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FOR RELEASE
Thursday, April 14

Raphael Levy, Publicity Director

CYPRUS JEWS TURNED PRISON CAMP
INTO TRAINING GROUND FOR ISRAEL,
JDC DIRECTOR MORRIS LAUB REPORTS

Bevin Policy Backfired as Jews
Trained, Studied for Future
Life in Israel

The barbed wire camps of Cyprus were transformed by the 53,000 Jews who passed through the island into a fertile training ground for Israel, Morris Laub, welfare worker who spent nearly three years on the island as director of Joint Distribution Committee relief programs there, declared this week.

Mr. Laub, who accompanied the last ship-load of Cyprus DP's to Israel, said he saw many of the Cyprus inmates at work as pioneers on new farm settlements in the Holy Land. Citing the high percentage of former Cyprus DP's who have entered Israeli kibbutzim (cooperative farm settlements), the JDC welfare worker declared:

"The Bevin policy of keeping Israel-bound Jews on Cyprus for so many months was, inadvertently, one of the best things that could have happened to these homeless refugees. On Cyprus they learned Hebrew, the tongue that would become their daily language; they studied the geography, the history and the culture of their prospective homeland; they were visited and entertained by Israeli artists who gave them a real insight into the land they would call their own. All of this was the best preparation possible for the diversified group of people who constituted the prisoners of Cyprus."

Mr. Laub also reported that the Israeli government is giving special priority to the Cyprus refugees, including preference in the new nation's "greatest shortage"—housing.

Mr. Laub arrived in Cyprus to direct JDC programs in December, 1946, shortly after the first Palestine-bound Jewish refugees were interned there. He directed relief and rehabilitation programs for which JDC appropriated some \$2,000,000, funds provided from the United Jewish Appeal, through which JDC receives its funds.

A staff of 66 Palestinians worked under Mr. Laub, plus hundreds of teachers, physicians, nurses and other workers drawn from the ranks of the internees themselves. JDC programs included the provision of supplementary food and clothing, the introduction of educational and vocational training programs, and extensive medical assistance. Mr. Laub disclosed that 2,000 infants were born in JDC maternity centers on the island.

(more)

Mr. Laub showed reporters a gold medal which was presented to him by the Cyprus DP's last February when the last refugees left the island and embarked for Israel. The medal bears the simple inscription: "To Morris Laub, staunch friend of the Maapilim" (Cyprus refugees).

The veteran JDC country director, who also served in Italy for JDC and in Greece for UNRRA, declared that the training ground which the Cyprus refugees created out of the barren sand-swept DP camps on the island was a "remarkable tribute to their unbounded vitality, their unquenchable spirit, and their unswerving determination." He pointed out that living conditions in the camps were "wretched," and that double walls of barbed wire, studded with watchtowers, surrounded each camp. At night, he said, powerful searchlights manned by British soldiers in the watchtowers swept the camps unceasingly.

Inside the camps, Mr. Laub said, the refugees lived either in Nissen huts or in tent compounds erected to accommodate the growing numbers. Since British provisions barely covered the refugees' basic needs, JDC provided food that spelled the difference between bare subsistence and a balanced diet, and also assisted with supplementary clothing, medical and dental care, academic and vocational schooling and recreational and cultural facilities.

Refugees lived sixteen per hut, twelve to a tent, and privacy was impossible in the camps. Blankets were used to partition the huts, but often there were not enough to go round. There were no lights, little bedding and no furnishings. The refugees constructed their own furniture from orange crates and driftwood.

Water was a rare and valuable commodity in the camps, Mr. Laub recalled. Such washing as was done had to be accomplished in communal wash-houses. The grim lack of adequate water for drinking, washing and laundering, he said, presented a serious health problem.

A large part of JDC's assistance programs in Cyprus was aimed at helping the internees prepare for their future life in Israel, Mr. Laub stated. JDC cultural and educational activities were enthusiastically entered, he said, since most of the refugees had spent long years in Nazi concentration camps and were anxious to make up for lost time. Two theatres, two orchestras and choral groups sponsored by JDC had many participants, while two newspapers were founded and many schools were organized.

