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Organization for Rehabilitation Training (ORT), 1925-1939.



# ORT RECONSTRUCTION FUND

103 PARK AVENUE

NEW YORK CITY

Telephone Ashland 5850-1-2-3

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September 15, 1925.

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Rabbi A. H. Silver  
The Temple  
East 105th Street  
Cleveland, Ohio

My dear Rabbi Silver:-

Knowing of your deep interest in the negotiations between the European ORT and the Soviet representatives, aiming to completely legalize the ORT work in Russia, I am enclosing copy of a news release, this date, which we are submitting to the press of the Nation. The release has been collated from cables and letters which we have received from Berlin during the past three days. You will also find a release covering our most recent cable from Dr. Henry Moskowitz announcing among other things his start for Russia.

Supplementing the release I want to herewith quote from a letter addressed to the Central Board of the ORT by A. Weinstein of Odessa, who is the Russian representative of the European ORT, as well as a copy of a telegram sent by Weinstein. The quotation from the letter follows:

"Central Board ORT Society - #217

Dear Friends:-

I have received your telegram of the 3rd inst., telling "Your telegram 31 find important quicken distribution loans from sums assigned-if mandate scheme satisfactory propose sign".

The mandate scheme has been sent to you by air mail on the 1st inst., and I may hope that you have received it in due time. As I have already written, this scheme was worked out by me in collaboration with the Chairman of the Odessa ORT. If the scheme finds your approbation, please forward it copied and duly signed either to the Central Board of the ORT in Moscow or directly to Charkow to Sudarski, in order to get it confirmed by the Commissariate of Home Affairs.

As soon as I have received the mandate I will begin the distribution of the sums you have assigned together with the Odessa ORT. I have in collaboration with the Odessa ORT worked out a preliminary distribution scheme."



ORT RECONSTRUCTION FUND

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Rabbi A. H. Silver

September 15, 1925.

Following is a copy of the Weinstein telegram:

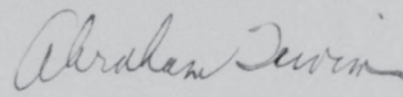
9 22 27/8 7, 55 n via indo bln.

"Komset consented confirm my mandate send air mail Moscow  
ORT copy of mandate cable stop begun distribution loans  
last assignments Fund. (sgn) Weinstein"

In letters from the Berlin office over the signature of Dr. Singalowsky, a great deal of hope is expressed because of the visit of Dr. Henry Moskowitz to Russia, and the thought that his visit will not only aid the cause of the ORT in America, but also the cause of the Joint Drive, in the success of which the European office expresses much interest and concern.

Trusting that the information contained herein will be both informative and serviceable, I am,

Sincerely yours,



ABRAHAM TUVIM

AT:H



# NEWS RELEASE

September 16, 1925.

## ORT RECONSTRUCTION FUND 103 PARK AVE., NEW YORK

### ORT - KOMZET AGREEMENT APPROACHES

Negotiations carried by the European ORT, the Russian ORT and Komzet are rapidly approaching a solution which will fully legalize the ORT in Russia, according to cables and advices received at the office of the ORT Reconstruction Fund in New York City. These advices come from the Central Board of the European ORT through Dr. Singolowsky and A. Weinstein, the mandatory delegate of the Central Board in the Ukraine. Dr. Henry Moskowitz, Chairman of the Executive Committee of the ORT Reconstruction Fund, is now on his way to Russia to examine and supervise the ORT activities and the expenditure of \$50,000. which has recently been allotted to the work in Russia.

The most recent dispatch from Delegate Weinstein, a telegram from Odessa to the Berlin office of the ORT, advises of an agreement reached with the Komzet confirming his mandate as a delegate of European ORT to conduct ORT activities in the Ukraine, and investing him with veto power in the expenditure of the various sums of money allotted to the Russian work by the European Organization.

The distribution of the sum of \$10,000. which had been recently allotted to the Odessa work, expenditure of which was awaiting agreement between the ORT and the Russian group, has been expended in the following manner:

1. Seed loans to colonists who have suffered from a bad harvest to enable them to sow winter corn.....\$2000.
2. Additional loans to colonists to enable them to finish the building of houses .....\$1500.
3. Loans for the purpose of finishing buildings which were begun earlier in the year through funds allotted by the JDC.....\$2000.
4. Establishment of funds for special agricultural measures to relieve conditions of farming groups which have suffered from a bad harvest.....\$3000.
5. Allotment for trade training in the Odessa District.....\$1500.

The seed loans will benefit 225 families in the regions of Sofievka, Pekrestov, Monastytishoy, Odessa, Tiraspol, Kanakeljevka, Kritopol, Vinnetzka and Zebrikov.

During the present building season the ORT has been able to begin 80 settlers' houses with the ehlp of the JDC. The ORT had 20,500 rubles available for this purpose, and the JDC. had assigned additional <sup>40,000</sup>~~4000~~ rubles. Due to the fact that the sum from the JDC. could not be paid until October, the ORT assigned a further sum of 4000 rubles, thus avoiding, for the present, the danger of a shelterless winter for a large number of colonists.



In his letter to European ORT, Delegate Weinstein writes: "We have taken notice of your desire that you would like the sums assigned to be used as soon as possible. I am hoping that further subsidies will be given and that our work will not be interrupted. I would be glad to receive from you precise promises on this subject. You can readily see from the sums allotted that we have taken into consideration only the wants of a part of the artisans and settlers, but could not do anything to promote agriculture in some of the smaller towns, and help the older colonists in the Odessa district. The needs of the settlers have been much more acute, but if I were in a possession of greater sums, I would be able to enlarge the domain of our work to include the agriculturists in the smaller towns, who have undoubtedly the same rights to social attention and help as those which have received our aid recently".

The American Reconstruction Fund office is advised of the fact that the \$50,000. which have recently been assigned to this region will be spent with the least possible delay. All arrangements for the visit of Dr. Moskowitz to Russia have been made and Dr. Moskowitz leaves Berlin on the 16th of September for Moscow and for the Ukraine, where he will personally give his attention to the distribution of the fund, and make a thorough research of the needs in that region.

The European office further advises the American Fund of its intention to effect a thorough working agreement with the Soviet Government, and, in order to effect this, plan to establish a branch of the Reconstruction Fund in Russia with a capital of \$250,000. to be paid in during the next three years. The plan also includes subsidies for technical schools and agronomical institutions of \$6000. monthly. It is felt that the arrival of Dr. Moskowitz in Russia will strengthen the position of the ORT, and establish greater assurance of continued activities by the ORT. A great deal depends, however, according to Dr. Singolowsky, upon the ability of the ORT of America and Europe to continue to supply the working committees in Russia with funds for their special tasks.

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## ORT RECONSTRUCTION FUND

103 PARK AVE., NEW YORK

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### DR. HENRY MOSKOWITZ COMPLETES INSPECTION OF ORT WORK IN

#### BESSARABIA AND POLAND

Dr. Henry Moskowitz, Chairman of the ORT Reconstruction Fund Executive Committee of America has just completed a tour of inspection of the institutions maintained by the ORT in Bessarabia and Poland and has reviewed the conditions of the Jews of these two nations.

In a cablegram received at the New York office of the ORT at 103 Park Avenue, Dr. Moskowitz says:

"Have just completed inspection of ORT work in Bessarabia and Poland and have found trade schools excellently conducted, but badly overcrowded and lacking equipment. The teachers are exceptionally devoted and many of them have gone without salary for months. In Bessarabia the crops of the farm colonies have failed with resultant hunger and disease. I feel that there are very excellent possibilities for agricultural work in this region. In Poland economic crisis has hit the Jews generally, but has created a special havoc among the artisans. I feel very strongly that Poland is a fruitful field for reconstruction work and that the leadership among the Poland Jews is virile and effective. I strongly urge that a method be found of gaining financial assistance for the trade schools, relief for the Bessarabia farmers and extension of credit for the artisans in Poland. Am leaving on the 16th for Russia to review ORT work in Odessa and supervise the expenditure of \$50,000. which has just been allotted for this work".

The ORT is an organization devoted to economic rehabilitation of Jewish life in Central and Eastern Europe. It is especially active in providing trade and technical training for children, the loaning of tools and machinery to artisans and the development of agricultural colonies and the establishment of Jews upon the land.

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October 8th, 1925.

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MAURICE WURZEL, Philadelphia

Rabbi A. H. Silver,  
c/o The Temple,  
East 105th Street,  
Cleveland, Ohio.

Dear Friend:

We are grateful for the spirit of cooperation you have shown the activities and program of the Ort and your consistent friendliness toward our efforts in America. May we not ask your earnest consideration of the enclosed memorandum?

The projected campaign of the Joint Distribution Committee has all but called a halt to the efforts of the Ort to create a fund in America which would insure its permanent activities in the reconstruction of Jewish life in Central and Eastern Europe.

