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American Zionist Emergency Council, Harrison Report, 1945.



RESCUE

INFORMATION BULLETIN

of the

HEBREW SHELTERING AND IMMIGRANT AID SOCIETY (HIAS)

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Report to the President on Plight of Jews In Concentration Camps of Occupied Germany

**Civilized World Owes It to Survivors of Nazi Blight to Provide Them
with Home, Says U. S. Member of Intergovernmental Committee
for Refugees, Adding, "Greatest Sufferers Should Be Treated First"**

Following is the text of the report of Earl G. Harrison, who was sent to Europe by President Truman to inquire into the condition and needs of those among the displaced persons in the liberated countries of Western Europe and in the SHEAF area of Germany (with particular reference to the Jewish refugees) who might be Stateless or non-repatriable. His report to the President follows:

Pursuant to your letter of June 22, 1945, I have the honor to present to you a partial report upon my recent mission to Europe to inquire into (1) the conditions under which displaced persons, and particularly those who may be Stateless or non-repatriable, are at present living, especially in Germany and Austria; (2) the needs of such person; (3) how those needs are being met at present by the military authorities, the Governments of residence and international and private relief bodies, and (4) the views of the possibly non-repatriable persons as to their future destinations.

My instructions were to give particular attention to the problems, needs and views of the Jewish refugees among the displaced people, especially in Germany and Austria. The report, particularly this partial report, accordingly deals in the main with that group.

On numerous occasions appreciation was expressed by the victims of Nazi persecution for the interest of the United States Government in them. As my report shows, they are in need of attention and help. Up to this point, they have been "liberated" more in a military sense than actually.

For the reasons explained in the report their particular problems to this

time have not been given attention to any appreciable extent; consequently, they feel that they, who were in so many ways the first and worst victims of Nazism, are being neglected by their liberators.

Upon my request the Department of State authorized Dr. Joseph J. Schwartz to join me in the mission. Dr. Schwartz, European director of the American Joint



EARL G. HARRISON

Distribution Committee, was granted a leave of absence from that organization for the purpose of accompanying me. His long and varied experience in refugee problems as well as his familiarity with the Continent and the people made Dr. Schwartz a most valuable associate: this report represents our joint views, conclusions and recommendations.

During various portions of the trip I had, also, the assistance of Mr. Patrick M. Malin, vice director of the Intergovernmental Committee on Refugees, and Mr. Herbert Katzski of the War Refugee Board. These gentlemen, likewise, have had considerable experience in the refugee matters. Their assistance and cooperation were most helpful in the course of the survey.

I: Germany and Austria

Conditions

(1) Generally speaking, three months after V-E Day, and even longer after the liberation of individual groups, many Jewish displaced persons and other possibly non-repatriables are living under guard behind barbed-wire fences in camps of several descriptions (built by the Germans for slave laborers and Jews), including some of the most notorious of the concentration camps, amid crowded, frequently unsanitary and generally grim conditions, in complete idleness, with no opportunity, except surreptitiously, to communicate with the outside world, waiting, hoping for some words of encouragement and action in their behalf.

(2) While there has been marked improvement in the health of survivors of the Nazi starvation and persecution program, there are many pathetic malnutrition cases, both among the hospitalized and in the general population of the camps. The death rate has been high since liberation, as was to be expected. One Army chaplain, a rabbi, personally attended, since liberation, 23,000 burials (90 per cent. Jews) at Berger Belsen alone, one of the largest and most vicious of the concentration camps,

where, incidentally, despite persistent reports to the contrary, 14,000 displaced persons are still living, including over 7,000 Jews. At many of the camps and centers, including those where serious starvation cases are, there is a marked and serious lack of needed medical supplies.

Humiliating Garb

(3) Although some camp commandants have managed, in spite of the many obvious difficulties, to find clothing of one kind or another for their charges, many of the Jewish displaced persons, late in July, had no clothing other than their concentration camp garb—a rather hideous striped pajama effect—while others, to their chagrin, were obliged to wear German SS uniforms. It is questionable which clothing they hate the more.

(4) With a few notable exceptions, nothing in the way of a program of activity or organized effort toward rehabilitation has been inaugurated, and the internees, for they are literally such, have little to do except to dwell upon their plight, the uncertainty of their future and, what is more unfortunate, to draw comparisons between their treatment “under the Germans” and “in liberation.”

Beyond knowing that they are no longer in danger of the gas chambers, torture and other forms of violent death, they see—and there is—little change, the morale of those who are either stateless or who do not wish to return to their countries of nationality is very low. They have witnessed great activity and efficiency in returning people to their homes, but they hear or see nothing in the way of plans for them and consequently they wonder and frequently ask what “liberation” means.

This situation is considerably accentuated where, as in so many cases, they are able to look from their crowded and bare quarters and see the German civilian population, particularly in the rural areas, to all appearances living normal lives in their own homes.

(5) The most absorbing worry of these Nazi and war victims concerns relatives, wives, husbands, parents, children. Most of them have been separated for three, four or five years and they cannot understand why the liberators should not have undertaken immediately the organized effort to reunite family groups. Most of the very little which has been done in this direction has been informal action by the displaced persons themselves with the aid of devoted Army chaplains, frequently rabbis, and the American Joint Distribution Committee.

Broadcasts of names and locations by the Psychological Warfare Division at Luxembourg have been helpful, although the lack of receiving sets has handicapped the effectiveness of the program. Even where, as has been happening, information has been received as to relatives living in other camps in Germany, it depends on the personal attitude and disposition of the camp commandant whether permission can be obtained or assistance received to follow up on the information. Some camps commandants are quite rigid in this particular, while others lend every effort to join family groups.

(6) It is difficult to evaluate the food situation fairly, because one must be mindful of the fact that quite generally food is scarce and is likely to be more so during the winter ahead. On the other hand, in presenting the factual situation, one must raise the question as to how much longer many of these people, particularly those who have over such a long period felt persecution and near starvation, can survive on a diet composed principally of bread and coffee, irrespective of the caloric content.

In many camps, the 2,000 calories included 1,250 calories of a black, wet and extremely unappetizing bread. I received the distinct impression and considerable substantiating information that large numbers of the German population—again principally in the rural areas—have a more varied and palatable diet in their requisitions with the German burgomeister and many seemed to accept whatever he turned over as being the best that was available.

(7) Many of the buildings in which displaced persons are housed are clearly

unfit for winter use and everywhere there is great concern about the prospect of a complete lack of fuel. There is every likelihood that close to a million displaced persons will be in Germany and Austria when winter sets in. The outlook in many areas so far as shelter, food and fuel are concerned is anything but bright.

II: Needs of the Jews

While it is impossible to state accurately the number of Jews now in that part of Germany not under Russian occupation, all indications point to the fact that the number is small, with 100,000 probably the top figure; some informed persons contend the number is considerably smaller. The principal nationality groups are Poles, Hungarians, Rumanians, Germans and Austrians.

The first and plainest need of these people is a recognition of their actual status, and by this I mean their status as Jews. Most of them have spent years in the worst of the concentration camps. In many cases, although the full extent is not yet known, they are the sole survivors of their families and many have been through the agony of witnessing the destruction of their loved ones. Understandably, therefore, their present condition, physical and mental, is far worse than that of other groups.

While SHAEF (now combined displaced persons executive) policy directives have recognized formerly persecuted persons, including enemy and enemy nationals, as one of the special categories of displaced persons, the general practice thus far has been to follow only nationality lines. While admittedly it is not normally desirable to set aside

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A view of the notorious Dachau concentration camp.

