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JDC

JOINT  
DISTRIBUTION  
COMMITTEE

RESCUE-RELIEF-RECONSTRUCTION

1964

GUIDE TO OVERSEAS OPERATIONS OF THE  
AMERICAN JOINT DISTRIBUTION COMMITTEE



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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.

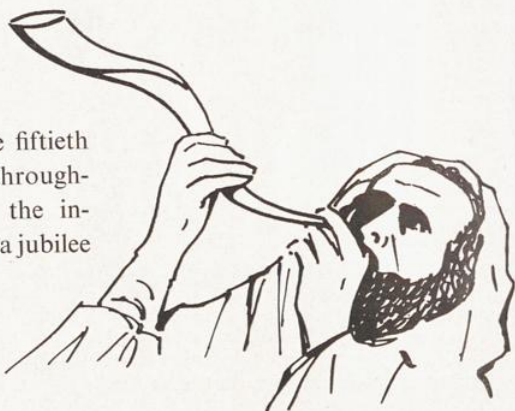
## THE FIFTIETH YEAR

(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.



\* \* \* \* \*

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.*



## SEVEN TIMES SEVEN YEARS

### Highlights in the History of JDC

**November 27, 1914** — Representatives of the American Jewish Relief Committee (organized by the American Jewish Committee), the Union of Orthodox Jewish Congregations and the People's Relief Committee (representing Jewish labor) create the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee to distribute the funds they had raised separately to bring relief to the vast mass of Jews living in Eastern Europe, trapped in the paths of the warring armies of Russia, Germany and the old Austro-Hungarian Empire at the start of World War I. Felix M. Warburg is named Chairman of the Committee, a post he was to hold continuously until his death in 1937.

**1915-1921** — Until America entered the war in 1917, JDC distributed its funds for the needy through the official Jewish welfare agencies of Russia, Germany and Austria. When America joined the allies, JDC organized a committee in Holland which, as a neutral body, was able to distribute funds in the areas occupied by Germany and Austria.

At the same time, JDC found ways to send relief to the Jews of Palestine, isolated by the war from world Jewry and completely helpless.

During the war years, 1914-1918, JDC expended approximately \$15,000,000, of which \$2,250,000 went to Palestine.

The end of the war brought no real relief to the Jews of Eastern Europe. Fighting and disruption brought calamity to this entire area, especially to the Jews who, in addition to the common hardships they shared with others, were the special victims of murderous pogroms (200,000 were slain in the Ukraine alone), discrimination and organized boycott. At first JDC worked through the various publicly recognized agencies in the field, but soon realized that the Jewish situation was so critical that a special effort had to be made just to bring the Jews to the level of the rest of the population. JDC sent out units of trained workers to conduct and administer medical, child care and economic relief.

During the immediate postwar period, JDC spent close to \$23,000,000 on its emergency programs.

**1922-1928** — This can be called the period of reconstruction of the Eastern European communities, although emergency relief went on, due to the great movement of refugees that continued from 1921 through 1923, more than 300,000 of whom were assisted by JDC during those years.

The JDC reconstruction program took various forms. A vast network of loan funds and credit and producers' cooperatives was set up to provide economic assistance which, at its peak, granted 500,000 loans totalling more than \$65,000,000; at the same time there existed more than 750 cooperatives, with 320,000 members. It can be flatly stated that this assistance was the primary factor in the survival of Jewish life in that area.

In the field of medical care, JDC revived, transformed and financed 500 medical and hygienic institutions. It set up child care institutions and, at the same time, set up local agencies which eventually took over the responsibility of operating them. It worked hand-in-hand with existing organizations (such as ORT and ICA) in the field of vocational training, subsidizing 670 such institutions. It set up a program of religious and cultural activities which made grants to more than 2,000 educational and religious installations with an enrollment of 250,000 students, thus helping assure a thriving Jewish community life.

Paralleling all this, JDC launched a vast program in Soviet Russia, where the changed conditions of the new society deprived Jews of their traditional occupations and made it necessary to retrain them for survival. The primary tool set up for this program by JDC was Agro-Joint, for the purpose of settling Russian Jews on the land, and the organization of a large training program for those in the cities. By 1938, when Agro-Joint's work was terminated, it had succeeded in transforming a large section of Russian Jewry from a ghetto population into self-reliant field and factory workers.

JDC expenditures in Russia during the war and postwar period amounted to more than \$30,000,000.

**1929-1935** — This was a period that started with hope and ended in tragedy.

Despite the economic crisis that affected the entire world, there was sufficient evidence of community revival amongst the Jews of Eastern Europe to warrant hope for an early end to the need for the continuation of JDC activities. In fact, a program of liquidation was drawn up and budgeted for the years 1932 and 1933, and JDC prepared itself for going out of business.

