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Jerusalem conference. Israel economic policy [Jerusalem, Israel].
October-November 1953.

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American Jewish Archives website.

Rudolf G. Sonneborn
300 Fourth Avenue
New York City 10

November 2, 1953

Rabbi Herbert Friedman
2419 E. Kenwood Blvd.
Milwaukee, Wisc.

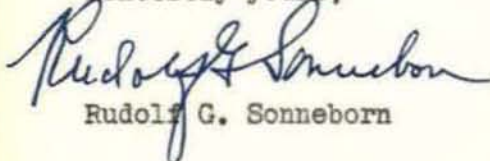
Dear Rabbi Friedman:

I want to share with you without delay the resolution adopted unanimously in Jerusalem by the Conference convened by Prime Minister David Ben-Gurion of outstanding leaders of the Israel Bond Organization and the United Jewish Appeal. You may have seen brief accounts in the local press, but as one who has worked devotedly in Israel's behalf, you will want to have the full text.

The Declaration of Principles announced from Jerusalem represents mutual and unanimous agreement on a program which should evoke the fullest measure of support of all elements in the American community dedicated to Israel. As President of the Israel Bond Organization and as a National Chairman of the United Jewish Appeal, I am heartened by this Declaration as an indication of the readiness of everyone concerned to rally for the maximum support of Israel in its present moment of crisis.

I know that you will be as gratified as I am by the expression of unity which the Declaration embodies and by its promise of united support of the two great channels of aid for Israel. It should be the keynote for the intensification of our current activities aimed at maximum dollars for Israel through the sale of Bonds. It is our immediate task to initiate an intensified effort to sell Bonds, both through top-level approaches and through mass sales. We must go forward speedily to provide the dollars that Israel so urgently needs.

Sincerely yours,


Rudolf G. Sonneborn

DECLARATION OF PRINCIPLES

Adopted Unanimously by Jerusalem Conference

October 29, 1953

Having assembled in Jerusalem at the invitation of the Prime Minister of Israel to consider the economic position of Israel in a critical hour for the State of Israel;

Having considered the reports presented to us on the course which Israel must follow to achieve its goal of economic independence;

Having been profoundly moved by the courage and determination of the people of Israel in pushing forward with their program for the absorption of immigrants and the building of a sound and democratic stronghold;

Heartened by the evidence at this Conference that Jewish communities throughout the world are unified in their furtherance of Israel's progress,

This Jerusalem Conference, keenly aware of the central role of American Jewry in the future development of Israel, calls for the fullest measure of devotion and service to the tasks of strengthening Israel's economic foundations. We further urge that a supreme effort be undertaken, in mutual cooperation and understanding, to meet the increased needs of Israel through the two principal channels of financial assistance—the United Jewish Appeal and State of Israel Bonds.

In view of the fact that the Government of Israel has emphasized the vital importance of the United Jewish Appeal and State of Israel Bonds to the upbuilding of Israel, and in view of the fact that the Finance Minister has presented an outline of needs and plans that require the raising of the sights of American Jewry in its generous support of Israel, we hereby call upon the Jews of the United States—

(1) To work for and give on an increased scale to an intensified United Jewish Appeal in order that the greatest amount of money possible be made available for Israel's upbuilding, for the colonization of the land, expansion of agricultural activity and the care, resettlement and absorption of Israel's immigrants;

(2) To support in the fullest measure the new issue of State of Israel Bonds, which have proved vital to the economic development of Israel, so that the progress already registered in agriculture, industry, irrigation, mining and transportation may be carried forward to speed the country's economic independence;

(3) And finally, recognizing the acute burden of short term indebtedness incurred by Israel as a result of the War of Independence and mass immigration, to make an urgent effort to consolidate these short term debts by seeking loans from American Jews to the end that Israel may be free to pursue a normal economic course.

Mindful of these responsibilities, aware of the great and historic work in which we are engaged, inspired by the achievements of the past and the opportunities of the future, we pledge ourselves to do all in our power to implement all phases of this program and summon all American Jews to dedicate themselves to its successful attainment.

EMBASSY OF ISRAEL
WASHINGTON, D. C.

שגרירות ישראל
ושינגטון

September 29, 1953

Dear Rabbi Friedman:

I have just returned from Israel where I spent three weeks in intensive consultations with the Government. Apart from the main political problems of the country, one of the major topics of consideration was the economic condition of the country which has improved beyond measure in the past year. The Prime Minister and his colleagues reviewed with me the various aspects of this development and outlined the plans which have been drawn up for further consolidation.

Mr. Ben-Gurion expressed a special desire for an opportunity to report on these matters to the leaders of important Jewish communities, and especially of the American Jewish Community which has done so much to make the developments in Israel possible.

Mr. Ben-Gurion is accordingly considering issuing invitations to a select group of people, mainly from the United States, but also some from South America, Great Britain, Canada, South Africa and Western Europe, to a Conference which would meet in Jerusalem at the end of October 1953. The Conference sessions, which would last four or five days, would be designed to give participants a full and frank review of the political, security and economic situation of the country. Similarly, a detailed account of the planning of the Government and the Jewish Agency for the years ahead would be presented for discussion and comment. Participants, of course, would also be given the opportunity to see the country for themselves.

It is not intended that the Conference would consider or adopt resolutions or involve itself in a review of the organizational aspects of fundraising. It would, however, provide an appropriate, responsible forum for a report by the Government of Israel to those who have cooperated in the years immediately behind us with the Government of Israel in the gigantic task

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of expanding the economy of Israel for the absorption of over 700,000 immigrants.

At present I am engaged in drawing up a list of persons from the United States to be invited to this Conference. Knowing of the outstanding part you have played in the work for Israel, I would like to include your name in the list which I shall forward to the Prime Minister.

I would be grateful if you could let me know at your very earliest convenience whether you would be available to attend the Conference. The tentative plan is that the Conference will open in Jerusalem on Sunday, October 25 and be concluded on Friday, October 30.

I avail myself of this opportunity to extend to you and your family my very best wishes for the New Year.

Sincerely yours,

Abba Eban

Abba Eban

N. B. Please address your reply to the Embassy of Israel, 1621 Twenty-second Street, Washington 8, D. C.

Rabbi Herbert Friedman
2419 East Kenwood Boulevard
Milwaukee, Wisconsin

October 7, 1953

Mr. Abba Eban
Embassy of Israel
1621 Twenty-second Street
Washington 8, D. C.

Dear Mr. Eban:

Your letter of September 29th was received at our office this morning, in the absence of Rabbi Friedman.

Rabbi Friedman is at the present time enroute on a trip to Germany, North Africa, and Israel. His itinerary reveals that he will be in Israel from October 22 through November 5. At that time his address will be c/o Shlomo Eisenberg, Jewish Agency, Jerusalem, Israel.

I, furthermore, shall forward your letter to him in Casablanca, his next stop, where he will be from October 10 through 15.

Hoping this will prove satisfactory to you, I am

Very truly yours

Secretary to Rabbi Friedman

cc: Rabbi Friedman
Casablanca

Hoping you are having an enjoyable trip,

With best regards

Helga

MEMBERS OF U.S. DELEGATION TO AJDC CONFERENCE, PARIS

Louis Bennett, New York, N.Y.

Assistant executive vice-chairman, United Jewish Appeal

Maurice Berinstein, Syracuse, N.Y.

National chairman, 1953 United Jewish Appeal campaign.

Judge Maurice Bernon, Cleveland, Ohio

Chairman of the National Council, American Joint Distribution Committee

Henry Bernstein, New York, N.Y.

Executive vice-president, United Jewish Appeal of Greater New York

Walter Bieringer, Boston, Mass.

President, United Service for New Americans

Mrs. Mathilda Brailove, Elizabeth, N.J.

Honorary chairman, National Women's Division, United Jewish Appeal

Mrs. Bernice Davidson, New York, N.Y.

Board of directors, United Jewish Appeal of Greater New York

Judge Irvin Davidson, New York, N.Y.

Co-chairman, Speaker's Bureau, United Jewish Appeal of Greater New York

Fred Forman, Rochester, N.Y.

President, United Jewish Welfare Fund of Rochester

Herbert Friedman, Milwaukee, Wisc.

Chairman, Speaker's Division, United Jewish Appeal

Harold Goldenberg, Minneapolis, Minn.

Director, Israel Investment Center, Jerusalem

I. Edwin Goldwasser, New York, N.Y.

Treasurer, American Joint Distribution Committee

Harry Greenstein, Baltimore, Md.

Executive director, Jewish Welfare Fund of Baltimore

Adolph Kiesler, Denver, Col.

Honorary president, Allied Jewish Community Council of Denver

Moses A. Leavitt, New York, N.Y.

Executive vice-chairman and secretary, American Joint Distribution Comm.

Harold Linder, New York, N.Y.

Vice-chairman, American Joint Distribution Committee

Isador Lubin, New York, N.Y.

Board of Directors, American Joint Distribution Committee

MEMBERS OF U.S. DELEGATION TO AJDC CONFERENCE, PARIS (continued)

Mrs. Selma Pilavin, Providence, R.I.
Chairman, National Women's Division, United Jewish Appeal

Theodore Raccoosin, New York, N.Y.
Co-chairman, United Jewish Appeal of Greater New York

Samuel Rubiner, Detroit, Mich.
President, Jewish Welfare Federation of Detroit

Lawrence Schacht, New York, N.Y.
Vice-chairman, United Jewish Appeal of Greater New York

Joseph J. Schwartz, New York, N.Y.
Director-general (on leave), American Joint Distribution Committee;
Executive vice-chairman, United Jewish Appeal

Joseph Shulman, Paterson, N.J.
National campaign cabinet, United Jewish Appeal

Isidore Sobeloff, Detroit, Mich.
Executive director, Jewish Welfare Federation of Detroit

Maurice Taylor, Pittsburgh, Pa.
Executive secretary, United Jewish Fund, Pittsburgh

Jonah B. Wise, New York, N.Y.
Vice-Chairman, American Joint Distribution Committee



JERUSALEM CONFERENCE 1953

October 25, 1953

Dear Conference Guest :

Welcome to Israel and the Jerusalem Conference 1953. We are certain that your coming and your deliberations here will be of greatest importance to the future of Israel.

During the conference period — Sunday, October 25 through Friday, October 30, — you are the guest of the Government of Israel and all normal hotel charges will be assumed by the Conference Organizing Committee.

Meanwhile, the Conference Organizing Committee, along with everyone you will meet in Israel, is anxious to make your stay here the most enjoyable possible.

The best services that Jerusalem offers have been placed at the disposal of the Conference. But we must ask you to remember that Israel has not yet achieved a standard of hotel accommodations to which you are accustomed in your own country.

For example, owing to the unusually large number of delegates who have responded to the Israel Government's invitation to come to Jerusalem, it has not been possible to house all the delegates in the Conference Hotel. We have no doubt that you will discover other inconveniences — but we ask you to bear with them.

However — a word about the services that you will find available at the Conference :

You will find a Conference Information and Reception Desk at both the King David and Eden Hotels. They are there to serve you.

All meals will be provided Conference guests at the King David Hotel. Please consult the enclosed programme for the times of Conference meals.

You can exchange your currency or travelers checks at the cashier's desk in the lobby of the Conference Hotel.

About laundry :— express service can be secured at your hotel if you request it.

Transportation arrangements have been made under which Conference guests who are not staying at the Conference Hotel will be brought to and from their lodgings to the conference sessions. Please consult your hotel desk who will arrange transportation for you.

Telephone facilities to all parts of Israel are available to you free of charge. But please bear in mind that it sometimes takes a while to put through calls outside of Jerusalem.

Return transportation arrangements should be confirmed as early as possible at the Conference Transportation desk.

A special counselor will be glad to answer your questions about shopping in Jerusalem.

A special Women's Hospitality Committee has been set up to enable the wives of delegates to enjoy their stay here.

May we call your attention to the following enclosed items :

1. Your Conference Invitation — (Please carry it with you, and have it available for all Plenary and Executive Sessions.)
2. Conference Programme
3. Road map of Israel in Hebrew
4. Road map of Israel in English
5. Programme of Tours
6. Souvenir emblem of the Conference

Again, we express the hope that you will find your stay here an enjoyable and an inspiring one.

Cordially,

THE ORGANIZING COMMITTEE

ADDRESS BY DR. GIORA JOSEPHTHAL

A.J.D.C. COUNTRY DIRECTORS CONFERENCE
Paris, October 18, 1953

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen: I am very thankful to you for giving me the opportunity to report to JDC's Annual Directors' Conference about the economic and social problems of Israel today. The close cooperation between JDC, the Jewish Agency and the Government of Israel since the end of World War II in trying to bring a solution to the burning problems of suffering Jews is one of the outstanding characteristics of Jewish life today. The task of rescuing and rehabilitating Jews which has been accomplished so far by our combined efforts in the last 8 years could never have been accomplished by one of our organizations alone. I think Jewish history will give us credit for the approach of statesmanship and responsibility shown during those years of coordinated efforts. It was one of the tragedies of Jewish history during thousands of years that even in times of disaster the splitting and partisan forces were stronger than the forces of national unity and integration. Future generations will not say about us that we repeated the mistakes made during the times when the Second Temple was destroyed.

The cooperation between JDC and the Jewish Agency has to continue in many countries for many years to come. I am sure that both of our organizations will feel the responsibility and overcome minor difficulties as long as Jewish fate demands continuation of our work.

In reporting to you today I want to speak to a partner and friend who has to know achievements and failures, and maybe that in thinking together in a spirit of respect and criticism we will reduce the difficulties still in our way.

During the five years of the State's existence the Jewish population of Israel has grown by 125 percent. After the decrease of immigration in 1952 and 1953 we can see more clearly the problems still existing in connection with the economic and social task laid upon us by this increase of population. During the years of mass immigration we were like the family moving in a hurry from one flat to another, just putting the furniture somewhere in the new flat in the hope of re-arranging it by the time the pressure would be over.

Our economic problems may be expressed in two facts.

First, only one fifth of our needs in foreign currency is at present covered by our exports and we need 250 million dollars per annum.

Second, the huge discrepancy between consumption and production gives the basis to the inflationary situation in which the country finds itself today.

The slogan for the State's economy in the future is: less consumption and less imports, more production and more exports.

Technically speaking, we are in the middle of a policy of deflation decided upon by our Government in February 1952.

There is a short-term policy of deflation fought with the well tested weapons used all over the world: no treasury bills, rationing, eliminating surplus money by heavy taxation, restricting credits by demanding high liquidity from the banks.

After well over a year of deflationary policy we see some positive results: scarcity of money in circulation has resulted in a considerable shrinkage in the demand for consumer goods. In connection with this, imports have decreased considerably (by 17%) in comparison with last year.

However, one of the results of our deflationary policy is the rise in unemployment, at times of considerable proportions, though mitigated from time to time through unemployment relief works undertaken under the pressure of public opinion in contrast to the purpose of the new economic policy.

The long-term policy fighting inflation is only one: increasing production by intensive development and transforming our newcomers from consumers to producers. Last year we saw an increased effort on the part of producers and a considerable rise (20%) in industrial and other exports.

On the total, we reduced our unfavorable trade balance by nearly one third since February 1952. Increases of production must be concentrated in two fields: agriculture and industry.

It may be said that Israel's progress in the field of agriculture is greater than could be expected. There is an increase of 144% of Jews earning their living in agriculture from the beginning of the State as compared with the overall increase of population of 125%. Our progress in industry is only 76% and we cannot be satisfied with the results achieved till now in this field. It would be unjust, however, to put those two figures - 144% increase in agriculture and 76% increase in industry - before you without any explanation. Our experience in agriculture up to the beginning of the State gave us a basis for further work. Agricultural planning was developed already when the State was founded, and specially research on water resources was started by international, mostly American, experts, in 1942. Industrial research, specially research on the national resources in the Negev, was only started in 1949. Until now we cannot come to conclusions in some fields with regard to our potential mineral wealth.

During the next year or two the increase in agricultural production will be larger than the increase in industrial production, as planning is far advanced, and as less initial mistakes will be made in this field. You may say that Rebbe gelt was already paid.

Three problems of our agricultural development have to be tackled more thoroughly this year:

(1) The 366 settlements founded since the beginning of the State have to get their full budget. We hope that nearly 60 of them will earn their living by the end of 1954 and will not be dependent any more on public investments. That means mostly enlarging the irrigated area in the settlements, and to a lesser degree enlarging their living stock.

(2) Our youngest settlements, especially the 46 founded during 1953, have to increase or start the production of agricultural products which up till now have not been developed enough in our country. We have to switch from vegetables and potatoes, from poultry and dairy products which are sufficiently produced for the existing population, to sugarbeets, oil seeds, cotton and grain. These new branches of agriculture demand more water and more land, but less machinery and less investment of manpower per dunam. That means that irrigation is once more the key to the development of our new agriculture.

In the field of irrigation I think our program during 1953 was more than satisfactory. In the middle of 1952 we put before UJA and before ourselves a program of adding 100,000 dunams per year of irrigated area and take as a basis that one irrigated dunam gives enough food for one person. This year we added 120,000 and we hope that during next year we can even come up to a figure of 150,000 dunams in one year. We are working on the six district irrigation schemes which demand an investment per year of IL 20 million for three or four years to come. In the Yarkon Negev scheme, the biggest one among those, we are well ahead of schedule. The purpose of these schemes is to bring water from a distance of 10 - 30 miles from the water source to the plot to be irrigated. After finishing those six schemes we will have enough water for providing Israel's agricultural needs as seen today.

3) The third problem is agricultural manpower. We have 10,000 unemployed now. Their number may increase to 15,000 till the end of 1953. 5,000 families per year to settle on the land is the minimum needed today and we have to get volunteers for settling on the land. We cannot get them only by propaganda or administrative pressure. We have to make our new settlements attractive so that their standard of life can be compared with the standard of life in towns and older settlements, and we have to give them security. That means that non-agricultural investments in settlements (roads, fences, transport facilities) and educational services have to be increased.

Our efforts in the field of industry will be concentrated on enlarging the export industries, specially textiles, citrus fruit products and diamonds, and the development of potash production and fertilizers and chemicals in the Negev. These two branches of minerals in the Negev are already in the state of actual development. In the field of copper we are starting the first pilot plant this year; in the field of iron and oil we have still to continue with research work, and cannot add any final opinion about our natural resources.

Taking all those economic remarks together, I cannot say when we will be able to balance our foreign trade. It is no use making estimates of six or twelve years ahead at a time when we cannot be sure of getting the necessary investment capital even in the next two years.

I know that you are primarily interested in the social problems connected with the mass immigration to Israel, but social work is partly a function of the general economic situation of a country, and I thought it necessary to give a general view of the economic background before I remark upon our social problems.

The Minister of Finance in introducing the budget on behalf of the Government this year said: "We have over-expanded our services and we must freeze or even contract them during the next few years". This sentence is characteristic of the approach of deflationary policy to social expenses. The discussion is not about what is necessary, but about what we can afford.