Postwar Immigration Plans of Other Countries

Many Nations Still in Process of Formulating Policies, Analyst Finds, Adding Prevailing Trend Is Toward a Careful Selectivity

By J. OWEN O'NEAL

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With questions of postwar immigration policy under consideration here in the United States, it is of interest to know the attitudes of the other countries that may expect to receive immigrants now that the war is over. It is true that few if any countries have definitely committed themselves on their future immigration policy, but newspaper editorials, reports from private organizations, and statements from Government officials are available from a number of sources. Although not necessarily indicating what kind of policy will be adopted, such information shows the prevailing attitudes toward immigration in the principal receiving countries.

To judge by prewar migration, the principal countries of immigration in the immediate future, aside from the United States, are some of the British Dominions and the countries of Latin America. Notes are given below on the countries for which reports are available.

British Dominions

Canada—In Canada there has been considerable unofficial and semi-official discussion of postwar immigration policy. The view generally expressed is that Canada has land and opportunity available for a considerably larger population, and that an increase in the number of inhabitants would be to the advantage of the Dominion in the long run. There are, however, some notes of caution. For example, it is pointed out in a pamphlet prepared for the armed forces by Canada's Wartime Information Board, that the real question is:

"Can we look forward to an expanding economy with full employment? If so, we can invite immigrants knowing that when they get here jobs will be waiting for them in our factories and on our farms. If people from Europe are brought in under these conditions, the standard of living will not be lowered."¹

A related thought is expressed in another report, where it is stated that the way to increase the population of Canada through immigration is not to launch schemes for stimulating migration or land settlement, but rather to maintain a higher level of prosperity that will attract migrants.²

In editorial comment³ a distinction is drawn between the long range of desirability of immigrants for the develop-

ment of the country and the immediate problems of the postwar period. It is recognized that the first duty will be the re-employment of returning servicemen and women, and that immigration cannot be allowed to interfere with this process. By implication it is suggested that the long-run immigration policy may well diverge from that in the immediate postwar years.

Considerable interest has been expressed in the settlement in Canada of British servicemen, numbers of whom have indicated a desire to migrate to Canada after the war. It is reported that about half of the applications for emigration to Canada received at Ontario House in London are from men in the RAF who had been in Ontario for training, and that a considerable portion of other applicants are men with engineering and technical training. The number of agricultural workers making applications is negligible.⁴ Some twenty thousand British people are reported to have applied for permission to go to Ontario after the war, and the number of applications is said to be rising at the rate of five hundred per week.⁵

As in the United States, immigration policies in Canada for the postwar period are still under discussion. Opinion appears to be generally favorable toward immigration, especially toward that of British nationals, but question is raised with respect to immigration during the transitional period following the war.

Positive Immigration Policy

Australia—Australian opinion with respect to immigration has doubtless been considerably influenced by wartime experience. In 1943 Prime Minister Curtin announced the Cabinet's decision to establish a committee on immigration to Australia after the war. It is reported that the decision to form this committee was influenced by the view that Australia could not expect "to hold indefinitely this large continent with the small population it now possesses, and the fact that because of the declining birth rate the natural increase is negligible."⁶ It was the assignment of this committee to obtain factual information and to report to the Cabinet on the better absorption of British industrial workers into factory industry in Australia, on assistance to migrants, on the collection of informa-

tion concerning employment opportunity for migrants, and on means of facilitating the immigration of ex-servicemen and women.⁷ It has been reported that, with the end of the war, the government of Australia intends to embark on a positive immigration policy. Under this policy special emphasis would be given to the movement of British servicemen and selected children from Britain and Europe. Mention has been made of proposals to bring 17,000 children immigrants to Australia, and of conversations with representatives of the British and other governments with regard to obtaining suitable adult immigrants.⁸ Information pamphlets prepared for distribution to the armed forces cite the estimate that 20,000,000 people could live in Australia (present population approximately 7,000,000), and state that the Commonwealth will welcome immigrants after the war.⁹

New Zealand—Few statements have been noted regarding the plans of New Zealand for immigration after the war. A former Governor General, Viscount Bledsoe, is credited with the opinion that New Zealand has sufficient capacity to enable it to take in 5,000,000 immigrants within the next ten years and 10,000,000 within the next generation.¹⁰

Union of South Africa—The Union of South Africa presents a population markedly different from that of the others. The populations of Canada, Australia, and New Zealand are predominantly white and of British origin, but in South Africa only a little more than 2,000,000 out of a total population of ten and one-half million are white. Of the whites only 34 per cent. were reported as of British origin in the 1921 census. According to this census about 57 per cent. of the white population was of Dutch origin. This diversity of origins may influence preferences with respect to the national origins of immigrants. At the same time, the opinion is expressed that "it is widely accepted in South Africa that it would be desirable for its white population to be doubled within twenty-five years."¹¹

The Union's special needs with respect to the occupational distribution of immigrants were indicated by the Director General of Supplies, Dr. H. G. van der Byl, who stated that "if South Africa is to carry out the big industrial schemes

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now contemplated in postwar years the country will have to import skilled artisans of almost every class. It will be utterly impossible to carry out the proposed program with the labor available at the moment."¹²

Latin America

Advance indication of the position of the Latin American countries with respect to immigration was given by the Inter-American Demographic Congress, held at Mexico City in October of 1943. Among the resolutions adopted by the Congress were several relating to migration. Two resolutions were concerned with the health of migrants. Another recommended that the American Governments adopt measures to promote the assimilation of immigrants, and especially that provision be made for the education of immigrants in order to facilitate their adjustment. It was also recommended that each Western Hemisphere Government include consideration of immigration policy in the planning of its postwar program.

Mexico—Mexico has already indicated the direction of its immigration policy. The new immigration decree published in the fall of 1944 is said to have been based on conclusions reached at the Demographic Congress. By this decree nationals of Spain and of Western Hemisphere countries are accorded favored treatment, their immigration being subject only to the restrictions imposed by hemispheric defense and security laws. Nationals of other countries, however, are to be admitted only after close examination of each individual case. Migrants coming to Mexico with the intention of investing capital will be required, as heretofore, to deposit funds with designated banks, the deposit to accompany their application for admission. For Western Hemisphere and Spanish nationals the required deposit is equivalent to \$4,000, with \$500 as a guarantee of good intentions. For other immigrants in the so-called investor category, the requirements range from \$10,000 to \$20,000, with \$2,000 as guarantee. Preference is to be given to petitioners who intend to reside permanently in Mexico and who indicate a willingness to marry natives of that country. The admission of technicians of any sort is to be authorized only when there are no available specialists of like training in the country.¹³

It should be noted that the 1944 decree is not a departure from the immigration policy of the immediately preceding years. The regulations for the year 1941, issued by the Mexican Department of Interior¹⁴ and continued with little or no change in subsequent years, gave preference to citizens of Spain and the

Americas. It also gave preference to bachelors and to aliens declaring no race prejudice. The same financial requirements were imposed on investor immigrants as in the 1944 decree. The admission of technicians and members of the learned professions was restricted. It therefore appears that for the present at least Mexico is continuing the existing control of immigration with little or no modification.

Brazil—In Brazil a commission has been appointed to study migration problems and to propose legislation regulating immigration to that country. Among the proposals of this body, the Commission on Immigration and Colonization, are the following:¹⁵

1. The abandonment of the quota system, and the selection of immigrants according to their occupation or profession. Certain nationalities, however, may be preferred as being most readily assimilated.