When the J. D. C. announced its campaign, the Ort had succeeded in raising approximately \$300,000.00 in cash; it has pledges from important cities in America for an additional \$500,000.00. These pledges are made by responsible groups, and approved, in most instances, by local Federations of Charities. Among the cities are Chicago, Philadelphia, Cleveland, Pittsburgh, Cincinnati, Denver, Rochester, Omaha, Sioux City, Oakland, Newark, Wilkes Barre, Allentown, Albany, Atlanta, Memphis, New Orleans, Nashville, Milwaukee, and San Francisco.

With the announcement of the J. D. C. plans, there seems to be a tendency to believe that the problems of the Ort will be provided for, and that it is, therefore, unnecessary to further consider the pledges which have been made to the Ort, despite the fact that the European needs which inspired the pledges are more pressing now than ever.

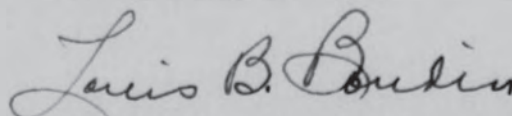


The announcement of the J.D.C. campaign has not relieved the ORT of its responsibilities in Central and Eastern Europe; it has not removed the need for the maintenance of the institutions through which the ORT is lightening the oppressions of our people overseas; it has not cancelled the pledges made by the Ort in connection with important and necessary tasks it initiated, nor its obligations to the hundreds of thousands of Jews who are daily appealing for the aid which the Ort is expected to provide.

The memorandum attached hereto outlines the work of the Ort and its need for a permanent revolving fund to insure its work. We do not doubt that the J.D.C. will subvent certain functions of the Ort in the future and we hope, most fervently, that the efforts of the J.D.C. will meet with the unqualified success the cause so richly deserves. Our problem is one of the immediate present. Improving the conditions with which we are dealing cannot be deferred. Each day of postponement means added suffering and privation, and increases the threat to the institutions which have been established and which are functioning for the betterment of Jewish life. The factor of time is of great importance and there can be no let-up in our continuing to serve, in a permanent capacity, reshaping the distortions which have become Jewish life in Central and Eastern Europe. To do so we must complete our fund.

Please help us in this emergency. We ask your aid in bringing about the redemption of the pledge in your City. We would be grateful for word from you, at the very earliest occasion, outlining the possibilities, as well as your views.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Louis B. Boudin".

LOUIS B. BOUDIN  
Acting Chairman Executive Committee



[1925?]

## MEMORANDUM

PURPOSES \* ADMINISTRATION \* ACTIVITIES \* NEEDS

### PURPOSES

The Reconstruction Fund of the ORT was organized in America in November of 1924 for the purpose of raising One Million Dollars to carry on the activities listed immediately below. Originally, \$750,000. of this fund was to be raised in America; \$250,000. in Europe. Of the former sum, approximately \$300,000. has already been raised, while the funds collected in Europe are about \$125,000.

The fund was to be divided as follows:--

1. \$250,000. to be applied:
  - (a) to schools for technical training and industrial education of children to prepare them as artisans in trades best suited to their inclinations.
  - (b) trade training of artisans.
2. \$750,000. to form a revolving fund for the purposes of:--
  - (a) developing new agricultural colonies.
  - (b) extending and aiding old agricultural colonies.
  - (c) the loaning of farming implements, live stock, seed, building and other material needs to Jewish farmers.
  - (d) the loaning of tools and machinery to artisans.
  - (e) development of co-operative tool supply agencies and stations for the loaning of agricultural implements.

For the above purposes, there has been organized a Limited Reconstruction Fund in London, consisting of fifty representatives, allotted to various nations of the world. On this council are 15 American representatives. The finances of the Reconstruction Fund are controlled by this council of fifty.

### ACTIVITIES

The ORT has been an active agency for the development of technical trade and agricultural enterprise among the Jew since the early 'eighties of the last century, when it was organized in Russia. Its most intensive work has been carried on during the last seven years. In the years 1920-1925, the ORT expended approximately One Million Dollars in its reconstruction of Jewish Economic life. Its activities during these years have consisted of the following:



## 1. RUSSIA

- (a) Aiding in the establishment of the Jews on the land.
- (b) Training them as farmers.
- (c) Supervising, through trained agronomists, their application to the land.
- (d) Providing tools and machinery and other farm needs.
- (e) Aiding in the establishment of new colonies.
- (f) Trade training in technical schools for children.
- (g) Trade training in technical schools for artisans.
- (h) Relief work during periods of draughts and famine.

The ORT work in Russia has been confined principally to the Ukraine and White Russia. The ORT has helped establish twelve new colonies in the Odessa region of the Ukraine during the last year, and has expended the sum of \$100,000. for this work. This sum includes an allotment of \$50,000. which has recently been voted to the Odessa work, the application of which is now being supervised by Dr. Henry Moskowitz. It is negotiating an agreement with the Soviet requiring the establishment of a permanent revolving fund of \$250,000. It is working in collaboration with both the Agro-Joint and the Odessa ORT. Its field in Russia is extensive--its needs very huge.

## 2. POLAND

The ORT work in Poland has confined itself largely to trade schools for children and the training of artisans. There have been no possibilities for agricultural development in Poland, and such activities as have been carried on were limited solely to gardening in fruits and produce. A substantial bit of work, however, has been done in this field.

During this period of activity in Poland, the ORT has prepared thousands of artisans for trades. It has taken the business man, the vendor of small wares and the professional who, because of oppressive economic conditions, were denied their normal means of livelihood, and has armed them with industrial training to enable them to earn their livelihood as workers. It has done this for many thousands of children and has given an opportunity to these, the majority orphans, to enter into life with a more fruitful existence in prospect than that of their parents.

Of all the nations of Europe in which the needs of the Jew cry loudest, Poland stands foremost. Ever increasing indignities have been heaped upon them, and efforts made to close every possible avenue of life to them. Business discriminations, unfair taxation, government monopoly, government favoritism to Polish artisans -- all of these have conspired to reduce the Jew to what is possibly the lowest level of life in all of Europe.



Great as the needs in the past have been, they multiply with each day. It is supremely essential that at least 100 additional trade schools be opened in order to counteract the insidious influence embodied in a series of laws in the process of adoption, aiming to deny the Jewish artisan the right to work. Demands are being made for theoretical education and unless this is supplied, several hundred thousand Jewish artisans will shortly find themselves without the right to work.

The ORT has been the one economic hope to the Polish Jew -- it must immediately raise the sum of \$75,000. with which to open the new schools. It needs more thousands for the maintenance and physical improvement of old schools. In addition there is a great shortage of tools, without which the artisan cannot earn his livelihood. Funds for this, too, must be supplied.

### 3. ROUMANIA

In Roumania thousands of Jewish families have been reduced to economic impotence. The past two years have been a succession of crop failures among the Jewish farmers in Bessarabia. Every penny of ORT funds which could possibly be spared from other needs has been applied, yet barely a dent has been made. There are at present five thousand Jewish families who are starving in the midst of a series of epidemics which have followed the poor harvests.

Added to this, is the ever present menace that the government will take away the land from the Jewish farmers. The land was originally given the farmers under certain conditions, and the government demands the sum of \$25.00 for each farm of approximately 15 acres. The price in itself is very small, but \$25.00 is a large sum to each Bessarabian farmer. The ORT must immediately apply the sum of \$12,500. for this purpose alone, and needs an additional \$15,000. to tide the farmers over their period of starvation.

### 4. CZECHO-SLOVAKIA

In Czecho-Slovakia the government is ready to help our people settle on the land on a permanent basis. All that is asked from us is to raise \$50,000., which sum is to be repaid within a period of five years. The Hypothekron Bank, a government institution, guarantees the repayment of this sum. This will solve the problem of at least 25,000 Jewish souls and it is one of the great efforts which the ORT is making at present.

### 5. LITHUANIA & LATVIA

The needs of Lithuania and Latvia are just as great. In these latter nations, the need can be summed up in one word -- "schools". For every ten applications made by children and grownups to enter schools where they



will learn trades, only one can be accepted. This condition is also true of Poland and Czecho-Slovakia and Russia. Many thousands of applicants are awaiting an opportunity to enter into schools where they may find a solution to the oppressive economic problem.

#### SUMMARY

The foregoing represents but a part of the problem of the ORT. Many thousands of Jews who are involved look to the ORT for a solution to their problem. The ORT has pledged itself to untiring efforts in their behalf, but can do absolutely nothing without the completion of its revolving fund. The needs are pressing and immediate. Each day of delay brings added misery to lives already heavily burdened.

Europe is helping. ORT campaigns are now in progress in France, Belgium, England and Germany. In this emergency, American Jewry should make every endeavor to redeem the pledges made to participate in the Rebuilding of Jewish Economic life in Central and Eastern Europe through the ORT Reconstruction Fund.





B. C. VLADECK, President  
DR. HENRY MOSKOWITZ,  
Chairman, Board of Directors  
J. WEINBERG, Treasurer  
PHILIP BLOCK, Exec. Director  
EZEKIEL RABINOWITZ, Exec. Secy.