The first problem we had to deal with was the problem of housing. When we started in the middle of 1950 to transfer the newcomers from camps in which they got the whole of their maintenance, to provisional housing facilities called 'maabarot' where they had to earn their living themselves, we had nearly 100,000 immigrants in tents. At the end of 1951, with the additional 175,000 immigrants coming during that year, we had 200,000 in tents, in aluminium and canvas huts. During the last 18 months we pulled the tents down and erected cement houses or wooden huts instead. 20,000 families were transferred from tents to those houses. We still have maabarot, but they are built without tents, and their population has decreased. The urgent housing problem today comprises 100,000 people - roughly 20,000 families who are living in canvas or aluminium huts. Last year there were 34,000 families, which means that in exactly one year we solved a bit more than one third of the problem, and according to the present rate of building we may liquidate this problem within two years. After those two years 20,000 families will still be in wooden huts, where they can live for an additional four or five years or more without endangering their health and creating additional social problems. It is the opinion of our Government that increased activities in the field of housing would mean an increase of inflation, as no trade goods for local consumption or export are created by additional houses. Urgent as this problem is, it cannot get first priority, but has to give way to the problems of enlarging agriculture and industry.

The housing problem may be divided into two: where to build and how to build.

When the State of Israel was founded, 84% of the Jewish population were on the sea shore, that means in the West of our country, leaving the Northern and Southern and Eastern borders nearly uninhabited by Jews, and 64% of the Jews were living in three big towns, Tel-Aviv, Haifa and Jerusalem. It was our problem to go to the uninhabited areas and create new settlements and villages all over the land. When we will number 2 million Jews (we are coming near to it) we want 20% in the South and the Negev, and 25% in the North, for instance Galilee and the Valley of Jezreel. We have good hopes of reaching this aim as far as the South and the Negev are concerned. We are still behind schedule as far as Galilee is concerned, in spite of the increase in population there. In reducing the town population from 64% from the beginning of the State to 44%^{in 1955} we still cannot say that the population is well distributed, but a great deal has been achieved in this field during the past five years.

The question of how to build has only one answer: building houses with the maximum of local materials. In times of emergency we had to import wood or wooden houses in order to give the immigrant a roof over his head; there were times when we had to buy tents at very high prices. Building with local cement and local stone is the only way open to us now. It is an expensive way in local currency and it cannot bring us as quick a solution as we would have wanted.

The pressure from amongst our immigrants to improve their housing conditions is, I'm sorry to say, very small. More than 80% of the inmates of maabarot came from non-European countries and are used to a housing standard not acceptable to us. Some of them are unable and some of them unwilling to pay rents and decrease their food budget. The desire for better housing has to be developed amongst them. We know that as long as they are not properly housed, they won't feel like citizens of our country. They even enlarge the problems created by an immigration from 50 countries by the feeling that houses are for Europeans and maabarot for non-Europeans. We cannot come to a feeling of national unity as long as special social problems are connected only with special parts of the Jewish people; it is this which makes the housing problem more important than even some of our immigrants feel today.

Housing is one of the social problems of our country. The whole scope of social problems can only be seen if you bear in mind the basic social facts connected with mass immigration from backward countries. European immigrants were the first to come after the foundation of the State. Immigrants from Asia and Africa were the last ones, and this is an additional reason for the lack of actual absorption on their part. The characteristics of the immigrants from Africa and Asia were:

- (1) that it was an immigration of three generations. The whole family came together: grandparents, parents and children, and they had to be absorbed as big families with only one potential breadwinner in the average for 4 - 5 persons.
- (2) lack of professional training.
- (3) lack of Zionist education, which means education for work, especially agricultural work, Hebrew and the feeling of unity of the Jewish people.
- (4) a patriarchal family structure, which means little or no rights for the children or the women, all power being vested in the father.

These questions cannot be solved in a few years. They are a task for a generation or two. We had to find a system of educational approach in order to ensure that the second generation will reach the standards expected by every one of us.

The most important step taken was expressed in the compulsory educational law passed by the Knesset in September 1949. This law establishes universal, free and compulsory primary education for all children from the age of 5 to the age of 14.

May I give you a few figures in order to show the importance of this achievement. Kindergartens increased from 17,000 to 75,000 since the beginning of the State, which means an increase of 240%. Children in elementary schools increased from 71,000 to 215,000, which is an increase of 200%. You may imagine what a task it was for us to put an additional 140,600 children to school, and we had to find and to produce 10,000 new teachers in those five years of the existence of the State.

However, there are still deficiencies. Not all of the parents are sending their children to school despite the fines for disobeying the law. In immigrant settlements we have full control of the children, and there are nearly no absentees, but in immigrant towns like Ramleh, Lydda, Beersheba and Migdal the figure of absentees runs between 15% and 28% of the children, and we cannot provide a sufficient staff of social workers and, I must say, of police to get full control of all the children.

You may well imagine that we had to build a very large number of transitory classes, as we got children of the age of 10 or 12 who could not read or write and could not go to the classes of their age. Only 70% of the children now at school will have finished at the age of 14 eight school classes. The other 30% will have finished 5-7.

In recruiting the necessary teaching staff we had to take graduates of secondary schools, who had no or insufficient additional training. It will take an additional three years to staff all schools with certified teachers.

The social backwardness of our immigrants is expressed most strikingly by their enrollment, or I should say lack of enrollment in secondary schools. Secondary, including agricultural and professional schools provide education for one third of the youth in the appropriate age groups of Israel. Although new immigrants comprise more than half of the population of Israel, they constitute only 10% in secondary schools, 23% in professional schools, but 63% in agricultural schools. The Jewish Agency made a decisive step this year for the first time in allocating a budget for secondary school scholarships for children of new immigrants with the condition that 70% of them have to come from Asia or African countries. By promoting education for these neglected elements of the Jewish people we hope to achieve a better balance between the various cultural levels.

Still the most important activity in this field is Youth Aliyah which can speak of 34,000 graduates and 13,000 children now under training since the beginning of the State. Youth Aliyah is the basis of productive education of immigrant youth now taking a large share of its children from maabarot.

The internal structure of the immigrant family from backward countries demands special protective measures which guard the child against premature work, truancy from school and protection against the father of the family who often does not let the child even have his proper share of food. The importance of kindergartens, for example, in Israel is not that the children are under proper health conditions and acquire education and discipline, but that they get one or two meals there and have corners for themselves. The immigrants from

backward countries are not used to the idea that a child has a life of its own, and they like children to behave like grown-up people. Toys are unknown in those countries, and things natural to us are detested by them. There is a Yemenite saying: "You are lying like a child", and they cannot imagine that the children's world of imagination needs its own outlet. Bodily punishment of children is wide-spread. The Yemenite mother bringing her child to the Cheder at the age of 3 or 4, says to the Cheder teacher: "I am bringing you meat. Return to me bones".

By providing the educational framework of kindergartens and schools we are making the decisive step towards the rehabilitation of our people, but I'm sure that we have to continue learning in this field for many years to come.

We cannot make out a definite program for the coming years in this field, but I think it is a minimum to increase secondary education per year by two thousand and it is a minimum to promise a place in kindergartens and elementary schools for every child in the proper age group.

May I add a few words about health and social services. The progress in the field of health services has been very satisfactory since 1950. The situation in general hospitalization, despite the fact that we lost the big Hadassah Hospital in Jerusalem, improved from year to year, and Israel now has seven hospital beds per thousand of population. But we have to take into account that owing to primitive housing conditions people who normally stay in bed at home with minor diseases, have to go to hospital because they cannot be treated at home.

The outstanding achievement is the providing of hospital care for TB patients, which was carried out by Malben. I am not speaking of the activities of Malben in Israel and its part in social work as I am sure that Charlie Passman will cover this subject.

During the years of mass immigration the infant mortality rate, especially from the backward countries, was unusually high. At a time when the general infant mortality rate in Israel was 45 per 1000, we had up to 165 cases amongst the immigrants. Last year the normal death rate in Israel was 38, and the death rate among immigrants 63, which means that it is still 60% higher amongst immigrants than amongst the total population of Israel. The decrease in the mortality rate is obvious, but still not yet completely satisfactory. We have to extend the special Mother and Child services to all our new settlements, erecting 260 new stations during the next 5 years. Let me say about Malben only one word.

I cannot imagine where we would now stand without Malben. The fear of TB, the unhospitalized bedridden chronic invalids, the blind, the old-aged persons, numerous unrehabilitated invalids, in sum, the suffering of thousands of human beings in Israel would have continued had it not been for Malben. Otherwise, the State of Israel and the Jewish Agency would have to do the work and would neglect their task of colonization and education. And it is not only what Malben has done, but how it was done.

May I be allowed to pay special tribute here to Charlie Passman. I know he would not allow me to do it in Israel, but here I'm your guest and he cannot interrupt. His energy, farsightedness, devotion and organizational talent make Malben one of the finest examples of world Jewry's help.

In giving you the picture of the present situation, I wanted to stress the priority of needs existing today. Productivisation of new immigrants and education of the second generation must get first priority. The social services necessary to ease the burden on our newcomers can increase only steadily and slowly, without bringing new inflationary danger to our country. In view of the large number of social and hard core cases still not absorbed the Government of Israel and the Jewish Agency will stick to their principle of selective immigration in the near future; that means, from all the countries in which there is no imminent danger to the life of Jews, Israel will accept the healthy ones and those who have at least one able-bodied breadwinner in the family. From all the countries in which we see danger to the life or the Jewishness of our brothers, like the Communist countries and the countries of the Arab League, we will take every Jew who can only manage to reach the shores of Israel. I am happy that this line of policy was accepted all over the Jewish world.

I will refrain from any valued judgments with regard to the various ethnic groups among the new immigrants. We cannot make blanket statements to the effect that this group is "bad" or that group is "good". Each group, because of its background, has its own special problems. All that we can do is to try to understand these problems and adjust our educational technique accordingly.

In measuring the present results I may say that the best achievements were reached by the Yemenites. The whole of Yemenite immigration was 6.5% of the immigration since the beginning of the State, but they built 13% of all our new settlements. North Africans, being 12%, built 12% of the settlements, and may I say in brackets that much injustice is done to them by critics in and outside Israel. Persian immigration, which is 3.5%, built 5% of our settlements, and much credit is due to the Kurdish element. The most unsatisfactory situation is connected with Iraqi immigration till now. 17% of these immigrants built 7% of our settlements, but it is our fault no less than theirs, since at the time of their immigration we could absorb them only near the big towns and put them mostly in maabarot in the non-rural areas. Now a great part of them does not want to leave and go to the land.

In describing these special problems of Jews from backward countries you may understand their psychological difficulties. Being on a lower standard than previous immigrants, being the last ones to come, they still have a feeling of discrimination, and it is quite natural that the unsuccessful ones among them feel most strongly about it. The feeling of discrimination leads partly to emigration from Israel, and I cannot see how this can be avoided. The Jewish Agency still refuses to give special rights to people who threaten to emigrate, as the danger of blackmailing will increase if we should give way to their demands. Since the creation of the State, 34,000 emigrants have left us. Relatively speaking, they are not a sizable group - only

4.5% of the total number of immigrants. Nevertheless, the fact that they have left and others want to leave, shows that our efforts of integration have not been entirely successful.

The integration of immigrants from backward countries is threatened by a vast number of obstacles. One of these obstacles in Israel is an assumption on the part of Central and Eastern European Jews that their way of life is "right", and that the other Jew should make an adjustment to it as quickly as he can. It cannot be doubted that a Jew from an Asian or African country has as much to contribute to the new State as to receive from it, and communication with him should be, as far as possible, a two-way affair.

It is understandable, on the other hand, that every part of the Jewish people has its own conception, according to the background of their country of origin, about the way of social life they would like to see in Israel, and there is even a kind of Jewish worship of something we called once very British - of the conception of the white man's burden. The gap between the newcomer and the old settler has not yet been bridged. Our teachers, social workers, agricultural instructors, the so-called social instructor in our agricultural settlement are the bridge between the new immigrants and the old inhabitants of Israel. If I take the figure of 25,000 workers in all those fields, I hope to be near the truth. It is a tremendous task to recruit them. Our older settlements gave the best of their people and they are getting tired. During the last years we started to utilize the sons and daughters of our old settlers as instructors, and the results justify this experiment.

The most important function in this pressure cooker called Israel is done by the Israel Defence Army. Here people from all parts of the world meet on an equal basis of rights and duties, no matter how long they have been in Israel. The job done by the Army with immigrant youth during the 30 months of compulsory service cannot be valued too highly. We could not even promise the predominance of the Hebrew language in Israel if the Army would not train immigrant boys and girls in special courses.

These are the difficulties before us. We are not allowed to romanticize and over-simplify our difficulties, but we are aware that, in a youth-centered society like ours, by education and training a practical and spiritual trend will be found after a generation or two and accepted by the whole of the Nation. Our Rousseau-like belief in the healing power of contact with the soil, in the effectiveness of "go among the people", was justified. Still, there is no place in the world where a greater degree of variety of humanity is observable.

We are still at the cross-roads between Westernization and Levantinization. The social and educational services of the State of Israel, and especially of the Israel Defense Army, and the transfer from unproductive to productive work, will give results in creating the new society of Israel - but we should not expect a pre-fabricated society. States cannot be made, they must grow. There is such a process as the insensible growth of civilization by small, scarcely measurable steps. There must be roots, growth, soil. There must

be a traditional accumulation. All those causes exist in their very beginning and built the society of Israel. We have great satisfaction from this beginning. We cannot have full satisfaction if we do not continue to put all our heart and thoughts into the future development of the Israel society. More than 50 years of work in Israel gives us the right to believe that the people and the land will be created together.

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SCHEDULE OF 1953 COUNTRY DIRECTORS' CONFERENCE

SUNDAY, October 18 - 3 p.m.

Chairman: Mr. Moses W. Beckelman

AMERICAN JEWISH
ARCHIVES

1. Opening of Conference - Mr. Beckelman
2. Malben - Mr. Charles Passman
3. Discussion
4. Cultural and Religious Activities - Dr. Judah J. Shapiro
5. Discussion



MONDAY, October 19

Chairman: Mr. Herbert Katzki

Morning Session - 10 a.m.

1. Introductory statement on Moslem Countries - Mr. Katzki
2. Report on a) Morocco, Tangiers - Mr. William Bein
b) Tunis, Tripoli - Mr. Henry Levy
c) Iran - Mr. Abe Loskove
3. Discussion

Afternoon Session - 3 p.m.

4. ORT and other Reconstruction Activities in North Africa - Mr. Noel Aronovici
5. Education programs in North Africa - Mr. Stanley Abramovitch
6. Medical problems in Moslem Countries - Dr. Alexander Gonik
7. Discussion
8. Paul Baerwald School and Programs - Dr. Henry Selver

TUESDAY, October 20

Chairman: Mr. Charles H. Jordan

Morning Session - 10 a.m.

1. Introductory statement on problems in Austria, Germany and Italy - Mr. Jordan
2. Report on a) Austria and Germany - Mr. Samuel Haber
b) Italy - Mr. Milton Steinberg
3. Discussion
4. Emigration (Non-Israel) prospects - Mr. Louis Horwitz

Afternoon Session - 3 p.m.

5. Report on a) France - Mrs. Laura Margolis-Jarblum
b) Belgium - Mr. Guy Mansbach
c) Switzerland - Mr. James Rice
6. Report on a) Sweden - Mr. Ragnar Gottfarb
b) Norway - Mr. Marcus Levin
7. Report on a) Holland - Mr. M. Acohen
b) Greece - Mr. Haim Benrubi

WEDNESDAY, October 21

Morning Session - 10 a.m.

Chairman: Dr. Joseph J. Schwartz

1. Introductory Statement to Discussion
of Community Problems in
Western Europe - Dr. Judah J. Shapiro
2. Problems relating to the Conference
on Material Claims, JDC requirements
and European community needs - Mrs. Laura Margolis-Jarblum
3. Discussion

Afternoon Session - 3 p.m.

Chairman: Mr. Moses A. Leavitt

Reserved for guest speakers.

At 5.30 p.m. there will be a showing of several new short films
on the hard-core transport to Norway and other JDC activities.

This will take place at:

FILMAX
72, Champs-Elysees

THURSDAY, October 22

Chairman: Mr. Moses W. Beckelman

Morning Session - 10 a.m.

1. Restitution and Reparations - Mr. Jerome Jacobson
2. Hungary, Yugoslavia, China - Mr. Charles J. Jordan
3. Reserved for further Discussion
of previous business

Afternoon Session - 3 p.m.

4. The American Scene
5. Discussion
6. Summary of Conference Proceedings - Mr. Moses W. Beckelman

REPORT ON AUSTRIA
AMERICAN JEWISH
ARCHIVES
TO
1953 COUNTRY DIRECTORS CONFERENCE



זכר אלה יעקב וישראל

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The Jewish population of Austria has remained almost static during the year; Vienna with about 10,000 and the U.S. Zone with approximately 1,100. The number of indigent persons benefiting from either the JDC or the Community program has continued during the present year at about 1800 persons.

The report on the JDC Austrian operation is divided into two sections: The first relates to our work in Vienna, and the second to that in the U.S. Zone. There are certain functions and relations which are applicable to all of Austria, (e.g. Emigration, Relations with the United States Escapee Program Division and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees) but the nature of the residual caseload, the problem of the camps, the type of Jewish communities and our relation to them, and the problem of our withdrawal from long range involvements with the residual load, all point to the need for separate evaluations of the problem in the city of Vienna, and in the U.S. Zone of Austria.

VIENNA:

The situation in Vienna, as pointed out in this report is to a very large extent the same as it was last year. Rothschild still existed as a Jewish installation on 15 October 1953, but with the Austrians determined to close it at the earliest possible date. The number of people in Rothschild has decreased during the year, but its continued existence is a very real hindrance toward consolidation of our program in the city. It is my belief now, as it was a year ago, that when Rothschild is closed, we shall be able to give serious consideration to turning the responsibility for our present program over to the community, retaining only certain financial controls, and making available from time to time consultants on immigration and welfare problems.

I am convinced that the Vienna Jewish Community - by far the best organized community in either Germany or Austria - can, if funds are available, assume this responsibility, and that they should if necessary, be compelled to do so, at the earliest possible opportunity. As it is the Community carries the bulk of the relief load, with JDC's direct responsibility being limited to our clients in Rothschild and non-Austrian Jews living in the city of Vienna.

U.S. ZONE:

To a large extent, the two camps in the U.S. Zone present not dissimilar problems to those we find in Foehrenwald. Although the population of the two camps (total 600) is much smaller than Foehrenwald (2100),

the problem of closing these two camps, will be at least as difficult, and must remain uppermost in our minds. No ready solutions present themselves. Emigration is a very slow process, and transfer or integration into the Austrian economy presents even greater problems than are to be found in Germany. While a good deal of talk of closing Foeherwald is heard, the final liquidation of Asten and Hallein, is mentioned only in respect to moving the people to another location.

There will be a real need to continue our search for projects for the hard to resettle cases, as well as to continue our concentration on normal emigration of as many as possible. In this way, since the population is a stable one, we should be able to reduce our load in the two camps sufficiently, so as to be able to find reasonable solutions for those not able to leave Austria either through regular emigration or through special projects.

