



THE JACOB RADER MARCUS CENTER OF THE
AMERICAN JEWISH ARCHIVES

MS-763: Rabbi Herbert A. Friedman Collection, 1930-2004.

Series H: United Jewish Appeal, 1945-1995.

Subseries 1: Sermons, Speeches and Writings, 1949-1982.

Box
23

Folder
13

"The 1967 UJA Story: Salient Points in the Approach to the 1967 Campaign." December 1966.

For more information on this collection, please see the finding aid on the
American Jewish Archives website.

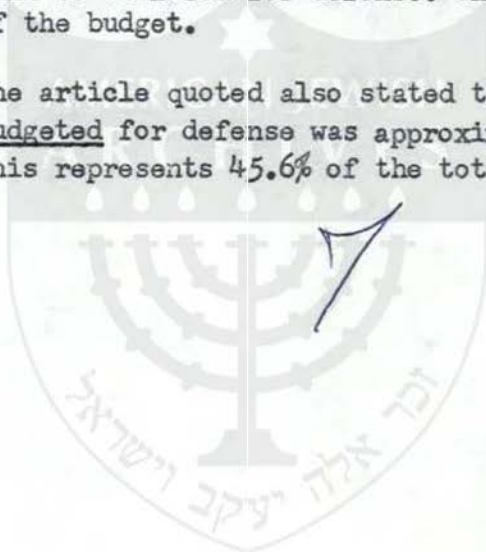
H. David Weinstein

1 December 1966

HAF:

The N.Y. Times Information Service advises that on November 27, the newspaper reported that expenditures of approximately 64.4 billion dollars, out of a total budget of \$125 billion will be utilized for defense. This is 51.5% of the budget.

The article quoted also stated that the amount budgeted for defense was approximately \$57 bill. This represents 45.6% of the total budget.



THE 1967 UJA STORY

SALIENT POINTS IN THE APPROACH TO THE 1967 CAMPAIGN

It is clear to even the most casual observer that Israel at the end of 1966 is quite a different place than was the Israel of only half a year ago. A new combination of problems has overtaken her involving danger of many kinds: military adventurism, severe unemployment, economic setback, social stagnation, plus some others, all of which have blossomed almost simultaneously.

One could say that none of these difficulties is new, for they have all existed in latent form since the very beginning of statehood, yet seldom if ever have they all emerged at the same time so violently and vigorously. The combination today is so strong as to grip the heart and imagination immediately. Those concerned with Israel's fate and future must realize that even more active support is required now than we customarily and conscientiously provide. It is no exaggeration to say that unless

../.
PARACHMENT
<UJAG CONTENT>

we come forward now with a renewed burst of energetic aid, many of the gains of the past 18 years may be lost.

I. MILITARY SITUATION

Eighteen years after the fighting connected with the birth of the State, and ten years after the fighting in the Suez Campaign, there is still no peace on Israel's borders. Murder is a daily headline. The retaliatory expedition into the Hebron hills of Jordan, on 13 November 1966, which lasted four short hours, and which was condemned by the Security Council in what many people feel was a singular lack of understanding of what life in Israel is like under constant attack, was explained the next day by Mr. Eshkol in his speech to the Parliament, as follows:

"I must emphasize that this was the 14th time in six months that saboteurs set out from Jordanian territory to Israel and the 9th in which they came from the Hebron Hills area to attack life and property in our country."

It is clear that the basic responsibility for the marauding lies with Syria, whose Prime Minister has openly called

time and time again for the destruction of Israel. He has offered his territory as a base of operations for the Palestine Liberation Organization, which views itself as the guerrilla force to maintain the struggle against Israel. The head of the P.L.O., Ahmed Shuairy, says: "We are receiving arms from China (he obviously means Red China), light weapons and medium weapons, and our youth are being trained on the soil of China in the highest technique of fighting - liberation fighting." Further, "Our people do not believe in peaceful political or international diplomatic solutions to the Palestine question. The only way is a war of liberation."