Then came Hitler and the taking over of power by the Nazis—and JDC was back in business—more than ever before.



JDC GOES INTO A

### ISRAEL

*Immigrants from the Shanghai camps arrive at Haifa.*



### GERMANY

*Children being fed at a DP Camp.*



### AUSTRIA

*4,500 escapees from Poland found shelter in the Rothschild Hospital, designed for only one-fifth of that number.*

## ACTION — AFTER THE SECOND WORLD WAR

### MARSEILLES

*Medical care for one of the thousands who came through this city on their way to Israel.*



### FRANCE

*The Porcelan family leaves the camp for a new home overseas.*

**1936-1942** — In 1935, the Nazis promulgated the Nuremberg laws which sealed the fate of 500,000 German Jews. In 1938, the same year that Austria and the Sudetenland were annexed, the Germans authorized a pogrom in which more than 500 synagogues were destroyed and thousands of Jews from the ages of 18 to 60 sent to concentration camps.

From the beginning of this emergency situation, JDC worked closely with local Jewish organizations and was the largest foreign contributor toward their budgets. Because of impoverishment, the Jewish population were able to do less and less for themselves as time passed by. In 1936, one-fifth of the Jews in Germany received JDC assistance—in 1937, one-third.

In the face of the most adverse conditions, JDC undertook to maintain some semblance of Jewish life. In 1938, loan funds set up by JDC had made grants of some 3,163,000 Reichsmarks. JDC gave vocational training to 31,000 persons. As Jewish children were excluded from more and more schools, existing Jewish schools had to be expanded and new ones added. By 1937, 167 JDC-subsidized schools provided education for 23,670 children. These were only emergency measures—the one real solution was to move as many Jews as possible out of Germany. Thanks to the concerted efforts of organizations supported by JDC, some 85,000 persons emigrated from Germany. Tens of thousands of others left the country, of course, without organizational aid.

It became difficult for Jewish communities in other countries to cope with the influx of refugees. JDC therefore began to provide financial subsidies for local committees set up throughout Western Europe, parts of Eastern Europe, Latin America and the United States.

The outbreak of World War II brought tremendous new burdens to JDC. In Poland, the first victim of Hitler's aggression, the Jewish population was uprooted, some escaping eastward into Soviet Russia and others moving to larger towns seeking asylum, most of whom, however, were soon confined in ghettos.

Until the United States entered the war in December 1941, JDC was able to render direct aid. JDC programs of emergency aid were conducted in 300 Polish cities in the latter part of 1939. In 1940, 600,000 in more than 400 localities benefited from these programs, and that year JDC was able to send 97 carloads of matzoth for Passover. Even in 1941, JDC was able to expand this program and to open feeding stations, hospitals, clinics and child care installations.

In Poland, JDC staff continued to operate throughout the war, borrowing large sums of money on the strength of JDC's credit and reputation, continuing to provide help of some kind so long as such work could be carried on. The JDC

headquarters office overseas kept moving from place to place, one step ahead of the Nazi invaders, and finally wound up in Lisbon, devising ways and means of reaching with money and supplies those hidden away, setting up camps and a full-scale immigration office in Portugal for those who managed to escape.

It is significant that even in the war years JDC helped more than 81,000 persons to emigrate from Europe.

**1943-1949** — JDC representatives entered the war areas in 1944, following close upon the heels of the liberating allied armies. With the liberation of the concentration camps, JDC threw its entire strength into a mighty effort to keep alive those Jews who had miraculously escaped the fate decreed for them in the extermination camps or who had survived the miseries and horrors of the concentration camps, or succeeded in remaining alive through years of hiding.

The amount of aid provided by JDC now assumed gigantic proportions. Because of the shortage of food, clothing and medical supplies, JDC developed a huge supply program that shipped almost 227,000,000 pounds of goods to Europe from U.S. ports alone. In 1946, when Jewish needs were at their high water mark, JDC provided aid of all kinds to more than 750,000 men, women and children, half of all the survivors. In the peak year of 1948, more than 106,000 men, women and children were treated in a network of 529 JDC medical installations. That year JDC also aided 150,000 children a month, helped provide educational aid to 110,000 and vocational training assistance to 78,500.

JDC realized from the first that large-scale emigration was the only real solution to the problem faced in the postwar years. In that period it aided 53,000 to emigrate to the United States and 28,000 to Australia, Canada and Latin America. But it was not until the creation of the State of Israel in 1948 that the JDC immigration program was to reach its full effectiveness. By the time JDC turned over its immigration program to the newly-formed United Hias Service in 1954, it had moved more than 630,000 Jews to new havens, approximately 500,000 of them to Israel.