In the U.S. Zone the three Jewish communities with a population of a few hundred are without real leadership and are woefully weak and inadequate. It is hard to envisage these communities assuming any responsibility for the residual group, should we decide to pull out.

Our relationship with the "Kultusgemeinden" especially with Vienna, has been maintained, on a constructive basis, and we have found that on many issues and problems which confront them, they look to us for advice and guidance.

As will be seen from the report the AJDC in Austria, during the year has carried a well rounded welfare program, has provided special grants for religious and cultural purposes, has assisted students to complete their schooling, has supported a large feeding program in Vienna, and has especially concentrated its activities in the field of emigration.

These reports were, by and large, prepared by Mr. Feder for Vienna, and by Mr. Friedler for the U.S. Zone.

S.L. HABER

VIENNA

INTRODUCTION:

This past year has been a stalemate period for the many problems that faces the AJDC in Vienna, 1) Rothschild Camp remains open, 2) Restitution has not been forthcoming, 3) Emigration continues at its low level, although there were certain developments which did temper our overall problems. For example, that the Kultusgemeinde Vienna has been able to meet their financial needs to a larger extent than ever before and, therefore, our subvention for the year 1953 is the smallest since the end of the war.

Another positive aspect of our program has been the United States Escapee Program, which has contributed for the last year to our program in Austria a sum of \$110,000 for care and maintenance, medical assistance, emigration documentation costs and sea passage. In addition, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees has made certain funds available to us for welfare cases as well as Ford Foundation grants for assistance to emigrants resettling or integrating into the economy.

A positive achievement resulted from our negotiations with the Austrian authorities for accepting a number of our clients on permanent relief, and in some cases for payment of institutional care.

In the field of emigration, although the number which we moved totaled only 273, it can be considered good in view of the difficult visa production period of our operation.

On the negative side, the "Auslaender" Jews or DP Jews living in the Community and in Rothschild-Camp continue to be a problem as well as a drain on the energies and funds of the AJDC. The Rothschild Hospital at this writing still exists although its population has been cut by 50% of what it was last year. The DP's living in the Community have not been able to stabilize their lives in Austria, as work permits, citizenship etc. are still not available to them. They continue to live in limbo.

WELFARE:

Our welfare caseload consists of three categories who received our assistance. They include Jewish DP's living in Rothschild, Jewish DP's living privately in Vienna and Austrian Jews living in Vienna.

20 21

The DP's living in Rothschild received from the Austrian Government besides living accommodations and utilities, a total of AS 5.80 per day - 23 ¢ - for food. The 23 ¢ per day for food, even under the most rigid budget conditions, is a very low subsistence level. We are called upon to supplement approximately one half of the group now living in Rothschild. Special grants are provided for holidays as well as other emergencies that may arise. In addition, for a select number of very needy cases we were able to supply a USEP food grant of AS 100 per month. We feel that the combination assistance received from the Austrian Government, AJDC and USEP does not act as a deterrent for emigration.

The majority of the DP's living in the Community who receive our assistance, are by and large former Rothschild Hospital inmates who, we felt, for psychological as well as medical reasons could adjust themselves better, living outside the camp environment. This policy has paid dividends in that we do not have all of our difficult cases now concentrated in Rothschild Hospital but rather have them living a semi-normal existence in the city. We have finally been able to have a number of our free living cases taken over by the city welfare organization. We still must continue to supplement the very low welfare grant given to them by the City. Our Welfare Department is, of course, in constant touch with this group to make certain that they receive all benefits which accrue to one on the City welfare rolls. This includes medical, dental and other services.

The third category in our welfare picture are the Austrian Jews themselves. The first line of welfare assistance to an Austrian Jew is the City Welfare Department, but because of the rigidity of their standards which does not allow for younger people or people who may be receiving pensions - no matter how small -, the Kultusgemeinde must cover these individuals who are refused welfare assistance by the City. The welfare standard of the Kultusgemeinde is not high and at times is also quite inflexible, so much so that from time to time we have to give assistance to certain worthy cases. The low standard of Kultusgemeinde welfare assistance has been a subject of debate with the Kultusgemeinde for many years. Despite our feeling that their standard of care is low, the Kultusgemeinde insists that their standards are higher than those maintained by Austrian welfare, and that because of lack of funds they cannot raise the standard. We are, of course, of a different opinion, i.e. that within their present budget their welfare standards could be raised. We feel that at the time plans are formulated for turn over of the AJDC welfare activities to the Kultusgemeinde, we should make available to them for at least six months an international social worker to afford guidance in their welfare program. When and if the turn-over is consummated, it will be important for AJDC to continue some check on the treatment of Auslaender Jews. Unfortunately, at the present time there

is a distinct cleavage between the Kultusgemeinde and the religious block of the Auslaender Jews living in the city.

The possibility of diminishing our DP caseload other than through emigration is quite remote. As long as the Austrians continue their restriction on granting of citizenship, work permits or relaxing their welfare standards, there will continue to be a permanent DP welfare load in Vienna as well as throughout Austria.

KULTUSGEMEINDE:

The present favorable situation of the Israelitische Kultusgemeinde in Vienna represents a good example of close co-operation between that organization and the AJDC. The financial assistance from AJDC has shown a marked decrease year by year. The institutions including the Old Age Home, the Hospital, the Synagogue, the Community Headquarters Building, are functioning to the greatest extent on pre-war standards. On the other hand, it is felt that the community participation in Kultusgemeinde activities is not as great as it should be. Although the present leadership is very active and vigorous in carrying out the Kultusgemeinde activities, a segment of the Jewish population, although they may pay their taxes, show little or no interest in the community as such. This fact may be accounted for by the preponderance of old people and people in business who lack time and interest to give to community functions.

It is interesting to note that despite this lack of interest in Kultusgemeinde functions, on occasions where mass meetings have been called by the Community - including the memorial on Weizmann's death, commemoration of the fall of the Warsaw ghetto, commemoration of Independence Day for Israel, and finally a mass meeting on restitution -, the largest hall in Vienna holding 2,400 people was completely filled on each occasion. When you consider the total Austrian and DP Jewish population in Vienna to be around 8,500, this is indeed remarkable. A number of business people, when questioned about their lack of participation in community affairs, objected very strenuously to the political structure of the present administration which is two thirds socialist and one third Zionist. One cannot, however, criticize the socialist and Zionist groups too much, as it has been their vigorous leadership which has developed the Kultusgemeinde to its present position.

The primary reason for our being able to reduce the AJDC subvention this year has been due to greater tax income, as well as the sale of some of their smaller properties. For example, during the year 1952 the total income from community taxes was AS 1,435,000, whereas for the first six months of 1953 AS 1,100,000 had already been collected. For the first

six months of 1952 only AS 700,000 was collected. In 1952 there was a total of AS 190,000 from sale of property as compared to AS 421,000 for the first half of 1953. Other sources in income for the Community include the cemetery, the temple, restitution etc.

In budgeting for the year 1953 the original estimate had been for a subvention from AJDC of AS 2,000,000 with AS 1,200,000 as a direct cash subvention and AS 800,000 as a loan. But with the favorable income position, the Community will only need AS 1,200,000, with the provision that any reserve at the end of the year 1953 would be used against their budget for 1954.

The Kultusgemeinde Old Age Home and the Hospital are well administered institutions. The Old Age Home has an average of 150 persons, with the Hospital running an average of 50 bed patients per day. There was considerable criticism of the Kultusgemeinde for opening the hospital in 1952, and certainly the statistics for the first year did not bear out the necessity for maintaining the institution. But after a complete survey by Dr. Molnar it was decided that it would serve no good purpose to ask that the institution be closed. Although the Altersheim and the Hospital show a monthly deficit of around AS 75,000, it could not be proven that the Hospital was the cause for the large deficit. It was felt that as long as the aged group had so many who were chronically ill, it was important to have a hospital unit functioning. Furthermore, more people were utilizing the hospital, so that the deficit was being reduced.

Restitution by the Austrians continues to be the most important topic in the Kultusgemeinde today. It is understandable especially because most of their plans revolve around their getting or not getting a settlement.

ROTHSCHILD HOSPITAL:

The present population of this institution, numbering approximately 220, has decided for many complicated reasons that as the Sherith of the Sherit Hapleta, Rothschild must remain a refugee center. The camp consists of two large hospital wings (only one of which is being used at the present time) and two smaller buildings, namely the former Nurses Home and Eye Clinic. The Austrian authorities are responsible for the management of the institution and have unsuccessfully tried to close it for the last two years, but because of the large number involved - 500 to 600 - and with no suitable alternatives to which to send the people, their plans have always been stymied.

In the last year, mainly through the AJDC efforts, the population has

dropped from 450 to 220. The majority of the group have emigrated, with some moving into the Community and others going to camps in the US Zone. The Austrian authorities, with the backing of the US Embassy, are attempting to make provisions for moving this residual group. The first attempt was to have all the people move to the Zone, which has been refused. The second attempt was to have part remain in the Nurses Home and Eye Clinic - approximately 100 - with the remainder being asked to move to a camp in the British Zone of Vienna where they would share a building with a group of Volksdeutsche. This, too, was not accepted. The present position is that an ultimatum has been given that there will be no heating in the wing of the hospital occupied by fewer than 100 persons, the authorities feeling that this move may goad the people into making up their minds to move to the Zone. The problem really revolves around this small group of people who cannot be accommodated in the two small buildings.

We are doing our best in individual cases to counsel them to move to the Zone and in certain cases to have them move into the city. There are some cases for which the Austrians are prepared to pay the Old Age Home, but even these cases refuse to move when invited. On the aspect of counselling to move into the city we have had no success whatsoever, namely being without heating for the winter.

One of the primary reasons for people not moving, besides their own obstinacy and lack of foresight, has been the peculiar approach of the Austrian authorities who have been unable to maintain their policy. For example, on the day that notice was put up that the installation was to be closed out, there were surveyors in the yard of the Rothschild Camp surveying the ground for barracks. The local administrators in the camp on the one hand tell the people to move and confidentially tell certain of the people not to move, until provision is made for all of them.

The one bright point in this picture has been the fact that in the last weeks approximately 27 visas have been issued for part of this "Hard Core group" so that part of the problem is taking care of itself by attrition.

Our interests will be served by the closing of the establishment, as the Kultusgemeinde has an offer for the property of AS 3,500,000 to 4,000,000.

STUDENTS:

At the present time 38 DP students in Vienna, Graz and Innsbruck are fully supported by the AJDC, while the Kultusgemeinde supports 30 Austrian students. The AJDC program since its inception has assisted 152 students to receive degrees, and has assisted a total of 458.

Our records showing the disposition of students assisted by the AJDC indicate that ISRAEL, the United States and Canada have been the main countries of emigration for the students.

An analysis of our present students group shows that the majority of the students will finish some time in 1954. Through a joint board consisting of student members, members of the Kultusgemeinde and the AJDC a careful check has been kept on the students as to courses, attendance, examinations etc. We have been fortunate that we have had no student for whom we had to stop assistance in the last year because of failure to complete courses or who have not been serious in their work.

The students in Vienna have been especially active and their organization, the "Vereinigung Juedischer Hochschueler in Oesterreich" consists not only of Austrian and DP students but Jewish students from Israel, the United States and other countries in Europe. It is interesting to note that the Jewish university students in Vienna total approximately 130. This student group publishes an excellent newspaper and promotes many cultural as well as social events including a number of balls.

The students have always looked to the Joint for guidance and assistance in the many problems which they have from time to time.

No new students have been taken on in the last year due to our policy concerning new students as well as the fact that very few refugee students have come out from Iron Curtain countries. The policy heretofore had been that if a refugee student could prove that he had been a student in an Iron Curtain country and had less than one year to go to complete his education, the Joint would have accepted him as a student. The number of new Austrian students is gradually diminishing because there are so few young Austrian Jews.

One of the groups who are most likely to be eligible for the Ford Foundation grants for resettlement and integration are graduate professional students. We intend making available to newly graduated doctors necessary equipment which will assist them in establishing themselves in practice in lands of resettlement.

MEDICAL:

Our medical budget has been sharply reduced due mainly to the fact that the free living Jews whom we formerly supported are now on Austrian welfare and are entitled to free City medical services. The main activities in the Medical Department include supervision of the small hospital and Ambulatorium in Rothschild Hospital, consultation on our caseload with the Jewish Hospital, periodic visits to Jewish patients in non-Jewish institutions, checking on emigration cases etc.

Eventually the medical functions can be assigned to the Jewish Hospital Out-patients Department, but I am convinced that it would require the same personnel. At the present time we have one nurse and a consulting doctor.

In the last three months our Medical Section has been visited by at least twenty cases of people returned from Israel, DP's and Austrians, requesting AJDC assistance. In some of the more serious cases we do not know how long we can continue refusing assistance, but thus far our refusal has met with no resistance.

LOAN KASSA:

The Loan Kassa was set up by the AJDC in 1949 with an AS 1,000,000 loan by the AJDC. The Loan Kassa has proven continually to be one of the solidest and most constructive projects instituted by the AJDC. Its success is due to the fact that it has attracted as members and Board of Governors a very vigorous and constructive group of people. Attendance at the fortnightly meetings include leading businessmen, professional people, as well as artisans. The Joint is always invited to attend these meetings. We have found them to be extremely cautious but fair in making loans. As the Kassa is licensed by the Government, it must comply with Government regulations. The meetings are democratically run and to this end I must tell a tale. I have attended over fifteen of these meetings and noticed that one man in his early sixties was present at each meeting. He was always very active in the discussions and was listened to by all present with a great deal of deference. I was never quite sure what his business was, but whatever it was, he was highly respected by all present at these meetings. One day I asked my secretary to call in a locksmith to fix my lock, and, of course, the locksmith was Mr. Wonsch, my friend at the Kassa meetings.

The one point at which the Loan Kassa has not been successful has been that of interesting the Jewish population to invest in the Kassa. It had been envisioned that over a period of five years, investments by the local population would allow for our original AS 1,000,000 investment to be re-

turned. Unfortunately, this has not come about, as only AS 300,000 have been paid in by the Jews in Vienna.

It is felt that in a way the Loan Kassa leadership has been a type of safety valve for certain groups of Jews to show their interest in Jewish affairs without going to the Kultusgemeinde.

Total loans for the years 1949 to 1953 are as follows:

	<u>Total number of loans</u>	<u>Amount of loans in AS</u>
1949	70	567,000
1950	89	896,000
1951	85	1,034,300
1952	92	1,199,100
1953 to 1 August	44	656,000
	<u>380</u>	<u>4,352,400</u>

RESTITUTION:

After seven years of fruitless efforts to interest the Austrian Government in restitution of heirless property and legislation for individual claims, the World Jewish Organizations were finally successful in having negotiations begun in June of this year for the settling of this problem. Before the negotiations began, there were a number of internal problems which had to be settled. First the friction between the Vienna Kultusgemeinde and the small Kultusgemeinden of Graz, Linz, Salzburg and Innsbruck. This was settled when all the Kultusgemeinden met in Salzburg in September 1952 and formed an organization called the "Bundesverband der Kultusgemeinden Oesterreichs". Second was the formation of a "Conference Claims on Austria" including membership of World Jewish Organizations. The pattern set by the "Jewish Claims on Germany" was followed as far as the composition of the organizations was concerned. The last internal problem was the tying in of the Kultusgemeinde and the World Jewish Organizations which was settled by setting up an Executive Committee consisting of three members of the Kultusgemeinde-Verband and nine members from the World Jewish Organizations.

By the time this report is presented, the results of the negotiations which took place with the Austrian Government in June and July will be known. If negotiations are successful, our financial load, especially our subvention to the Kultusgemeinde, can be eliminated. If negotiations are not successful, we will have to continue giving the Israelitische Kultusgemeinde assistance, although on a smaller scale.

EMIGRATION:

Our caseload of 822 persons registered for emigration in Vienna is divided roughly into 40% Austrian nationals and 60% DP's or refugees. It is our policy to render equal service to both Austrians and DP's although there is a distinct difference in the intensity with which we serve both of these groups. Thus we take no steps to solicit the interest of Austrians in new schemes, nor do we actively counsel such clients to emigrate. With our refugee caseload, on the other hand - particularly those carried on our relief rolls - we take the position that they have an obligation to take steps either towards integration, or at least self-sufficiency, or to accept sound emigration opportunities. There is nevertheless a steady interest in emigration shown by the Austrians which is indicative of a desire to leave the country, particularly on the part of younger persons, or those whose very close relatives have already emigrated either during or since the war.

Of the DP caseload our special emphasis is directed toward those living in Camp Rothschild. It has long been the object of AJDC to assist in the closing of this camp. The present group of 225 persons living in the camp is the residue of the many thousand of camp living DP's and refugees who passed through Vienna since the end of the war. It is interesting to note that only twenty-one of these persons, less than 10%, arrived in Austria prior to 1 January 1949, the cut-off date for eligibility under 2c of the US DP Act, and of these the bulk have been non-emigrable because of serious health conditions. The small number of persons living in Camp Rothschild, as well as in camps in Austria generally, is due in large measure to the difficult conditions of life for a refugee in Austria, but is also in no small sense a result of the major emphasis which has been placed by AJDC in Austria during the past four years on its emigration program. Nevertheless, as is frequently the case with small residual groups, the greatest difficulty is encountered in efforts to dissolve them completely. Our efforts to clear out the last remnants in the Rothschild Camp are slowed down by a general resistance to moving, caused in the first instance by the more than adequate living space now available in the camp which has created a degree of comfort that must always represent an obstacle to movement. Of major importance also is the relatively relaxed political atmosphere, which commenced immediately after the close of the Passover season. This followed a period of strain and near-panic, which, had it lasted into the months of May and June, would have done much to clean out the DP population from Vienna. Third may be the fact of sheer perversity, with which AJDC workers must often hold out as a final explanation of the refusal of clients to undertake steps which appear to be in their own best interests. Illustrative of the present apathy is the fact that there are now 24 people in the camp who hold visas, each

one of whom is engaged in some form of delaying tactics in order to postpone departure. This is in sharp contrast to the general attitude of camp residents in the US Zone of Austria, who rarely try to postpone picking up of their visas and arranging for their departure.

The last group in our caseload is made up of city DP's and refugees who, on the whole, represent no particular problem with regard to emigration. Those who receive assistance, and who are, therefore, our special interest, comprise mainly Hard Core groups for whom emigration is either impossible or who will require special schemes. Since most of these are living under conditions which will not be vastly improved through emigration - they receive more or less adequate welfare and medical help, and where needed are eligible for admission into a Jewish Old Age Home - they do not require any special concern emigration-wise. Most of the other town-living people receive no assistance from AJDC - those who are interested in emigration are relatively co-operative in their processing for visas and for departure.

A total of 273 persons emigrated from Vienna during the reporting period, of which more than one third left for the USA. The breakdown by countries is as follows:

Argentina	8
Australia	27
Belgium	1
Brazil	66
Canada	61
Chile	2
Columbia	3
Israel	1
Spain	2
USA	102

The present unduplicated caseload is 822 persons who are registered for the following countries:

USA	669
Canada	194
Australia	94
South America	85
England	72
Total:	1,114

(These registrations are shown on a duplicated basis.)

