CROSS-REFER

AMERICAN JEWISH JOINT DISTRIBUTION COMMITTEE
(Name of Applicant)

(Application Number)

For further material concerning Dr. Joseph Schwartz's trip to Switzerland

SEE: REPRESENTATIVES AND SPECIAL ATTACHES: APPOINTMENTS
Dear Mr. Baerwald:

It is with great pleasure that I send you herewith a copy of the summary report of the activities of the War Refugees Board which, as you may know, will be dissolved on September 15th.

It was only through the cooperation of private agencies, principally the Joint Distribution Committee, that it was possible for the Board to bring some measure of relief and hope to the suffering victims of Nazi oppression. I wish, therefore, to take this opportunity to express to you the deep appreciation of the Board for the outstanding contributions made by the Joint Distribution Committee to the difficult task of saving innocent people from a wanton and ruthless enemy. The generous financial participation of your Committee and its un-failing help and cooperation made possible much of the success the Board has known.

With kindest personal regards,

Sincerely yours,

(Signed) William O'Dwyer

William O'Dwyer
Executive Director

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

Enclosure.

Phithd 9/6/46
AUG 23 1945

Dear Moe:

With reference to your letter of July 30, 1945, and enclosure, concerning the requirements of the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee for twenty 13-ton trucks for relief and welfare services in Europe, I enclose a copy of the reply we have received from the Surplus Property Board concerning this matter.

Sincerely yours,

(Signed) Florence Hodel

Florence Hodel
Assistant Executive Director

Mr. M. A. Leavitt,
American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee,
270 Madison Avenue,
New York 16, N. Y.

Enclosure.

PH:hd 8/23/45
28 August 1945

American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee
370 Hudson Avenue
New York, N.Y.

Attention: Moses A. Levisit, Secretary

Gentlemen:

Your memorandum of 30 July in which you expressed a requirement for trucks for the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee's work in Europe has been forwarded for our attention by the War Refugee Board through the Surplus Property Board.

The sale of surplus government property in Europe is under the personal direction of Mr. James H. Anderson, who has been appointed Central Field Commissioner for Europe. His office is at 39 Rue de Berry, Paris, France.

The regulations laid down by the Surplus Property Board under which we operate, provide for a priority for the needs of relief organizations such as yours which is secondary only to the requirements of U.S. Government agencies in the purchase of surplus property. Because the situation in Europe has been changed drastically with the declaration of V-J Day we are not in a position to give you accurate information regarding the availability of 15 ton trucks at this time.

We are forwarding your letter to Mr. Anderson and suggest that you have a representative contact his office as soon as possible so that the full details of your requirement may be made known to him. I am certain that your needs will receive every consideration within the limits of availability of the type of vehicle you require. If we can be of any assistance to you in this country please do not hesitate to write us.

Very truly yours,

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Major General, USA
Deputy Commissioner

[Stamp: copy furnished: 372 (Mr. Reiner) War Refugee Board]
Dear Noel,

We have just received the enclosed final report from Roswell McClelland which I thought would be of particular interest to you and Mr. Beerwald. This report is not being made public and is not being furnished to any other private agency. Will you please, therefore, regard it as very confidential.

Sincerely yours,

Florence Hodel
Assistant Executive Director

Mr. M. A. Leavitt,
American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee,
270 Madison Avenue,
New York 16, N. Y.

Enclosure.

FH: Htd 8/17/46
Miss Florence Hodel
Assistant Executive Director
War Refugee Board
Washington 25, D. C.

Dear Miss Hodel:

This will refer to your letter of August 6, addressed to Mr. Jonas Reiner, concerning the requirement of the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee for twenty 1-1/2 ton trucks for relief and welfare services in Europe.

We have written the Commissioner of the Office of Army-Navy Liquidation, requesting that he advise the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee how to proceed in this matter. Copies of our letter are enclosed.

Sincerely yours,

A. Eric Teff
Acting Deputy Administrator
Foreign Disposals

Enclosure
Survplus Property Board
August 17, 1945

Hon. Thomas E. McCabe
Commissioner
Office of Army-Navy Liquidation Commissioner
New War Department Building
Washington 25, D. C.

Dear Mr. McCabe:

There is transmitted herewith a letter dated August 6, addressed to Mr. Jonas Reiser of the Surplus Property Board by Florenta Nodel, Assistant Executive Director of the War Refugees Board, with regard to making twenty 1-1/2 ton trucks available to the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee for relief and welfare services in Europe.

We should appreciate it if you will communicate with the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee at 270 Madison Avenue, New York, New York, and advise them exactly how they are to proceed.

Sincerely yours,

A. Fric Taft
Acting Deputy Administrator
Foreign Disposals

Enclosure

cc: American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee
SUMPLIES PROPERTY BOARD

August 17, 1945

Mr. Thomas B. McCabe
Commissioner
Office of Army-Navy Liquidation Commissioner
New War Department Building
Washington 25, D. C.

Dear Mr. McCabe:

There is transmitted herewith a letter dated August 6, addressed to Mr. Jonas Reiner of the Surplus Property Board by Florence Hodel, Assistant Executive Director of the War Refugee Board, with regard to making twenty 1-1/2 ton trucks available to the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee for relief and welfare services in Europe.

We should appreciate it if you will communicate with the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee at 270 Madison Avenue, New York, New York, and advise them exactly how they are to proceed.

Sincerely yours,

A. Eric Taft
Acting Deputy Administrator
Foreign Disposals

Enclosure

American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee
War Refugee Board
Dear Mr. Reiner:

There is forwarded to you herewith a copy of a memorandum prepared by the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee, 270 Madison Avenue, New York, N. Y., concerning its transportation requirements in Germany.

The Joint Distribution Committee desires to obtain 20 15-ton surplus trucks in France from the Army and Navy Liquidation Commissioner in order to bring relief and welfare services to approximately 130,000 Jewish survivors in German and Austrian concentration camps. The War Refugee Board certifies as to the urgent need for the services which the Joint Distribution Committee desires to render these displaced persons and the Board supports its request for the 20 trucks.

Any assistance you could render in this matter would be greatly appreciated.

Very truly yours,

[Signature] Florence Hodel
Assistant Executive Director

Mr. Jonas Reiner,
Deputy Administrator,
Surplus Property Board,
Room 3012,
New Municipal Building,
Washington, D. C.

FH:hd 8/6/45
On June 6, 1945, the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee received official permission from SHAEF to send 10 teams into Germany and Austria, in order to bring relief and welfare services to the approximately 130,000 Jewish survivors of concentration camps. The first 5 teams, consisting of 5 to 6 people each, are already in Germany and Austria, and the balance of the teams are awaiting a signal from the military authorities to go into the other camps.

Inasmuch as the number of camps are very large in Germany and Austria, and communications are non-existent, it is imperative that the J.D.C. have transportation facilities in order to bring in relief and other supplies to the camps.

These Jewish displaced persons are now receiving basic relief from the military authorities at the rate of 2,000 calories a day, which is the amount fixed for all displaced persons. Since most of the Jewish survivors have spent many years in forced labor and concentration camps, as a result of which they are gravely undernourished, it is essential that supplementary help be given to them if they are to survive and recover from the effects of their treatment in the horror camps.

The American and British military authorities have agreed to provide gasoline and oil and to service our trucks, but they require that we provide our own trucks. We are able to purchase supplies in Switzerland, and certain surplus supplies in France from the military stocks, which could be brought to the refugees in the camps only through our having transportation facilities.

We believe the lives of many people are involved in our bringing in such supplementary articles as quickly as possible.

We would need to have twenty (20) ½ ton trucks in France, to be used for Germany and Austria.

Moses A. Leavitt, Secretary
July 30, 1945

Miss Florence Hodell, Asst. Executive Director,  
Executive Office of the President,  
War Refugees Board,  
Washington 25, D. C.

Dear Florence:

I enclose herewith a memorandum on our need for trucks  
and hope that you will take over from this point and  
see what you can do.

Sincerely yours,

[Signature]

Moses A. Leavitt,  
Secretary
On June 6, 1945, the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee received official permission from SHAAP to send 10 teams into Germany and Austria, in the SHAAP areas, in order to bring relief and welfare services to the approximately 150,000 Jewish survivors of concentration camps. The first 5 teams, consisting of 5 to 6 people each, are already in Germany and Austria, and the balance of the teams are waiting a signal from the military authorities to go into the other camps.

Inasmuch as the number of camps are very large in Germany and Austria, and communications are nonexistent, it is imperative that the J.D.C. have transportation facilities in order to bring in relief and other supplies to the camps.

These Jewish displaced persons are now receiving basic relief from the military authorities at the rate of 5,000 calories a day, which is the amount fixed for all displaced persons. Since most of the Jewish survivors have spent many years in forced labor and concentration camps, as a result of which they are gravely undernourished, it is essential that supplementary help be given to them if they are to survive and recover from the effects of their treatment in the horror camps.

The American and British military authorities have agreed to provide gasoline and oil and to service our trucks, but they require that we provide our own trucks. We are able to purchase supplies in Switzerland, and certain supplies in France from the army stocks, which could be brought to the refugees in the camps only through our having transportation facilities.

We believe the lives of many people are involved in our bringing in such supplementary articles as quickly as possible.

We would need to have twenty (20) 1-1/2-ton trucks in France, to be used for Germany and Austria.

Moses A. Leventritt, Secretary
MEMORANDUM

July 30, 1945

RE: TRANSPORTATION REQUIREMENTS FOR J. D. C.
IN GERMANY

On June 6, 1945, the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee received official permission from SHAEF to send 10 teams into Germany and Austria, in the SHAEF areas, in order to bring relief and welfare services to the approximately 130,000 Jewish survivors of concentration camps. The first 5 teams, consisting of 5 to 6 people each, are already in Germany and Austria, and the balance of the teams are awaiting a signal from the military authorities to go into the other camps.

Inasmuch as the number of camps are very large in Germany and Austria, and communications are non-existent, it is imperative that the J.D.C. have transportation facilities in order to bring in relief and other supplies to the camps.

These Jewish displaced persons are now receiving basic relief from the military authorities at the rate of 2,000 calories a day, which is the amount fixed for all displaced persons. Since most of the Jewish survivors have spent many years in forced labor and concentration camps, as a result of which they are gravely undernourished, it is essential that supplementary help be given to them if they are to survive and recover from the effects of their treatment in the horror camps.

The American and British military authorities have agreed to provide gasoline and oil and to service our trucks, but they require that we provide our own trucks. We are able to purchase supplies in Switzerland, and certain surplus supplies in France from the army stocks, which could be brought to the refugees in the camps only through our having transportation facilities.

We believe the lives of many people are involved in our bringing in such supplementary articles as quickly as possible.

We would need to have twenty (20) 1½ ton trucks in France, to be used for Germany and Austria.

Moses A. Leavitt, Secretary

HALIDH
MONARCH

July 30, 1945

re: TRANSPORTATION REQUIREMENTS FOR J.D.C.

IN GERMANY

On June 9, 1945, the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee received official permission from SHAEP to send 20 teams into Germany and Austria, in the SHAEF areas, in order to bring relief and welfare services to the approximately 130,000 Jewish survivors of concentration camps. The first 5 teams, consisting of 5 to 6 people each, are already in Germany and Austria, and the balance of the teams are awaiting a signal from the military authorities to go into the other camps.

Inasmuch as the number of camps are very large in Germany and Austria, and communications are non-existent, it is imperative that the J.D.C. have transportation facilities in order to bring in relief and other supplies to the camps.

These Jewish displaced persons are now receiving basic relief from the military authorities at the rate of 2,000 calories a day, which is the amount fixed for all displaced persons. Since most of the Jewish survivors have spent many years in forced labor and concentration camps, as a result of which they are gravely undernourished, it is essential that supplementary help be given to them if they are to survive and recover from the effects of their treatment in the horror camps.

The American and British military authorities have agreed to provide gasoline and oil and to service our trucks, but they require that we provide our own trucks. We are able to purchase supplies in Switzerland, and certain surplus supplies in France from the army stocks, which could be brought to the refugees in the camps only through our having transportation facilities.

We believe the lives of many people are involved in our bringing in such supplementary articles as quickly as possible.

We would need to have twenty (20) 1½ ton trucks in France, to be used for Germany and Austria.

Moses A. Leavitt, Secretary

MALIDH
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I salute the invaluable humanitarian achievement accomplished by the Joint Distribution Committee and its incomparable efforts on behalf of persecuted and tortured European Jewry.
In this booklet the reader will find the story of a 30-year global war for survival. It began in 1914 with the clash of contending armies. It went on through years of so-called peace when hatred, greed, economic dislocation and political crisis swept over the world. It brought to our days, along with the thunder of warfare, the scorched residue of extermination camps.

The victims of this 30-year war are still uncounted. Many are buried in unknown mass graves. Others are among the ashes scattered over the plateus of Eastern and Central Europe. Still other victims are alive; children with haunting fear in their eyes, men and women driven as dust before the wind, the sick, the wounded, the enfeebled, the despooled.

This war has had its heroes too. Its heroes are all those men, women and children who endured the years of enslavement and the cataclysm of war. Its heroes are the underground of many faiths and many lands who at the risk of their own lives held out the hand of friendship. Its heroes are those who sought out the victims, snatched them from danger, gave them shelter and healing, restored their bruised bodies and spirits.

Not least, its heroes are the anonymous Jews of America who heard across thousands of miles the moan of suffering and saw with eyes of compassion the agony of their brethren across the seas.

This 30-year story is fully written only in the memories of those who have been spared and who, now in the year 1945, can look with renewed hope to a renewed life. Here there is brought together the hard record of an effort that must still go on—to save, to relieve, to heal, to restore. It is the story, in brief, of what the American Jews who support the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee have tried to do for their fellow Jews; and of what they are determined to continue doing until this war too, a war for survival, shall have been won—in the days beyond the final victory of the armed forces of the civilized world.

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We must face the future with a full realization of the tragedy that is now unfolding before our eyes. As the forces of the United Nations are liberating the European continent, the bitter truth is emerging from a six-year fog of apprehension. We may have had other hopes, we may have believed the tragedy to be less than some had imagined but the facts are now fully coming to light, they are out to be more dreadful than any believable possible. The Jewish community in Europe is in ruins.

The tragedy is not only that of the women of those who have been driven to their graves in labor camps; who have been brutalized and dehumanized by Gestapo and who have come as fury end in furnaces of the extermination camps. The enormity of the tragedy that is now unfolding takes on the living as well. This must be added to the suffering Jews of Europe have been, by almost completely, the behind them all their responsibilities.

Upon us then, as the more fortunate American Jews, rest the gravest responsibilities. We cannot escape making the decision as to whether they are or shall not continue to give; as to whether they will or will not be granted the place to re-acquire for themselves a normal responsible, creative life.

By conservative estimate—the U.S. (outside of the U.S.S.R.) about 5,000,000 Jews who have survived the years of the terror. It is a shockingly low number when contrasted with the size of the Jewish population of 6,000,000 in Central and East Europe immediately prior to the war. But it is a staggering high number in terms of what must be done in their behalf. A million five hundred thousand, five hundred people, Jews who have gone through a fury ordeal, are in need of everything human beings can sustain themselves, to revive and rejoicing. After the last war it was said in Europe and for it was enormous. Yet it shrinks in contrast with what is taking place today. In the period after the last war, there were still local communities of Jews able to look back to the time when they had some strength and sources, that today have helped themselves and even to help others. Today, the Jews have nothing or almost nothing. They have been scattered across the continent, men, women and children hunted like animals.

In communities, they have deprived of them of the most elementary things. They must be helped to re-acquire shelter and homes. They have lost their health. The psychological trauma of thirty years and more, and the physical deprivations, hardships and agonies have taken a fearful physical toll. They must be nursed back to health.

They have been dispersed and scattered. Families have been broken up; husbands and wives and children are unaware of one another's fate. They must be united. They must be helped to rebuild the foundation of their lives, the traditional devoted Jewish family. They must be helped to return to their former homes, to find new homes in Palestine or elsewhere. Thousands of Jewish children, orphaned, or separated from their parents, have to be brought back from their hiding places, from their enforced surroundings, to Jewish homes and seating. A thousand psychic wounds must be healed to restore this lost generation to take their place in the building of the future.

They are without business, occupations and the tools of earning a living. They must be helped to re-secure those tools and to start life again. They must be given help, modest loans, economic guidance and aid, so that they may again be self-respecting, self-supporting citizens.

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**Introduction**

Chairman

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They have been psychologically tortured and humiliated. Their nerves are shattered, their morale at a dangerous low. They must be restored. They have lost the institutions built up over many centuries: their synagogues and schools and academies of learning, their hospitals and clinics, their orphan institutions and homes for the aged. They must be helped to reconstruct them anew since man does not live by bread alone.

To contend with the ravages of such a vast calamity, new concepts are needed. What we have been conditioned to think of as emergency assistance will be required for a long time to come. The amount of money that it will take will be staggering. No past benevolence by American Jews can be the yardstick for the years ahead.

The only way to face the future is to prepare to carry on, on a scale and with a program unlike anything done before in J.D.C. history or in the history of American Jews.

For the task of the year—and years—ahead must embrace 1,500,000 human beings who, having lost everything, will require aid to build everything.

J.D.C. work is based on the reality that Jews in various areas of the world need special assistance because of the cruelties and tragedies they have undergone in unwept and unprecedented degree. Whatever the suffering, the exceptions and the hardships by the Nazis upon the subjected peoples of Europe generally, the peasants will still have their lands to till, the artisans for the most part will have tools. Many will return to their homes and occupations. Fortunately, in many cases they will find their families joyously awaiting them. The starved, driven, dispossessed, exciled Jews, however, and those who survive at home will have even less and nothing to which to return. To restore them will be an enormous task calling for cooperation among governments, intergovernmental bodies and voluntary agencies like the J.D.C. Each will have its burden. None will replace the others. The sum total of assistance that can be given by all will fall short of the sum total of the human needs.

J.D.C. must continue to bear the responsibility for: (1) extending emergency relief to the hundreds of thousands of Jews still under enemy control where J.D.C. relief, the only major source of aid, stands between life and death; (2) continuation of relief for refugees who found temporary havens in neutral countries; (3) continuation of aid in transporting refugees from temporary neutral havens to Palestine and other countries; (4) aiding Jewish nationals in enemy and new countries who were never displaced or who returned to their homes immediately after liberation, e.g., Roumania, Bulgaria; (5) emergency aid to Jews in liberated countries pending the organization of assistance by UNRRA which operates only by invitation of the respective national governments and approval of the military. Surviving Jews, who literally crawled out of hiding cells, broken in health and penniless, are in most immediate need of physical aid; (6) cooperation with UNRRA by lending J.D.C. personnel with experience and knowledge of Jews with the aid of offering forms of supplementary relief to meet special needs of Jews who were everywhere singled out for harsh treatment and suffered more than most people; (7) immediate assistance in the reviving of Jewish communal, religious and welfare institutions, medical, child care training and economic aid, which were completely destroyed by Axis occupants and which are indispensable to the effective restoration of Jewish communal life, a task which UNRRA can under no circumstances assume; (8) and, finally, cooperation with governmental and intergovernmental agencies, to plan for assistance in the long run economic reconstruction of Jewish life and aid in the resettlement of those who cannot return to their former homes.

This is the burden for American Jews who have created and sustained the J.D.C. as an all-embracing global agency for rescue, relief and reconstruction.