2. The adoption of educational measures to expedite assimilation.

3. The restriction of permanent immigration to white people of the following categories:

- (a) Farming or agricultural technicians.
- (b) Husbands and wives of Brazilian-born citizens.
- (c) Parents of Brazilian-born children, and children of Brazilian-born parents.
- (d) Competent technicians thought to be potentially useful to the country.
- (e) Persons transferring to Brazil capital in the amount of \$20,000.
- (f) Persons who by reason of fame or knowledge are of exceptional value to the country.

It is further proposed that agricultural settlement be promoted through the creation of colonization companies and the establishment of agricultural colonies. In order to facilitate assimilation, the proportion of aliens in these colonies would be limited, as would the fraction of the colonists belonging to any one nationality.

It is apparently the intent of the Commission on Immigration and Colonization to hold immigrants on the land and to prevent their concentrating in cities. The Commission recommends that admission to Brazil be refused to aliens whose professions would require them to live in a city.

In addition to the work of the Commission, certain of the states of Brazil have independently interested themselves in postwar immigration. It is reported that the Secretary of Agriculture of the State of Minas Gerais has appointed a special commission, charged with outlining plans for settling 100,000 European immigrants after the war.¹⁶ Although incomplete at the time of report, the plans apparently call for the immigration of 20,000 families averag-

ing five persons each. The announced intention is to provide technical assistance, medical care and sufficient equipment, livestock, land and housing for each family unit. There has also been discussion of the possibility of bringing 200 Dutch families to the State of Rio Grande do Sul,¹⁷ and between 1,000 and 2,000 families of refugees from the Baltic countries to the State of Sao Paulo.

Other Latin American Countries

Only scattered information is available concerning the attitudes and intentions of the other Latin American countries, insofar as postwar immigration is concerned. It is reported that the Argentine National Academy of Moral and Political Sciences has undertaken inquiries into postwar immigration problems, but it is not known what conclusions have been reached. An official Committee on Refugees has been established in Venezuela for the purpose of encouraging immigration.¹⁸ Chinese exclusion laws have been repealed in Nicaragua¹⁹ and Ecuador.²⁰ Recent legislative decrees in Costa Rica, Honduras and Salvador have removed special restrictions on the immigration of Chinese nationals.²¹

Although thinking and planning about postwar immigration may have progressed further in many of the countries than is indicated by the reports at hand, it appears that the immigrant-receiving countries are still in the process of formulating their immigration policies. Certain of the countries appear to be genuinely interested in attracting immigrants. Elsewhere restrictive tendencies are in evidence. In general, the prevailing trend of thought in the countries that may expect to receive immigrants in the future appears to be toward an increasingly careful selection, with primary emphasis on the immediate needs and interests of the receiving country.

¹ Neal, Arthur, and Callaghan, Morley. *Millions of Immigrants*. Canadian Affairs Information Board, March, 1944.

² Cartwright, Stephen. *Population, Canada Problem*. Canadian Institute of International Affairs, 1941.

³ *Windsor (Ontario) Star*, March 17, 1945.

⁴ *New York Times*, June 18, 1944.

⁵ PEP. *People for the Commonwealth*. PEP Report No. 226. London, St. Clements Press, October, 1944.

⁶ Commonwealth government. A digest of decisions and announcements and important speeches by the Prime Minister, No. 66. October, 1943.

⁷ Ibid.

⁸ *New York Times*, December 13, 1944.

⁹ Ibid., May 15, 1944.

¹⁰ *People for the Commonwealth*.

¹¹ Ibid.

¹² Ibid.

¹³ *Inter-American*, December, 1944, p. 47.

¹⁴ *Diario Oficial*, October 15, 1940.

¹⁵ *Inter-American*, November, 1944, p. 10.

¹⁶ Rio de Janeiro, Correio da Manhã, November 15, 1944.

¹⁷ Ibid., December 8, 1944.

¹⁸ *Rescue*, May, 1945, p. 8.

¹⁹ *New York Times*, September 18, 1944.

²⁰ *International Labor Review*, 51:347. March, 1945.

²¹ Ibid.

UNRRA Plans All-Jewish Camps

Separate Establishments Seen as the Most Effective Way of Aiding Jewish Internees

By SOLOMON DINGOL

The work of Jewish organizations in behalf of Jewish concentration camp inmates would be more effective if co-operation were keener and more consistent and if efforts were made to avoid duplication.

This is the observation and opinion of Fred K. Hoehler, UNRRA Chief of the Displaced Persons Division, recently returned from Europe, where he visited camps harboring most of the internees.

The number of displaced persons in the various zones of Allied occupation as of July 29th of this year is broken down as follows:

British zone	1,083,434
American zone	728,197
French zone	151,209
Allied-Austrian zone	88,672

It is significant that of the "liaison officers" representing these interned people, 184 are French, 155 Russian, 122 Polish, 88 Belgian, 61 Dutch, 33 Italian, 23 Czechian, 4 Greek, and 3 Luxembourg—*but there is not a single representative of the Jewish internees.*

For the Jewish internees, therefore, there is no bridge between them and the Army authority under whose jurisdiction they now live; they have no voice to serve as their spokesman. This is, obviously, a highly undesirable situation and an analysis is in order.

Not Anti-Semitism

To intimate anti-Semitism would be a grave miscalculation and an injustice to the top commander of the American armed forces in Europe, General Eisenhower.

His order compelling the Germans to see with their own eyes the Nazi-made corpses at Dachau and Belsen, his coming to the Yom Kippur services of Jewish internees to give them words of cheer and hope, reveal his sympathetic and humanitarian character. And if further indications of General Eisenhower's broad outlook are required, one can point to the naming of Judge Simon H. Rifkind as a special consultant on Jewish problems in Germany on the General's staff.

Nor can one infer anti-Semitism in the United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration. American UNRRA appointees are in the main social workers among whom anti-Semitism finds short shrift. They come in contact with deep human suffering and pain, on a mass scale, and among normal people this can only evoke compassion, not hatred.

Mr. Hoehler, however, could not deny that "anti-Semitic incidents" have occurred in camps and that the lot of Jewish internees is a sad one.

I asked Mr. Hoehler why the Jewish internees have no representation, why Jewish organizations are not given the opportunity to provide Jewish internees with their most elementary needs.

Mr. Hoehler replied that Jewish organizations were indeed being permitted to enter the camps, and if their work is not evident or of no value to the internees, then responsibility must fall upon the Jewish organizations themselves.

"Why can't the Jewish organizations unify themselves and work together in a coordinated fashion, with a common program and representation rather than duplication of the work of one another? Why must they send people to the camps regardless of their competency, and request that only their people be permitted entry, and in the main accomplish very little for the morale and material welfare of the refugees?"

Could Be of Great Help

All UNRRA work in the camps is now being done by 346 UNRRA teams and 36 teams from private organizations representing 11 different nationalities.

If all of these organizations agree among themselves on their task, they can be of great help to the internees. Should they, however, work at odds, and each organization go scurrying to the Army officials with individual requests so as to get newspaper publicity on their great achievements, then they will only increase the confusion among the internees, make themselves ridiculous in the eyes of the officials, and give a distorted picture to non-Jewish internees who resent the "tremendous" efforts being made for the Jews!

