

PPF 7383  
American-Jewish Joint Distribution  
Committee

7383

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 surcease 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.

x 117895

Very sincerely yours,

Messrs. Paul Baerwald, Chairman,  
Edward M. M. Warburg, Co-Chairman, x<sup>A</sup>  
The American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee, Inc.,  
100 East 42d Street,  
New York, N. Y.

~~Handwritten mark~~

vdh-mw

x 117719  
x 1176677

ack 2/15/41 mw

SAMUEL I. ROSENMAN  
80 CENTRAL SQUARE 135 Central Park West  
NEW YORK, N. Y.

Tuesday 2/11/41

Dear Steve,

I am sure that you know the work of the Joint Distribution Committee in feeding, sheltering, clothing war sufferers in many lands overseas.

It is beginning its ~~annual~~ 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 inconsistent for the President to do it, it would be most helpful. 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 to me 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 xpp764

P.S. Pardon 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 surcease 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.~~

3  
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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

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*Feb*

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ISIDOR COONS, *Director of Fund Raising*

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*

Edward M. M. Warburg

*Paul Baerwald*

Paul Baerwald

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Accepted 9/17/41  
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P.P. 7  
7383

September 10, 1941

My dear Mr. President:

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.

x76-c

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  
Edward M. M. Warburg  
x

The President  
The White House  
Washington, D. C.

# AIDING JEWS OVERSEAS

NEW YORK CARLTON  
CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD  
FIRST VICE PRESIDENT  
JOINTDISCO NYK.  
REFUGEE SITUATION CRITICAL THOUSANDS FLEEING WAR  
ZONES STOP EMERGENCY APPROPRIATION URGENTLY NEEDED  
FOR FOOD CLOTHING SHELTER MEDICAL AID CHILD CARE  
STOP EMIGRATION ASSISTANCE VITALLY NECESSARY  
JOINTFUND LISBON

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

**BEST AVAILABLE COPY**

# **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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THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

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 and 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. Warburg, Co-Chairman,  
The American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee, Inc.,  
100 East 42d Street,  
New York, N. Y.

## 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 hurdled 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 unraveled, of financial difficulties confronted and overcome, 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 \$52,000,000 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 this 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 for persecution.

The J.D.C. has never asked for special privileges for European Jews but has, as an American organization representing Americans and 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 lines. It numbers among its ranks the rich and the poor, the capitalist and the workingman, the Orthodox, the Conservative and the Reform.

TO HELP the victims of aggression without helping the aggressors, to feed the hungry without shipping food through the blockade: these two seemingly paradoxical feats grew out of the American fabric of J.D.C. leadership and organization. They were not easily achieved. Infinite pains had to be taken, numerous technical problems solved. But the objective of the J.D.C. was first and foremost to conform with American public opinion and with the policies of the Government of the United States. Long before our Government had crystallized such policies, the J.D.C. took the position that none of the funds it expended for humanitarian objectives should be placed where they might benefit the forces of totalitarianism. It has not sent American dollars to Germany since 1933.

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 better to feed larger numbers of children in Poland's Nazi-made ghettos and reduce the help given internees in France? Is emigration help for refugees eager to leave Lithuania more important than setting up loan funds for refugees who are trying to get a foothold in Bolivia? Can some reduction be made in the Shanghai budget in order to feed refugees stranded in Japan? A new emergency has arisen in Bombay or Luxembourg or Lisbon. Can a little be taken from some other budget without seriously injuring programs already at minimum level?

These are not matters for hasty judgment. They cannot be left for decision to one or two men, either in Lisbon or in New York. Each is thrashed out in committee; the alternative possibilities are appraised before a decision is made. Each man participating in the discussion feels the weight of the responsibility which is his; knows that, by limiting funds in one area to give in another, he may be sentencing people to death or despair. It is a twenty-four-hour-a-day job. Constant contact has to be maintained through cables and trans-oceanic telephone, through meetings with representatives of European Jewish communities, with governmental and quasi-governmental agencies, with cooperating bodies. Every situation must be painstakingly analyzed. What are the possible social and political repercussions if J.D.C. acts, or fails to act?

THE factor of finances is all-important. It is a tragic paradox that the funds available to the J.D.C. since the outbreak of the war have been in almost inverse proportion to the world-wide needs. In 1939 the J.D.C. was able to appropriate about \$9,000,000; in 1940, at a time when not only the needs were greater but European sources of income for the work had dried up, the J.D.C. was allotted only \$6,000,000. In 1939 the British Central Council for Jewish Refugees and the Jewish Colonization Association, together with the Jewish communities of France, Belgium, Holland and other countries, spent close to \$3,000,000 to supplement J.D.C. refugee aid programs. Today, some of these very communities are beginning to call not only for aid to the refugees in their midst, but for aid to themselves.

To be keenly aware of a staggering human problem, and to know that at best only a fraction of the need can be met, is a heartbreaking experience. The only antidote comes from the knowledge that much good can be and is accomplished with the funds on

hand; that during 1940 alone over a million people were reached directly by J.D.C. activities, and that countless additional thousands were given new hope and new courage in the knowledge that they were not without friends. 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 undergone every hardship, sacrificed 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 so 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 Jonah B. Wise who, in his person and in his capacity as Chairman of our Fund Raising Committee, has devoted unceasing effort to interpreting the program 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 communities 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, of communal service, which have been so painstakingly built up since the last World War, must be maintained. The Jewish nucleus in Europe must be kept intact.

A corollary responsibility of the J.D.C. 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

## From the Overseas Viewpoint

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 planes 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. Rumbles 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 Angers, 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-odd mile route. They slept in the automobile, husbanding their gasoline, ate bread and cheese, and made as much progress as the refugee stream would allow. Two days after their arrival in Bordeaux, it became clear that France's fate was sealed. On June 18th, Dr. Schwartz left to establish offices in Lisbon. The French Government had capitulated the day before.

Arriving in Lisbon 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 six-day trek which involved a wait of many hours on the French-Spanish border, proceeded to Lisbon.

FROM 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 Katki, 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 Gurs, Argeles, etc. Emanuel Rosen was withdrawn from Italy after that country's entrance into the war bottled up the Mediterranean, and was stationed in Lisbon 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

**C**ONTROLLING 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 behalf 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's end. 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 \$6,339,600 during the year, incurring an additional net deficit of \$239,600; appropriated \$2,680,350 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.

When 1940 opened, the J. D. C. had before it requests from its affiliated committees and organizations throughout the world for \$27,703,600 for the year. It was clear that no such sum was in sight, but the J. D. C. hoped to be able to continue its activities on a scale commensurate with the last months of 1939 when the appropriation rate was over a million dollars monthly. In January and February, therefore, appropriations were made at the rate of \$950,000 each.

By March it was already evident that the 1940 United Jewish Appeal would not raise as much money as had been raised in 1939, and that substantial slashes in appropriations were in order. These cuts were made gradually so as not unduly to disorganize the work of the beneficiary committees. Necessarily there emerged a new approach to budgeting: not on the basis of needs, but on the basis of expected income. By the summer, J. D. C. appropriations had thus been reduced to \$350,000 monthly. In the light of overseas conditions at that time, the J. D. C. felt it had reached a point where it was not meeting adequately even the most limited requirements. A special meeting of the Board of Directors was called for September 29th, in Chicago, and the situation laid before them.

**I**T 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 oncoming 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 \$5,250,000

**Expenditures:** The total commitments on account of budgetary appropriations from January through September were \$5,241,000

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 incur total commitments for 1940 of \$6,280,000 or \$1,030,000 beyond the J. D. C.'s initial allotment under the United Jewish Appeal agreement.

**W**HEN 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. However, based on past experience, the J. D. C. had to provide for the possibility of shrinkage and unforeseen contingencies by setting up on its books the net figure of 650,000

C. Net other income (Canada and certain South American countries) 200,000

Total Estimated Income \$6,100,000  
Net Expenditures 6,339,600\*

Excess of Expenditures over Income \$ 239,600

The net deficit was therefore \$239,600. But 1940 had not been able to absorb a deficit left over from 1939 of \$350,500. Thus, as the J. D. C. entered 1941, it had accumulated deficits totalling \$590,100.

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 \$12,622,445. 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 \$2,680,350.\*\* 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.

**I**N 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 50-51.

\*\* See detailed Schedule, page 52.

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 \$2,270,000 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 from the collections received from the Spring campaign.

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 aggressor nations. 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 central 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 bureaus, for which they, in turn, secure additional mark deposits from these emigrants. Instead of using those marks for their own internal welfare programs, however, they convert the marks into zlotys, which are transmitted by them 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 dollars which 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.

**Q**UITE 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, Finland 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 confirmed by the recipient. Despite difficulties of communication, the J.D.C. receives reports regularly on the operations of the local committees. Only minimal balances, covering a month's requirements, are kept in Europe. As a matter of fact, in many cases monthly grants are remitted in several installments in order to safeguard against rapid changes during the course of even a month's time.

