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UJA STUDY MISSIONS 1964-65

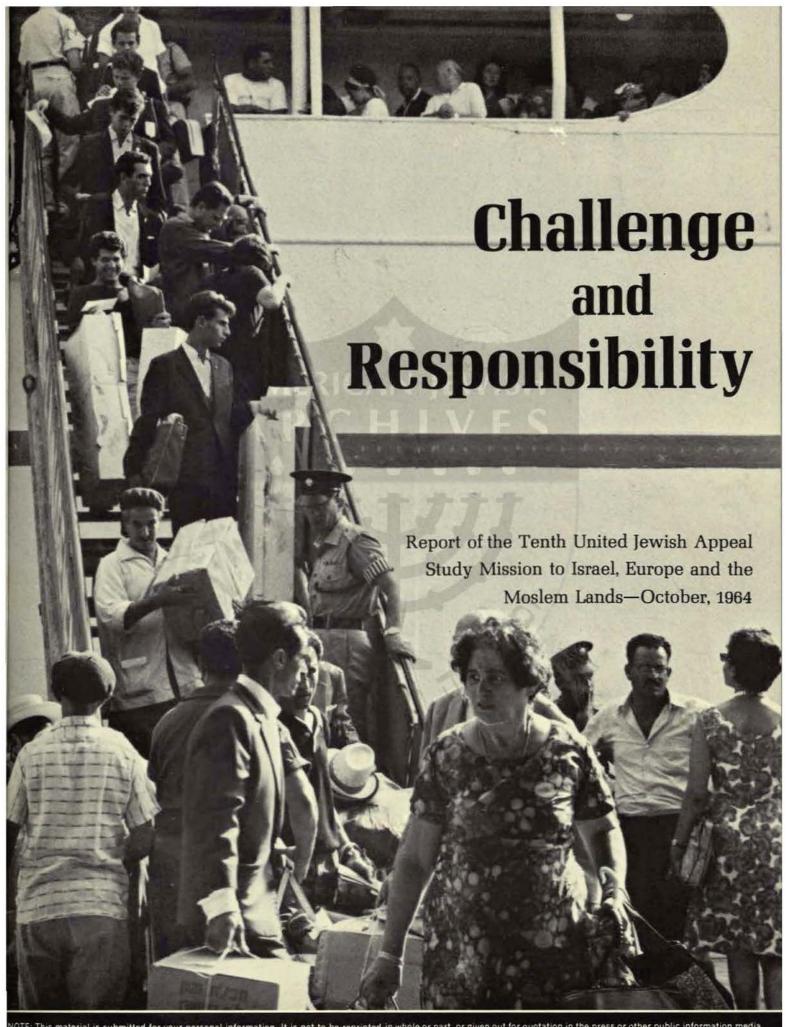


TABLE OF CONTENTS

		-
		PAGE
C	HALLENGE AND RESPONSIBILITY	
	Top Leadership Character of the Mission	1
	'We Are Here As Individuals' - Meyerhoff	2
	Duties of a UJA Study Mission	3
	JDC - Milestone in American Jewish Philanthropy	4
	Initiate JDC 50th Anniversary Observances	5
	JDC Saved Situation in France	6
	Malben Will Aid 50% More This Year	7
	Israel On The Rise	8
	Why Israel Cannot Do It Alone	1,1
	Israel Must Correct Human Imbalances	12
	'Plateau Giving' Endangers Absorption	12
	'We Need Your Support'	14
	Courage Alone Is Not Enough	14
	A Resolution Is Adopted	15
R	ESOLUTION ADOPTED BY MISSION	17

CHALLENGE and RESPONSIBILITY

A Report to American Jewry
Submitted by the

10TH ANNUAL UNITED JEWISH APPEAL STUDY MISSION

to Israel, Europe and Moslem Lands

October, 1964

ARCHIVES

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CHALLENGE AND RESPONSIBILITY

For the tenth year, an official United Jewish Appeal Study Mission has completed its fact-finding survey of overseas needs.

In actual distances traveled, the Mission's participants covered only a small part of the earth's surface. But from the viewpoint of the extent and gravity of Jewish needs they found, the journey could have been measured in astronomical light years.

As has been the practice in recent years, small groups of Mission members departed in advance of the main body to conduct surveys of the major areas of Jewish need outside of Israel.

As they reported later, on one continent they witnessed a thousand-year-old Jewish community in liquidation. On another, they saw a proud community striving to enable a new refugee group, comprising half of its population, become firmly rooted; while in the Mid-East, they visited another ancient Jewish community which was being held together by the grace of UJA humanitarian aid.

All encompassing as the term "Study Mission" is, it does not do justice to the kind of critical examination conducted by the Mission, nor to the purposes and motives that prompted 140 Jewish men and women - each at his own expense - to leave early in October from some 40 cities in the United States in order to journey to North Africa, Europe and the Middle East, with Israel as their ultimate destination.

TOP LEADERSHIP CHARACTER OF THE MISSION

This was a top leadership group. Heading the list were men like Joseph Meyerhoff of Baltimore, the United Jewish Appeal's General Chairman; Max M. Fisher of Detroit, UJA Associate General Chairman; Edward M. M. Warburg of New York, Chairman of the Joint Distribution Committee; Jack D. Weiler of New York, a ranking UJA National Chairman; Edward Ginsberg of Cleveland and Philip Zinman

of Camden, N.J., UJA's National Chairmen; Rabbi Herbert A. Friedman, UJA Executive Vice-Chairman, and members of the UJA Executive Committee and Cabinet - the UJA's policy setting bodies - such as Albert Parker and Lawrence Schacht of New York; Bernard H. Barnett of Louisville; Nehemiah M. Cohen of Washington, D.C.; Leon Germanow of Rochester; James L. Permutt of Birmingham, and Paul Zuckerman of Detroit.

They included veteran national agency executives such as Moses A. Leavitt, the JDC Executive Vice-Chairman; Gottlieb Hammer, Executive Vice-Chairman of the United Israel Appeal-Jewish Agency for Israel, Inc.; Henry C. Bernstein, Executive Vice-Chairman, United Jewish Appeal of Greater New York, Donald B. Hurwitz, Executive Director, Federation of Jewish Agencies of Greater Philadelphia and Irving Bernstein, UJA Assistant Executive Vice-Chairman.

Standing side by side with them were many of the men and women whose benevolence and leadership are the sources of strength that power the Jewish community campaigns throughout the United States on behalf of the UJA.

Among them were six who were the chairmen-designate of their community's 1965 drives; eleven who had served either as campaign chairmen in 1964 or in previous years; five who were serving as campaign vice-chairmen; ten who were either the presidents or the vice-presidents of their welfare funds, and sixteen who were members of the Board of Directors of their central community organizations. There was an equally strong representation of leadership among the women fifteen of them having served as chairmen or as vice-chairmen of the women's divisions of their community campaigns.

'WE ARE HERE AS INDIVIDUALS' - MEYERHOFF

Perhaps Mr. Meyerhoff described them best when he told Prime Minister Levi Eshkol: "The composition of this Mission reflects the cross-section of leader-ship in our country. All of us are here on our own. We are here as individuals, neither representing nor speaking for any community. But each of us tries to

sum up in our own minds and in our own hearts what it is that we see and can transmit to our friends and co-workers back home."

This modest disclaimer notwithstanding, UJA Mission members enjoy a special status in Israel. "...the UJA," Pinhas Sapir, Israel's Minister of Finance and Development, said at a meeting with the Mission members, "is not only a philanthropic instrument without parallel in modern times, but it has been and remains a major partner with Israel in the process of spiritual and national redemption. You are here not as guests, not as tourists, but as brothers and sisters, partners in a historic mission."

DUTIES OF A UJA STUDY MISSION

The duties their Mission imposed upon them were succinctly stated by Louis

A. Pincus, Treasurer of the Jewish Agency, when he said: "As a Study Mission
your obligation is to penetrate a little deeper, to go beneath the surface of
things, and to see what are the real facts, the real nature of the achievement,
the real dimensions of the needs and problems, the ability or inability with which
we try to solve these problems, and, having analyzed those facts, to find within
them sufficient drama and sufficient inspiration to enable you to go on with the
work of the United Jewish Appeal."

To this Moshe Sharett, Chairman of the Jewish Agency Executive, added these thoughtful words: "What the present delegation will see and hear, examine and study, should be turned into a lever that will rouse the American Jewish community in 1965 to an effort fully commensurate with its tremendous capacity."

This duty - and ability - to probe is essential to the success of a UJA Mission. The luxury hotels in which the members stayed, while indispensable to the development of tourism, do not, of course, reflect the true image of Israel. This true image is not to be found even in its principal cities but in moshavin such as Pardess Hannah, Kadima, Adereth, and Roglit; in development towns like Dimona and Arad; in the huge pumping station somewhere in the Galilee which sends

the waters of the Jordan on their long, life-giving journey to the arid Negev.

All of these places, and others, were important points in the Mission's Israel itinerary.

However, to really appreciate the contribution Israel is making to Jewish survival, one had to go beyond Israel's borders - as four of the Mission's subcommittees did - to the Jewish communities in North Africa and the Middle East - specifically places like Morocco and Iran, France, Austria and Italy.

Despite the vast emigration since the establishment of Israel, large reservoirs of Jewish life still remain in Moslem lands. There, the young and old live in the hope of being brought to Israel. There, the conservation of Jewish energies and hopes rests largely on the vast relief, welfare and rehabilitation programs which the JDC, greatest of American Jewish humanitarian agencies, is conducting on behalf of nearly a half-a-million Jews.