Workshops were established by JDC, Mr. Laub said, where carpentry, dressmaking, gardening and other trades were taught. Tinsmithing was especially popular among the camp inmates, he pointed out, since so much of their food came in cans. A variety of household articles were produced by the refugees, along with handicrafts such as chess sets finely-carved from scrap materials.

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October 14, 1949

TO the Members of the Board of Directors
and the National Council:

I wish to bring you up to date on current developments with respect to JDC's participation in programs in behalf of sick, aged and handicapped immigrants in Israel.

After discussions by our Administration Committee, and following conversations by Dr. Schwartz with Jewish Agency and Israeli Government officials in Tel Aviv, the JDC has agreed in principle to accept their invitation to participate in the establishment of a new corporation which is to provide welfare services for the so-called "hard core" who cannot become self supporting and cannot adjust to conditions in the new state without extensive assistance.

As we make this report to you, plans have not yet been reduced to writing, but within a short period the corporation will be set up by the JDC and the Jewish Agency with one or two representatives of the Israeli Government participating as observers. Although complete details have not been worked out at this early date, certain provisions have already been agreed upon:

1. The Israeli operation will be financed for a minimum of fifteen months by a \$15,000,000 fund, half of which - \$7,500,000 - will be contributed by JDC; the remaining 50 per cent will be provided by the Israeli Government and the Jewish Agency.
2. The Israeli Government's contributions will take the form of provision of land, construction and necessary buildings.
3. Charles Passman, JDC's director of DP emigration to the new state, well known in Israel as JDC director for the Middle East during the war years and the early post-war era, will be in charge of the new welfare operation.
4. This project under which the aged, the sick and the disabled will receive rehabilitative care, will be under the supervision of a nine-man Board of Directors - four JDC representatives, four selected by the Jewish Agency and the Israeli Government and an impartial chairman to be agreed upon.

October 14, 1949

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The absorption and adjustment of tens of thousands of new arrivals monthly are creating very real problems for the new state. The reception camps, as you doubtless know, are overcrowded with some 85,000 new arrivals waiting to be integrated into the life of the country. Under these conditions the people who suffer most, those who need long-term help before they can make their contributions as citizens of the new state, are the so-called "hard core."

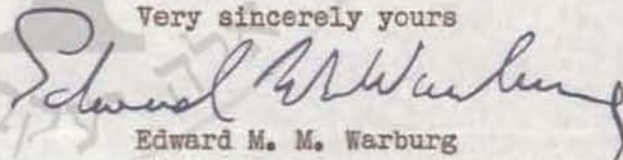
JDC's acceptance of the Israeli Government's invitation to participate in welfare programs for this group is in line with JDC's policy to aid distressed Jews wherever they may be. We have, moreover, throughout the years, developed the special skills and the trained personnel required to carry forward these tasks humanely and effectively.

Nor is Israel a new field of JDC operation. JDC was established thirty-five years ago in response to a cable from Henry Morgenthau, Sr., then Ambassador to Turkey, urging aid for 60,000 Palestinian Jews trapped between two armies. The first JDC ship to set sail on a mission of mercy went to Palestine in 1915. Two years later saw a loan bank established. From 1918 through 1922 JDC defrayed half the cost of the Hadassah Medical Mission. Aside from supporting nearly every Aliyah child in European institutions and paying their transportation to Israel, JDC has financed several special projects for religious groups in the Holy Land. All told, in 35 years, JDC has spent some \$20,000,000 for programs in Israel, exclusive of defraying immigration costs which during the current year have totalled \$2,000,000 monthly.

Although full details of the new project will not be available until the agreement is signed, JDC is convinced of two important facts: 1) This welfare program will speed the departure from Europe and other distressed areas of the sick and the handicapped, growing despondent while they wait for a chance to emigrate. (There are 4,000 so-called hard core cases in the DP countries alone - with their families they number some 9,000); 2) Large numbers of these men, women and children, given proper facilities and intelligent care, can be transformed into useful, self-supporting citizens of Israel.

We shall advise you of the details of the final agreement as soon as it is concluded.

