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AMERICAN JEWISH ARCHIVES

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

Series H: United Jewish Appeal, 1945-1995.

Subseries 4: Administrative Files, 1945-1994.

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45

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Overseas travel. Notes, reports, and agendas. 1958.

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

Morocco 200
Tunisia 60
Algerian 135

1956?
HJ
Summer? 1958
JDC Geneva #8

Sam Haber

Rich, middle, poor (who are desperate poverty and are in fear) all feel that Jewish community of Morocco is coming to end. JDC program assists 40 m children and 10 m adults and this assistance is life or death. Without JDC these 50 m would have no bread.

Moroccan earth is not earth on which Jewish life can endure or prosper. 80m Jews have left Morocco since 1948. Year ago, Moroccan government stopped emigration but thousands got out anyhow. But now doors are really locked. 1,500 Jews stranded in Tangiers. Right to exit is in jeopardy.

On mid November, King of Morocco going to US
Jews should meet with him to impress him with these two demands:

1. right to exit
2. right of Jewish community to enjoy self-determination

Economic conditions very bad. Jews losing jobs - even middle and rich are leaving. Prime Minister of Morocco says they will join Arab League. This is obviously very bad for Jews. I see no other destiny for Moroccan Jews except Israel. This is desire of Jews. If you put boats into Casablanca, you would take out tens of thousands of Jews immediately.

1. Help them in Morocco
2. Help them get out.

C. Jordan

Border of Morocco is sealed - whole Moroccan border police is on alert for Jews. Jews are slipping through to Tangiers and are bottled up there. We simply must help these people keep alive. We are maintaining 1,500 at moment in Tangiers with the tacit approval of authorities in Rabat.

Jewish Agency has camp in Gibraltar. Medical reports there are very bad. Children were emaciated, and some died on ferry from Tangiers to Gibraltar.

H. Levy

June, 1956 Jewish Community of Algeria insisted that JDC open office. Problems of Morocco will become true in Algeria and in near future. All 130 thousand Jews are French citizens (except 3 thousand) and have same difficulties as Frenchmen, but additional troubles as Jews.

Rabbi killed in ^{Mekeah} Medea by Arab terrorist and with loss of leader, the community disintegrated. people fled. When two rabbis of Algiers received threatening letters, they left for France in 48 hours - and Jewish life suffered.

Jews are being asked by Arabs to take sides. And some french elements (anti-Semitic) have also threatened Jews if they take sides.

)Jews lost citizenship in 1940)

Jews of Algeria are in suspense while they wait, steady trickle of 2,000 per year go to Israel. About 2,000 also go to France. Everyone is waiting to see what happens. There may be a repetition of mass flight, like Hungary and Egypt.

H. Katzki

Drying up of local funds available in North Africa
 French government contributions have stopped
 Local resources have disappeared.
 1957 JDC in Morocco 1½ million, ^{Tunisia} Tunisia ½ million, Algeria 100,000.
 For next year, JDC expenditures will increase.

Larry Olnick - Tunisia

50,000 in Tunisia
 10-15 in other cities and villages
 one party govt.
 no discrimination
 policy toward Jews is integration (which might mean assimilation)
 free emigration
 financial restrictions (not directed specifically against Jews) hold down emigration
 Hard for Jews to get govt jobs because these are going to the 'party faithful'. Jews
 didn't work hard to help Tunisian independence movement vs. French
 economic conditions for Jews are very bad.
 future - JDC + ORT + OSE, etc will probably be able to continue to operate
 rumor - govt decree dissolving Jewish communities
 because this is obstacle to their conception of integration

E. Laor

110,000 total from Morocco since 1948 (corrected ^{Haber's} Charlie's figures) June 1956.
 Jewish Agency offices in Morocco were closed.

1956 - 6,000 left Tunisia for Israel
 1957 - 4,000
 1958 = higher, perhaps 5,000
 Govt has told us that a small emigration is OK - anyhow larger will start trouble.

Lou Horwitz

UHS does planned resettlement on individual basis from North Africa. We opened in
 1955, securing Europeanized element of population
 1956 - several hundred (mostly Canadian)
 1957 - (1,000 mostly from Tunisia to France
 600 Mostly to Canada
 1958 - (1,200 to France
 1,000 to other countries
 We are in business and intend to stay

Egypt Miss Berche

(26,000 have left (of estimated 50) and mass movement has spent itself. Still 500 -
 1,000 per month. Urgent pressure to leave has reduced (this is like 1933-38 Germany) Policy
 of Egypt is to make Egypt Judean-rein. Those Jews who remain are living in a fool's
 paradise.