Canadian emigration took an upward turn during the past half year, but we fear that the relatively favorable situation with regard to visa issuance will end after November 1, when certain labor restrictions may come into effect. For the first time some orthodox families sponsored under OS 8 were visaed - we believe that the Canadian authorities selected them because they were well disposed toward families with large numbers of children. However, Canada has not had a strong attraction for the extreme orthodox and, therefore, few such families have sought to take advantage of this temporarily favorable development. Should the Canadians continue their interest in such families, it would be advisable for us to get more information on the possibilities which exist in Canada for the sound absorption of this group.

Because of the relative ease with which the Brazilian visas have been obtainable here in Vienna, there has been a small, steady trickle of emigrants to that country. Unfortunately, it is even easier to delay picking up of visas, or to extend them, and there are, therefore, quite a few persons who have been carrying pre-visas or visas - in some cases for more than six months - while they leisurely arrange their affairs or consider whether they will actually emigrate to Brazil. Here, too, because reports from Brazil have been rather mixed, and because the ability to adjust in Brazil seems to depend much on the individual resourcefulness of the migrant, we have hesitated to indicate Brazilian emigration with clients - particularly those on relief rolls - unless other opportunities do not exist for them. The establishment of reception facilities for Jewish migrants during the past half year has made it somewhat easier for us to offer Brazilian emigration as a solution to certain of our cases.

Almost no interest now exists for Australian emigration. The small number that emigrated during the reporting period were mostly Austrians with close family members on Australia. Although 94 persons are still shown as registered for Australia - most of them with unexpired Landing Permits or Authorizations - we believe that few of them will avail themselves of the opportunity to process for visas.

USA still remains the favored country of resettlement for our caseload - both refugee and Austrians. At least a third of the 669 registered for USA consists of Austrian citizens awaiting their turn under the Austrian quota. When their turn arrives, it is probable that a group of them will not utilize the opportunity to emigrate, depending on the extent to which they are established in Austria.

From a reading of the US Refugee Relief Act, it would appear that most of our refugee caseload may be eligible, i.e. close to 500 persons,

Nevertheless, because of what is already known of this law, it will be important to have clients process for other countries, as well as under the other existing laws for US emigration.

It has recently been decided to eliminate the position of an international worker for our Emigration Department in Vienna. This is believed to be possible as a result of the decrease in our operations generally. It is felt, however, that this office will require the assistance of an emigration consultant from time to time for special problems and for difficult cases.

RETURNEES FROM ISRAEL:

Although our returnee problem does not compare in any way to that of Germany, there is a likelihood that there may be an increase in returnees, especially former Austrian Jews. According to statistics of the Kultus-gemeinde since September 1952 a total of 128 Austrian Jews have returned, not a very significant figure, but if economic conditions continue to be bad in Israel, and if restitution legislation will allow for larger payments, there is a likelihood of more returning. In addition, with the Russian control of their zonal borders having stopped, there is a greater incentive for DP returnees to come to Vienna "to make their fortunes."

During the height of the sit-down strike in our Salzburg office we requested the local police to furnish a guard for our office, which they did. We are convinced that the sight of a policeman sitting in our office, although he did nothing more than read the newspapers and work crossword puzzles, served as a deterrent to returnees from causing any disturbances.

UNITED NATIONS HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR REFUGEES -- FORD FOUNDATION:

The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees' emergency fund made available to the AJDC a fund of AS 26,000 for welfare cases and AS 19,300 for our prosthetic program. From the Ford Foundation we, of course, participated in the scheme for resettlement of Th's to Norway and Sweden as well as the grant for resettlement and integration.

Our relations with the High Commissioner's representative, Dr. Beermann, have always been good, and his office has been of assistance to us on a number of occasions.

The utilization of the fund for resettlement and integration presents a problem of selection. At present we are picking certain Hard Core cases

that are emigrating, and students who are graduating from professional schools, doctors, etc.

USEP:

A more detailed report on USEP activities will be made by the Salzburg Office, as they have had the direct liaison with the USEP. Our relations with USEP in Vienna and Wels are good. The following functions are carried out by us for USEP: Documentation, distributions of amenities, clothing, suitcases etc. for new arrivals and USEP eligibles departing, and distribution of food supplementation coupons. Most important, of course, is the documentation and visa production, counselling and resettlement, and finally arrangement for departure with sea passage payment through JOEM-USEP. We also carry out other programs sponsored by USEP including language courses, a medical and dental program and a small work project consisting of clothing and shoe repair shops. As of September 1, the total services rendered to us by USEP from the beginning of their program in July of 1952 was approximately \$ 110,000.

U.S. ZONE:

INTRODUCTION:

The composition of the Jewish population in the Western zones of Austria has not greatly changed during the last year. Out of the present population of approximately 1100 people half of them are living in camps, administered by the Austrian Government and relying on the Government's basic welfare assistance.

Practically none of the Jewish people who live out-of-camp possess Austrian citizenship, except for 40 to 50 Austrian Jewish families who have returned since the end of the War trying to re-establish themselves. The present number of Jewish people is comparatively small when compared to the number of Jewish people that moved through Austria since the War ended and were serviced by AJDC. Despite this our caseload is now more dependent on our help, both financially and morally, than ever. In past years organizations like UNRRA, IRO and the DP Sections of the Western elements protected the rights of non-German speaking DP's, today, little is done with any success by any International or Government Agency on behalf of these people.

The office of the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees has thus far been unsuccessful in creating conditions in Austria which would help this type of refugee to integrate into the local community.

This too explains that more than two third of the Jewish population in the Zone (approximately 800 people) require AJDC service in one form or another. The Jewish refugee group can be divided into three major parts:

- a) those who have arrived from Eastern Europe up to 1 January 1948.
- b) the new refugee group, mostly coming from Hungary and who form the present USEP eligible caseload, and
- c) Israeli returnees.

Very little could be done for the pre- 1 January 1948 group who only amount to approximately 120 people. They are the remnant of the large influx of Eastern Jewry which took place after the end of the War. Most of them belong to the hard-core group and will only be able to resettle under special arrangements such as were made e.g. with Norway and Sweden.

The second group, the new arrivals, were the ones for whom most has been done during the past year with the additional help of USEP. USEP's help to these refugees was in the field of care and maintenance, vocational training and resettlement. Due to USEP's participation, in particular in the field of care and maintenance, we were able to divert some of the resources to those who are not USEP eligible, and thus increase our standard of relief.

The latter group, the Israeli Returnees, form now approximately one third of the camp population. It would be unjust to classify everyone who has arrived from Israel as a returnee, in the sense that he is a person who has once been helped in his resettlement, and should for this reason for the time being not receive a second chance to resettle somewhere else. This group can easily be sub-divided into more sections, such as those who left directly from behind the iron-curtain-countries to Israel, others who went to Israel during the War as a means of escape, and Israeli War veterans who have fought in Israel and became invalids. The smallest group in Austria are those who originally left this country for Israel.

As mentioned before, half of the Jewish population in the Zone live in camps. At present there are two major concentrations of Jewish DP's:

- a) Camp Asten in Upper Austria, which comprises of approximately 300 people, and
- b) Camp Hallein near Salzburg, with about 280 people.

There is, however, a basic difference in the type of refugees that live in those two camps. Whereas in Asten the majority consists of Israeli returnees and pre- 1 January 1948 DP's, Camp Hallein is mostly inhabited by new refugees who have come into Austria within the years 1950 - 1952.

Efforts were made during the past year to extend our policy of moving hard-core cases from the camp to town. It is obvious that, however, poor the integration possibilities for Jewish DP's may be in Austria, it will be healthier from any point of view to have such people outside of camp. Much more must be done along these lines, and one of our most pressing needs for the carrying out of this program is adequate and competent staff. Should we be successful along these lines in the future, then Camp Asten may slowly become a camp where only very few persons will remain who would be entitled to services from us on the basis of present JDC policy.

The time is still too short to be able to evaluate whether the people who have and will be placed out-of-camp will either want to, or be able to remain in Austria under this kind of arrangement. Whatever the outcome of this type of service to DP's will be, one thing is certain, that the camps with their unhealthy atmosphere should as quickly as possible be closed, and especially for the hard-core group a sound resettlement possibility be afforded.

The following is a comparative table of the Jewish population during the past three years:

LOCATION	P O P U L A T I O N			
	1 August 1950	1 August 1951	1 August 1952	1 August 1953
IN CAMP	3932	1728	691	583
IN HOSPITAL			34	26
OUT-OF-CAMP	674	492	508	486
T O T A L:	4606	2220	1233	1095

In addition to the official population figures there are approximately 60 to 80 illegal Israeli Returnees living in camps. In spite of the fact that 344 people have emigrated during the past year, the population has practically remained stable.

The American and French Zones have three indigenous Jewish communities - Linz, Salzburg and Innsbruck. On 14 September 1952 the Kultusgemeinden in Austria formed a roof-organization known as the "Landesverband der Juedischen Kultusgemeinden in Oesterreich". Although their co-ordination is mainly based on matters of restitution, it is hoped that in the future, further common interest can be developed, in particular on integration activities of DP's. Both communities, Linz and Salzburg, receive some financial assistance from AJDC, however, their welfare caseload is taken care of directly by us.

As in the past the work of all AJDC Departments (Emigration, Welfare and Medical) were co-ordinated in such a manner as to achieve a maximum result in resettlement. The staff of the Social Service Department which worked for only six months in Austria was able to continue this co-ordination. Their work in drawing up uniform case histories and the collection of personal data, particularly on hard-core cases, will have value for the future.

CARE AND MAINTENANCE:

For the first time since the liquidation of IRO, another agency has helped us in supplementing the basic relief provided by the Austrians. Within six months USEP provided food supplementation for approximately 350 people to the amount of \$7,800.-, and additional clothing assistance for approximately \$8,800.-. Consequently we were able to increase our rate of assistance to the non-eligible refugee group.

The following table shows the amounts of assistance a needy family received from various sources:

No. of pers. in family	USEP ELIGIBLES				NON-USEP ELIGIBLES...		
	Source of income				Source of income		
	*AUSTR. Gov't. AS	**USEP AS	AJDC AS	TOTAL AS	*AUSTRIAN Gov't. AS	AJDC AS	TOTAL AS
1	180.-	104.-	30.-	314.-	180.-	200.-	380.-
2	360.-	208.-	60.-	628.-	360.-	270.-	630.-
3	540.-	312.-	90.-	942.-	540.-	330.-	870.-
4	720.-	416.-	120***	1256.-	720.-	440.-	1160.-

* No additional assistance is given either in money, kind or for repair of clothing.

** Food supplementation is not necessarily given automatically to every member of a family unit.

*** This amount (AS 120.-) is paid for 4 or more persons in a family unit.

In addition to the cash relief grant which is paid to people on a case by case basis, the following supplementary grants are paid:

- 1) Cash grants paid on the basis of medical indication ranging from 60 to 600 AS per month;
- 2) Cash grants from 120 to 300 AS per month to hospitalized patients;
- 3) Resettlement and one-time grants paid on individual basis, in particular for procurement of tools;
- 4) Grant for the procurement of clothing. The average cost for clothing of one adult amounts to approximately AS 400.-. These kind of grants are usually made to sick persons or people at the time of their departure.

The Austrian Government does not provide any clothing, and as far as relief is concerned they continue to maintain their old standard of AS 5,80 per day per person.

For the first time, DP's are able, on the basis of supplementary grants which, together with the Austrian assistance amount to 11.- to 12.- AS per day per person, to attain the minimum level of subsistence.

It should be mentioned at this point, that no maintenance work has been done by the Austrians throughout the year in Camp Hallein. Great hardship was encountered by the people during the winter months, and this was only partly alleviated through fuel supplementation by USEP and AJDC.

On account of the fact that most of the inhabitants of Camp Hallein are USEP eligibles, a project was drawn up by USEP to re-house them under better conditions. The costs of the new camp, which is under construction, will be borne by USEP, and it is hoped that it will be ready by the end of November.

In conclusion, the following is a comparative table of the number of people receiving financial assistance from AJDC:

WELFARE STATISTIC

<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>1 August 1952</u>	<u>1 August 1953</u>
Camp Hallein	242	177
Camp Asten	150	137
Sub-Total in Camps:	392	314
Salzburg	31	24
Bad Ischl	14	16
Linz	6	7
Innsbruck	8	14
Sub-Total in town	59	61
GRAND TOTAL	451	375

CULTURAL AND RELIGIOUS ACTIVITIES:

AJDC continues to meet the costs of religious education and pays the salaries of religious functionaries.

During this year, ORT operated vocational training courses under the auspices of USEP. Our clients have taken great interest in these, and many have completed training courses.

Language courses were organized by AJDC and the costs of AS 29,000.- were met by USEP.

We continue to provide scholarship to students attending the Innsbruck university. During the past two years, 13 students have received their diplomas and have resettled in Israel and in the United States.

Elementary education leaves much to be desired. The reason being that most of the children belong to very orthodox families who don't desire any secular education for their children, and the Austrian Government does not provide proper schooling facilities. It is hoped that in the new USEP camp in Glasenbach, children will be forced to attend local schools.

MEDICAL SERVICE:

As in the field of Care and Maintenance, we were aided by USEP in carrying out our medical program. As in the past, JDC still maintains medical staff in both, Camp Hallein and Camp Asten. This was the only way to give us the certainty, that every Jewish DP receives proper medical attention, and at the same time guarantees that the Austrian Government fulfills all obligation with respect to medical care. In two specific fields AJDC shoulders the full responsibility - in the care of TB and mental cases. In 1950 there were 35 TB cases hospitalized, compared to three cases who are in hospitals at present. This progress was mainly due to the close attention given to this problem by our Viennese TB specialist and later by Dr. Molnar, who studied our cases and recommended certain courses of treatment and control.

The departure of seven TB cases to Norway has helped to reduce our problems to some extent, since they were inhabitants of the Special Treatment Unit in Camp Asten, which ceased to function as an AJDC installation during this year.

We continue to bear full responsibility for the care of mental cases who do not require to be kept in closed wards. These cases were removed three

years ago from camps and state institutions to a private hospital in Bad Ischl for treatment, and a special program was worked out by a psychiatric case worker on our staff who worked constantly with these patients in close co-operation with the mental institution. Twelve of the patients have now made some form of social adjustment, which enables them to live with Austrian families in Bad Ischl on a foster-care basis, paid for by AJDC. An AJDC representative and a local psychiatrist constantly review the cases and attend the patients as the need arises.

The transfer of people from camps to private care in towns to which we referred to above, is planned primarily for sick and aged clients who do not need full institutionalization, and who in some cases still hope to be able to emigrate.

The following table gives the status of hard-core cases in the U.S. Zone of Austria:

<u>Cat. of ref.</u>	<u>TBC</u>	<u>Mental</u>	<u>Chronic</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
Refugees	46	17	40	103
Austrians	3	8	6	17
Israeli Ret.	1	2	12	15
Total hard-core cases				135
Number of dependents				84

The number of hard-core cases during the past year was reduced by 30 people.

EMIGRATION:

All the above mentioned activities were carried out in such a manner as to be sub-ordinate, wherever possible, to the work of the Emigration Department, in order to emphasize to refugees that our basic aim is to help them to resettle. No special resettlement schemes operated during this year, except for the small TB schemes, and our clients had to rely on normal emigration procedures established with the various countries.

The following table will show the number of emigrants during the past year and the comparative number for the previous year, as well as the number of clients presently registered:

COUNTRY	Number of persons emigrated		Number of persons regist. f. emigration as of 1-8-53
	1-8-51 to 31-7-52	1-8-52 to 31-7-53	
<u>CANADA</u>	302	89	88
Dressmakers	18	-	-
Close Rel.	139	34	18
OR/8	143	55	70
Labour Scheme	1	-	-
Domestics	1	-	-
<u>U.S.A.</u>	529	103	512
Quota	22	7	
Orphans	1	-	
2c	284	3	
3c	222	173	
<u>AUSTRALIA</u>	140	24	24
<u>SOUTH AMERICA</u>	13	37	72
<u>WESTERN EUROPE</u>	8	10	45
Norway		9	
Belgium		1	
	992	343	741 *

One year ago 611 people were registered for emigration, but now after another year of emigration activities resulting in 343 departures, there still remain 741 people registered.

As can be noticed from the number of registrants for emigration, 512 have shown preference for the United States. Most of them appear to be eligible under the Refugee Relief Act. Out of the 512 people we have 134 Czech nationals of whom we hope 92 will be able to emigrate to the United States within the next six months, if recent staff reduction in the US Consul's office does not appreciably slow up processing. An additional 20 people, chargeable to various other quotas, will most probably depart under the quota before the Refugee Relief Act starts operating.

* unduplicated figure

In order to prepare for the Refugee Relief Act a complete registration with personal interviews has been carried out by us in the Jewish camps, and the necessary material forwarded to USNA in order to enable them to plan for the sponsorship of these clients.

Prospects for the future cannot be clearly defined in view of the fact that it is unknown when visas will actually be issued under the Refugee Relief Act. In the meantime, people are reluctant to accept other emigration possibilities until more is known about future emigration to the United States under this Act. The only estimate which can be made are the number of people that may emigrate to the United States under 3c and quota, amounting to approximately 112 persons, and approximately 30 people who will probably choose to go to South America.

The need for special schemes which would take care of old aged and chronic sick cannot be overemphasized. It is hoped that the English project under which some 40 to 50 persons in the Zone are registered will take some of these hard to resettle cases.

U.S.E.P.

This report would not be complete if no mention would be made of USEP's contribution to the alleviation of suffering and hardship amongst Jewish DP's in Austria.