The name of the guerrilla fighters is EL FATAH, and in the course of the past year there have been dozens of raids, incursions, infiltrations, involving theft, sabotage and murder conducted by EL FATAH from Syrian and Jordanian soil. Israel brought the matter to the Security Council in an effort to have Syria censured for providing a base for these attacks. After three weeks of debate, and with much of world public opinion

expressing itself as sympathetic to Israel's point of view, nevertheless even a modest resolution of censure was vetoed by the Soviet Union.

Frustrated by this type of inaction from the world outside and increasingly pressured by demands of its citizenry inside, any government would inevitably be forced to take some steps to secure tranquillity on the border, no matter what the risk. The manner in which the expedition was conducted, with elaborate precautions to remove civilians from the area, in order to reduce to an absolute minimum the possibility of casualties, and with immediate withdrawal, was intended to show the world the true purpose of the raid. It is regrettable that the United Nations did not understand this situation in its full intent.

The drums of war continue to beat. The year ahead is likely to see many more raids and retaliatory action. If the neighboring states maintain their aggressive posture, Israel has no choice but to meet this inflamed situation with a vigilant

eye toward her own defenses. It was announced on 8 November in Jerusalem that compulsory military service for men would be extended from 26 to 30 months. More men are required for border patrol duty. Washington has suggested that there be a permanent sealing of the borders between Israel and Syria-Jordan. But whose troops shall do the sealing? More border police are required.

This whole defense question is fantastically expensive. The British Institute for Strategic Studies reported that Israel spent 10.7% of her gross national product on defense, which made her burden proportionately the heaviest in the world. To use another statistic, 42% of her current ordinary budget is devoted to defense expenditures - more than Canada, Sweden, the United Kingdom. The United States, with the whole Vietnam war on its hands, budgets 45%. So long as there is no peace, there will be war - and for just so long must Israel continue to bear this extraordinary financial cost of an adequate defense force.

../.

II. UNEMPLOYMENT

The extent and nature of this new phenomenon has been a shock. Whatever other problems Israel had to deal with in the past decade, one comforting fact was that the expanding economy soaked up all the incoming immigrants, as well as discharged soldiers and school graduates entering the labor market. Suddenly, on May first, 1966, there were riots in Ashdod, Ashkelon and Dimona protesting against industrial layoffs, and by October, the Director of the Manpower Planning Authority was announcing an unemployment figure of 55,000, which might rise to 65,000 by December and would get even worse next year. The citrus-picking season of December-April would bring temporary relief by offering seasonal work, but by May, 1967 the situation is likely to deteriorate still further. What happened so suddenly and widely?

First of all, the largest employer of labor, especially unskilled labor, was the construction trade - and this industry, which had been in a race for a dozen years to keep the pace of building houses ahead of the inflow of immigrants, finally began

to win the race. During all the years, since the ma'abarot and tent cities, which had contained a quarter million people, there was a feverish rate of building, to provide minimal decent flats. As time went on, the shacks and huts were gradually eliminated and each year's new crop of arrivals also managed to be partially housed. Gradually, as building techniques improved, as skills and know-how improved, as pre-fabricated parts came to be used more and more, the speed with which new dwellings could be constructed surpassed the rate at which immigrants were arriving. At last, there actually appeared on the Israeli scene, blocs of empty flats, enough to care for the next several month's worth of arrivals. When this happened, in the spring of 1966, the construction industry slowed down. Of course, the first to be laid off were the least skilled, the common laborers, and most often these were the very newest immigrants themselves - those not in the country long enough to have learned a trade or craft. The tragic fact is that the newest immigrant, himself the weakest economic segment of the population because of his very newness,

was the first to suffer, and the least able to bear the suffering, because he had no backlog of savings or other resources to maintain himself.

Another factor causing joblessness was the completion of several very large projects which had been utilizing thousands of men. The National Water Carrier, carrying water from the Lake of Galilee all the way south of Beersheba, involving the building of pumps, canals, hundreds of miles of pipe, trenches, reservoirs and countless other facilities, came to an end, after years of providing employment. The great new port at Ashdod, utilizing millions and millions of man-hours of heavy construction for docks, jetties, tetrapods, breakwaters, derricks, warehouses, was completed and finally opened this year. The very large building projects like the Israel Museum and the new Knesset building were completed. The extensive construction connected with the Dead Sea works, the Dimona project and many other heavy capital works, all came to an end. This was bound to happen, and yet no one seemed to realize it would all culminate within

a fairly short time span. The result of all this was to affect the skilled worker, not only the manual laborer. Today in Israel hundreds of engineers, architects, surveyors, highly skilled foremen, and artisans and craftsmen of all types are without work - seeking to readjust themselves into an economy which has been largely oriented to domestic needs and must now shift gears into export products.

