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United Palestine Appeal  
41 East 42nd Street  
New York 17, New York

UJA

MEMORANDUM

April 1, 1949

From: Ellis Radinsky, Executive Director

Subject: WEEKLY REPORTS FROM ISRAEL

Judge Rothenberg, at the request of Mr. Morgenthau, cabled to Israel in order to obtain weekly reports on the programs and financial status of the agencies. Dr. Israel Goldstein, Treasurer of the Jewish Agency, has cabled his first weekly report, covering March 13-19, which I know you will find of considerable interest and value.

Subsequent reports will be sent to you at regular intervals.

ER:GG  
att.

WEEKLY REPORT NO. 1 OF JEWISH AGENCY

Covering Period from March 13 to March 19, 1949

Immigration Figures for February and March, 1949

The total number of immigrants who arrived in Israel during February, 1949 amounted to 25,125 individuals. The number of immigrants who arrived in Israel between March 1st and March 24th amounted to over 26,000.

Immigration Figures for Week March 13 to March 19, 1949

During the week of March 13 to March 19 a total of 6,540 immigrants arrived in Israel, of whom 5,640 came by boat, 900 by plane. The majority of immigrants who come by boat were Jews from Turkey, who had hired the boats themselves, each boat with a capacity of 60 to 300 passengers. Many Jews came from Bulgaria, where there are now very few Jews left. Among the arrivals by plane were 300 Yemenite Jews and 100 from Shanghai. There are now few Jews remaining in Yemen.

Transit Camps

By the middle of March there existed 22 transit camps in Israel with a total capacity of 42,500 inhabitants, actually holding 40,560 immigrants. During the week between March 13 and March 19 three additional camps were established. One in Beer Yaakov, a settlement near Ramleh in the district of Tel Aviv, with a capacity at present of 2,000 inmates. The camp can be enlarged to hold 2,500 inmates. One-half of the housing facilities of the camp consists of huts, the other half of tents. The second camp was established in Yavneel in the Jordan Valley of Lower Galilee near Lake Tiberias for immigrants to be trained for agricultural settlement. Its capacity amounts to 750 inmates, all accommodated in tents. The third new camp was set up at Shaar Haaliya near Haifa, converted from a former army camp. It has a capacity of 4,000 inmates and consists of 1,500 in huts and 2,500 in tents. This camp will be operated as a clearing camp through which all immigrants will have to pass immediately after arrival for customs control, statistical registration and medical examination. In addition to these camps a tent camp is planned for Kfar Salame near Tel Aviv for 400 immigrant families.

Social Problem Cases Among New Arrivals

The total number of social problem cases among the 6,540 immigrants, who arrived during the week under review, were 1,253. This means, 201 were invalids either with no arms or legs, 628 were partially disabled, 188 were persons of old age and 236 were widows with children. The number of social problem cases has now begun to assume greater proportions due to the advanced stage of the liquidation process of the Diaspora communities. For instance, on February 25th a boat arrived from Bulgaria with 2,234 immigrants among whom 768 or over 34% were fifty years and over. Similar was the age structure of the immigrant groups arriving from Shanghai. Most of the immigrants from Western Europe who had been accustomed to higher standards of living have difficulty in adjusting to the new conditions of life, and require more attention than the others. The Yemenite

Jews usually arrive in a very poor state of health. For instance, among the 300 Yemenite Jews who arrived during the week under review, 60 persons were blind. There also is a very high percentage of mental cases among the new arrivals at this stage of immigration. Due to the fact that at many places of origin of the immigrants exit possibilities may cease to exist at any time, there is fierce competition as to the priority of departure among the potential immigrants particularly as far as war and other invalids are concerned.

### Housing

During the week between March 13 and March 19, 50 housing units were completed in the neighborhood of Tel Aviv and 1,007 housing units were near completion at other places. These housing projects are being carried out in addition to the government-sponsored work of the housing corporation "Amidar" in which the Israel Government has invested \$10,000,000; the rest to be shared by the JNF and public housing companies.

### Development Plans for Jerusalem

Preparations are being made for establishing a loan fund for small enterprises from which the new immigrants will benefit. Other plans are in preparation for the construction of industrial premises. Special assistance will be given to the establishment of new cigarette and sweet factories and smaller work shops.