The creation of the State of Israel caused increasing difficulties for Jewish communities in the Moslem lands of North Africa and the Middle East, and made it necessary for JDC to reach out a helping hand to the Jewish population in these areas, the vast majority of whom lived in squalid ghettos under incredible conditions of poverty. The first program, initiated in 1948, provided relief to 100,000 people, mostly children, in Moslem lands. This figure remained constant for many, many years. In those areas where anti-Jewish hostility persisted, JDC instituted major emigration programs that took large numbers out of Morocco,

*(Continued on page 16).*

# JEWISH POPULATION AND TOTAL

A comparison between 196

<i>Country</i>	<i>Jewish Population</i>
All Countries, Total	2,949,500
Israel . . . . .	1,984,200
Europe . . . . .	558,300
Austria . . . . .	10,100
Belgium . . . . .	35,000
France . . . . .	375,000
Germany . . . . .	30,000
Greece . . . . .	6,000
Italy . . . . .	34,000
Norway . . . . .	1,000
Poland . . . . .	25,000
Portugal . . . . .	700
Spain . . . . .	3,000
Sweden . . . . .	13,000
Switzerland . . . . .	19,000
Yugoslavia . . . . .	6,500
Others . . . . .	—
Moslem Countries . . . . .	407,000
Algeria . . . . .	105,000
Iran . . . . .	80,000
Morocco . . . . .	170,000
Tunisia . . . . .	52,000
Others . . . . .	—
Other Countries . . . . .	—

# TOTAL NUMBER OF BENEFICIARIES

between 1962 and 1963

1962	1963	
<i>Total Number of JDC Beneficiaries</i>	<i>Jewish Population</i>	<i>Total Number of JDC Beneficiaries</i>
<b>251,835</b>	<i>3,010,660</i>	<b>277,385</b>
<i>77,925</i>	<i>2,068,900</i>	<i>84,110</i>
<i>60,845</i>	<i>683,360</i>	<i>88,905</i>
<i>3,000</i>	<i>10,160</i>	<i>3,060</i>
<i>2,580</i>	<i>35,000</i>	<i>2,865</i>
<i>28,000</i>	<i>500,000</i>	<i>56,000</i>
<i>3,540</i>	<i>30,000</i>	<i>3,615</i>
<i>900</i>	<i>6,000</i>	<i>830</i>
<i>4,585</i>	<i>34,000</i>	<i>5,420</i>
<i>80</i>	<i>1,000</i>	<i>70</i>
<i>12,000</i>	<i>25,000</i>	<i>12,000</i>
<i>15</i>	<i>700</i>	<i>15</i>
<i>135</i>	<i>3,000</i>	<i>140</i>
<i>935</i>	<i>13,000</i>	<i>900</i>
<i>500</i>	<i>19,000</i>	<i>490</i>
<i>760</i>	<i>6,500</i>	<i>740</i>
<i>3,815</i>	—	<i>2,760</i>
<i>107,905</i>	<i>258,400</i>	<i>98,205</i>
<i>2,785</i>	<i>10,000</i>	<i>1,930</i>
<i>21,430</i>	<i>80,000</i>	<i>21,465</i>
<i>67,000</i>	<i>135,000</i>	<i>60,000</i>
<i>14,580</i>	<i>33,400</i>	<i>12,780</i>
<i>2,110</i>	—	<i>2,030</i>
<i>5,160</i>	—	<i>6,165</i>

Tunisia and Iran and in two instances, Yemen and Libya, practically moved the entire Jewish population to Israel.

**1950-1956** — The vast flow of newcomers to Israel brought with it a large number of aged, disabled and chronically-ill persons, far beyond the powers of the struggling new State to absorb, since so much of its efforts and financial means were devoted to the reception and settlement of the more productive elements that the movement brought into the country. The government and the Jewish Agency called upon JDC to set up a program for this non-productive element and Malben was set up at the end of 1949. Early in 1951, Malben became the full responsibility, financially and administratively, of JDC.

A wide network of homes for the aged, hospitals for the chronically-ill and disabled, rehabilitation centers and sheltered workshops were set up in Israel during this period. A special loan fund was set up to provide the means for post-TB cases and other invalids to open up small shops and stores through which handicapped newcomers could earn their own living. Malben's work removed a tremendous burden from the shoulders of the government. It was—and continues to be—the largest single JDC program, its annual budget going well over \$12,000,000 in some years.

In Western Europe, the Jewish communities began to take on new life and steadily the JDC contributions in this area dwindled. The availability of German reparation funds, turned over by the Claims Conference for administration to JDC, enabled the communities to start on a program of restoring old and erecting new synagogues, schools and centers to replace those destroyed or damaged during the Nazi and war years.

Not the least accomplishment of this period was the closing, one after the other, of the Jewish displaced persons camps, for which JDC was responsible. The last one, Fohrenwald, was evacuated in the first months of 1957.

