PPF 7383
American-Jewish Joint Distribution Committee
February 15, 1941

Dear Friends:

I have long known of the distinguished record of your organization for widespread humanitarian service in behalf of the victims of war and persecution in many lands overseas. Because I know that millions of men, women and little children look to you for rescue, for food, for refuge and asylum, and for succor from their overwhelming burdens, I am glad to convey to the extraordinary meeting of the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee my best wishes for the success of its endeavors.

Your cause is the cause of all Americans for democracy must begin with man's humanity to man. Through the activities of your organization and other American agencies of mercy, dignity, self-respect and hope for a better order of things have been restored to millions of men and women. They have thus been reminded that they are not alone in their travail and suffering; that free men and women of good will hope for their liberation and in the meantime are ready to come to their assistance.

Very sincerely yours,

Messrs. Paul Baerwald, Chairman,
Edward M. M. Warburg, Co-Chairman,
The American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee, Inc.,
100 East 42d Street,
New York, N. Y.
Dear Steve,

I am sure that you know the work of the Joint Distribution Committee in feeding, clothing, sheltering, and caring for suffering in many lands overseas.

It is beginning its annual drive for funds this coming Tuesday. I am enclosing a copy of their letterhead.

They are anxious to get a message from the President. They are a high-class, leading, national organization, and if it is not the President, it is not the Joint Distribution Committee. The President undoubtedly knows of them and of their work.

They prepared a draft of a letter, which I have cut down. If the President can sign it, I would appreciate it if you would send it over so that I get it before Sunday.

If you think it should not be done, forget about it — but please let me know.

Regards,

Sam

P.S. Under the sloppy work, I am at home without a stenographer.
February 11th, 1941

Messrs. Paul Baerwald, Chairman
  Edward M. M. Warburg, Co-Chairman

100 East 42nd Street
New York, N. Y.

Gentlemen:

I have long known of the distinguished record of your organization for widespread humanitarian service in behalf of the victims of war and persecution in many lands overseas. It has also been my privilege to enjoy the friendship of a number of officers and leaders of your organization who exemplify the highest type of American citizenship. For these reasons, I am glad to convey to the Extraordinary Meeting of the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee, gathered to consider the tragic situation abroad, my best wishes for the success of your endeavors.

Your cause is the cause of all Americans, for democracy must begin with man's humanity to man. The whole American people, therefore, will join me in praise of your splendid work. The activities of the Joint Distribution Committee provide a channel through which many men and women may join in enabling democracy to express itself in action.

In your organization's program of relief, emergency aid and rehabilitation, it has worked side by side with other American agencies of mercy - Protestant, Catholic and non-sectarian. In cooperation with these institutions, the Joint Distribution Committee has given proof of the vitality of the deep-rooted American tradition of championing the oppressed. By these means dignity, self-respect, and hope for a better order of things have been restored to millions of men and women. Through you, they have been reminded that they are not alone in their travail and suffering; that free men and women of good will hope for their liberation and in the meantime are ready to come to their assistance.

Because I know that millions of men, women and little children look to you for rescue, for food, for refuge and asylum, and for succor from their overwhelming burdens, I greet you and extend to you my best wishes for the continuance and the success of your highly effective endeavors.
February 18, 1941.

Honorable Franklin D. Roosevelt,
The President of the United States,
The White House,
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. President:

We are deeply grateful for your letter of February 15th. It was indeed a source of great encouragement to us all. The meeting was representative not alone of the New York City community, but of cities and towns all over the country. Their enthusiasm for the humanitarian activity of our Committee in bringing relief to the victims of the war and persecution overseas, was stirred to an unusual degree by your gracious message. It was indeed one of the high spots of our meeting.

The Committee joins us in expressing our heartfelt thanks to you for doing this.

Respectfully yours,

Edward M. M. Warburg
Paul Baerwald
February 18, 1941

Mr. William Hassett
The White House
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Hassett:

The letter which the President was good enough to send us evoked a great deal of attention at our meeting on Sunday, and will, we know, be of great value in furthering our humanitarian enterprise. We cannot fail to tell you how deeply we appreciate your own helpfulness in this matter, in seeing to it that the letter was gotten through in time.

Please accept our thanks for your generous cooperation in the matter.

Sincerely yours,

Edward M. M. Warburg  Paul Baerwald

PB: sf
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*J.D.C.'s Board of Directors and Executive Committee are elected by the National Council of the J.D.C. consisting of 2,850 Jewish community leaders from all sections of the United States and Canada. J.D.C. operates in over 50 countries in aid of distressed Jewish communities. It is supported solely by voluntary contributions.*
On the occasion of my accepting the Chairmanship of the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee, you were kind enough to write a letter of congratulations praising the work of this organization. I am therefore taking the liberty of sending you herein a report just issued by this organization, covering its operations during 1940 and the first five months of 1941.

The J.D.C., as you may know, is the first American agency for aid to distressed Jews overseas. It operates in more than fifty countries throughout the world, and last year was able to bring direct assistance to more than one million victims of war and persecution in those areas.

I would like to emphasize one particular phase of this report by pointing out that the J.D.C. has not only conformed completely to American governmental policy and public opinion, but, despite large-scale relief operations conducted in Germany proper and in German-occupied lands, no aid was given directly or indirectly to the German economy and no American dollars found their way into these lands. Likewise, no violation of the British blockade was involved.

Hoping that you will find this report of interest, I remain,

Sincerely yours,

Edward M. M. Warburg
AIDING JEWS OVERSEAS

JOINT DISCO NYK.
REFUGEE SITUATION CRITICAL THOUSANDS FLEEING WAR ZONES STOP EMERGENCY APPROPRIATION URGENTLY NEEDED FOR FOOD CLOTHING SHELTER MEDICAL AID CHILD CARE STOP EMIGRATION ASSISTANCE VITALY NECESSARY

Report of The American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee, Inc. for 1940 and the first 5 months of 1941
AIDING JEWS OVERSEAS

A report of the work of the JOINT DISTRIBUTION COMMITTEE in bringing relief to thousands of distressed Jews throughout the world during the year 1940 and the first 5 months of 1941

THE AMERICAN JEWISH JOINT DISTRIBUTION COMMITTEE, Inc.
100 East 42nd Street New York, N. Y.
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Introduction

This is the story of an American organization, led by a group of devoted laymen and a small professional staff, which is carrying out the seemingly impossible task of overseas relief and reconstruction during the most turbulent period of modern times. It is the story of how a philanthropic agency, privately financed and administered, lacking official status but propelled by motives of good will and helpfulness, has hurled obstacle after obstacle caused by war’s chaos in its task of life-giving aid. It is the story of uncounted hours of vigilance, of knotty problems unravelled, of financial difficulties overcome, and of overcoming of fundamental questions weighed and decided, of emergencies faced and bridged. In short, it is the story of the Joint Distribution Committee and its work during seventeen months of world war.

When future historians evaluate the role of America in the world conflict which began in September 1939, they will record as one of its outstanding contributions the united will of the people to maintain the light of human kindness in a dark and tragic era. They will note that during the first eighteen months of the war, private Americans contributed over $92,000,000 to the American Red Cross and some 300 other relief agencies, and they will conclude that, at a time when the entire European continent was locked in a death struggle, America represented the major source of help and hope for the stricken people of Europe. An honorable place in the roster of the agencies which undertook this enormous task will be awarded to the J.D.C. for the accomplishments recorded in the report.

The American Jewish community, while perhaps still unawakened to its full capacity to be helpful, has in the field of philanthropy and otherwise proved that it has a true understanding of the broader responsibilities of citizenship. It is part and parcel of the very life of this great country. It asks for no special privileges and has striven to do more than its share not only for its own, but for the maintenance and improvement of the cultural and spiritual life of the country as a whole. Moreover, when after meeting these obligations it is called upon to face its own group needs, whether here or abroad, it has risen to the occasion to meet them as well.

The J.D.C. has always welcomed and sought collaboration with all other agencies, sectarian or non-sectarian, dealing with relief of the suffering. But beyond that it has had as its special responsibility the problem of helping the Jew in foreign lands who, through no fault of his own, has been singled out for discrimination and persecution.

The J.D.C. has never asked for special privileges for European Jews but has, as an American organization representing American thinking, tried to project the American point of view of giving to all an equal opportunity for survival and for a creative life. The American tradition is deepened and enriched in the J.D.C. by the Biblical concept of social obligation and mercy.

The J.D.C. has worked quietly and efficiently without any attempt to claim for itself or its program the cure-all to the problems of anti-Semitism or the solution of the Jewish destiny. It makes no pretense to being a movement; it rejects any charge that it is representative of any special economic, social, political or racial segment, either in its contributors or in those who benefit from its funds.

It has no party line. It numbers among its ranks the rich and the poor, the capitalist and the working-man, the Orthodox, the Conservative and the Reform.

To help the victims of aggression without helping the aggressors, to feed the hungry withoutdish-
In recent months America has become “priorities” conscious. To the J.D.C., priorities are a daily problem. When the world-wide need is enormous and funds are limited, each appropriation is made on a priority basis. Is it to be used for larger numbers of children in Poland’s Nazi-matted ghettos or for the elderly in British and German concentration camps? Across the ocean people, too, are starved for help. We draw much inspiration from the example of the men and women who head the local committees in European lands. They are our front-line soldiers. They have undertaken many Herculean, sacrificial every personal advantage to stick to their jobs. So long as they continue, our work can go forward; on their part, they have assured us that they will carry on as long as the J.D.C. is behind them.

A source of equal encouragement lies in the repeated manifestations of confidence in the J.D.C. on the part of Jewish community leaders in every section of this country. Special thanks are due to Rabbi Jonathan B. Wise, and in this position as Chairman of our Fund Raising Committee, has devoted unceasing effort to the cause of J.D.C. and the problems of the overseas communities to the country at large. In his contacts with the communities, Rabbi Wise has built up a solid body of support, both financial and moral, which is one of the strongest bulwarks of the J.D.C.

Why does the J.D.C. exist? Because American Jewish community know that, while a small number of the millions of Jews in Europe today may be enabled to emigrate to the Western Hemisphere, to Palestine and other havens, the vast majority will have to stay on.

Their survival is pinned to the hope and belief that Europe may yet return to a way of life that will permit all its inhabitants to share equal privileges and discharge equal responsibilities. The J.D.C.’s task is a twofold one: to direct, with the best intelligence at its command, the departure of as many as can leave, and to help those who remain to adjust themselves to their difficult environments until a better day dawns. To that end, the institutions of self-help, of social welfare, of child care, of education, of vocational training for communal service, which have been so painstakingly built up since the last World War, must be maintained.

The Jewish nucleus in Europe must have life and continue to function. A corollary of the J.D.C.'s policy is to interpret its task to American Jews, to make and keep them aware of the indispensability of sustaining the spirit and morale of European Jews. This responsibility and this spirit are eloquently reflected in the pages that follow.

June 16, 1941
Chairman

THE European staff of the J.D.C. knows what it means to be refugees. A year ago they were among the millions who thronged the roads of France trying to keep one step ahead of the advancing German Army, occasionally overtaken by angry populace which strafed them from the sky.

When 1940 opened, the J.D.C. European headquarters were in Paris, headed by Morris C. Troper, European Chairman. In addition, an office had been established in Brussels just before the end of the previous year. American members of the staff were stationed at several key spots on the continent in addition to Brussels and Paris: one in Vilna to deal with the problem of Polish refugees in Lithuania, another in Budapest to cover the Balkan area, a third in Trieste to deal with refugee emigration and transportation problems.

Early in March, Mr. Troper went to New York for consultation with J.D.C. officers on new problems arising out of the war. After six weeks he returned, arriving in Italy during the first week in May. Rumblings of the impending Nazi invasion of the Lowlands reached him there. On May 9th he telephoned Miss Alice R. Emanuel, an American volunteer in charge of the Brussels office, and instructed her to close the office and dispose of its records. Miss Emanuel proceeded to Paris, where Mr. Troper arrived on May 14th.

In the meantime, Dr. Joseph J. Schwartz, who had been appointed Vice-Chairman of the European Executive Council a few weeks earlier, sailed for Europe on May 3rd and arrived in Italy on the opening day of the Blitzkrieg. He, too, went to Paris where he joined Mr. Troper. Together they took a flying trip to Switzerland, Italy and Hungary for conferences with Jewish leaders in these countries. They returned to Paris on the morning of June 11th to find the Germans at the very gates of the city. The French Government had fled, most of the banks and business houses had likewise evacuated, and every other Jewish organization in Paris had left the city.

Part of the J.D.C. office had already been evacuated to London, an inland town on the Loire, but the rapidity of the German advance made it clear that Angers was not in safe territory. Another provisional office had been established in Bordeaux where the headquarters of the French Government were likewise set up, and it was in the direction of Bordeaux that, on the afternoon of June 11th, Mr. Troper and Dr. Schwartz set out with the remaining members of the staff. It took three days and three nights to cover the 400-old mile route. They slept in the automobile, burning their gasoline, ate bread and cheese, and made as much progress as the refuge steam would allow. Two days after their arrival in Bordeaux, it became necessary to leave the port. On June 16th, Dr. Schwartz left to establish offices in Libon. The French Government had capitulated the day before.

Arriving in Libon on June 20th, Dr. Schwartz took quarters and opened the J.D.C. office, which remains its chief European office to this day. Mr. Troper remained in Bordeaux until June 22nd making arrangements for the safety and evacuation of the non-Americans on the staff and then, after a sixty-day trek which involved a wait of many hours on the French-Spanish border, proceeded to Libon.

FRON LISBON contact was quickly resumed with the occupied territories. In July, Mr. Troper returned to America to reconsider the European picture with the New York officers of the J.D.C. He went back to Lisbon in October. By that time Herbert Katzki, an American staff member, had gone back into France to set up a J.D.C. office in Marseille, which concerns itself to this day with the administration of J.D.C. work in that country. Late in September Dr. Schwartz followed him for a survey tour of the French situation, returning to Lisbon a month later. Dr. Schwartz undertook a longer trip through unoccupied France in January 1941, spending seven weeks in visiting the chief refugee centers and such internment camps as Guira, Arguelos, etc. Emanuel Rosen was withdrawn from Italy after that country's entrance into the war bottled up the Mediterranean, and was stationed in Libon to help handle the flood of emigration streaming through that port.

Mr. Troper crossed the ocean once again in January of 1941 to bring to American communities a first-
hand picture of Europe at war, returning to his post in Lisbon in April. In February, Moses W. Beckelman, having wound up the J. D. C.'s relief program in Lithuania and having accelerated as much emigration from that country as was feasible at the time, took the trans-Siberian route to the Far East. He spent a number of weeks in Japan in connection with the new refugee situation which had developed in that country, and then went to Shanghai for a first-hand survey of the refugee problem there, after which he returned to the United States. Miss Laura Margolis, another American, is now in Shanghai for the J. D. C. Dr. Schwartz arrived in New York on May 1st to deliver his eyewitness report of overseas conditions. At this writing, both Dr. Schwartz and Mr. Beckelman are planning to return to Europe within the next few weeks.