JDC - MILESTONE IN AMERICAN JEWISH PHILANTHROPY

It is commonly accepted today that the founding of JDC in 1914 represented one of the great milestones in American-Jewish philanthropic history. One historian referred to JDC's birth fifty years ago as "a giant step in the maturing of the American Jewish community" marking American Jewry's assumption of responsibility on a worldwide scale.

This "assumption of responsibility on a worldwide scale" has taken the JDC into 76 countries. A high point in its history occurred during the span of years that covered the Hitler era, World War II and the Allied victory through the early years of Israel's statehood.

Thanks to its massive programs of rescue and rehabilitation, JDC in 50 years was instrumental in saving four million Jews, in reconstructing Jewish life in modern Europe, and in resettling hundreds of thousands of uprooted Jews in Palestine-Israel and other lands of freedom.

JDC co-operated with the Jewish Agency in the great "Shnat Ha-apalah," the so-called "illegal" immigration to Palestine following the end of World War II. Within two and a half years after Israel achieved Statehood, JDC aided 444,000 Jews - mainly from the DP camps in Germany, the British detention centers in Cyprus, and the entire Jewish communities of Yemen and Iraq, to reach the new State.

Thanks to Aliyah Bet, Operation Magic Carpet, Operation Ezra - as these activities were called - and its current Malben program, JDC has given life-saving and other vital assistance to the overwhelming majority of the 1,275,000 immigrants who are in Israel today.

For these reasons, the JDC's 50th Anniversary holds a special significance for the people of Israel, as it does for Jews the world over.

INITIATE JDC 50TH ANNIVERSARY OBSERVANCES

The people of Israel decided to initiate the observance of the JDC's Jubilee Year during the Mission's stay in that country.

This meant transferring the Mission's traditional conference with the JDC overseas staff from Europe to Israel. This conference with the JDC country directors - in which the members of the sub-missions participated with Charles H. Jordan, Director-General of JDC overseas operations, and Moses A. Leavitt, JDC Executive Vice-Chairman - was opened on Sunday, October 12. Its theme, as Mr. Warburg expressed it, was "The problems of the present - not the triumphs of the past".

These problems proved so complex, and the range of JDC activities so widespread through 30 countries, that not even the two days the Mission devoted to this could do more than touch upon their high points.

The massiveness of JDC's current program of aid is reflected by the fact that in four Moslem countries alone, JDC aid goes to nearly 80,000 persons, some

40 per cent of the total Jewish populations - as follows: In Morocco half of the Jewish population of 80,000 are dependent upon JDC; in Tunisia, more than a third of the Jewish population of 30,000; in Iran, it is one-fourth of the Jewish population of 80,000, including 8,000 children who are fed daily in schools; in Algeria, reduced to 4,000 destitute Jews from a pre-statehood total of 110,000, JDC has had to take over the entire burden of relief, welfare and medical aid.

In Europe, the number of Jews being aided is slightly larger - 83,000, of whom 54,000 are in France - a country where the problem of immigrant absorption is second only to Israel. The rapid flow of emigration - primarily from the former French territories in Moslem North Africa of Algeria and Tunisia - over the past three years has sent more than 160,000 Jews into France. These, added to the thousands of Jewish refugees who had fled to France after the Hungarian revolt, the Jews who were expelled from Egypt and others who came from Eastern Europe, sent the Jewish population sky-rocketing from 300,000 to 500,000.

JDC SAVED SITUATION IN FRANCE

In addition to swelling Jewish relief rolls, these newcomers swamped Jewish community facilities the length and breadth of France. There were not sufficient synagogues, talmud torahs, vocational schools, Jewish centers, child care facilities, medical services and homes for the aged. Since this great influx began in 1961 the JDC has spent millions of dollars aiding the Fonds Social Juif Unifie, the French central fundraising agency, and ICA, the Jewish Colonization Association, to expand existing communal facilities, to build new ones, to meet rising relief costs and to provide housing.

Even though it was two years after this immigration to France had reached its peak, the UJA group still could see evidences of homelessness and need which are the tragic hallmarks of the uprooted. They could see it in the canteens in Paris which served thousands of free meals weekly, in the shelters which all too many

refugees still must call "home", in slum districts like the Belleville quarter where the more fortunate families obtained one room apartments with the help of loans and grants for "key money" from a special fund the JDC had set up and dispensed by French Jewish social work agencies. As the UJA group reported, only the JDC's presence in France has prevented the situation from turning into utter chaos.

In Israel no other non-governmental body except the Jewish Agency itself, has made such a massive contribution to Israel's social welfare as has the JDC through its <u>Malben</u> network of institutions which care for the sick, aged and handicapped among Israel's immigrants.

A territory in which neither the Ottoman Empire nor the British Mandatory Power had established a national public health and welfare system worthy of the name, Israel was menaced by a serious health problem when shortly after the War of Liberation it suddenly found itself deluged with masses of immigrants. As it was an immigration which excluded no Jew, the country was flooded with scores of thousands who were helplessly ill - both physically and mentally - and with victims of communicable diseases - many of them deadly - ranging from trachoma to tuberculosis. There were even infectious diseases new to Israel but capable of flourishing in a new environment.

As there were virtually no facilities for the care of the aged, the crippled, the chronically ill and other hard-core cases, the Israel Government and the Jewish Agency in 1949 turned to JDC to create and administer services for their care. In fact, the name Malben is a Hebrew abbreviation of "Institutions for the Care of Handicapped Immigrants."

MALBEN WILL AID 50% MORE THIS YEAR

With Israel undergoing another period of large-scale immigration, <u>Malben's</u> hospitals, homes for the aged, rehabilitation centers, program for the mentally ill, and its far-ranging medical care program, carrying a caseload of 50,000, are more utilized and more needed than ever. As Theodore H. Feder, Director-General

of <u>Malben</u> and other JDC operations in Israel pointed out, during the first eight months of 1964, the number of aged, infirm and other cases requiring institutional care among the new immigrants totalled more than in the entire year of 1963. "We already have a 30 per cent increase in our caseload and before the end of the year it may be 50 per cent," he told the Mission members. Also, for the first time since 1958, <u>Malben</u> is faced with a "waiting list" made up of newcomers arriving without private means and with no family or friends to give assistance.

It is paradoxical that in the time of rising needs and challenging oportunities, the JDC will begin the year 1965 with an income loss of \$7,000,000 due to the termination of the funds it had been receiving annually since 1954 from the Conference for Jewish Material Claims against Germany. It is a loss which the members of the Mission recognized could only be made up by increasing the funds to be raised and allocated by their communities to the UJA in 1965.

No other conclusion could have been possible following these words by Mr.

Leavitt: "In Israel we must continue through our <u>Malben</u> network of institutions to provide medical and custodial care to growing thousands of sick, aged and handicapped newcomers. In other countries we must help provide a complete welfare and rehabilitation program for tens of thousands who come to their new homes denuded of all their possessions while, at the same time, continuing the work we are doing for the needy amongst the established populations.

"The solution of this problem will call for all the skill and know-how of a veteran and devoted staff, backed up by 50 years of experience in developing ways and means of serving Jewish needy and meeting Jewish needs in many parts of the world. It will require also sums of money far in excess of what we can foresee as coming to us in the immediate future."

ISRAEL ON THE RISE

Israel itself is a phenomenon which must be seen to be appreciated and understood - a light in the Jewish universe. Outwardly, it is a success story in the fullest sense of that term, with growth and progress everywhere in evidence. In 1963, Israel's industry gave employment to 220,000 workers - 60 per cent of whom are immigrants - who produced IL 5 billion worth of goods; its agriculture, IL 1,223 million worth of produce. Its major cities now enjoy the "luxury" of traffic problems.

Although only 16 years old, it is setting an example for the majority of the newly established nations in Asia and Africa. To them Israel has been contributing all the "know-how" it has acquired in such varied fields as agriculture, public health, education, vocational training and security. "Israel's network of relations with countries in Asia and Africa is constantly expanding," the Prime Minister told the Mission. "Israel's technicians are now working in 50 countries. Since the beginning of our technical cooperation program, some 4,000 trainees from these continents have studied in Israel."

It is a country whose growth and development - social, economic, political - caused one head of an African state to say: "I would want my country to be another Israel."

Yes, Israel is enjoying a period of economic boom, the Mission was told. But building immigrant housing in units of thousands, changing the country's physiognomy through bold development schemes was a dangerously inflationary and costly crash program justified only by the urgent need to absorb scores of thousands of newcomers yearly.

No nation in history has ever experienced a demographic challenge akin to Israel's. When it came into being in 1948, less than five per cent of the Jews of the world lived within its borders. It is the only nation in history that has had to mobilize so much of its own resources as well as the resources of free Jewry in order to bring back and make room for more than one-and-one-quarter million Jews from more than one hundred countries, Jews whose very physical and

spiritual survival depended upon their return. Today, Israel embraces more than fifteen per cent of the world's Jews.

The members of the Mission saw a sampling of Israel's newcomers when they watched two jets unload more than 300 of them within the space of half-an-hour at Lydda Airport. They ranged from babies in arms to a patriarch 101 years old, including a score of unaccompanied children and youths assigned to Youth Aliyah villages. Most of them came from countries where they endured severe discrimination. Nearly all of them were destitute.