The following statistical report will show the financial contribution USEP has made in the various fields of refugee activities:

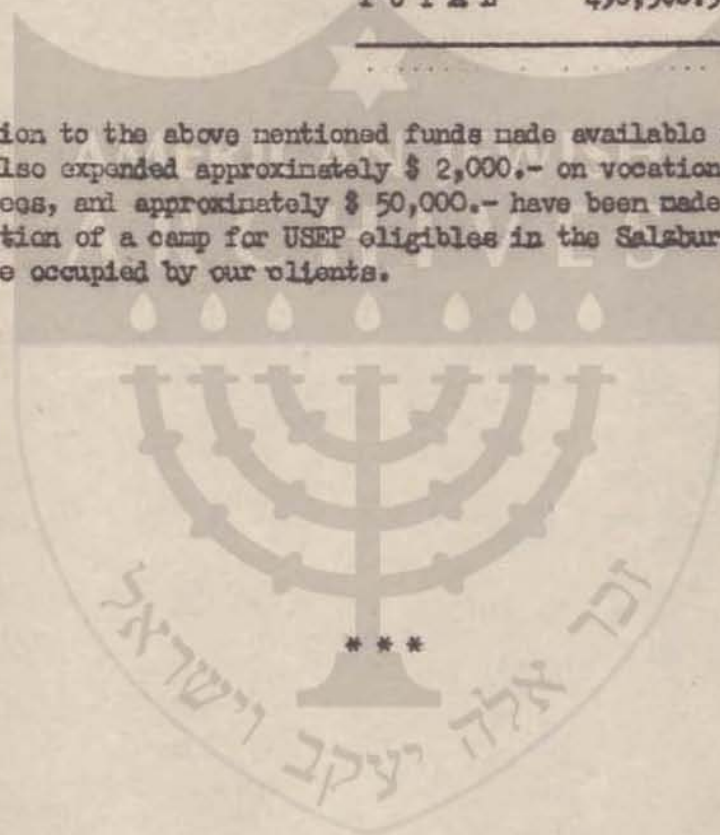
SUMMARY OF USEP SERVICES FOR AUSTRIA ¹⁾
FISCAL YEAR 1952/53

	<u>AS</u>	<u>US \$</u>
1. Resettlement Movements for 390 people		78,000.-
2. AJDC Projects financed by USEP		
a) Resettlement Projects	291,205.56	3,871.65
b) Counselling Projects	88,839.91	
c) Training Projects	28,480.75	
d) Miscoll. Projects	49,460.91	2,097.17
e) Care & Maintenance Projects	38,319.24	

1) this tabulation covers both the U.S. Zone and Vienna

	<u>AS</u>	<u>US \$</u>
3. Projects directly serviced by USEP:		
a) Food supplement. coupons for 339 persons ²⁾		7,696.-
b) Clothing distribution for 264 persons		8,708.60
c) Coal distribution for 250 persons ²⁾		412.70
d) Suitcases distributed for 78 persons		146.68
e) Baby layettes distribution for 7 persons		94.50
TOTAL	496,306.37	101,027.30

In addition to the above mentioned funds made available for Jewish refugees, USEP also expended approximately \$ 2,000.- on vocational training for Jewish refugees, and approximately \$ 50,000.- have been made available for the construction of a camp for USEP eligibles in the Salzburg area half of which will be occupied by our clients.



2) average number of persons served per month:

REPORT ON GERMANY
TO
AMERICAN JEWISH
ARCHIVES
1953 COUNTRY DIRECTORS CONFERENCE



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FOEHRENWALD:

We continue to need a JDC operation on its present scale in Germany and Austria because of the continued existence of Foehrenwald in Germany, Asten and Hallein in the U.S. Zone of Austria, and Rothschild in Vienna. But for the continued existence of these camps the JDC could reduce its operation in these two countries to a small emigration operation, and supervise, out of headquarters, such assistance to the communities as might be granted.

These camps, a tragic residue of the Nazi era and the war, are regrettably still there, and no effort should be spared to aid in their final liquidation. Even more regrettable is the fact that the population in the camp now, is larger than it was a year ago. When the Germans took over the responsibility for Foehrenwald, at the end of 1951, the camp population stood at approximately 1600. Now, two years later, although over 1000 camp living people emigrated during this period, the population has grown, so that today it stands at approximately 2100.

This increase, of course, due entirely to the phenomena of the returnees from Israel, is a subject which is covered at length in another section of this report.

The Methods which JDC, and in the final analysis, the Germans, should employ to eventually close the camp, has absorbed a good deal of time and thought on the part of both the Paris and Germany staff.

I feel that during the last few months progress can for the first time be reported. The large influx of returnees and the growing population in the camp, and the fear of hundreds of new arrivals finally forced the Germans to enforce the decision reached almost a year ago to close the gates of the camp. So that for the first time we can say that the population is a stable one - approximately 1400 of the residual group (including a large number of returnees who arrived before November 1952) and 700 returnees who reached the camp from November 1952 until 17 August 1953.

As already stated in another part of this report, emigration will only siphon off a small portion of the Foehrenwald population, so that it is clear, that if the camp is to be ultimately closed, transfer or integration of the people by the Germans into the economy will be in first order of importance.

The Camp Committee sometime ago requested the Bonn Government to make a special grant of 3,000.- and 1,500.- Deutschmark for each adult

and children respectively, so as to enable the family to leave the camp, and to assist in their integration in another country. The Germans for some time completely ignored the original request, but the Committee pursued the matter. That serious attention, however, was paid to this request was shown when during a debate in the Bavarian Parliament on the Foehrenwald issue, the State Secretary for Refugees (Professor Oberlaender) referred to this matter and stated that it was being given favorable consideration. Again during a meeting on July 16 in Bonn, Mr. Jordan and I were assured by an important person in the Foreign Office that the matter was all but approved, and only the complication involving the returnees was holding back finalization of this grant. On a number of occasions I have been assured that payments will be made, and only the details remain to be worked out.

The vital concern which the Germans are attaching to their desire to close the camp is evidenced by another proposal which was made during Mr. Jordan's and my meeting in Bonn in July. They were ready to construct units for 500 camp living people at a cost of DM 2,500,000.-, and requested JDC to appropriate a sum of DM 500,000.- for furnishings for these units. JDC agreed, but the Finance Ministry has not as yet approved the grant to start construction, although we are assured that this will be done soon.

The Camp Committee has also made demands from the Conference. A memorandum recently distributed to the Jewish organizations requested five million dollars in order to liquidate the camp, and to assist this residual group to emigrate from Germany. Yes, they say they will even go to Israel if enough money is granted so as to have a home and a possibility of earning a living. When the Chairman of the Camp Committee recently returned to Munich after a visit to Israel to check on his personal integration possibility he told me, "give me \$10,000.- and my family (4 people) will go to Israel at once."

Is money really the solution here? I doubt it. Over 50% of the camp inhabitants are Israeli returnees, few of whom would return; many are medical rejections to USA or Canada and would probably fail to pass again; others have been rejected for other reasons and many are not interested in South American countries. Money would not secure visas for these countries to which they want to go - USA and Canada - and the granting of money would still not make Israel or South America desirable for the sick and for many of the returnees. Many just don't want to go anywhere at all!

What, therefore, then is the answer to the need and desire to close this camp? Immigration, of course, should be pursued - and this we are

doing, but it is obvious that the solution of the camp problem will not be found in emigration and that the realities of the situation indicate that but a small percentage of the people will thus leave the camp. The only alternative, therefore, is integration or transfer to the German economy.

We will inevitably become seriously involved when the authorities begin to transfer people from the camp. There may be real resistance to such an effort, and appeals to the "Jewish World" whatever that is. From a public relations aspect we shall necessarily have to watch our steps, and we should leave to the German Camp Administration - after all it is a German administered and controlled camp - the actual selection and transfer of the people. We should be prepared to offer our clients a temporary continuation of our welfare grants, a counseling service, arranging for relations and guidance with the local Jewish community, in order to bridge the initial difficulties of this drastic move. The JDC will have to play a cautious role, but at the same time accept and tactfully support any reasonable move to close the camp.

I feel that when the Germans really indicate that they are serious in their intentions - to which they have only given lip service until now - the spirit in the camp may undergo a real change. The sense of security which the people now have may be broken, and alternatives not now acceptable may appear very rosy when their only choice is to move into a German city. But I feel that JDC should take one positive - and drastic - step when the Germans begin to transfer people, and that is to announce a terminal date of our own work in the camp. We should leave no doubt in the minds of the camp inhabitants that we consider life in a DP camp for over 500 young Jewish children as unsound, indecent and thoroughly abnormal and that we do not propose to continue assistance to them in that environment. At the same time we should also go on record that we are ready to continue assistance and counseling in the communities and to assist the people in finding employment and building reasonably useful lives in Germany, or to continue emigration assistance to them. It will be at this point where a counseling team, discussed in the chapter on Social Service, may have a very real and vital function to perform. For let there be no doubt that some very real problems will come to the fore when this move takes place. The long absence from useful labor, their general lack of any kind of skill, the language and prejudice barrier, the medical condition of many, the loss of work habits, these and other factors will make the integration problem a real challenge to the Germans and to us.

We have not touched in this section on the returnee problem, since it is adequately covered in another part of the report, but it should be mentioned that the presence of some 700 illegal returnees in the camp will serve to seriously complicate the whole liquidation procedure whenever the Germans are ready to embark on this plan.

ISRAELI RETURNEES:

Since the middle of 1949, we have had the problem of the returnees. Exact figures of the number who have returned, or who came to Germany for the first time are not available, but our best estimate is that it involves between 3200 and 3500 people. Many of them have succeeded in emigrating to South America, the USA and Canada. A reasonable estimate of the number of returnees now in Germany is 2500 with about 1100 in the camp and the rest in communities. Thus at least 50% of the camp population consists of Jews who had emigrated to Israel from Germany or from an iron curtain country and are now residents of the camp.

The German authorities at the beginning took little notice of these people. Many had a right to return since a German law permits a person to return for a period of two years from the date of departure. The JDC gave selected assistance to compassionate cases, but our policy vis-a-vis these people went through a number of fluctuations.

Toward the end of 1952 the German authorities decided to close the gates of the camp to newcomers. The attempt by the Germans, however, to implement this policy, did not succeed. As new arrivals reached Munich, they had in fact no place to go, except Foehrenwald, and so this gesture remained a dead letter.

During November and December 1952 about 200 new arrivals from Israel reached Munich - most if not all of whom had Israeli passports. These passports were invariably stamped "not valid for Germany"; but the holders were nevertheless given German visas by the German Embassy in Paris. They had gone to Paris ostensibly to pick up end Canadian visas promised to them by the racketeers in Israel, but most - or all - of them were rejected by the Canadian authorities in Paris. When their stay in Paris or Italy became untenable they "took off" for Munich and Foehrenwald. They had no legal right to be in Foehrenwald. Despite this, however, they continued to go to Foehrenwald and paradoxically the Germans granted relief to all of these people.

But the Bavarian authorities were seriously concerned, and on presentation of the problem to the Foreign Office, the embassies in Paris and Rome were instructed to secure a deposit of the equivalent of \$300.- from any Israeli passport holder whose passport was stamped "not valid

for Germany". This resulted in a temporary slow-down, but the illegals began to cross the "green border" in large numbers, so that during the first eight months of this year, between 800 and 1000 new arrivals reached Germany - most of them coming to Munich or to Foehrenwald. It is almost certain that only a handful paid the \$300.- deposit fee.

The attitude of the Camp Committee toward these new arrivals was a thoroughly hostile one. They feared that they would endanger certain privileges which they enjoyed as a recognized camp of hard-core people, and vitiate their efforts to secure special grants of moneys from the Germans as an inducement to liquidate the camp.

The Bavarian Minister for Refugees (Professor Oberlaender) also looked askance at these people crowding into the camp, and in March in a press interview blasted the new arrivals, as consisting of terrorists and gangsters, and stated that this information had come to him from the Camp Committee itself. He also indicated that Foehrenwald costs much more than other DP camps, and that steps would be taken to remedy the entire situation. This press interview created consternation and fear among both the old inmates and the new arrivals.

The Foehrenwald issue was then brought up on the floor of the Bavarian Parliament, and it was decided to have the Standing Committee for Refugee Problems visit the camp. This visit of some 40 people, including the press, newsmen, etc. was made during May. Interestingly enough, the Committee submitted a not unfriendly report, and the press in general treated the situation in a fair, and in some instances, an almost sympathetic manner.

That is where the situation stood at the end of May, and would have remained, but for the fact that returnees continued to arrive, and fear was expressed by responsible German authorities, that thousands more were waiting in all European countries for the opportunity to come to Germany and particularly to Foehrenwald.

The Bavarian authorities referred the problem to Bonn and the Bonn authorities contacted the Israeli Purchasing Mission with appeals to make efforts to stop the illegal movement, by taking remedial steps in Israel, and to assume responsibility for deportation of the illegals to Israel. The Israeli Consul in Munich was requested to see Prof. Oberlaender and discuss the problem with him, and it is my understanding that he told Oberlaender that it is not within his competence to assist in deportations, but that this was strictly a German police matter.

The plain truth of the matter is that the Germans did not - and do not - know what to do. They cannot control their own borders, and

apparently it is easier to cross a border illegally than most of us seem to think, while at the same time it is quite a complicated business to deport people - especially when many hundreds are involved, as is the case here.

The only penalty which was inflicted on the illegal border crossers from the beginning was a few weeks jail sentence. In July the Germans deported three men to Austria, a few days prior to the expiration of their jail sentence. These deportations to Austria were possible, since the three people involved had legal Austrian visas, and a still valid 1938 extradition agreement exists between the two countries. The three people, plus four from Austria, were held in a deportation station near Salzburg, pending arrangements with Israeli authorities for their deportation. The deportations created a serious state of alarm among the illegals in Fohrenwald.

On August 9 a meeting on this question was held in Geneva. This meeting was attended by Dr. Goldman, Dr. Yahil (Israeli Purchasing Mission), Dr. Frohwein of the German Foreign Office and myself. Although this was an informal meeting, the fact that the Bonn Government thought it necessary to send an important official of the Foreign Office indicated that they viewed the matter as most serious. At this meeting the following proposals for the solution of the problem were accepted by the participants:

- 1) The Bavarian Government would offer space in Funk-Kaserne, a camp on the outskirts of Munich, and would make efforts so that the illegals should be able to live together in a separate section of the Kaserne. JDC would be prepared to contribute the necessary installation costs, especially for specific needs of the illegals with reference to a kosher kitchen, place of worship, etc.
- 2) If the illegals should be willing to move to Funk-Kaserne, the Bavarian Government would then give them assurance to permit them to stay there for six months, and commit themselves to no imprisonment or deportations during this period.
- 3) The Jewish organizations, especially the JDC, with the assistance of the Bavarian and Federal authorities, would make every possible effort, within the six month period, to solve the problem of the illegals either by repatriation to Israel or by emigrating them to other countries, or in individual cases the Bavarian Government might be willing to grant permission of residence and work. JDC declared its willingness to meet the emigration or repatriation costs, and, if necessary, to grant special allowances to facilitate their emigration or repatriation.

- 4) One or two months prior to the expiration of the six month period, the Bavarian and Federal authorities would meet again with the Jewish organizations (JDC, Central Council of Jews in Germany, Bavarian Landesverband of Jewish Communities and others) in order to again discuss the question of a solution for the remaining illegals.
- 5) All illegals who arrive in Germany from Israel, after these proposals are accepted by the Bavarian Government, will be treated by the German authorities in the same manner as any other illegal border-crossers, and the Jewish organizations recognized the right of the German authorities to act in such a manner.
- 6) The Bavarian Government would during the period of six months provide the same welfare grants which they are granting to the legal camp inhabitants in Foehrenwald to all illegals who move to Funk-Kaserne. JDC will provide supplementary assistance for these illegal cases in Funk-Kaserne in the same manner as they are doing now for the legal inhabitants of Foehrenwald.

On August 11, while I was still in Geneva, an alarm was spread in the camp to the effect that the authorities planned to carry out further deportations on Friday, August 14. This was surprising to us since the proposals made and agreed to in Geneva in effect prohibited deportations, but these apparently had not yet been transmitted by Bonn to the Bavarian authorities.

The JDC policy had been to avoid involvement in these matters, and during many meetings with the returnee group, we advised them that in such matters, which had a definite and clear political character, either the Central Council of Jews in Germany, and/or the Central Council of Jews in Bavaria was their source of reference. In fact, we assisted them to establish contact with both of these organizations. When, however, they were faced with the threat of further deportations, they felt that only JDC could save them. Thus came about the occupation of our office for two days on August 12 and 13, by over 150 men, women and children of the returnee group, who would not leave until they were given assurance that the new deportation orders were cancelled. The occupation was a highly unpleasant affair, with irresponsible elements stirring up the people, making efforts to create a riot, but despite these provocations no one was hurt, and no damage was done to any JDC property.

The Minister of the Interior promised me early in the morning of Thursday, August 13, that the deportations were being called off, but the people would not leave the JDC offices until the order had been passed on to the prison authorities. These orders, however, were not immediately passed on, and a pressure was put on that would be worthy - or unworthy, as you like - of the best organized pressure group in any country. We went all the way to the top in the Bonn Government and were finally assured that the deportation orders had been cancelled. Thus toward the end of the day, on Thursday August 13, the JDC building was cleared of our very unwelcome and uninvited guests.

The Bavarian authorities immediately ordered a registration of all illegals in the camp, and this registration took place from Friday August 14 until Monday August 17. A total of 795 people thus registered. Subsequent to the registration the Germans established a police station in the camp and although illegals still get in, the number apparently is small.

It was understood in Geneva, that the German authorities would convene a meeting to which the Jewish organizations would be invited, during which this question would be once again thoroughly aired on the basis of the proposals accepted in Geneva. This meeting was finally convened in Bonn on September 1. That the Germans regarded this as a serious problem is attested by the fact that present at the meeting were ten officials from the Foreign Office, the Ministry of Justice and the Finance Ministry, from both the Federal Republic and the State of Bavaria. From the Jewish side, representatives from the Central Council of Jews in Germany, the Bavarian Jewish organizations, the JDC and HIAS, and the deputy chief of the Israeli Purchasing Mission attended the meeting. A representative of ICEM was also present.

A translation of the approved minutes of this meeting follows:

" On September 1, 1953 a meeting took place in the "Bundeshaus" which concerned itself with the problem of the future policy with reference to Israeli citizens who reside without permission in the Federal territory. The discussions were conducted with the aim to create a basis for the emigration of the illegals from the Federal Republic and the following was agreed upon:

- 1) For a period of six months, starting August 17, 1953 no measures toward deportation will be taken by the German authorities against those 795 Israeli citizens (hereafter referred to as "illegals") who reside without permission in the Federal territory, and who

have registered before 17 August 1953. Individual cases of illegals who were unable to register because of imprisonment will be considered as having registered.

- 2) The commitment stated under par. 1 does not apply to the following:
 - a) Persons who did not register by 17 August 1953;
 - b) Persons who arrived after the registration date of 17 August 1953 and are now residing in the Federal territory without permission.

The Israeli Mission and the Jewish Organizations will not intervene with the German authorities on behalf of persons who arrived in the Federal territory after 17 August 1953 and are now residing there without permission.

- 3) The German authorities will grant the following to the illegals:
 - a) Within the six month period agreed to, until they emigrate, public welfare assistance in accordance with existing public welfare regulations;
 - b) Reimbursement of inland transportation costs, as provided in par. 14a of the "Erstes Ueberleitungsgesetz" as revised on 21 August 1953.
- 4) For the time being, the German authorities will not proceed to move the illegals to the Funk-Kaserne in Munich, providing there will be no further influx into Foehrenwald of illegals who are residing without permission in the Federal territory. It is expected that German efforts to stop illegal entry into the camp will have the support of the camp population. On 1 October 1953, this problem will be reviewed in the light of the above mentioned aspects.
- 5) The Israeli Mission and the Jewish Organizations, JOINT and HIAS, accept to undertake all necessary steps so that within the six month period (effective 17 August 1953) the illegals may either emigrate to another country or be repatriated to Israel.
- 6) The Jewish Organizations, JOINT and HIAS, commit themselves to meet the costs involved in the emigration of the illegals, inasmuch as these are not being covered by the German authorities, as provided in par. 3b.
- 7) The Israeli Mission will issue the necessary documents for the emigration of the illegals, providing they possess Israeli citizenship. The Israeli Mission is also prepared - if necessary - to assist in the documentation of those persons who left Israel and whose citizenship is undetermined.