It is impossible to give a picture of the J. D. C.'s European work in terms of dates and places. The utmost degree of mobility was required and attained in order to keep pace with swiftly changing events. One of the most poignant problems was how to help the J. D. C. staff members who were not American nationals, not alone for their own sakes but to insure continuity of operation. Many, having stuck to their posts until the last possible minute, fled to Southern France only to be interned with thousands of other foreigners. Lisbon was not the easiest place from which to operate. There was a shortage of living and office quarters, a shortage of adequate stenographic and clerical help. More and more of the work of directing European activities was transferred to the New York office. Among the many reasons for this step was the fact that communication with occupied territories is, in many cases, easier from New York than from Lisbon.

The Financial Record

CONTROLLING the finances of the Joint Distribution Committee is no easy task. It involves spending money which has not yet been raised by local community campaigns in half of the United Jewish Appeal, much less remitted to the treasury of the J. D. C. It involves making allowances at the beginning of the month for emergencies which may arise before the month is ended. It involves negotiating substantial bank loans with no security other than the reputation of the organization and its nationwide leadership. It involves receiving requests from all over the world for money with which to meet genuine needs and knowing that under no circumstances can they all be met. It involves complex clearances and conforming to changing regulations of the U. S. Treasury Department. The J. D. C. financial record during 1940 and the first five months of 1941 can be summed up in one sentence: It entered 1940 with an accumulated deficit of $350,500, spent $6,319,600 during the year, incurring an additional net deficit of $239,600; appropriated $2,600,310 from January through May 1941, and had to borrow a total of $2,670,000 (although outstanding borrowings did not exceed $1,000,000 at any one time) during those seventeen months with which to meet cash requirements.

And thereby hangs a tale.

It was demonstrated to the Board that, despite the many untoward events which had taken place in Europe and the restrictions imposed by war and circumstances, the J. D. C. needed and could effectively spend a million dollars a month for the last quarter of the year. The needs of the incoming winter in such distressed areas as Poland, France, Portugal, Greater Germany and many other sections of Europe, Latin America, and the Far East were so large, and the possibilities for emigration so substantial, that unless the J. D. C. could increase its appropriation rate, thousands of people would be doomed. The Board of Directors, after weighing all the elements in the situation, instructed the officers and the Executive Committee of the J. D. C. to increase the budgeting rate by taking into consideration the revenue expected during 1941. In other words, instead of considering the last three months of 1940 and the twelve months of 1941 as separate entities, they were to be taken together and appropriations for October, November and December, 1940 were to be made on the basis of a pro-ration of fifteen months' anticipated income.

The Budget and Finance Committee then reviewed the J. D. C.'s existing commitments and obligations, as well as probable income for 1940. The situation at the end of September 1940 was as follows:

Income: The initial official allotment to the J. D. C. from the 1940 campaign of the U. J. A. was...

$1,210,000

Expenditures: The total commitments on account of budgetary appropriations from January through September were...

$1,241,000

The initial income from the United Jewish Appeal had therefore been practically exhausted during the first nine months of 1940. There was no way of knowing what the net results of the 1940 United Jewish Appeal would be, nor what amount would be awarded to the J. D. C. by the Allotment Committee of the United Jewish Appeal. The Budget and Finance Committee had to be conservative in its decisions. It recommended that the J. D. C. should increase its total allotment for 1940 of $5,280,000 or $1,030,000 beyond the J. D. C.'s initial allotment under the United Jewish Appeal agreement.

WHEN the J. D. C. closed its books for 1940, this was the situation:

Net Income:
A. Initial allotment of 1940 U. J. A. agreement $5,250,000
B. The Allotment Committee awarded the J. D. C. an additional $800,000.

The net deficit was therefore $219,600. But 1940 had not been an able deficit left over from 1939 of $150,500. Thus, as the J. D. C. entered 1941, it had accumulated deficits totalling $190,100. Once again in 1941 the J. D. C. was confronted with the problem of budgetary commitments in the light of campaign uncertainties. For the first half of the year, overseas committees which looked to the J. D. C. for their major income requested $12,523,445. The requirements for the last half of the year, it was believed, would call for an equal sum, bringing the total that might be asked of the J. D. C. in 1941 to approximately $25,000,000.

The initial allocation to the J. D. C. under the terms of the 1941 United Jewish Appeal agreement is much smaller than it was in 1940. It has been fixed at $4,275,000. Once again, therefore, the Budget and Finance Committee has been faced with the necessity of reducing the J. D. C.'s general scale of operations despite the mounting needs of the overseas Jewish populations. For the first five months of 1941, the J. D. C. has incurred total budgetary commitments of $2,680,310. It is hoped that the results of the 1941 campaign, during the second half of the year, will enable the J. D. C. to augment its help on a basis more proportionate to the need.

In some communities campaigns are held during the Spring. In others, they are held during the Fall. At no time is all the cash in hand when the campaign is over. Collection periods range sometimes for many months; sometimes for an entire year. But the J. D. C. works on an all-year-round basis. It cannot defer sending money abroad or making definite financial commit-

* See detailed Schedule, pages 10-11.
** See detailed Schedule, page 52.

Excess of Expenditures over Income... $239,600

Net Expenditures... 6,339,600
ments until cash has been received from the various American communities. This is the primary reason why, in order to have on hand a sufficient supply of cash with which to finance its current requirements, the J.D.C. finds it necessary to borrow from the banks.

During the course of the first seven months of 1940, it was necessary from time to time to go to the banks, which showed genuine understanding and helpfulness to the J.D.C. A total of $12,700,000 was borrowed, all of which was repaid as cash receipts came in from the Spring campaigns of the 1940 United Jewish Appeal and from the later collections of the 1939 United Jewish Appeal. During the early months of 1941, the J.D.C. had to borrow another $400,000, which it is expected will be repaid in the fall for the collections received from the spring campaigns.

It will be clear to the reader from perusing other sections of this report, that the J.D.C. so conducts its work as to avoid sending dollars into territories dominated by aggression or Bolshevism. A complete statement of the methods employed is in order:

1. Emigration Clearance: This system is used for J.D.C. work in Old Germany, former Austria, former Czechoslovakia and Luxembourg. It provides for local currency to be made available to the local committees in each of the above named countries by prospective emigrants who deposit marks or kronen as the case may be, with the local Jewish welfare organization in their respective countries. Against these payments, which are utilized for relief, schooling and welfare programs, the J.D.C. furnishes dollars for transportation of the emigrants. J.D.C. dollars are paid to non-German shipping lines, such as the American Export Line and Portuguese and Spanish shipping companies.

The clearance arrangement for Poland is a modification of the above. No emigration takes place from Poland today. In order to make local Polish currency available, therefore, the J.D.C. provides additional funds for the emigration of persons approved by the German, Austrian and Prague emigration bureau, for which they, in turn, secure additional funds from local Jewish welfare organizations. Instead of using those marks for their own internal welfare programs, however, they convert the marks into latsy, which are then transferred to the J.D.C. central office in Poland for relief activities in that country.

2. Blocked Currency Clearance: This system is used for work in Unoccupied France. Under U. S. Treasury Department licenses, the J.D.C. buys francs from the Bank of France which are released in France to designated committees.

The J.D.C. pays for the account of the Bank of France at the Federal Reserve Bank in New York, however, are frozen by U. S. Treasury regulations and cannot be released to the Bank of France for overseas use until and unless the U. S. Government should grant such permission.

Similar clearance arrangements have been worked out for occupied countries in order to obviate the necessity of sending dollars to them.

Quite aside from the internal policy of the J.D.C. not to send dollars to Germany, Italy and occupied countries, the Treasury Department of the United States has issued certain regulations in connection with the transmission of funds to certain countries and territories. Under those regulations it has been necessary to secure licenses for transmission of funds to all countries occupied by force since the invasion of the Lowlands in the Spring of 1940. Until June 14, 1941, these regulations did not apply to Germany, Austria, Bohemia-Moravia, Slovakia, Italy or Poland, but to all other countries occupied by Germany, Italy and Russia. As this report is being written, the Treasury Department has extended its blocking of funds to include all German and Italian territories. Special permission is required to remit funds to the Soviet Union, Switzerland, Portugal, Poland and Spain. This will entail much additional clerical work in order to comply with the Treasury Department regulations, which the J.D.C. has always followed to the letter and to the entire satisfaction of the U. S. Government.

Despite the many unforeseen changes which took place in Europe during the period under review, J.D.C. funds have in every instance been safeguarded and no funds have been lost through invasion. At the present time every remittance sent to a beneficiary agency is immediately guaranteed by another agency. Instead of using those marks for their own internal welfare programs, however, they convert the marks into latsy, which are then transferred to the J.D.C. central office in Poland for relief activities in that country.

Organization and Administration

Administratively speaking, the period since the beginning of the war has been one of the most difficult in the history of the J.D.C. More and more of the responsibility for the overseas work has had to be transferred to the New York office, which has had to concern itself with an unprecedented amount of new detail. An acute and continuous lack of funds, coupled with far-flung and pressing demands, necessitated constant discussions. Contacts had to be established and maintained with governmental agencies, with non-sectarian relief organizations, with other bodies in allied fields, with Welfare Funds throughout this country. Reports and data had to be made available to the Council of Jewish Federations and Welfare Funds and other organizations. An active collaboration was maintained with the President’s Advisory Committee on Political Refugees, which became increasingly important in the refugee problem.

The confusion in the public mind as a result of war conditions made an intensive educational and public relations program vitally important. Doubts and hesitancy in the minds of contributors had to be answered. The continuing necessity for J. D. C. work and the ability of the organization to cope with problems as they arose, formed the theme of the public relations message which was energetically spread throughout the United States. Mr. Edward M. M. Warburg, as Chairman of the J.D.C., Mr. Joseph O. Hyman, as Executive Vice Chairman of the J.D.C., and Rabbi Jonah B. Wise, as National Co-Chairman of the United Jewish Appeal, led the efforts along these lines.

Outstanding among the many knotty problems which the J.D.C. faced was the establishment of the new Transmigration Bureau, which was founded in June 1940 to deal with emigration of Jews from Germany, former Austria, former Czechoslovakia, Holland, Belgium and Luxembourg. Its primary purpose was to serve American relatives and friends of prospective emigrants who had requested them to make available funds for transportation to countries of immigration. Although the J.D.C. had not performed this type of case work in the past, it undertook the task at considerable expense and inconvenience for three reasons: (a) there was no other agency willing and able to do so; (b) the J.D.C. had, and could maintain, the indispensable daily contacts with experienced local agencies in the German-occupied lands which were handling emigration work; and (c) American Jews looked to the J.D.C., a responsible philanthropic institution, to provide this vital link in the emigration process.

Almost from the very beginning it was clear that the Transmigration Bureau would prove to be a considerable burden. Starting with the part-time services of one staff member, it now has a full-time personnel of some 70 persons. It has accepted close to $4,000,000 in payments by relatives in America for the transportation requirements of their overseas kin. Over 29,000 individual passages are involved in this sum. This has necessitated the setting up of a complicated set of books, the opening of seven bank accounts, and the establishment of a Transmigration machinery in Lisbon to assist in handling bookings. At one time, during February and March 1941, when mass deportations of Jews from Vienna to Poland started a wave of panic, the J.D.C. offices were visited by 100-600 people a day, each desperate, each requiring individual attention. The building elevators were so crowded, the corridors so congested with visitors that it was necessary to take separate quarters for the Transmigration Bureau, which in March moved to 245 West 14th Street where 5,000 square feet were leased. The Transmigration Bureau is a non-profit-making unit; all of its administrative costs, aggregating about $10,000 monthly, are borne by the J.D.C.

Many other aspects of the emigration problem challenged the J.D.C. When, in June of 1940, the Mediterranean was blocked as a result of Italy’s entry into the war a new channel for emigration, the trans-Siberian route, was worked out. This involved an entirely new set of problems: arrival and departure for reception and temporary aid to emigrants in transit; watching U. S. west coast shipping schedules. When emigration became possible through Lisbon, a number of business firms sought to take advantage of the gap between demand and supply—which held out prospects for quick profits. The J.D.C. was approached by many navigation companies to charter boats or to buy block
bookings on boats which planned to undertake the Lisbon-New York run. A special Committee on Migration was established a few months ago to deal with these problems.

All J.D.C. committees (see page 44) worked hard during the year. The Administration Committee met regularly on Monday afternoons; in recent months there have been weekly meetings of the Organization Committee. Each month saw a meeting of the Executive Committee. Functional subcommittees of the Executive Committee, such as the Budget and Finance Committee, Committee on Cultural Affairs, Committee on Palestine, Committee on Reconstruction Activity, Committee on Refugee Aid in Central and South America, Committee on Poland and Eastern Europe, Committee on Public Relations, etc., met at regular intervals. The Board of Directors has met four times since the beginning of 1940. There have been 49 regional, state and zone meetings of the J.D.C. (see pages 45-46) throughout the country, with an attendance of over 5,600 people representing 57 communities in 32 states and two Canadian provinces.

Some conception of the scope of J.D.C. activities may be had when it is realized that from the beginning of 1940 through May 1941 about 6,000 cables were received from all parts of the world and about 8,500 cables were sent out. Close to 30,000 incoming letters were received during the same period. A good deal of this work concerned personal service cases in behalf of American Jews who enlisted J.D.C. help in locating overseas relatives, ascertaining their emigration status and general situation, or who wanted information on foreign remittances, shipments, etc.


The terms of the United Jewish Appeal agreement for 1940 called for fixed distribution of $11,250,000 to the three beneficiary agencies as follows: Joint Distribution Committee, $7,250,000; United Palestine Appeal, $2,500,000; National Refugee Service, from the national campaign $2,500,000, plus $1,000,000 from the Greater New York Campaign of the U.J.A. The balance of funds raised were distributed by an Allotment Committee composed of Mr. James H. Becker and Dr. Solomon Lowenstein representing the J.D.C., Dr. Abba Hillel Silver and Dr. Stephen S. Wise representing the United Palestine Appeal, and Messrs. Harris Perlstein, David M. Watchmaker and Fred M. Butzel representing welfare fund communities. The alternate for the J.D.C. were Messrs. Harold F. Linder and I. Edwin Goldwasser; for the U.P.A., Judge Morris Rothenberg and Mr. Louis Lipsky. The Allotment Committee based its decision on a fact-finding survey conducted by an Inquiry staff headed by Mr. Elisha M. Friedman of New York. Over and above the amounts allocated by initial agreement, it awarded the balance of funds available for distribution on the basis of $800,000 to the Joint Distribution Committee and $400,000 to the United Palestine Appeal. Under the leadership of Rabbi Jonah B. Wise, representing the J.D.C., and Rabbi Abba Hillel Silver, representing the U.P.A., the United Jewish Appeal received gross pledges of $14,170,000 in 1940.

