MORE THAN 3,000,000 POUNDS OF RELIEF SUPPLIES DONATED
TO SOS COLLECTION IN THE FIRST SIX MONTHS OF 1947
FOR NEEDY JEWS IN 14 EUROPEAN COUNTRIES

More than 3,000,000 pounds of food, clothing, medical supplies and other
relief-in-kind were donated to the SOS (Supplies for Overseas Survivors) Collection
of the Joint Distribution Committee since the beginning of the year, it was
announced today by Mrs. Isaac Gilman, National Co-Chairman. Of this amount, she
added, 2,538,000 pounds have already been shipped to 14 European countries, includ­
ing 1,371,000 pounds of food, 965,000 pounds of clothing and 202,700 pounds of
medical supplies, books, toys, household and comfort items.

More than 60 percent of SOS supplies, shipped to Europe in 1947 went to
DP camps in Germany, Hungary and Austria where 225,000 displaced Jews, awaiting
resettlement, receive supplementary aid from the JDC, Mrs. Gilman said. A total of
1,585,000 pounds was shipped to these three countries during the first six months
of 1947, including 856,000 pounds of food and 602,000 pounds of clothing.

Hungary, where 120,000 Jews out of 180,000 survivors are cared for by the
JDC, received 510,000 pounds of SOS relief supplies. Romania, where more than half
of the 430,000 Jewish survivors receive JDC assistance, received 188,000 pounds.
Poland, where the greater portion of a total Jewish population of 105,000 receives
JDC aid, received 160,000 pounds of SOS supplies. To France was shipped 105,000
pounds to supplement JDC aid to needy Jews there.

In Cyprus where 16,000 Jews are detained by the British, JDC representatives
distributed 76,000 pounds of SOS supplies in addition to supplies purchased with
JDC funds. Jewish communities in the following European nations also received SOS
supplies: Italy, 188,000 pounds; Bulgaria, 91,000 pounds; Czechoslovakia, 60,000
pounds; Yugoslavia, 30,000; Greece, 4,000; and Holland, 1,700.

SOS relief supplies supplement the purchases of the JDC for its European
retraining and reconstruction programs and represent contributions from 750 commu­
nities over and above their financial gifts to the United Jewish Appeal. A project
of the JDC, the SOS Collection is the central overseas relief-in-kind agency for
16 national Jewish women's organizations and other groups.

SOS food supplies consisted mainly of canned milk, fruits, juices, meat, fish,
soups and vegetables. Clothing supplies consisted of used and brand new garments.
Used clothing was collected in community canvasses in campaigns throughout the country, while new garments were contributed mostly by business people from their surplus stocks.

Of special interest in SOS shipments this year, was a consignment of 30,000 layettes for the thousands of babies born each month to destitute Jewish women. Though eager to resume normal family relationships, these mothers could not obtain, in post-war Europe, sufficient infants' wear. American women from coast-to-coast responded with flying knitting needles when they learned that newborn babes were clothed in rags, slept on folded newspapers and were covered with remnants of cast-off clothing. In a period of a few months, hundreds of SOS committees knitted more than 300,000 garments, enough to provide 30,000 complete layettes.

From California came a shipment of 1,000,000 hematocritin capsules, vital in combating anemia. Medical books and journals were sent to doctors whose libraries were stolen or destroyed by the Germans, to enable them to catch up on recent developments in medicine and surgery. Another consignment consisted of toys, essential in the rehabilitation of 170,000 surviving Jewish children in Europe.

Mrs. Gilman attributed the success of the SOS spring campaigns to the untiring efforts of community leaders and volunteers in 750 communities throughout the nation. She also praised the leadership and direct participation of Welfare Fund, Federation and Community Directors in SOS Campaigns.

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