## Organization and Administration

**A**DMINISTRATIVELY 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 hesitations 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 C. 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.

**O**UTSTANDING among the many knotty problems which the J.D.C. faced was the establishment and conduct of the 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 500-600 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 265 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.

**M**ANY 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: arrangements in Japan 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.

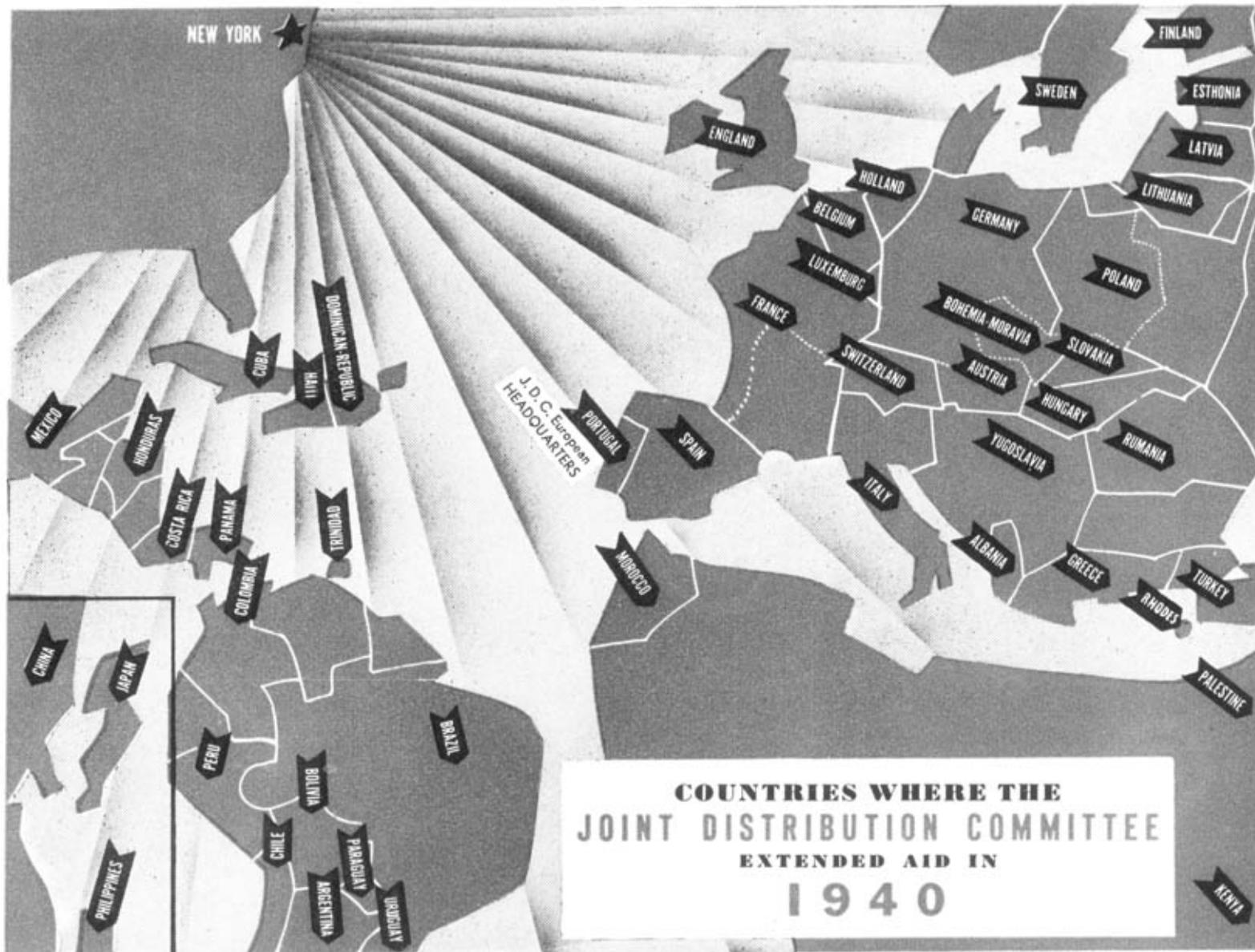
All J.D.C. committees (see page 44) worked hard during the year. The Administration Committee met regularly on Monday afternoons; in recent months there have been weekly meetings of the Organization Committee. Each month saw a meeting of the Executive Committee. Functional subcommittees of the Executive 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.

**T**HE most notable change in the official family of the J.D.C. during the period under review took place in February 1941, when Edward M. M. Warburg became Chairman; Paul Baerwald, Honorary Chairman; and James N. Rosenberg, Honorary Chairman of the Executive Committee. In April 1940, Moses A. Leavitt became Secretary of the J.D.C., succeeding Joseph J. Schwartz who assumed the post of Vice-Chairman of the European Executive Council. The Board of Directors lost four members through death: Messrs. Cyrus Adler of Philadelphia, Meyer Gillis of New York, Henry Horner of Springfield, Illinois, and Dudley D. Sicher of New York. Two other members resigned: Messrs. Bernard Flexner of New York, and Samuel A. Goldsmith of Chicago. Five new members were added to the Board: Messrs. Monroe Goldwater of New York, William W. Goodman of Memphis, Alexander A. Landesco of New York, Armand May of Atlanta, and Frank L. Weil of New York.

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, \$5,250,000; 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 alternates 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.

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

## MAY 1941

Date	Place	Event	Effect
1940 Sept. 7	Roumania	Agreement signed by Roumania to cede Southern Dobruja to Bulgaria	3,000 Jews involved.
Sept. 12	Luxembourg	All Jews ordered to leave within a fortnight	2,000 Jews appeal to J.D.C. for help in immediate emigration.
Oct. 18	Unoccupied France	Passage of anti-Jewish laws	All Jews barred from press, radio, movies, high public offices, educational, judiciary and military or naval positions.
Oct. 22	Syria	Passage of anti-Jewish laws	Following similar measures in Morocco, 20,000 Jews in Syria barred from government and state enterprises, the press, films and radio.
Oct. 22	Germany	Expulsion of Jews from Baden and Palatinate areas	9,000 Jews, from infants to aged and infirm people, sent to Gurs internment camp in unoccupied France on an hour's notice.
Oct. 27	Greece	Invasion by Italy	75,000 Jews affected.
Nov. 2	Alsace	All Jews expelled	30,000 Jews forced to leave their homes and go into unoccupied France.
Nov. 11	Lorraine	All French nationals evacuated	Several thousand Jews among expelled Lorrainers added to refugees in unoccupied France.
Nov. 20	Hungary	Joined German-Italian Japanese axis	800,000 Jews involved.
Nov. 23	Roumania	Joined the axis	275,000 Jews involved.
Nov. 26	Poland	Warsaw ghetto walls sealed	100,000 Jews cut off from outside world by 8-foot wall.
1941 Jan. 21	Roumania	Iron Guard massacres	Over 1,000 Jews brutally murdered; thousands terrorized, beaten, their property damaged.
Mar. 11	Bulgaria	Joined the axis	50,000 Jews affected.
Apr. 16	Yugoslavia	Invaded by axis powers	68,000 native Jews and 7,000 refugees in Yugoslavia affected.
Apr. 28	Yugoslavia and Greece	Conquered by axis powers	150,000 Jews brought under aggressor domination; Yugoslavia partitioned.
June 8	Syria	Invasion by British	20,000 Jews in battle area.

## EMIGRATION

	1940	Jan-May 1941
Total number of Emigrants	36,000	17,000
Number of Emigrants Served	25,000	8,000
Principal countries of origin		
Germany	16,000	4,000
Austria	6,500	2,500
Former Czechoslovakia	6,000	1,000
France	4,000	1,000
Belgium	1,000	—
Holland	1,000	500
Switzerland	1,000	500
Lithuania	400	1,500
Other Countries	2,000	1,000
J.D.C. Expenditures		
Through Germany	\$2,091,000	\$76,000
Through Poland	\$ 320,000	\$205,500
Through other lands	—	\$ 20,000

The ranks of the 432,000 refugees who had fled Germany and German-dominated lands from 1933 to 1939 were swelled during 1940 and the first five months of 1941 by an additional 75,000 emigrants. There were left in continental Europe at the end of May 1941 about 4,300,000 Jews, exclusive of those within the Soviet Republic. With the exception of some 40,000 in three countries—Portugal, Sweden and Switzerland—all of continental Europe's Jews were under varying disabilities as a result of anti-Semitic legislation. Under the circumstances, emigration represented the sole hope of tens of thousands. Its alternatives were concentration camps, internment, forced labor or expulsion.

Despite war and blockade, emigration has been uninterrupted. Until the Nazi invasion of 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 the escape hatch of Europe. American, Spanish, Portuguese and Greek boats plied the New York-Lisbon run; when Greece was invaded in October, the field was left to the others. From 2,000-3,000 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. had 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 vitally needed relief programs in operation in German lands without benefitting 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, Luxembourg 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 (Hias-Ica Emigration Association) served 6,500 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 1939, 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 Belhicem in Brussels. To replace the Belhicem after the invasion of Belgium, the J.D.C. in June 1940 established the Transmigration Bureau in New York. The work of the Bureau is described on page 11.