For the chief obstacle of the Jewish internees is that here, too, as everywhere else, they are a minority:

In Lueneberg camp, for example, where there are thousands upon thousands of internees, there are only 600 Jews.

Four hundred Jews live among 8,000 Poles in Luebeck, among whom quite a few are infected with anti-Semitism.

In Brunschweig camp 350 Jews also live among thousands of Poles.

Hollandorf camp numbers only several hundred Jews among 20,000 Polish and Ukrainian internees.

The best way to help the Jewish internees would be to establish separate

camps for them, to which could be transferred Jews from the large camps in the British and American zones. They would then be rid of their anti-Semitic neighbors, and Jewish organizations would also be able to work more effectively among them. UNRRA is seriously considering such a plan.

The U. S. Army is planning to withdraw from the camps around the first of November, at which time UNRRA will take full control of them. Then, UNRRA officials feel, it will be possible to apply this plan.

How long does UNRRA intend to maintain these camps? How long can hundreds of thousands of people be confined in camps without a home being found for them?

I posed precisely these questions to Mr. Merrill Rogers, chief of UNRRA's Bureau of Information.

"We are sending people home as rapidly as we can," Mr. Rogers replied. "Of the 6,000,000 displaced people we took over from the Nazis, there now remain with us only 2,000,000. Four million have been returned to the lands of their origin.

"Among the internees, however, there is a sizable number of stateless people—a million, perhaps—who have neither home nor land to return to. We shall have to care for them a longer time, until the United Nations Organization, which was established at San Francisco, will find a solution and agree on what to do with them.

"UNRRA can maintain them only so long as the different countries provide the funds necessary for their upkeep. No private group will be able to do this."

The London dispatch on the shocking conditions of Jewish internees came as a surprise to UNRRA in Washington. No one in the U. S. capital city knew about it.

UNRRA Director Herbert H. Lehman told me categorically that he doubts whether a highly placed UNRRA official made such a report, for the official would first of all have reported the facts to him.

"The only official of importance who recently visited the camps was Mr. Hoehler, and Mr. Hoehler told me that he made no such statements. He admitted to me that there had been certain anti-Semitic occurrences, but that the guilty ones were immediately isolated from the camp workers, and that the conditions of the internees is now greatly improved. However, all of them still long for a home, for freedom, for a normal life. And so long as those things are denied them, they will feel themselves miserable outcasts."

Regrettably, it is not within UNRRA's hand to grant them those vital things—precisely what they need most.

Rescue

Bulletin of Information

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HIAS At Work

American Jewry, as the largest and most influential Jewish community in the world, has undertaken as its special responsibility the care of the surviving Jews of Europe. We, Jews, have wept over those who were butchered by the Nazis; we have highly resolved that those who remain shall be completely rehabilitated, and shall be enabled, through our help, to start their lives anew, under conditions of dignity.

European Jewry has two immediate needs—one is the need for relief, for food and for clothing; the other is to settle in places where Jews can earn a living, can secure justice, can be free from discrimination, and thus can lead once more a normal life.

HIAS has been made the trustee of American Jewry, its agent and its instrument, to meet this latter need of the surviving Jews of Europe.

Nazis Did Thorough Job

Victory has left the Jews a migratory people. Of those who were deported from their old homes by the Nazis, most died under the whip and club of the torturer, or in gas chambers or crematoriums. Those who survived cannot in many cases return to their old homes. For the Nazis did their job thoroughly. The Jew's source of livelihood in his old home is too often gone, and a heritage of anti-Semitism was left by the Nazis even in defeat.

Thus there are three types of essential migration through which the Jews are passing: some deportees will seek to return to their old homes, some will seek new countries in which to settle, and finally, some who succeeded in escaping to havens of refuge during the war, and who had hoped to remain in their new homes permanently, will wish to return to their former homes because their expectations in their new domiciles were not fulfilled.

Whatever the reason for migration, whatever the type of migration, the difficulties that face the individual Jew who

must migrate are simply staggering. HIAS offices in Europe must secure necessary travel documents, identity papers, exit visas, transit visas, passports, for the individual immigrant. Affidavits must be executed. Voluminous correspondence with the intending immigrant and his family must be carried on. In order to bring these services right to the doorstep of the prospective immigrants, HIAS has not only reopened its pre-war European offices, which were located in practically every country in Europe, but has opened new offices in sections where there are large concentrations of Jews.

Supplemental Help Needed

But the immigrant not only needs technical assistance—he needs financial assistance as well. For while the Allied Nations have promised that they will help in certain phases of repatriation, it is clear that supplemental financial help will be needed, and HIAS has already given its assurances to the various governments concerned that it will provide such help. An example close to home was the Fort Ontario Shelter for Refugees. Here the Government of the United States made provision for the needs of the shelter inhabitants, but this provision had to be and was supplemented by HIAS. And some of those who were at the shelter, and who are either reemigrating, or are planning to join relatives in other countries, have already been helped with respect to transportation by HIAS.

During the war many Jews sought to emigrate to Palestine, and HIAS provided necessary technical assistance and participated in covering the transportation expense of many hundreds of them. HIAS expects to continue these services at an accelerated pace.

During the war, too, HIAS enabled refugees to reach safe shores in North Africa, Portugal, Spain and Switzerland, where HIAS offices continued to guard their interests. In the Far East, the HIAS office was the only one to function, rendering service to refugees and acting as the instrumentality for other agencies, including the International Red Cross.

Since many European Jews hope to come to the United States, reopening of American consulates in Europe since the war has caused a sharp increase in the volume of work of the HIAS American headquarters, as well as the European offices.

But there are services connected with immigration which begin long before the first active steps for immigration are taken, and continue after the immigrant has arrived at his destination.

Before immigration the first thought of the scattered Jewish families of Europe is reunion, and to get in contact with their relatives abroad. HIAS Location Service has received more than 150,000 inquiries concerning members of 40,000 families. And HIAS European offices have supplemented the regular location machinery by making direct inquiries in their various zones of operation. Already more than 10,000 Europeans thus inquired for have been located, and the number is growing every day.

Where relatives are located they desire to be of immediate help to their suffering brethren abroad. Under license from the United States Government HIAS acts as a forwarding agency for Americans sending money, and food and clothing packages, to relatives abroad. Thus suffering is eased, while plans for migration go forward.

'To Smooth His Path'

After an immigrant arrives at his country of destination, he needs help to become adjusted to his new country. Wherever he may go, there he will find local HIAS committees to welcome him, to smooth his path, to give him assistance until he is settled, and to speed the process of integration into his new land.

In South and Central America, particularly, to which many are now turning their hopes for the future, HIAS committees have extended their activities. They intervene with their respective governments on behalf of the immigrants, and they have done much to create a favorable public opinion toward enlarging immigration possibilities in these countries.

In the United States, of course, HIAS with its experience of 60 years, continues to carry on the activities on behalf of immigrants. Boats bearing Jewish passengers are met on arrival. The immigrants are helped to clear through the immigration authorities, their cases are taken up in Washington where necessary, and they are sheltered by HIAS until they leave for their ultimate destinations.

That then is the job of HIAS: to reunite scattered families, to locate relatives, to act as agent for American Jews seeking to help their relatives abroad, to give Jews technical and financial assistance to migrate, and to guard their interests in their new countries.

