'The Name of an Old Friend'

1958 ANNUAL REPORT
Casablanca: At the JDC-subsidized ORT school for deaf mutes, a Jewish youngster "feels" his first sounds.

1958 ANNUAL REPORT OF THE JOINT DISTRIBUTION COMMITTEE

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Irving R. Dickman, Public Relations Director
AGAIN LAST YEAR I had the privilege of attending the annual JDC Country Directors' Conference, and again I returned home a little overwhelmed by what I saw and heard there.

Probably what makes these conferences so meaningful is that in the reports made there, there is a record not only of a year in the world's history, but of what JDC has done to make that history and to change its course. And the plans which we discussed and adopted were in effect a blueprint of our contribution to history-making for the coming year.

As I looked around the meeting-room in Geneva, I saw many who were old friends and many whom I had seen a year earlier in Paris. But there were others there for the first time, or the second, from Australia and Tunisia, and from Iran. And this too underscored the meaning of these conferences in their broader historical sense.

For once we could look around the conference hall and see virtually every country of Europe represented, but only of Europe; and this year we saw represented many other areas as well—areas of the Moslem world, and Israel, Australia, South America. And this reflects most graphically the historic change which has taken place in JDC's program and activities during this postwar era.

Equally significant—perhaps more so—were the places not filled, the chairs which stood empty.

In spirit there sat in those chairs, and joined in our deliberations, representatives of other communities in which destitute Jews are receiving the aid they so desperately need; but communities which for one reason or another were not able to send their representatives to this conference in Geneva. One day they too may sit with us—but until then, from such conferences as this there will continue to flow across borders and barriers—a heartwarming sense of contact and spiritual solidarity.

This was the first Country Directors' Conference which we held in the city of Geneva since JDC transferred its overseas headquarters there. But only the place of our meeting had changed. The tradition, the spirit, the reasons for our being there were the same as they had been at each such conference since the war.

And the truth is that I find these reasons very hard to describe. For though we were there on business, there was—underlying the business that brought us there—essentially a most unbusinesslike spirit. You can't find it in any ledger, it cannot be added or subtracted or divided; it cannot be charted. It is difficult to put into words.

For what brought those men and women to Geneva, what has led so many thousands throughout the United States to continue their support of JDC's efforts through the United Jewish Appeal, is that we are all of us in a sense dedicated. We are dedicated—to the work of healing and comforting and sheltering, to a mission of aid and succor, to the cause of human understanding.

I feel privileged to be associated with so many thousands of men and women in this mission.
SUDDENLY IN THE TIRED STREETS there is a fresh breeze. It plays fitfully around the street-sign with the Polish name. Within memory the street bore another name, a German one. But in 1958 it is Poland, and on the street live families which never saw this town until after its name had changed.

Most of those who live in this street now are Jews, and though some have been here for ten years, others came only months ago, retracing westward the road which they took to the east almost twenty years ago.

They stir as the breeze passes, and listen. Their eyes light up; suddenly the happy smiles are there. For on the breeze is the name of an old friend. And now, through streets suddenly awakened, the name sounds clear:

“IT IS THE JOINT. THE JOINT IS BACK.”

On a train—seven hundred miles away—the engineer slowly applies his brakes, and casually checks the name on the station as his train comes to a stop. In a car back of him, a huddled group also spells out the letters on the sign, but does not pronounce them, for to them the name has no meaning—it is French, and they are not.

But suddenly the tension breaks; there is a happy buzz. One man makes sure that the other has seen—that all the others have seen—the figures on the platform. As they prepare to get off, as they lift to their shoulders the bundles containing all that the world has left to them, they forget—if only for a second—that they are refugees, and there is a happy murmur:

“The Joint is waiting.”

South of them, hundreds of miles south, there is another village, but a far different one. No train passes here, and the road which meanders through is little more than a dirt track. When the wind blows in from the desert, as it does often, the dust easily swirls above the low mud houses.

Now all in the village are gathered outside of what passes for the house of prayer. The women are of course veiled, as they have been taught to be in the presence of men other than their husbands. It is 1958, and they too are Jews; but nevertheless they are veiled.