#### BRITISH EMPIRE

Parliamentary Advisory  
Council of the Ort  
LORD MARLEY, Chairman

Jewish Reconstruction Fund, Ltd.  
SIR MEYER SPIELMAN, Founder  
LEONARD ROSENTHAL,  
Pres. of Council

Joint British Committee Ort-Oze  
LORD ROTSCCHILD, President  
LEON REES, Chairman

London Ort  
A. HALPERN, Chairman

#### FRANCE

Fonds de Reconstruction  
LEONARD ROSENTHAL, Pres.  
A. SCHRAMEK, Senateur, Chair.

Ort-Comite Central de France  
ANDRE SELIGMAN, President  
A. ALPERINE, Chairman

#### GERMANY

Ort Reconstruction Fund  
DR. W. KLEEMAN, President

Ort "Deutsche Abteilung E. V."  
W. GRAETZ, President

Cooperative Tool Supply Co.  
DR. W. KLEEMAN,  
Pres. of Council

Congressional Committee  
of American Ort  
SENATOR ROBERT F. WAGNER,  
Chairman

## PEOPLES ORT FEDERATION

(Peoples' Tool Campaign—American "ORT")

For Constructive Relief for The Jews  
of Eastern Europe

220 FIFTH AVENUE  
NEW YORK CITY  
ASHland 4-6684

#### Advisory Committee

Dr. CYRUS ADLER  
HON. ALFRED E. COHEN  
DAVID M. BRESSLER  
JOSEPH C. HYMAN  
HON. HERBERT H. LEHMAN  
PAUL FELIX WARBURG  
MAX SENIOR

June 2, 1933

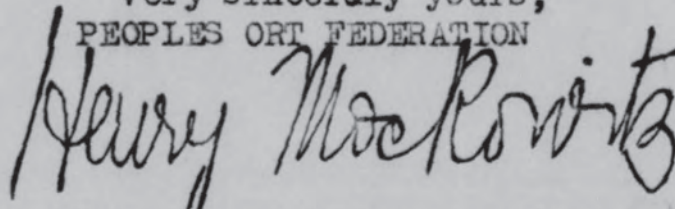
Rabbi Hillel Silver  
East 105 St. at Ansel Road  
Cleveland, O.

Dear Rabbi Silver:

It was gratifying for me to hear the report of our representative, Dr. B. Aisurowitch, and also of our Secretary, Mr. M. Weintraub, that you intend to include the Ort in your present campaign. It is needless for me to tell you how much I appreciate your interest in our constructive work for the Jews of Eastern Europe and I will be very thankful to you if you will let me know when the meeting of your committee is scheduled to take place, for the distribution of funds, so that our representative, Dr. Aisurowitch, can be present.

Again thanking you and anticipating to hear from you, I remain

Very sincerely yours,  
PEOPLES ORT FEDERATION



DR. Henry Moskowitz, Chairman,  
Board of Directors

BF



B. C. VLADECK, President  
DR. HENRY MOSKOWITZ,  
Chairman, Board of Directors  
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PAUL FELIX WARBURG  
MAX SENIOR

July 5, 1933

Rabbi Abba Hillel Silver  
East 105 St. & Ansel Road  
Cleveland, O.

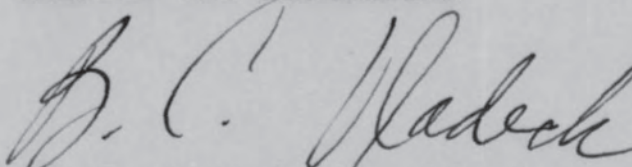
My dear Dr. Silver:

I have just received a report from our Mr. M. Weintraub who is our Cleveland representative of ORT informing us of the successful campaign you are now carrying on in Cleveland.

I am very grateful to you for your efforts to place the ORT among the other organizations in this campaign and I am confident that you will succeed in raising the full quota of \$150,000 as you have planned.

Wishing you success,

Very truly yours,  
PEOPLES ORT FEDERATION

  
B. C. Vladeck, President

VF



ORT NEWS

A report of singular importance was received by the Peoples ORT Federation, American branch of the World Ort, from the Central Executive, the Ort Verband, concerning the successful constructive achievements in the various countries of Eastern and Central Europe. During 1932, despite the world wide economic crisis, Ort was not only able to maintain the already established institutions, but was also able to establish new ones. At this particular moment, a good deal of the Ort work is centralized about the German Jewish situation in which Ort is able to render valuable relief to those refugees who are located in the countries neighboring Germany, as well as those Jews who are still in Germany, on a constructive basis.

THE ORT WORK IN GERMANY

1933?

Today witnesses no end of confusion among the German Jews. Young and old seek desperately to obtain employment in industry and to learn a trade. The offices of the Ort in Berlin are thronged daily by hundreds upon hundreds of Jews who desire to learn a trade.

Already in the short time that has already passed, Ort has done something concrete with regard to the situation. 236 German Jews in Berlin alone have completed Ort courses qualifying them to obtain employment as chauffeurs, tractor-drivers and painters. In the last few weeks, new courses have been opened for chemical workers, iron workers, weavers and other trades. All the Ort committees in the various countries of Eastern and Central Europe have opened special departments to assist the German Jewish refugees in becoming industrialized. In Paris, two new trade courses were established for the refugees under the supervision of Mr. Leonard Rosenthal, Chairman of the Ort Reconstruction Fund in France.



NEWS FROM LITHUANIA

Recent years have witnessed an energetic Ort movement to strengthen the place of the Jew in handicraft and industry in Lithuania. Thanks to the practical and untiring efforts of Ort in Kovno, not only has Ort succeeded in gaining the sympathy and constant financial support of the Government, but it has also won acknowledgement and recognition of Jewish labor among all circles and classes of the Lithuanian population.

Only a few days ago, Mr. Kiunos, representative of the Lithuanian Education Department, held the following address before the Kovno Ort Technical and Trade School, on the occasion of the general examination held there:

"Last year, when Dr. Aaron Singalowsky organized a conference of individuals prominent in Jewish and Lithuanian organizations and circles, I expressed doubt as to whether the Jewish and Lithuanian population could harmoniously live together. But today, I am of the opinion that we can hopefully look to the future of Lithuanian and Jewish cooperation. Years ago, under the Tzarist Russian regime, we and the Jews were suppressed as one. At that time, these two populations lived together as two brother nations. In recent years, our different interests have separated and alienated us. We have studied in different schools and have had our own particular troubles. But understanding that labor is the most secure method of obtaining a livelihood, the Lithuanian and Jewish population can once again have a basis for a better understanding. I sincerely extend to the students of the Ort school the wish that they are successful in their work and in their future family life, which ultimately, is the secure basis for the nation".

Despite the general economic depression, Ort has opened during the first six months of 1933 new courses for electricians, modistes, corset makers and cutters. New courses, to be opened soon for dyers, radio-mechanics, and others, are under preparation. The course for electricians and the electro-



workshop is of special significance for Kovno.

As in the case in the other Ort centres, Jewish men and women crowd the offices of the Ort daily desiring to be placed in the trade and technical courses.

#### THE ORT IN POLAND

Throughout the recent years in Poland, the Jewish worker, skilled and unskilled, was always faced with one great obstacle: the competition that they contended with from the Polish workers who were constantly being provided for by the Government and private Polish organizations. These Polish workers had the advantage of being given access to the most modern machinery and equipment supplied by the Polish government and private organizations. This competition threw upon Ort the greater burden of keeping up to date on its methods and machinery. Yet, today, in the Ort<sup>trade</sup>/schools in Poland, despite the difficulties of finances, under which they are forced to exist, there are 2200 students taking courses. In the Ort workshop in Warsaw, there are over 1000 Jews working there and in Lodz, several hundreds of Jews have completed the Ort courses and are now qualified workers. Despite the fact that the instructors have had to work under great difficulties and privation, the work in the Ort trade schools and workshops goes on with the same tempo.

At the end of June of this year, the students who had completed the technical and trade courses in the Ort schools in Warsaw, Bialystok, Sarney, Kremenetz, Rovno, Vladislovak, Vilna and other cities, took the compulsory examinations required by the government. Although these examinations were singularly difficult, all the Ort students revealed a competent knowledge of their particular trade, and the Examining Board was forced to confer upon them Diplomas qualifying them to seek employment in their trades.

In this manner is bolstered up the ranks of Jewish workers and artisans by adding to their numbers young and qualified Jewish workers.



A YEAR'S WORK IN SOVIET RUSSIA

According to the report rendered by the Ort representative in Moscow, U.S.S.R., Mr. I. Zegelnitzky, Ort is very active in all the phases of technical training, industrialization, colonization and other constructive work.

The report of Mr. Zegelnitzky gives in detail the work that has been done during the year 1931-1932. A total of 196 factories and artels were supplied with machines, raw materials, instructors, needles, etc. Without the work of Ort, these enterprises would not have been possible and the 35,000 formerly declassed Jews who work in these factories and artels, would now be without work and bread.