On the Rescue Front

Warmhearted GIs Helping Displaced Persons Locate American Relatives

Show Sympathy Not by Words, But by Exercise Of Skill and Initiative, Says HIAS President

The American soldier's warmheartedness, initiative and efficiency combine to speed up the locating of American relatives who are sought by displaced people in Europe, according to Abraham Herman, president of HIAS. The organization conducts a Location Service to put members of families which have been dispersed by the Nazis in touch with one another.

Mr. Herman cited a letter from an AMG officer concerning the plight of eight Polish girl refugees as typical of the letters his organization frequently receives from soldiers abroad.

"The clipped military language of some of the communications serves to heighten, rather than conceal, the evident emotion of these soldiers at the horrors which these victims of the Nazis have suffered," Mr. Herman said. "They show their sympathy not by words alone, but by conducting skilled intensive questioning of those they are seeking to help, so that all pertinent facts that will assist in locating their relatives are elicited."

Eight Girls

"The amount of information crammed into this one letter is amazing, and has already enabled us to locate two relatives of the eight girls," Mr. Herman said. "We expect that the others will be found soon."

Mr. Herman added that the data supplied in the letter graphically pictured the ruthlessness with which the Nazis exterminated whole families.

The eight refugees were found by the AMG officer in a captured concentration camp located in the outskirts of Zwodau, Austria. The officer's letter to HIAS describes the cases of the eight girls as "urgent," for "in each instance they represent the sole surviving members of their branch of their families." They have been shifted about from place to place, and "during the last three years they have been in at least five concentration camps."

The youngest of the girls, Estera Brum, 20, was born in Lomza, Poland. Her father, mother, two brothers and two sisters, according to HIAS' Army informant, were executed at Katowice. Her 23-year-old sister was also an inmate of

the Zwodau camp and still survives. The sisters asked the Army officials to locate two brothers, Hersch and Chaim Brum, in Paraguay. A check at the HIAS Location Service showed that an aunt in New York, of whose existence the sisters were evidently unaware, had filed a tracer for the family some time ago. She has been notified that the two sisters are still alive.

Cousin in New York

Twenty-two-year-old Jaspa Weismann, born in Bialystok, Poland, was one of eight children. HIAS' informant states that her father and mother, three sisters and a brother, were executed at Katowice. The whereabouts of the other brother, Abram, 19 years old, are unknown. Miss Weismann asked the American Officer to help her locate Meyer Isidore Rosenberg, aged 40, residing somewhere in New York City. Mr. Rosenberg is said to have a wife, Minnie, one son and three daughters.

Mr. Rosenberg is also sought by his niece, Leah Weisenfeld, 30, born in Bialystok, Poland. Her father, mother, two sisters and a brother were executed at Katowice.

The father, mother and brother of Helena Buchweiss Lichtenstein, age 23, born in Bendzin, Poland, were executed at Maidanek. Her husband, Mordecai, was last seen in Maidanek, but his fate has not been definitely established. The whereabouts of a brother, Wolf, are unknown. Mrs. Lichtenstein asked the Army officer to locate a friend of her family, Jacob Lever, who is presumed to be a resident of New York City.

The husband of Guta Weisman Brotlieb, 23 years of age, was last seen at Maidanek. The whereabouts of her father are unknown. Mrs. Brotlieb seeks to locate an uncle, Jacob Halbfish, "who has two daughters and a son, and who came to the United States from Warsaw in 1928."

Maria Kazanowska had a brother, Moses Blumstein, "last seen at Maidanek, and presumed dead." She seeks to locate an uncle, Solomon Kazan, of the Bronx.

Hela Levenson Cimerman, 26, born in Lipno, Poland, knows nothing concerning the whereabouts of her father, her two sisters, and her husband, all

victims of the Nazis. Mrs. Cimerman sought a cousin, an executive of a New York knitting mill, who has been notified, and has already sent her assistance.

HICEM Arranges Emigration of 226 From Paris to Palestine

The recent departure from Paris of a group of 226 emigrants bound for Palestine has been announced by the Paris office of the HIAS-ICA Emigration Association, which overcame many complications and difficulties to make all necessary arrangements.

Every emigrant had a reserved place on a Paris-to-Marseilles express train, with children and elderly persons accommodated in first and second class cars. "Thanks to the sympathetic cooperation of the French authorities," the Hicem report states, "every emigrant had hot beverages and a sufficient quantity of food on departure and while en route."

The 226 emigrants are part of a group numbering about one thousand, composed, besides them, of 335 from Belgium, 360 from Switzerland, 90 from the Philippeville camp, and 90 from German camps.

At a farewell party tendered the departees in Paris by the Hechalutz, the Hicem representative was "enthusiastically acclaimed." The work of Hicem and the humanitarian attitude of its personnel were praised.

Sisters Sail on First French Ship Going to South America

Three Jewish emigrants to Paraguay were aboard the S.S. *Groix*, the first French vessel sailing to South America since the liberation of France, it is announced by Paris Hicem, which succeeded in making arrangements for the emigrants.

Two of the emigrants are sisters, former inmates of the notorious Nazi concentration camp at Auschwitz, and the only survivors of a family of 57.

Hicem managed to place the emigrants aboard the *Groix*, despite the fact that it had been reserved exclusively for military and government officials.

Admission of Oswego Residents Urged by Rep. Dickstein

Calling for the closing of the Oswego camp, Congressman Samuel Dickstein, chairman of the House's Committee on Immigration and Naturalization, has petitioned the United States Government to set about releasing the 980 refugees of the Fort Ontario shelter. Mr. Dick-

stein, criticizing the State Department for delaying the release of the refugees, stressed the need for action without delay and pointed out that no new legislation was required to accomplish it.

"Existing laws give ample authority to our Government to permit the admission of these persons," Mr. Dickstein stated on the basis of the findings of a special sub-committee he headed and which investigated the Oswego situation.

The first step, he said, ought to be the shutting of the camp, for the investigating committee has asserted that the center is "inadvisable, unwarranted and should be discontinued." Closure would save \$600,000 a year and all that is needed to give the Oswego residents the status of illegal aliens—in which capacity they could stay here for a short time under bond—is a ruling to that effect from the Attorney General.

Several Jewish organizations are prepared to pledge a million dollar bond and aid these persons until they can proceed to Canada and return legally, in a matter of days, under quotas which have been open since the war.

Nazi Atom Bomb Plant Used To Shelter Jewish Refugees

A group of 104 Sephardic Jews who embarked at Toulon for repatriation to Greece, Aug. 17, on the steamer *Ascanius*, were unwitting witnesses to the grim race between the United States and Germany for the secret of atomic bombing, when they found shelter in a German atomic bomb laboratory, according to a cable received by HIAS from its European affiliate, the HIAS-ICA Emigration Assn.

Domiciled in Greece, but claiming Spanish nationality, the group was deported from Greece by the Nazis in April of last year, and imprisoned at the notorious BergenBelsen Concentration Camp. Since that time they have been under the care of four governments and the United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration, and are now completing their modern Odyssey under the supervision of the HIAS-ICA organization.

On the basis of their Spanish nationality, Spain succeeded in having them shifted to another, and presumably less fearsome German prison camp. Their comparative safety was short lived, for they were put aboard an eastbound death train, destined for an extermination camp.

The train was captured by American troops who found shelter for the group in the immense Nazi meeting hall near Wolfenbittel, but soon after the hall was set ablaze in an artillery battle.

Again American troops came to the rescue, and transported them to a huge

enclosure at Hitlersleben, now known to have been the scene of Nazi experimental work on the atomic bomb. At that time it was just another temporary haven to this group of harassed and driven Jews.