The Minister of Labor has announced a IL 100 million drive to combat unemployment. This will include the detailed planning for the combined nuclear power station and sea-water desalination plant; new roads; citrus packing plants; hospitals; popular-priced hotels for the tourist trade; rest-homes; a prison; a government headquarters for the North; re-housing for slum dwellers; and many other projects. The Minister stated that the activities listed were all measures for developing the social and economic infra-structure. They would have to be undertaken in due course whatever the employment situation: their dateline had merely been advanced owing to the availability of labor.

III. GENERAL ECONOMIC SITUATION

During the years 1955 - 1964 the average annual growth of the Gross National Product in Israel was between 10 and 11% - the second highest in the world, next to Japan. The rate of growth in England during this period was 2% and in the U. S. under Eisenhower-2% and under Kennedy and Johnson, between 4 - 5%.

But during this same period, the standard of living went up faster. This meant that capital was being consumed instead of invested. One can have great sympathy for people who suffered under Hitler, or in North African ghettos, came to their own country, finally had control of their own destiny, and decided that the years of privation, torture, discrimination were now over - and now they wanted a better living in purely material terms. They wanted better food, clothing, entertainment, household goods, automobiles, etc. - and after the very early years of austerity, 1950 - '52, they began to have these amenities for themselves, with the government's acquiescence. Wages went up, more goods were available, and consumption sky-rocketed.

Industry could sell all its products in the domestic market and it took a unique kind of idealism for manufacturers to deal with a sometimes suffocating bureaucracy in order to sell abroad. But only exports could save Israel in the long run - and this is now painfully apparent. Having applied for associate membership in the European Economic Community (Common Market), Israel must now produce her goods competitively if she is to enjoy any share of that market. Her man-hour productivity must increase, wages must come down, so that prices can come down, and only then will she have the slightest chance of closing the unfavorable trade balance of \$ $\frac{1}{2}$ billion per year with which she is now struggling.

It is not simple to convert an economy from local-market goals to export goals. Much hard work is required by management; much understanding by worker's councils; a whole new sales force must be developed; and government must facilitate by slashing red tape. All of this takes time, and even more, a psychological adjustment to realize that the slogan "Export or Die" is not just a slogan, but a reality for the Israel of 1967.

//

The relevance of all of this to the problem of unemployment is that we must face the fact that there will probably be no substantial relief for at least a year or two. Industrialists must be allowed to set higher norms of productivity, and workers incapable of meeting these standards, must not be forced upon the employer. If they can be retrained, that is all to the good,- otherwise, they must shift to other fields, even public works projects, if nothing else is available. Israel must produce more, and more efficiently, and cheaper; she must consume less; must learn the ways of exporting more; and if this adds up to a period ahead of belt-tightening, in the long run it is the only way to put the economy on a truly healthy basis. The people of Israel must simply learn to earn more than they spend - and in the interim the friends of Israel all over the world must stand by, helping her to come through this period of economic readjustment.

Public works projects are the means for giving an unemployed man the opportunity to earn some money. It is not much. The most that can be earned is \$100 per month, if there are six or more children in the family. How does a father feed eight mouths on

../.

that sum? He doesn't - not very well - and there are places in Israel where hunger is beginning to be evident. This is not due to drought or natural disaster of any sort. This is due to an inability to stretch the monthly revenue into a decent diet for the whole family. Bread, tea, sugar, some fruits and vegetables - no meat, chicken - little fat - occasional eggs or cheese - that's it - and in large families not only is the menu limited, but even quantities are insufficient. This is shocking - yet is a fact today, in the unemployed group living in the economically weak development towns. One of the ways of solving this is to make certain that all children in school, at least, receive one hot meal per day.