They all peer anxiously into the distance, where the dirt track merges with the desert; but it is one of the younger boys, atop a nearby mound of rocks, who first spots the telltale dust-cloud and gives the signal:

“There it is! The Joint is coming!”

Within a few minutes the jeep hums into the village. It is only a short time later, with hardly a decent interval allowed to elapse for the social amenities, when in the dusty street of the Moroccan hill-village the distribution of new clothing for the children begins.

In the French village to the north the refugees are listening happily to a villager who speaks their native language— and well he might, for he traveled the same road as they not long before.

And in the Polish village, the man from the Joint has done his business, and is nearly ready to depart. But it is as if he had come with a handful of seeds, and had planted them; for in this town there will shortly bloom a school-canteen, at which hungry children will be fed; and a clinic, at which the sick will be healed, with strange and wonderful drugs; and a work-shop, in which boys and girls may learn to make their way in the world with their own two hands.

It is 1958; and not only in Poland, and in France, and in Morocco, but in 25 countries around the world the Joint is at its work, and is welcome, as an old friend is welcome. For Joint is the Joint Distribution Committee, and in 1958, as in every year since 1914, the JDC continued to perform the mission of mercy which it long ago accepted from American Jewry on behalf of needy Jews overseas.

In all, during 1958 JDC assistance of one kind or another went to more than 200,000 men, women and children. Of this group, more than 100,000 were in Moslem countries, principally North Africa and Iran. But there were also some 57,000 in Europe who needed aid, and about 40,000 in Israel, and more than 4,000 in such other areas as Australia.

In Israel, the Malben program alone, the JDC welfare program on behalf of aged, ill and handicapped newcomers and their families, aided more than 19,000 persons.

When JDC’s assistance is broken down according to the kinds of aid provided, the statistics are equally impressive: 27,000 received cash relief; 84,000 benefited from feeding programs; 5,865 were in homes for the aged; 31,000 received medical care; 68,000 received educational assistance; 5,695 young people and children received other kinds of aid; and 35,985 were aided through cultural and religious programs.

Perhaps the most notable single development of 1958 was the assistance which JDC had undertaken to provide to Jews in Poland. Originally established only on behalf of Jews recently repatriated from Russia, the actual situation in Poland required the expansion of the program so as to provide some assistance to the so-called “settled” population. As a result, since December 1957, when JDC resumed its activities in Poland, JDC aid has reached some
22,000 individuals.

The increase in the number of beneficiaries in Poland (and to a lesser extent in Australia) thus offset the decrease in the number of beneficiaries among new refugees—particularly in Austria and in Italy—so that at the end of 1958 JDC's caseload was even larger than it had been at the beginning of the year.

There were during the year small migration movements of the Jewish population. The movement from Egypt generally slowed, although France showed a heavy caseload of Jewish refugees from Egypt. Emigration from Poland continued on a small scale—mainly to Israel, but also to some of the European countries. The number of Hungarian refugees in Austria was reduced to manageable proportions and all of the Hungarian escapees in Yugoslavia were resettled.

In the second part of 1958, as a result of the liberalization of the emigration policy in Bucharest, substantial groups of Rumanian Jews started to arrive in Austria en route to Israel. Between August-September 1958 and the end of February 1959, more than 15,000 of these migrants passed through Vienna. Although they were cared for by the Jewish Agency, they also were assisted by JDC, which provided them with medical aid, clothing, and put at their disposal the facilities of its kosher kitchen. On account of the transients from Rumania, the number of beneficiaries of this kitchen increased from 175 in September 1958 to 346 in the month of December.

In summary: despite some notable advances during the year, the outlook at year's end was that in 1959 even greater numbers of men, women and children would require JDC's aid than in the year that was ending.