### Activities of the Economic Department of the Jewish Agency

A conference of hotel owners which was sponsored by the Economic Department of the Jewish Agency decided to establish a company for the promotion of the hotel business, with an investment capital of IL 20,000 in which the Jewish Agency will participate with IL 10,000 (?). The purpose of the company will be to organize the building of hotels throughout the country. Plans are being made under the supervision of the Immigration Department of the Jewish Agency to establish a long-term credit fund for the enlargement and modernization of existing hotels, with an investment capital of IL 100,000, to which the Anglo-Palestine Bank will contribute IL 50,000 and private banks the other IL 50,000. Construction will provide employment for hundreds of newcomers.

### Middle East

Political activity has increased with regard to the Baghdad trials. Preparations are being made to help Jews to emigrate from Baghdad. Four delegates have been sent this week.

### Cash Report for Week March 13 - 19, 1949

The total income of the Jewish Agency amounted to IL 214,172 which included IL 132,348 from the Jewish Agency Office in New York, and IL 75,000 from the JNF Office in New York for agricultural settlement.

The total expenditures of the Jewish Agency amounted to IL 635,235 of which IL 461,378 were spent on the economic absorption of new immigrants, IL 23,794 on the Youth Aliyah program, IL 98,554 on agricultural settlements, IL 18,816 on housing.

The excess of expenditures over income amounted to IL 421,062.

The debit balance with the Anglo-Palestine Bank has risen to IL 1,891,429, exceeding the agreed over-draft ceiling by IL 391,429. The bank liabilities, which were to be paid during the week, totalled IL 108,422.

United Palestine Appeal  
41 East 42nd Street  
New York 17, N.Y.

MEMORANDUM

April 5, 1949

FROM: Ellis Radinsky, Executive Director  
SUBJECT: Weekly Reports from Israel

I know you will be interested in the second weekly report which has just reached our office from Israel.

ER:ssp  
Att.

## WEEKLY REPORT #2 OF THE JEWISH AGENCY

Covering the Period of March 20 - 26, 1949

### Immigration and Absorption

The total number of immigrants who arrived during the week under review amounted to 7,135. 6,435 of them arrived by boat, including 1,060 immigrants from Turkey and 5,375 from DP camps in Europe. 700 of them arrived by plane, including 150 from Yemen, 180 from Afghanistan, 370 from Europe.

### Transit Camps

The capacity of the 22 transit camps (see Report #1) have been enlarged during week under review from 42,460 to 48,000 places through addition of tents. The total number of immigrants accommodated in camps amounted to 44,400 on March 26, 1949. Preparations have advanced for a new type of tent camp for immigrants who are self-supporting. These tent camps are being established near places where permanent living quarters for immigrants are under construction (see Report #1). This construction work at present provides employment and at the same time housing facilities for the inmates of the tent camps. Each tent with kitchen facilities and water supply one family which, with the help of the kitchen equipment, can prepare its own meals. The first two camps of this new type will be opened shortly, one for 400, the other for 200 immigrant families, at Kfar Salama, formerly an Arab village near Tel Aviv. Plans have been made to establish additional tent camps with a total capacity of 12,000 immigrant families, one camp to be opened every week. The construction costs per tent unit amount to IL 147. A tent camp for 200 to 400 families can be completed within one month.

### Resettlement Process

During the week from March 20 - 26, 1949, 41 immigrant families have been settled in various small-holders settlements. During the preceding week, 60 immigrant families were settled in small-holders settlements. 100 immigrant families have been accommodated in abandoned Arab houses, 60 of them in Lydda and Ramleh, 40 in other villages. At the present time repair work of the housing facilities in the abandoned Arab villages continues. Next week work on the public utilities in abandoned Arab villages will be started.

### Transit Camps for Aged Immigrants

The preparations for a transit camp for aged immigrants at Pardess Hanna have advanced. The camp has a capacity of 200 places with facilities for bedridden cases who will be kept in the transit camps pending their accommodation in permanent institutions, to be erected by the Jewish Agency.

