



## Abba Hillel Silver Collection Digitization Project

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### **MS-4787: Abba Hillel Silver Papers, 1902-1989.**

Series I: General Correspondence, 1914-1969, undated.

Sub-series A: Alphabetical, 1914-1965, undated.

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United Jewish Appeal, United Palestine Appeal, "H" and "I",  
1938-1939.

HENRY ITTLESON  
ONE PARK AVENUE  
NEW YORK

October 7, 1938.

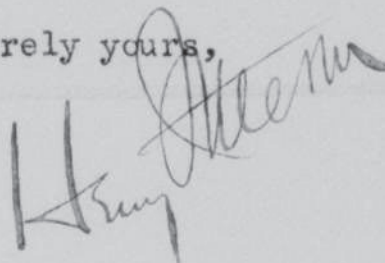
Dr. Abba Hillel Silver,  
United Palestine Appeal,  
Cleveland, Ohio.

Dear Rabbi Silver:

On my return to the city  
I find yours of August 9th.

If you will advise me  
shortly before arrival in the city,  
I will be pleased to see you.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Henry Littleton", written over a faint circular stamp that contains the text "AMERICAN JEWISH ARCHIVES".

HI/ejk

DRY GOODS  
READY-TO-WEAR  
MILLINERY

# THE VALLEY MERCANTILE CO.

PERCY HERMAN, Owner

SHOES  
FURNISHING  
CLOTHING

McAllen, Texas,  
Dec. 1, 1938.

Dr. Abba Hillel Silver,

Cleveland, Ohio.

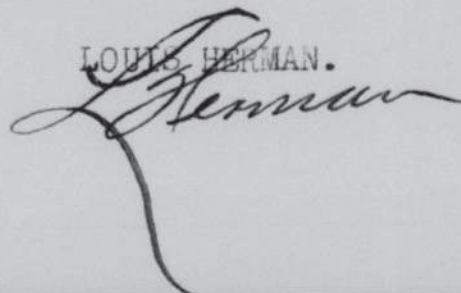
Dear Doctor Silver:

Good work should receive commensurate commendation; hence my desire to comment most favorably upon the effectiveness of Dr. Boruch Braunstein's efforts on his recent visit to this rather remote section of the country. The forcefulness of his addresses -- and he very kindly obliged with several more than his single schedule called for, before a luncheon club, at a joint Thanksgiving service and at our Valley Temple -- you are well acquainted with. Suffice it to say that as a result, a quite sizeable amount has been contributed by our Jewish population; the collection taken at the above mentioned joint service was turned over, and offers have been made by other Christian ministers to devote the collections of certain services to the cause.

In short, Dr. Braunstein, in his tactful manner, has aroused local sentiment to such an extent that beneficial results are bound to ensue. His earnestness, coupled with his impressive personality will continue to exert a powerful influence upon our non-Jewish brethren, I am certain.

Very truly yours,

LOUIS HERMAN.





December 20, 1938

Mr. Louis Herman  
The Valley Mercantile Co.  
McAllen, Texas

My dear Mr. Herman:

Let me thank you for your kind note.  
I was very pleased to hear of the fine effective  
work which Dr. Boruch Braunstein has done in your  
community. We have received similar reports from  
other parts of the region through which Dr. Braunstein  
has been traveling. He is one of our most effective  
and helpful co-workers.

With all good wishes, I remain

Very cordially yours,

AHS:BK



J·D·C

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And National Campaign Officers  
ex-Officio

1938 National Quota \$5,100,000

Joint Distribution Committee Campaign

100 EAST 42ND STREET, *New York*

Telephone LExington 2-5200



January 4, 1939

Rabbi Abba Hillel Silver  
The Temple  
East 105th Street at Ansel Road  
Cleveland, Ohio

Dear Rabbi Silver:

I am pleased to advise you that Mr. and Mrs. Louis Hexter who are now residing at the Commander Hotel, Cambridge, Massachusetts, have forwarded to our national headquarters a contribution of \$10.00 for the 1938 Joint Distribution Committee Campaign. Mr. Hexter informs us that this subscription is made in your name "in appreciation for your services".

With kind regards, I am

Sincerely yours,

*Isidor Coons*  
Isidor Coons  
National Director

IC:SSC

THE AMERICAN JEWISH JOINT DISTRIBUTION COMMITTEE, INC. IS SUPPORTED  
SOLELY BY VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTIONS



January 10, 1939

Mr. and Mrs. Louis Hexter  
Commander Hotel  
Cambridge, Mass.

My dear Friends:

Mr. Isidor Coons, of the Joint  
Distribution Committee, has informed me  
that you have made a contribution to the  
Campaign in appreciation of my services.  
I need not tell you that I am profoundly  
appreciative.

I trust that you are both well  
and I hope to have the pleasure of seeing  
you when I visit Cambridge on February 12.  
With all good wishes, I remain

Most cordially yours,

AHS:BK



copy.

January 11, 1939

Mr. Robert M. Herman  
Director of Field Staff  
Joint Distribution Committee Campaign  
100 East 42 Street  
New York City.

My dear Mr. Herman:

I was elated by the news which you conveyed to me and which later came to me through an official letter - namely that the J.D.C., U.P.A. and C.C. are to not merely coordinate, but unify their efforts toward one great all-embracing drive to collect \$20,000,000 from the Jewry of America. That step, in my opinion, is historic - irrespective of whether the huge sum will or will not be attained.

I can well imagine how busy the staff must be now. Instead of waiting in New York City for the contemplated conference, I decided it would be wiser for me to return to Ann Arbor and from there write you about the programs I should like to suggest to the united organizations.

Our discussion must be based, it seems, on the following premises:

1. The task of the J.D.C., U.P.A. and C.C. is not a task for a year, but a long-time proposition.
2. In addition, we have not only the problem of soliciting the men and women who are today in a position to give, but also the problem of educating the future members of the Jewish communities to give to Jewish causes. We must make these younger men and women conscious even now of their responsibility and mould them so that they will joyously assume the leadership when the old timers vanish from the scene.
3. We also have a problem of replacing the "Ten Percenters" with the "Ten Centers". Let me explain what I mean: in many communities there are to be found individuals who promise to give to a drive ten per cent of what is collected. The possibility of another individual taking that person's place when he is gone is very small. If we are therefore to obtain the



necessary sums from that community, it is of vital importance to widen the base - multiply the number - of the smaller givers in order to make up for the disappearance of the Ten Percenter.

To achieve the above things, I would suggest that the three organizations establish a Collegiate Division whose aim shall be to evoke the moral and financial support of Jewish students, fraternities and sororities on the American campus. There ought to be a Chairman for that division and a large committee which will cover various sections or campuses of the country. This committee ought to consist of some Hillel Directors, Jewish Students' Counselors, Jewish University professors, Menorah and Avukah Officers, and representative students.