Other New Developments

Other major developments on the JDC scene in 1958 included:

†A special conference on local community organization and fund-raising met on June 16-19 in Geneva, Switzerland, under the auspices of JDC to exchange experiences in the field of raising funds for community services, and in the field of community organization. In 12 European countries, since 1954, funds provided by the Conference on Jewish Material Claims Against Germany and JDC have helped establish 60 Jewish community and youth centers. Of these, 42 are already operating; the rest are in planning or under construction. The total cost of the 60 centers amounts to about $3,400,000, of which approximately $2,000,000 represents grants made by the Claims Conference and JDC. The significant fact is that more than $1,400,000 for these centers has been raised locally.

† During 1958, 38 JDC-sponsored loan institutions in 19 countries, including Europe and Latin America, as well as Israel and Australia, granted 6,309 loans, amounting to $2,828,874. Of these institutions, 13 are undertakings of JDC and the Jewish Colonization Association (ICA) jointly.

† During the year, 14,074,064 pounds of U. S. Department of Agriculture surplus commodities were turned over to JDC, and were distributed to needy Jews in Austria, Belgium, France, Germany, Greece, Iran, Israel, Italy, Morocco, Tunisia and Yugoslavia. 103,600 persons per month benefited from this distribution.

† Between January and the end of December, ORT—with JDC funds—gave vocational training to between 15,000 and 20,000 persons. JDC's allocation to ORT for 1958 was $1,605,000; since 1947 JDC has granted ORT a total of $16,495,000.

† JDC's traditional Passover assistance continued at a high level; in 11 European countries JDC distributed 233,575 pounds of matzoth, 69,290 pounds of matzah meal and
2,500 pounds of fats. In Poland, a matzoh factory in Wroclaw was repaired; in addition the religious congregations were enabled to issue matzoth to needy Jews. In Israel and in Moslem countries Passover supplies were purchased locally.

JDC also continued its specialized assistance in other fields, including the provision of summer vacations for thousands of youngsters.

As a part of a broader project which will eventually include all or most Jewish communities in Europe which provide institutional care for the aged, homes were surveyed in Italy (March-May) and in Holland (September). These surveys provided valuable data for planning future activities on behalf of the aged.

In Iran, 1958 saw the completion of a new wing and renovation of the original building of the Jewish hospital in Tehran. The expanded structure includes a maternity department with 26 beds, a pediatric department with 27 beds, an out-patient department and health center.

In the interest of increased operating efficiency, JDC's overseas headquarters were moved from Paris, where they had been located since the end of World War II, to new quarters in Geneva, Switzerland.

One of the most notable developments of the year was the dedication and opening, in November, of the Paul Baerwald School of Social Work in Jerusalem. Established under the auspices of JDC, the Hebrew University and the Israel Ministry of Social Welfare, the school is named for the former Chairman—now an Honorary Chairman—of the JDC. Under the direction of Dr. Eileen Blackey, a veteran American educator of social workers, it will offer a three-year course leading to a Bachelor of Social Work degree. The school's first class had sixty students, most of them in Jerusalem, others attending parallel classes in Tel Aviv.

In all, JDC aided some 40,000 persons in Israel. More than 19,000 of these received the help of Malben, the JDC welfare program on behalf of aged, ill and handicapped newcomers. In 1958, while there was no significant change in Malben responsibilities, there was, however, a significant change in the orientation of the program.

Nine years ago when Malben was born, immediate help had to be given to the aged, the invalids and the sick among the new immigrants arriving en masse from the DP camps in Europe and from the ghettos of the Moslem world. Israel then lacked installations and the technical means to provide the necessary care. Malben therefore had to construct—literally from the ground up—a network of institutions, and to staff them with experienced personnel.

While the responsibilities of Malben have remained the same, its method of work has been under continuous review in the light of accumulated experience. In each new year, Malben has tried—on the basis of its previous achievements—to apply new procedures, more appropriate than those used previously, for the care of handicapped people.

In 1958, Malben reached the conclusion that the road to improved care lay not through additional institutions but in the field of extra-mural care. This meant a serious attempt to find means for moving the healthy aged out of institutions into apartments of their own, assisting them with supplementary financial aid, and providing the proper visiting personnel to help them overcome some of the difficulties they faced.

A personal approach to each case determines which of the Malben aged are eligible for the extra-mural program. A thorough medical examination and the findings of social workers help to provide the basis for the decision.