In the 30 agricultural colonies which Ort established in the Ukraine and in Crimea, Ort has also founded workshops, in which the youth and the women of the colonies produce articles which have very good markets in the larger cities. The work in these workshops more than pays well and enables them to expand and grow larger each year. The total market price gotten for the products manufactured in the Ort workshops has reached the sum of more than one million rubles. The aggregate sum of the wages earned is more than 300,000 rubles. In previous years, the produce of the colonies was <sup>not</sup> enough to provide for all working there, with the result that many left the colonies for the cities. But now that Ort has established the workshops, those who left are now returning to the colonies.

Throughout southern Ukraine, the Ort colonies have begun to plant orchards. At the beginning of 1933 there were 66 such orchards. For the colonists and Jewish farmer families this innovation meant an additional source of income.

A staff of 50 instructors and agronomists are constantly visiting each Ort colony, workshop, factory and each house in which there are Ort machines, to see that the Jewish workers and colonists know how to operate their machines and equipment. This is a significant factor, for previously



repairs, the Jewish worker was often forced to abandon his machine. In the colonies too, the agronomists carefully inspect the condition of the soil, the orchards, etc. with the result that there is little in the way toward a fruitful harvest. For those Jews who have known privation and hunger, this service is of inestimable value.

#### THE NEED OF THE EASTERN EUROPEAN JEWS

The recent occurrences in Germany have almost taken from the Jewish conscience the great Jewish need in Eastern Europe. The question of help for these unfortunates has all but been placed aside. However, the fact that new need has arisen in Western Europe, in Germany, for the Jews, has not lessened the misery and despair in Eastern Europe.

At such a time, when perhaps all of the relief agencies are placing their relief at the disposal of the German Jews, it is, however, impossible for the Ort workers to forget or to minimize the great responsibility they bear to those Jews who are faced with an unfortunate economic and industrial fate. The Ort Central Verband and the committees throughout the world are still carrying on their work of assisting these Eastern European declassed and young Jewish men and women who desire a place in industry and on the soil.

\* \* \* \* \*



JOIN THE ORT [10327]



HELP THEM  
TO HELP THEMSELVES







1. ORT embroidery school for former declassed Jews in Russia.
2. ORT dressmaking trade school in Bilz, Roumania.
3. Ladies' Tailoring School of ORT in Yassi, Roumania.
4. ORT agricultural training school for young German Jewish refugees in Ungary, Lithuania.

5. An elderly Jewish farmer in an ORT colony in Ignatovke, Poland.
6. Mechanical wood carving department of ORT trade school in Brisk, Poland.
7. Ladies' tailoring ORT school in Brisk, Poland.
8. ORT Trade School for Mechanical Locksmithery in Kovno, Lithuania.

9. ORT School for German Refugees in Paris — Millinery Class for Girls and Young Women.
10. Millinery ORT Trade School in Riga, Lithuania.

11. ORT School for German Jewish Refugees in Paris — Class in Radio Technique for Young Men.
12. Mechanical Workshop of ORT Technicum in Vilna.



## What Others Say About O R T



### Prof. Albert Einstein:

"I have always been, and am now, an ardent supporter of ORT and I wish it the greatest success in its future work."



### The Hon. Herbert H. Lehman, Governor of the State of New York:

"... The plan which has been outlined by the ORT is the finest kind of communal service; it is simply lending people the means to get back on their feet. I thoroughly approve of the work of ORT and am happy to have an opportunity of joining it."



### Paul Felix Warburg:

"... New conditions have made life for the Jew abroad possible only as 'productive worker,' artisan or farmer. ORT is not a charity—it simply helps the unhappy victims of a new age to help themselves."



### Sir Herbert Samuel:

"To promote the physical well-being of populations in every country should command the sympathy and support of men and women throughout the world. The ORT exists for that purpose. It is wisely conducted, with the admirable aim of teaching the dependant self-reliance."



### James G. MacDonald, Former League of Nations High Commissioner for Refugees:

"The process of rehabilitation of the Jews, as it is being carried on by ORT, must be accelerated and its scope expanded."



### Dr. Julius Goldman:

"In my opinion, the ORT, both in America and in Europe, is the best organized channel through which reconstruction among East European Jews can be continuously and permanently effected."



### Rabbi Morris Newfield, Birmingham, Ala.:

"The ORT takes the little merchant, who by competition or by government decrees has become unable to continue a mercantile life and trains him for some other vocation such as agriculture or some mechanical trade. I bespeak for this organization the hearty support of all Jewry."



### Rabbi David Graubart, Des Moines, Iowa:

"Membership in the ORT is a sacred task of every thinking Jew in this emergency. Let us all support this great Jewish endeavor."

ORT is engaged in the building, equipping and administering of vocational schools where men and women, youths and adults, are being trained for productive labor. These Jewish men and women do not want charity. They want a chance to work. They are learning to become farmers, auto-mechanics, cloth cutters, carpenters, shoe-makers, electro-technicians, chauffeurs — in short, the whole range of skilled trades. Few such schools were available to Jews in the past. The ORT now maintains a large number of such schools on a highly efficient basis. The quality of instruction and the calibre of the graduates are kept at a high level. (Out of 25,000 graduates of the Polish ORT Schools, fully 96% have passed the very difficult state examinations, and have found employment as qualified technicians.) All over Europe Jews are being helped in this way.

The ORT offers an opportunity to everyone to serve our Jewish people abroad in a real constructive way.

ORT Constructive Relief makes possible for Jewish young men and women to help themselves, and in due time, also to help others.

ORT began its work of serving the Jews of Europe in 1880. It has a record of 56 years of continuous and constructive service.

ORT works in the following countries:

Poland  
Roumania  
Latvia  
Lithuania  
Russia

France — for German Refugees

ORT operates the following institutions:

128 Trade Schools

127 Agricultural Colonies

113 Factories, Artels and Workshops

A guardian Bureau, for the placing of orphaned children in vocational schools, in Poland, Latvia, Roumania and Lithuania.

JOIN THE ORT [1033?]



HELP THEM  
TO HELP THEMSELVES





# GIVE THEM AN OPPORTUNITY —

## ORT Membership Drive

The ORT Stands For

— INDUSTRIAL  
and AGRICULTURAL  
RECONSTRUCTION



THE REHABILITATION OF THE JEWS  
IN EASTERN AND CENTRAL EUROPE  
THROUGH CONSTRUCTIVE RELIEF



THE great social unrest which embraces the whole world but is particularly to the fore in Eastern and Central Europe points to the elimination of the non-productive middle class. It has also accentuated racial and national differences, and increased racial and national animosities, which tend to assume economic forms. Both have

particularly disastrous results for the Jews of Eastern and Central Europe, where the Jews form a disproportionately large part of the middle class. There can be no solution of the Jewish problem in those countries until the Jews have reorganized their economic life and adjusted themselves occupationally to the new tendencies prevailing in these countries.

What Does ORT Do?

Realizing that charity is only a palliative and offers no solution to the Jewish economic problem, the ORT takes the longer view. PERMANENT ECONOMIC REHABILITATION OF THE JEWISH MASSES IN ALL COUNTRIES WHERE THEY LIVE is the aim the ORT has set for itself, and it proposes to accomplish this by teaching skilled trades to Jewish youth, as well as to adults who are forced to change their mode of living; and wherever possible, by settling Jewish families on the land. In this way the ORT hopes to put Jewish life on a sounder economic basis and to bring it into better harmony with the requirements of the times.

How Do We Know?

IN FIFTY-SIX years of activity, the ORT leaders have learned that Jewish skilled workers, both industrial and agricultural, have as good a

chance to survive as any other group. Even in these days of unprecedented competition for jobs, and in the face of political anti-Semitism, thousands of graduates of ORT vocational schools have found employment. This is true even of those East European countries where persecution of the Jews and discrimination against them is at its worst. In addition thousands of Jews have been admitted into Palestine because of the manual training which they received in ORT schools.

You can hasten the work of rehabilitation, by joining the ORT now.

-----  
MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

American ORT Federation  
220 — 5th Avenue  
New York, N. Y.

Kindly enroll me as a member of the American ORT Federation at \$....., for which I enclose my check.

Name .....

Address .....

M E M B E R S H I P

Subscribing \$5.00  
Cooperating \$10.00

Contributing \$25.00  
Sustaining \$50.00



# AMERICAN ORT FEDERATION

220 FIFTH AVENUE

NEW YORK, N. Y.