Studding 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 Colombia, Ecuador and Peru to Valparaiso, Chile. There 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 Alsina* has not yet been solved. The *Alsina*, 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 immobilized 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 *Alsina'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 heard that the *Alsina* itself might be permitted to proceed to South America, but increasing political tension made this impossible. Early in June, the *Alsina's* passengers were returned to Casablanca where they faced the almost insoluble problem of securing shipping facilities.

Three boats with strong overtones of tragedy were the *SS Pencho*, *SS Patria* and the *SS Salvador*, all bound for Palestine and all on the ocean's bottom today. The *Pencho* 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 Marmora in December; 223 of its passengers were lost and the remaining 157 were taken to Turkey where the J.D.C. made an emergency grant for them. The *Patria* exploded in Haifa harbor in November; 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).

## GREATER GERMANY

from Austria; 43,000 had fled from Czechoslovakia.

The forces that set in motion the evacuation from Europe of hundreds of thousands of Jews have been generated 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

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

### GREATER GERMANY AT A GLANCE

	Germany	Austria	Bohemia Moravia	Slovakia	Danzig	Total
Number of Jews, January 1940	210,000	56,000	120,000	84,000	1,600	471,600
Number of Jews, May 1941	190,000	40,000	117,000	80,000	200	427,200
Number Assisted by J. D. C. Funds (Status of May 1941)	53,000	32,000	40,000	25,000	200	150,200
J.D.C. Appropriations (through clearances) 1940	\$506,000	\$383,000	\$150,000	\$123,500	\$35,000	\$1,217,000
J.D.C. Appropriations (through clearances) Jan.-May 1941	\$ 85,000	\$ 85,000	\$ 29,000	\$ 27,000	—	\$ 226,000

thousand disabilities. Food, never plentiful even for "Aryan" citizens, was very scarce indeed for Jews. When the war broke in the Fall of 1939, severe rations were imposed upon all Germans. But after a few months of the war the Jew was told that he could use his ration card for only a limited time each day, and if the lines at the stores were too long or the goods exhausted, he went hungry.

During the year orders were issued which prohibited Jews from buying clothing or even thread with which to make or mend their garments. Yet, in their ragged clothing, thousands of Jewish people toiled in the labor service, building roads and breaking stones, making war materials in munitions factories. Special curfew regulations, segregated residences, forbidden areas, a whole series of humiliations were designed to make existence intolerable for the Jews.

Fully 35% of these Jewish people were living on charity—not the public dole, but charity administered by the central Jewish welfare organizations in their lands with funds which were furnished in substantial part through the J.D.C. clearance arrangement. Their children attended the Jewish schools maintained by these organizations—the Reichsvereinigung in Berlin, the Kulturgemeinde in Vienna, the Kulturgemeinde in Prague, the Ustredna Zidov in Bratislava. The aged and infirm were housed in 175 institutions maintained by these bodies. Fourteen thousand young people and adults, preparing themselves for emigration, attended vocational retraining courses. Above all, 14,500 were enabled to emigrate with the help of the J.D.C. clearance arrangement, while additional thousands were given other forms of emigration service.

Little by little, old established communities fell to pieces. Practically all the Jews remaining in Austria—40,000 out of a community of 190,000 only three years ago—were concentrated in Vienna. Two and three families shared a single room as more and more apartments had to be vacated at the order of the

Gestapo. The single weekly Jewish newspaper permitted to be printed in German territory devoted most of its space to emigration and the rest to death notices.

In January 1940, several trainloads of Jews in Bohemia-Moravia were rudely assembled and shipped to Poland. The rumor spread that all 70,000 Jews in the territory were to share the same fate before the month ended. For reasons yet to be explained, the deportations stopped as suddenly as they had begun. The threat, however, was ever present. For a full year no startling development of any kind took place. In February and March of the following year, however, a wave of deportations started anew—this time in Vienna. Five trainloads of Austrian Jews were sent across the border into occupied Poland, each with a human cargo of 1,000 terror-stricken men, women and children. Hundreds jumped from the moving trains to face uncertain fates. Others perished.

Throughout this period the J.D.C. was the mainstay of the Jews of Greater Germany. It was the only agency, apart from their American relatives, which through its clearance arrangement could furnish the dollars needed to pay steamship passage costs. Its dollars performed the additional duty of being matched by local currency put up by prospective emigrants and used to finance the internal relief programs. Its Transmigration Bureau established contact with thousands of American relatives and assisted them in making transportation arrangements for the emigration of their kin. The \$1,443,000 appropriated by the J.D.C. through clearance for work in the countries of Greater Germany was supplemented by an additional \$1,172,000 appropriated for work in Poland, the bulk through clearance, which was likewise used to defray transportation costs. With the help of these funds 14,500 of the total 36,000 Jews who emigrated from Greater Germany during the period under review, were enabled to depart.

## POLAND

The record of the Jews in Poland, since that country was invaded and conquered by Germany in September 1939, has been one of steady decline, mitigated only by their heroic efforts to help themselves, efforts supported at all critical points by the funds of the J.D.C. The beginning of 1940 found 1,180,000 Jews in the Gouvernment Generale area of German-occupied Poland and an additional 545,000 in the areas incorporated into the Reich proper such as Warthegau, East Upper Silesia, Litzmannstadt, etc. 1,575,000 Jews were in the eastern half of Poland which had been absorbed by Russia; they were beyond the reach of any foreign help.

Eighty percent of the Jews living under German control were practically pauperized. Deaths directly due to the war had numbered approximately 250,000. Epidemics of typhus and other war diseases were sweeping the Jewish quarters of Warsaw and other large cities. The intensity of the epidemics was increased by undernourishment, by destruction of sanitary facilities and by overcrowding, due to the presence in the major cities of 250,000 Jewish refugees from smaller towns. In Warsaw the war had destroyed the homes of 35,000 Jews, 1,000 Jewish factories and 4,000 Jewish shops and market stands. More than 70 cities and towns, largely Jewish in population, had been laid waste. Economic life had been strangled, and anti-Jewish regulations which were imposed with increasing stringency throughout the year cut off the small remaining opportunities for Jews to earn livelihoods. The repeated threats of establishment of ghettos kept the Jewish population in a state of continual terror. These threats finally materialized in the latter part of the year. In November, half a million Jews in Warsaw were enclosed in a ghetto marked off by high brick walls. They were forbidden to emerge and the populace outside the ghetto were forbidden to enter. Ghettos were also instituted in Lodz, Radom, Kielce, Lublin and other cities.

With all of Poland a vast morass of misery, the J.D.C. was hard put to it during the period under review to supply sufficient funds to alleviate the widespread suffering. Early in 1940 a clearance method (see page 10) was worked out whereby funds could be made available in Poland without aiding the German economy. The bulk of the \$1,172,000 appropriated by the J.D.C. for work in Poland was remitted

### POLAND AT A GLANCE

Jewish Population	
Government Generale	1,180,000
Areas Annexed to Germany (Warszaga, East Upper Silesia, Litzmannstadt, etc.)	545,000
Russian-occupied	1,375,000
J.D.C. Appropriations (German-occupied area only):	
1940 (mostly through clearance)	\$832,400
Jan.-May 1941 (mostly clearance)	\$340,000
Services rendered through J.D.C. Funds (1940 average):	
Number of localities	405
Number of institutions	2,046
Feeding beneficiaries	300,000
Medical aid beneficiaries	50,000
Child care beneficiaries	100,000
Clothing distribution beneficiaries	55,000
Constructive aid beneficiaries	6,000
Passover food beneficiaries	470,000

through this clearance method, which made available over 10,000,000 zlotys to the J.D.C. offices in Warsaw and Krakau.

Using these funds as a nucleus, supplemented by whatever funds could be garnered locally, the J.D.C. offices in Poland organized a truly impressive program of aid in more than 400 localities, bringing daily help to 600,000 Jews. The framework of the central Polish Jewish organizations was utilized to feed, clothe and shelter thousands daily. The Toz and the Centos took charge of medical work and child care, respectively. Hospitals and training institutions carried on despite overcrowding and lack of supplies. When Passover of 1940 came, 97 carloads of matzoth, fats and other foodstuffs were shipped into Poland by the J.D.C. from Hungary, Yugoslavia and other countries bordering Poland. Through the distribution facilities of the J.D.C. the supplies reached 470,000 Polish Jews.

The relief work reached its zenith in September 1940. Thereafter a number of activities had to be

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 resources 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 September 1939 until June 1940 when the closing of the Mediterranean made further shipments impossible. The Commission for Polish Relief expended \$373,000 in cash and supplies for a program of aid which continues today. 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 awarding grants of \$50,000 to the American Red Cross and \$20,000 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 Toz in Poland.