### Resettlement Center for Invalids

A Resettlement Center for Invalids has been opened in Tel Aviv and is being operated by a professional staff consisting of a physician, psychologist, social worker, vocational guidance expert. Its purpose is to facilitate the rehabilitation of invalid immigrants, 70 cases already have been screened.

### Youth Immigration

During the two week period between March 13 and March 26, 238 wards were received, including 136 children from Turkey, 92 children from Bulgaria, 10 children from Yemen and children from various other countries. Only 6 of all the

newly arrived children have been properly settled, the rest were temporarily accommodated at the various transit camps, that is, 100 of them at Pardess Hanna, 126 at Kiryath Shmuel, 6 in youth immigration camps. Kiryath Shmuel today holds 776 prospective Youth Aliyah wards who, until now, could not be integrated into the youth immigration scheme for lack of housing. The present health situation at Kiryath Shmuel is very poor due to overcrowding. An additional 1,100 children who previously arrived under the Youth Aliyah program were placed in transit camps, 300 of them in the Reception Center of Ramath Hadassah Szold, which has been established at Alonim, southeast of Haifa in February, 1949, and has a capacity of 300 places, 800 of them at Karkur, a village south of Haifa and at Nathania. In other words, a total of 1982 children including 106 of the newly received wards, 776 children at Kiryath Shmuel and 1,100 children from previous immigration were in urgent need of permanent settlement on March 26. Many settlements and institutions made great efforts to absorb 2,000 children of a total of 3,985 who had arrived during the period between October 1, 1948 and March 1, 1949 on the strength of promises of the Jewish Agency that help would be provided to the settlements and institutions for housing facilities for the children. Since the Jewish Agency due to lack of funds could not provide the housing facilities, the situation at most of the settlements and institutions is very difficult and 600 children continue to live in camps, the rest of them in huts. Altogether a total of almost 4,000 permanent housing places for children is required at present involving expenditures of IL 180 per child or a total of IL 720,000 (dollars \$2,160,000.)

#### Temporary Housing Projects for Future Youth Immigrants

There are now about 8,000 youth immigration candidates in camps abroad. Their immigration to Israel is held up because of lack of funds and of housing facilities in Israel. As a temporary measure, therefore, the Jewish Agency now makes available one-room bungalows, each of 12 square meters floor space, accommodating 4 children at a cost of IL 140 per unit. 150 bungalows have already been allocated at 20 places.

#### Youth Immigration Housing Fund

These temporary housing projects, however, also cannot solve permanently the housing problem for children in Israel. Efforts are being made by the Jewish Agency to establish a youth immigration housing fund of IL 100,000. But the Jewish Agency is fully aware that even this sum is far from adequate.

#### "Amidar"

"Amidar", the national housing corporation of Israel, has signed housing contracts for the erection of 7,250 housing units for immigrants to be completed by the end of November, 1949, of which, 2,400 will be in the Tel Aviv area, 2,400 in the Haifa area and 2,450 in the villages of the Sharon Valley. The construction costs per unit amount to IL 800 involving a total expenditure of about IL 6,000,000. The corporation also has 2,000 units of wooden houses under construction, which will be completed by the end of May, 1949, at a cost of IL 500 per unit.

#### Prefabricated Houses

In addition to these housing projects, there are 2,400 prefabricated houses expected from Sweden during May, 1949, the price of the unit including shipping costs to Haifa being IL 425.

The two housing projects of "Amidar" together with the prefabricated houses will provide a total of 11,650 units to accommodate approximately 40,000 newcomers. The immigrants themselves will be employed on these projects in a similar way as they are employed on the building project at Kfar Salama (mentioned above).

### Agricultural Settlement

A new agricultural settlement was established on the seacoast near the Hapoel Hanizrachi settlement of Yavne which is northeast of Sutrek, which, in turn, is north of Gaza. It was founded by veterans of the Negev settlement, Kfar Daron, which had been established in 1946 but had to be abandoned after very heavy fighting during the recent hostilities in Palestine. The settlers are affiliated with Hapoel Hanizrachi and have been reinforced by Chalutzim from the United States and South Africa. The provisional name of the settlement is Metivoh Morasha. The settlement extends over 750 acres of fertile land with sufficient water supply and has been designed for mixed farming. The initial budget amounts to IL 26,000.