Very sincerely yours



Edward M. M. Warburg
Chairman

EMMW:prl

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 ISIDOR COONS, *Director of Fund Raising*
 HARRY M. ROSEN, *Director of
Community Service and Information*

October 28, 1948

Rabbi Herbert A. Friedman
 Temple Emanuel
 Denver, Colorado

Dear Tzaplín:

This will acknowledge your letter of uneven date. Needless to say, I am not flattered by the knowledge that word is forthcoming from you only when there is a request of some sort involved--not flattered at all. However, with the humility and self-effacement which is so characteristic of our group, I choose to overlook this portion of the picture and to address you like the true, dear and loving friend which I consider you to be.

In connection with the problem of Jews in Arab countries, I am sending to you a considerable amount of material which our publicity and research departments have thrown together. I believe that you will find this information at least somewhat helpful, and when added to that great Friedman "gift of gab", I can hardly but doubt that your talk will be an overwhelming success.

How are you?

How is your wife?

How is your waistline?

Love,

Eli

JDC

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December 19, 1949

Rabbi Herbert A. Friedmann
Temple Emanuel
East 16th Avenue & Pearl Street
Denver 5, Colorado

PERSONAL

Dear Herb:

I have just discussed with Reta Stein your letter regarding the relatives of Mr. Joe Camhi. Very briefly, the information I got from Reta is as follows:

The situation for individuals who have submitted "inaccurate papers" in connection with visa applications has now become extremely difficult. Although individual consular representatives have in the past not been too strict on this score, the Immigration Department in Germany and Austria has decentralized its offices so that a representative of the Immigration Service now sits at the elbow of each Consul. All of the various techniques used by applicants in the past have been completely exposed, and even if it is impossible to prove that an applicant is wrong in a particular case, his application is extremely likely to be discarded where this type of technique is used. Not only that, but efforts have been made to get at some of the individuals who have already arrived in the U.S. and there is even talk of instituting deportation proceedings in some instances. Finally, from any viewpoint at all, the situation will be the same for the relatives of Mr. Camhi whether they remain in Austria or go to Germany. Whatever they can or cannot do in Germany, they can or cannot do in Austria also.

Given the above facts, the alternatives open to the family are to apply for visas to some other country such as Australia, or to sit tight in the hope that a new D.P. bill will be passed in the coming session of Congress which will enable them to come to the U.S. Actually, Reta tells me that the chances are not bad for a bill being passed which will not only help D.P.'s but will also, unfortunately, have to include provisions for large scale immigration of German expellees. In any case, should such a law be passed, it will apply equally to Austria and Germany.

/over/

Unless you think otherwise, I shall use the above general approach with Mr. Camhi when he comes to our offices. The rest will be up to him and his relatives.

Now that the business part of the letter is out of the way, how the hell are you? In your present state of fecundity I expect any day to hear that you have become the father of triplets. In any case, I trust that Elaine is doing well and that you will keep me fully informed on all developments regarding the Friedmann progeny. I had a call on Saturday from Helen Witkin (Fox) who was on her way from Boston, where she is going to Medical School, to Chicago and her husband. She sounded fine and said that she had seen quite a bit of Abe Klausner in Boston. I assume you have heard that Abe Hyman was designated as Acting Adviser in Germany for the remaining period before the office is liquidated. It is expected that his job will be done by the end of the year and we expect to see him back in the country around February or so.

Let me hear from you again soon and please give my love to Elaine and your family.

Regards.

Sincerely yours,

Eli Rock

ER:AU



FROM: 35th Annual Meeting
Joint Distribution Committee
Hotel Commodore
Lexington Ave. at 42 St., NY

Raphael Levy, Publicity Director
MU 6 - 6000, Ext. 137

FOR RELEASE: ALL MEDIA
5:00 PM or thereafter
Sunday, January 8, 1950

48,000 JEWS MUST EMIGRATE "BEFORE MID-SUMMER,"

WARBURG, JDC HEAD, TELLS 35TH ANNUAL MEETING

Agency Will Require \$44,512,000 During 1950

JDC AID HELPED 600,000 IN 1949,

COST NEARLY \$62,000,000, LEAVITT REPORTS

Morgenthau Calls for "Maximum Contribution" to United Jewish Appeal

GREENSTEIN, LUBIN ALSO HEARD;

LEHMAN MESSAGE GREETES DELEGATES

The Joint Distribution Committee must help approximately 48,000 Jewish survivors to emigrate from Europe and other areas before mid-summer, "or they may never have another opportunity to leave," Edward M. M. Warburg, JDC Chairman today (Sunday, January 8) warned 2,000 delegates and guests attending the 35th Annual Meeting of the organization, major American Jewish overseas aid agency, at the Hotel Commodore.