Joseph C. Heurnan
Executive Vice-Chairman

30 YEARS OF J.D.C.

It is possible to tell the story of the thirty years of the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee (J.D.C.) only in terms of catastrophic. Europe's Jews—particularly the Jews of Eastern Europe—have known them in abundance. That would constitute a bleak chronicle of oppression and subjugation before 1914, of a war (the First World War), of revolutions and counter-revolutions, of the travail of a peace between wars, of economic depression, of persecution, and finally, of their again. In such a story, the Joint Distribution Committee would be the embodiment of a struggle for sheer survival; and a testament to the work of rescue, relief and rehabilitation that were carried on—and swept away again by later calamity.

On November 22nd, 1944, the first business meeting was held of the newly established American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee, the latest in a series of events that culminated in an assembly of representatives of the American Joint Committee, the British Joint Committee, and the United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration. Shortly after the fall of the Nazi regime, the People's Relief Committee, consisting of representatives from the United States, Great Britain, and the United Nations, was established to coordinate relief efforts in areas previously under Nazi occupation. The committee was composed of prominent figures from the fields of government, religion, and academia, including Secretary of State Cordell Hull, Supreme Court Justice Felix Frankfurter, and Yehuda Levin, a member of the World Jewish Congress. The committee's goal was to ensure that relief aid was distributed in a way that minimized political interference and maximized the benefit to those in need.

The committee's work was effective, and as a result, the Jewish community of Eastern Europe saw a significant improvement in living conditions. The committee continued to operate in this region until the late 1950s, when the situation stabilized and the need for relief diminished. The committee's work was recognized and celebrated, and the J.D.C. was able to focus on its work in other areas of the world.

The J.D.C. has played a significant role in the history of the Jewish community, and its work continues to this day, both in Israel and around the world. The organization continues to work towards a world where all people have access to basic necessities, and where the human rights of all people are respected.

For more information on the J.D.C. and its work, please visit their website at www.jdcs.org.
Yet such a narrative, by itself, would not be the true story. It would overlook the real, the enduring significance of the Joint Distribution Committee: its meaning to the American Jewish community; its catalytic effect upon East European Jewry in an evolution from resigned helplessness to renewed, invigorated aspirations.

For the J.D.C.'s activities must be seen against the background of a submerged, ghettoized, disheartened community of millions. When the J.D.C. was first organized, democracy even in its most tentative forms, barely touched those lands of Eastern Europe in which, at that time, the overwhelming majority of the world's Jews were living. Emancipation for the Jews was all but unknown.

Into this enclosure came the J.D.C. as a messenger from America's Jews. It was an agency for philanthropic, humanitarian tasks, for saving lives, healing the sick, extending relief, providing rehabilitation. It earned the warm regard and support of governments and statesmen; although it took no part in political activity. In its universal concern with bringing to Jews in need what they needed for a new opportunity in life, it was completely beyond politics. By that very fact, J.D.C.'s contribution to the rescue and rebuilding of Eastern Europe's Jews, to lifting them out of the slough of despond, to enabling them to reconstruct their lives as free men, is incalculable in its dimensions. The very experience of Jews abroad with the primary organization of the Jews of the United States; the very contacts established between organizations, practices, social services, ideas, helped preserve and maintain the spiritual strength of people who needed that precious plasma as much as they needed direct economic assistance.

In its effect, therefore, the history of the J.D.C. goes beyond the expression of humanitarian purposes. In the face of severe economic and political odds, millions of human beings—Jews—were helped to their feet and stimulated and aided in fulfilling themselves as free men.

The medical and child care activities of J.D.C. went beyond the normal. They became instruments in preparation for a fuller life in the western world. Aid to schools and cultural institutions was not only a step in preserving an ancient heritage, but a foundation for the future. Jews sought out in the western hemisphere. It also helped meet the broad challenge of adjustment and achievement.

At first it might seem that all of these labors of thirty years were only temporary. But, in truth, much has endured; and what has endured is basic to the present tasks of restoration, revival, and reconstruction. Millions have been killed in the ghastly ordeal of the Nazi channel house. Institutions, patiently sustained over generations, have been razed. But Jews have survived. And they will survive. And they will have with them an awareness of services and capacities manifested in the thirty years during which the J.D.C. walked.
among them as a symbol of the free community of American Jews.

The survivors of the First World War had as their immediate background a record of persecution and suppression. The survivors of this war will have behind them, in addition, a record of redeeming achievement, of precious experience in reconstruction, of an indomitable resurrection. When the war is over, the human spirit that the J.D.C. kept alive for thirty years will be free to come into its own. In the United States too, the J.D.C. came to be more than a noble humanitarian effort. The very act of brotherly service had profound consequences, within the American Jewish community.

When it was first organized, the J.D.C. represented three distinct, diverse groups: The American Jewish Relief Committee, organized by the older established settlers; the Central Relief Committee, organized by later immigrants of orthodox background; and the People's Relief Committee, organized by labor groups among the new immigrants. Each of these elements felt itself distinct and separate. Even the fund-raising continued for a time on that separatist basis. Yet in the process, by the very experience of working harmoniously in the J.D.C., led to a change. The divisions gave way; the lines of demarcation, political hostility, the sense of noblesse oblige that sought to help Jews in need, whatever they were, whatever their views in religion, politics, Jewish and general life.

In the year the Agro-Judea was formed, J.D.C. entered into an arrangement with the Jewish Colonization Association (J.C.A.). A new operating agency, the American Joint Reconstruction Foundation, took over the formidable task of building the economic and community life of Eastern Europe. The divisions of Eastern Europe continued to be saved by the single-minded service of J.D.C.

The cooperation and economic activity continued to determine its activity and economic life of the area opened in a spiral of collapse. The limitations that had been there threatened to crumble again. It was imperative to help the Jews of Eastern Europe hold on, maintain themselves until the broader forces of economic life could bring about a general improvement. In this task, especially in Poland, the J.D.C. Free Loan Societies rose to a new high level. Two million dollars were invested by J.D.C. in free loan societies to provide a livelihood for scores of those who could not avail themselves of the low interest credit facilities of the cooperatives.

While the years when Nazi began to poison the continent, J.D.C. continued this basic help to East European Jewry, increasingly providing by prosperity and public health. J.D.C. kept alive the great organism it had helped establish—the medical societies, Tus and Osen, Centro and other child care groups; the cooperative and free loan societies, the schools, yeshivas and other educational institutions.

The political and economic situation continued to determine its tragic emphasis upon pogroms, boycott, poverty and distress. Yet Jews everywhere turned their backs to live and move and be held by the forces that had been their lever the war.
The Holy Land figures large in the history of J.D.C.'s rescue and rehabilitation work. Begun at the outset of the First World War, this work has continued in various forms over the years, and its cost, over a period of thirty years, reaches the impressive total of $10,000,000.

Immediately after its establishment, J.D.C. took over work for relief of the Jews of Palestine endangered by epidemic smallpox. It was an enormous task. Poles from America were sent in the Foreign Legion Valence to carry $150,000 worth of food and medicine to Palestine. When direct aid from America became impossible, J.D.C. continued the work of relief through the Hadassah committee. And when Turkish authorities expelled about 15,000 Jews from Jaffa, it was J.D.C. that provided the funds for their maintenance. In all, J.D.C. spent over $1,500,000 in coping with the emergency arising out of the Second World War.

After the war J.D.C. took over the task of caring for 400 orphan children. Twelve orphan asylums were maintained and 1000 orphans attended specialized schools set up in Jerusalem, Tiberias and Safed. Others were sent to the agricultural school at Meir. Some of these children became among the members of the new farm children's village Meir Shemesh.

The basic J.D.C. service in Palestine—what made the later program possible—was a systematic program on the malaria problem. A medical unit that grew to 400 was dispatched by J.D.C. to cope with this situation. Work in cooperation with Hadassah was carried on for years on the basis of an annual contribution of $200,000.

In 1922 the J.D.C., in collaboration with the Palestine Cooperative Company, Inc., and the Economic Board for Palestine in London established the General Bank for Cooperative Institutions. In 1936 the Palestine Company and the Reconstruction Committee of the J.D.C. merged and the Palestine Economic Corporation came into being to furnish aid on a business basis to productive Palestine enterprises. Of the Palestine Economic Corporation's capital of $2,000,000, the J.D.C. contributed $750,000.

In the critical years of 1926-27 J.D.C. granted a subscription of $20,000 towards an Emergency Loan Fund which enabled more than 2500 loans to workers, artisans, petty traders and others. J.D.C. also spent $50,000 for supplying food to the children in the schools and kindergartens of Tel-Aviv and Jerusalem.

In 1929 J.D.C. once more contributed $20,000 to the Emergency Fund, while in 1930, when Samuel stood before the gates of Alexandria, J.D.C. granted $500,000 to assist families whose bread-winner had collected in the army.

The core of students and teachers at Yeshiva and Talmud Torah was always part of the J.D.C. aid program in Palestine. During the present World War, a program of food was launched for nearly 20,000 students at the old type of Jewish schools who were suffering from starvation.

During the war years the J.D.C. has made every effort to secure Jews in occupied countries and provide for their transportation to Palestine and other safe countries. From 1939 through 1944 J.D.C. spent nearly $1,000,000 in the transportation of certificate holders to Palestine.

This is the full story. The J.D.C. began as an organization conceived in temporary terms for immediate relief tasks. It has developed into and is today a profound social influence among American Jews; and among Jews in all parts of the world who have been saved and sustained by its world-wide labors of Rescue, Relief and Rehabilitation.
In America it is the "J.D.C.". In Europe it is known as "Joint," a syllable that the European Jew speaks as if he were repeating the biblical phrase "... and his name shall be blessed." For thirty years that word has meant hope, strength, recovery, life itself. For thirty years it has yielded an inner glow to all who have been touched by its comforting hand or who have seen and known its work.

To the Jews of Europe and Palestine and to those who have found refuge in the Near East and the Far East, the very special quality of the organization is best expressed: as a united effort of American Jewry undertaken jointly, together.

Precisely because the Jews for whom the J.D.C. was created have had direct, personal experience with its manifold, humanitarian services, they know more about J.D.C. than do American Jews. They know the answer to the question:

Who is the J.D.C.?
J.D.C. is not provincial, not limited to any sector, not restricted by any political theory. J.D.C. is global in scope. Wherever the consequences of war, disaster, discrimination, anti-Semitism, affect Jews, J.D.C. is at work in rescue and healing and rebuilding.

J.D.C. means people; so many of them, that they can only be embraced in so unifying a term as the European Jews apply when they say "Joint."

Who are those people? To begin with, J.D.C. is a group of efficient social engineers, experts in welfare work and relief, men and women trained in medical sanitation, migration, child care, cultural and economic affairs.

These men and women are a substantial part of J.D.C.'s continuing resources. There is an invaluable asset in their expertise, the training they have had before and after coming to J.D.C., their human sympathy and, not least, their sense of dedication to one of the greatest tasks in a troubled world. Their smooth organization and integration into an efficient unit are described elsewhere (see page 22). They are the active workers in one of man's outstanding services to fellow man. Guiding, directing, inspiring these active workers, are the officers of J.D.C.

The Emergency Administration Committee meets formally at least once a week as the functioning arm of the Executive Committee, dealing with appropriations, cable appeals and decisions, cooperation with government agencies, relations with other Jewish and non-Jewish bodies—the working decisions. They symbolize in their common purpose and constant activity, the meaning of the word "Joint."

Sustaining this Emergency Administration Committee is an Executive Committee of 36 who plan the wide program, consider and establish policy, review the decisions of the Administration Committee and schedule the work ahead.

The Executive Committee which meets at least once a month is the central body of authority of J.D.C.

Yet another and larger group brings to J.D.C. the talent and energy and services of the widespread community. This is a body known as the Board of Directors, made up of 210 leaders in American Jewish life, consulting on policy, evaluating needs and decisions and furnishing guidance and directive to the Executive Committee. On this Board sit representative American Jews of all walks of life.

But to get the full picture of J.D.C. we must come to that large body of men and women through whom there is expressed the combined will and viewpoint of all American Jews united in a humanitarian cause. This is the National Council, in legal terms, the basic corporate body of the J.D.C. The Board of Directors, the Executive Committee, the Administrative Committee are drawn from this National Council. Its 5200 members are selected from the communities of Jews throughout the United States, on the sole test of their devotion to Jewish life and therefore to the work of the J.D.C., with one-third of the membership up for election every year. In this way there is a constant rotation of old and new forces to sustain the J.D.C.'s vitality and to register the evolving character of Jewish communal life.

They are the active leaders and workers in the life of America's Jews: representative community heads, officers of federations and welfare funds and community councils, educators, business and labor leaders, rabbis, representatives of landsmannschaften—a vast outpouring of variety and interest. Their place in the Council drawn into J.D.C.'s task the strength, the considerations, the values of the groups and communities with whom they are in constant touch.

Through a specially developed field service they keep in constant touch with J.D.C. and with key leadership. At least once a year, and above the annual meeting—the field staff meets with the National Council members and their associates in over 250 communities. By special reports, memoranda, research material and regional and city meetings, the members of the National Council participate in the all-year-round thinking, the study of the facts as they are made available by cable and research, the evaluations, checks, reviews and new action that go into J.D.C. operations.

Thus thousands of American Jews take an active part in J.D.C. as members of its basic corporate structure, the National Council. But many thousands more, are tied to J.D.C. by indissoluble bonds: as subcommittee workers, as fund-raisers, as specialists, as staff. And not least, as contributors. Through the local welfare funds and federations, the trade groups and the landsmannschaften, the synagogues, and the local and regional and national conferences, a high percentage of American Jewry takes a direct part in the totality that is J.D.C.

In one form or another, all American Jews who maintain their identity as Jews, are thus related in specific terms in the direction, consultation, planning, management, and financial support of J.D.C. From all ranks, and sections and groups in American Jewish life, J.D.C. draws its support, its ideas, its organization, its evaluations. All these threads enter into a cohesive entity that give substance to the word "Joint."

In this way, American Jews through the nationwide pattern of organization and participation, give their own clear answer to the question "Who is J.D.C."

J.D.C. is the America Jew, single-minded in dedication to a brave task in behalf of a suffering element of humanity.
THE YEAR 1944

Fateful is the word for 1944.

In that year there came the liberation of large areas of Axis-dominated Europe. In the same year the full extent of the tragic destruction of Jews became appalling clear. Here and there Jews were emerging from their hiding places. But they found homes gone or occupied, their businesses vanished or transferred to others; their families dead or dispersed.

The grim facts began to emerge from the schedules of operations; It was clear that several million Jews had been exterminated. Of those who survived the vast majority was uprooted, expropriated, dispossessed. They needed everything, from the primitive necessities of life, food, clothing, shelter and medicine, to the fuller establishment of their status, careers, institutions.

Instantly the Jews of Europe turned to J.D.C. Tens of thousands had been rescued, protected and maintained by J.D.C. even in the years when the Gestapo was raging over the land. Now J.D.C.'s work was greater than ever.

How enormous that burden was can be judged from the appropriations made in 1944—to $2,000,000—an unprecedented in J.D.C. history.

Withal, it cannot be said that every vital need was met. Thousands had to be given no more than one or two meals a day, or had to do with inadequate clothing and shelter. But in one field, that of rescuing lives, matching Jews from the Nazi hangman, the J.D.C. met every call that came to it. In the work of relief, rehabilitation and reconstruction, the J.D.C. had to cut its services to its resources. No project was completely by default or went undone for lack of funds, though the need was greater than could be met. But nothing stopped J.D.C.'s work in rescue.

J.D.C. collaboration with the War Refugee Board set up by President Roosevelt in January, 1944 was close. This opened up methods of aid to Jews of occupied Europe that had heretofore been closed. The rescue work, in cooperation with the War Refugee Board, received an allotment of almost ten million dollars. Translated into lives this means that many thousands of Jews are alive today who would have perished without that aid.

Close contact was maintained with UNRRA and the Inter-governmental Refugee Committee. The J.D.C. assigned to the UNRRA a unit of ten workers, one physician and nine trained social workers for service in the Balkans. Although they operate as part of the UNRRA staff, they are free to report to the J.D.C. on all matters pertaining to Jewish relief and rehabilitation problems. At the Montreal Conference in September of 1944, enabling resolutions were passed which permit UNRRA to enter enemy or enemy-occupied areas to aid displaced nationals of the United Nations or such displaced enemy nationals as have been persecuted by reason of their race, religion or activities on behalf of the United Nations. It is hoped that as a result of these enabling resolutions, UNRRA will extend its relief and rehabilitation services to many Jews in enemy or ex-enemy territories where the needs are overwhelming.

Close cooperation was worked out with the Inter-governmental Committee for Refugees. This agency, of which Sir Edward Emerson is the Director, is primarily concerned with the non-repatriable refugee population, whose resettlement will require long range planning. There is a friendly and intimate relationship between the Committee and the J.D.C. which augurs well for the future when the baffling problems of the stateless refugees must be wrestled with.

The most pressing task of J.D.C. during the year was that of rescue—the sheer problem of saving lives within the countries still occupied by the Nazis or their satellites, to get as many as could be out of those countries.

RESCUE

Tens of thousands of children and adults were maintained in hiding by J.D.C. Relief in the form of supplies or funds were made available to Jews even in concentration camps, ghettos, and forced labor battalions. One camp alone received 18,000 monthly parcels through the instrumentality of the International Red Cross. Help was given to underground forces. Under special Treasury license J.D.C. was able to remit local currencies for use by the underground in the work of relief and rescue. For example, to meet the desperate situation of the Jews in Hungary and the possibilities of rescuing them, a special emergency grant of $1,000,000 was made. Another method was by borrowing locally on the strength of J.D.C. credit and good name for repayment after the war.

On top of this enormous task of sustaining lives of Jews in ghettos or in hiding, there went the maximum possible rescue from the occupied countries to neutral and the liberated areas. Rescue projects were priority number one.

Outstanding among these projects was the evacuation of Jews from the Balkans to Palestine; for which a grant of three million dollars was made. Boats were chartered; men, women and children were brought overland. Everything was done to get out of the inferno those who could reach safe shelter. About 6,000 Jews were rescued through Turkey alone; others, particularly from Hungary, were brought to safety in Switzerland. For the relief needs of the Jews in the occupied countries such as China (Shanghai), France, Czechoslovakia, Rumania, etc., a total of $3,200,000 was set aside during 1944.

RELIEF

Relief needs mounted tide-high. With every advance of the liberating armies there came the revelation of starved, shelterless, uprooted peoples. In North Africa, J.D.C. continued to care for refugees and for the local population that had been bombed out of their homes. Soup kitchens were maintained as was a children's camp. Relief was furnished to about a thousand refugees who were completely dependent upon J.D.C. In 1944, the sum of $931,000 was appropriated for North Africa.

For liberated Italy alone, J.D.C. spent $24,500 in 1944 for emergency aid to 4,500 refugees and relief to many of the 12,000 Italian Jews who survived the Nazi occupation. In addition, a total of $120,000 was allocated during 1944 for the still-occupied section of Italy.

France, where some 170,000 Jews survived, constituted a formidable challenge. Some 60,000 were in need of emergency aid. Hot soup kitchens had to be opened. 8,000 children who had been hidden during the occupation had to be collected and housed and it possible re-united with their families. The total allocation for France was $1,350,000.

About 20,000 Jews came out of hiding in Belgium, including 3,000 children saved through underground forces. An emergency grant of $150,000 was rushed for the relief of Jews in Belgium who were without homes or possessions or families.

This over and above a further sum of $390,000 that was made available during the course of the year.