This transport of Jews was the norm, not the exception. As Rabbi Friedman pointed out: "This happens every day, excluding Saturdays, every working day of the month. And we saw them brought to their new homes - many of them still incomplete, still without electricity, some without water. That's how thin the housing margin is."

But still they were better off than the first quarter-of-a-million - even the first half-million - of these immigrants. Brought to a country weakened by war, denuded of most of its natural resources through centuries of neglect, tents and tin shacks were the best that could be offered to them.

These <u>ma'abarot</u> - as the immigrant centers were called - used to dot the countryside and the outskirts of every city and town. Now they have nearly vanished, replaced by large blocks of modern apartment houses, parks and shopping centers. They have become the new districts of Tel Aviv, Haifa, Be'er Sheba, Ashdod, Ashkelon and Jerusalem, and the nuclei of such cities and towns as Dimona, Or Akiva, Migdal Ha'emek and Yerucham.

Another outstanding phenomenon was the fact that all this ingathering, all this development, all this construction, all this activity related to the social and economic integration of penniless newcomers, was being conducted by a nation living under the threat of war. In fact no nation, while on a war-footing, has ever spent so large a proportion of her income and loans on such peacetime tasks.

WHY ISRAEL CANNOT DO IT ALONE

Briefings and off-the-record talks to the Mission revealed why the nation's prosperity was a superficial one; why Israel taxpayers, even with increased aid from world Jewry, face years of burdensome imposts and "belt-tightening."

DEFENSE: \$350,000,000 annually is the published budget, but no one outside of the innermost circles of the Defense Ministry can even guess at the actual annual expenditure which is borne entirely by the Israel taxpayer. Egypt, Syria, Iraq are being supplied with swarms of planes, hundreds of tanks at a fraction of their cost. But as one military leader pointed out to the Mission, "Israel is no part of any military, political or economic alliance..." and therefore enjoys no discount advantages in the purchase of the arms it needs to maintain its military deterrent power.

IMMIGRATION AND ABSORPTION: Here is the gist of the testimony of two of Israel's outstanding authorities on this subject - Louis A. Pincus, Jewish Agency Treasurer, and Pinhas Sapir, the Minister of Finance and Development:

The past four years have seen the largest influx of immigrants since the first year of Statehood - a wave that will have brought almost 250,000 Jews to Israel by the end of 1964.

Initial costs: According to Mr. Pincus, each immigrant is being brought in at the cost of \$325. Housing for an average-sized immigrant family costs \$5,000.

"New immigrant housing alone is a great problem," Mr. Sapir revealed at a later meeting. "During the current budget year, we have allocated IL 168 million (\$56 million) for the construction of 10,000 housing units for new immigrants. We believed that together with the thousands of housing units under construction at the beginning of the financial year, these would meet the demands...Several months ago, however, it became clear that we must construct 5,000 more housing units during the present budget year. This involves a further expenditure of IL 70-80 million (\$27-29 million)."

ISRAEL MUST CORRECT HUMAN IMBALANCES

Probable final cost before an immigrant family can be deemed self-supporting averages \$10,000. This sum would just cover the "normal" costs of absorption. They do not include the extra millions that must be spent on each yearly crop of immigrants to correct many imbalances - in education, health, culture, earning capacity - that exist between Jews coming from modern industrialized nations and those from backward, under-developed lands.

How are these costs divided? As both Mr. Pincus and Mr. Sapir revealed, the greatest part is presently borne by the Israeli taxpayer - two-thirds - while the gift dollars from Jews outside of Israel - those in the U. S. principally - provide the remainder.

How about Israel's ability to continue to bear the brunt of these immigrant absorption costs? According to Mr. Pincus, the Israeli taxpayer will be increasingly hard put to meet the absorption costs even on their present level since government-to-government reparations from Germany, amounting to \$60-65 million annually, comes to an end this year.

"I want to make another observation - and I want to make this as a private citizen of Israel," Mr. Pincus said. "I have heard it asked in the United States and in other parts of the world: How long will Israel need our support? It sometimes offends us to hear this because what we are asking from the Jews of the free world - what we are looking for from the Jews who live outside of Israel - is not for Israel but for the Jews who have just come, who are not yet on their feet, who are not yet productive, who are not yet integrated. The absorption and integration of these Jewish immigrants is a responsibility which all Jews must share."

'PLATEAU GIVING' ENDANGERS ABSORPTION

Pointing out that the rise in immigration to Israel has coincided with a remarkable period of economic progress in the United States, Mr. Pincus said:

"The American Jewish community has shared in the benefits accrued from this

economic upswing. Notwithstanding this, their contribution to the United Jewish

Appeal for immigration, housing, agricultural resettlement and other services vital
to the social integration of these newcomers has remained at plateau level.

"In view of the tremendous burdens the people of Israel must bear for defense, for development, for education, this is historically and morally unfair," said Mr. Pincus.

To this Mr. Sapir added: "If the Jews of the United States fail to give us the requisite support for these tasks, our basic economic progress may be considerably slowed down.

"Our achievements to date could not have been gained without the great help of the United Jewish Appeal, whose contributions in the spheres of immigration, agricultural settlement, Youth Aliyah and housing, have often been decisive.

"But this is far from sufficient. We have been able to meet the needs of aliyah because we have imposed a tremendous burden on the Israeli taxpayer and, where there was no way out, have increasingly enlarged the debts of the Jewish Agency and the Government.

"But there is a limit to what we can impose on the Israeli citizen in the field of immigration and absorption, just as there is a limit to the debts that the Jewish Agency and the Government can shoulder."

These truths were frankly stated as only those who are partners in a vital enterprise calling for the redemption of a people have the duty to state them. "It is for all these reasons that the Jewish partnership you embody is so important to us," Prime Minister Eshkol told the Mission. "The knowledge that millions of Jewish hearts beat in unison with us out of a sense of common history and common destiny lends us courage and strength."

This was also succinctly stated by the Deputy Commander of Israel's Armed

Forces - Aluf Haim Bar-Lev - when he told the Mission members that their presence
in Israel "emphasizes to us that we are not alone."

'WE NEED YOUR SUPPORT'

"It is inspiring to us to see Jewish communities outside of Israel take an active responsibility for what is going on in Israel. We need your support, not just financial but <u>moral</u>, for it is this which reminds us that we are not just two million Jews somewhere in the Middle East, but the core of Jewish society the world over."

What impressed the Mission most about "these two million Jews somewhere in the Middle East" was their courage. Winston Churchill could have had the people of Israel in mind when he said, "Courage is rightly esteemed the first of human qualities because it is the quality which guarantees all others."

This "first of human qualities" has been the driving force behind all of Israel's achievements in creating a modern, progressive Hebrew civilization after two thousand years of dispersion. It took the greatest kind of moral courage for a handful of battle-worn people to pass a Law of Return which gave rise to the greatest migration of Jews in history, and to proclaim that education for all the immigrant children from five to fourteen years of age would be free, compulsory and universal. It took courage to push forward with the herculean Jordan-Negev water scheme; to anticipate the success of that scheme by bringing nearly 150,000 new immigrants into that desolate desert land; to build great cities for them to live in; to expend millions to exploit the natural resources there which would provide employment for them, and to gird themselves to carrying out the same blue-print for resettling the Galilee region.

COURAGE ALONE IS NOT ENOUGH

But human beings cannot solve these problems by courage alone. The financial strength to do so, particularly during Israel's formative years, must come in large measure from Jews throughout the free world - those of the United States, especially.

The spectacular effectiveness of the partnership between the people of Israel

and the Jews of America, through the United Jewish Appeal, as Moshe Sharett,
Chairman of the Jewish Agency, told the Mission members "invests every beneficiary
of it, every participant in it, and every contributor to it, with a new status of
dignity and sense of pride."

Long and arduous as the Mission's itinerary was, there remained another
barrier - an intellectual-emotional one - for them to hurdle before they could
leave in good conscience for their homes: how to crystalize their thinking, assess
what they saw and heard...

As Rabbi Friedman declared at the meeting that took place next to the final day of the Mission in Israel: "The problem that comes up when we conclude a Mission is the frustrating one of how to sort out these experiences that have left us thrilled, dedicated and more greatly committed, how to convey the enthusiasm we all feel, how can we transmit to others the urgency and the scope of the needs to be met by the UJA, how can we pose it as a supreme and sacred obligation upon all?"

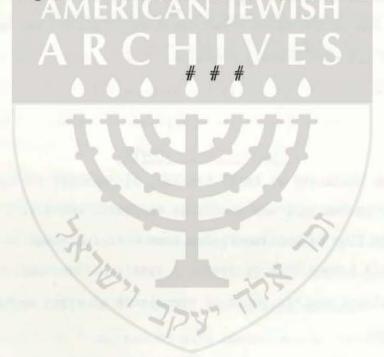
A RESOLUTION IS ADOPTED

So with all the solemnity at their command, six members of the Mission - made up of Albert Parker of New York who served as Chairman, and Jack F. Adler of Philadelphia, Irving Blum of Baltimore, Ben Domont of Indianapolis, Dr. I. Jerome Hauser of Detroit and Norman Rabb of Boston - took over the task of transcribing the views, the feelings, and the sense of commitment of every participant in the form of a resolution.