Plans are being made to establish a new Mizrachi settlement, the third Mizrachi settlement, in the district of Gaza.

### Re-cultivation Project

A new project was started for the re-cultivation of an abandoned Arab plantation at Ein Karen, a village near Jerusalem where the Absorption Department of the Jewish Agency has already settled almost 400 immigrant families of whom 150 have been selected by the Agricultural Settlement Department of the Jewish Agency for cultivating derelict olive groves, vineyards, orchards, vegetable gardens on behalf of the Department. The daily wages per worker amount to IL 1.3. The costs are to be recovered by crops. The successful cultivators are later to be permanently settled by the Agricultural Settlement Department. The initial costs of the project amount to IL 23,000.

### Fisheries

A Joint Loan Fund by the Jewish Agency and the Israeli Government in the amount of IL 100,000 has been established for the development of sea and lake fisheries (artificial ponds not included). The Jewish Agency will contribute IL 25,000, the Government of Israel IL 25,000 (?), the Workers Bank, the Fishers Association, Nir, Nachshon, will advance IL 50,000 in form of loans which will be granted to settlements for the purchase of vessels and fishery equipment.

### Other Loan Projects

Another Joint Loan Fund by the Jewish Agency and the Israeli Government in the amount of IL 150,000 was established for the development of auxiliary farms for immigrants primarily at abandoned Arab places; that is at Lydda, Ramleh, Yehudia, Bethdejan, where about 300 families will receive up to IL 250 each for installations, seeds and livestock. The Loan Fund will further be used to fill 340 vacated farms at existing small-holders' settlements with the purpose to settle permanently successful candidates at those settlements. The expenditures involved amount to IL 200 per family. The Jewish Agency will contribute IL 100,000, the Worker's Saving Society IL 50,000.



### Livestock Replacement

The recent hostilities have seriously reduced the livestock in many settlements, including Dagania, Kiryath Hayim, Maale Hahamisha, Ramath Rahel, etc. No adequate cattle reserves are available locally. Therefore, 150 high-class cows and 120 calves were bought in Holland during the week of March 13 to March 19. The first transport of 85 cows and 40 calves has arrived. The whole project involves approximately IL 40,000.

### Return of Children

Some 100 children who had been evacuated from Maale Hahamisha to Jerusalem 9 months ago have been returned to Jerusalem last week.

### Development Plans for Jerusalem

IL 10,000 have been allocated for loans to bombed-out shopkeepers on Ben Yehuda Street on the condition that corresponding sums in each individual case would be raised privately. A vocational training project has been started for underprivileged youth in Jerusalem through the foundation of Miftan Company with workshops for carpentry, metal work, leather goods and dressmaking. A beginning has been made with 50 pupils. The capital required amounts to IL 4,500 in which the Jewish Agency will participate with IL 600.

### Industrial Loans

The Industrial Enterprises Loan Fund granted 9 loans totalling IL 9,600. The War Damages Repair Fund granted 22 loans totalling IL 4,530. Preparations have advanced for the formation of a Cooperative Enterprises Loan Fund in the amount of IL 15,000 in which the Government and the Jewish Agency will jointly participate with IL 2,500.

### Private Investments

Negotiations have been started with investors from Great Britain about the establishment of factories for radio sets, chocolate and precision instrument factories.

### Delegate Section

One delegate proceeded to Hungary to replace the mission which was expelled from Hungary at the end of February. One Youth Aliyah delegate proceeded to Belgium. Since the displaced persons camps in Italy have been completely liquidated, the three delegates who had operated there have returned.

### Cash Report for Week March 20 - 26, 1949

The total income of the Jewish Agency amounted to IL 100,229 which included IL 82,936 earmarked for Youth Immigration. In view of this limited income, the Jewish Agency had to make several loans from Palestine banks.

The total expenditures of the Jewish Agency amounted to IL 353,942 of which IL 106,022 were spent on the economic absorption of immigrants, IL 89,661 on the Youth Aliyah program, IL 115,937 on agricultural settlements, IL 10,179 on the development plans for Jerusalem, etc.