This was also the period of expulsion for JDC. On various pretexts, JDC was forced out of the East European satellite countries. Starting with Rumania in May 1949 and ending with Hungary in January 1952, JDC was ordered to close up its offices and give up its programs. Not that there was a diminution of needs. In the last full year before its expulsion from these countries, JDC was helping 55,000 people in Poland and 200,000 in Rumania. As late as 1952, when there were only 125,000 Jews left in Hungary, an average of 25,000 monthly were benefiting from JDC activities.

In each country JDC stayed on as long as possible, unwilling to desert the tens of thousands who still needed outside aid.

**1957-1963** — We had looked forward to this period as a period of consolidation, of steady reduction or complete withdrawal from country after country in Europe, of beginning to turn over the programs we had established in Israel to the government, of having the time and the means for improving the conditions of the Jews in the Moslem countries.

Much of this was realized. We had not counted, however, on the series of events and crises that followed each other in rapid succession throughout this period.

There was, first of all, the abortive revolution in Hungary that sent nearly 200,000 men, women and children fleeing across the border into Austria, 20,000 of them Jews. From every part of the world, JDC had to call upon available personnel to meet the emergency created by the arrival of 20,000 penniless, homeless Jews. Working hand-in-hand with other Jewish organizations and governmental agencies, we took care of them all--- we housed them, we fed them, we clothed them, while the United Hias Service was processing them for migration. Within six months the problem of the Hungarian Jewish refugees in Austria was brought down to such a size that we were able to pull out all extra staff and leave the job to be finished by the regular local staff.

Even while this was going on, at the very height of the influx from Hungary, came the expulsion of the Jews from Egypt. Once again, a centuries-old community was deprived of all its rights and all its possessions and forced to seek new homes, new havens of safety. Individual families flew to Rome, to Athens, to Milan. Boatload after boatload of indigents arrived in Naples and Athens to be met by us and to be cared for until they could be trans-shipped to Israel and other welcoming countries. The vast majority, approximately 20,000 of them, made their way to Israel. Thousands stayed on in Europe, taken care of by JDC until haven could be found for them elsewhere. Today, there are only about 3 or 4,000 Jews left in all of Egypt. They are still coming out but, naturally, at a slower rate, and we are still looking after them when they arrive in Europe, most of them in France.

The Egyptian and Hungarian crises were barely over when suddenly a call came to JDC from the Government of Poland. The Soviet Government had agreed to repatriate tens of thousands of Polish citizens who had been kept in Russia since the beginning of World War II. Of those who returned, the non-Jews were able to make their way to their former homes, to find friends and relatives and to start on the road to rehabilitation. For the 30,000 Jews who came, there were no homes, there were no friends nor relatives. Their homes had been taken

over by others who could not be dispossessed. Their friends and relatives were in the mass graves of Auschwitz and Treblinka. The Polish Government found that the job of receiving them, of helping them to find homes, of taking care of them until they could go elsewhere, was beyond its powers. They called on JDC to come back and help.

And JDC did come back. It set up a program of taking care of the Jewish repatriates, of finding them homes, of re-training them through ORT in new vocational skills, of providing their children with schooling and food and clothing.

Most of these repatriates have by now found their way to Israel. While working with them, however, JDC found that a large part of the old established Polish Jewish population, numbering approximately 25,000, were in great need of all kinds of welfare programs. JDC started work with them, providing them with medical help, with food, with provision for religious and cultural observance, with fresh air programs for children, and special facilities for care of the aged.

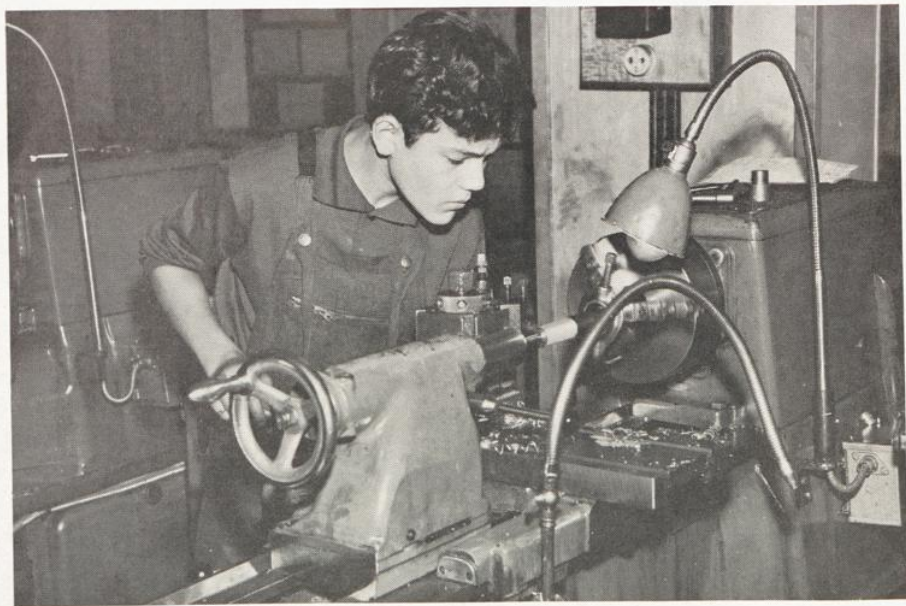
All this time there had been uprooting and unrest in North Africa, with each of the former French-held territories breaking away from France--- first Tunisia, then Morocco, then Algeria. In each one, the Jews of the country, largely indigenous but with strong ties to France, were placed in an uncertain position. They were neither Arab nor European and were faced first with the struggle between the two elements, with each side demanding its loyalties; and were then looked on as minorities in Arab countries, each of which was a member of the Arab League. They found themselves strangers in their own homeland, only partially accepted, and not in a position to live their own lives freely. Unlike Jews in the West, they could not at the same time observe their loyalties to the country in which they lived and preserve the traditional ties which they felt with the Jews of Israel.