February 11, 1937

B. C. VLADECK  
PRESIDENT

DR. HENRY MOSKOWITZ  
CHAIRMAN, BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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ACTING CHAIRMAN

JOSEPH WEINBERG

TREASURER

PHILIP BLOCK

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

ORT COUNCIL OF GREATER NEW YORK

CLARENCE Y. PALITZ  
CHAIRMAN

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HONORARY PRESIDENT

EMILY M. ROSENSTEIN  
PRESIDENT

ORT RECONSTRUCTION FUND

HOWARD S. CULLMAN  
PRESIDENT

PAUL FELIX WARBURG  
TREASURER

AMERICAN ADVISORY COMMITTEE

DR. CYRUS ADLER

HON. ALFRED E. COHEN

HON. HERBERT H. LEHMAN

PAUL FELIX WARBURG

MAX SENIOR

UNITED STATES  
CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEE  
OF AMERICAN ORT

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CHAIRMAN

CONG. EMANUEL CELLER  
SECRETARY

BRITISH EMPIRE

PARLIAMENTARY ADVISORY  
COUNCIL OF THE ORT

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CHAIRMAN

JOINT BRITISH COMMITTEE

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PRESIDENT

LEON REES  
CHAIRMAN

COL. J. H. LEVEY, D. S. O.  
ACTING CHAIRMAN

FRANCE CONSEIL  
PARLEMENTAIRE DE L'ORT  
M. EDUARD HERRIOT  
PRESIDENT

ORT UNION  
CENTRAL BOARD

HENRI BODENHEIMER  
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CHAIRMAN, EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

VICE-PRESIDENTS

ZADOCK KAHN

DR. DAVID LVOVITCH

PROF. WILLIAM OUALID

DR. A. SINGALOVSKY

GERMANY

ORT DEUTSCHE ABTEILUNG E.V.

W. GRAETZ  
PRESIDENT

Rabbi Alba H. Silver  
The Temple  
E. 105th & Ansel Rd.  
Cleveland, Ohio

Dear Rabbi Silver:

Please be advised that at the last meeting of representatives of the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee and the American ORT Federation, the question as to whether or not the ORT should again be included in the J.D.C. campaign for the year 1937, in accordance with the practice of recent years, was thoroughly discussed.

After a complete analysis of the situation in America, and bearing in mind the increased needs of the ORT throughout Europe, it was mutually agreed that it will be best for all concerned that each organization conduct an independent campaign in 1937.

Accordingly, a National Campaign Board for ORT is now being enlisted, and plans for our 1937 campaign are being formulated. Details about this campaign will be sent to you before long, together with a statement of our budget for 1937 and the allocation for your community. You will also receive a financial report of the ORT.

Kindly let us know the date your Welfare Fund Campaign is scheduled to start for 1937.

Looking forward to be favored with your usual fine cooperation, and with many good wishes for a successful year, we remain,

Sincerely yours,  
AMERICAN ORT FEDERATION

*B.C. Vladeck*

B. C. Vladeck, President

Fifty-seven Years of Industrial-Agricultural Training for the Jews of Europe

Founded-1880



# AMERICAN ORT FEDERATION

220 FIFTH AVENUE

NEW YORK, N. Y.

March 5, 1937

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PRESIDENT

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CHAIRMAN, BOARD OF DIRECTORS

LOUIS B. BOUDIN  
ACTING CHAIRMAN

JOSEPH WEINBERG  
TREASURER

PHILIP BLOCK  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

## ORT COUNCIL OF GREATER NEW YORK

CLARENCE Y. PALITZ  
CHAIRMAN

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PRESIDENT

## ORT RECONSTRUCTION FUND

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PRESIDENT

PAUL FELIX WARBURG  
TREASURER

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HON. ALFRED E. COHEN  
HON. HERBERT H. LEHMAN  
PAUL FELIX WARBURG  
MAX SENIOR

## UNITED STATES CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEE OF AMERICAN ORT

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CHAIRMAN

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SECRETARY

## BRITISH EMPIRE

## PARLIAMENTARY ADVISORY COUNCIL OF THE ORT

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CHAIRMAN, EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

## VICE-PRESIDENTS

ZADOCK KAHN

DR. DAVID LVOVITCH

PROF. WILLIAM OUALID

DR. A. SINGALOVSKY

## GERMANY ORT DEUTSCHE ABTEILUNG E.V.

W. GRAETZ  
PRESIDENT

Rabbi Abba Hillel Silver  
105th St. and Ansel Rd.  
Cleveland, Ohio

Dear Rabbi Silver:

I am taking this opportunity of informing you that I have become associated with the work of the American ORT Federation of the World ORT Union.

There is no doubt that you are familiar with the program and constructive work of the World ORT Union in Eastern and Central Europe. I am enclosing herewith a pamphlet describing this work.

I plan to be in your city in the near future and would appreciate any cooperation that you can afford me in furthering the work of this constructive movement. At that time, I anticipate the pleasure of renewing our personal association. In the meantime, I would appreciate any advice or information re furthering the support of ORT's work in your community.

With many thanks and kindest regards, I am,

Sincerely yours,

*Samuel A. Halperin*  
Samuel A. Halperin

es

Fifty-seven Years of Industrial-Agricultural Training for the Jews of Europe

Founded-1880



June 1, 1938

Mr. B. C. Vladeck, President  
American Ort Federation  
220 Fifth Avenue  
New York, N.Y.

My dear Mr. Vladeck:

I hope that by the time this letter reaches you you will be feeling much better and will have fully recovered from your operation. I suspect that you must be pretty well recovered by now because you are back again on your favorite schnorrings expeditions.

I don't think that there was any recondite reason why the allotment to the Ort was reduced to \$3500. The Budget Committee felt that in making a very substantial increase in its allotment to the JDC - \$105,000 as against \$87,000 last year - that it was doing its full share towards overseas relief agencies. There was a strong sentiment in the Committee to omit the Ort entirely.

Your representative, Dr. Lvovitch, who was here during the Campaign and addressed one of the Campaign luncheons, made a very excellent impression. There is a feeling among some of us that if additional money comes in - and it is coming in right along even though the Campaign is officially closed - some way should be found to restore last year's full allotment to the Ort.

With warmest greetings to you and to your daughter in which Mrs. Silver joins me heartily, I remain

Most cordially yours,

AHS:BK



# American Ort Federation

CREATING A NEW OCCUPATIONAL EXISTENCE FOR THE REFUGEES AND MASSES OF EUROPEAN JEWS THROUGH THE MORE THAN FOUR HUNDRED-FIFTY TRADE SCHOOLS — FARM COLONIES — INDUSTRIAL WORKSHOPS AND FACTORIES COMPRISING THE ORT EMPIRE.

OFFICE OF  
THE PRESIDENT

212 FIFTH AVENUE  
NEW YORK CITY  
TELEPHONE: ASHLAND 4-7454

January 17th, 1939.

Rabbi Abba Hillel Silver  
The Temple  
Cleveland, Ohio

Dear Rabbi Silver:

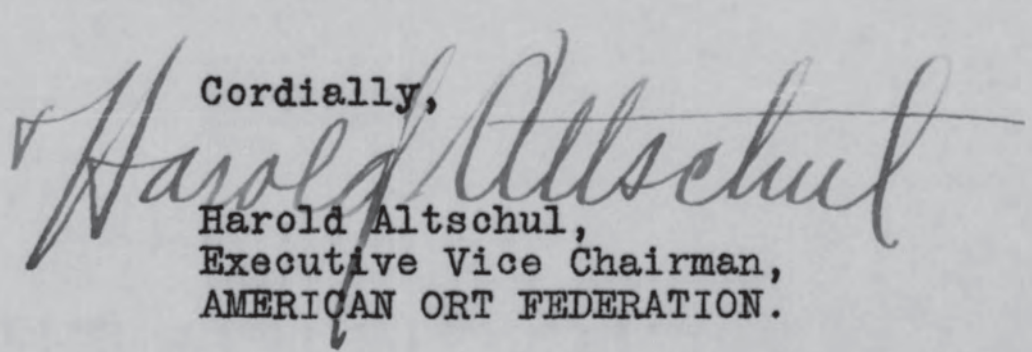
In advance of the official announcement, it is my great privilege to be able to tell you of the election of Mr. George Backer to the Presidency of the American ORT Federation, succeeding the late B. Charney Vladeck.

I know that Mr. Backer would feel greatly encouraged were he to receive a personal message from you, addressed to his office, 295 Fifth Avenue, New York City, expressing your reaction to his selection, and your willingness to cooperate with him, as leader of the ORT program in America.

Such a tribute from you would be of inestimable value, and I personally shall be deeply grateful for your fine courtesy.

With thanks and high regard,

Cordially,

  
Harold Altschul,  
Executive Vice Chairman,  
AMERICAN ORT FEDERATION.



BUDGET INFORMATION  
And  
CHART OF ACTIVITIES

Submitted By

AMERICAN ORT FEDERATION  
212 Fifth Avenue,  
New York City

CREATING A NEW OCCUPATIONAL EXISTENCE FOR THE REFUGEES AND MASSES  
OF EUROPEAN JEWS THROUGH A NETWORK OF TRADE SCHOOLS, FARM COLONIES,  
INDUSTRIAL WORKSHOPS AND FACTORIES.

