rights in any one country be conducted without reference to events in other countries. In short, a new technique of public relations on an international scale must be developed. This consideration is reinforced by the fact that the establishment of the Jewish status is so closely associated with the work of each international organization under the auspices of their united endeavors.

6) Publications and Research

The Institute of Jewish Affairs which has been functioning under the joint auspices of the World and American Jewish Congresses in New York is universally recognized as the most effective organization of its kind anywhere in the world. The studies and reports which it has published have become standard text-books. It has carried out important work for government departments both here and abroad. At international conferences, as for example the UNHRA meeting at Montreal, its publications have been accepted as a basis for the formulation of policy by all the Jewish organizations. The documents at the disposal of the Institute, carefully assembled over a period of years from all parts of the world, including occupied countries, are unique; and its work is directed by a group of scholars among whom are some of the foremost authorities on Jewish questions. The research

conducted by the Institute forms the indispensable basis for the formulation of policy by the World Jewish Congress, and its work has often been placed at the disposal of the American Jewish Conference as part of the agreement concluded by the Congress with that body.

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WSC Activity Report by

K. Knopfmacher

(Spanish, German)

"The World Jewish Congress
and its Work"

1944

10/21/60

Der Juedische Weltkongress und seine Arbeit.

Der Juedische Weltkongress wurde im Jahre 1936 in Genf geschaffen auf einer Versammlung, die in der alten Versammlungshalle des Voelkerbundes abgehalten wurde. Diesem ersten Zusammentreffen des Juedischen Weltkongresses wohnten Delegierte von fast vierzig Laendern bei und vertraten praktisch jede geistige Schule des zeitgenoessischen juedischen Lebens. 300 Delegierte, von ihren respektiven juedischen Gemeinden in den oben erwahnten Laendern gewahlt, wohnten der Versammlung bei. Die Versammlung war einberufen worden von dem Comite des Delegations Juives und dem Executiv-Komitee des American Jewish Congress. Die Autoritaet, Erfahrung und Maschinerie der internationalen Zusammenarbeit, die von diesen Koerperschaften waehrend der Friedenskonferenz, und in den darauf folgenden Jahren aufgebaut worden waren, wurden weitergeleitet an die neue Executive, die in Genf gewahlt wurde und die die Grundlage ihrer Arbeit und organisatorischen Struktur wurde.

Vor der Gruendungskonferenz des Juedischen Weltkongresses wurden drei Vorkonferenzen in Genf abgehalten: im September 1932, im August 1933 und im August 1934. In den Jahren, bevor der Juedische Weltkongress errichtet wurde, hatte ein Executiv-Komitee sich mit der politischen und organisatorischen Arbeit beschaeftigt und das, waehrend es sich um diese Sachen kuenmmerte, auch die organisatorische Rahmenarbeit und die Prozeduren der Wahlen in den verschiedenen Laendern vorbereitete.

Seit August 1936 ist der Einfluss des Kongress staendig gewachsen, so dass seine Vertreter jetzt in praktisch allen freien Laendern der Welt zu finden sind, wie entfernt sie auch sein moegen, und seine Struktur ist ausgedehnt und gestaerkt worden, so dass jetzt ein Vertreter des Hauptbureaus an jedem diplomatisch wichtigen Punkt unterhalten wird.

Hauptbureau

Vor Ausbruch des Krieges war das Hauptbureau in Paris, welches der regelmassige Versammlungsort der Mitglieder der Executive war, die in Frankreich, Gross Britannien, Belgien, Holland und der Schweiz lebten, waehrend ein anderes wichtiges Bureau in Genf unterhalten wurde, das sich mit der Masse des Geschaefses beschaeftigten das der Kongress mit dem Voelkerbund und seinen Mitgliedern durchfuehren musste. Ausserdem wurden dem Kongress Erleichterungen in den Bureaus des American Jewish Congress in New York und der British Section in London gewahrt, waehrend Delegierte, die von der Executive ernannt worden waren, als seine Vertreter in Skandinavien, Polen, Zentraleuropa und Rumänien handelten. Die Entwicklung des Krieges hat unweigerlich Veraenderungen in der Struktur des Kongress hervorgerufen, der von Zeit zu Zeit den Beduerfnissen des Moments angepasst wurde. Nach der Besetzung Frankreichs wurde die jetzige Organisation geschaffen. Das Hauptbureau wurde nach New York transferiert, und ein neues Bureau wurde in London als europaeisches Hauptbureau aufgemacht. Das Genfer Bureau wurde umgewandelt, um Hilfsprobleme und neue und dringende Hilfsprobleme zu uebernehmen, die durch die Entwicklung des Krieges geschaffen worden waren, und ein Hilfsbureau wurde in Lissabon fuer den gleichen Zweck eingerichtet. Zur selben Zeit wurde ein neuer Posten in Buenos Aires eroeffnet, um als Hauptbureau fuer den sudamerikanischen Kontinent zu dienen, und ein Hilfsposten in Mexico wurde mit der Kontrolle der Angelegenheiten in diesem Lande und Zentralamerika beauftragt. Ausser diesen Bureaus unter der direkten Autoritaet der Executive muessen die Bureaus der angeschlossenen Gemeinden und Organisationen in allen Teilen der Welt hinzugefuegt werden, die ihre Maschinerie und ihre Dienste freiwillig dem Kongress zur Verfuegung gestellt haben.

Representation

Der Juedische Weltkongress ist zweifellos die repraesentativste Koerperschaft, die in modernen Zeiten errichtet wurde und sich mit juedischen Angelegenheiten in der ganzen Diaspora beschaeftigt. Ausser dem American Jewish Congress verfuegt er ueber die Treuepflicht von jeder repraesentativen juedischen Koerperschaft in allen Laendern der westlichen Hemisphaere ausserhalb der Vereinigten Staaten. In Canada und jedem lateinamerikanischen Land ist die organisierte repraesentative Koerperschaft der Gemeinde dem Kongress angeschlossen. In Europa unterstuetzen die Judenheiten der einzigen drei bleibenden Gemeinden, die ausser England frei sind, Schweiz, Schweden und Portugal, den Kongress. In der Schweiz, wo eine offizielle Gemeinde existiert, die vom Gesetz anerkannt ist, ist es die Gemeinde selbst, die angeschlossen ist; in den anderen Laendern sind Abteilungen des Juedischen Weltkongresses errichtet worden. In Gross Britannien ist das Haupt der British Section, dem eine grosse Anzahl von wichtigen Gemeindeorganisationen jeder Art angeschlossen sind, die Marchioness of Reading, mit Professor S. Brodetsky und Mr. Philip Guedella als Vice-Praesidenten, waehrend der aktive Vorsitzende in Abwesenheit von Rabbiner Perlzweig Dr. S.S. Silverman ist, ein distinguiertes Mitglied des Britischen Parlaments. In Palaestina ist der Vaad Leumi an den Kongress angeschlossen und arbeitet in engster Kollaboration mit dem Komitee, die in diesem Lande errichtet wurden, um die Interessen der juedischen Gemeinden in Ost- und Zentralsuropa zu vertreten, die jetzt unter feindlicher Besetzung sind. Angesichts der strategischen und politischen Bedeutung von Austral-Asien und dem Fernen Osten im jetzigen Moment ist eine markierte Entwicklung der Kongress-Bewegung in diesen entfernten Laendern gewesen. Kongresskomitees funktionierten sowohl in japanischen wie in chinesischen Zentren, und ein Bureau unter der Leitung von Dr. W. Laserson ist in Melbourne errichtet worden und waehrend der letzten Jahre hat sich die Australische Section des Juedischen Weltkongresses, die erste juedische repraesentative Koerperschaft auf diesem Kontinent, unter der Fuehrung von Sir Samuel Cohen entwickelt, dem Fuehrer der Juedischen Gemeinde in Sydney. Die Arbeit des Zentralbureaus in New York ist unter der allgemeinen Leitung von Dr. Stephen S. Wise, dem Vorsitzenden der Executive, und Dr. M. Goldmann, dem Vorsitzenden des Administrativ-Komitees, die zusammen mit Dr. M.L. Perlzweig, dem Vorsitzenden der Britischen Section und momentan Direktor des Politischen Departements, in der politischen Arbeit fuehren. Rabbi Irving Miller ist als Mitglied der Executive kooptiert worden und hat die Arbeit des Departements fuer Administration und Organisation uebernommen, das fuer die Aufrechterhaltung des Kontakts mit den Kongressbureaus und den angeschlossenen Gruppen in der ganzen Welt verantwortlich ist. Ferner leitet Dr. A. Tartakower das Hilfsdepartement. Das Politische Departement wird von Dr. Max Beer assistiert, der der Liaison Offizier mit der Freien Franzoesischen Regierung und den Vertretern einer Anzahl anderer Regierungen im Exil ist. Dr. Leon Kuhowitzki leitet ein neues Departement, dessen Aufgabe es ist, die Fuehrer der europaeischen Judenheiten in den Vereinigten Staaten in repraesentative Komitees zu vereinen, welche wiederum den Beirat fuer Europaeeisch-Juedische Angelegenheiten konstituieren. Das Politische Departement wird jetzt in Washington durch Mr. James Wajerman-Wise vertreten, der das Bureau des Inter-Amerikanischen Juedischen Rates dort uebernommen hat und in staendiger Konsultation mit dem Department steht.

Aktivitaet im Jahre 1940

Im February 1940 besuchten Dr. Nahum Goldmann aus Genf und Maurice L.

Perlzweig aus London die Washington Konvention des American Jewish Congress. Diese zwei Fuehrer, die seit Ausbruch des Krieges einen steten Kontakt mit der Britischen und Franzoesischen Regierung unterhalten und entsprechende Massnahmen ergriffen hatten, die den Diskussionen in London und in Paris folgten, und die den Zweck hatten, juedische Hilfe in den verschiedenen Teilen der Welt fuer den Widerstand gegen die Agression der Axenmaechte zu organisieren, brachten Vorschlaege mit, um die juedische Beisteuerung zu dem Kampfe zu erweitern und die juedischen Gemeinden ueberall zu vereinen zum Zwecke der Formulierung einer gemeinsamen Annäherung an die Probleme der Nachkriegs-Rekonstruktion und der Organisation einer gemeinsamen Vorbereitung fuer die Friedensdiskussionen, die dem Ende des Krieges folgen wuerden. Diese Vorschlaege wurden mit den Fuehrern des American Jewish Congress besprochen und mit Vertretern anderer juedischer Koerperschaften in den Vereinigten Staaten im Lichte einer Bewegung fuer vereinigte Konsultation und Aktion, die bereits beträchtliche Unterstützung unter den juedischen Fuehrern aller Parteien in England, Frankreich, Holland, der Schweiz und anderen westeuropäischen Ländern gefunden hatte. Leider produzierten diese Bemühungen kein sofortiges Resultat ausserhalb der Raenge der Kongressbewegung selbst, aber Dr. Stephen S. Wise und seine Kollegen an der Spitze des American Jewish Congress verbuergten ihre aufrichtige Unterstützung, sowohl moralisch wie materiell, fuer die Pläne fuer eine ausgedehnte diplomatische Aktivitaet und die Errichtung eines wissenschaftlichen Institutes fuer Juedische Angelegenheiten, das die Nachforschungen unternehmen sollte, die fuer die politische Arbeit des Kongresses und fuer die Formulierung von Friedensvorschlaegen unerlaesslich waren.

Nachdem Dr. Goldmann und Dr. Perlzweig die bestehende Situation, wie sie juedische Hoffnungen und Interessen in Mitleidenschaft zog, mit fuehrenden Beamten in Washington und den diplomatischen Vertretern der kriegsfuehrenden demokratischen Maechte Ende Maers diskutiert hatten, fuehren sie nach Genf und London zurueck. In Genf begann Dr. Goldmann, das projizierte Institut zu organisieren und ging dann nach Paris, wo er die Diskussionen mit fuehrenden Mitgliedern der Franzoesischen Regierung wieder aufnahm mit Hinsicht darauf, ihre Unterstützung fuer die allgemeinen Ziele des Kongresses zu erreichen. Diese Konversationen hatten einen Punkt erreicht, an dem der Premierminister, M. Reynaud, es unternommen hatte, eine oeffentliche Erklaerung abzugeben, als die letzte Phase des franzoesischen Widerstandes gegen die Naziinvasion begonnen hatte und die Konversationen aufgegeben werden mussten.

In London unterbreitete Rabbiner Perlzweig zusammen mit den Beamten der Britischen Section des Kongresses den Mitgliedern der Britischen Regierung und anderen bedeutenden Beamten einen detaillierten Bericht ueber die Resultate seines Besuches in den Vereinigten Staaten. Die Diskussionen, die mit Mitgliedern der Chamberlain-Regierung angefangen worden waren, wurden mit Mitgliedern von Churchills Kriegskabinett fortgefuehrt und resultierten in einem Brief an Rabbi Perlzweig, der von dem Rt. Hon. Arthur Greenwood, Mitglied der Kriegskabinette und Vorsitzender des Komites fuer Nachkriegsrekonstruktion dieses Kabinetts, unterzeichnet war. Dieser Brief

bestaetigte wieder die unveraenderliche Opposition von Gross Britannien gegenueber dem Nazsystem und der Rassenphilosophie, die mit ihm verbunden ist, und fuegte die bedeutsame Erklaerung hinzu, dass im Wiederaufbau der zivilisierten Gesellschaft nach dem Kriege "Juden ueberall die Gelegenheit haben sollten und haben werden, eine klare und konstruktive Kontribution zu machen". Aus dieser bedeutenden Erklaerung, die den klaren Plast der juedischen Frage in jeder Annaeherung an eine Loesung der europaeischen Nachkriegs-Probleme erkaente, entstand eine ganze Serie von Erklaerungen von Regierungen, die sich im Krieg gegen die Axe befinden.

Ein freundlicher Kontakt wurde auch in London mit anderen Regierungen hergestellt, besonders mit der polnischen, die ihr Hauptbureau nach Frankreichs Zusammenbruch von Belgien nach London transferierte. In Konsultation mit Dr. Ignacy Schwarzbart, Mitglied des polnischen Nationalrates und ebenfalls Mitglied des Administrativkomites des Juedischen Weltkongresses, wurden Schritte unternommen, um eine nochmalige Erklaerung zu erhalten ueber die Haltung der polnischen Regierung betreffs der juedischen Frage sowohl waehrend des Krieges wie bei der Wiederherstellung polnischer Unabhaengigkeit. Diese Bemuehungen gipfelten in einer Rede, die von Mr. S. S. Silverman, M.P., dem Deputierten-Vorsitzenden der Britischen Section des Kongresses, in dem House of Commons gehalten wurde. Die Rede wurde im Verlauf einer Debatte ueber ein Gesetz zur Definierung des Status der Polnischen Armee auf Britischem Boden gehalten und entzog dem fuehrenden Minister des Gesetzes eine wichtige Erklaerung, die die erste offentliche Vorlesung der beruehmten "Order des Tages" einschloss, die an die polnische Armee von General Sikorski, dem polnischen Premierminister und Befehlshaber gegen den Antisemitismus herausgegeben wurde. Der Geist von Mr. Silvermans Rede, die allgemein als eine

meisterhafte Vorstellung betrachtet wurde, fachte zu einem neuen Verhaeltnis

mit den polnischen Autoritaeten, das sich seitdem in einer Anzahl von wichtigen und freundlichen Erklaerungen ausgedruekt hat, die von dem polnischen Premier und anderen Mitgliedern seiner Regierung gemacht wurden.

Enge und freundschaftliche Beziehungen wurden mit General Charles de Gaulle herbeigefuehrt kurz nach der Errichtung seines Hauptquartiers in London, besonders durch die Bemuehungen von Albert M. Cohen, einem Beamten des Politischen Departments des Kongresses, der von dem Pariser Bureau nach London transferiert worden war, mit dem Resultat, dass, als Rabbi Perlweig daraufhin in die Vereinigten Staaten fuhr, General de Gaulle einen Brief an seinen Vertreter in New York, M. de Sieyes, richtete, in dem er den Entschluss der Freien Franzoesischen Bewegung wiederholte, die Rechte der franzoesischen Juden voll wiederherzustellen, und instruierte seinen Vertreter durch Rabbi Perlweig den Kontakt mit dem Kongress aufrechtzuerhalten.

In der Zwischenzeit hatten die Ereignisse, einschliesslich der Invasion der Niederlande, neue und furchtbare Probleme fuer den Kongress in Grossbritannien geschaffen. Auf der einen Seite fuehlte sich der Congress verpflichtet, seinen Anteil an den Kriegsbemuehungen in Konsultation mit dem Ministerium fuer oekonomische Kriegsfuehrung und dem Informationsministerium zu verstaerken. Eine Sachverstaendigen-Komitee unter der Leitung von Dr. E. Barou und Professor E. Cohen, den ehrenamtlichen Sekretaeern der Britischen Sektion, stellte sich den Departementen zur Verfuegung, die oekonomische Fragen behandelten; auf der anderen Seite spielte ein spezielles Komitee unter der Leitung von Mr. S. S. Silverman, M.P. das sich haeufig im House of Commons traf, eine wichtige Rolle im Schutz der Interessen der Fluechtlinge von der Nazi-Unterdrueckung, von denen viele interniert wurden als Vorsichtsmassregel fuer den Fall, dass von Naziagenten in verschiedenen Verkleidungen waehrend der Besetzung von Holland gespielt hatten. Fuer alle diese Angelegenheiten wurden dauernd Minister besucht und wichtige Resultate erzielt, von denen eines der wichtigsten die Ernennung der Marchioness of Reading, der Praesidentin der Britischen Sektion, in das Komitee war, das errichtet wurde, um das Aussenministerium ueber die Behandlung von Auslaendern, sowohl feindlichen wie freundlichen, zu beraten, unter denen zu dieser Zeit Tausende von Juden waren. Diese Ernennung war um so bedeutender, weil Lady Reading das einzige juedische Mitglied des Komites war, waehrend alle anderen Mitglieder des Parlaments waren.

Uebersiedlung des Hauptbureaus nach den Vereinigten Staaten

Der Vormarsch der Nazi-Armeen in Frankreich waehrend des Fruehsommers 1940 schuf furchtbare Probleme der Organisation und des Personals fuer den Kongress, der sein Bureau und einen Stab in Paris unterhalten hatte, nachdem das Hauptbureau nach Genf verlegt worden war. Gluecklicherweise machten es die freundschaftlichen Beziehungen, die mit der Reynaud-Regierung unterhalten worden waren, und die wichtigen Kriegsdienste, welche das Pariser Bureau einer Anzahl von Departements hatte leisten koennen, moeglich, die Entfernung des grosseren Teils der Fuehrer und des Personals des Kongresses zu arrangieren, obgleich es nicht moeglich war, alle Archive zu retten. Einige fuehrende Mitglieder zogen es vor, in Frankreich zu bleiben, um die Hilfsarbeit zu organisieren, mit der der Kongress verbunden ist. Im Laufe

der Zeit wurde diese Arbeit immer dringender notwendig, besonders nach der Einfuehrung neuer Unfaehigkeiten fuer die franzoesischen Juden, und ist bis zum heutigen Tage ohne Unterbrechung fortgefuehrt worden.

Es wurde bald augenscheinlich, dass fruchtbare politische Arbeit von nirgends auf dem europaeischen Kontinent mehr fortgefuehrt werden konnte. Dementsprechend wurde das Genfer Bureau reorganisiert als Hauptbureau unserer Hilfsarbeit unter der Leitung eines Sachverstaendigen-Stabes, und mit der Abreise von Dr. Goldmann nach den Vereinigten Staaten wurde das Hauptbureau des Kongresses nach New York transferiert. Kurz danach wurde das Londoner Bureau als europaeisches Hauptbureau bestimmt und mit der Aufgabe betraut, die Verbindungen nicht nur mit den britischen Autoritaeten, sondern mit allen Regierungen im Exil aufrecht zu erhalten, die in England errichtet worden waren, und Rabbiner Perlzweig wurde zum Oberhaupt dieses Bureaus ernannt.

Unterstuetzung der demokratischen Kriegsbemuehungen

Als nach Frankreichs Zusammenbruch der Ausblick fuer die demokratische Sache am hoffnungslosesten erschien und nichts zwischen den Nazis und der Weltbeherrschung stand ausser dem Entschluss des Englischen Volkes sie, koste es was wolle, aufzuhalten, fuehlte die Fuehrung des Kongresses, dass der Moment gekommen war fuer eine neue und staerkere Erklaerung seiner Unterstuetzung der demokratischen Sache und fuer das Unternehmen jedes rechtlichen und legitimen Schrittes, die Quellen die vorhanden waren, zu ordnen, um dieser Unterstuetzung eine praktische Form zu geben. Dementsprechend gab der Amerikanisch Juedische Kongress seine Unterstuetzung an das Komitee zur Verteidigung Amerikas durch Hilfe an die Alliierten bekannt, und Schritte wurden unternommen, um die Bewegung anzufangen, die sich ueber die ganze westliche Hemisphere verbreitete, um England zivile Hilfe angedeihen zu lassen. Es war zu dieser Zeit, dass Rabbiner Perlzweig eingeladen wurde, in die Vereinigten Staaten zurueckzukommen, was er ein Jahr spaeter tat mit der Ernaeutigung und der Unterstuetzung von Mitgliedern der Britischen Regierung, um als Konsultants Kapazitaet in dieser Bewegung fuer Hilfe an England zu dienen und die Verhaeltnisse mit den Britischen Autoritaeten zu entwickeln, die eine neue Bedeutung mit dem Greenwood-Brief angenommen hatten.

AKTIVITAET SEIT JANUAR 1941

Die Arbeit des Juedischen Weltkongresses kann unter den folgenden Ueberschriften zusammengefasst werden:

1. Kampf gegen den Hitlerismus

Seit Ausbruch des Krieges ist der Kongress in enger und dauernder Verbindung mit den demokratischen ~~Verhinderung~~ Regierungen gewesen und hat jede rechtliche und legitime Moeglichkeit ergriffen in dem Kampf zu helfen. Unter dieser Ueberschrift kann die verschiedenartige zivile Hilfe an englische Bewegungen eingeschlossen werden, welche betraechtliche Proportionen angenommen hat, besonders in der ganzen westlichen Hemisphere. Der Teil, der von juedischen Gemeinschaften in den Beziehungen zu demokratischen Regie-

rungen gespielt wurde und die Bedeutung dieser Arbeit sind von Mitgliedern der Britischen und anderen Regierungen anerkannt worden.

Im Feld der oekonomischen Kriegsfuehrung und Propaganda haben Agenten unter der Fuehrung des Kongresses in verschiedenen Teilen der Welt eine Aktivitaet von staendig wachsender Bedeutung verfolgt. Die Aktivitaet ist natuerlich ueberall mit dem Wissen und in Beratung mit den entsprechenden Departementen der Regierungen der Vereinigten Nationen durchgefuehrt worden.

2. Politische Arbeit re Wanderung und Fluechtlinge

Politische Arbeit in Verbindung mit Wanderung und Ansiedlung von Fluechtlingen. Der Kongress ist in einer einzigartigen Position gewesen, Dienste in Beziehung zu diesem dringenden Problem zu leisten auf Grund seiner Verbindung mit den betreffenden Regierungen. Die blosse Existenz dieses Problems ist eine Demonstration der Gueltigkeit der Kongress-These gewesen, dass die juedische Frage nicht hinreichend behandelt werden kann ausser auf der Basis internationaler Organisation. Der Kongress ist verantwortlich gewesen fuer die Rettung hervorragender juedischer Fuehrer und hat fuer viele Tausende von Fluechtlingen die Verbesserung ihres Loses gesichert, indem er Probleme uebernahm von der Entlassung technischer feindlicher Auslaender in Gross Britannien bis zur Zulassung von polnischen Fluechtlingen in Australien, von der Beschaffung von Reiseerleichterungen in Indien bis zum Schutz der Position von Emigranten oder Fluechtlingen in Latein-Amerika und Hollaendisch West Indien.

Mit vielen Regierungen in allen Teilen der Welt sind Beziehungen angeknuepft worden, zu denen in den letzten Monaten die Soviet-Regierung hinzukam, mit der Verhandlungen sowohl in Washington wie auch in London bezueglich des Schicksals einer grossen Anzahl von Fluechtlingen, die sich jetzt auf Soviet-Gebiet befinden, gefuehrt wurden.

Während der ganzen Kriegsperiode ist der Kongress in ständigem Kontakt mit dem State Department der Vereinigten Staaten und dem Beir-Komite des Präsidenten gewesen in allen Angelegenheiten bezüglich der Rolle, die Amerika spielen konnte, um dieses Problem zu lösen, sowohl um Flüchtlinge als Emigranten und Besucher zuzulassen und eine liberale Politik in dieser Hinsicht in anderen Teilen der westlichen Hemisphäre zu unterstützen. In dieser Arbeit ist Dr. Wise's Mitgliedschaft im Beir-Komite fuer politische Flüchtlinge des Präsidenten ein Faktor von entscheidender Wichtigkeit gewesen.

3. Aufrechterhaltung der Verbindungslinien

Im Hinsicht auf die Judenheiten, die jetzt unter fremder Unterdrückung leben, ist es die Aufgabe des Kongresses gewesen, erstens die Verbindungslinien mit diesen Ländern aufrechtzuerhalten und zweitens bei der Aufrechterhaltung der vertretenden Körperschaften zu helfen, die von den Führern dieser Judenheit parallel zu den Regierungen im Exil errichtet worden waren.

Die nötige Maschinerie wurde eingerichtet, um einen ununterbrochenen Strom von Interkommunikation mit Ländern unter Nazi-Kontrolle aufrecht zu erhalten und diese Arbeit wurde getan, in Konsultation mit den entsprechenden Regierungen im Exil. Praktische Unterstützung und politische Intervention durch den Kongress haben Anerkennung fuer die vertretenden Komitees, die im Namen der polnischen und tschechischen Judenheiten in verschiedenen Ländern handeln, und Vertreter dieser Judenheiten wurden an nationale legislative Körperschaften in Konsultation mit dem Kongress ernannt. In all dieser Arbeit ist es klar, dass keine isolierte Judenheit, wenn sie berechtigt waere, allein zu handeln, mit der Autorität einer Körperschaft von einem so grossen Wahlkreis wie der Kongress handeln. Um diese Arbeit auszudehnen und auch um den Rat der hervorragenden Führer der europäischen Judenheit, die jetzt in den Vereinigten Staaten leben, verfuegbar zu haben, wurde unter der Leitung von Dr. Leon Kubowitzki ein Beirat fuer europäisch-juedische Angelegenheiten geschaffen, der aus Delegierten von repräsentativen juedischen Gemeinschaften zusammengesetzt ist und die im Namen der Judenheiten in denjenigen Ländern sprechen, die jetzt besetzt oder unter der Kontrolle der Axenmaechte stehen. Es gibt jetzt neun solcher Komitees, und die Mitgliedschaft jedes einzelnen schliesst einige der hervorragendsten und erfahrenen Sprecher ihrer Gemeinden ein.

2. Verhandlungen mit Regierungen im Exil

Verhandlungen mit Regierungen im Exil zur Vorbereitung fuer den Wiederaufbau juedischen Lebens in Ost- und Zentraleuropa. Der Kongress ist in ununterbrochener Verbindung mit der Freien Franzoesischen Fuhrerschaft, der polnischen, tschechoslowakischen und anderen Regierungen mit dem Ziel, Uebereinstimmungen fuer Plaene und Vorschlaege zu erreichen, die die volle Gleichberechtigung und die Restitution an die juedische Bevoelkerung, wenn der Sieg errungen ist, wiederherstellen soll. Wichtige Erklarungen von diesen Regierungen an den Kongress, die als Resultat von Interventionen gemacht wurden, sind von Zeit zu Zeit veroeffentlicht worden. Die

Wirksamkeit davon ist auffallend demonstriert worden durch die sofortige und formelle Wiederherstellung der juedischen Rechte in Syrien und Libanon, die von einem Appell der juedischen Fuhrerschaft in Beirut an den Kongress begleitet war, die Vertretung der juedischen Interessen in diesen Gebieten zu uebernehmen. Unter denjenigen Regierungen im Exil, mit denen ein dauernder Kontakt aufrechterhalten wurde, ist die polnische angesichts Polens grosser juedischer Bevoelkerung die wichtigste. Eine Delegation des Kongresses nahm unter der Fuhrung von Dr. Stephen S. Wise die Gelegenheit von General Sikorskis Besuch in den Vereinigten Staaten im Jahre 1941 wahr, um mit ihm eine gruendliche Examination aller hervorragenden Fragen zu unternehmen. Resultate von grosser Bedeutung folgten diesen Diskussionen, auf die sich General Sikorski haeufig bezog in Reden an den Polnischen Nationalrat nach seiner Rueckkehr nach London. Es fanden nachfolgende Diskussionen mit den polnischen Vertretern in den Vereinigten Staaten nach jenem Interview statt, einschliesslich einer Diskussion ueber gewisse Aspekte der Neun-Maechte-Konferenz, die im Januar 1942 im St. James Palace mit Graf Raczinski, dem polnischen Aussenminister, zusammentraf.

Die polnischen Autoritaeten in London haben gewisse Vorschlaege angenommen hinsichtlich der Neun-Maechte-Konferenz, die in London im Namen des Kongresses von der British Section unterbreitet wurden. Die Diskussionen sind noch im Gange mit anderen Regierungen, und man hofft, dass das Ergebnis in der Entwicklung groesserer Bedeutung in den Bemuehungen resultieren wird, das Unrecht wieder gut zu machen, dass den europaeischen Juden angetan worden ist.

5. Verhandlungen mit demokratischen Regierungen

Verhandlungen mit den demokratischen Regierungen, um ihr Interesse zu erwecken und ihre Unterstuetzung zu sichern fuer die Rekonstruktion des juedischen Lebens auf einer Basis von Selbstrespekt und dauernder Sicherheit. Diese Diskussionen wurden urspruenglich mit Mitgliedern des Britischen Kabinetts gehalten und behandelten juedische Probleme in ihren verschiedenen Phasen. Seit der Veroeffentlichung des Briefes von Arthur Greenwood, dem Vorsitzenden des Britischen Kabinettkomitees fuer Nachkriegs-Rekonstruktion, vor einem Jahr, sind diese Diskussionen staendig entwickelt worden, und der Britische Minister fuer Information, sowie Fuhrer unseres eigenen State Departments, haben wachsendes tiefes Interesse an der Arbeit des Institutes fuer Juedische Angelegenheiten gezeigt, auf dessen tatsaechlichen Fundus der Fall des Kongresses vor der Friedenskonferenz gegruendet sein wird. In dieser Verbindung kann auf ein Memorandum ueber die allgemeine juedische Position von Rabbiner Perlzweig hingewiesen werden, das von dem Britischen Gesandten im Sommer 1941 zum Praeminister in London genommen wurde und eine darauffolgende Erklaerung von Winston Churchill zur Folge hatte. Jede bedeutende Regierung unterhaelt jetzt ein Department oder ein Bureau, das Material fuer die Friedenskonferenz vorbereitet, und der Kongress hat Verbindungen mit allen aufgenommen, in London direkt und durch diplomatische Missionen in Washington. Unter den wichtigeren dieser Konsultationen entwickeln sich jetzt Diskussionen in London zwischen der Britishen Section und der Nachkriegs-Rehabilitations-Division des Ministeriums fuer oekonomische Kriegsfuehrung fuer Plaene fuer die Ernaehrung der juedischen Bevoelkerung bei Beendigung der Feindseligkeiten.

6. Hilfsaktivitäten

Ausserhalb der Vereinigten Staaten ist der Juedische Weltkongress auch eine sammelnde Hilfsorganisation. Die Campaigns, die in Latein-Amerika und anderswo gefuehrt werden, haben den Kongress befahigt, dringend nootige finanzielle Hilfe den Fluechtlingskomites in Europa, Palaestina und dem Fernen Osten zukommen zu lassen und die Einwanderung juedischer Fuehrer in Exil aus Europa nach Amerika zu ermoeeglichen. Das Hilfsdepartment hat sich als lebenswiohtig erwiesen, um es moeglich zu machen, die Konzessionen, die durch die politische Aktivitaet des Kongresses erzielt wurden, auszunuetzen.

Vik

Der Juedische Weltkongress und seine Arbeit.

Der Juedische Weltkongress wurde im Jahre 1936 in Genf geschaffen auf einer Versammlung, die in der alten Versammlungshalle des Voelkerbundes abgehalten wurde. Diesem ersten Zusammentreffen des Juedischen Weltkongresses wohnten Delegierte von fast vierzig Laendern bei und vertraten praktische jede geistige Schule des zeitgenoessischen juedischen Lebens. 300 Delegierte, von ihren respektiven juedischen Gemeinden in den oben erwaehten Laendern gewaehlt, wohnten der Versammlung bei. Die Versammlung war einberufen worden von dem Comité des Délégations Juives und dem Executiv-Komitée des American Jewish Congress. Die Autoritaet, Erfahrung und Maschinerie der internationalen Zusammenarbeit, die von diesen Koerperschaften waehrend der Friedenskonzferenz ~~aufgebaut worden waren~~, und in den darauf folgenden Jahren aufgebaut worden waren, wurden weitergeleitet an die neue Exekutive, die in Genf gewaehlt wurde und die die Grundlage ihrer Arbeit und organisatorischen Struktur wurde.

Vor der Gruendungskonferenz des Juedischen Weltkongresses wurden drei Vorkonferenzen in Genf abgehalten: im September 1932, im August 1933 und im August 1934. In den Jahren, bevor der Juedische Weltkongress errichtet wurde, hatte ein Executiv-Komitée sich mit der politischen und organisatorischen Arbeit ^{das} beschaeftigt und, waehrend es sich um diese Sachen kuenmmerte, auch die organisatorische Rahmenarbeit und die Prozeduren der Wahlen in den verschiedenen Laendern vorbereitete.

Seit August 1936 ist der Einfluss des Kongress staendig gewachsen, so dass seine Vertreter jetzt in ^{freien} praktisch allen Laendern zu finden sind, wie entfernt sie auch sein moegen, und seine Struktur ist ausgedehnt und gestaerkt worden, so dass jetzt ein Vertreter des Hauptbureaus an jedem diplomatisch wichtigen Punkt unterhalten wird.

Hauptbureau

Vor Ausbruch des Krieges war das Hauptbureau in Paris, welches der regelmässige Versammlungsort der Mitglieder der Exekutive war, die in Frankreich, Gross Britannien, Belgien, Holland und der Schweiz lebten, während ein anderes wichtiges Bureau in Genf unterhalten wurde, das sich mit der Masse des Geschafftes beschäftigte, das der Kongress mit dem Voelkerbund und seinen Mitgliedern durchfuehren musste. Ausserdem wurden dem Kongress Erleichterungen in den Bureaus des American Jewish Congress in New York und der British Section in London gewahrt, während Delegierte, die von der Executive ernannt worden waren, als seine Vertreter in Skandinavien, Polen, Zentraleuropa und Rumaenien handelten. Die Entwicklung des Krieges hat unweigerlich Veranderungen in der Struktur des Kongress hervorgerufen, der von Zeit zu Zeit den Bedürfnissen des Moments angepasst wurde. Nach der Besetzung Frankreichs wurde die jetzige Organisation geschaffen. Das Hauptbureau wurde nach New York transferiert, und ein neues Bureau wurde in London als europaeisches Hauptbureau aufgemacht. Das Genfer Bureau wurde umgewandelt, um Hilfsprobleme und neue und dringende Hilfsprobleme zu uebernehmen, die durch die Entwicklung des Krieges geschaffen worden waren, ~~xxxxxx~~ und ein Hilfsbureau wurde in Lissabon fuer den gleichen Zweck eingerichtet. Zur selben Zeit wurde ein neuer Posten in Buenos Aires eroeffnet, um als Hauptbureau fuer den siedamerikanischen Kontinent zu dienen, und ein Hilfsposten in Mexico wurde mit der Kontrolle der Angelegenheiten in diesem Lande und Zentralamerika beauftragt. Ausser diesen Bureaus unter der direkten Autoritaet der Executive muessen die Bureaus der angeschlossenen Gemeinden und Organisationen in allen Teilen der Welt hinzugefuegt werden, die ihre Maschinerie und ihre Dienste freiwillig dem Kongress zur Verfuegung gestellt haben.

Repraesentation

Der Juedische Weltkongress ist zweifellos die repraesentativste Koerperschaft, die in modernen Zeiten errichtet wurde und sich mit juedischen Angelegenheiten in der ganzen Diaspora beschaeftigt. Ausser dem American Jewish

verfügt er ueber die Treuepflicht von jedem repraesentativen juedischen Koerperschaft in allen Laendern der westlichen Hemisphaere ausserhalb der Vereinigten Staaten. In Canada und jedem lateinamerikanischen Land ist die organisierte repraesentative Koerperschaft der Gemeinde dem Kongress angeschlossen. In Europa unterstuetzen die Judenheiten der einzigen drei bleibenden Gemeinden, die ausser England frei sind, /den Kongress. In der Schweiz, wo eine offizielle Gemeinde existiert, die vom Gesetz anerkannt ist, ist es die Gemeinde selbst, die angeschlossen ist; in den anderen Laendern sind Abteilungen des Juedischen Weltkongresses errichtet worden. In Gross Britannien ist das Haupt der British Section, dem eine grosse Anzahl von wichtigen Gemeindeorganisationen jeder Art angeschlossen sind, die Marchioness of Reading, mit Professor S. Brodetsky und Mr. Philip Guedella als Vize-Prasidenten, waehrend der ~~W~~aktive Vorsitzende in Abwesenheit von Rabbiner Perlzweig Mr. S.S. Silverman ist, ein distinguiertes Mitglied des Britischen Parlaments. In Palaestine ist der Vaad Leumi an den Kongress angeschlossen und arbeitet in engster Kollaboration mit den Komitees, die in diesem Lande errichtet wurden, um die Interessen der juedischen Gemeinden in Ost- und Zentraleuropa zu vertreten, die jetzt unter feindlicher Besetzung sind. Angesichts der strategischen und politischen Bedeutung von Austral-Asien und dem Fernen Osten im jetzigen Moment ist eine markierte Entwicklung der Kongressbewegung in diesen entfernten Laendern gewesen. Kongresskomitees funktionieren sowohl in japanischen wie in chinesischen Zentren, und ein Bureau unter der Leitung von Dr. M. Laserson ist in Melbourne errichtet worden, und waehrend der letzten Jahre hat sich die Australische Section des Juedischen Weltkongresses, die erste juedische repraesentative Koerperschaft auf diesem Kontinent, unter der Fuehrung von Sir Samuel Cohen entwickelt, dem Fuehrer der Juedischen Gemeinde in Sydney. Die Arbeit des Zentralbureaus in New York ist unter der allgemeinen Leitung von Dr. Stephen S. Wise, dem Vorsitzenden der Executive, und Dr. H. Goldmann, dem Vorsitzenden des Administrativ-Komitees, die zusammen mit Dr. M.L. Perlzweig, dem Vorsitzenden der Bri-

ish Section und momentan Direktor des Politischen Departements, in der politischen Arbeit fuehren. Rabbi Irving Miller ist als Mitglied der Executive Departments fuer kooptiert worden und hat die Arbeit der Administration und Organisation uebernommen, das fuer die Aufrechterhaltung des Kontaktes mit den Kongress-bureaus und den angeschlossenen Gruppen in der ganzen Welt verantwortlich leitet ist. Ferner ist Dr. A. Tartakower das Hilfsdepartment. Das Politische Department wird von Dr. Max Beer assistiert, der der Liaison Offizier mit der Freien Franzoesischen Regierung und den Vertretern einer Anzahl anderer Regierungen im Exil ist. Dr. Leon Kubowitzki leitet ein neues Department, dessen Aufgabe es ist, die Fuehrer der europaeischen Juedenheiten in den Vereinigten Staaten in repraesentative committees zu vereinen, welches/der wiederum fuer Europaeisch-Juedische Angelegenheiten konstituieren. Das Politische Department wird jetzt in Washington durch Mr. James Watorman Wise vertreten, der das Bureau des Inter-Amerikanischen Juedischen Rates dort uebernommen hat und in staendiger Konsultation mit dem Department steht.

Aktivitaet im Jahre 1940

Im Februar 1940 besuchten Dr. Nahum Goldmann aus Genf und Maurice L. Perlzweig aus London die Washington Konvention des American Jewish Congress. Diese zwei Fuehrer, die seit Ausbruch des Krieges einen steten Kontakt mit den Britischen und Franzoesischen Regierung unterhalten und entsprechende Massnahmen ergriffen hatten, die den Diskussionen in London und in Paris folgten, und die den Zweck hatten, juedische Hilfe in den verschiedenen Teilen der Welt fuer den Widerstand gegen die Agression der Achsenmaechte zu organisieren, brachten ~~nicht~~ Vorschlaege mit, um die juedische Beisteuerung zu dem Kampfe zu erweitern und die juedischen Gemeinden ueberall zu vereinen zum Zwecke der Formulierung einer gemeinsamen Annaeherung an die Probleme der Nachkriegs-Rekonstruktion und der Organisation einer gemeinsamen Vorbereitung fuer die Friedensdiskussionen, die dem Ende des Krieges folgen werden. Diese Vorschlaege wurden mit den Fuehrern des American Jewish Con-

gress besprochen und mit Vertretern anderer juedischer Koerperschaften in den Vereinigten Staaten im Lichte einer Bewegung fuer vereinigte Konsultation und Aktion, die bereits beträchtliche Unterstuetzung unter den juedischen Anfuhrern aller Parteien in England, Frankreich, Holland, der Schweiz und anderen ~~Kontinent~~ westeuropaeischen Laendern gefunden hatte. Leider produzierten diese Bemuehungen keinen sofortiges Resultat ausserhalb der Raenge der Kongressbewegung selbst, aber Dr. Stephen S. Wise und seine Kollegen an der Spitze des American Jewish Congress verbuergten ihnen aufrichtige Unterstuetzung, sowohl moralisch wie materiell, fuer die Plaene fuer eine ausgedehnte diplomatische Aktivitaet und ~~die~~ die Errichtung eines wissenschaftlichen Institutes fuer Juedische Angelegenheiten, das die Nachforschungen unternehmen sollte, die fuer die politische Arbeit des Kongresses und fuer die Formulierung von Friedensvorschlaegen unerlaesslich waren.

Nachdem Dr. Goldmann und Dr. Perlzweig die bestehende Situation, wie sie juedische Hoffnungen und Interessen in Mitleidenschaft zog, mit fuehrenden Beamten in Washington und den diplomatischen Vertretern der kriegfuehrenden demokratischen Maechte Ende Maerz diskutiert hatten, fuehren sie nach Genf und London zurueck. In Genf begann Dr. Goldmann, das projizierte Institut zu organisieren und ging dann nach Paris, wo er die Diskussionen mit fuehrenden Mitgliedern der Franzoesischen Regierung wieder aufnahm mit Hinsicht darauf, ihre Unterstuetzung fuer die allgemeinen Ziele des Congress zu erreichen. Diese Konversationen hatten einen Punkt erreicht, an dem der Premierminister, M. Reynaud, es unternommen hatte, eine oeffentliche Erklaerung abzugeben, als die letzte Phase des Franzoesischen Widerstandes gegen die Naziinvasion begonnen hatte und die Konversationen aufgegeben werden mussten.

In London unterbreitete Rabbiner Perlzweig zusammen mit den Beamten der British Section des Kongresses den Mitgliedern der Britischen Regierung und anderen bedeutenden Beamten einen detaillierten Bericht ueber die Resultate seines Besuches in den Vereinigten Staaten. Die Diskussionen, die mit Mit-

gliedern der Chamberlain-Regierung angefangen worden waren, wurden mit Mitgliedern von Churchills Kriegskabinet fortgeführt und resultierten in einem Brief an Rabbi Perlzweig, der von dem Rt. Hon. Arthur Greenwood, Mitglied der Kriegskabinetts und Vorsitzender des Komitees fuer Nachkriegsrekonstruktion dieses Kabinetts, unterzeichnet war. Dieser Brief bestätigte wieder die unveränderliche Opposition von Gross Britannien gegenueber dem Nazisystem und den Rassenphilosophie, die mit ihm verbunden ist, und fuegte ~~hinz~~ die bedeutsame Erklaerung hinzu, dass im Wiederaufbau der zivilisierten Gesellschaft nach dem Kriege "Juden ueberall die Gelegenheit haben sollten und haben werden, eine klare und konstruktive Kontribution zu machen". Aus dieser bedeutenden Erklaerung, die den klaren Platz der juedischen Frage in jeder Annäherung an eine Loesung der europäischen Nachkriegs-Probleme erkannte, entstand eine ganze Serie von Erklaerungen von Regierung, die sich im Krieg gegen die Axe befinden.

Ein freundlicher Kontakt wurde auch in London mit anderen Regierungen hergestellt, besonders mit der polnischen, die ihr Hauptbureau nach Frankreichs Zusammenbruch von Angiers nach London transferierte. In Konsultation mit Dr. Ignacy Schwartzbart, Mitglied des Polnischen Nationalrates und ebenfalls Mitglied des Administrativkomitees des Juedischen Weltkongresses, wurden Schritte unternommen, um eine nochmalige Erklaerung zu erhalten ueber die Haltung der polnischen Regierung betreffs der juedischen Frage sowohl während des Krieges wie bei der Wiederherstellung polnischer Unabhaengigkeit. Diese Bemuehungen gipfelten in einer Rede, die von Mr. S.S. Silverman, M.P., dem Deputierten-Vorsitzenden der British Section des Kongresses, in dem House of Commons gehalten wurde. Die Rede wurde im Verlauf einer Debatte ueber ein Gesetz zur Definierung des Status der Polnischen Armee auf Britischen Boden gehalten und entzog dem fuchrenden Minister des Gesetzes eine wichtige Erklaerung, die die erste oeffentliche Verlesung der beruehmten "Order des Tages" einschloss, die an die polnische Armee von General Sikorski dem polnischen Premierminister und Befehlshaber gegen den Antisemitismus her-

ausgegeben wurde. Der Geist von Mr. Silvermans Rede, die allgemein als eine meisterhafte Vorstellung betrachtet wurde, fuhrte zu einem neuen Verhaeltnis mit den polnischen Autoritaeten, das sich seitdem in einer Anzahl von wichtigen und freundlichen Erklaerungen ausgedruckt hat, die von dem polnischen Premier und anderen Mitgliedern seiner Regierung gesucht wurden.