No statistics can convey as eloquently the spirit engendered by J.D.C. work in Poland as the following quotation from a letter written by a Polish Jewish woman who left Warsaw at the beginning of 1941:

"All of 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 intellectual groups, especially those families who fled from Lodz 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 manages one 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 concerned. In the midst of general apathy, they have a goal and 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 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 suburban labor camps held particular dread for everyone concerned. The mortality rate after only a month, amounted to 10%. It was the dream of every Jewish mother to have her son employed by the Joint.

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

## FRANCE

France, traditional asylum for the dispossessed, itself became a refuge-producing country in 1940. In the early months of the year, when the war was still poised on the Maginot Line, the situation, although serious, was still manageable. Fifteen thousand of the 38,000 German Jewish refugees in France, men between the ages of 15 and 60, were in internment camps as enemy aliens. Their wives and children, deprived of

breadwinners, looked to the Comité d'Assistance aux Réfugiés, to the Ose and to other refugee aid bodies in France which were supported by the J.D.C. Forty percent of the 150,000 Jewish immigrants (both naturalized and otherwise) who had come to France from Eastern Europe after the first World War, had lost their livelihoods through wartime economy. They went to the Federation of Jewish Societies for help, and the

Federation, in turn, applied to the J.D.C. The internees themselves were in need of warm clothing, blankets and small comforts which the French government did not supply. The Commission des Centres de R'assemblément, formed at the outbreak of the war on the initiative of the J.D.C., was authorized by French civil and military authorities to supply these materials. Some progress was being made in the release of various categories of internees.

The chief difficulty in France was lack of funds, because the French Jews who had hitherto supplied 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 tilled the soil and kept life going on as normal a basis as possible. The J.D.C., with the expenditure of \$310,000, supplied 75% of the funds used for refugee aid in France during the first half of 1940. With J.D.C. funds, the Comité d'Assistance aux Réfugiés gave food, shelter, clothing, medical aid and other forms of relief to 9,500 refugees; the Ose sheltered and cared for 1,300 refugee children who had been evacuated from Paris at the outbreak of the war; the Federation operated 5 soup kitchens which served 4,500 meals daily, and gave cash grants to 4,000 people; the Commission des Centres distributed \$40,000 worth of supplies to the internees; the Hicem was able to service 800 emigrants in France. All these programs were not only largely 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 Holland, Belgium 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 the south there were about 275,000 Jews, of whom 100,000 were refugees of all categories. Substantial numbers of the refugees from Paris and Belgium returned to their homes 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. Where there had been inadequacy and deprivation before, now there was stark starvation. The names of some of the camps became

### FRANCE AT A GLANCE

#### Unoccupied Area:

Number of French Jewish Nationals	143,000
Number of East European Immigrant Jews	20,000
Number of German refugees	30,000

#### Occupied Area:

Number of French Jewish Nationals	95,000
Number of East European Immigrant Jews	45,000
Number of German refugees	8,000
Beneficiaries of J.D.C. Aid (Status, May 1941)	

Through Comité d'Assistance aux Réfugiés	14,500
Through Ose	5,500
Through Federation of Jewish Societies	10,000
Through Hicem	3,000
Through Camp Coordinating Committees	16,000
Through Other Agencies	7,000

#### J.D.C. Subventions:

Before occupation (January-June 1940)	\$310,000
After occupation (July 1940-May 1941)—through blocked dollar arrangements	\$532,000

symbolic of unbelievable horror. St. Cyprien, Gurs, Le Vernet connoted 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 Palatinat 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, into 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 internees 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

30,000 Jews expelled from Alsace. Later all French nationals were expelled from Lorraine, and they, too, were sent to Southern France to add to the multitude of hungry mouths.

As the situation stabilized itself, it became clear that several different types of programs were required simultaneously. Some 20 internment camps held approximately 60,000 human beings, of whom about half were Jews and the bulk of the remainder Spanish. Although the French Government did what it could to improve internment conditions immediate relief had to be brought to the camps in order to curb the mounting mortality rate, in order to preserve the sanity and morale of the internees, in order literally to keep them alive against the bitter winter snows and cruel mountain frosts. Because of the non-sectarian nature of the problem, the J.D.C. pooled its efforts with those of the American Friends Service Committee (Quakers), the American Unitarian Committee, the International Y.M.C.A., and other agencies interested in helping the internees. Supplementary rations were sent to camps; clothing brought, collected and distributed; medical supplies made available; some form of recreation devised. In addition to the funds sent directly to the camps by J.D.C. through the coordinating agency set up by these organizations, the J.D.C. made a grant of \$70,000 to the American Friends Service Committee for its work.

Apart from the unfortunates in the internment camps, there were some 20,000 German and stateless refugees wandering fearfully through the streets of Marseille, Toulouse and other large cities in the unoccupied area, liable to arrest and internment at any moment. These people had to be fed, sheltered and comforted. If they could prove that they were not public charges, they had a much better chance of escaping imprisonment. Here the machinery of the reorganized Comité d'Assistance aux Réfugiés was put to work. Some 18 local branches of the C.A.R. were reconstituted and by the end of July, the C.A.R. was caring for 3,500 of the non-interned refugees. By September the number had risen to 4,800, by December to 9,600, by February to 13,500, and by May to 14,500. The funds employed by the Comité d'Assistance aux Réfugiés for this work were supplied 95% by the J.D.C.

Then there was the problem of the children. The Ose still had its 1,300 evacuees established in various homes throughout France. But there were thousands of children rapidly wasting away in the squalor of the internment camps. The Ose was called into service. It sent representatives to the various camps to

furnish milk and nourishing foods for the children. It set up hospital barracks and isolation wards for the sick. It supplied clothing and cradles, baby bottles and thermos stoves. By May 1941 it had been able to remove some 300 children from the camps to its various homes.

For the children of the refugees who were not interned, the Ose established eight day nurseries throughout the unoccupied area where they fed and cared for 1,500 children. A visiting nurse service was instituted to look after an additional 700 youngsters. The Alsatian Jews expelled from their homes were in need of a child-care and medical-aid agency. They asked the Ose to serve them as well, and the Ose took charge of a thousand Alsatian Jewish children and launched a medical supervision program for thousands of adults. At the same time, the Ose maintained its program of subsidy to refugee physicians. All of this work by the Ose was financed to a large extent by the J.D.C. which granted it \$127,000 during the period under review, or an average of 81% of Ose's expenditures in France.

The problem of the East European immigrants was greatly intensified as a result of the fall of France. Most of these people had been small shopkeepers or artisans in Paris. Dispossessed from their homes and with no opportunity to re-establish themselves, larger and larger numbers needed help. The professional and intellectual classes were particularly destitute. By the end of May 1941, the Federation of Jewish Societies, which had likewise reconstituted itself in the south of France, was assisting 3,700 people. Seventy-five percent of its funds came from the J.D.C.

Even in the occupied area, some activity continued. Five soup kitchens remained in operation, distributing 90,000-100,000 meals a month. Cash relief grants were given to hundreds of families, clothing was distributed, and medical aid extended. About 1,100,000 francs of J.D.C. appropriations for work in France after the occupation went to subsidize the Paris organizations.

In France, as in practically every other country of Europe, emigration was one of the most insistent needs. There were numerous difficulties in the way of securing exit permission, transit visas and other travel facilities. During the early days after the occupation, thousands of refugees fled from France to Spain and Portugal. After border regulations had been tightened, the procedure became far more complicated. Nevertheless, the Hicem with transportation funds provided by J.D.C., was able to assist 1400 persons to leave France in the period July 1940 through May 1941.

## PORTUGAL

Native Jewish Population.....	3,000
Number of Refugees	
January 1940.....	100
December 1940.....	12,000
May 1941.....	6,000
J.D.C. Appropriations:	
1940.....	\$76,000
January-May 1941.....	\$39,000
Number of Refugees on Relief.....	1,600
Total Number of Refugees Passing Through Portugal.....	30,000-40,000

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. Overnight 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. Poles, Germans, Frenchmen, Italians flocked in increasing numbers to this last open Atlantic port. 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 above all, acted as a liaison with governmental agencies in expediting emigration. A report of Dr. Augusto d'Esaguy, 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 J.D.C. remittances had grown from \$400 a month to \$5,000. A month later that figure had risen to \$6,500 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 committee, needed 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 men of military age, numbering 1,650, were interned. Some of their families were likewise interned, others were permitted to go unmolesed. 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 dwindled constantly as local contributions fell off. The scale on

### ITALY AT A GLANCE

Native Jewish Population	40,000
Total Number of Refugees	3,000
Number of Refugees Assisted	2,000
J.D.C. Appropriations:	
1940	\$146,000
January-May 1941	\$ 22,000

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. Undernourishment took its toll of health and illness 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

## 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 15,000) 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 community, 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 much benevolence toward the entire problem, and contributed substantially to the cost of refugee upkeep, the J.D.C. nevertheless supplied 60% of the funds spent during the period under review for refugee aid.

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 15% 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.