This resolution reflected and crystalized every facet of the Mission's experiences: not just the moving visits by the sub-missions to Jewish communities on the wane and on the rise outside of Israel, nor the whole gamut of Israel's immigrant absorption process...but also the vivid words of the speaker of the Knesset in eulogizing the JDC for fifty golden years of humanitarian service to the Jewish people...the shining faces of hundreds of school children who joined the Mission at the dedication of the Walter Artzt High School of Arts and Science

in Jaffa - the first under the auspices of the UJA's newly launched Israel Education Fund...the cornerstone-laying ceremonies for the new and permanent home of the Paul Baerwald School of Social Work on the campus of the Hebrew University... the dedication of the UJA of Greater New York's Hall of Remembrance in Jerusalem...

Adopted unanimously, this resolution will again be presented to the community representatives who will attend the UJA's Annual National Conference in New York, December 10-13. If past is prologue, the members of the Mission are confident it is certain to stir the kind of interest and enthusiasm in the American Jewish community that will result in a fundraising effort on behalf of the United Jewish Appeal in 1965 as great and as fruitful as the worldwide needs truly warrant.



RESOLUTION ADOPTED BY THE LOTH UNITED JEWISH APPEAL STUDY MISSION

Whereas, we, the members of the 10th Annual Study Mission of the United

Jewish Appeal, are assembled in Jerusalem after having completed during the past

11 days a most intensive survey of significant areas of Israel; and

Whereas, prior to the Israel tour, several members of the Study Mission undertook to survey at first hand the vital needs of our Jewish brethren in Europe, North Africa and the Middle East, including specifically such areas as Morocco, Iran, Italy and Austria, and have reported their findings to the Study Mission; and

Whereas our studies in Israel have taken us over most of the length and breadth of the State in the course of which the Mission has followed the Jordan River line from the fertile north to the arid Negev; has witnessed and experienced the arrival of immigrants and has seen them established in their new homes in development towns; has participated in the dedication of schools; has visited key institutions of the large JDC-Malben network, where more than 50,000 of the sick, aged, handicapped and other hard-core cases among the immigrants are being restored to normal living; has been privileged to have at first hand current and significant reports and briefings from key leaders and important members of the Government of Israel and the Executive of the Jewish Agency as to immigration, absorption and rehabilitation of immigrants, defense, education and the economy and to witness the fabulous progress this great State has made in its sixteen years; and

Whereas during the past four years the United Jewish Appeal through its agencies has enabled 250,000 immigrant newcomers, many from underdeveloped nations, to enter and be received in Israel and there has been created a tremendous imbalance in Israel's social structure and it has become desperately

short of housing, teachers, educational facilities and such vital services as health, welfare, child care and all such other services and facilities as are needed to integrate these vast numbers into her economy; and

Whereas there is a massive backlog of service needs to immigrants of prior years as well as increased requirements now and in the year ahead in all the functioning areas of the Jewish Agency and the Joint Distribution Committee, including aid to the more than 400,000 Jews remaining in other countries who exist by grace of the aid they receive from the Joint Distribution Committee; and we are met with these needs at a time when the funds available to the Joint Distribution Committee will be drastically reduced in 1965 to the extent of at least \$7,000,000 by reason of the termination of the receipt of funds from the German Claims Conference; and

Whereas Israel, now burdened with a substantial share of the expense of orienting, housing, educating and otherwise rehabilitating all these newcomers, continues to maintain its open door policy to receive and welcome all Jews who would come to its shores; and we, the United Jewish Appeal, and the entire American Jewish community must realize our continuing obligation to meet our share of the increased cost of the entire program, realizing that Israel is still dependent to the highest degree upon the philanthropic aid of the American Jewish community;

NOW THEREFORE, be it

RESOLVED that the United Jewish Appeal with the support of the American Jewish community shall do all within their power, during the year 1965, to provide increased funds necessary to maintain the lifeline to Israel which remains open to those who have not yet reached this haven of freedom and to assist those who have arrived in Israel but have not yet been provided with proper facilities for housing, education and rehabilitation; and to enable the Joint Distribution Committee and the other agencies deriving their support from the United Jewish Appeal

to continue to meet their obligations to our fellow Jews in desperate need in other parts of the world; accepting these increased obligations not as burdens but as a noble opportunity to advance a sacred mission for the redemption of our people to which the American Jewish community continue to be deeply dedicated; and be it further

RESOLVED to propose to the representatives of the Jewish communities of the United States who will assemble at the 27th Annual National Conference of the United Jewish Appeal in December of this year to set and ratify the 1965 nationwide goal of the United Jewish Appeal, the following:

- I. To set the largest dollar goal possible, greater in amount than in 1964, in order to fully cover the regular budgets of the Jewish Agency and the Joint Distribution Committee; and
- II. To provide for a United Jewish Appeal Special Fund large enough to meet not only the extraordinary immigration to Israel but also to enable the Joint Distribution Committee to continue its work without curtailment; and be it further

RESOLVED that, as members of this 10th Annual United Jewish Appeal Study Mission, we do firmly pledge and resolve to:

- (A) Devote our endeavours diligently towards the fulfillment of the established goals in each of our respective communities;
- (B) Endeavour to raise the standards of giving to our community campaigns; and
- (C) Make every dedicated effort to encourage extra leadership gifts to assure the success of the Special Fund, so as to give full meaning to the vital program of rescue and immigrant absorption to which the United Jewish Appeal and the American Jewish community are dedicated and which we have supported so diligently through the 26 historic years of United Jewish Appeal.

Jerusalem, October 21, 1964

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through the "EYES OF DISCOVERY"



The Story of the

11th ANNUAL UNITED JEWISH APPEAL STUDY MISSION

To Israel and Europe October 14-28, 1965

THROUGH THE

"EYES OF DISCOVERY"

A Report to American Jewry

Submitted by the

11th ANNUAL UNITED JEWISH APPEAL STUDY MISSION

To Israel and Europe

October 14-28, 1965

Note: This material is submitted for your personal information. It is not to be reprinted in whole or in part, or given out for quotation in the press or other public information media.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	PAGE
Through The "Eyes of Discovery"	1
A different Mission	2
The Negative Discoveries	3
What the Mission Discovered	4
The American Jew Must Raise More	6
The Needs in European and Moslem Lands	8
"Time of Change and Challenge"	9
The Mission in Israel	11
"Our Stay in Jerusalem"	12
Absorbing the Backward Immigrants	13
"A Second Israel Could Occur"	14
Ground Breaking for the Denmark School	16
"Israel's Greatest Moment"	18
200,000 Immigrants Expected	19
"A Society of Values"	20
Why Israel Survived	20
A Visit With the Defense Forces	21
The Mission in Tel Aviv	22
We Hold a Caucus	23
The Prime Minister's Address	25
Wiedensmy and Poslicts	26

THROUGH THE "EYES OF DISCOVERY"

On the morning of October 14, 1965, two bus loads of Americans stood on the tarmac of an airport in Southern Italy and awaited the arrival of a plane from "somewhere in Europe."

The Americans were not ordinary tourists. They were, instead, Jewish leaders from some 41 major American communities and members of the 11th Annual Overseas Study Mission of the United Jewish Appeal.

Led by Max M. Fisher of Detroit, UJA General Chairman, they had just made a journey of nearly three hours from Rome to participate in the opening event of a 14 day investigation into the progress being made in meeting the requirements of Jews in need in Europe and Moslem lands, and of immigrants to Israel.*

They had come as well to discover what problems still require the attention of American Jews in 1966, two decades after the liberation of Europe and its Jews, and the end of Hitler.

In a moment, as the plane landed, the Americans saw unfold a scene that after twenty years is still the heart of the UJA story. They watched a group of some 90 refugees, old and young, who had just arrived from a land of "stress" step down the landing ramp into a free land -- passing as it were from despair into hope, from darkness into light.

With tears in their eyes and cries of "Shalom" on their lips, the American leaders surged forward to greet and be greeted by these Jews on their way to Israel.

Before the day was over the Americans had talked person-to-person with the newcomers, ridden buses with them to small hotels scattered throughout the city, shared their simple meals, and listened as they expressed their fears and their hopes. They had also come to know again that of all the heart-warming ways in which

^{*}For complete list of Mission members see back cover.

American funds are used through UJA to save and build lives, rescue immigration is still the supreme example of UJA's life-saving role.

In that exciting day at the airport, the Mission members heard from one immigrant couple a typical story...How they had waited for 10 years for permission to emigrate, having first registered in 1955...How the husband registering for emigration had been discharged from his job and the family income had disappeared...How for years now, as this family waited, they had to live entirely on the help which they received from relatives in the United States and from UJA.

"What can we do for you now?" the sympathetic Americans had asked. Quietly the wife answered:

"You have done all you can for us. We know that we are now in good hands. We do not fear the future. There is only one thing you can still do. Take care of those who are still there -- and make sure they too come out."

A "Different" Mission

In this way, then, began what was surely one of the most remarkable and successful study missions ever conducted under UJA auspices.

Some of the many things that made it so unusual and exciting were brilliantly summed up for us by the UJA General Chairman, Max Fisher, at the Mission's closing event in Tel Aviv on Wednesday, October 27, a state dinner tendered by Israel's Prime Minister Levi M. Eshkol and Mrs. Eshkol:

"This Mission, like our previous groups is a most distinguished one. But additionally, it is the most representative," he declared.

"It is larger -- the largest UJA Mission ever to come to Israel....

"It is on the average younger. It has many men who represent our new young leadership which is coming to the front in the United States.