The 48,000 "now or never" emigrants are part of the 146,500 Jews JDC plans to move to Israel and other lands in 1950, and includes Jews from Poland who have been granted government permission to leave until August 15, DP Jews waiting to come to the United States before the DP Act expires in July, and Jews leaving certain Moslem areas under emergency conditions. For its emigration work, as well as for relief and other aid in Europe and Moslem lands, for nearly 500,000 persons, JDC will require a minimum of \$44,512,000 during the coming year, Mr. Warburg said.

The emergency character of the conditions still facing Jews abroad, in Israel, as well as Europe and Arab lands, was stressed also by Henry Morgenthau, Jr., General Chairman of the United Jewish Appeal, who told the conference it "dare not fail to recognize that the elements of urgency and danger are not yet removed from the scene of Jewish existence." The United Jewish Appeal raises the principal funds utilized by the JDC, and by other agencies which provide for the building of Israel and for the reception of newcomers to the United States.

Marking 35 years of humanitarian service by JDC in behalf of millions of distressed Jews abroad, at an expenditure of more than \$425,000,000, the annual

conference also heard first-hand accounts of the progress toward recovery achieved by Europe's Jews since V-E Day, from Harry Greenstein, former Adviser on Jewish Affairs to the U.S. High Commissioner in Germany, and Moses A. Leavitt, JDC Executive Vice-Chairman. A special message of greeting was received at the meeting from Senator Herbert H. Lehman, a founder and vice-chairman of the JDC. Rabbi Jonah B. Wise, a UJA National Chairman, and also a JDC Vice-Chairman, presided over the meeting.

In his address, Mr. Warburg declared that the "now or never" emigrants were "looking desperately for JDC help in reaching new homes in Israel, the United States or other lands." He said the JDC was hopeful that it would be able to aid in the neighborhood of 20,000 Jews from Poland in the "now or never" category, 3,000 from Hungary, 7,000 from Yemen, and at least 18,000 from the DP areas of Germany, Austria and Italy.

Mr. Warburg pointed out that emigration aid is only part of the responsibility facing the JDC in 1950. Calling for continued support of the agency's work and the United Jewish Appeal, he said: "We are giving life -- and the chance for life -- to hundreds of thousands of our fellow Jews."

JDC Helped 600,000 in 1949, Leavitt Reports

Moses A. Leavitt, Executive Vice-Chairman of the JDC, told the meeting that in 1949 JDC aid reached more than 600,000 Jews at a cost of nearly \$62,000,000.

As top priority tasks for JDC in 1950, in addition to its plans to emigrate 146,500, he listed:

The provision of relief and other welfare assistance to an estimated 240,000 Jews in various European countries, and religious, cultural and communal help to additional tens of thousands.

The extension of aid to 54,000 persons through programs of economic reconstruction to help them achieve full or partial self support.

The expansion of JDC medical, educational and welfare programs in behalf of tens of thousands of needy among the nearly 900,000 Jews of North Africa and Moslem lands.

The establishment of a special social welfare and rehabilitation program in Israel in cooperation with the Jewish Agency and Israel Government for "hard core" immigrants. The program is expected to make possible the emigration of 9,000 physically disabled and incapacitated Displaced Jews and their dependents, still in the DP camps.

Mr. Leavitt, briefly reviewing the work of the JDC since its inception, called the work of the JDC since V-E Day the most important in its history. Since May 8, 1945, in "an operation of rescue," he said, "JDC has brought help to more than a million Jews overseas. Today," he added, "nearly five years later, we can look on our work and see the remarkable transformation which has taken place."

Lists JDC Achievements Since V-E Day

Over 430,000 Jews have been enabled to leave Europe and other distressed areas for new homes in Israel, the United States and other lands, Mr. Leavitt added. Of these, JDC brought 350,000 to Israel, while 41,000 were helped to reach the United States and 39,000 helped to go to British Commonwealth countries and other areas.