Compiled March 1, 1939



O F F I C E R S

American ORT Federation  
212 Fifth Avenue,  
New York City

---

GEORGE BACKER, President  
LOUIS B. BOUDIN, Chairman,  
Board of Directors  
JOSEPH WEINBERG, Treasurer  
HAROLD ALTSCHUL,  
Executive Vice Chairman  
PHILIP BLOCK,  
Executive Director  
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Chairman, Office Committee

---

United States Congressional  
Committee

SENATOR ROBERT F. WAGNER,  
Chairman  
REPRESENTATIVE EMANUEL CELLER,  
Secretary

---

ORT Reconstruction Fund

HOWARD S. CULLMAN, President  
PAUL FELIX WARBURG, Treasurer

---

American Advisory Committee

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ALFRED E. COHEN  
GOVERNOR HERBERT H. LEHMAN  
PAUL FELIX WARBURG  
MAX SENIOR

World ORT Union  
19 Ave. Victor' Hugo  
Paris, 16 E, France

---

Joint British Committee

LORD ROTHSCHILD, President  
LEON REES, Chairman  
COL. J.H. LEVEY, D.S.O.,  
Acting Chairman

---

British Empire Parliamentary  
Advisory Council of ORT

---

LORD MARLEY, Chairman

---

France Conseil  
Parlementaire de L'ORT

M. EDUARD HERRIOT, President

---

ORT Union Central Board

PROF. WILLIAM OUALID, President  
DR. LEON BRAMSON, Chairman,  
Executive Committee  
PIERRE DREYFUSS  
DR. LEON ZADOCK-KAHN  
DR. DAVID LVOVITCH  
DR. A. SINGALOVSKY  
Vice-Presidents

---

Germany  
ORT Deutsche Abteilung E.V.  
LOUIS WOLFF, President





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## FOREWORD

As the custodian of a public trust, your management in the ORT is pleased to give you the financial figures covering the years 1934 to 1938, compiled from the audited statements of the World ORT Union and the American ORT Federation, including the 1939 budget and a summary of the activities in 1936, 1937 and 1938. In view of the basic changes occurring in ORT's American status in 1938, there have been many requests for a clarifying and supporting statement which is now submitted as an integral part of the budget figures.

### ORT-JDC RELATIONSHIP

Some misconception still prevails concerning the current relationship between the Joint Distribution Committee and ORT. Attached is a transcript of the understanding between the two agencies, reduced to writing in February 1938, and still operative. ORT has not since solicited nor received a single dollar in the United States or abroad from any national fund-raising agency, the entire income being derived from its own national campaign through Welfare Funds and independent drives.

### COMBINING NATIONAL APPEALS

ORT is in accord with the present trend towards greater co-ordination among the several agencies concerned with the overseas problem, but agrees that this urge towards unification is not a primary end in itself. ORT recognizes that the purposes to be served through such merging of resources and the method of achieving these purposes must remain the paramount objective. There are many who believe that one-year national merger agreements do not result in either satisfactory co-ordination or decreased expense and question whether any organization, serving a vital purpose in Jewish life, is justified in scrapping its interpretive and organizational machinery on the basis of a national agreement covering a single campaign.

### 1938 A SHORT YEAR

Careful analysis of the records indicate that ORT's 1938 program was severely penalized through having to wait until mid-February for a final understanding covering that year. For two months, there was almost a complete stoppage of planning and activity in America. The result is now reflected in ORT's income figures for the full year 1938. Only a sharp reduction in expenses made it possible to approximately maintain normal remittances abroad.

### RE:UNITED JEWISH APPEAL

In recording the foregoing facts, your management is not expressing an opinion pro or con. ORT is not responsible for remaining outside of the present "United Jewish Appeal" and would have welcomed the opportunity for joining forces on any just basis. If, as some believe, the current combined drive is not a truly united Jewish appeal, it is due to forces beyond ORT's control.



### ORT IN 1939

ORT, at the urging of leaders in every avenue of Jewish life, is now striving to regain the ground which was lost in this country between the years 1929 and 1937. During a portion of that period, ORT's identity in America became submerged through the restrictions imposed upon its activities while receiving a nominal subvention. An improved status can be expedited through an intelligent approach and the constructive interpretation that must accompany an independent appeal to the Jews of America. ORT confronts this task with determination and confidence and believes the leadership and all organized communities will continue to recognize the necessity and propriety of ORT's position.

ORT is seeking 10 per cent of the total overseas budgets in all communities as a uniform allocation throughout the country on the basis of its entirely budgeted 1939 American quota of \$1,257,000. The National Council of Jewish Federations and Welfare Funds, in an analysis of sixty Welfare Funds, lists twenty one agencies in the overseas category.

ORT is now completely supporting approximately 60 per cent of all Jewish vocational training and re-training in Poland, not including some two thousand families receiving agricultural service or training in one form or another. In the other eastern European countries and in Germany and France, ORT is doing practically 100 per cent of all the work in this field, and is initiating further projects for the refugees in Western Europe generally.

### CREDO

ORT has been termed, in the most authoritative quarters, as the highest expression of practical idealism in the history of the Jews, embracing, along with its practical program, a message that must be spread and perpetuated in the minds of the people of the world. Whether or not ORT, by experience, training and philosophy, is the agency to conduct a program of such far-reaching significance to the Jews of the world, may be judged from the following pages and also by the figure 500,000 which represents the number of ORT-trained Jews absorbed in industry or on the land since the World War, a period which constituted a supreme test for this fifty nine-year-old organization.

ORT EARNESTLY REQUESTS THE COURTESY AND PRIVILEGE OF A PERSONAL BUDGET COMMITTEE HEARING, BEFORE THE ORT ALLOTMENT IS CONSIDERED FINAL, IF THERE IS THE SLIGHTEST QUESTION AS TO WHETHER THIS ALLOCATION REQUEST HAS BEEN SUPPORTED WITH SUFFICIENT DETAIL OR VALIDITY.



WORLD ORT UNION BUDGET AND AMERICAN QUOTA FOR 1939

1. TRAINING AND RETRAINING

Poland .....	\$468,000.00	
Roumania .....	72,000.00	
Lithuania .....	73,000.00	
Latvia .....	48,000.00	
Germany .....	40,000.00	
France .....	40,000.00	
Hungary .....	30,000.00	
Bulgaria .....	5,000.00	
Inspectors, Textbooks, Appliances and Training of Instructors .....	12,000.00	
		\$ 788,000.00

2. INDUSTRIALIZATION AND EMPLOYMENT FOR ARTISANS

Poland .....	\$100,000.00	
Roumania .....	30,000.00	
Lithuania .....	15,000.00	
Latvia .....	10,000.00	
		\$ 155,000.00

3. AGRICULTURAL AID AND SETTLEMENT

Poland .....	\$ 75,000.00	
Roumania .....	25,000.00	
Lithuania .....	25,000.00	
Latvia .....	15,000.00	
Western Europe for Refugees .....	175,000.00	
		315,000.00

4. REFUGEE WORK

a. In the Countries of Transit .....	\$150,000.00	
b. In Countries Other Than Europe .....	275,000.00	
		425,000.00

5. OVERHEAD EXPENSES

a. Administration, Central Board, Paris .....	\$ 16,000.00	
b. Printing, Publishing and Publicity .....	10,000.00	
c. Campaign .....	15,000.00	
		41,000.00

6. REPAYMENT OF LOANS .....\$ 25,000.00

25,000.00

7. RESERVE FOR UNFORESEEN EXPENDITURES ..... 10,000.00

10,000.00

TOTAL ..... \$1,759,000.00  
(Appropriations for Russia ceased in 1938)

QUOTAS

COUNTRIES OUTSIDE NORTH AMERICA .....	595,000.00
UNITED STATES AND CANADA .....	\$1,164,000.00
PLUS CAMPAIGN AND ADMINISTRATION AT 8% .....	93,120.00
<b>1939 AMERICAN QUOTA</b>	<b>\$1,257,120.00</b>

The 1939 budget of \$1,759,000, the largest in recent ORT history, provides for the further development and improvement of existing institutions and for new projects demanded by the growing dislocation of both the settled masses and the refugees in Eastern and Central Europe.

Of this sum, \$1,257,000 is to be raised in the United States and Canada, while almost \$600,000 -- more than one third of the World ORT Union budget -- is to be secured in other countries, including the very areas where the problem is most acute.



NOTES ON THE 1939 BUDGET

FIELDS OF ACTIVITY

1. Vocational training of youths and adults and retraining of declassed merchants and professional people, in skilled trades.
2. Industrialization -- including perfectioning courses for artisans and the creation of employment through cooperatives, workshops, and factories.
3. Establishment of farm settlements and agricultural training.
4. Refugee work -- training in the countries of transit and refuge. De-urbanization.

INCREASING THE BUDGET

New projects -- A group of new projects, several already under way, of vast potential importance to the victims of the present pressure in Europe, cannot be discussed until continuous operation is assured. Ill-timed announcements in the past have caused an unfavorable reaction in the governments of the concerned countries, resulting in the collapse of more than one important project in Europe and elsewhere. Extreme caution must be exercised, even at the risk of penalizing the fund-raising activities. Demands are being made almost daily, even in areas beyond Europe, for ORT's experienced assistance. Additional funds must be made available if the normal program is not to suffer.