Three populations in Egypt -- Copts 4-6 thousand - old families-- Arabs 18-20 thousand
 foreigners and Jews (considered as one group from govt point of view)

I went to see particularly the aged

Jewish community ~~building~~ of Cairo owns 47 buildings, all but few in ruins and unsalable.
 Jewish quarter empty and occupied by Arabs, except for few old Jews like specters.

Children attack old Jews with support of adults, throwing dirt, etc.
 Many (saiss Greek Copt) fled told me Egypt would soon be a country behind the
 Iron Curtain .

62 men and 49 women in aged home, all ill, many blind, paralyzed, cripples.

Alexandria very different from Cairo. Community in Cairo broke down, but in Alexandria
 a council of 3 men took responsibility. There is one school, one trad e school, one
 hospital (requisitioned by Egyptain army), two homes (30+7 patients) 80 indigents.

Macabre mood - when a funeral took place, people said 'soon it will be our turn'

Prolongation of "residence" is terrible problem. Prison is alternative. No medicines
 are coming in and Egypt medicines are no good. Supply mission for medicines to
 satellite countries also produced nothing.
 Jews have absolutely no possibility to work.

E. Laor

14,000 Egyptain Jews went to Israel. Thus 11 or 12 went elsewhere. There might be another
 25 in Egypt of which major part will be leaving. Last month 500 to Israel and 200 elsewhere
 Jews are leaving slowly because they know the ICRC is still there, but if ICRC should
 ever withdraw, there would be a disorderly panic rush.

Lou Horwitz

Brazil and other SA countries - already have taken 2,000. and 200 per month present rate
 1958 - US will also take some (probably 2,500)
 1958 - probably take 4,000 Egyptain Jews, both from E itself and from western Europe.

E. Laor

Syrian Jews (5,800) living in most dire plight and poverty.
 We tried to get them into Turkey - but probably no luck
 Katzki says JDC sends regular relief funds.
 Leavitt says they are impoverished and in danger of lives.

Something must be done for them. Their plight is the worst of any Moslem country.

Relation of regulations in Egypt might refer to a small group and these might even remain,
 until there is actual physical danger.

C.J. - 20,000 Jews left Hungary x in refugee push

Ted Feder

Only 2,000~~0~~ Jews in Austria at present time. Report on historic handling of Jan. Feb. 1957 ~~now~~
 Jewish Agency moved 25,000 Polish Jews. Through Vienna during same year. Marvelous
 achievement.

Same cars which took Jews to death decade ago, from Poland to Mathausen, now taking Jews
 to life and freedom in Israel

UHS

assisted 11,000 Hungarian Jews

paid tribute to organization of communities all over the world who took in refugees.

Poland -- C. Jordan

travelled 10 cities - talked with hundreds - asked repatriates how they got along - they said they got help from Dr. Heyman, whom they never met, but called him a Tsadik.

Described program of JDC in Hungary until 1953, when doctors plot make work impossible.

After that we worked through ^{various} ~~desirous~~ means - never stopped for one day. Gave material relief and saved souls as well as bodies, because Jews knew we were there and this aided morale and kept faith and hope alive.

By 1955 our supplies began to run out and we formed a new organization to provide a relief program. This was called the SSE and Heyman is president

Dr. Heyman is busy lawyer

Assisting 30-45 thousand Jews in Hungary, by two ways. Sending in food parcels, and also cash (which provides local currency at double the official rate of exchange) ~~xxxxxxx~~

Money is used exclusively for welfare work. We spend more than million dollars per year.

There are 8 kitchens in Budapest - 3,000 aged receive warm kosher meal per day

Aged homes (average age 78 without dependents)

SSE operates with Kadar approval, which is willing for us to do welfare job because it means dollars for Hungarian govt (which is acceptable to US State Department which knows about it)

If forces of revolution are ever again unleashed, what will immediately follow will be a program. This was barely avoided last time. Will not be avoided this time. The place is loaded with dynamite.

Jews left Hungary legally until 1957-June- now administrative difficulties.

Jews of Hungary are yearning to leave. The revolution ended too soon.

Czechoslovakia

We have also worked there. Dr. Heyman has offered help in Prague, but it was refused by govt because of connection between SSE and JDC.

In June 1957, Prague and Bratislava Jewish communities asked for help from Claims Conference. Otto Heim went in as rapporteur.