Negotiations were begun with the United Palestine Appeal during the Fall for a renewal of the U.J.A. for 1941, but an agreement failed to be reached. A few days before the end of the year, the United Palestine Appeal announced its independent campaign for 1941. The J.D.C. followed in January with the announcement of its fund-raising appeal, and the National Refugee Service did likewise. A great many communities throughout the country, fearing a disruption of local harmony, expressed themselves as being dissatisfied with this situation. At the General Assembly of the Council of Jewish Federations and Welfare Funds, held in Atlanta early in February, 1941, this sentiment found expression through demands by the Welfare Fund communities that the Joint Distribution Committee, the United Palestine Appeal and the National Refugee Service find a formula which would resolve their differences. After renewed negotiations, the reconstitution of the United Jewish Appeal was announced on March 9th, 1941. The terms of the new agreement call for initial distribution of $8,800,000 as follows: Joint Distribution Committee $4,275,000; United Palestine Appeal $2,525,000; National Refugee Service $2,000,000; the balance to be distributed by an Allotment Committee.
**JANUARY 1940 . . .**

An account of events that significantly affected overseas Jewish populations during 1940 and the early part of 1941 constitutes in effect a history of the world for that period. Almost every major development overseas had immediate repercussions in the field of Jewish needs, and in practically every case the result was to increase those needs. The Jewish populations which fell under Nazi domination during the period under review, aggregated close to 2,000,000.

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Place</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Effect</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1940</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Jan.</td>
<td>Bohemia-Moravia</td>
<td>Deportation of trainloads of Jews from Prague to Poland</td>
<td>Panic among 70,000 Jews remaining in Bohemia-Moravia; intense pressure to emigrate before stated deadline of February 1.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Apr. 9</td>
<td>Denmark</td>
<td>Nazi invasion</td>
<td>7,000 Jews come under Nazi control.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Apr. 9</td>
<td>Norway</td>
<td>Nazi invasion</td>
<td>3,300 Jews come under Nazi control.</td>
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<tr>
<td>May 10</td>
<td>Holland</td>
<td>Nazi invasion</td>
<td>150,000 native Jews and 30,000 refugees in Holland come under Nazi control; thousands flee to England and France.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 10</td>
<td>Belgium</td>
<td>Nazi invasion</td>
<td>70,000 native Jews and 30,000 refugees in Belgium come under Nazi control; thousands flee to France.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 10</td>
<td>Luxembourg</td>
<td>Nazi invasion</td>
<td>2,500 Jews come under Nazi control.</td>
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<tr>
<td>June 10</td>
<td>Italy</td>
<td>Declaration of war against France and England</td>
<td>40,000 Jews affected; Mediterranean closed to shipping.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June 22</td>
<td>France</td>
<td>Armistice signed with Germany</td>
<td>France divided into occupied and unoccupied areas; about 100,000 Jews in occupied section; an additional 210,000 in unoccupied section.</td>
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<tr>
<td>June 27</td>
<td>Roumania</td>
<td>Cession of Bessarabia and Northern Bukovina to Russia</td>
<td>370,000 Jews transferred to Soviet rule.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aug. 3</td>
<td>Lithuania, Latvia, and Estonia</td>
<td>Incorporation with U.S.S.R. accepted</td>
<td>325,000 Jews involved.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aug. 30</td>
<td>Roumania</td>
<td>Northern Transylvania ceded to Hungary</td>
<td>180,000 Jews involved in transfer.</td>
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</table>

**MAY 1941**

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Place</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1941</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jan. 21</td>
<td>Roumania</td>
<td>Iron Guard massacres</td>
<td>Over 1,000 Jews brutally murdered; thousands terrorized, beaten, their property damaged.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mar. 11</td>
<td>Bulgaria</td>
<td>Joined the axis</td>
<td>90,000 Jews affected.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Apr. 16</td>
<td>Yugoslavia</td>
<td>Invaded by axis powers</td>
<td>68,000 native Jews and 7,000 refugees in Yugoslavia affected.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Apr. 28</td>
<td>Yugoslavia and Greece</td>
<td>Conquered by axis powers</td>
<td>110,000 Jews brought under aggressor domination; Yugoslavia partitioned.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June 8</td>
<td>Syria</td>
<td>Invasion by British</td>
<td>20,000 Jews in battle area.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
EMISSION

The ranks of the 432,000 refugees who had fled Germany or otherwise left the Lowlands in May 1940, the principal ports of embarkation were Italian, Dutch, Belgian and French. The last three were suspended with conquest; Italy’s entry into the war for a time blocked the Mediterranean. An alternative route, eastward across Russia and Siberia to Japan and then across the Pacific, was quickly developed and used by 5,000 emigrants from German lands and later by over 2,000 Polish refugees from Lithuania. By July, Lisbon had become a departure point, and several days later American, Spanish, Portuguese and Greek boats took New York-Lisbon runs; when Greece was invaded in October, the field was left to the others. From 2,000-5,000 berths monthly were available out of Lisbon. In the early days, however, most of the space on the American ships was reserved for repatriating Americans. Nevertheless, 30,000-40,000 transmigrants passed through Portugal from January 1940 through May 1941.

These were among the many complications in the emigration picture with which the J.D.C. was called upon to deal during the period under review. The J.D.C. bore a double responsibility: not only to enable as many victims of war and persecution as possible to find freedom overseas, but also, through the use of emigration clearances, to keep vital needed relief programs in operation in German lands without benefiting the German economy. The $2,637,000 appropriated by the J.D.C. during the period under review for its work in Germany, Austria, former Czechoslovakia, Luxemburg and Poland was used to purchase transportation for emigrants coming from these lands. Under the clearance arrangements, local currency deposited by the emigrants with their central relief committees was used to finance internal programs of assistance.

The Hicem (Hid-Ica Emigration Association) served 6,000 emigrants during 1940 and the first five months of 1941, using primarily J.D.C. funds for all expenses of transportation. Although the Hicem was forced to close its offices in Brussels and Paris, it established offices in Marseille and Lisbon during the second half of 1940 from which it continued its work. In 1940, the Hicem, in addition to its work of enabling the emigration of refugees in the then European countries of asylum, undertook the servicing of direct emigration from German countries by establishing the Belhichem. To replace the Belhichem after the invasion of Belgium, the J.D.C. in June 1940 established the Transmigrant Bureau in New York. The work of the Bureau is described on page 10.

Suddening the emigration record are exotic names of ships, each representing a human tragedy in miniature. There was the SS Quanza, a Portuguese vessel which arrived in Mexico in September 1940 with fifty-odd refugees who were not permitted to disembark. The Quanza was on its way back to Europe when the passengers were taken off at Norfolk, Virginia, where the boat made a stop to refuel, through the intervention of the J.D.C. and other agencies, which guaranteed that the passengers would proceed rapidly to their planned destinations and that their passage costs would be defrayed. Then there was the case of the SS Hie Maru, which sailed from Kobe in November 1940, disembarked 100 of its 190 refugee passengers in San Francisco, and took the other 90 to South America where they planned to await their United States immigration visas. It was found when the Hie Maru reached Balboa, in the Panama Canal Zone, that 32 of the passengers destined for Haiti, Costa Rica, Peru and Ecuador were not permitted to land because their visas were invalid. It was almost a month before these 32 people could be landed. They had to continue their voyage from Panama along the entire length of the west coast of South America, past Columbia, Ecuador and Peru to Valparaiso, Chile. The boat turned back toward Japan. At each port the ship was met by representatives of the J.D.C.’s local committees in South America who did their best to buoy up the hopes of the unfortunate wanderers. They were finally landed in Ecuador on January 21, 1941 in an eleventh-hour rescue engineered by the J.D.C. which involved having the Hie Maru make an unscheduled stop at a small Peruvian port and having the Ecuadorian consul travel there post-haste by automobile in order to stamp the necessary visas in their passports.

At this writing, the problem of the SS Alahia has not yet been solved. The Alahia, carrying some 600 refugees of whom approximately one-fourth are Jews, sailed from Marseille in January 1941 bound for Buenos Aires. She was picked up and held immobile in Dakar harbor, her passengers virtually prisoners aboard the ship. Food and water ran low, the overcrowding on the boat encouraged epidemics, and the passengers gave way to despair as months passed. The J.D.C. and other organizations made a number of strenuous efforts to release the Alahia’s passengers. Negotiations were started for a boat to sail from Buenos Aires to pick them up and take them to their original destinations. This fell through and it was then agreed that the Alahia itself might be permitted to proceed to South America, but increasing political tension made this impossible. Early in June, the Alahia’s passengers were returned to Gaglianens where they faced the almost insoluble problem of securing shipping facilities.

Three boats with strong overtones of tragedy were the SS Penzen, SS Pariis and the SS Salvador, all bound for Palestine and all on the ocean’s bottom today. The Penzen struck a reef and foundered off the Isle of Rhodes in October 1940. Its 500 passengers are still in Rhodes, where the J.D.C. is trying to help them. The Salvador capsized in the Sea of Mar- mora in December; 223 of its passengers were lost and the remaining 177 were taken to Turkey where the J.D.C. made an emergency grant for them. The Pariis exploded in Haifa harbor in November 1940; its 1600 passengers were interned and later released in Palestine.

No opportunity was lost to expedite emigration. When it became possible in November to send 100 Dutch Jewish refugee families from Lisbon to the Dutch East Indies, the J.D.C. supplied a $10,000 guarantee required by the Dutch Government-in-Exile for their maintenance. Guarantees were also given to enable refugees in Japan to emigrate (see page 39).

GERMANY

The forces that set in motion the evacuation of Europe from 1940 have been reported as a history of hundreds of thousands of Jews have been gened since 1933 in Germany and the areas in Central Europe which it has come to dominate. For Jews in other lands there has been some possibility of adjustment, but for those in Germany, Austria, Slovakia and Bohemia-Moravia, there has been only one hope—to emigrate as quickly as possible.

Up to the beginning of 1940 about 260,000 Jews had fled Nazi Germany. Another 124,000 had escaped from Austria; 43,000 had fled from Czechoslovakia.

In the territory known as Greater Germany, as 1940 opened, over 471,000 Jewish people waited for release of one kind or another. They passed the time as best they could, for earning a livelihood as free men was prohibited to them. Many were too old or too feeble to hope for a new and better life. They could only pray that the younger and stronger might be able to escape before they, too, were broken. The existence of all these people was burdened by a
The series of events that lead to the Holocaust were complex and multifaceted. The initial events leading to the Holocaust were the actions of the German government and its machinery of war under the leadership of Adolf Hitler and his Nazi party. The Holocaust was not a random occurrence but rather the result of a well-planned and executed policy of genocide.

The Holocaust is remembered as the systematic and planned extermination of Jews and other groups that the Nazis considered to be inferior, including the Roma, Jews, and other Europeans. The Holocaust is a reminder of the dangers of intolerance, prejudice, and discrimination.

The Holocaust is remembered as a time of unprecedented cruelty and suffering. It is a time of immense loss and pain, but it is also a time of hope and resilience. Despite the enormity of the Holocaust, people found ways to resist and resist. They hid, they fought, and they survived.

The Holocaust is remembered as a time of great humanitarian efforts. People from all over the world came together to help those who were suffering. They donated money, they volunteered, and they worked tirelessly to save as many lives as possible.

The Holocaust is remembered as a time of relentless struggle. It is a time of great courage and bravery. It is a time of great sacrifice. The Holocaust is a time of human suffering, but it is also a time of human resilience.

The Holocaust is remembered as a time of great tragedy. It is a time of immense loss and pain. It is a time of great sadness. The Holocaust is a time of human suffering, but it is also a time of human hope.

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curtailed. The J.D.C., its income sharply reduced, could no longer afford to maintain its earlier rate of appropriations; local funds fell off as more and more people exhausted their remaining savings and found no opportunity to earn a livelihood. Some of the soup kitchens were closed, some of the institutions consolidated.

Two other American agencies, the American Red Cross and the Commission for Polish Relief, were likewise active in Poland during the period under review. The Red Cross, under an arrangement with the German government, shipped and distributed about $1,000,000 worth of cash and supplies into Poland from December 1919 until June 1940 when the closing of the Mediterranean made further shipments impossible. The Commission for Polish Relief expended $757,000 in cash and supplies for a program of aid which had been under way since 1914. These organizations, working on a non-sectarian basis, were able to benefit sections of the Jewish population. The J.D.C. collaborated closely with both, making available its distribution facilities in Poland and also acquiring grants of $10,000 to the American Red Cross and $10,000 to the Commission for Polish Relief for their aid to Polish Jews. The good offices of the International Red Cross were also employed in connection with two shipments of medical supplies which the J.D.C. purchased through the representative of the Ose in Geneva for shipment to the Tot in Poland.

No statistics can convey as eloquently the spirit ennobled by this gesture as is conveyed by the following quotation from a letter written by a Polish Jewish woman who left Warsaw at the beginning of 1941:

"She was a German Gentile. As she joined the other German Gentiles as well, regard the Joint as their only salvation from hunger. Praise of J.D.C. activities is particularly vehement among the Jewish intellectuals, especially those families who fed from Lods and have had to take shelter in small rented rooms."

Many of these people were personal friends of mine. All of them went to the J.D.C. kitchens for well-prepared meals, served in sanitary surroundings, either free or at a fee much smaller than it would have cost them to serve even the most primitive food at home. I personally shared such a meal at one time, and it tasted very good. One of my friends, who supplied these of these J.D.C. kitchens, told me that fully 30% of the clients were non-Jews.

"Thanks to the J.D.C., many of the middle class Jewish groups, who are the unhappiest and most bitterly persecuted of all peoples in Poland today, found employment in its various branches and were thus saved from starvation. One must understand the disastrous psychological effect of unemployment to appreciate the salutary influence of these jobs on the men and women. Caught in the grips of general apathy, they have a goal and a purpose in life and are able to forget their own misery in the work of helping others."

"A third and important by-product of the J.D.C. activity in Poland is the saving of thousands of Jewish young men from forced labor. When I was in Warsaw, official employees of the J.D.C. were exempted from labor in Warsaw and in the newly created labor camps outside Warsaw. There was no decision at that time as to whether or not this would likewise apply to the so-called volunteers, some of whom had worked in behalf of the J.D.C. from the beginning of the war without compensation, but it was generally believed that they, too, would be exempted. These labor camps held particular dread for everyone concerned. The mortality rate after only a month, amounted to 10%. It was the desire of many Jewish mothers to have her son employed by the Joint."

"I think you now have some general idea of the extraordinary and useful activity of the Joint. It is extremely popular in Poland and is known to every Jewish man, woman and child."

FRA NCE

France, traditional asylum for the dispensed, itself became a refuge work in itself as the following quotation from a letter written by a Polish Jewish woman who left Warsaw at the beginning of 1941: the Jews of Warsaw, and indeed many Gentiles as well, regard the Joint as their only salvation from hunger. Praise of J.D.C. activities is particularly vehement among the Jewish intellectuals, especially those families who fed from Lods and have had to take shelter in small rented rooms.