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 indeed 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

### SWITZERLAND AT A GLANCE

Native Jewish Population (May 1941)	15,000
Number of Refugees	7,000
J.D.C. Appropriations:	
1940	\$265,300
January-May 1941	\$ 48,500
Services Rendered by J.D.C. Funds:	
Number of Refugees on Relief	2,700
Number of Refugees Emigrated	500

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 AT A GLANCE

Native Jewish Population, January 1940	2,500
Number of Refugees, January 1940	500
Total Jewish Population, May 1941	1,000
J.D.C. Appropriations:	
January-May 1940	\$14,000
June 1940-May 1941 (through clearances)	\$21,000

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 in 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 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 "Aryans" and business enterprise among themselves was severely limited. At first the familiar sign of JEW 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 on 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 admission 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 expulsion 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 10).

## 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	80,000
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
Emigration beneficiaries	700
Vocational retraining beneficiaries	3,000

mitted to 14,000 other refugees who were not in the camps. Soup kitchens in Brussels and Antwerp fed 1,200 people daily. The committees defrayed the cost of medical treatment, payment of hospital bills, distribution of drugs and medicines, surgical and dental care, etc. Several centers for professional, agricultural and industrial training functioned for the benefit of 3,000 refugees.

At the time of invasion, the J.D.C. authorized the refugee committee in Belgium to borrow whatever local funds they could get against J.D.C. appropriations, to be paid whenever it was possible to do so without aiding the German economy. Since then, the J.D.C. has been unable to make further grants for work in Belgium, pending the time when some sort of clearance arrangement is possible. For the time being, practically no emigration is permitted to take place from Belgium.

## HOLLAND

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 1,500 children who had been brought to Holland after the countrywide German pogroms in November 1938, some 715 were still under the committee's care. Programs of vocational retraining and Hachsharah were being maintained for 615. The emigration of 650 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 20% 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.

## HOLLAND AT A GLANCE

Native Jewish Population	150,000
Total Number of Refugees	30,000
Number of Refugees Assisted	7,000
J.D.C. Appropriations:	
January-April 1940	\$105,000
May 1940-May 1941 (through clearances)	\$ 62,500
Services Rendered:	
Refugees given relief	4,500
Child care beneficiaries	1,350
Medical care beneficiaries	200
Emigration beneficiaries	650
Vocational retraining beneficiaries	615
Clothing beneficiaries	7,000

## LITHUANIA

### LITHUANIA AT A GLANCE

Native Jewish Population	165,000
Resident Jews of Vilna Area (annexed)	75,000
Number of refugees from other parts of Poland	25,000
Number of German refugees	2,000
J.D.C. Relief Appropriations, 1940	\$382,000
J.D.C. Emigration Appropriations	\$133,500
Services Rendered with J.D.C. Funds:	
Feeding beneficiaries	10,000
Sheltering beneficiaries	8,000
Clothing beneficiaries	15,000
Medical aid beneficiaries	25,000
Child care beneficiaries	1,500
Vocational retraining beneficiaries	500
Emigration aid beneficiaries	2,500

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, swelled by some 25,000 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. The 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 5,000 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 50 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 50% of the sums sent from abroad for relief work. The Commission for Polish Relief and 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.

When, 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 relief agencies in Lithuania were ordered to liquidate their affairs.

While the great bulk of Polish refugees in Lithuania opted for Soviet citizenship, there was 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 weeks of 1941 exit permits and Japanese transit visas were readily granted, the problem was how to find transportation costs for those people whose very existences 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 \$133,500 to date.

The problem was not over when the refugees reached Japan however, for 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

Resident Jewish Population, Jan. 1940	600,000
Number of German Refugees	3,000
Number of Polish Refugees	3,000
Jews Added by Territorial Acquisitions	
Transylvania (from Roumania)	180,000
Banat (from Yugoslavia)	20,000
J. D. C. Appropriations	
1940	\$184,000
Jan. - May 1941 (through clearances)	\$ 52,000
Services Rendered	
Refugee aid beneficiaries	3,000
Vocational training beneficiaries	2,300

Hungary today holds the second largest Jewish population in Europe—some 800,000 souls. In the last two years, Hungary's borders have been extended to envelop 157,000 Jews in Sub-Carpathia and in areas annexed from Slovakia, 180,000 Transylvanian Jews annexed from Roumania, and 20,000 Jews in the territory taken from Yugoslavia. All are subject to Hungary's anti-Jewish laws sharply limiting Jewish participation in the professions, industry and agriculture. Tens of thousands have lost their means of livelihood through this legislation, which is being applied more and more stringently as Hungary moves closer to the Axis.

Perhaps most serious of all is the plight of 3,000 German and 3,000 Polish refugees now in Hungary. They are totally prohibited from earning a livelihood, are subject to imminent expulsion, and must be housed, fed and cared for by the refugee committee lest they be deported to their lands of origin.

The three main facets of J. D. C. work in Hungary during the period under review were (1) maintenance of the refugees, (2) relief for the indigent, particularly in Sub-Carpathia and the areas previously belonging to Slovakia, and (3) vocational training facilities in preparation for emigration. Three thousand of the 6,000 refugees in Hungary were assisted by the committee. When hundreds of Jews fled from Austria

during February and March 1941 under threat of deportation to Poland, large numbers came to Hungary where the committee's promise to the authorities that they would be cared for prevented their being sent back to Vienna. Large numbers of Jews in Hungary who had succeeded in obtaining immigration certificates to Palestine were helped by the J.D.C. to secure transportation.

The poverty of the Jews living in the mountains of Sub-Carpathia is almost legendary. A pair of new shoes is an occasion for rejoicing; the child who grows up without anemia or rickets is exceptional. To bring some comfort to these people, to supply milk and nourishing food at least for the children, and clothing with which to ward off the bitter cold of winter, has been the task of the J. D. C. A representative of the J. D. C. who visited Sub-Carpathia early in 1940 described the long lines of Jewish people who stood outside a lighted kitchen window, waiting their turn to come in and merely get warm for half an hour before surrendering their places to the next on line.

Surrounded on all sides by war and the threats of war, Hungarian Jews nevertheless looked to the future. Throughout the country the local committee instituted vocational and agricultural training that would fit Jewish youth for emigration and settlement elsewhere. All told, 200 schools and training centers were established. In these institutions 2,200 young Jews were taught trades to enable them to become useful citizens in other lands.

When it became clear that Hungary had come under German domination and Hungarian credits were blocked in the United States, the J. D. C. followed its established policy of administering aid in Nazi-controlled lands only through clearance arrangements whereby no American dollar might benefit the aggressor economy. An educational clearance system was set up whereby J. D. C. dollars are spent to pay for the maintenance of Hungarian Jewish children studying in non-belligerent lands. In return, the parents of these students supply an equivalent amount of pengoes for welfare work in Hungary.

## ROUMANIA

Number of Native Jews, Jan. 1940	900,000
Number of German refugees, Jan. 1940	400
Number of Polish refugees, Jan. 1940	650
Losses of Jewish Population through	
Territorial Transfers:	
Bessarabia (to Russia)	320,000
Northern Bukovina (to Russia)	50,000
Transylvania (to Hungary)	180,000
Dobruja (to Bulgaria)	3,000
Jews fleeing to Soviet Areas	
After Pogroms	72,000
Remaining Jewish Population, May 1941	275,000
J. D. C. Appropriations	
January 1940 - May 1941	\$108,350

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, chicanery, blackmail, terror, arson, rape and murder took a toll of thousands of Jewish lives. Tens of thousands fled to Soviet 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 borders of Hungary and Russia were moved away and economic life slowed down to a stand-still. Formerly prosperous industrial cities became ghost towns as rich Roumanians 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 merchants that there could be small profit in trading with such bankrupt customers and soon they refused to deliver food at all to the villages of Bucovina and Bessarabia.

At the beginning of the year, even Bucharest and the largest cities began to feel the war and its attendant disruptions. The unemployed flocked to the

large cities to get away from the prospect of slow starvation in the provinces. This country of present and prospective misery was nevertheless regarded by Jews in Germany and Poland as a kind of refuge. Before the war, more than 400 refugees from Germany had come to Roumania. When Poland fell, another 1,000 Jews poured across the border, seeking safety in a land where there was precious little even for native Jews. Of the 900,000 Jews in Roumania in the early part of 1940, some 250,000 had been deprived of the benefits of Roumanian nationality. They no longer had the right to work or to establish their own business enterprises.

During the year, J. D. C. funds had to be stretched to the limit in Roumania and even then much was still undone. The unemployed Jews and those who were denied the right to work had to find relief. Thousands of Jewish children had to be cared for throughout the winter; health colonies and other institutions of child care had to be organized and maintained. Local committees with J. D. C. support set out to restrain Jewish youth in Roumania to fit them for other occupations.

When Roumania officially became a signatory to the Axis, the J. D. C. followed its policy of refusing to send dollars to aid the Nazi economy. It continued its programs through the use of Roumanian funds belonging to allied institutions. Attempts are being made to work out a clearance system which will enable J. D. C. operations to go on without the use of dollars.