Malben started a program of cash assistance to the aged in December 1947 in order to make unnecessary the admission of people on the waiting list to institutions, and also to encourage able-bodied aged, residing in its homes, to resume a normal life within the framework of the community. This program, which developed in the course of 1958 into a nationwide scheme, called "Maanak," is currently carried out by the Ministry of Welfare, the municipalities, the Jewish Agency for Israel and JDC, and presently takes care of all the aged who are not entitled to old age pensions under the National Insurance Law of 1953. By the end of 1958, a total of 6,338 persons received grants from "Maanak."

Another Malben project along the same lines provides for one-room furnished apartments for aged couples able to take care of themselves. By the end of the year 150 persons had benefited from this project. Moreover, Malben helped popularize the Golden Age Clubs in Israel. While early in 1958 there were only four such clubs, as of December 31 their number had increased to 16, 13 of which, with 732 registered members, received financial help from Malben.

As a result of the priority given to the bedridden in homes for the aged, Malben has succeeded in vacating 250 beds in these institutions. It is notable that the waiting list for these homes went down from 1,267, at the end of 1957, to 51 on December 31, 1958. Through this program it became possible to close down the homes for infirm aged at Gedera (February) and Acre (December).

Guided by the same principle— wherever possible to assist Malben patients to live normally in communities—a survey of sheltered workshops was made. Malben established that of some 500 persons employed in these workshops about 200 were able to work under normal conditions. As a result of the survey, regular employment has already been found...
for 60 of them and five of these workshops were able to close down between January 1st and December 31st.

To ease the adjustment of the patients to society, the Malben Social Service Department was expanded, with the addition of 16 professional workers, to a total of 46 persons.

The new policy also affected the medical activities of Malben. A survey of all hospitalized patients is now being carried out; those who do not need active hospitalization are being transferred to units for the infirm aged. In keeping with its policy of avoiding institutionalization wherever possible, Malben has inaugurated a home care medical program under the supervision of a team consisting of physician, nurse and social workers. This project is still in an experimental stage and thus far only 20 chronically ill persons have been sent home, to be cared for by the “team.” Malben has even organized a Housekeeping Service to augment this program.

Remarkably enough, a by-product of the extra-mural program has been the availability of additional funds for Malben's budget. Actually, institutionalization is more expensive than extra-mural care. Malben has therefore been able, by a simple shifting of the available funds, to fill gaps in its existing program.

In cooperation with the Jewish Agency, Malben undertook the screening of residual hard core cases in Shaar Aliyah, an immigrant reception center near Haifa. Following six months of concentrated effort, over 100 persons in the center were moved out; there now exists the hope that the entire group of 200—which resided in the camp for three years—can be transferred in the near future. Encouraged by this success, Malben and the Jewish Agency conducted a similar survey in another immigrant camp, Beth Olim Shimon in Tel Aviv, where 240 cases were surveyed.

In cooperation with Israeli authorities, Malben also intends to turn its attention to “forgotten” groups of handicapped newcomers, and specifically to retarded children and to mental cases. Malben agreed to contribute £50,000 for beds for 85 mentally retarded children in institutions of the Ministry of Welfare. In addition, Malben shared, on a 50-50 basis with the Ministry of Health, the cost of a program for mental patients which included psychiatric wards at the Tel Hashomer Hospital and at the Rambam Hospital in Haifa; two hostels for convalescent mental patients; and the training of a professional staff.

During the month of October, the entire Malben program was surveyed by a team of the JDC Medical Committee. Headed by the Chairman of the JDC Medical Committee, Dr. Abram J. Abelow, and including Dr. Martin Cherkasky, Dr. S. Bernard Wortis and Dr. Arthur J. Lesser, the mission studied Malben's activities and made a number of concrete proposals for the improvement of the program.