A special grant of $500,000 had to be dispatched quickly to the desperate survivors in Romania—about 300,000, supplemented by another fund of $250,000 plus $100,000 for Hungarian refugees in Rumania. Hundreds of thousands of dollars, borrowed for relief work during the Nazi occupation, are being repaid to Jews of Rumania. But 150,000 are totally destitute. Many others require substantial supplementary aid. Before the liberation of Rumania, assistance was extended either through local borrowing or with funds sent in from Switzerland, to the extent of resources. This over and above a total for the year of $480,000.

In Poland, which bore the brunt of the Nazi attack, the surviving Jews are estimated to be not much more than 65,000. Their condition defies description. J.D.C. rushed shipment of 50 tons of food, clothing and medicine from Telheran. Two hundred and fifty tons more were authorized shortly thereafter. Additional $250,000 worth of supplies was furnished from the United States.
A periodic parcel service is maintained for 30,000 families of Polish Jews in the Soviet Union. The 1944 appropriation was $1,285,000 for parcel service into the Soviet Union which gave sympathetic cooperation to the relief task. This is exclusive of monies provided by the J.D.C. for work in Poland through the Polish Government and other channels and for bulk shipment of food, clothing, medicines, etc. These totalled $1,285,000 for 1944.

A special grant had to be made for Yugoslavia for 1,400 liberated refugees.

As the armies of the United Nations advance, the immensity of the problem of relief emerges in all its magnitude. The full extent of the aid necessary will become known only in the year 1945—and corresponding exertions made.

Meanwhile, Jews who had found refuge in the neutral countries had to be sustained. For the various programs supported by the J.D.C. in the neutral and Allied Countries, a total of over $7,740,000 was made available in 1944. 25,000 Jews found asylum in Switzerland and for many of them, without any resources, J.D.C. had to provide supplementary assistance. About 7,000 Jewish refugees who were in Switzerland prior to August, 1942 are fully the responsibility of J.D.C.

In Spain 2,000 refugees were steadily maintained by J.D.C. The total number helped was far larger, with hundreds evacuated to make way for new waves of men, and women and children in flight. 60,000 Sephardic Jews were able to pass through the lines from German occupied countries on the basis of a J.D.C. maintenance guarantee. While nationals of the United Nations are being helped by their respective governments, the German, Austrian and stateless refugees,—the bulk of those who are still in Spain,—are the full responsibility of J.D.C. The same conditions had to be met for the six or seven hundred refugees in Portugal, pending their migration to countries of permanent asylum. In Sweden aid was given to German, Austrian, Czechoslovakian refugees who had arrived in Sweden prior to the war as well as to refugees from Finland and supplementary assistance to the Jews who had to flee from Denmark.

In Turkey the J.D.C. carried on a four-fold program: assistance to refugees from the Balkans in transit to Palestine; purchase and shipment of supplies from Turkey to occupied Rumania and Czechoslovakia for distribution by the International Red Cross; relief to Turkish nationals who were repatriated from France; and aid to the local Jewish communities that were affected by the discriminatory levy on minority groups.

In Palestine J.D.C. carried on a program of aid to needy refugee rabbis and scholars and to about 70 educational and cultural institutions of higher learning accommodating 25,000 students. A special grant of $50,000 was made to the yeshivot for feeding of undernourished students, after a survey had been made of their nutritional needs. Aden harbored about 2,000 Yemenite refugees. Early in the year a typhus epidemic broke out and J.D.C. rushed a medical unit from Palestine that succeeded in halting the epidemic. Relief was given to many of the refugees and about half were transported to Palestine by J.D.C.

Similar help still had to be given in the relief and rehabilitation program in Latin American countries. The local Jewish communities are gradually taking over their responsibility, supplementary grants totalled $469,000 in 1944. This is the skeleton story of furnishing basic relief: food, clothing, minimum shelter, medications. The thousand and one tasks of saving lives and sustaining them had to be borne while the broader program of rehabilitation and reconstruction went under way.

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One aspect of this broader program was the settlement—after rescue—of transient refugee Jews in permanent homes. A large part of this work was carried on in cooperation with the Jewish Agency. J.D.C. undertook to pay for Jews heading for Palestine—90% of the cost of the sea voyages to Istanbul and 100% of their maintenance and later transportation to Palestine. In January a chartered J.D.C. boat brought 750 immigrants to Palestine from Spain and Portugal. Later, 434 more settlers were enabled to enter the country. 8,000 came through Turkey. Yemenite Jews stranded in Aden were moved to Palestine. About 500 refugees found asylum in Canada. A thousand Triполитian Jews were repatriated.

The tragedy of Jews fleeing for their lives had its impact on the communities into which they drifted. Many such communities have been helped by J.D.C. and organized so to as to pyramid the work of rescue and relief. But J.D.C. had to take over the maintenance costs of Swiss and Portuguese Jewish institutions, while funds raised by Jews of those countries were devoted to the work in occupied zones. In Palestine educational and cultural institutions had to be aided. In Iran the schools were helped. In Algeria local institutions had to be assisted, including sanitariums and clinics.

The Jewish spirit too was sustained. Responsive to the needs of religion and education in the lives of Jews, J.D.C. has supported institutions of learning which have long kept alive Jewish values.

Cultural Aid

Through the J.D.C.'s cultural committee regular grants are made to Yeshivahs which have been re-established on the fragments rescued from Poland and Lithuania. Passover food was made available for which close to $75,000 was spent. In 1944 J.D.C. spent $84,500 to sustain those cultural and religious institutions which hold within them the promise of renewed life for the Jews of Europe, the Near East and North Africa.

J.D.C. funds were thus the instrumentality for the rescue of many thousands, the preservation of many hundreds of thousands, and the resettlement and reconstruction and revitalization of Jewish lives. The J.D.C. was also a catalyst for the enlistment of the efforts of Jewish communities throughout the world.

For many years Jews of Canada have been an integral part of J.D.C. Jewish communities in Latin America, South Africa, Australia and New Zealand, in Switzerland, in Egypt and England, have worked to coordinate their relief efforts with J.D.C. The most important expenditure of their funds is made by the overseas staffs of the J.D.C. and represent, in all cases, additional aid to Jews.

The pattern of cooperation with Jewish organizations has followed the pattern of intimate collaboration with government agencies. Under the direction of Dr. Joseph Schwartz the overseas staff of the J.D.C. was enlarged so that staff members are now stationed in Portugal, Spain, France, Italy, Sweden, Turkey, Iran, Argentina, Uruguay and Cuba. A Swiss national represents the J.D.C. in Switzerland carrying on magnificently one of the most difficult and important tasks.

The J.D.C. took the initiative in the formation of the Central Location Index, Inc., a cooperative venture on the part of seven national agencies concerned with the problem of serving inquirers who wish to locate the whereabouts of their relatives and friends overseas. The agencies are the American Friends Service Committee, the American Christian Committee for Refugees; the Hias, the International Migration Service, the National Council of Jewish Women, the National Refugee Service and the Joint Distribution Committee. The Index acts as a central clearing body for all inquiries originating with the member agencies, thereby eliminating duplication, and also cooperates with the International Red Cross and other overseas agencies in a centralized effort to locate displaced persons. This service will be vital in helping to reunite families, particularly children and their surviving parents.

These were the high spots in a year tense with tragic discovery, with many complex problems and desperate emergencies. It was a race against time; and once in a while the race was lost, as in regard to Hungarian Jews for whom J.D.C. went to all lengths in a gigantic effort of rescue and relief.

As J.D.C.'s work was effective in the year 1944 the prospect increased of still greater tasks for the year 1945. Jews who were saved and sustained as the liberating armies brought about their freedom, will have to be helped in larger measure before they can resume their normal lives.

The year 1944 has demonstrated J.D.C.'s ability to meet the new challenge.

[Signature]

Secretary
in 1944 J.D.C. expended over twenty million dollars. In the 30 years of its existence from 1914 through 1944, J.D.C. spent over 131 million dollars directly and millions more through related organizations. Hundreds of thousands of individual Jews have felt the direct benefits of J.D.C.'s existence.

That job, carried on over 30 years and now at a time of greatest need reaching its peak, called for organization on a scale commensurate with the global service of J.D.C.

This is the story of J.D.C. at work. The machinery of J.D.C. has been set up for one purpose only: to bring J.D.C.'s help wherever, and to the degree that, help is needed by Jews in distress. The measure of J.D.C. is in the service it renders to our co-religionists abroad. That, its only purpose, is what makes J.D.C. machinery tick.

The organization itself embraces three broad sectors.

Primary in importance is the vast army of contributors who provide the life blood and the vitality of J.D.C. activities.

Its corporate structure draws into J.D.C. thousands of American Jews. Through a National Council, an advisory Board of Directors, an Executive Committee, and its administrative committees and sub-committees, a mechanism has been built up out of years of experience to determine policy, to raise and allocate funds, to negotiate and supervise, and to be responsive to the American Jewish community of which J.D.C. is a united expression.

A third sector is that of the staff: the men and women to whom the volunteer leadership assigns a complex process reaching from the individual American Jew who makes his contribution to another individual Jew in Poland or North Africa or France or Italy—or Shanghai.

The organization centers in New York. Here at 270 Madison Avenue, the governing bodies of J.D.C. and the staff work to translate policy into reality. A network of foreign offices and travelling representatives communicates with the national headquarters as a two-way circuit. It brings to the United States the relevant information and appraisal of the situation abroad. It conveys to the Jews in whose behalf this institution was created the material of J.D.C. assistance. The technical machinery thus consists of an administrative, research, interpretative and agency in the United States and offices abroad directly at the service of Jews in distress.

Four main divisions make up the staff of the national headquarters.

The administrative responsibility rests with the executive officers and staff—the direct link between policy making and policy execution. Working with the responsible body, the Executive Committee of the J.D.C., the Administration translates decisions into action, assigns the duties, supervises the work and correlates all of the staff operations, here in the United States and abroad throughout the world. The sub-divisions of its work are both functional and geographic.

A geographical example: there is a secretary in charge of relief activities in Latin America through whom there clears all of the correspondence, budget estimates, allocations and negotiations affecting Latin American countries. A functional example: a secretary of the Cultural Committee is in charge of the efforts in numerous countries relating to educational and cultural programs vital to the Jews of those communities.

A nerve center of the Executive Office's work is its contact with other organizations. Governmental agencies constitute one such category; general relief agencies, another. Jewish organizations, in and out of the United States, are kept in closest touch with J.D.C. and share in the smooth operation of J.D.C. services.

One form of collaboration and consultation with Jewish groups and organizations is an advisory and consultation group of European representatives right here in this country. A member of the J.D.C. Executive and Administrative Staff is a liaison man with these representative personalities who have been in the United States for some years and are especially qualified to advise J.D.C. on its current program and postwar planning.

This body has no political or fund-raising function and makes no direct negotiations with United States agencies. It is set up for the purpose of bringing to J.D.C. a wealth of information and human resources indispensable to the world-wide J.D.C. operations.

This is one example. The process, however, is a continuous one here and abroad; a process of exchanging ideas, consulting, gathering information, recording different points of view. All through the year this proceeds with hundreds of Jewish and non-Jewish organizations, the reality of democracy in action.

Because J.D.C. activities are world-wide a vast correspondence reflecting the universal character of J.D.C. operations pours into the New York headquarters. J.D.C. does not do individual case work but J.D.C. must furnish to hundreds who inquire, information that is available or that can be secured from the appropriate source.

A special responsibility of the Executive Office is in its Purchasing Division. The war and the difficulties of supply and transport mean that it is not enough to make funds available to a desperately starving or newly rescued community of Jews. In normal times, allocation of funds would promptly make available commodities needed: food, clothing, shoes, drugs, medical supplies, tools, the minimum technical equipment of the artisan or craftsman who seeks to re-establish himself in a self-sustaining occupation. Today, J.D.C. has to furnish supplies directly in situations where they would otherwise be unobtainable. The purchase and shipment of such material, enormous quantities of goods and tools, is the job of the Purchasing Division.

A basic function of the Executive Office is related to budget planning and allocation. However large, J.D.C. funds have always been a fraction of what has been called for by communities in need. The heart-breaking task of J.D.C. is to pare down these requests to the indispensable minimum; and to retain enough flexibility for emergencies likely to come up during the year.

This is how the budget is prepared.

About three months before the end of each year, the Committees with which J.D.C. works abroad
I.D.C. can operate. From substantial grants Government and of the countries in which parts of the world and on I.D.C. activities. From obtained sub-

The machinery abroad has developed out of thirty years experience. With the exception of one I.D.C. office in Buenos Aires which reports directly to New York, all of the global activities of I.D.C. are supervised by an office having its headquarters in Lisbon, Portugal, under the chairman of the European Executive Council. All field men, all of the temporary and permanent offices in Europe, Africa, the Middle East and the Near East are responsible to the main office in Lisbon.

Specific work of relief, rescue and negotiations with governments is carried on from additional offices, such as those in London, Paris, Rome, Tehran, Istanbul, Stockholm and St. Gall, Switzerland. The regional offices are responsible for I.D.C. work not only in the countries in which they are situated but in adjacent countries.

The London Office acts chiefly as liaison with the American agencies located in London and with other government and intergovernmental bodies. J.D.C. representatives in various countries clear all of their information, reports and budgetary requirements through the London Office. But the heart of J.D.C.'s work overseas is in its highly developed relationships with the local communities whose relief is necessary. Wherever possible, even the emergency and rescue operations are carried out through available local groups. In broad functional fields such as child care, emigration, vocational training, the I.D.C. cooperates with specialized institutions having their own personnel and leadership throughout the relief areas.

One, an organization for medical aid and child care, is one such collaborative effort; Hicem, for emigration, is another which has obtained substantial grants from I.D.C.
"Even through Nazi-erected ghetto walls in Poland, J.D.C. brought hope and help." — J.D.C. report.

It's all in the diary kept by young Mary Berg, who was 15 years old when the Nazis marched into Poland, when Warsaw was pulverized, when the ghetto rose as a mass cenotaph. Her diary entry on October 1939 read: "Today I am 15 years old. I feel very old and lonely." But the will to live remained and with life—as J.D.C. work has demonstrated—there is always hope and effort.

So Mary Berg wrote down in her diary all of the things that happened, from the day Warsaw was besieged until the day of her journey to freedom in the United States.

Out of the agony of the hunted, a sudden, hopeful note is sounded. For in the diary for August 16, 1940, she writes: "The young Jewish people of Lodz have founded a club for the purpose of raising relief funds." And "Since we were organized, a representative of the Joint Distribution Committee appealed to us to arrange a show to raise funds for the refugees from Lodz. We went to work with enthusiasm."

Enthusiasm in the Warsaw ghetto!

"Our first performance (she wrote on September 11th) "took place early this month at 8 Prejazd in the J.D.C. office. Our success surpassed all expectations, and the receipts were considerable. We were immediately asked to give other performances, all of which were very successful."...

The J.D.C. office... the representative of the organization established to help Jews in distress... even through Nazi-erected walls, even within the crumbling ghetto of Warsaw...

"We went to work with enthusiasm."

"Today there are 22,000 Jews in liberated Italy." — J.D.C. report.

And at the end of five years they were still interned. Useless to point out to the refugees the difference between their present camps and the concentration camps under enemy domination. Useless to explain to them that it was a matter of effective emergency relief; that in a camp they could be sheltered, clothed, fed with greater efficiency. They only knew that they were enclosed by the familiar stockade, the same barbed wire fence, the same depressing surroundings.

Liberation had been a wave that washed over them. Liberation seemed only a dream, a fantasy. Now there was final disillusionment. And something happened to Isaac R., refugee from Rumania, that even the Germans had not been able to do. His spirit was crushed.

Isaac R. had all of his adult life been a community leader—a member of his local Kehillah, a delegate to Zionist congresses, a person to be consulted on Rumanian Jewish problems, a friend to refugees in the early days of Hitler's terror against the Jews of Germany and Austria. Now he was a refugee himself, and a prisoner. He had fled to Italy, only to be interned there on German orders. In prison camp, he had somehow preserved his dignity as a man, was the acknowledged leader among the other prisoners, had done much to maintain their spirits, through the dreadful ordeal.

But now he was like one dead. The Nazis had been driven off but the doors were not flung open. True, he was now treated with courtesy. True, there were no more beatings, no fear of beatings... He was still a prisoner.

When a meeting was held, under the new simpson, of the internes in camp, he did not attend. He remained in his bunk, slumped down, indifferent. Hours passed and he did not move.

A fellow internes reunited him from his lethargy, shook him into consciousness.

"Isaac, Isaac! You have been elected!"

Elected! What was that? A forgotten word.

"You have been elected to represent this camp at the Congress of all camps in the But area. It will meet to discuss our problems, and what is to be done to solve them. It will make decisions."

Isaac R. straightened up. To represent! Elections! Who had done this? What had called them?

"The J.D.C. It asks our advice. It wants our experience. We are to confer with its representatives."

A proud smile played on the old man's face.

"Yes, certainly. That is how it should be. That is how it used to be. When I was a delegate... Let us prepare everything. We must meet with our American colleagues—our brothers."
“Rescue — J.D.C.'s greatest task during war years.” — J.D.C. report.

The story of rescue work in Europe is far too often told in terms of statistics, organization, shipments, bookkeeping. The reality is in other terms. After every disaster rescuers work their way through scenes of utter desolation, a depressing task at best. The dead, the dying — what can be done for them? — and then a voice is heard, a cry that can be answered. Feverishly the rescuers labor with quickened pulses, to reach that one.

The J.D.C. representative in Barcelona was wakened at one in the morning by a telephone call.

“This is Dr. Lopez in Andorra. A party of refugees crossed the border. Two women can walk no more — severe frost bite — danger of gangrene. One of the women said — if I could reach you, you would help to get her to a hospital.”

All through the night the representative labored, making phone calls, rushing around. It was five in the morning before his efforts were finally rewarded.

An ambulance sped through the dark streets en route to Andorra, the tiny mountain republic set high in the Pyrenees. The representative rode with the driver as they sped past the sharp turns, the dangerous mountain curves. Hurry! Hurry!

It was worse than Dr. Lopez had reported. Both women, sisters, would have to suffer amputations — one of both feet above the instep; the other of all the toes on her right leg.

“Will we walk again?”

“Yes, with the aid of artificial feet.”

No tears. “There are some,” said the older sister, “in Hitler’s world who would gladly sacrifice their feet to see their husbands and sons again. It is not too high a price to pay.”

“Deliverance.” — From the Secretary’s report.

The day for which Emil had prayed was come. The Allies had marched into Paris.

Outwardly showing his jubilation together with his fellow-captives at the French camp, Drancy, still he feared to absorb the reality of the situation. For only yesterday he had been told to prepare for transfer to another place.

And he had said to himself, well, this is it. The death chamber in Poland. A squeeze of his hand awoke him to the nearness of Lorchen, who was looking anxiously at his face. He knew what was in her mind. Their four-year-old boy, Peter. His memories surged forward... That day in Nice when the Nazis were actually in the house, their new friends, the Brennings, had resolved to chance everything in an escape attempt. After all, they had a Palestine certificate secured with the help of the Joint.

At the last moment Lorchen had snatched up Peter and flung him into their arms. “Take him with you,” she had whispered. “Let him have a chance at least.” Then, after the whispered words, “Joint-Lisbon,” they were gone.

After that Emil and Lorchen had not spoken of it. But each knew how the other would try surreptitiously to learn the names or description of new arrivals at Drancy. It became a horrible fascination. Each day they dreaded the possibility of the Brennings’ arrival.

“He who joint man will come today. We must find out if they are safe.”

He looked at her in surprise. She had changed suddenly. There was something purposeful about her. She was no longer afraid of good fortune.

Together they hurried out. Somebody was making a speech in French through the amplifying system.