"France, in turn, applied to the J.D.C. The interned themselves in need of warm clothing, blankets and small comforts which the French government did not supply. The J.D.C. gave them 50% of the cost of the refugee assistance programs in their own country were unable to continue this rate of contribution. They were fully engaged in France's war effort. Their sons were at the front, their older men worked in the auxiliary labor service, their women turned to industry. They were going on as usual, and food was a problem. The J.D.C., with the expenditure of $10,000, supplied 75% of the funds used for refugee aid in France during the first half of 1945. With J.D.C. funds, the Comité d'Assistance aux Refugies gave food, shelter, clothing, medical aid and other forms of relief to 9,100 refugees. One of the first of the Jewish families who had been evacuated from Paris at the outbreak of the war, the Federation operated 9 soup kitchens which served 4,500 meals daily, and gave cash of 4,000 people. The Commission des Districrs distributed $40,000 worth of supplies to the interned; the HICOM was able to service 800 emigrants in France. All these programs were not only highly financed but also guided by the J.D.C., whose chief European office was then in Paris. In May the war broke and stormed over the borders of France and Luxembourg, starting fresh streams of refugees into France, bringing panic and fear. Then came the dark days of June, the collapse of the French army, the fall of Paris, the violation and dismemberment of what had been a sanctuary. France was split in two, her northern half occupied by the German army, her southern half nominally free. All French organized relief was disrupted, families were separated, and hungry children wandered through the streets. Some 100,000 Jews were left in occupied France. In all were about 275,000 Jews, of whom 100,000 were refugees of all categories. Substantial numbers of the refugees from Paris and Belgium were in the camps before the end of the year. By the end of June about 12,000 refugees left in Southern France had been confined in internment camps in the Pyrenees. But these camps were different from the earlier ones. There had been inadequate deportation before, now there was stark starvation. The names of some of the camps became symbolic of unbelievable horror. St. Cyprien, Gurs, Le Vernet connote dungeon-like structures where human beings were huddled together in filth and disease."

There was only one Jewish organization geared to meet this war emergency. That was the J.D.C. It moved quickly to bring together again Jewish relief leaders who had been scattered by the blitzkrieg. Some committees had to be reorganized, others to be newly formed to meet new and overwhelming demands.

The problem grew by leaps and bounds. On the night of October 21, 1940 some 9,000 Jews living in the Baden and Palatinate areas of Germany were given an hour in which to pack one suitcase of belongings. Young and old, sick and well, were led aboard cattle cars and for four days and nights travelled hungry and terror-stricken to the unknown. In a pouring rain they arrived at their destination to find that they were in the internment camp of Gurs in unoccupied France. At the same time, several thousand internes from the St. Cyprien camp were transferred to Gurs, which soon held a population of 14,000 men, women and children. The expulsions were not yet over. The following month, the unoccupied area found that it had to absorb
In the early months of 1940, Lisbon was comparatively remote from the European war. There were some 3,000 Jews in all Portugal. The number of refugees never exceeded 100, and for these the J.D.C. regularly remitted $400 a month. In June, France fell, and Italy entered the war. Portugal became the most important country in all Europe for the terror-stricken refugees, and Lisbon became a magic word. Just three days after the fall of France, the refugee committee in Lisbon began to cable the J.D.C. frantically asking for special allocations.

By the middle of July, the city had become a refuge for war victims, Christian and Jewish alike. Police, Germans, Frenchmen, Italians flocked in increasing numbers to this last open port of Atlantic. They came by boat and by train, by bicycle and on foot.

By this time the J.D.C. had its European headquarters in Lisbon and found itself at the heart of an extraordinarily serious problem. Many of the refugees, when they arrived in Lisbon, had few or no resources. The very future of Lisbon as the last open port on the Atlantic depended on keeping the refugees off the public-relief rolls. The Lisbon committee quickly opened a large soup kitchen. It gave cash grants, provided shelter and clothing and medical care, and all, as a liaison with governmental agencies in expediting emigration. A report of Dr. Augusto D'Enguy, Chairman of the Lisbon committee, rendered in February, 1941, gives some indication of the mood of the work:

"We gave them advice, letters of introduction to Consulates; we took them to the International Police in Lisbon and legalized their position, thus endeavoring to prolong to the utmost their stay in Portugal. It was due to our intervention that the merchant shipping board authorized the setting up of Portuguese passenger lines to the United States and Brazil, a measure which has considerably facilitated the evacuation of refugees. But all this relief work — and I need not emphasize how important it has been and still is to all of us who have witnessed the hardship and suffering of these refugees — this work would have been impossible without the generous assistance of the J.D.C. — its money and humanitarianism."

By the end of August the refugee tide had risen until there were over 12,000 refugees of every description crowded into Lisbon. By then the J.D.C. remittances had grown from $400 a month to $5,000. A month later that figure had risen to $5,000 and by November it reached $10,000.

Still more refugees came pouring in while those already there waited hopefully for transportation. Throughout the latter half of the year and the early months of 1941, the J.D.C. exerted its influence in every possible direction to obtain transportation for these refugees, the Portuguese authorities who had shown remarkable humanitarianism in their treatment of the refugee problem, were willing to allow more refugees to enter only in proportion to those who left. Some 30,000-40,000 refugees passed through Lisbon from June 1940 through May 1941.

Many of the refugees in transit, although not on the relief rolls of the country, received temporary help during the period of their stay. As of May 1941, the Lisbon committee was caring for 1,600 refugees daily and the J.D.C. was granting $12,000 monthly for refugee aid in Portugal.

ITALY

When Italy entered the war in June of 1940, the repercussions upon her refugee population of 3,000 were immediate. All the refugees, no age, number or sex, were interned. Some of their families were likewise interned, others were permitted to go unmolested. Paradoxically, the refugees who were interned were better off than the others. They were at least sure of a roof over their heads and a steady, though meager, diet. The others had to rely on a refugee aid committee whose income depended not exactly as local contributions fell off. The scale on
which refugees in Italy were maintained was one of the lowest in Western Europe. An average of $3 per week was granted to refugees for all of their living costs. Under the circumstances, six and seven people shared a single room in order to make ends meet. Undermannered took its toll of health and idleness further depressed their spirits.

As for the native Italian Jewish community, they faced a future not much better than that of the refugees. The racial laws passed in 1938 limited the Jew's right to hold property, forbade him to engage in business, to hold a civil service job or to practice a profession. The Italian Jewish community, at that time numbering 10,000, was old and long-established, but by 1940 its most prosperous element, more than 10% of the total, had fled. Another 11% tried conversion to Christianity in an effort to give their children an opportunity to lead normal lives. For the most part Italian Jews were still able to supply their own welfare requirements, but they could spare little for refugee aid. The J.D.C. was responsible for 80% of the income of the Italian refugee committee.

By May 1941, fully 2,000 of the 3,000 refugees in Italy were being helped by the committee, which gave its first attention to the non-interred but also tried to alleviate some of the more outstanding needs of those who had been deprived of their liberty.

During the first half of 1940, when Italy was perhaps the most important single country of exit from continental Europe, the Italian committee was active in expediting emigration, and gave temporary aid to hundreds of transient emigrants. This movement stopped when the Mediterranean was closed to shipping after Italy's entry into the war, but some 700 emigrants, who were stranded when their ships cancelled sailings, had to be helped by the committee.

**SWITZERLAND**

Neutral Switzerland was an obvious haven to which the persecuted Jews of Greater Germany might aspire. The native Jewish population of that country was only 17,000 (now reduced by emigration to 11,000) yet by the beginning of 1940 the Jewish refugees numbered 7,000. When the war broke in the Fall of 1939, all refugees were required to register with the police, and on October 17th, the government decreed that thenceforth Switzerland was to be regarded by refugees only as a country of transit, not as a country of extended sanctuary.

The refugee aid committees in Switzerland, faced with an abnormally large refugee population in comparison with the size of the country, found it increasingly difficult to collect sufficient funds locally with which to maintain their programs. Many of the wealthier Jews of Switzerland had left for the United States, and the committees had to turn increasingly to the J.D.C. Although the Swiss government showed some benevolence toward the entire problem, and contributed substantially to the cost of refugee upkeep, the J.D.C. nevertheless supplied 65% of the funds spent during the period under review for refugee aid.

A number of work camps were established in Switzerland for the refugees. Others were housed in private homes, receiving maintenance grants from the committee. Medical and child care services were available to the needy. The accent in Switzerland, as in every other country in Europe, was on emigration. Hemmed in as the country was on all sides by warring nations, this was not easy, but nevertheless 500 refugees succeeded in leaving the country between January 1940 and May 1941.

In addition to the central refugee aid committee, the J.D.C. granted subventions totalling $22,000 to two non-sectarian refugee bodies with headquarters in Switzerland, the International Students Service and the Committee to Secure Employment for Refugee Professional Workers.

**LUXEMBOURG**

Luxembourg is a tiny duchy lost among great powers in Europe. Amidst far more impressive tragedies, the plight of the Luxembourg Jews has been little noticed. Until the invasion of the Spring of 1940, it was a minor haven for refugees. The invaders, however, brought to Luxembourg the familiar pattern of anti-Jewish persecution. The J.D.C. was forced immediately to expand its program of aid in Luxembourg to include not only the refugees in that Duchy but also the native Jews as well.

On September 5th, the first formal anti-Jewish laws were passed in Luxembourg. Jews were forbidden all business transactions with "Armenia" and business enterprise among themselves was severely limited. At first the familiar sign of IWW appeared on store windows. Then all commercial rights were taken from Jews. Jewish children were banned from public schools and Jewish men were set to forced labor in the quarries.

On September 26, 1940, the 2,000 Jews in the Duchy were given just two weeks in which to pack up and leave their country. Some pleaded for more time, others—more than 500 of them—were forced to go. Most of them found their way into France, some into Belgium and Holland. One train managed to reach Villar Formosa, the border of Portugal; the precious exit gate of Europe, but there it was held up and the fate of 287 men, women and children hung in the balance.

Over the border was the prospect of freedom. But in that train 287 passengers huddled together in an agony of discomfort, hunger and cold. No one could leave the train although among them were old people and sick people and children. Refugees who were staying in Villar Formosa tried to bring coffee and food to the suffering refugees on the train, but police cordons prevented it. At last some Portuguese children of the town were permitted to approach the closely guarded train and offer the people coffee and dry bread. One woman died while the train stayed at Villar Formosa and still the people aboard waited and hoped that at last they would be allowed to proceed over the border to comparative safety. On the ninth day the engine got up steam and the train started, but it did not cross the border. Instead, it headed back the way it came, taking the unhappy refugees to a French internment camp. They were later released, and some have already been able to emigrate.

Another transport of 150 people would have faced the same fate if the J.D.C. had not offered guarantees of their support and so effected their adhesion to Portugal.

Prior to its invasion, the J.D.C. program in Luxembourg had been for the support of 500 refugees who had found asylum there. With J.D.C. funds, supplemented by local collections, the refugees were maintained and re-emigrated as quickly as possible. Following the invasion order issued to all Jews in Luxembourg, the J.D.C. worked out an emigration clearance arrangement similar to that operating in other German lands (see page 19).

**BELGIUM**

Prior to its invasion in May of 1940, Belgium was one of the most important countries of asylum for refugees in all of Western Europe. The J.D.C. aided the Jewish community of Belgium to support 16,000 of the 30,000 refugees in that land by supplying 75% of the funds required for programs of help. The Belgian Government, sympathetic to the problem, had set up six refugee camps to house part of the stream of refugees who had come to that country after the German pogroms at the rate of 1,000 a month. Cash grants were given by the Jewish refugee com-
BELGIUM AT A GLANCE
Native Jewish Population 90,000
Total Number of Refugees 30,000
Number of Refugees Assisted 16,000
J.D.C. Appropriations January - May 1940 $275,000

Services Rendered:
Relief beneficiaries 16,000
Child care beneficiaries 2,000
Medical aid beneficiaries 500
Evacuation beneficiaries 700
Vocational training beneficiaries 5,000

A year and a half ago, Holland was a place where refugees from Germany were eager to go because it offered freedom from Nazi domination. Today, Holland is a place which not only German refugees but many Dutch people would like to leave, because it is occupied by the Nazis.

In January 1940, the J.D.C. was helping the Jewish community of Holland to support 7,000 of the 30,000 refugees in that country. Many of the refugees were in work camps established by the Dutch Government and maintained by the Jewish refugee committees. Of the 1,100 children who had been brought to Holland after the nationwide German pogroms in November 1938, some 711 were still under the committee's care. Programs of vocational retraining and Hachsharach were being maintained for 615. The emigration of 610 refugees was effected from Holland during the first four months of 1940, and an additional 350 transmigrants from German lands who embarked from Dutch ports were serviced.

The J.D.C. supplied 90% of the cost of maintaining all these programs, the balance being supplied by local collections.

When the Nazi tidal wave had rolled over the Lowlands, leaving death and destruction in its wake, the J.D.C. found itself for a time cut off from the possibility of continuing to make funds available in Holland without aiding the aggressor economy. Indeed, for a number of weeks no word could be gotten into or out of the occupied country. When a message finally came through it revealed that the refugee committee had been reorganized and was continuing its work, relying exclusively on local funds. Emigration help was what was most urgently needed from the J.D.C.

Since Holland's occupation, the J.D.C. appropriations for Holland have been reserved for emigration. It is only in recent months that emigrants have been permitted to leave Holland, but it is hoped that a steady stream will now develop.

LITHUANIA

Native Jewish Population 165,000
Resident Jews of Vilna Area (estimated) 75,000
Number of refugees from other parts of Poland 25,000
Number of German refugees 2,000
J.D.C. Relief Appropriations, 1940 $302,000

Services Rendered with J.D.C. Funds:
Feeding beneficiaries 1,000
Sheltering beneficiaries 1,000
Clothing beneficiaries 2,000
Medical aid beneficiaries 250
Child care beneficiaries 1,500
Vocational training beneficiaries 200
Evacuation beneficiaries 200

The incorporation of Lithuania into the U.S.S.R. during the latter half of 1940 marked the turning point in the large refugee and relief program which the J.D.C. had carried on in that country since the fall of Poland in September 1939. The annexation of the city and district of Vilna by Lithuania in October 1939 had presented the problem of a community of 75,000 Jewish residents at Vilna, half of whom had lost their livelihoods; swept by some 15,000 war refugees from other parts of Poland whose sole possessions were the clothes on their backs.

NOR was this all. Lithuania proper contained 2,000 refugees from Germany, Austria, Czechoslovakia and Memel, and another 3,000 former inhabitants of the Suwalki district of Poland who had been thrust across the Lithuanian border in 1939. Together, 165,000 native Jews of Lithuania therefore found themselves obliged to absorb an alien population of some 100,000. This they were unable to do without the help of the J.D.C., which took the responsibility for caring for the Polish Jewish war refugees through an intensive program of feeding, sheltering, clothing, medical care, vocational training and emigration help.

At the beginning of the year, the Joint Distribution Committee financed the feeding of 1,000 daily, and the housing of 3,000. By February it was necessary to expand the feeding program to 10,000 daily, and there were 8,000 refugees sheltered in 10 homes. A relationship was established with the Lithuanian Red Cross which was designated by the Government as the official agency to coordinate all relief work. Through the Red Cross the Lithuanian Government contributed additional amounts equal to 10% of the sums sent from abroad for relief work. The Lithuanian Government was entered into a list of the countries of the Anglo-Polish Relief Fund worked side by side with the J.D.C. in administering relief work in behalf of non-Jewish war refugees from Poland.

In August 1940, the Lithuanian Government applied for and received permission to be incorporated in the U.S.S.R., the government of the United States blocked Lithuanian funds in America and prohibited the sending of American currency to that country without special Treasury license. From this point on, the J.D.C. relief program in Lithuania was financed by using the Lithuanian funds of organizations affiliated with the J.D.C., and later by borrowing from the Lithuanian Red Cross.

On December 31, 1940, a series of decrees were published giving all persons residing in Lithuania on September 1, 1940 the right to apply for Soviet citizenship, giving all persons eligible for Soviet citizenship the right to work and giving all indigent, aged and young people under working age the right to apply to public welfare agencies for assistance. At the same time foreign agencies in Lithuania were ordered to liquidate their affairs.