Three weeks later, the group succeeded in joining a train carrying liberated Belgian prisoners of war, and were transported to Brussels. They were cared for by the Belgian government for ten weeks while awaiting repatriation.

UNRRA then directed them to Marseilles, whence they were transported with the assistance of HIAS-ICA, who provided them with technical and financial assistance. The French government supplied the group with food and lodging for 19 days.

American trucks carried them to Toulon, whence they embarked for Tarranto, Italy, to be transshipped for Greece.

Stowaway Refugee Saved From Deportation by HIAS

The harsh letter of the law was mitigated, and justice triumphed, when young Ignac Schreckinger, war refugee with a record of thrilling escapes from the Nazis, was permitted to enter the United States. This will enable him later to adjust his immigration status and avoid deportation as a stowaway.

HIAS, by intervening in the refugee's case, and locating relatives who agreed to look after his welfare, helped to bring about this result.

Schreckinger, who is 21 years of age, and a native of Poland, was left the sole surviving member of his family after the Nazi massacres and deportations. Throughout the war he was confined in concentration camps. In 1943 he escaped, and managed to secure employment on a farm, using the identity papers of a non-Jew which had been given him by a friend. After liberation by the Allied armed forces he was given an assignment as interpreter by the United States Army, and was highly commended for his work.

With all his near relations wiped out and no home to which he could return, Schreckinger's heart turned to the United States, where he had two uncles. He had no visa, no passport, no one of the very many documents that immigrants nowadays require. The lad nevertheless crossed the Atlantic in the hold of a freighter, and arrived in New York. Denied admission to the United States because of the lack of necessary documents, the lad's story so touched the United States District Attorney that he decided not to prosecute him under the provisions of the United States Stowaway Act.

Meanwhile, HIAS filed an appeal in Washington, and contacted Schreck-



ILJA DIJOUR

Dijour Leaves for Europe On HIAS Survey Mission

Ilja M. Dijour, executive secretary of the HIAS-ICA Emigration Association, left this month aboard the S.S. *Argentina* for Germany to make a thorough survey for HIAS as to the needs and facilities for repatriation and emigration of Jewish camp internees. Mr. Dijour is an outstanding authority on emigration matters.

Carrying credentials to the Intergovernmental Committee for Refugees in London, and to high Allied military officers in Europe, Mr. Dijour will make his permanent office in Paris as secretary general of HIAS-ICA, with which he has been connected for the past 21 years.

A testimonial dinner was tendered Mr. Dijour a week before his departure by the Society of Russian Jews, the Society of French Jews and the Yiddish Scientific Institute, at which leading representatives of American Jewry discussed immigration problems.

Among the speakers were Abraham Herman, president of HIAS, Solomon Dingol, vice president of HIAS, and Isaac L. Asofsky, executive director of HIAS, all of whom expressed confidence in Mr. Dijour's ability to fulfill his mission ably and with distinction.

inger's uncles in the United States—a Mr. Henry S. Ingber, in Wichita, Kansas, and Mr. Eugene Blazer in Omaha, Nebraska.

The appeal was successful and the boy was paroled for six months, during which time he will be permitted to adjust his immigration status and enter the country in accordance with the immigration laws. He is now living with his uncle in Wichita.

Report to the President on Plight of Jews In Concentration Camps of Occupied Germany

(Continued from Page 2)

particular racial or religious groups from their nationality categories, the plain truth is that this was done for so long by the Nazis that a group has been created which has special needs. Jews as Jews (not as members of their nationality groups) have been more severely victimized than the non-Jewish members of the same or other nationalities.

When they are now considered only as members of nationality groups, the result is that special attention cannot be given to their admittedly greater needs because, it is contended, doing so would constitute preferential treatment and lead to trouble with the non-Jewish portion of the particular nationality group.

Thus there is a distinctly unrealistic approach to the problem. Refusal to recognize the Jews as such has the effect, in this situation, of closing one's eyes to their former and more barbaric persecution, which has already made them a separate group with greater needs.

Anxious to Leave

Their second great need can be presented only by discussing what I found to be their wishes as to future destinations.

(1) For reasons that are obvious and need not be labored, most Jews want to leave Germany and Austria as soon as possible. That is their first and great expressed wish, and while this report necessarily deals with other needs present in the situation, many of the people themselves fear other suggestions or plans for their benefit, because of the possibility that attention might thereby be diverted from the all-important matter of evacuation from Germany.

Their desire to leave Germany is an urgent one. The life which they have led for the past ten years, a life of fear and wandering and physical torture, has made them impatient of delay. They want to be evacuated to Palestine now, just as other national groups are being repatriated to their homes. They do not look kindly on the idea of waiting around in idleness and in discomfort in a German camp for many months until a leisurely solution is found for them.

(2) Some wish to return to their countries of nationality, but as to this there is considerable nationality variation. Very few Polish or Baltic Jews wish to return to their countries; higher percentages of the Hungarian and Rumanian groups want to return, although

some hasten to add that it may be only temporarily, in order to look for relatives. Some of the German Jews, especially those who have intermarried, prefer to stay in Germany.

(3) With respect to possible places of resettlement for those who may be stateless or who do not wish to return to their homes, Palestine is definitely and preeminently the first choice. Many now have relatives there while others, having experienced intolerance and persecution in their homelands for years, feel that only in Palestine will they be welcomed and find peace and quiet and be given an opportunity to live and work. In the case of the Polish and the

United States, where they have relatives, others to England, the British Dominions, or to South America.

Thus the second great need is the prompt development of a plan to get out of Germany and Austria as many as possible of those who wish it.

Otherwise the needs and wishes of the Jewish groups among the displaced persons can be simply stated: Among their physical needs are clothing and shoes (most sorely needed), more varied and palatable diet, medicines, beds and mattresses, reading materials. The clothing for the camps, too, is requisitioned from the German population, and whether there is not sufficient quantity to be had or the German population has not been willing or has not been compelled to give up sufficient quantity, the internees feel particularly bitter about



Dachau ovens.

Baltic Jews, the desire to go to Palestine is based in a great majority of the cases on a love for the country and devotion to the Zionist ideal. It is also true, however, that there are many who wish to go to Palestine because they realize that their opportunity to be admitted into the United States or into other countries in the Western Hemisphere is limited, if not impossible. Whatever the motive which causes them to turn to Palestine, it is undoubtedly true that the great majority of the Jews now in Germany do not wish to return to those countries from which they came.

Need Prompt Plan

(4) Palestine, while clearly the choice of most, is not the only named place of possible emigration. Some, but the number is not large, wish to emigrate to the

the state of their clothing when they see how well the German population is still dressed. The German population today is still the best dressed population in all of Europe.

III: How Needs Are Being Met

Aside from having brought relief from the fear of extermination, hospitalization for the serious starvation cases and some general improvement in conditions under which the remaining displaced persons are compelled to live, relatively little beyond the planning stage has been done, during the period of mass repatriation, to meet the special needs of the formerly persecuted groups.

UNRRA, being neither sufficiently organized or equipped, nor authorized to operate displaced persons camps or centers on any large scale, has not been in

position to make any substantial contribution to the situation. Regrettably there has been a disinclination on the part of many camp commandants to utilize UNRRA personnel even to the extent available, though it must be admitted that in many situations this resulted from unfortunate experiences Army officers had with UNRRA personnel who were unqualified and inadequate for the responsibility involved. Then, too, in the American and British Zones, it too frequently occurred that UNRRA personnel did not include English-speaking members, and this hampered proper working relationships.