7

HUNTER
PARKS
1965 CONTENTS

IV. SOCIAL STAGNATION - THE PROBLEM OF ABSORPTION

Of all the problems discussed so far, military, unemployment, economic, none is more important in the long run than the whole pattern of problems implicit in the integration of immigrants. The creation of one citizenry, one nation out of 70 nations and 100 languages and a dozen cultural milieus will probably take more effort and money than all the other problems combined. Eshkol himself hinted at this when he said: "The work of integration has proved harder than we imagined".

The main slogan for our work in 1967, and several more years thereafter, as a matter of fact, is the word ABSORPTION. This word refers to the process by which a new immigrant is ingested, digested, and ultimately absorbed into the main body of the Israel public. If the process is successful, the new immigrant gradually ceases to be "new" and "immigrant" - and merges into the total population, feeling comfortable, at home, rooted, patriotic, part of the whole scheme, bearing his share of total responsibility, reading and writing the language, as well as speaking it, sending his children to school, taking part in politics, and even ultimately comprehending the unique meaning of this Jewish-Hebrew state with

its ancient brilliant past and equally promising future.

If the process is unsuccessful, the new immigrant sits for years in a state of apathy, separateness, animosity toward his environment, unaware of its problems because he cannot see beyond his immediate personal world, illiterate in Hebrew and perhaps other tongues as well, nursing his grievances against fellow citizens who appear to be better off, indifferent to the fate of his community, sullen, non-contributory, and certainly an inhibiting factor to the next generation, for his sons, however much they want to be a part of the new state, are bound to be adversely affected by their father's negativism.

Israel can live with many things - a long exposed border, deadly enemies, fierce economic competition - but she cannot afford to harbor within her small territory a disaffected citizenry sitting *inertly*, like a lump on a leg, eating away at the very vitals of democracy by raising the specter of discrimination, class hatred, ethnic animosity.

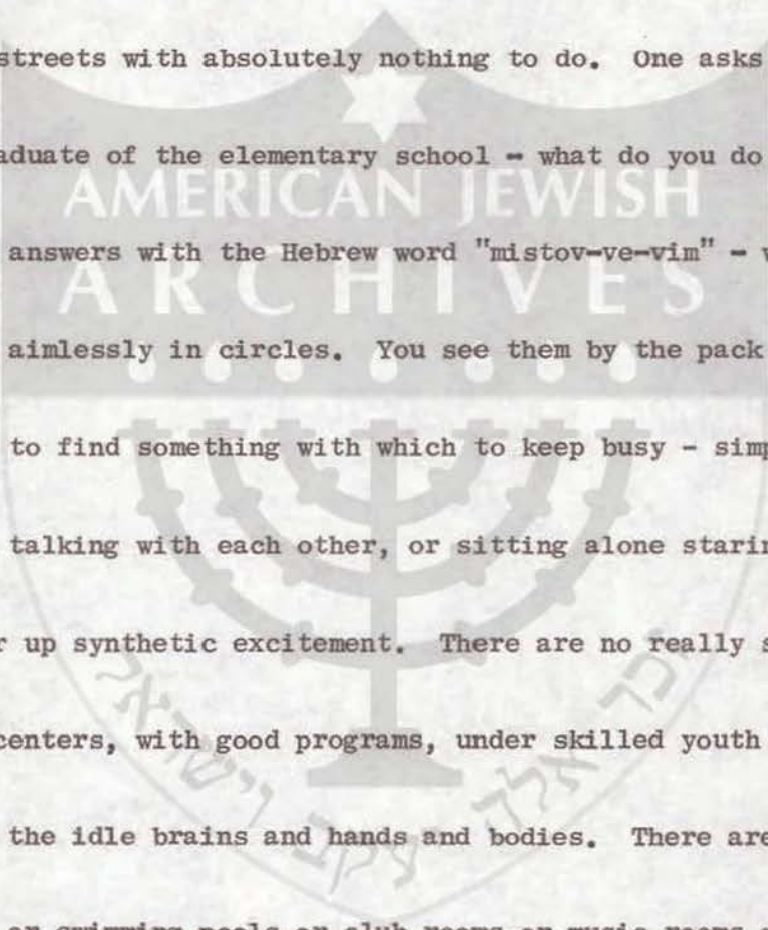
The unabsorbed immigrant is, for Israel, a greater danger than the El Fatah guerrilla.