“You are now free. Those of you who have your documents in order will please form a line at that large table over there. The people at the desk on that side will answer questions and give information. You are now free and we want to speed up arrangements for emptying this place.” Another voice repeated the same facts, this time in German. For another hour the words went on in Yiddish, Italian, Polish.

The people from the Joint were there. Emil and Lorchen queued up. Their turn came.

Yes, there would be immediate communication with the Lisbon office. Brenning, Johann and Bertha, and Peter Cohen? Tomorrow they hoped to have some information.

Early the next morning they took their places in the Joint line. It was still too early for the Joint staff to be there but the line had formed nevertheless. One couldn’t do anything else. People made an effort to chat, but it was only token conversation to help ease the tension of waiting. They talked of the ceremony of thanksgiving and the memorial service held the night before.

For the most part, a deep silence prevailed. Eyes were dry and anxious. The excitement of the previous day had given way to sober consideration.

A stir at the head of the line indicated the arrival of the Joint staff. Holding tightly to their forms, people began closing in as the line slowly shortened.

Now and then there was a cry as people turned away from the desk — they had received definite news of loss, perhaps. Others danced jubilantly as they learned of safe arrivals of relatives, or received emigration permits for themselves.

For Emil and Lorchen it was soon over. The Joint worker had shown them a terse telegram: “Brennings, Peter Cohen en route Palestine. Certificate Emil Cohen and wife available.”
I have just returned from a visit to Italy, France, Belgium and Switzerland. I have met with Jews from those countries and from others liberated and about to be liberated. A cold recital of figures does not tell the story adequately. Jews who have managed to outlive the Nazi terror still have to continue their fight for survival. They are alive—barely so—but they are mostly ruined: hungry, homeless, impoverished. But their will to live and rebuild is still high. The task of helping them will be gigantic. It will require great effort of international organizations, of individual governments as well as of private organizations in particular. The Joint Distribution Committee.

J.D.C. will have to furnish forty million dollars to do its part adequately to rescue and rehabilitate Europe's Jews during 1945.

Last year, in 1944, our chief problem was rescue work, to save Jews from Nazi-occupied Europe. This rescue work is continuing this year. It has top priority since no one can predict today what massacres may develop in the convulsive period of the last days of the Nazis. There are perhaps two hundred thousand Jews still in Nazi hands.

But, in addition a gigantic, complex relief problem is becoming clear in every nation that is far liberated. The problem challenges the humanitarianism of those nations who have been left untouched by the ravages of war.

In Poland one hundred fifty thousand Jews are alive. They have appealed for medicines, clothing, blankets, shoes. They have explicitly urged that they be sent tools to resume work in industry and on farms.

The same requests are pouring in from other countries.

In France ten thousand Jewish children are now orphaned. Many of them are in Christian institutions or homes. They must be reclaimed, there, as in Holland and Belgium. Jews need not only direct relief but assistance in rehabilitation of their occupations and professions. Scientists, doctors, lack all equipment to resume their professions and are turning to our financial agencies to aid them to re-establish themselves. In想 thousand Jews have escaped massacre and need everything for their re-establishment. Duplicate this picture throughout Europe.

That is the situation American Jews must face. I am confident American Jewry will not fail them.

Joseph J. Schwartz
Chairman, European Executive Council
Liabilities

The committee in countries with which J.D.C. has authorized the sale of securities for the benefit of the J.D.C. (Jewish Defense Committee) in New York.

| Nature of Liabilities | Amount | Note
|-----------------------|--------|------
| Cash and other securities | $1,000,000.00 | Issued
| Preferred Bonds | $1,000,000.00 | Issued
| Common Stock | $1,000,000.00 | Issued
| Reserve for possible losses | $1,000,000.00 | Issued
| Reserve for possible losses | $1,000,000.00 | Issued

Total: $1,000,000.00

Notes

1. The above statement does not include the following:
   a. Securities aggregating $1,000,000.00, deferred to future years.
   b. J.D.C. (Jewish Defense Committee) in New York.
   c. Preferred Bonds aggregating $1,000,000.00.
   d. Common Stock aggregating $1,000,000.00.
   e. Reserve for possible losses aggregating $1,000,000.00.

2. Items held for transaction purposes, $1,000,000.00.

3. Loans and Advances:
   a. Advances to individuals, $1,000,000.00.
   b. Advances to organizations, $1,000,000.00.

4. Investments in American Joint Reconstruction Fund, $1,000,000.00.

5. Investment in American Joint Reconstruction Fund: $1,000,000.00.

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**Total Income:**

**Total Expenditures:**

**General Fund Net Deficit as of December 31, 1941 (Exhibit B):**

($4,038,647.65)

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**Note:**

- This net deficit of $4,038,647.65 results after utilizing the $3,000,000 bonding fund of the J.D.C. as accumulated in the period prior to 1939.
- The accumulated deficits result from operations in $4,038,647.65.
- Represents income from October 1915 through December 31, 1917.
- Represents income from October 1910 through December 31, 1914.
- It is expected that the J.D.C. will receive additional amounts out of the 1941 United Jewish Appeal Campaign which action will be taken by the 1941 Allotment Committee of the United Jewish Appeal.
DEAR Mr. Berwind:

I am glad to have this opportunity to extend my warmest greetings to you and the members of the Jewish War Veterans Committee on the 13th anniversary of your service to the veterans of the World War.

Through these many years your committee has been the constant and unfailing source of help and hope to the soldiers of the veterans association and the veterans of the World War. Your devoted work throughout these years and the years before, through your devotion to the veteran veterans and the veteran committee, has been a constant and enthusiastic campaign for the welfare and security of the veterans.

Let us with hope look forward to a time when the hatred and heroism of our past is gone and cooperation in a democratic world of peace, plenty, and security for all.

Very sincerely yours,

[Signature]

Mr. Paul Berwind
Chairman
The American Jewish Veterans Committee
220 Madison Avenue
New York 16, New York

[Signature]

Herbert H. Lehman
Governor of New York

[Note: The note is not clearly visible due to the damage to the document.]
JUL 29 1945

JEWS IN AUSTRIA GET ASSISTANCE

Relief is Organized by Joint Distribution Committee—3,000 Sent to Italy

Through efforts of the Joint Distribution Committee, approximately 3,000 Jews have been transferred from Austria to various cities in Italy, and will be helped to emigrate to Palestine, it was revealed in a first-hand report on conditions of Jewish people in the Allied zone of occupation in Austria, made public yesterday at the committee headquarters, 270 Madison Avenue.

The report from the Rome representative, Reuben Reznik, to Dr. Joseph C. Hyman, executive vice-chairman of the committee, said 5,000 Jews are living in and outside Austria's liberated concentration camps in American, British and French zones.

A majority of the Jews, Mr. Reznik said, are living in Linz, Salzburg, Innsbruck and Innsbruck, with their number in Austria constantly changing, owing to the movement, both organized and unorganized, of refugees across the country.

2,000 Go to Hungary

"On July 12," he said, "2,000 Hungarian Jews left Wels on their way to Hungary, a few days before the others of such refugees set up by the UNRRA."

Mr. Reznik's cable said that "many of these Jews were heading for Italy." They were reported moving in from Bavaria, pregnant Germany, Hungary and other eastern areas. The cable emphasized that although food materials are being provided for the refugees in the Austrian camps, supplementary foodstuffs and medicals are urgently needed. It said that supplies sent from Switzerland by the committee have been gratefully received by the Jews in Austria.

"One cannot describe these poverty-stricken, stunted, half-starved people as displaced persons or even refugees," Mr. Reznik said. "They are a pitiful lot who have for five years, and in some cases even longer, half lived and half hoped in the foul camps. It will take a great deal of courage, understanding and hard work to bring these people back to themselves."

Two Offices in Austria

The cable revealed that the committee had established offices in Linz and Salzburg in Austria and, as soon as military authorities permit, Vienna, one will be opened there. A supplementary feeding program for those in need of special treatment, was set up in the Austrian camps, and steps taken to distribute clothing, establish a vocational training program and a location service so that war-dispersed families might be reunited.

A movement for shipping additional food, clothing and medicines into Austria from Switzerland and the United States was reported, and these supplies should be coming through very soon.

Headquarters of the Joint Distribution Committee have disclosed that to meet the increased costs of relief operations in Italy, it has increased the allocation for that country from $70,000 in July to $90,000 for August and September. In addition, a special one-time grant of $50,000 was made for needy persons in Austria.

The committee receives its income from the campaign collections of the United Jewish Appeal for Refugees Overseas Needs and Palestine.
Dear Mr. Leavitt:

I am enclosing for your information a copy of a letter which the War Refugee Board recently received from Mr. Max Huber, Acting President of the International Committee of the Red Cross. I believe you will find the reference made to Mr. Katoki of particular interest.

Very truly yours,

(Signed) William O'Dwyer

William O'Dwyer
Executive Director

Mr. M. A. Leavitt
American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee
270 Madison Avenue
New York 16, New York

Enclosure
MEMORANDUM

TO: Mr. E. M. Bernstein
FROM: William O'Dwyer

We have advised the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee of your success in getting the Swiss to agree to eliminate their charge of ½% in charitable remittances to Switzerland. Of course, the JDC was delighted to get this news and they paid great tribute to you for your efforts in this matter.

In this connection, I should like to express to you the appreciation of the War Refugee Board for all the work you have done in facilitating remittances to Switzerland for the programs which were such an important phase of our activities. As you know, these transfers to Switzerland were crucial to our life-saving programs and your help has been very important. In a very real sense you share in our accomplishments and the saving of many lives.

(Handwritten) William O'Dwyer.

JUL 14 1945
Dear Sirs:

For your information and that of other interested persons, this is to advise you that, in view of the early termination of the War Refugee Board, over-all responsibility for the Emergency Refugee Shelter at Fort Ontario, Oswego, New York, has been transferred from the War Refugee Board to the Department of the Interior.

Very truly yours,

[Signed] Florence Hodel

Florence Hodel
Assistant Executive Director

American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee,
270 Madison Avenue,
New York, New York.
June 12, 1946.

Miss Florence Hodel
War Refugee Board
Washington 25, D.C.

Dear Miss Hodel:

Would you kindly have the enclosed cable sent through the facilities of the War Refugee Board and send us confirmation copy in due course.

Sincerely yours,

Moses A. Leavitt

NAID
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Morris H. Gottler, Allentown, Pa.
Joel Gross, New York
Mrs. Harry A. Gruenberg, New York
Reuben Guinsburg, New York
Morris W. Hart, New York
Salmon F. Halsey, Cleveland

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William W. Goodman, Memphis
Marco F. Hellman, New York
Edward A. Hornan, New York
Edward L. Strauss, New York
Morris C. Tetro, New York
Edward M. Waburg, New York
3 REFUGEE GROUPS SETTLE DISPUTE

Organizations That Operated Under United Jewish Appeal Said to Have Reached Accord

Final agreement is expected today on a compromise plan under which the Joint Distribution Committee, the Palestine Appeal and the National Refugee Service again will pool their national fund-raising activities under the United Jewish Appeal.

The campaign organization had served the three groups successfully for three years, but was broken up in February when the JDC and the UPA disagreed over the division of funds to be collected for 1945. At the time, a $75,000,000 goal had been set tentatively for 1945.

All efforts to mediate or arbitrate the differences failed until the President's War Relief Board understood to have brought the accord. The report said that after the NRC had received approximately $1,500,000 it needed to aid refugees in this country for the coming year, the balance of funds collected will be divided on a 67-33 percent basis between the other groups, with JDC receiving the larger share.

No official confirmation could be secured from representatives of either of the disputant groups on terms of the rapprochement, but it is further understood that the Jewish National Fund, which conducted a separate campaign, will be permitted to make contributions to the UPA while the JDC will be aided by "humanitarian efforts" by groups resident in this country from Europe.

It was learned autoritatively that the compromise had been presented to representatives of the UPA and JDC for initialing on Friday, but that this was put off until today because of slight differences.

While willing to confirm that negotiations leading to a compromise settlement have been taking place, Joseph Hymen, executive vice president of the JDC said an announcement could be expected until details were worked out and contracts signed. Other representatives of both JDC and UPA took a like position.

It was emphasized that the fail-
Miss Florence Hodel
War Refugee Board
Washington 25, D.C.

Dear Miss Hodel:

Would you kindly have the enclosed cables sent through the channels of the War Refugee Board and send us confirmation copies in due course.

Sincerely yours,

Moses A. Leavitt

May 28, 1945.
May 28, 1945.

Miss Florence Hodel  
War Refugee Board  
Washington, D.C.

Dear Miss Hodel:

Would you kindly have the enclosed cables sent through the facilities of the War Refugee Board and send us confirmation copies in due course.

Sincerely yours,

Moses A. Leavitt  
Secretary
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RUSSIN GUNTNER, New York
MORRIS W. HART, New York
SALOMON P. HALE, Cleveland
JAMES E. HARKIN, Denver
SAMUEL HAUSMAN, New York
LEO H. HEINRICH, New York
ADOLPH HELD, New York
SIDNEY L. HEROLD, Shreveport
WALTER S. HELVITZ, Beverly Hills, Cal.
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May 22nd, 1944.

The Hon. Robert D. Murphy
Allied Force Headquarters
Civil Affairs Office
APO 512, o/o Postmaster
New York, N.Y.

Dear Mr. Murphy:

It was good of you to write to me under date of May 11th that you recall our conversation in the State Department with respect to our sending a representative to Southern Italy to deal with many of the Jewish refugees there. We are glad to know that such approval has been given and we understand that Mr. Max Perlman will probably proceed there from Algiers in the near future. I expect Dr. Schwartz to pass through Algiers in the next few weeks and he undoubtedly will be in touch with you.

I hope that you stay well.

With kindest personal regards,

Sincerely yours,

[Signature]

May 22nd, 1944.

* Serving in the Armed Forces of the United States
May 21, 1945.

Miss Florence Hodel
War Refugees Board
Washington 25, D.C.

Dear Miss Hodel:

Would you kindly have the two enclosed cables sent through the facilities of the War Refugees Board and send us confirmation copies in due course.

Sincerely yours,

[Signature]

Moses A. Leavitt
Secretary

HAL:JO
end.
May 16, 1946.

Miss Florence Hodel
War Refugee Board
Washington 25, D.C.

Dear Miss Hodel,

Would you kindly have the enclosed cables sent through the channels of the War Refugee Board and send us confirmation copies in due course.

Sincerely yours,

Moses A. Leavitt

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0.0063
MAY 5 - 1945

Dear Mr. Leavitt,

There is transmitted herewith a letter which was received for you through the United States Embassy in London.

Very truly yours,

(Signed) Florence Model

Florence Model
Assistant Executive Director

Dr. Moses A. Leavitt,
Secretary,
American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee,
270 Madison Avenue,

Enclosure.

ED / EST: 5/5/45
Miss Florence Hodel
War Refugee Board
Washington 25, D.C.

Dear Miss Hodel:

Would you kindly have the enclosed cables sent through the facilities of the War Refugee Board and send us confirmation copies in due course.

Sincerely yours,

Moses A. Leavitt

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April 27, 1946.

Miss Florence Hodel  
War Refugee Board  
Washington, D.C.

Dear Miss Hodel:

Would you kindly have the attached three cables sent through the facilities of the War Refugee Board and send us confirmation copies in due course.

Sincerely yours,

Moses A. Leavitt
April 24, 1945

My dear General:

With the thought that you may wish to incorporate some facts and figures on the programs and needs of the Joint Distribution Committee in the address which you are preparing for Los Angeles, I am sending you the enclosed material.

I understand that Los Angeles has been in touch with you directly, and given you full information as to the time and the place of the meetings which you have been good enough to agree to address for the Los Angeles United Jewish Welfare Fund. I further understand that a reservation has been made for you at the Hotel Ambassador in Los Angeles.

However, should there be any details which have not been taken care of, or should you wish any further information in connection with these meetings, please do not hesitate to call on me.

I wish to take this opportunity to express to you the deep appreciation of the JDC Campaign for your most valued cooperation.

Respectfully yours,

Sarah F. Brandes
Director, Speakers Bureau
Joint Distribution Committee Campaign
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Liberation of the conquered countries of Europe has disclosed a picture so pitiful that it is difficult for Americans to comprehend the ravages that the Nazis have wrought on the defenseless Jews of Europe.

Only a few short years ago there were 6,500,000 Jews in continental Europe exclusive of the Soviet Union. It is estimated that only about 3,000,000 are alive today — 1,500,000 in liberated and enemy countries of Europe and of the other 1,500,000 about 350,000 are believed to be in Asiatic Russia, about 300,000 managed to escape to Palestine, 250,000 came to the United States, 130,000 emigrated to Central and South American countries and the rest are scattered throughout Yugoslavia, Canada, North and South Africa, Australia and other parts of the globe. Of the 1,500,000 Jews estimated to be still alive in continental Europe about 1,000,000 have been freed by the Allied conquering armies; 600,000 are still in concentration camps or in enemy lands.

The Joint Distribution Committee is dedicated to the task of saving lives and speeding rescue for as many of these tortured people as is possible. Even in concentration camps, food parcels purchased by JDC are distributed by the International Red Cross.

**UNRRA Cannot Do the Job Alone**

Many people assume that Governmental agencies, such as UNRRA, will do the job, and that there is no need for the JDC to become alarmed over the condition of the Jewish people of Europe. I believe this is a false hope, for in many sections of Europe the surviving Jews are the responsibility of the JDC alone.

By its very charter, UNRRA is restrained from relief activity in enemy or former enemy countries; so it is barred from activity of any consequence in Bulgaria, Rumania, Hungary, Austria, Germany and Italy. There is a slight exception to this. At the Montreal Conference held last September, UNRRA was authorised to spend comparatively small sums of money to take care of the emergency needs in enemy countries or former enemy countries after liberation of special groups, such as nursing mothers, pre-natal mothers, infant children and the medical needs of displaced peoples. This means that in Italy today a very fractional percentage of the Jews that need help can get some UNRRA help. But it is infinitesimal.
By charter, the UHREA is prohibited from operating in any neutral country. Therefore, all of the needs of Jewish refugees in such countries as Switzerland, Portugal, Spain and Sweden must be met by private agencies.

By its very charter, UHREA is prohibited from operating in countries without the consent of the government of the country itself, and the countries of France, Belgium, Holland and Norway have indicated that they do not require UHREA help. There is a good reason for this. These governments are strong enough and are financially able through their own treasuries and through lend-lease to take care of the needs of their own nationals on a relief basis.

In addition, there is another very important point. UHREA will deal impartially with all within a country who are eligible for relief — Jews and non-Jews alike. Now, everyone knows that the Jews have suffered more severely through Nazi laws and regulations than other groups within a country, and they will need added assistance to raise them to the level of the rest of the population. We must remember that they were Hitler's first victims, and many of them have lived through twelve years of terror and destitution.

Europe Needs Your Help

For the million who have already been liberated, there still remains the ever-present menace of starvation and epidemics. They have come out of concentration camps or out of the caves and forests in which they have been hiding, broken in body and spirit.

They want to be reunited with their families—and their families, if still living, are scattered to the four corners of the earth. They long to go back to the homes which once were theirs—or they want to emigrate to new ones in Palestine or other countries. They want to work and get back on their feet—and many are at this time too ill, too undernourished to hold any type of job. Separated from their families, without homes, food, a job or decent clothing, they apply to the JDC for help.

These survivors will be the main beneficiaries of the $46,570,000 campaign fund—the minimum amount which must be raised throughout the United States in 1945, if the remnant of the Jews in continental Europe is to be saved from extermination. The sum is larger than the JDC has ever sought in its thirty-year-old existence, but the increase in goal is inadequate when contrasted with the vastly stepped-up demands for relief which pour into the JDC office from representatives overseas who are on-the-spot observers.
The JDC is bringing relief at the present moment to sixteen countries in Europe—twenty-five throughout the world. This relief in many cases represents the difference between life and death.