The activities in Eastern Europe, where ORT provides practically all of the training facilities available to Jews, quite aside from Poland, must continue with increasing effectiveness and funds committed there cannot be diverted to other purposes. Approximately 60% of all Jewish vocational training in Poland is conducted by ORT. In Roumania, Latvia, and Lithuania, the figures are 100%, minus perhaps a negligible fraction. The modest ORT activity in Bulgaria, now being expanded, represents 100% of the Jewish vocational training in that country.

POLAND:

\$643,000 has been allocated to Poland where 180 activities in 81 communities are now being maintained. An agreement between ORT and the Central Bureau of Jewish Trade Unions in Poland was ratified in October, 1938, for the perfectioning of union members in need of greater skill. Some 30,000 unionists require such training. The commitment was undertaken at the request of the unions. In one of the largest refugee camps, at Zbonczyn on the Polish-German border, ORT has just started nine courses which were established after the November riots in Germany and is providing the type of training acceptable to the anticipated countries of immigration. Additional courses are needed and are being planned.



GERMANY:

The Berlin ORT school has been in continuous operation since May 1937. More than 200 youths are getting ready for graduation and an equal number are waiting to take their places. In addition, a small group of adults, former businessmen and holders of academic degrees, are being trained at artisanship to enable them to earn a living abroad. As a precautionary measure it is planned to establish a section of this school in another accessible country to enable those who have to leave to continue their studies. Approximately \$50,000 is needed for this purpose.

ROUMANIA:

In Roumania more ORT courses have been budgeted in line with the increasingly serious political changes which threaten to declass many thousands.

HUNGARY:

The first ORT courses for Hungary are being initiated in 1939 because of the restrictive legislation affecting the present occupations of Jews.

FRANCE:

The new wave of refugees from Germany, Italy and Austria found ORT training facilities already established, but unable to handle all of the applicants. Additional courses are being added to the 21 already in operation in Paris with an objective of 2,000 trainees by the end of 1939. New courses have been budgeted in other French cities where refugees have concentrated, including a day school for boys.

The 1939 budget provides for the establishment of additional families in the farm colony in southern France, initiated by ORT in 1934 for German refugees. Under the new plan, families possessing an average of \$1,000 each would receive an additional credit of \$1,000 from ORT. A center in the district is contemplated for agricultural training for youths, who will also be available as farm labor, receiving a subvention of \$50 per annum from ORT.

EASTERN EUROPE GENERALLY:

ORT is enlarging its service of teaching impoverished traders and artisans to supplement their income through gardening and dairying on a small scale on the outskirts of urban communities. The program also tends to divert village populations from shop-keeping and petty trading to farming pursuits away from congested areas.



ORT SERVICES:

Advisory bureaus -- to improve the standards of craftsmen in Poland, Roumania, Lithuania and Latvia. For the latter three countries the budget provides a portable exhibit of crafts to help backward artisans in the provinces and acquaint them with modern methods. This is also intended to implement the establishment of a central ORT institute for artisans for the defense of the economic position of Jewish workers and for improving their technical skill and culture.

Legalization of artisans -- To enable them through training and money for fees to comply with the requirements for obtaining government certificates of qualification.

Training instructors -- To insure a steady supply of competent teachers for the courses in ORT's expanding program.

Guidance for cooperatives -- Supplied by experts visiting industrial and agricultural enterprises which are also aided by credits.

Buildings and equipment -- New buildings; old ones reconditioned; equipment repairs and modernization.

Compilation of textbooks -- Books, charts and other material prepared for trade and farming courses by ORT experts for use in ORT classes.

Instruction of seminary students -- Special trade courses for yeshiva boys in Poland.

Instruction in cultural subjects -- In every ORT institution, supplementing technical training.

"Adoption" of orphans -- Food and lodging supplied in addition to technical instruction through donations by "guardians".



SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES

ALL COUNTRIES

	1936	1937	1938
Trade Courses, Day Schools .....	44	44	63
Workshops for Adults .....	64	64	82
Perfectioning, and Special Courses ...	25	29	51
Other projects .....	7	7	13
Farm Colonies and Cooperatives .....	137	137	87*
Factories and Industrial .....	133	133	10*
Cooperatives	410	414	306*

\* Figures omit projects in the Soviet Union absorbed by the government in 1938.

BY COUNTRIES

Number of Individual  
Communities

1936	1937	1938
72	72	81
24	24	27
5	5	7
3	3	3
2	2	2
1	1	1
1	1	1
164	164	0
272	272	122



Number of  
Activities

1936	1937	1938
134	134	180
55	55	64
13	13	19
11	11	12
14	18	21
4	4	8
2	2	2
177	177	0
410	414	306

\* In Poland, ORT maintains approximately 60% of all the Jewish vocational training and practically 100% in Roumania, Lithuania, Latvia, Bulgaria, Germany and Western Europe.

(Note: Subsidies to trade schools are not part of ORT's program although very small sums have been given to non-ORT institutions.)



WORLD ORT UNION FINANCIAL STATEMENT FOR 1937

INCOME

BALANCE--JANUARY 1, 1937

Central Office .....	\$ 11,674.59	
Local Committees .....	16,288.31	\$27,962.90

RECEIPTS

Central Office		
United States .....	\$171,231.82	
Africa, England, Argentine, Holland, Etc...	34,050.96	
ORT Reconstruction Fund .....	111,221.16	
Raichinstein Fund .....	1,846.64	
Miscellaneous .....	3,488.27	321,838.85
Local Committees		
Poland .....	\$ 95,438.67	
Lithuania .....	24,419.91	
Latvia .....	8,384.46	
France .....	7,703.89	
Germany .....	13,476.00	
Roumania .....	13,567.30	
Bulgaria .....	734.93	
		163,725.16
Exchanges .....		2,020.13
Advances .....		31,700.02

TOTAL

\$547,247.06

DISBURSEMENTS

VOCATIONAL

Poland .....	\$135,611.83	
Lithuania .....	32,814.74	
Germany .....	29,639.99	
France .....	9,051.31	
Roumania .....	33,827.61	
Latvia .....	13,947.11	
Bulgaria .....	1,557.90	
Inspection, Instructors, Material, Etc.....	2,253.84	\$258,704.33

AGRICULTURAL

Poland .....	\$ 27,456.44	
Russia .....	95,798.38	
France .....	2,676.64	
Roumania .....	1,373.15	127,304.61

INDUSTRY

Poland .....	\$ 5,504.90	
Russia .....	30,450.84	
Roumania .....	413.04	36,368.78

MISCELLANEOUS

Funds for Buildings .....	\$ 17,778.82	
Repayment of Debts .....	29,342.70	
Advances to Locals .....	5,848.50	
ORT Reconstruction Fund .....	12,995.33	
Cash--Central Office .....	815.91	
Cash--Local Committees .....	23,636.66	90,417.92

EDUCATIONAL WORK

Paris Exposition .....	\$ 4,442.75	
1937 International Congress .....	4,393.46	8,836.21

OVERHEAD EXPENSES

Publicity .....	\$ 3,075.71	
Campaign .....	9,823.92	
Central Administration--Paris .....	12,715.58	26,615.21

TOTAL

\$547,247.06



AMERICAN ORT FEDERATION FINANCIAL STATEMENT FOR 1938

(World figures not yet available)

INCOME

A. General

Guardians	\$ 3,604.95	
Memorial	250.00	
Total General		\$ 3,854.95

B. Contributions

Members	2,775.15	
Welfare Funds	100,951.35	
ORT Organizations	46,601.13	
Other Organizations	48,547.16	
Total Contributions		198,874.79

C. Total All Income

\$202,729.74

EXPENSE

D. Sent To ORT Union in Paris \$164,666.08

E. Advances 700.00

F. Office Equipment 383.25

G. Administration, Publicity, Exhibit, and Campaign	33,862.60
--	-----------

H. Total All Expense \$199,611.93



FIVE YEAR FINANCIAL SUMMARY

Funds Raised by American ORT Federation

	<u>1934</u>	<u>1935</u>	<u>1936</u>	<u>1937</u>	<u>1938</u>
	No National Campaign	No National Campaign			
Independently	\$ 22,986.88	\$ 37,537.60	\$ 39,600.00	\$ 96,283.00	\$202,729.74
From J.D.C. in lieu of campaigns	<u>XXX</u>	<u>XXX</u>	<u>110,000.00</u>	<u>130,836.00*</u>	<u>XXX</u>
TOTALS	22,986.88 Net	37,537.60 Net	149,600.00	227,119.00**	202,729.74

Funds Sent to World ORT Union

United States	\$ 22,986.88	\$ 37,537.60	\$ 97,000.00	\$171,231.82	\$175,435.26**
Western Europe and Countries Outside America	36,416.59	27,124.07	54,620.23	34,050.96	XXX ***
Other Sources (Principally ORT Recon- struction Fund)	76.99	XXX	14,731.80	178,239.12	XXX ***
Local Committees (Poland, Latvia, Roumania, Lithuania Bulgaria, France, Germany - Soviet Union omitted)	<u>128,566.01</u>	<u>112,791.25</u>	<u>119,238.71</u>	<u>163,725.16</u>	<u>XXX ***</u>
TOTALS	\$188,046.47	\$177,452.92	\$285,590.74	\$547,247.06	XXX

\* An additional \$14,164 contributed by the J.D.C. was refunded by ORT in adjustment of welfare fund allocations.