A climax came with the Bizerta incident in Tunisia in 1961. Jews were accused in the public press of being friends of France. The government took the opportunity to firm and strengthen its ties with the Arab League. At the same time, laws were passed making life difficult for merchants and self-employed persons, affecting the Jews to a larger degree than they did the rest of the population. Filled with fears for the future, thousands upon thousands of Jews left the country for France, seeking to establish themselves in a more secure atmosphere. They were not French citizens and were not entitled to any governmental privileges when they arrived. They turned for help to the JDC-supported Jewish community institutions. Together with a sizeable community of newly-arrived

Jewish refugees from East European countries, they created a problem which the Jewish community of France could not face. In one year, the relief rolls of the French Jewish community doubled, and JDC had to step in and undertook the financing of the entire cash relief program for these newcomers.

All this, however, was as nothing compared to the vast influx of Algerian repatriates, coinciding with the granting of freedom to that country. Of the 800,000 Algerians who came to France within a three-month period, 120,000 were Jews. The newcomers had difficulty in finding permanent housing and suitable jobs. For a year they received the general repatriation grants from the French Government, but, even with that help, thousands came flocking to the Jewish agencies in need of extra assistance.

Community facilities were swamped. There were not sufficient synagogues, schools, centers, children's homes, old age homes to meet requirements of the newcomers. JDC became partners with the local French community and poured millions of dollars into the effort required to integrate these people into the economic life of France and absorb them into the Jewish community of the country. Progress has been made but the problem is far from solved and will no doubt continue to be with us for some years to come.



*A North African youth trains for a new life in France at the Paris ORT School.*

## JDC PROGRAMS IN 1964

### ISRAEL

Malben, JDC's services in Israel for the care of the sick, aged and handicapped immigrants, has been a partner in the country's endeavors and shared in the miraculous achievements of the past fifteen years.

In early statehood, the foremost concern was for the most elementary needs of immigrants: for food and shelter for all, and medical and welfare services for the large proportion of sick, aged, ailing and invalid whom the mass immigration brought to the country's shores. Malben-JDC's task then was to convert, as fast as possible, former British Army huts and other unused structures into hospitals and homes for the aged, so as to provide, with the least possible delay, shelter, care and rehabilitation for the handicapped thousands. Today, as waiting lists are a haunting memory of the past and the organization has the facilities it needs at its disposal, it can care, on an individualized basis, for the steady stream of handicapped newcomers who arrive with the renewed waves of unselected mass immigration, while at the same time join with national agencies in the development of those permanent health and welfare services that are still badly needed in the country.

To help Israel's national and voluntary authorities expand and improve their own medical and social services, Malben-JDC has during the past few years, with the same budget at its disposal, gradually shifted its emphasis from direct services to clients to indirect ones that benefit these clients, as well as the population as a whole. While formerly an eligible aged immigrant couple would have been admitted to one of the organization's homes for aged, Malben-JDC now explores all possibilities of, and provides all necessary aid for, settling this couple right in the community.

Acting as a catalyzer, it has been helping its partners—the Ministries of Health and Social Welfare, local authorities, voluntary agencies and others—first to evaluate needs and establish programs of action, and then, if necessary, make available funds and technical assistance. Be it the establishment of a chronic diseases ward in a municipal hospital, a public education campaign to arouse the population to the needs of deaf children, a project to keep a community's elder citizens happy and occupied, a rehabilitation unit for psychiatric patients: Malben-JDC comes to the fore, not with one-time stop-gap aid but with plans for permanent facilities that take into account the future needs of a growing, modern but vastly heterogeneous society. Thus, over the years the organization's own services and activities will slowly be integrated into Israel's overall social welfare-health-rehabilitation fabric, to benefit not only new immigrants as in former years, but the entire citizenry of Israel.