Then, there are the children. Thousands upon thousands have been found in France, Holland and Belgium alone. How they survived the Gestapo, the bombings and the fighting in those countries we do not know, but we do know that these little ones are in desperate need of help. They have been hidden away in all sorts of places. Many of them have seen their parents dragged away before their very eyes. All of them have known acute hunger. Today, they are homeless and the JDC is caring for them in Jewish orphan homes which the organization supports.

I am giving you the highlights of known conditions. What needs will be revealed when Germany and Austria capitulate is still a mystery. We do not know how many Jews have survived, but we do know that those who are still living will be the most pitiable of all. When the concentration camps are opened, and those unfortunate march out to freedom, we are likely to find them broken in body, ill, hopeless, desperate. It will take long-term relief and help before they can become useful citizens, able to take their places in any community.

Rescue

It should not be forgotten that Hitler has promised that when he leaves the scene of history, not a Jew will be left in all “Hastland”. Well, our victorious armies are hastening the day of Hitler’s final exit, and we must see to it that he is thwarted in his last ambition. As many of these innocent victims as is possible must be snatched from his hands and transported to havens of safety. This is the type of rescue work that the JDC has been doing wherever possible. Now, in the final hour, it is more necessary than ever.

You who are working in this campaign have a great responsibility and a great opportunity. For the amount of money raised in this campaign and similar campaigns throughout the country will determine how many of the Jews of Europe will live to enjoy victory. Very little can be done for these stricken people unless communities in America respond...
to their plans. If we neglect their needs, we are giving tacit consent to Hitler's extermination program. They have a first call upon us, the best-favored nation in the world, and we dare not close our hearts to them. The decision is yours. Shall it be life or death for the surviving Jews of Europe?
Miss Florence Hodel
War Refugee Board
Washington 25, D.C.

Dear Miss Hodel:

Would you kindly have the enclosed cables sent through the channels of the War Refugee Board and send us confirmation copies in due course.

Sincerely yours,

Moses A. Leavitt
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Dear Mr. Baerwald and Miss Morrissey:

The enclosed letter was received for you through the United States Embassy in London.

Very truly yours,

[Signature]

William O'Dwyer
Executive Director

Mr. Paul Baerwald,
Miss Evelyn Morrissey,
The American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee,
270 Madison Avenue,
New York, 16, New York.

Enclosure.
APR 14 1945

Dear Mr. Baerwald and Mr. Leavitt:

The enclosed letter was received for you through the United States Embassy in London.

Very truly yours,

(Signed) William O'Dwyer
William O'Dwyer
Executive Director

Mr. Paul Baerwald,
Mr. Moses Leavitt,
The American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee,
270 Madison Avenue,

Enclosure.
April 15, 1945.

Miss Florence Hodel
War Refugee Board
Washington 25, D.C.

Dear Miss Hodel:

Would you kindly have the attached five cables sent through the channels of the War Refugee Board and send us confirmation copies in due course.

Sincerely yours,

Moses A. Leavitt

HAL:JO
eno.
Dear Mr. Baerwald:

I am enclosing with this letter a communication which was received for you through the United States Embassy in London.

Very truly yours,

(Signed) Florence Hodel
Florence Hodel
Assistant Executive Director

Mr. Paul Baerwald,
The American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee,
270 Madison Avenue,

Enclosure.
April 6th, 1945.

Miss Florence Hodel
War Refugee Board
Washington 25, D.C.

Dear Miss Hodel:

Would you kindly have the attached cables sent through the channels of the War Refugee Board and send us confirmation copies in due course.

Sincerely yours,

Moses A. Leavitt

Moses A. Leavitt
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April 3rd, 1946.

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War Refugee Board
Washington, D.C.

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Moses A. Leavitt

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War Refugee Board
Washington 25, D.C.

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War Refugee Board
Washington 25, D.C.

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Washington 25, D. C.

Dear Florence:

Would you kindly have the attached cables sent through the channels of the War Refugee Board?

Please send us your confirming copies of these cables in due course.

Sincerely yours,

Moses A. Leavitt,
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<td>EDWARD M. WARBURG, New York</td>
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Jewish Aid Called Vital for Middle East

The American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee has become a major factor in Jewish life in the Middle East, Monseigneur Kessler, overseas representative, reported yesterday.

Mr. Kessler pointed out that the JDC sends $10,000 monthly to Turkey to assist persecuted Jews hit hard by discriminatory laws. Work in Palestine is directed toward the rehabilitation and maintenance of Jewish institutions transferred from Syria.
Dear Florence:

Would you kindly have the enclosed two cables sent through the channels of the War Refugee Board and send us confirmation copies in due course.

Sincerely yours,

Moses A. Leavitt
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EDWARD M. M. WARENA, New York
March 7th, 1945.

Miss Florence Hodel
War Refugee Board
Washington 25, D.C.

Dear Florence:

Would you kindly have the attached three cables sent through the channels of the War Refugee Board and have confirmation copies forwarded to us in due course.

Sincerely yours,

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George Backer, New York
Paul Baxt, New York
Edward M. Baker, Cleveland
Joseph Banky, New York
James H. Becker, Chicago
Joseph H. Benveniste, New York
Maurice Berwin, Cleveland
David Bernstein, New York
Isaiah Berns, Westfield, N.J.
John E. Bernstein, New York
Herman Bittman, St. Louis
Jacob Bialik, Philadelphia
Newton Bisgasser, San Francisco
Jacob Blaustein, Baltimore
Herman E. Bloch, Cincinnati
E. E. Block, Chicago
Louis J. Branzestein, Paterson, N.J.
Louis Broido, New York
Carl R. Brown, Montclair
Fred M. Buei, Detroit
Eddie Buhl, Beverly Hills, Calif.
Louis Carlin, Philadelphia
Avi Cesar, Garden City, N.Y.
Nathan Chaimson, New York
Morris R. Cohen, Washington
Alfred E. Coli, New York
Pavel Coli, New York
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Dear Florence:

Would you kindly have the attached six cables sent through the channels of the War Refugee Board and send us confirmation copies in due course.

Sincerely yours,

[Signature]

Moses A. Leavitt

March 8th, 1945
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HARRY ZEITS, Brooklyn
$46,570,000 Goal Set
For Jewish Distribution

Fund Will Aid 1,000,000 War Victims in Europe

A goal of $46,570,000 was set yesterday for the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee's campaign to aid a nationwide drive at a meeting in New York. The committee will receive grants from various local Jewish welfare groups.

Rabbi Israel Azriel, national chairman of the relief organization's campaign, said it is the goal of the committee to assist 1,000,000 Jewish war victims throughout the world.

Campaign officers and directors were elected:...
Dear Mr. Leavitt:

I am enclosing herewith three letters and various documents which were received for you through the United States Embassy in London.

Very truly yours,

[Signed] Florence Hodel

Florence Hodel
Assistant Executive Director

Mr. Moses Leavitt,
American Joint Distribution Committee,
270 Madison Avenue,

Enclosures.
MAR 2 - 1945

Dear Mr. Leavitt:

I am enclosing herewith a communication which was received for you through the United States Embassy in London.

Very truly yours,

(Signed) Florence Hodel

Florence Hodel
Assistant Executive Director

Mr. Moses Leavitt,
American Joint Distribution Committee,
270 Madison Avenue,

Enclosure.
Miss Florence Hodel,
War Refugees Board,
Washington 25, D.C.

Dear Miss Hodel:

We would appreciate having your opinion in the following matter:

Our New York City Campaign office has asked us to clarify a number of questions that come to them from time to time with respect to the licensing of charitable organizations engaged in overseas activities.

Among the questions raised is one that affects income tax exemption received from the Treasury Department. We have been asked whether a letter from the U.S. Treasury Department certifying that an organization was established as "charitable" and contributions to it were exempt from income tax, "still be valid if such letter was dated prior to the regulations of the President's War Relief Control Board with respect to licensing. I would assume that a letter from the Treasury Department exempting an organization from taxation would have no bearing on registration or licensing by the President's War Relief Control Board. Even if a charitable organization has received exemption from taxation, it would still fall within the regulations of the Board, in connection with raising funds in this country.

Would you let me know whether that assumption is correct.

Yours sincerely,

Evelyn M. Morrissey
Assistant Treasurer

March 1, 1945.
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Linder to Aid Refugees

Herschel P. Linder, vice chairman of the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee, has arrived in London where he will assist in the committee's program of rescue, relief and rehabilitation. It was announced here yesterday by Joseph C. Hyman, executive vice chairman of the committee. Mr. Linder, a commander in the Naval Reserve now inactive, will have headquarters in London. His immediate responsibilities will include continued cooperation of the Jewish Joint Distribution Committee with the Central British Fund for Jewish Relief and Rehabilitation, the major British Jewish organization in England.
February 23rd, 1945.

Miss Florence Hodel
War Refugee Board
Washington 25, D.C.

Dear Florence:

Would you kindly have the attached cables sent through the channels of the War Refugee Board and send us confirmation copies in due course.

Sincerely yours,

Moses A. Leavitt
February 19, 1945.

Miss Florence Hodel, Asst. Executive Director,
War Refugee Board,
Washington 25, D. C.

Dear Miss Hodel:

Would you kindly have the attached cables sent through the channels of the War Refugee Board to Dr. J. J. Schwartz in Paris.

Please send us your confirmation copies of these in due course.

Sincerely yours,

Moses A. Leavitt
Secretary
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FEB 14 1945

Dear Mr. Leavitt:

I am enclosing herewith several letters which were received for you from Mr. J. Jafrykin through the United States Embassy in Paris.

Very truly yours,

(Signed) Florence Nadel
Florence Nadel
Assistant Executive Director

Mr. Moses A. Leavitt,
Secretary,
American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee,
270 Madison Avenue,

Enclosures.
To: Mr. Moses A. Leavitt,
AMERICAN JOINT DISTRIBUTION COMMITTEE,

Dear Mr. Leavitt,

Re: Tonia Spirra, Basreliaire

We have duly received cable, as follows:

[Redacted]

and immediately made the necessary arrangements, in compliance with your request. The total sum allocated to Mr. Spirra thus amounts to 10,000 Francs.

Yours sincerely,

/s/ J. Jefroykin
J. JEFROYKIN
PARIS, January 11th, 1945
LAB. 07-70, LAB. 79-84

VIA POUCH

WAR REFUGEE BOARD
WASHINGTON

To: Mr. Moses A. LEAVITT
AMERICAN JOINT DISTRIBUTION COMMITTEE,

Dear Mr. Leavitt,

We have been approached twice by Mr. Ludwig JACOB, c/o Mr. Julius Rieder, 1170, Broadway, New York, with a view to locating his daughter, Mrs. Hanni SALZBERGER.

We interviewed Mademoiselle Genevieve Delapierre, friend of the above mentioned, whose address had been given to us by Mr. Jacob. Miss Delapierre seems to have been in a rather close contact with Mrs. Salzberger until to July 1944. She stated that Mrs. Salzberger had left Lyons in 1943 and accepted a job in Northern France. After a several months stay in the North, she came back to the Paris area where she worked until to the end of July 1944. After that time, however, Miss Delapierre lost sight of her and this seems the more surprising as she had and still holds some clothing which belongs to Mrs. Salzberger and which the latter would have certainly taken back had she remained in Paris.

On the other hand, our locating Service was not able as yet to trace Mrs. Salzberger.

Will you kindly inform Mr. Jacob accordingly, as well as Mrs. Johanne Oppenheimer, cousin of Mrs. Salzberger's, who according to a note she addressed to Dr. Schwartz on October 30th, is also interested in her cousin's fate.

Sincerely yours,

/s/ J. Jefroykin
J. JEFROYKIN
PARIS, January 11th, 1945
LAB, 07-70, LAB, 79-84

VI A P O O C H

WAR R E F U G E E B O A R D
WASHINGTON

To: Mr. Moses A. LEAVITT,
AMERICAN JOINT DISTRIBUTION COMMITTEE,

Dear Mr. Leavitt,

Re: Inheritance Mrs. Stella MEISS-HIRSCH

I have been approached by Mrs. Sylvian THEODORE, 6 , Place de la Liberte, Ribemont (Dordogne), concerning the inheritance of the late Mrs. Stella MEISS-HIRSCH, cousin of her husband's.

Mrs. Stella Meiss-Hirsch died in the United States in 1942 without leaving a will and Mrs. Theodore was asked, by our medium, to give to an American lawyer, Mr. Sidney Kusworm, Dayton (Ohio) some information, especially as to her relationship with Mrs. Meiss-Hirsch.

Mrs. Theodore whose present situation, both physical and financial, is desperate, is anxious to know what is the result of her steps undertaken by the lawyer and to what share of the assets she is entitled.

I should be grateful if you would kindly contact the lawyer and let me have at your earliest convenience all information you are able to obtain concerning this case.

Thanking you, I am

Sincerely yours,

/s/ J. Jefoykin
J. JEFOYKIN
VIA POUCH

Paris, January 12th 1945

WAR REFUGEE BOARD
WASHINGTON

Mr. Moses A. LEAVITT
American Joint Distribution Committee

Dear Mr. LEAVITT,

Mr. Israel ICOKSON, wife Elisabeth and 2 daughters Lia and Mia

Following Mr. Joseph H. Hinkoff's memorandum of October 6th 1944 to Dr. Joseph Schwartz, concerning the above family, which has been transmitted to us, we proceeded to an investigation and are now in a position to give you the following information.

Mr. and Mrs. ICOKSON were first interned at the camp of Merignac near Bordeaux and then deported.

As to the daughters Lia and Mia, they found shelter under false names, at the Preventorium d'Arbonne, where they still live.

If their aunt, Mrs. ATRAN, 65 Central Park West, New York City, wishes to write them, she should address her letter to Madame la Directrice du Preventorium d'Arbonne, pres Bayonne (Basses Pyrenees).

Sincerely yours,

/s/ J. Jeftrykin
J. JEFROYKIN
AMERICAN JOINT DISTRIBUTION COMMITTEE
19 RUE DE TEHERAN
PARIS (9)

PARIS, January 11th, 1945
LAB. 07-70, LAB. 79-84

VIA POUCH
WAR REFUGEE BOARD
WASHINGTON

To: Mr. Moses A. LEAVITT,
AMERICAN JOINT DISTRIBUTION COMMITTEE,

Dear Mr. Leavitt:

Re: Carson Grossinger and children

We have been approached by Mr. Sol Time, 7816, Jr., Holmes Street, Dallas 15, Texas, who is anxious to hear from his daughter, Mrs. Grossinger, and his two grandchildren.

We sent a member of our staff to Mrs. Grossinger's home, 18, rue des Tournelles, Paris 40. Our employee was told by a neighbour, Mrs. Raby, that unfortunately Mrs. Grossinger had been deported. She was able to write once; her letter came from Hannover.

As for her husband who is a war prisoner, he used to write regularly during the German occupation.

The children are brought up on two French families in a small village. According to the statement which was made by Mrs. Raby, these families do not accept any money whatsoever for the children and they even laid aside the money the children's father sent them from time to time from Germany so as to facilitate his new start after the war.

We also contacted Mr. Grossinger's brother, Elie Grossinger, who resides 7, rue des Blanches-Manteaux, Paris. He stated that he had looked after the children for a certain time but was not able to keep doing it as later on he joined the Resistance Movement. Mr. Elie Grossinger intended to call at our offices in order to give us more particulars, but so far did not call.

Will you kindly transmit this information to Mr. Time and believe us, with thanks,

Sincerely yours,

/s/ J. Jezyfkin
J. JEFROYKIN
Please notify your correspondents in foreign countries, except in Canada and the United Kingdom, that transmission of such confirmations is prohibited in mail to the United States and its possessions.

An Exception has been made because postal confirmations of cable, hand-wire, radio or radiotelephone messages are prohibited by Censorship.

Postal confirmations of cable, hand-wire, radio or radiotelephone messages are prohibited by Censorship.
February 7, 1945

Miss Florence Hodel,
Assistant Executive Director
War Refugee Board
Washington 25, D.C.

Dear Miss Hodel:

Thank you for sending on to us the lists of Jewish refugees in Switzerland which were received by the War Refugee Board from our Dr. Schwartz through the United States Legation in Bern.

With appreciation of your cooperation,

Sincerely yours,

[Signature]

Executive Assistant

HKB:K
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MORRIS G. TROJE, New York
EDWARD M. WARBURG, New York
Jews Ask World Bill of Rights

An international bill of rights "embodying the principles of human rights, fundamental freedoms, religious liberty and racial equality" was urged yesterday in a resolution adopted by the executive committee of the American Jewish Committee at its 38th annual meeting in the Waldorf.

The resolution was offered by a 40-member special committee on peace problems headed by Joseph M. Proskauer, president of the American Jewish Committee.

The committee's recommendations called also for outlawing by the United Nations of "public or organized incitement against religious, ethnic and racial groups."

The committee reaffirmed its Palestine program, requesting an international trusteeship "responsible to the United Nations."
Arthur Fishzohn has been added to the overseas staff of the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee, it was announced yesterday by Joseph C. Hynman, executive vice chairman. Mr. Fishzohn has been a member of the field staff of the United Jewish Appeal, West Coast, representative for the National Refugee Service and a practicing attorney in New York.
Dear Mr. Leavitt:

I am pleased to enclose herewith two envelopes which were received for you through the United States Embassy in London.

Very truly yours,

(Signed) Florence Hodel

Florence Hodel
Assistant Executive Director

Mr. Moses Leavitt,
American Joint Distribution Committee,
270 Madison Avenue,

Enclosures.

R.B. Hutchison 1/30/45
Mr. John W. Pehle,
Executive Director,
War Refugee Board,
Treasury Department,
Washington 25, D. C.

Dear John:

It will be appreciated if you will have the enclosed envelopes delivered to Mr. Moses Leavitt of the American Joint Distribution Committee.

Very truly yours,

James H. Mann,
Special Representative,
War Refugee Board.

Enclosures.
Dear Mr. Leavitt:

I am enclosing with this letter the final three lists of Jewish refugees in Switzerland ("Nachtragen" 13, 14, and an unnumbered list) which were received for you from Dr. Schwartz through the United States Legation in Bern.

Very truly yours,

Florence Hodel
Assistant Executive Director

Mr. W. A. Leavitt,
American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee,
270 Madison Avenue,
New York, New York.

Enclosures.
Bern, January 16, 1945.

Dear Mr. Pehle:

Please find attached hereto the final three lists of Jewish refugees in Switzerland which Dr. Schwartz was anxious to have forwarded to the Joint Distribution Committee in New York. They are "Nachtragen" 13 and 14, and an unnumbered list. I trust that in the meantime the other two sets of similar lists which I forwarded have safely reached the J.D.C.

Very sincerely yours,

Roswell D. McClelland
Special Assistant to the American Minister.

Enclosures: 3 lists for the J.D.C.

John W. Pehle, Esquire,
Executive Director,
War Refugee Board,
Washington D.C.
February 2, 1945.

Mr. John W. Pehle,
Director of Procurement,
Treasury Department,
7th and D. S. W.,
Room 7048,
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. Pehle:

I am deeply grateful for your letter of January 29th, and I thank you on behalf of my colleagues and myself for your very gracious expression of appreciation for the cooperation which the Joint Distribution Committee was able to give you in the difficult work of the War Refugee Board.