There are 80 Jewish community associations in Czecho under 2 main communities - Prague and Bratislava. Both communities have rabbis, schools and synagogues. Both secretaries are communists, but good Jews.

All officials say anti-semitism is not very strong.

Synagogue in Bratislava full of Yom Kippur - more/^{orthodox}than Prague - real good Jews. They were happy at my visit want help from outside. Want no subvention from JDC - but feel that as Nazi victims, they have a right to Claims Conference help. Bohemia Moravia (Prague) Jews are assimilated; Slovakia (Bratislava) very Jewish.

Poland

First country to open doors officially to JDC

Repatriates since last October 14,000

Emigrants to Israel from Poland since last October ~~xxx~~ 35,000 (including 4,500 repatriates)

6 March 57 -- Poland stopped emigration of repatriates, under Russian pressure.

JDC was called in to help with the bottled-up repatriates. Why special help? Non-Jewish repatriates are absorbed by their relatives in towns and villages. Jewish repatriates come back and find nobody - only the ashes floating in the mid-puddles.

There is no one to help them adjust.

Poles never had any intentions of holding the repatriates - plan was to let them pass through Poland on way from Russia to Israel. But with Russians pressing there is now a problem. JDC has agreed to assist repatriates with immediate living problems, until Poles will let them go. They are all sitting on packed bags.

KATZ

A sad tale in a condensed form

1. Number of Jews

until year ago people were in hiding as Jews and we didn't know. Now we know (matzo count at Pesach). Since last October 34,500 left. Present population is 33,000 Polish and 10,000 repatriates.

2. How many would like to leave

Practically all repatriates would go to Israel. Among Poles 30 who already left (4,500 repeats) were those who always wanted to go to Israel and grabbed first chance. Now the balance of 33,000 Poles, perhaps 8-10 will remain (devoted communists) and old tired without will to start new life and balance will go to Israel (90%).

3. Why has Poland allowed emigration

Gomulka understands Jews cannot take root in Poland. He knows the Jewish will to go to Israel is strong. He believes in principle of re-union of families.

4. Are we satisfied with present emigration

No

Why are Jews leaving Poland - because of anti-semitism. But this is inadmissible to communist theory. Therefore some communists try to stop emigration, in order not to besmirch the precious theory.

Also, philo-semites say don't leave Poland without Jews

A large migration always creates unrest in a country, because others want to go. So there may be a date given by which Jews must choose to go or stay.

No complacency is permissible.

5. What is attitude of Jewish communists

They speak pro-emigration because that is the party line

6. Why do the Jews want to leave Poland

a) Many communists are leaving

They are disillusioned

b) Religious institution in schools. Either send child to Catholic class or go to Israel.

c) Many mixed marriages - Christian wives and husbands tell their Jewish spouses that safety lies only in Israel.

7. Does anti-semitism exist in Poland or not

Party and government are not anti-semitic, but populace is

Levine -- by next summer all Jews will leave Russia (agreement comes to an end December 1958 final registration October 1958) This will bring another 15,000 to Poland. When agreement comes to end, no reason to forbid emigration of repats and by 1959 they will be travelling to Israel.

Camp Korneuburg - Wien

hard core waiting to go to US

strong anti-~~semitism~~ Israel (climate, hard life, jobs)

willing to wait long time in camp

group of strong single young men will wait in camp till spring - then if nothing, will integrate into Austrian economy.

~~nothing will integrate~~

others spoke of returning to Hungary

bitter, sad experience.

Train transport - Vienna

107 people - 16 hours on train from Warsaw taken off, with much luggage (straw basket of wurst, ~~corn~~ ^{crack} of chicken fat, etc.) to Sitter Hotel for ~~feed~~ feeding and footstretching
Arrived 4:30~~x~~ Next train due to leave 8:30. Baggage transferred to Genoa-bound train, 24 hours, ship at Genoa, 4-5 days to Israel.

Stories

1. old age tzadek - 70 became Jew age 40 - beard - defiance of Stalin
"happiest man in the world on way to Israel" Came from Kiev 6 weeks ago.
2. young boy - off train - first question - "is there sport in Israel? Feather-weight boxing champion of Poland
3. leaning from train - first question - "what about work" man said he knew Israel was just beginning, and that a beginning in America would be tough to0.
4. lady spoke Hebrew - studied before war - kept alive in her heart - now free
(Post cards distributed at meal so all could write even to Russia)
5. man from Vilna - ~~repatriate~~ repatriate in Russian army - got out because invalid.
Such repats being allowed exit.
6. man, wife, two sisters - well dressed (modern hat) have planned since 1946 to make trip.