The excess of expenditures over income amounted to IL 253,713, exclusive of the amount borrowed from Palestine banks.

On March 26, the Jewish Agency had on deposit with the Anglo-Palestine Bank IL 24,858. Against this deposit, the Agency was indebted to the Anglo-Palestine Bank to the extent of IL 2,170,000 on overdrafts plus additional smaller short-term loans. Exclusive of any amounts which may have to be made good to the bank on the overdraft in the coming week, the Jewish Agency will be required to pay the bank, against short-term loans, the sum of IL 112,000.



United Palestine Appeal  
41 East 42nd Street  
New York 17, New York

MEMORANDUM

April 13, 1949

FROM: Ellis Radinsky, Executive Director

SUBJECT: Third Weekly Reports from Israel

I know you will be interested in the Third Weekly Report which has just reached our office from Israel.

ER:GG  
Att.

WEEKLY REPORT #3 OF THE JEWISH AGENCY

Covering the Period of March 27 - April 2, 1949

Immigration Total During First Quarter of 1949

The total number of immigrants who arrived in Israel between January 1 and March 31, 1949 amounted to 81,149, including 24,110 who arrived during the month of January, 25,125 during February and 31,914 during March. Of the total, 70,649 arrived by boat and 10,500, including 4,000 Yemenite Jews from Aden, by plane.

Immigration During the Week Between March 27 and April 2

During the week under review, a total of 6,575 immigrants arrived, of whom 5,875 came by boat (including 1,650 from Turkey, the rest from Europe) and 700 by plane (including 100 from Aden, 100 from Afghanistan, 70 from Shanghai and the rest from Europe).

Youth Immigration

During the week under review, 139 children were settled in institutions and Kibbutzim. 50 bungalows with a capacity for 200 children were erected in various settlements. Summer clothing and bedding outfit for children were bought in Belgium at an amount of IL 35,000 and in Great Britain at an amount of IL 10,000.

Temporary Housing

The total number of immigrants accommodated in transit camps amounted to 44,620 on April 2, of whom 42,620 immigrants were distributed over 22 transit camps, while 2,000 were accommodated in the newly established tent camp of Shaar Haaliya, near Haifa, which has been converted from a former army camp (see Report #1, pg.1). Plans have been made to extend during the next 2 months the capacity of the transit camps to 55,000 places by establishing additional new camps and enlarging through tents and huts the existing camps. A new (third) transit camp of the type as described in Report #2 (pg.1) consisting of tents and established through the employment of the immigrants themselves, near places of permanent settlement, is in the process of being erected at Abuka Bir, a former Arab village in the district of Tel Aviv. After completion, it will house 300 families.

203 immigrant families were accommodated in abandoned Arab houses, that is, 40 of them in Jerusalem, 25 in Lydda, 35 in Ramleh, 30 in Tiberias, 17 in Beersheba, and 56 in various other villages; 61 families were sent to smallholders' settlements.

An agreement has been concluded between the Jewish Agency and the Palestine Electric Corporation for the installation of electric circuit lines to Lydda and Yahudiya in the district of Tel Aviv with a view to developing there industrial enterprises. The Jewish Agency will invest approximately IL 8,000 in this project.

### Settlement of New Immigrants

Up to April 2, altogether 552 families were sent to ten abandoned Arab villages and 344 families to 11 smallholders' settlements. Plans have been completed for the settlement of additional 500 families in 7 abandoned Arab villages and of 170 families in 6 existing settlements. These re-settlement plans, however, are proceeding slowly because the repair work of the housing facilities in the abandoned Arab villages has been held up due to the lack of funds.

### Agricultural Settlement

During the week under review, preparations have been completed for the establishment of 2 new agricultural settlements.

One of them will be located near the village of Malikya, on the Lebanese frontier in Upper Galilee. The locality of the new settlement was a hotly contested point and changed hands twice during the recent fighting. It served as a basis for Arab attacks on Ramath Naftali, a Kibbutz near Kedesh Naftali (10 miles north of Safad) which was established by ex-soldiers in 1945. The settlement will house, for the time being, 30 settlers from an ex-Palmach group affiliated with the Kibbutz Meuhad, ("United Group") which is one of the 3 major Kibbutz Federations. The settlement has been designed for hill farming and for planting of fruit trees.