Other JDC accomplishments listed by Mr. Leavitt since V-E Day were in the fields of economic reconstruction, medical care and child care. He said that 200,000 persons, most of them family breadwinners, had been helped to support themselves, and that the agency had aided in the establishment of more than 500 medical institutions. At the peak of its efforts, JDC took care of 140,000 of the 180,000 surviving Jewish children of Europe.

Mr. Leavitt revealed that JDC's offices in Poland had closed down last week at the request of the Polish Government. He said that "for the first time in 35 years, there is no JDC office in Poland." And he added that since V-E Day, JDC had expended nearly \$20,000,000 in Poland, rebuilding Jewish schools, hospitals, clinics and children's homes." Mr. Leavitt told his audience that the agency would continue to help Jews who receive permission to emigrate.

"Of the hundreds of thousands of Jews in Europe still needing aid," Mr. Leavitt also said, "a very large number are in Hungary. And, as long as we are permitted to, we shall seek to help them."

To help the Jews of the Moslem world, he said, JDC has undertaken to help thousands to emigrate, and to provide medical attention, child feeding programs and educational aid for additional thousands, and to equip as many as possible for life in Israel.

"Hard Core" Program in Israel

One of the newest developments in JDC welfare programs, Mr. Leavitt said, was an agreement recently concluded by JDC with the Jewish Agency and the Israeli Government, for a program to aid the so-called "hard core" -- ill, aged and physically handicapped immigrants -- in Israel. Under the agreement, a 15-month program, at a cost of \$15,000,000, will provide medical care and social welfare attention to "the people who suffered Hitler's deepest wounds." Half of the funds are to be provided by JDC, and other funds will come from the Jewish Agency. The Israeli Government will provide land and necessary installations.

"JDC took this step," Mr. Leavitt said, "at the invitation of the Government of Israel and the Jewish Agency, because it felt that the physically handicapped, the emotionally disturbed and the aged could not be left to rot in Germany or Austria.

Morgenthau Asks Audience to "Pledge Yourselves"

Henry Morgenthau, Jr., former Secretary of the Treasury in the Cabinet of the late President Franklin D. Roosevelt and now serving his fourth term as General Chairman of the United Jewish Appeal, called upon his audience "in the name of the human beings who look to us for the opportunity to live in freedom and in peace ... to pledge yourselves and all your resources to ... hasten their hour of liberation from fear and want.

"Only in that way," the UJA leader declared, "will we fulfill our responsibilities to the Jewish people and make a maximum contribution to the success of the 1950 United Jewish Appeal."

Pointing out that while American Jewry can take pride in the achievements during 1949, as well as previously, Mr. Morgenthau declared "it would be a tragic mistake to assume that the great humanitarian tasks to which the UJA is dedicated are finished.

"In 1950 we face a situation where 900,000 Jews in Moslem lands are living in the shadow of cruel oppression and indescribable poverty. Their rescue and emigration are in many respects as urgent in 1950 as were the escape and survival of the Jews in Germany under the Nazi regime."

The UJA General Chairman added: "Within Israel, the development of the new democracy that has been set upon the foundations of the ancient Jewish homeland has met with many difficulties." He stated that "the speedy establishment of Israel as a stronghold of democracy in the Middle East represents a project of deep concern not only to American Jews but to all Americans interested in preserving and strengthening the the forces of democracy throughout the world."

Harry Greenstein, of Baltimore, recently adviser on Jewish affairs to John J. McCloy, U. S. High Commissioner for Germany, spoke of the necessity for implementation of the present restitution law which has been adapted for the U.S. Zone of Germany. He said if the law is carried out effectively it will be possible for substantial heirless and unclaimed property, originally seized by the Nazis from Jews, to be employed in resettlement and rehabilitation of displaced Jews, still in Germany or now living in Israel and other lands. He stated: "Elementary justice and decency demand that the law be properly carried out."

Senator Lehman Greets Conference

Declaring that "only urgent official duties keep me from being present," a message to the conference from Senator Herbert H. Lehman, former Director-General of the United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration, and a Vice-Chairman and founder of the Joint Distribution Committee, said that "it has been a satisfaction to me to have had the privilege of being closely connected with JDC since its earliest days."

Senator Lehman stated that "the achievements of JDC are one of the prime factors responsible for the revival and recovery that has come to Jews overseas since V-E Day. They add up to the greatest voluntary humanitarian effort the world has ever seen."