"And finally, and most wonderful of all, it is a Mission in which two out of every three members are seeing Israel for the very first time."

"The Eyes of Discovery"

"Several years ago," Mr. Fisher continued, a distinguished American scholar compiled a wonderful book called, 'The Eyes of Discovery.'

"In it he brought together the first reports -- the very first impressions -in their very own words -- of some of the great explorers who opened up the New
World and the American continent...

"Mr. Prime Minister -- this Mission has been marked by the wonderful 'Eyes of Discovery.'

"Those of us who were never here before have travelled through the land seeing it with fresh eyes -- with new eyes -- with excited eyes.

"And for those of us who have been here before it is as though we were seeing it all over again through the eyes of those who are looking at it for the first time!"

What The Mission Discovered

In our formal sessions, which began at the airport in Southern Italy, and ended with the Prime Minister's Dinner in Tel Aviv two weeks later, we of the Mission made many exciting "discoveries" and re-discoveries.

On the positive side these included the following:

1. That Israel, in its 17th year of existence is a vital, progressive state with many great achievements to its credit. Foremost among these is the fact that it has welcomed more than a million and a quarter immigrants, largely penniless, and most of them from lands of stress and distress. The immigrants have come with the humanitarian help of the Jewish Agency for Israel, which receives its principal funds from the United Jewish Appeal.

- 2. That approximately two out of every three of these newcomers -- with the help of the Jewish Agency and UJA, and the assistance of Israel's taxpayers -- have made a reasonably successful adjustment to their new land.
- 3. That additionally, Israel has scored remarkable achievements in agriculture, housing, the building of new towns and cities, the enlargement of old cities, economic development, the extension of education, and other indicies of progress.
- 4. That, for example, some 480 new agricultural villages have been set up with the help of the Jewish Agency and the UJA during the last 17 years, and some 30,000 new immigrant farmers and their families have been established on the land.
- 5. That, by way of additional example, more than two dozen immigrant development towns have been established throughout the country in the last 12 years -- communities ranging from 5,000 to 20,000 people, and destined eventually to hold 25,000 people or more, who will earn their living in local enterprises.
- 6. That, in Europe meanwhile, great strides in reviving and restoring Jewish life have been made in many areas by the Joint Distribution Committee.

This process has gone so far that in twelve countries these European Jewish communities have banded together in a "Standing Conference of European Jewish Community Services." Through the Conference, Europe's Jews were able to extend \$500,000 in financial assistance to the Jewish refugees from North Africa who flooded into France in recent years.

The Negative Discoveries

Not all of the discoveries of our Mission, however, were positive. The Mission came upon many important matters which showed the need for continuing attention by all who believe in strengthening Jewish life and insuring Jewish survival.

On the negative side, the Mission's findings included the following:

1. That there has been a serious breakdown in the stabilization of Jewish life

which had been achieved by the JDC in France, and in the countries of North Africa across the Mediterranean from France.

This breakdown resulted from the recent political upheavals in Morocco, Algeria and Tunisia. From 1961, on, these upheavals sent more than 150,000 Jewish refugees fleeing into France. The French Jewish community, therefore, mushroomed overnight from 350,000 persons, to 500,000, and thousands of new refugees have turned to JDC for assistance, swamping its facilities.

- 2. That, meanwhile, this wholesale flight of Jewish populations from North Africa has left several countries stripped of their best and ablest leadership.

 Additionally, while the total number of Jews has declined, the proportionate number of Jews who required JDC's assistance has risen dramatically. What is more, because of rising costs and other factors, this assistance costs more to give than ever before.
- 3. That in Israel, meanwhile, where 600,000 immigrants have entered from Moslem countries, the failure to successfully absorb hundreds of thousands of these newcomers has now reached a crisis point. This is most apparent in some 21 immigrant development towns, with about 200,000 inhabitants, the majority of them from Moslem lands.
- 4. That this absorption crisis, great as it is, is not the only major obligation which faces the Jewish Agency. Ahead is the fact that the next five years will see at least 200,000 more immigrants enter the country. This movement will continue the high flow of immigration of the last five years, when 250,000 entered. The fact that immigration promises to continue at a high level represents a positive development. But it also represents a drag on the ability of the Agency, and Israel's people, to throw all their resources into one concentrated effort to speed immigrant absorption.

5. That the most discouraging of the many facts which came to our Mission's attention in Europe and Israel, is the financial situation facing UJA's main beneficiaries -- The Jewish Agency for Israel and the Joint Distribution Committee. These agencies, along with the United Hias Service, will have \$17,500,000 less to work with in 1966 -- unless American Jews make up the less through increased giving.

This loss follows from the fact that, after ten years, German reparations money has ended for all three agencies.

The JDC alone had been receiving \$7,000,000 annually during the last decade, which it lost in 1965. In 1966, the Jewish Agency will lose \$10,000,000 which it had received annually from reparations.

American Jews Must Raise More

With all this in mind, our Mission came to the conclusion that Israel's population of 2,250,000 people -- who today bear at least two-thirds of the cost of receiving and absorbing the newcomers -- cannot be asked to do more than they are now doing. Israel's people are already bearing alone, the very heavy cost of a critical defense situation and various costs of expanding the nation's economy.

Additionally, the situation outside of Israel requires that the Jews of the free world continue to fulfill the great tasks of overseas Jewish revival and survival which have occupied their attention since Liberation. We finally concluded that it is the special responsibility of American Jews to find the ways and means to raise the monies required to insure these goals.

To tell how and why we came to these conclusions is the purpose of this report of our Study Mission. Additionally, it is our purpose to submit our thinking to the attention of the responsible leadership of the American Jewish Community so that they, in turn, may propose and stimulate, effective and speedy action.

The Mission In Rome

Following our exciting first day, when we saw Jewish refugees in the process of migrating to Israel, we spent our second day in Rome, in a more formal manner.

At Rome's Grand Hotel, our Mission heard reports on the progress and the problems facing the Joint Distribution Committee, together with its sister organizations which benefit from UJA funds.

These include: The United Hias Service, the worldwide migration agency; the ORT, the organization for rehabilitation through training, and the European offices of the Jewish Agency for Israel, whose work we had seen on the previous day.

It is the Agency which bears the major responsibility for moving Jewish refugees from countries of stress both in Europe and the Moslem areas, to Israel, and speeding their absorption after arrival.

A sad note was introduced into the Mission's sessions in Rome by the absence of Edward M. M. Warburg, General Chairman of the Joint Distribution Committee. He was kept from the Conference by a death of a brother. His place as chairman was taken by Mr. Fisher. Mr. Fisher was assisted by Louis M. Broido, member of the UJA Administration Committee and former President of the United Jewish Appeal of Greater New York.

A major role in the proceedings was played by Charles Jordan, Director of the Joint Distribution Committee. He was assisted by a number of members of his staff, including his Deputy Director-Generals, Herbert Katzki of Geneva, and Samuel Haber, of New York, as well as by Abe Laskove, Director for Morocco; Sidney Engel, Director for Iran; Julian Breen, Finance Director; Evelyn Peters, Director of JDC's Child Care Programs, and Leonard Seidenman, Director for Italy.

Also participating in the sessions were Max M. Braude, Director-General of the World Ort Union; James Rice, Executive Director of the United Hias Service and Gaynor Jacobson, European Director of the United Hias Service.

The Needs In Europe And Moslem Lands

The main information which was brought out in our Rome sessions may be summarized as follows:

- 1. Twenty years after V-E Day, JDC continues to meet the needs of more than 400,000 Jews in Europe, Moslem lands and Israel. About 30 per cent of the total funds it receives are spent by JDC in Israel, primarily for its MALBEN program. A second 30 per cent is spent in various Moslem countries. Twenty per cent is spent in European countries, mainly in France, but also in Italy, for the assistance of transmigrants -- people on their way from Europe to Israel and other countries. The remainder is spent for a special package program and for assistance to other organizations which are subvened by the JDC.
- 2. There are certain areas of Europe where JDC is giving help to several thousand special cases which literally spells the difference for these people between survival and the inability to survive. Many of these are persons who have registered for emigration. But the amount of assistance JDC does give in this critical work is far, far from what it should be, or would be, if it had funds enough.
- 3. The JDC case load in Moslem countries is smaller but more critical than it was several years ago -- and almost as costly. In 1956, some 500,000 Jews lived in four Moslem countries: Algeria, Morocco, Tunisia and Iran. Today there are only 200,000. In 1956 about 100,000 of these Jews one out of every five needed JDC's help. Today, 60,000 one out of every three needs that help. Additionally the ending of subsidies by the governments involved, the discontinuance of aid which formerly came from local Jewish communities, and the rising cost of living have greatly increased the cost of aiding these people.
- 4. In Israel, JDC continues to aid about 50,000 aged and handicapped persons through its MALBEN program. Of these about 3,700 are aged persons maintained in

old folks homes. But the heavy immigration of recent years has called for an increase of MALBEN services to the aged which it is unable to provide. MALBEN - which suffered a 25 per cent cut back in funds in 1965 -- has had to turn away many who would normally be qualified for its assistance.

5. In 1965, JDC was forced to cut its budget by 25 per cent from the \$29 million it had at its disposal from various sources including the UJA, in 1964. Yet
the number of persons JDC was called on to aid during the year - 430,000 was
approximately the same as in 1964.

In 1966, unless strenuous efforts are made to increase its income - JDC will be forced to make even greater cuts in its already hard pressed programs.

