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Series V: Writings, 1909-1963, undated.

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Jewish Welfare Fund, 1938.

JWF

RADIO ADDRESS DELIVERED BY DR. ABBA HILLEL SILVER OF THE TEMPLE ON SATURDAY
MAY 7, 1938

My Friends:

Tomorrow the Jewish Welfare Fund of Cleveland inaugurates its 1938 campaign. The goal, this year, is \$328,000. It is \$38,000 more than was raised last year. The need is greater this year, and the extent of our giving must therefore be correspondingly greater.

There are sixty agencies included in the Jewish Welfare Fund, some local, some national, and some - and these are the most important - overseas relief agencies. ^{No one} ~~None~~ of the agencies for which the appeal is now being made through the Jewish Welfare Fund, is a beneficiary of the Cleveland Community Chest. ~~The Welfare Fund agencies are not and cannot come within the scope of the Cleveland Community Chest, which is one of noblest institutions in the life of our community and one which is loyally supported by the Jewish people of Cleveland.~~

Included among ^{this} ~~the~~ sixty beneficiaries ~~of the Jewish Welfare Fund~~ are hospitals and orphanages whose service is of a national scope, ^{and} various ^{other} social agencies such as the National Farm School, ~~the Graduate School for Jewish Social Work, and the Council of Jewish Federations and Welfare Funds.~~ Beneficiaries, too, of the Fund, are a number of ~~such~~ educational agencies both local and national whose function it is to give religious, education, transmit the rich cultural heritage of Israel, and training our young people for good citizenship. ^{Among these organizations} ~~Among these organizations~~ are the Bureau of Jewish Education of Cleveland, ~~which provides week-day afternoon and Sunday School instruction to thousands of Jewish children in Cleveland, and the Hillel Foundation, under the auspices of the Sinai B'nai B'rith,~~ which maintains centers of Jewish studies ~~of academic standing~~ on the campuses of some of our universities in the same way as do the Catholic and the

Protestant groups.

Out of the ~~total~~ funds ~~which~~ to be raised, ~~this week~~, a substantial amount is ^{set} aside for ~~these~~ national ~~Jewish~~ organizations whose purpose it is to protect Jewish rights and ~~the fair name of Israel in this country and~~ throughout the world, to counteract vicious and un-American propaganda, and to disseminate true and accurate information about Jews and Judaism. Among these agencies are the American Jewish Committee, the American Jewish Congress, the B'nai B'rith Anti-Defamation League and the League for Human Rights. All of these organizations are vital and deserving of our support. But by far the major part of the funds ~~to be raised~~ ^{is} ~~to be~~ allocated, this year, ~~for~~ ^{already} ~~to~~ help our stricken brethren in the dark lands of terror and persecution.

This hour in Jewish history is as grave as any which our people has experienced in two thousand years. A wave of reaction has swept over the Western world which has already shattered two great Jewish communities in Germany and Austria and which is threatening with a similar fate other Jewish communities in Central and Eastern Europe. ~~Nations gone mad with chauvinism and militarism, torn by internal economic strife and embittered by defeat, frustration and impoverishment, have turned upon the helpless Jewish minority in their midst and are making of it a scapegoat for all their sins and miseries.~~ An edict of doom has been pronounced over the six hundred thousand Jews of Germany and Austria. They are being systematically driven to exile, impoverishment, and in many instances, to suicide. The position of Jews in many other parts of Europe today also seems desperate.

However, while we face the present with deep concern and with profound sorrow over the fate which has overtaken so many of our people, we do not despair. It is not characteristic of our people to despair or to succumb to persecution. Our long history which records so many triumphs

over calamity and misfortune in the past, keeps us from losing faith in the future. ~~We shall wait patiently and work heroically until the present madness shall have passed from the earth, until mankind shall have rediscovered its basic sanity and decencies, and returning from the jungles into which it has strayed, will resume its march upon the highway of human progress, towards freedom, justice, tolerance, brotherhood and peace.~~

For the present our task is a twofold one. We must render maximum aid to our fellow Jews in the lands of persecution. We must ^{- the helpless, in a vast} save them from ^{tribulation,} physical ~~want~~ and suffering as far as that is possible. We must help those over whom the storm has swept who now find themselves without any means of livelihood. ~~We must help Jewish communities abroad to maintain their communal institutions.~~ The sense of Jewish solidarity which has stood us in such good stead throughout all these weary centuries must assert itself today as never before if great sections of our people are to be saved from utter physical and spiritual collapse.

And we must make the maximum sacrifice for the upbuilding of the Jewish homeland in Palestine. Palestine has become the great refuge and the sustaining hope of ~~the~~ masses of our people who have been forced into exile and who are now seeking new homes, when new homes are not available. ~~Even free and tolerant nations find it necessary to close their doors against new immigrants.~~

Since the rise of Hitler to power almost 200,000 Jews have migrated to Palestine, among them 45,000 from Germany alone. ~~Between 1931 and 1936 Palestine absorbed 71% of the total world Jewish immigration.~~ Thousands of Jewish children whom the infamous Hitler regime had consigned to the status of outcasts and pariahs in Germany have been rescued and taken to Palestine. ~~There in the colonies, villages and towns they have been given shelter and love and they are being carefully trained for serviceable and joyous careers~~

~~in the home of their own people.~~ The plight of Jewry today would be immeasurably more tragic but for the fact of the new life, the new hope, and the new opportunity¹⁹⁴⁸ which Palestine is offering to hundreds of thousands of our people. ~~Out of the iron which is entering the soul of our people today, it is fashioning in Palestine the weapons of its own deliverance.~~

It is my profound hope that the Jews of Cleveland in their traditional ~~&~~ generosity will rise to the challenge of this grave hour, and will make their ^{free-will offerings} ~~contributions~~ commensurate with the desperate emergency which exists, and compatible with the age-old tradition of Jewish solidarity, *dignity* and charity.