The unabsorbed immigrant will split Israel from inside, as no enemy could do from the outside, and there will be two Israels - one Sephardic, one Ashkenazic; one feeling itself inferior and gradually hating the other; one living in stunted towns and villages, envying the other living in the big cities and urban centers; one poor and handicapped, subject to demagoguery, the other affluent and unaware that a time bomb is ticking away. Is this the nation-state we dreamed of? Is this the haven of refuge? Is this where the persecuted would find equality? Is this the Zion from which the word of the Lord would go forth again to thrill the nations?

In the frontier towns of which we have lately begun to speak and write there are hundreds of thousands of people living dull, meaningless, narrow, unproductive lives. They are as they are - having come from backgrounds which ^{inhibited} ~~stunted~~ and deprived them. They live packed into overcrowded rooms, in towns to which they were sent, which are drab, essentially devoid of culture, beauty, or intellectual stimulation, without simple entertainment or recreation. Even as limited as is the cultural horizons of most of the inhabitants, they still realize how barren is their environment. If you or I were set down in one of these towns, we would soon scream with rage,

frustration and boredom. The tolerance of those inhabitants is greater, for they are not as sophisticated and don't demand as much, nevertheless they are human and want more out of life than bread and sleep.

The teenagers are the worst hit of all -- for they wander the dusty streets with absolutely nothing to do. One asks the 14 year old graduate of the elementary school -- what do you do all day -- and he answers with the Hebrew word "mistov-ve-vim" -- we wander around aimlessly in circles. You see them by the pack and group -- trying to find something with which to keep busy -- simply standing around talking with each other, or sitting alone staring, or trying to stir up synthetic excitement. There are no really successful youth centers, with good programs, under skilled youth councillors, to occupy the idle brains and hands and bodies. There are no playing fields or swimming pools or club rooms or music rooms or neighborhood houses -- as we understand these tools of social usefulness. There are no libraries or scout groups or summer camps. Yes, all these facilities do exist, of course, one here and one there -- poorly equipped or un-staffed



or makeshift or unattractive - one club here or one center there - a youth worker here and there. When we say these things do not exist - we mean in sufficient quantity or quality to make life in each of these towns meaningful and productive for unoccupied teenagers.

As bad as it is for this group, it is not much better for their elders. At the end of a day's work - when there is work - where can the father go, except to sit idly on a small balcony and look at his neighbors. In most of these towns there is not even one community center, decently equipped, let alone beautifully lit and decorated, where he can visit for any nourishment of soul or pleasure for the eye. The one cafe in town, for drinks and cards, is expensive for more than a very occasional evening. And aside from the matter of entertainment or recreation, where does he go, this often illiterate immigrant, to be made into a serious citizen? Where does he learn a sense of community responsibility - where is the town meeting place, so to speak, where he can slowly establish the dialogue with neighbors, under the tutelage of social workers, which will eventually turn him into an alert, intelligent, prescient being? Where does the immigrant become an Israeli - in the one cinema looking at old Arabic or American films? If there is absolutely nothing in the town except

his house, a few small shops, one main street - he remains stunted, forever, and his life has perhaps been saved by moving him to Israel - but certainly not his precious Jewish soul.

If these towns fail - Israel fails - and the whole gigantic bootstrap operation of lifting a scattered people to glorious heights will disintegrate into petty Levantinism. God forbid the day.

The answer is obvious, involving a massive program of absorption aid. We must try dozens of measures, as fast yet as thoroughly as possible, to help enrich the lives of these immigrants and to create an environment in these towns where stagnation will be replaced with vibrancy - and where the whole mood will be switched from apathetic helplessness to a crackling new sense of purposiveness.

Actually the UJA took the first step two years ago toward providing this absorption aid by establishing the Israel Education Fund. For what, after all, is the IEF except an answer to the problems of idle youth and illiterate parents? Included in the program of the Fund are high schools, vocational schools, libraries, youth centers, scholarships and pre-kindergartens. A magnificent start has been made - over 15 million dollars has been raised - and 48 separate facilities are now under construction or in advanced planning. A tremendous vote of

thanks is due to the handful of people who have had the vision to respond to this call. The number of donors is only 60 - and while it is obvious that the number must remain limited, because the minimum contribution of \$100,000 is relatively so high, nevertheless there are many more generous people who will contribute when we can finally reach them. While not everyone in this audience can become a participant in the program nevertheless almost everyone can suggest prospects and help solicit them. All suggestions will be most welcome.