ROSENKRANZ, Leon (Ari) 22 October in Vienna

gave me book of synagogue photography

SHLOMO LEVY -- J.A. - Naples

(This whole interview quotes Levy in first person)

Trains from Vienna (lv. 9.30 p.m.) arrive following midnight in Naples (27 hours). Hotels are taken near Railroad station in Naples, so no need for trucks or buses. Porters carry baggage -- people walk. Cheaper this way. Rumanians bring 70 kilo per person. Hand baggage is carried -- boxes are also shipped to Naples. Agency cost 1700 lire daily for hotel and full pension for adults; 1500 for adolescent; 1200 for children; zero for child up to one year.

On average, olim remain in Naples five days.

Rumanians come without a People arrive without toilet articles, extra shirt, or any amenity.

Poles come with everything.

Two groups must be kept separate -- and we use separate hotels. This works, because the two groups have no particular interest in each other. This is good -- because they don't compare.

I can only give the Rumanians 500 lire pocket money -- whether they stay in Naples one day or ten. Maximum is 1500 lire per family. I have no money. I know you will laugh at this.

The Rumanian Jew has no money--~~o~~ but he has no longer any fear. He knows he is going to Israel. His only fear is that he will have to wait too long in Naples without any money. He is impatient to get to Israel. A few want to wait, for relatives to come.

While they wait, I give them Hebrew films in hotel teach them Hebrew songs -- and if they are going to wait 10 days or two weeks, I give them simple Hebrew lessons with few necessary words. I have three personnel -

myself, one from who investigates professions and trades to compile a dossier on the people, so that on the ship decisions can be made as to where to send the people; and a third who is responsible for Kashrus. This meshgiach teaches singing. Besides these three Israelis, I have 1½ local personnel. That is the entire staff. The locals are Italians, who ^{help} ~~keep~~ with contacts with port officials, etc.

There are two couriers who accompany trains back and forth.

We use Artza, Jerusalem, Pace, other Italian ships.

All immigrants go through a medical exam in Naples, including X-ray and blood. We have an arrangement with local authorities. It costs us each 450 lire per person. We use autobus, from hotel to clinic. We have an Italian Jewish doctor who gives us the results of the examination, and the papers accompany the olim. Each person carries his own envelope, together with his port pass, and his passport. Each person also receives vaccination in Naples. All medical stuff can be done even in one day. If the emigrant is in Naples less than one day, all we do is vaccinate.

I do not know the reason why they were allowed out. No one knows. Some have waited eight years for exit permits -- some applied ~~for~~ only few months ago. Some have relatives in Israel -- some have none.

Don't know how long it will continue -- the people believe it will go on for some time.

(end of Levy interview)

Met with Rumanians in hotel. One family -- husband and wife, both dental surgeons, one son going to be Bar Mitzvah 25 October. Second family -- husband, woman's tailor; wife, housewife -- two sons, 13 and 10. First family had sister in Israel -- second family had mother. Both families had waited eight years for permission to leave. Both violently vociferous about wanting to leave for freedom and national Jewish feeling. Lived in slavery. Worked clandestine to make ends meet. Used to listen to Kol Zion Lagolah. Hungered to get out.

Will do anything in Israel. Dentist said he would go anywhere to practice his profession. Tailor said he would build houses. Feeling was obviously strong and sincere.

I asked about fear of going in to Israel surrounded by enemies. They laughed. Mother of two boys said she would bring her sons to the army herself to defend Jews. They had enough of being killed without chance for self-defense.

Biggest problem is buying oneself out. Average cost for family of three is 10 - 12,000 lei (average wage of tailor was 500 per month -- so this is two years' earnings). The papers require plum-greasing. Renunciation of citizenship costs 1,000 lei per person. The tax departments must all be cleared -- and exorbitant fees are levied -- also telephone, electricity, etc. To make a box for belongings costs 500 lei. Three months rent must be paid in advance. Etc., etc. There is a real problem of people who do not have the money, and whose pass expires before they get the necessary papers. The people sell their belongings frantically -- a television set costing 4,000 lei sells for 800, etc. To get the necessary money together is terrific problem.

Young girl, student of philology (French and English), came to table. Her father, mother, etc. all went to Israel in 1950. She couldn't get out then, because she was young (20) and waited all these years. Said it cost her 4,000 lei. She didn't want to tell her name, because she was afraid, and had family still behind in Rumania.