A comparison of the institutionalized caseload on December 31st with that of January 1st shows that as a result of the “new look” developed by Malben, the number of persons in various installations decreased from 6,412 to 6,362. This is the first time since Malben was founded that the institutional caseload has gone down. The figures for December 31st show:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type of Institution</th>
<th>Number of Persons</th>
<th>%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>TB Hospitals</td>
<td>398</td>
<td>6.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General Hospitals</td>
<td>134</td>
<td>2.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chronic Disease Hospitals</td>
<td>655</td>
<td>10.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mental Institutions</td>
<td>500</td>
<td>7.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Institutions for Retarded Children</td>
<td>175</td>
<td>2.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Institutions for the Infirm</td>
<td>588</td>
<td>9.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Homes for Aged</td>
<td>3,912</td>
<td>61.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>6,362</td>
<td>100.0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

More than 89% of the institutionalized caseload, or 5,687 persons, were accommodated
in 27 Malben-owned or -operated installations. The other 11%, or 675, were placed in various private or governmental facilities. The 27 Malben institutions were two TB hospitals, four hospitals for chronic diseases, a youth rehabilitation center, three institutions for the infirm and 17 homes for the aged.

During this period out-patient clinics were opened at two Malben hospitals for chronic diseases. An agreement was reached between Malben and the Ministry of Health on an exchange of certain services between Malben institutions for the chronically ill and the Ministry's general hospitals. It was anticipated that this agreement might lead to a national program for the coordination of the care of Israel’s chronically ill.

Malben continued to provide prosthetic appliances and to perform other necessary services. In all, 389 medical appliances were issued; 147 handicapped newcomers were placed on jobs; more than 20 sheltered workshops employed 505 persons a month; and monthly rehabilitation activities included: occupational therapy — 600 persons; handicrafts — 1,115; institutional services — 910; and general housework — 775. A special Malben cultural program reached 4,720 persons a month.

During the year the constructive enterprises department of Malben issued 785 loans (3,626 beneficiaries), of which 506 were paid with Malben funds, and the rest from other sources.

As of December 31st Malben employed 2,089 persons, including 104 physicians, 512 nurses and nurses' aides and 46 social workers. Some 360 persons were receiving training in a nurses' training program.

Beside the Malben program, JDC continued its support for another sizable program in Israel, a program which has continued virtually without interruption since JDC was founded in 1914. This is its assistance to cultural and religious institutions, including yeshivoth, research projects and assistance to refugee rabbis. In all, JDC aided some 13,000 beneficiaries— including dependents—under these programs. In addition, during this year, JDC aided the ORT vocational training program in Israel, with 8,264 beneficiaries.

JDC in Europe

During 1958, despite the fact that nearly all of the DP’s had already been resettled or integrated, and despite the continued improvement of economic conditions in most of Europe, there were some 57,000 men, women and children in Europe who required JDC's aid.

Since 1954 JDC has annually received large funds from the Conference on Jewish Material Claims Against Germany for assistance to victims of the Nazi regime. The main beneficiaries of these funds were the Jewish communities of Europe. However, since the life span of the Claims Conference is limited to about 12 years, it is increasingly necessary to prepare the communities for the period, beginning in 1963 or 1964, when funds will no longer be forthcoming from the Claims Conference. It was this understanding which led to the convening of a conference in June to deal with the problems of fund-raising and community organization.

Thanks to the grants of the Claims Conference, it has been possible since 1954 to embark on a series of so-called “investment projects.” These consist chiefly of the improvement, repair or expansion of homes for the aged, children's homes, and medical institutions, as well as the establishment or remodeling of community and youth centers, schools and religious institutions. For the five years beginning in 1954 the Claims Conference and JDC spent or allocated more than $4,000,000 for 190 such "capital investment projects" in 14 European countries. (In addition, $3,390,500 were contributed by local sources, bringing the total funds for these projects up to $7,392,400.)