6. Additionally, it was brought out in Rome that in 1966, as a result of passage of the new United States immigration law on October 3, 1965, the United Hias Service should begin to see a rise in the number of Jewish refugees able to move to the west.

The effect of the new law will not be felt in its entirety for about three years. But it can be expected that for the next five years Jewish immigration to western countries, aided by United Hias, will average 12,000 immigrants per year or 60,000 persons total.

This would represent a considerable increase over immigration to the west of the last five years.

"A Time Of Change And Challenge"

The Rome sessions of our Mission ended with a dinner on Saturday evening,

October 16. The guests of honor for the occasion were the Presidents of 23

communities which are federated in the Union of Italian-Jewish communities. The

group was led by Judge Sergio Piperno of Rome, President of the Union.

Other special guests at the dinner included the Right Hon. Lord Nathan of London, Honorary Treasurer of the Central British Fund for Jewish Relief and

Rehabilitation; Guiseppe Lupis, Under-secretary of the Italian Ministry for Foreign

Affairs; Sidney L. Mellen, Minister of Economic Affairs at the U. S. Embassy in

Rome; Nissim Ya'ish, Charge d'Affaires of the Israel Embassy in Rome and Dr. Astorre

Mayer, Chairman of the Standing Conference of European Jewish Community Services.

Speaking at the Dinner, Lord Nathan paid tribute to the work of the United

Jewish Appeal and the Joint Distribution Committee not only in the field of helping

refugees to migrate but also in aiding with their rehabilitation through the

provision of social, educational and health services.

"Without these, the living Jewish community outside, as well as inside, Israel, could not have come into being," Lord Nathan declared.

The high spot of the evening came in a moving address given by Mr. Fisher as Mission leader and Chairman of the dinner.

The UJA General Chairman addressed himself to the fact that "we are in a time of change -- and we are facing a time of challenge. As leaders," he declared "we will want to understand the changes and as leaders we will want to meet the challenges".

He noted that the Mission was going to Israel at a time the young state was holding an important election. He called the election significant because it demonstrated the "miracle - and the meaning of Jewish survival."

He added that election took on an aspect of increased importance for us because we had started our Mission in Rome - not far from the Arch of Titus. He reminded us that the Arch was set up by the Romans to celebrate their conquest and destruction of the Jewish nation in year 70.

The major part of his speech, however, was devoted to an evaluation of the role the JDC has played in restoring European Jewish life in the twenty years since V-E Day, and the outstanding part played by Edward M. M. Warburg, JDC Chairman, through those "two tremendous decades."

JDC's accomplishments, Mr. Fisher declared, "have posed a challenge for all of us in this room. We have helped to do great things -- but there are still great things to do ... We are privileged as no other Jewish generation has been privileged. We can stand in sorrow under the Arch of Titus in the morning, and we can walk in pride and joy in reborn Jerusalem in the afternoon. The price we pay for that incredible privilege is really very small. It is simply to do all we can to help," he concluded.

The Mission in Israel

Sunday evening, October 17, a special chartered plane brought the Mission members from Rome to Israel. The bright sun had already plunged into the sea as our group, more than 200 members strong, moved by bus across the Sharon plain and up the Judean hills to Jerusalem.

For most of our Mission, 70 per cent of whom had never been in Israel before, this journey by night was a tantilizing one, with little to see of the land which we had come so far to visit.

But the next twelve days were to correct this in full measure, - as we traveled far and wide throughout the country, piling exciting experience upon experience -- meeting with Israel's highest officials and Israel's newest immigrants -- meeting with the average man in the street as well -- and seeing and sensing the country's drive toward progress and self-sufficiency, in the face of great hardships.

To detail all we saw, to list all the places that we visited, and to put down all the facts and opinions which we uncovered, would take a report many times the size of this present document.

Therefore, we shall list and comment upon only the more significant events.

Additionally, we also mean to note those shortcomings and problems which attracted our attention, and which obviously still require the continued interest and financial support of all American Jews through the United Jewish Appeal.

Our Stay In Jerusalem

Our first three days in Israel - Monday, October 18 through Wednesday, October 20, were spent in Jerusalem. A high moment of our visit was our reception by the President of Israel, Schneour Zalman Shazar, at the Beit Hanassi on the afternoon of Tuesday, October 19.

Speaking to us in Hebrew, Israel's distinguished President urged us to continue our already great labors in the work of realizing in all its fullness, the dream of a modern, viable Jewish state.

While much has already been done, he noted, but much more remains to be done.

The partnership between the people of Israel and the Jews of the free world will have to continue for many years, President Shazar said.

In Jerusalem, we had other exciting visits with -- Zalman Aranne, the distinquished Minister of Education -- Haim Zadok, the vigorous Minister for Commerce and Industry -- S. Z. Shragai, outstanding Member of the Executive the Jewish Agency in charge of Immigration -- and Moshe Kol, internationally known authority on youth work and Member of the Jewish Agency Executive in charge of Youth Aliyah.

Additionally we had the opportunity to visit many of Jerusalem's notable institutions, and to see something of the city, particularly its new immigrant areas.

We visited Israel's new National Museum in Jerusalem and were received by its Board Chairman, Theodore Kollek, (who was soon to be elected mayor of Jerusalem).

Additionally we visited the Hebrew University, the new Hadassah hospital, the Yad

Vashem (the Hall of Remembrance) and other institutions.

But four events, in addition to our visit with President Shazar, made our stay in Jerusalem outstanding. These included, a visit to the Immigrant Development Town of Beit Shemesh, less than a dozen miles from Jerusalem, followed that afternoon by

attendance at the ground-breaking ceremony for the new Denmark School, a project of the Israel Education Fund.

They included as well, a luncheon session with Mrs. Golda Meir, Israel's noted Foreign Minister, and an evening with Louis A. Pincus, the distinguished Acting Chairman and Treasurer of the Jewish Agency.

All four events were related to what was to develop into the outstanding issue of our Mission: the extent to which Israel is succeeding, or failing, in absorbing the nearly 600,000 Jews who have come to it from backward Moslem lands!

Absorbing The Backward Immigrants

That considerable progress has been made in promoting this absorption was borne out in Mrs. Meir's remarks, when she met with us at noon Wednesday, October 20.

Israel's Foreign Minister spoke feelingly on how the meaning of democracy and an understanding of the democratic way of life, had been conveyed to thousands of Jewish African-Asian newcomers.

"I remember one young man" she said, "who came from North Africa and who had been here several years in a Moshav - one of our cooperative agricultural villages. We were discussing a certain problem. He got up and said 'I want to tell you people something that you probably won't understand. Here in Israel I have learned the meaning of democracy. I have learned something that is very basic - that in a democratic society you discuss your problems. You may even fight over them. Then a vote is taken and the will of the majority is made clear. At that point the matter is finished. The minority must accept the rule of the majority.'

"Then," Mrs. Meir continued, "this young man said, 'This is something about which we in the country from which I came knew absolutely nothing. It is a concept of which we never heard. We never thought about it and certainly never practiced it. We learned about democracy here.'"

"A Second Israel Could Occur" - Pincus

But it remained for the able Acting Chairman of the Jewish Agency, Louis Pincus to direct our attention to the other side of the absorption coin.

Mr. Pincus also noted that Israel had made it possible for hundreds of thousands to live in freedom and exercise democratic privileges who had never known such freedom and privileges before.

Referring to the current election, Mr. Pincus said "Many people will be going to vote for the first time who never before knew the meaning of voting in democratic fashion... Their countries of origin denied them this right... And so you, the contributors to, and members of, what I call 'the movement of the UJA' can claim some credit for having enabled these newcomers to acquire what has become the most important right in the modern civilized world!"

"Nonetheless," Mr. Pincus declared, "Israel has done an incomplete job of settling and absorbing the immigrants who have come to it." He warned, "a second Israel could become a stark, grim reality."

The Acting Chairman of the Jewish Agency stressed that there were many things that would give the contributors to the UJA who made up the Mission much joy and much pleasure as they went through the country.

"But," he added, "I propose to talk to you frankly -- because it has been my experience that if you talk frankly, the Jews of the free world are mature enough to take and understand bad tidings as well as good. Just because of our achievements we can now face any problem, no matter how black it might seem."

What emerged regarding the absorption problem from Mr. Pincus's address, and from our visits to the Immigrant Development Town of Beit Shemesh, and similar towns, is the following:

1. That vast numbers of the 600,000 Jewish immigrants who have been brought

to Israel from Moslem countries with the help of the UJA and the Jewish Agency, are still unabsorbed, or are only partially absorbed.

- 2. That this lack of absorption is most acute in some 21 Immigrant Development Towns. These Towns are new communities of from 5,000 to 20,000 people, most of them set up in various parts of Israel within the last twelve years. Here, dwell some 200,000 immigrants and their children, 70 per cent of them of North African-Asian origin.
- 3. The absorption of these newcomers and their children has been held down by a variety of handicaps:

Some 30 per cent of the Development Towns' dwellers are illiterate in any language.

More than 60 per cent of them belong to families of six or more persons,

against Israel's national average of 3.7 persons to a family.

Some 20 per cent of the population in these Development Towns consists of non-productive families -- people on permanent relief who are employed full time or part-time on public works schemes.

The Towns have been plagued by a <u>turnover</u> in population of 50 per cent or more.

As the better immigrants leave, only the least capable remain.