Warburg Reelected; Goldwater, Kahn Elected Vice-Chairman

At a morning session of the JDC Board of Directors and National Council, Edward M.M. Warburg was reelected Chairman of the JDC for 1950. In addition, plans were outlined for JDC's humanitarian activities during the coming 12-month period.

Monroe Goldwater, President of the United Jewish Appeal of Greater New York and Chairman of JDC's Reconstruction Committee, was elected a JDC Vice-Chairman, as was Bernhard Kahn, Honorary Chairman of JDC's European Executive Council.

In addition, Dr. Joseph J. Schwartz, until now Chairman of European Executive Council, was named Director-General, in charge of JDC's overseas operations.

Moses A. Leavitt was reelected Executive Vice-Chairman and Secretary of the Agency.

Others reelected include:

Honorary Chairmen: Paul Baerwald, James N. Rosenberg, and Mrs. Felix M. Warburg

Vice-Chairmen: James H. Becker, I. Edwin Goldwasser, Alexander Kahn, Herbert H. Lehman, Harold F. Linder, William Rosenwald, William J. Shroder, M.C. Sless, Rabbi Jonah B. Wise

Chairman, National Council: Judge Maurice Bernon

Vice-Chairmen, National Council: Bernard Alexander, Lester D. Alexander, John Balaban, Lloyd W. Dinkelspiel, Joseph H. Epstein, Louis A. Fischl, Arthur M. Lowenthal

Treasurers: I. Edwin Goldwasser and Benjamin Abrams

Assistant Treasurer: Evelyn M. Morrissey

Comptroller: Alexander A. Landesco

Assistant Comptroller: Dorothy L. Speiser

Assistant Secretaries: Benjamin B. Goldman and David Weingard

JDC Spent More than \$278,000,000 Since V-E Day, Dr. Lubin Reports

Also at the morning session of JDC's Board of Directors, Dr. Isador Lubin, former Adviser to the late President Roosevelt and a member of JDC's Administration Committee, reported that JDC had spent \$278,466,109 for its overseas activities since V-E Day. The peak year in JDC expenditures was 1947, when more than \$70,000,000 was spent.

Pointing out that JDC expenditures during 1950 are estimated at \$44,512,000, Dr. Lubin indicated that "an internal change has taken place in JDC expenditures since 1948 -- the pivotal year in the destiny of Europe's Jews. Whereas in 1948, emigration sums represented only about 15 per cent of JDC's budget," Dr. Lubin declared, "in 1950, the sums which JDC proposes for emigration purposes represent 33 per cent of its total proposed budget."

Dr. Lubin added, "Above all it is important to realize that perhaps as much as half of the proposed 1950 budget of JDC ties in directly with Israel, through its emigration programs, through its programs on behalf of the 'hard core' in Israel and through JDC aid in training future emigrants to Israel."

The invocation, which opened the afternoon session of the conference, was read by Rabbi Bernard J. Bamberger of the West End Synagogue in New York City. Rabbi Morris Max of Queens Jewish Center, New York, pronounced the benediction at the close of the meeting. Leading the singing of the Star Spangled Banner was Mrs. Sabina Rapp, a graduate of the Berlin Conservatory of Music.

FROM: Joint Distribution Committee
270 Madison Avenue
New York 16, N.Y.
LE 2-5200

For Release
Thursday, January 19

Raphael Levy, Publicity Director

JDC HUNGARY JOB NOT OVER

SAYS FORMER DIRECTOR ISRAEL JACOBSON

110,000 Jews in Hungary Still Receiving JDC Aid

Israel Jacobson, American relief official and former Director for Hungary for the Joint Distribution Committee, who was released by Hungarian political police who had held him from December 15 to December 27, told reporters in New York on Wednesday, January 11th, that his activities in Hungary had been confined strictly to the direction of the agency's large-scale humanitarian relief efforts in behalf of needy Jews.

"At no time did I engage in espionage or in any activity remotely connected with espionage," Mr. Jacobson said. "As Director for Hungary of the JDC, which has served distressed Jews throughout the world for thirty-five years as a non-political welfare organization, my one interest in Hungary was to extend relief and medical help to over 100,000 Hungarian Jews in need. My release is, I feel, a clear vindication of the fact that I adhered strictly to a non-political role while in Hungary."