Enge und freundschaftliche Beziehungen wurden mit General Charles de Gaulle herbeigefuehrt kurz nach der Errichtung seines Hauptquartiers in London, besonders durch die Bemuehungen von Albert M. Cohen, einem Beamten des Politischen Departments des Kongresses, der von dem Pariser Bureau nach London transferiert worden war, mit dem Resultat, dass, als Rabbi Perlzweig daraufhin in die Verä nigten Staaten fuhr, General de Gaulle einen Brief an seinen Vertreter in New York, M. de Sieves, richtete, in dem er den Entschluss der Freien Franzoesischen Bewegung wiederholte, die Rechte der franzoesischen Juden voll wiederherzustellen, und instruierte seinen Vertreter, durch Rabbi Perlzweig den Kontakt mit dem Kongress anrechtzuhalten.

In der Zwischenzeit hatten die Ereignisse, einschliesslich der Invasion der Niederlande, neue und furchtbare Probleme fuer den Kongress in Gross Britanien geschaffen. Auf der einen Seite fuehlte sich der Congress verpflichtet, seinen Anteil an den Kriegsbemuehungen in Konsultation mit dem Ministerium fuer oekonomische Kriegsfuehrung und dem Informationsministerium zu verstaerken. Ein Sachverstaendigen-Komitee unter der Leitung von Dr. W. Barou und Professor E. Cohen, den ehrenamtlichen Sekretaeern der Britischen Sektion, stellte sich den Departamenten zur Verfuegung, die oekonomischen Fragen behandelten; auf der anderen Seite spielte ein spezielles Komitee unter der Leitung von Mr. S.S. Silverman, Mp., das sich haeufig im House of Commons traf, eine wichtige Rolle im Schutz der Interessen der Fluechtlinge von der Nazi-Unterdrueckung, von denen viele interniert wurden als Vorsichtsmassregel fuer den Fall, dass von Naziagenten in verschiedenen Verkleidungen waehrend der Besetzung von Holland gespielt hatten. Fuer alle diese Angelegenheiten wurden dauernd Minister besucht und wichtige Resultate erzielt, von

denen eines der wichtigsten die Ernennung der Marchioness of Reading, der Präsidentin der Britischen Sektion, in das Comité war, das errichtet wurde, um das Ausserministerium ueber die Behandlung von Ausländern, sowohl feindlichen wie freundlichen, zu beraten, unter denen zu dieser Zeit Tausende von Juden waren. Diese Ernennung war um so bedeutender, weil Lady Reading das einzige jüdische Mitglied des Comité war, während alle anderen Mitglieder des Parlaments waren.

Uebersiedlung des Hauptbureaus nach den Vereinigten Staaten

Der Vormarsch der Nazi-Armeen in Frankreich während des Fruchstoppers 1940 schuf furchtbare Probleme der Organisation und des Personals fuer den Kongress, der sein Bureau und einen Stab in Paris unterhalten hatte, nachdem das Hauptbureau nach Genf verlegt worden war. Gluecklicherweise machten es die freundschaftlichen Beziehungen, die mit der Reynaud-Regierung unterhalten worden waren, und die wichtigen Kriegsdienste, welche das Pariser Bureau einer Anzahl von Departamente hatte leisten koennen, moeglich, die Entfernung des grosseren Teils der Fuehrer und des Personals des Kongresses zu arrangieren, obgleich es nicht moeglich war, alle Archive zu retten. Einige fuehrende Mitglieder zogen es vor, in Frankreich zu bleiben, um die Hilfsarbeit zu organisieren, mit der der Kongress verbunden ist. Im Laufe der Zeit wurde diese Arbeit immer dringender notwendig, besonders, nach der Einfuehrung neuer Unfaehigkeiten fuer die franzoesischen Juden, und ist bis zum heutigen Tage ohne Unterbrechung fortgefuehrt worden.

Es wurde bald augenscheinlich, dass fruchtbare politische Arbeit von nirgends auf dem europaeischen Kontinent mehr fortgefuehrt werden konnte. Dementsprechend wurde das Genfer Bureau reorganisiert als Hauptbureau unserer Hilfsarbeit unter der Leitung eines Sachverständigen-Stabes, und mit der Abreise von Dr. Goldmann nach den Vereinigten Staaten wurde das Hauptbureau des Kongresses nach New York transferiert. Kurz danach wurde das Londoner Bureau ~~dazubestimmt~~ als europaeischen Hauptbureau bestimmt und mit der Aufgabe betraut, die Verbindungen nicht nur mit den britischen Autoritee-

ten, sondern mit allen Regierungen im Exil aufrecht zu erhalten, die in England errichtet worden waren, und Rabbiner Perlzweig wurde zum Oberhaupt dieses Bureaus ernannt.

Unterstützung der demokratischen Kriegsbemühungen

Als nach Frankreichs Zusammenbruch der Ausblick fuer die demokratische Sache zu hoffnungslos erschien und nichts zwischen den Nazis und der Weltbeherrschung stand ausser dem Entschluss des ~~Englischen~~ Englischen Volkes, sie, koste es was wolle, aufzuhalten, suchte die Fuehrung des Kongresses, dass der Moment gekommen war fuer eine neue und staerkere Erklaerung seiner Unterstuetzung der demokratischen Sache und fuer das Unternehmen jeden rechtlichen und legitimen Schrittes, die Quellen, die vorhanden waren, zu ordnen, um dieser Unterstuetzung eine praktische Form zu geben. Dementsprechend gab der Amerikanisch Juedische Kongress seine Unterstuetzung an das Komitee zur Verteidigung Amerikas durch Hilfe an die Alliierten bekannt, und Schritte wurden unternommen, um die Bewegung anzufangen, die sich ueber die ganze Westliche Hemisphaere verbreitete, um England zivile Hilfe zuzusenden zu lassen. Da war zu dieser Zeit, dass Rabbiner Perlzweig eingeladen wurde, in die Vereinigten Staaten zurueckzukommen, was er ein Jahr spaeter tat mit der Ermutigung und der Unterstuetzung von Mitgliedern der Britischen Regierung, um als konsultante Kapazitaet in dieser Beziehung fuer Hilfe an England zu dienen und die Verhaeltnisse mit den Britischen Autoritaeten zu entwickeln, die eine neue Bedeutung mit dem Greenwood-Brief angenommen hatten.

AKTIVITAET SEIT JANUAR 1941

Die Arbeit des Juedischen Weltkongresses kann unter den folgenden Ueberschriften zusammengefasst werden :

1.- Kampf gegen den Hitlerismus

Seit Ausbruch des Krieges ist der Kongress in engem und dauernden Verbindung mit den demokratischen Regierungen gewesen und hat jede rechtliche und legitime Moeglichkeit ergriffen, in dem Kampf zu helfen. Unter dieser

Ueberschrift kann die verschiedenartige zivile Hilfe an englische Bewegungen eingeschlossen werden, die von dem Kongress und seinen Angeschlossenen geschaffen wurde, welche beträchtliche Proportionen angenommen haben, besonders in der ganzen westlichen Hemisphäre. Der Teil, der von juedischen Gemeinschaften in den Beziehungen zu demokratischen Regierungen gespielt wurde und die Bedeutung dieser Arbeit sind von Mitgliedern der britischen und anderen Regierungen anerkannt worden.

Im Feld der oekonomischen Kriegsfuehrung und Propaganda haben Agenzen unter der Fuehrung des Kongresses in verschiedenen Teilen der Welt eine Aktivitaet von staendig wachsender Bedeutung verfolgt. Die Aktivitaet war ist natuerlich ueberall mit dem Wissen und in Beratung mit den entsprechenden Departamenten der Regierungen der Vereinigten Nationen durchgefuehrt worden.

2.- Politische Arbeit re Wanderung und Fluechtlinge

Politische Arbeit in Verbindung mit Wanderung und Ansiedlung von Fluechtlingen. Der Kongress ist in einer einzigartigen Position gewesen, Dienste in Beziehung zu diesem dringen Problem zu leisten auf Grund seiner Verbindung mit den betreffenden Regierungen. Die blosse Existenz dieses Problems ist eine Demonstration der Gueltigkeit der Kongress-These gewesen, dass die juedische Frage nicht hinreichend behandelt werden kann ausser auf der Basis internationaler Organisation. Der Kongress ist verantwortlich gewesen fuer die Rettung hervorragender juedischer Fuehrer und hat fuer viele Tausende von Fluechtlingen die Verbesserung ihres Loses gesichert, indem er Probleme uebernahm von der Entlassung technisch feindlicher Auslaender in Gross Britanien bis zur Zulassung von polnischen Fluechtlingen in Australien, von der Beschaffung von Reiseerleichterungen in Indien bis zum Schutz der Position von Emigranten oder Fluechtlingen in Latein-Amerika und Hollaendisch West Indien.

Mit vielen Regierungen in allen Teilen der Welt sind Beziehungen angeknuepft worden, zu denen in den letzten Monaten die Soviet-Regierung hinzukam, mit der Verhandlungen sowohl in Washington wie auch in London bezueglich des Schicksals einer grossen Anzahl von Fluechtlingen, die sich jetzt auf

Soviet-Gebiet befinden, geführt wurden.

Während der ganzen Kriegsperiode ist der Kongress in ständigen Kontakt mit dem State Department der Vereinigten Staaten und dem Bei-Komitee des Praesidenten gewesen in allen Angelegenheiten bezüglich der Rolle, die Amerika spielen konnte, um dieses Problem zu loesen, sowohl um Fluechtlinge als Emigranten und Besucher zuzulassen und eine liberale Politik in dieser Hinsicht in anderen Teilen der westlichen Hemisphaere zu unterstuetzen. In dieser Arbeit ist Dr. Wises Mitgliederschaft in Bei-Komitee ~~des Praesidenten~~ fuer politische Fluechtlinge des Praesidenten ein Faktor von entscheidender Wichtigkeit gewesen.

3.- Aufrechterhaltung der Verbindungslinien

In Hinsicht auf die Judenheiten, die jetzt unter fremder Unterdrueckung leben, ist es die Aufgabe des Kongresses gewesen, ^{erstens} ~~erst~~ die Verbindungslinien mit diesen Laendern aufrechterhalten und zweitens bei der Aufrechterhaltung der vertretenden Koerperschaften zuzuhelfen, die von den Fuehrern dieser Judenheit parallel zu den Regierungen im Exil errichtet worden waren. Die noetige Maschinerie wurde eingerichtet, um einen ununterbrochenen Strom von Interkommunikation mit Laendern unter Nazi-Kontrolle aufrecht zu erhalten, und diese Arbeit wurde getan in Konsultation mit den entsprechenden Regierungen im Exil. Praktische Unterstuetzung und politische Intervention durch den Kongress haben ^{Anerkennung} ~~hatten~~ fuer die vertretenden Komitees ~~Anerkennung~~ ^{die} im Namen der polnischen und tschechischen Judenheiten in verschiedenen Laendern handeln, und Vertreter dieser Judenheiten wurden an nationale legislative Koerperschaften in Konsultation mit dem Kongress eingenommen. In all dieser Arbeit ist es klar, dass keine isolierte Judenheit, wenn sie berechtigt waere, allein zu handeln, mit der Autoritaet einer Koerperschaft von einem so grossen Umfangs wie der Kongress handeln. Um diese Arbeit zu machen und auch um den Rat der hervorragenden Fuehrer der europaeischen Judenheit, die jetzt in den Vereinigten Staaten leben, verfuegbar zu haben, wurde unter der Leitung von Dr. Leor Kubowitzki ein Beirat fuer europaeisch-juedische Angelegenheiten

geschaffen, der aus Delegierten von repraesentativen juedischen Gemeinschaften zusammengesetzt ist und die im Namen der Judenheiten in denjenigen Laendern sprechen, die jetzt besetzt oder unter der Kontrolle der Axenmaechte stehen. Es gibt jetzt neun solche Komités, und die Mitgliedschaft jedes einzelnen schliesst einige der hervorragendsten und erfahrenen Sprecher ihrer Gemeinden ein.

4.- Verhandlungen mit Regierungen im Exil

Verhandlungen mit Regierungen im Exil zur Vorbereitung fuer den Wiederaufbau juedischen Lebens in Ost- und Zentraleuropa. Der Kongress ist in ununterbrochener Verbindung mit der Freien Franzoesischen Fuehrerschaft, der polnischen, tschechoslowakischen und anderen Regierungen mit dem Ziel, Uebereinstimmungen fuer Pläne und Vorschlaege zu erreichen, die die volle Gleichberechtigung und die Restitution ~~tax~~ an die juedische Bevoelkerung, wenn der Sieg errungen ist. Wichtige Erklärungen von dieser Regierung an den Kongress, die als Resultat von Interventionen gemacht wurden, sind von Zeit zu Zeit veroeffentlicht worden. Die Wirksamkeit davon ist auffallend demonstriert worden durch die sofortige und formelle Wiederherstellung der juedischen Rechte in Syrien und Libanon, die von einem Appell der juedischen Fuehrerschaft in Beirut ^{an den Kongress} begleitet war, die Vertretung der juedischen Interessen in diesen Gebieten zu uebernehmen. Unter denjenigen Regierungen im Exil, mit denen ein dauernder Kontakt aufrechterhalten wurde, ist die polnische angesichts Polens grosser juedischer Bevoelkerung die wichtigste. Eine Delegation des Kongresses nahm unter der Fuehrung von Dr. Stephen S. Wise die Gelegenheit von General Sikorskis Besuch in den Vereinigten Staaten im Jahre 1941 wahr, um mit ihm eine gruendliche Examination aller hervorragenden Fragen zu unternehmen. Resultate von grosser Bedeutung folgten diesen Diskussionen, auf die sich General Sikorski haeufig bezog in Reden an den Polnischen Nationalrat nach seiner Rueckkehr nach London. Es fanden nachfolgende Diskussionen mit den polnischen Vertretern in den Vereinigten Staaten nach jenem Interview statt, ein-

schliesslich einer Diskussion ueber gewisse Aspekte der Neun-Maechte-Konferenz, die am Januar 1942 im St. James's Palace mit Graf Raczinski, dem Polnischen Aussenminister, zusammentraf.

Die polnischen Autoritaeten in London haben gewisse Ex Vorschlaege angenommen hinsichtlich der Neun-Maechte-Konferenz, die in London im Namen des Kongresses von der British Section unterbreitet wurden. Die Diskussionen sind noch im Gange mit anderen Regierungen, und man hoift, dass das Ergebnis in der Entwicklung grosserer Bedeutung in den Bemuehungen resultieren wird, das Unrecht wieder gut zu machen, dass den europaischen Juden angetan worden ist.

5.- Verhandlungen mit demokratischen Regierungen

Verhandlungen mit den demokratischen Regierungen im Hinblick, um ihr Interesse zu erwecken und ihre Unterstuetzung zu sicher fuer die Rekonstruktion des juedischen Lebens auf einer Basis von Selbst-respekt und dauernder Sicherheit. Diese Diskussionen wurden urspruenglich mit Mitgliedern des Britischen Kabinetts gehalten und behandelten juedische Probleme in ihren verschiedenen Phasen. Seit der Veroeffentlichung des Briefes von Arthur Greenwood, dem Vorsitzenden des Britischen Kabinettkomités fuer Nachkriegs-Rekonstruktion, vor einem Jahr, sind diese Diskussionen staendig entwickelt worden, und der Britische Minister fuer Information, sowie Fuehrer unseres eigenen State Departments, haben wachsendes tiefes Interesse an der Arbeit des Institutes fuer Juedische Angelegenheiten gezeigt, auf dessen tatsaechlichen Funden der Fall des Kongresses vor der Friedenskonferenz gegrundet sein wird. In dieser Verbindung kann auf ein Memorandum ueber die allgemeine juedische Position von Rabbiner Perlzweig hingewiesen werden, das von dem Britischen Gesandten im Sommer 1941 zum Premierminister in London genommen wurde darauffolgende von Winston Churchill zur Folge hatte. Jede bedeutende und eine Erklaerung Regierung unterhaelt jetzt ein Departament oder ein Bureau, das Material

fuer die Friedenskonferenz vorbereitet, und der Kongress hat Verbindungen mit allen aufgenommen, in London direkt und durch diplomatische Missionen in Washington. Unter den wichtigeren dieser Konsultationen ~~sind~~ entwickeln sich ~~jetzt~~ Diskussionen in London zwischen der Britischen Sektion und der Nachkriegs-Rehabilitations-Division des Ministeriums fuer oekonomishe Kriegsfuehrung fuer Plaene fuer die Ernaehrung der juedischen Bevoelkerung bei Beebdigung der Feindseligkeiten.

6.- Hilfsaktivitaeten

Ausserhalb der Vereinigten Staaten ist der Juedische Weltkongress auch eine sammelnde Hilfsorganisation. Die Campagnen, die in Latein-Amerika und anderswo gefuehrt worden, haben den Kongress befahigt, dringend noetige finanzielle Hilfe den Fluechtlingskomités in Europa, Palaestina und dem Fernen Osten zukommen zu lassen und die Einwanderung juedischer Fuehrer im Exil aus Europa nach Amerika zu ermoeeglichen. Das Hilfsdepartament hat sich als lebenswichtig erweisen, um es moeglich zu machen, die Konzessionen, die durch die politische Aktivitaet des Kongress erzielt wurden, zur auszunutzen.

MEMO

J. W. F. - Misc. - R. L. K. -
April 19, 1944

To: Dr. Robinson
From: Mrs. Knopfmacher

A few weeks ago I promised to let you have an outline of the World Jewish Congress and its work which I prepared in Spanish two years ago for our Mexican and Central American people.

Please find attached two copies of this report.

b1



EL CONGRESO JUDÍO MUNDIAL Y SU TRABAJO

El Congreso Judío Mundial fue establecido en el año 1936 en Ginebra en una conferencia celebrada en el viejo Salón de Conferencias de la Sociedad de Naciones. Asistieron a la primera reunión del Congreso Judío Mundial delegados de casi cuarenta países, representando prácticamente todos los sectores de la vida espiritual judía contemporánea. Trescientos delegados, elegidos por sus varias comunidades judías en los países más arriba mencionados, tomaron parte en la conferencia, que había sido convocada por el Comité des Délégations Juives y por el Comité Ejecutivo del Congreso Judío Norteamericano. La autoridad, experiencia y aparato técnico de la colaboración internacional construida por estos cuerpos durante la Conferencia de la Paz y en los años siguientes, fueron pasados a la nueva Ejecutiva elegida en Ginebra, y que fue la base del trabajo y de la estructura organizadora del Congreso Judío Mundial.

Antes de esta Conferencia Constitutiva del Congreso Judío Mundial hubo tres conferencias preparatorias en Ginebra : en septiembre de 1932, en agosto de 1933 y en agosto de 1934. En los años anteriores al establecimiento del Congreso Judío Mundial, un Comité Ejecutivo que se eligió en estas conferencias preparatorias, fue encargado de tratar con el trabajo político y organización y que también preparó el trabajo exterior y los procedimientos de las votaciones para el Congreso Judío Mundial en los diferentes países.

Desde el mes de agosto de 1936 la influencia del Congreso ha crecido ininterrumpidamente contando hoy con representantes en todos los países libres del mundo extendiendo y reformando su organización en aquellos lugares de importancia diplomática.

La Oficina Central

Antes de estallar la guerra, la Oficina Central se encontró en París, sede de las reuniones regulares de los miembros de la Ejecutiva en su residencia en Francia, Gran Bretaña, Bélgica, Holanda y Suiza, al mismo tiempo que fue mantenida otra importante oficina en Ginebra destinada a despachar el monte de asuntos que el Congreso era llamado a tramitar con la Liga de Naciones y sus miembros. Además se concedieron al Congreso facilidades en las oficinas de Nueva York del Congreso Judío Norteamericano y de la Sección Británica en Londres, mientras que delegados nombrados representantes por la Ejecutiva, actuaron en Escandinavia, Polonia, Europa Central y Rumanía. Era inevitable que el desarrollo de la guerra motivara cambios en la estructura del Congreso que de cuando en cuando fue adaptada a las necesidades prevalecientes. Después de la ocupación de Francia se estableció la organización actual. La Oficina Central se trasladó a Nueva York estableciéndose otra oficina en Londres como Oficina Central europea. La oficina de Ginebra fue encargada de los nuevos y urgentes problemas de asistencia motivados por el desarrollo de la guerra; una oficina auxiliar se estableció en Lisboa con el mismo objeto. Al mismo tiempo se abrió en Buenos Aires otra oficina destinada a funcionar de oficina central para el Continente Sudamericano así mismo como una oficina en México, encargada de vigilar los asuntos de aquel país y la América Central. A estas oficinas actuando bajo la autoridad directa de la Ejecutiva hay que añadir aquella de las comunidades y organizaciones afiliadas en todas ~~en todas~~ las partes del mundo que voluntariamente pusieron su aparato técnico y sus servicios a la disposición del Congreso.

Representación

El Congreso Judío Mundial sin duda es la institución más representativa tratando de los asuntos judíos a través del Diaspora que haya sido establecida en los tiempos actuales. Fuera del Congreso Judío Norteamericano cuenta con el apoyo de cada una de las instituciones representativas judías de todos los países del Hemisferio Occidental. En el Canadá y en cada país latino-americano, la organización representativa de la comunidad está afiliada al Congreso. En Europa, las tres restantes comunidades que más allá de Inglaterra quedaron libres, es decir Suiza, Portugal y Suecia, apoyan al Congreso. En Suiza donde existe una comunidad oficialmente reconocida por la ley, la misma comunidad está afiliada; en los demás países se fundaron secciones del Congreso Judío Mundial. Encabeza a la Sección Británica a la que se afiliaron gran número de importantes organizaciones comunales de toda clase, la marquesa de Reading con sus vicepresidentes, los señores profesores S. Brodetzky y Philip Guedella; en ausencia del rabí Perlzweig actúa como presidente de la Ejecutiva el señor S.S. Silverman, distinguido miembro del Parlamento Británico. El Dr. N. Barou y el profesor E. Cohn encontrándose la oficina europea y británica actualmente a cargo del señor A. L. Easternman, editor que fue de la sección extranjera del "London Daily Express" y el "London Daily Herald". En Palestina, el Vaad Leumi, la representación oficial de los judíos palestinos, está afiliada al Congreso actuando en la más estrecha colaboración con los comités establecidos en aquel país para representar los intereses de las comunidades judías en la Europa Central y Oriental actualmente ocupadas por el enemigo. Una oficina del Congreso se abrió en la capital del Irán en Teherán para hacer frente al problema creciente creado por los refugiados de Polonia que abandonando a Rusia, están en busca de un refugio en otros países. Dada la importancia estratégica y política de Australasia y el Lejano Oriente, asistimos a un desarrollo señalado del movimiento congresista en aquellas comunidades distantes. No se pudo mantener el contacto con los comités del Congreso en los centros del Japón y de China al extenderse la guerra a aquellos países - como era de suponer - pero comités del Congreso siguen funcionando en la India mientras que la oficina establecida en Sydney bajo la dirección del Dr. M. Laserson desempeña un papel de importancia creciente. La Sección Australiano-Neozelandesa del Congreso Judío Mundial, la primera institución representativa judía fundada en el Continente de Australia, tuvo un gran desarrollo

bajo la dirección de Sir Samuel Cohen, líder de la comunidad judía de Sydney. Los trabajos de la Oficina Central de Nueva York se encuentran bajo la dirección general del Dr. Stephen S. Wise, presidente de la Ejecutiva, y el Dr. Nahum Goldmann, presidente del Comité Administrativo, los que en común con el Dr. M.L. Perlzweig, presidente de la Sección Británica que actualmente trabaja como director del Departamento Político, dirigen los trabajos de índole política. Al Departamento Político le representa actualmente en Washington el señor James Waterman Wise que dirige la oficina del Consejo Judío Inter-Americano establecida en aquella ciudad y que actúa en constante consulta con el gobierno.

Actividades en 1940

Una nueva etapa se abrió en la historia del Congreso Judío Mundial con motivo de la visita que hicieron a la Convención de Washington del Congreso Judío Norteamericano en el febrero de 1940 los Dres. Nahum Goldmann de Ginebra y Maurice L. Perlzweig de Londres. Estos dos líderes que habían mantenido contactos continuos con los gobiernos inglés y francés desde que estalló la guerra tomando, de acuerdo con conversaciones hechas en Londres y París, las medidas indicadas para movilizar en varias partes del mundo la asistencia judía a la resistencia contra la agresión de las potencias del Eje, trajeron con ellos proposiciones designadas a hacer más amplia la contribución judía a la lucha y unir en todas partes a las comunidades judías con el fin de formular vistas comunes con respecto a los problemas de la reconstrucción de la post-guerra y organizar una preparación en común para las discusiones de la paz que seguirán al fin de la guerra. Estas proposiciones fueron discutidas con los dirigentes del Congreso Judío Norteamericano y representantes de otras instituciones judías en ese país a la luz de un movimiento de consultación y acción que ya había ganado considerables apoyos entre los líderes judíos de todas las tendencias en Gran Bretaña, Francia, Holanda, Suiza y otros países de la Europa Occidental. Desgraciadamente estos esfuerzos no lograron inmediatos resultados fuera de las filas del mismo movimiento congregista, pero el Dr. Stephen S. Wise y sus colegas directivos del Congreso Judío Mundial se comprometieron a apoyar moral y materialmente con todas sus fuerzas los proyectos tendientes a hacer más amplias las actividades diplomáticas y al establecimiento de un Instituto científico de Asuntos Judíos que debía emprender las investigaciones indispensables para los trabajos políticos del Congreso y la formulación de proposiciones para la paz.

A fines de marzo el Dr. Goldmann salió de América para Ginebra y París como el Dr. Perlzweig para Londres después de haber discutido con los funcionarios directivos en Washington y los representantes diplomáticos de las potencias democráticas beligerantes la situación actual en cuanto concernía las esperanzas e intereses judíos. En Ginebra, el Dr. Goldmann inició la organización del Instituto proyectado y salió después a París donde mantuvo varias conversaciones con los miembros dirigentes del gobierno francés para asegurar su apoyo a los fines generales del Congreso. Estas conversaciones habían llegado a su punto culminante preparando el Primer Ministro M. Reynaud una declaración pública cuando se inició la última fase de la resistencia francesa y las conversaciones tuvieron que ser abandonadas.

En común con los funcionarios de la Sección Británica del Congreso, el rabino Perlzweig presentó en Londres un informe detallado sobre los resultados de su visita a los Estados Unidos a varios miembros del Gobierno Británico y demás funcionarios importantes. Las conversaciones ya iniciadas con miembros del gobierno de Chamberlain fueron continuadas con miembros del Gobierno de Guerra de Churchill dando como resultado la carta dirigida al rabino Perlzweig y que fue firmada por el Rt. Hon. Arthur Greenwood, miembro del Gabinete de Guerra y presidente del Comité del Gabinete para la Reconstrucción de la Post-Guerra. Esta carta afirma otra vez la oposición inalterable de la Gran Bretaña contra el sistema nazi y la filosofía racial asociada con él añadiendo además la declaración significativa de que en la reconstrucción de la sociedad civilizada después de la guerra "los ju-

díos deberán tener y tendrán en todas partes oportunidades para una contribución distintiva y constructiva." Toda una serie de declaraciones hechas por gobiernos en guerra con el Eje data de aquella declaración importante que reconoce el lugar distintivo de la cuestión judía en todo intento de una solución de los problemas de la Europa de la post-guerra.

De la misma manera se establecieron contactos amistosos con otros gobiernos, particularmente el polonés que trasladó después de la caída de Francia sus oficinas de Angers a Londres. Después de consultar al Dr. Ignacy Schwartzbart, se hicieron gestiones para obtener otra declaración concerniente la actitud del gobierno polonés con respecto a las cuestiones judías durante la guerra y con motivo del restablecimiento de la independencia polonesa. Estos esfuerzos culminaron en un discurso pronunciado en la Cámara de los Comunes por Mr. S.S. Silverman, miembro del Parlamento Británico y presidente de la Sección Británica del Congreso. El espíritu del discurso de Mr. Silverman condujo a nuevas relaciones con las autoridades polonesas expresadas desde entonces en varias declaraciones amistosas de importancia hechas por el Primer Ministro polonés y otros miembros de su gobierno.

Relaciones estrechas y cordiales se establecieron con el general de Gaulle a poco tiempo de establecer sus oficinas en Londres, con el resultado de que el general de Gaulle dirigió una carta a su representante en Nueva York, M. de Sieres, reafirmando la determinación del Movimiento Francia Libre de restablecer los plenos derechos de la judería francesa e instruyendo a su representante a mantener contacto con el Congreso Judío Mundial.

En noviembre de 1940 y con ocasión de un mítin celebrado en Nueva York por determinado número de organizaciones americanas para protestar contra los decretos antisemitas promulgados por el gobierno de Vichy, el general de Gaulle que entonces se encontró en el Africa Ecuatorial mandó un telegrama al rabino Perlzweig comprometiendo públicamente a Francia Libre a restablecer completamente los derechos de la judería francesa y a corregir las injusticias que el gobierno de Vichy está cometiendo contra los judíos en Francia.

Entretanto, el trascurso de los acontecimientos incluso la invasión de los Países Bajos, crearon nuevos problemas formidables al Congreso en Gran Bretaña. Por una parte se sintió obligado a reforzar su participación en el esfuerzo bélico en consulta con el Ministerio de Conducta de Guerra Económica y el Ministerio de Información. Un comité de expertos bajo la dirección del Dr. N. Barou y el profesor E. Cohen, secretarios honorarios de la Sección Británica, se puso a la disposición de los departamentos encargados de las cuestiones económicas; por otra parte un comité especial bajo la dirección de Mr. S. S. Silverman, miembro del Parlamento, que frecuentemente se reunió en la Cámara de los Comunes, desempeñó un papel importante en la defensa de los refugiados huídos de la opresión nazi muchos de los que habían sido internados en virtud de una medida de precaución con motivo del papel desempeñado por agentes nazis disfrazados durante la ocupación de Holanda. Constantemente se hicieron visitas a los ministros, relacionadas con estos problemas obteniéndose importantes resultados cuyo menor no era el nombramiento por el gobierno de la marquesa de Reading, presidente de la Sección Británica, como miembro del comité constituido para aconsejar al Ministerio de Asuntos Exteriores con respecto al tratamiento de los extranjeros "enemigos" y amigos, entre los que se encontraron en aquel tiempo miles de judíos. Este nombramiento era muy significado tanto más que Lady Reading era el único miembro judío de este comité, los demás siendo exclusivamente miembros de las dos cámaras del Parlamento.

Traslado a los Estados Unidos de las Oficinas Centrales

Los avances de los ejércitos nazis en Francia durante el verano de 1940 creó formidables problemas de organización y personal al Congreso que había mantenido sus oficinas y una plana mayor después del traslado a Ginebra de sus oficinas centrales. Afortunadamente las re-

laciones cordiales con el gobierno Reynaud habían continuado y los importantes servicios bélicos que la oficina de París había podido prestar a varios departamentos, hizo posible el traslado de la mayoría de los directivos y el personal del Congreso aunque no fue posible salvar todos los archivos. Varios miembros dirigentes decidieron a quedar en Francia para organizar los trabajos de auxilio del Congreso. Estos trabajos se tornaron todavía más urgentemente necesarios habiendo trascurrido algún tiempo, particularmente después de la introducción de nuevas inhabilidades en persecución de la judería francesa, y que están llevándose a cabo sin interrupción hasta los tiempos actuales.

Pronto se hizo obvio que ningún trabajo fructífero se podía realizar más desde cualquier país del Continente Europeo. De consiguiente, la oficina ginebrina fue reorganizada para hacer de ella la Central de nuestra obra de auxilios bajo la dirección de una plana de expertos y con la salida a los Estados Unidos del Dr. Goldmann las oficinas principales del Congreso fueron trasladadas a Nueva York. Poco después se designó a la oficina de Londres como Central Europea encargada de la tarea de mantener relaciones no solo con las autoridades británicas sino también con todos los gobiernos exiliados establecidos en Inglaterra.

Apoyo al Esfuerzo Bélico de las Democracias

Cuando después de la caída de Francia las perspectivas de la causa democrática parecían lo más desesperanzados y nada había entre los nazis y el dominio del mundo a no ser la determinación del pueblo británico de barrerles el camino a toda costa, los directivos del Congreso sintieron que había llegado el momento para declarar nueva y todavía más vigorosamente su apoyo a la causa democrática y a toda medida legal y legítima para reunir los recursos adecuados. En consecuencia, el Congreso Judío Norteamericano anunció su apoyo al Comité de Defensa Americana Por Medio de Ayuda a los Aliados e hizo gestiones para iniciar el movimiento de ayuda civil a la Gran Bretaña que se extendió por todo el Hemisferio Occidental. Fue en aquel tiempo que se invitó al rabino Perlzweig para que volviera a los Estados Unidos lo que hizo en efecto algo más tarde en el mismo año con el aliento y apoyo de miembros del gobierno británico para actuar como experto poniendo sus conocimientos al servicio de este movimiento de ayuda a la Gran Bretaña y desarrollar sus relaciones con las autoridades británicas, relaciones que habían adquirido nuevo significado con motivo de la carta de Greenwood.

Actividades desde el enero de 1941

Los trabajos del Congreso Judío Mundial pueden ser resumidos bajo los siguientes títulos :

1.- Lucha Contra el Hitlerismo

Desde que estalló la guerra, el Congreso se encontró en comunicación estrecha y continua con los gobiernos democráticos y se acogió a toda posibilidad legal y legítima para prestar su asistencia en la lucha. Se pueden incluir con este motivo los distintos movimientos de ayuda civil a los británicos creados por el Congreso y sus afiliados que lograron tomar proporciones muy considerables, particularmente a través el Hemisferio Occidental. El papel desempeñado por las comunidades judías en el apoyo de estos esfuerzos se tornó un factor de importancia en las relaciones con los gobiernos democráticos habiendo sido reconocida la importancia de su labor por los miembros de los gobiernos británico y demás.

En el territorio de la conducta de guerra económica y propaganda, agencias bajo la dirección del Congreso ejercieron en varias partes del mundo unas actividades de importancia constantemente creciente. Estas actividades se llevaron a cabo por supuesto con el conocimiento de los competentes departamentos de los gobiernos de las Naciones Unidas que fueron consultados.

2.- Labor Política Relacionada con la emigración y los refugiados

Labor política relacionada con la emigración y el establecimiento de los refugiados. El Congreso se encontró en una posición única para poder prestar servicios con respecto a este problema urgente en virtud de sus relaciones con los gobiernos interesados. La misma existencia de este problema ha sido una demostración de la validez de la tesis del Congreso diciendo que la cuestión judía no puede ser tratada adecuadamente sino sobre la base de una organización internacional. El Congreso fue responsable de la salvación de veintenas de líderes judíos prominentes y procuró sensible mejoría al destino de muchos miles de refugiados solucionando problemas variando de la liberación de técnicos, extranjeros enemigos, en Gran Bretaña hasta la admisión en Australia de refugiados poloneses, del asegurar facilidades de viajar en la India hasta la salvaguardia de las posiciones de los refugiados en la América Latina y las Indias Neerlandesas. En varios casos, como por ejemplo el de los refugiados internados en Australia y el Canadá, el Congreso tenía que gestionar simultáneamente con los gobiernos americano, británico, australiano y canadiense para vencer las dificultades especiales que encontró la emigración de aquellos refugiados. Por medio de los esfuerzos del Congreso en colaboración con el Consejo Judío Inter-Americano, la situación y el bienestar de los refugiados judíos en los países latino-americanos mejoró enormemente de manera que en varios de aquellos países los refugiados judíos ya no están sujetos a las restricciones de los extranjeros enemigos aunque procedían de Alemania o países dominados por los alemanes. La liberación reciente de un grupo de refugiados judíos internados en la isla de Bonaire en las Indias Holandesas y la autorización en su favor de residenciarse en Curaçao, es un ejemplo de un resultado de las intervenciones del Congreso en Londres y en Washington. Se establecieron relaciones con muchos gobiernos en todas las partes del mundo entre los que desde hace unos meses se halla el gobierno soviético con el que se llevaron a cabo negociaciones en Washington y Londres con respecto al destino de un número grande de judíos refugiados actualmente radicados en territorios soviéticos.

Durante el período de guerra el Congreso consultó constantemente con el United States Department y el President's Advisory Committee en todos los asuntos relacionados con el papel que América puede desempeñar con respecto al problema de refugiados, tratándose de la admisión de refugiados en calidad de inmigrantes y visitantes o del apoyo de tal política liberal en las demás partes del Hemisferio Occidental. Con respecto a esta labor, fue un factor de importancia decisiva el hecho de pertenecer el Dr. Wise al President's Advisory Committee on Political Refugees.

3.- Manteniendo Líneas de Comunicación

En cuanto a las juderías actualmente bajo la opresión extranjera, era la tarea del Congreso el mantener líneas de comunicación con aquellas regiones y el apoyo a las instituciones representativas establecidas por los dirigentes de estas juderías cerca de los gobiernos exiliados. Se estableció el aparato técnico necesario para mantener la comunicación ininterrumpida con los países bajo el control nazi, empresas que se llevaron a cabo consultando a los respectivos gobiernos exiliados. El apoyo y la intervención política del Congreso aseguró el reconocimiento de los comités representativos actuando en varios países en el nombre de las juderías polonesa y checa y representantes de las mencionadas juderías fueron nombrados a Cuerpos Nacionales Legislativos después de consultar al Congreso. Es obvio que ninguna comunidad judía aislada-por autorizada que fuera para actuar por sí sola - podría actuar con la autoridad de una Institución que representa tan largo grupo de comitentes como el Congreso. Para ampliar esta labor y poder disponer a la vez de los consejos de los líderes distinguidos de la judería europea actualmente residentes en Norteamérica, bajo la dirección del Dr. León Kubowitzki, antes de Bruselas, se constituyó el Consejo Consultivo de Asuntos Judío-Europeos, compuesto de delegados de comunidades judías representativas y hablando en el nombre de las juderías de los países actualmente ocupados o bajo el control de las potencias del Eje. Actualmente están actuando nueve de estos comités siendo miembros de cada uno de ellos los líderes más distinguidos y

experimentados de sus respectivos países. En los últimos meses las agencias europeas del Congreso desempeñaron un papel de creciente urgencia e importancia transmitiendo informes sobre la situación peligrosa de los judíos en Europa. Muchos de estos informes obtenidos de fuentes altamente dignos de confianza y de otro modo no asesibles, fueron transmitidos a Norteamérica en el beneplácito de determinados gobiernos democráticos a través de canales diplomáticos. Estos informes fueron presentados al Departamento de Estado de Washington y al Ministerio de Asuntos Exteriores británico siendo tema de angustiosa consideración por parte de los jefes de estos dos departamentos con los que el Congreso está manteniendo contacto continuo. Uno de los resultados públicos importantes de esta labor fue la publicación, con motivo de una reunión de prensa efectuada en Londres en julio pasado, de hechos y cifras relacionadas con la determinación de los nazis a destruir la vida judía en Europa. Este informe fue publicado por casi todos los periódicos de importancia a través del mundo fuera de los países del Eje y sin duda dió por resultado una apreciación mucho más apropiada de la gravedad de la situación judía en Europa por la opinión pública universal. Motivó un poderoso movimiento de protesta que se manifestó en Norteamérica en el gran mítin del Madison Square Garden del mismo mes y mítines por el estilo en las grandes ciudades a través del mundo celebrados por la iniciativa del Congreso. Fue obligación del Congreso el informar constantemente a los gobiernos de las medidas de terror y discriminación por medio de que uno de los más grandes crímenes de la historia está consumándose, convirtiéndose el Congreso Judío Mundial en el intérprete de la opinión judía mundial ante los gobiernos de las Naciones Unidas.

4.- Negociaciones con los gobiernos exiliados

Negociaciones con los gobiernos exiliados relacionadas con la preparación de la reconstrucción de la vida judía en la Europa del Este y Central. El Congreso se encuentra en contacto ininterrumpido con los dirigentes de Francia Libre, los gobiernos checoslovaco, polonés y demás esforzándose para llegar a unos acuerdos concernientes los proyectos y proposiciones destinados a asegurar plena igualdad e indemnización a las poblaciones judías cuando llegue la victoria. De cuando en cuando se han publicado declaraciones importantes hechas al Congreso por estos gobiernos como resultado de unas intervenciones. Su eficiencia fue demostrada notablemente por el inmediato y formal restablecimiento de los derechos judíos en Siria y el Lebanón acompañado por un llamamiento de los dirigentes judíos de Beirut al Congreso, pidiéndole se encargara de la representación de los intereses judíos en aquellos territorios. Entre los gobiernos exiliados con los que contacto continuo ha sido mantenido, el de Polonia es de primera importancia en vista de su población judía grande. Una delegación del Congreso encabezado por el Dr. Stephen S. Wise, con ocasión de la visita hecha por el general Sikorski a Norteamérica en 1941, examinó con él detalladamente todas las cuestiones pendientes. Resultados de grande importancia siguieron a estas conversaciones a las que el general Sikorski se refirió repetidamente cuando de vuelta a Londres se dirigió al Consejo Nacional Polonés. Desde aquellas conversaciones los representantes del Congreso en los Estados Unidos, Gran Bretaña, Palestina, América Latina y Australia han sido en comunicación ininterrumpida con los representantes del gobierno polonés tratando de numerosas cuestiones surgidas de las relaciones polono-judías. Aunque quede todavía mucho que hacer y exigiendo el inmenso complejo de los problemas de los refugiados unas actividades constantes, se puede decir, sin embargo, que se realizaron grandes progresos con respecto a la solución de muchas dificultades y la colaboración se hizo particularmente estrecha con el aumento de la comprensión de que los poloneses de todos los grupos religiosos y étnicos se encuentran amenazados por la misma destrucción. Entre los más importantes resultados obtenidos fue el establecimiento de una colaboración más estrecha principante entre los dirigentes del Congreso y la comunidad polono-americana iniciada con la ayuda simpática de los representantes poloneses.

5.- Relaciones con la Conferencia de las Nueve Potencias

En el enero de 1942 los nueve gobiernos exiliados celebraron una conferencia en el Palacio de St. James en Londres durante la que se adoptaron varias decisiones expresando la determinación de estos gobiernos a ajusticiar al final de la guerra a todos los líderes y funcionarios de las potencias del Eje en común con sus agentes en los países ocupados convencidos de haber violado las leyes y la decencia internacional. El Congreso estuvo negociando durante largo tiempo con estos gobiernos con el fin de asegurar que los actos de discriminación y terror tales como la promulgación de decretos especiales contra los judíos, el establecimiento de los ghettos etc. etc. serán llevados ante los tribunales internacionales que han de ser establecidos. Estos esfuerzos obtuvieron muy importante resultado incluido en una carta dirigida oficialmente en nombre de los nueve gobiernos al Congreso Judío Mundial en Londres por el Primer Ministro polonés Sikorski, presidente de la Conferencia de las nueve Potencias. Aclaró esta carta que no solo los actos generales de terror sino también los actos anti-judíos especificados serían incluidos en las denuncias presentadas a los tribunales internacionales y que se aprovecharán los materiales recogidos por el aparato técnico especial establecido con este objeto por el Instituto de Asuntos Judíos. Estas empresas han sido utilizadas en las denuncias ya publicadas por los gobiernos exiliados y no hay duda de que este progreso continuará a la medida de cribarse y examinarse los materiales. Entretanto los competentes funcionarios de los gobiernos norteamericano, británico y soviético que se encuentran representados en las reuniones de las nueve potencias por observadores fueron informados plenamente de la importancia que el Congreso concede a la política de las Naciones Unidas en este aspecto quedando asegurada la simpatía de estas grandes potencias. El Congreso siguió firmemente la política encaminada a asegurar igual castigo a los crímenes contra las poblaciones judías como preliminar esencial del establecimiento de un reino de ley incluyendo la igualdad ante la ley de todos los sectores de cualquier comunidad en Europa sin consideración a raza ni fé. Uno de los incidentales, pero vitales resultados de estas actividades fue la repudiación específica de todo anti-semitismo por todos los gobiernos exiliados y el intento de suprimirlo como factor político en el nuevo orden democrático en cuyo establecimiento están comprometidos.

6.- Negociaciones con los gobiernos democráticos

Negociaciones con los gobiernos democráticos con el fin de ganar su interés y asegurar su apoyo en favor de la reconstrucción de la vida judía sobre una base de auto-respeto y seguridad permanente efectuadas principalmente en las etapas anteriores de la guerra con miembros del gobierno británico se llevaron a cabo después de Pearl Harbor también con miembros de la Administración Norteamericana. Desde la publicación de la carta de Greenwood, entonces presidente del Comité del Gabinete Británico para la Reconstrucción de la Post-Guerra, estas conversaciones han sido seguidos continuamente. El ministro británico de Información así como dirigentes del State Department de Washington expresaron un interés creciente para la labor del Instituto de Asuntos Judíos sobre cuyos hallazgos de hechos y sentencias se basará el pleito del Congreso ante la Conferencia de la Paz. En este aspecto hacemos referencia de un memorandum sobre la situación general judía elaborado por el rabino Perlzweig y entregado en el verano de 1941 por el Embajador Británico al Primer Ministro en Londres haciendo el señor Winston Churchill subsiguientemente una declaración basada en él. Cada gobierno importante mantiene actualmente un departamento u oficina destinada a preparar materiales para la Conferencia de la Paz y el Congreso estableció relaciones con todas aquellas directamente en Londres y por medio de sus representaciones diplomáticas en Washington. De las más importantes de esta índole son las conversaciones que se están desarrollando actualmente en Londres entre la Sección Británica y la División de Rehabilitación de Post-Guerra del Ministerio de la Conducta de la Guerra Económica concernientes los proyectos de la alimentación de las poblaciones judías al terminar la guerra.