The following are some of the projects and techniques that I would suggest:

1. An annual Drive to be held on the campuses which have an appreciable Jewish student population. This drive ought to be like the one that was carried on the campus of Michigan for the last three years. I have in previous letters explained to you in detail our organization and the methods we pursue.
2. We also want to encourage the Jewish students on various campuses to hold in the semester other than that of the drive, an all Jewish student dinner and dance - Spring or Autumn formal. The features of that affair would be that the food would be very frugal to signify to them the bread of affliction which those abroad must endure. Radio, instead of orchestral music is to be considered appropriate for the occasion. Students are to give corsage money to the cause. Instead of a corsage, we could get up a paper refugee tag or ribbon which the young lady would wear to indicate that her beau donated the equivalent to relief of sufferers.
3. It would also be the function of that division to induce every fraternity and sorority chapter to provide room, board and tuition fee if possible, for one refugee.
4. That committee could also study the possibilities of getting proper refugee families to settle in some college town, and open up a rooming house for Jewish students and perhaps also serve meals. There are not a few campuses where it is exceedingly difficult, for example, for a Jewish girl to obtain a room with a non-Jewish family, especially if that family relies substantially on the income from the rental of such rooms to students. The landladies regret that they have to resort to this discrimination, but they say that it is forced upon them by the attitude of the non-Jewish students. Terribly painful and unpleasant experiences can be cited about this practice. If we could get one or two Jewish families to settle in such a town and open up such a house for Jewish girls, they would be



able easily to earn their rent and if they are willing to serve meals also, their food, if not more than that. At least the possibilities ought to be studied and probed. It also - if wisely handled - help to eliminate some anti-Semitism.

These projects ought to be lead by the Hillel Director and the Hillel Student President when there is such a foundation on the campus. Should there be no Hillel Foundation on the campus, the Jewish fraternities, sororities, Menorah and Avukah societies could assume leadership. The committee in charge of the Drive or Dance would receive guidance and help from the J.D.C. and U.P.A. offices and perhaps also from Jewish leaders in the vicinity of that campus. If there are some Jewish professors on the faculty, they would be gotten to be sponsors and advisors.

5. A study should be made of the Levinger survey to ascertain the campuses which have a large Jewish population. We also could get a list of the national fraternities and sororities and find out where they have chapters.
6. Lastly, I believe it may be of some help if a conference of the heads of the national fraternities and sororities were held and their intense and whole-hearted cooperation for the above projects could be obtained and relayed to their constituent chapters.

These are my suggestions. Some may be eliminated. Others you may feel should be modified. However, they indicate the general direction.

I want to close this letter by again assuring Dr. Wise, Mr. Coons, and yourself of my readiness to cooperate with you in the objectives and projects above outlined. I am ready to volunteer as much of my time as I can possibly spare to this cause which spells the material and spiritual salvation of our afflicted coreligionists.

With best wishes to you all for a most successful year, I remain,

Sincerely yours,

Bernard Heller

Director - Michigan Hillel.

BH:LM



OF TEXAS



MID-CONTINENT BUILDING

FORT WORTH, TEXAS

February 3, 1939

Rabbi Abba Hillel Silver  
% Temple  
105th Street  
Cleveland, Ohio

Dear Rabbi Silver:

Rabbi Graubart, who recently returned from the Washington conference, advised me that he discussed with you the possibility of your visiting the South during the coming month, including Fort Worth in your itinerary. This letter is prompted by information which I have just received that you expect to visit Houston, Texas and I am writing to you to urge that you arrange to visit Fort Worth following your appearance in Houston. I make this request because I am very much interested in the Jewish Federation of Fort Worth and feel that you can render a great service to the local community.

I am an ex-resident of Cleveland and spent many delightful Sundays in the Temple when it was located on the corner of 55th and Central, and in its present location on 105th Street. If the members of the local community have not learned about you through the press, they certainly have through me, for I have been boasting about you ever since I came to Texas, nearly twenty years ago. Not only will your presence in Fort Worth be of tremendous assistance to our Federation, but it will demonstrate to the Jewish Community of this city that I have been very modest in my praises. I assure you that this statement is not intended to be idle flattery.


I am not unmindful of the tremendous burden which you have assumed and were it not for the fact that you are planning to visit this part of the country, I would not ask you to give up a day for the benefit of Fort Worth.

Awaiting your reply, I am

Sincerely yours,

IEH:McD

Sincerely yours,





## MEMORANDUM

Date March 8, 1939

To Rabbi Abba Hillel Silver

From Mr. M. Robert Herman

Subject Air Travel Cards

I am enclosing herewith your air travel charge card on the United Jewish Appeal, Inc. account.

Will you be good enough to sign this card immediately upon receipt. In case of loss, please notify this office at once, so that we, in turn, may notify the air line to stop honoring such card.

Whenever you travel by air on behalf of the UJA, we would appreciate your charging the transportation to this account rather than to any other account for which you may now hold a card.

Please sign the attached receipt and return to the United Jewish Appeal, 342 Madison Avenue.

WRHS



M. Robert Herman  
Director of Field Staff

MRH:LST  
Enc.



March 9, 1939

Mr. M. Robert Herman  
United Jewish Appeal  
342 Madison Avenue  
New York, N.Y.

My dear Mr. Herman:

I received your telegram. The reason I have asked to have someone else take the towns in Texas is because Mr. Montor asked me to take the towns of Nashville, Atlanta and Richmond on the 25th, 26th and 27th of April. This crowds my program for the next few weeks terrifically. I am to be away from Cleveland March 19th through 23rd, and if I am to go to Texas, I will be away most of the following week; and then I am to be in New York on Sunday, April 2nd. This is really too much of a good thing.... Furthermore, I can only give three days to Texas, and the three cities, as you probably know, are vast distances apart. I am wondering whether you have checked up on the plane schedules to discover whether I can actually make these three towns on three consecutive evenings. I should not want to ride all day on a train and then have to speak in the evening.

Please canvass the situation again, see whether the Texas communities will not have a substitute for me and, if not, whether I can actually make these three towns on three consecutive evenings.

You know, of course, that I am also chairman of the local Cleveland Campaign and that we are soon to get under way to organize our work here. I would like to devote as much time as I possibly can to the success of the local Campaign.

I have been compelled to decline an invitation from Minneapolis for April 14th or 21st.

With all good wishes, I remain

Very cordially yours,

AHS:BK



# UNITED JEWISH APPEAL (Inc.) FOR REFUGEES AND OVERSEAS NEEDS

ON BEHALF OF  
AMERICAN JEWISH JOINT DISTRIBUTION COMMITTEE, INC.  
UNITED PALESTINE APPEAL and  
NATIONAL CO-ORDINATING COMMITTEE FUND, INC.

Rabbi Abba Hillel Silver  
Rabbi Jonah B. Wise  
National Chairmen

342 MADISON AVENUE  
NEW YORK, N. Y.

March 14, 1939

*Committee in Formation*

Dr. Abba Hillel Silver  
The Temple  
East 105th Street at Ansel Road  
Cleveland, Ohio

Dear Dr. Silver:

Thank you for your letter of March 13th. We are writing to Dr. Ben M. Selekman today to advise him when you plan to arrive in Boston. I know that the Campaign Committee will wish to meet you upon your arrival.