The second agricultural settlement will be located near the village of Farradiya, which is on the road from Safad to Acre. 70 members of the group Kibbutz Gardash, affiliated with Kibbutz Meuhad, will be settled there. The settlers arrived as illegals from Hungary two years ago and received their training at the settlement of Ein Harod. The settlement has been designed partly for hill farming, partly for irrigated crops.

The initial budgets of both settlements amount to IL 26,000 each.

### Livestock Replacement

The replacement of cattle, required for war-damaged agricultural settlements, was continued during week under review. 200 mules were purchased in Cyprus, of which 100 arrived last week. The whole project involves expenditures in the amount of IL 20,000.

### Public Works

Various public works projects have been started with the aid of the Israeli Government. As soon as the citrus season has ended, the projects will absorb 7,000 workers who are now employed in harvesting citrus crops. The plans include sanitary projects in the abandoned Arab villages, to be concluded before the hot summer weather sets in, the repairing of local roads, preparatory work for the establishment in the abandoned Arab villages of 400 auxiliary farms (one-half of an acre per unit, and each with 30 hens). 125 auxiliary farms will be set up at Lydda, 75 at Ramleh, 25 at Safad and 175 at various other villages. Each of these farms will provide employment for one worker over a period of 120 work days of the year, and yield an estimated annual income of IL 200. The Jewish Agency will contribute up to IL 250 per unit.

Upon the initiative of the Jewish Agency, a bonded warehouse company for the storage of the goods of the immigrants, has been established in Haifa, by Solal Boneh, the central contracting agency of the Histadrut, together with private companies in order to reduce the costs of storage for the immigrants, and to pre-

vent the exploitation of the immigrants by private firms. The warehouse company will collect a sur-charge on stored goods from those immigrants who will be able to pay, and cover out of such funds the storage expenses of the poorer immigrants. The investment capital of the company amounts to IL 100,000.

Development Plans for Jerusalem

A loan fund in the amount of IL 5,000 for small enterprises, especially of newly arrived immigrants, was established jointly by the Bank Haale (bank for immigrants) and the Jewish Agency. The Jewish Agency guarantees up to 40% of the advanced loans.

A guidance center for settlers on auxiliary farms was opened by the Jewish Agency in cooperation with the Ministry of Agriculture, in order to encourage, through competent instruction, vegetable gardening and poultry rearing. Seeds, tools, chickens, etc. are being supplied. Three instructors have been employed. The Jewish Agency contributes 1/3 of the costs. Preparations for the opening of a new sweets factory by three newly arrived immigrants, have been completed in cooperation with a local capitalist.

The Jewish Agency is engaged in establishing bus service between Jerusalem and Lydda which will be operated by a group of ex-soldiers, in building a stone-crushing plant, and in enlarging an existing factory for medical appliances.

Financial Report for the First Quarter of 1949 (January 1 - March 31, 1949)

The total income of the Jewish Agency during this 3 months' period amounted to \$19,480,869.--.

The total expenditures of the Jewish Agency amounted to \$25,062,480.--.

The excess of expenditures over income amounted to \$5,581,611.--.

On April 1, the Jewish Agency had on deposit with the Anglo-Palestine Bank IL 79,096 (\$237,288.--). Against this deposit, the Jewish Agency was indebted to the Anglo-Palestine Bank to the extent of IL 1,963,806 (\$5,891,418.--), as of April 1.

The liabilities of the Jewish Agency, payable during the week from April 3 to 10, amounted to IL 113,000 (\$339,000.--), in addition to the ordinary expenditures.

Corrections

We have been advised by the Jewish Agency to make the following corrections:

Report #1 - Page 1. ("Immigration Figures for Week March 13 - 19, 1949"):

The last 2 sentences of this paragraph should read as follows: Among the arrivals by plane were 300 Jews from Aden, and 100 from Shanghai. There are now few Jews remaining in Aden.

Report #2 - Page 2. ("Prefabricated Houses"):

The last sentence of this paragraph should read as follows: ...the price of the unit, including shipping costs to Haifa and erection, being IL 425.