7.- Actividades de Auxilio

Fuera de los Estados Unidos, el Congreso Judío Mundial también actúa como organización de auxilios colectando fondos. Las campañas llevadas a cabo en la América Latina y otros países procuraron al Congreso la posibilidad de llevar ayuda financiera urgentemente necesitada a los comités de refugiados en Europa, Palestina y el mediano Oriente. El Departamento de Auxilios demostró ser de importancia vital haciendo posible un aprovechamiento inmediato de las concesiones obtenidas por las actividades políticas del Congreso. mencionamos también los esfuerzos para mejorar la suerte de tantas poblaciones judías en los países ocupados particularmente en Polonia. Los gobiernos de los Estados Unidos y la Gran Bretaña demostraron un interés profundamente simpático a este grave problema y autorizaron que se hicieran tales gestiones en la medida de permitirles las necesidades de la situación bélica. El bloqueo haciendo imposible inevitablemente las actividades de auxilio en gran escala, se puede decir sin embargo que cuanto se hizo aunque haya sido poco en relación con la amplitud del problema, ayudó materialmente a mantener las esperanzas y la moral combativa de muchos miles de judíos sujetos a las más depravadas persecuciones de la historia moderna.



Notes about the World Jewish Congress
and its recent Activities.

1. The World Jewish Congress is to-day composed of the representative organisations of all Latin American Jewish communities which are well organised in their various Central Committees and which are affiliated to the World Jewish Congress - the Canadian Jewish Congress, representing the whole of Canadian Jewry; the American Jewish Congress, representing, approximately, a million organised Jews in the United States of America; the Vaad Leumi of Palestine, representing Palestinian Jewry; the Union of Swiss Jewish communities, representing the whole Jewry of Switzerland; the Jewish communities of North Africa, the British Section, the Australian Section and other sections in smaller countries.

Speaking moderately, the World Jewish Congress to-day represents, approximately, 2 2/3 million Jews. Before the War, the organised Jewish communities of Greece, Bulgaria, Yugoslavia and Italy, and the larger part of the Jewish population of Roumania, Czechoslovakia and Poland and a substantial part of France, were also represented in the World Jewish Congress through their various organisations. Since the occupation of these countries by Hitler, various European Committees - established in New York and composed of former leaders of the various Jewish European communities who are to-day in New York - take the place of these European Jewish communities and will continue to do so until the day of their liberation comes. The French Committee, for example, is headed by Baron Edouard de Rothschild, President of the French Jewish Consistoire, Pierre Dreyfus - son of Captain Dreyfus, Professor Hamadard, the great French Mathematician, and others; the Yugoslavia Committee is headed by the Chief Rabbi of Yugoslavia, Rabbi Alkaly, etc.

2. The Executive Committee of the World Jewish Congress, which was transferred to New York at the beginning of the War (it was formerly in Geneva and Paris) and which will be transferred to Europe as soon as conditions permit, has dealt primarily with the problems of rescue of European Jews, creating opportunities for relief to be sent to European Jewry (enabling the pure relief organisations like the Joint Distribution Committee to use these opportunities and to do the real relief work), doing some relief work by itself through the funds for relief which are collected in Latin America and which are all being distributed by the Relief Department of the World Jewish Congress, defending Jewish rights in Latin American countries, and in preparing the restoration of Jewish rights and positions in post-War Europe.

A few examples for these activities and what has been achieved, may suffice:-

a. The World Jewish Congress succeeded in changing the policy of the United States Government concerning permission to use money for organising the escape of Jews from Nazi-occupied territories. Through the offices of the Congress in Geneva and Lisbon, its representatives in Sweden and its close co-operation with the office of the Jewish Agency in Istanbul, the World Jewish Congress is kept constantly informed about the situation in European countries. In June 1943, Dr. Wise discussed the problem of rescue with President Roosevelt, and Mr. Morgenthau, Secretary of the Treasury, and succeeded in convincing them that licences should be granted to send money to Switzerland to be used, if necessary,

in Occupied European countries, to help Jews to escape. After lengthy negotiations, the first of such licences was granted in December to the Congress. We informed the J.D.C. about this, and they then applied for a licence for a much larger sum - which was also granted. In this way, opportunities were created to facilitate the escape of Jews from Occupied countries. This is the only way in which it is possible, today, to save the remnants of European Jewry. At the same time, we succeeded - with the help of the State Department and the Polish Government - in obtaining from the Hungarian and Spanish Governments, permission for the admission of Jewish refugees from Poland and France. This work will have to be enlarged, and we hope to secure the support of the newly-established War Refugee Board in Washington for this kind of work.

b. We succeeded, last summer, in getting the American, and through its intervention the British Government, to agree to place Eight Million Dollars at the disposal of the International Red Cross, for the purchase of food, clothing and medicaments to be sent to Jews in Occupied countries. For the first time, we established the precedent that Governmental money should be made available for Jewish relief - which is not only important because of the amount involved, but as a precedent for the future, as it is clear that the problem of post-war Jewish rehabilitation in Europe and the financing of mass Jewish immigration into Palestine after the War, can only be dealt with by financial support of the United Nations, since no private Jewish resources will be sufficient to cope with these problems. In obtaining the Eight Million Dollars from the American and British Governments for the International Red Cross, to be used for Jewish relief (the scheme was publicly announced by the Assistant-Secretary of the State Department, Mr. Breckenridge Long, who is in charge of these matters), we obtained, in one stroke, through political action, a similar amount of money to that which the J.D.C. collects in its campaign during a whole year, and we established a precedent of the greatest significance for the future.

c. We have successfully intervened in all these years in safeguarding Jewish rights and positions in Latin American countries where they were often menaced. To quote one example: the statement of President Roosevelt a few months ago criticising violently the Ramirez Government in Argentine for prohibiting the Yiddish Press, was influenced and prepared by our intervention. The statement of President Roosevelt - which created a sensation, at least in the American countries - had the immediate effect of revoking the decree suppressing the Yiddish Press in Argentine, re-opening all Jewish schools in some of the Provinces of Argentine where they had been closed, and generally influencing the Jewish policies of the Argentine Government. Many similar cases in other Latin American countries could be mentioned.

d. The World Jewish Congress has established the Institute of Jewish Affairs in New York, where a great number of Jewish experts are working on the preparation of a programme of post-war Jewish rehabilitation and the restoration of Jewish rights and positions in Europe. We played an important role in the fight for the restoration of the Cremieux Decree in Algiers - the abolition of which was a dangerous precedent for similar policies in other liberated European countries where, based on the example of North Africa, the anti-Jewish legislation of the totalitarian States may have been abolished only very slowly. We had promises from General de Gaulle to restore the Cremieux Decree. We intervened, during the course of the year, with the State Department and we had the satisfaction of getting an official statement from Mr. Sumner-Wellies (while he was Under-Secretary of State) - when I introduced a French Jewish Delegation to him to discuss this problem - to the effect that the State Department had made a great mistake in agreeing to the abolition of the Cremieux Decree.

The consequences of the restoration of the Cremieux Decree have already been felt. When Italy was invaded, we negotiated with the headquarters of AMC - which is in charge of the occupation of liberated countries - about the restoration of Jewish rights, and we were assured that instructions had been given that wherever the Allied Armies enter, Jewish rights must be restored and that wherever Jewish officials had been dismissed, they must be recalled to their former positions. This was done in Italy, and as is known, the King published a decree recently, restoring all Jewish rights.

4. When the first Conference of UNRRA was called in Atlantic City, the World Jewish Congress submitted a Memorandum to all delegates and sent two of the members of its Executive to Atlantic City in order to submit suggestions for the resolutions of the Conference concerning Jewish problems. As a result of this intervention, the fundamental resolutions of the Atlantic City Conference were changed. To give a few examples:-

a. The original resolution for the work of UNRRA suggested that UNRRA would deal with United Nations nationals. We had pointed out to the various delegates that hundreds of thousands of Jews - who were technically enemy aliens - would remain outside the scope of the work of UNRRA, although they were also victims of Nazi persecution. The resolution was changed and speaks today of all victims of Nazi persecution, without discrimination of race or religion, of whom UNRRA will have to take care.

b. The original resolution dealing with repatriation of the deportees, spoke of the repatriation of deported citizens of various countries. We pointed out that tens of thousands of Jews who lived in Western European countries and could not become citizens, would be left out under this text. The resolution was changed, as a result of our intervention, and foresees the repatriation of all those, by UNRRA, who have had "settled residence" in the countries from which they were deported.

c. The original draft of the resolution concerning the deportees, spoke of the repatriation of all these people as the only rule in dealing with them. Our representatives pointed out that it would be unfair to many Jewish deportees who would refuse to go back to the countries of their sufferings and terrible memories, to force them to be repatriated. It would also have rendered very difficult the transfer of these Jewish deportees to Palestine, in case they wanted to go there. The resolution was changed and the rule adopted that UNRRA will repatriate those who can and want to be repatriated, and will also take care of those who do not want to be repatriated on the spot, until a country for their re-settlement can be found - thus envisaging the possibility of bringing Palestine into the picture.

d. In the original resolutions, no possibility was given for the permanent co-operation of private Jewish organisations with the work of UNRRA - which will be of the greatest importance for post-War Jewry. We succeeded in changing the resolution, which now foresees the possibility of UNRRA inviting private international organisations to send observers or representatives into the various Committees of UNRRA - naturally without the right to vote, which is limited to Governments.

All these changes, which are of the greatest significance, were made possible through the international composition of the World Jewish Congress. Each of the Governments-in-Exile was approached by the Committee of the World Jewish Congress representing the respective Jewish community, and thus the way was paved for the final intervention of our representatives. No national Jewish organisation could have approached - in the same manner and with equal effectiveness - all the various delegates at the UNRRA Conference. The great achievements

obtained at Atlantic City are realistic proof of the usefulness of an international Jewish organisation in dealing with international Conferences and international problems, and as the Atlantic City Conference was only the first of many such Conferences which will settle the Peace and solve the problems of post-War Europe, the same consideration will apply in all future Conferences.

5. Only during the last few weeks, we have established contact in London with the European Advisory Committee, composed of the representatives of Great Britain, Russia and America, which is dealing with the preparation of the Armistice and Peace problems in Europe. We have submitted a Memorandum to the members of this Committee, asking for certain clauses in the Armistice Terms, in order to secure the life and the position of the Jews in Occupied territories at the time of the Armistice. We have been assured that very serious consideration will be given to our suggestions.

More and more of the work of the World Jewish Congress will have to be transferred to London in the near future, as London is fast becoming the most important centre for many Jewish problems, owing to the fact that the Intergovernmental Committee for Refugees (with whom we are in constant contact), the European Division of UNRRA, the European Advisory Committee, the War Crimes Commission (with whom we are discussing Jewish aspects of the War Crimes problem) are located in London.

The World Jewish Congress has convened an Emergency Conference of its affiliated groups in New York, in May. It will be the first international Jewish Conference since the beginning of the War. We have received the blessings of the State Department for this Conference and their promise to grant the necessary facilities - visas, priorities for transport, etc. - in order to enable representatives to attend. More than 100 delegates, among them from Palestine and all American countries, from England, from North Africa, and possibly also from Russia, are expected to attend. The granting of facilities for such a Conference by the American Government, despite the tremendous difficulties of war conditions, indicates the importance which the American Administration attaches to the kind of work which the Congress is doing, and the same may be said of many other Governments with whom we are in constant contact and who are always ready to negotiate with us about Jewish problems concerning the Jewries of their countries.

It may be said, finally, that the World Jewish Congress has as its primary task the principle not to interfere with the internal problems of a free Jewish community or to speak on its behalf, as long as it is in a position to speak and act on its own and does not request the World Jewish Congress to intervene on its behalf. Only when Jewish communities are oppressed and cannot act for themselves - as in the case of European Jewry - or when they ask us to come to their aid, - as has happened in many instances in Latin American Jewries, do we take action; otherwise, our activities are limited to dealing with international Jewish problems of common interest to all Jewish communities and organisations affiliated to, or represented in, the World Jewish Congress.

WJC. John
March 8th, 1944.

**Notes about the World Jewish Congress
and its recent activities.**

1. The World Jewish Congress is to-day composed of the representative organizations of all Latin American Jewish communities which are well organized in their various Central Committees and which are affiliated to the World Jewish Congress - the Canadian Jewish Congress, representing the whole of Canadian Jewry; the American Jewish Congress, representing, approximately, a million organized Jews in the United States of America; the Vaad Leumi of Palestine, representing Palestinian Jewry; the Union of Swiss Jewish communities, representing the whole Jewry of Switzerland; the Jewish communities of North Africa, the British Section, the Australian Section and other sections in smaller countries.

Speaking moderately, the World Jewish Congress to-day represents, approximately, 2 2/3 million Jews. Before the war, the organized Jewish communities of Greece, Bulgaria, Yugoslavia and Italy, and the larger part of the Jewish population of Roumania, Czechoslovakia and Poland and a substantial part of France, were also represented in the World Jewish Congress through their various organizations. Since the occupation of these countries by Hitler, various European Committees - established in New York and composed of former leaders of the various Jewish European communities who are to-day in New York - take the place of these European Jewish communities and will continue to do so until the day of their liberation comes. The French Committee, for example, is headed by Baron Adolphe de Rothschild, President of the French Jewish Consistoire, Pierre Dreyfus - son of Captain Dreyfus, Professor Hamadori, the great French Mathematician, and others; the Yugoslavia Committee is headed by the Chief Rabbi of Yugoslavia, Rabbi Alkali, etc.

2. The Executive Committee of the World Jewish Congress, which was transferred to New York at the beginning of the war (it was formerly in Geneva and Paris) and which will be transferred to Europe as soon as conditions permit, has dealt primarily with the problems of rescue of European Jews, creating opportunities for relief to be sent to European Jewry (enabling the pure relief organizations like the Joint Distribution Committee to use these opportunities and to do the real relief work), doing some relief work by itself through the funds for relief which are collected in Latin America and which are all being distributed by the Relief Department of the World Jewish Congress, defending Jewish rights in Latin American countries, and in preparing the restoration of Jewish rights and positions in post-war Europe.

A few examples for these activities and what has been achieved, may suffice:-

a. The World Jewish Congress succeeded in changing the policy of the United States Government concerning permission to use money for organizing the escape of Jews from Nazi-occupied territories. Through the offices of the Consulate in Geneva and Lisbon, its representatives in London and its close co-operation with the office of the Jewish Agency in Istanbul, the World Jewish Congress is kept constantly informed about the situation in European countries. In June 1943, Dr. Wise discussed the problem of rescue with President Roosevelt, and Mr. Morgenthau, Secretary of the Treasury, and succeeded in convincing them that licences should be granted to send money to Switzerland to be used, if necessary, in occupied European countries, to help Jews to escape. After lengthy negotiations, the first of such licences was granted in December to the Congress.

We informed the J.D.C. about this, and they then applied for a license for a much larger sum - which was also granted. In this way, opportunities were created to facilitate the escape of Jews from occupied countries. This is the only way in which it is possible, to-day, to save the remnants of European Jewry. At the same time, we succeeded - with the help of the State Department and the Polish Government - in obtaining from the Hungarian and Spanish Governments, permission for the admission of Jewish refugees from Poland and France. This work will have to be enlarged, and we hope to secure the support of the newly-established War Refugee Board in Washington for this kind of work.

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AMERICAN JEWISH ARCHIVES



זכר אלה יעקב
ישראל

March 1st, 1944.

THE REORGANISATION OF THE EUROPEAN ADVISORY COUNCIL.

A. The European Advisory Council will be divided into National Representative Committees, on a similar basis to the U.S.A. These National Representative Committees should be formed by representatives of the respective existing organisations, plus important individuals in this country who are not members of any such organisation. The number of members of these Representative Committees will vary according to the strength of the respective Jewish community in exile. The formation of these Representative Committees will be initiated and materialised under the auspices of the World Jewish Congress, European Division.

The following Representative Committees should be established immediately:- Poland, Czechoslovakia, Austria, Germany, Belgium, Holland, Yugoslavia and Hungary.

B. Two or three delegates of any such Representative Committee will form the European Advisory Council.

C. The activities of the various Representative Committees should comprise the following:-

1. Close collaboration with the respective Representative Committee in the U.S.A., exchange of information, views on current and future problems, and important measures.
2. To give expert advice to the Executive of the British Section (or European Division) on certain problems such as relief and rehabilitation, restitution, statelessness, war crimes, etc., etc., from the point of view of the respective country.
3. To prepare the organisation of the World Jewish Congress in the various countries after the war and, therefore, propagate the idea of the W.J.C. among respective Jewish nationals in Great Britain and, if possible, their organisation within the British Section (or European Division).

D. With regard to the relations of the re-organised European Advisory Council with the British Section and/or European Division, this matter will be decided only after the Emergency Conference in New York, when the relations between the World Executive and the British Section and/or European Division will be defined.

5/21/44

"היברו קאמיטע האט נישט קיין רעכט צו רעדן
אין נאמען פון וועלכן עס איז אירישן קיבוץ
אין איראק און אנדערע וועלט טיילן" דעקלערט
אירישער וועלט קאנגרעס אין שארפער רעזאלוציע.

אדמיניסטראטיווער קאמיטעט פון אירישן וועלט קאנגרעס הערט היכטיקע
באריכטן וועגן רעטוונס-אקציע פאר איראפעאישע אידן. - פאדערט
צוצואיילן רעטונג פון באדראפטע אידן אין אונגארן.

די אזוי-גערופענע "היברו קאמיטע פאר נאציאנאלער באפרייאונג" וואס איז
פראקלאמירט געווארן דורך א פאר אומפאראנטווארטלעכע יונגעלייט אין וואשינגטאן
האט נישט קיין שום רעכט און נישט די מינדסטע אויטאריטעט צו רעדן אין נאמען
פון וועלכן עס איז אירישן קיבוץ אין איראק און אין ערגיץ נישט - האט
געבטן דערקלערט דער אדמיניסטראטיווער קאמיטעט פון אירישן וועלט קאנגרעס
וואס האט זיך פארזאמלט אויף אן עפענטלעכן מיטינג אין האטעל קאמארדא, אין
דער אנטווענהיים פון א גרעסערער צאל מיטגלידער פון קאמיטעט און מיט דער
באטייליקונג פון פארטרעטער פון אירישע קיבוצים אין 18 איראפעאישע לענדער
און רעלעגאנטן פון 8 צענטראל- און דרום-אמעריקאנער רעפובליקן.

דער מיטינג איז געעפנט געווארן דורך דר. נחום גאלדמאן, שערמאן פון
אדמיניסטראטיוון קאמיטעט. די עקזעקוטיוו-מיטגלידער דר. אריה קובאשיצקי,
און דר. מאריס ל. פערלצווייג האבן אפגעגעבן היכטיקע באריכטן וועגן דער
רעטוונס-אקציע פאר די באדראפטע איראפעאישע אידן. וועגן דער פראגע פון בא-
שראפן די נאצי קריג-פארברעכער און וועגן דעם פראבלעם פון דעליף און
וידעראויפבויע פון די חרוב געווארענע אירישע קיבוצים נאכן קריג. דער
עקזעקוטיוו-מיטגליד ברוך צוקערמאן האט באריכטעט וועגן די צוגרייטונגען צו
דער ספעציעלער אירישער וועלט-קאנפערענץ, וואס ווערט צונויפגערופן פון
אירישן וועלט קאנגרעס.

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איז אנגענומען געווארן נאך אויפקלערונגען, וועלכע עס האבן געגעבן דר. נחום
גאלדמאן און דר. מ. ל. פערלצווייג, נאך א דעבאטע אין וועלכער עס האבן זיך
באטייליקט: ראבי' יטורון קארדאזא, פון קוראסא, הרב ראפאלין פון מעקסיקא,
דר. אברהם דראפקין פון טשילי, מר. י. הינעמאן פון גואטעמאלא און לואיס
סינעל. אין דער רעזאלוציע ווערט דערקלערט:

דער אדמיניסטראטיווער קאמיטעט פון אירישן וועלט קאנגרעס פארמאגט די טע-
טיקייט פון א גרופע אומפאראנטווארטלעכע יונגעלייט, וועלכע האבן געגרינדעט
אן אזוי-גערופענע "היברו קאמיטע פאר נאציאנאלער באפרייאונג" אין וואשינגטאן
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רופן צו רעדן אין נאמען פון די אירישע קיבוצים און ארגאניזאציעס פון
40 לענדער, דערקלערט, אז די "היברו קאמיטע" האט נישט די מינדסטע אויטא-
ריטעט און באפולמעכטיקונג, נישט דירעקט און נישט אומדירעקט, פון וועלכער
עס איז פאראנטווארטלעכער אירישער קעגנערשאפט אין איראק און ערגעץ אנדערש.
די טעטיקייט פון דער "היברו קאמיטע" מוז דעריבער שארף פאראורטיילט ווערן
אלס שעדלעך פאר דעם אירישן פאלק, און די פרעסענזיעס פון דער "היברו
קאמיטע" צו רעפרעזענטירן וועלכן עס איז פאראנטווארטלעכע טייל פון דער איי-
דישער עפענטלעכער מינונג דארפן דערקלערט ווערן אלס שווינדעל. אלע אירישע
און נישט-אירישע קרייזן ווערן געווארנט פאר דער דאזיקער אזוי-גערופענער
"היברו קאמיטע" אין וואשינגטאן.

דר. אריה קובאשיצקי, דער אונטער-שערמאן פאר דער רעטונג-
אקציע ביים אירישן וועלט קאנגרעס, האט אויסגירלעך באריכטעט וועגן די טריט
וואס זיינען אונטערגענומען געווארן אין די לעצטע וואכן, אין קאאפעראציע מיט
פרעזידענט רוזוועלטס "וואר רעפידזשי בארד". דר. קובאשיצקי האט זיך בא-
זונדערט אפגעשטעלט אויף די באמיהונגען לסובת די באדראפטע אידן אין אונ-
גארן און רומעניע און האט מיטגעטיילט וועגן די באדייטנדע דערגרייכונגען, וואס
די פארשטייער פון אירישן וועלט קאנגרעס אין נייטראלע לענדער האבן געהאט
נאר ארויסראטעווען מערערע הונדערטער אירישע קינדער.

די רעסוננז-אקציע לטובת די אידן אין אונגארן שטויסט זיך אן אויף גרויסע שוועריקייטן, באזונדערס אין דער טראנזיט-פראגע פאר אריבער-פירן די געראטעוועטע אידן קיין ארץ ישראל. די עקזעקוטיווע פון אידישן וועלט קאנגרעס מאכט גרויסע באמיהונגען צו באזייטיקן די שוועריקייטן. הגם עס זיינען נישט פאראן קיין גענויע ידיעות וועגן דער לאגע פון די אידן, וואס זיינען פארשלעפט געווארן קיין טראנסניסטריע, איז באוואוסט, אז א גרויסער טייל פון זיי איז געראטעוועט געווארן דורך דער רויטער ארמיי. פילע האט זיך איינגעגעבן צו אנשלוסן צוריק קיין רומעניע, און פארטרעטער פון אידישן וועלט קאנגרעס אין נייטראלע לענדער זיינען באשעפטיקט מיט פאר-זאגן פאר זיי הילף, אויסצויכטן זיינען פאראן צו ראטעווען א גרעסערע צאל אידישע יתומים, וועלכע האבן זיך געפונען אין טראנסניסטריע.

ד.ר. קובאויצקי האט ארוםגערעדט אויספירלעך די באמיהונגען צו באקומען די דערלויבעניש פון די בלאקאדע אויטאריטעטן, אז דער אינטערנאציאנאלער רויטער קריג זאל קאנען שיקן שפיזי-פעקלעך צו די אידן אין נאצי-איראפע, וועלכע געפינען זיך אין אינטערנירונגס-לאגערן און אין צוואנגס-ארבייטער-קעמפס. אין דער הינזיכט איז לידער ביז איצט נישט פיל דערנריכט געווארן, און די באמיהונגען אין די אנטשפערעכנדע אינסטאנצן דארפן פארשטארקט ווערן. עס דארף אויפגעקלערט ווערן, אז אויף דעם דאזיקן וועג קאן מען נאך ראטעווען הונדערטער טויזנטער אידן פון טויט און פירן.

ד.ר. נחום גאלדמאן האט באריכטעט וועגן די שריט, וואס דער אידישער וועלט קאנגרעס האט אונטערגענומען לטובת די אידן אין די געביטן, וואס ווערן באפרייט דורך דער רויטער ארמיי.

ד.ר. אריה טארטאקאווער האט באריכטעט וועגן די שריט ביי דער אנטפירונג פון "אונגרא" צו פארזיכערן די הילף און דעם ווידעראויפבוי פון די חרוב געווארענע אידישע קיבוצים אין איראפע. ד.ר. טארטאקאווער האט מיטגעטיילט, אז ביים אידישן וועלט קאנגרעס ווערט געשאפן א קאונסיל פאר רעליף און רעהאביליטאציע מיט דעם אנטווערפן פון באקאנטע אידישע עקספערטן אין בא-זונדערע לענדער בכדי צו באהאנדלען די פראבלעמען פון די קריגס-געליטענע אידן אין די באזונדערע מלוכות אין איראפע. ד.ר. טארטאקאווער האט אויך אָנגעוויזן אויף די אידישע פראבלעמען אין די פארהאנדלונגען ביי דער אינטערנאציאנאלער ארבייטער קאנפערענץ, וואס האט זיך ערשט געשלאסן אין פילאדעלפיה. עס איז נויטיק צו פארזיכערן די חביעות פון די אידישע צוואנג-ארבייטער אין נאצי-איראפע און א רייע אנדערע אידישע אינטערעסן, וואס וועלן אויפקומען נאכן קריג.

ד.ר. מ.ל. פערלצווייג האט באריכטעט וועגן די שריט פון אידישן וועלט קאנגרעס אין דער פראגע פון באשטרעבן די נאצי פארברעכער, דורך דער פארמיטלונג פון דער בריטישער סעקציע פון קאנגרעס, האט די עקזעקוטיווע שוין געמאכט א רייע באמיהונגען ביי דער "קאמיסיע פאר די קריגס פארברעכענעס" אין לאנדאן, צו פארזיכערן די פארטרעטערשאפט פון קאנגרעס אין דער ארבעט פון דער קאמיסיע. וועגן דער פראגע האט זיך אנטוויקעלט א לענגערע דעבאטע, אין וועלכער עס האבן זיך באטייליקט מר. לואיס סיגעל, גענעראל סעקרעטאר פון אידיש-נאציאנאלן ארבעטער פארבאנד, ד.ר. יוסף טענענבוים, ראבי יטורון קארדאזא פון קוראסא, מר. נייטס טענבאל פון ארגענטינע און א רייע אנדערע דעלעגאטן. ד.ר. סטיפען ס. ווייז, ד.ר. נחום גאלדמאן און ד.ר. פערלצווייג האבן געענטפערט אויף דער דעבאטע.

ברוך צוקערמאן האט אָפגעגעבן א באריכט וועגן די צוגרייטונגען צו דער ספעציעלער אידישער וועלט קאנפערענץ, וואס ווערט גערופן דורך דער עקזע-קוטיווע פון אידישן וועלט קאנגרעס. צוקערמאן דערקלערט די אורזאך פאר וואס די קאנפערענץ, וואס איז געווען באשטימט אויף דעם 20טן מאי, האט גע-מוזט אָפגעלייגט ווערן. הויפטזעכלעך איז עס געשאן געווארן אויף דער ביטע פונם ארץ ישראל-דיקן ישוב צוליב די וואלן צו דער אספת הנבחרים, וואס קומען פאר דעם חדש אין ארץ ישראל. אויך זיינען געווען שוועריקייטן מיט דער עני-גלישער דעלעגאציע, וועלכע האט נישט געקאנט קומען צוליב די נייע באשטיי-מונגען. די קאנפערענץ וועט פאָרקומען שפעט אין הארבסט, אין פארלויף פון נאָעמבער. ברוך צוקערמאן האט מיטגעטיילט, אז איצט זיינען פאראן אלע אויסצויכטן, אז אין דער קאנפערענץ זאלן זיך באטייליקן די אידישע קיבוצים אין אלע פרייע, נייטראלע און באפרייטע לענדער. די קאנפערענץ האט שוין

ארויסגערויפן א שטארקן אינטערעס אין א רייע לענדער, וואו עס זינען גע-
וועלט געווארן גרעסערע דעלעגאציעס. די קאנפערענץ וועט קומען אין א זייער
וויכטיקן מאמענט, ווען עס וועט דארפן אויפגענומען ווערן די פראגע וועגן
שאפן אן אל-וועלטלעכע אידישע רעפערענצטאנץ.

ד.ר. שטיפען ס. ווייז האט ווארם באגריסט די אנוועזענדע דעלעגאטן צו דער
קאנפערענץ, וואס האבן זיך פארזאמעלט אין ניו יארק. ד.ר. ווייז האט אנגע-
וויזן אז דעמאלטס גורל, וואס עס האט די אידישע וועלט קאנפערענץ, האבן
איצט אויך גרויסע צוזאמענפארן פון די פארטרעטער פון די פאראייניקטע
פעלקער. אויך אזעלכע צוזאמענפארן ווערן איצט אפט אפגעלייגט צוליב די
פארשידענע מניעות אין טראנספארט א.א.וו. ד.ר. ווייז האט דאן ארומגערעדט
די פראבלעמען פון די אידישע קיבוצים אין די לענדער, וואס די דעלעגאטן
פארטרעטן, און האט באטאנעט די וויכטיקייט פון דער ארגאניזירונג פון
אידישן וועלט קאנגרעס פאר דער פארטיידיקונג פון די אל-וועלטלעכע אידישע
פראגן און די אינטערעסן פון די אידישע ישובים אין די באזונדערע לענדער.
ד.ר. ווייז האט פארענדיקט מיט אויסדריקן די האפענונג, אז די קאנפערענץ
ספעציעלע אידישע וועלט קאנפערענץ וועט דורכפירן א היסטארישע אויפגאבע.
פאר דער פארזיכערונג פון דער אידישער לאגע נאכן קריג.

ד.ר. ווייז, ס'הארציקע באגריפונגסערעדע האט ארויסגערויפן באגריפטערע אפלא-
דיסטעמען.

דאס ווארט האבן דאן באקומען די דעלעגאטן פון די באזונדערע לענדער. דער
ערשטער האט גערעדט הרב ר' שלמה דוד ראפאלין פון מעקסיקא. הרב ראפאלין
באגריסט די אנפירער פון אידישן וועלט קאנגרעס און דערקלערט, אז דער
גאנצער אידישער ישוב אין מעקסיקא שטייט הינטער דעם אידישן וועלט קאנגרעס
אין זיין קאמף פאר דער פארטיידיקונג פון די אידישע אינטערעסן. העכער
90% פון דער אידישער באפעלקערונג אין מעקסיקא האבן דורך זייערע ארגא-
נאציעס זיך באטייליקט אין די האלן פון דער דעלעגאציע צו דער וועלט
קאנפערענץ און דורך דעם אויסגעדריקט זייער אונטערשטען זיך אן דעם אידישן
וועלט קאנגרעס. די דעלעגאציע פון מעקסיקא האט באקומען די באפולמעכט-
קונג פון די אידן אין לאנד און וועט אויך דערפילן אירע התחייבותן. הרב
ראפאלין האט אויספירלעך ארומגערעדט דעם וואוס פונם אידישן ישוב אין
מעקסיקא און די פארצווייגטע געזעלשאפטלעכע סאציאלע און דערציאונגס-
ארבעט, מיט א באזונדערן בארעכטיקטן שטאלץ האט הרב ראפאלין גערעדט וועגן
דעם פארצווייגטן אידישן שולוועזן אין מעקסיקא, וואו די גרויסע מערהייט פון
די אידישע קינדער קריגן א אידישע דערציאונג.

ראב"י יטורון קארדאזא האט געבראכט די באגריפונג פון דעם אידישן קיבוץ
אויפן האלענדישן אינזל קוראסא, פון וואנען ער איז דעלעגירט צו דער
וועלט קאנפערענץ. ראב"י קארדאזא האט באקומען די באפולמעכטקונג פון אלע
אידישע גרופן אין קוראסא, ס'פון די ספרדים און ס'פון די אשכנזים
צו פארטרעטן זי אויף דער קאנפערענץ. ער האט צו קאנען צוריקקומען אין
נאנעמבער און באטייליקן זיך אין דער קאנפערענץ.

דער האלענדישער אמבאסאדאר אין וואשינגטאן, מיט וועלכן ראב"י קארדאזא האט
געהאט א קאנפערענץ, האט צוגעשיקט א מעסעדזש צו דעם מיטינג און דער-
קלערט אין נאמען פון זיין רעגירונג, אז אלע געזעצן און גזירות, וואס
די נאצי אקופאנטען האבן איינגעפירט אין האלאנד קעגן אידן, וועלן גלייך
אפגעשאפט ווערן, און אז די האלענדישע רעגירונג וועט נעמען איר טייל אין
דער לייוונג פון דער אידן פראגע נאכן קריג.

ד.ר. אברהם דראפקין פון טשילי דערקלערט, אז דער אידישער קיבוץ אין זיין
לאנד האט חמיר זיך באמיט צו דערפילן זינע פארפליכטונגען אלס א טייל
פון אידישן פאלק. ער איז איינער פון די 6 דעלעגאטן, וועלכע דארפן קומען
פון טשילי צו דער אידישער וועלט קאנפערענץ. ד.ר. דראפקין באטראכט פאר
דער ערשטער אויפגאבע צו שאפן די אידישע אייניקייט, צוליב דער מוראדיקער
טראגעדיע, וואס איז די גרעסטע אין אונדזער געשיכטע. די אידן אין טשילי
זינען גרייט צו באטייליקן זיך אין דער אנטשטערעכנדער מאס אין דער האר-
מאנישער ארבעט פון א פאראייניקט אידנטום. דער דעלעגאט פון טשילי דריקט
אויס די האפענונג, אז דעם אידישן וועלט קאנגרעס וועט געלינגען צו שאפן
די אידישע וועלט אייניקייט. ד.ר. דראפקין האט פארענדיקט מיט דער איבער-
ציגונג, אז דעם אידישן וועלט קאנגרעס און דער אידישער אנגען פאר ארץ
ישראל וועט זיך איינענעם צו ראטעווען א וואס גרעסערע צאל אידן, ווי אויך
הידעראוויכבויען נאך דער מלחמה די אידישע עקזיסטענצן און הידעראוויכבייט.

די נאציאנאלע היט פארן אידישן פאלק אין ארץ ישראל.

מר. נויסטיין טעבאל, פון ארגענטינע, האט געדאנקט די אנפירער פון אידישן העלט קאנגרעס און געזאגט אז די אידן אין ארגענטינע און פון דער גאנצער העלט קאנגרעס מיט פיל צוטריו צו דער ארבעט פון די טוער פון אידישן העלט קאנגרעס און האפן אויף א דערפאלג אין די באמאונגען צו שאפן א בעסערן גורל פארן אידישן פאלק.

ר. י. שטיינבו פון ארגענטינע האט דערקלערט אז די "דא"א" העלכע רע-פרעזענטירט 100% פונם אידישן קיבוץ אין ארגענטינע, האט אויף איר לעצ-טער יערלעכער פארזאמלונג נאכאמאל באטאגט אז זי אנערקענט דעם אידישן העלט קאנגרעס פאר דער אידישער העלט רעפרעזענטאנט. די דא"א אידישטיי-צירט זיך מיט דעם אידישן העלט קאנגרעס. אין ארגענטינע זינען נישט פאראן קיין גענוער פון קאנגרעס. די דעלעגאציע, וואס וועט זיך באטייליקן אין דער העלט קאנפערענץ, וועט רעפרעזענטירן 100% פון ארגענטינער אידישן ישוב. דר. שטיינבו האט צום סוף איבערגעגעבן אז פאר זיין אפפארן פון ארגענטינע, האט אים דער פרעזידענט פון דער "דא"א", דר. משה נאלידמאן, געבעטן צו ברענגען דעם ווארימסטן גרוס אין נאמען פון ארגענטינער אידנטום פאר די אנפירער פון אידישן העלט קאנגרעס און באגריסן באזונדערס דר. סטיינבו. ס'וועט צו זיין ס'וועט געבורטסטאג. דער ארגענטינער אידישער ישוב וועט אין דר. הייזן דעם פאן-טרענער פון אידישן רענעסאנס.

מר. עריק היינעמאן פון ניואטעמאלא האט אויסגעדריקט די צופרידענקייט פון אידישן ישוב אין זיין לאנד צו קאנען באטייליקן זיך אין דער ארבעט פון אידישן העלט קאנגרעס און אנטהיל נעמען אין דער קומענדיקער העלט קאנפער-רענץ. מר. היינעמאן האט אנגעוויזן אויף א רייע פראבלעמען, וואס שטייען פאר דער קאנפערענץ.

מר. אברהם קאך פון טאן סאלוואדאר האט געבראכט דעם גרוס פון דעם קליינעם אידישן קיבוץ פון דער צענטראל-אמעריקאנער רעפובליק און האט אויספירלעך ארומגעדריקט די פראגע וועגן ווידעראויפריכטן דאס אידישע לעבן נאך דעם קריג. מר. קאך האט באטאגט די פאדערונג צו שאפן דאס אידישע היימלאנד אין ארץ ישראל און מאכן א סוף מיט דער אידישער היימלאזיקייט אין דער העלט.

מר. ס. שינלער פון קאסטא ריקא האט דערקלערט אז דער אידישער ישוב פון זיין לאנד איז גרייט ווי פריער זיך צו באטייליקן אין דער ארבעט פון אידישן העלט קאנגרעס און וועט זיך שטעלן אויף יעדן רופן ווען עס וועט זיין נויטיק. מר. בוימנארטן פון קאלאמביא האט אנגעוויזן אויף דער שעדלעכער דערשיינונג אין די קליינע לאטין אמעריקאנער לענדער, וואס עס שאפן זיך באזונדערע אידישע קלייזלעך, וועלכע פירן פאליטיק אויף ד אייגענער האנט. דער אידישער העלט קאנגרעס, האט דערקלערט מר. בוימנארטן, ווערט זייער געשעצט אין די לענדער, און ער וואלט געדארפט אונטערנעמען די געהעריקע שריט צו מאכן א סוף צו דער צערשפליטערונג פון דער אידישער געזעלשאפטלעכער ארבעט. מר. בוימנארטן האט אויך אנגעוויזן אויף דערנאכ-ווענדיקייט, אז אידישע פאליטישע טוער און גייסטיקע מנהיגים זאלן אפמער-באזוכן די לענדער און פארבלייבן דאס א געוויסע צייט בכדי אינצושטעלן א נאכמאל אידיש לעבן.

מר. פיינבלאט פון קאסטא ריקא האט דערקלערט, אז דער אידישער קיבוץ אין זיין לאנד באטראכט דעם אידישן העלט קאנגרעס ווי זיין באשיצער און ווענדעט זיך צו אים שטענדיק נאך דאס און הילף. מר. פיינבלאט האט אין זיין באגריי-סונג זיך געווענדעט צו די אנפירער פון אידישן העלט קאנגרעס מיט א רייע קאנקרעטע ביטעס וועגן אקטועלע ענינים פון דעם אידישן קיבוץ אין זיין לאנד.

ר. נחום נאלידמאן האט שליסנדיק דעם מיטינג אויסגעדריקט א דאנק די דע-לעגאטן פאר זייערע באריכטן און פארזיכערט, אז די פארשלאגן און ביטעס, וואס זינען געבראכט געווארן דורך די דעלעגאטן, וועלן באטראכט ווערן דורך דער עקזעקוטיווע פון קאנגרעס, און די געהעריקע שריט וועלן אנגענומען ווערן צו רעגולירן די ענינים. דר. נאלידמאן האט פארענדיקט מיט דער האפענונג צו באנענען זיך ווידער מיט די דעלעגאטן ביי דער קומענדיקער העלט קאנ-פערענץ.

STRICTLY CONFIDENTIAL

The following is a short summary of the reports given by the Executive members of the World Jewish Congress at the Office Committee meetings during the period of May 15th to June 15th, 1944:

It was decided to transfer \$10,000 to Weissman-Lisbon for his work in Lisbon under the license recently granted. At the same time he was informed that the WJC prefers that the children rescued in Portugal should be sent to Palestine even if this means a delay of a few weeks. This line will also be sure with respect to the WRB.

Two weeks later, an additional amount of \$10,000 was transferred to Weissman-Lisbon, as he has to take care of about 90 rescued children. We have been informed that the American as well as the British Embassy in Lisbon are deeply impressed with our work done by Weissman there.

Mr. Patrick Malin, of the Inter-Governmental Committee for Refugees, came to our office and had a lengthy discussion with members of the Executive of the World Jewish Congress.

Mr. Siegner was asked to cable a program of rescue of Dutch Jews. Upon its receipt, we shall approach the WRB.

Dr. Goldmann attended a meeting of the Budget Commission of the Canadian Jewish Congress. The World Jewish Congress this year will receive a contribution of \$30,000 from the Canadian Jewish Congress. This decision was also confirmed by the United Jewish Relief Agency of Canada. \$15,000 are designated for regular work and \$15,000 for rescue.

Fund-raising campaign in Mexico with Dr. Goldmann and Baruch Zuckerman will take place the week of August 13-20th. Mr. Zuckerman will stay one week longer and principally take up organizational questions.

Chief Rabbi Ehrenpreis of Stockholm has accepted the invitation to join the Executive of the World Jewish Congress.

Upon our suggestions the WRB is making special efforts in the field of psychological warfare - broadcasts to Hungary etc. They are using a great deal of our material.

We have learned something about the situation of the Vittel internees. The 230 Jews deported from Vittel are now in Camp Drancy, which is no longer under French but under German jurisdiction. All exchange material will be used first for American wounded prisoners of war. The State Department agreed to go into the matter of exchange and has already started it. - Three weeks later, we had news concerning the deportation from Vittel, by a diplomat just arrived on the Gripsholm. According to this source, there were no Jews said to be left in Vittel about the middle of May.

400 Spanish Jews were sent back from Haidari. However, Argentinian Jews seem to have been sent to Theresienstadt, which is not only a concentration camp, but also a transit camp.

+ One week later, we had information that only about 160 were deported from Vittel to an unknown place. But

Dr. Perlzweig, together with Mr. Fried, President of the Czech-Jewish Representative Committee, has seen Jan Masaryk. He got the following statement: "I wish to go on record once again in stating that decent citizens of Czechoslovakia regardless of race or faith will be treated in the same fair manner as was the case before this terrible war started. The treatment of Jews in my country is a matter of personal pride to me and there will be no change whatsoever in this respect. This statement can be considered as the concerted opinion of the Czechoslovak Government in London."

With the recommendation of the War Refugee Board, a special delegate of the World Jewish Congress went to Lisbon, Spain and North Africa.

Dr. Goldmann has seen Lord Halifax and discussed the question of the Red Cross parcels with him. A memorandum was sent to Lord Halifax. Mr. Pehle of the WEH also promised to take this question up with the Foreign Economy Administration. -- Some time later Dr. Goldmann saw Crowley concerning the same matter. Dr. Goldmann was informed that the Board of Economic Warfare allows the International Red Cross to use its feedstocks in Switzerland for mailing food parcels ~~xxxxxxxxxx~~ to occupied Europe. About one-half million Jews are involved. As the consent of the British is also needed, the Board is ready to take it up with the British authorities.

During the last few weeks we had many conversations with representative of UNHRA concerning representation in the Standing Committee. Such decision depends on the Council. Since the meeting of the UNHRA Council had to be postponed, there will be no definite answer in the near future.

We have on several occasions been asked by UNHRA representatives to recommend people to them who can be trained and sent out as social workers.

Dr. Tartakower will go to South America the second half of June to stay in Chile, Argentina and Brazil for a few days for information purposes.

Dr. Goldmann saw the Russian Ambassador Gromyko, who promised to recommend to his government that a delegation of Russian Jewry be allowed to come to our War Emergency Conference. The War Emergency Conference, is, for the time being, scheduled to take place the second half of November.

Mr. Lipsky, Chairman of the Administrative Committee of the American Jewish Conference, has invited the WJC to name representatives to cooperate with their Commission on Post-War European Problems. Our representatives will be: Dr. Robinson, Dr. Tartakower, Dr. Kubovitski, Dr. Perlzweig and Jacob Leutschinsky.

Mr. Milstein, WJC representative in Rhodesia, informs us that in Kenya and Tanganyika a special camp for Polish-Jewish refugees and a special school for Polish-Jewish children have been established. The Office Committee is in favor of it in the light of the recent experience in the Mexican camp for Polish refugees in Santa Rosa and is especially in favor of the establishment of a special school for Polish-Jewish children, giving them a Jewish education.

of the readmission of Jews into Czechoslovakia; they will be admitted. But the question of Jewish reparation will have to be discussed as well as some other questions. He said that if the Czech Jews have any proposals, they have to start negotiations now. Masaryk is Chairman of all Czech reconstruction committees and all proposals and memoranda should be sent to him.