In accordance with Mr. Montor's request, we have booked Ludwig Lore, wellknown newspaper correspondent and news commentator, to occupy your pulpit on April 2nd instead of Dr. Joachim Prinz. Would you be good enough to let me know when you will wish Mr. Lore to arrive in Cleveland, what time your services will take place, and any other information which you deem necessary.

With kind regards, I am

Sincerely yours

*M. Robert Herman*

M. Robert Herman  
Director of Field Staff

MRH:BLS

Apr 2



March 16, 1939

Mr. M. Robert Herman  
United Jewish Appeal  
342 Madison Avenue  
New York, N.Y.

My dear Mr. Herman:

Before receiving your letter informing me that you had booked Mr. Ludwig Lore to occupy my pulpit on April 2nd, I had written to Mr. Montor suggesting the name of Mr. Marvin Lowenthal. I would prefer a discussion of the Jewish subject as I have had, during the year, some outstanding me like John Gunther and Prince Hubertus zu Lowenstein discuss the present political situation. Please let me know whether Mr. Lowenthal is available.

With all good wishes, I remain

Very cordially yours,

AHS:BK



March 23, 1939

Mr. R. Robert Herman  
United Jewish Appeal  
342 Madison Avenue  
New York, N.Y.

My dear Mr. Herman:

Rabbi Silver has requested me to send you the enclosed letter from Mrs. F. Clayton and her contribution to the United Jewish Appeal. Please acknowledge her letter and contribution.

With best wishes, I remain

Very sincerely yours,

BJK  
Enc.

Secretary to Rabbi Silver.

AMERICAN JEWISH  
ARCHIVES



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FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT

CHECK
ACCT'G INFMN.
TIME FILED

Send the following message, subject to the terms on back hereof, which are hereby agreed to

Collect

March 23, 1939

Robert Herman  
United Jewish Appeal  
342 Madison Ave.  
New York, N.Y.

WRHS



RABBI SILVER WILL NOT ADDRESS LUNCHEON MEETING FORT WORTH  
ON TWENTY EIGHTH

Bessie Kline, Secretary



April 6, 1939

Mr. Henry Ittelson  
1 Park Avenue  
New York, N.Y.

My dear Mr. Ittelson:

Last Sunday at the meeting at the Harmonie Club, Mr. Lasker spoke to me about the fifth member to the Allocations Committee which we are to select. He mentioned the name of Mr. Louis Kirstein of Boston. I told him that personally I would be delighted if Mr. Kirstein would accept and that I would recommend the name to the Executive Committee of the United Palestine Appeal. I am happy to inform you that our Committee is delighted with the suggestion of Mr. Kirstein's name and that Dr. Goldman and I, as the two members on the Allocations Committee representing the United Palestine Appeal, will vote in favor of his selection. I assume that you approve of it along with Mr. Lasker. In that case, I would suggest that we send a letter of invitation to Mr. Kirstein in the name of the four present members inviting him to become the fifth member of the Committee.

I left the meeting, last Sunday afternoon, very much heartened and inspired. I thought that it was a great meeting and that the Jewry of New York had risen in a splendid manner to a great challenge. I know that much of the success of the meeting was due to you and to the kind of dynamic leadership which you have given the campaign. That should be a source of deepest satisfaction to you as it is to all of us.

With all good wishes, I remain

Most cordially yours,

AHS:BK



Stetson

11

Dear Dr. Silver:-

- (1) The strictly confidential memorandum which Mr. Rublee brought back from Germany;
- (2) A resume of the conversations held at Mr. Myron Taylor's office;
- (3) A memorandum written by me descriptive of the proposed corporation;
- (4) Comment by Mr. Bernard Flexner.

Faithfully yours,

HFL.LG  
Enc.



MEMORANDUM CONCERNING THE ORGANIZATION  
OF AN INTERNATIONAL CORPORATION  
TO HANDLE REFUGEE WORK

This memorandum is my personal opinion on the questions raised in my mind by the several papers handed me by Mr. Linder, which, I understand, grow out of Mr. Taylor's reports at several conferences held with him touching the refugee problem and the work of Mr. Rublee.

Underlying the whole problem, as I see it, is the fact that private activity, unaided by governments, can touch only the outer fringe of this vast problem.

Every doubt that may exist with reference to the proposals raised in Mr. Rublee's report should be resolved in favor of that report. I mean this: that whether the effort be small or large, an effort in good faith should be made by the American group to implement this report if the American group wants to escape the charge that it has let down the Intergovernmental Committee and the President of the United States. The American group will be fairly open to that charge unless some effort is made by the American group to assist in making the Rublee report walk. Briefly, governmental participation in this overwhelming problem will only follow if private agencies have made some effort toward solving it.

The papers which I have seen urge an active effort; what I shall say is directed to an examination of the proposals indicated.

The organization of an international corporation is proposed. Such corporation will be organized under British law; the meetings of its Board of Directors will be held in London; Directors, other than British Directors, will be represented by alternates; work in different parts of the world will be carried on by committees or subsidiaries, or other groups who would be directed from and who would report to London. From my own experience, I think all of the above assumptions are sound.



Such an international corporation would be a mistake:

- A. It is bad psychologically. It would be furnishing additional ammunition to the charge of international financial Jewry and all of the implications involved in this charge.
- B. There is not the slightest doubt in my mind (considering the world-wide distribution of the problem) that such corporation would be inefficient. Located and administered in London, it would represent largely a British point of view, and it is quite possible that its activities may be susceptible to influence by British trade policy. This would be especially unfortunate at the present time because of the attitude of a large part of the American public. It cannot be overlooked that the United States is making a continuous effort in every possible way to bring closer the relations between the United States and Latin America, which offers settlement possibilities in a number of places. The United States has been squarely up against German and Italian trade activity and propaganda in Latin America, both of these countries working in every way to broaden their markets and increase their influence. If a British company is organized and administered from London, the United States might be confronted with additional British/<sup>trade</sup> activity.
- C. Nor can one overlook the possibility of a major European war, and it is at least reasonable to assume that a British dominated company would be in a less favorable position to carry on activities as compared with an American corporation.
- D. The British are confronted with a profound obligation in Palestine, and the British attitude to this obligation has aroused and will continue to arouse the severest criticism. A British dominated corporation will without doubt be largely influenced with reference to that problem by the policy of the British Government. There is not the slightest doubt,



in my own view, that the proposed Anglo-American corporation will meet strong objections in this country because of the Palestine situation.

E. Excluding Palestine, in which both British and Americans have participated, and will undoubtedly continue to participate, through agencies working there, the possibilities of settlement fall generally into two geographical classifications: a) those within British influence, b) those within American influence.

To illustrate: those within British influence are Kenya, Tanganyika, British Guiana, and Australia - although it should not be forgotten that Australia was opened by the Refugee Economic Corporation after London had frowned on it. When the subject was reopened, the Refugee Economic Corporation was requested by the Australians "to leave London out of it". White settlement en masse is not possible either in Kenya or Tanganyika. British Guiana is at present under investigation by a Commission. Within American influence are Santo Domingo, Costa Rica, Central and South America, and the Philippine Islands.