This, in effect, is a policy of "helping Israel to help itself", of providing adequate health and welfare services for all. In a young nation that has been developing under the stresses of constant emergencies caused by the security situation, sudden mass immigration and their resultant economic crises, unconquered problems in certain fields are bound to linger on. Malben-JDC sees as one of its foremost tasks the joining of forces with government, local authorities, and public and private organizations to stimulate their awareness of still unmet, but badly felt needs. And, by its eagerness to cooperate, it encourages the nation's own agencies to mobilize their financial and manpower resources to expand and perfect their services to their people.



*Yemenite Jews celebrate Simchat Torah (rejoicing in the Law) in Malben-JDC's village for the aged at Ein Shemer.*

## JDC PROGRAMS IN 1964

### EUROPE

#### France

The story of the influx of Jews from Algeria and other countries in 1961-1962, and the heroic efforts made by JDC and the Fonds Social Juif Unifié, the central French Jewish welfare agency, to meet their physical and spiritual needs, is by now well-known.

It had been hoped that by this time the problems created by this sudden influx would be well on the way to solution. The prompt action on the part of the government in making special grants available to the repatriates, the special employment and housing bureaus set up to meet their needs, the additional aid given to the newcomers by the various Jewish communities of Europe, gave hope to believe that within a year the load of physical relief would be largely solved and what would remain for the Jews would be the setting up of facilities not in the province of the government—synagogues, schools, centers, homes for the aged and children's homes.

Progress has been made in both directions, even though it is not as great as had been hoped for. Many of the Algerians have been housed, many have been placed in jobs. There are still many, however, who continue to need some form of cash relief. Even though they are fewer than there were originally, the cost to us will not decrease because we will have to give them more, now that the government special grants have ended. In addition, there is another factor—the movement of Jews from other North African countries, especially Tunisia, continues. These people, not being citizens of France, are not entitled to any special services from the government, and the entire burden of their care falls on the Jewish community. Although the cash relief load for the Algerian Jews is decreasing, that for the Tunisians is definitely on the increase, with the

result that our cash relief load is going up instead of down.

There is no doubt that in 1964 we will be facing budgetary needs in France at least as great as were those for 1963.

#### Other European Countries

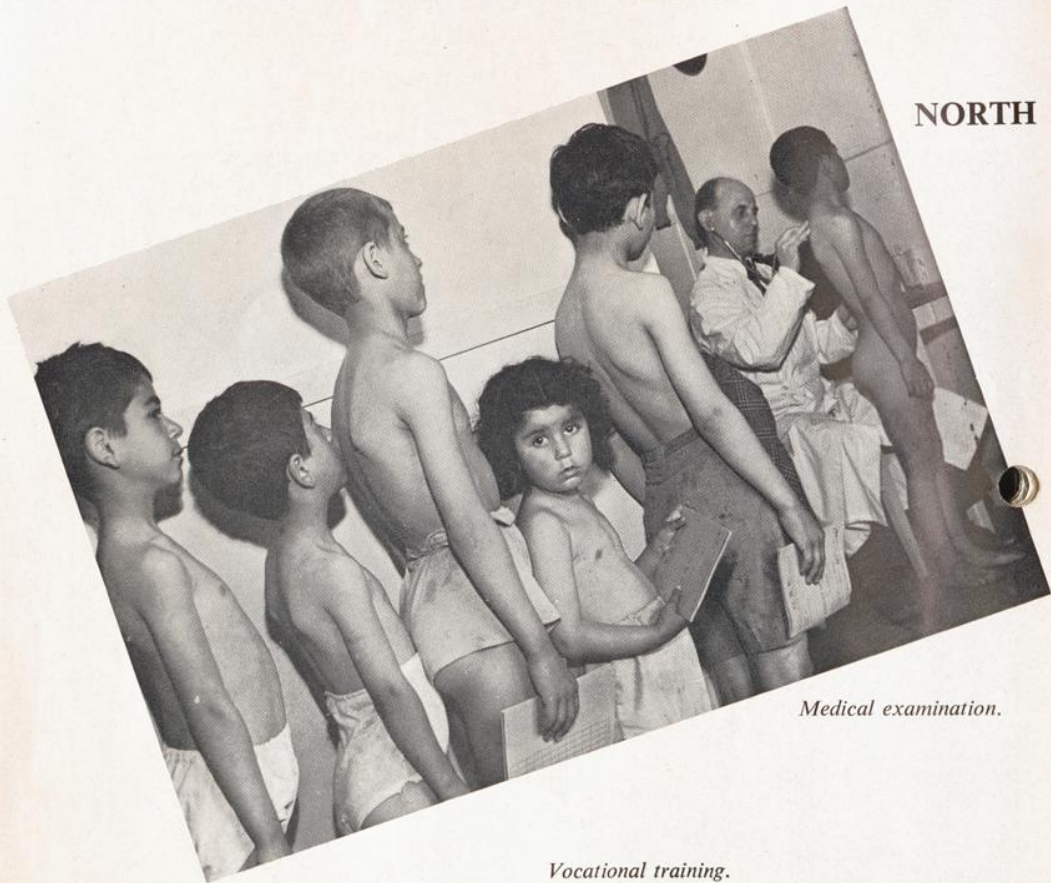
In the other Western European countries, steadily greater strides are being made towards self-support. Not only are these countries doing more for themselves, but they are also raising money to contribute towards meeting the special emergency needs of France. The Standing Conference of European Jewish Community Services, whose creation was inspired by JDC, is now taking over more and more responsibility and promises to provide for the future the central advisory and consultative services that JDC now places at the disposal of the communities in their efforts to become self-supporting.