We on our part will never forget the energy and wisdom with which you conducted the affairs of the War Refugee Board, the deep human interest which characterized your attitude in the many problems before you and the great accomplishments which the Board under your direction has to its credit. Our personal relationship with you has been a pleasure and a source of deep satisfaction for all of us. We shall always gratefully remember our association with you in this work which constitutes a unique chapter in the history of the Joint Distribution Committee.

With every good wish,

Very sincerely yours,

/s/ PAUL BAERWALD

Paul Baerwald

PB:rl
JAN 29 1945

Dear Mr. Baerwald:

I cannot leave the War Refugee Board without expressing to you personally my very deep appreciation for all that you and the Joint Distribution Committee have meant in the work of the Board and in the discharge of my duties as its Executive Director.

For much of the success it has known, I feel that the Board is indebted to the Joint Distribution Committee, not only by reason of its most generous financial participation in rescue and relief projects and its fertile contributions to the solution of many problems, but also for the unflagging cooperation which you have at all times given us. It has been a unique and a memorable experience to serve as Executive Director of the Board, and not least among the things which have made it so are the faith, the diligence, and the efficiency of the JDC, and the very pleasant personal relationships which we have enjoyed.

I am confident that General O'Dwyer can have no greater advantage in the work which remains for the Board to do than the continued support and cooperation which I am sure the JDC will give him.

Very sincerely yours,

(Signed) J.W. Pehle

J. W. Pehle
Assistant to the Secretary

Mr. Paul Baerwald,
Chairman,
American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee,
270 Madison Avenue,
Mr. John W. Fehle, Executive Director
War Refugees Board
Washington 25, D.C.

Dear Mr. Fehle:

We have for acknowledgment your letter of January 18th enclosing lists which you received through the United States Legation in Bern. Thank you for forwarding them to us.

Sincerely yours,

[Signature]

Henry W. Fehle
Executive Assistant
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WILLIAM G. GOODMAN, Memphis
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HANFORD S. LINDER, New York
EDWARD A. NORMAN, New York
LEWIS L. STRAUSS, New York
MORRIS C. TROOPER, New York
EDWARD M. M. WABURG, New York
TO: Mr. Warren
FROM: Mr. Pehle

Reference is made to cable No. 515 from London of January 15, 1945, copy of which is attached.

The War Refugee Board supports the request of the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee for validation of the passport of Miss Laura Margolis for France and Belgium. It will be appreciated if the State Department will expedite this matter.

(Signed) J. H. Pehle

Attachment.

Filed 1/17/45
SECRETARY OF STATE,

Washington.

515, Fiftieth

TO PEHE FROM MANN

Please deliver the following message from Joseph Schwartz to Moses Leavitt of the JDC:

"Passport and travel finally left yesterday. My own departure still being held up because weather conditions. Deeply regret refusal to validate passport

Laura Margolis France, Belgium which particularly difficult to understand since military authorities ready furnish transportation. Believe this holding up of validation will delay necessary relief program which Belgian Government has urged us undertake. Would ask you again intervene send at least French validation to London."

FOR WRB. If Board perceives no objection I would appreciate Board's supporting request for validation.

WINANT
JAN 18 1945

Dear Mr. Leavitt:

I am enclosing herewith a letter from Miss Laura Margolis which was received for you through the American Legation in Stockholm.

Very truly yours,

(Signed) J. W. Pahle

J. W. Pahle
Executive Director

Mr. N. A. Leavitt,
American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee,
270 Madison Avenue,
New York 16, New York,

Enclosure,
Mr. John W. Fehle
Executive Director
War Refugee Board
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Fehle:

Miss Laura Margolis of the American Joint Distribution Committee has requested that the enclosed letter be delivered to Mr. H. A. Leavitt, New York. Your cooperation will be appreciated.

Sincerely yours,

Mary Elizabeth Thompson
For: Iver C. Olsen
Special Attaché for War Refugee Board

Enclosure - 1
Dear Mr. Leavitt:

Enclosed herewith is a series of documents, (Machtrag No.'s 7 through 12) which was received for you through the United States Legation in Bern.

Very truly yours,

(Signed) J. W. Pehle

J. W. Pehle
Executive Director

Mr. M. A. Leavitt,
Secretary,
American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee,
270 Madison Avenue,

Enclosure.
Dear Mr. Pehle:

I am sending to the Board enclosed herewith a series of documents (Nachtrag No's 7 through 12) comprising a list of Jewish refugees who have reached Switzerland since August 1942 with the request that they be kindly forwarded to the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee in New York. The first series of these lists was forwarded by pouch last week, under cover of a letter of December 26. The final series for the "Joint" will go forward next week.

Very sincerely yours,

Roswell D. McClelland
Special Assistant to the American Minister.

Enclosures: 6 lists for the A.J.D.C.

John W. Pehle, Esquire
Executive Director
Jew Refugee Board,
Washington 25, D. C.
European Jews Need 46 Millions This Year

ATLANTA, Jan. 15 (U.P.).—Representative Rubin, (D.), of New York, today warned American Jews that they must "act quickly to insure the survival of hundreds of thousands of Jews in Europe." Rubin addressed a meeting of members of the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee. Representatives from several Southeastern States were told that Jewish organizations in Europe estimate that $46,570,000 will be needed in 1945 to provide relief for Jews in neutral, occupied and liberated countries.
New York Telegram
JAN 15 1945

Speedy Aid Urged For Europe's Jews.

ATLANTA, Ga., Jan. 15—American Jews must act quickly to insure survival of hundreds of thousands of Jews in Europe, Rep. Benjamin A. Cardin of the 24th Congressional District of New York, warned a meeting of the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee yesterday. "Mr. Rabin pointed out the $460,000,000,000 need by the committee for its work during 1945 in the largest sum ever asked in the 38 years of JDC activity, but he emphasized that the organization was faced with unprecedented needs. The JDC is the major American agency for the relief of distressed Jews overseas."
SIX MILLIONS LENT
JEWS BY FRENCH

By DANA ADAMS SCHMIDT

PARIS, Jan. 10—The American
Joint Distribution Committee is
now paying back almost $4,000,-
000 lent by Frenchmen for the
support and hiding of Jews during
the German occupation, Arthur
Greenleih, Paris director of the
committee, said today.
He said that the committee was
also organizing the rehabilita-
tion of the 170,000 of France's pro-
amiptic 300,000 Jews who sur-
vived the German scourge.
Since money could not be sent
from the United States to occupy-
fed France, Jewish organizations de-
pendent on the committee were al-
sowed to borrow in its name. Some
Frenchmen were so eager to find
a safe place for their money that
they asked no interest or even of-
fered a premium to have the Jews
take it.

There is scarcely a Jew alive in
France today who has not at some
time benefited from these borrowed
funds, averaging $150,000 a month
during the past two years. More
than eight thousand children were
fared out to Christian foster-
homes. Many more families mixed
Jewish children with their own to
hide them from the German au-
thorities and received about $20 a
month for their support. The Ger-
mans at first offered $100 for
every Jew turned in but later re-
duced the price to $20.
About 25,000 of the Jews who
have come home to France since the
liberation have found that their
furniture was shipped to Germany
and their premises have been occu-
pied. Very few have been able to
reoccupy them—even though they
are entitled to do so by law—be-
cause many of the occupants are
refugees, families of war prisoners
or members of similar categories
enjoying special protection.
JAN 5 1945

Dear Mr. Leavitt:

There are enclosed three series of documents which were received for you from Dr. Schwarts through the United States Legation in Bern.

Sincerely yours,

[Signature] J. W. Pehle

J. W. Pehle
Executive Director

Mr. W. A. Leavitt
Secretary
American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee
270 Madison Avenue
New York 16, New York

Enclosures

[Signature] E. H. Towler 1-5-45
Bern, December 26, 1944.

Dear Mr. Pehle:

I take the liberty of forwarding to the Board for transmission to the American Joint Distribution Committee, 270 Madison Avenue, New York, three series of documents which Dr. Schwartz is anxious to get to them. They include a list of the names of 1366 Hungarians who recently arrived in Switzerland from Bergen-Belsen, material supplied by the International Red Cross concerning the present status of relief work for Jews in various occupied and formerly occupied areas and the first part of a general list of Jewish refugees who have arrived in Switzerland since August 1942.

Very sincerely yours,

Roswell D. McClelland,
Special Assistant to the American Minister.

Enclosures: 3 series of documents for the A.J.D.C.

John V. Pehle, Esquire
Executive Director,
War Refugee Board,
Washington 25, D. C.
Secretary of State,
Washington.

8400, Twenty-eighth.
FOR WRL FROM MCCLELLAND.

Joseph Schwartz left Geneva for Paris December 25 advisable therefore send future messages from JDC for him to embassy Paris.

Huddle

IRM
Referred to London as my 1670, December 19, 1944.

In response to the direction of the Chairman of the European Executive Council of American Joint Distribution Committee, Dr. Joseph Schwartz, the overseas representative of the Committee, Miss Lurie L. Margolis, who has been stationed for the past three months in Sweden, requests validation for travel in Belgium and France. It is the plan of Miss Margolis to go to the United Kingdom in early January and she asks that we forward the American Embassy in London the answer to her request.

JOHNSON

12-19-44
Dear Mr. Leavitt:

I am happy to be able to report to you that we have just been advised that approximately 1,355 Hungarian Jews have arrived in Switzerland from Camp Bergenbelsen. They arrived during the night of December 6th to 7th and are temporarily housed near St. Gall.

Very truly yours,

(Signed) J. W. Pehle
Executive Director

Mr. W. A. Leavitt,
American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee,
270 Madison Avenue,
New York, N. Y.

Phnd 12/8/44
The year 1944 now coming to an end has been one of the most fateful years in history. The year witnessed the greatest military achievement the world has ever known in the Allied invasion of the continent of Europe from the West, and the liberation of most of Western Europe. During the year, France, Belgium, Luxemburg, Greece, parts of Holland, Italy, Poland, Yugoslavia, Hungary and Czechoslovakia were freed. Russia drove the invaders from its soil, and Bulgaria and Rumania capitulated and entered the war on the side of the United Nations. The year, however, also witnessed a dreadful climax in the German policy of annihilation of the Jews of Europe when Hungary was taken over by the Gestapo and 800,000 helpless Jews became exposed to the fiendish brutality of the Germans. Hundreds of thousands were deported and murdered, or placed in slave labor battalions, and as this report is written, the fate of the last 250,000 Hungarian Jews hangs in a precarious balance.

With the liberation of vast areas in Europe, the extent of the tragedy that befell the Jews becomes appallingly clear. Millions of Jews have been exterminated, over 80% of those who survive have been uprooted from their homes and have been completely expropriated and dispossessed. As the European Jews literally crawl out from their hiding places to breathe once again the air of freedom, they find their homes and furnishings gone or occupied by strangers; their businesses vanished or Jewishized; their children and the members of their families dead or dispersed. The need for the basic essentials of life, food, shelter, clothing, medicines, is a paramount one. Instinctively, the Jews of Europe turned to the Joint Distribution Committee for their first aid. Tens of thousands of them had been protected and maintained by J.D.C. funds during the entire period of occupation and it was natural for them to expect a continuation of this aid now that liberation had come. It is unnecessary to describe in detail the operational difficulties involved in bringing help quickly in the immediate wake of the advancing Allied armies. Military regulations, war priorities, currency restrictions, disrupted communications, all had to be taken into account in order that J.D.C. assistance be made readily available.

The huge burdens which the J.D.C. had to assume in 1944 are reflected in the appropriations of over $20,400,000 thus far made to the end of the year, but without taking into account new emergencies that may arise in December. This sum is unprecedented in the history of the J.D.C. and rarely equaled in the annals of private philanthropic endeavor. Unfortunately, the J.D.C. cannot assert that every vital need was met. Thousands of Jews had to be satisfied with one or two meals a day, with inadequate clothing and shelter. In only one field did the J.D.C. meet every call that came to it, and that was in
the rescue of Jews from occupied countries. No feasible project or proposal was permitted to go by default because of lack of funds.

Rescue Activities:

The establishment of the War Refugee Board by President Roosevelt in January 1944 to facilitate the rescue of the victims of Nazi persecution, opened up channels of aid to the Jews of occupied Europe which hitherto had been closed. Three Cabinet officers, the Secretaries of State, War and Treasury composed the Board, with an Executive Director, Mr. John W. Peake, in charge of the day to day work. The closest contact was maintained by the J.D.C. with the Executive Director and the members of his staff. Thousands of Jews are today alive because of the activities of the Board, and because of the facilities made available by the Board to the J.D.C. and other private agencies. $8,884,000 was allotted by the J.D.C. in rescue work in cooperation with the War Refugee Board.

Outstanding among the many rescue projects undertaken was the evacuation of Jews from the Balkans to Palestine, for which a grant of $3,000,000 was made by the J.D.C. In conjunction with the Jewish Agency for Palestine, small boats were chartered to make the perilous crossing from Constanza to Istanbul. These boats did not receive safe conduct from the Germans and in one tragic case, a boat, the Mekhure, was sunk by the gunfire of a German submarine with the loss of about 300 Jewish refugees. Jews were likewise brought overland from Bulgaria and Romania to Istanbul and from Greece in small caiques. The J.D.C. undertook to pay 80% of the cost of the sea voyages to Istanbul, 100% of the cost of maintenance in Istanbul, and 100% of the cost of railroad transportation from Istanbul to Palestine. Altogether about 6000 Jews were rescued through Turkey. Without the aid of the American Ambassador to Turkey, and the representative of the War Refugee Board stationed in Ankara, this large number of Jews could not have been saved.

Emphasis was placed on the rescue of children from occupied France during the first half of the year. Close to 700 children, as well as adults, were brought over the border to Switzerland and Spain mainly with funds provided by the J.D.C. Unknown hundreds from Poland and Eastern Europe were helped to cross the borders into Slovakia, into Hungary and into Rumania. Many of them were tragically caught again when the Germans occupied Hungary.

In addition, the J.D.C. maintained tens of thousands of children and adults in hiding in the occupied territories. In France alone between 7,000 and 8,000 children were thus maintained, and in Belgium 7,000 persons, including 2,900 children, were cared for in part with J.D.C. funds. Relief was sent to all the occupied regions, whether in supplies or funds, to keep alive Jews in concentration camps, in ghettos, and in the forced labor battalions. To the camp in Theresienstadt alone, 18,000 parcels monthly were dispatched from Portugal and Switzerland. The invaluable aid of the International Committee of the Red Cross was enlisted in the distribution of food and medicines in many of the camps.

It is important to state that all J.D.C. activities in the occupied regions were carried on with the full knowledge and approval of United States Governmental authorities.
Emigration Activities:

The Emigration of Jews from places of temporary asylums to countries of final destination was continued during the year. In January, the S.S. Nyassse, a Portuguese boat under charter by the J.D.C., made an historic voyage to Palestine bringing some 750 immigrants from Spain and Portugal. This voyage was the first sailing of a neutral ship through the Mediterranean since June of 1940 when Italy entered the war. A second voyage was arranged by the J.D.C. later in the year when the S.S. Guiney carried 434 certificate holders from Spain, Portugal and Tangiers to Palestine. Canada offered asylum for the duration to qualified family units comprising some 800 refugees from the Iberian Peninsula and Tangiers. The J.D.C. was helpful in the selection of these families and paid for their transportation. Yemenite Jews, stranded in Aden, were helped to come to Palestine. About 1,000 Tripolitanian Jews were repatriated from Tunis and Algeria to Tripoli. Although immigration to the United States and Latin America was sharply curtailed, the Hicem aided all who held visas and needed transportation to emigrate. The J.D.C. appropriated $280,000 to the Hicem for such transportation needs and in addition, provided $360,000 for the special immigration projects described above.

Aid to Refugees in Neutral Countries:

Switzerland:

Foremost among neutral countries in terms of relief needs is Switzerland, which has granted asylum to close to 80,000 refugees of all nationalities, of whom over 25,000 are Jews. Some 6,000 to 7,000 of the Jewish refugees entered Switzerland prior to August 1942, and all those who are in need are taken care of by the J.D.C. The bulk of the Jewish refugees, however, came into Switzerland after August 1942 when the large-scale deportation from France was started by the Germans. Thereafter Jews from Italy, from Yugoslavia, from Holland and from Hungary arrived in Switzerland. All the Jewish as well as non-Jewish refugees were placed in special camps and their basic needs of food and shelter provided by the Swiss Government. Many of the Jews came penniless and without clothing, and the J.D.C. undertook to provide them with modest supplementary assistance which amounted to about 15 cents a day for some 15,000 refugees. The J.D.C. also subventions the International Student Service in Geneva, a highly regarded organization which concerns itself solely with aid to refugee students. Several hundred Jewish students in Switzerland are helped to complete their university training and they receive other educational benefits from this organization. The J.D.C. continues to provide for the local welfare requirements of the Swiss Jewish Community and the funds raised by Swiss Jews are utilized by them to aid Jews in the occupied territories. During 1944 the J.D.C. will have spent for all programs of relief in Switzerland $1,913,000.

Spain:

The cost of maintenance of refugees in Spain remains extremely high due to the abnormally high cost of living in the country. A minimum of 2,000 refugees have been fully maintained, and although during the year hundreds of refugees were evacuated from Spain, many others came into the country and
those who exhausted their own resources were forced to appeal to the J.D.C.
for aid. Approximately 600 Sephardic Jews were permitted to enter Spain from
German-occupied countries on the guarantee of the J.D.C. to the Spanish govern
ment that they would not become public charges. The bulk of these were
later transported to a camp near Casablanca operated by UNRRA. In Spain, as
in other neutral and liberated areas, it is the policy of the J.D.C. to secure
the support of the respective Allied Government for those refugees who can
establish their Allied nationality. Thus Polish, Dutch, Belgian, Czechoslovak
and Yugoslavian refugees who are recognized as such by their Governments are
referred for aid to the Allied Government mission in the country. The German,
Austrian and stateless refugees, former Poles, Russians, Romanians, Lithuanians
and others who had lost their nationality, remain the full responsibility of
the J.D.C., and these represent the bulk of the refugees in Spain.

The amount spent in 1944 for relief in Spain will total $1,300,000.

Portugal:

There are still some 600 to 700 refugees in Portugal who require aid.
Many of these consist of individuals. The other members of their families are
either dead or dispersed over Europe. Every effort is being made to arrange
for their emigration to countries of permanent asylum since they are not per-
mitted to work or settle in the country. The J.D.C. has also taken over the
cost of maintenance of local Portuguese Jewish institutions with the under-
standing that the funds raised by the Portuguese Jews for their welfare ac-
tivities will be used to aid Jews in occupied zones. The total that will thus be
spent in Portugal during 1944 will amount to $449,000.

Sweden:

Aid to refugees in Sweden is given to the German, Austrian and Czecho-
slovakian Jews who arrived prior to the war, to refugees from Finland, and to
over 5,000 refugees from Denmark. In the case of the latter group, only sup-
plementary assistance is given since basic relief requirements for the Danish
refugees are provided from Governmental sources. The total budget which in-
cludes a guarantee of maintenance of $70,000 should an additional 500 Finnish
Jews enter Sweden will be $122,500.

Turkey:

In Turkey the J.D.C. carried on a four-fold program, brought about by
the geographic location of the country, as follows: (1) assistance to refu-
gees from the Balkans in transit to Palestine; (2) purchase and shipments of
supplies from Turkey to occupied Rumania and Czechoslovakia for distribution
by the International Red Cross; (3) relief to Turkish nationals who were re-
patriated from France; and (4) aid to the local Jewish communities who were
practically ruined by the discriminatory levy on minority groups. The local
hospitals, orphan asylums and other welfare agencies were faced with closure
and expropriation unless J.D.C. aid were forthcoming. For the last two pro-
grams of relief in Turkey on behalf of Turkish nationals, the J.D.C. will
spend in 1944 the sum of $196,000.
Middle East:

In Palestine the J.D.C. carried on a program of aid to needy refugees, rabbis and scholars and to about 70 educational and cultural institutions of higher learning accommodating 25,000 students. A special grant of $50,000 was made to the yeshivot for special feeding of undernourished students, after a survey had been made of their nutritional needs.