The possibility of mass settlement in Santo Domingo was opened by the Refugee Economic Corporation. The same thing is true of the Philippines, where a controlled immigration is now under way, and has been from the moment that the Refugee Economic Corporation began its negotiations. All authorities agree that climatically, geographically, and industrially, Costa Rica offers most exceptional opportunities. When political obstacles there are overcome, this emigration plan may be consummated.

It can readily be seen (again excluding Palestine) that the most important settlement possibilities are within the so-called American sphere of influence. A commission is at work in Santo Domingo - practically at the end of its work - all of the members of which are United States Government



employees. A Commission of five is on its way to the Philippines, three of whose members are United States Government employees; the other two are on the payroll of the Refugee Economic Corporation. These Commissions were organized by Dr. Isaiah Bowman, with the assistance of the personnel of the United States Departments of State, Agriculture and Interior, through the efforts of the Refugee Economic Corporation.

Dr. Bowman, who is supervising all exploration work of the various individuals and groups through the Walter Hines Page School at the Johns Hopkins University, has an international reputation in his field. All of the expenses of these Commissions have been paid by the Refugee Economic Corporation.

Notwithstanding the possible places of mass settlement in the American zone, it is clear that if an international corporation is organized, it will dominate the whole field. It is quite as clear that such domination would be a serious mistake and as I have pointed out would not be welcomed in this country.

I agree that there is force in the proposal that contact with the German Government must be maintained by a group located nearer to Germany than the United States. This statement does not affect the argument I have made against an international corporation. The answer, as I see it, is that the British should be encouraged to organize their own corporation. An arrangement could be made between such a British corporation and the American corporation, or a committee organized by both groups, as the agency for contacting the German Government. Such an agency would be made up of British and American representatives, and, if it could possibly be arranged, Government representatives as well.

What is envisaged in this plan is what has been the policy of the Refugee Economic Corporation from its organization. There is no sound reason for the



organization of a new American corporation. Is all of the work that has been done by the Refugee Economic Corporation (the extent of which is only hinted at in this brief memorandum) to be junked? Its files are the largest files anywhere on the whole subject. It has established the nucleus of the best group of experts that has ever been collected in this country, and it is a working organization. The only possibilities that were officially announced in London by the Intergovernmental Committee - to wit: the Philippines, Santo Domingo, and Australia - were matters that had been originally organized and developed by the Refugee Economic Corporation.

It may be advisable to have some American participation in a British Corporation. Such participation need not be for a large sum. In my view, that money should not be personal subscriptions of Americans. The participation should be made by the Refugee Economic Corporation, and the representative or representatives on the Board of the British corporation should represent the Refugee Economic Corporation.

The Refugee Economic Corporation as a matter of course should be strengthened and enlarged, and every effort should be made in strengthening and enlarging it to persuade Mr. Myron Taylor, and other men like him, to join its Board, with Mr. Taylor as its Chairman or its Honorary President.

The Refugee Economic Corporation has consistently taken the position that its beneficiaries should be non-Jews as well as Jews. Considering the amount of cooperation that is being offered and has been effected on the part of Christians and Christian organizations the world over, these two corporations - one in England and one here - should have as their beneficiaries non-Jewish as well as Jewish refugees.

The following is a summary of the advantages of retaining the Refugee Economic Corporation to implement the Rublee report:

- A. Its charter is already adapted to all the activities envisaged.
- B. It has initiated all of the projects in the Western Hemisphere which hold promise of affording possibilities of mass settlement;



- C. It has a long history of successful cooperation with the American State Department, where it enjoys the confidence of the major officials;
- D. In the course of its investigations and activities, it has established solid contacts with the key governments and has been able to establish its prestige with these governments as a thoroughly dependable body, careful in its fact-finding, and, above all, circumspect in its publicity. The importance of this last factor can hardly be exaggerated, because whatever comparative success has ever been attained must be attributed in part to the avoidance of publicity, and its attendant embarrassment to governments.
- E. Through Dr. Isaiah Bowman and the Walter Hines Page School of International Relations, and with the cooperation of the State Department, the Refugee Economic Corporation has organized two scientific commissions charged with the investigation of Santo Domingo, and the Philippine Islands. It has thus established the nucleus of a permanent personnel that will be most important in the continuance of settlement activities.

Summarizing my views, they amount to the following:

1. Private initiative alone will not prove sufficient in dealing with the refugee problem.
2. An effort must be made to translate the Rublee Plan into concrete action.
3. Government participation must follow private initiative in making the Rublee Plan work.
4. Separate organizations should carry on the work in London and in New York, each within their own sphere.



5. A joint committee should undertake whatever representations may be necessary vis-a-vis the German Government.
6. The Refugee Economic Corporation is to be the American organization; and a similar English organization is to be established.
7. The Board of the Refugee Economic Corporation should be strengthened and made more representative, particularly through the inclusion of Mr. Myron C. Taylor as Chairman.

April 5, 1939

BERNARD FLEXNER





March 29, 1939.

NOTE: The following is written by a person sympathetic to the organization of the proposed corporation despite the risks inherent in such action. No discussion of the negative aspects of the situation is included

#### BACKGROUND

Following the Evian Conference last summer, the office of the Director of the Intergovernmental Committee was engaged for several months in negotiating with representatives of interested governments with a view to finding places of settlement for involuntary emigrants from Germany, and in preparation for anticipated conferences with the German Government. The latter talks initiated in London in December were concluded in Berlin in February by Mr. Rublee with Herr Wohlthat representing the German Government. Mr. Rublee, after many meetings with technical experts, Dr. Schacht and Herr Wohlthat, and with the approval of the highest authorities of the Reich, returned to London early in February to report to the representatives of the thirty-two governments comprising the Intergovernmental Committee. The statement which he brought back is unilateral in character and states in its preamble that the program outlined therein will be put into effect only if the rest of the world gives evidence of its willingness to comply with the conditions laid down. The salient features of the plan, insofar as the personal treatment of Jews is concerned, may be summarized as follows:

- (1) 150,000 wage earners are to be emigrated in three to five years, (probably five). Their dependents to follow after emigrants have established themselves in countries of settlement;
- (2) Those remaining permanently and those awaiting emigration shall be permitted to live tranquilly and to the extent that they are fit for employment shall be given employment segregated from Aryan workers. There is to be no Ghettoization although they will be required to live in all Jewish houses. There shall be no recourse to outside charity for the support and maintenance of these persons.



- (3) Presumably none except those guilty of crimes would be detained in concentration camps.
- (4) No flight tax or other discriminatory taxation is to be levied against those emigrating in accordance with the program.

It is significant and warrants emphasis that the Intergovernmental Committee at their plenary session in London, because of the unilateral character of the German agreement and although it congratulated and expressed deep appreciation of the Director's work, merely authorized the Director to inform Herr Wohlthat that the Committee had taken note of the memorandum, that it had, was, and will continue to use its best efforts to find places of settlement for involuntary emigrants from Germany, and had learned with interest of the proposed formation of an International Settlement Corporation.

IMPELLING REASONS FOR ACTION

(1) The President of the United States, Mr. Taylor, Mr. Rublee, his associates, and the heads of 32 governments, sympathetic to the problem with which we are all concerned, who accepted the President's invitation should be encouraged to continue their humanitarian efforts for reasons which require no elaboration.