While the great bulk of Polish refugees in Lithuania were Soviet citizens, there were a group of 4,000-5,000 persons for whom the New Order offered little opportunity. These were principally rabbis, yeshiva students, members of the intellectual classes and leaders of various Jewish communal and labor organizations. They immediately applied for exit permits from Lithuania. Although during the early months of 1941 exit permits and Japanese transit visas were readily granted, the problem was how to find transportation costs for those people whose very existence were jeopardized if they remained in Lithuania. The J.D.C., in collaboration with a number of other American Jewish groups, contributed toward the funds required for the trans-Siberian trip to Japan of 1,700 persons. The J.D.C. contribution for this task alone has amounted to $135,100 to date.
The problem was not over when the refugees reached Japan. However, it was discovered that many of them did not hold valid visas to countries of ultimate destination, and would have to remain in Japan for an indefinite period until such visas could be secured. The problem which arose in Japan is described on page 39.

HUNGARY

HUNGARY AT A GLANCE

| Resident Jews | 110,000 |
| Number of German Refugees | 2,500 |
| Number of Polish Refugees | 5,000 |
| Jews Added by Territorial Acquisition | 180,000 |
| Jews from Yugoslavia | 5,000 |
| JDC Services Enlisted | 52,000 |
| JDC Workers | 2,894 |
| Number of Native Jews, Jan. 1940 - March 1941 | 350,000 |
| Number of Polish refugees, Jan. 1940 - March 1941 | 350,000 |
| Number of Natives Jews, Jan. 1940 - March 1941 | 350,000 |
| Number of Polish refugees, Jan. 1940 - March 1941 | 350,000 |

The successive losses of territory which Roumania endured during 1940 reduced her Jewish population by more than two-thirds—from 900,000 to 275,000. Repeated disasters shook the country during the period under review—earthquakes, floods, and civil wars. In November, and again in January, some of the worst pogroms in contemporary history were visited upon the Jews of Roumania by Iron Guard terrorists. Theft, larceny, blackmail, terror, arson, rape and murder took a toll of thousands of Jewish lives. These pogroms spread to fifty territory after the riots and pogroms.

As the year opened, and the war drew ever closer to Roumania, the industries in outlying districts near the border of Hungary anad Roumania were moved away and economic life slowed down to a standstill. Formerly prosperous industrial cities became ghost towns. In Bucharest Roumania sought protection in Bucharest or other large cities in the interior. The poor had no choice but to remain, although it meant that they would be still poorer now that their means of livelihood had been taken from them. It soon became clear to many that such a street might be the greatest benefit the aggre-

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YUGOSLAVIA

At the beginning of 1940 more than 1,500 refugees had come to Yugoslavia; by April of 1941 their number mounted to 7,000. Nearly all of them were dependent upon the refugee committee at Zagreb. The committee, which housed, fed and to a large ex-

But Yugoslavia was less a place of permanent refuge than a country of transit, a highway which
many refugees took toward Palestine. Some traveled on foot and some on train and others by boats, often unsuccessfully. One of these set sail from the Danube toward the end of 1939. At Khadova, a deserted spot in the lower portion of the river, these 1,062 refugees found themselves icebound in a dilapidated transport. The nearest railway station was some 60 kilometers away, a ride of more than seven and a half hours by sleigh. The committee at Zagreb wired the J.D.C. frantically pleading for quick help for these stranded fugitives. And help came.

Food and medical supplies purchased with J.D.C. funds were rushed to these people—enough to keep them going until the ice thawed. In the spring the ship could once more sail, but political developments arose to prevent their departure. As a result of a month’s work on the growing heat prodded diseases which rapidly spread to epidemic proportions. It became clear that these refugees would have to be evacuated to a place on shore. The nearest place was the village of Khadova with a population of only 1,800. Here, with J.D.C. funds, tents were set up, room in houses was obtained, a hospital barracks was built and medical equipment set up. Throughout the year J.D.C. remitted $70,000 for the Khadova refugees, which was charged to the budgets of their respective countries of origin.

In the early months of 1941 some 250 members of the Khadova group were enabled to continue on their journey to Palestine via Turkey. Then, on April 16th, Yugoslavia found itself invaded by German, Italian and Hungarian troops, and after a fortnight of bloody conflict, joined the ranks of conquered nations. A month passed before word was had from the J.D.C. representatives in Yugoslavia. When that word came, it was discouraging in the extreme.

"The Yugoslavian Jewish community is now widely dispersed," the cable report said. "Of a total of 68,000 people formerly constituted the native Jewish community, 29,000 are now in Croatia, which has been made a semi-independent state like Slovakia. Another 8,000 Jews are left in Old Serbia, which is now under German occupation, with Belgrade as its capital. The remaining 31,000 Jews of Yugoslavia have been absorbed by neighboring countries—Hungary, Bulgaria and Italy. Probably 20,000 now belong to Hungary, 10,000-11,000 to Bulgaria, and close to 2,000 to Italy.

"Of the 4,000 refugees who had been living in Yugoslavia prior to its downfall, about 2,600 remain in Croatia; 1,510, including the Khadova group, are in the Belgrade area, and approximately 100 are in neighboring states. In German-occupied Serbia, fully half of the 8,000 native Jews are destitute and homeless, while the remaining 4,000 are likewise adversely affected. The refugees are in particular jeopardy."

SWEDEN-FINLAND

For many years after the rise of Nazism and before the outbreak of war, Jewish parents in Germany had sought to save their children from the deprivations of German life by sending them to Sweden. They paid for their maintenance through J.D.C. clearances. In the beginning of 1940, there were 100 such children in Sweden, but these were now wholly dependent upon the Jewish community there, their parents being unable to supply additional funds. The native Jewish population in Sweden numbers only 7,000, and when the year opened there were 2,000 German Jewish refugees. These were granted permission to work only in exceptional cases. In addition, there were many German Jewish chilim in the training camps of Sweden who were caught and stranded there by the outbreak of war. There were others who fled from Norway and Denmark when those countries fell.

For a long time, the Swedish Jewish community handled its own problem without recourse to outside agencies. When an opportunity arose to emigrate 290 of the refugees, however, the Swedish Jews called upon the J.D.C. to supply the $7,100 required.

The outbreak of the Finnish-Russian war found 100 German Jewish refugees stranded in the war zone in Finland. The Judiska Församlings of Helsinki tried to evacuate these refugees to Sweden but failed. As the year opened, each of these refugees required at least $10 a month for bare maintenance and no local contributions were possible. The J.D.C. met the situation alone and remitted a total of $16,000 for relief of refugees in Finland.

OUTPOSTS OF J.D.C.

The rise of Nazism dispersed European Jewry to places as remote as Bombay, the Dutch East Indies, Persia, Turkey, Greece, Morocco, and Mauritius. During the year J.D.C. received repeated cables from Bombay asking for help for increasing numbers of Polish Jews trekking through that city in their round-the-world search for sanctuary. Some were on their way to the Americas, some to Palestine and some to Australia. There were about 100 German and Austrian Jewish refugees staying in Bombay dependent upon the Jewish Relief Association there.

In the mountains and deserts of Morocco were other refugees. These were men who had escaped from Germany into France, and there sought to evade internment camps by enlisting in the Foreign Legion. When France fell, 4,000 of these refugee legionnaires, of whom 1,000 were Jews, were thrown into work camps under conditions rivaling the worst in Germany or France. Many were put to work building the trans-Sahara railroad to Dakar.

A committee including representatives of the Jewish community of Casablanca was formed to work out methods of relieving these misfortunes. The one source of aid to which these embattled fugitives could turn was the J.D.C., which granted $6,000 for refugee relief in Casablanca and $4,950 in Tangier.*

The J.D.C. also received S.O.S. messages from Turkey, where several hundred refugees en route to Palestine found themselves stranded, and where the survivors of the Salvador disaster were brought after the boat had capsized at sea. Similar emergency aid was needed for a group of refugees stranded in Telort, Persia. As practically every stop on the inauspicious route to Palestine, groups of refugees found themselves unexpectedly held up and short of funds. They knew of but one source of aid: the J.D.C. Hundreds of Polish refugees passing through Salonica, Greece, called upon the J.D.C. for help.

When 1,770 refugees were deported by the British Government from Palestine to the Island of Mauritius, where they were interned, the J.D.C. was asked to supply them with some of the small comforts incidental to human existence. A grant of $4,000 was made.
CULTURAL COMMITTEE

CULTURAL COMMITTEE AT A GLANCE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Number of Institutions and Organizations Supported with Cultural Committee Funds, 1940</th>
<th>Palestine</th>
<th>Latin America</th>
<th>Central European Fugitive Funds in U.S. and Latin America</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>J.D.C. Appropriations, 1940</td>
<td>70</td>
<td>62</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>J.D.C. Appropriations—January-May, 1941</td>
<td>372</td>
<td>14,500</td>
<td>730</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Practically since its inception, the J.D.C. has recognized the importance of maintaining the religious and cultural structure of European Jewish life in addition to general measures of relief and reconstruction. The Cultural Committee, established after the first World War under the chairmanship of the late Dr. Cyrus Adler, who retained that post until his death, has the responsibility of distributing J.D.C. funds for cultural-religious and educational activities to school organizations, yeshivot and other institutions overseas. These are frequently the only educational opportunities available to Jewish youth. The committee is composed of representatives of orthodox, conservative and Yiddishist (laburite) groups in the United States, each of whom is in close touch with the institutions in his respective area of interest.

During 1940 and the first five months of 1941, the J.D.C.'s Cultural Committee distributed a total of $121,000 through 110 institutions and organizations in Europe, Palestine and Latin America. The number of applications to the Cultural Committee has shown a steady increase, as more and more communities found themselves unable to meet their needs through local resources. For example, the Cultural Committee during the period under review granted regular subventions to more than 40 yeshivahs and school organizations in Hungary. A year earlier, only 3 Hungarian institutions of this nature received J.D.C. help.

A further factor made for larger demands on J.D.C. help. European countries which had heretofore been the source of substantial aid to Palestine yeshivot and schools, were no longer able to extend that help. In 1940 the J.D.C. subventioned more than 60 yeshivahs, school organizations and cultural-religious groups in Palestine, which had received no assistance from any of the Zionist funds. More than 50% of the Cultural Committee's appropriations during 1940 were allocated to Palestine institutions. In addition, newly organized Jewish communities in Central and South American countries, where substantial numbers of refugees have settled, appealed in increasing numbers for financial aid to enable them to establish religious institutions, Hebrew schools, etc.

Besides financial and technical assistance, the J.D.C. helped the newly founded religious institutions in South America by shipping them religious articles of various kinds, Torahs, prayer books, Haggadah, Tefillin, Mezuzah and many other ritualistic items. Some of these articles were purchased by the Cultural Committee and others were sent as contributions to the Committee by synagogues and individuals.

PALESTINE

For training and assistance for emigrants to Palestine, and for aid to cultural and religious institutions in Palestine, the J.D.C. expended in 1940 an estimated total of $643,000, over 10 percent of its budget for the year.

This sum financed training programs for prospective emigrants in institutions and camps in many European countries, and transportation assistance for about 6,000 emigrants. It covered also expenditures for relief of refugees en route to Palestine.

In addition to funds expended in Palestine through the Cultural Committee, previously mentioned, the J.D.C. granted $12,500 to the Hebrew University in Jerusalem during 1941 for the support of refugee professors and students there.

Although the total number of relief cases showed a decrease in May 1941, compared with January 1940, the relief load was beginning to assume a somewhat permanent nature. Most of the people dependent on the committees for their day-to-day existence were either too young or too old to earn a living. The export markets of most of the Central and South American countries have suffered a serious dislocation through the loss of European outlets. Numbers of workers lost their jobs as a consequence of the war, some because employers no longer desired to engage Germans, others because business conditions deteriorated.

Almost without exception, the committees have had to spend increasingly greater amounts for medical care. Many immigrants who manage to provide their

CENTRAL AND SOUTH AMERICA

The past year has given Latin American Jewish communities an opportunity to take stock of their refugee assets and liabilities and to embark on intensive programs of assimilation for the 110,000 newly arrived immigrants in the Central and South American republics. Approximately 6,000 refugees arrived during 1940, a substantial reduction from the rate of arrival in 1939 and in 1938. This period has offered the first succor which Jewish communities have been able to find since they were taken unawares by the flood of refugees who had poured in in great waves during the previous years. It has given them an opportunity to begin a concerted attack on the longer-range problem, to do some constructive planning, and to pave the way for the additional immigration which is bound to come when the war ends.
primary needs out of their earnings must look to the committees in cases of illness. The incidence of sickness among the newcomers is high, because of the effect which a radically different climate works upon Europeans. Inadequate diet adds to their vulnerability.

The South American committees therefore directed their attention to three major tasks during the period under review: the protection and training of children, the economic establishment of adults, and the care of the elderly and unemployables. In order to make possible the economic establishment of newcomers, it was essential to resettle many—to move them out of the larger cities in which they were congregated to smaller cities and towns where surveys showed that their skills and aptitudes would be well-employed and usefully employed.

Late in 1940, the J.D.C.'s Committee on Reconstruction Activity embarked upon a program of setting up loan cooperatives in Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Ecuador, Peru, and Uruguay. These cooperatives, when established, will be in a position to lend modest sums to persons who have employable skills as well as to refugees who have already established going enterprises. The J.D.C. has also made independent loan funds available for refugees who are unable to meet the credit qualifications of the loan cooperatives.

The resettlement and other constructive programs were undertaken for several reasons. Thousands of refugees congregated in the cities could not expect to be satisfactorily employed there and their presence was becoming conspicuous. Thousands of persons could not be maintained indefinitely on a subsistence basis without a serious breakdown in morale, among other things. These reasons, valid enough in themselves, simultaneously affected the broader political factors which inevitably form part of any problem in Latin America. Fears and resentments on the part of the native populations were aroused, sealed upon, inflated and spread by trouble-makers. Nazi-inspired propagandists have been quick to take advantage of every opportunity to cause disturbance. The work of the local committees accelerates the adjustment of Jewish immigrants to the life of their new countries.

Although a portion of the funds used for refugee programs in Latin America were secured from local sources, the J.D.C. continued to supply the bulk of the money required. As the result of their accumulated experience, the refugee committees supported by the J.D.C. in Latin America today perform their functions with increasing understanding and effectiveness, not only within the confines of their own countries, but in cooperation with one another.

Three representatives of the J.D.C. or affiliated bodies toured Latin America during 1940 and early 1941. Each furnished guidance and stimulation to local committees, not only in methods of administration and help, but also in local organization and fund-raising.

CENTRAL AMERICA

**Cuba**

One of the few centers throughout the world where the refugee population has been substantially reduced was Cuba, which by the end of May 1941 contained only 400 refugees out of the 3,200 who were there at the beginning of 1940. The vast majority of the 2,800 who left Cuba were granted visas to the United States, which they had been awaiting in Cuba for varying lengths of time. This emigration was expedited in many ways by the Joint Relief Committee in Havana, which cooperates with J.D.C. in Cuba.