Large
Jewels

No received a lengthy report on the situation of the Jews in Hungary from a representative of our at present in Lisbon, through the WEB. Terrible facts were revealed regarding Jews in Hungary, by refugees who reached Palestine at the end of May after having escaped from Hungary during May. In accordance with methods in Poland there is clear evidence that mass extermination there is prepared. Already there are interned in camps and ghettos over 300,000 Jews from ~~Mazowieck~~
~~Silesia~~ Sighet and Carpatho Russia of which the following are known: Munkacs, Debrecen, Nagyvárad, Szatmárnémeti, Mátészalka, Eger, Záhony, Kolozsvár, Besztercebánya, Békés, Budapest, Ruszt, Bliszka, Nagyvárad, Szeged, Ujvidék. In one center over 22,000 persons are herded into an area of 17,000 square meters. Over 3,000 Jews were arrested and deported to an unknown destination during one night in Budapest. There were summarily deported another group of 8000 and for deportation of large numbers preparations have been made. 30 pengoes, food only for a fortnight and two changes of underwear are all that the deportees are allowed to take with them. A yellow badge must be worn by all Jews ages six or more. Jewish shops are closed and goods confiscated all over Hungary. Daily ration of food for Jews consists of some fat, one hundred grams of bread with nothing else, and no Jew is allowed to retain in excess of 3000 pengoes. Travel by rail is forbidden to all Jews. Jewish municipal and government officials have all been dismissed and the Gestapo supervises the execution of all of these measures.

This telegram and a number of other very important questions have been discussed with Secretary of the Treasury Department.

Worried about the news in the papers about Argentina, we called Mr. Israel Jefroykin, member of the WJC at present in Montevideo, who informed us that the present news is exaggerated and that he does not consider the situation dangerous. Nevertheless, the Argentine Ambassador in Washington was approached by a delegation of the World Jewish Congress. He declared that the news is exaggerated and that the Argentine Government is unfavorably disposed to antisemitism. Also Mr. Duggan of the Latin-American Department of the State Department, confirms the information that nothing in particular has happened in Argentina for the moment.

Dr. Kubowitzki had an interview with a delegate of the WJB before he left for Istanbul, giving him addresses of people to contact in the Greek, Rumanian and Hungarian underground.

Dr. Tartakower informed the meeting that in the message which we received on June 7th from the Polish Underground, we were informed about the following four events, which occurred in Poland during the last few days:

a) The amount of \$20,000 transmitted by the World Jewish Congress for underground activities in Poland was received by the Jewish National Committee in Warsaw.

b) The first transports of Hungarian Jews, deported to Poland, have already arrived there and were sent immediately to extermination camps.

c) From Teresin the first transport of 7000 Jews arrived at the famous extermination camp in Oswiecim.

d) According to news received by the Polish Government in London, people who are in Oswiecim are being forced, before being exterminated, to write letters to their relatives, informing them that they are all right. Should such letters appear, either in Poland itself or outside of Poland, in the near future, we are warned by the Polish Government to know the real meaning of such information.

Dr. Kubowitzki had several discussions with Dr. Hoffman, War Prisoners' Aid of the YSCA. Dr. Hoffman will try to visit the Jews in concentration camps in Hungary.

Our Committee in Stockholm, headed by Chief Rabbi Ehrenpreis, has applied for \$50,000 from the WJB for rescue work, and they ask us to recommend this application. This was done, and upon the request of the WJB, the Office Committee decided that the World Jewish Congress would allocate the amount of \$10,000 to this sum.

Mr. James W. Nise had a conversation with the AMO on the following points: 1) our request for permission to send clothing to Italy 2) to send a representative of the WJC there 3) to have a letter sent to the Jewish community in Italy through the AMO.

The AMC informed us that these matters belong to the International Committee for Refugees which has a man there already. As for point 1 and point 3, we have to contact the new American Committee for Italian Relief Inc. of which Fossamini is president. Steps have been taken accordingly.

Dr. Vise and Dr. Goldman saw Myron C. Taylor before he left for Rome. Mr. Taylor promised to contact the Pope personally concerning broadcast - warnings to the Hungarian people. He suggested that his appeal be supported by Catholic Bishops in this country.

Mr. Taylor will further recommend to Marchais that a man recommended by the World Jewish Congress be included in the American Committee for Italian Relief Inc., and he will write a letter to the State Department recommending that they send an Italian-Jewish leader recommended by the World Jewish Congress, to Italy.

Corresponding steps to contact the Catholic Hierarchy in this country, were started.

Before Mr. James MacDonald goes to Spain as representative of the WRB, he will be visited by representatives of the WJC.

Re the situation of the Jews in Finland, we were informed that the WRB has asked the American representative in Finland and its representative in Stockholm to make all arrangements for the eventual evacuation of Finnish Jews.

A report of our Department for Relief to Russia shows that up to June 1st, the World Jewish Congress accumulated the amount of about \$80,000 for parcels. Approximately 20% of this sum was covered by the Relief Funds of the World Jewish Congress itself, for parcels for former leaders of Jewish life in Poland, the Baltic States, and Resserabia; among them, rabbis, teachers, leaders of communities, etc. All of these persons have no relatives or friends here who could take care of them.

As to our service of tracing by cable refugees in the USSR through the facilities of the office of the Jewish Community in Moscow, we transferred over 2500 such inquiries, and received about 15% answers. We also succeeded in accumulating over 30,000 names of refugees of various countries.

By publishing the names in the papers here, and by mailing stenciled lists to the branches of the World Jewish Congress everywhere in countries wherever possible, we succeeded in contacting thousands of relatives of the refugees, thus enabling the reunion of families which were broken up due to the war.

STRICTLY CONFIDENTIAL

Summary of the reports given by the Executive Members of the World Jewish Congress at the Office Committee Meetings during the period of June 15 - August 15th.

JUNE 15 - 30, 1944

POLITICAL DEPARTMENT

We are investigating possibilities of sending a delegation of the WJC to Russia. Interviews in this respect are taking place in Washington.

A memorandum concerning the abolition of anti-Jewish Italian legislation is submitted to the State Department and answer was received that steps for the necessary investigation will be taken and we shall be informed further.

Decision was taken that, in principle, our various European Representative Committees, affiliated with the WJC, shall not submit any documents of political character on post-war problems before handing them over to Dr. Perlzweig, Head of the Political Department of the WJC.

Dr. Robinson, Director of the Institute of Jewish Affairs, announces that four projects will be ready for publication, by September 1944:

- 1) Jewish aspects of UNRRA
- 2) War Crimes
- 3) Restoration of Jewish Rights
- 4) Restitution and Indemnification.

Pending are three other projects:

- 1) International Bill of Rights
- 2) Outlawing of Anti-Semitism
- 3) Long-Range Reconstruction

It was decided that these four items should be agreed upon by the Executive after they have been finished and then should be published.

The Institute will start a series of new publications, the greatest part of which will be ready for publication before the Emergency Conference.

Report was given that at an Executive Meeting of the World Jewish Congress, which took place on June 22nd in the offices of the WJC,

a statement by the World Jewish Congress on the punishment of war crimes was adopted. It was unanimously decided that

1) the statement of policy will be submitted to the War Crimes Commission in London and to the Government comprising the Commission; and

2) the statement will be published after submission to the War Crimes Commission, in the "Jewish Comment" and in the Jewish and general press.

Copy of this statement enclosed.

RESCUE

Reports were given on the instructions of the War Refugee Board to their American Representative in Finland for the possible evacuation of Finnish Jews. The sending of a special delegate of the World Jewish Congress to Sweden was felt to be not necessary as Chief Rabbi Ehrenpreis, Executive member of the World Jewish Congress, is acting there as Chairman of our Committee in Stockholm.

We had reports that the Spanish Government is dealing with the problem of refugees in a satisfactory manner, with the refugees in Spain and also as far as the situation on the border is concerned.

Continuous conversations are taking place of representatives of the WJC and representatives of the IRC, Foreign Economic Administration and War Refugee Board concerning food parcels to be sent to Jews detained in concentration camps. The attitude of the U.S. authorities is a satisfactory one towards this matter. Negotiations are continuing.

Concerning Hungary, the representatives of the WJC are in constant contact with the highest authorities of the State Department, War Refugee Board, etc.

The sending of clothing, food, etc. has been prepared for the refugees in Mauritius. The World Jewish Congress is also working to facilitate the immigration of the Mauritius refugees into the various countries.

Upon the news of the extermination of 7000 Jews in Birkenau, it was felt that something has to be done to destroy the installations in Oswiecim and Birkenau. Plans to approach the Polish Government in order to have them instruct their underground for this purpose and various other measures, were discussed. The Polish Ambassador agreed to submit our suggestions to London immediately; it was the same with the Czechoslovakian Government. The War Refugee Board was approached concerning this subject.

It was decided to call a mass meeting of all Jewish organizations in the United States to protest against the persecution of the Jews, especially in Hungary. This meeting took place on July 31st under the Chairmanship of Dr. Stephen S. Wise, in the open in Madison Square Park. 40 to 50,000 Jews attended.

Mr. Eliyahu Dobkin, at present in Lisbon, has been invited to come to New York for a report and he agrees to it. Visa and transportation facilities are being provided by the World Jewish Congress.

UNRRA AND RELIEF

The question of a candidate for UNRRA is reconsidered. There is a possibility that Dr. Tartakower will go to London some time in the fall, after his return from his trip to South America and after his having attended the session of the UNRRA Council which will take place in Montreal on September 15th.

A thorough discussion on post-war relief took place, taking into consideration our negotiations with UNRRA, the organization of a Union of all European Relief Organizations under the auspices of the WJC; utilizing all post-war relief agencies through our European Jewish Representative Committees and the establishment of a department in order to unite Landsmannschaften which are collecting funds for post-war relief.

Interview with Governor Lehman, Director of the UNRRA concerning the question of Jewish representation. Lehman said that this matter cannot be decided upon by him, but by the Council of UNRRA. However, every UNRRA Committee can invite agencies or persons from whom they want advice. - The Office Committee agrees to the action taken by our British Section concerning their application to the Committee on Displaced Persons to have a Jewish representative appointed. - As for the establishment of Jewish units to go to the liberated countries, Lehman said that they are not accepted, as the principle of UNRRA is to have strictly non-sectarian groups. Jewish units can be established only by the Governments concerned. - It is, therefore, decided to ask our various Representative Committees to ask their respective Governments to establish such units, the training of which would be the task of the World Jewish Congress.

Conversation took place with Mr. Clarence King, Executive Director of the Council of Voluntary Relief Agencies, concerning possible affiliation of the Relief Department of the WJC with this Council. As the

WJC is not a national, but an international body, proposals were made to have a Council of International Relief Agencies established in the U.S., which could then be joined by the WJC. Mr. King expressed his favorable attitude towards this proposal. Suitable for such a Council of International Organizations are, according to the WJC, the following: IRC, YMCA, World Student Service, Save the Children (in Geneva), Jewish Agency for Palestine and the World Jewish Congress. This matter will be followed up by the Congress.

It is agreed to establish courses for social workers together with the New York School for Social Work. Before we go into this project, UNRRA should be informed about it and should agree to it. Dr. Tartakower is to conduct the necessary negotiations.

The WJC, which through its various Committees has started to register names of refugees, has already collected 50,000 names. Funds should be allocated to this department in order to enlarge this work. It is felt that the political connections and various branches of the WJC all over the world put us in a better position to gather names whereas other organizations would not have the means to obtain them.

Concerning the problem of the Location Service of the IRC, the World Jewish Congress is offering its connections with its Committees in the various South American countries, Canada, etc. This offer was accepted. The same kind of cooperation shall be offered to UNRRA.

ORGANIZATION

Dr. Perlweig, Mr. Zuckerman and Mrs. Avis Schulman have been appointed to act as the World Jewish Congress members of the Campaign Committee for the joint campaign of the American and World Jewish Congress which will start in the fall of 1944. Rabbi Miller will act as neutral for both Congresses.

Upon the suggestion of several members of the European Representative Committees, a meeting shall be called in October, commemorating the Fiftieth Anniversary of the Dreyfus Affair.

The Vaad Leumi in Palestine agrees to be represented on the committee preparing the Black Book together with the WJC and the Jewish Writers, and appoints its representatives for this committee.

Mr. Arturo Welfowitz, president of the Central Jewish Committee in

Mexico, on a visit in New York, brings the greetings of the Mexican Jewish Yishuv and the assurance that the Mexican Jews are firmly backing the World Jewish Congress. He discussed the forthcoming visit of Dr. Goldmann and Mr. Zuckerman in Mexico and the plans for the fund-raising campaign in Mexico to start on August 13, 1944.

Dr. Berman from Chile will act as WJC representative to the First Congress of the Peruvian Jews which will take place in Lima on July 28th.

Mr. Louis Spiegler, of Washington, will work as one of our representatives in Washington from July 1st on. Mr. Spiegler, a prominent member of the Bar of District of Columbia and the United States Supreme Court, has a background of extensive Jewish communal activities. He is a member of the Executive Committee of the Zionist Organization of America, a member of the Board of Directors of the Jewish Community Council and the Jewish Social Service Agency of Washington and for the last two years Mr. Spiegler has been the Washington counsel for HIAS and represented that organization in all its contacts with the government, primarily with the Board of Immigration Appeals, Inter-departmental Visa Review Committee, Visa Division Department of State, Immigration and Naturalization Service, War Refugee Board, Foreign Funds Control.

JULY 1944

POLITICAL DEPARTMENT

Upon news of the J.T.A. that in Bessarabia, the anti-Jewish laws are still valid under Russian occupation, a letter was sent to Mr. Gromyko, Russian Ambassador to the United States, asking for an explanation. Answer was received that although formally these decrees were not withdrawn, all anti-Jewish measures are not in effect any more.

As on July 6th, the New York headquarters did not yet have an answer from our British Section on our statement on Punishment of War Criminals to the War Crime Commission, it was decided to wait another week before submitting this memorandum to the State Department and to the Russian Ambassador in the United States immediately.

It was decided to publish a book immediately after the hostilities have ceased, covering the activities of the World Jewish Congress which could not be published during the war. This book is to be

published in close collaboration with the Institute of Jewish Affairs.

A meeting of the Office Committee was devoted to a thorough discussion of the present activities and future post-war activities of the WJC. Discussion will be continued after the return of the Executive members from abroad.

Because of lack of time, General DeGaulle could not receive any special delegation during his short stay in the United States. Dr. Wise, Dr. Goldman and Mr. Pierre Dreyfus, as representative of the French Jewish Representative Committee, affiliated with the World Jewish Congress, were invited to the general reception given by DeGaulle on July 10th. Dr. Wise and Dr. Goldman did not attend this reception as both were out of town.

In a letter of June 6th addressed to the Luxembourg Jewish Representative Committee affiliated with the World Jewish Congress, Prime Minister DuPong stated that Jews will be welcomed back to Luxembourg. This refers also to the return of Jewish aliens former settled residents of Luxembourg and political refugees or others who were authorized to stay a limited time. This latter group will have to apply individually and the Prime Minister assured us that these applications will be looked upon favorably.

Anticipating an early end of the war, the Luxembourg Government-in-Exile has appointed a committee of ten to arrange the details of repatriation of all refugees. Six of the committee are Jews, four of whom are members of the Luxembourg delegation to the World Jewish Congress.

According to advice received from the World Jewish Congress, the people of occupied Holland, through a manifesto published in underground newspapers and received by the Dutch Government-in-Exile in London, declared that they are anxiously awaiting the day when they can welcome back the Jews of Holland.

The WJC received a letter from the State Department - Stettinius - concerning our memorandum on the punishment of war criminals, submitted to the State Department, in which he said:

- 1) that Axis territories are included for punishment
- 2) date is set from 1933 on
- 3) as far as the question of Jewish representation in this

Committee is concerned, the reply is not yet satisfactory, but it is felt that on the whole, the answer of the State Department to our memorandum is not bad and gives us a very good opportunity for further

negotiations. A second memorandum on this subject is in preparation.

It was decided to inform our British Section by cable to withdraw their memorandum and to present ours as the official memorandum of the WJC, informing them at the same time that our memorandum was submitted to the U.S. Government and will be submitted to the other governments too; we are to inform our British Section that we are publishing our memorandum now and that they should also publish it.

Our British Section was informed by cable concerning the suggestions the WJC wants them to bring forth to the meeting of the Inter-Governmental Committee in London on August 15th.

It was decided to send delegates of the WJC to various liberated areas who would contact Jewish communities on behalf of the WJC. In order to get facilities for our various representatives, Dr. Goldmann discussed this matter with Stettinius, Under-Secretary of State. Dr. Leon Kubewitzki shall be the first to go to Lisbon, N. Africa, etc.

RESCUE DEPARTMENT

There have been continuous negotiations with the WRB concerning the exchange of Jewish detained for German nationals in foreign countries.

In the course of regular interviews with the War Refugee Board, we were informed that the diplomatic note suggested by representatives of the WJC on May 31st and in which the U.S. would request Hungary to state her intentions with regard to Jews, was presented by the Swiss to the Hungarian Foreign Office on June 27th.

At the same time, the World Jewish Congress, through its offices in New York and Geneva, has intervened with the respective IRC offices, interventions which were finally successful in bringing the IRC to act according to our suggestions.

Reports from our British Section were received about the Pope's personal appeal to Hungary, to which the Pope received an encouraging reply from the Regent.

The Apostolic Delegate in London wrote to the British Section of the WJC "I have telegram from Holy See to say Holy Father has appealed personally to Regent of Hungary on behalf your people and has been assured Regent will do all possible to help."

The Pope's intervention had also been sought by Myron Taylor who conveyed to him the deep concern of the Jewish community of America regarding the fate of the remaining Jews in Hungary. Mr. Taylor conferred with Dr. Stephen S. Wise and Dr. Nahum Goldmann representing the World Jewish Congress, prior to his departure for Rome.

The International Transport Workers Federation is broadcasting a special appeal to all Hungarian railway men to refuse to operate deportation trains, according to the report of our British Section.

The WRB informed the WJC that it had induced the State Department to consider a change in its policy with regard to issuing visas to people in occupied Europe. A procedure will be adopted whereby Germany will be informed that certain categories of people living in occupied Europe will receive a visa the moment they enter a neutral country and Germany will be requested to permit them to proceed to such countries. The people to which this new procedure will apply are namely:

- 1) any parent, spouse or child of American citizen or resident aliens;
- 2) all persons to whom immigration visas were issued after July 1st, 1941 and whose visas expired because of lapse of time.

We were informed that the Joint Committee of British and American Blockade authorities has agreed to allocate 100,000 food parcels a month for a period of three months, for the Jewish detainees in occupied Europe on conditions which are now being discussed by the IRC and the German government.

The WRB informed us that it has taken up the old idea of the WJC to have the Jewish detainees recognized as civilian internees; the Swiss government and the Vatican are now working on it and they finally succeeded in putting this through as far as the Hungarian Jewish detainees in camps are concerned.

We are constantly concerned about the fate of the Jews in Camp Vittel. Considerable funds for rescue were, under the license we received, transmitted to Stockholm and Geneva.

An agreement was reached in Lisbon between representatives of the JDC, Jewish Agency and the WJC at Lisbon for the establishment of a Rescue Committee. All work in the peninsula will, henceforth, be done by this combined Committee. Mr. Mann, who together with Dr. Dexter of the WRB were present as intermediaries and observers, brought back with him to the U.S. this agreement, copy of which was handed over to the WJC.

UNRRA AND RELIEF

It is reported that UNRRA is preparing a modification to its constitution whereby among others, it would be able to give help to Jews in enemy countries. UNRRA, for the time being, will work only in the Baltic countries; all relief work in the other countries will be done by their respective governments.

The World Jewish Congress, in connection with the registration of property of Jews in occupied countries, has started to register Polish property and has appointed a specialist connected with the World Jewish Congress to take charge of this work.

Upon the suggestion of the Chairman of the Administrative Committee of the American Jewish Conference, a resolution should be passed that the Conference together with the World Jewish Congress and the Jewish Agency for Palestine take the initiative in investigating possibilities for the establishment of a post-war Bank which would extend long term loans for the resettlement and reconstruction of European Jewry.

ORGANIZATION

The date of the Emergency Conference of the WJC is fixed for November 11th to be held in New York. All our affiliates shall be informed of it by cable in order to have all visa matters arranged in enough time.

Dr. Avish Tartakower, member of the Executive and Head of the Relief Department of the World Jewish Congress, left on a trip to South American countries at the end of July, with extended stays in Chile, Peru, Uruguay, Brazil and Argentina. His visit is in response to an invitation by the South American Congress branches to assist the Jews in these countries to organize for immediate rescue, relief and post-war rehabilitation. He will make an extensive report to these Jewish communities on the accomplishments of the WJC in these fields. He is expected to return to the United States early in September in order to go to Montreal on September 15th, when the UNRRA Council meeting will take place there.

Dr. Nahum Goldmann and Mr. Baruch Zuckerman will leave August 12th on an important mission for Mexico where they will confer with important officials of the Mexican Government and the leaders of the Jewish Community in behalf of the World Jewish Congress. Messrs. Goldmann and Zuckerman will conduct several meetings and forums to inform the Mexican Jewish Community of the possibilities of rescue of European

Jewry and the problem of reconstruction and rehabilitation of Jewish life in Europe after the war. Dr. Goldmann will conclude his Mexican visit in one week while Mr. Zuckerman will remain in Mexico until the end of August.

AUGUST 1944

POLITICAL DEPARTMENT

Dr. Goldmann, upon his return from Mexico, reported that he consulted with high officials of the Mexican Government and with leaders of the Jewish community. Senor Aleman, Minister of the Interior of Mexico, had given him the assurance "that all refugees who came to Mexico with visas for the duration of the war will be permitted to stay in Mexico as permanent residents of they so desire." In view of the fact that this problem has world-wide implications, the precedent established by Mexico is highly significant.

Dr. Goldmann was also received by the Foreign Minister, Senor Padilla, who declared that his government was in full support of the demands for a Jewish Commonwealth in Palestine and that the Mexican Government would declare itself to that effect when the opportunity presents itself. Dr. Goldmann was accompanied on his visit to the Mexican Government officials by Senor Fabela, Governor of the State of Mexico and delegate from Mexico to the League of Nations.

RESCUE

Confirmation that deportation of Hungarian Jews has been suspended and that anti-Semitic activities in Bulgaria have been mitigated was received by the World Jewish Congress from Chief Rabbi Marcus Ehrenpreis of Sweden. The WJC learned that the Swedish King has been very active and had used every method at his disposal to alleviate the suffering of the Hungarian Jews. Cardinal Seredi of Hungary had sent a sharply written pastoral letter to the entire Hungarian clergy condemning the anti-Jewish atrocities committed by the Hungarian Government.

Rabbi Ehrenpreis asks for funds to facilitate the rescue of children from Hungary and Rumania with the possibility of using Sweden or Palestine as a haven of rescue.

Report on the discussion with the Washington representative of the IRC on the question of the already-deported Jews of Hungary who, according

to the Hungarian Government, have to be put at the disposal of Germany for manpower. Upon our request that the IRC should take care of these people, the Washington representative of the IRC promised to take this matter up by cable with his headquarters in Geneva.

A report was given on negotiations with the IRC concerning the sending of food parcels in connection with the agreement by the Joint Blockade Commission; report by the WRB about the situation in Hungary and concerning the efforts for facilities for the exodus of Jews of Hungary by the Turkish Government. A report was given on negotiations with the Washington representative of the IRC concerning exit permits for 3000 children who were admitted to Lisbon through the efforts of the WJC representatives there and Mr. Dobkin.

On the basis of a message from our Geneva office through the WRB concerning food parcels to be sent through the IRC, it is decided that an official letter be sent to Secretary of State Hull, asking for revival of the U.S. offer to put 4 million dollars at the disposal of the Red Cross.

As the status of all Jews deprived of their freedom of movement in Hungary is now considered as that of civilian internees, the IRC has decided to send to Hungary an important delegation of five to investigate the situation in these Hungarian camps.

A Rescue Actions Committee has been established which consists of representatives of the WJC, American Jewish Conference, American Jewish Committee, Vaad Hahatzalah and the Agudath Israel. The delegation of the American Jewish Conference includes representatives of the Jewish Labor Committee and Hadassah. After three meetings, a delegation of this Committee saw Mr. Pehle of the WRB about action to be taken concerning Horthy's offer. A memorandum will be submitted.

Report was received on Fort Ontario, the "free port" in the U.S. where nearly a thousand refugees have just arrived from Europe. Dr. Wise and one representative of the WJC already visited this camp and next week, a delegation of the WJC together with representatives of the German, Yugoslav, Austrian and Polish Committees will visit the camp, in order to get first-hand reports.

Schura, S. O.

AMERICAN JEWISH
ARCHIVES

Memo on Meeting
addressed by him

10. 11. 44.

Miss Pinson

October 11, 1944

MEMO:

TO: Members of the Office Committee of the WJC
FROM: Dr. Schirn

At the request of the Philadelphia Council of the American Jewish Congress, I addressed a joint meeting of their Executive and Administrative Committees on Sunday, October 1st. I spoke about the situation of the Jews in the various European countries and of the efforts of the WJC in the fields of rehabilitation, reconstruction and restitution of Jewish rights.

At the end of my address, I had to answer a great number of questions pertaining to the work of the WJC. The President of the Philadelphia Council of the AJC, Mr. Joseph Ominsky (who has just been appointed Special Assistant to Attorney General Biddle) announced that a Special Committee on World Jewish Affairs would be set up by the Philadelphia Council and that this committee should consider as its major task the gathering of as much information as possible regarding the work of the WJC and making this information available in the form of a news digest or an information bulletin on world Jewish affairs. This news bulletin should be sent to a certain number of Jewish community leaders and to other influential personalities in Philadelphia.

You know that the idea of such a special committee is not a new one. At the initiative of Dr. Kubowitzki, the Chicago Division of the AJC has established a WJC Committee, the chairman of which is Mr. Max A. Kopstein. This committee is publishing a printed news bulletin called "News Flashes and Reports" and seven issues of this bulletin have already been published and sent out. The mailing list of this publication consists of approximately 1500 community leaders and important key men in the Chicago region.

Short Summary of Activities of the World Jewish Congress during the period of October 1st to October 31 as reported at Office Committee meetings

RESCUE

Information was received from the War Refugee Board in connection with the situation in the concentration camps and that of the Jews in Budapest and Theresienstadt.

Concentration camps - Mr. Kapustin, Counsellor at the Russian Embassy, promised to submit again to Moscow our suggestion regarding the use of Russian paratroopers, which they had already transmitted after Dr. Goldmann's talk with Gromyko. We were also informed that General Wilson had already been informed of this proposal.

The WRB is also trying to get a joint warning issued by General Eisenhower and the Russian Commander. Mr. Kapustin promised to support Dr. Kubowitzki's suggestion that the German Free Committee in Moscow issue a statement condemning the anti-Jewish crimes and threatening retribution. The possibility was also discussed of enlisting the protection of the foreign workers for the inmates of the camps.

Budapest Jews - we were informed by the WRB that recent information confirmed the report we had received from the Apostolic Delegate. Mr. Kapustin promised to support Dr. Kubowitzki's suggestion of a warning to be issued by the Soviet Commander of the armies entering Hungary.

Theresienstadt - the WRB informed us that the Vatican had tried to get information concerning a number of Jews, but when the German ascertained that they were Jews, they refused the information.

The World Jewish Congress received a cable from Professor Marcus Ehrenpreis, Chief Rabbi of Sweden and member of the Executive of the World Jewish Congress, informing us that despite the efforts of the Gestapo to frustrate the attempts of Hungarian officials to enable Jews to reach neutral lands, rescue of Jews was successful to a certain extent.

Secretary of State Cordell Hull, in response to a telegram sent by Dr. Stephen Wise to the State Department, urging that the U. S. Government use their good offices in influencing action on the part of the Hungarian Government in behalf of the Jews, answered in part:

"The Governments of the United Kingdom and the U. S. are persisting in their endeavor through neutral sources to secure the release of Jews from Hungary. The War Refugee Board and the State Department are continuing to press the matter with every possible vigor."

The Swedish Government has granted the Congress Section in Stockholm permission to buy and ship 20,000 feed parcels to Jewish internees in Bergenbelsen and other camps, and we are asked to intervene in Washington for the delivery of navicerts. This matter was discussed with the WRB and favorable action on the part of the State Department and the Foreign Economic Administration was anticipated.

Reports in the first week of October said that there had been no large deportations in Hungary recently. The WRB learned about raids on

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smaller concentration camps and that there are still concentration camps in the Hungarian provinces, at least 9 Jewish Hungarian concentration camps. The intention of the Hungarian Government to remove the Jews of Budapest to provincial camps, through which measure they pretended to protect the Jews of Budapest, gave rise to the anxiety of which we last learned.

Mr. Brennan, the Irish Minister was approached with reference to whether the Irish would do the same as the Swedish, to which Brennan replied that there were possibilities but that they have no diplomatic representative in Hungary. However, he suggested that we cable to Briscoe, Jewish member of Parliament and also to ask some of our people in London to go to Dublin.

Situation of the Jews in Slovakia - the Jews of two concentration camps have been released by force through the partisans, but the situation of the other Jews is very disturbing. The WRB is working with the Vatican on this matter.

Discussions were held with the WRB concerning the scheme to send 300,000 food parcels to the occupied territories (concentration camps). 15,000 were already sent and 185,000 will be ready by October 25th, but Jews will get very few of them, since the IRC did not follow our suggestions with reference to the choice of camps to which they are to send these packages. The IRC says that they cannot send food to the camps in Upper Silesia (Oswiecim, Birkenau, etc.) as they have no guarantee that the internees will receive them. The IRC still has no delegation in Slovakia. They are sending food to Bergenbelsen to certain categories of people there (category #a). The IRC has received receipts from internees at Bergenbelsen and many from Terezin.

A group of 1000 Jugoslav Jews in the Tepusko region, occupied by the Jugoslav partisans, which place is constantly being attacked by the Germans, want to be removed. Steps were taken to approach the proper authorities.

Camp Vittel - it seems that the 163 inmates of Vittel are saved in France. These people had been sent to the camps Drancy and Compiègne and it seems that they were never deported from there. The State Department has requested that its representatives in France let them have the latest reports about these camps.

Concerning bombing of extermination installations in various concentration camps, the Polish Government has again approached the British and American Governments.

Lithuania - according to latest reports, the rescue of Lithuanian Jews has not succeeded, but it seems that a large number of Jews succeeded in fleeing to the Russians and others are in hiding.

Information was received via Switzerland about the recent news concerning the concentration camps of Oswiecim, Birkenau and Hoss. It seems that an order had come through that these camps should be wiped

out. A new warning was sent on October 7th to Sweden and Switzerland for further transmission.

In the matter of bombing the installations in the concentration camps, a telegram was again sent to the Russian Embassy. The British and U. S. authorities will also have to be approached.

A message from our Geneva office through the WRB was received, telling us that a repatriation unit has been organized in Switzerland for Dutch subjects who have been deported. They also suggest contacting the Soviet authorities for permission to have special units formed for locating and assisting deported Jews, follow as closely as possible the Russian troops in liberated areas. These units would handle the registration, medical aid, relief, social work and preparation of transportation for repatriation or emigration of the deportees.

Request of the American Federation of Polish Jews to allocate a certain amount of money for a relief action which the Federation has undertaken in connection with the Jews in the liberated areas of Poland, was favorably decided upon. They have arranged to send kits containing food and medicine to the liberated areas through the Russian War Relief. These parcels cost 4 dollars each.

At the end of October the WRB had no recent information on the situation in Hungary. There have been suggestions of evacuations down the Danube, for which the Americans could not grant safe conduct for military reasons. Dr. Kubowitzki suggested to the WRB that a warning be sent to the janitors of the buildings in Budapest, since these janitors have some kind of police authority in Hungary. He also informed the WRB that the Irish Minister in Washington had agreed to the suggestion that Eire send a mission to Budapest with a view to protecting the Jews. He requested also the support of the U. S. Minister in Dublin as well as in other neutral capitals.

With regard to Slovakia - it appears that 3 to 4 thousand Jews were rounded up in the night of September 28, 29th and brought to the camp of Sered and that 2000 out of this camp's population of five to seven thousand have been deported. In a cable to Masaryk, we suggested an exchange between Slovakian Jews and Slovakian Germans held by the partisans. The remaining two-thirds of the Jews are either in hiding or with the Partisans.

The scheme of the 93 tons of food to be sent to Jewish camps from Sweden has been approved by all authorities concerned and will begin to work. The YMCA will assume the responsibility that this food is distributed among the Jews in these camps. Approval has also been granted for the sending of clothing to Bergenbelsen as well as to the Jews in the Tito region.

The World Jewish Congress has taken steps with the highest authorities in connection with the situation in Hungary.

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ORGANIZATION

The Jewish Board of Deputies of Johannesburg appointed Dr. Ellen Hellman, member of their Executive Council as observer to our Emergency Conference.

The WJC Committee in Sweden wants to send two delegates to our Conference on condition that visas and air priorities be secured by us.

A Plenary Meeting of the Jewish Representative Committees took place in which reports were rendered on UNRRA and Rescue matters. Over 100 representatives attended.

Information was received through an army man from our former Bookkeeper in Paris that the World Jewish Congress offices in Paris, 83 Avenue de la Grande Armee, were occupied by a French Nazi organization, during the occupation. Part of these premises at present and another part is occupied by refugees from Northern France who will leave soon. Part of the furniture is saved.

After much deliberation on the question of whether the Conference facilities we rented in New York would accommodate all the delegates expected, it was decided to transfer the Conference to the Hotel St. Charles in Atlantic City, New Jersey.

The World Jewish Congress was informed that at an Inter-Scandinavian Jewish Congress held in Stockholm on October 22nd, it was decided to found a section of the World Jewish Congress. Professor Marcus Ehrenpreis, rabbi and leader of the Mosaic congregation in Stockholm, who presided at the Congress, expressed deep thanks to the King, Government and people of Sweden for the effective help given defenseless Jews in many countries. He also thanked Finland for not yielding to Nazi pressure, but preserving the rights and freedom of the Jews in that country. Dr. Ehrenpreis is member of the Executive of the World Jewish Congress.

On the occasion of the recognition of the French Provisional Government by the U. S. and Great Britain, the World Jewish Congress sent a cable of congratulations, signed by Dr. Wise, to General de Gaulle.

On October 23rd, the World Jewish Congress tendered a Dinner Reception for the Yiddish press in order to make them familiar with the problems which will be dealt with at our Conference.

It was decided to postpone the date of the Conference in Atlantic City from November 12th to November 26th in order to enable some of the delegates who were delayed by travel difficulties, to arrive in time for the Conference.

POLITICAL

Mr. Pierre Dreyfus, member of the French Jewish Representative Committee of the World Jewish Congress brought to the attention of the Office Committee, a notice in the I.J.P.S. of October 6th reading: "The French Provisional Government has instructed the Jewish consistories to draw up and submit to the authorities by December 31st, a list of particulars with regard to the damages suffered by Jews in France through the period of Nazi occupation. This information will be included in the reparations to be demanded from Germany by the French Government. The Government specifies that the damages list to be drawn up by the Jewish consistories is to include damages and losses suffered in France by all Jews regardless of their nationality." The French Jewish Representative Committee will take care of this matter.

Situation of the Jews in Morocco - the World Jewish Congress has received various documentation proving that undercover racial discrimination continues to be applied by the French authorities in Morocco, especially in the matter of food rationing. It is decided to investigate whether there have been any changes in this situation, since this information is about four months old.

At the reception arranged by Under-Secretary of State Stettinius on Monday, October 16th with reference to the Dumbarton Oaks Conference, Dr. Robinson represented the American and World Jewish Congress.

The Greek Jewish Representative Committee of the World Jewish Congress called our attention to information given by the Greek Refugee Society in Tel Aviv with reference to Jewish collaborationists of Salonica. The worst of them is now in Bari, Italy and has been released after having been arrested. Witnesses of his crimes are available in the U. S. One of them is in Fort Ontario, Oswego. It is decided to contact this person at Oswego and try to find out from him what happened at Bari. We shall then act on this information.

The Greek Committee is also interested in a relief action for Greek Jewry. The Greek Committee has organized a Greek Jewish Relief Societies meeting and it is proposed that the funds raised by this group be divided into three parts: a) for relief in Greece proper; b) for relief of Greek Jews in Palestine; c) for the political activities of the World Jewish Congress.

The World Jewish Congress has received very interesting material from the underground leaders in Poland. It is divided into three parts: 1) Treblinka; 2) Jewish Heroism in the Battle of Warsaw (Resistance); 3) Poetry in Polish published in the Warsaw Ghetto. This material will be published in English and, if possible, before the Conference.

A Planning Committee of the World Jewish Congress and the American Jewish Conference was established and two meetings have already taken place. At the first meeting, the situation of the Rumanian Jews was discussed and various steps were considered and carried out. -The Declaration of Human Rights, sent out by the American Jewish Committee, asking for signatures, was under consideration by the Planning Committee and sharply criticized.

UNRRA

As a result of the Montreal Conference of UNRRA, it is felt that in the future it will be more important to have our delegate enabled to participate in the Standing Committee of UNRRA, as the real work will be done there, than to have him appointed as permanent observer, as it was shown that without official observers we may influence the decisions anyway. There may be a possibility of having observers in the Standing Committee, as Dr. Tartakower saw from his conversation with Sir Randall. This discussion is to be continued, later also in London with our British Section.

INSTITUTE

The Institute of Jewish Affairs has prepared, for the War Emergency Conference of the World Jewish Congress, studies on the situation of the Jews the world over in a series entitled from WAR TO PEACE. The individual books are titled:

- "Indemnification and Reparations"
- "The Jewish Catastrophe" (Yiddish)
- "The Jewish Refugee"
- "Racial State"

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WAR EMERGENCY CONFERENCE
WORLD JEWISH CONGRESS
ATLANTIC CITY, NEW JERSEY
NOVEMBER 26-30, 1944

SUMMARY OF ADDRESS

By DR. MAURICE L. PERLZWEIG, HEAD OF POLITICAL DEPARTMENT
At the WAR EMERGENCY CONFERENCE OF THE WORLD JEWISH CONGRESS

The World Jewish Congress was founded in 1936 on the doctrine of Collective Security for the Jewish people. It was already then abundantly clear that the defensive strategy of the Jewish people could no longer take the form of a kind of political island-hopping. An attack on the rights and status of the Jews in one country meant an attack on the rights and status of the Jews everywhere in the world. We told an unbelieving world that Hitlerism was a declaration of war on the Jewish people everywhere, and the first necessity of our defence was the mobilization of all our resources in defence of our common interest. We rejected as pitifully inadequate and morally indefensible the methods of private enterprise, either by individuals or by groups, in matters which were the concern of the whole of the Jewish people.

The course of events during the past five tragic and bloody years has unhappily justified our worst foreboding. No one who is not blind to the realities of the situation can any longer pretend that there is not a distinctive Jewish problem in Europe. Nor is it possible to conceive of a solution of this problem except on a continental basis. The extermination policy of the Axis governments has made the political frontiers virtually irrelevant. In seeking a solution of the problem, the governments will have to act together and the Jewish communities of the world will also have to act together. Just as an assault on Jewish rights in one country is in the last analysis an assault on the rights of Jews everywhere so the failure of any single government in Europe to render full justice and reparation to its Jewish inhabitants will undermine the reconstruction of Jewish rights in every liberated country.

It is necessary to repeat again and again that liberty is indivisible. It is indivisible for the Jews, and finally it is indivisible for all mankind. The world cannot endure half slave and half free.

Believing firmly in this doctrine, the Congress has sought constantly since its foundation to widen the area of Jewish unity. We have allowed neither impatience with Jewish isolationism nor an excessive ideological zeal to stand in the way of any arrangement which would lessen the number of competing Jewish voices in the forum of public opinion.

Shortly after the outbreak of war, Dr. Nahum Goldmann and I opened conversations with important representative Jewish bodies in Europe with a view to establishing at least a joint research body, whose scientific inquiries would produce the necessary material on which all important Jewish bodies could base the formulation of their programs. We hoped that through some such device we would be able to bring together the Congress and such Jewish defence organizations as remained outside its ranks. During a visit to the United States in February 1940, Dr. Goldmann and I attended a meeting with members of the American Jewish Committee and placed our proposals before them, informing them at the same time that their agreement would enable a number of important European Jewish organizations to join in a common enterprise. After we had returned to Europe, there came the news that the proposal had been rejected. It was rejected in principle.

It was not through any failure on our part that the Jewish people faced the unparalleled ordeals of the succeeding years in the knowledge that there were Jewish leaders and organizations who preferred the dissidence of dissent to the welfare of the Jewish people. We were compelled to go on our way alone and we established the Institute of Jewish Affairs, which we had hoped would become the symbol of a growing Jewish unity under the auspices of the Congress movement alone, but we never ceased from the task of seeking to speed the arrival of Jewish unity. We established ever closer relations with our constituent organizations and communities,

among which are the majority of the important representative Jewish bodies of the world. We established the Inter-American Jewish Council two years ago, through which the communities of Latin America were brought into closer contact with one another and with the English speaking Jewries of North America. At the very moment when the enemy began to destroy by the most brutal methods the strength of ancient European Jewish communities, we were seeking to integrate the new communities of the Western world into the structure of world Jewry. We called in a new world to redress the balance of the old.

Today the Congress is stronger than ever. The response to our invitation to the War Emergency Conference has surpassed all our expectations. Jews have come in response to our call from nearly thirty countries in all parts of the earth. Their coming in the teeth of the enormous difficulties of war transportation demonstrates the vitality of the Congress movement. And this by no means completes the story. There are others, who would have come if the difficulties had not proved too great, and who have sent us words of encouragement, communities as diverse in character and experience as Sweden and Spanish Morocco, as Switzerland and Bulgaria.

Moreover the Congress has a friendly and cooperative relationship with two important local Jewish bodies. In London, the British Section of the Congress has an understanding with the Board of Deputies to which the post-war program of the Board is, as its president has acknowledged, deeply indebted. In this country, we have a formal agreement with the American Jewish Conference, which insures the close cooperation of our two bodies in every important aspect of their common program. We welcome also to the Conference representatives of the vigorous Jewry of South Africa.

Only the great Jewry of Soviet Russia remains unrepresented in this cooperative effort, which now embraces the vast majority of the Jewish people. But in this regard also we have good reason for hope, and the World Jewish Congress has been in a position to initiate a development which may have far-reaching consequences for the Jewish people. We are in constant and friendly correspondence with important Jewish bodies in Soviet Russia, and our frank objective is to pave the way for the re-entrance of the Jews of Russia into the organized structure of World Jewry. I do not desire to under-rate the real difficulties, which, however, are not created by ill-will on either side, but are the results of the gulf which the events of a quarter of a century had created between Russia and the rest of the world. It is our avowed purpose to throw a bridge across that gulf. It will not be easy to build that bridge, if it is to be strong enough to bear the heavy traffic which we hope will move across it in the not too distant future; but the work of building has begun, and I am entitled to say that the work is being done from both ends with an equal desire that it shall be completed as soon as possible.

In the meantime, we have already begun to work on a common project with the Moscow Jewish Anti-Fascist Committee, in which we have the support of important Jewish organizations in both Palestine and the Diaspora. Thus we are already in organized contact with Russian Jewry. I can risk saying that this marks not only an important step forward but may prove to be a turning point in our history.

If it is important for the Jewish world to achieve unity, it is scarcely less important from the point of view of the governments which will have to deal with the problems of post-war reconstruction.

The Congress has been able to establish friendly relations with virtually every civilized government throughout the world. It has never had the slightest difficulty in doing so. The governments have welcomed the views of representatives of a body which can claim to speak on behalf of so many communities and organizations. Statesmen are increasingly and properly impatient with a situation which imposes upon them the necessity of choosing among conflicting Jewish representations, and it is an obvious service to enable them to hear from one organization what the will and purpose is of the Jewish people as a whole in regard to any matter of world policy which is of special Jewish interest. No non-Jewish statesman can be expected to understand why it is possible for an American or British Jewish organization to intervene with a foreign government on behalf of another Jewish

population, but impossible to do so in organized consultation with that population. It is difficult enough for Jews to understand Jewish isolationism--for non-Jews it is quite impossible to understand it. Accordingly, the representatives of the World Jewish Congress have everywhere been received with friendly understanding, often with important results for the Jewish people.

We have not claimed to represent all the Jews. But we have never concealed our hope that the day will come when we shall represent all the Jews. In the meantime, we have claimed the right to speak on behalf of a larger and more broadly based constituency than any other Jewish organization in the Diaspora, and we know that we voice the will of the overwhelming majority of the Jewish people.

It is obvious that this War Emergency Conference, the first assembly of its kind ever to be held in the Western Hemisphere, and the first international Jewish conference ever held in time of war, could not have taken place but for the good will and cooperation of many governments. I desire particularly to express our warm appreciation to the State Department of the United States, and to the Acting Secretary of State, the Hon. Edward R. Stettinius, without whose sympathetic interest it would not have been possible to summon this conference. We are especially grateful to the Visa Division of the Department, which under the leadership of the Hon. Howard K. Travers, has been tireless in its efforts to facilitate the movement of delegates from all parts of the world. Similarly we are deeply indebted to the British Foreign Office and the British Foreign Secretary, the Rt. Hon. Anthony Eden, whose personal interest has secured invaluable help in various directions. Not only did the British Foreign Office facilitate the departure of the largest unofficial delegation to leave Britain since the beginning of the present war, but officials of the Foreign Office and of the British Embassy in Washington have been at pains to facilitate the movement of some of our most important delegations. The representative quality of this conference in difficult war-time conditions owes much to the good-will of the British and American governments.

* * * * *

II

During the war years the political activity of the Congress can be summarized under four headings.