- 8) The Israeli Mission and the Jewish Organizations express their appreciation of the fact that the German authorities made the promises contained in par. 1, setting aside the strictly legal point of view.
- 9) At the beginning of January 1954, the German authorities and representatives of the Israeli Mission and the Jewish Organizations will again meet, in order to review the progress of the steps undertaken to emigrate these illegals, and to discuss further measures to be taken."

Although the Germans had all along insisted that the illegals had to leave Foehrenwald and move to Funk-Kaserne, and this was also agreed to in Geneva, for a variety of reasons, the Germans at the Bonn meeting on September 1, agreed to permit them to remain in Foehrenwald during the six month period, ending February 1954.

One Jewish organization, not involved in the day to day problems, dissociated itself during the meeting from the principle that the Jewish organizations will not protest if the German authorities treat illegal Jewish border crossers the same as they do those of any other nationality. It is my conviction that this was a meaningless gesture, unrelated to the very real pressures which existed and which affected the hundreds of illegals already in Foehrenwald. While I could see no objection to this organization making a gesture before the Germans, it seems to me that, in view of the serious nature of this entire problem, their issuing a press statement revealed their true purpose which was to secure a bit of cheap publicity. After all we were not asked to support action taken by the Germans, but only to refrain from protesting.

Since the August 17th date, illegals have continued to come in. The actions taken by the German authorities, the danger of arrests and deportations on one hand, plus certain steps taken in Israel, may have slowed down the illegal border crossings. But people are continuing to arrive in large numbers during the last few days. We have refused to grant assistance and there have been some real threats made. We have taken precautionary measures to assure that no repetition of the occupation of our offices takes place, but the atmosphere is tense and rife with danger.

It is regrettable that the group of new arrivals - those who came during this year particularly - are very well sprinkled with an assortment of flotsam and jetsam, near-do-wells, irresponsibles, and not infrequently gangster types. If there is a bright side to this picture at

all, it is perhaps that these elements are no longer in Israel. But it should be noted that many are young and claim that their sole reason for leaving Israel was their inability to find work or a home, and in general do leave a good impression.

What will happen after the six month period expires? The sympathetic treatment by the Germans of the problem until now has not been due entirely to an unclean conscience or to their fear that action against Jews would create a charge of anti-semitism, at a time when they appear to be embracing the democratic faith, and are eager to join the Western Alliance. Undoubtedly, this is a partial explanation. But I feel that of equal importance is that they are not in a position to do too much. They could not, and cannot completely stop illegals from entering their borders; they could not, and cannot, engage in mass deportations, since in fact Austria is the only country to which they can directly deport them, and after the difficulties encountered with the seven deportees (three of whom have been allowed to return to Germany), I am sure that they would hesitate to undertake the deportation of hundreds.

There was the possibility to forcibly remove the illegals to Hamburg, and to deport them to Israel on Israeli ships. This point had been mentioned. I think the representative of the Israeli Purchasing Mission wisely told the German authorities at the Bonn meeting, on September 1, that Israel will take back any of the people who wish to return, but will not be a party to police measures leading to forcible deportations. Unfortunately, very few want to go back to Israel, and only great danger will change their minds.

This entire problem would be very much relieved if we could really assume that a substantial number of these illegals could emigrate during the next few months. This was the underlying assumption of both the Geneva and Bonn conferences. Unfortunately, there is no real basis for such hopes.

We have not seen the end of this thorny problem, but if the Germans on the one hand exercise a strong hand, and the Israelis on the other institute some control over emigration, we may be able to slowly resolve the problem, by our assistance program and by either emigration or integration. So long as new arrivals by the hundreds reach Munich and Fochrenwald, however, no rational steps of any sort can be taken either by us or by the German authorities.

A continued flow of illegal border crossers into Germany could create real frictions between Germany and Israel. The authorities, as already indicated, have taken a most serious view of this problem, and whereas the State of Israel cannot in an authoritarian manner simply close its

borders, it probably can, for its own protection, establish a controlled emigration policy, enforce drastic steps to eliminate the racketeers and "machers", create a constructive counselling system, and thus reduce the number of people who without any plan, or thought of the future, leave Israel. Too many returnees have told us, "Why didn't someone tell us that this is what we would find?"

COMMUNITIES:

The total Jewish population in all of Germany, including the Soviet Sector of Berlin and the Soviet Zone of Germany, is 20,121, and our assistance program reaches an average of almost 5000 persons monthly in the communities and in Foehrenwald. Thus 25% of the Jewish population at present in Germany are beneficiaries of the J.D.C. program. (Table I).

The two characteristics of which we have often spoken in the past still dominate Jewish community life in Germany today. The first is its top heavy age structure and the second is the weakness of its leadership.

On 27 August 1953 the three sectors of West Berlin reported a population figure of 4028 persons. As reflected in the following tabulation only 340 or 8.4% were under 18 years of age, 1000 or 24.9% were between the ages of 19 and 45, whereas 2688 or 66.7% were 46 years of age or over.

AGE DISTRIBUTION - JEWISH POPULATION WEST BERLIN - 27 AUGUST 1953

340	or	8.4%	were under 18
1000	"	24.9%	" between 19 and 45
1156	"	28.7%	" " 46 " 59
<u>1532</u>	"	<u>38.0%</u>	" over 60
4028	-	100.0%	-

A study made of the Jewish population in the British Zone in April 1953 reflected a similar abnormal age distribution:

AGE DISTRIBUTION - JEWISH POPULATION BRITISH ZONE - APRIL 1953

352	or	7.8%	were from 1 - 20
670	"	14.8%	" " 21 - 40
1940	"	42.8%	" " 41 - 59
<u>1564</u>	"	<u>34.6%</u>	" over 60
4526		100.0%	

Thus an analysis of the 8554 Jews in West Berlin and in the British Zone show that over 50% of the Jews in these areas are over 50 years of

age and almost 36% are over 60.

While we do not have figures for the communities in the U.S. Zone it is safe to say, that the age characteristics shown in the above tabulations also apply to this area. The two exceptions where the population is not so heavily weighted in the upper age brackets are in the city of Munich and in Camp Fohrenwald, where there is a preponderance of East European Jews, of a more normal age distribution.

This maldistribution in the age structure has affected the thinking of all segments of Jewish leadership, and has given it a mass inferiority complex. At all meetings, especially where the issue involves the JRSO settlements with communities, the fear for social and economic care of a community of aged people always receives sufficient emotional pressure so as to becloud the issue, and make the foreign organizations appear as grave robbers.

The Zentralrat der Juden in Deutschland (Central Council of Jews in Germany) under the leadership of Dr. Henry van Dam, has recently engaged in a running battle with the JRSO, and has stirred up these communities, urging them not to reach agreements, and in the case of Augsburg - a city with only one Jewish couple and some 15 mixed marriages - supported the community when it took the issue before a German court.

To an abnormally large extent the Zentralrat and the communities have centered almost all their activities on matters of compensation and restitution, ignoring the long range community needs, and its future cultural, religious and educational problems.

These communities, as represented by their own Landesverbaende - and by the Zentralrat - consider themselves as the logical successors of the Jewish Community in Germany which existed before Hitler. They would like to forget that there were more Jews in the city of Frankfurt alone, than there now are in all of Germany - including the Russian Zone - and want to believe that the 30 odd Jews constituting the Gemeinde in Augsburg are the successor Gemeinde of the 1100 who constituted this community before Hitler. Thus the issue between the Zentralrat representing the Jews in Germany and the JRSO has been joined, and I look for some very unpleasant developments in this connection, in the very near future.

The Zentralrat, representing the Jewish Community, bases its claims for all former community property as a right. It is, says Dr. van Dam, a matter of principle, and not just a financial claim. They constantly call attention to the age characteristic of the community and the number in old age homes, the abnormal number who live on one or another form of pensions, welfare, or grant resulting from persecution. We have not failed to remind them on many occasions that at a meeting in The Hague on June 27, 1952, Mr. Leavitt told several members of the Board of

Directors of the Zentralrat to prepare a budget, which when approved by JDC Germany, would then have his support before the Executive Committee of the Conference. This budget has not yet - 16 months later - been prepared, despite many reminders and my offer to assist them in its preparation. This offer, repeated on a number of occasions, still stands, but I feel they would rather exclude me from too close an examination of their spurious and inflated claims.

Some might contend that this activity evidences a will to exist and to survive, and that the German Jewish Community is finding itself, has vitality and is prepared to fight for its rights. Only to an extent is this true. As already indicated, the Zentralrat has devoted its energies almost exclusively to the question of restitution in all its phases, but as for acting as a stimulant for building up a sense of community spirit and identification, exercising an influence to cleanse some of the more corrupt aspects of Jewish life, stimulation of a cultural life and exchange program, all these are sadly lacking in Germany, and the Zentralrat has done little in these directions.

The leadership is missing. Many of the professional and business people who have returned to Germany do not participate in community activities, and evidence a complete lack of interest. From the long run point of view the community appears to have no roots, no real base and with its over age population in a generation the community as we now know it will wither away. And yet paradoxical though it may be in this small community of some 20,000 Jews - certainly marginal in the quality of its Judaism - there are a number of prominent authors, actors, film producers, attorneys, politicians and union leaders, judges, professors and university rectors. But few, if any of these people, participate in any way in Jewish activities. Thus the community is in desperate need of leadership - either from within or without the borders of Germany.

That the Jewish Community in Germany is aware of the need to build the creative aspects of their community and to cease their obsessive interest exclusively in restitution questions is evidenced by the fact that during a meeting of the Central Council of Jews in Germany and the Central Council of Jews from Germany with Headquarters in London; this type of a program was, for the first time in such a meeting, discussed at length. For the first time too the Jewish communities outside of Germany were invited to send speakers, and in other ways to assist in the moral and spiritual uplift of this heterogeneous community.

This absence of leadership is equally true of the Zentralwohlfahrtsstelle. The director of this organization is an intelligent, earnest and sincere person. He lacks administrative competence, and before any funds are made available to it out of Conference Claims, new personnel will have to be found, and the organization will have to be given a shot in the arm. As presently constituted I could not in good conscience recommend that it be entrusted with large sums of money - from whatever source it may come.

The two cities with largest Jewish communities remain Berlin and Munich respectively. Berlin, under the active leadership of its Executive Director, has a fairly active community life, and all in all can be considered as one of the best Jewish communities in post-war Germany. Munich with its many difficult problems, caused to some extent by the returnees from Israel and its proximity to Fohrenwald is a community torn by internal dissensions. Even the best leadership would have a real problem in Munich, but lacking leadership altogether, chaos prevails.

There has been somewhat of a geographical shift in Jewish interest in Germany. Whereas Berlin and Munich were previously the two major areas of interest, Cologne, where the Israeli Purchasing Mission is stationed, and Duesseldorf where the Headquarters of the Zentralrat is located and the only German Jewish paper, Karl Marx's "Allgemeine Wochenzeitung der Juden in Deutschland" is printed, have now assumed importance almost equal to that of Berlin and Munich as communities of some Jewish interest.

REFUGEES FROM THE EAST SECTOR OF BERLIN AND THE EAST ZONE OF GERMANY:

"Refugees" from the East Sector of Berlin and the Russian Zone of Germany have been arriving in the Western Sectors for some time before 1953. This was in no sense a mass movement. Our records reveal that throughout 1950, 1951 and 1952 individuals left their home in the Russian controlled areas and moved to West Berlin or to Western Germany.

The Slansky trial in Czechoslovakia, the general anti-semitic overtones of articles in the press, the arrest of the doctors in Moscow, and finally the interrogations of some of the Jewish functionaries in East Berlin and East Zone cities, as well as the general state of unrest, led to the "Mass exodus" which began on 14 January 1953 when practically all the leaders of the Jewish communities fled to the West. Included in this group was Julius Meyer, the President of the Jewish Communities in East Berlin and in the Russian Zone, as well as the leaders of the communities of Dresden, Leipzig, Erfurt, Magdeburg and others.

Approximately 600 Jewish persons fled between January 15 and September 1, with most of them reaching the West by April 15. This figure represented approximately 25% of the total Jewish population in this area.

I have been asked why a greater number did not take advantage of the opportunity to flee, while it was still possible to do so. One of the answers is readily available when we analyze the age composition of the people who remained behind.

On 27 August 1953 our figures show that there were 1757 Jewish persons in East Berlin. (Figures for Eastern Germany on that date are not available, but the estimate is around 700).

Of these 1757:

158	or 9.0%	were under 18
333	"19.0%	" between 19 and 45
566	"32.0%	" " 46 " 59
700	"40.0%	" over 60
1757	100.0%	

Thus 72% of the people who remained in East Berlin are over 46 years of age. It is hardly surprising that they remained behind for in most cases they are people who had been uprooted before and lack the stamina to pick themselves up again; they are in many cases physically unable or are too old to work, and receive a pension as (Opfer des Faschismus) Victims of Fascism. Furthermore, many in the East Sector of Berlin believe - and hopefully they are right - that in the event of real danger their chances for flight will not present serious difficulties.

Immediately after the arrival of the East Zone Jewish leaders on January 14 and 15, the JDC, working in closest co-operation with the Berlin Community, launched an assistance program. In the Jewish Hospital in Berlin, in the Headquarters building of the Jewish Community, as well as in a large villa which we rented for this purpose, the people were housed, fed and clothed. Financial assistance was granted for those people who were able to secure private rooms in West Berlin. In addition, advances were made for purchase of immediate household necessities, and in some instances loans were made for establishing or re-establishing of businesses. We spent approximately DM 150,000.- in Berlin between January and September for assistance to these people.

During Passover we appropriated funds for Seders for the refugees. These Seders were most impressive, and the Columbia Broadcasting System televised on April 5, 1953 one of the Seders over the "See it Now" program, on a nation wide hook-up.

During the month of April, in line with its refugee evacuation policy, the city of Berlin began to fly out Jewish refugees to the Western areas of Germany. About 400 of the original group of 600 refugees have been flown out to date.

On March 22, Mr. Jordan and I met with representatives of the Zentralrat, Zentralwohlfahrtsstelle and the communities in Bad Nauheim and worked out a system of temporary support for East Zone Refugees who had been relocated in the Federal area. In order to strengthen the hand of the Zentralwohlfahrtsstelle, we agreed that the various communities would channel their requests for assistance for the refugees in their areas through the Council,* and the Council would be the only contact for the JDC.

While we have adhered to this system we are far from satisfied with the way it works. The fault lies primarily in the absence of good leadership in the welfare organization. The fact is that they have acted merely as a post office, routing automatically the requests sent to them. This has caused unfortunate delays in transmission of funds so that the ultimate recipient suffered. The fact that the office of the Welfare Organization is not centrally located, also has been a real handicap in quickly resolving administrative problems.

During the months of May - September (inclusive) we disbursed through the Welfare Council a total of DM 85,000.- which together with the 150,000.- expended in Berlin represents our expenditure to date on behalf of East Zone refugees.

There remains a good deal to be done on this front. Many requests for integration loans are being considered and as soon as an acceptable method is established, loans to between 15 and 25 East Zone refugees will be made. It is anticipated that the average loan will be between DM 2,500.- and 3,000.-. In this, as well as in other connections, the establishment of a loan kassa will serve a most useful purpose.

* Central Welfare Council

THE SOCIAL SERVICE DEPARTMENT:

We are now in a much better position to evaluate the concept which we discussed a year ago of the organization of a unit within the country operation to study the camp problems and to undertake steps leading toward the closing of the camps. It is worth while to re-examine what was said at the last Country Directors Conference on this issue, in view of the developments during the first nine months of the functioning of this department.

Let me enumerate the difficulties which I stressed a year ago, which would face the group ostensibly assigned the responsibility for the liquidation of the camps in Germany and Austria. I then indicated the following important considerations:

- 1) That the psychology of the people would play a vital role in any effort to integrate them into the economy.
- 2) The fact that most of the people do not want to live in a German city, are in fact incapable of adjustment because of language, anti-semitism and other difficulties.
- 3) That the chances of employment opportunities for most of the people were sub-marginal.
- 4) That the problem of housing would be a serious deterrent to moving the people out of the camp.
- 5) That many were sick and an economic adjustment would seem to be difficult.
- 6) That the Jewish communities are weak and to a large extent leaderless, and finally,
- 7) That life in Foshrenwald provides for most of the creature comforts, and for many, these are perhaps comparable to what they knew in the past in their own Polish shtetl.

It did not require a crystal ball nor extraordinary powers of foresight to envisage the above difficulties. Years of experience with the German scene and with our residual load focused these difficulties into plain view, and regrettably the experience to date only serves to reaffirm our original misgivings.

It has been clear for some time that the original broad conception of the functions of such a unit were not based on reality, neither from the psychological aspect of the people involved, nor of the economic, social and political realities of the German scene.

It is clear and beyond argument that the JDC cannot close Camp Foehrenwald - not if we have twenty top social workers, medical social workers, psychiatric social workers, doctors, psychiatrists, nurses, vocational guidance experts and administrators, instead as we now have one professional and one medical social worker. The complex problems in all their ramifications involved in the ultimate closure of the camp leaves us with only one conclusion, namely, that the Germans and the Germans alone are the final arbiters of when and to a large extent how the camp will be closed.

Let us take a look at some of the actual experiences of the Social Service Division during the few months of its existence. Thus far, a total of nine cases, comprising 24 persons were moved from Foehrenwald and integrated into the German economy. The last case integrated was in the month of July, and since then no one left the camp as a result of action taken by this department. Why is this so? In the light of experience the following points should be stated, even though they may repeat our prognosis of last year:

In the first place, the camp offers a sort of financial, political and personal security which the people believe they cannot find in the world outside of the camp, and the apparent fact that for many - if not most - of them, the conditions in Foehrenwald are not too bad, provide for their creature comforts in a reasonable way, and when they compare their former life find that it is at least as good, if not better; secondly, unfulfilled promises of cash grants which the Germans made have held some back, many of whom may not even be entitled to these grants; thirdly, hopes created by the passage of the Refugee Relief Act 1953; fourth, they compare their "income" (welfare) from the Germans and the supplementation from the "Joint" with their potential income as workers on the open market and find that "it does not pay to go to work",

Perhaps it would be useful to cite a specific example of the problem involved in the solution of a specific group of camp inmates. After considerable effort we succeeded in arranging with the Jewish Community in Munich, and with not unimportant assistance from the Germans, for a group of aged people to be given more or less permanent placement in a first class Jewish Old Age Home in Munich. The building is new and the accommodations are of the best, in every respect. And yet out of some 112 people who in one way or another were considered as eligible, only five decided to give up Foehrenwald and move into the home. To understand some of the complexities involved in this problem, I quote from an analysis made by the director of the department:

"In general, the major issue for the Foehrenwalders might be expressed as their fear of life in a "gilded cage", as it were. All could see that there was no comparison between their primitive way of living in camp and the more civilized amenities of life in the Altersheim. But rough as life is in camp, it is doch free. One can manage one's few marks as one likes in camp; one can eat the kind and quantity of food one is used to. Inevitably much of the discussion hinged on the availability of pocket money as a symbol of individual freedom....."