Mr. Jacobson, who arrived in New York last week aboard the Queen Mary, spoke at a press conference held at JDC's world headquarters at 270 Madison Avenue. The 37-year old American welfare official, a native of Buffalo, New York, who has served the JDC in various overseas posts since 1944, looked rested and fit after his ocean voyage.

Immediately upon his return to New York, Mr. Jacobson journeyed to an out of town resort to confer with Dr. Joseph J. Schwartz, Director General of JDC's vast overseas program. Dr. Schwartz, who normally makes his headquarters in JDC's main overseas offices at 119 Rue St. Dominique, Paris, has been in the United States for several weeks, and is recuperating from a recent operation.

Moses A. Leavitt, Executive Vice-Chairman of the JDC, who was also present at the conference, told reporters that JDC's welfare program continues to operate in Hungary. He said that the program is now under the direction of Mr. Jacobson's former assistant, Aaron Berkowitz, an American, of Brooklyn, N.Y.

Mr. Berkowitz has been told by Hungarian governmental officials that the agency's work has permission to continue, Mr. Leavitt reported. "The JDC will continue its humanitarian efforts in Hungary as long as it is permitted to do so," he added.

The total number of persons receiving JDC help of one kind or another in Hungary is 110,000, according to Mr. Jacobson. Some 52,000 persons receive food or cash relief, while 56,000 receive clothing assistance.

(more)

"Hungary is a country where Hitler's extermination plans for the Jewish people took chiefly the young, the strong and the healthy," Mr. Jacobson said. "Some 160,000 Jews survived at the war's end of a former pre-war Jewish population of 403,000. Those left present a population marked by a disproportionate number of aged and invalided people. In Hungary today, there are 18,000 persons 60 years or over, on JDC's relief rolls. JDC represents their principal source of help."

Referring to his experiences while he was kept incommunicado for nearly two weeks by Hungarian police officials, Mr. Jacobson said: "There is little I can add to what has already appeared in the press on that subject. As I said in a press conference in Vienna, I was arrested shortly after I crossed the border in Hungary and taken by the police to headquarters at 60 Andrassy, Utca, in Budapest. I was subjected to hardship, but not to physical cruelty. I was searched, and interrogated for about twenty hours a day for about five days.

"I was questioned about being in touch with our legation in Hungary, and about Jews leaving the country illegally. I stated that it was normal for an American to have contact with his legation, and I said that the Joint Distribution Committee had not engaged in helping Jews to leave illegally."

Mr. Jacobson added that contrary to press reports which indicated that he might have known Robert Vogeler, American official of the International Telephone and Telegraph Company, he could not remember ever having been introduced to him.

"My primary concern at this moment is that the work of the JDC be permitted to go on in Hungary," Mr. Jacobson concluded.

Mr. Leavitt said that since Mr. Jacobson's departure from Hungary, the Hungarian government has given permission for some 3,000 Jews with relatives in Israel to go to that country. He said that the arrangements for their departure had been concluded by officials of the Hungarian and Israeli governments, but that costs of the passage of the immigrants would be borne by the JDC.

The JDC, which receives its funds for its world-wide activities from the United Jewish Appeal, is the major American agency aiding distressed Jews overseas. At its 35th Annual Meeting, held Sunday, January 8th, officers of the organization reported that the organization in 1949 had aided more than 600,000 Jews in some twenty-five overseas areas, at a cost of more than \$61,000,000.

The agency provides relief, reconstruction activities and emigration help. In 1949 it helped 240,000 Jews from the DP camps of Europe and other areas, including North Africa, to emigrate. Some 210,000 of the emigrants were helped to reach Israel.

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DIVISION OF RELIGIOUS ACTIVITIES

NATIONAL JEWISH WELFARE BOARD

145 East 32nd Street

New York 16, N.Y.

REPORT ON CURRENT CHAPLAINCY SITUATION

Aug. 24, 1950

On August 15th an emergency meeting of the Division of Religious Activities of the National Jewish Welfare Board was held to consider ways and means to procure additional Jewish chaplains for service with the armed forces. The meeting was called in response to communications received from the Army, Navy, and Air Force stating that a large number of additional chaplains was needed immediately and that denominational quotas to meet these needs had been set.