4. The most serious problems of non-absorption are those which relate to the youth in the Development Towns. Unless strenuous efforts are made to assist these North-African youngsters to take their place side-by-side with the children of Israel's settlers of European origin, there surely will emerge the "two Israels" which the leaders of the country fear.

The youngest Development Towns children suffer from the fact that their parents are unable to guide them in understanding and meeting the requirements and standards of a modern Western society. They are strangers in such a society themselves.

Children who complete grammar school -- which is free -- find it difficult

to go on to secondary school. Most of the development towns lack high schools which the children can attend, and unless a child possess the ability to win a scholarship, and does, he may not be able to go on with secondary schooling, which is not free in Israel.

Additionally, there are many children who could benefit from vocational training instead of secondary schooling on an academic level, but there are not enough places to accommodate such children. Nor are there possibilities for employment for most youngsters in the Development Towns. Also, the towns are shy of sports facilities, guidance counsellors, libraries, and other devices to assist young people in using their leisure creatively.

As a result of all this far too many children of North African-Asian origin in these towns waste the years between 14 and 18 in idleness. At 18 they enter the Army, but already the idle years have left their mark on them.

Ground Breaking for The Denmark School

A deeply moving demonstration of one answer to the problem of speeding the absorption of Israel's immigrants came on the afternoon of Wednesday, October 20: Ground breaking ceremonies for The Denmark School project of the Israel Education Fund, a UJA program headed by Joseph Meyerhoff, Chairman and Charles J. Bensley, President.

We of the Mission gathered on a hill in the Katamon quarter of Jerusalem, peopled largely by newcomers from Morocco, Algeria and other Moslem lands. The area lies in the southeastern part of Jerusalem, within plain sight of the Jordanian border. The audience included Jerusalemites, Israel officials, the Danish Ambassador and Mission members.

With seven of 10 American donors looking on, ground was broken for the new comprehensive high school and cultural complex, to cost \$1 million, and designed to serve the children of the quarter.

Mr. Bensley, the originator of the plan for the school, and one of ten contributors of \$100,000 each to it, told the audience:

"Today we break ground for a comprehensive high school that will eternally commemorate ... an act of brotherhood and lifesaving by the Danish people of their fellow Danes ... the Jews of Denmark. In October, 1943 the people of Occupied Denmark saved almost all of the country's 8,000 Jews threatened with deportation to Hitler's concentration camps, by rowing them to neutral Sweden in small fishing vessels under the cover of darkness."

The Danish Ambassador, Poul Steenberger; Israel Minister of Education

Zalman Arranne, and Mayor Mordechai Ish Shalom of Jerusalem, hailed the generosity

and the foresight of the American donors of the new school. Max M. Fisher,

UJA General Chairman, and Louis A. Pincus, Acting Chairman and Treasurer of the

Jewish Agency addressed the gathering in behalf of the UJA and the Jewish Agency

respectively.

In addition to Mr. Bensley, the donors and their wives who were present included: Mr. and Mrs. Robert A. Efroymson, Indianapolis, Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Mazer, New York City; Mr. and Mrs. Lawrence Schacht, New York City and South Orange, New Jersey; Mr. and Mrs. Joseph D. Shane, Los Angeles; Mr. and Mrs. Malcolm Woldenberg, New Orleans; and Mr. and Mrs. Philip Zinman, Philadelphia, and Camden, New Jersey.

Other donors, but not present, include: C. W. Efroymson, Indianapolis,
Bernard Striar, South Orange, New Jersey; and Mr. Meyerhoff, who is donating a
Library for the new center.

The Israel Education Fund, conceived by Rabbi Herbert A. Friedman, Executive Vice-Chairman of the UJA, and organized by him after a series of fact-finding missions and meetings with leaders of the Israel Government, The Jewish Agency and American Jewish communities, was set up a year ago as a capital fund-raising effort

seeking large gifts of \$100,000 or more for high schools, libraries, youth centers, pre-kindergartens and scholarships for students and for teachers in training. Such gifts must be in addition to the donor's regular campaign gift. At the ceremonies on October 20, Mr. Bensley revealed that in its first year the Fund had already received some \$10,000,000 in such larger gifts and that 12 high schools, and other institutions, were being planned as a result.

In a moment, thrilling new momentum was added to the IEF drive. Mr. Fisher announced that Abraham Shiffman, a member of the Mission and a fellow Detroiter, was contributing \$500,000 to build a comprehensive high school for the immigrant children of Tirat Carmel, and an additional \$100,000 to provide scholarships at the Hebrew University for students planning to be high school teachers.

This announcement was followed by one which disclosed that Samuel Rothberg of Atlanta, Georgia, was contributing \$250,000 to build a vocational secondary school to serve the immigrant children of Ramat HaSharon.

Israel's Greatest Moment

The next four days, Thursday, October 21 through Sunday, October 24, provided additional inspiring experiences for the Mission, as we moved down from Jerusalem to the Sharon plain, then north to Haifa, returning finally on the 24th, to Tel Aviv.

There are those who say that the greatest sight in Israel is still, after seventeen years, that of immigrants descending from a plane at Lydda or an immigrant ship at Haifa harbor.

No one on this Mission was ready to dispute this statement on the morning of October 21, when we stood on the air-field at Lydda, witnessing the arrival of two immigrant planes and the entry of more than 200 immigrants.

The tears of joy which the immigrants shed, the moving reunions with relatives and friends from whom they had long been separated, these were sights which none of

us will ever forget.

Included among the newcomers was a woman of more than 100 years of age! Special arrangements had been made to transfer her to a MALBEN home for the aged. In a few short hours she was at ease in her new home.

200,000 Immigrants Expected

Our visit to Lydda gave substance to the words of Louis A. Pincus, of the Jewish Agency, who spoke on the prospects for immigration when he had addressed us in Jerusalem, at the start of our Mission.

The Jewish Agency Acting Chairman noted that Israel had received 250,000 immigrants from 1961 to 1965, a period that represents the longest period of high immigration into country since its earliest days. Now, Mr. Pincus indicated, the Agency was bracing itself for still another period of high immigration -- 200,000 more newcomers it expects in the next five years.

Our next stop after Lydda was one of JDC-MALBEN'S 14 special homes for aged and handicapped immigrants, Neve Avot, "The House of the Fathers" at Pardess Hanna.

Here we saw some of the satisfactions Israel's open door immigration policy provides for the country, as well as the heavy burden it imposes upon it.

No country in the modern world has so liberal an immigration policy as Israel. In Israel's case there are no customary qualifications for immigration - none of health, financial status, age or education. Israel's one standard is that any Jew in need of haven may come. What has happened is that the halt, the blind, the aged and the handicapped have come by the thousands, along with the able and the employable.

The logic for this immigration policy was explained by Theodore Feder, JDC Director General for Malben. "It lies in the fact that every Israeli feels that if there had been a Jewish state in the Hitler years, to which any Jew in need could

have come, six million Jews would not have had to die." At Neve Avot, however, we saw how American Jewish funds, and MALBEN'S know-how, are relieving Israel's people of a great burden, even while they assist aged newcomers to live out their lives in peace and dignity.

"A Society of Values" -- Dr. Weitz

Friday evening, October 22, at the Dan Carmel Hotel at Haifa, Dr. Ra'anan Weitz, the distinguished head of the Jewish Agency's Agricultural Department, explained to us in a notable address how the period of Israel's agricultural expansion and colonization is still not finished. Three new areas have been designated for future agricultural colonization, Dr. Weitz told us.

The first is the country's northernmost region in the western Galilee hills.

Here some 12 new immigrant agricultural villages are to be set up in the immediate future, to be linked to existing villages largely populated by Israeli Arabs.

Second will be the Besor region near the Gaza strip and the third the Arava region, on the border of Israel's Negev.

Said Dr. Weitz, "Many reasons make it necessary that the country go forward with these new colonization efforts." One of these, he told us, is the desire to perpetuate the "Society of Values" which arose in the early colonization of Palestine. This society, he declared had created a new type of Jew, rooted in the land, capable of fending for himself and deeply aware of his responsibilities to his country and to his neighbors.

Why Israel Still Survives

On Saturday evening, October 23, in Haifa, we of the Mission were also granted a most illuminating insight into some of the problems facing Israel in the area of foreign relations. This was afforded us by Abba Eban, Deputy Prime Minister of Israel, and former Israel Ambassador to the United States and the United Nations.

Voicing once more Israel's ultimate hope for peace with its neighbors, Mr. Eban declared that, "there is still not a single sign of any break in the wall of hostility. The tide of emotion still flows against us, full of venom and hate."

Yet, he noted, Israel still stands free and independent after 17 years. "Somehow",

Mr. Eban declared, "there exist forces in this world which we have been able to evoke, mobilize and enlist, which stabilize and balance Israel's security against the ostensible evidence of the map."

The Deputy Prime Minister declared that these forces included, "First, our capacity to maintain a strong equilibrium of defensive strength. A second factor in favor of stability" he added "is the world in which we live. Modern diplomacy is no longer confined to the chanceries and the embassies ... The fact is that the world today is not congenial to changes in the existing territorial structure.

Nowhere since the end of the second World War has any international frontier been changed by force. Under the dark shadow of the atomic threat, the great powers have become conservative about existing territorial situations."