"Nevertheless, when the smoke of battle cleared away a number of weeks later, we found that out of a group of 112 persons included in the Project, only five could finally be admitted to the Altersheim"

"Why were the results of this Project so meager? A glance at the appended statistical summary tells most of the story which can be summed up as the extremely complex character of the individual family situation and the difficulty of fitting it into projects designed for groups. In other words, each situation seems to require an individual solution, custom-tailored to fit that particular case.

"In this old age study we see again the atypical family composition characteristic of the DP group, -older men having lost wives and children, are now remarried to women a generation or more younger than themselves. This shows up in our study in the form of 20 wives obviously too young to enter an Altersheim.

"Likewise, no candidates could be looked for in the 19 family groups having an old parent, or parents, where separation would not be considered.

"The Orthodox group presented us with some challenging problems which we tried to meet. Although the Altersheim conducts a kosher kitchen, our Orthodox group would not consider going into the Home unless they could do their own cooking, which was, of course, out of question. We offered to supply a mashgiach acceptable to the group, at considerable expense to AJDC - to no avail. Actually it was probably a good thing that this group would not go along, because their fanatic Orthodoxy and chassidic outlook equate with other personality quirks which would have made them unacceptable to the Altersheim.

"In the case of the chronic invalids, we offered to supply a doctor and nurse to the Altersheim, but the management felt that the entire character of the Home would have to be changed to meet the needs of this group of severely handicapped persons.

"The same considerations applied with even greater force to the group having severe personality problems up to and including mental disorders.

"When we consider all the factors enumerated above, we must come to the conclusion that in this Project virtually all the reasons given for refusal of candidates to enter the Altersheim were valid.

"Although the net results of the Project were absurdly disproportionate to the time and effort invested in it, a few useful by-products have accrued. We now have some basic information concerning 91 family units in which there are one or more old persons. Our discussions with these people have served to alert them to the necessity of actively planning for themselves with such help as we can give them. We have earmarked a number of these cases for early assignment to the Social Service Department for follow-up especially in the groups wishing to go to Israel, those having a fair chance to emigrate to other countries, and those wishing to be integrated into the German economy."

These are the facts of life as we know them in the camp. What to do about them? As I already said, I am convinced that the JDC cannot itself close the camp, but can help the Germans do so, and the Germans apparently intend doing it. The Social Service and other departments will assist, so that the transfer of the people into various aspects of the German economy shall be made in as intelligent, humane and sympathetic a manner as possible, leading to readier integration of the people.

When we concluded that the so-called Study-Action Team, as originally conceived, was not practical, we established the Social Service Department, with personnel assigned to the camps in Austria and in Foehrenwald. A caseload averaging 150 was assigned to the department in Foehrenwald, and problems concerning these cases were generally handled by the workers of this department in co-operation with staff members of other departments.

There is room for discussion as to whether the concepts, theories and practice of social work as practiced in normal communities are worth while and useful in a DP camp. My own opinion is that it is, by and large futile, leads to even greater dependence of the clients, and must fail in what surely is a goal in all normal environments, namely to create a sense of self-reliance and practical expression of helping people to help themselves. As the director of the department herself so well expressed it, "rehabilitation does not take place in a vacuum and that is precisely what the DP Camps are."

In the sense that the objective factors in a camp militate against these constructive steps, then social work can and in fact to an extent does create a greater sense of dependence and as such can be harmful rather than productive of good for the clients. For these, and other reasons, we have hesitated to bring in the full complement of personnel originally envisaged for this department. We in fact did not need them nor did we see what useful function they could perform. The only kind of social work, which in my opinion would be useful, for the people in the camp is, that leading to their permanent rehabilitation, and I submit that this is not possible so long as the people are in the camp.

When, however, the Germans begin to move people into the communities, then there will be a very real need for a number of professional people of the categories mentioned previously, for assistance to the people and to the various communities when they are distributed throughout the Federal Republic. When this situation develops, we shall request the necessary assignment of personnel to the German operation, for such a period of time, as may be necessary, for the constructive integration of the camp people into the various communities and institutions wherever they may be settled after removal from Fochrenwald.

MEDICAL:

The Medical Department in Germany continues to have important functions, and we shall probably need such a department so long as we have a program in that country. The department, in addition to day to day work in Fochrenwald, engages German consultants for a variety of diagnostic and therapeutic purposes; works together with German offices for suitable medical attention and placement of sick camp people; visits patients in German hospitals and the mentally ill in German mental institutions; maintains an active program in Gauting including an Occupational Therapy Program; supervises and controls the functions of the Munich Health Center; maintains close contact with German institutions housing mentally retarded and defective children; carries on a program of nursing supervision; contributes medications; provides orthopaedic shoes, eye-glasses, dental care not furnished by the Germans; supervises pharmacy and medical supplies in the camp; stimulates communities to assume responsibility for sick people in hospitals located in nearby areas. A very important part of the responsibility of the department is to see to it that the Germans provide for the medical requirements of the camp population, and to improve medical facilities.

The department's major concern is the medical situation in Foehrenwald and Gauting, and in Munich among our relief cases who are serviced by the Health Center.

Following is a tabulation of our Medical Hard Core Cases, as of September 1, 1953: 1)

Types of illness	Foehrenwald	Gauting	other institutions	non-institutional	Total:
Open tuberculosis	-	56	9	4	69
Post tuberculosis	269	7 ⁴⁾	-	93	369
Chronic sick and other physically disabled	130 ²⁾	-	3	93	226
Mental cases	17	-	20	7	44
Aged	31 ³⁾	-	-	-	31
T o t a l:	447	63	32	197	739

HARD CORE TRANSPORTS:

I. NORWAY

Discussions with Norway for a second hard-core transport in fact began not long after the first transport departed in the summer of 1952. A Selection Mission of eight Norwegian officials arrived in Germany in April 1953, and in July, 53 persons departed for permanent resettlement in Norway. Among these were 30 sick and 23 family members, and included eight children.

- 1) Not included in this tabulation are 405 people in old age homes located in various communities in Germany.
- 2) Including 20 chronic patients in Camp-Hospital.
- 3) These 31 are not medical hard-core but healthy aged persons, not requiring special medical care. 35 other aged, but with a medical condition are included in the various medical categories.
- 4) Rehabilitation Center in Gauting Sanatorium.

The experience with the 1952 transport of sick people was altogether satisfactory, and since every reasonable care and precaution was taken in the process of selection for this year's group, there is every reason to feel that for most of these people a satisfactory solution has been found.

II. SWEDEN

Discussions began in Stockholm by Mr. Jordan and Dr. Gonik many months ago, culminated in the passage of an Act by the Swedish Parliament, authorizing the admission of a total of 25 tuberculous cases plus 55 family members. Two Swedish Government officials arrived in Munich in August for the purpose of selecting these cases. The Medical and Social Service Departments preselected and prescreened cases to be presented to the Mission and the two men selection team finally selected a total of 62 persons, among whom were 27 sick and 35 family members. Included in the group were 17 children. The transport departed for Sweden on October 7. Of the 27 patients, 8 were from Gaeting Sanatorium, 13 from Fochrenwald and 6 from communities in Germany and Austria.

Interestingly enough, the Swedish project did not create as much interest and enthusiasm as the one for Norway. The reports which have trickled back from the people who went there last year, reflected a feeling that not enough interest was taken in giving constructive aid to effect a sound readjustment. This contrasted sharply with the information which reached us from the people resettled in Norway. Despite these reports, however, 62 persons were accepted and left for Sweden.

Although hard-core schemes, such as the one for Norway and Sweden, do not solve or resolve the overall problem of the continued existence of the camps, they are nevertheless important in the solution of the problems for those who are selected. The longer the residual group - whether sick or well people - remain in camps, the more difficult will be our ultimate resolution of this problem. In Gaeting Tuberculosis Sanatorium, for example, our experience shows that far from all the possible candidates meeting the Swedish scheme criteria were interested in accepting the opportunity. Out of a possible 57 potentially eligible patients only 18 registered for the project and 8 were accepted. The 39 potentially eligible did not register for a variety of reasons, among which we can list the following:

- a) The ever remaining hope of a cure and going to the States.
- b) Sweden is too close to the USSR and in case of war they will have placed themselves in a more dangerous situation than they are in already.

- c) There is no real Jewish Community life in Sweden.
- d) The difficulties of adjustment of the well members of the family.
- e) Their present material situation is not bad - their creature comforts are taken care of by the Germans, and the JDC assistance provides for their day to day extra requirements.
- f) Their families manage reasonably well in Foehrenwald, and finally
- g) The fear of change - any change - after years of helplessness and dependence.

Despite these difficulties over 100 persons nevertheless did accept resettlement opportunities in Norway and Sweden. Similar projects in other countries ought to be further explored. The scheme for taking a group of hard to resettle people to England has aroused a good deal of interest. A scheme for Tb cases to Denmark has been mentioned. Working as we now are on a case by case basis, the re-establishment of small groups of camp living people into normal communities outside of Germany is the only sound approach, and at the same time reduces our ultimate problem, both as to quantity and quality of cases to be integrated into the German economy.

III. CUSTODIAL CARE CASES:

The problem of the hospital in the camp has engaged our attention on many occasions. When Dr. Golub visited this hospital he recommended, that "an effort should be made to remove from the Camp Foehrenwald infirmary the patients with chronic diseases and transfer them to other existing German hospitals or wherever possible to rehabilitate them." (P.75) No one disagrees with this viewpoint, but one thing that is perfectly clear to us, is that there is an integral relationship between the camp and the hospital. The only way this hospital can or will be liquidated is when the camp as an entity ceases to exist. There is a real possibility that some of these chronics will at the point of the liquidation of the camp be willing to go to Israel, their only other alternative being transfer to German institutions. There are "patients" who resist any effort to aid them, and it is the feeling of the Medical Department that only when faced with a forcible change in their status will they be willing and able to face up to the realities of their lives.

The majority of these have been dependent on institutional care for years. Some of them are seriously handicapped persons and will continue to require institutional care. If no possibilities are found in other countries for the care of these people, they will, when the decision to close Foehrenwald takes on actual form, be removed to various German institutions. There are some real arguments which can be raised against their integration into the German economy, and it may be anticipated that strong resistance will be offered by this group when efforts are made to remove them from the camp or from the infirmary at such time when the German authorities decide to close the camp. It is strongly recommended that a project or projects be developed in some other country where this small number of people could be accommodated.

IV. MENTALLY DEFECTIVE AND RETARDED CHILDREN:

There are a total of 19 such children known to us in Germany. Nine of these children are in German installations, the parents having resettled, and ten whose parents are still in Germany, who either live with them or are in an institution. We have corresponded with Paris and Geneva on this problem and it is hoped that a solution can yet be found. The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees has recently indicated an interest, and we feel that these children should not be left in Germany, after JDC pulls out. Arrangements with some European Government should, therefore, be worked out, if the costs are not prohibitive, for the life care of these defective and retarded children.

V. GAUTING:

It is gratifying to be able to report a continuing decrease in the number of Jewish patients in this installation. It will be recalled that in 1948 there were 430 of our patients in this institution or almost 50% of the total. Today, out of 1200 Gauting patients the Jewish groups number 63 or 5.4%. Most of the discharged patients went to Foehrenwald, many emigrated, some were removed through hard-core projects. The percentage of Jewish tuberculous patients who died in Gauting was infinitesimal compared to deaths among the non-Jewish. I think our generous attitude throughout the years on behalf of the Gauting patients has been instrumental in their better adjustment after leaving the hospital, and has helped considerably to cut down the death rate.

The number of our patients in the institution continues to decrease (see attached chart), but there are some very sick, "bad chronics" among them, for whom no cure is foreseen. However, the hospital compares rather favorably with other Tb institutions, and discipline, which was loose in the past, has recently been tightened up. A comparatively small number of

Gauting patients registered for Norway and Sweden. Some of these patients have been ill for years, and were rejected last year by either the Norwegian or Swedish Missions, or by both. Some are not interested in leaving for other reasons: restitution payments, regular pensions, other sources in income give them a sense of security which they have not had for years and they are loath to part with it. Some have married German women or have German girlfriends and are committed to remain here. We are carefully examining our Gauting load on a case by case basis to determine whether assistance should be continued for those patients who are not interested in emigration from Germany.

As the number of patients decreases, it may be, from a longer viewpoint, more advisable for the Medical Department to take a less active interest in the patients, to make the patients more self-reliant and dependent upon the German economy only, which will in any event, be the case when we finally pull out of Germany. Our assistance program to the patients is in process of re-examination, with this end in view.

While the Sanatorium is basically a German responsibility, the JDC provides a special permanent medical consultant, specialist treatment, payment for surgery in special cases, medications, nursing, social and welfare services, an Occupational Therapy Program and special welfare grants.

VI. THE MUNICH HEALTH CENTER:

As originally conceived, the Munich Health Center was to be the successor of our Medical Department. Toward the end of 1951, we planned the Health Center on the theory of the liquidation of the Medical Department. The continued existence, however, of Gauting and Fochrenwald also meant the continuation of the Medical Department and the Health Center was, therefore, restricted in its operation to medical care for the needy Jews in Munich.

The Center is located in the Community building in Munich. Both the physician and the secretary in charge, are on the JDC payroll, and all costs of the Center are defrayed by the JDC. They are in effect an integral part of our Medical Department.

The degree of activity of the clinic can be seen from a report prepared by Dr. Molnar and Dr. Sommerfeld.

Number of visits at Munich Health Center
November 1951 - August 1953

Month:	1951	1952	1953
January		322	316
February		337	266
March		341	286
April		216	237
May		276	230
June		237	285
July		231	225
August		216	182
September		160	
October		235	
November	214	162	
December	273	164	
Total:	487	2897	2027

Grand Total: 5411

As can be seen from the table the total number of visits from the opening of the Center in November 1951 through August 1953 was 5411.

The Health Center performs a variety of medical services, including diagnosis, laboratory and X-ray examinations, arrangements for specialist consultations, filling out of prescriptions for eye-glasses, dental services, etc., and acts as an advisor to the clients as to their rights under the German sick insurance funds. Examinations are performed for emigrants to Israel and other countries.

When Dr. Golub visited this Center he recommended improvements, some of which we have been able to introduce, including the purchase of a microscope and establishment of a small laboratory.

It is still our plan and hope, as it was originally when the Health Center was established, that it shall ultimately replace the Medical Department, and we feel that it has improved, is rendering a service, and will be able to function in a sound manner, when we are ready to close

our department. We have improved the services rendered but only after the Community itself shows a greater interest, is prepared to co-operate more actively, and to accept a greater responsibility should we enlarge this center to be in a position to render a greater variety of medical services.

To summarize, a Medical Department will be required in the German operation practically as long as we have a JDC office there. The department performs many functions and contributes greatly to the well being of the people in the camp, to the people in the camp hospital, to the patients in Gauting, and finally to the needy Jews in Munich through the Health Center in the Munich Community. Our service to the camp population including the visit of a gynecologist, pediatrician, physical therapist and other consultants, our health program in the camp kindergarten, and the Health Education Program conducted for the kindergarten and youth center personnel, all are among the constructive and brighter aspects in an otherwise bleak atmosphere to be found in the camp.

Dr. Golub in his "Recommendations for Germany Program" (P. 75) proposed a "new and careful survey" of all persons suffering with mental and physical disabilities, "leading to an intensification of the efforts toward rehabilitation, migration and restoration to usefulness and gainful employment." Dr. Golub then described the types of classification which should be made. With all due respect to Dr. Golub, I should like to say that we have all the information we need, and can get additional data when and if necessary; that is not our problem, but rather to find enough suitable placement opportunities in other countries so as to remove from Germany all those who want to leave; and finally to see to it that the Germans provide suitable possibilities in German institutions for the residuals who do not intend to emigrate.

EMIGRATION DEPARTMENT:

We are working in the Emigration Department with a residual load of people who for many reasons have been unable to emigrate in the past, either because of a medical, security or other rejection, or do not have the stamina to risk another move and accept their present camp existence and the Israeli returnees who are not eligible or are not desired by a number of countries, and prefer to wait in the camp, hoping in the end to secure US or Canadian visas.

The work of the Emigration Department in 1953 is not at all comparable with previous years during which mass emigration predominated. The work now represents a much more skilled and difficult case by case consideration, and the results achieved are certainly not in proportion to the effort. Although our three branch offices, Hamburg, Berlin and Frankfurt, during the first eight months of this year emigrated only 77 persons - an average of less than ten persons per month - the service rendered to the interest clients justifies the retention of these offices despite the meager results achieved.

There are many reasons for people not moving out even when they have an opportunity to do so. The resistance to change increases as the residual group becomes more "hard-core" in their thinking, the feeling that going to any country - except the USA - is exchanging something worse for something better which they have in the camp, waiting for restitution or a monthly pension which they are receiving, the passage of a new Act by the U.S. Government, statements by the Germans that they will pay a lump sum to people leaving the camp, and delaying implementation - those and other reasons act as a very real hindrance to the work of the Emigration Department.

Nevertheless many find life in the camp intolerable and want to get out, often to a country where an adjustment will not be easy, and as will be seen from table II, 200 people emigrated from the camp during the first nine months of this year.

During the first eight months of this year, January - August, a total of 397 persons left Germany for permanent resettlement in other countries. The largest number 160 or 40% emigrated to the United States; 93 or 23% left for various South American countries, 61 or 16% left for Canada, and all other countries accounted for 83 or 21%. (Tables III and IV).

For purposes of comparison we have included table V showing departure figures for 1952. Whereas 1702 persons departed from Germany under JDC auspices during 1952, during the first eight months of 1953 only 397 have emigrated. Our estimate for the entire year is 600 or less than 50% of our total for 1952. Included in our estimate of 600 are the two hard-core transports to Norway and Sweden, comprising about 100 persons.

We have a total of 1475 cases representing 3076 persons registered with our four emigration offices. Somewhat over 60% are registered for the U.S.A. (It should be noted that this is a duplicated figure representing some dual registrations: the unduplicated count as of 31 August 1953 was 1259 cases representing 2607 persons).

Registration figures for Israel are excluded from the above. On 17 February 1953 the Jewish Agency for Palestine resumed responsibility for Israeli emigration, which service had been performed for almost two years by the JDC.

US EMIGRATION:

The present US caseload in all Germany is 1932 persons (Table VI). The potential for US emigration cannot be viewed optimistically. All told during 1953, practically somewhat over 200 persons will leave Germany for the USA as compared with a figure of 1150 during 1952.

Our active caseload for potential US is 608 persons (Table VI). This is based on the cut-off date of the 3c provision of the DP Act, normal good quota registration and other factors. On the basis of this breakdown we appear to have 204 persons who may be visaed within the life of the 3c provision of the DP Act. This figure, however, is a maximum since among these people are included those who had previous rejections, generally due to medical grounds. In view of all the uncertainties it is almost impossible to predict the number of the active caseload, who will eventually be visaed. Also included in this figure are some Israeli returnees, some aged German Jews and others, who may never receive a visa.