Reported anti-semitism, nothing official -- nobody says "dirty Jew" -- but one feels it all around -- in university.

Of group of 48, who came on one train from Vienna to Naples, were 4 doctors, 2 or 3 small businessmen, few artisans, several plain workers.

One man came over -- 37 years old -- worker in factory (tin roofing) -- came from province. Worked four years for Germans under forced labor. Had enough -- wants to get to own land. Kept repeating that everything was fine in Rumania (afraid to say otherwise) -- wants to get to Israel to see old mother. Very shifty about where he got money to pay for papers and finally whispered "legation". This is answer to money question. The people are helped.

All reported that they had been very well taken care of on the road -- coffee and rolls in Rome, etc. Worker wanted few lire to buy cigarettes -- otherwise he has everything. Worker was rough, crude, but spoke with vox populi.

POLISH IMMIGRANTS -- another hotel

Repatriates are coming out as invalids. Any paper can be bought for money. Poles apparently have no central control -- they aren't adding total number of invalids.

One man -- chemical engineer -- old inhabitant -- tried since April 1957 to get pass -- refused -- finally wrote that he was willing for wife to go alone -- she got it -- he returned to Ministry four times -- finally got his.

Economist -- young man -- said Poland is not interested in holding Jews. Sooner or later all will come out -- not as invalids.

Whole group (5 people -- all different backgrounds) agreed that all Jews would come. Polish government knows that this invalid business is a pretext -- they look through the fingers and want to permit Jews to go.

Beginning this month, the Poles have been accepting applications, even without the invalid document.

No limit on baggage.

Still shipping out pianos, etc.

We have read the bad letters from Israel, but we are going anyway. We feel we can make it.

FINK -- JDC -- 27 October

1. ASTEN 280
2. KORNEUBURG 200
3. FURSORGTE
auslander 30
4. Free-living 300

-
1. transit people -- medical care and ~~emergency~~
clothing for those in emergency need.

-
2. support of gemeinde is over \$100,000

close Korneuburg at end of year.

Jacob Blum -- furrier -- why leave to go to Israel.

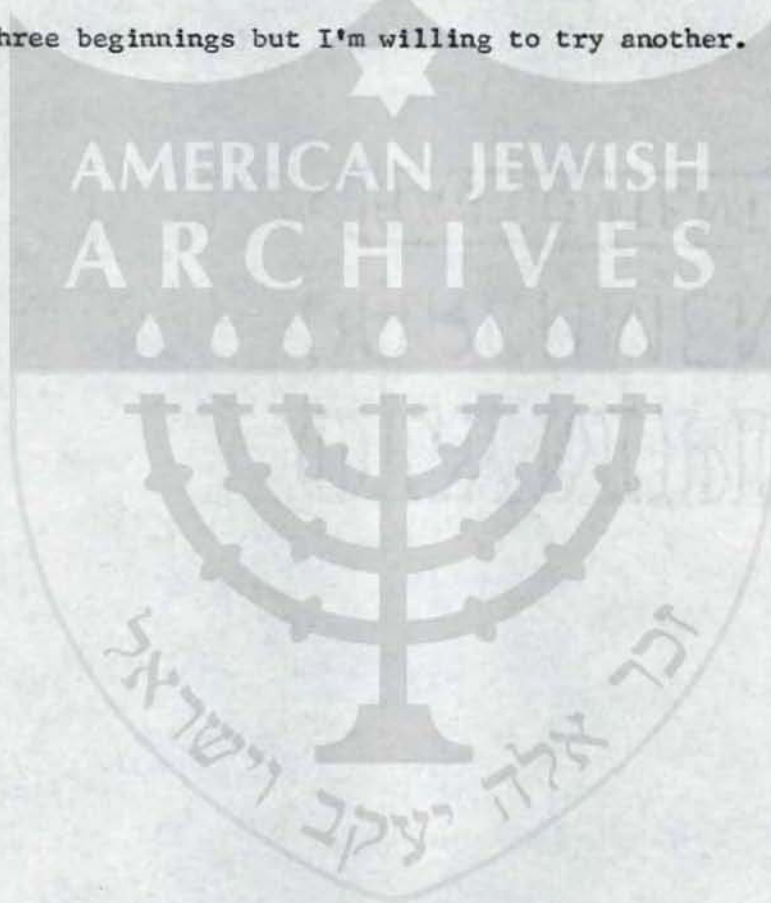
In Rumania I have two worries -- making a living and being thrown in Jail
(clandestine labor). In Israel I will have only one worry -- to make a living.