Under these circumstances UNRRA, to which has been assigned the responsibility for co-ordinating activities of private social welfare agencies, has been in an awkward position when it came to considering and acting upon proposals of one kind or another submitted by well qualified agencies which would aid and supplement military and UNRRA responsibilities. The result has been that, up to this point, very few private social agencies are working with displaced persons, including the Jews, although the situation cries out for their services in many different ways.

It must be said, too, that because of their preoccupations with mass repatriation and because of housing, personnel and transport difficulties, the military authorities have shown considerable resistance to the entrance of voluntary agency representatives, no matter how qualified they might be to help meet existing needs of displaced persons.

IV: Conclusions, Recommendations

1. Now that the worst of the pressure of mass repatriation is over, it is not unreasonable to suggest that in the next and perhaps more difficult period those who have suffered most and longest be given first and not last attention.

Specifically, in the days immediately ahead, the Jews in Germany and Austria should have the first claim upon the conscience of the people of the United States and Great Britain and the military and other personnel who represent them in work being done in Germany and Austria.

2. Evacuation from Germany should be the emphasized theme, policy and practice.

(A) Recognizing that repatriation is most desirable from the standpoint of all concerned, the Jews who wish to return to their own countries should be aided to do so without further delay. Whatever special action is needed to accomplish this with respect to countries of reception or consent of military or other au-

thorities, should be undertaken with energy and determination. Unless this and other action, about to be suggested, is taken substantial unofficial and unauthorized movements of people must be expected, and these will require considerable force to prevent, for the patience of many of the persons involved is, and in my opinion with justification, nearing the breaking point. It cannot be overemphasized that many of these people are now desperate, that they have become accustomed under German rule to employ every possible means to reach their end, and that the fear of death does not restrain them.

(B) With respect to those who do not, for good reason, wish to return to their homes, prompt planning should likewise be undertaken. In this connection, the issue of Palestine must be faced. Now that such large numbers are no longer involved and if there is any genuine sympathy for what these survivors have endured, some reasonable extension or modification of the British White Paper of 1939 ought to be possible without too serious repercussions. For some of the European Jews, there is no acceptable or even decent solution for their future other than Palestine. This is said on a purely humanitarian basis with no reference to ideological or political considerations so far as Palestine is concerned.

It is my understanding, based upon reliable information, that certificates for immigration to Palestine will be practically exhausted by the end of the current month (August, 1945). What is the future to be? To anyone who has visited the concentration camps and who has talked with the despairing survivors, it is nothing short of calamitous to contemplate that the gates of Palestine should be soon closed.

The Jewish Agency of Palestine has submitted to the British Government a petition that 100,000 additional immigration certificates be made available. A memorandum accompanying the petition makes a persuasive showing with respect to the immediate absorptive capacity of Palestine and the current, actual manpower shortages there.

Would Aid Sound Solution

While there may be room for difference of opinion as to the precise number of such certificates which might under the circumstances be considered reasonable, there is no question but that the request thus made would, if granted, contribute much to the sound solution for the future of Jews still in Germany and Austria and even other displaced Jews, who do not wish either to remain there or to return to their countries of nationality.

No other single matter is, therefore, so important from the viewpoint of Jews in Germany and Austria and those elsewhere who have known the horrors of the concentration camps as is the disposition of the Palestine question.

Dr. Hugh Dalton, a prominent member of the new British Government, is reported as having said at the Labor party conference in May, 1945:

"This party has laid it down and repeated it so recently as last April * * * that this time, having regard to the unspeakable horrors that have been perpetrated upon the Jews of Germany and other occupied countries in Europe, it is morally wrong and politically indefensible to impose obstacles to the entry into Palestine now of any Jews who desire to go there. * * *

"We have also stated clearly that this is not a matter which should be regarded as one for which the British Government alone should take responsibility, but as it comes, as do many others, in the international field, it is indispensable that there should be close agreement and cooperation among the British, American and Soviet Governments, particularly if we are going to get a sure settlement in Palestine and the surrounding countries. * * *

If this can be said to represent the viewpoint of the new Government in Great Britain, it certainly would not be inappropriate for the United States Government to express its interest in and support of some equitable solution of the question, which would make it possible for some reasonable number of Europe's persecuted Jews, now homeless under any fair view, to resettle in Palestine. That is their wish and it is rendered desirable by the generally-accepted policy of permitting family groups to unite or reunite.

(C) The United States should, under existing immigration laws, permit reasonable numbers of such persons to come here, again particularly those who have family ties in this country. As indicated earlier, the number who desire emigration to the United States is not large.

Need Humanitarian Example

If Great Britain and the United States were to take the actions recited, it might the more readily be that other countries would likewise be willing to keep their doors reasonably open for such humanitarian considerations and to demonstrate in a practical manner their disapproval of Nazi policy, which unfortunately has poisoned so much of Europe.

(3) To the extent that such emigration from Germany and Austria is de-

layed, some immediate temporary solution must be found. In any event there will be a substantial number of persecuted persons who are not physically fit or otherwise presently prepared for emigration.

Here I feel strongly that greater and more extensive effort should be made to get them out of camps, for they are sick of living in camps. In the first place, there is real need for such specialized places as (a) tuberculosis sanatoria, and (b) rest homes for those who are mentally ill or who need a period of readjustment before living again in the world at large—anywhere. Some will require at least short periods of training or retraining before they can be really useful citizens.

But speaking more broadly, there is an opportunity here to give some real meaning to the policy agreed upon at Potsdam. If it be true, as seems to be widely conceded, that the German people at large do not have any sense of guilt with respect to the war and its causes and results, and if the policy is to be "to convince the German people that they have suffered a total military defeat and that they cannot escape responsibility for what they have brought upon themselves," it is difficult to understand why so many displaced persons, particularly those who have so long been persecuted and whose repatriation or resettlement is likely to be delayed, should be compelled to live in crude, overcrowded camps, while the German people, in rural areas, continue undisturbed in their homes.

As matters now stand, we appear to be treating the Jews as the Nazis treated them, except that we do not exterminate them. They are in concentration camps in large numbers under our military guard, instead of SS troops. One is led to wonder whether the German people, seeing this, are not supposing that we are following or at least condoning Nazi policy.

Too Small a Scale

It seems much more equitable, and as it should be, to witness the very few places where fearless and uncompromising military officers have either requisitioned an entire village for the benefit of displaced persons, compelling the German population to find housing where they can, or have required the local population to billet a reasonable number of them.

Thus the displaced persons, including the persecuted, live more like normal people and less like prisoners or criminals or herded sheep. They are in Germany, most of them and certainly the Jews, through no fault or wish of their

own. This fact is, in this fashion, being brought home to the German people, but it is being done on too small a scale.

At many places, however, the military government officers manifest the utmost reluctance or indisposition, if not timidity, about inconveniencing the German population. They even say that their job is to get communities working properly and soundly again, that they must "live with the Germans while the DPS (displaced persons) are a more temporary problem."

Thus (and I am ready to cite the example) if a group of Jews are ordered to vacate their temporary quarters, needed for military purposes, and there are two possible sites, one a block of flats (model apartments) with conveniences, and the other a series of shabby buildings with outside toilet and washing facilities, the Burgomeister readily succeeds in persuading the town mayor to allot the latter to the displaced persons and to save the former for returning German civilians.