In any town where the IEF has successfully started a project, of whatever size, the morale of the people has been lifted. Education and culture are the answers to backwardness and listlessness. Now we are offered a program, nationwide in scope, to lift the whole level of Israel in many towns and cutting across all the social problems described above.

This program has been worked out in detail by the Jewish Agency Jerusalem and is here in written form, containing specific proposals, project by project, realistically designed, with all towns and places actually named:

1. Youth Clubs and Recreational Facilities

- establish 29 youth clubs
- turn 13 existing youth clubs into technical clubs,
for the teaching of technical hobbies.
- open 25 new playgrounds
- provide swimming pools in six especially disadvantaged towns
- establish 11 youth clubs and 3 gymnasias in agricultural townships
- provide scholarships for 2,000 kids to go to high school

2. Youth Training Centers

- Open ten new training centers and enlarge nine existing ones
for simple vocational training and social activities for youth
not qualified for high school or full-fledged vocational training.
- place an additional 50,000 teenage school children of large
families in Youth Aliyah institutions

3. School Luncheons

- Feed an additional 50,000 school children in elementary schools
their main hot meal of the day

4. Day Nurseries

- Expand existing facilities in 12 places, so that mothers can place their small children and seek gainful employment.

5. Pre-Kindergartens

- Open 30 new classes for 3-4 year olds to offer a constructive substitute for inadequate conditions in heavily overcrowded flats where the mother cannot give the child elementary attention.

6. Day Homes for Retarded Children

- Open 15 day homes, to remove imbecile children from the normal home and thus relieve the harassed family.

7. Treatment Stations for Deaf-Mutes

- Open six new stations to treat handicapped children below school age.

8. Vocational Training

- Provide ten new centers where skills can be taught to adolescents; adults (discharged soldiers or new immigrants without vocational skills); and elderly handicapped.

9 Neighborhood Centers

- Establish 50 relatively modest community centers to serve neighborhood groups of adults for basic social and cultural needs.

10. Anti-Illiteracy Programs

- Provide courses for additional 10,000 illiterate adults in the new towns. This is only a small percentage of total number of illiterates, estimated at 200,000.

11. Housing

- Rehousing approximately 2,000 elderly problem cases by adding a second room, or removing from ma'abarot, or taking out of asbestos huts.

12. Welfare Services

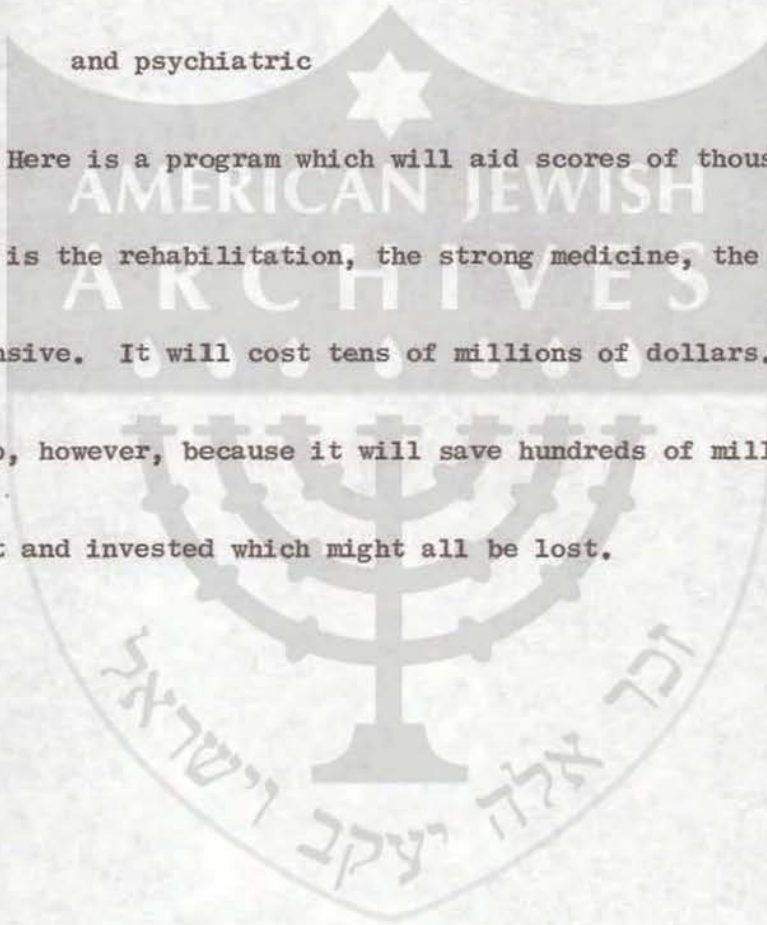
- Construct four new homes for aged
- Establish 13 clubs for aged
- Provide ten additional clubs for blind
- Build five clubs for deaf-mute elderly
- Construct two closed institutions for retarded and disturbed.