(2) The Jewish problem is at the present time in the control of the most moderate members of the Reich Government and their hand, because of the internal political situation in Germany, must be strengthened if an improved position for the Jews within and a more orderly exodus for those leaving is to be arranged.



(3) Since the participating governments have acted very slowly in opening their doors to the refugees, the only tangible gesture which can be made indicating a desire to have the German proposal put into effect is the organization of a corporation.

(4) Mr. Pell, who is the Vice-Director of the Committee, has reported that on his visit to Berlin after the meeting in London, the German authorities charged with putting the agreement into effect expressed impatience that nothing had been done by the outside world.

#### CORPORATION

It is proposed that a corporation to be known as the Refugee Transfer Corporation, or by some other suitable name, be organized under the joint auspices of American, British, French, Dutch, and Swiss Jews, and that it be domiciled in London. The place of incorporation will be decided upon after due consideration by competent advisers as to taxation and other legal status.

#### Corporate and Capital Structure

The corporation planned would be a "Mother" company (not a conventional holding company) which, after a period of test, would be closely associated with a series of affiliated companies organized in the several countries above mentioned. It would have a simple capital structure of shares of capital stock representing the equivalent of \$1,000,000 of paid in capital. While its authorized capital should be somewhat higher, say \$5,000,000, there is no need to contemplate its enlargement beyond such a figure. When and if very large sums of money are



required for the financing of one or more comprehensive settlement schemes, it may be presumed that the affiliated companies will be used as vehicles since it is unlikely that any national group's capital will be available in substantial amounts unless managed by its own citizens.

It is self-evident that no comprehensive scheme for the settlement of hundreds of thousands of people can be envisaged without governmental assistance. Such assistance may be granted in the form of loans to a corporation organized for the purpose of settling refugees on its own territory or on territory within its sphere of influence, but direct assistance to an international corporation is highly improbable.

#### Management of Mother Corporation

Since the management of the corporation will be concerned principally in dealing with the German Governmental authorities, it is desirable if not essential that its principal officer be an Aryan. The selection of a suitable person can be left to the English group in consultation of course with the American and the other national groups concerned. Its office should be located as close to the scene of activity as is consistent with complete freedom of section - hence London is suggested for this purpose.

#### Functions

##### I - Economic

The German agreement provides for the mobilization of 25% of the German Jewish assets to be held in trust by three trustees, two of whom will be appointees of the Reich and the third selected by outside Jewry. This fund will be available for transfer in the form of German goods to be used primarily by the emigrants or their communities at their



final settlement locations. It is impossible to estimate accurately the amount of the fund but it is expected to be considerable and may range between 500,000,000 and 1,000,000,000 Reichsmarks.

(a) The corporation will in effect become the purchasing agent for goods, machinery and equipment. This will include selection of materials, negotiation of price, supervision of quality, delivery dates, and transportation arrangements.

(b) When goods are purchased which contain raw materials acquired outside Germany the agreement provides that the Reich shall be reimbursed for the cost of such materials. The corporation will negotiate such settlements, finance such payments or will be the vehicle through which credits for that purpose secured by the goods will be arranged.

(c) Should the time ever come when German currency is freely transferable into foreign exchange, the corporation will effect the transfer.

(d) The coordination of purchase and transfer with the flow of emigration will also be the business of the corporation.

## II - Political and Social

The German Government has never officially recognized the Intergovernmental Committee. That being the case, its future activity is expected to be primarily the finding of places for and assistance in the settlement of the involuntary emigrants. It will of course cooperate fully with the corporation and its affiliates to this end, but those aspects of the agreement which relate to the treatment of Jews remaining in Germany or awaiting emigration, in fact most contacts with the German Government will presumably be made by an officer of the corporation. The problems with which they will be concerned will include among others:



- (a) The support of aged and infirm Jews;
- (b) Working conditions for those able to be gainfully employed;
- (c) Housing conditions;
- (d) The problem of concentration camp cases;
- (e) Passport difficulties;
- (f) A complete census of potential emigrants and dependents including capacities will either have to be made or supervised;
- (g) Selection of emigrants in coordination with places of destination;
- (h) The enlargement of existing and organization of additional restraining facilities.

All of these social problems will be carried on in collaboration with the German Jewish organizations and their subsidiaries but there is reason to assume that a foreign corporation created under the auspices of the Intergovernmental Committee and in accordance with a memorandum of the German Government for the purpose of implementing that memorandum should be a more effective group in dealing with the Reich.

-----

Please note that no discussion concerned with the functions of a corporation engaged in the manifold activities of a large-scale settlement is contained above; rather an attempt has been made to limit the size and scope to the minimum required to indicate to the German authorities a desire to proceed in accordance with the terms of their memorandum.



April 17, 1939

Mr. Robert Herman  
United Jewish Appeal for Refugees  
342 Madison Avenue  
New York, N.Y.

My dear Mr. Herman:

Rabbi Isserman informed me that Mr. Paul Muni and Rabbi Edgar Magnin were to address a meeting in St. Louis of the special gifts committee on Sunday, April 16. I wonder whether it would be possible to persuade Mr. Muni to come to Cleveland any time between now and May 7. We would then arrange a special gifts gathering here where I am sure he could be tremendously helpful. Please let me know by wire.

With best wishes, I remain

Very cordially yours,

AHS:BK



## CLASS OF SERVICE

This is a full-rate Telegram or Cablegram unless its deferred character is indicated by a suitable sign above or preceding the address.

R. B. WHITE  
PRESIDENT

NEWCOMB CARLTON  
CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD

J. C. WILLEVER  
FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT

30 (28) WESTERN UNION

1919 APR 18 PM

## SIGNS

DL = Day Letter  
NM = Night Message  
NL = Night Letter  
LC = Deferred Cable  
NLT = Cable Night Letter  
Ship Radiogram

The filing time as shown in the date line on full-rate telegrams and day letters, and the time of receipt at destination as shown on all messages, is STANDARD TIME.

## Received at

HW92 76 DL=XJ NEWYORK NY 18 1202P

RABBI ABBA HILEL SILVER=

THE TEMPLE TENTH AND ANSEL RDS=

WOULD YOU BE GOOD ENOUGH TO ADVISE US BY RETURN WIRE  
WHETHER YOU STILL WISH MARVIN LOWENTHAL FOR YOUR PULPIT  
APRIL 30. IF NOT THE CAMPAIGN WISHES TO PRESENT HIM AT  
LUNCHEON MEETING CLEVELAND MAY 10. MUNI ACCEPTED ISSERMANS I  
NVITATION AS HE IS PERSONAL FRIEND OF ISSERMAN. ISSERMAN  
REQUESTED WE NOT ASK MUNI FOR ANYTHING UNTIL AFTER HE HAD  
BEEN IN STLOUIS. MUNI TRAVELS ONLY BY TRAIN. WE HAVE NEVER  
HAD ANY CONTACT WITH HIM. REGARDS=

M ROBERT HERMAN



# UNITED JEWISH APPEAL (Inc.) FOR REFUGEES AND OVERSEAS NEEDS

ON BEHALF OF  
AMERICAN JEWISH JOINT DISTRIBUTION COMMITTEE, INC.  
UNITED PALESTINE APPEAL and  
NATIONAL CO-ORDINATING COMMITTEE FUND, INC.