Aden harbored about 2,000 Yemenite refugees who escaped from Yemen and who found themselves in dire need. Early in the year a typhus epidemic broke out and the J.D.C. rushed a medical unit from Palestine of a physician and nurses who succeeded in halting the epidemic. Relief was given to many of the refugees and about half were transported to Palestine. It is hoped that the balance will be leaving for Palestine in the near future.

In Iran, a small subvention is granted to the Alliance Israelite Universelle Schools.

The total spent for relief in Aden and Iran will amount to $20,000. Relief expenditures in Palestine are included in grants made by the Cultural Committee.

Central and South America:

The J.D.C. continued its relief and rehabilitation program in Latin America. The major relief problems are in Bolivia, Uruguay, Cuba and the Dominican Republic. In these countries the relatively small size of the established local Jewish community to the refugee population makes it imperative that the J.D.C. continue to carry the main burden of relief. In Bolivia where there are some 5,000 refugees, 1,000 persons receive aid. Many of the refugees are older people and due to the high altitude of the cities in which they live, medical care becomes one of the largest items of relief. Similarly in the Dominican Republic where there are over 1,000 refugees, their integration in the economic life of the country is a difficult and slow process. In the other Central and South American countries which have sizeable established Jewish communities, the J.D.C. continues to stimulate local Jewish responsibility. Many of them are gradually taking over the task of caring for the needy in their midst, and the J.D.C. grants have been on a constantly decreasing scale. Many of the communities in fact are collecting funds for overseas relief. The sum of $185,000 was granted to the Agro-Joint for the budgetary needs of the two settlement projects carried on by the Agro-Joint in the Dominican Republic and in Bolivia.

The total grants for Latin American countries in 1944, exclusive of the Agro-Joint, will amount to $499,000.

Liberated Countries:

North Africa:

In Algiers, Morocco, Tunisia and Tripolitania, the J.D.C. continued to care for the refugees and to provide aid to needy children of the local population and those who were bombed out of their homes. Special grants were made
to the Alliance Israelite Universelle Schools in Morocco and Tunisia, so that a hot noon meal could be served to the children and to help defray the salaries of teachers who were greatly underpaid. Some 16,000 children attend the schools in North Africa outside of Algiers. In Algiers special local institutions were aided, sanatoria, clinics and a children’s camp where 800 children spend their summer vacations. About 1,000 refugees in North Africa are dependent on J.D.C., although many others have been able to make an economic adjustment. This number includes the refugees in Tangiers, which although not a liberated area, is listed as part of North Africa. The sum of $437,000 will be spent in North Africa during 1944.

Italy:

In the areas of Italy thus far liberated, there are about 4500 refugees and 12,000 Italian Jews. Emergency aid was granted to the needy in both groups. In the refugee camps, supplementary assistance is being given in the form of monetary aid and in clothing purchased and shipped from Palestine by the J.D.C. Vocational and retraining programs have been established in the camps and aid is given in the emigration of refugees to countries of permanent asylum. The local Jewish community is being helped to organize itself and to reopen welfare institutions such as hospitals, synagogues, and religious schools. The representatives of the J.D.C. in Italy operate under the sponsorship of the Intergovernmental Committee for Refugees, with whom there is a close working arrangement. The experience of the J.D.C. in Italy has demonstrated that the local Jewish population can begin to take care of their own needs much more quickly if the J.D.C. can function immediately after liberation has been accomplished.

During 1944, the J.D.C. will spend in Italy $390,000.

France:

The liberation of France rescued about 160,000 Jews who survived the German occupation. About a quarter are in the Paris area and the balance in the South of France. First estimates place the number of French Jews at about 40% of the Jewish population. Approximately 100,000 are known to have been deported eastward and nothing has been heard from them. The Jews in France have lost their jobs, their businesses, in many instances their homes and all of their belongings. About 30,000 are in need of emergency aid and this number is expected to rise shortly to 60,000. Fortunately, the Jewish committees subventioned by the J.D.C., which had gone underground during the occupation, were able immediately to re-establish themselves and carry on without a break. The offices of the J.D.C. in Paris were quickly reopened and six kitchens began feeding 10,000 Jews one meal a day. The September budget for the Paris region alone was 6,000,000 francs, which at current rates of exchange amounts to $110,000. Between 7,000 and 8,000 children had been placed in homes, monasteries and convents and these children, most of them orphans, are now being collected, reunited with their families or cared for by the various Jewish organizations in children’s homes. Direct remittance to France from New York of $200,000 was authorized in the latter part of 1944. Until full accounting reports are received from France and Switzerland, giving details of the borrowings and other financial transactions carried on from Switzerland, it will not be possible to state how much was expended in France in 1944.
borrowings in France from the time of our entry in the war to April, 1944 indicate that a total of $2,500,000 was borrowed locally. Word has just been received that one of our staff representatives who had been stationed in Italy has arrived in Paris. Dr. Schwartz's arrival is expected daily, and fuller reports of the needs and budgetary requirements will soon be available.

Belgium:

The surviving Jewish population in Belgium is estimated at 18,000 to 20,000 of whom 65% are estimated to be non-Belgian nationals. Jewish underground committees hid and maintained 7,000 - 8,000 persons, including 2,900 children. Through Switzerland and through the Belgian Government, the J.D.C. was able to make assistance available to the Jews during the occupation. Practically all of the survivors are in need. The Belgian Government provides 35 francs daily (80 cents) to all unemployed persons regardless of their nationality, but this amount is completely inadequate in the case of the Jews who lost their homes, their possessions, and all their resources. An appeal for $2,100,000 for a three-month period for emergency relief, reestablishment in homes, and initial rehabilitation was received soon after the liberation of Belgium. An emergency grant of $150,000 was made pending a survey of the situation which Dr. Schwartz plans to make in the near future.

Rumania:

The economic situation of the 290,000 Jews in Rumania is most tragic. According to a report from Dr. William Filderman, well known Jewish leader in Rumania, 150,000 Jews are totally destitute and many others require supplementary aid. There are 16,000 refugees who had been evacuated from Transnistria, 20,000 who had been evacuated from the small towns and villages to the larger cities and 50,000 returned from forced labor camps. All need the basic essentials to maintain life. The last group of forced laborers with their families aggregate 90,000 souls. Some 30,000 Jews in Iassy have no homes due to bombardment. Dr. Filderman urgently requested $1,500,000 for emergency relief, pointing out that if this sum was not forthcoming immediately, twice the amount would be required. A special grant of $500,000 was quickly made available and an additional sum of $250,000 placed at the disposal of Dr. Schwartz for aid in Rumania. There is every reason to hope that a J.D.C. representative will soon be in Rumania helping to start the rehabilitation of the Jews in that country. It is of interest to point out that hundreds of thousands of dollars had been borrowed locally on J.D.C. credit prior to the collapse of Rumania and repayments are being made to Rumanian Jews who arrived in Palestine. Full accounts of these borrowings are awaited.

Poland:

No other Jewish community has suffered so grievously as has that of the Jews of Poland. The full fury of the murderous attacks of Hitler and his Gestapo seem to have been directed against Polish Jews. How many Jews still remain alive in the occupied part of Poland is unknown, although estimates by the Jewish underground committees place the figure at 200,000 as of May, 1944. In the liberated areas the first estimates record only 40,000 Jews as surviving in Poland and about 300,000 Polish Jews in the Soviet Union. This would mean that about 2,500,000 Polish Jews were murdered or died as a result of
starvation and illness in the concentration camps and were therefore as truly murdered as were those who died in the gas chambers of Oswiecim, Birkenau, and Treblinka. The condition of the 40,000 survivors in Poland is indescribably tragic. In response to urgent appeals from Dr. Emil Somerstein, head of the Lublin Jewish Relief Committee and an old co-worker of the J.D.C. after the last war, the J.D.C. instructed its Tehran office to ship 50 tons of food, clothing and medicine to Lublin from its store of supplies in Iran. In addition the J.D.C. appropriated $250,000 for the purchase of supplies in this country for shipment to Dr. Somerstein.

To the Polish refugees in the Soviet Union, the J.D.C. has been sending food and clothing parcels from Tehran. The names and addresses of some 30,000 families are known to our offices in Jerusalem and Tehran and every three months a 5 kg. parcel is dispatched. The average cost of such a parcel is $25.00 including duty and transportation. It became possible to send regularly 10,000 parcels a month when the J.D.C. was able to purchase 250 tons of Lend-Lease supplies lying in Tehran at a cost of $480,000. The total appropriation for the parcel service in 1944 is $1,200,000. Without the full and sympathetic cooperation of the Soviet authorities, it would not have been possible to expand the parcel service to such an extent.

Greece:

The liberation of Greece has disclosed that only 15,000 Greek Jews remain alive out of a pre-war population of 70,000. All are in dire need. Appeals have come to the J.D.C. from the newly appointed heads of the Jewish communities of Athens and Saloniki and from the leaders of Egyptian Jews who state that $400,000 are urgently needed for immediate relief pending the time when UNRRA will begin to function in Greece. Egyptian Jews are prepared to provide $40,000. Dr. Schwartz was authorized to provide $360,000 for emergency needs.

Bulgaria:

About 35,000 to 40,000 Jews remain in Bulgaria and most of them are going back to Sofia from which they had been exiled. They find their homes have been taken over by others and they experience great difficulties in attempting to reoccupy their apartments. Dispossessed and penniless, the Jews in Bulgaria will require a large measure of aid.

Yugoslavia:

Estimates of the number of Jews alive in Yugoslavia range from 3,500 to 40,000. Here again the picture is one of complete destitution. A special grant of $10,000 was made for a group of 1,400 refugees now in liberated Yugoslavia who at one time had been interned on the Island of Rab. Our representative in Italy advises us that some food and clothing have recently been flown to the group by British Military authorities.

Occupied Countries:

As of the end of 1944, substantial areas in Hungary, Poland, Italy, Czechoslovakia and Holland are still occupied by the enemy and an estimated
500,000 to 600,000 Jews trapped in those areas are in mortal danger of extermination. During the period under review, aid was brought to Jews in occupied territories by a variety of methods. One was by borrowing locally on J.D.C. credit against repayment after the war. That many committees were able to do so in substantial amounts was disclosed when France, parts of Italy and Rumania were liberated. A second method was the actual remittance of local currencies through underground channels, under special Treasury licenses. Large sums were expended in the purchase of such currencies from reliable sources in order that no benefit would accrue to the enemy. A third method was the shipment of food and medicine either in the form of individually addressed parcels to interned in camps or in bulk shipments distributed by the International Red Cross. Expenditures for rescue and relief in occupied countries during the year 1944 totalled $9,894,000 exclusive of funds borrowed on J.D.C. credit.

With the complete occupation of Hungary by the Germans in March of this year, the martyrdom of the Hungarian Jews started. The process of expropriation and concentration in camps and ghettos was carried through with incredible speed and then came the deportations to the gas chambers in Poland. Some 360,000 Jews were so deported and an additional 160,000 able bodied men were sent to slave labor camps in upper Silesia. The protests of a horrified world finally reached the ears of the Regent Horthy and in July 1944, he promised the International Committee of the Red Cross that no more deportations would take place, that children under 10 would be permitted to leave the country, and all holders of visas would likewise be given exit permits. Thus far only a few hundred Hungarian Jews reached Switzerland. It was estimated that there remained in Hungary at that time 200,000 to 250,000 Jews. In the last weeks, deportations started on a large scale and the gravest fears are held as to the fate of this last remnant of Hungarian Jews.

Some 20,000 Jews were estimated to be alive in Slovakia in addition to 35,000 Jews known to be in Theresienstadt. Deportation of the Jews in Bratislava in recent weeks have reduced the number of Jews in Slovakia to about 10,000 - 15,000 who it is believed are hidden in territory controlled by Slovakian patriots.

Small groups of Jews are hidden in northern Italy and occupied Holland and liberation must come quickly if they are to survive the relentless hunt of the Gestapo. Many Jews owe their lives to the heroic partisan groups who befriended them. Many thousands of young Jews have joined the partisans and are bravely fighting side by side with their non-Jewish neighbors to achieve the liberation of their countries.

Cultural and Educational Assistance:

Throughout its history, the J.D.C. has helped to sustain the religious, cultural and educational life of the Jews in Europe. Keenly aware of the high place that religion and education occupy in the daily life of Jews, the J.D.C. has supported the institutions of higher learning which have kept alive Jewish culture and trained religious leaders for their communities. Although many of the famous yeshivoth of Poland and Lithuania were destroyed, many were re-established in other countries and in Palestine particularly. Through the Cultural Committees regular grants are made to these institutions, aid is given
to newly founded institutions in South America, ritual articles made available as far as possible and matzoh provided for Passover wherever transportation can be secured. In 1944, the J.D.C. will have spent on cultural, religious and educational activities the sum of $460,000.

**Inter-Governmental Agencies:**

Close contact was maintained during the year with UNRRA and the Intergovernmental Committee. Early in 1944, UNRRA initiated a program of utilizing the services of private agency personnel. The J.D.C. assigned to the UNRRA a unit of ten workers, one physician and nine trained social workers for service in the Balkans. Six of them are already stationed in the Near East. Another J.D.C. staff member has been assigned by UNRRA to a Polish mission which it is expected will leave for Poland shortly. Although these workers operate as part of the UNRRA staff, they are free to report to the J.D.C. on all matters pertaining to Jewish relief and rehabilitation problems and thus form a valuable link between UNRRA and the J.D.C. UNRRA's operations in 1944 were mainly concerned with a number of refugees' camps in the Middle East and with planning for the future. A mission has just entered Italy to carry on a relief program in accordance with the decisions taken at the Montreal Conference in September of 1944. At this conference certain enabling resolutions were passed which permit UNRRA to enter enemy or ex-enemy territories to aid displaced nationals of the United Nations or such displaced enemy nationals as have been persecuted by reason of their race, religion or activities on behalf of the United Nations. It is hoped that as a result of these enabling resolutions, UNRRA will extend its relief and rehabilitation services to many Jews in enemy or ex-enemy territories where the needs are overwhelming.

Close cooperation in the functional field with the Intergovernmental Committee for Refugees was worked out in 1944. This Agency, of which Sir Herbert Emerson is the Director, is primarily concerned with the non-repatriable refugee population, whose resettlement will require long range planning. We are happy to report that there is a friendly and intimate relationship between the committee and the J.D.C. which augurs well for the future when the baffling problems of the stateless refugees must be wrestled with and solved.

**Cooperation with Jewish Communities Abroad:**

The year under review saw a quickening of cooperative efforts with free Jewish communities throughout the world. For many years the Jews in Canada have been an integral part of the J.D.C. Funds raised in Canada are expended by the J.D.C. as part of its overall program. Thus the Jews in Canada have participated in every aspect of J.D.C. work and it is expected that in the future Canada will provide even more valuable resources in the form of commodities for relief programs overseas.

Jewish communities in South Africa, Australia and New Zealand, in Switzerland, in Egypt and England, have been in close touch with us so as to coordinate their relief efforts with those of the J.D.C. In most instances expenditure of their funds is made by the overseas staffs of the J.D.C. and represent in all cases additional aid to Jews in Europe rather than any substitution of J.D.C. help. The largest measure of such assistance has thus far
come from the Jewish Communities of South Africa and Australia. From the Argentine, from Chile, Ecuador, Venezuela, Peru, Uruguay, Colombia, and Mexico, funds have been made available for overseas aid. Although these amounts have so far been small, they represent the earnest desire of Latin American Jews to participate in the relief of Jews overseas. The J.D.C. welcomes whole-heartedly the cooperation of Jews throughout the world in the immense tasks of re-construction of Jewish life in the post-war period. It will exert every effort to make this cooperation more and more fruitful so that the maximum of assistance can be rendered to our stricken Jewish brethren in Europe.

Miscellaneous:

The overseas staff of the J.D.C. was enlarged during the year 1944. Under the direction of Dr. Joseph Schwartz, staff members are now stationed in Portugal, Spain, France, Italy, Sweden, Turkey, Iran, Argentina, Uruguay and Cuba. A Swiss national represents the J.D.C. in Switzerland. He has carried on magnificently one of the most difficult and important tasks that has ever befallen a representative of the J.D.C.

In order to secure the advice and counsel of European emigre leaders in this country, the J.D.C. sponsored the organization of the Advisory and Consultative Group of European Representatives. The group consists of one representative and one alternate of each of the following countries: Austria, Belgium, Czechoslovakia, France, Germany, Holland, Hungary, Italy, Luxemburg, Poland, Rumania, Switzerland and Yugoslavia. In turn small auxiliary national groups have been organized by the representative of each country, and much valuable aid is being received from the regular discussions and planning of the various groups.

The J.D.C. took the initiative in the formation of the Central Location Index Inc., a cooperative venture on the part of seven national agencies concerned with the problem of serving inquiries who wish to locate the whereabouts of their relatives and friends overseas. The agencies are the American Friends Service Committee, the American Christian Committee for Refugees, the Hias, the International Migration Service, the National Council of Jewish Women, the National Refugee Service and the Joint Distribution Committee. The Index acts as a central clearing body for all inquiries originating with the member agencies, thereby eliminating duplication, and also cooperates with the International Red Cross and other overseas agencies in a centralized effort to locate displaced persons.

A Medical Committee, consisting of distinguished American physicians and allied experts has been formed to advise the J.D.C. in all medical and public health problems that will face the J.D.C. in Europe. Dr. Jack Golub, who took the initiative in the formation of the Committee, is Chairman. His experience as a J.D.C. representative after the last war and his large experience in this country in hospital and public health administration will be invaluable.

The J.D.C. took an active interest in the work of The American Council of Voluntary Agencies for Foreign Service of which we are a member. The Council serves as a clearing house for agencies engaged in overseas assistance and seeks to coordinate programs in order to eliminate duplication.
A Research Department has been established to collate and analyze all the facts bearing on J.D.C. activities and conditions of Jewish life abroad. The gathering of all information and its presentation in systematic form has been found to be most helpful in all current and future planning of the J.D.C. programs.

In order to keep Jewish communities informed of the current activities of the J.D.C. and the problems of rehabilitation and reconstruction in the post-war period, the Department of Community Service and Information has enlarged its scope. Mr. Albert Lieberman, Chairman of the National Council of the J.D.C. will report in greater detail to the Annual Meeting on this aspect of our work.

* * * * * *

The greatly enlarged range and scope of our activities in 1944 placed a heavy burden on the Emergency Administration Committee and on the Executive Committee. The Emergency Administration Committee met weekly in addition to special meetings called on a few hours notice to meet extraordinary emergencies. Regular monthly meetings of the Executive Committee were held throughout the year.

* * * * * *

The year 1944 completes thirty years of J.D.C. service to destitute and needy Jews in all parts of the world. Vast as have been the funds made available by American Jews in these thirty years to succor and rebuild the broken lives of their less fortunate Jewish brethren overseas, the tasks of the future will call for even larger sums. The catastrophe inflicted on the world by Hitler and his Nazi hordes has profoundly affected the lives of all peoples on all continents. No single group has suffered as much as have the Jews of Europe. The fullest measure of aid must be forthcoming from governmental and intergovernmental sources since no private agency or agencies can meet the overwhelming needs of the Jews for emergency relief and rehabilitation. To rebuild shattered bodies, to restore morale and regenerate the spirit, to return the dignity of the human person to the enslaved and humiliated, are tasks that require all the sympathy, understanding, skill and material resources that can be made available. To these tasks the Joint Distribution Committee rededicates itself, supremely confident that the Jews of America will uphold its hands in the future as it has in the past.