(story of fur piece)

They (the Rumanians) are mean because they are gypsies.

(story of Mogen David around child's neck).

I've made three beginnings but I'm willing to try another.



HAR-EL -- Minister to Bucharest

Encounters of legation personnel with local Jews limited.

But powerful.

Once we came to Jassy on occasion of anniversary of 1943 pogrom. Communist officials were present. Nevertheless Jews followed our car and cried "nimmt uns weck."

Another time, in small town, hundreds of Jews surrounded our car, and children touched our flag on the fender. Some adults, afraid, said to kids "stop" -- other adults said, "let them have the pleasure".

Another time, in a synagogue on Sabbath, an old rabbi gave a speech saying that Jews always had a hope that they would come to their own land. This was very courageous for him.

In one synagogue there was once a recitation of the prayer for the government, in which the rabbi said "we pray for the success of our beloved country (and) the People's Democracy of Rumania." By adding the word "and" he gave the true feelings.

50% of Rumanian Jews would try to leave. At present 250,000 we think.

38,000 adults have already registered for aliyah: Rate of registration in July and August, rose. Jumped to 3400 in one day last week. At this rate, by end of November if registration continues it will be 50 - 60% of population. Balance will probably register later, if they see that aliyah really continues.

Impossible to say why Rumanians permit it, and therefore how long it will continue. We live in legation in tension. One day last week they stopped issuing passports. We lived through 24 hours of panic and hysteria. Can't describe how people besieged us.

In four or five days, man must get exit papers, Israel papers, plus three transit visas -- Hungarian, Austrian, Italian. We do administrative preparation for these three embassies.

Cost of leaving is not cheap.

1,000 lei to renounce Rumanian citizenship

315 for passport

500 for ticket

6 per kilo baggage.

Family of four is approx. 7,000 lei. This is approx. \$600. -- expensive for poor people.

No one stays because property must be sacrificed. All are willing to leave everything without a second thought. This fact impresses us with the idealistic calibre of this aliyah. 70% are under 50; 30% are under 18. Professional training is high -- many doctors, etc.

Two problems -- how steady and how permanent will be this new policy of Rumanian government; and how good will the adjustment of the first groups be in Israel. If there are many returnees, those in Rumania who want to stop this aliyah will use this as the strongest argument.

There is no reason to assume that aliyah should stop within next few months.

Question -- why do they leave if they can have Jewish religious and cultural life in Rumania? Only thing I have heard is bad economic conditions.

Answer -- they feel insecure about future as Jews. They remember pogroms of past. They are not adjusted in communist economy. They think of their children.

Of the five conductors of the Bucharest Opera, three are Jews and have registered to leave. This is not for economic reasons, because they are very well off.

GENEVA -- 31st October

Charlie -- Relief-in-Transit

We have 26 people working inside these countries. They have recruited larger local corps of volunteers. We get money into those countries -- not legally. Spending three million on this program.

Hungary -- 20,179 families got food parcels
3,000 " assisted with cash relief.

Rumania -- (uncooperative) (no parcels from organ.)

Individual senders found in Israel -- we send \$800,000 worth per year.

We could triple the volume of help, with more money. The contacts and organization exist.

Our assistance has moral as well as material meaning.

Russia

We can only reach 2,870 families, with money available.

We send cloth, which they can sell.

Total is 30,000 families in all Iron Curtain countries, which we have carefully selected. This is really nothing.

Hungary -- Dr. Heymann

Jewish situation has deteriorated. 55% of lawyers have lost right to practice. We give minimum of \$13 per month. Clothing distribution is most important. 72% of our proteges are over 65 -- mostly women. Young people left Hungary -- old are left alone. Our kitchens (8 in Budapest) feed 2-3,000 Kosher meals daily. They bring can and take food for evening or bed-ridden.

We have hospital of 100 beds -- only one not belonging to government. We have five old people homes. We take care of religious needs. More than 25,000 people are getting help from us. We send 320 kids to summer camps.

Poland -- Haber

Why did Polish government invite JDC back? Because she would not handle the repatriates.

Why don't repatriates want to stay in Poland?

1. Poland is a desert
2. Antisemitism, under new freedom
3. No Jewish life -- organization is Communist.
4. Irrational Fear, insecurity.

Our program is not long-range.