Rabbi Abba Hillel Silver  
Rabbi Jonah B. Wise  
National Chairmen

342 MADISON AVENUE  
NEW YORK, N. Y.

*Committee in Formation*

April 19, 1939

Dr. Abba Hillel Silver  
The Temple  
Cleveland, Ohio

Dear Dr. Silver:

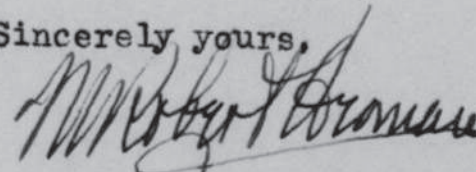
Dr. Jonah B. Wise is speaking in Detroit at one of the campaign functions next Monday, April 24th. He is taking with him Rabbi Hugo Hahn, formerly of Essen, Germany. I understand that Rabbi Hahn was one of the outstanding Rabbis in Germany and is a very forceful figure, although he does not speak English any too well. His insight into the atrocities is really blood-curdling.

Dr. Wise suggested that you might care to have Rabbi Hahn in Cleveland, after he leaves Detroit, where he can speak to a few of the big-givers and perhaps influence them in your campaign. I would not suggest any large meeting for him to address unless he were privileged to speak in German.

If you think Rabbi Hahn could be helpful to you in your campaign efforts in Cleveland, please let me know by wire immediately upon receipt of this letter. Also let me know how long you would care to have him stay in Cleveland, as we are arranging his itinerary now.

With kindest regards, I am

Sincerely yours,



M. Robert Herman  
Director of Field Staff

MRH:JG



CLASS OF SERVICE DESIRED	
DOMESTIC	CABLE
TELEGRAM	FULL RATE
DAY LETTER	DEFERRED
NIGHT MESSAGE	NIGHT LETTER
NIGHT LETTER	SHIP RADIOGRAM

Patrons should check class of service desired; otherwise message will be transmitted as a full-rate communication.

# WESTERN UNION

R. B. WHITE  
PRESIDENT

NEWCOMB CARLTON  
CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD

J. C. WILLEVER  
FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT

1206-A

CHECK
ACCT'G INFMN.
TIME FILED

Send the following message, subject to the terms on back hereof, which are hereby agreed to

April 20, 1939

M. Robert Herman  
United Jewish Appeal  
342 Madison Avenue  
New York, N.Y.

HAVE DECIDED TO REMAIN IN MY OWN PULPIT APRIL THIRTIETH INASMUCH AS I SHALL NOT OCCUPY IT THIS SUNDAY. INTEND TO FLY TO ST. LOUIS MEETING ARRIVING IN TIME STOP PLEASE FOLLOW THROUGH WITH MUNI IT WOULD BE OF GREAT HELP TO US IN CAMPAIGN ANYTIME BETWEEN NOW AND MAY SIXTEENTH

A H SILVER

*Want  
will  
essential for  
May tenth*

WESTERN UNION MESSENGERS ARE AVAILABLE FOR THE DELIVERY OF NOTES AND PACKAGES

CLASS OF SERVICE DESIRED	
DOMESTIC	CABLE
TELEGRAM	FULL RATE
DAY LETTER	DEFERRED
NIGHT MESSAGE	NIGHT LETTER
NIGHT LETTER	SHIP RADIOGRAM

Patrons should check class of service desired; otherwise message will be transmitted as a full-rate communication.

# WESTERN UNION

R. B. WHITE  
PRESIDENT

NEWCOMB CARLTON  
CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD

J. C. WILLEVER  
FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT

1206-A

CHECK
ACCT'G INFMN.
TIME FILED

Send the following message, subject to the terms on back hereof, which are hereby agreed to

*Mr. Robert Herman  
342 Madison Ave  
New York*

*collect*

*April 21, 1939*

*We are having a few meetings of our divisions on Tuesday April 25. Would be pleased to have Rabbi Hahn come to Cleve that day - Statler Hotel.  
Kindest regards  
Silver*

WESTERN UNION MESSENGERS ARE AVAILABLE FOR THE DELIVERY OF NOTES AND PACKAGES



April 21, 1939

Mr. Henry Ittelson  
1 Park Avenue  
New York, N.Y.

My dear Mr. Ittelson:

Our local campaign organization of the United Jewish Appeal, which is working hard for success, is anxious about the contribution of the Beaumont Foundation to the local campaign. When you were here (your coming has given a tremendous to our campaign) you spoke of writing to Commodore Beaumont about a supplementary contribution to our Twenty Million Dollar campaign, part of which would be credited to Cleveland. I am wondering whether you have sent that communication, and would you suggest that Mr. Dauby should follow it up with a communication of his own?

With all good wishes, I remain

Most cordially yours,

AHS:BK



# UNITED JEWISH APPEAL (Inc.) FOR REFUGEES AND OVERSEAS NEEDS

ON BEHALF OF  
AMERICAN JEWISH JOINT DISTRIBUTION COMMITTEE, INC.  
UNITED PALESTINE APPEAL and  
NATIONAL CO-ORDINATING COMMITTEE FUND, INC.

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RABBI JONAH B. WISE

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LOUIS BAMBERGER  
ALBERT EINSTEIN  
MAX EPSTEIN  
HON. HERBERT H. LEHMAN  
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SAMUEL UNTERMYER  
MRS. FELIX M. WARBURG  
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LOUIS P. ROCKER  
CHARLES J. ROSENBLOOM  
ELIHU D. STONE  
and officers

342 MADISON AVENUE  
NEW YORK, N. Y.

April 24, 1939

Dr. Abba Hillel Silver  
The Temple  
Cleveland, Ohio

Dear Dr. Silver:

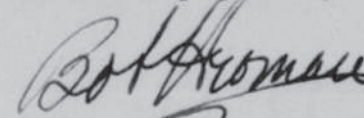
I received a wire Saturday morning, April 22nd,  
from Paul Muni which I quote.

"Due to important work impossible to help  
further with campaign. Regards."

So it seems it is impossible to get this gentle-  
man to go to Cleveland.

With kindest regards, I am

Sincerely yours,



M. Robert Herman  
Director of Field Staff

MRH:JG

**\$20,000,000 is the National Goal for 1939**



Room 514, 125 Park Avenue,  
New York, N.Y.

April 25th, 1939.

Rabbi Abba Hillel Silver  
The Temple  
East 105th Street at Ansel Road  
Cleveland, Ohio

Dear Rabbi Silver:

We have your letter of April 24th and regret to learn that you will not be able to attend the meeting on April 29th.

With respect to your request, no new material has been sent out since the first meeting other than what Mr. Ittleson made available to you. If anything should be prepared, we shall be glad to forward it to you.

Very truly yours,

*Leona Stember*

for the Secretary



April 28, 1939

Mr. Henry Ittleson  
1 Park Avenue  
New York, N.Y.

My dear Mr. Ittleson:

The Forum Magazine notifies me that you have been kind enough to enter my name for a two year subscription to the Forum Magazine. I need not tell you that I greatly appreciate your kindness.