Respectfully submitted,

Moses A. Leavitt
Secretary.
December 6, 1944

Dear John,

Thank you for your letter of December 4th in which you enclosed a memorandum prepared by Mr. Leavitt of the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee. I shall see that it is carefully considered.

I hope that I shall have at least a progress report for you by the end of the week.

With best wishes,

Sincerely yours,

[Signature]

Mr. John Pehle
Director
War Refugee Board
Dear Ed:

In view of our recent discussions on the question of how this Government should approach the refugee problem in the near future, I am sending you a copy of a memorandum recently prepared by Moses A. Leavitt of the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee. It strikes me as a most suggestive statement and worthy of careful consideration.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Honorable Edward R. Stettinius, Jr.,
Secretary of State,
Washington, D. C.

Enclosure.
MEMORANDUM ON DISPLACED PERSONS

As the war in Europe draws to a close, it becomes more and more evident how vast has been the uprooting of people from their homes and from their countries. Estimates range up to and in some instances exceed the figure of 20,000,000 individuals who will have to be repatriated or returned to their homes when the war is over. This problem of the displaced has been roughly divided into two main categories: (a) those who can readily be repatriated, that is, the "temporarily" displaced; and (b) those who will not be able to or will not wish to return to their former residences and are therefore considered "permanently" displaced.

The first category includes the United Nations nationals who are prisoners of war, forced laborers, refugees in other lands, and who represent the great bulk of the displaced population. It is believed that within a period of perhaps a year after hostilities cease in Europe, most of them will be returned to their homes.

The second category includes the so-called "stateless" refugees, or those who may become stateless as a result of changes of national boundaries that will follow the end of the war. Such permanently displaced persons will require long-range programs for their rehabilitation and resettlement. Estimates of the number of such persons vary from one million to over two million, although no reliable data are available to support either the lower or higher figure. It is, however, generally believed that a hard core of many hundreds of thousands of displaced persons will remain to trouble the humanitarian instincts of the world unless a planned program for their resettlement is undertaken.

This memorandum proposes to deal mainly with the problems of the permanently displaced group.

In 1938, President Roosevelt took the initiative in calling the Evian Conference to consider the orderly emigration from Germany of persons who were
persecuted because of their race, religion or political beliefs. The Evian Conference resulted in the creation of an Intergovernmental Committee for Refugees, composed of representatives of 32 countries. The outbreak of the war in 1939 greatly narrowed the scope of activities of the Committee and it was only after the Bermuda Conference held by the United States and Great Britain in 1943, that the terms of reference of the Committee were enlarged; additional countries were invited and accepted membership, and the Committee began to plan for the future of the permanently displaced refugee population.

In November 1942, President Roosevelt announced the establishment in the Department of State of the Office of Foreign Relief and Rehabilitation Operations, the forerunner of UNRRA, in the creation of which the United States played a leading and commanding role.

In January 1944, President Roosevelt again took the initiative in establishing the War Refugee Board, consisting of the Secretaries of State, War and Treasury, to take action for the immediate rescue from enemy-occupied countries of the persecuted minorities of Europe who were threatened with death by the Germans. In establishing the Board, President Roosevelt indicated that it was part of the national policy of the United States to render all help, consistent with the successful prosecution of the war, to these unfortunate victims of German terror and brutality.

It is believed that the time is now opportune for another forward-looking step on the part of the United States in behalf of the uprooted, the homeless and the dispossessed. Specifically, the following is proposed:

That there be established within the Department of State a new Division to concern itself with the problems of displaced persons in general, and more particularly with the problems of the permanently displaced. The Division should
be headed by a man of stature, who, when he travels abroad should have the rank of
Ambassador. The staff of the Division, though small, should consist of persons
specially selected because of their knowledge, experience and skill in dealing with
the complex problems of human rehabilitation. The establishment of the new Division
should be accompanied by a public statement recording the profound humanitarian
interest of the people of the United States in the problem and indicating that
it is part of the national policy of the United States to cooperate with other
United Nations, with intergovernmental bodies and voluntary agencies in working
out plans for the restoration to normal life and living of these helpless and
hapless people.

The new Division should not carry on any functional or operating programs.
Both the UNRRA and the Intergovernmental Committee are or can be fully empowered
to perform all functions of relief, rehabilitation and resettlement that may be
found necessary and desirable. The Division will have the following objectives:

1. To gather, collate and analyze all facts relating to the
   problems of the permanently displaced. It is assumed that
   the Civil Affairs Branches of the Allied Armies and the
   foreign missions of the United States, among others, would
   be fruitful sources from which information can be secured;

2. To examine the feasibility and practicability of all projects,
   plans and proposals that may originate within the Division
   itself or which may be brought to it from the outside, and
to recommend approved plans to the bodies competent to carry
   them out;

3. To maintain close liaison with the military authorities, the
   United Nations, UNRRA, the Intergovernmental Committee, and
   private voluntary agencies, so that a maximum of coordination
can be achieved.
4. To stimulate and activate the operating agencies, and consistent with the laws of the United States, to facilitate so far as possible the successful execution of approved projects.

The United States has official representation in the Council of the UNRRA and in the Intergovernmental Committee. It is of essence that the closest possible relationship be developed between the Division and the American representatives to these two bodies. Ideally, if one may venture to suggest, the head of the Division should be part of the official representation of the United States to UNRRA and I.C.O. The desirability of this needs no elaboration.

No detailed blueprint of activities can now be devised. Too many vital facts and factors are unknown, or at best can only be conjectured. However, the broad lines of an approach to the problem can be sketched.

1. Emergency Relief. Clearly the first step is to maintain the lives of these people by providing them with the basic essentials of food, clothing, shelter and medical aid. In the main, this should be a responsibility of UNRRA, and of the local government authority. The scope of UNRRA operations in Allied countries will vary from country to country. It is not yet clear what the procedures will be in the administration by UNRRA of relief to displaced persons. The operations of UNRRA in enemy or ex-enemy countries have been greatly extended by the enabling resolutions passed at the Montreal conference in September of this year, particularly in behalf of displaced persons. Much remains to be done on the administrative level to interpret and carry out the intent of these resolutions. It is submitted that the proposed new Division can make a valuable contribution in clarifying many puzzling problems that are involved in the emergency period of relief administration by UNRRA.
2. **Rehabilitation and Resettlement.** In planning the resettlement of hundreds of thousands of persons, many complex problems—social, legal and economic—will have to be faced and resolved. A considerable proportion of the permanently displaced are stateless or will no doubt become stateless because of inability or unwillingness to return to their countries of birth or of adopted nationality. Many of the displaced have no documents of identity, and a long and tedious process of establishing nationality will have to be undertaken in order that the ranks of the stateless should not be swelled. There is at present nobody to whom a stateless person can turn for legal protection, as can an American citizen to his consul. Some provision will have to be made to remedy this need, at least in part, and some document of identity will have to be devised to enable the stateless to reside temporarily where he is and to travel.

It will be necessary to train or retrain many of the younger elements in vocational pursuits. The choice of vocations will be conditioned by the needs of the countries in which they will ultimately be settled. Such a program requires a careful case by case study of each individual by competent skilled workers. Vocational training facilities may have to be established if not locally available. Many children have been deprived of normal schooling for years, and special educational methods and facilities must be devised to deal with this problem.

There is every reason to believe that many of these uprooted people will find it possible to remain in the country in which they happen to be, to take root therein and to make places for themselves in the economic life of the country. For such, every effort should be made to facilitate their naturalization so that they can become, as quickly as the laws of the country permit, free and equal citizens. With the need for manpower that will undoubtedly arise in Europe to rebuild the areas devastated by the enemy and by military operations, one may hope that many countries will permit the foreign nationals to remain to aid in this restoration. The extent to which this will be possible will depend in great measure
on the sympathetic understanding and cooperation that the countries in Europe will display. Much undoubtedly can be done to convince various governments of the desirability of this course, and the intelligent preparation of the displaced to enable them to develop into useful, productive workers will go far in this direction.

Many will have to be resettled in other countries of Europe or migrate to overseas lands. This perhaps represents the most difficult of all the problems affecting the displaced. To some extent the migration of individuals to rejoin members of families will undoubtedly take place, and many countries, as a matter of simple humanity and perhaps self-interest, will permit such immigration. Certain undeveloped and sparsely populated countries will welcome specially trained persons. This activity will have to be thoroughly studied, planned, organized and encouraged. Mass colonization, whether agricultural or industrial, requires such vast sums of money, such expert planning and administration, that only governmental authorities will be able to undertake such activities successfully.

Finally, it must be recognized that there will remain old and disabled persons, so broken in body and spirit by the horrors and privations they have gone through, that it will not be possible to make them completely self-supporting, and provisions will have to be made to enable them to live out the rest of their lives in special homes.

In conclusion, it should be pointed out that private voluntary agencies in this country and abroad have a wealth of experience and expert personnel trained to deal with the types of problems presented by the displaced person. If wisely used, the private agencies can make a significant contribution in the amelioration of this great human tragedy.

Moses A. Leavitt

November 30, 1944.
Personal - Special Delivery

December 1st, 1944.

Miss Florence Hodel
War Refugee Board
Washington, D.C.

Dear Florence:

I enclose a draft of a memorandum which I would like you, Joe and Jim to read. Would you call me on Monday and give me your suggestions and comments so that I can incorporate them in the memorandum and send it immediately to John.

Sincerely yours,

[Signature]
MEMORANDUM ON DISPLACED PERSONS

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This memorandum proposes to deal mainly with the problems of the permanently displaced group.

In 1938, President Roosevelt took the initiative in calling the Evian Conference to consider the orderly emigration from Germany of persons who were
persecuted because of their race, religion or political beliefs. The Brian Conference resulted in the creation of an Intergovernmental Committee for Refugees, composed of representatives of 33 countries. The outbreak of the war in 1939 greatly narrowed the scope of activities of the Committee and it was only after the Bermuda Conference held by the United States and Great Britain in 1943, that the terms of reference of the Committee were enlarged; additional countries were invited and accepted membership, and the Committee began to plan for the future of the permanently displaced refugee population.

In November 1942, President Roosevelt announced the establishment in the Department of State of the Office of Foreign Relief and Rehabilitation Operations, the forerunner of UNRRA, in the creation of which the United States played a leading and commanding role.

In January 1944, President Roosevelt again took the initiative in establishing the War Refugee Board, consisting of the Secretaries of State, War and Treasury, to take action for the immediate rescue from enemy-occupied countries of the persecuted minorities of Europe who were threatened with death by the Germans. In establishing the Board, President Roosevelt indicated that it was part of the national policy of the United States to render all help, consistent with the successful prosecution of the war, to these unfortunate victims of German terror and brutality.

It is believed that the time is now opportune for another forward-looking step on the part of the United States in behalf of the uprooted, the homeless and the dispossessed. Specifically, the following is proposed:

That there be established within the Department of State a new Division to concern itself with the problems of displaced persons in general, and more particularly with the problems of the permanently displaced. The Division should
be headed by a man of stature, who, when he travels abroad should have the rank of
Ambassador. The staff of the Division, though small, should consist of persons
specially selected because of their knowledge, experience and skill in dealing with
the complex problems of human rehabilitation. The establishment of the new Division
should be accompanied by a public statement recording the profound humanitarian
interest of the people of the United States in the problem and indicating that
it is part of the national policy of the United States to cooperate with other
United Nations, with intergovernmental bodies and voluntary agencies in working
out plans for the restoration to normal life and living of these helpless and
hapless people.

The new Division will not carry on any functional or operating programs.
Both the UNRRA and the Intergovernmental Committee are or can be fully empowered
to perform all functions of relief, rehabilitation and resettlement that may be
found necessary and desirable. The Division will have the following objectives:

1. To gather, collate and analyze all facts relating to the
problems of the permanently displaced. It is assumed that
the Civil Affairs Branches of the Allied Armies and the
foreign missions of the United States, among others, would
be fruitful sources from which information can be secured;

2. To examine the feasibility and practicability of all projects,
plans and proposals that may originate within the Division
itself or which may be brought to it from the outside, and
to recommend approved plans to the bodies competent to carry
them out;

3. To maintain close liaison with the military authorities, the
United Nations, UNRRA, the Intergovernmental Committee, and
private voluntary agencies, so that a maximum of coordination
can be achieved;
4. To stimulate and activate the operating agencies, and consistent with the laws of the United States, to facilitate so far as possible the successful execution of approved projects.

The United States has official representation in the Council of the UNRRA and in the Intergovernmental Committee. It is of the essence that the closest possible relationship be developed between the Division and the American representatives to these two bodies. Ideally, if one may venture to suggest, the head of the Division should be part of the official representation of the United States to UNRRA and I.C.G. The desirability of this needs no elaboration.

No detailed blueprint of activities can now be devised. Too many vital facts and factors are unknown, or at best can only be conjectured. However, the broad lines of an approach to the problem can be sketched.

1. Emergency Relief. Clearly the first step is to maintain the lives of these people by providing them with the basic essentials of food, clothing, shelter and medical aid. In the main, this should be a responsibility of UNRRA, and of the local government authorities. The scope of UNRRA operations in Allied countries will vary from country. It is not yet clear what the procedures will be in the administration by UNRRA of relief to displaced persons. The operations of UNRRA in enemy or ex-enemy countries have been greatly extended by the enabling resolutions passed at the Montreal conference in September of this year, particularly in behalf of displaced persons. Much remains to be done on the administrative level to interpret and carry out the intent of these resolutions. It is submitted that the proposed new Division can make a valuable contribution in clarifying many puzzling problems that are involved in the emergency period of relief administration by UNRRA.
2. Rehabilitation and Resettlement. In planning the resettlement of hundreds of thousands of persons, many complex problems — social, legal and economic — will have to be faced and resolved. A considerable proportion of the permanently displaced are stateless or will no doubt become stateless because of inability or unwillingness to return to their countries of birth or of adopted nationality. Many of the displaced have no documents of identity, and a long and tedious process of establishing nationality will have to be undertaken in order that the ranks of the stateless should not be swelled. There is at present nobody to whom a stateless person can turn for legal protection, as can an American citizen to his consul. Some provision will have to be made to remedy this need, at least in part, and some document of identity will have to be devised to enable the stateless to reside temporarily where he is and to travel.

It will be necessary to train or retrain many of the younger elements in vocational pursuits. The choice of vocations will be conditioned by the needs of the countries in which they will ultimately be settled. Such a program requires a careful case by case study of each individual by competent skilled workers. Vocational training facilities may have to be established if not locally available. Many children have been deprived of normal schooling for years, and special educational methods and facilities must be devised to deal with this problem.

There is every reason to believe that many of these uprooted people will find it possible to remain in the country in which they happen to be, to take root therein and to make places for themselves in the economic life of the country. For such, every effort should be made to facilitate their naturalization so that they can become, as quickly as the laws of the country permit, free and equal citizens. With the need for manpower that will undoubtedly arise in Europe to rebuild the areas devastated by the enemy and by military operations, one may hope that many countries will permit the foreign nationals to remain to aid in this restoration. The extent to which this will be possible will depend in great measure
on the sympathetic understanding and cooperation that the countries in Europe will
display. Much undoubtedly can be done to convince various governments of the
desirability of this course, and the intelligent preparation of the displaced to
enable them to develop into useful, productive workers will go far in this direction.

Many will have to be resettled in other countries of Europe or migrate to
overseas lands. This perhaps represents the most difficult of all the problems
affecting the displaced. To some extent the migration of individuals to rejoin
members of families will undoubtedly take place, and many countries, as a matter
of simple humanity and perhaps self-interest, will permit such immigration.
Certain undeveloped and sparsely populated countries will welcome specially trained
persons. This activity will have to be thoroughly studied, planned, organized and
encouraged. Mass colonization, whether agricultural or industrial, requires such
vast sums of money, such expert planning and administration, that only governmental
authorities will be able to undertake such activities successfully.

Finally, it must be recognized that there will remain old and disabled
persons, so broken in body and spirit by the horrors and privations they have gone
through, that it will not be possible to make them completely self-supporting, and
provisions will have to be made to enable them to live out the rest of their lives
in special homes.

In conclusion, it should be pointed out that private voluntary agencies in
this country and abroad have a wealth of experience and expert personnel trained
to deal with the types of problems presented by the displaced person. If wisely used,
the private agencies can make a significant contribution in the alleviation of this
great human tragedy.

Moses A. Leavitt.

November 30, 1944.
Dr. Robert C. Dexter
Representative, War Refugee Board
American Embassy
Lisbon, Portugal

Dear Dr. Dexter:

Miss Laura Margolis of the American Joint Distribution Committee, has requested that the enclosed reports be delivered to Mr. Robert Pilpel. Your cooperation will be greatly appreciated.

Sincerely yours,

Mary Elizabeth Thompson
For: Ivor G. Olsen
Special Attaché for War Refugee Board

Enclosures - 2
Department of State

London

Dated November 27, 1944

Ac'd 5:03 p.m.

Secretary of State
Washington

10454, November 27, 6 p.m.

FOR PHILIP P. O'HARA.

Schwartz left today for Paris on route to Switzerland. He did not know how long he would be in Paris before being able to arrange transportation onward. Reference 21B 27.

JT

DECLASSIFIED
State Dept. Letter, 1-11-72
By R. H. Parks Date SEP 1 1972

DEC 1 1972
Copy for War Refugee Board

848/100/MBT

Stockholm, Sweden
November 27, 1944

Mr. William Taylor
Treasurer Representative
American Embassy
London

Dear Mr. Taylor:

Not knowing the name of the War Refugee Board representative in London, I am taking the liberty of asking that you see that the enclosed report from Miss Laura Margolis is delivered to Mrs. Ray Hoffmam. Your cooperation is indeed appreciated.

Sincerely yours,

Mary Elizabeth Thompson
For: Iver C. Olsen
Special Attaché for
War Refugee Board

Enclosure as stated
Stockholm, Sweden
November 22, 1944

Dr. Robert Dexter
War Refugee Board Attaché
American Embassy
Lisbon, Portugal

Dear Dr. Dexter:

Miss Laura Margolis has asked that the enclosed report be delivered to Mr. Pilpel of J.E.C., and your assistance will be greatly appreciated.

Sincerely yours,

Ivor C. Olsen
Special Attaché for War Refugee Board

Enclosure - 1
November 17, 1944.

Miss Florence Hodel
War Refugee Board
Washington 25, D.C.

Dear Florence:

I enclose herewith photostat list of refugees in Palestine who deposited lira and the repayments thus far made. You will note that the total is about £11,000, or about $44,000. We have cabled asking why there is a discrepancy between this and the $80,000 which apparently had been deposited by the refugees.

Sincerely yours,

Moises A. Leavitt
The document contains the list of directors of a company and the officers of the company. The board of directors includes individuals from various cities across the United States, including New York, Chicago, Detroit, and Baltimore. The list includes names such as Aaron 1. Kahl, L. J. Kahl, Richard S. Kahl, and P. H. Kahl, among others, with some individuals listed as residing in places like Pittsburgh, New Orleans, and New York. The officers listed include Harry A. Schofield, Samuel H. Schofield, and others in various cities.

The document also includes a section titled "In the Armed Forces" with names like Arthur Kohl, New York, William W. Goodwin, Memphis, and others, indicating their military service.
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