Some 42% of these funds were spent in France alone; other expenditures included: Belgium — 15%; Holland — 13%; Sweden — 8%; Germany 5%; and lesser amounts in Austria, Denmark, Greece, Italy, Luxembourg, Norway, Spain, Switzerland and Yugoslavia. The nature of these projects may be seen from the following table:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type of Project</th>
<th>Number of Projects</th>
<th>Estimated Capital Investment</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Community and Youth</td>
<td>190</td>
<td>$7,392,400</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Centers</td>
<td>47</td>
<td>$3,396,600</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Youth Homes and Hostels</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>256,800</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Children's Homes</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>204,100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kindergartens</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>60,300</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vacation Colonies</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>256,800</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Homes for the Aged</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>2,102,300</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Medical Institutions</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>647,100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Religious Institutions</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>263,900</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Various</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>178,500</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In 1957, nearly 56,000 persons in Europe received JDC assistance in one form or another. In 1958 the number needing aid was about 57,000. The fact that—despite the end of the Hungarian emergency—there was a small increase, rather than a decrease, in the number of those being helped, confirms the impression that the JDC caseload in Europe is of a more or less permanent nature.

A survey of cash relief services in 1957, published by the JDC Budget Department in May 1958, reveals that between 65% and 70% of those receiving cash relief form a stable component of the total caseload; within this component the largest number are aged persons. This means that most of the beneficiaries will require continued assistance for a considerable period of time.

In addition, however, there are each year new groups in need of assistance. In 1957, these included the “new” refugees from Hungary, Egypt and Poland; in 1958, it included...
the Rumanian refugees, as well as repatriated and “settled” Jews in Poland, and the Egyptian refugees in France, 1957 newcomers who have not yet been absorbed by integration or resettlement. It is the presence of these latter groups in France which explains why the number of beneficiaries in France showed an increase during 1958.

In Austria, more than 3,500 men, women and children received JDC aid during 1958, including some 2,000 Hungarian escapees. By and large, the number of Hungarian refugees in Austria continued to dwindle gradually: while on January 1, 1958, JDC had under its care 1,267 Hungarian refugees, 12 months later it was assisting only 736. As the number of the refugees was reduced, three camps, all well known in the history of the Hungarian emergency, Bad Kreuzen, near Linz, the Hotel Continental and the Malzgasse center, both in Vienna, were closed.

In December 1958, however, 129 escapees from Hungary resided in the all-Jewish Camp Korneuburg, near Vienna; 228 lived in Camp Asten, near Salzburg; 163 lived in various other installations; and 216 lived outside of camps. Camp Asten also offered a lingering footnote to the DP era, for the camp also accommodated 60 “old” refugees from that time. Following the closing of the Rothschild Hospital in Vienna, which following the war served as a reception center for thousands of displaced Jews, 373 other “old” refugees are living in the communities.

Thus, a total of 1,169 persons were still receiving the direct assistance of JDC at the end of the year. In addition to other forms of assistance, JDC caters to the specific needs of its clients, supporting a kosher kitchen in Vienna which feeds 221 persons a month, and giving assistance to five schools and five kindergartens (475 pupils) in Vienna and in the camps.

On behalf of Austrian Jews the JDC-financed Vienna Kultusgemeinde aided some 460 persons a month and maintained a home for the aged with 150 residents and a hospital for 50 patients. During the school year 1957-58, 345 children in Vienna attended religious classes under the supervision of the Kultusgemeinde.

A major area of JDC assistance was France, which had a total of 17,500 beneficiaries. The numbers requiring help continued high because of the continuing influx of refugees from Egypt, Poland and Hungary.

During the year there was an increase in the number of “new” refugees who received assistance from the agencies affiliated with the Fonds Social Juif Unifie (F.S.J.U.), the central fund-raising agency of French Jews, which obtains more than 60% of its income from JDC. The figures on assistance were:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>January</th>
<th>December</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Refugees from Egypt</td>
<td>1,346</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Refugees from Poland</td>
<td>545</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Refugees from Hungary</td>
<td>164</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>2,055</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

This increase was due to the influx of the refugees from Egypt, especially of those who arrived in France to wait for U. S. visas under Section 15 of Public Law 85-316.