With all good wishes, I remain

Very cordially yours,

AHS:BK





May 3, 1939

Mr. Robert Herman  
United Jewish Appeal  
342 Madison Avenue  
New York, N.Y.

My dear Mr. Herman:

I would deeply appreciate it if you would send me the address of Mr. Sholom Asch. I should like to write to him - not in connection with the Campaign, but on some other matter.

With all good wishes, I remain

Very cordially yours,

AHS:BK



# UNITED JEWISH APPEAL (Inc.) FOR REFUGEES AND OVERSEAS NEEDS

ON BEHALF OF  
AMERICAN JEWISH JOINT DISTRIBUTION COMMITTEE, INC.  
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RABBI JONAH B. WISE

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HON. JULIAN W. MACK  
HENRY MONSKY  
WILLIAM J. SHRODER  
HON. MAX C. SLOSS  
HON. NATHAN STRAUS  
SAMUEL UNTERMYER  
MRS. FELIX M. WARBURG  
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LOUIS P. ROCKER  
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and officers

342 MADISON AVENUE  
NEW YORK, N. Y.

May 4th, 1939.

Rabbi Abba Hillel Silver,  
The Temple,  
East 105th Street at Ansel Road,  
Cleveland, Ohio.

Dear Rabbi Silver:

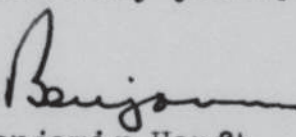
In the absence of Mr. Herman your letter requesting the address of Mr. Sholem Asch has been referred to this department. His residence is:

765 Riverside Drive,  
New York, N. Y.

and his telephone number is:

Wadsworth 8-3646.

Sincerely yours,

  
Benjamin Hanft

BH:JGH

**\$20,000,000 is the National Goal for 1939**



C  
O  
P  
Y

MEMORANDUM

May 22, 1939

TO Mr. Henry Montor  
Mr. Isidor Coons

FROM Mr. M. Robert Herman

Subject Pittsburgh Campaign

Mr. Salpeter informed me this morning that the Pittsburgh campaign had reached a total of \$430,000 and that he and Mr. Kaufmann conservatively estimate that when the campaign is over they will have \$505,000. Tonight, at the Concordia Club a meeting is to be held of the Caravan, which will be addressed by Maurice Wertheim and Sam Leidesdorf. Mr. Salpeter fears that they may collect \$10,000 or \$15,000 tonight, graciously contribute it to the Pittsburgh United Jewish Fund and then make application on behalf of the Survey Committee for \$30,000, \$40,000 or \$50,000.

I have requested Mr. Salpeter to advise me by wire no later than tomorrow morning, the result of tonight's meeting.

MRH

M. Robert Herman  
Director of Field Staff



ANSWER  
IS EXPECTED

BY THE SENDER OF THIS  
MESSAGE. PLEASE GIVE  
IT TO THE MESSENGER  
OR TELEPHONE IT TO

WESTERN UNION

2477-0

WHITE  
DENT

YOU WILL APPRECIATE SUGGESTIONS FROM ITS PATRONS CONCERNING ITS SERVICE

1201-S

# WESTERN UNION

NEWCOMB CARLTON  
CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD

J. C. WILLEVER  
FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT

## SYMBOLS

DL	Day Letter
NM	Night Message
NL	Night Letter
LC	Deferred Cable
NLT	Cable Night Letter
Ship Radiogram	

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Received at 2016 East 105th St., Cleveland, Ohio. Telephone Cedar 1867

HW76 TWS PAID 3 XU=DUPPLICATE OF TELEPHONED TELEGRAMS=

RABBI ABBA HILLEL SILVER=

NEWYORK NY 31 1033A

DLR THE TEMPLE ANSEL RD & EAST 105 CLEVE=

JAMES MCDONALD MOST ANXIOUS TO SPEAK TO YOU ON FRIDAY IF YOU  
WILL BE IN NEWYORK AS HE WILL BE IN WASHINGTON TOMORROW.  
PLEASE WIRE AND LET ME KNOW IF YOU CAN MAKE APPOINTMENT WITH  
MCDONALD ON FRIDAY OR WHETHER HE SHOULD PHONE YOU TOMORROW  
FROM WASHINGTON TO NEWYORK=

=M ROBERT HERMAN=



CLASS OF SERVICE DESIRED	
DOMESTIC	CABLE
TELEGRAM	FULL RATE
DAY LETTER	DEFERRED
NIGHT MESSAGE	NIGHT LETTER
NIGHT LETTER	SHIP RADIOGRAM

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# WESTERN UNION

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PRESIDENT

NEWCOMB CARLTON  
CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD

J. C. WILLEVER  
FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT

CHECK
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Send the following message, subject to the terms on back hereof, which are hereby agreed to

May 31, 1939

Mr. M. Robert Herman  
342 Madison Avenue  
New York

WRHS



WILL BE PLEASED TO SEE MR. McDONALD COMMODORE HOTEL FRIDAY MORNING ELEVEN O'CLOCK

A H SILVER

(Collect)



CLASS OF SERVICE DESIRED	
DOMESTIC	CABLE
TELEGRAM	FULL RATE
DAY LETTER	DEFERRED
NIGHT MESSAGE	NIGHT LETTER
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PRESIDENT

NEWCOMB CARLTON  
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J. C. WILLEVER  
FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT

CHECK
ACCT'G INFMN.
TIME FILED

Send the following message, subject to the terms on back hereof, which are hereby agreed to

- collect -

May 31, 1939

Henry H. Helson  
N. Y.

Regret will not be able to see you tomorrow  
a.m. Will be free to see you either Friday  
morning or afternoon. Leave word for  
me at Commodore Hotel. Kindest  
regards.

A. H. Seligson





[undated]

C O N F I D E N T I A L

THE JEWISH POSITION

AND THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE UNITED JEWISH APPEAL

International diplomacy may be shaken by Hitler's acts of aggression. For the Jewish people this lawlessness means the destruction of an increasing number of new communities. Within two weeks hundreds of thousands of Jews in Czechoslovakia and thousands in Memel have been placed in the shadow of the Colossus of Hate. Despair grips our people. The suicides are uncountable. The economic dislocation and the mental confusion that Hitler brings is still unimaginable though we have seen and heard innumerable descriptions for over five years. We do not know where Hitler will strike next. Plans that we make for the financial provision of a great number of his victims are blasted by the ruthlessness of his spread.

There is a danger that because of the broad picture involved we may not see the details of the problem that faces us insofar as the United Jewish Appeal is concerned.