While it is too early to evaluate the effects of the Refugee Relief Act of 1953 as far as our caseload in Germany is concerned, there is no reason for optimism. Of the 2100 people now living in Foehrenwald, about 1000 may be excluded because they are returnees from Israel; a substantial number (see medical) suffer or have suffered from an excludable disease; and others were rejected under the DP Act for a variety of reasons, which will probably affect their efforts to secure admittance under the new law, and the tight security measures under the new law will certainly keep many of our clients out. But in addition to these difficulties, the act itself is not conducive to bright hopes for solving our Foehrenwald problem. The provision of the new law that assurances must be provided by a "citizen or citizens" who assume a very real responsibility for the sponsored case, will certainly affect the number of cases sponsored, since in our judgement few of the Foehrenwald clients will find this type of a sponsor in the U.S. Our refugees, particularly in Foehrenwald, but probably to a much lesser extent in Hallein and Asten, may or may not even be eligible and we shall have to wait for the regulations in order to determine this. One thing is perfectly clear, and that is that the new law, if it has any effect at all on our load, may have it only "in the long run". But we are, I am

convinced, working against time, in the need to close Fochrenwald. The new law will certainly not be of real assistance to us in this purpose for even if some of our clients manage to get through, it will be a long and time consuming process. An interesting possibility exists for at least some of the Israeli returnees in the appended statement to the Act that, "while no definition is contained in the Act, the conferees wish to state that the term "firm resettlement" as applied to prospective beneficiaries of this legislation is not designed automatically to exclude aliens from the refugee category, by law or edict, granted full or limited citizenship rights and privileges in any area of their present residence." We shall watch with real interest the interpretation of this statement.

One negative effect the Bill will surely have. We have already noted that people are waiting to see what their chances are, and are no longer as interested as they were in second or third choices for permanent resettlement. America is still Number One choice for most of our DP's and even if it is unreal for them to wait they will in most cases probably decide to do so nevertheless. In this respect the new law may even come to eventually be regarded as an unfortunate development.

Despite these negative aspects, it will nevertheless necessitate a careful staffing for the case by case handling of our clients. It may be necessary to place additional trained personnel in our Headquarters offices in Munich, Salzburg and Vienna.

CANADA:

We had hoped that negotiations which the Canadian Jewish Congress had been carrying on would produce results and that 100 hard-core cases might find a haven in Canada. It is more than one year since the discussions began with Mr. Saul Hayes, concerning this project. In view of the entire Fochrenwald complex it is still to be earnestly hoped that some success will be achieved.

Despite of all the restrictions and difficulties which are placed in the way of potential migrants to Canada, approximately 75 persons will leave for that country during 1953. Rejections on security grounds still - as in the past - constitute the major reason for rejection of applicants. During the months of May and July 1953, 98 persons reported to the Canadian Mission. Of these 98, 52 were rejected on "security grounds", 6 on medical and 40 are still pending with security. It must be pointed out that a pre-selection and pre-screening process takes place which eliminates many others, who never have an opportunity to appear before the Mission; despite this the rejection rate is appalling.

AUSTRALIA:

There seems to be very little interest in emigration to Australia. There are 28 people with Landing Permits who have not taken advantage of the opportunity to depart from Germany. Only 11 persons departed for Australia in the nine month period January - August 1953.

NORWAY:

53 persons left on a hard-core transport on July 22, 44 originating in Germany and 9 in Austria. (See Medical Section).

SWEDEN:

62 persons left on a hard-core transport on October 7. (See Medical Section).

SOUTH AMERICA:

A year ago I was able to state that South American countries "have become a sort of Mecca to our people". People were desperately trying to get out of the camp - and all other emigration possibilities were too remote. Over 100 persons emigrated in 1952 to Bolivia and Paraguay despite undesirable economic conditions in these countries, and we stopped this movement only after receiving instructions to do so. We registered a few hundred people to Argentina, but did not receive a single permit. Often through all sorts of devious ways "nachers" began operating involving first Bolivian and later Brazilian visas, and only strong measures on our part stopped this under the table visa production. But it does serve to show that given proper conditions and good possibilities of integration in South American countries, a substantial number of our Foehrenwald population may still choose these countries. Despite the fact that many of the people are waiting for something to develop, I am convinced that when the Germans really begin to move in the direction of closing the camp, South American emigration may again loom important in the thinking of the people, and many may choose a South American country in preference to integration in Germany.

Brazil

A group of "nachers" or operators, one of them with fairly high connections particularly in Brazil, have operated a visa production

racket. It was a wide open operation and no attempt was made to conceal the fact that these operators were working in closest co-operation with the Brazilian Consul located in Frankfurt. The brazenness of one operator went so far, as to include advertisements in the Yiddish press, writing of letters to the Camp Committee, stirring up people, especially the strong arm boys, in the camp, to compel the Jewish organizations to "co-operate", and to grant money for the purchasing of visas through the operator. There was no question at all, that he was able to "deliver the goods", whereas efforts to secure visas in the normal course of events, more often than not, proved fruitless. It is known that in some cases persons from the camp secured their Brazilian, as well as Bolivian visas through the operators, but this phase of South American emigration practically ceased when we refused to yield to pressures to grant special assistance for defraying of these visa costs.

With Mr. Horwitz's visit to South America in August a systematized method was developed of handling potential emigrants to Brazil. A survey was recently made in the camp in order to establish as well as possible, the number of people who are really interested to go to Brazil. Out of 103 persons of the residual group interviewed only 3 were ready to go; the recent returnees made a better showing and 35 indicated their desire to emigrate to Brazil. All - or most of these people - were under the influence of the new Refugee Act and hoped to "make it", others were going to wait for special grants from the Germans, the Conference, or for something else. What seemed clear was that none were in a great hurry to go anywhere. As the Director of the Emigration Department puts it, "the attitude of the people interviewed reflected an overall optimism and they all felt that they could take a chance in prolonging their emigration and were willing to leave their fate in the general solution of the camp population."

Uruguay

On August 31, our Uruguayan caseload covered 33 cases or 85 persons. Only one person left Germany for Uruguay so far this year. Among other requirements the Consul who is located in Hamburg, demands the following documents for each case:

- 1) Certificate from a German authority that applicant will be re-admitted to Germany.
- 2) Certificate from German authorities that applicant is not a member of a political party.

- 3) Good Conduct Certificates and certification as to political relationships for all applicants who resided in countries other than Germany during a period of five years. Such certificates issued outside of Germany must be certified by the Uruguayan Consul in the respective country.

Since most of our applicants for Uruguay (as for other South American countries) are Israeli returnees, the above stipulation will present real difficulties, and it will take a long time to process these cases now in the hands of the Consul. A very lengthy procedure is involved in processing applicants for Uruguay, and it does not seem that too many of our cases will get through to that country.

Argentina

Although the number of clients registered for Argentina far outnumber the total for all other South American countries, we have emigrated only two persons to this country during the first eight months of this year. The hopes of sending a substantial number of our cases to Argentina failed to materialize, and although there are many applicants, unless some arrangement is made with the Argentinian Government, this country must be written off, at least temporarily, as a potential haven for our would be emigrants. On the basis of Field Letter # 97, dated 18 August 1952, registration for Argentina was carried out, and between September 17 and December 18, 1952, we sent to our Cooperating Committee in Argentina a total of 170 cases consisting of 343 persons. To date we have had no response of any sort, not a single Labor Permit being obtained for any of our applicants.

We will have emigrated by the end of this year around 600 persons. Included in this figure is, of course, the two hard-core transports to Norway and Sweden, so that in effect around 100 has to be deducted from this figure, since these two transports cannot be regarded as normal emigration.

A comparison of our 1953 emigration with that of 1952, therefore, reveals a decrease of over 60%.

In trying to predict for the balance of this year, and for 1954, certain factors must be considered.

In the first place, there is a large residue of people in the camp, who are to all intents and purposes excluded from emigration because of illness - this group (See Medical Section) is a substantial number, and together with their families constitute approximately 700 persons, all or most of whom are long time camp residents; there is another group among the "old timers" who by now, have no real interest in emigration, find their useless lives satisfactory and appear to be satisfied to remain on relief for the rest of their lives. These two groups will eventually have to be integrated into the German economy by the German authorities.

Then there are the returnees - We can figure in this group about 700 persons who arrived in the camp during this year and are not eligible to work or to remain in Germany, except that the German authorities have agreed not to deport them for a six month period which expires on 17 February 1954. I do not believe the Germans will modify the proposals made in Geneva on August 9 and in Bonn on September 1. For these 700 an urgency to emigrate exists - but the only possibility appears to be South America, and most of them are not interested in South America, and their chances to emigrate to Canada or to the USA are certainly not bright.

There remains, therefore, only a few hundred who are really interested or who will go to any country other than Canada or the USA. Since we must assume that there will not be many who will be able to emigrate to these two countries, we must conclude that the liquidation of Foehrenwald will surely not come about as a result of emigration. Were we to wait for the closing of the camp through the emigration process, I fear that the camp is here to stay, until the Germans undertake measures to close it.

CONCLUSIONS:

During the past year Germany has moved from the role of a defeated nation to that of a coveted partner in the democratic alliance. The Federal Republic of Germany is today a member of a number of important World and European Organizations. The recent phenomenal victory of Chancellor Adenauer has not only strengthened the forces of the middle of the road, but has probably brought nearer the complete re-establishment of total sovereignty. The victory of Adenauer and his party also appears to have strengthened the chances of the ratification of the contractual and the European Defense Community agreements.

The JDC's work with various branches of the German Government will necessarily involve much closer working relationships in the future. Together with other Voluntary Agencies, we have already been in contact with the Bonn authorities on a number of occasions, in order to secure special concessions such as are generally granted to diplomatic missions. The Federal authorities appear to look with favor on most of our requests, and we will undoubtedly receive certain concessions, involving taxes, licensing of vehicles, imports of certain items, rebates on gas and oil, etc.

JDC's relations with both Bavarian and Bonn authorities will, in the future, assume much greater importance, than they have had in the past. On almost every issue involving the ultimate closing of Foehrenwald intimate contacts with the authorities will have to be maintained. We have been in steady contact with the Germans on the multifarious issues involving the problem of the returnees and of the camp. These contacts will no doubt have to continue on an even expanded level in the future. There is, to be sure, a real need to "watch our step" here. The thorny problem of the returnees which the authorities would like to shift to us, and to other Jewish organizations, must be resisted, since the problem is basically theirs and not ours. We have not seen the end of this problem. Despite the "freeze", new returnees are arriving in substantial numbers, and we are again faced with the problem of assisting them, many of whom are, beyond a doubt, needy. Should we cope with this problem through police methods, or should we assume a humane attitude, and invite the inevitable consequence of more and more returnees coming to Germany? Our Salzburg Office met this problem on a much smaller scale than exists in Germany head on in July, and because of its attitude may have stopped new returnees from seeking a haven in Austria. But our office was far from happy about the solution, and wrote us, "Our pride in this achievement is greatly diminished by the conviction that there were among the object of our treatment Jews who obviously have very real problems, which we were not only unable to meet, but even to consider."

The Foehrenwald problem will present bigger and better headaches in the future than it has in the past, when the Germans take the first step to move people out. We should at that time announce a definite closing date of our operation. Without this, I feel, that the people will not leave the camp and that there may be real resistance. Such an announcement, in my opinion, will be important and may even be of crucial significance.

There will be a real need for professional staff to assist in the integration of the camp people into German cities, and planning for this should start as soon as possible.

Further efforts in the direction of arrangements with Norway, Sweden and other countries should be made in order to take out from Germany as many of our hard-core cases as possible. Such arrangements will be even more significant in the future than in the past in view of the fact that the Fehrenwald problem is reaching a climax. Such hard-core transports should involve not only the tuberculous cases, but also the aged and the chronically ill.

Relationships with the Jewish organizations in Germany - particularly the "Zentralrat der Juden in Deutschland" and the Zentralwohlfahrtsstelle - will have to be watched and carefully cultivated during the coming months. The activities of these organizations, as they affect the World Jewish Organizations generally, and the J.D.C. specifically, have recently shown disruptive tendencies and it may be necessary to mobilize important Jewish leadership in order to hold them in line.



TABLE I
JEWISH POPULATION IN GERMANY AND NUMBER ASSISTED
JUNE 1953

Area:	Population:	Number Cases	Assisted Persons
BADEN	361	65	143
<u>BAVARIA</u>			
Fehrenwald	2100 **	653	1406
Communities	4024	806	1773
HESSEN	1604	317	697
WUERTTEMBERG ***	547	-	-
BRITISH ZONE	4500 *	135	341
FRENCH ZONE ***	500 *	-	-
<u>BERLIN</u>			
West Sectors	4028 **	113	206
East Sector	1757 **	185)	375)
EAST ZONE	700 *))
TOTAL	20,121	2,274	4,941

* estimated

** as of 27 August 1953

*** no assistance program in these areas

TABLE II

NUMBER OF PERSONS EMIGRATED FROM CAMP FOEHRENWALD BY COUNTRY & MONTHS

JANUARY - SEPTEMBER 1953

COUNTRY OF END DESTINATION	JANUARY	FEBRUARY	MARCH	APRIL	MAY	JUNE	JULY	AUGUST	SEPT.	TOTAL
Argentina	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1
Australia	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3
Bolivia	8	-	3	3	-	4	-	1	-	19
Brazil	-	-	-	-	10	1	11	-	4	26
Canada	4	8	1	2	3	3	12	1	2	36
Israel	-	8	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	8
Norway	-	-	-	-	-	-	29	-	-	29
Paraguay	2	-	-	4	-	-	-	-	-	6
Sweden	-	-	-	-	1	-	2	-	-	3
USA	5	3	7	8	2	19	6	14	5	69
T O T A L	22	19	11	17	16	28	60	16	11	200

TABLE III

DEPARTURES BY BRANCH OFFICES AND END DESTINATIONS

JANUARY THROUGH AUGUST 1953

COUNTRY OF END DESTINATION	MUNICH	FRANKFURT	HAMBURG	BERLIN	TOTAL
Argentina	1	-	-	1	2
Australia	3	-	1	7	11
Bolivia	30	-	-	-	30
Brazil	37	2	3	3	45
Canada	45	3	6	7	61
Chile	-	-	-	1	1
Dominican Rep.	1	-	-	-	1
France	-	-	-	1	1
Israel	14	2	-	-	16
Norway	44	-	2	-	46
Paraguay	10	3	-	1	14
South Africa	2	-	-	-	2
Spain	2	-	-	-	2
Sweden	3	-	1	-	4
Uruguay	1	-	-	-	1
USA	127	12	7	14	160
CUMULAT. TOTAL	320	22	20	35	397

TABLE IV

DEPARTURE FIGURES BY BRANCH OFFICES AND MONTHS

JANUARY - AUGUST 1953

MONTH	MUNICH	FRANKFURT	HAMBURG	BERLIN	TOTAL
January	34	-	2	4	40
February	37	2	-	7	46
March	22	4	1	4	31
April	39	9	3	-	51
May	35	-	5	6	46
June	48	5	4	6	63
July	81	2	5	5	93
August	24	-	-	3	27
CUMULAT. TOTAL	320	22	20	35	397

TABLE V

DEPARTURE FIGURES 1 JANUARY - 31 DECEMBER 1952.

(a) BY BRANCH OFFICES AND END DESTINATION

COUNTRY OF END DESTINATION	MUNICH	FRANKFURT	HAMBURG	BERLIN	TOTAL
Argentina	33	-	-	-	33
Australia	34	7	3	9	53
Bolivia	53	3	-	-	56
Brazil	19	1	-	-	20
Canada	86	17	8	41	152
Cuba	1	-	-	-	1
Ecuador	-	3	-	-	3
Israel	112	10	4	16	142
Norway	26	-	-	-	26
Paraguay	50	-	-	-	50
Sweden	16	-	-	-	16
USA	825	157	97	71	1150
CUMULAT. TOTAL	1255	198	112	137	1702

(b) BY BRANCH OFFICES AND MONTHS

MONTH	MUNICH	FRANKFURT	HAMBURG	BERLIN	TOTAL
January	425	87	50	12	574
February	157	22	14	10	203
March	127	23	1	51	202
April	138	40	9	10	197
May	71	1	6	9	87
June	15	-	2	2	19
July	38	3	1	1	43
August	78	6	8	13	105
September	34	1	2	6	43
October	80	8	10	6	104
November	46	-	9	10	65
December	46	7	-	7	60
CUMULAT. TOTAL	1255	198	112	137	1702

TABLE VI

POTENTIAL U.S.A. ACTIVE CASELOAD
AS OF 31 AUGUST 1953

FIELD OFFICE	TOTAL USA CASELOAD	POTENTIAL ACTIVE CASELOAD			TOTAL POTENTIAL ACTIVE CASELOAD
		3/c	Normal	Preference	
MUNICH	600 - 1269	79 - 169	62 - 136	30 - 47	171 - 352
FRANKFURT	143 - 287	7 - 15	41 - 78	-	48 - 93
HAMBURG	65 - 139	6 - 14	19 - 37	1 - 1	26 - 52
BERLIN	123 - 237	2 - 6	41 - 96	6 - 9	49 - 111
T O T A L	931 - 1932	94 - 204	163 - 347	37 - 57	294 - 608 *

* Included in this figure are 77 cases covering 158 persons - previously rejected for medical and other reasons.

Cultural & Religious Program "David Shapiro"

The support of culture & religion - rabbis & scholars - has always been a part of the Jewish pattern. This must be done in Israel which has not the means to do it itself. There are three groups of support.

- I. Support of established scholars trying to produce standard works. "Projects."
- II. Support of refugee rabbis - some 800 - in sums from 1 £ to 40 £. Cost total is approximately \$120,000 per year. This will be reduced progressively over 4 years.
- III. Support of Yeshivot - 81 in number, at 1/2 million per year - approx. 4000 students (8000 beneficiaries including families of students who range from 13-35). JDC support is about 1/3 of total amt. collected by Yeshivot. But this will have to increase as other support decreases.

Tension mounts as JDC makes suggestions for different type of support. E.g. - JDC suggests support up to 25 - but not beyond. Yeshivot resist this. JDC suggests screening beyond 25, to determine merit.

Plea to make changes carefully.

Tunis - Henry Levy

1. Political + Economic

Tunisian nationalists vs. French - much fighting + terrorism. Jews managed to maintain friendly relations with both sides. Economic difficulties increased, as uneasy Arab boycott^{of Jews} began.

2. JDC program

suffered not from Arab-French difficulty; but did suffer from intercommunal Jewish warfare between two federations. This prompted France to remain delightfully neutral in regard to demands made upon it for financial assistance.

3. Emigration

Steady decline, despite tense political situation + economic crisis. Two reasons: austerity in Israel + alleged discrimination in Israel.

4. Feeding program

daily hot lunches for 7000 children

other thousands receive lunches at schools, institutions, etc.

app. 1500 children not being fed - because of lack of space.

5. Clothing - 90,000 items distributed

6. Education - chadarim being replaced by modern schools

This involves,