1. The War Effort

We informed the British and French governments immediately on the outbreak of the war that the World Jewish Congress was prepared to place at their disposal all its machinery, personnel, and connections. Thereafter the first purpose of the Congress was to mobilize and to contribute the maximum Jewish strength to the task of defeating the Axis aggressors. We recognized from the beginning, and recognize still, that this is the first prerequisite for a new and democratic world order upon which all our hopes depend.

We took this stand when the greater part of the world was neutral, and we took it without hesitation. It resulted in important work not only in England and France but throughout the world. Our contribution in the fields of economic and psychological warfare will one day make an interesting story.

It is pertinent to recall that in June 1940, when the fortunes of democracy seemed to be at their lowest, the American Jewish Congress took the occasion to give public support to the cause of the Allies. That was followed by a special Jewish effort on behalf of British War Relief, which in turn was succeeded by the establishment of an United Jewish war effort, which mobilized help for Russia as well as the other United Nations. The American Jewish Congress was among the first to accord support to the Free French movement.

What was done in the United States was duplicated in one form or another under Congress direction or inspiration throughout the world. Before Pearl Harbor, there was, for example, no considerable Jewish community anywhere in the Western Hemisphere which had not made its contribution.

In the fields of economics, propaganda, war relief and assistance to underground movements, the Congress movement made a contribution about which it has every reason to feel satisfaction.

2. Rescue Activities

The Congress has from the very beginning been in the forefront of the political activity for the rescue of the Jews in Hitler-dominated Europe. The extermination policy of Hitler has tragically demonstrated the truth of the doctrine that the fate of the Jewish masses depends less on charity than on political action. What the Congress has done and attempted to do in this direction is told in detail elsewhere. But here I may point simply to the following incidents as indicative of the special value of the world-wide organization which the Congress has built up.

It was through the Congress, and its connections reaching deep from our Swiss office into occupied Europe, that the governments and the public opinion of the world first received authentic information on the deliberate purpose of the Nazis to destroy the Jewish people. It was after careful scrutiny of the evidence submitted by our representatives in Europe that the governments were first convinced that Hitler had decreed the extermination of the Jews.

It was as a result of the action initiated and pressed by the European office of the Congress in London, supported in Washington and New York, that the United Nations issued the Declaration of December 17th, 1942 condemning the policy of the Axis in regard to the Jews and pledging that the criminals responsible for it would be brought to justice. This is still the only international document dealing solely with a Jewish problem, and it must be clear that the cooperation of so many governments could only have been secured by an organization in contact with all of them.

It was the Congress which first secured official consent and license to do work in enemy territory under Allied supervision. This marked a development of policy which made possible an immense expansion of relief and rescue work on the part of philanthropic bodies. No purely philanthropic body could of itself ever have achieved this vital change, which was the result of conversations held by leading members of the Congress with foremost statesmen of the democratic world.

It was the Congress which first secured the active political intervention of neutral countries on behalf of Jews in peril. Here, again, the task was primarily political and not philanthropic. Our offices in New York, London, Stockholm, Geneva, Lisbon, Buenos Aires and Mexico, working in the closest consultation, were able to engage the interest of neutral governments. The Jewish people owes a deep debt of gratitude to these governments, especially to Sweden, Spain and Switzerland. They have all admitted refugees without papers in circumstances which would have denied them admission to other countries. They have done much more than that; they have intervened on behalf of Jews who have been threatened with extermination and in many hundreds of cases have given them the protection of their own papers. The Spanish government has instructed its representatives and consular offices to render every possible assistance to Sephardic Jews everywhere in Europe from Holland to Greece, and is now engaged in trying to secure the evacuation of some 500 Jews belonging to "The Rabbinical College of Mir" now in Shanghai.

As recently as twelve days ago, the representatives of Spain, Switzerland and Sweden held a meeting under the presidency of the Papal Nuncio in Budapest in order to concert measures for the protection of the unhappy Jews in that capital--a striking example of the need and value of international action in Jewish affairs. We have been in the closest contact with all phases of this work from the beginning.

3. Anti-Semitism

In the midst of these activities we have never slackened in our war on anti-Semitism in all its manifestations. We have fought it in the armies of governments in exile; we have fought it in South American republics. We have fought it in countries of oppression, and we have fought it--for the truth must be told--in countries of liberation. In this field also, our experience has demonstrated the need for international organization; anti-Semitism has become a powerful world-wide movement which has been used by great governments as an instrument of political expansion;

Nor should it be forgotten that time and again the Congress has come to the aid of small and weak communities, who by themselves could never have stood up to the assault of the powerful forces that have sought to rob them of their rights.

4. Preparations for Post-War Reconstruction

In the Institute of Jewish Affairs, the Congress has assembled a body of scholars from many countries which is now universally acknowledged to be the best existing organization of its kind. These scholars bring to their task not only great learning but a practical experience of Jewish life and political activity. Among them are some of the foremost authorities in the fields of knowledge which they have mastered.

And they have at their disposal what is probably the largest and best collection of first-hand material on contemporary Jewish history. They have followed closely the course of events in every Jewish community during the past four years, and their information is based on material supplied by governmental agencies, on otherwise inaccessible periodical literature and documentation from Jewish communities under Axis domination, and on what is now a formidable collection of first-hand material obtained through underground channels.

The published work of the Institute, which covers a wide range of Jewish topics, has more than justified the faith of the Congress in its leaders. These men have not only supplied the Congress with the indispensable basis of information upon which its political activities are founded, but we are proud to think that it has been of help to other Jewish organizations and to governmental agencies in this country and abroad.

The policy which we have formulated on the basis of the findings of the Institute of Jewish Affairs, and which is being submitted to this Conference will guide our political activity in the months and years which lie ahead. The core of this policy is what we have come to call the four R's of Jewish reconstruction--Relief, Restitution, Rehabilitation and Retribution.

It is, of course, true that every subjected population has suffered at the hands of Axis oppressors, and that it will bear the marks of suffering for years to come. The Jewish population, however, has not only had to bear its full share of this general suffering, but has in addition been subjected to privations and oppressions peculiarly its own. Moreover, it is the only population in Europe which has been doomed to total extermination. The result has been the emergence of a distinctive problem, which cannot adequately be dealt with by the methods which can be expected to establish reasonably normal conditions for other populations.

The Jews have suffered more than others, and will be entitled to special measures of succor, some of a medical character, under the heading of Relief. The Jews have been more thoroughly and ruthlessly despoiled than others, and there will have to be special measures to ensure that there is just Restitution. There is also the vast and complicated problem of the property of those who have died with their families and legal heirs. Their property can justly be claimed for the work of Jewish rehabilitation. Under the heading of Rehabilitation, it is for a score of reasons impossible to conceive of a solution of the Jewish problem by means of repatriation, the normal method for almost every other people. In the case of many thousands of Jews, repatriation would mean a second deportation.

The process of rehabilitation, however begun, can only be fruitfully and permanently completed in Palestine. Many of us, probably most of us, are Zionists; but it is not Zionism that makes this conclusion inevitable, it is common sense. Zionism is not an answer to Hitlerism; it is the affirmation of the Jewish people of their will to live as a people.

An essential part of the answer to Hitlerism is Retribution. The criminals who were responsible for the monstrous crimes against the Jewish people must be brought to justice. If thousands of criminals with innocent blood on their hands are allowed to remain unpunished in Europe after the war, it will be an encouragement and incitement to unscrupulous political adventurers to seek to march to power along the bloodstained path of anti-semitism.

All the demands of our policy are based upon the assumption that they

will be fulfilled within the framework of a new international system which, among other objectives, will seek, to quote the Dumbarton Oaks proposals, "to promote respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms".

The path before us is difficult and strewn with many obstacles. Nothing can be more foolish than to suppose that the end of hostilities will mean the end of anti-Semitism. The enemy has everywhere planted the seed of his own doctrine, and we must face the harsh reality that this seed will inevitably bear bitter fruit. Moreover, the enemy in occupied countries was everywhere at pains to build up large bodies of people who were the beneficiaries of the policy of expropriation. These people have already begun to organize themselves into groups to protect their hold on Jewish homes and property. It is already certain that in the social struggle which will follow the cessation of the war in Europe, anti-Semitism, reinforced by powerful vested interests, will be an important factor.

This situation can be dealt with only by international action. Any concerted and sustained attempt to cope with this problem must contain four elements; first, a frank recognition by international authority that a distinctive Jewish problem exists; secondly, the outlawry of organized anti-Semitism by international convention and national legislation; thirdly, the establishment of a financial instrumentality with powers and resources adequate to reconstruct Jewish life; fourthly, the full and unfettered opportunity to reconstruct Jewish life in Palestine.

In the struggle to secure the adoption of such a program the Congress is in a position of unique advantage. It can speak both for Jews who have been lately liberated and for Jews whose freedom has not been invaded. It can unite in a common effort the Jews of the European Resistance and the Jews of Western Democracy. It can speak to many governments in as many voices. But these many voices can by the processes of democracy be persuaded to speak as one. Then we may hope that the Governments may be persuaded to act as one.

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WAR EMERGENCY CONFERENCE WORLD JEWISH CONGRESS

ATLANTIC CITY
NOVEMBER 26-30, 1944

St. Charles Hotel

Headquarters: New York, 1834 Broadway

ADDRESS OF WELCOME TO DELEGATES TO THE WAR EMERGENCY CONFERENCE
OF THE WORLD JEWISH CONGRESS, Sunday, November 26, 1944
At Atlantic City, N.J.

By DR. STEPHEN S. WISE

This day, for the first time since the fateful day of September first, 1939, Jews of many lands are met together. If it were not for my knowledge that immediately after my welcoming word we are to have a fitting service in memory of our beloved and martyred brothers and sisters, I would begin my salutation by proposing that we rise together in sorrowful tribute to our martyred and immortal dead. Their remembrance is our deepest sorrow and our most compelling challenge. Nor shall we rest as Jews and as members of humanity until we have done all that in us lies, not chiefly to express our tribute to the dead, but over and above all in order to reach high and united resolve with regard to the future of our great people. Were we at this time to utter our grief, our truly immedicable woe, wailing and lamentation would be the form that remembrance would take. We feel, however, that we can best do honor to our martyred dead not by protest against injustice, but by plea translating itself into unwithstandable demand that never again shall the Jewish people be sacrificed upon the altar of those forces in the world which are resolved to crush freemen and freedom everywhere.

We do not represent the entire Jewish world. For the largest number of the Jews of Central and Eastern Europe (this side of the Soviet Union) we may not speak, for these are dead. Millions of unarmed brothers and sisters, from infancy to old age, have died because they were Jews, because a group of debased and degenerate madmen had resolved to over-rule the free peoples and nations of earth, and because the free nations of earth resisted not the madmen until it was too late!

Proudly and rejoicingly we welcome the delegates from many lands. We welcome our brother Jews from England and all English-speaking lands, for these have been a part of the great army of unafraid registers to the devouring and, for a time it seemed, irresistible monster. We welcome our brother Jews from all American lands, including the Dominion of Canada and all the Latin-American countries -- ten or more -- which are to have part as the delegates to the War Emergency Conference. Eagerly we welcome delegates from the liberated countries, above all from immortal France and its North African lands -- from Egypt, and above all from Palestine, soon under God to be transformed into a free and democratic Jewish Commonwealth. Regretfully we note the absence of delegates from the second largest Jewish community of earth, that of the Soviet Union. But messages of sympathy from Jews in the Soviet Union have come to us, who constitute one of the most effective anti-Fascist and Nazi-resisting forces in the mighty Soviet Union. For the saving of mankind, Russia not only held Hitler and Nazism at bay for three years, but now is on the point of crushing to earth the military which was to win for him rule over all mankind.

It has been declared by unfriendly observers that many of the delegates have not been chosen by the democratic process which, in this country, is alien to their souls and most abhorrent to their sight. We have only this to answer -- that in the circumstances of war it has not been possible for the Hitler-conquered countries, such as Poland and Czechoslovakia, to choose their own representatives to this War Emergency Conference. But surely it is of deepest significance that the two Jewish members of the National Councils of the Polish Republic and of Czechoslovakia have journeyed from London, the seat of their war Governments, in order to counsel with us, in order to have part in our deliberations. And this great Assembly bids thrice welcome to the Jewish representative of the Polish National Council, Dr. Schwarzbart, and to the Jewish member of the Czechoslovakian National Council, Ernest Frischer.

Two things I would at once make clear. This is not a relief conference. This is not a charity conference. This conference is not called for consultation on the subjects of philanthropy. We are met as fellow-Jews and as brothers in order that we may take counsel together, not over our sorrow, our losses, our limitless tragedy, but over our common hopes and our common determination to

share our common fate as Jews. If the Jews of other lands were our brothers before the overwhelming disaster which began not September 1, 1939 but January 30, 1933 -- if, I repeat, these were our brothers before the moral chaos that has come to pass, they are doubly and trebly our brothers now. Not because they need us, not because we need them, but because in equal measure we need one another, and in the unity of our common faith and fate we are indeflectibly resolved to go forward together to do what may be done in order to repair impaired fortunes and broken lives, and above all to plan as one among the peoples of earth for a happier, securer, above all freer, future for all Jews. The motto of the world may be, "Ubi bene, ibi patria;" -- the motto of the Jew is: "Ubi male, ibi patria" -- "My fatherland is wherever my brothers suffer wrong."

I thank God that victory is about to crown the glorious and incomparable strength of the United Nations. I thank God that free peoples are on the march, and that they cannot again be halted. We, who nearly thirty-five hundred years ago were the first of peoples to pilgrim for freedom, are at the side of all free peoples', great and small, sharing in the common lot and facing a common future not without high pride and loftiest hope!

Recently a volume has appeared entitled, "Justice for My People". In other days we thought of justice for my people as that which could only be achieved through the favor or bounty of other peoples. Too long we imagined that justice was something to be gained from without rather than wrought in large part from within. This War Emergency Conference of the World Jewish Congress is an affirmation of the deepening conviction of the Jewish people that there will be no justice to the Jewish people in the shaping and forging of which the Jewish people will not have its full and right-full part. As a people we take counsel with the peoples of the earth, and even as we desire that the fullest justice be done to every people of earth, we shall be satisfied with nothing less than the fullest measure of justice to the people of Israel.

Since the founding of the Congress, and even before its founding, I have felt, as its founder, by the side of Leo Motzkin and Dr. Nahum Goldmann, my co-founders, that we are not to limit ourselves in our relation to our brother-Jews to the business of supplying them with food and clothing and shelter. We are to feel

with them and think with them and plan together with them for that morrow on which once again they will become free and re-enfranchised members of the human race, with their enslavement forever behind them. The re-enfranchisement of the Jew! But such liberation of the Jew can come only if the democracies succeed in beating back the invading hordes of Nazism. Any other outcome of the war would mean blackest night for civilization, for religion, for freedom, and therefore for us Jews. Whatever be the seeming exactions of neutrality, we Jews do not profess to be neutral as between democracy and dictatorship, as between freedom and enslavement, as between religion -- which is the worship of God the Father and the doing of justice to one's brother man -- and that idolatry which is the worship of man and the unjust enslavement of one's fellow man. We were not morally neutral as between England and Germany, and any Jew who professes to be neutral between the democracies and the dictatorships is not loyal to democracy nor faithful to Israel.

Avoiding every act which violates the law of neutrality, our hearts, our hopes, our prayers are with the democracies. Their fate is our fate, our future is bound up with their future. The unimaginable triumph of the dictatorships would mean the temporary eclipse of all those values by which and for which the Jew has lived, which the Jew has done most to bring to the enrichment and ennoblement of the human race.

A word has come into use in the language of the world as a result of the most tragic of circumstances, a word which it is our business to banish from the vocabulary of civilized nations. That word is "refugees". That term "refugee" is in itself a reproach to civilization. That reproach can and must be blotted out. It can only be blotted out by the will of the peoples of earth, including the Jewish people. Protest may not avail amidst the turmoil and strain of war, but the day of peace will demand of us that we present to them that are to shape the destiny of the human race after the war, in such wise and temperate fashion as to make incontrovertibly clear, that Jews cannot be permitted to become a great body of refugees, that they have human rights and equal rights, and that a world at peace can deny those rights to Jews in every land in which they live, only if they are indifferent to the causes of other and still more terrible wars. A world which permits Jews to be warred

upon by any nation will find itself at war everywhere.

Dr. Beer-Hoffmann made the penetrating observation "All peoples have a history; Jews have a destiny." Would it not be truer to put it that we Jews have a fate and that such fate is bound up with the fate of the nations? When that fate is evil and bitter, it is not we Jews who communicate that evil fate to the nations, but the evil of nations results in unhappy fate for us. Thus it is never Jews who are war-mongers, but the nations. And when we are charged with war-mongering, it is only because we are the first or earliest victims of war, even war waged within a nation of which we are a part as well as of war between nations. When Jews are permitted to live their lives as free men who know justice, then the peoples and nations are blessed. For the absence of strife against and war upon Jews is in itself the token of the highest status of the nations among whom and with whom the Jew lives. Peoples have their history; we have a destiny. Our destiny after centuries and millennia of injustice and hurt and wrong, to be pioneers in suffering the worst and in helping to achieve the best for all mankind.

From this Conference, before it adjourn, must come an affirmation which shall rise to the level of the recent utterance of an eminent group of leaders of the Roman Catholic Church. Indeed in spirit we may subscribe to that which these Bishops of their Church have laid down;

"The international organization must never violate the rightful sovereignty of nations. Sovereignty is a right which comes from the juridical personality of a nation and which the international organization must safeguard and defend.

"However, national sovereignty may not be interpreted as absolving a nation from its obligations in the international community. Moreover even within the State, national sovereignty is limited by the innate rights of men and families. Since civil authority does not confer these God-given rights it may not violate them."

"The ideology of a nation in its internal life is a concern of the international community. To reject this principle is tantamount to maintaining that the violation of the innate rights of men in a country by its own government has no relation to world peace."

This is an uncancellable truth. It is only another way of saying what has already been said—that a world which permits Jews to be warred upon by any nation will find itself at war everywhere.

The problem of Palestine as the Jewish National Home will, I am sure, be dealt with adequately by Dr. Goldmann, representative of the Jewish Agency, formerly at Geneva, now in the United States, and in addition tonight in the terms of a privileged resolution, which will commend itself to the unanimous support of the delegates. And yet, as a Zionist active in the Movement since 1897, the year of the appearance of "Der Judenstat", I feel that I must offer a definition of Zionism which I trust may meet with your approval.

Zionism means the reconstituting of the Jewish people as a people in the Jewish Homeland. I have only to add that it will come to pass as one of the moral triumphs of the global war. The English speaking peoples, I am confident, desire it; the Soviet Union cannot fail to give its concurrence. The failure to establish the Jewish Palestine would mark the tragic failure of the global war. I venture to prophesy that the free and democratic Jewish Commonwealth will become one of the abiding achievements of the global war. The Jew owes it to himself to insist upon a free and democratic Jewish National Home. The Christian world owes to the Jew reparation for all the centuries of wrong and hurt and humiliation--reparation for the awful and tragic Hitler years. That return will be afforded the Jew. The Jew has taken his full part in the waging of the war and in the winning of the war. The Jew has been the earliest and the greatest sufferer under the Hitler regime. A free and democratic Jewish Commonwealth means nothing more than justice to the Jew, freedom for the Jew, Jewish equality, with all the free peoples of earth.

Difficult it is to think of anything more regrettable, indeed lamentable, than the recent assassination of Lord Moyne, the former Colonial Secretary of the British Government and at the time of his death diplomatic agent of his Government in Cairo. There are some among us who availed themselves of the occasion in order to explain why some crazed young people in Palestine should be moved to rest their faith in the efficacy of violence even to the point of assassination. The truth is that what must now be done is to put an end at any and every cost to that terrorism which prevails in Palestine. If such terrorism had the approval of the population of Palestine, it might be difficult to banish it, but it is a wicked aspersion upon the honor and integrity of the Jewish people even to insinuate that the terrorism has more than a handful of advocates and defenders among the Jewish people of Palestine. The Jews of Palestine best know and have given us reason to believe they fully understand that Jewish terrorism, the policy and the work of a handful of misguided youth, must be uprooted at once. This is no time for pilpulistic argumentation about the causes of violence. The "havlagah", or high self-restraint to which the Jewish population of Palestine rose in the midst of the unprovoked Arab disorders must once again become the rule and the discipline of the Yishub. The question is not whether terrorism can ultimately prevail. The fact is, if Jews are to be worthy of their traditions, if Jews are to be equal to themselves at their highest, if the moral law is to mean something for the Jewish people, terrorism must go and a handful of confused defenders of terrorism must not be suffered to stand in the way of the extirpation of that which can bring no advan-

tage in itself, and, apart from every political consequence, is certain to bring infinito woe to the soul of the Jewish people.

Years ago, immediately after the Geneva Conference, I said, and I cannot help feeling that my declaration with regard to the Congress still stands:

"The World Jewish Congress, Geneva, 1936, was, and the World Jewish Congress that is, are uncancelable signs of the growing Jewish will to be more than victims and more than protestants. We Jews, earliest among self-governing peoples, are resolved that we shall not continue to endure the injustice which has too long been our lot in the midst of fear which is tragic, in the midst of divisiveness which is no less tragic.

"The World Jewish Congress as I conceive it is more than a tribune of ceaseless protest against hurt and wound and contumely and outrage meted out to Jews. It is a meeting place for Jews as a people, where Jews may take counsel with fellow-Jews, the parliament of a people on the eve of its re-making, a world forum before which offenders, whether individuals or nations, against the laws of human justice and brotherliness may be arraigned in the sight and hearing of the world, and appeal be made to the conscience of mankind, and above all of Christendom, that cannot forever remain indifferent to injustice to a great and ancient people.

"Above all, the World Jewish Congress is a council chamber in which Jews of many lands, diverse in externals, shall unite to renew and to fortify all that was best and noblest in the life of their people at its highest. Thus may we yet witness a rebirth of the Jewish people, leagued together and striving mightily through the unafraid expression of the common counsel of its ethical and spiritual genius on behalf of that world righteousness and justice which alone can bring peace to Israel and to all mankind."

Only yesterday, upon the eve of the convening of this assembly, I received a letter from a Jewish Chaplain in the American Army, who writes:

"It is for the War Emergency Conference of the World Jewish Congress so to speak and act that the lot of Hitler's victims may be ameliorated and their faith in humanity maintained by providing for them equalities and opportunities for life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness in whatever country they may choose to live, especially in Eretz Israel."

The letter ends with the prayer:

"May God grant you of the World Jewish Congress the necessary strength and endow you with a divinely inspired vision to perform these historic tasks!"

Whatever this War Emergency Conference of the World Jewish Congress does will be done in behalf of an eternal people by those sons and daughters who are resolved not to be unequal to the task nor unworthy of their sacred and immortal heritage.

WAR EMERGENCY CONFERENCE
of the
WORLD JEWISH CONGRESS
MONDAY EVENING, NOVEMBER 27, 1944
ATLANTIC CITY, N.J.

DR. WISE'S REPLY TO DR. GOLDSTEIN'S MESSAGE

Before this meeting closes I wish to express my deep joy, my heartfelt satisfaction in the address to which we have just listened. For once I followed Dr. Goldstein. All his life he has been following me. He followed me as Rabbi of the B'nai Jeshurun Congregation twenty-five years ago. He followed me as the President of the Zionist Organization of America. I do not know anywhere else where he will follow me. You are quite right, -- Mr. Member of Parliament, who says Dr. Goldstein has caught up with me at last. He has not caught up with me, for with his youth and strength, he has gone leagues ahead of me.

But, Dr. Goldstein, you will agree with me that we are alike happy to say that the head of the B'nai B'rith is a loyal member of the Zionist Organization of America. So that the entire leadership, the entire leadership of the American Jewish Conference, by its co-Chairmen, is Zionist.

I began the day as some one you will recall -- it was a spontaneous impulse on my part, one need not be young to be spontaneous or impulsive -- I began the day by offering a resolution of joyous congratulation to the great leader of the Zionist movement whose 70th birthday occurs this day. I would not offer any reservations now, but I cannot help expressing my sense of envy with regard to the Jewish leader who does one thing, who sees one vision, who cherishes one dream, like Weizmann, like Brandeis, and really almost succeeds in shutting out everything else from his vision and his dream.

And the result is that Dr. Weizmann has been extraordinarily effective, although, of course, for he is only human, he has not been impeccable or utterly errorless in the prosecution of our great task. I add that I am envious, as I fancy Dr. Goldstein, you are, because you and I are not capable of a concentrated, single-track -- to use an American term -- vision that enables a Weizmann to see one thing, to see it steadily and to see it whole, and to do nothing else and to concern himself with no other Jewish problem.

Far be it from me to find fault or to criticize. Therein lies his greatness. I remember, for example, when I talked from time to time to Brandeis about the sufferings of the Jews in Germany, he would listen for a moment with impatience and then he would say, "S.S.W." -- which is what he called me -- "do you know the figures about the product of the Tnuva in the last three months?" That seemed to him to be overwhelmingly significant.

Now, I make confession tonight,-- but I am glad that I find and am joined by a fellow-sinner. I am, I was, I will remain a Zionist, but I cannot be indifferent to the problems of all Jews throughout the world. After all, we recognize, must we not, that the Galuth is the experimental ground of the Zion of the future, that unless we safeguard and strengthen and upbuild and preserve all that is best in the Galuth, it will be Eretz Israel that will be most deeply and most grievously hurt. Well, tonight I welcome this fellow-sinner who gives his strength, his youth, his uncommon gifts to the prosecution of Zionist tasks and some of you may not know it, who made an extraordinary record as the upbuilder of the Keren Kayemeth in America.

But he, too, as one of the heads of the American Jewish Conference, feels that we must face the problems, we must meet the challenge of every problem, of every difficulty, of every concern of the lands of the Galuth. I am proud of one thing tonight, not only proud of being in such good company, Israel, with you at my side, but I am proud of something more. You referred to the creation of that American Committee on the status of Israelites in 1859. That came after the Mortara case. You spoke of the founding of the American Jewish Committee after Kishinev and Kishinev gave tone and direction throughout the last forty years, to the service and the mood and the spirit of the American Jewish Committee.

Together with Goldmann and Motzkin, I founded the World Jewish Congress, not after Hitler came but before Hitler came. I felt that we must find a way out and that, however weak this Jewry or that Jewry, however impotent one or another company of Jews in the world might be, if we stood together and fought together and served together and sacrificed together as an Agudah Achat, we would find a great strength. Together we have found strength.

I thank God for this hour. I may not have another opportunity to tell you how I feel about this Conference. This has been one of the most deeply and reverently joyous days of my life. I have listened to and I have learned from my fellow-Jews. Would God the Jews of Roumania and Poland had been liberated so that they might have come here and we, instead of helping and teaching them, might have sat humbly at the feet of them that have survived, and have learned from them.

We are not helpers of one another. We are not charity givers. We are not philanthropists to one another. We are brothers, we are brother Jews and as brother Jews within the World Jewish Congress we shall stand and live together and in a free and democratic world achieve for Israel the unity of Jews, the freedom of the Jewish people and the building of Eretz Israel.



11/28/45

Report by Mr. Isidore Usiskin
on Children in France and Belgium
November 28, 1945

FRANCE

During a visit to France in the months of September-October, 1945, the following children's organizations were contacted:

OPEJ - Oeuvre de Protection des Enfants Juifs

This organization is affiliated with the Federation. Two homes of this organization were visited in the vicinity of Paris.

A home for children from 6 - 14 at Malmaison-Rueil, ten kilometres north of Paris. At this Home there are 90 children of both sexes under the direction of Mme. Alpert, widow of a lieutenant in the French Resistance. The children appear to be well cared for although the physical equipment was, in many respects, rather primitive.

The second home visited located at Viroflay near Versailles, a home for girls from 15 - 18, under the direction of Mme. Begot. At this Home there are about 25 girls, deportees and former inmates of Auschwitz Camp. These girls run the Home themselves and attend various trade and professional schools or apprenticeship courses.

OSE

Discussions were held with M. Gorel of OSE who was very helpful and most co-operative. By the end of October, this Organization had established 22 children's homes for a total of about 1,200 children. In addition, there were about 500 children in non-Jewish homes under OSE supervision. There are also a number of children receiving partial assistance in their own homes.

The home at Fontenay Aux Roses, established for 58 boys from Buchenwald, ranging in age from 17 - 21, was visited. The many special problems encountered in controlling a group of this type is being tackled with great energy and the boys observed were apparently full of vigor and by surface appearance quite normal. Those youngsters who require special attention are not put with the more normal children.

The home at Draveil, under the direction of Dr. Katz, shelters 60 children from 6 - 14. This Home is well run and the children seemed quite happy.

Movement National Contre le Racisme

The children's home at Montmorrency, maintained by the Movement National Contre le Racisme, deserves special mention as it is maintained and run mainly by non-Jewish effort. There are 56 children actually in the Home and another 100 maintained outside for whom a home is now being prepared and practically ready for occupancy.

Miss Bidault, the sister of the French Foreign Minister, is one of the Directors-General of this Organization. The women directly concerned are carrying through the work they undertook during the Occupation at grave personal risk in sheltering and helping this group of Jewish children.

Eclaireures Israelites

The Eclaireures Israelites or Jewish Boy Scouts maintain homes in several parts of France and their home at Jouy en Josas was visited. There are 76 children, nearly all French born; 50 of them are orphans and the rest have one surviving parent; ages from 7 - 16. They go to school at the Village or at Versailles for the more advanced courses. This Home made a good impression.

COSORS

The Organization known as COSORS is concerned with large numbers of French orphaned children of whom approximately 1,000 are Jewish, though it is difficult to get any exact figures.

Two homes in this Organization were visited; one at Ville Juif with 45 younger children and one at Orly with 90 older boys. This visit was made in the company of Miss Fernande Sivadon, Mr. Voisy, and Dr. Weiss of the Consistoire. These two homes are established specifically for Jewish children but others are scattered throughout France in various Catholic or non-sectarian institutions.

Dr. Weiss informed me that the Vaad Hazalah had undertaken to provide financial assistance to COSORS at the rate of 75 frs. daily per child for each child placed in a separate Jewish home. The exact terms of the agreement between these two organizations should be discussed as apparently these children are still left under the control of COSORS.

General Remarks

Although at the time I visited these homes France had been liberated for almost one year, no serious efforts in the direction of establishing homes could be made until the spring of this year.

During the Occupation, the various Jewish organizations had scattered throughout France and the individual member or groups of members had reconstituted themselves more or less spontaneously as independent mutual assistance groups. They carried out their social work throughout France with only very loose liaison and at the same time, other groups not previously connected with Jewish social work also sprang up.

With the Liberation, all these various groups continued their work and in many cases started to expand their activities in line with the need for their services.

When the Joint representatives began the work of reorganization, they consolidated the relief work for adults under COJASOR but left the several children's organizations to operate independently. All these organizations suffer from a shortage of trained personnel and are constantly harassed by material and housing shortages.

In view of the almost complete disorganization of French life in general, the writer considers the progress made during the past summer, in establishing around 100 homes for Jewish children, a considerable achievement. There is no question but that this could be done in a short time only by reason of the fact that every available group was allowed to continue to work.

As regards the children now in non-Jewish homes but supported by Jewish money, every effort is being made to establish homes and recruit personnel to take care of them. Both OSE and the Scouts have training programs for personnel.

The number of Jewish children still in unknown Gentile homes is not believed to be very considerable and is thought to be around 500. They are being actively sought by various organizations and every effort is made to place them in Jewish homes or in private homes under Jewish control as soon as possible. In many cases, it has been found necessary to pay the cost of several years' care before the child is released but in some instances the difficulty arises because of the attachment which has developed for the child.

Costs in general are extremely high at this time, averaging about 3,000 Frs. monthly per child, without clothing. For example, the home for 90 children in Malmaison has a budget of 200 to 230,000 Frs. monthly of which 60,000 Frs. goes for salaries of 12 employees.

The establishment of a Foster Parents project was discussed with Mr. Saks in charge of the French Section of the Joint. It was suggested a central file of each child in France and Belgium be established and that certain numbers of these files be distributed to England, South Africa, Australia, South America and the United States, with the bulk coming to this country; that within this country, the files be distributed to every possible Jewish organization for them to engage in the effort of finding individual or group foster parents for each child.

It should be realized that many of these children do have surviving one parent or relatives who are interested in their welfare and in many cases, the most effective method of helping the child would be to assist the parent or relative in reconstituting a home.

Almost each child represents a special and separate problem. The amount of detail necessarily involved and the differing policies which would have to be followed makes this project a highly complicated one, not to be lightly undertaken without establishing a thoroughly competent organization to supervise the job.

For example, in some homes the directors feel that the individual children should not be in contact with foster parents as the inequality of treatment to arise would be upsetting to group morale. They accordingly feel that there should be group sponsorship rather than individual sponsorship. These various aspects should be carefully considered before going ahead on any large scale.

BELGIUM

In Belgium, due to limited time, only two homes were visited in Brussels. One a home for older boys repatriated from Buchenwald and the other for infants. The infants' home is exceptionally well run.

However, many discussions were held with Mr. Isaac Kubowitzki, Mr. Goldschmidt of the A.I.V.G. and the Joint regarding the question of children.

Mr. Kubowitzki has been endeavoring to obtain an undertaking by the Children's Committee of the A.I.V.G. to observe certain minimum Jewish program in all the homes under their care. In discussions with Mr. Goldschmidt, an expression of general accord with this minimum program was given. This comprises

1. Sabbath and Holidays as rest days
2. General Hebrew and religious instruction
3. Kashruth

It is believed that this program is now being put into effect. It should be noted that the British Central Fund has turned over to the Joint money for the establishment of two children's homes, and has undertaken their support. The Central Fund, however, laid down conditions of minimum Jewish training and religious requirements which the Joint, through the A.I.V.G., has willingly undertaken to observe.

The question of training for Hachsharah was waived due to impossibility of obtaining any general accord on this matter. At the age of 16, however, it was agreed that each child would decide for itself whether it wished Hachsharah training.

The question of retiring Jewish children from non-Jewish homes was thoroughly discussed with the Joint and it is the writer's opinion that the Joint is bending every effort to place the remaining 800 children in Jewish homes and has undertaken to withdraw the entire number by the end of the year.

Regarding the matter of the children subsidy being withdrawn when children were taken care of by parents or relatives, an understanding was reached that the subsidy would remain the same regardless of the fact that the child was in his own home. This situation arose apparently through bureaucratic negligence.

Both Miss Margolies and Miss Vulcan of the Joint are now pressing for their policy of disbursing a large initial sum to re-establish individual homes so that children can be taken care of by their own family rather than dribbling out small amounts monthly. In this project of providing furniture, equipping individual homes and reuniting families, an understanding was reached between Mr. Kubowitzki and Miss Margolies covering the participation of the Congress in this work to the extent of 500 children.

12/4/45
Mrs. Bryn Mawr
Chen
REPORT BY I. USISKIN

ON ECONOMIC SITUATION IN FRANCE AND BELGIUM
November 28, 1945

The object of my visit was to discover organizations or people already at work on the job of economic reconstruction in France and Belgium whose efforts were worthwhile encouraging from this side.

FRANCE

The general situation in France, while showing a definitely improving trend, is still far from normal. The extreme shortages have led the French Government to adopt enormously detailed methods of control and allocation of supplies. This makes it almost impossible to conduct a normal business with the result that practically all business is conducted, to a greater or lesser extent, in spite of the regulations. No possibility was, therefore, found of attempting the establishment of cooperative institutions. Useful work, however, was being conducted and several aspects of this work deserve encouragement.

The central relief organization known as "Cojasor", formed by French relief organizations at the insistence of the Joint, has a central placement bureau for finding employment. Younger people are directed to the employment bureau run by the Boy Scouts. Adults requiring retraining are directed to the Service de Reclassement Professionnel, run by Mr. Louis Chantal. People in need of tools or machinery are sent to the ORT and general employment is handled by the central organization.

The writer was particularly struck by the work done by M. Chantal who has, at this time, about 1100 people of both sexes and all ages and almost every profession. This organization is not specifically Jewish being headed by Sen. Justin Godart, but the majority of the personnel and the students are Jewish. M. Chantal is a great improviser and has been successful in enlisting support for his work in very many non-Jewish directions and has achieved maximum results with minimum means. Courses in dental laboratory work and beauty culture were visited and deportees returned from various camps in Germany were observed at work. These groups displayed the utmost enthusiasm and desire for the training they were undertaking. The large percentage of successful students is due to the fact that courses are picked out for them on the basis of their individual capacities, talents and wishes so that as far as possible, each individual is entering a trade for which he or she is best fitted.

The writer undertook to interest American organizations in this work and the possibility should be explored without, however, engaging the Congress directly in the work.

The ORT managed to keep at least a skeleton organization intact during the entire occupation and has about 850 students in their classes. These are mostly youngsters who either by reason of foreign parentage, lack of scholastic credits or unfamiliarity with the language, cannot be placed in the very excellent French trade schools. From personal observation and reports of competent observers, the students simply lap up knowledge and their examination results are truly outstanding. The general atmosphere and discipline of the schools visited made an excellent impression.

The ORT also has a service for loaning or selling on credit to individuals various machines and tools of trade. It is believed in some cases that outright

gifts are also made, but in the case of expensive machines, it is felt that the individual should endeavor to repay the ORT over a reasonable period of time for the cost of the machine out of his earnings. This particular aspect of the work of ORT deserves our support, and method of encouraging this work should be discussed.

The writer undertook personally to assist in the establishment of a model training farm for covering all aspects of poultry-raising along American lines. An endeavor will be made to interest Jewish agriculturists in assisting this work.

The two loan cases in France are doing excellent work in helping small artisans and business men to reestablish themselves. The loans are made on a strictly business basis with guarantors, as every endeavor is made to preserve intact the funds of the organizations. A personal donation was made to one of these organizations but it is the writer's personal belief that greater effort should be made to raise funds locally in France for this purpose.

In general a lack of liaison between the different organizations in the field was observed, but this is understandable under the circumstances of extreme pressure. A number of business men and Jewish leaders were made acquainted with the work being done by the Trade Advisory Council in England and interest was expressed in attempting something on the same lines in France. The TAC will be requested to forward material to key people in France.

BELGIUM

The general economic situation in Belgium is almost excellent compared with France or England and this country is much further along the road of economic reconstruction than the other two. The problem is, of course, much smaller as there are only about 25,000 Jews in Belgium and in general the organization seems much more compact and hopeful. While in Belgium, most cordial relations and close contact were maintained with Mr. Aranovici of the Joint whose mission to Belgium was the establishment of loan cases in Brussels and Antwerp. Two cooperative producers organizations were found at work and deserve support. Mr. Aranovici is also interested in these and will be giving them assistance. It should not be difficult to interest individual business men in these projects in helping them to become established.

One organization is a tailors' cooperative which has been doing contract work for the Allied forces and private merchants with material supplied to them. They have, during the past year, been successful in sharing to each worker a wage about 50% greater than the current wage scales in Brussels.

The small cooperative recently established mostly for non-skilled women, engaged in the production of cleaning powder, is under the management of a German refugee with considerable business background and competence.

The Union of Jewish Handworkers, which has been operating under great difficulties with extremely limited outside support, comprises about 450 small artisans and business men.

The possibility of establishing a small central buying cooperative to procure materials for its members and extend small revolving credits, was discussed both with the Union and the Joint. Endeavor will be made to obtain a small capital for the establishment of this cooperative and eventually assist it in making purchases

of materials available in this country. Organizations such as that of Mr. Filene's of Boston, will be contacted and may be in a position to render assistance.

GENERAL REMARKS

It is not recommended that the Congress engage in any aspect of this work itself or undertake any commitments for direct participation in any of the projects outlined above. In view of the already existing commitments of the Congress and the fact that personnel and organization are lacking for this work in France and Belgium, no good purpose could be served by any such general undertaking. It is believed that this can best be done by forming affiliated groups or committees for each specific project. The group or committee is to be in direct contact with the organization being helped and only keep the local Congress offices informed, but not engage them in additional work which they are not equipped at this time to carry out.

In general the writer is impressed with the vigor with which the Jews of France and Belgium are reconstituting their lives. Considering the fact that they have just emerged from years of hiding, from camps, from prisons, with their families and connections broken, their achievements to date, are truly remarkable. Criticisms may justly be levelled at many aspects of the work and the way it is being carried out but viewed as a whole, the progress in the past several months has been enormous.

STRICTLY CONFIDENTIAL

Summary of the reports submitted at the Office Committee Meetings by the members of the Executive Committee of the World Jewish Congress during the period of August 15th to September 30th.

POLITICAL DEPARTMENT

A new message drafted by Drs. Robinson and Perlzweig on the punishment of war criminals was sent to Under-Secretary of State Stettinius.

Relative to Sir Cecil's address on War Crimes made in London on August 30th, a cable was sent to our British Section in London asking for the complete text of his statement and requesting them to get in touch with the Governments-in-Exile concerning this subject.

A copy of a letter sent by Cecil Hurst to our British Section was forwarded to us. This letter was considered of great importance because the War Crimes Commission seems to be anxious to punish the Nazis for their mistreatment of the Jews from 1933 to 1939, but wants a memorandum from the WJC presenting the facts, etc. Drs. Robinson and Perlzweig are working on such an indictment which will be sent to our British Section at the end of October.

A cable was received from Chief Rabbi Marcus Ehrenpreis, member of the Executive Committee of the WJC in Sweden, informing us that he had official confirmation that the new Bulgarian Government has completely abrogated the anti-Jewish legislation which was enacted by its predecessors and has re-established all civil, economic and religious rights for Jews. The Bulgarian Minister of the Interior has established a commission for the orderly restoration of Jewish property which was confiscated under the old regime. The Jewish Communities Central Council, which is the organized representation of Bulgarian Jewry, has been re-instated, and its members, after an audience with the new Minister of the Interior, voiced their satisfaction at the action of the new government and expressed confidence that all their economic problems would be solved speedily. Rabbi Ehrenpreis requested further help for Bulgarian Jews until normal life and economic stability are re-established.

Dr. Stephen S. Wise, Chairman of the Executive Committee, and Dr. Nahum Goldmann, Chairman of the Administrative Committee of the World Jewish Congress, sent on September 15th a message regarding the recently signed Rumanian Armistice to Secretary of State, Cordell Hull; the British Ambassador, Lord Halifax; and the Soviet Ambassador, Andre Gromyko. The message stressed that "it is especially gratifying that the re-establishment of the democratic principle of equal justice has not been postponed to a final peace settlement but that the opportunity of the Armistice has been taken to put it into practice".

In his reply of October 4th, Secretary of State Cordell Hull said: "The commendation by the World Jewish Congress of the Department's part in this matter is greatly appreciated and I wish to thank you for your thoughtfulness in bringing this statement to my attention."

Dr. Goldmann had an interview with the Russian Ambassador to Washington, Mr. Gromyko, with whom he discussed various pending matters.

The Italian Jewish Representative Committee asked the World Jewish Congress to protest against the nomination of Ottolenghi who was nominated president of the Jewish Community in Rome. As we have heard that Jews in Rome as well as the Italian JRC felt very much embarrassed about Ottolenghi's appointment to this post because of his fascist past, the Office Committee decided to send a telegram of protest to Mr. Poletti through the intermediary of the State Dept.

It was also decided that we should discuss with the Italian Government the question of the restitution of property which has now been left by the AMG to the Italian Government.

RESCUE

A Rescue Actions Committee has been established composed of representatives of the World Jewish Congress, the American Jewish Conference, the Vaad Hatzalah, and the Agudath Israel. The delegation of the American Jewish Conference includes representatives of the Jewish Labor Committee and Hadassah. Various meetings have already taken place. On August 17th, a delegation went to Hon. John Pehle of the War Refugee Board concerning action to be taken on Horthy's offer. At a meeting of the Rescue Actions Committee on August 18th, it was decided to submit a memorandum to the War Refugee Board asking for the removal by airplane of 10,000 children as token evacuation; taking advantage of certificates; taking care of Jewish manpower of the already deported Jews of Hungary; and to ask for funds for the IRC. A joint delegation of Jews and non-Jews to present this memorandum to various departments.

A cable was received from our Geneva office telling of the arrival in Switzerland from Belsenbergen of 326 Hungarian Jews. Subsequently, the WJC Headquarters in New York received a cable from Geneva listing the names of these Hungarian Jews. We were also informed that these 326 persons were part of a group of 1695 Jews who were permitted to go from Hungary, (probably) to Sweden.

Inasmuch as the entire situation has changed in the field of rescue, and new methods are necessary in order to save the surviving Jews, it was decided to call an urgent meeting for August 29th. The representatives of the newly established Rescue Actions Committee were invited to this meeting.

Alarming information concerning Theresienstadt was received from our Geneva office which suggested the inclusion of all Theresienstadt internees for exchange action.

On September 1st, a delegation of the Rescue Actions Committee (Dr. Kubowitzki representing the WJC, Rabbi Miller - the American Jewish Conference, Mr. Gottschalk - the American Jewish Committee) were received by Mr. Pehle of the WRB. Mr. Pehle stated that he understood our feelings and our demands and added that the WRB would act along the lines suggested.

On September 8th, representatives of the Vaad Hatzalah (Rabbi Kalmanovitch) and of the WJC (Rabbi Miller) were received by Mr. Morgenthau, Secretary of the

Treasury, and discussed the situation of the Jews in Hungary.

The Swedish Section of the WJC under the chairmanship of Rabbi Ehrenpreis cabled us that they are in close contact with their authorities concerning the situation of the Hungarian Jews. They further cabled that the Swedish Government granted permission to the WJC to buy and ship 200 tons of food supplies to Bergenbelsen and other concentration camps. This food supply will consist of: 20,000 food parcels 5 kilos each totalling 4000 kilos canned fish 20,000 dried milk 3000 peasmeal 20,000 sugar 3000 redwhortleberry jam 2000 canned meat 10,000 hard bread 15,000 various canned foodstuffs 2500 sweet out 2000 cod liver oil.