In Poland, the main part of the JDC program is devoted today to providing help for the physically handicapped, to provide care for the aged in their own homes and institutions, to support programs of Jewish education, to operate feeding programs for children, and to provide medical care for those who are not eligible for aid from existing sources in the country. JDC has also been instrumental in the strengthening of the Kehillah, the local religious group which, though tolerated by the government, has no source of funds with which to carry on its work. An important element in the JDC program in Poland is the providing of summer camp programs through which Jewish children are brought together in a Jewish atmosphere and given Jewish instruction, in addition to enjoying the health-giving benefits of regular camp life.



*Slum children get fresh air and nourishing food in a JDC-supported summer camp.  
More than 24,000 Jewish boys and girls attended 116 camps in the summer of 1963.*

NORTH



*Medical examination.*

*Vocational training.*



## AFRICANS IN FRANCE



*Child care.*



*Jewish education.*

## JDC PROGRAMS IN 1964

### MOSLEM COUNTRIES

There has been a sharp reduction in the Jewish populations in Morocco, Algeria and Tunisia, bringing the total Jewish population in the Moslem countries JDC serves (four, including Iran) down to a quarter of a million people. JDC serves more than 98,000 people in these countries, which means that almost two-fifths of all Jews residing in these countries receive JDC assistance either in the form of cash relief, supplementary feeding, medical care, schooling, kindergartens, and vocational training.

While the number of Jewish inhabitants has dropped and probably will continue to drop, there is no comparative decline in the dependence on JDC aid. As can be seen in the table on pages 16 and 17, the Jewish population of the Moslem countries declined by just about 40% in the period 1962-1963. The same table shows that the decline in the number of JDC beneficiaries in those countries for the same period was less than 10%.

Nowhere is this more graphically illustrated than by the experience in Algeria. Before the mass exodus in 1962, when the Jewish population of Algeria numbered about 130,000, the JDC spent less money annually in Algeria than it is spending currently when there are only 6-7,000 Jews. The poor and needy have remained. Those who helped take care of these poor and needy have left.

We cannot discuss the Moslem countries without specially mentioning CARE, which puts so many of its facilities in Iran at our disposal.

### OTHER COUNTRIES

While JDC generally divides its worldwide activities into three geographical areas—Europe, Israel and the Moslem countries—there are countries in other areas in which it also provides help for needy Jews. The most important such program at present is in Australia, which in the past ten years or so has become a major haven for Jews fleeing persecution and seeking new homes. During the past year JDC has helped the Australian community take care of more than 4,000 men, women and children who needed some sort of help in order to reach the goal of self-support.

Other areas in which JDC provides this same type of help to enable countries to absorb newly-arrived immigrants are Brazil, Chile, the Dominican Republic, Haiti, the Philippines and Uruguay. JDC still provides support to the handful of Jews in China who are otherwise entirely cut off from contact with their fellow Jews in the rest of the world, and in recent years has started a program in India devoted mainly to feeding undernourished children and providing vocational training, through ORT.

*The photograph below illustrates the feeding program in the Kadoorie School in Bombay.*