## YUGOSLAVIA

At the beginning of 1940 more than 5,500 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 extent clothed these people, was required by a decree published in 1939 to guarantee the maintenance of all refugees. Thirty percent of its funds came from the J. D. C.

But Yugoslavia was less a place of permanent refuge than a country of transit, a highway which

### YUGOSLAVIA AT A GLANCE

Native Jewish Population, 1940	68,000
Total number of refugees	7,000
Refugees assisted	5,000
<b>J. D. C. Expenditures:</b>	
1940	\$106,800
January - May 1941	\$ 30,500
<b>Distribution of Jews After German Conquest:</b>	
Croatia	31,600
Serbia	9,300
Territory annexed by Hungary	20,000
Territory annexed by Bulgaria	11,000
Territory annexed by Italy	2,000

many refugees took toward Palestine. Some traveled on foot and some on train and others by boats, often unseaworthy. One of these set sail down the Danube toward the end of 1939. At Kladova, a deserted spot in the lower portion of the river, these 1,062 refugees found themselves icebound in a dilapidated tramp steamer. 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 month after month wore on, the growing heat provoked 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 Kladova with a population of only 1,800. Here, with J. D. C. funds, tents were set up, room in houses was obtained, a hospital barrack was built and medical equipment set up. Throughout the year J. D. C. remitted \$70,000 for the Kladova refugees, which was charged to the budgets of their respective countries of origin.

In the early months of 1941 some 250 members of the Kladova 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 who 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; 1,350, including the Kladova 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 500 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 chalmutzim 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.

### SWEDEN and FINLAND AT A GLANCE

	Sweden	Finland
Native Jewish Population	7,000	2,000
Number of Refugees	2,000	200
Number of Refugees Assisted	1,000	100
J. D. C. Appropriations	\$7,500	\$16,000

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 \$7,500 required.

The outbreak of the Finnish-Russian war found 100 German Jewish refugees stranded in the war zone

## 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 unfortunates. 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 \$4,500 in Tangiers.\*

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

in Finland. The Judiska Foersamlingen 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.

the boat had capsized at sea. Similar emergency aid was needed for a group of refugees stranded in Teheran, Persia. At practically every stop on the devious routes 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.

### Outposts of the J. D. C. at a glance

From January 1940 through May 1941 grants were made in the following areas for emergency aid:

Bombay	\$ 2,100
Casablanca	6,000
Greece	25,400
Mauritius	4,000
Persia	500
Tangiers*	4,500
Turkey	10,850

\*Other grants for work in Tangiers were included in the French budget for the period Jan.-June 1940.

## CULTURAL COMMITTEE

### CULTURAL COMMITTEE AT A GLANCE

Number of Institutions and Organizations Supported with Cultural Committee Grants, 1940	Europe	Palestine	Latin America	Central Organizations Distributing Funds in Various Countries
J.D.C. Appropriations, 1940	\$29,330	\$54,250	\$2,400	\$16,000
J.D.C. Appropriations—January-May 1941	375	14,500	730	12,900

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, yeshivah 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 (laborite) 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 \$132,000 through 150 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 yeshivah 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 yeshivah and schools, were no longer able to extend that help. In 1940 the J.D.C. subventioned more than 60 yeshivah, 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, Hagadahs, Tfillim, Mezuzoth, 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.

## 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 surcease 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 problems, to do some constructive planning, and to pave the way for the additional immigration which is bound to come when the war ends.

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 AT A GLANCE

	Jewish Population Prior to 1933	Refugee Arrivals Since 1933	Monthly Average of Refugees Receiving Direct Assistance	J.D.C. Appropriations 1940	J.D.C. Appropriations January-May 1941
Argentina	300,000	35,000	50	\$ 1,350	\$ 725
Bolivia	30	7,000	1,300	120,000	44,000
Brazil	85,000	16,000	1,600	46,500	31,000
Chile	13,000	13,000	1,000	66,300	24,800
Colombia	4,000	2,700	200	300	5,600
Costa Rica	10	60	15	750	200
Cuba	8,000	400	400	195,000	14,000
Dominican Republic	10	650	120	4,200	1,950
Ecuador	1,000	2,500	50	—	—
Haiti	10	160	80	7,900	5,500
Honduras	25	125	45	2,500	1,000
Mexico	15,000	600	25	1,550	—
Panama	750	500	200	18,600	400
Paraguay	1,700	500	25	150	50
Peru	1,500	500	40	450	1,250
Trinidad	50	300	200	1,700	750
Uruguay	30,000	6,500	500	15,100	6,700
Transient Cases and Miscellaneous	—	—	—	24,200	3,200
Total				\$104,550	\$139,125

\* Included in Transient Cases

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 proper care 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 welcomed 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 stricter requirements 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, seized 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 administering help, but also in local organization and fund-raising.

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 for a visa and 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 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 \$30,000 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 J.D.C. in connection with its program of war relief for distressed Jewish populations, remitted \$1,500 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 establish themselves 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 \$950.

### Dominican Republic

The refugee population in the Dominican Republic is of two types: the members of the agricultural project operated by the Dominican Republic Settlement Association at Sosua and the refugees who live in the capital, Ciudad Trujillo. Some 350 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. About 20% look to 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 difficult. A tropical climate, 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 \$11,500 for maintenance of 10 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 \$3,500.

### 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, feared that their visas might not be honored. To solve their critical situations, the J.D.C. made available \$1,550.

The Jewish communities of Mexico City and Monterey remitted \$13,705 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. Most of them held visas 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 caring for trans-Atlantic passengers in transit through Panama to west coast South American countries. By May 1941, this traffic had virtually ceased, and the Jewish community

## 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 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 Paso Seco, which was operated 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 50 refugees at a

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 insure 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

## SOUTH AMERICA

### Argentina

The Argentinian 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 \$1,350 in 1940 and an additional \$725 during the first 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.

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 350 passengers aboard the SS *Winnipeg*. This boat had left Marseille destined for Martinique, and most of its passengers held visas 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.

### Bolivia

Bolivia, one of the countries least equipped to absorb a large white foreign 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 prepared, to serve as a school and summer colony.

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 \$43,800 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 Europe first. 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 and small numbers of refugees were able to change 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 in-

terested 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 during the period under review came from the J.D.C., which supplied over \$66,000 in 1940 and close to \$25,000 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 to 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 Maru* which is described on page 17. The *Hie Maru* 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 destined 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 "transient cases," cost the J.D.C. more than \$27,500 during the period under review for emergency relief, visa fees, landing fees, luggage redemption, etc.

On the whole, relatively few refugees were admitted to Ecuador, Colombia and Peru during 1940, and the needy refugees were cared for largely out of the resources of the resident Jewish populations. To supplement refugee aid in Peru and Colombia during the period under review the J.D.C. provided \$7,600.

### Uruguay

Refugee immigration to Uruguay since 1940 has been virtually limited to the parents and other close

## THE FAR EAST

THE FAR EAST AT A GLANCE			
	Shanghai	Japan	Philippines
Permanent Jewish Community	5,500	300	130
Total number of refugees	30,000	2,000	1,250
Number of refugees assisted	12,600	1,800	320
J. D. C. Appropriations:			
1940	\$190,000	\$ 5,400	\$10,200
January-May 1941	\$102,000	\$70,000	\$10,200

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 1,250 refugees in the Philippines, gradually accustoming themselves to their new abode and becoming integrated into the economy 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.

### Shanghai

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 unattractive 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 asylums 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. appropriations.

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 \$292,000 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 33-1/3 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 undernourishment 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 homes.

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 Pingliang 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 facilitate emigration for those who had the possibility of securing overseas visas.

### Japan

A notable instance of the manner in which political developments in one part of the world create a sudden emergency 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 committees in Greater Germany, forced to seek new outlets for emigration, arranged for transportation of Jews from Germany across Europe and Asia (via the Trans-Siberian Railway) to Vladivostok 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 100 at a time. Fre-

quently 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 food 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 asylums. Provisions were made for a few hundred to go to Shanghai. Guarantees were given to the governments of Burma, Australia and New Zealand for the maintenance of groups of 30, 50 and 20 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 and \$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 directly 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

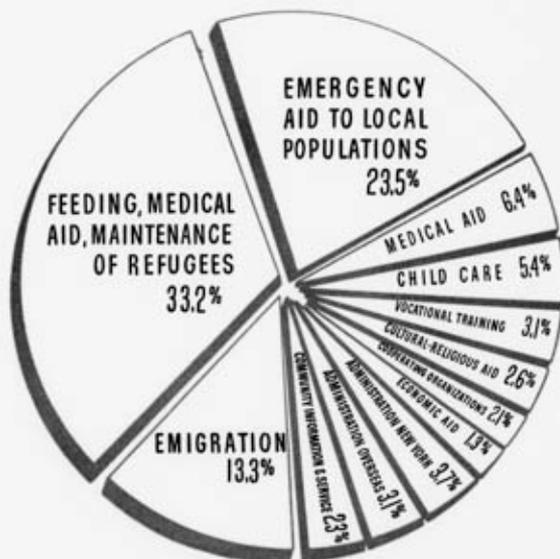
The Jewish community in the Philippines was never large. Before the advent of Nazism scattered thousands upon thousands of Jews throughout the world, the number in the Philippines did not exceed 150. This Jewish community has expanded greatly during the last three years by the addition of some 1,300 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 Sosua. Article I 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 Dorsa) 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 Dorsa an additional \$50,000 for transportation of settlers and granted \$117,000 to cover the maintenance costs of a group of settlers from England.