Our Geneva Office informed us through the WRB that with respect to France the following was achieved through our efforts: Since October 1943, 1350 children and young people up to 20 years of age both with and without parents or relatives have reached Switzerland; 70 children have reached Spain while some 700 have been hidden in France. Further some 700 young people have been evacuated to Spain as well as 200 parents accompanying their children. Our people in France have aided in hiding four to five thousand adults. Considerable expenditure has been necessitated by appropriate equipment for armed convoys to the frontiers. At the present moment it is impossible to separate the rescue of children from that of adults according various funds used as action was organized as a whole by our people using all available means. Our participation amounted to more than 18 million French francs. - Further information will be forwarded to us by our Geneva Office as quickly as possible.

Dr. Kubowitzki, head of the Rescue Department of the WJC, informed the Office Committee of the latest developments in the rescue field. A confidential detailed report was mailed in the middle of September to all those who will receive this summary.

In an interview with Messrs. Pehle and Lesser of the WRB, it was revealed that the WRB had a communication dated September 15th from Hungary which claimed that 200,000 Jews were left in Hungary, all in Budapest. The Gestapo admits the extermination of 350,000 Jews and further admits that 160,000 Jews are in labor camps. For the two hundred thousand Jews in Budapest, registration has already begun; two camps are set up for 160,000 people; all able-bodied men and women will be interned in these camps.

Upon receiving this news, it was decided that a delegation of the WJC should see Mr. McCloy and possibly the Russian Ambassador in order to discuss the new situation in Hungary.

Other information from Hungary was not as bad as mentioned above. Our British Section cabled that the Apostolic Delegate in London informed them that following the telegram of the British Section and his several communications, further step was taken by the Holy See through the Apostolic Nuncio in Budapest in order to prevent further deportation of Jews in Hungary. On September 6th, the Holy See received a message from the Nunciature in Budapest that there is now every hope that deportations are ceasing.

Also Dr. Kubowitzki, in reply to his cable, received a letter dated September 27th from the Apostolic Delegation of the United States informing him that the Delegation had been advised by the Holy See that the situation in Hungary was much less acute since the persons responsible for the previous persecutions have been removed from power. The Apostolic Delegation assured that the Holy See continues to follow the situation with vigilance and concern and will leave nothing undone to ameliorate the plight of the unfortunate people of Hungary.

Since action can now be taken with the help of U.S. authorities with regard to refugees in occupied countries, the WJC decided to take steps for people in Theresienstadt (Terezin). We suggested to the authorities that lists of names of internees at Terezin should be submitted to the WRB, informing them that the internees are intended to be taken to neutral countries on the basis of being prospective applicants for U.S. visas. The U.S. authorities will take the appropriate steps through the protective power. We have already submitted one list of 350 names and we will have a second list finished within the next few days, consisting of another 200 names. According to the special rules, this action can be undertaken only for internees whose parents, children or spouse are American citizens, or for wives and minor children of alien residents here. In addition to these lists, special printed forms had to be made out, which give in detail the status of relatives here who are interested in getting their relatives over. For this particular work, a separate staff of five people has been established within the World Jewish Congress to take care of this particular matter for a short period of time.

During the last few months the WJC was very active in procuring Palestine certificates for refugees in Holland and for Dutch Jews. About 250 individual cables were sent from the World Jewish Congress to the Immigration Department of the Jewish Agency, asking for Palestine certificates for the respective families.

Although we were not in a position to find out if all of those for whom we secured Palestine certificates could be saved, we know that many of them were sent to Camp Helgenbergen, near Hanover. This camp is known to be a transit camp, mainly for Palestine, and among those Jews who recently arrived in Palestine are many of our friends for whom we were active.

With regard to the Jews in Hungary, we applied for about 10,000 Palestine certificates because we are justified in assuming that the holders of such certificates will thus be saved from deportation. We have been informed that all our requests for certificates have been submitted through the Jewish Agency for Palestine to the British Government for the issuance of certificates. At present, the Jewish Agency, in collaboration with the WJC, is working in order to have these certificates delivered to these persons in Hungary and to secure transportation.

UNRRA

A Press Conference was held concerning the publication of the book "Relief and Rehabilitation" (Implications of the UNRRA Program for Jewish Needs) by Zorach Warhaftig as number one of the series "From War to Peace". This series is issued by the Institute of Jewish Affairs of the American and the World Jewish Congress. The press conference was held in connection with the forthcoming UNRRA conference and information on the program of the WJC to be submitted to the Montreal Conference has been given to the press.

In the beginning of September, Mr. Russell of the British Embassy, who will be one of the delegates of Great Britain to the UNRRA Conference in Montreal, was approached in connection with the Jewish representation at the UNRRA. Mr. Russell expressed interest in the problem and suggested that the representatives of the AJC see him in Montreal.

Dr. Arish Tartakower was appointed head of the AJC delegation to the second session of the UNRRA Conference to be held at Montreal on September 15th. Mrs. Sonia Grinberg and Mr. Zorach Warhaftig of the AJC staff and the Institute of Jewish Affairs respectively were appointed as his assistants.

We have been informed that a petition was signed by important organizations requesting the UNRRA to extend its activities to Italy. The AJC was asked to sign this petition. It was decided to do so.

Upon return of the AJC delegation to the UNRRA Conference in Montreal, a joint Press Conference of the AJC and the American Jewish Conference was held in New York. Dr. Arish Tartakower representing the AJC and Miss Jane Evans - the American Jewish Conference, outlined what had been accomplished by Jewish agencies at the recent UNRRA Conference.

Dr. Tartakower, heading the AJC delegation, whose other members were Mrs. Sophie Brinberg and Dr. Zorach Warhaftig, said that a number of important points had been achieved at the Montreal Conference. Among the demands submitted by the AJC, he cited:

- 1) That displaced persons who can be proven to have been victims of Nazi persecution be assisted regardless of their nationality.
- 2) That victims of racial, religious and political persecutions be assisted by UNRRA, even if they reside in enemy or ex-enemy territories -- which would mean primarily the Jews of countries like Germany, Hungary, etc.
- 3) That help be extended to persons unable or unwilling to return to their former homelands, in the same measure as help will be accorded to repatriated persons.

Points 1 and 2 were adopted by the UNRRA Conference, and as for point No. 3 -- although it was not adopted at this meeting, Dr. Tartakower expressed the hope that it would be adopted at some future meeting.

The Jewish delegation finally succeeded in having their demands taken into consideration in the motions presented by the British and American delegations. The American resolution was to the effect that displaced persons, victims of the Nazi terror, found in enemy or ex-enemy territories, were to be included among persons to be helped by the UNRRA. Dr. Tartakower said that this was an improvement over the resolution adopted in Atlantic City, since that resolution concerned itself only with Allied nationals. The British resolution amended the American resolution to read that enemy nationals, victims of Nazi persecution, found in liberated territories also be helped by UNRRA.

Dr. Tartakower stressed the unity achieved by the Jewish delegation. Fearful that presentations made by too many separate organizations would cause confusion, the AJC, with the Canadian Jewish Congress, its host, and the American Jewish Conference came to an agreement with the other Jewish organizations and presented

a united front so that all Jewish representations were made jointly - with the one exception of the Hebrew Committee of Liberation which presented its own demands in the form of a press conference. Mr. Saul Hayes, Executive Director of the Canadian Jewish Congress, acting as host for the entire Jewish delegation, was designated to be the spokesman for the Jewish group before a special committee of UNHRA. (A detailed report by Dr. Tartakower on the UNHRA Conference and the work done by the WJC representation has been mailed to all those who will receive this summary).

During the UNHRA Conference in Montreal, Dr. Tartakower - on behalf of the WJC - led negotiations with the International Labor Organizations, during which an agreement was reached concerning the social insurance of Jewish forced laborers in the present war.

Two memoranda will have to be submitted by the WJC to the International Labor Office:

- 1- About facts and figures on Jewish forced labor
- 2- About enemy aliens.

In conversation with the representative of the Inter-Governmental Committee on Refugees, Mr. Patrick Malin, who attended the session of UNHRA in the capacity of an observer, the latter pointed out that the displaced persons who cannot or who do not wish to be repatriated, will be taken care of by the Inter-Governmental Committee and that such was the understanding between the Committee and the UNHRA and that there will be no discontinuance in the assistance given to these persons by the two organizations.

Mr. Malin said that while the Inter-Governmental Committee had no funds of its own, it could and would get them from the governments upon submitting definite projects to them; that such projects were being prepared by them for displaced persons who would have to be resettled and that the Committee was confident that it will be in a position to fulfill its task concerning these persons.

The WJC delegates to the UNHRA made a number of suggestions for the concrete work to be done in this field by the World Jewish Congress.

FRANCE

After the liberation of Paris, the Office Committee held several meetings with French Jewish representatives concerning the formation of a World Jewish Congress Committee in Paris and other organizational problems.

The new regulations in Algiers regarding restitution of Jewish property were also discussed. The French members were greatly concerned that the legislators were not keeping the promises made in London to annul all acts of direct and indirect spoliation. The WJC was asked by the French JRC to submit a memorandum to the French Committee of National Liberation requesting that these acts be declared null and void. Protest should be made on general political lines. A group of the French Committee should meet with the legal experts of the WJC and work out the text of the memorandum to be submitted by the WJC to the French Provisional Government.

Mr. Marc Jarblum, member of the Executive of the WJC, informed us by cable from Geneva that he intended to return to France to establish the WJC office in Paris and to strengthen contacts with French Jewry and the Resistance Movement with which

Mr. Jarblum was in close cooperation during his stay in Geneva. The Office Committee authorized Mr. Jarblum to establish the WJC office in Paris and other Congress branches in France and informed him that Dr. Kubowitzki would come to Europe shortly as a special delegate of the Executive Committee of the WJC. Financial means were made available to Mr. Jarblum for the opening of the Paris office.

On September 14th, our Geneva Office received the first news from Mr. Jarblum who was at that time in Lyon. Mr. Jarblum found the situation extremely difficult and overwhelming misery among the Jewish population there. He stated that a considerable amount of money was urgently needed to help the suffering Jews. At the same time, Mr. Jarblum informed us that all kinds of irresponsible French committees were springing up here and there. It was decided to dispatch \$10,000 immediately to Mr. Jarblum to be used for the relief of Jews in need.

The French JAC has given us the list of people who are ready to return to France.

ORGANIZATION

Before Prof. Hadamard of the French Jewish Representative Committee left for France, a luncheon was given in his honor on August 25th by the American Jewish Congress and the WJC, Dr. Wise, Dr. Goldmann and officials of the World Jewish Congress and the American Jewish Congress. Messrs. Torres, Dreyfus and Bollack as well as other outstanding members of the French JAC attended.

Fort Ontario, the temporary haven (free port) of about 1000 European refugees, was visited by Dr. Stephen S. Wise and other members of the World Jewish Congress, also by delegates of the Representative Committees of German, Austria, Yugoslavia, Polish, French and Czech Jews.

Mr. Zuckerman, upon his return from Mexico, reported that there was no real fund-raising campaign in Mexico. He stated that a certain circle of wealthy Jews were approached at a banquet given in honor of Dr. Goldmann and himself and that about \$25,000 was collected at this occasion. He further stated that our Mexican friends were ready to devote a whole month next year (probably March or April) to a public fund-raising campaign of the WJC with the goal of \$75,000. This campaign will be part of the great campaign to be launched at the War Emergency Conference in November. - Mr. Zuckerman expressed satisfaction with the results achieved by Dr. Goldmann and him and said that their trip was chiefly important from an organizational viewpoint.

The War Emergency Conference will open at Carnegie Hall on Sunday morning, November 12th, and will thereafter continue at the Hotel Savoy Plaza in New York from Monday November 13th to 19th.

The agenda of the Conference was discussed and it was reported that the first four parts thereof have already been prepared:

- a) War Crimes
- b) Relief and Rehabilitation
- c) Restoration of Jewish Rights
- d) Restitution and Reparation

As it was felt that the last three parts:

- e) International Guarantee of Jewish Rights
- f) The Outlawing of Anti-Semitism
- g) Long Range Reconstruction

cannot be effectively worked out until we are in a position to know the current situation in Europe, it was suggested that we make an outline and fill in the details at the last possible moment - feeling that we can do more after the UNRRA Conference. It was decided, however, to send rough drafts to our representatives now as there will always be time to add various amendments later.

Mr. Zuckerman took upon himself the drafting of a plan for the structural re-organization of the World Jewish Congress.

Dr. Partakower returned on September 12th from a 9 week trip to South America during the course of which he was in contact with the heads of the Jewish communities in Panama, Chile, Peru, Uruguay, Brazil and Argentina. He found that the Jewish Communities in those countries are anxious to lend their aid to relieve the sufferings of their brethren under the yoke of Nazi tyranny and reported that they had pledged generous donations toward the reconstruction work done by the World Jewish Congress. (A detailed report is attached.)

Our British Section informed us that Mr. Albert Cohen had resigned from our staff to accept an appointment with the Inter-Governmental Committee assuring us of his further cooperation.

Dr. Berman, member of the World Jewish Congress Comité Representativo in Chile, is conducting a fund-raising campaign in Peru and has proclaimed a \$30,000 goal.

Captain Young of the State Department was contacted for boat facilities for the delegates for the Conference.

It was felt that it was a problem to have two representatives committees for every liberated country, one over there and one in New York; therefore, the Office Committee was of the opinion that both committees should be invited to the Conference. It was decided to invite a delegation of the Rome Jewish Community as well as a Jewish delegation from France (through Mr. Jarblum). An invitation was also sent to the Union of Swiss Jewish Communities in Switzerland affiliated with the World Jewish Congress.

An agreement was reached between the WJC and the American Jewish Conference for close cooperation in all matters of interest to both organizations and the establishment of a Joint Planning Committee was decided upon.

Prof. Paul Guggenheim, Geneva, Juridical Counsellor to the WJC, was elected President of the Administrative Committee of the Union of Swiss Jewish Communities.

Dr. Tartakower, Head of the Department for Relief and Rehabilitation, informed his colleagues that he has been appointed successor to Prof. Ruppia at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem. He will leave for Palestine in some months but not until after the War Emergency Conference of the WJC, trusting to be able to keep contacts with the WJC and to be helpful to its work also when he is at his new post.

INQUIRY DEPARTMENT

The Inquiry Department of the WJC has set up a roster and we now have altogether over 80,000 names of refugees from different countries scattered all over the world. 20,000 addresses of refugees were received during the last two months. Of these 20,000, over 15,000 are refugees from Poland at present in the USSR. About 600 arrived in Palestine from Rumania.

The bulk of the 80,000 refugee names in our files are Polish Jews. 3,000 arrived in Palestine and the remainder are scattered in East Africa, North Africa, Mexico and in Free Port Oswego, New York. The second largest number of the refugees registered in our files refers to deportees to Theresienstadt (almost 2,500) former residents of Germany, Austria, Holland, Denmark and France. We have also in our files, a list of almost 7,500 refugees from Belgium and France now in Switzerland, over 2,000 refugees from the Baltic States in the USSR, over 1800 refugees from Yugoslavia, 800 refugees from Bessarabia in the USSR, refugees from Czechoslovakia (683) as well as over 2,000 deportees to the camp at Birkenau, Silesia.

Upon receiving lists of refugees, copies are mailed to a number of divisions of the American Jewish Congress in the United States as well as to the branches of the World Jewish Congress in the Western Hemisphere, Australia, England, etc. These lists are published in the Yiddish newspapers in the U. S. and some South American countries. Approximately 20% of the relatives and friends of the refugees are found by these means.

We are also in constant cable contact with the President of the Jewish Community in Moscow on behalf of residents of the USSR who are trying to locate their relatives in the U. S. At the same time, we have been cabling to Moscow similar messages on behalf of residents of the U. S. who are eager to get in touch with their relatives, residents of the USSR. The number of such inquiries amounts to about 200 monthly.



AMERICAN JEWISH ARCHIVES

WSC and USSR

1944-1945



זכר אלה יעקב וישראל

June 22, 1945

Mrs. Florence Hodel
Assistant Executive Director
War Refugee Board
Washington, D. C.

Dear Miss Hodel:

Thank you very much for your letter of June 18th,
wherein you forwarded to Dr. Goldmann a message from
Gerhart Riegner and Paul Guggenheim, Geneva.

May I ask you to forward the following reply through
the facilities of the State Department:

"To: Gerhart Riegner, Paul Guggenheim, Geneva
From: Nahum Goldmann, New York

Yours June 14th Authorization granted to Max Maxinos
to conduct informal negotiations without acting as
Congress Representative view establish relations between
Soviet Government and Congress especially view dispatch
Congress delegate to Moscow concerning Jewish reconstruc-
tion rehabilitation on territories under USSR control."
Many thanks in advance for complying with this request.

Sincerely yours,

A. Leon Kubowitzki

ALK:lw

COPY

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
WAR REFUGEE BOARD
Washington 25, D.C.

Office of the
Executive Director

June 18, 1945

Dear Mr. Goldmann:

The following message for you from Gerhart Riegner and Paul Guggenheim was received through the United States Legation in Bern under date of June 14, 1945:

"For your confidential information Max Maximos, Jewish businessman from Rumania is presently in Switzerland. He once lived for several years in Soviet Russia where apparently he has good relations. At the end of June he will go to Moscow on business for a short stay. On suggestion Theodor Fischer Maximos stated he was prepared to do his best to establish relations between Soviet Government and Congress if we grant him authorization for this purpose.

"We intend to request him to negotiate with proper authorities view Dispatch Congress delegate to Moscow with intention to reach understanding on Jewish reconstruction and rehabilitation on territories under Soviet control and with possibility of creating permanent representation on Moscow. Urgently request you cable instructions."

Very truly yours,

(Signed) Florence Hodel

Assistant Executive Director

Dr. Nahum Goldmann
World Jewish Congress
1834 Broadway
New York, New York.

February 27th, 1945

MEMO

To: Dr. Tartakower
From: A.H.P. (Coordinating Committee)

I wish to thank you most cordially for your courteous memo of February 15th in prompt reply to my memo of the preceding day. I have never doubted the attention you give to the memos of the European committees, and I regret that my memo, the general outline of which I dictated over the phone hurriedly on leaving town, may have conveyed a contrary impression. I need however--to report to the Coordinating Committee--a more specific answer on the following points.

1) I am very glad to be able to report to the Coordinating Committee that its suggestion to create a United Jewish Rescue Agency has been accepted and acted upon by the Congress. What are the further developments?

2) We were aware of the fact that the problem of a delegation to the USSR had been studied by Congress for a long time; but our memo made more specific suggestions:

a) that the authorization to send a mission to Sofia, Budapest and Bucharest be requested. Chances are that such a request would find less objection than the opening of a bureau in Europe;

b) that action upon the Hungarian, Rumanian and Bulgarian governments be attempted through the non-Jewish communities of Hungary, Rumania and Bulgaria, residing in North or South America;

c) the possibility of a demarche with the Soviet Embassy through organizations such as the Soviet American Friendship, Inc. be attempted.

3) We also were aware of the representations made to Germany through Sweden, Switzerland and Ireland, but you state that you received no answer from Dublin. Of that we are not surprised, because, as our memo stated, we suspected that the Irish minister does not have much influence on de Valera. The specific suggestions in our memo were:

a) to enlist the support of the Irish Americans;

b) to try to act on de Valera through the Vatican;

c) to ask O'Dwyer to get in touch with Myron Taylor;

d) to attempt representations by the Argentine government through our Argentine group. We are aware that the Argentine government is reactionary, but just such governments are sometimes willing to make pro-Semitic gestures abroad.

4) Thank you for your assurances concerning the Schirmer project. Could we cable to Dr. Kubowitzki, telling him that the WRB gave instructions in Switzerland to pay out the money, and ask him to find out whether they

have complied with them and the money was actually disbursed? If I could give such assurance to the Committee, I could make quite a point of our ability to offset the Joint's power by our ability to mobilize governmental financial help.

5) I should appreciate greatly if at your earliest convenience you could let me have the reaction of Congress to the proposals contained in the memo of February 5th on mobilization of non-Jewish opinion. The Coordinating Committee felt very strongly that this matter was of the greatest and most immediate importance. (P. S.) Vote of the Plenary.

6) Have the specific suggestions formulated in the memo of February 12th on "Punishment of War Criminals as a Rescue Device" been followed up?

דער אידישער וועלט־קאנגרעס באגריסט קאנפערענץ פון סאָוועטישע אידן

באנד און די רויטע ארמיי פאר די
היסטאָרישע זיגן איבער די היטלער־
בארכאָרן, די זיגן וואָס דערפֿרױען די
הערצער פון די פֿרױע פֿעלקער איבער
דער גאַנצער וועלט.

פֿערעניץ און דעם מיטינג אלס זייער
וויכטיג פֿאַר דער פֿאַרשטאַרקונג פֿונעם
זיגרייכן קאַמף געגן דעם היטלערישן
שונא, און מיר זיינען צופֿירן דער־
פֿון, וואָס די קאָאָפּעראַציע צווישן
אונז פֿאַרשטאַרקט זיך כּסדר. מיר
זיינען טיף איבערצייגט, אז אונז־
זער כּסדר ענגערע קאָאָפּעראַציע
וועט זייער פֿיל מיטהעלפֿן צו דער
ענדגילטיגער באַזייטיגונג פֿון אלע
עוולות, פֿון וועלכע דאָס אידישע פֿאָלק
ליידט זיט הונדערטער יאָרן.

דער באַגריסונגס קעגיל פֿון דער
עקזעקוטיווע פֿון אידישן וועלט קאָנ־
גֿרעס פֿאַרענדליגט זיך מיט די ווער־
טער: „מיר באַגריסן דורך אייך די
העראַאישע פֿעלקער פֿון ראַטן־פֿאַר־

דר. סטיפֿען ס. זױז און דר. נחום
גאַלדמאַן האָבן אין נאָמען פֿון אידישן
וועלט־קאָנגרעס געקעגילט אַ באַגרי־
סונג צו דער קאָנפערענץ פֿון רוסישע
אידן און צו דעם דריטן אַלגעמיינעם
מיטינג פֿון אידישן אַנטי־פּאַשיסטישן
קאָמיטעט אין מאַסקווע.

„דער אידישער וועלט קאָנגרעס
שיקט איבער די וואַרימסטע ברודער־
לעבע גרוסן צו די פֿאַרשטייער פֿון אי־
דישן פֿאָלק אין סאָוועט־רוסלאַנד,
וואָס פֿאַרזאַמלען זיך דעם 2טן אפריל,
ווי אויך צו דעם דריטן אַלגעמיינעם
מיטינג פֿון אידישן אַנטי־פּאַשיסטישן
קאָמיטעט — ווערט געזאַגט אין דעם
באַגריסונגס־קעגיל פֿון אידישן וועלט־
קאָנגרעס — „מיר באַטראַכטן די קאָנ־

Memorandum

To : David Pategorsky
From: Isidore Ussishkin

The following are concrete suggestions for steps necessary to get 6 specific projects underway which, I found, deserve immediate attention ^{if} we are to help in the economic reconstruction of Jews in Belgium and France.

I. Assistance in the way of material, production ideas, planning and methods etc. for a tailor's cooperative already in existence in Belgium.

For this I need one man, thoroughly acquainted with the clothing manufacturing field, who will take out time to survey the field for ideas, supplies, and production methods, and who will be responsible for establishing contact with this tailor's cooperative and get the information - and if possible material - to them.

(It might be possible to interest unions to subscribe to the capital of this cooperative. The A.C. of Y.U.A. S.I. should also be contacted. They have a Committee on cooperatives and the U.I. of the U.S.A. is a member agency.

II. Assistance of the same type for a cooperative of unskilled women workers who produce cleaning powder. Again, what I need is one man, thoroughly acquainted with the cleaning powder industry who will take responsibility for collecting all available information and forwarding it to them. (What is particularly needed here is ideas on types of related products which can be produced by unskilled workers.)

For items I and II organizations interested in the cooperative movement should be contacted.

III. A similar type of assistance to the Union of Jewish Handicraft Workers which is attempting now to set up a buying cooperative to supply materials on short credits, mostly textiles, to its members who are small handicraft workers, manufacturers and traders.

For this I need a man who will find interested parties to subscribe to the capital and will eventually assist in making small purchases of available materials in the U.S.

IV. Assistance and advice to the Service de Reclassement Professionnel which is

operated by Mr. Louis Chantel and trains former professionals, businessmen, housewives and unskilled workers etc. in skilled trades.

For this I need a man who will contact educators, vocational training instructors, trade unions, etc. and get all available information on training methods with stress on speed. (E.g. training films; projection machines and training aids of all types; there must be a wealth of material of this type developed in the U.S. during war)

This man should also take responsibility for collecting tools for the graduates of these schools

V Responsibility for the same type of assistance for the establishment of a poultry training farm will be taken by me.

VI. The Jews of Brussels are setting up a community house financed by worker's salaries and whatever donations they can get. This community house is the first of its kind in Europe and will have limited vocational training facilities, in addition to the usual social facilities.

I need one man to contact community centers and "Yehive" and get them to send direct contributions to Brussels.

I do not think that anyone of the enumerated projects (with the exception of the poultry farm) will require more than \$7,500. These are all concrete and eminently handleable projects, where immediate action would have far reaching economic results. I would also like to point out that most of the money raised should not take the form of a philanthropic contribution but rather the form of capital participation to these enterprises.

1945



AMERICAN JEWISH ARCHIVES

organizational
Reports
1945



A few observations on organizational aspects
of the Congress work

I. Preliminary Remarks

My first intention was to present to the Office Committee an inventory of our assets and liabilities in all the various fields of our activities, such as the paper which Mrs. Evelyn Dworkin prepared at my request with regard to our organizational connections and tasks in the Latin American countries. To my mind, such an all embracing inventory would have been a decisive argument in favor of the thesis that it is the imperative duty of the Congress to continue to exist and develop, and a vindication of the viewpoint that only a Congress which is large and comprehensive is able and entitled to survive.

It has been impossible to complete this inventory. It may be submitted by the beginning of October if, by then, we will be equipped to keep such surveys up to date.

Anyhow, this paper does not intend to examine the philosophy of the Congress idea. It is concerned merely with organizational problems and three fundamental assumptions:

- 1- that we are under obligation to carry out a program of activities outlined by the resolutions of the War Emergency Conference;
- 2- that the direction of the Congress will remain vested for the next fiscal year in the present Office Committee and that its headquarters will remain in New York;
- 3- that all members of the Office Committee feel duty bound to remain in active service for another year, unless they are previously discharged by the second Congress.

II. Management

1. Office Committee

- a- Experience has proved that the complex and difficult tasks of the WEC require the existence of a policy making body, composed of leaders thoroughly com-

versant with and engaged in its day by day activities, and in a position to meet at least twice weekly for exhaustive discussions of problems on the agenda.

This experience has resulted in the actual replacement of the Executive Committee by the Office Committee, consisting of: 1. the president of the WJC, 2.- 3. the chairmen of the Executive and Administrative Committees, 4. the secretary general, 5. the director of the Institute of Jewish Affairs, 6.-9. the heads of the Departments of Culture and Education, Legal and Political Affairs, Organization, Relief and Rehabilitation, 10. the administrative secretary.

Should additional departments be created, as further suggested, such ^{as} departments of Community Inter-Relations, Finances, Information, and Youth, their heads would have to be accepted as members of the Office Committee.

X
b- Attendance: It is submitted that the chief assistants of the various departments should be invited to attend the meetings of the O.C. It is essential for the continuity of the Congress work that we acquire and educate a staff of high-class civil servants, able to carry on in case of absence or departure of present department chiefs, and informed of all the intricacies of the labours and political thought of the Congress leadership.

a- Compensation: Experience has also shown that effective Congress leadership is a full time undertaking whose duties cannot be fully discharged if no decent compensation is provided. It should be added (and this applies not only to executives) that Congress will be unable to retain the first class collaborators it needs everywhere, if there will be no prospects of some kind for material stability and security for those whose services it enlists. Family duties are bound to prevail over devotion to the Congress idea and sincere spirit of sacrifice. In conclusion of the preceding it is submitted:

(aa) that decent compensation be provided, as a matter of principle, for all officers of the Congress, including none;

)bb) that the salaries of the officers be readjusted, a monthly remuneration

of \$7⁰⁰ being a minimum if full time work is expected, in view of the "frais de representation" which the function entails.

(cc) that a pension system be introduced from this coming fiscal year forward, which (which, in the beginning may require substantial outlay) so as to guarantee some old-age security to the personnel of the Congress or the expectation of a decent support for those they will leave behind in case of death.

2. Executive and Administrative Committees.

Events have reduced the Executive and Administrative Committees to little more than a fiction.

Of the eleven original members of the Executive, elected in Geneva in 1936, only four are actually connected with the day by day Congress work: Dr. Wise, Dr. Goldmann, Dr. Kubowitzki, and Dr. Parlsweig, to whom should be added Mare Jarblum, active in Paris. One member has been induced to resign: Saly Mayer. One is in USSR: Dr. Hursek. The others are: Robert Bollack, I. Jefroykin, Louis Lipsky, and I. Waiditch. The prestige of the Executive has suffered greatly from the cooption of a considerable number of people who never attend our meetings. The Office Committee members excepted, Mrs. Vixman and Louis Segal were the only members of the Executive to participate in the July 2nd meeting on San Francisco.

As to the Administrative Committee, it has been drained by the appointment of a number of its members to the Executive Committee, including Rabbi Alcalay, Leon Gelman, Dr. Margoshes, Louis Segal, Dr. Tenenbaum. The same distinction has been bestowed upon two members of the Finance Committee elected in Geneva, Messrs. Leichtman and Sturs. Prof. J. Michael and Dr. S. Sokal were the only members of the Administrative Committee to be present at the July 2nd meeting.

Our so-called Administrative Committee meetings are in reality meetings of the European Advisory Council. If not for our representative committees, we would report to empty benches.

It is suggested:

(a) that until the second Congress makes order in our house, we have monthly joint meetings of the Executive and Administrative Committees, it being understood that if it comes to a vote for which the approval of the Executive is required, only the members of the Executive can vote;

(b) that larger meetings, to which members of the European Committees will be invited, take place from time to time for the purpose of keeping them informed;

(c) that a Committee start working on a list of appropriate candidates for the Executive and Administrative Committees, to be submitted to the second Congress.

3. Methods of distribution of Congress activities.

Ever since our headquarters were moved to New York there has been a controversy within the Executive on the methods of the distribution of our activities. There have been advocates of the regional approach, others of the subject matter approach. These differences of opinion have been complicated by the new kind of relationship which has been established first between the WJC and the American Jewish Conference, and later between the WJC, the Conference, and the Board of Deputies of British Jews.

This new sort of relationship is bound to multiply, if I am right in thinking that the WJC cannot in coming years become the Jewish representation for all diaspora affairs merely by way of affiliation and will have to go the way of bilateral and multilateral agreements with the Jewish Agency, the Agudah, the JDC, ORT, OSE, etc., until it will develop a union sui generis of all types of organizations which are important in Jewish life.

Our machinery will have to adapt itself to the manifold aspects and stages of our evolution.

a. The subject-matter approach has materialized in the creation of departments.

Four such departments exist in a more or less definite form. They are:

1. Culture and Education (Dr. Felschusch), 2. Legal and Political (Dr. Perlman), 3. Organization (Mr. Zuckerman), 4. Relief and Rehabilitation (Dr. Tartanower), to which should be added 5. The Institute of Jewish Affairs (Dr. Robinson).

Two departments exist in an embryonic form. They are

6. the department of finances, which is directed by for the control of expenditures by a Finance Committee (Dr. Kubowitzki, Rabbi Miller, Dr. Tartanower), while Mr. Zuckerman worries about the campaigns; and

7. the Department of Information, with which are affiliated a number of collaborators, working in an uncoordinated way (Mrs. Avis Shulman, Mr. A. Alperin, Dr. Max Beer, Mr. F. Singer, Mr. Wm. Zuckerman).

We need a treasurer, who should be the manager of our finances -both the incoming and outgoing, who should mobilize the resources we need for our work and prevent us from becoming involved in the distressing difficulties which now make our lives miserable. This is a full time job.

We need a head for the Department of Information who should give the Congress the agency for honest enlightenment which is essential to our activities, and break the spell which has been thrown upon us and does not permit the knowledge of our work and our thought to reach the Jewish and non-Jewish public.

In addition, we should envisage the creation of

8. a Department of Community Inter-Relations, which should study the possibility of applying to other countries the methods of fighting anti-Semitism now introduced by the CCI in the United States;

9. a Youth Department.

b. It is suggested that the regional approach should materialize in the creation of joint desks of the WJC and the Institute of Jewish Affairs.

The World Jewish Congress has at present regional desks for: Austria (Dr. Karbach). Czechoslovakia (Prof. Parutz), Germany (Dr. Jacoby), and Poland (Dr. Poliakowicz).

The Institute has desks for Hungary (Rabbi Fiscow) and Rumania (Mrs. Schaeffer).

It is proposed that desks be added for Bulgaria-Yugoslavia, and for France-Belgium-Netherlands-Luxembourg.

All desks would be placed under the joint management of the World Jewish Congress and the Institute, which would share equally in their expenses. Their services would be made available to the various needs of departments and the Advisory Council on European Jewish Affairs.

c. For the new interorganizational relationship no machinery has as yet been provided since in this respect we are still in a period of experimentation. However, there is no doubt that this relationship cannot succeed unless we give it our sincere and full collaboration and are determined to make the necessary sacrifices of time and prestige in order to exchange information, have regular meetings and agree on a distribution of activities.

4. European Advisory Council and Inter-American Jewish Council

a. Advisory Council on European Jewish Affairs:

1. There is general agreement that the time has not come to dissolve the former European Representative Committees. Some of them may prove invaluable instruments for the winning over of their communities abroad for the Congress idea, many of them discharge important duties as channels of information on and contact with their former constituencies, as agencies of relief for their people on the other side, as pressure groups capable of influencing by their standing in the US the policy of their governments in Jewish

matters. They remain excellent mediums for fundraising purposes.

It is therefore assumed that the European committees and the Advisory Council will continue to exist. There should be a change of name. They should be called: Advisory Council on European Jewish Affairs of the World Jewish Congress, Austrian Committee (or Belgian Committee, etc.).

2. However, if it is admitted that the Council and the European Committees are an asset for the Congress, it should be realized that a very serious effort is necessary to maintain them and retain them.

Since the department for European Affairs has been abolished, they feel neglected. Their uneasiness has increased after the liberation of their communities, which has placed them transitorily in an ambiguous situation while multiplying their problems and worries.

There should be a man to help them unburden themselves, and it should be the chairman of the Coordinating Committee of the Advisory Council. However, it is not easy to fill this post. The function requires a perfect knowledge of the Congress' policy and activities, and can be fully discharged only by somebody who attends the meetings of the Office Committee and receives the material destined for its members. Even so, he would need the help of an assistant who would be in charge of those problems, which are common to the various committees. Here the "desk" would be of particular value.

As a temporary solution, the Secretary General might assume the chairmanship of the Coordinating Committee and try to perform its duties with the aid of a special assistant. However, experience will have to prove whether this arrangement can be more than a solution of expediency.

Some information on the scope of the activities of certain European Committees will be found under Appendix 1. It should be added here that the reasons which may have militated in the past for the existence of a special Polish Department unfortunately no longer exist.

The question of the relations between our European Committees and the Landsmanshaften will have to be taken up at a later date.

b. Inter-American Jewish Council:

This is a body which has to be resuscitated.

The increased importance of our Latin-American communities since the fateful reduction of European Jewry need not be stressed. It is generally agreed that we cannot continue to consider them merely as a source of income for our political and relief activities.

We must assist them in the organization of their communal and economic life, in the building of their institutions for Jewish education and culture, in preventing the dangers of anti-Semitism in winning their public opinion for the understanding of our problems.

Leaders from Latin-American countries are so frequently in the United States that it should not be difficult to have meetings of the Inter-American Jewish Council three or four times a year, and to have regularly a direct exchange of views on matters of common interest.

III. Secretariat General

It is assumed that the tasks of the Secretary General are the following:

1. To follow up the execution of the policy laid down and decisions taken by the competent bodies of the Congress;
2. To coordinate the activities of the various departments, agencies, offices, and sections of the Congress;
3. To attend to the interorganizational relations of the Congress;
4. To take charge of such tasks as do not fall within the competence of an existing department. Many of these duties presuppose a constant personal awareness of the situation in the various constituencies and may require not infrequent although short visits to our most important offices.
5. To report periodically to the competent bodies of the Congress on the overall activities of the Congress and to keep informed of these overall activities.

These tasks cannot be discharged without the help of at least two assist-

ants and a research fellow.

IV. Administrative Secretariat

The Administrative Secretary is in charge of the technical execution of the World Jewish Congress work.

In connection with the administrative secretariat, two problems should be considered:

1. Filing Office.

The filing office of the WJC is in an embryonic state. Two secretaries, assisted by one clerk, squeezed into an inadequate room, are overwhelmed with the burden of their current assignments. While the American Jewish Congress and the Institute have long since realized the essential importance of methodical and up to date classification, this service has always been the stepchild of the WJC. The fact that our filing personnel is not always in a position, inspite of real ability and unlimited devotion, to provide the inquirer immediately upon request with the complete and organized documentation wanted on a specific subject, imposes additional work and research on those who cannot rely on their memory.

It is suggested that the filing office be given the personnel it needs and the space it needs.

2. Premises

We have been lacking space from the very moment of our occupation of the present premises. All our rooms are crowded, and this results in a loss of energy, working hours, and prestige for the Congress.

We have no writing room; no guest room in which our numerous visitors from abroad could attend to the social business which brought them to the States; there is a single rest room for the 250 people staff of the three organizations! But even apart from these "luxuries, we are several rooms short.

It is suggested that a flat to accommodate some ten additional rooms be

rented at once. The Department of Relief and Rehabilitation should be the first to move there.

3. Visa Matters, Priorities, etc.

It is proposed that this service, which has no connection with relief, should be attached to the Administrative Secretariat (see under Relief and Rehabilitation).

V. Culture and Education

The scope of the activities of this department as envisaged by Resolution III on Relief and Rehabilitation adopted by the Atlantic City Conference, and Dr. Federbusch's 7 Points Outline of March 1945, is extremely wide and ambitious.

Even if our immediate program be limited to one or two of the items suggested, this means one of the most arduous undertakings upon which we have ever embarked.

The head of the department should be given a decent budget, an assistant and a technical collaborator for the collecting and dispatching of books.

The work of the Committee for the Recovery and Conservation of Jewish Cultural Property, which is under his jurisdiction, will require the appointment of a competent special delegate to be sent to western Europe and other accessible countries.

VI. Information

Here again is an embryonic department. Many good collaborators are affiliated with it, but their work is uncoordinated, and nobody has been designated to advise them on the Congress policy and on what is new to our minds. Some act under the erroneous impression that the department is exclusively a Congress publicity outfit and that we are merely interested in releases which give us some kind of credit.

It is assumed that the department of Information has the following tasks:

- a- Information on the activities of the Congress and on events we consider important to be known;
- b- Dissemination of the Congress ideas and the policy advocated by the Congress;
- c- Presentation of fundamental Jewish problems to the Jewish and non-Jewish public;
- d- Publication of White Papers on Congress achievements in greater fields of activity;
- e- Publication of the records of Congress Conferences.

For the direction and coordination of so manifold activities, the appointment of a department head, well versed in the knowledge of Jewish affairs and in public relations techniques, is essential.

The Department should have the following divisions:

1. Yiddish press, Jewish News Agencies and Jewish radio in the U.S.
(A. Alperin)

This division works satisfactorily and would improve if it received regular directions. A program of enlarged activities is under consideration. The same division could be in charge of the Anglo-Jewish press, with the assistance of a good translator.

2. Non-Jewish press and Radio in the U.S.

This division has worked satisfactorily on the occasion of the Atlantic City Conference; but it has not succeeded in getting through the WJC ideas and activities in normal times.

3. Jewish press abroad (Fr. Zukerman)

The Jewish World News Service is unquestionably a very promising initiative. However, here another extreme may be observed. Information is too often given for the mere sake of information. There is too little news connected with the political thinking of the Congress. This situation can be remedied by steady contacts and exchange of views.

4. Bulletin and Jewish Comment

I don't think that Dr. Seer's Bulletin was intended to replace the "Jewish Comment." The disappearance of the latter has been a great loss. It gave an excellent presentation of our fundamental problems and was a source of reliable information on our views to Jews and non-Jews alike. Its publication should be resumed.

5. Yiddish periodical

Although the "Congress Weekly" is no mouthpiece of the World Jewish Congress, it discharges in certain respects the duties of such an organ as far as the English reading Jewish public in the United States is concerned. We need, in addition, a Yiddish periodical for the Yiddish reading public in the States, Canada, the Latin American countries, and Europe. It would do us excellent service in Palestine as well.

6. Popular pamphlets on fundamental Jewish problems for the Jewish public.

The program discussed in June 1944 concerns itself with a great number of problems that have a rather indirect relation to our activities. As is known, the first four monographs will deal with these subjects:

Soviet Jewry between two wars - Jacob Robinson

Jewish Migrations - Ben Halpern

Nazi Self-Indictment - Alfred Warner

The American Jewish Community between two wars - Judah Pilch.

It is suggested that at least half of the pamphlets to be issued should have the character of the one containing Dr. Goldmann's address in Atlantic City, and the one Dr. Robinson now prepares on the San Francisco Charter. Some brochures should also deal with those Congress activities during the war which can now be told.

7. Popular pamphlets on Jewish affairs for non-Jews.

The non-Jewish world is not informed of the magnitude of the Jewish tragedy, nor does it know the story of Jewish heroism, etc.

White Papers, Minutes of Atlantic City Conference, etc.

VII. Institute of Jewish Affairs

I think here I should yield to Dr. Robinson, who wrote to me on July 8th on the Institute's future. For our present examination, the essential thing to retain is that the Institute is to continue at least for another fiscal year. The text of Dr. Robinson's memorandum follows:

1. The Institute of Jewish Affairs was not created as a permanent institution. In the concept both of its author and of the World Jewish Congress, it had limited terms of reference: to prepare the plans for a postwar Jewish settlement on the basis of the experience of the Long Armistice and of the factual situation of the Jewish people in the world at the end of hostilities. In view of the tragic dynamics of the Jewish situation during the war, the keeping of records, their analysis and synthetic description was added to the original objective of the Institute of Jewish Affairs.
2. A survey of its publications and unpublished memoranda reveals that not a single problem of the Jewish present and future remained unscrutinized. To finish our assignment, the following four studies are to be completed:
 - (a) The Consequences of the War for the Jews in the War-Stricken Areas (due in September).
 - (b) The Crime Against the Jewish People (A detailed report on all the successive stages of the process of destruction).
 - (c) Restoration of Jewish Rights (analysis and texts).
 - (d) Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms in the Charter of the United Nations.

Studies b - d are due by the end of 1945 and not later than the Spring of 1946.

Some memoranda on minor problems and supplements of existing studies (Relief and Rehabilitation, Indemnification and Reparations, Jewish Refugees) are envisaged.

Allowing for unforeseen exigencies, the program of the Institute of Jewish Affairs will be completed not later than July 1, 1946.

3. During the course of this fiscal year (July 1, 1945 - June 30, 1946), which can be considered a transitory period in the life of the Institute, the question — whether or not the Institute should continue — should be solved. The reasoning mentioned above in Section 1 speaks in favor of discontinuing. Against discontinuing may be adduced the argument that the Jewish People needs a central body for information, documentation, research and analysis. For retaining the existing Institute of Jewish Affairs, three additional arguments may be advanced:

- (a) It has won itself a reputation which should not be lightly dropped.
 - (b) It has trained professional and other personnel.
 - (c) It has created a system of Jewish war and Post-War Archives which, while incomplete, represents a valuable embryo for a Jewish Historical Archives of the period of our greatest disaster.
4. Should the Institute continue, many changes in its structure, organization and personnel will have to be carried out, among which the following are cited exempli gratia:
- (a) Basic orientation on American Jewry (Continent) and especially the Jewry of the United States.
 - (b) Continuation of the Archives and publication of a special quarterly, REMEMBER, containing documents and articles of the catastrophes.
 - (c) Extension of the service of information and documentation to other parts of the world than Europe.
 - (d) Adding more Americans to the professional staff.
 - (e) A post-graduate full-time training course (3 years!) for persons desirous of devoting their life to the Jewish cause in the world or in the United States.
5. It is obvious that conditions of work, financial facilities and personnel will have to be adjusted to the new objectives. The American Jewish Congress and the World Jewish Congress will have to take the decision with regard to this reconstruction.

VIII. Legal and Political Department

The tasks of this department can be divided as follows:

1. Overall legal and political problems of an international character, including those connected with the peace settlement and the work of the United Nations organization (War Crimes, Indemnification and Reparations, Protection of Minorities, International Bill of Rights, Economic and Social Council, Outlawing of Anti-Semitism).
2. Legal and political questions in countries where the Jewish communities are either not strong enough to stand on their own feet, or request our intervention (liberated countries, Morocco, Near Eastern regions).

The scope of these activities is so immense that, despite the Institute's invaluable contribution toward discharging them, the department needs at least

two assistants, in addition to the Advisor on Latin American affairs (James W. Wise) who is taking care of the representations in Washington as far as the Latin American Governments are concerned.

One of the assistants must be able to take over temporarily the head's responsibilities, if and when it should be necessary for the latter to attend international conferences.

There appears to be no need any more for a special advisor on French affairs.

IX. Department of Organization

1. The tasks of this department may be summed up as follows:

a. To assist in the establishment in each country of an organized Jewish community on a democratic basis and affiliated with the WJC;

To establish, in all countries where such a body does not already exist, a representation on a democratic basis of the organized Jewish community;

To establish, where such a full representation is not possible a body on an organizational basis covering all those sympathetic to the work and ideals of the World Jewish Congress;

b. To maintain contact with the WJC affiliates all over the world;

c. To organize international and regional conferences of the WJC.