This tendency reflects itself in other ways, namely, in the employment of German civilians in the offices of Military Government when equally qualified personnel could easily be found among the displaced persons whose repatriation is not imminent. Actually, there have been situations where displaced persons, especially Jews, have found it difficult to obtain audiences with military government authorities, because ironically, they have been obliged to go through German employees who have not facilitated matters.

Eager to Work

Quite generally, insufficient use is made of the services of displaced persons. Many of them are able and eager to work, but apparently they are not considered in this regard. While appreciating that language difficulties are sometimes involved, I am convinced that, both within and outside camps, greater use could be made of the personal services of those displaced persons who in all likelihood will be on hand for some time. Happily, in some camps every effort is made to utilize the services of the displaced persons, and these are apt to be the best camps in all respects.

(4) To the extent that (a) evacuation from Germany and Austria is not immediately possible, and (b) the formerly persecuted groups cannot be housed in villages or billeted with the German population, I recommend urgently that separate camps be set up for Jews, or at least for those who wish, in the absence of a better solution, to be

in such camps. There are several reasons for this: (1) A great majority want it; (2) it is the only way in which administratively their special needs and problems can be met without charges of preferential treatment or (oddly enough) charges of "discrimination" with respect to Jewish agencies now prepared and ready to give them assistance.

In this connection, I wish to emphasize that it is not a case of singling out a particular group for special privileges. It is a matter of raising to a more normal level the position of a group which has been depressed to the lowest depths conceivable by years of organized and inhuman oppression. The measures necessary for their restitution do not come within any reasonable interpretation of privileged treatment and are required by considerations of justice and humanity.

There has been some tendency at spots in the direction of separate camps for those who might be found to be stateless or non-repatriable or whose repatriation is likely to be deferred some time. Actually, too, this was announced some time ago as SHAEF policy, but in practice it has not been taken to mean much, for there is (understandably if not carried too far) a refusal to contemplate possible statelessness and an insistence, in the interests of the large repatriation program, to consider all as repatriable. This results in a resistance to anything in the way of special planning for the "hard core," although all admit it is there and will inevitably appear.

While speaking of camps, this should be pointed out: While it may be that conditions in Germany and Austria are still such that certain control measures are required, there seems little justification for the continuance of barbed-wire fences, armed guards and prohibition against leaving camp except by passes, which at some places are illiberally granted. Prevention of looting is given as the reason for these stern measures, but it is interesting that in portions of the Seventh Army area, where greater liberty of movement in and out of camps is given, there is actually much less plundering than in other areas where people, wishing to leave camp temporarily, do so by stealth.

Insufficient Cooperation

(5) As quickly as possible the actual operation of such camps should be turned over to a civilian agency—UNRRA. That organization is aware of weaknesses in its present structure and is pressing to remedy them. In that connection, it is believed that greater assistance could be given by the military authorities, upon whom any civilian agency in Germany and Austria today is

necessarily dependent, so far as housing, transport and other items are concerned. While it is true that military have been urging UNRRA to get ready to assume responsibility, it is also the fact that insufficient cooperation of an active nature has been given to accomplish the desired end.

(6) Since, in any event, the military authorities must necessarily continue to participate in the program for all displaced persons, especially with respect to housing, transport, security and certain supplies, it is recommended that there be a review of the military personnel elected for camp commandant positions. Some serving at present, while perhaps adequate for the mass repatriation job, are manifestly unsuited for the longer-term job of working in a camp composed of people whose repatriation or resettlement is likely to be delayed. Officers who have had some background or experience in social welfare work are to be preferred, and it is believed there are some who are available. It is most important that the officers selected be sympathetic with the program and that they be temperamentally able to work and to cooperate with UNRRA and other relief and welfare agencies.

7. Pending the assumption of responsibility for operations by UNRRA, it would be desirable if a more extensive plan of field visitation by appropriate Army group headquarters be instituted. It is believed that many of the conditions now existing in the camps would not be tolerated if more intimately known by supervisory officers through inspection tours.

8. It is urgently recommended that plans for tracing services, if on open postal card only, be made available to displaced persons within Germany and Austria as soon as possible. The difficulties are appreciated, but it is believed that if the anxiety of the people, so long abused and harassed, were fully understood, ways and means could be found within the near future to make such communication and tracing of relatives possible. I believe also that some of the private agencies could be helpful in this direction if given an opportunity to function.

V: Other Comments

While I was instructed to report con-

ditions as I found them, the following should be added to make the picture complete:

(1) A gigantic task confronted the occupying armies in Germany and Austria in getting back to their homes as many as possible of the more than 6,000,000 displaced persons found in those countries. Less than three months after V-E Day, more than 4,000,000 of such persons have been repatriated—a phenomenal performance. One's first impression, in surveying the situation, is that of complete admiration for what has been accomplished by the military authorities in so materially reducing the time as predicted to be required for this stupendous task. Praise of the highest order is due all military units with respect to this phase of post-fighting jobs. In directing attention to existing conditions which unquestionably require remedying, there is no intention or wish to detract one particle from the preceding statements.

A Prediction Confirmed

(2) While I did not actually see conditions as they existed immediately after liberation I had them described in detail sufficient to make entirely clear that there had been, during the intervening period, some improvement in the conditions under which most of the remaining displaced persons are living. Reports which have come out of Germany informally from refugees themselves and from persons interested in refugee groups indicate something of a tendency not to take into account the full scope of the overwhelming tasks and responsibilities facing the military authorities. While it is understandable that those who have been persecuted and otherwise mistreated over such a long period should be impatient at what appears to them to be undue delay in meeting their special needs, fairness dictates that, in evaluating the progress made, the entire problem and all its ramifications be kept in mind. My effort has been, therefore, to weigh quite carefully the many complaints made to me in the course of my survey, both by displaced persons themselves and in their behalf, in the light of the many responsibilities which confronted the military authorities.

(3) While for the sake of brevity this report necessarily consisted largely of

general statements, it should be recognized that exceptions exist with respect to practically all of such generalizations. One high-ranking military authority predicted, in advance of my trip through Germany and Austria, that I would find, with respect to camps containing displaced persons, "some that are quite good, some that are very bad, with the average something under satisfactory." My subsequent trip confirmed that prediction in all respects.

In order to file this report promptly, so that possibly some remedial steps might be considered at as early a date as possible, I have not taken time to analyze all of the notes made in the course of the trip or to comment on the situation in France, Belgium, Holland or Switzerland, also visited. Accordingly, I respectfully request that this report be considered as partial in nature. The problems present in Germany and Austria are much more serious and difficult than in any of the other countries named and this fact, too, seemed to make desirable the filing of a partial report immediately upon completion of the mission.

In conclusion, I wish to repeat that the main solution, in many ways the only real solution, of the problem lies in the quick evacuation of all non-repatriable Jews in Germany and Austria, who wish it, to Palestine. In order to be effective, this plan must not be long delayed. The urgency of the situation should be recognized. It is inhuman to ask people to continue to live for any length of time under their present conditions. The evacuation of the Jews of Germany and Austria to Palestine will solve the problem of the individuals involved and will also remove a problem from the military authorities who have had to deal with it.

The Army's ability to move millions of people quickly and efficiently has been amply demonstrated. The evacuation of a relatively small number of Jews from Germany and Austria will present no great problem to the military. With the end of the Japanese war, the shipping situation should also become sufficiently improved to make such a move feasible.

The civilized world owes it to this handful of survivors to provide them with a home where they can again settle down and begin to live as human beings.

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