We are working on a temporary basis, to help people now, in transit. We are helping 15,000 people, with a tiny subsidy (\$13. per month), in a private social security system.

School lunches (12 c. per child) in seven Jewish schools.

3,000 Jewish kids in summer camps -- learned they were Jewish again.

3,000 people in ORT schools.

Re-entry of JDC means big moral support to Jews -- they know they are not alone.

Henry Levy -- NORTH AFRICA

1. Integration -- "become like us."

Pressures on Jewish organizations, changing form of community councils, no mail to Israel, Zionist background dangerous, two JDC personnel expelled from Morocco.

2. Emigration -- Tunisia free -- assisted -- in groups.

Morocco -- closed -- but this doesn't mean no Jews travel. Borders don't stop them.

Exchange of Notes With Iaor at JDC Meeting, Geneva, 31 Oct. 1958

If a person has no money, and can recoup nothing from selling property -- then he goes (according to his own words) to the "Legation" and "one hears" that money can be obtained.

(and it is debited to the Joint for documentation
to the Agency for transportation)

Out of the 2,500 who have left in September and October, how many went to the Legation for money?

about 20% (?)

for all or part of their expenses

the percentage will grow:

- a) because first those are leaving who can afford it f.i. who have apartments, etc.
- b) because as the process goes on it will become more and more difficult to sell things.

the expenses for transportation from Rumania of which we spoke concern only the fares up to Vienna. From Vienna/^{on}they are fully on our account.

16.67 = 160 lei

17¢ - 1 lei

AMERICAN JEWISH
ARCHIVES

7¢ = 1 lei
black

זכר אלה יעקב וישראל

YEARLY FIGURES ESTIMATE 1959

	<u>Month</u>	<u>Year</u>	
Rumania	1,500	18,000	
* Poland	300	3,600	? + 10,000
Other east Europe		500	
** Hungary		10,000	?
*** North Africa	400	5,000	? +
Persia	700	8,500	
Asia (Syria, Lebanon, Kemi shly)	250	3,000	
Turkey	75	1,000	
India	75	1,000	
Free countries	150	1,800	
		<hr/>	
		52,400	

* If repatriates open up,
could be 10,000 - 12,000 more

** If Hungary doesn't work,
could be 10,000 less.

*** If Morocco negotiations succeed,
could be 5,000 more.

---Could be from 42,000 minimum to 65,000 maximum

XXX

HARMAN
JEVAGENCY
JERUSALEM (ISRAEL)

November 27, 1958

THROUGH NORMAL CHANNELS HERE

WISH APPLY VISA VISIT ROMANIA BASIS TOURISM SIMILAR TRIP POLAND LAST YEAR WHICH HAD NO OFFICIAL
CHARACTER STOP WISH WITNESS SITUATION ROMANIA ABOUT ONE WEEK BEGINNING JANUARY FOR EMOTIONAL
IMPACT CAMPAIGN PURPOSES STOP EVENT NECESSARY YOU QUERY HAREL ASSUME YOU WILL EXPLAIN BACKGROUND
DRAWING PARALLEL POLISH TRIP WHICH CREATED NO EMBARRASSMENT WAS MOST EFFECTIVE

FRIEDMAN

MSG/fc

HAF files
Rumania

December 3, 1958

Mr. Gabriel Reiner
45 West 45th Street
Cosmos Travel Bureau, Inc.
New York 36, N.Y.

Dear Mr. Reiner:

We wish to make application for a Tourist Visa to Roumania for Herbert A. Friedman. In support of this application Mr. Friedman has completed the five copies of required questionnaire, which are enclosed herewith, together with five photographs and passport.

Sincerely yours,

Melvin S. Goldstein

Personal and Confidential

10 December, 1958

Mr. Eran Laor
The Jewish Agency for Palestine
10, rue Saint-Leger
Geneva, Switzerland

Dear Erich,

You may have heard by now that I am planning a trip to Rumania, for the same purpose as the trip to Poland last year -- namely, to accumulate human interest stories and to gather the general mood and atmosphere of the Jewish community, so that I can report first-hand impressions to campaign leaders.

Naturally, I queried Israel and received a reply from Shimoni that the trip was OK. I have put in a request for a visa, as a tourist, with no official status. If the visa is granted in the normal course of events, I will go. If it is not granted, I do not intend to make any fuss or protest, but simply to forget the project.