## JDC IN THE MOSLEM COUNTRIES

*Clinic in Iran.*



*Care of aged in Morocco.*



*Kindergarten in Tunisia.*

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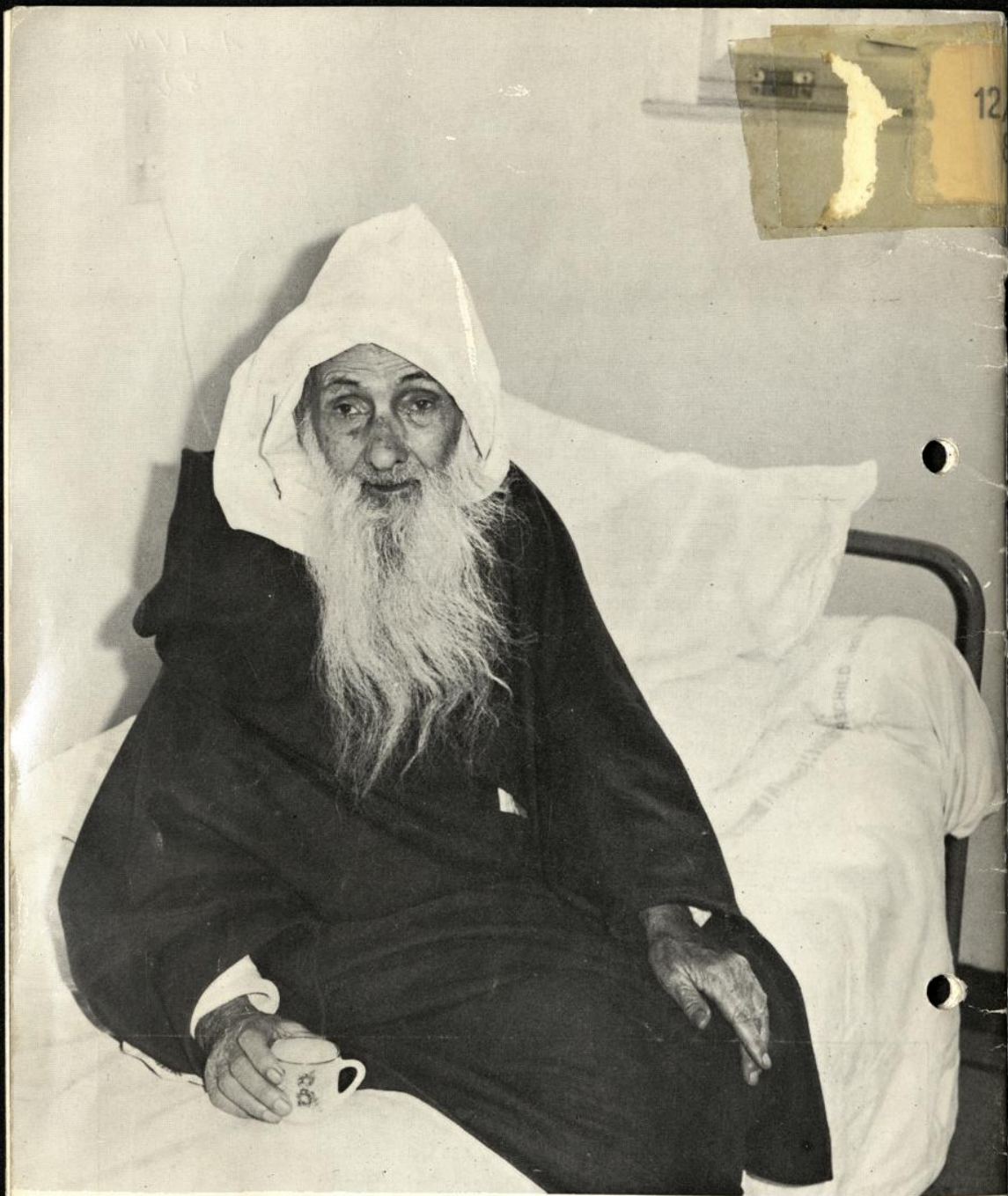
## GLOSSARY

The following is a partial list of the principal governmental and voluntary agencies with which JDC cooperates in its world-wide programs:

- ALLIANCE ISRAÉLITE UNIVERSELLE** — founded in 1860 to raise the educational level among Jews in the Balkans, North Africa and the Middle East.
- CENTRAL BRITISH FUND** and **BRITISH OSE** — These two bodies operate a joint fund-raising campaign in Britain for the relief and welfare of needy Jews overseas, CBF in the relief and social welfare field and OSE in the medical field.
- FSJU** — Fonds Social Juif Unifié, created in 1950 as a federating body to help revive and coordinate existing Jewish social and cultural institutions in France.
- ICA** — Jewish Colonization Association, of London.
- JEWISH AGENCY** — the responsible body for transporting Jews to Israel and settling them in that country.
- LUBAVITCHER** — A Hassidic sect, formerly of Eastern Europe, which conducts a program of religious education in North Africa and elsewhere.
- MALBEN** — JDC's operation in Israel. The name is made up of the initials of the Hebrew words meaning Institution for the Care of Handicapped Immigrants.
- ORT** — Organization for Rehabilitation through Training, established in the 1880's.
- OZAR HATORAH** — an agency devoted to the promotion of Jewish religious education in Moslem countries.
- UHS** — United Hias Service, international Jewish migration agency.
- UNHCR** — United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees.
- USDA** — The United States Department of Agriculture, generally referring to its "Food for Peace" program.
- USEP** — The United States Escapee Program, serving refugees from Iron Curtain countries.

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