13. Personnel

- Intensive retraining of 470 field workers and administrative personnel of Absorption Department
- Retraining of youth counsellors
- Provide additional professional personnel, especially medical and psychiatric

Here is a program which will aid scores of thousands of people.

Here is the rehabilitation, the strong medicine, the cure. It is expensive. It will cost tens of millions of dollars. It is really cheap, however, because it will save hundreds of millions already spent and invested which might all be lost.



V. NEW IMMIGRATION

Somewhere along the line during 1966 a misconception began to develop regarding current new immigration. The idea spread that the immigration had dropped off to nothing - and that there was no longer any need for money for this purpose. One heard loose talk on all sides and genuine confusion. Let us now set the record straight.

From previous highs of 40, 50 and even 60,000 in a given year, the immigration has tapered off to the current annual rate into Israel of 20 thousand. The total figure for the year 1966, when all statistics are in, will be around 20,000. This is hardly "nothing". Please recall the time five short years ago when 30,000 was considered a "normal" annual figure. Today 20,000 people cost much more to process and handle than 30,000 did five years ago. In one country alone the cost arrangements have recently quadrupled.

(more)

And one more point. Our approach to this question is not on an annual basis. We are pledged to the philosophy that every Jew shall be rescued and therefore our look must be a long one, beyond any given year. There is little doubt that we must continue to think of at least another quarter-million Jews from Moslem lands and communist-bloc lands who will be the objects of our concern - and whether their migration will occur during the next 4-5-6 or 7 years is less important than the fact that it is our responsibility to help. We are not yet finished with this rescue operation - and in 1967 again there will be at least 20,000 coming into Israel alone, plus another 10,000 to other areas, or even more if a certain country liberalizes its policy and another country expands the rate at which it grants exit permits.

Let no one be under any illusions. To take another 20 or 30,000 into Israel in 1967 will require very strenuous effort and many millions of dollars. The immigration has definitely not stopped and should now be viewed as normal and continuing.

(more)

VI. WORLD-WIDE JDC OPERATIONS

While Israel and its problems are naturally in the forefront of our consciousness, let us never forget that a concern for Jewish needs in their totality is the basic philosophy of the UJA. The fate of every Jew whom we can help always was and always will be our responsibility.

A network of operations exists in many countries under the auspices of the JDC and while these programs are, in the main, well known to us, a short recapitulation is in order at this moment.

1. Arab and Moslem Countries

The Jewish population in these four countries, Morocco, Tunisia, Algeria and Iran, is approximately 175,000, of whom 50,000 are recipients of help - ^{about} ~~approximately~~ one of every three persons. The cost for this is about \$5 million per year, and involves school feeding, medical aid, welfare services, education, cash grants, care of aged and food parcels.

(more)

2. European Countries

The help given here is supplementary to what the local communities are doing themselves, involves about 70,000 persons, and costs about $\$3\frac{1}{2}$ million per year. France with its huge refugee problem, as is well known, receives about \$2 million of this total, and the balance is required for needy Jews in several other countries, notably Italy, Poland, Belgium.