If it materializes, I will leave New York on 3 January and will be in Paris or Geneva on the 4th; then plan to go to Vienna on the 5th and go from Vienna to Bucharest on the 6th. Naturally I want very much to see you before going in. I am prepared to meet you anywhere at your convenience on the 4th or 5th. If you happen to be in Paris on the 4th I will see you there, and will then not go to Geneva. If you happen to be in Vienna, then we can meet there and I would not stop in either Paris or Geneva.

If you could let me know your plans for those two days and where you would suggest we meet, then I will make my travel plans accordingly. As you can see, there is not much time left. Also, if the visa is refused, then of course the whole deal is off and I will not be coming at all. Let me hear from you as soon as possible.

As ever,

Herbert A. Friedman
Executive Vice-Chairman

HAF/fc

HAF file
Romania

SAME LETTER TO:

Mr. Edward M. M. Warburg
Mr. William Rosenwald
Mr. Samuel H. Daroff
Mr. Sol Luckman
Mr. Joseph Meyerhoff
Mr. Jack D. Weller
Mr. Moses A. Leavitt
Mr. Fred Forman
Mr. Benjamin H. Swig
Mr. Albert A. Levin
Mr. Henry C. Bernstein

December 2, 1958

CONFIDENTIAL

Mr. Dewey D. Stone
53 Arlington Street
Brockton, Massachusetts

Dear Dewey,

We have just had word on the number of Jews leaving Romania.

In the month of November, 1,233 Jews left Romania. This brings the total since August, when the movement began, to 4,260.

It is expected that there will be a great increase in the rate during the month of December when some 3,000 to 4,000 Jews are scheduled to leave Romania.

We will, of course, keep you informed.

Sincerely yours,

Melvin S. Goldstein

MSG:ls

Fell

MEMORANDUM

Date December 18, 1958

To Mr. Herbert A. Friedman

From Melvin S. Goldstein

Subject

I spoke with Rabbi Harold Gordon who told me that he did not visit Romania but that he did visit Hungary a few months ago.

He was good enough to inform me that Rabbi Ephraim F. Einhorn of Temple City, California visited Romania recently, just in case you might know this man and you want to get in touch with him.

I indicated to Rabbi Gordon that you might want to speak with him sometime next week and he said that he would, of course, be pleased to meet with you at any time.

MSG:ls

This guy is a character, and I do not want to get in touch with him.

Also don't bother with Gordon. If he didn't go, he can't help me.

HAF files

STRICTLY PERSONAL

BY HAND

December 18, 1958.



To: Rabbi Herbert Friedman, U.J.A. New York

From : Max Varon, New York

MV.

Dear Herb:



Herewith the information you requested for your forthcoming trip:

"Friedman will receive information in Vienna from Aliyah Dept. and from the Minister. Herman also suggests a meeting with Laor either Geneva or Vienna. In Bucarest will receive full briefing from the Minister. Friedman to inform Bukarest exact details of his arrival, upon arrival in Vienna.

Vinna and Bucarest informed."

Regards,

הסוכנות היהודית לישראל

HAF file
Roumania

THE JEWISH AGENCY FOR ISRAEL

AGENCE JUIVE POUR ISRAEL

PHONES 24 93 76 (5 LINES)
CABLES: JEVAGENCY
PALAGENCY
TELEX: 2 21 21

GENÈVE, 18th December, 1958.
10, RUE SAINT-LÉGER

143/61 - 6952

Mr. Herbert A. Friedman,
United Jewish Appeal,
165 West, 46th Street,
New York 36, N.Y.

Personal and Confidential

Dear Herb,

I have before me your letter of December, 10, by which you inform me that you intend to visit our latest supplier of immigrants. It's a good idea.

Please cable me immediately you receive the visa and are sure that you'll undertake the journey. I shall definitely arrange to meet you on or about the 4th January, but it is difficult to decide today whether this meeting should or could take place in Paris or Geneva. I might have to be in Geneva on the 5th, while on 6th I have to proceed to London. Anyhow, upon your notification I shall let you know my program.

As to my further movements, I shall leave London on the 9th or 10th of January, going straight to Vienna, where the Keren Hayessod is holding its European Conference from the 10th to the 12th of that month.

I have not cabled you the emigration figures of Roumania on the 10th instant, because Dr. Joseph came through Paris on that day, so I gave him all the details. You probably obtained them from him. I cabled him on the 15th, giving the total for the first fortnight of this month.

The total figure until today, the 18th, both through Vienna and Athens is 3092, *for this month.*

Hoping to hear from you soon and wishing you all the best, I am,

Yours

E. Laor
E. Laor

el/eb