The Division of Religious Activities was informed that, in addition to the 18 Jewish chaplains now in service, 39 more will be needed by Jan. 1, 1951, and approximately another 53 by July 1, 1951, to fulfill the expected requirements of the three military branches. In other words, it is anticipated that, by the middle of 1951, there will be approximately 110 Jewish chaplains on duty with the armed forces.

Of the 39 who are desired before the end of 1950, 4 will enter the Navy, 8 will be placed in the Air Force, and 27 will be given Army assignments.

This imposes a heavy responsibility upon the Jewish community in general and upon the DRA and its rabbinical constituents in particular. It was determined by DRA that the national rabbinical organizations would be urged to embark without delay upon a program to secure the additional Jewish chaplains needed. As many young rabbis as possible will be persuaded to accept Reserve commissions so that they will be available for duty if and when required. The present conditions for obtaining a Reserve chaplaincy commission are that the applicant must be between the ages of 21 and 33, an American citizen, in good health, possessor of an A.B. degree or its equivalent, graduate of a recognized rabbinical seminary, and engaged in the rabbinate as his principal vocation. It is hoped that a large number of those who meet these requirements will feel impelled to offer their services to their country and their Jewish coreligionists in this hour of national trial.

If the young rabbis of America fail to offer themselves in sufficient numbers, it will then be necessary for the armed forces to make up the deficiency by recalling to active duty older chaplains who, after serving in World War II, maintained their military connections by remaining in the Reserves. While the armed forces have the technical right to summon these veterans back into uniform, they are reluctant to do so until a determined effort has been made to obtain as many new Reservists as possible from the group of recent seminary graduates who have never served with the military.

Present Reservists who wish to return to extended active duty voluntarily will be allowed to do so, provided that they do not hold a rank higher than captain and are not over 44 years of age.

The Central Conference of American Rabbis (Reform), the Rabbinical Assembly of America (Conservative), and the Rabbinical Council of America (Orthodox), the three constituent agencies of the DRA, are all getting their official machinery set up for the purpose of meeting the Jewish chaplaincy quotas promptly and efficiently.

Former chaplains and present chaplains are expected to assist in this important procurement campaign by using their influence with young, qualified colleagues by pointing out to such colleagues the supreme importance of meeting the religious needs of Jewish military personnel and by describing the intense satisfactions which come from the ministry of the chaplaincy.

Rabbi Solomon B. Freehof, Chairman of the Division of Religious Activities, has given a solemn pledge to the armed forces, on behalf of the rabbinical organizations and the American Jewish community, that the call for more chaplains will be answered speedily and successfully. In a statement to the Armed Forces Chaplains Board, Rabbi Freehof said:

"The national rabbinical organizations, working through the Division of Religious Activities of the National Jewish Welfare Board, will go all-out to make sure that the religious needs of the Jewish personnel in the armed forces are met adequately. The American Jewish community is anxious and ready to do everything within its power to aid our government to combat and overthrow those world forces which are seeking to destroy the democratic way of life. Jewish soldiers, sailors, and airmen are serving side by side with brave men of all faiths to achieve this common objective. As in World War I and II, the rabbis of America may be counted upon to respond quickly and generously to the need for additional Jewish military chaplains. Wherever our men may be summoned to fight and, if need be, to die, there, God willing our chaplains shall go with them."

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February 8, 1951

Rabbi Herbert A. Friedman
Temple Emanuel
Denver, Colorado

Dear Rabbi Friedman:

You will be glad to learn that the project of republishing the Talmud in Germany, which was initiated a few years ago with the help of the American Military and your friendly cooperation as assistant to the Adviser on Jewish Affairs, has been completed. It consists of 19 volumes, measuring 16½" X 11½" each.

These sets are being distributed among Jewish communities, congregations and schools in Europe and Israel, where they are needed. A limited number has been reserved for presentation to outstanding institutions of higher learning in this country and to a few individual persons who were instrumental in this undertaking of historic significance. We have reserved a set for you and shall be glad to send it to you if you will be good enough to let us know that you wish to have it, indicating at the same time the specific address to which it is to be forwarded.

Sincerely yours,

Moses A. Leavitt
Executive Vice-Chairman

MAL:BX