A refugee training project in a home on the outskirts of Havana, known as the Finca Pase Seco, was conducted by the American Friends Service Committee with financial assistance from the J.D.C., closed in March 1941, all of its residents having emigrated. The Finca was able to house about 70 refugees at a time, and trained them in various forms of agricultural work and handicrafts.

The Joint Relief Committee today does two major jobs: (1) it grants relief to the needy among the 400 refugees remaining in Cuba, all of whom are prohibited by law from holding jobs, and (2) it assists in change-of-status cases from the United States. The United States immigration laws require that persons in the country on visitors' visas who desire to become immigrants, must leave U.S. territory and apply at a consulate in a foreign country. Cuba is a quota number. Cuba, because of its proximity to the United States, is employed by large numbers of refugees for this purpose, which is known as change of status. The problem of the Joint Relief Committee in cooperation with refugee aid agencies in the United States, assists the change-of-status immigrants in the process.

During 1940, when large numbers of refugees required relief, the J.D.C. contributed over $195,000 to the Joint Relief Committee. In 1941, with relief requirements much lower, $14,000 has been made available by the J.D.C. during the first five months. An additional $35,000 representing partial repayments to the committee by relief recipients on their departure for Cuba, likewise added to the current relief funds.

The Jewish communities of Cuba, recognizing the enormous burden carried by the local committee in connection with its program of war relief for distressed Jewish populations, remitted $1,150 to the J.D.C. during 1940.

**Costa Rica**

The problem of the sixty-odd refugees in Costa Rica is not acute. Most of them have been able to enter in communities with a fair degree of success. So very few refugees arrived there during the seventeen months' period since January 1940 that the local committee in San Jose required comparatively little assistance from the J.D.C., which provided about $970.

**Dominican Republic**

The refugee population in the Dominican Republic is of two types: the members of the agricultural project operated by the local committee, and the large number of Jewish refugees who have arrived since 1940, who are being processed by the local committee for the Dominican Republic Settlement Association at Souss and the refugees who live in the capital, Ciudad Trujillo. Some 310 persons selected for the settlement project have reached the Dominican Republic since January 1940 (see page 41). Many of the 300 refugees in the capital have found employment, have learned handicraft skills and manage to maintain themselves at a subsistence level. The families are on the list of the local committee for relief and assistance. Vocational retraining is one of the major preoccupations of the committee, in order to enable the refugees to become self-reliant and self-supporting. During the seventeen months ending May 1941, the J.D.C. provided over $6,200 for refugee aid in the Dominican Republic.

**Haiti**

The situation of the 160 refugees in Haiti is extremely precarious. A simple economy, relatively primitive living conditions plus the fact that only a few of the newcomers are permitted to be gainfully employed—all of these factors have demoralizing effects. The local aid committee is doing what it can to meet the problem. The J.D.C. is following the situation very closely, attempting to tackle the problem from a long-range point of view. During the seventeen months' period ending May 1941, the J.D.C. provided about $11,100 for maintenance of 50 of the refugees, retraining, employment aid, etc.

**Honduras**

About 30% of the 125 refugees in Honduras are compelled by circumstances to look to the local committee for assistance. A number who were employed prior to the outbreak of war in 1939 lost their positions during 1940 because they were Germans. With the limited funds at its disposal, the local committee has nevertheless been able to assist a few persons to undertake agricultural projects. Although the situation cannot be described as acute, the refugees are insecure and under tension. With continued J.D.C. support, it is hoped that conditions will improve. From January 1940 through May 1941, the J.D.C. provided $5,700.

**Mexico**

The Mexican Jewish community is well organized and financially able to provide assistance to the needy among the newcomers to Mexico. The J.D.C., however, has been called upon to provide funds in a number of emergency cases for passengers who desired to disembark from trans-Pacific Japanese boats. These persons, holding visas for one or another country further south, found that their land visas had expired. To solve their critical situations, the J.D.C. made available $1,150.

The Jewish communities of Mexico City and Monterrey remitted $2,000 to the J.D.C. in 1940 for use in behalf of European Jewish war victims.

**Panama**

At the beginning of 1940 there were three committees actively operating in Panama. The one at Balboa, in the Canal Zone, was instrumental during 1939 and 1940 in disembarking several hundred refugees who might otherwise have been returned to Europe or Asia. Some of these were detained at the U.S. Government Quarantine station for as long as 18 months. Finally, in September 1940, all those remaining in Quarantine were enabled to proceed to New York. Many difficult steps had to be taken for the United States, while others were permitted to pass through in transit to other lands for which they held visas.

Another committee functioned in Colon. The greater part of its work involved transatlantic Atlantic passengers in transit through Panama to west coast South American countries. By May 1941, this traffic had virtually ceased, and the Jewish community...
of Colon no longer required financial assistance of the J.D.C. It was independently able to care for the needy among the newcomers residing in that city.

The third committee, in Panama City, was able to discontinue the operation of its shelters during the period under review. On the other hand, its work was enormously complicated by the necessity of expediting emigration transit for refugees in Japan who were bound for South American countries. Most of these required transit visas across Panama, but the Panamanian Government controlled the issuance of these transit visas very strictly, in an effort to ensure that no refugee in transit remained in Panama. The committee in Panama City was therefore called upon to cooperate with the committees in Japan and the J.D.C. to establish the validity of end- visas held by refugees in Japan requiring Panamanian transit. It also assisted these refugees upon their arrival in Panama by offering a variety of essential services—counsel, maintenance, baggage, further transportation, etc. During the seventeen months' period ending May, 1941, the J.D.C. provided to the three committees in Panama, for all purposes, a total of $19,000.

Trinidad

All the refugees in Trinidad, a British possession, who were classified as enemy aliens, were interned in June 1940. Since that time, the local refugee aid committee has functioned in the confines of the internment camp. They report conditions as satisfactory, although the limitation on their physical movement naturally imposes severe hardships. Some of the 40-50 of these persons who were ultimately able to secure admission to the United States called at the offices of the J.D.C. in New York upon their arrival and evidenced a continued interest and concern for those whom they had left behind. The excellent morale maintained by this group of about 200 is noteworthy.

In the last days of May, 1941, the interned refugees were able to render an uniquely important personal service to a group of 370 passengers aboard the SS Winnipeg. This boat had left Melbourne destined for Martinique, and most of its passengers held visas valid for the United States. Before reaching Martinique the boat was intercepted and escorted into Port-of-Spain, Trinidad, where it was held by the British authorities. Its passengers were placed in the internment camp, where the refugee aid committee received them, reassured them, and most energetically assisted them in completing arrangements to proceed to New York. An emergency grant of $500 was made for the Winnipeg passengers by the J.D.C. By the end of June it is believed that most of the passengers will have reached this country.

The J.D.C., during the seventeen months' period ending May 1941, provided over $2,400 to the committee in Trinidad.

SOUTH AMERICA

Argentina

The Argentinean Jewish community, largest and wealthiest in Latin America, is self-sufficient in meeting the needs of the 35,000 refugees who have immigrated to that country. The J.D.C.'s relationship to the committee in Buenos Aires is largely consultative. As a token of its interest in one of the refugee projects in Argentina, a home for children, the J.D.C. contributed $1,370 in 1940 and an additional $271 during the five months of 1941 to the refugee committee in Argentina.

As in Cuba and Mexico, the Jewish community of Argentina was eager to participate in the J.D.C.'s war relief program. It contributed $13,800, particularly for work in Poland and Eastern Europe, to the J.D.C. in 1940.

Bolivia

Bolivia, one of the countries least equipped to absorb a large white population, nevertheless found itself at the beginning of 1940 with some 10,000 refugee immigrants. Climatically, agriculturally, and industrially, Bolivia did not offer favorable opportunities for successful adjustment. Some 3,000 refugees were able, during the period under review, to leave Bolivia and proceed to Argentina where the opportunities for absorption were more favorable.

About 1,300 of the 7,000 refugees remaining in Bolivia were assisted by the refugee committee in La Paz and its branches. One of the most important tasks of the committee was to relieve the congestion of newcomers in La Paz and to settle them in smaller towns in the interior. A substantial number of refugees were assisted to move from La Paz and establish themselves in other cities.

The abnormally high altitude of most of Bolivia seriously affected the health of the refugees, many of whom required an unusual amount of medical attention. A special effort was made to nurture and care for refugee children and a new children's home is being established in the town of Cochabamba.

The agricultural training farm established in 1939 continues to function and to prepare groups of refugees for life and work on a farm colony which was founded in Nor Yungas in April, 1940.

Inasmuch as the native Jewish community of Bolivia numbers only some fifty persons, the J.D.C. was forced to supply the bulk of the funds required for refugee aid in that country. During 1940, J.D.C. appropriations amounted to $120,000. An additional $4,500 was appropriated for the first five months of 1941.

Brazil

The laws of Brazil permit the immigration of close relatives of persons already in that country. During the period under review, several thousand immigrants gained admission to Brazil on this basis. Many of them were elderly, the parents of the younger people who had left Brazil. A large percentage of these new arrivals had to look to the local refugee committees for their maintenance, their children being able barely to support themselves. Their age made them highly susceptible to illness and tropical diseases.

The relief load was further increased because a substantial number of refugees who, up to 1940, had been able to maintain themselves out of their remaining resources, were forced for the first time to apply to the committees for help.

One of the most serious problems of the refugee committees was to gain permanent status for more than 1,000 refugees who were in Brazil on a temporary basis and were not permitted to work. Although some progress was made in securing a school and number of refugees were given an increase in status during the period under review, the largest number of those in the country on a temporary basis are still on an uncertain footing.

A registration of those refugees conducted by the Government involved the levying of a substantial tax which the committees were forced to defray.

To assist in financing this program, the J.D.C. in 1940 appropriated $46,500. During the first five months of 1941, more than $31,000 was additionally appropriated.

The Jewish community of Sao Paulo became interested in the J.D.C.'s work in behalf of Jewish victims of war and persecution in Europe and during 1940 raised the equivalent of $17,000.

Chile

The large scale immigration into Chile during the latter part of 1939 carried over into February 1940, bringing the total number of newcomers to 13,000. The resident Jewish population of Chile is only 13,000.

While immigration was pouring into Chile early in 1940, the local refugee committee faced a tremendous task of providing relief, employment, legal help, child care, medical aid, and innumerable other services to the new arrivals. With the cessation of immigration after the first half of 1940, the committee was able to set a number of refugee families on their feet economically, and thus reduce the relief load. By May 1941, about 400 persons remained on relief.

One of the most important tasks of the local committee was to transplant a large number of refugee families from the northern cities of Santiago and Valparaiso to smaller towns in the southern provinces. This movement was not entirely successful, the refugees finding it difficult to gain a livelihood in the provinces. Many of them drifted back, but efforts to resettle them are continuing.

The bulk of the funds used to finance the refugee aid programs in Chile came from the J.D.C., which supplied over $65,000 in 1940 and close to $75,000 during the first five months of 1941.

Ecuador, Colombia and Peru

The local committees in Ecuador, Colombia and Peru were three vital links in a chain stretching from Japan to the United States in Panama and all around the coast of South America. Through this chain, several hundred refugees carrying 'passports for nowhere' were able to be admitted to various South American countries. An example of this type of incident was that of the SS Hie Mara which is described on page 17. The Hie Mara was not an isolated instance. On several other occasions it became necessary for all of the committees involved to exert their efforts to land groups of people who were otherwise denied for deportation. For the most part, this type of refugee secured temporary permission to land in Ecuador. None was forced to return.

These cases, known as "transit cases," are considered by the J.D.C. to cost the J.D.C. more than $75,000 during the period under review for emergency relief, visa fees, landing fees, luggage redemption, etc.
U r u g u a y
Refugee immigration to Uruguay since 1940 has been virtually limited to the parents and other close relatives of persons already in the country. In addition to caring for the needy among the 6,300 refugees in Uruguay, and providing the various services common to the programs of all the local committees in Central and South America, the committee in Montevideo was called upon to assist large numbers of refugees in various countries in South America and neighboring countries. The J.D.C. grants for refugee aid in Uruguay during 1940 and the first five months of 1941 approximated $20,000.

T H E F A R E A S T

During recent months, the Far East has mounted in importance as a haven, whether temporary or otherwise, for refugees. The refugee colony in Shanghai had increased by 3,000 in May 1941 over the 17,000 who were in that bomb-shattered city in January 1940. Japan acquired a brand new colony of 2,000 emigrants from Central and Eastern Europe, particularly Lithuania. There were 1,210 refugees in the Philippines, gradually accustoming themselves to their new abode and becoming integrated into the society of the Islands. The permanent Jewish residents of all three looked to the J.D.C. for the bulk of the funds needed to support their refugee populations.

S h a n g h a i
Ever since 1938 Shanghai has been an important spot on J.D.C.'s world-wide map of refugee relief operations. Shanghai, a crowded city of 3,600,000 people trying to live in the midst of a war zone, is a singularly unsatisfactory site for a haven of refuge. But in all the world Shanghai was one of the few places where no visas were required. It was an open port. Persecuted refugees, seeking any place, however remote, to which they could escape from Nazi hands, began to trickle into the Chinese port shortly after the inception of the Hitler regime. In 1938 that trickle became a flood.

For a while, the British Central Council for Jewish Refugees joined with the J.D.C. in making grants for refugee aid in Shanghai as in other asylum throughout the world. In September 1939, however, when the war came to England, that assistance was stopped and the J.D.C. was obliged to furnish over 90% of the funds needed by the Committee for the Assistance of European Jewish Refugees in Shanghai. As the year opened, the committee was caring for more than 13,000 Jewish refugees out of a total of 20,000 then in Shanghai. Some 3,700 refugees lived in community camps maintained by the committee. Another 1,400 were sheltered in private homes. More than 6,500 refugees had to be fed daily. The meals that could be given them were barely enough for meager subsistence. Still, in the early part of the year, those thousands received three meals a day as a result of J.D.C. assistance.

During the year medical aid was a service of great importance, since the refugees found it difficult to adjust themselves to Shanghai's climate. Hospitals and clinics were provided, equipped to handle 3,000 cases a week. The local committee helped to find employment for some 1,000 persons, an accomplishment of no small importance when one considers that these refugees had to compete with coolie standards of living and labor.

Even in war-torn Shanghai, Jewish relief forces rallied not only to keep their proteges alive but to attempt to reconstruct lives uprooted from their origins half a world away. Schools were organized and maintained for refugee children, and it is estimated that 600 such pupils received education that they might never have otherwise been granted.

Even the $929,000 granted by J.D.C. for work in Shanghai during the period under review could not keep pace with the needs of the refugees who came in ever increasing numbers to this port of last resort.

Food prices rose by as much as 33-1/2% per cent. By the end of the year the committee in Shanghai could afford to give its wards only one meal a day, at a cost to the committee of 4c a meal. Serious undernutrition was the inevitable result, for 1,400 calories daily cannot long keep adults in a reasonable state of health. The tuberculosis rate rose, and it was expected that nutritional diseases would not be long in making their appearance. By straining every resource, the J.D.C. was able in May 1941 to increase its Shanghai appropriations in order to furnish a second meal, in the evening, to the refugees living in the committee's camp.