Appendix II will give an idea of the scope of problems which confront this department.

2. It is suggested that the head of the Organisation Department have three assistants: one in charge of the Western Hemisphere, one for the European countries (Great Britain and USSR excepted), and a third for the remaining countries.

3. The importance of assiduous mail contacts not only with our constituencies but also with the leading personalities in these constituencies cannot be over-emphasized. The confidential Monthly Letter which the Secretary General intends to address to our homes de confiance beginning October 1st, in order to inform

than of the Congress life, cannot replace a more personal exchange of ideas and information on local developments. This should be one of the tasks of the assistants to the organization department.

However, correspondence cannot substitute for personal contacts, especially in the liberated countries or in countries in which the Congress has neither affiliate nor office. There the organizational work will have to be done through emissaries, sent by and responsible to the New York headquarters.

4. The question of decentralization has lately taken much of our time. It raises an urgent issue in South America: Should the authority of the Congress Executive be delegated to our representative in South America for all matters concerning Latin American countries, and should we envisage a similar arrangement for western Europe?

The lesson of some recent troubles is that it is indispensable to have one central authority and only one. Regional offices should be given a certain autonomy, but under no circumstances should they give instructions in major matters to other offices nor should headquarters renounce the right of maintaining direct contacts with the WJC constituencies everywhere.

I. Department of Relief and Rehabilitation

The resolutions of the Atlantic City Conference have imposed on the Executive the "sacred duty" of strengthening the relief and rehabilitation activities. Although we have not made "every effort to secure from 'our' affiliated branches in all parts of the world the sum of ten million dollars for this work," our obligation to do the work cannot be questioned.

It is assumed that we will be guided in the choice of our relief work by three criteria: a) limitation and concentration because of limited means; b) not charity but reconstruction; c) no competition and duplication unless principles are involved.

It is also assumed that we will concentrate the maximum of our efforts on the child rescue program.

The department should have the following divisions:

1. Displaced Persons (Dr. I. Stein, to be also the Secretary of the Department).

Contacts with military authorities, intergovernmental and international agencies, Jewish displaced groups, chains, etc.

2. Location (Mr. Finkelstein).

This Division has so far collected over 135,000 names of displaced persons, which is probably the largest compilation of such material in the world.

It is suggested:

(a) that the contacts with the public in the US be taken over by the American Jewish Congress;

(b) that a subscription service be opened to those who would like the names of the relatives they are looking for to be checked on each of the lists received;

(c) that a series of volumes be published containing each some 25,000 names either of deported, or of located people. For instance, a volume containing the names of the 26,000 Jews deported from Belgium, with indication of places and dates of birth; four volumes containing the names of the 112,000 Jews deported from France; one or two volumes with the names of people found in German camps, etc. They would be a great contribution to Germany's indictment, and of lasting historical interest.

3a Division for Overseas Relief Supplies (Mr. Kurt R. Grossman)

This Division is acting as "Committee for Overseas Relief Supplies" registered with the War Relief Control Board.

It enjoys the cooperation of the Women's Division of the American Jewish Congress, which is collecting the clothes in the US, and of a special Health Committee which collects medicaments.

It also takes care of the transmission of individual parcels to certain countries.

3b Division for European Committees' Relief Activities (Mr. Kurt R. Grossman)

Several of our European Committees have raised in passed years substantial amounts of money for rescue work benefiting their former communities. They now can be mobilized for the rehabilitation of these communities. The Belgian Committee, for instance, has established a special relief organization, which has brought together some \$125,000 and has recently allocated some \$22,800 (1 million Belgian francs) for the children work of our friends in Belgium. Other committees should be induced to follow suit.

4. Child care Division (Miss Hilb)

The main purpose of this Division should be to finance Jewish children's homes, wherein the children who are at present placed with non-Jewish families or institutions should be regrouped and given an education, which should (a) eliminate the traces of complexes formed by years of persecution during which the children had to deny their origin; (b) make them useful members of the Jewish people and of the country wherein they live, due stress being laid on the place of Palestine in Jewish life and future; (c) direct them as much as possible toward manual and technical skills.

The fundraising device to be used should be the foster parents plan, every pledge to be requested in the form of a five or ten years contract, so that we may have some assurance that the commitments we will enter will be guaranteed for a number of years, and that our proteges will not find themselves suddenly in a dire plight because of our inability to raise the funds necessary for their support.

Foster parents (or rather god-parents) should not be given any false hope for future adoption or personal influence on the child's future.

Our ambition should be to find ten thousand foster parents, paying each \$300 per year, which would permit us to influence the future of some thirty to forty thousand children. We would support one fourth or one third of the budget of the homes we would subsidize, provided (a) an agreement is reached as to the program of education and (b) we are entitled to one or two delegates on the administrative board.

It is proposed that in addition to children's homes, we undertake, jointly with the Jewish Agency, a program of Bate Noar or homes for adolescents, offering living premises and some substitute for a family life to youngsters in their teens who lost their parents. They would not necessarily be hachshara homes, but in many cases they would be an excellent preparation for hachshara life. Our share in the financing of these homes would come out of the relief money received from Latin American countries.

5. Division for Economic Rehabilitation

To be discussed after receipt of Lt. Ustinov's report.

6. Courses on Jewish Social Work (Mrs. Varchaver)

The first experiment in these courses can be considered a success: 54 certificates were issued after candidates passed their final examination. The expenses were about \$4,200. It is suggested that these courses be continued. However, the lectures should not be limited to topics of social work; they would include Jewish political and cultural problems and Congress ideology. It is of great importance that the thousands of "civil servants" employed in Jewish institutions be educated to think of Jewish affairs in a Congress minded manner and to understand and support our approach.

It is also suggested that the sending of social workers to Europe become a definite part of our rehabilitation program.

The other services of the Department should either be transferred or liquidated.

a. Immigration matters: If the American Jewish Congress is not willing to take over this service, it should be liquidated. For the cases in which we feel bound to intervene, Mrs. Fuchs should take care of them in cooperation with Mr. Spiegel.

b. Visa matters, priorities, etc.: This service has no connection with the Department of Relief and Rehabilitation and should be attached to the administrat-

live secretariat. An agreement should be concluded with either Dr. Locker or a travel agency to take care of such matters.

c. Relief for foreign refugee groups (Tangiers, Mauritius, Tanganyika)

Mrs. Varchaver should take over this service for the purpose of liquidating it.

d. Registration of Jewish communal property: The material should be turned over to the Institute for the use of the Legal and Political Department. The e.i. Joint Committee on Immigration to Latin America should be dissolved.

e. The Advisory Council on Relief and Rehabilitation should be given up.

However, the sub-committee on health should continue to assist the Division for Overseas Relief Supplies. The sub-committee for child care should dissolve after a few of its members have been appointed members of the Child Care Consultative Committee, to be created shortly.

II. Finances

1. We have no treasurer; checks are being signed by such two members of the Office Committee as happen to be available; a Finance Committee passes on the expenses in two half hour meetings a week. This is the fantastic situation. It is a miracle that there has been as yet no financial breakdown of the Congress.

Our treasurer should be the manager of our finances. He should plan ahead our campaigns in various countries and look out for squalls. His pharmaceutical should not amount to a single panacea; the cutting down of expenses as the only remedy for our financial difficulties.

He cannot be a layman. And should a layman be necessary for questions of prestige -which is doubtful- he should have a first class assistant as financial manager. There should be a clear distinction between finance management and book keeping.

2. As reported at the Office Committee meeting of June 29th, it is fortunately not true that relief and rescue monies have been used for administrative expenditures. The contrary is the case. During the period from October 1, 1944

until May 31, 1945, we spent \$67,045.96 more for relief and rescue than we collected, and \$36,683.03 less for political and administrative expenses that we received for those purposes.

3. The Congress budget should be a global budget. The statement of the receipts and disbursements for the fiscal year ending September 1945 should be released. It should include the receipts and disbursements of the American Jewish Congress, the British, Swedish, French Sections, etc.

4. Campaigns should not be limited to the Eastern Hemisphere. England has made a good start; but there are also Sweden and Switzerland. There are some very wealthy Jews in the liberated countries. There is North Africa, there is Australia. The Finance Department must have a staff of travelling fundraisers.

5. In this connection a decision should be reached concerning fundraising in these United States.

There is no doubt that the maximum which the American Jewish Congress can get from the welfare funds is parity with the other so-called defense agencies. The World Jewish Congress and Institute items do not increase the chances of the AJC in this respect, as the three commissions on Community Inter-Relations, to Combat Discrimination, and on Law and Legislation are a sufficient justification of its claim for parity with the American Jewish Committee and the B'nai B'rith.

It is the impression of some of our friends that if the WJC would apply separately to the welfare funds through an American agency of "Friends of the World Jewish Congress," it may well attain a status which would be intermediary between that of the overseas relief agencies and the American defense agencies.

Besides, the appeal of the WJC is so strong that in many communities a limited number of people could raise amounts infinitely higher than those requested from the welfare funds.

It is suggested:

a. In those communities where the American Jewish Congress considers it to be in its interest to apply to the welfare funds because it expects a substantial allocation, it should do so. However, a separate application should be filed for the Institute of Jewish Affairs, and the WJC items should not be mentioned.

b. The WJC should be given the possibility to apply for allocation to a number of other welfare funds, so as to be able to fight for a status higher than that of the defense agencies.

c. The WJC should also be given the opportunity of making a drive in a number of communities which are not on the fundraising program of the American Jewish Congress for the next fiscal year. It should be a drive for the political activities of the WORLD JEWISH CONGRESS, so that no registration be necessary.

7,10.1945-lw

1945

ORGANIZATIONAL REPORT

First World Jewish Congress August 8-15, 1936, Geneva, in Batiment Electoral, the hall where the Assemblies of the League of Nations took place before the new League of Nations Building was erected.

Three pre-Conferences:

- 1) September 4-9, 1932 in Geneva with 120 delegates
- 2) 1933 - Geneva
- 3) 1934 - Geneva

These pre-Conferences resulted in the unanimously adopted resolution to call a World Jewish Congress democratically elected. Until the convocation of this first Congress, the Executive Committee of the World Jewish Congress was in charge of the activities and preparation of the first Congress. The members of the Executive Committee for the World Jewish Congress and of the Executive of the Committee of Jewish delegations were the following: Dr. Stephen S. Wise, Dr. Nahum Goldmann, Mr. Robert Bollack, Rabbi S. Brod, LCC M. H. Davis, Israel Jefroykin, Dr. J. Hellmann, Mr. J. Leatschinsky, Mr. Isaac Naiditch, Dr. M. Nureck, Mr. A. Reiss, Dr. Henryk Rosmarin, Rabbi I. Rubinstein, Dr. A. Silberschein, Dr. A. Tartakower.

In May 1932, Dr. Goldmann returning from the U. S., upon the request of Dr. Wise (American Jewish Congress) and Bernard S. Deutsch (President of the American Jewish Congress at that time) called for the first Conference; he was assisted by Mrs. Kate Knopfmacher.

Committee of Jewish Delegations headed by Leo Motzkin, one of the components of the World Jewish Congress. Headquarters from September 1932 until April 1933 were in Berlin, but after Hitler's rise to power they were transferred to Geneva. After the death of Leo Motzkin in November 1933, Dr. Goldmann was elected Chairman of the Committee of Jewish delegations, and in January 1934 the office of the Committee of Jewish delegations was declared headquarters of the Executive Committee of the World Jewish Congress. La siege sociale (legal seat) remained in Geneva.

The London branch was established in _____ under Dr. Maurice L. Perlzweig and in the U. S. the American Jewish Congress acted as branch of the World Jewish Congress.

In the first World Jewish Congress August 1936 _____ delegates took part from 33 countries. (Algeria, Argentina, Austria, Belgium, Brazil, ~~Rumania, Rumania, Rumania~~ Bulgaria, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Czechoslovakia, Danzig, Egypt, England, Estonia, Finland, France, French Protectorates and Colonies, Greece, Italy, Jugoslavia, Latvia, Libya, Lithuania, Morocco, Palestine, Peru, Poland, Portugal, Rumania, Spain, Switzerland, Tunisia, United States). The names of the delegates to the first World Jewish Congress are listed attached. After eight days of deliberation, the first World Jewish Congress elected an Executive Committee, an Administrative Committee and a Council of the World Jewish Congress. Dr. Stephen S. Wise was elected Chairman of the Executive Committee. Members of the Executive Committee: Robert Bollack, Marc Jarblum,

Israel Jeffroykin, Dr. A. L. Kubowitzki, Isaac Naiditch, Dr. M. Hurcock, Rev. M. L. Perlzweig. As the headquarters of the World Jewish Congress were to be in Paris, the members of the Executive Committee were chosen according to their residence in the vicinity of Paris. The following were elected as Administrative Committees at the Congress: Rabbi I. Alcalay, Dr. H. Baron, Ben Zvi, Rabbi Meier Berlin, M. Bialopolski, Dr. A. Blum, Rabbi S. Brod, Moria Carp, Dr. Mayer Ehner, Rabbi M. Eisendrath, Isidore Epstein, Dr. Joseph Fischer, Dr. A. Garfunkel, Leon Gellman, Abraham Goldberg, Dr. Angelo Goldstein, Dr. E. Gottlieb, I. Grunbaum, Dr. I. Hellmann, Dr. R. Hovscha, Dr. M. Kleinbaum, Dr. M. Kramer, M. Kirschenbaum, Dr. S. Z. Kahane, Prof. Horace M. Kallen, W. Latzky-Bertoldi, Jacob Lestschinsky, Berl Locker, Dr. S. Margoshes, Prof. Jerome Michael, Dr. B. Mossinson, Nathan Perlman, E. N. Prylucki, Ing. A. Reiss, Dr. H. Rosmarin, Rabbi I. Rubinstein, Dr. I. Schipper, Dr. I. Schwarzbart, Dr. A. Silberschein, Max Silverstein, Joseph Sprinzak, Louis Segal, Rabbi Jarry J. Stern, I. L. Szozeransky, Rafael Szereszewski, M. Szczupakiewicz, Dr. E. Sokal, Dr. Emil Sommerstein, Ing. R. Stricker, Dr. A. Tartakower, Dr. J. Tenenbaum, M. Ussishkin, David Wertheim, Dr. Grigory Wolff. For representatives of the Union of Jewish communities of Italy and Switzerland, one place each was reserved as well as two seats for representatives of South American countries.

List of the members of the Council attached.

It was decided that the members of the Executive Committee shall have a seat in the Administrative Committee; the members of the Administrative Committee shall have seat and vote in the Council. The members of the three bodies have the right to appoint proxies. All three bodies have the right of cooption.

There A Finance Committee was also elected at the first World Jewish Congress, for whose cooperation the Executive Committee had the right to ask. Under the chairmanship of Mr. Louis Sturz, the members of the Finance Committee were: J. Leichtman, New York, M. H. Davis, LCC, London and Henri de Toledo, Geneva.

Dr. Goldmann, chairman of the Administrative Committee of the World Jewish Congress, was the head of the World Jewish Congress in Europe, dividing his time ~~xxx~~ between the office in Paris and Geneva.

League of Nations Assemblies, Council of the League of Nations in Geneva.

In the course of the next few years, a number of remaining countries were affiliated with the WJC - Holland under the chairmanship of Professor David Cohen; Luxembourg, through the Luxembourg Jewish community, under the chairmanship of Rabbi Dr. R. Serebrenik. In 1939 all European countries were affiliated with the WJC with the exception of Sweden, Denmark, Norway, Russia, Turkey. Five

countries, namely, Italy, Yugoslavia, Bulgaria, Finland and Switzerland, were affiliated with the WJC through the Union of Jewish communities of the respective countries, which applied full membership to all adult Jews of the countries in question. In Czechoslovakia, the Jewish Party which represented 3/4 of Czech Jewry represented the Congress and Palestine was affiliated through the Vaad Leumi. In all other countries, committees for the World Jewish Congress were established. In most of the countries the delegates to the Congress were elected through democratic elections. In all the other countries, the elections were held as democratically as possible.

The Geneva office was active in all work connected with the League of Nations. Petitions, memoranda, contact with the Secretariat of the League of Nations and at the sessions with the delegates and the foreign ministers. Juridical Counselor - Geneva office - Prof. Paul Guggenheim.

The ~~xxxx~~ Paris office had the Organizational Department (1937-8 Mr. Baruch Zuckerman); the Economic Department under Prof. Georg Bernhard; the Political Department, Dr. N. Goldmann and M. Marc Jarblum; Research work and Archives of the World Jewish Congress, Dr. Ernst Knopfmacher; Publications - Yiddish Department - Tsherkower. Executive Secretary of the Paris office - Mrs. Knopfmacher.

In England under the chairmanship of Dr. M.L. Perlzweig, the British Section of the World Jewish Congress was established with Professor Brodetsky and Philip Guedala as Vice-Presidents; Lady Reading

In September 1939, at the outbreak of the war, the headquarters of the World Jewish Congress were transferred to Switzerland as a neutral country. Dr. Goldmann was partly in Geneva and partly in Paris. Dr. Goldmann, after having visited the U. S., together with Dr. Perlzweig in February and March 1940, and during this time Dr. Goldmann also visited Argentina and various other South American countries, returned to Geneva with the idea of the possibility of transferring the World Jewish Congress to the Western Hemisphere. The Geneva office became, during the first year of the war, more and more an office for the help of the war-stricken Jewish population of Europe. The political activities of the World Jewish Congress were concentrated more and more in the Paris office and in the British Section in London.

After the fall of France, it became clear that the headquarters of the World Jewish Congress had to be transferred to New York. Dr. Goldmann came to the U. S. in July 1940 and called Dr. Perlzweig from London to New York, where Dr. Tartakower had already arrived a few months before. The headquarters of the WJC were established in the offices of the American Jewish Congress, the branch of the World Jewish Congress for the United States. A few months later,

Dr. Leon Kubowitzki, Dr. Jacob Robinson, Rabbi Irving Miller and Mr. Baruch Zuckerman joined the offices of the WJC. Dr. Tartakower, Mr. Zuckerman and Rabbi Miller were coopted members of the Executive. Other coopted members of the Executive Committee were:

Officers of the World Jewish Congress are the following: Dr. Stephen S. Wise, Chairman of the Executive Committee; Dr. Nahum Goldmann, Chairman of the Administrative Committee; Mr. Louis Lipsky, Chairman of the Council; Rabbi Irving Miller, Executive Secretary; Dr. M. L. Perlzweig, Head of the Political Department; Dr. A. Leon Kubowitzki, Head of the Rescue Department; Dr. Arish Tartakower, Head of the Department of Relief and Rehabilitation; Mr. Baruch Zuckerman, Head of the Organization Department and Inter-American Jewish Council; Dr. Jacob Robinson, Head of the Institute of the American and World Jewish Congress; Mrs. Kate Knopfmacher, Administrative Secretary.

Relations with Latin America - at the end of 1939, the Executive of the WJC in Paris delegated Dr. Jacob Hellman to Argentina, where he established an office for the World Jewish Congress in South America in January 1940. Mrs. Knopfmacher, after leaving Switzerland in August 1940 and after touring South and Central America, was asked to establish an office of the WJC in Mexico for the Central American countries in March 1941. Due to the activities of both these representatives in Argentina and Mexico, the contacts with the already affiliated communities of Latin America were strengthened and new affiliations came into being, so that at present all countries of the Western Hemisphere are affiliated with the WJC with the exception of Paraguay. Dr. Hellman is still the Head of the Buenos Aires office, whereas Mrs. Knopfmacher in January 1944 proceeded from Mexico to New York to take over her duties in the central office. The new Director of the Central American office is Mr. Meises Glikowski. The offices of the WJC and the various committees of the WJC in the respective Latin American countries are working in the organizational field, in contact with Jewish and non-Jewish organizations, contacts with various governments and outstanding leaders of these countries in combatting anti-semitism, bringing pressure of public opinion on Jewish problems, dealing with immigration questions, etc.

Baltimore Conference - The WJC in 1936 decided to convoke a Congress every two or three years. However, as the period before the outbreak of the war was so troubled politically, it was not possible to hold democratic elections in the Jewish communities. Therefore, the Congress was postponed and it was not possible to convoke it. Consequently - the Baltimore Conference in November 1941 - the Inter-American Jewish Council and this War Emergency Conference.

Archives - in Paris the best documentation of Jewish problems especially as far as Nazism was concerned. The Foreign Office in London and the Quai D'Orsay in Paris very often consulted our archives. Scholars and Jewish and non-Jewish organizations. 167 publications were read in the Paris office each day, of which 40 were daily papers, weeklies, monthlies, etc. Of political, economic and cultural character. In all languages. A library of about 2000 books especially from and on Nazi Germany.

Boycott Committee.

Dr. Max Beer, editor of Bulletin du Congrès Juif Mondial (in French), Geneva 1938 and 1939.

Geneva office was joined in 1939 by Dr. Adolf Silberschein for Relief and Rescue. Dr. A. Silberschein and Dr. Gerhard Riegner were in charge of the Geneva office from August 1940. They were joined in by Marc Jarblum, who escaped from France to Switzerland and who returned to France at the end of September 1944.

Office in Lisbon - under Mr. Isaac Weissman.

Office in Stockholm with the Nordic Section under chairmanship of Dr. Marcus Ehrenpreis. Dr. Ehrenpreis was co-opted member of the Executive in August 1944.

Establishment of Jewish Representative Committee, Advisory Council under the chairmanship of Dr. Leon Kubowitzki

Names of assistants to various departments.

Office Committee meetings twice a week.

Clerical staff - languages, translations, journalists.

Press Departments - Ben Halpern and A. Alperin. Jewish Comment.

Personal Inquiry Department (Mr. Finkelstein and Miss Eilb)

Relationship with the American Jewish Conference.

Before the flight from Paris, the archives of the WJC - all address lists, filing cards and correspondence, were destroyed. The most important documents were sent in 8 large boxes to Bordeaux to be sent to the American Jewish Congress, but unfortunately, communications in war-torn France were so bad, that these boxes came to Bordeaux too late to be shipped and had to be destroyed.

The archives in Geneva, which were partly duplications of the archives in Paris, were hidden from place to place during June and July 1940, since the Germans were only a few kilometers away from Geneva. At that time, our people were very much afraid that from

one moment to the other, the Germans might break the Swiss neutrality, and as a matter of precaution, the Archives were finally burned. At the time of the invasion of Holland and Belgium, the most important address lists and folders were sent from Geneva to the American Jewish Congress in New York. All important memoranda, proceedings, minutes of meetings, etc. were usually sent from Paris to the American Jewish Congress, so that now at least part of the documentation of invaluable importance has been saved ~~and~~ in the Archives of the American Jewish Congress.

AMERICAN JEWISH ARCHIVES



CONFIDENTIAL

REPORT ON THE ACTIVITIES OF THE
WORLD JEWISH CONGRESS IN MARCH 1945.

1.

RETURN TO
DEPARTMENT.

SAN FRANCISCO CONFERENCE.

Dr. Robinson and Rabbi Perlzweig had a number of conversations with experts and members of the State Department concerning the Agenda for the San Francisco Conference. Leaving aside the question of mandates and Palestine which is being dealt with by the Jewish Agency, the general Jewish interest of the San Francisco Conference is based on the fact that the general principles of the new International Security Organization will be decided upon and that the question of taking over all the treaties based on the old League of Nations will also be discussed. *decided*
(especially the function of the League provided for in numerous treaties)

a) What we as Jews are interested in is to see that the protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms will be part of the program of the new International Security Organization and will be guaranteed by it.

b) We are interested in seeing that the new organization will take over the minority treaties from the old League of Nations until such time as new arrangements will be made for the protection of minorities.

c) We want the new organization to take over the protection of the stateless persons of whom several hundred thousand may be Jews in Europe after this war.

We submitted to the State Department several memoranda with very concrete proposals concerning all these matters and presented these same memoranda to the other co-sponsors of the San Francisco Conference, Great Britain, Russia and China. We informed our constituent bodies about our demands and asked them to get in touch with their respective governments in order to win their support.

We are closely cooperating in these matters with the American Jewish Conference which supports the same demands. We will send to San Francisco a delegation composed of our representatives, representatives of the American Jewish Conference and the Board of Deputies of British Jews to act jointly. The details for this delegation will be discussed at a meeting with the American Jewish Conference and representatives of the Board of Deputies. We invited a representative of the British Section of the World Jewish Congress to participate in these discussions which will take place in New York.

We are preparing in book form for the governmental delegates at San Francisco an extensive report on the Jewish situation as it exists today. In addition, a joint memorandum together with the American Jewish Conference and the Board of Deputies will probably be submitted based on the resolutions which were adopted at the Atlantic City Conference.

to the Intergovernmental Committee for Refugees as a specialized agency (then and still some serious Jewish status)
RESCUE PROBLEMS.

We are in permanent contact with the War Refugee Board concerning the problem of rescue. There may be chances for getting larger

numbers of Jews released by the German authorities. It is known that the representative of the International Red Cross, Professor Burckhardt, is now in Germany discussing this problem with the German authorities. The result of his mission is not yet known. Even if he should obtain the release of larger numbers of Jews, there is the very difficult problem of transportation which has to be solved. The German transportation system has broken down and trucks will have to be found which will have to be sent into Germany to take care of these people and bring them out. Despite the difficulties which exist and are very great, there is some reasonable hope that it may be possible to get certain categories of Jews away from German domination. Dr. Kubowitzki, who was in Geneva, dealt with these matters on the spot. Our permanent representatives in Geneva are continuing very actively to deal with this problem.

A very important part of this activity concerns the sending of food parcels to Jews in concentration camps. As is known, our Swedish Section has been especially active in this direction. Months ago they received a license enabling them to send a large number of food parcels to Bergen Belsen and other camps. Jews who arrived in this country recently from Bergen Belsen, on the basis of exchange arrangements, reported that the internees in Bergen Belsen lived during the last few months primarily on the parcels which they received from Stockholm. It seems that parcels sent from other countries did not arrive.

Two weeks ago Mr. Ben Rubinstein and Mr. Salzmanowitz flew from London to Stockholm. There, together with our permanent representative Dr. Storch, they received a new license and obtained also from the International Red Cross the release of a large number of parcels.

The expenditure for the first license amounting to nearly \$100,000. was covered by the funds of a special rescue campaign which we organized in various countries. However, large amounts of money are still needed to carry out the new program of sending further parcels.

We are also constantly in contact with other American governmental agencies on questions of exchange and similar problems connected with rescue.

3.

RETURN TO
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TREATMENT OF GERMAN AND AUSTRIAN JEWS IN WESTERN EUROPEAN COUNTRIES.

We had to deal with this matter in the light of reports we received stating that in some of the Western European countries German and Austrian Jews are treated as enemy aliens and are restricted in their movements, sometimes even confined to camps. We have been in contact here with the Intergovernmental Committee on Refugees, the State Department and UNRRA. We hope that the situation will now improve. What we want to achieve is that Jews of former German and Austrian nationality be regarded as United Nations nationals ~~if not formally then from the point of view of their actual authenticity.~~

4.

UNRRA.

The contact with the various departments of Unrra is being maintained especially by Dr. Tartakower. He had conferences with the leaders of the missions which Unrra is going to send to Poland and Czechoslovakia, and who will open the way for Unrra's work in these countries.

We have organized in cooperation with the New School for Social Research a course, which will last for three months, for Jewish volunteers who are ready to go to Europe to do social work there. Outstanding scholars and social workers are participating in the lectures and the number of students is about ~~300~~ 80.

Dr. Tartakower also had a talk with the new American representative of the Intergovernmental Committee for Refugees, Mr. Harrison, before he left for London to resume his duties there. We submitted to him our suggestions for increased activities of the Intergovernmental Committee and were reassured by him that he will support most of our suggestions.

5.

EXCHANGE RATE FOR RELIEF MONEY.

We took up the question of getting a better exchange rate for relief money to be sent to France. The existing rate of \$1. for Frs. 50. is prohibitive as the real value of the dollar is several times higher. We discussed the matter with the Treasury in Washington and will take it up with the French Government whose attitude will be decisive. It is a very difficult problem but it is of great importance as not only Jewish organizations but thousands of individuals, who would like to help their relatives and friends in France, are vitally interested in it.

6.

CULTURAL DEPARTMENT.

As you know we established such a department in the beginning of March under the direction of Dr. Federbusch. This Department worked out its program which we attach to this report. Through the establishment of the Cultural Department, which will have to be developed, a very important new activity has been added to our work. At the present time the Department is preparing a campaign for the collection of books, religious and other, and other literature for the Jewish communities of Europe.

7.

WAR CRIMES.

We have all the time continued to deal with this problem. After years of effort we have succeeded in the main task of getting the American and British Governments to accept a definition of war crimes which will cover the specific crimes committed against the Jews.

The Mexican Inter-American Conference adopted a unanimous resolution which is fully satisfactory from our point of view in its definition of war crimes. The American Government is now committed to this definition and we assume that the British Government agrees too. Our British Section is in permanent contact with the War Crimes Committee in order to supply them with specific material on crimes against Jews.

8.

ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS.

We opened an office of several rooms in Washington to concentrate and reorganize our work there.

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We are making preparations for a trip of Rabbi Perlzweig to Australia in the summer of this year and of Rabbi Miller to South Africa. The purpose of their trips will be to obtain the affiliation of both Jewries to the World Jewish Congress, and also to enable us to have these communities participate in our budget.

We are in contact with the Egyptian Jewish communities about a campaign there but no date has yet been set. Lady Reading and other friends from London may direct the campaign.

As for the Latin American countries we hope that Dr. Wise and Dr. Goldmann will be able to open the campaign in Argentine in August. Brazil is preparing a very large campaign for this year. The same applies to Mexico where a very big campaign for Jewish relief and rehabilitation and reconstruction work will be organized in April. A large part of these funds will go to the World Jewish Congress. Campaigns are also being prepared for the other Latin American countries.

We will have to begin negotiations soon with the Canadian Jewish Congress about the Canadian participation in our budget.

The Executive has decided in principle to prepare a big campaign in the United States. The form and date of this campaign have not yet been decided upon and are being discussed by the Executive Committee.

We are in close touch with our Rumanian Section which is very active. Among other activities they have organized a cooperation with the International Red Cross. A delegation will go to Hungary and Poland in order to investigate the situation of Rumanian Jews there who are interned in these countries, and arrange for their return to Rumania. To keep the Executive fully informed on the developments in Rumania, we organized a special Rumanian Department in our office.

Discussions are taking place in Paris between the C.R.I.F., which is the representative body of French Jewry, and the World Jewish Congress about the problem of its affiliation with the Congress. A final decision has not yet been reached in this matter. It is evident that the C.R.I.F. is ready to enter into a very close cooperation with the Congress even though a formal affiliation may not take place immediately. The whole matter is still under discussion between our representative in Paris, Mr. Jarblum, and the leaders of C.R.I.F.

9.

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SEGREGATION OF JEWISH WAR PRISONERS.

We received the news that Polish Jewish war prisoners are being segregated by the German authorities. We took the matter up with the American authorities and received assurances that they will do everything to prevent such segregation. We also asked the International Red Cross to intervene.

10.

JEWISH REPARATION AND INDEMNIFICATION.

After we learned that Mr. Isadore Lubin has been appointed the American representative to the United Nations Reparation Commission in Moscow we established contact with him and discussed the Jewish

reparation and indemnification problem. Dr. Robinson will continue to discuss this matter with Mr. Lubin.

11.

REPORT ON BELGIUM, FRANCE AND SWITZERLAND.

Any day now we expect the return of Dr. Kubowitzki from his mission to Europe. He will submit a detailed report on the situation in Belgium, France and Switzerland. His report will serve as a basis for a number of decisions concerning our activities in these countries and the eventual reorganization of our work there.

We shall keep you informed of these developments.

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1 copy
CONFIDENTIAL

REPORT ON THE ACTIVITIES OF THE
WORLD JEWISH CONGRESS IN APRIL 1948.

1.

POLITICAL ACTIVITIES.

The main work was concentrated on finishing the memorandum for the San Francisco Conference. The memorandum was worked out by Dr. Jacob Robinson and his collaborators; it will be signed by the World Jewish Congress, the American Jewish Conference and the Board of Deputies of British Jews.

Dr. Robinson and Rabbi Perlzweig left for San Francisco to be present when the Conference begins. In addition to the forementioned the Congress delegation will include representatives from Canada (Mr. Samuel Bronfman and Mr. Saul Hayes), Argentine (Mr. David Greisman), Mexico (Mr. L. Du'tsin), and Mr. Alec Easterman of the British Section. Mr. Easterman is on his way to the United States. These delegates will act jointly with the representatives of the American Jewish Conference who are already in San Francisco. The main demands stated in the memorandum are known. They concern the protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms in the new International Security Organization, the fate of the minority treaties under the old League of Nations and the protection of stateless persons. In addition to the memorandum, all the governmental delegates will receive a special edition of the resolutions of the Atlantic City Conference which outline the general program of the World Jewish Congress.

The representatives of the Congress will contact all the important governmental delegates and use the opportunity to discuss with them not only the immediate demands but other Jewish problems such as the treatment of foreign Jews in Western European countries, especially the so-called enemy alien German and Austrian Jews, and the problem of the restoration of Jewish property and indemnification.

In connection with the preparations of our work for the San Francisco Conference Rabbi Perlzweig and others had numerous discussions with officials of the State Department who were preparing proposals for the Conference. The British Section discussed our demands with the members of the British delegation. We asked all our affiliated bodies to discuss and represent our demands to their respective governments so that we could obtain help from the various delegations at San Francisco. In many cases this was done. The Canadian Jewish Congress had a conversation with the representatives of the Canadian Government; the same was done in Brazil, Uruguay, Chile and various other countries.

As regards the question of indemnification, Dr. Bienenfeld of the British Section, came over here primarily to discuss this very complicated problem with the Executive Committee. He had a number of discussions and worked out an agreement with Dr. Robinson as well as a memorandum on the various aspects of this problem. This memorandum will serve as a basis for our conversations with various governments. From now on the Congress will have to devote much time and effort to this problem which is of primary importance to the future of European Jewry. Progress in this direction has been made in France where a new decree was issued by the government. This decree is much more satisfactory than the one which was previously contemplated. Our representatives in France, Mr. Jarblum and others, have been very helpful

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in getting the new law put into effect.

Concerning the question of punishment of German war criminals our British representative again had lengthy discussions with the members of the War Crime Commission. From the reports in the press it is known that in reply to a question put by Mr. Sidney S. Silverman in the House of Commons (Mr. Silverman is the Chairman of the British Section of the World Jewish Congress) Prime Minister Churchill stated that the last warning of the Big Three included also the treatment of German and stateless Jews. This official statement by Churchill is of great importance.

We are now making efforts to have our representatives visit the liberated camps in Germany. As is known, Mr. Sidney S. Silverman was in Buchenwald and other camps as a member of the British delegation. We will receive from him shortly a detailed report on his visit.

2.

REHABILITATION AND RECONSTRUCTION ACTIVITIES.

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The clothing drive and the despatch of clothing to European Jews is going on in many countries. In the United States clothing amounting to more than half a million dollars were collected. This drive in the United States has been discontinued for a period of two months because of the drive which is at present conducted by a special non-sectarian committee. At the conclusion of the drive of this non-sectarian committee, the Women's Division of the American Jewish Congress will continue its appeal for clothing. From many Latin-American countries, particularly from the Argentine, clothing has been despatched to European Jewish communities. We receive daily many requests for clothing from a number of European Jewish communities, especially from Poland and Polish Jews in Russia.

We are now preparing a collection of medicaments. This is being organized by a committee which includes many prominent physicians in New York.

The Cultural Department is organizing a collection of books to be sent to European Jewish communities. We receive urgent requests for books and literature from many parts of Europe.

Dr. Leon Kubowitzki, who came back from his visit to Europe in behalf of the Congress, gave a detailed report and stressed the necessity of beginning to deal with the tragic problem of the thousands of Jewish children who are in Christian homes and convents. The setting up of a special organization to deal with this matter is at present under discussion. The Women's Division of the American Jewish Congress is ready and able to do a very important job and once the plans will have been fully worked out, we intend to expand these activities to other countries. Further details will be given as soon as the plans have been completed.

We signed an agreement with the Federation of Polish Jews for combined relief activities for Polish Jewry. In this way the work of the Federation will be integrated into the general activities of the Congress in this particular sphere.

Dr. Arish Tartakower went to Mexico to inaugurate a big campaign there. Dr. Margoshes left for various Latin American countries. He will open the campaigns in Uruguay and Chile and participate in the campaign in Brazil. The campaign in the Argentine will start in August. In the meantime, preparations are being made for a large campaign in the United States which is to begin in the fall and which requires lengthy and detailed work before it commences. The campaign will be for a goal of four million dollars.

It is contemplated to send Rabbi Perlzweig to Australia during the summer to participate in the campaigns which are being organized by the Australian Jewish committee for relief and rehabilitation. This visit will also strengthen the cooperation between Australian Jewry and the World Jewish Congress.

3.

ORGANIZATIONAL ACTIVITIES.

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The question of the affiliation of CRIF, the representative body of French Jewry, with the World Jewish Congress has not yet been solved. CRIF decided to ask the British Board of Deputies and the American Jewish Conference to affiliate with them together with the World Jewish Congress. Professor Selig Brodetsky, the President of the Board of Deputies of British Jews, replied that he did not want to raise this question now within the Board of Deputies. The American Jewish Conference replied that they are cooperating very closely with the Congress but since they are no permanent organization the question of their affiliation does not arise. We now asked CRIF to reach a decision on their affiliation. A majority of the constituent bodies of CRIF is in favor of affiliation. We hope that the situation in France will soon be clarified.

In the meantime, we asked Mr. Marc Jarblum, our representative in Paris, to organize the work of the Congress, engage more people and establish a larger office.

The Board of Deputies in South Africa will hold its bi-annual conference at the end of May. The question of their affiliation with the World Jewish Congress will be on the agenda. The representative of the South African Board of Deputies, who was sent here to attend the Atlantic City Conference, Dr. Ellen Hellmann recommended strongly an affiliation with the Congress.

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TRANSLATION FROM HEBREW

JEWISH AGENCY FOR PALESTINE

London, August 30, 1945

Dr. N. Goldmann

Dear Dr. Goldmann:

In accordance with your request I am sending you herewith the decision of the Executive of the Jewish Agency at its session in London on August 24, 1945, with respect to relations with the World Jewish Congress.

"The Executive, having heard the report of the Sub-Committee on the relations between the Executive of the Jewish Agency and the World Jewish Congress, has decided in principle:

- 1) To establish contact between the offices of the Jewish Agency in New York and London and the offices of the World Jewish Congress for the sake of coordination and cooperation in questions of war crimes, reparation, relief for the diaspora, negotiations with UNRRA, and general matters relating to the conditions of Jews in the diaspora.
- 2) To bring about coordination of functions of the organizations engaged in relief work in the diaspora and the establishment of a Coordinating Committee for this purpose. If it should be necessary, the Joint will be recognized as the institution engaged in relief work, the World Jewish Congress will concentrate upon negotiations with governments and intergovernmental agencies dealing with these matters. Upon the adoption of such an arrangement, the World Jewish Congress will cease to engage in relief work."

Sincerely yours,

(Signed) S. Eisenberg

General Secretary

Copy to members of the Executive in Jerusalem

Copy to the Office of the Executive in London

Copy to the Office of the Executive in Washington

No. 16

OCTOBER, 1945 ✓

WORLD JEWISH CONGRESS
(BRITISH SECTION)

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EUROPEAN CONFERENCE OF THE WORLD JEWISH CONGRESS

LONDON

AUGUST 19th — 23rd, 1945

*p. 18
Resolutions*

SUMMARY OF PROCEEDINGS

Published by the British Section of the World Jewish Congress,
Congress House, 55, New Cavendish Street, London, W.1

THE WORLD EXECUTIVE

of the
World Jewish Congress
(New York)

President: RABBI DR. STEPHEN S. WISE.

Chairman of the Executive Committee: DR. NAHUM GOLDMANN.

Chairman of the Governing Council: LOUIS EIPSKY.

Secretary-General: DR. A. L. KUBOWITZKI.

Officers: RABBI DR. S. FEDERBUSCH.

RABBI IRVING MILLER.

THE REV. M. L. PERLZWEIG, M.A.

DR. J. ROBINSON.

DR. A. TARTAKOWER.

B. ZUCKERMAN.

THE BRITISH SECTION

President: The Marchioness of Reading.

Vice-Presidents: The Rt. Hon. Lord Melchett.
Mrs. I. M. Sieff.

Chairman: S. S. Silverman, M.P.

Vice-Chairmen: The Rev. Dr. A. Cohen, M.A. (Birmingham).
Norman Jacobs, B.Com. (Manchester).
Fred Nettler, J.P. (Glasgow).

Joint Treasurers: Alec Nathan.
Ben Rubenstein.

Joint Hon. Secretaries: N. Barou, Ph.D. (Econ.).
A. L. Easterman, M.A., LL.B.

Members of the Executive:

Dr. F. R. Bienenfeld.

A. Reiss.

Dr. S. Levenberg.

Dr. I. Schwartzbart.

M. Orbach, M.P., L.C.C.

Dr. L. Zelmanovits.

Director of the Research Committee:

Dr. A. Steinberg.

EUROPEAN CONFERENCE

OF THE

WORLD JEWISH CONGRESS

LONDON

AUGUST 19th - 23rd, 1945

DELEGATES TO THE SPECIAL EUROPEAN CONFERENCE OF THE WORLD JEWISH CONGRESS, LONDON,

August 19-23rd, 1945.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.

Officers :

Wise, Rabbi Dr. Stephen S., President.
Goldmann, Dr. Nahum, Chairman of the Executive.
Kubowitzki, Dr. A. Leon, Secretary-General.
Tartakower, Dr. Arie, Head of the Relief and Rehabilitation Dept.
Zuckerman, Baruch, Head of the Organisation Dept.

European Members :

Braunschweig, Saly. (also delegate from Switzerland)
Jarblum, Marc. (also delegate from France)
Reiss, Anselm. (also delegate from England)

REPRESENTATIVES IN SWITZERLAND.

Riegner, Dr. Gerhart.
Silberschein, Dr. Adolph.

DELEGATES AND ALTERNATES.

<i>Country</i>	<i>Representation</i>	<i>Delegates</i>
BELGIUM ..	Council of Jewish Associations of Belgium	Broder, Pinkus. Jackont, Eliezer. Perelman, Miss Sophie. Weber, Abus.
BULGARIA	Jewish Consistory of Bulgaria	Farchi, Sabetay. Francase, Isaac. Natan, Prof. Jacques.
CZECHOSLOVAKIA	Union of Jewish Communities in Bohemia and Moravia	Barber, Dr. Stephen.
	Union of Jewish Communities in Slovakia	Winterstein, Dr. Albert.
	<i>Alternates</i>	Kafka, Dr. Hanus. Neumann, Dr. Oskar.
EIRE	Jewish Council of Eire	Good, Herman. Freedman, W.

FINLAND .. The Central Committee of Jewish Communities in Finland **Nemes, Benjamin.**
Rubenstein, Dr. Samuel.
Strascheffsky, Dr. A. H.

FRANCE .. Federation of Jewish Societies of France **Drory, Pinchos.**
Feigenbaum, Kelman.
Fischer, Joseph.
Friedman, Joseph.
Jarblum, Marc.
Jeffroykin, Jules.
Kapel, Rabbi René.
Levin, Zvi.
Segal, Simon.
Walden, Joseph.

Alternate

GT. BRITAIN .. Executive and National Council of British Section **Alexander, Dr. K.**
Barou, Dr. N.
Bienenfeld, Dr. F. R.
Bornstein, A.
Cohen, M.A., The Rev. Dr. A.
Cotton, Jack.
Easterman, LL.B., Alex. L.
Handler, Arie.
Harris, Walter.
Jacobs, B.Com., Norman M.
Levenberg, Dr. S.
Nathan, Alec.
Nathani, I.
Nettler, J.P., Fred.
Orbach, M.P., L.C.C., Maurice
Reading, The Marchioness of
Reiss, Anselm.
Rubenstein, Ben.
Schwarzhart, Dr. I.
Sieff, Mrs. R. D.
Steinberg, Dr. A.
Silverman, M.P., S. S.
Zelmanovits, Dr. Lev.

GREECE .. Union of Jewish Communities of Greece **Raphael, Robert.**

ITALY .. Union of Jewish Communities of Italy **Cantoni, Raffaele.**
Tedeschi, Sergio.
Viterbo, Dr. Carlo.

POLAND .. Central Jewish Committee in Poland **Berman, Dr. Adolph (P.Z. Left)**
Bitter, Marek (P.P.R.)
Cukierman, Izhak.
Grajak, Stefan (LabourIchud)
Sack, Dr. Joseph (Labour Ichud)
Sommerstein, Dr. Emil
(Chairman of Jewish Central Committee in Poland).
Wertheim, Anatol (Partisans).
Zelicki, Pawel (P.P.R.)
Zonszajn, Motel (Gen. Zionists).

Alternates

Auerbach, Eiga (Union of Jewish Writers).
Berman, Barbara (P.Z. Left).
Ellberg, Yehuda (PressIndep.)
Friedman, Dr. Filip (Chairman Historical Institute, Warsaw).
Grossman, Chaja (Hashomer Hazair).
Jaszunski, Grisza (Press).
Kahane, Lt.-Col. Dr. David (Chief Jewish Chaplain Polish Army).
Kossower (Gen. Zionists).
Meller, David (Hanoar Hazioni).
Mirski, Lt. Michael (Partisans).
Rubinstein, Marlan.
Salpeter, Leib (Gen. Zionists).