There are today under Hitler's destroying wings some 850,000 Jews: in Germany, Austria and what was formerly Czechoslovakia. A majority of that number are still in the age of creativity, having a zest for life and the capacity to contribute richly to any land that will accept them. The search for lands that will permanently absorb them still goes on. Thousands continue to go to Palestine and thousands come to America. Small numbers are admitted elsewhere. The burdensome expropriation that followed the pogroms of last November has left the German Jewish community seriously weakened--notably in Austria. The need for support of those in Germany until they can emigrate is urgent. At the same time various schemes for their rehabilitation and maintenance outside Germany are being evolved, the extent of their effectiveness depending on the funds available. Refugee camps are



THE JEWISH POSITION (continued)

being established in England, Switzerland, Holland, Belgium, France. Retraining farms and centers are being enlarged so that the emigrants can be adapted to new occupations. If men and women take their own lives and those of their children, it is because they yield to despair; because the aid which they expect from us does not come fast enough. Every time we read an item in our newspapers describing the tragic death of a Hitler victim it reminds us that we might possibly have shared in giving him hope.

Poland is one of the most important areas of support affected by the United Jewish Appeal. In a community of over 3,100,000 Jews economic destitution is causing wider ravages. Those who think boundaries are barriers to Hitlerism are not aware of the intensification of anti-Semitism that has occurred in Poland in recent years. The drive to rid Poland of its "superfluous population" has taken on new energy. No responsible leader even thinks of encouraging that forced emigration of the Jews. They must remain until only physical violence removes them. But if we are convinced that the stability of world Jewry and the sanctity of Jewish rights must be preserved in the lands in which Jews live, we must do our share to enable the Jews to survive in Poland. By so doing we can not only save Jewish lives but make a distinct contribution to the survival of democracy, which is the only wall between the Jewish people and disaster. The Joint Distribution Committee, through support of institutions of self-help in Poland, can make it possible to avert the disintegration of one of the largest Jewish units in the world. Surely no one--even those of us living as far away as the United States--believes that the disruption of the ancient Jewish community in Poland would be without its effects on our own destiny.

The snows of the Alps carry the footprints of thousands of wandering Jews who have once again taken up their trek. They are part of the 15,000



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ordered expelled from Italy because they entered after 1919. The anti-Semitic laws which went into effect this month have deprived some twenty thousand Jews of their livelihood and all Italian Jews of their status as citizens.

Hungary, within the orbit of Hitler politically, has adopted his slogans racially. A self-admitted Jew-baiting government is now passing numerous clausus legislation designed to remove sixty thousand Jews from their occupations. Thus does Hungary join the European countries using the Jewish people as mountains of human bones on which to climb to heights of political advantage.

The government of King Carol in Rumania, striving to gain the support of anti-Semitic elements, outdoes its political opponents in the fervor of its regulations against Jews. The new economic agreement between the Nazis and Rumania foreshadows a far broader front of cooperation. It cannot too often be remembered that where Hitler goes there goes his complete arsenal of despoliation and destruction of the Jewish people.

There are over five million Jews in Central and Eastern Europe. Over them hangs the shadow of slow or swift strangulation. There is enough energy and talent within that mass to hold fast for a long time--until the shadow dissipates, as eventually it must--if we in America will help them hold their ground. For our sakes as well as for theirs.

The recent conferences in London have stirred many questions. Misconceptions have arisen which must be cleared up--for the sake of facts and especially in the interests of the United Jewish Appeal which embraces the United Palestine Appeal among its beneficiaries.

For weeks Jewish and Arab representatives met with the British Government to consider Palestine problems. No agreement resulted. The Government has indicated that it will impose its own policy for the future. An



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impending announcement was withheld because of the shock of the Czechoslovakian events which undoubtedly gave Great Britain new cause to remember how much the Jews are devoted to democracy and how much they can be counted upon to aid in its defense. The pressure exercised from America, by Christian and Jew, has also had an effect in impressing British statesmen with the fact that the civilized world wonders how England can possibly think of closing the doors of Palestine to the Jews when they are being forced out of other lands at an ever-increasing tempo.

But whatever the decision that may be imposed by Great Britain--now or in the future--the facts of steady Palestine growth cannot be changed. There are today in the Jewish homeland over 500,000 Jews. They constitute more than a third of the settled population. They are so inextricably bound up with every facet of the country's life that no decree can diminish their strength. The Jewish young men and women of Palestine have for three years defended the land against the terrorist and the saboteur. They have demonstrated bravery under fire and capacity to carry on with their daily constructive tasks despite obstructions. They have built more colonies than in any similar period. They have found new water resources, enlarging the area of colonization. Jews, as citizens of Palestine, have the legal and moral right to bear arms. They will resist injustice as they have resisted injury. We Jews in America and elsewhere ought to be proud of our people who have shown what it is to exercise all the prerogatives of free citizens of a native land in defense of the best interests of that land.

Immigration goes on. Economic life advances. The possibilities for land purchase are unprecedented. If we are as free with our financial support as the Jews of Palestine have been with their lives as well as their money no arbitrary decree can prevent a continuous influx of Jews into



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Palestine and their steady development of the country. Whatever British policy may be this year, the legal rate of immigration will not be less than it has been in the past two years. In the meantime, Jews have an opportunity to buy immediately thousands of dunams of land--the only possible basis on which great settlement plans can be built. There is not a Jew today, witnessing the Great Expulsion of our time in Europe, who does not regret that we did not have the vision twenty and ten years ago to buy more land, to build more colonies, to pour more manpower into Palestine. The opportunities are not lost. They beckon. With the aid of the United Jewish Appeal we can make a substantial contribution to the saving permanently of large numbers of Jews in Europe and of building a reservoir of strength in Palestine for the other Jews who continue to hope for the chance at the free life the Jewish homeland provides.

The Jews of Palestine have given Jews everywhere an example they should cherish. When menaced by force, they have reacted with courage. When threatened with delimitation of their rights they stood up strongly to preserve them against all foes. If that comparatively small community of Palestine could resist Arab violence for three years, encouraged as the latter were by the empires of Mussolini and Hitler, and still grow and prosper, the millions of Jews elsewhere have every right to be strong and hopeful. But there are some among us who have greater capacity for resistance. We must share our resources with the others.

I beg of you to see to it that your 1939 campaign for the United Jewish Appeal, whether held now or in the coming months, should not be on the level of a routine philanthropic effort--requiring a little more energy perhaps but nothing more.

You as a community leader have a definite obligation--in terms of



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personal service and of contribution. If you will give yourself even more devotedly than in the past to the planning and conduct of the campaign the community will emulate your example. Moreover, all standards of generosity in the past have no bearing on what is demanded of us today. I have been surprised to note certain instances in which contributors are giving only 50% or 100% more this year instead of 500% and more. There may be occasions in which a contributor gave the maximum last year and cannot possibly do more in 1939. But that is an exception. All the rest of us ought, as a token of our leadership and of our special capacity for understanding the extent of the problem, give without regard to past records. Every leader should realize that an extraordinary enlargement of his own giving means more than the dollars from himself. It means that thousands of additional dollars are added to the campaign total since the entire community is stimulated to contribute on a similar scale of sacrificial generosity.

In those communities in which campaigns have been concluded, collections should be spurred. There are, of course, established procedures for the regular collection and remittance of funds to the United Jewish Appeal. But every Jew who can should make available as quickly as possible the full extent of his support.

The United Jewish Appeal is far more than an instrument of assistance to others. It is a weapon of defense for ourselves. Surely no one any longer thinks in the provincial terms that what happens in the world at large does not affect us here. In Europe is our first line of defense.