During 1958, the F.S.J.U. assisted 6,983 different families. This figure includes settled caseload as well as “new” refugees. The number of newly arrived Jewish families from North Africa who applied for assistance in 1958 was lower than that in 1957 (827 and 1,154 respectively). The F.S.J.U. financed 15 institutions for children and young people (880 persons a month), eight regular educational institutions, such as day schools, yeshivoth and kindergartens (875 students), several supplementary schools (1,000 pupils), two kitchens (860 persons a month), and provided medical aid for 2,500 persons a month and supported a variety of cultural activities. In addition, JDC gave direct assistance to 385 persons a month and aided two schools (170 students).
During 1958, the number of Jews in Germany continued to rise, if affiliation with the Gemeinden (communities) is an indicator. During the year, the membership of the Gemeinden increased by 2,013, chiefly on account of repatriation; as of December, there were 21,449 affiliated with these bodies. At the same time, the number of persons requiring the assistance of the Zentralwohlfahrtsstelle (the JDC-assisted central welfare agency) continued to decline, as a result of the receipt of indemnification payments. Needing assistance were about 1,475 a month during 1958 as against 1,688 in 1957. Some 30 persons a month received cash assistance direct from JDC. The ZWST maintained 13 homes for the aged with 555 residents and eight kindergartens with 230 children.

Italy is another country which has become a country of refuge for Jews fleeing from persecution. Even today the Jewish communities—with JDC's financial assistance—are providing help to about 300 Egyptian and Hungarian refugees. In addition, the communities are helping more than 1,200 of the settled community; and JDC gives direct assistance to 340 "old" refugees. OSE, also supported by JDC, provides medical aid for more than 2,000 persons and supervises the school feeding program. Approximately 2,000 children attend the schools and kindergartens maintained by the Jewish communities together with OSE.

In one year JDC's program in Poland has grown to the point where there are more beneficiaries in that country than in any other of Europe. JDC resumed its activities in Poland in December 1957 to render help to repatriated Jews from Russia. Gradually, however, it has become involved in assistance to the "settled" Jewish population as well.

The total Jewish population in Poland is estimated at about 40,000. Some 16,000 Jews returned to Poland under the Polish-Russian repatriation agreement. At the same time, Jewish emigration from Poland, which reached the level of 35,000 in 1957, slowed down considerably in 1958; between January 1 and December 31, only 3,767 persons, including 1,774 repatriates, left the country.

JDC carries on its programs in Poland through the Central Jewish Committee of Public Welfare, which includes representatives of the religious congregations and of the government-sponsored cultural association, as well as representatives of the repatriated Jews. In addition, JDC provides direct support for the Union of Religious Congregations.

The Central Committee, with sub-committees in 14 localities, maintained the following programs: child feeding—2,235 monthly; grants for furniture and living quarters—3,251 families, or 9,753 persons; cash assistance to aged, invalids and others—1,675 a month; one-time grants to welfare clients—1,670; grants to ORT students and their dependents—5,000 a month; individual loans—135; summer camps for 3,000 children; and 30 loans, amounting to Zl. 3,327,000, to Jewish producers' cooperatives employing some 1,000 persons. For the residents of a home for the aged in Lodz, JDC provided pocket money, also supplemented the budget of the home's kitchen. JDC has also imported various religious supplies, including prayer books and tallisim; conducted a program for repairing Jewish cemeteries; and supported kosher kitchens (supervised by the religious congregations) in 14 localities, feeding approximately 2,000 persons a month.

During the year JDC continued its welfare programs in a number of other European countries, including Belgium, with 2,000 beneficiaries; Greece—700; Norway—80; Portugal—20; Spain—20; Sweden—1,200; Switzerland—550; and Yugoslavia—800.
The relative quiet of 1957 continued throughout 1958 for the vast majority of Jews living in the Moslem world. Nevertheless, a sense of insecurity continued to prevail for men, women and children living under the shadow of Arab nationalism. Quite naturally, this feeling was at its strongest in Egypt. But it was perceptible even in Tunisia, where there is no discrimination against religious or ethnic minorities. A program has been announced for the integration of Jewish communal organizations into the framework of the latter country's welfare and educational activities, the implications of which are still not clear.

This insecurity is present also in Morocco, which continues to keep her door closed against Jewish migration to Israel. It is present also in Algeria, where the war between the independence movement and the French authorities is continuing. In North Africa, JDC is faced with a difficult and delicate task: simply to continue the assistance programs which were begun before the recent political changes took place.