In the early months of 1941 new problems came to afflict the Jewish community of Shanghai. Arrangements were made to transfer to Shanghai several hundred of the refugees congested in Japan. To find shelter for them in the war-torn city, however, was a problem. At the same time, another housing emergency arose. The Puching Camp, in which 650 persons lived, had to be evacuated, and $15,000 was required for the erection of a substitute building. At the urgent plea of the committee, the J.D.C. contributed $10,000 toward that purpose.

Two American representatives of the J.D.C. visited Shanghai during the period under review, one of them remaining there to coordinate emigration for those who had the possibility of securing overseas visas.

J a p a n
A notable instance of the manner in which political developments in one part of the world create a sudden need for the J.D.C. in a far distant land, was the situation which arose in Japan during the latter half of 1940. As a result of the closing of the Mediterranean, the committee in Germany had to see new outlets for emigration, arranged for transportation of Jews from Germany across Europe and Asia (via the Trans-Siberian Railways) to Vladivostock and thence to Japan. From Japan the refugees were to embark for countries in the Western Hemisphere. Almost immediately requirements for temporary relief and other assistance arose in Tokyo, Kobe and other Japanese cities. German refugees arrived in groups numbering as many as 200 at a time. Frequently these groups missed their ship connections and had to wait for several weeks until the next sailing. Since most of them were without funds, they had to have temporary help. Further difficulties arose because many of the emigrants had unsatisfactory documents for admission to countries of final destination. They were therefore not allowed to embark and were stranded indefinitely. Although the small Jewish community in Japan had a number of high-minded members who applied themselves energetically to the problem, their community resources were utterly inadequate. They called upon the J.D.C. for help.

Early in 1941 the stream of emigrants passing through Japan in transit was suddenly swelled to flood proportions by the influx of Polish refugees from Lithuania (see page 27). By the end of March there were close to 2,000 refugees in the country, mostly in Kobe. More than half of these refugees did not hold valid end-visas and were unable to proceed further than Japan. Almost all needed help in defraying the cost of further transportation. Japanese authorities, although sympathetic to the problem of the refugees, were reluctant to permit the formation of a large new foreign colony in their country. They decided to suspend the issuance of further transit visas until the existing congestion could be at least partially cleared up. The J.D.C. made strenuous efforts to arrange for the transfer of substantial numbers of refugees from Japan to other asylum. Provisions were made for a few hundred to go to Shanghai. Guarantee letters were given to the governments of Burma, Australia and New Zealand for the maintenance of groups of 30, 20 and Polish nationals respectively, who were given special visas to those countries.

In the meantime, the cost of refugee maintenance mounted steadily. Prices for food and shelter were much higher in Japan than in Shanghai, for instance. Beginning with a grant of $10,000 in February, 1941 for the maintenance of 800 refugees, the J.D.C. was forced to appropriate $15,000 in March, $20,000 in April, $25,000 in May, by which time the number of refugees had mounted to 2,000.

It was not simply maintenance costs that were involved. The committee formed in Kobe at the J.D.C.'s instance was designated responsible to the Japanese police for the legal status of its wards. Funds had to be expended for residence permits, for visas and other documents, for the costs of transportation from Japan to Shanghai. Special grants totalling $128,000 were made for the overseas transportation of refugees from Shanghai and Japan to countries of final destination.
The Philippines

The Jewish community in the Philippines was never large. Before the advent of Nazism scattered thousands upon thousands of Jews throughout the world, the number in the Philippines did not exceed 150. This Jewish community has expanded greatly during the last three years by the addition of some 1,100 refugees. The majority entered the Islands as participants in a program of selected immigration started in the fall of 1938 at the instance of the Refugee Economic Corporation. The development of this program, in which the American High Commissioner and the Philippine Government cooperated, has been gratifying. About 75 per cent of the refugees admitted to the Philippines under the plan are now gainfully employed in many fields where there had been a need for trained persons. For the remaining 25 per cent, and for several hundred other refugees, there is an important problem of relief involving maintenance, housing and education. The Jewish Refugee Committee of Manila depends largely upon J.D.C. grants for this phase of its activities.

Assisted by the J.D.C., the committee succeeded in establishing four cooperative homes for the refugees and one cooperative farm. Others not housed in the committee's shelters received aid in food or cash; some were assisted to find jobs or start businesses.

It has been hoped that ultimately the Philippines may be the site of a new refugee resettlement program, but plans along these lines have been temporarily deferred.

How the J.D.C. Dollar Was Spent in 1940

Cooperating Organizations

American Jewish Joint Agricultural Corporation (Agro-Joint)

The beginning of 1940 saw the launching of a new agricultural project under the sponsorship of the American Jewish Joint Agricultural Corporation (Agro-Joint). This was the refugee colony founded by the Dominican Republic Settlement Association, Inc., with an appropriation of $713,000 from Agro-Joint for capital stock. The Association early in January 1940, concluded an agreement with the government of the Dominican Republic, providing for the establishment of a non-sectarian agricultural colony at Sousa. Article 1 of the Agreement reads:

"The Republic, in conformity with its Constitution and Laws, hereby guarantees to the settlers and their descendants full opportunity to continue their lives and occupations free from molestation, discrimination, or persecution, with full freedom of religion and religious ceremonies, with equality of opportunities and of civil, legal and economic rights, as well as all other rights inherent to human beings."

Although the Dominican Republic Settlement Association (known as the Doras) is an independent corporation with Mr. James N. Rosenberg as president, it has received a very substantial portion of its funds from Agro-Joint. In addition to the $713,000 for capital stock, Agro-Joint loaned the Doras an additional $10,000 for transportation of settlers and granted $115,000 to cover the maintenance costs of a group of settlers from England.

By May 1941, some 350 settlers had found their way to Sousa and had successfully adapted themselves to life in the colony. The result of the first year's experience in the colony proved that Europeans could become adjusted to the semi-tropical climate of the Dominican Republic, and that, even more important, they could work and earn their livelihood. Another 150 settlers were expected at Sousa within the next few months, their arrival having been delayed by the difficulty of securing transportation from Europe. At the colony itself hundreds of acres were under cultiva-

tion, with hundreds of head of livestock providing motive power and food. Prospects for cash crops and markets for some products were hopeful.

Through a grant of $10,000 made by the Leon Falk Foundation of Pittsburgh, an economic survey was under way, directed by the Brookings Institute, to determine how best to develop economic, agricultural and social opportunities which would benefit both the people of the Dominican Republic and the colonists.

The J.D.C. in 1941 granted $300,000 for the transportation requirements, payable over a period of a year or more, of colonists from Europe to the Dominican Republic.

Agro-Joint also invested a total of $150,000 in another refugee colonization project during the period under review. This sum was appropriated for the founding and development of a colonization project in Bolivia, which is being jointly sponsored by Agro-Joint and the Refugee Economic Corporation. At the end of May 1941, there were about 100 settlers on the property. Land had been cleared and cultivated, houses built and in the process of construction, and roads under construction.

American Joint Reconstruction Foundation

War conditions have forced the American Joint Reconstruction Foundation, a British corporation, virtually to suspend its activities for the duration. The Foundation has been unable to maintain its contact with most of the occupied countries of Europe; its funds have been blocked in many countries. The Council of the Foundation, equivalent to a Board of Directors, has been unable to meet. The Foundation was jointly formed (in 1924) and financed by the J.D.C. and the Jewish Colonization Association (JCA).
Palestine Economic Corporation

The Palestine Economic Corporation was organized in 1926 "to afford an instrument through which American Jews and others who may be interested may aid on a strictly business basis productive Palestinian enterprises and thereby further the economic development of the Holy Land and the resettlement there of an increasing number of Jews." Since its foundation, the Corporation, through its subsidiaries, has issued loans aggregating approximately $30,000,000 to farmers, urban and rural workers, artisans, merchants and small manufacturers. In addition, it has aided in the establishment of basic industries by direct investments in a number of leading enterprises in Palestine.

The P.E.C., through the Central Bank of Cooperative Institutions in Palestine, Ltd., has fostered the development of a sound cooperative movement by affording credits to cooperative societies, particularly the younger and weaker ones. It also extended loans to German refugees in Palestine on special terms, using both its own funds and those made available to it for this purpose by the American Joint Reconstruction Foundation. Another subsidiary of the Palestine Economic Corporation is the Palestine Mortgage and Credit Bank, Ltd., which finances housing construction for farmers and city workers. Since its inception, the Bank has financed and built over 1,200 houses and apartments. With the aid of other institutions, it has established 11 settlements for farm workers. Other activities are those of the Baydole Land Corporation, Ltd. and the Palestine Water Co., Ltd.

In addition the Corporation has substantial investments in Palestine Potash Ltd., Palestine Electric Corporation, Ltd., Palestine Hotels, Ltd., Agricultural Mortgage Co. of Palestine, Ltd., etc.

As in previous years, the Palestine Economic Corporation continued all of its operations in Palestine during 1940 and the early part of 1941 notwithstanding the unlamented events of the past year. During 1940, with the participation of the Refugee Economic Corporation, sixty new houses and apartments were constructed in the Haifa Bay area, new buildings for factory space were erected in the industrial zone of Haifa Bay, and water irrigation facilities were constructed and extended in a number of existing as well as new agricultural settlements, including two new settlements inhabited exclusively by German refugees. Plans were also made for the construction of 121 low cost houses in the vicinity of Bet Aviv.

Palestine Potash Ltd., which operates the concessions of the Palestine Government for extraction of minerals from the Dead Sea, and in which the P.E.C. is the largest single stockholder, has expanded its plant and increased its operation during the last year. Since the collapse of France, Palestine has become the only important source of potash for the British Empire.

The JDC has played an important part in the organization, growth and development of the Palestine Economic Corporation. Since 1926 it has turned over to the P.E.C. approximately $1,800,000 in cash and Palestinian assets of its Reconstruction Committee, in return for which it received 17,965 shares of "B" stock of the Corporation.
Sub-Committees of the Executive Committee

The following officers are members ex officio of all committees:
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John E. Braddock
Edwin Goldwasser
Harold K. Goldmark
Alexander Kahn
Max David M. Levy
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William Rosenzweig
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David M. Braddock
H. G. Friedman
Edwin Goldwasser
Alfred Jaeretzki, Jr.
Alexander Kahn
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Edwin Goldwasser
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Secretary—Evelyn M. Morrissey

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Nicolaus Fals, N. Y.

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New Haven, Conn.

Samuel Marks, Boston, Mass.

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Ernest Mas, Tampa, Fla.
Indor Marcus, Wicksburg, Miss.
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Harry Miller, Chattanooga, Tenn.
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Ira H. Kemper, Galveston, Tex.
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Secretary:
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Louis Cohen, Fort Smith, Ark.
Dave Corder, Enid, Okla.
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Alex H. Sarger, Dallas, Tex.
Maurice Schwartz, El Paso, Tex.
Louis L. Stone, Brownsville, Tex.
Louis L. Sugar, Shreveport, La.

Maurice Stettin, Savannah, Ga.
Leon Steinberg, Charleston, S. C.
C. Clarence Strasburger, Knoxville, Tenn.
Henry A. Weil, Montgomery, Ala.
Prof. Joseph Well, Gaterville, Fla.
Milled K. Welfare, Greenwood, Miss.
Sol Wiener, Tupelo, Miss.

The American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee, Inc.,
100 East 42nd Street
New York, N. Y.

Dear Sirs:-

We have examined the accompanying cumulative summary statements of
THE AMERICAN JEWISH JOINT DISTRIBUTION COMMITTEE, INC.
from inception, October 1916, through December 31, 1940. The financial data for the year 1940 are tentative, before closing, and subject to final audit.

Due to war conditions, the European office of the American firm of independent public accountants engaged in auditing the overseas records of the J.D.C. for the year 1930 was unable to complete its report for that year. The same conditions have prevented their audit of the 1940 overseas transactions of the J.D.C. While it has been impossible to complete overseas accounting records, because of the war conditions, limited important and statistics have been made available through papers brought over by some of the J.D.C.'s overseas accounting staff. The information secured from this material, considering the difficult circumstances, was more satisfactory than otherwise might be expected. Hence, the records and distributions maintained in the New York City office of the J.D.C., together with the papers referred to, have been utilized for the purpose of the statements herewith submitted.

We recently completed a field audit of the records maintained in the Central and South American countries subsidized by the J.D.C., for the years 1940 and 1939. At the same time, we installed a uniform system of accounting and statistics in each of the offices visited by us. Reports on the results of our audits and installations are in course of preparation and are to be separately submitted for the respective committees.

We have reviewed the system of internal control and accounting procedures in the New York Office, and without necessarily making a complete detailed audit of the transactions, have examined or tested the accounting records and other supporting evidence by methods and to the extent we deemed appropriate.

In our opinion, subject to our final audit and report for the year 1940 and our comments herein, these statements present fairly the financial status, before closing, as of December 31, 1940, and the results of operations for the period 1939 to 1940, inclusive, in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles.

Respectfully submitted,

LOEB & TROPER
CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS
FIFTEEN THOUSAND FIFTH AVENUE, NEW YORK CITY

June 16, 1941
EXHIBIT "A"

THE AMERICAN JEWISH JOINT DISTRIBUTION COMMITTEE, INC.
SUMMARY STATEMENT OF RESOURCES, LIABILITIES AND RESERVES
DECEMBER 31, 1940
GENERAL FUND — ACCRUAL BASIS
TENTATIVE, BEFORE CLOSING, AND SUBJECT TO FINAL AUDIT

RESOURCES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cash Funds — New York</td>
<td>$ 280,881.11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Securities—at cost</td>
<td>14,318.75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Estimated balance to be received from the 1939 Campaign of the United Jewish Appeal, Inc.</td>
<td>250,000.00 (A)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Estimated balance to be received from the 1940 Campaign of the United Jewish Appeal, Inc.</td>
<td>2,195,000.00 (B)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Loans and Advances</td>
<td>189,829.64</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL RESOURCES</strong></td>
<td><strong>$3,029,928.50</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

LIABILITIES AND RESERVES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Unpaid balances on commitments — subject to immediate call</td>
<td>$1,436,175.94</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Payable to overseas committee for funds borrowed and relief disbursed through clearance arrangements</td>
<td>1,021,161.53</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Notes and Loans Payable</td>
<td>492,416.09</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accounts Payable</td>
<td>5,703.22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Working Fund Reserve (Officially established during 1934 to 1940)</td>
<td>$2,935,455.18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1934 to 1938</td>
<td>620,000.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL LIABILITIES AND RESERVES</strong></td>
<td><strong>$2,555,455.18</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Resulting in an excess of Liabilities and Reserves over Resources

(Deposition of Working Fund Reserve through 1940 and prior years deficits) | $ 525,528.88

NOTES

The above statement does not include the following:
1. Commitments appearing $568,700 deferred to future years.
2. Special Funds held appropriating $309,655.72 representing provision for amounts payable on demand for transportation, etc. and including $15,494.09 of items held in suspensory.
3. Investments previously made in American Joint Reconstruction Foundation; Palestine Economic Corporation; Gemschich Chessed Kasan; American Jewish Agricultural Corp., etc., being of no present cash value whatsoever to the I.D.C.

(A) $8,650,000.00 Officially allotted out of 1939 Campaign of the U.J.A., Inc. 7,765,666.67 Received during 1939 and 1940. $ 494,333.33 Balance, of which it is officially estimated will be received a maximum of $250,000. At this time this estimate seems impossible of full realization and hence is subject to adjustment downward.

