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THE FIFTIETH YEAR

The Founders Meeting of the Joint Distribution Committee, November 27, 1914

(Opposite Page)

Seated in the foreground: Louis Marshall; Felix M. Warburg, Chairman; Jacob H. Schiff.

Standing to the left: Herbert H. Lehman.

Seated around the table, clockwise: Albert Lucas, Secretary; Mrs. F. Friedman, official stenographer; Boris D. Bogen, Executive Director; Leon Sanders, Harry Fischel, Sholem Asch, Alexander Kahn, Jacob Milch, Miss Harriet B. Lowenstein, Comptroller; Colonel Moses Schoenberg, Aaron Teitelbaum, M. Z. Margolis, Israel Friedlander, Paul Baerwald, Associate Treasurer; Julius Levy, Peter Wiernik, Meyer Gillis, Harry Cutler, Cyrus Adler, Arthur Lehman, Treasurer.

Standing in rear: Abraham Zucker, Isidore Herschfield, Meyer Berlin, Stanley Bero, Louis Topkis, Morris Engelman.

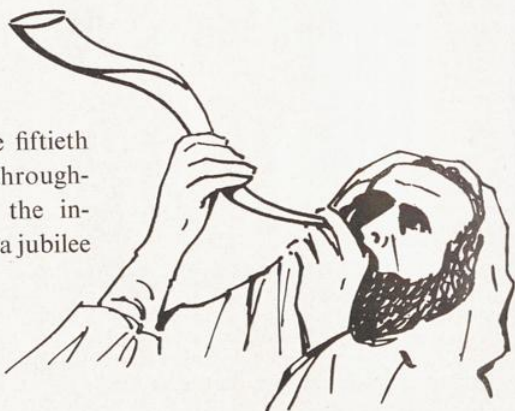
THE FIFTIETH YEAR

(Excerpt from Leviticus XXV)

And thou shalt number seven sabbaths of years unto thee, seven times seven years; and the space of the seven sabbaths of years shall be unto thee forty and nine years.

Then shalt thou cause the horn of the jubilee to sound . . . throughout all your land.

And ye shall hallow the fiftieth year, and proclaim liberty throughout all the land unto all the inhabitants thereof: it shall be a jubilee unto you; and ye shall return every man unto his possession, and ye shall return every man unto his family.



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And if thy brother be waxen poor, and fall in decay with thee; then thou shalt relieve him: yea, though he be a stranger, or a sojourner; that he may live with thee.

Take thou no usury of him, or increase: but fear thy God; that thy brother may live with thee.

THE FIFTIETH YEAR

By Charles H. Jordan, Director-General

On November 27, 1914, the Joint Distribution Committee came into existence. At the end of 1964, therefore, the fiftieth anniversary of JDC will be officially observed.

We are now in the fiftieth year. The fiftieth year has a special significance in Jewish lore. It is the year when one rests from labor, when one takes accounting of what has gone by, when one redresses injustice. It is the year when one declares a jubilee and, in the words of Leviticus: "Return every man unto his possession and . . . return every man unto his family".

JDC cannot, alas, at this time rest from its labors. There are still too many who are deprived of their possessions, too many who must be returned to their families, too many who need our care and attention. Our fiftieth year, our year of jubilee, must be devoted to increased efforts. There is no end in sight as yet to Jewish suffering; there can be no end to the work being done to relieve that suffering. We must redouble our efforts; we must make this a banner year in our 49-year old history of serving Jewish needs. For every additional Jew we can "return unto his possession", for every additional Jew we can "return unto his family", we make the celebration of the fiftieth anniversary more meaningful.

* * *

Projecting ahead for the coming year, our job is as follows:

Israel: JDC will continue to serve as the major agency responsible for the care of handicapped newcomers, while at the same time, as Israel's economy and resources hopefully improve, accelerate the program—initiated several years ago—of integrating our program into the health and welfare program of the country, towards the eventual goal of establishing in Israel a unified program for the care of all the aged, the sick and the handicapped.

Moslem Countries: There has been a great movement out of the various Moslem countries to Israel and other lands. JDC will maintain and improve both the material and the cultural lot of the indigent Jewish families in these countries, so as to make



“Helping People in Need Creates a Bond of Brotherhood...” Pope Paul VI.

The Pope pauses to converse with Charles H. Jordan, JDC Director-General, and Moses A. Leavitt, JDC Executive Vice-Chairman, at the Papal Audience for the Study Mission of the United Jewish Appeal at the Vatican, October 14, 1963. In the rear, between the two JDC officers, is James P. Rice, Executive Director of the United Hias Service.

them better fitted for life in their own countries, if they choose to remain, or in those countries for which they choose to leave.

Western Europe: We must continue to care for the residual caseloads of refugees and repatriates, while at the same time aiding in the development of community facilities and structure, in order to accelerate the growth of the communities to self-sufficiency.

Eastern Europe: We must continue and strengthen our programs in the two Eastern European countries in which we are allowed to operate—Poland and Yugoslavia. At the same time, we must never forget that there are other Jews in other countries who need our help and try to keep a lifeline open to them in order to be ready for the day when we will be able to reach them and give them the full service we give to the Jewish needy in other countries.

* * *

Fortunately, in the carrying out of this program we will not be standing alone. Governmental agencies, notably the United States Department of Agriculture with its "Food for Peace" program, continue to be extremely helpful. Intergovernmental agencies, especially the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, can be counted on to help us meet special needs.

We must record too, with gratitude, the Jewish agencies which make contributions to us and through us for the humanitarian work we do—such agencies as the Jewish Colonization Association and the Central British Fund. We must also pay our respect to those agencies who work hand-in-hand with us in the field—ORT, the United Hias Service, the Jewish Agency, and the Alliance Israélite Universelle.

Such cooperation is essential, if we are to do our job efficiently and properly. We are all dealing with people, with individual human beings and families, each of whom have their own particular problems and needs which shift and change according to circumstances and situation. At one time they may need help from JDC, at another from ORT, from Hias, the Jewish Agency, the Alliance Israélite, or any combination of these. Since it is our business to serve them, if we cannot do it ourselves it is up to us to refer them to someone who can.

We cannot close without acknowledging our great debt to the Jewish communities of America who, through their gifts to the United Jewish Appeal, have been our primary source of income for the past 25 years. It is their generosity that will keep us going in the difficult days ahead, as it did in the past. Because we can depend on this, we can be hopeful that we will never find ourselves in the unenviable, pitiful position of having to decide as to whether our money should go to children or the aged, to the poverty-stricken or the ill. We will continue to serve them all.

JDC IN POLAND



*Dr. Boris D. Bogen,
first JDC Director-General.*



JDC's first staff car.



*Members of JDC's first staff:
Left to right: Murray C. Troper, at
that time a member of the New York
accounting office, later JDC Direc-
tor-General; Dr. David Schweitzer,
Director of Finances; Dr. Jacob J.
Golub, head of the JDC medical unit.*

— AFTER THE FIRST WORLD WAR



JDC's first fresh air camp.

Four JDC clients.