SWEDEN .. Swedish Section of the World Jewish Congress

Berlinger, Rabbi Eliezer.
Storch, Hillel.
Woolf, Prof. Eric.

SWITZERLAND .. Federation of Jewish Communities of Switzerland

Braunschweig, S.
Guggenheim, Dr. G.
Silberschein, Dr. Adolph.

OBSERVERS

PALESTINE .. Vaad Leumi (Jewish National Assembly)

Ben Zvi, Izhak.
Remez, David.
Rubaschow, Salman.
Sprinzak, Joseph.
Zerubawel.

SOUTH AFRICA .. South African Jewish Board of Deputies

Pinkus, M.

U.S.A. .. American Jewish Congress Women's Division

Wise, Mrs. Stephen S.

INVITED GUESTS.

Kastner, Dr. R. (Switzerland).
Posner, Chaim (Switzerland).

BACKGROUND TO THE CONFERENCE

With the collapse of the Hitler regime in Europe and the total defeat of Japanese militarism in the East, the world faces problems of peace as difficult and overwhelming as those of waging war. For peace is not merely the absence of war and conflict. Peace, too, is a struggle—an unrelenting struggle for human rights, human freedom and human dignity.

Conspicuous among these problems is the situation of the Jews in Europe outside Russia, or rather those one and a half million Jews who have survived the Nazi massacres, out of a pre-war Jewish population of seven millions. It is one of the tragedies of human history that people which first proclaimed universal peace should have been, in the past and in our own day, so martyred in its defence. Apart from their heroic part on the field of battle, the Jewish people have lost over five millions in the ghettos of Warsaw and Bialystok, in the murder camps of Tremblinka, Dachau, Belsen, Oswiecim and elsewhere.

Britain and America have been inundated with reports from the Continent of the terrible conditions in which these survivors live. We have been aware of the conditions but have not been made profoundly conscious of them. They had not yet become part of our daily Jewish outlook. Everything was as yet unreal, a mere reflection of an impersonal report.

It was primarily to restore a sense of reality and urgency to the Jewish scene that the World Jewish Congress convened a Special Conference, held in London from August 19th to 23rd, of its affiliated organisations and communities throughout Europe. Delegates were present from Belgium in the west to Poland in the east, from Italy in the south to Finland and Sweden in the north.

Nominally they came to report on the situation of their surviving Jewries, to discuss and to confer on problems which were not particular to any one of them, but common to European Jewry as a whole. There was, however, an underlying reason for their journey as urgent as the first, yet more compelling, more human, more intensely Jewish. They came to see, to meet face to face, those whom they thought had perished—to pick up the torn threads of the Jewish pattern of life so mercilessly lacerated. They came to recover six years lost in a nightmare of death, in search of brotherhood, dignity and a new lease of life. The conference in which they participated was, in fact, a poignant cry from the depths and a supreme appeal, not only to their own kinsmen, but to the conscience of the world.

THE OPENING SESSION

The Garrick Theatre, London, was filled to capacity on Sunday, August 19th, to witness the Opening Session of a Conference that was to be memorable in its significance in present-day Jewish affairs. The Marchioness of Reading, President of the British Section of the World Jewish Congress, welcomed delegates to the first Conference, since 1939, of representatives of European Jewry and expressed the hope that the Conference would demonstrate the practical unity of the Jewish people in its present hour of crisis.

In an atmosphere charged with reverence, solemnity and emotion, Rabbi René Kapel, of France, intoned the Memorial Prayer to Jewry's martyred millions, kindled the memorial lights and recited the solemn memorial Kaddish.

Addresses were then delivered by Rabbi Dr. Stephen S. Wise, President of the World Jewish Congress, Dr. Nahum Goldmann, Chairman of the Executive and Mr. Fred Hoehler, Director of Displaced Persons Division of UNRRA who attended by invitation.

Dr. Wise emphasised that the Conference, to be a success, must demonstrate three simple truths :—

The oneness of the Jewish people—" Though all the world forget, we are a people yet " ;

The Jewish people, though deplorably depleted in numbers, must help each other in peace as well as in war ;

The Jewish people, divided in so many respects, must be brought together through the recognition of their common interests, fate and destiny.

Mr. Hoehler stated that the aims and objects of UNRRA were similar to those of Congress—to preserve peace by preserving the dignity of the individual, his right to worship, free speech and freedom of association. Mr. Hoehler brought an heartfelt message to the Jewish people on the morrow of their terrible tragedy, and emphasised that UNRRA was and would be interested in the welfare and development of people wherever they had suffered during the war.

Mr. Hoehler announced that the United States Secretary for War has just authorised three Jewish organisations, the World Jewish Congress, the American Jewish Conference, and the Va'ad Hatzalah, to work under the direction of UNRRA in the American zone of occupied Germany.

Dr. Nahum Goldmann, in a survey of the World Jewish situation and particularly that of the surviving remnants of European Jewry, emphasised that Jewry must learn to adapt its ideas and approach to the rapidly changing face of world politics.

World Jewry now represented a very different quantity from what it was in 1939. We could no longer think in terms of millions of Jews in Europe. When we used to say " Polish Jews " we calculated in terms of a community of 3½ millions. That Jewry now numbered only 100,000 souls. The great communities of Hungary, Roumania and Czechoslovakia had also terribly decreased in numbers. This situation, in addition to incalculable factors in the outside world which would determine Jewish life, such as the pending solution in Palestine, tended to create an uncertain prospect for the future. New political tendencies were groping for expression and were as yet uncrystallised.

The tragic massacre of one-third of the Jewish people, the barriers which still existed between the great Soviet Jewry and the rest of world Jewry, the vagueness with regard to the attitude of the United Nations towards Jewish aspirations in Palestine, and the unknown strength of anti-semitism, all conspired to create an atmosphere of insecurity, the clarification of which might take some time.

But, Dr. Goldmann emphasised, despite this uncertainty the principles for which the World Jewish Congress had always stood had to be reaffirmed with increased vigour—firstly, that the Jewish people was historically and culturally one people, and that Jewish unity was paramount. The policy of protecting Jewries speaking on behalf of their poorer protégés was now an anachronism. If the Jewries of Great Britain or the U.S.A. wish to help Poland or Czechoslovakia, then both the helper and the helped must sit together to discuss ways and means available. There must be an end to the anarchy which resulted when one Jewry wished to speak and act on behalf of another Jewry *in absentia*.

The second principle of World Jewish Congress policy was that relief work and political activity were bound up one with the other. There must be an end to the procedure of collecting monies for relief work and ignoring the political negotiations which are vital to relief. There was an urgent need for the co-ordination of the two sides of relief and rehabilitation work. There must also be an end to the policy which separated the affairs of Palestine from those of the Diaspora. The problems which confronted European Jewry at the present moment and which would provide the main issues for the Conference, such as reparations, restitution of Jewish property, and the struggle for human rights, were all bound up directly and indirectly with the fate of Palestine.

One thing was now certain. Hitler had lost his war, but the Jewish war had yet to be won. The centre of gravity had shifted from the victorious armies of the United Nations to the efforts of the Jewish people themselves. Dr. Goldmann concluded with the hope that out of this Conference, and with full consciousness of the uncertainty of the world situation and the Jewish position, the delegates representing European Jewry would demonstrate and proclaim to the world the oneness of the Jewish people.

THE EXECUTIVE REPORTS

The Conference proper began on Monday, August 20, with two sessions devoted to the Reports of the World Executive, by Dr. A. L. Kubowitzki, Secretary General, on the political and rescue activities of the World Jewish Congress from 1939 to 1945, and by Dr. A. Tartakower, Head of the Relief and Rehabilitation Department, on the activities of his department during the same period.

Dr. Kubowitzki surveying the work of the World Jewish Congress during the last five critical years stated that Congress was well aware of their limitations due mainly to two factors : first, the discrepancy between the instruments of salvation and the instruments of destruction ; second, the extreme difficulties in urging the Allied governments to take decisive action. Despite the manifold difficulties, however, the World Jewish Congress succeeded in opening the eyes of the Jewish and non-Jewish world to the German plans of annihilation, in breaking the conspiracy of silence and in preparing a programme of action based on reliable information.

The World Jewish Congress was the first organisation to secure the relaxation of the financial and food blockades ; it succeeded in rescuing Jews from Denmark and had prevented the deportation of Bulgarian Jews to Poland. The World Jewish Congress was also partly responsible for securing Admiral Horthy's offer to safeguard the survival of 280,000 Hungarian Jews.

Dr. Kubowitzki also dealt with the work of the World Jewish Congress in the matters of restitution and reparations, the restoration of rights, and in particular, war crimes. With regard to the latter he stated that the World Jewish Congress was the only Jewish organisation intimately engaged on the problem and had succeeded in having its point of view incorporated in the Charter on procedure against War Criminals, by the four Great Powers.

In the afternoon Session Dr. Tartakower gave a comprehensive survey of the relief and rehabilitation activities undertaken by Congress. Before and during the war the main problem was that of helping Jews in Europe in their struggle against pauperisation and economic discrimination. The main task now was to enable Jews who so desired to emigrate to Palestine and to rebuild the life of those remaining in Europe. Work of relief was an integral factor in the fight of the Jewish people for its rights and its aspirations for a Jewish National Home in Palestine.

Dr. Tartakower emphasised that experience had shown that relief work and political action were inseparably connected, and that the burden of the relief and rehabilitation of European Jewry could not and should not be carried by the Jewish people alone. The responsibility rested with the Governments whose citizens the Jews were and with the Inter-governmental institutions in the case of Jews who were displaced persons and victims of persecution.

"Whatever is done in the field of relief," stated Dr. Tartakower, "must never be done in the spirit of philanthropy but in the spirit of Justice as a sacred duty of human and Jewish solidarity."

There was a dramatic moment during Dr. Tartakower's report, when the chairman, Dr. Nahum Goldmann, interrupted the session to welcome 13 Polish delegates who had just arrived from Paris. Loud and prolonged applause greeted these representatives of the most stricken Jewish community as they took their places.

HOW THE JEWS FOUGHT BACK

The Anglo-Jewish community has had no more memorable meeting than that held at the second Public Session of the Conference at Friends' House on Monday evening, when Jewish resistance leaders from many European countries, and delegates to the Conference, held a vast audience enraptured for three hours with their dramatic stories of the Jewish contribution to the resistance movement in Europe.

Mr. A. L. Easterman, Political Secretary in London of the World Jewish Congress, introduced the principal speakers.

Dr. Stephen S. Wise presided.

Mr. S. S. Silverman, M.P., the Chairman of the British Section of the World Jewish Congress, welcomed the resistance leaders, and related how the Congress had warned the democracies repeatedly since 1933 what would befall the Jewish people and indeed civilisation if Hitler were allowed to continue unchecked his anti-semitic policy of death.

Mr. Pinkus Broder (Belgium), Dr. Oskar Neumann (Czechoslovakia), Rabbi René Kapel (France), M. Tedeschi (Italy), Dr. Berman (Poland), Mr. Wertheim and Mr. Miller (Poland), Hero of the Soviet Union, related how the Jews of their respective countries, to a man, young and old, passively and actively, resisted the Nazi terror. In the most perilous of circumstances the Jews fought for liberty and freedom not only for themselves but for civilisation and democratic humanity at large. Brave stories were told by these witnesses of what the late President Roosevelt stigmatised as "one of the blackest crimes of all history," of how Rabbis inspired their congregation with song and prayer before the battle of death ; how Jewish girls sang Hebrew songs as they travelled in wagons to their death ; how young Jews and Jewesses smuggled children and women to Spain and Switzerland ; how considerable sabotage was carried out by Jews in defence of democratic ideals. Rabbi Kapel, speaking in French, related how in the very concentration camps Jews were being helped by the young not only physically but spiritually, and how young Rabbis conducted prayers, study circles and religious education. Many Jews were to be found studying the pages of the Talmud, not knowing whether the morrow would see them alive.

The resistance leaders unanimously paid unstinting tribute to that part of the Christian population of their countries who did everything possible to save Jewish life even to the extent of forfeiting their own lives.

But the speakers did not come merely to mourn their Jewish dead, massacred by the satanic carnage of Hitlerism. Every resistance leader re-affirmed the faith of their Jewish communities in a Jewish National Home in Palestine and in the ideals of democracy and progressive civilisation for which they fought, and for which the Jewish people sacrificed six million martyrs.

Dr. Stephen S. Wise said that, in listening to these epic stories of Jewish resistance, he had seen a vision of Jewish unity, Jewish solidarity and Jewish survival, comparable only with that of the first Zionist Congress he attended (1898), and the establishment of the World Jewish Congress in Geneva (1936). Dr. Wise received a tumultuous ovation when he concluded his speech, reaffirming his faith in the oneness of the Jewish people which, from Modin in the times of the Maccabees to Warsaw in our own day, was forever the people of Resistance always in the forefront of the struggle for Liberty and Freedom.

The **Rev. Dr. A. Cohen** (Birmingham) paid tribute to the work of the Jewish Brigade as an instrument of Jewish resistance and appealed to the audience to support the World Jewish Congress, the only World organisation in the Galuth.

DELEGATES' REPORTS

The Conference continued its sessions on Tuesday and Wednesday when delegates reported on the conditions of their respective Jewish communities both during and after the war in Europe.

It would, indeed, be difficult to crystallise in words the sentiments experienced by those who listened to these reports. Unwritten history was here being revealed to the remnants of a stricken and tragic generation of Jews. It was a story of inconceivable persecution and martyrdom of those who are no more, and of the overwhelming needs of those who had miraculously survived the cataclysm. But if these reporters were historians of an unbelievable past, they were no less nobly the undaunted prophets of a brighter and saner future for their people. With a triumphant optimism and faith in the democratic and progressive ideals of Judaism and indeed of civilised society, the delegates pledged themselves to rebuild Jewish life in the graveyard of Europe and vowed to dedicate themselves to the establishment of the Jewish Homeland of Palestine.

With patriarchal dignity, **Dr. Emil Sommerstein** (Poland), Chairman of the Representative Central Jewish Committee, appealed to the World Jewish Congress, as the instrument of world Jewish solidarity, to help Polish Jewry to rebuild its cultural, religious and economic life by supporting the activities of the Polish Jewish Committee.

"Those who have lost everything," exclaimed Dr. Sommerstein, "still have one thing left—their membership of the family of the Jewish people."

Dr. Berman (Poland), member of the Polish National Council, paid tribute to the help and co-operation of the Polish democratic forces in the common underground struggle against the Germans and emphasised that Polish Jewry must recreate Jewish cultural and economic life in Poland and must dedicate itself to the indivisible task of rebuilding the Galuth and the Jewish homeland in Palestine.

Dr. Strascheffski (Finland) attributed the survival of the Jewish community of Finland to the magnificent help of the Finnish people who had opposed every attempt to carry out Hitler's policy.

Dr. Stephen Barber (Czechoslovakia) reported on the precarious situation of the 12,000 to 15,000 Jews surviving in Bohemia and Moravia in western Czechoslovakia. Although there was every good will on the part of the Government, some of the local authorities had not yet rid themselves of the poisonous influence of racial discrimination practised during the last six years.

Mr. Hillel Storch (Sweden) gave a vivid account of the considerable rescue activities of the Swedish section of the World Jewish Congress in helping to save, among others, 800 Norwegian Jews, 6,000 Danish Jews and many thousands rescued from concentration camps before the end of the European war. In tribute to the humanitarian action of the Swedish authorities in offering the conditions of safety and sojourn for refugee Jews in Sweden, a cable was dispatched in the name of the Conference to the King of Sweden thanking him, his Government and his people, for the sacred task they had thus performed. The decision to send this telegram was received with loud and prolonged acclamation. The King of Sweden later replied personally to this cable and wished the Conference every success.

M. Marc Jarblum (France), Member of the Executive of the World Jewish Congress, surveyed the Jewish position in France and the heroic contribution of Jews, especially Zionist youth, in the French resistance movement.

Dr. Joseph Sack (Poland) affirmed that Polish Jewry could be proud of its achievements in helping its afflicted members and stated that its efforts in most difficult conditions compared favourably with those of the Polish Government toward the non-Jewish Poles.

Miss Sophie Perelman (Belgium) addressed the Conference in the name of the Conseil des Associations Juives, the representative body in Belgium of all Jewish organisations of all shades of opinion, which is affiliated to the Congress. Miss Perelman gave a comprehensive report on the life of Belgian Jewry during the occupation and all the problems which face Belgian Jewry now. Miss Perelman expressed the view that anti-Semitism in Belgium, although stimulated by the German occupation, was not of too serious a character. The trial of a notable anti-Semite was about to open publicly and should prove of great moral and psychological value.

Dr. Saly Braunschweig (Switzerland) President of the Jewish Communities of Switzerland, declared that the Swiss Jewish community of 18,000 souls had given hospitality and refuge to over 30,000 Jewish refugees and that the Swiss Government had devoted large sums for their relief work.

Rabbi Dr. Kahane (Poland) reported on the religious life in Poland and stated that the Polish Government had given every help to the Jewish community in the re-establishment of their religious autonomy.

Mr. Raffaele Cantoni (Italy), paid tribute to the Jewish effort in the Italian resistance movement and informed the Conference that the Italian Government had authorised him to state that it was prepared to accept all those Jewish children whom Jewish organisations wished to send to Italy, and was continuing to introduce measures to facilitate the restitution of Jewish property. "Jerusalem," continued Mr. Cantoni, "needs a part of its people abroad; but they must be Jews, spiritually, morally, politically, the bearers of the teachings of justice throughout the world."

Lt. M. Mirski (Poland), a member of the Polish partisan movement, stated that Jews in Poland had now secured an equality of rights politically, economically and nationally. He expressed the hope that the unity of political and relief work in Polish Jewry would be followed in other countries.

Dr. Winterstein (Czechoslovakia) defended the action of Swedish Jewish leaders in negotiating with Germans to secure the release of Jews from the hellfire of Nazidom. The World Jewish Congress must not hesitate in utilising every approach in the defence of Jewish life and rights, and in presenting its proposals for solving the problems of restitution and reparations.

Rabbi Dr. Berlinger (Sweden) made a vehement plea for the physical and especially the spiritual rehabilitation of Jewish children. The Jewish people itself must become parents of the many thousands of orphaned children throughout Europe.

An outstanding tribute to the Jewish will to survive was paid at the first session on Wednesday by **Dr. Filip Friedman** (Poland), Chairman of the newly established Jewish Historical Commission. The Commission was employing some of the ablest Jewish brains, and was collecting a wealth of documentary material relative to the war crimes against Jews, and to the life of Polish Jewry in the ghetto and in the resistance and partisan movements. The Commission was represented in, and collaborated with, every branch of Polish scientific work, and Dr. Friedman appealed to the World Jewish Congress for financial assistance and requested that Congress should initiate the co-ordination of such scientific institutes throughout Europe.

Dr. Kastner (Observer, Switzerland,) who recently visited Hungary, stated the deplorable fact that large numbers of Hungarian Jewry had been baptised to escape deportation. He described the terrible conditions in which Hungarian Jewry found itself especially during the period when the Arrow Cross party seized power. The future of Jews in Hungary was beset with many difficulties which the World Jewish Congress could help considerably in alleviating.

M. Fischer (France) was confident that the majority of world Jewry, despite assimilationist tendencies in some quarters, was ready in every respect to fight for the survival of the Jewish people and Judaism. The World Jewish Congress was a vital instrument for the forging of Jewish unity and must take the initiative in creating a Council of Countries (Va'ad ha'Arotzoth), with which all Jewish communities, whether affiliated to the Congress or not, would co-operate. Such a Council would have adequate authority to speak on behalf of the Jewish people.

Mr. J. Ellberg (Poland) gave a stirring account of how some members of the Polish underground turned against their Jewish comrades in arms on orders from the reactionary elements of the Polish Emigré Government.

Mr. A. Reiss (Palestine) blamed the Jewish people who should not have allowed legal restrictions to stand in its way where the saving of women and children was concerned.

Mr. Segal (France) stated that Jewish orphaned children must become the wards of the Jewish people and their education and well-being vouchsafed to the Jewish community of Palestine.

Mr. Robert Raphel (Greece) paid a tribute to the population of Athens for having helped the Jews of Athens to hide from the German invaders. The situation of the 8,000 Jews left in Greece was very desperate, and the Greek Government was itself so beset with its own problems that it could not be expected to devote itself particularly to the Jewish situation. It had, however, issued decrees facilitating the restitution of Jewish property and a further decree permitting 380 Jews to go to Palestine, in spite of the fact that they would normally be liable to military service.

THE GENERAL DEBATE

After the presentation of the delegates' reports which terminated on Wednesday morning, the afternoon and evening sessions of the day were devoted to a General Debate.

Professor E. Woolf (Sweden), presiding, opened the debate and made a cogent plea for support of the World Jewish Congress which could provide the facilities and conditions for Jewish unity. Despite the existence of different political and national views amongst Jews, there were bonds of unity common to all Jews—our religion, the idealism of our prophets, the unity of our culture, history and common destiny.

Dr. Gerhart Riegner (World Jewish Congress representative in Switzerland) referred to the firm attitude of the Congress in its negotiations with Swiss and international authorities such as the International Red Cross and suggested methods whereby the masses of Jewry could be made aware of the meaning and aims of the Congress.

Dr. Schwarzbart (Executive, British Section) pointed out the tremendous difficulties that Congress had to face in the war years, and declared that any shortcomings in the field of helping Jews in Europe were certainly not due to want of effort on behalf of the organisation.

Mr. Pinkus Broder (Belgium) called for cultural activities by the Congress as well as political, and hoped that the World Jewish Congress would unite all Jewries, including that of Soviet Russia.

Dr. N. Barou (Executive, British Section) insisted that the efforts of the World Jewish Congress to unite the whole of Jewry were being sabotaged by assimilationist and reactionary Jewish elements throughout the world, who had refused to co-operate with the Congress in matters where co-operation was essential for success, such as relief. With regard to Soviet Jewry, Dr. Barou emphasised that the World Jewish Congress had made great efforts to bring them inside organised World Jewry. The Jews of the world expect from Soviet Jewry a great and positive contribution to the fight for Jewish rights and future.

Mr. Abus Weber (Belgium) declared that the World Jewish Congress had a right to speak in the name of World Jewry since it was the only organisation which had done so much on their behalf.

M. Friedman (France) in an impassioned speech appealed to the Conference to conduct a world-wide campaign among the masses for its ideals. The World Jewish Congress must do its utmost to unite all democratic and progressive forces within its organisation.

Lt. Mirski (Poland) expressed optimism with regard to the intention of Polish democracy to fight anti-semitism. Palestine, which was the centre of Jewish life to Zionists, was for him and his comrades only a component part in the total perspective of Jewish life. He stated that although he had every admiration for Jewish efforts in Palestine, it was wrong to despair of Jewish life in the Galuth, when the resurgence of democratic forces in Europe was so promising.

Dr. Berman (Poland) stressed the view that the World Jewish Congress, to become the leader of the Jewish people, must use the fighting method and not the passive and cautious approach.

Mr. Zerubawel (Vaad Leumi, Palestine) stated that the Yishuv in Palestine felt itself closely linked with Jewry throughout the world. A better world would result only through the co-operation of the progressive elements, which meant a co-operation between the workers of all peoples in all countries.

Dr. Adolph Silberschein (Switzerland) in the final speech of the debate stated that the World Jewish Congress must not be engaged in political activity alone, but must also provide practical means for alleviating the distress of the unhappy remnants of European Jewry.

DR. GOLDMANN'S REPLY.

The Debate ended at 10 p.m., when Dr. Nahum Goldmann, Chairman of the Executive, rose to reply on behalf of the Executive.

Dr. Goldmann emphasised that the future Jewish historian would have to record that the generation of Jews which witnessed the Jewish calamity from 1933 onwards was indeed a generation of inferior merits. The Jewish catastrophe, of its nature, demanded a revolutionary reaction on behalf of World Jewry, but it was impossible to organise revolutionary action in such a country as the U.S.A. where there was a complacent atmosphere among the great majority of the five million Jews who felt themselves secure.

Delegates who had complained that Jewry outside Europe were not doing enough should remember that, except for the Yishuv in Palestine, World Jewry at large was not ready for the task.

He recalled how the first telegram from Dr. Riegner describing Hitler's policy of extermination was received in New York (in July, 1942) and its contents not believed even by such a man as Sumner Welles. He indicated the immense difficulties that were experienced in receiving reports and in taking action under wartime conditions by a nation who were without a State of their own.

With regard to rescue, Dr. Goldmann pointed out that the rescue of Jews demanded not only colossal sums of money, but the will to use it. Had American Jewry and its greatest relief organisation, the Joint Distribution Committee, decided to apply for licences to spend cash in German occupied territory much earlier, thousands of Jews would have been saved. For two years the World Jewish Congress hammered at the doors of the American Jewish Relief Organisations to start the battle for getting licences, but in their "supreme" patriotism they did not want to mix relief with politics, which was in reality inevitable, with tragic results. Dr. Goldmann related how Dr. Wise went personally to President Roosevelt, and explained the urgency of the position, with the result that within 20 minutes the United States Treasury was telephoned and a licence promised. Even then it took six months of constant internal negotiations and appeals before the licence could be effectively used. When the World Jewish Congress obtained the licence for \$200,000, only then did the Joint Distribution Committee make application for millions of dollars. There is no doubt that, had there been central co-ordination and popular responsibility for the work of the great Jewish Relief Organisations of the U.S.A., and had it not been in the power of only four or five people to dispose of its relief funds, thousands of Jews could have been saved.

Subsequent to the negotiations between the World Jewish Congress and the relief organisations after the Atlantic City Conference, which resolved to make a supreme effort to secure the co-ordination of the activities of relief and political organisations, only the Joint Distribution Committee refused to participate in the co-ordination envisaged. Experience had taught us the lesson that unity for its own sake was pointless. Unity must be a means to an end. From this point of view our present Conference was a success because it brought into our united effort new groups of Jewry represented by Lt. Mirski and his comrades. It was a practical achievement in that this new group was actually participating in the Conference, working together with their fellow-Jews and able to agree on important practical issues. This was an important step towards Jewish unity and a happy omen for the future.

Jewish aspirations in Palestine had been continually before us. But the question of Erez Israel was in the hands of the Jewish Agency which had the full support of the Congress. The World Jewish Congress would deal with all the fundamental and practical issues that were involved in trying to help Jews wherever they were.

Dr. Goldmann emphasised that even allegedly democratic countries such as Czechoslovakia might confront the Jews with the alternative "Zionism or Assimilation." Such an alternative would be a death-blow to Jewish life and would betray a tendency which must be vigorously combatted.

Replying to the critics who recommended the enlargement of Congress, Dr. Goldmann stated that he was not a patriot of any organisation, not even of the World Jewish Congress. He was only interested in an organisation as an effective instrument to be used for a predetermined end—the welfare of the Jewish people. He quite agreed that the World Jewish Congress should negotiate with groups not yet affiliated to Congress. But the Conference should remember that there were some organisations such as the American Jewish Committee who would never agree to a unified Jewish representation for fear of losing their "American" identity. He described the constant efforts by Congress to initiate Jewish co-ordination of policy and action—efforts which met with failure at the hands of those elements in Jewry who were more interested in their traditional position and "historic" prejudices than in the misfortunes of European Jewry.

Dr. Goldmann referred to the position of the Board of Deputies of British Jews whose argument nine years ago against affiliation to the Congress was that Anglo-Jewry could never become part of a world Jewish organisation. The Board, however, had made some progress in that it was now willing to co-operate with the World Jewish Congress in common fields of activity, and to append their signature to any documents or memoranda presented jointly to governmental or intergovernmental agencies. While on special occasions it would be advisable and practical to make representations in the name of several organisations, to adopt this procedure in the field of daily current work would be impracticable and would render efficient work and progress impossible. Experience had taught us that it was better to achieve an 80 per cent. full unity than a 100 per cent. ineffective unity.

He concluded by expressing the hope that the Conference and the work of its commissions would yield final and positive results and avoid issues which were academic and purposeless.

Dr. Goldmann's speech was received with loud and prolonged applause. The Session closed at 11.30 p.m.

CLOSING SESSION.

RESOLUTIONS.

At 8.30 p.m. on Thursday, August 23rd, the Derby Room of the Bonnington Hotel, London, was filled to capacity by delegates, observers and visitors, who had assembled at the Closing Session of this outstanding Conference. During the day, the delegates worked in separate Commissions, of which there were four—Political (including Reparations and Indemnification); Relief and Rehabilitation; Cultural Rehabilitation and Organisation. On Thursday evening the Resolutions, the culmination of four days' conferring, reporting and committee work, were presented to the Conference, and passed unanimously.

The Political Report was presented by Mr. M. Jarblum (France); Relief and Rehabilitation by Dr. A. Tartakower; Cultural Rehabilitation by Dr. Filip Friedman (Poland); and Organisation by Dr. N. Barou (Gt. Britain).

A unique factor was the unanimity with which the Conference approved all Resolutions, and particularly the two general Resolutions, to rebuild the Jewish Communities of Europe and to establish Palestine as the Jewish National Home.†

FINAL SPEECHES.

The Marchioness of Reading (President, British Section) wished the Conference every success in the tasks upon which it had embarked and in the realisation of the plans that it had worked out in unison for the common good of the Jewish people.

Dr. Emil Sommerstein (Poland) recalled that the interval between the first World Jewish Congress meeting in 1936 and the European Conference in 1945 had witnessed the greatest tragedy that the Jewish people had ever sustained in its long history. The Conference had shown that Jewish unity, to which the Polish Delegates had contributed so much, was an ideal which could be realised in practical terms.

Ben Zvi (Palestine, Vaad Leumi) pointed out that although Palestine officially had no place at the Conference, which was fundamentally European in character, the Yishuv nevertheless was deeply concerned with and affected by all that had taken place and would take place in Europe. There were in Palestine at the moment Jews of all European nationalities, all waiting and preparing for the arrival of their hapless brethren who had survived terrible torments. Without Palestine and its Yishuv the prospect of Jewry would have been even more disastrous than it was. With Palestine and its immense possibilities the future of Jewry was brighter than we had dared to hope.

Baruch Zuckerman (World Jewish Congress Executive) made an impassioned appeal for continuity in Jewish life. Not only had the Jewish people been afflicted so grievously, but the generation which witnessed it was one which had wandered from the true path of Jewish consciousness. The surviving Jews in Europe, England and America were the legatees of a priceless inheritance that Polish-Jewry had left to the world. It was the bounden duty of World Jewry to pick up the threads of the pattern of Jewish life. We must uphold the name of the Jewish people and work ever harder to compensate for our immeasurable losses.

Dr. Wise (President, World Jewish Congress) was confident in the strength of the message that he would take back from this historic Conference to the Jews of America—that European Jewry still lived, that it had built a bridgehead for World Jewry, and that American Jewry must build a further bridgehead to span the gulf that separated them. The Conference was not only a profound inspiration for further work, but an atonement for the sin committed by those groups in Jewry who, for so many years prior to the war, refused to act, when it was obvious what fury Hitler was about to unleash upon their people.

Dr. Goldmann (Chairman of Executive of the World Jewish Congress), in the final speech of the Conference, thanked the Governments of Great Britain and other countries for granting all those facilities which made possible the convening of the Conference. He also thanked the British Section of the World Jewish Congress and its staff for successfully organising the Conference.

It was an historic occasion for Jews of so many lands to leave such a Conference united in will and in purpose. The world had waged a victorious war against the Fascist aggressors, but, as stated in his address at the opening session, the war had not yet been won by the Jewish people. The Conference was the beginning of the struggle of the Jewish people to win their own war by rebuilding Jewish life in Europe and furthering the establishment of Palestine as the Jewish National Home.

For the first time since the end of the war it had been possible to ascertain what had happened in Europe from the personal reports of Jewish leaders of the resistance and underground movements. Congress looked back upon the past in a mood of mourning and lamentation, but also looked ahead to the tremendous tasks of rehabilitation, equipped with firm resolution and with a policy based on reliable knowledge of what the hour demanded. The uncertain future would be approached by the Jewish people, steadfast in its belief, confirmed by centuries of adversity, that the survival of Jewry transcended all difficulties and obstacles.

Congress would go forward, not as a sectional group, not even as a World Jewish organisation with its own tasks, but as an instrument to promote the future of the one Jewish people, united by common bonds of limitless suffering and undying hope.

The Special European Conference of the World Jewish Congress was brought to its close by the Chairman, Dr. Nahum Goldmann, at 11.30 p.m.

† The Resolutions are printed at the end of the Summary of the Final Speeches.

**RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED UNANIMOUSLY BY THE
SPECIAL EUROPEAN CONFERENCE OF THE WORLD
JEWISH CONGRESS AT THE CLOSING SESSION,
THURSDAY, AUGUST 23rd, 1945.**

POLITICAL COMMISSION.

RECONSTRUCTION OF EUROPEAN JEWISH COMMUNITIES.

The Conference maintains the view that the destroyed Jewish communities of Europe should be assisted in the rebuilding of their economic and cultural life.

PALESTINE.

The Conference fully endorses the demand that the Palestine White Paper of 1939 should be immediately abrogated and that the gates of Palestine should be opened to unrestricted Jewish immigration and urges that the United Nations should, without delay, give their approval for the establishment of a Jewish democratic State in Palestine.

HUMAN RIGHTS.

The Special European Conference welcomes wholeheartedly and supports the Charter of the United Nations which represents a milestone in the history of human relations and constitutes the foundations upon which international relations may develop.

It welcomes the statement made by Prime Minister Clement Attlee in the House of Commons on August 22nd, to the effect that anti-Jewish persecution is a matter that far transcends the mere domestic jurisdiction of a State.

It expects that an authoritative interpretation of the provisions of the Charter will state that no plea of sovereignty will be admitted in matters of anti-Jewish legislation and practice.

It urges that the Commission on Human Rights be given the competence to supervise factual situations and violations of human rights, its recommendations to be enforced by the Security Council.

It recommends that, with regard to the admission of new members of the United Nations the term, "peace-loving," be interpreted as implying *inter alia* the promulgation and enforcement of national laws, *providing that* anti-racial activities and anti-Semitic and similar acts of incitement to racial and religious hatred and discrimination are violations of public policy and criminal law.

REPRESENTATION.

The Allied Governments are urged to provide for Jewish representation in all appropriate international Organisations and Agencies concerned with post-war relief, rehabilitation and reconstruction.

FORMER ENEMY NATIONALS.

(1) The Special European Conference urges Governments and international Agencies to exclude Jews who are, or were, nationals of former Axis countries from all discriminatory or confiscatory measures to which nationals of these countries are or will be subjected.

It requests that stateless Jews of such origin will not be presumed to revert to their former nationality, unless they expressly so desire.

(2) The Conference refers to the pledges repeatedly given by Governments, military authorities and international Agencies to the effect that Jews of former enemy nationality persecuted because of their race or religion will be treated like Allied nationals. It regrets that it has been ascertained that in many instances these pledges have been disregarded, and expects that immediate measures will be taken to remedy abuses and to accord just treatment to these unhappy victims of racial persecution.

RIGHTS OF ASYLUM.

The Special European Conference expresses its gratitude to all Governments which have granted refuge to Jews of various nationalities who were compelled to leave their countries of origin or former residence.

It trusts that no pressure will be brought to bear to compel them to leave their countries of refuge before places of definite settlement of their choice will be secured for them; that meanwhile they will be granted the right to work and freedom from special regimentation. Under no circumstances should they be compelled to return against their will to their countries of origin or former residence.

WAR CRIMES.

The Conference expresses profound satisfaction with the fact that the United Nations, through the Charter of the International Military Tribunal attached to the London Agreement of the four leading World Powers, have recognised the principles advanced by the World Jewish Congress since 1942, and contained in the statement and Resolution on the Punishment of War Criminals, adopted by their Conference at Atlantic City, and have resolved to bring to trial, in particular, the authors and perpetrators of crimes committed "on political, racial or religious grounds," and that they have decided to include conspiracy against the Jewish people as a charge in the indictments of war criminals.

It urges the United Nations to meet the just claim of the Jewish people to be consulted upon and to be heard at the trials of the authors and perpetrators of the monstrous crime against the Jews of Europe carried out according to the plan of the Third Reich and its associates since 1933 and which has resulted in the murder of six million Jews.

COMMITTEE ON INDEMNIFICATION AND REPARATIONS.

(1) The Executive of the World Jewish Congress is requested to make the following statement:—

In the matter of indemnification the Executive, in all negotiations with Governments regarding the heirless property of the Jews of those countries, will be guided by the views of the democratically organised Jewish representative bodies of these countries.

(2) The Special European Conference urges that property and rights belonging to Jewish communities, organisations, funds, trusts and other institutions which have ceased to exist, and to Jewish families considered extinct, be handed over for their temporary administration in trust, pending their final disposal, to appropriate national Jewish agencies or, wherever no such agencies exist, to an appropriate international Jewish agency.

(3) The Special European Conference recalls the principle according to which Jews of former Axis nationality are to be treated as Allied nationals and expects that assets belonging to such Jews, wherever these assets are situated or deposited, will be returned to their rightful owners and that their eventual claims for compensation will be taken into proper consideration.

(4) The Special European Conference trusts that the restoration of Jewish property and rights will not be affected by a programme of nationalisation, unless this programme applies equally to non-Jewish assets of the same character.

COMMISSION ON CULTURAL REHABILITATION

The Conference :

(1) Congratulates the Jewish Communities in all parts of liberated Europe for their vigorous efforts in the restoration of their spiritual and cultural life and records with profound satisfaction their first achievements in this field ;

(2) Expects that all the Governments concerned will accelerate the restitution to the Jewish communities of their communal property, in particular of the cultural treasures plundered by the Third Reich and its associates since 1933, and expresses the hope that the United Nations will lend all necessary help in the great work of the religious and cultural resuscitation of European Jewry ;

(3) Exhorts all Jewish organisation to co-ordinate their efforts in discharging their common duty towards the promotion of the cultural progress of the Jewish people ;

(4) Urges the United Nations to recognise all the activities of the Jewish people in the field of religion, culture and education as partial aspects of the endeavour to preserve and further develop Jewish tradition and culture ;

(5) Expresses the firm conviction that within the prospective Educational and Cultural Organisation of the United Nations appropriate representation will be accorded the Jewish people.

(6) On the assumption that the furtherance of cultural activities is one of the main tasks of the World Jewish Congress, the Conference urges that the Cultural Department of the Congress shall implement the following decisions taken by the Commission for Cultural Rehabilitation of the Conference, namely :

(a) to save, salvage and preserve the Jewish cultural treasures in Europe ;

(b) to collect, register and utilise for the purpose of research and enlightenment in the service of the Jewish people the whole material concerning the history of the Jewish catastrophe in Europe ;

(c) to establish a central as well as regional organs for the co-ordination of these activities, to invest them with adequate authority and to place at their disposal the necessary financial means from a fund to be created for this specific purpose ;

(d) Simultaneously the Conference expresses the wish that the fruitful work of the Institute of Jewish Affairs shall be extended in close collaboration with all similar existing Institutions, especially in Poland and Czechoslovakia ;

(e) Furthermore, the Conference insists that the World Jewish Congress shall make every effort in order that an adequate understanding of the Jewish people, in accordance with its historic dignity and significance, should become an integral part of general education ;

(f) The Congress shall take an active part in the internationally organised scientific eradication of racialism and its anti-Semitic derivatives ;

(g) The Congress shall support, with the means from the above mentioned special fund, all Jewish creative forces in the sphere of the arts and sciences ;

(h) The Conference expects that the Congress shall resume and extend its former activities among Jewish youth, which endeavours to unite all Jewish Youth Organisations on the basis of their common national interest, and shall use for this purpose all resources and means at its disposal.

COMMISSION ON ORGANISATION.

(1) The Conference expresses deep satisfaction with the fact that, for the first time since the outbreak of war, representatives of the Jewish communities of the majority of the European countries have met at this Conference.

The Conference regrets that the Jewries of some European countries were not represented, some of them although they had elected delegates who, for technical reasons, did not arrive in time.

The Conference expresses the sincere hope that the next Conference will be held with the participation of the Jewries of every European country without exception, and especially of the Soviet Union.

(2) The Conference recommends to the Executive to summon the second assembly of the World Jewish Congress during 1946, to be convened by democratic representation.

Having regard to the special conditions of the Jewish communities in the various countries, the Conference recommends that the method of representation should be agreed upon between the Executive and the respective territorial units of the Congress.

COMMISSION ON RELIEF AND REHABILITATION.

(1) The European Conference of the World Jewish Congress held in London from the 19th to 23rd August, 1945, re-affirms the resolutions adopted by the War Emergency Conference of the World Jewish Congress in Atlantic City, November, 1944, which affirmed the resolve of the World Jewish Congress actively to participate in relief and rehabilitation, on behalf of the Jewish population in European countries. It is at the same time the duty of the World Jewish Congress to introduce into its relief work the spirit and principles of the World Jewish Congress, and especially the principles of national solidarity of the self-help character of the relief work and its constructive purposes.

The Conference notes with satisfaction the efforts of the World Jewish Congress to co-ordinate the activities of the existing Jewish relief organisations and hopes that such efforts will be continued until a successful conclusion is reached.

The Conference declares its approval of the resolutions adopted by the recent World Conference of the Zionist Movement in London concerning relief activities to be done by the World Zionist Organisation and the principles of co-ordination of the activities in this particular field, and calls upon the World Jewish Congress to participate in their realisation.

(2) The Conference learns with deep apprehension of the reported situation of Jewish inmates in the camps in Germany, revealing the intolerable inadequacy of food, medical and clothing supplies, and the low spiritual and physical state of the inmates. These reports show that, at this date, many months after the liberation of Europe, the mortality rate in the camps is still very high and that no measures have yet been taken to satisfy the cultural needs of the inmates of the camps and to free them from the unbearable atmosphere of an internment camp.

The Conference appeals to the Allied Governments, to the military administration and to UNRRA to put an end to this shameful situation and to secure for the inmates of the camps, after so many years of starvation and of terrible persecution, the necessary food, clothing and medicaments, and to satisfy, at least to some degree, their spiritual and cultural needs.

The Conference trusts that refugees will be enabled at the same time to contact their relatives and friends in other countries. It is expected, at the same time, that until homes can be found for the inmates of the camps, they will be settled in special places where they will be able to live and to work as free people and to regain their human dignity.

The Conference strongly maintains that special care should be devoted to Jewish children in the camps. It conceives it the duty of the military administration, of UNRRA and of Jewish organisations to take the children out of the camps and to secure their maintenance and their general and Jewish education. It is to be taken into consideration that under existing conditions in Palestine, that country is the most suitable for securing their general welfare and education.

The Conference expects that it will soon be possible for representatives of the World Jewish Congress to go to Germany, and with the assistance of Jewish communities in surrounding countries to organise the cultural and spiritual work of relief for the inmates of the camps, and to re-establish their contact with the Jewish people throughout the world.

The Conference conveys its most cordial greetings to our brothers and sisters in the camps. We are all with them, ready to help them; we shall not rest until we have secured a future of freedom and dignity for them, as also for all other Jews who were uprooted from their homes by Nazi barbarism.

(3) The Conference expresses its consternation with the situation of Jews in ex-enemy countries who, having been deprived of their physical, spiritual and economic well-being at the hands of the Fascist régime, are not receiving the necessary assistance from Governments and international relief agencies, and are being condemned to hunger and homelessness.

The Conference draws the attention of UNRRA to the resolutions adopted at its previous plenary sessions in Atlantic City and Montreal, according to which assistance is to be given in ex-enemy countries to victims of persecution because of their race or religion or because of their sympathy for the United Nations. The Conference expects that these resolutions will be realised in spite of the existing administrative and technical difficulties, and appeals at the same time to other international bodies and to Allied Governments to secure the necessary assistance for Jews in such territories.

(4) The Conference draws the attention of Jewish and general public opinion to the situation of tens of thousands of Jews in some Western European countries, who are being considered aliens from the technical point of view. They do not receive any assistance from the Governments of their respective countries, but on the contrary, are being deprived of their rights, especially in the field of employment. The Conference appeals to the respective Governments to put an end to this practice of discrimination and to grant to alien Jews the same assistance as to the citizens of their countries, taking into consideration that those Jews, in many cases, have been resident there for many years, and have almost all of them been victims of Nazi persecution. The Conference expects, at the same time, assistance from UNRRA for such persons regardless of whether they are Allied nationals or nationals of ex-enemy countries, since it is the declared responsibility of UNRRA to assist all victims of persecution.

(5) The Conference notes with satisfaction the decision of the Executive Committee of the World Jewish Congress to start a relief campaign for Jewish children in the countries of Europe, whose aim is to secure the maintenance and the education of Jewish orphans and Jewish children in general, and in the first instance to take back Jewish children from non-Jewish homes and institutions. The Conference calls upon the Jewish communities throughout the world to co-operate in this most important campaign which will be conducted in close co-operation with other Jewish institutions and organisations, and especially with the Jewish Agency for Palestine, with regard to children who will be brought to Palestine from the countries of Europe. The Conference expects at the same time the necessary co-operation in its campaign on the part of the Governments and the inter-governmental relief bodies.

PUBLICATIONS
BY THE
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Mr. Churchill and Mr. Roosevelt on Nazi Massacre of the Jews.
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"Stop Hitler Now."
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National Conference—Executive Officers' Report.
National Conference Proceedings.
UNRRA—Memorandum on Post-War Jewish Relief and Rehabilitation.
UNRRA—Atlantic City Conference.
World Jewish Congress—Origin and Development. By Dr. L. Zelmanovits.
The Disease of Anti-Semitism.
The Problem of Statelessness.
Protection Against Group Defamation.
War Emergency Conference of the World Jewish Congress.
Report on Activities of the World Jewish Congress.

NEW YORK.

The Jews under Soviet Rule.
Jews in the French Empire.
The Problems of a Jewish Army.
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