By May 1941, some 350 settlers had found their way to Sosua 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 Sosua 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 \$50,000 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 were being made to bring the colonization project within six hours of the Bolivian capital city, La Paz, which offers a ready market. Preparations were being made to receive additional settlers. The importance of the colony lay not only in the opportunity which it offered to the individual colonists, but also because it demonstrated to the Bolivian authorities the ability of Jewish refugees to become successful agriculturists.

### 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 (ICA).

# The American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee, Inc.

Under the circumstances the Council of the Foundation decided, with the consent of the ICA, to request the J.D.C. to carry on such of its activities as were feasible on a provisional basis until after the war. To implement this decision the J.D.C. established a Committee on Reconstruction Activity (for personnel, see page 44).

The Committee on Reconstruction Activity has concerned itself with two major functions: (a) to terminate certain contractual obligations of the Foundation, and (b) to carry out the Foundation's commitments for a program of credit cooperatives in South America. A representative of the Committee toured Latin America during 1940 and the early part of 1941 and surveyed needs and possibilities for the establishment and operation of loan societies in six South American countries. The J.D.C. has appropriated \$41,000 to set up these loan cooperatives in Santiago, Chile; Rio de Janeiro and Sao Paulo, Brazil; and Quito, Ecuador. It is also planned to extend this type of activity into Bolivia, Uruguay and Peru in the near future.

## 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 give aid on a strictly business basis to 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 Co-operative 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 15 settlements for farm workers. Other activities are those of the Bayside 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 activities in Palestine during 1940 and the early part of 1941 in spite of the war conditions. To the extent of its financial resources, it continued to make new investments. 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 125 low cost houses in the vicinity of Hel Aviv.

Palestine Potash Ltd., which operates the concession 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 J.D.C. 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 17,966.3 shares of "B" stock of the Corporation.

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LOEB & TROPER  
CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS  
FIVE TWENTY ONE FIFTH AVENUE, NEW YORK CITY

LOEB & TROPER  
LOEB & TROPER

June 18, 1941

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 1914, 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 1939 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 obtain complete overseas accounting records, because of the war conditions, limited important data 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 accounts 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 1914 to 1940, inclusive, in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles.

Respectfully submitted

*Loeb and Troper*  
CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS

## 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	
Cash Funds—New York	\$ 380,881.11
Securities—at cost	14,218.75
Estimated balance to be received from the 1939 Campaign of the United Jewish Appeal, Inc.	250,000.00 (A)
Estimated balance to be received from the 1940 Campaign of the United Jewish Appeal, Inc.	2,195,000.00 (B)
Loans and Advances	189,828.84
<b>TOTAL RESOURCES</b>	<b>\$3,029,928.50</b>
LIABILITIES AND RESERVES	
Unpaid balances on commitments—subject to immediate call	\$1,428,175.34
Payable to overseas committees for funds borrowed and relief disbursed through clearance arrangements	1,021,161.59
Notes and Loans Payable	482,416.09
Accounts Payable	5,702.22
	\$2,935,455.18
Working Fund Reserve (Officially established during years 1934 to 1938)	620,000.00
	\$3,555,455.18
Resulting in an excess of Liabilities and Reserves over Resources (Depletion of Working Fund Reserve through 1940 and prior years' deficits)	\$ 525,526.68

## NOTES

The above statement does not include the following:

1. Commitments aggregating \$968,700 deferred to future years.
2. Special Funds held aggregating \$309,065.72 representing provision for amounts payable on demand for transportation, etc. and including \$15,494.09 of items held in suspense.
3. Investments previously made in American Joint Reconstruction Foundation; Palestine Economic Corporation; Gemiloth Chessed Kassar; American Jewish Joint Agricultural Corp., etc. being of no present cash value whatsoever to the J.D.C.

(A) \$3,650,000.00 Officially allotted out of 1939 Campaign of the U.J.A., Inc.  
 7,765,666.67 Received during 1939 and 1940.

\$ 884,333.33 Balance, of which it is officially estimated there 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 there will be received a maximum of \$2,195,000.

## EXHIBIT "B"

THE AMERICAN JEWISH JOINT DISTRIBUTION COMMITTEE, INC.  
**SUMMARY STATEMENT OF INCOME AND EXPENDITURES**  
 FROM OCTOBER, 1914 THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 1940

GENERAL FUND — ACCRUAL BASIS  
 YEAR 1940 TENTATIVE BEFORE CLOSING, AND SUBJECT TO FINAL AUDIT

Year	Income	Expenditures
1940	\$ 5,972,571.13 (A)	\$ 6,329,600.00
1939	8,203,058.54 (B)	8,863,734.93
1938	4,020,314.61	3,799,678.28
1937	2,952,185.09	2,883,759.31
1936	2,340,385.77	1,904,923.77
1935	917,749.20	983,343.05
1934	1,402,198.29	1,382,326.08
1933	1,151,728.29	685,754.27
1932	385,225.52	340,815.22
1931	741,705.67	558,760.50
1930	1,175,733.95	1,367,118.67
1929	1,632,288.88	1,645,898.27
1928	3,522,660.51	2,812,304.14
1927	4,583,780.83	4,587,610.33
1926	4,481,985.02	4,892,025.41
1925	206,195.48	1,866,558.17
1924	579,077.85	3,945,114.12
1923	4,956,953.30	6,371,040.89
1922	9,081,028.82	9,635,303.42
1921	8,006,978.61	5,623,988.65
1920	13,840,700.54	11,189,284.57
1919	13,574,593.35	11,806,706.59
1918	5,813,751.65	5,894,687.27
1917	4,603,153.01 (C)	2,627,785.29
1916	}	4,249,561.35
1915	6,167,091.54 (D)	1,804,749.48
1914	}	61,000.00
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>\$108,313,085.45</b>	
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURES</b>	<b>108,218,612.13</b>	<b>\$108,218,612.13</b>
<b>Excess of Income over Expenditures—</b>	<b>\$ 94,473.22</b>	
<b>Less: Provision for Working Fund Reserve—</b>		
<b>(officially established during years 1934 to 1938)</b>	<b>620,000.00</b>	
<b>Resulting in an Excess of Expenditures over Income (Depletion of working fund reserve through 1940 and prior years' deficits)</b>	<b>\$ 525,526.68</b>	
	<b>(Exhibit "A")</b>	

(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.

## SCHEDULE 1

## THE AMERICAN JEWISH JOINT DISTRIBUTION COMMITTEE, INC.

EXPENDITURES — FROM OCTOBER, 1914 THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 1940  
BY COUNTRIES AND TERRITORIES

## GENERAL FUND — ACCRUAL BASIS

## YEAR 1940 TENTATIVE, BEFORE CLOSING, AND SUBJECT TO FINAL AUDIT

	Total	October 1914 Through Dec. 31, 1939	Year 1940
Abyssinia	\$ 15,207.57	\$ 15,207.57	\$ —
Albania	15,211.80	12,481.80	2,530.00
Alexandria, Egypt	58,851.55	58,851.55	—
Algiers, Tunis, Morocco	9,000.00	9,000.00	—
Argentina	93,325.00	31,875.00	1,350.00
Austria and Hungary, including Galicia (Prior 1920)	2,881,081.10	2,881,081.10	—
Austria	3,178,108.19	2,795,311.85	382,796.34
Baltic Provinces	58,872.33	58,872.33	—
Belgium	1,148,772.33	874,672.33	273,100.00
Bolivia	257,500.00	137,500.00	120,000.00
Brazil	189,801.11	142,931.11	46,470.00
Bulgaria and Occupied Territory of Serbia	46,036.48	46,036.48	—
Canada	20,000.00	20,000.00	—
Casablanca	1,000.00	—	1,000.00
Central Europe	388,451.53	388,451.53	—
Chile	79,333.00	13,000.00	66,333.00
China	296,107.50	106,107.50	190,000.00
Colombia	2,942.10	2,642.10	300.00
Costa Rica	4,028.50	3,300.00	728.50
Cuba	493,990.09	238,787.53	195,222.56
Czechoslovakia-Bohemia and Moravia and Slovakia	1,747,094.51	1,473,422.61	273,671.90
Danish	159,753.69	104,408.25	55,344.44
Denmark	8,777.92	8,777.92	—
Dominican Republic	6,986.00	2,775.00	4,211.00
England	110,029.13	110,029.13	—
Estonia	4,303.30	3,903.30	400.00
Finland	16,750.00	5,750.00	11,000.00
France	2,215,419.35 (A)	1,569,249.55	646,170.00
Germany	5,452,034.07	4,946,215.85	505,818.22
Greece, Turkey, Serbia, Syria	1,366,178.70	1,366,178.70	—
Greece	92,403.38	74,503.38	17,900.00
Haiti	8,625.00	700.00	7,925.00
Holland	1,239,526.58	1,077,426.58	162,500.00
Honduras	3,750.00	1,250.00	2,500.00
Hungary	1,027,565.60	843,565.60	184,000.00
Italy	375,823.34	229,823.34	146,000.00
Japan (Yokohama)	192,387.23	126,987.23	5,400.00
Kenya (Africa)	7,190.00	5,900.00	1,900.00
Latvia	535,541.57	512,711.57	20,830.00
Lithuania	1,624,893.02	1,019,353.02	605,450.00
Luxembourg	90,818.90	84,918.90	26,500.00
Mexico	4,793.58	3,184.87	1,548.71
Morocco (Tangier)	2,132.52	132.52	2,000.00
Norway	2,000.00	2,000.00	—