\*\* Includes \$10,769.18 sent to the World ORT Union late in 1937 and not credited until 1938.

\*\*\* Figures not yet available.



STATEMENT OF JOINT DISTRIBUTION COMMITTEE

and

AMERICAN ORT FEDERATION

As to their relation for the year 1938

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The Joint Distribution Committee and the ORT have maintained harmonious and cordial contact for many years. The J.D.C. has been able to grant substantial assistance to the American ORT, as well as to ORT institutions abroad. On several occasions, understandings were effected in America with respect to fund-raising. Discussions have proceeded between the two organizations with respect to 1938.

After canvassing the entire situation, both in this country and the needs abroad, it is believed to be for the best interests of all concerned that each organization conduct its own fund-raising in 1938. This will not in any way affect the continuance of the excellent working cooperation that has obtained for many years between the European office of the J.D.C. and the ORT organization abroad.

AMERICAN JEWISH JOINT DISTRIBUTION COMMITTEE

*Paul Ziswiler*  
Chairman

AMERICAN ORT FEDERATION

*B. Charney Udoeck*  
Pres.

February 16th, 1938.



*I do not think I need say anything*

GEORGE BACKER  
270 BROADWAY

June 8th, 1939.

Rabbi Abba Hillel Silver,  
The Temple,  
Cleveland, Ohio.

Dear Rabbi Silver:-

One of the most disturbing reports that has reached me in ORT, so far, is the unofficial news from Cleveland concerning our allocation for 1939. It comes as a great shock to me to contemplate a figure of \$5,000, as ORT, indisputably, is within the scope of the primary appeal to your contributors in this year's campaign.

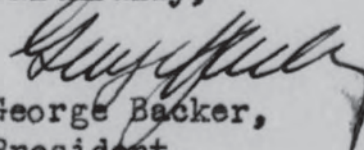
In 1937, while still receiving a subvention from another agency, ORT was allotted \$5,000 in Cleveland. The 1938 allocation was reduced to \$3,500 on the mistaken assumption that the subvention arrangement was still in effect. Were it not for this misconception, ORT unquestionably would have received not less than \$5,000 last year.

ORT's budgeted requirements this year have increased three-fold and practically every major city in the United States is giving due recognition to this fact. There is hardly a community of any size, throughout the United States and Canada this year, thus far reporting, that has not increased their 1937 and 1938 allocation to ORT at least two-fold and in countless instances the increases have been considerably greater.

I would like to feel that this report from Cleveland is not final and that there will be an opportunity for an objective review to more nearly reflect the intent of a substantial portion of the donors and also the opinions held by not a few members of your budget committee, including, I hope, your very good self.

With good wishes and high regard,

Faithfully,

  
George Backer,  
President,  
AMERICAN ORT FEDERATION.



# American Ort Federation

CREATING A NEW OCCUPATIONAL EXISTENCE FOR THE REFUGEES AND MASSES OF EUROPEAN JEWS THROUGH THE VAST NETWORK OF TRADE SCHOOLS—FARM COLONIES—INDUSTRIAL WORKSHOPS AND FACTORIES COMPRISING THE ORT EMPIRE

212 FIFTH AVENUE  
NEW YORK CITY  
TELEPHONE: ASHLAND 4-7454

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*Chairman, Office Control*  
HAROLD ALTSCHUL,  
*Executive Vice-Chairman*  
PHILIP BLOCK, *Executive Director*

June 27th, 1939.

UNITED STATES  
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*Chairman*  
REP. EMANUEL CELLER, *Secretary*

ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
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PARLIAMENTAIRE DE L'ORT  
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*Vice-President*

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BRITISH EMPIRE  
PARLIAMENTARY ADVISORY  
COUNCIL OF THE ORT  
LORD MARLEY, *Chairman*

JOINT BRITISH COMMITTEE  
LORD ROTHSCHILD, *President*  
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*Acting Chairman*

GERMANY  
ORT  
DEUTSCHE ABTEILUNG E. V.  
LOUIS WOLFF, *President*

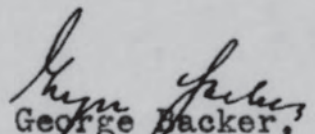
Rabbi Abba H. Silver,  
E. 105th St. & Ansel Road  
Cleveland, Ohio.

Dear Rabbi Silver:-

In order not to repeat what I have already written at some length, I am attaching copy of my letter to Mr. Salmon P. Halle, which I hope you will give the same consideration as though personally addressed to you.

With greetings and high regard,

Faithfully,

  
George Backer,  
President,  
AMERICAN ORT FEDERATION.

GB:esc  
encl- copy letter.



Copy for  
Rabbi Silver  
Cohen

June 27th, 1939.

Mr. Salmon P. Halle,  
904 Hanna Building,  
Cleveland, Ohio.

Dear Mr. Halle:-

Thank you very much for replying so promptly to my letter of June 16th and for the explanation you were thoughtful enough to include. You were very kind to let me know that your committee was influenced by the fact that the Joint Distribution Committee has also budgeted substantial amounts for training and rehabilitation of the refugees and others in Europe.

I am glad you mentioned this because I know you are aware that regardless of such subvention and despite the fact that ORT, as the major European agency engaged in this specialized work, has vastly expanded its facilities, only a fraction of the present vital needs for occupational retraining in Europe is being met.

I believe the latest report issued by the Council of Jewish Federations and Welfare Funds gives emphasis to the fact that ORT is the dominant agency engaged in this type of work and I have also found that the attitude of every European government, including England, confirms this conclusion.

I may be wrong, but it seems to me, under these circumstances, that if one agency finds it necessary to budget large sums for retraining work it merely stresses the vital importance of occupational retraining. Granting that, is it unreasonable for ORT, which concerns itself exclusively with this phase of the problem, to expect to receive the minimum needs with which to do the job demanded of it by its supporters in America and Jewish leaders throughout Europe.

I was encouraged to note that the one reason for the present allocation to ORT was that you could not arrive at any fair estimate of a definite division of the funds until there could be some better clarification of the respective fields of work for which both ORT and the J.D.C. seek funds. This question can be clarified and I am eager to cooperate to this end. Parenthetically, only a minimum of duplication or overlapping is possible in the retraining field. As in Cleveland and New York, the same students do



6/27/39

not attend more than one institution and a farm family does not settle in more than one colony.

I am attaching an allocation sheet covering a few cities which have already made allotments to ORT for 1939. Chicago, raising a little more than twice the amount secured in Cleveland, will contribute in excess of \$60,000 to ORT. The Los Angeles allocation is \$25,000. Boston, Mass., which has not yet published its allocation, will, I am told, allot between \$15,000 and \$20,000 out of a gross collection of approximately \$600,000. In Montreal, ORT participated with the Joint Distribution Committee on the basis of eighty percent for the J.D.C. and twenty percent for ORT. The campaign was launched by the J.D.C. and directed by them.

If I have gone into this question at some length, it is only because I have no other choice having accepted the responsibility as the head of the ORT in America. Without reasonably adequate financial support, I cannot measure up to the obligation imposed upon me and I do not speak in a personal sense. I know that you and all of your colleagues in Cleveland are just as anxious as I am to arrive at a determination that will reflect our mutual interests in the problem and our desire to distribute our funds as effectively as possible. I am equally sure that I do not have to urge you to hold ORT's allocation for 1939 in abeyance, until we have had an opportunity to clarify the question that is puzzling you.

Of course, Mr. Altschul reported fully on the information conveyed to him in Cleveland and made reference at the same time to Mr. Goldhamer's reputation for possessing complete objectiveness in evaluating program and preparing budgetary information and guidance for his committee, but this makes it even more difficult to understand the situation.

Although the figures on the attached allocation sheet are quite modest, they explain better than any words of mine, the danger ORT would face through an allocation amounting to but little more than one-half of one percent of your campaign objective in Cleveland.

I am sending a copy of this letter to Rabbi Silver.

With kindest greetings,

Faithfully,

George Backer,  
President,  
AMERICAN ORT FEDERATION.

GB:esc  
encl.



July 3, 1939

Mr. George Backer, President  
American Ort Federation  
212 Fifth Avenue  
New York, N.Y.

My dear Mr. Backer:

Permit me to acknowledge your letter of June 27 to Dr. Silver and the enclosure. Dr. Silver is spending his vacation in Europe and will be gone until the early part of September. I shall be pleased to refer your letter to him when he returns to the city.

With best wishes, I remain

Very sincerely yours,

BJK

Secretary to Dr. Silver.