"A third factor which makes for Israel's continuance," Mr. Eban told us, "are the extraordinary range and depth of our international relations. Every nation in the western hemisphere, every single nation in the European community and the great majority of newly emerging states in Africa, 95 out of 115 states in the world, have defied the pressure of the Arab states inviting them to refuse relationships of diplomacy and culture and commerce with us!"

A Visit With The Defense Forces

Our stay at the Dan Carmel gave us an opportunity to visit additional new development towns in the Haifa area including Nazerat Illit, and Ma'alot. Additionally we were able to see an immigrant ship arrive in Haifa port, and to visit the noted Israel Institute of Technology -- the Technion.

Finally, on Sunday, October 24, as we moved from Haifa to Tel Aviv, we were the guests of the Israel Defense Forces and Brigadier General David Eleazar, in charge of Israel's Northern Command.

That afternoon we saw Israel's citizen soldiers carry out a military exercise under live fire. Seeing it we understood why Israel's existence, after 17 years, owes so much to the determination of its people to maintain their own security, even in the face of the vastly superior arms and numbers possessed by hostile neighbors.

The Mission In Tel Aviv

The Mission's final four and a half days, Sunday, October 24 to Thursday, October 28, were spent in the Tel Aviv area. Our headquarters were at the new Tel Aviv-Hilton Hotel. In the Tel Aviv area we were able to continue our visits to institutions and communities of interest.

An inspection of the ORT Syngalowsky Vocational School, outside of Tel Aviv, provided us with fresh insight into the importance of vocational training in the young state. ORT -- which receives approximately one fourth of its world budget from UJA funds through a subvention made by the Joint Distribution Committee -- is now training more than 40,000 students annually in more than 100 trades and occupations. About half of these students are in Israel. But Israel's educational authorities are anxious for ORT to take in and train additional thousands of students -- which it can do only if funds can be found for this vital effort.

Still another visit on Tuesday, October 26th, brought us to the new port city of Ashdod to inspect the installations of this new man-made harbor.

Major-General Haim Laskov, former Chief-of-Staff of the Israel Defense Forces, and now head of Israel's Port Authority, gave us the exciting details of the great achievement which Ashdod - both city and port - represent.

Started from scratch less than half a dozen years ago, the city of Ashdod now

numbers more than 40,000 persons, largely new immigrants, and bustles with extraordinary activity.

General Laskov noted that the new port, which eventually will rival Haifa, was scheduled to receive its first ship in a few days. In its first phase the port is expected to handle some 5.1 million tons of export-import items. The exports will be largely citrus fruits and phosphates mined and refined in the nearby Negev.

In the Tel Aviv area we also visited additional institutions of higher learning, including the Weizmann Institute of Science at Rehovot, and Bar Ilan and Tel Aviv Universities. We also visited still additional Development Towns.

But the formal part of our Mission was brought to a close on Wednesday, October 27 by three memorable events -- the Mission caucus, a State Dinner to the Mission tendered by Prime Minister Levi Eshkol and Mrs. Eshkol, and a reception tendered to the group by the United States Ambassador to Israel, Walworth Barbour.

We Hold A Caucus

On the morning of Wednesday, October 27, after more than 13 days crowded with significant and illuminating experiences, we of the Mission gathered in a caucus in Tel Aviv at the Tel Aviv-Hilton Hotel. Our purpose was to review and evaluate what we had learned and seen. Additionally, it was to arrive at a recommendation as to what American Jews should undertake to do in 1966, through the United Jewish Appeal, and to take suitable action on this recommendation, ourselves.

As was pointed out by our Mission leader, Max Fisher, the challenges before us are clear.

In 1966 American Jews can once more save Jewish lives through rescue immigration. If they provided funds enough, they could save some 52,000 persons, with 40,000 going to Israel, and the remainder to western lands.

Additionally, American Jews have the opportunity, and the obligation to help the Jewish Agency step up the pace of immigrant absorption of North African-Asian immi-

grants, focusing particularly on the problem that exists in the country's 21 Development Towns with their 200,000 people.

Here, increased welfare aids of many kinds for the aged and the young, and massive attacks on the disabilities that hold back the new immigrants from participation in Israeli life, such as illiteracy, are a matter of necessity for Israel's well-being.

Meanwhile, some 400,000 Jews, largely outside of Israel, continue to require fullest possible assistance from the Joint Distribution Committee. These, too, present us with both an opportunity to save lives, and an obligation.

Finally, as the Mission leader pointed out, American Jews are obligated to try make up the loss of \$17,500,000 which no longer is available to the agencies of the United Jewish Appeal, now that German reparations have ended.

These points were also made in a resolution presented the Mission by Albert Parker of New York, Chairman of the Mission's Resolution Committee.

But it was from the Mission members themselves that there came strongest endorsement of the idea that in 1966, American Jews must raise much more than the \$62,000,000 we provided UJA in 1965 -- at least \$73,000,000 or \$74,000,000.

At the Caucus each Mission member announced what he would contribute in 1966.

Practically everyone pledged a gratifying increase over his last year's gift.

A record sum of \$2,700,000 was pledged by those present toward the 1966 campaign -- an increase of \$300,000 over the gifts from these same individuals in 1965.

Additionally, as Mr. Fisher noted, certain members of the Mission, had already contributed nearly one million dollars in new money toward the Israel Educational Fund.

As he made his increased gift practically every Mission member emphasized that he was doing so in order that American Jews should understand by his action, that the needs urgently call for such renewed, intensified giving. The individual announcements made in Tel Aviv will be made known in due time in the various local community campaigns of the Mission members. But already, they constitute a remarkable and inspiring beginning for renewed American Jewish participation, on a higher level than before, in the great and continuing effort to insure Jewish renewal and survival.

The Prime Minister's Address

With the thrill of the Caucus session still fresh in our minds, we of the Mission gathered that evening in a final formal session, the Prime Minister's Dinner.

In deeply moving words, Mr. Eshkol outlined for us some of Israel's goals and some of the problems which the country still must meet.

"We are not just a country or an economy in the making. We are a nation in the making and we must be a cultured and educated nation. Even though we will be small in numbers we can be great in spirit," the Prime Minister declared.

As Mr. Eshkol spoke, we again heard stressed the need to provide increased opportunities and resources for absorbing Israel's newcomers. The Prime Minister praised the decision of UJA to add an Education Fund to its regular campaign, saying:

"The decision of UJA to continue its responsibility toward the immigrants it helps bring, through the Israel Education Fund, is extremely important. I can best exemplify this by saying it is second only to the central aim of ingathering the exiles.

"At the same time" the Prime Minister added, "you should strive to increase your work for immigration, initial absorption, housing and slum clearance. Let me remind you that the UJA share in absorption and housing is a partial one. A major share is financed by the State which has had to undertake greater and greater financial obligations and debts. There is a limit to the amount of such debts which we can acquire!"

The Prime Minister then stated, "I suggest that you break the UJA fund-raising barrier and go on to new heights."

"My friends, at the Genesis of our great endeavor we set ourselves a number of aims, "the Prime Minister added." We said that it is our joint responsibility to save Jews. This magnificent chapter -- a joint achievement of UJA and Israel -- is far from complete". Mr. Eshkol closed with a final plea for continued financial support for immigration. "Hundreds of thousands who are accessible, still wait!" he declared.

Visionaries and Realists

Now it was the turn of UJA's Mission leader to respond. In deeply moving words

Mr. Fisher told the Prime Minister how the Mission had gone through Israel seeing

the country and its achievements with "the Eyes of Discovery."

He declared that the members of the Mission were both "visionaries and realists."

As realists, he said, "we saw that there are Development Towns -- but not enough development...That there are immigrants, but not enough absorption after they arrive...

That there are children, but not enough schools or libraries or scholarships or teachers."

The UJA General Chairman then added "everywhere we saw there is courage and vision, and the will to work -- but not enough money to get things done.

"And finally we saw that we have a great responsibility -- it is to do more -to give more -- and to go back and get others to do more and give more."

Now Mr. Fisher concluded:

"Mr. Eshkol we are also Americans.

"That, as the late President Kennedy pointed out, is another way of saying: we are all immigrants, or the sons of immigrants, or the grandsons of immigrants.

"Sixty years ago - fifty years ago - our fathers, or our grandfathers - or some of us ourselves - walked down the gangplank of an immigrant ship into a new land.

"We came from the same sort of places from which you came ...

"We came from all dark corners of the old world, seeking what you sought, liberty ... opportunity ... and dignity.

"And as we came we passed through a golden door - the door of freedom.

"It is the same door you have at Haifa.

"It is the same door you have at Lydda.

"But just to pass through such a door is not enough.

For a long time I wondered - what is it that makes a man truly free - besides the chance to pass through the golden door?

"And then I remembered.

"A poet of our faith had said it all before.

Her name was Emma Lazarus - a Jew - and a proud believer in her people.

"And these are the final words of her poem - written in bronze, on the Statue of Liberty that stands in New York Harbor:

Give me your tired, your poor,

Your huddled masses yearning to breathe free.

The wretched refuse of your teeming shore.

Send these, the homeless, tempest-tost to me,

I lift my lamp beside the golden door!

That is our job, Mr. Prime Minister, to lift the lamp - beside the golden door of Israel.

We must lift the lamp of more opportunity in the Development Towns.

We must lift the lamp of more absorption aid for the immigrants from backward countries.

We must lift the lamp of more schools - more libraries - more scholarships - more training - more of everything that makes men stand tall and unafraid and free.

And with God's help - together with you - we will do it.

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