October 1914  
Through  
Dec. 31, 1939

Total

Year 1940

Palestine	\$ 8,928,805.76	\$ 8,928,805.76	\$ —
Panama	37,463.65	18,825.68	18,637.97
Paraguay	402.54	252.54	150.00
Persia	36,717.37	36,717.37	—
Peru	11,950.00	11,500.00	450.00
Philippines	50,203.78	40,941.25	10,162.51
Poland, Lithuania and Kurland (Prior 1920)	11,543,198.37	11,543,198.37	—
Poland	17,673,461.32	16,941,092.32	832,369.10
Portugal	87,067.50	11,107.50	75,960.00
Roumania	3,500,471.66	3,422,221.66	78,250.00
Russia (Prior 1920)	4,000,300.00	4,000,300.00	—
Russia and Ukraine	17,539,408.05	17,532,403.05	7,005.00
Saar	1,985.05	1,985.05	—
Siberia	477,768.37	477,768.37	—
Spain	93,164.65	75,484.65	17,680.00
Sweden	2,500.00	—	2,500.00
Switzerland	916,099.08	650,759.08	265,340.00
Syria	52,076.02	52,076.02	—
Trinidad, British West Indies	6,250.00	4,570.00	1,680.00
Turkey	818,826.38	812,988.38	5,850.00
United States	1,038,553.59	1,038,553.59	—
Uruguay	25,900.00	12,800.00	13,100.00
Yugoslavia	176,780.12	69,980.12	106,800.00
S. E. St. Louis Refugees	500,000.00	500,000.00	—
Unclassified Geographically	6,726,847.25 (B)	6,250,178.91	476,668.34
American Joint Reconstruction Foundation	1,918,034.06	1,918,034.06	—
Constituent Committees for Cultural Work:			
Joint Distribution Committee	195,860.36	153,960.36	41,900.00
American Jewish Relief Committee	647,502.75	620,714.50	17,188.25
Central Relief Committee	1,800,534.93	1,854,618.43	35,918.50
Peoples Relief Committee	680,767.16	673,773.91	6,993.25
Administration and Functional Services—New York Executive Office	2,263,448.49 (C)	2,021,248.08	262,202.41 (D)
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$107,387,216.01 (E)</b>	<b>\$101,047,816.01</b>	<b>\$6,339,600.00</b>

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

NOTES:—“A”—Includes Hicem through 1936 in the sum of \$227,127.32. In the years 1937 through 1940 the payments through Hicem were included in the respective countries.

“B”—Includes ORT Europe and Russia and OZE 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 1939 and 1940 include Functional Service—Publicity, Campaign, Simultaneous, Canadian Campaign, Regional Conferences, Junior Division, etc.

“D”—Includes Transmigration 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.

**The American Jewish  
JOINT DISTRIBUTION COMMITTEE, INC.**

**SCHEDULE OF APPROPRIATIONS EFFECTED JANUARY-MAY 1941**

<b>GREATER GERMANY</b>			
Austria	\$ 80,000	<b>CENTRAL AND SOUTH AMERICA</b>	173,000
Bohemia-Moravia	29,000	Shanghai (China)	102,000
Germany	100,000	Japan	70,000
Luxembourg	10,000	Cultural Activities	30,000
Slovakia	27,000	<b>SPECIAL AND ONE-TIME GRANTS</b>	
<b>OTHER COUNTRIES</b>		Passover Relief	7,000
Casablanca	5,000	Fund at disposal of Transmigration Bureau for refunds in emergency cases	3,000
Ose, England	2,400	Transportation fund for Emigration to Do- minican Republic	300,000
Finland	5,000	President's Advisory Committee	5,000
France	215,000	Hebrew University, Palestine	12,500
Greece	7,500	Emigration from Lithuania	75,000
Holland	5,000	<b>ADMINISTRATION EXPENSES</b>	
Hungary	52,500	Overseas	56,000
Italy	22,500	New York Executive Office	84,000
Mauritius	4,000	Transmigration Bureau	22,000
Poland	350,000	<b>RESERVE FOR CONTINGENT AND IMPLICIT LIABILITIES — \$300,000</b>	
Portugal	59,000	Budget for Information & Service, Junior Div., Public Relations, etc.	150,000
Roumania	30,000	Reserve for maintenance of Polish refugees to be sent from Japan to Australia	22,000
Spain	2,000	Emigration requirements of refugees from Lithuania now in Japan	64,000
Sweden	5,000	Emigration requirements of refugees now in Shanghai	64,000
Switzerland	42,500		
Switzerland — Marie Ginsberg's Committee	2,000	<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	<b>\$2,680,350</b>
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		

June 26, 1941.

*Hand*

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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 havoc of war must give way to good will and cooperation in a democratic world of peace, plenty and security for all.

Very sincerely yours,

xPP7 5249

xPP7 895

xPP7 19

xPP7 6677

xPP7 120

FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT

Mr. Paul Baerwald, *x2*  
Chairman,  
The American Jewish Joint  
Distribution Committee, Inc., #  
270 Madison Avenue,  
New York 16, New York.

# THE AMERICAN JEWISH JOINT DISTRIBUTION COMMITTEE, Inc.

270 MADISON AVENUE, NEW YORK 16, N. Y.

PAUL BAERWALD, *Chairman*  
 MRS. FELIX M. WARBURG, *Honorary Chairman*  
 JAMES N. ROSENBERG, *Chairman, Board of Directors*

---

ALBERT H. LIEBERMAN, *Chairman, National Council*  
 FRANK L. SULZBERGER, *Vice-Chairman, National Council*

---

JOSEPH C. HYMAN, *Executive Vice-Chairman*

*Vice-Chairmen*

GEORGE BACKER	ISAAC H. LEVY
JAMES H. BECKER	WILLIAM ROSENWALD
I. EDWIN GOLDWASSER	WILLIAM J. SHRODER
ALFRED JARETZKI, JR.	M. C. SLOSS
ALEXANDER KAHN	JONAH B. WISE

*European Executive Council*

BERNHARD KAHN	JOSEPH J. SCHWARTZ
<i>Honorary Chairman</i>	<i>Chairman</i>

I. EDWIN GOLDWASSER, *Treasurer*  
 ALEXANDER A. LANDESCO, *Treasurer*  
 EVELYN M. MORRISSEY, *Assistant Treasurer*  
 MRS. H. B. L. GOLDSTEIN, *Comptroller*  
 ISIDOR COONS, *Director of Fund Raising*  
 MOSES A. LEAVITT, *Secretary*  
 LOUIS H. SOBEL, *Assistant Secretary*

November 25th  
1944

Mr. David Niles <sup>x4847</sup>  
 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,

*Louis H. Sobel*

Louis H. Sobel  
 Assistant Secretary x

LHS:LSN  
 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 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,

Paul Baerwald  
Chairman

PB:LSN

# THE AMERICAN JEWISH JOINT DISTRIBUTION COMMITTEE, Inc.

270 MADISON AVENUE, NEW YORK 16, N. Y.

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November 25th  
1944

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

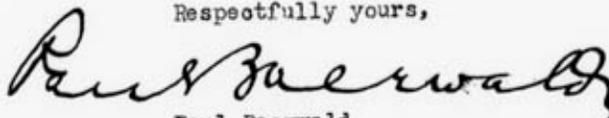
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We are making this request at this time, only because of the unparalleled nature of the problem facing us in 1945 -- the relief and rehabilitation of the remnants of European Jewry -- the survivors of the blackest oppression and persecution in the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

SUGGESTION FOR THE LETTER FROM PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT TO MR. BAERWALD

Mr. Paul Baerwald  
Chairman  
The 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 ~~wishes~~ <sup>greetings</sup> to you and the members of the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee on ~~the~~ 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 un-  
failing 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~~

Let us with hope, look forward to a time when