3. Relief-in-Transit

This program operates in an area largely cut off from normal contacts. Details concerning the program can be provided, of course, but from a public platform are best left unspecified. Suffice it to say, the $\$3\frac{1}{4}$ million dollars reach 175,000 people and provide a spiritual as well as physical lifeline, for Jews who are otherwise cut off. The implications are clear.

4. Malben

This magnificent program, at a cost of $\$6\frac{1}{2}$ million, aids aged

and handicapped immigrants in Israel, in a brilliantly devised series of services which are fully described in a special brochure published for this Conference. Your detailed attention to it is urgently recommended.

5. ORT

A grant is made for \$2 million to ORT, which is only 1/6 of the total annual budget of this organization. Much more should be provided. No aid given to people is more important than that help which will enable them to become self-sufficient. This is ⁱⁿ the best Jewish tradition - and also the best by modern social work standards. When an ORT vocational school sets a young man on the path to a useful life wherein he learns his trade and earns his dignity as well as his livelihood, no greater service could be performed. Almost 45,000 teenagers and adults received vocational training in 1966, of whom 25,000 were in Israel and 20,000 in European and Moslem countries.

(more)

No rubric of its activities, however detailed, could describe the spirit of devotion, the quality of performance, the degree of dedication which permeates the work of the JDC. For more than half a century now it has functioned as the operative agent of the global conscience of the American Jew - and we wish it even more power in the years ahead.

VII. UNITED HIAS SERVICE AND N.Y.A.N.A.

Completing the total picture calls for a reminder that there are Jews who migrate to countries other than Israel, and these people, too, are a part of our total concern. Approximately 9-10,000 per year must be assisted to find new homes in North and South America, Europe, Australia and elsewhere. These are in addition to the Israel-bound migrants, and these men, women and children also deserve the tender loving care so necessary at the crucial time of uprooting and replanting. The UHS performs this portion of the total job with compassion and efficiency.

(more)

A large proportion of the immigrants who arrive annually in the United States remain in the metropolitan area of New York. Their absorption is fairly painless. Of course, there are many specialized services required to iron out the individual problems - be they medical, psychiatric, vocational retraining, or familial. And of course, the process does not go smoothly in every case. But the intake goes on, from year to year, and you hear almost nothing about it. This quietly successful operation continues, Jewish lives are rehabilitated every year in this very city, and all of this is achieved by a handful of volunteers and professionals.

The UJA is the instrument of American Jewry, created technically by the several organizations as their fund-raising arm, but created actually by the community welfare funds and federations which gave it their support, created spiritually to serve the Jewish man in need of help and the Jewish land in need of upbuilding.

To serve the Jewish man means to feed and heal his fragile body, to educate his fertile mind and train his skillful hand, to inspire his immortal soul.

(more)

To upbuild the Jewish land means to fashion a geographical place into a spiritual power, sparking off energy on which all men, not just Jews, can draw.

The people Israel loves the land Israel deeply, in a mysterious way, as a man loves his own life. People has been linked to land ever since that ancient moment at the dim beginning of our history when both were fashioned simultaneously. The very first Hebrew was summoned by his God to the land which would be shown him and both man and land were to grow together. ()

Ever since, the people has poured love and toil and treasure into the land, which has in its turn given the people eternal greatness through the deeds and thoughts generated on that rocky soil. The indestructibility of the Hebrew religions-ethical ideal and its fantastic influence on the course of civilization are due to this incredible marriage between a people and its land - a marriage sanctified by its God. The Bible, the dream of social justice, the

(more)

beauty of culture, the concept of human equality all flowed from the soil through the hearts and souls of the people to the world at large, creating a feeling of exaltation, an almost intoxicated sense of pride and mission which sustained us through the beleaguered centuries until this present day.

Now, in these most recent years of the land renascent - the State reborn - modern Jews have provided massive support out of a millennial sense of responsibility and love. Some moments have appeared to be more dangerous than others - requiring greater and more urgent response. We are entering now one of the most difficult and dangerous periods in the entire brief history of independent Statehood. The issues of war and peace, bread and home, growth and life, learning and stability are ours to decide. All future generations shall judge us. What our wealth - what our freedom - what our education - if our vision be dim, our hearts small, our hands afraid. God and history await. All is poised.