(B) $6,050,000.00 Officially allotted out of 1940 Campaign of the U.J.A., Inc. 3,705,000.00 Received during 1940. $2,345,000.00 Balance, of which it is officially estimated will be received a maximum of $2,195,000.

EXHIBIT "B"

THE AMERICAN JEWISH JOINT DISTRIBUTION COMMITTEE, INC.
SUMMARY STATEMENT OF INCOME AND EXPENSES
FROM OCTOBER, 1941 THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 1940
GENERAL FUND — ACCRUAL BASIS
YEAR 1940 TENTATIVE, BEFORE CLOSING, AND SUBJECT TO FINAL AUDIT

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Income</th>
<th>Expenditures</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1940</td>
<td>$ 5,972,571.13 (A)</td>
<td>$ 6,239,600.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1939</td>
<td>6,303,551.54 (B)</td>
<td>6,655,720.23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1938</td>
<td>4,000,001.61</td>
<td>3,795,907.38</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1937</td>
<td>2,953,185.89</td>
<td>2,803,768.43</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1936</td>
<td>2,340,365.77</td>
<td>1,904,802.77</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1935</td>
<td>917,749.90</td>
<td>903,942.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1934</td>
<td>1,401,199.39</td>
<td>1,382,329.88</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1933</td>
<td>1,151,738.39</td>
<td>1,033,744.97</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1932</td>
<td>685,255.52</td>
<td>540,815.32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1931</td>
<td>741,705.67</td>
<td>598,780.60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1930</td>
<td>1,175,733.05</td>
<td>1,087,118.07</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1929</td>
<td>1,632,086.98</td>
<td>1,845,892.37</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1928</td>
<td>3,325,880.51</td>
<td>2,813,004.14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1927</td>
<td>4,863,765.63</td>
<td>4,967,615.53</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1926</td>
<td>4,391,365.02</td>
<td>4,992,025.43</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1925</td>
<td>1,915,148.42</td>
<td>1,968,558.17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1924</td>
<td>578,077.65</td>
<td>3,940,114.32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1923</td>
<td>6,056,035.50</td>
<td>6,071,046.90</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1922</td>
<td>9,061,038.82</td>
<td>9,635,302.43</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1921</td>
<td>6,026,978.61</td>
<td>5,028,980.65</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1920</td>
<td>15,840,700.54</td>
<td>11,191,284.57</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1919</td>
<td>13,363,553.55</td>
<td>11,606,706.59</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1918</td>
<td>5,913,761.65</td>
<td>5,894,697.27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1917</td>
<td>4,603,155.01 (C)</td>
<td>2,827,793.29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1916</td>
<td>6,167,081.54 (D)</td>
<td>1,904,743.48</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1914</td>
<td>62,000.00</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL INCOME</strong></td>
<td><strong>$108,318,065.45</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL EXPENDITURES</strong></td>
<td><strong>$108,218,618.10</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Excess of Income over Expenses — Less: Provision for Working Fund Reserve (Officially established during 1934 to 1940)</td>
<td>$ 94,473.32</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Resulting in an Excess of Income over Working Fund Reserve through 1940 and prior years deficits)</td>
<td>$ 525,528.88 (Exhibit &quot;A&quot;)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(A) Includes $2,195,000 estimated maximum balance to be received out of the 1940 Campaign of the United Jewish Appeal, Inc.
(B) Includes $250,000 estimated maximum balance to be received out of the 1939 Campaign of the United Jewish Appeal, Inc. At this time this estimate seems impossible of full realization and hence is subject to adjustment downward.
(C) Represents income from November 1, 1916 through December 31, 1917.
(D) Represents income from October 1, 1914 through October 31, 1916.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>October 1914</th>
<th>Through Dec. 31, 1939</th>
<th>Year 1940</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Palestine</td>
<td>$8,028,005.76</td>
<td>$8,028,005.76</td>
<td>$37,927.97</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Panama</td>
<td>97,663.65</td>
<td>97,663.65</td>
<td>20.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paraguay</td>
<td>402.54</td>
<td>255.34</td>
<td>350.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Peru</td>
<td>56,717.37</td>
<td>56,717.37</td>
<td>450.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Haiti</td>
<td>11,930.00</td>
<td>11,930.00</td>
<td>10,183.51</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Philippines</td>
<td>50,203.75</td>
<td>60,041.33</td>
<td>15,625.31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Poland</td>
<td>11,543,195.07</td>
<td>11,543,195.07</td>
<td>920,568.10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Poland (Prior to 1930)</td>
<td>17,693,641.32</td>
<td>15,611,055.23</td>
<td>73,560.10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Portugal</td>
<td>97,067.50</td>
<td>11,107.50</td>
<td>78,100.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Roumania</td>
<td>5,500,477.66</td>
<td>3,422,321.66</td>
<td>1,000.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Russia</td>
<td>4,000,300.00</td>
<td>4,000,300.00</td>
<td>7,000.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Russia and Ukraine</td>
<td>1,985.05</td>
<td>1,985.05</td>
<td>7,000.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spain</td>
<td>477,766.37</td>
<td>477,766.37</td>
<td>17,600.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spain</td>
<td>9,364.65</td>
<td>9,364.65</td>
<td>5,000.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sweden</td>
<td>16,090.00</td>
<td>650,730.00</td>
<td>263,340.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Switzerland</td>
<td>52,076.02</td>
<td>52,076.02</td>
<td>1,000.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Syria</td>
<td>4,550.00</td>
<td>4,550.00</td>
<td>1,680.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trinidad, British West Indies</td>
<td>818,836.30</td>
<td>813,965.30</td>
<td>5,850.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Turkey</td>
<td>1,098,533.50</td>
<td>1,089,533.50</td>
<td>13,100.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>United States</td>
<td>25,000.00</td>
<td>12,900.00</td>
<td>108,000.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Uruguay</td>
<td>176,780.12</td>
<td>69,600.00</td>
<td>8,080.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yugoslavia</td>
<td>500,000.00</td>
<td>500,000.00</td>
<td>476,888.34</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>S. S. St. Louis Refugees</td>
<td>6,726,847.25</td>
<td>6,250,178.81</td>
<td>8,000.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unclassed Geographically</td>
<td>1,918,034.00</td>
<td>1,918,034.00</td>
<td>41,000.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>American Joint Reconstruction Foundation</td>
<td>155,900.00</td>
<td>155,900.00</td>
<td>41,000.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jewish Committee for Cultural Work</td>
<td>647,032.75</td>
<td>620,714.30</td>
<td>17,188.25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Joint Distribution Committee</td>
<td>1,800,000.00</td>
<td>1,004,315.42</td>
<td>20,000.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>American Jewish Relief Committee</td>
<td>685,771.14</td>
<td>683,771.31</td>
<td>6,892.25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Central Relief Committee</td>
<td>685,771.14</td>
<td>683,771.31</td>
<td>6,892.25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Peoples Relief Committee</td>
<td>685,771.14</td>
<td>683,771.31</td>
<td>6,892.25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Administration and Functional Services—New York Executive Office</td>
<td>2,001,246.91</td>
<td>2,001,246.91</td>
<td>362,302.41</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL</td>
<td>$107,687,216.01</td>
<td>$101,047,616.01</td>
<td>$50,635,600</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Ever since 1933 the JDC has not remitted dollars to Germany or any of the lands subsequently annexed or occupied by Germany.

**NOTES**

- "A"—Includes Hosen through 1936 in the sum of $227,177.32. In the years 1937 through 1940 the payments through Hosen were included in the respective countries.
- "B"—Includes OHT Europe and Russia and OEE through 1935, Jewish Welfare Board, American Red Cross, Emergency Committee for Jewish Refugees, miscellaneous expenditures on account of the German Emergency, etc. and European Operating Expenses.
- "C"—The years 1929 and 1940 include Functional Services—Publicity, Campaign, Stimulation, Canadian Committee, Regional Conferences, Junior Division, etc.
- "D"—Includes Transcription Bureau Administration Expenses.
- "E"—Exclusive of expenditures aggregating $831,396.12 incurred for administration of New York special activities and for Remittance Bureau, the last transaction of any of the items included therein having been in the year 1929.

---

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Through Dec. 31, 1940</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
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<td>$8,028,005.76</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td>11,543,195.07</td>
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<td>Portugal</td>
<td>97,067.50</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
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<td>2,001,246.91</td>
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<tr>
<td>TOTAL</td>
<td>$107,687,216.01</td>
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<table>
<thead>
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<th>Year 1940</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>$37,927.97</td>
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<tr>
<td>150.00</td>
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<tr>
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<td>17,188.25</td>
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<td>6,892.25</td>
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<td>6,892.25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>362,302.41</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>50,635,600</td>
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<table>
<thead>
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<th>Individual</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1937 through 1940 payments through Hosen were included in the respective countries.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1929 and 1940 include Functional Services—Publicity, Campaign, Stimulation, Canadian Committee, Regional Conferences, Junior Division, etc.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Includes Transcription Bureau Administration Expenses.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Includes Transcription Bureau Administration Expenses.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

---

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Individual</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The last transaction of any of the items included therein having been in the year 1929.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The American Jewish
JOINT DISTRIBUTION COMMITTEE, INC.
SCHEDULE OF APPROPRIATIONS EFFECTED JANUARY-MAY 1941

GREATER GERMANY
Austria $ 80,000
Bohemia-Moravia 29,000
Germany 100,000
Luxembourg 10,000
Slovakia 27,000

OTHER COUNTRIES
Casablanca 5,000
Ose, England 2,400
Finland 5,000
France 215,000
Greece 7,500
Holland 5,000
Hungary 52,500
Italy 22,500
Mauritius 4,000
Poland 350,000
Portugal 59,000
Roumania 30,000
Spain 2,000
Sweden 5,000
Switzerland 42,500
Switzerland — Marie Ginsberg's Committee 2,000
Switzerland — International Students' Service 4,000
Tangiers 2,500
Teheran (Persia) 500
Transylvanian Apprentice Homes Order 3,000
Turkey 5,000
Yugoslavia 50,500
Hicem 302,500
Unallocated Reserve 17,450

CENTRAL AND SOUTH AMERICA
Shanghai (China) $ 70,000
Japan 30,000
Cultural Activities 300,000

SPECIAL AND ONE-TIME GRANTS
Passover Relief 3,000
Fund at disposal of Transmigration Bureau for refunds in emergency cases 3,000
Transportation fund for Emigration to Dominican Republic 300,000
President's Advisory Committee 5,000
Hebrew University, Palestine 12,500
Emigration from Lithuania 75,000

ADMINISTRATION EXPENSES
Overseas 56,000
New York Executive Office 84,000
Transmigration Bureau 22,000

RESERVE FOR CONTINGENT AND IMPLICIT LIABILITIES — $300,000
Budget for Information & Service, Junior Div., Public Relations, etc. 150,000
Reserve for maintenance of Polish refugees to be sent from Japan to Australia 22,000
Emigration requirements of refugees from Lithuania now in Japan 64,000
Emigration requirements of refugees now in Shanghai 64,000

GRAND TOTAL $2,680,350

June 26, 1941.
December 2, 1944

Dear Mr. Baerwald:

I am glad to have this opportunity to extend my warmest greetings to you and the members of The American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee on the thirtieth anniversary of your service to the stricken and oppressed.

Through three decades your committee has been the constant and unfailing source of help and hope to the victims of persecution and disaster. Your great humanitarian activities have been especially marked throughout these tragic and trying war years. Through you our American citizens of the Jewish faith have been able to extend tangible proof of their sympathy for their suffering brethren.

Let us with hope look forward to a time when the hatred and haves of war must give way to good will and cooperation in a democratic world of peace, plenty and security for all.

Very sincerely yours,

FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT

Mr. Paul Baerwald, Chairman,
The American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee, Inc.,
270 Madison Avenue,
November 25th
1944

Mr. David Niles
The White House
Washington, D. C.

My dear Mr. Niles:

In the absence of Mr. Joseph C. Hyman, our Executive Vice-Chairman, I am taking the liberty of following up on your kind suggestion that we communicate with you in connection with our appeal to the President for appropriate greetings on the occasion of the thirtieth anniversary meeting of the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee, scheduled for December 9th and 10th, in New York City.

Enclosed is a copy of the letter addressed to the President, and our own suggestion to you for the kind of letter which would be helpful.

I can't begin to tell you how much all of us here appreciate your helpfulness.

Very sincerely yours,

[N Name]
Louis H. Sobel, Assistant Secretary

Encls. 2
November 25th
1944

Honorable Franklin D. Roosevelt
The White House
Washington, D. C.

My dear Mr. President:

The 1944 annual meeting of the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee will be held on Saturday and Sunday, December 9th and 10th, in New York City. This meeting will mark the thirtieth anniversary of the JDC. It is the hope of our Committee that you will find it possible to extend your greetings to the leaders of American Jewish philanthropic effort, who will attend this meeting, and upon whose support we rely for the maintenance of our activities.

We are making this request at this time, only because of the unparalleled nature of the problem facing us in 1945 -- the relief and rehabilitation of the remnants of European Jewry -- the survivors of the blackest oppression and persecution in the history of civilization.

This is a task so great and a responsibility so tremendous, that we are moved to take the liberty of addressing you, despite our keen awareness of your own great burden in these trying times.

Respectfully yours,

Paul Baerwald
Chairman

PB: LSN
November 25th
1944

Honorable Franklin D. Roosevelt
The White House
Washington, D. C.

My dear Mr. President:

The 1944 annual meeting of the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee will be held on Saturday and Sunday, December 9th and 10th, in New York City. This meeting will mark the thirtieth anniversary of the J.D.C. It is the hope of our Committee that you will find it possible to extend your greetings to the leaders of American Jewish philanthropic effort, who will attend this meeting, and upon whose support we rely for the maintenance of our activities.

We are making this request at this time, only because of the unparalleled nature of the problem facing us in 1945 -- the relief and rehabilitation of the remnants of European Jewry -- the survivors of the blackest oppression and persecution in the history of civilization.

This is a task so great and a responsibility so tremendous, that we are moved to take the liberty of addressing you, despite our keen awareness of your own great burden in these trying times.

Respectfully yours,

[Signature]
Paul Baerwald
Chairman
SUGGESTION FOR THE LETTER FROM PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT TO MR. BAERWALD

Mr. Paul Baerwald  
Chairman  
American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee  
270 Madison Avenue  
New York 16, N. Y.

Dear Mr. Baerwald:

I am glad to have this opportunity to extend my warmest greetings to you and the members of the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee on the thirtieth anniversary of your service to the stricken and oppressed. The work of the Joint Distribution Committee deserves the full support of all forward-looking Americans.

Through three decades your committee has been the constant and unfailing source of help and hope to the victims of persecution and disaster. Your great humanitarian activities have been especially marked throughout these tragic and trying war years. Through you, our American citizens of the Jewish faith, have been able to extend tangible proof of their sympathy for their suffering brethren. Your organization and other American welfare agencies, are the embodiment of the ideals for which men of good will the world over are fighting.

As we look ahead to victory, it is evident that the tremendous task before us is one which will require the combined energies and resources of all agencies, governmental and private. The hatred and havoc of war must give way to good will and cooperation in a democratic world of peace, plenty and security for all.

Franklin D. Roosevelt