Despite all difficulties, JDC's program in Moslem countries reached more needy Jews than in any other area of the world—in 1958 more than 100,000 men, women and children in these areas received JDC assistance.

Morocco continued to be the single country with the largest number requiring aid. In this country, which now includes the former Spanish Morocco and Tangier, 61,200 Jews received this aid. The JDC-supported schools of the Alliance Israelite Universelle, Ozar Hatorah, the Lubavitcher and other Jewish organizations had an enrollment of 36,500 children. School canteens provided meals for 28,000 children a month. Soup kitchens in the southern part of the country fed 1,500 persons; in the same area nearly 12,000 persons a month benefited from the distribution of food parcels.

Medical aid was given to 8,265 persons a month, mostly through JDC-financed OSE clinics and hospitals. JDC supported a cultural program, including Hebrew courses, which reached 14,805 persons a month. Some 400 persons a month received cash relief. JDC also supported 18 kindergartens attended by 3,278 children.

In Casablanca the JDC Social Service Department has been instrumental in eliminating street begging by the Jewish needy—a major reason has been the raising of the rate of assistance to people who previously received some help from local charitable organizations. Unfortunately, the representative body of the Jewish communities of Morocco today exists in name only, and it has been necessary in recent months for JDC to deal directly with local organizations. Because there has been a noticeable decrease in the amount of aid which these agencies have been receiving from governmental sources, the JDC share in their budget was increased from 49% in 1955 to 52% in 1958, a trend which is the reverse of that experienced in other areas.

One tragic group in this country consisted of some 1,000 transients who were attempting to make their way to Israel, but who were halted by the authorities and are being held in Tangiers and Tetuan. This group is also continuing to receive JDC aid.

In Tunisia, the traditional Jewish community organizations were dissolved in July 1958, under a law which provides for a new community structure whose functions are limited to religious activities only. Community councils are to be elected, but their actual duties, privileges and responsibilities are not yet clear. Meanwhile, an interim committee appointed by the government is trying to continue existing programs. Uncertainty prevails, however: as an example, plans for the establishment of a Jewish welfare federation in the city of Tunis...
came to a virtual halt because Jewish leaders were uncertain about the attitude of the authorities toward such a project.

However, JDC's aid continued to reach some 16,600 beneficiaries through its established programs, carried on in cooperation with local Jewish organizations. These included: cash relief in the city of Tunis — 820 persons a month; child feeding — 4,340; medical aid (mainly through OSE) — 4,600; Hebrew courses — 2,300; and a home for the aged with 28 residents. Some 5,835 children attended the schools of the Alliance Israelite Universelle and of other organizations, including more than 1,000 children enrolled in nine kindergartens.

Despite notable difficulties, JDC aid in Algeria reached about 4,000 persons. Of these, more than 1,900 were students enrolled in religious schools; 710 children a month benefited from a feeding program; 905 persons a month benefited from the activities of various youth and cultural programs, including a community center in Oran; 570 children and young people spent their vacations in summer camps; and 45 persons received cash relief in Algiers and Constantine.

Iran has thus far remained largely unaffected by the conflicts in the Middle East. As a result, JDC has been able to continue its programs on behalf of the Iranian Jewish population with no hindrance.

Before JDC came on the scene, Iranian Jewry was a community nearly paralyzed by hundreds of years of poverty and deprivation. Not only did hunger and disease rule; there was almost no desire for an improvement in conditions.

Today, not only has JDC aid expanded to include some 18,900 beneficiaries, but a new spirit has begun to be felt—the Jews of Iran are participating actively in the programs which JDC initiated in their behalf.

In 1958, the JDC Sanitation Department served 1,400 families in six communities; medical aid was provided for more than 9,000 persons; five mother-and-child centers had under their care nearly 2,500 expectant mothers or mothers with young babies.

A feeding program reached more than 5,800 school children a month; and JDC-sponsored summer camps provided vacations for 715 children and young people. Some 13,200 students attended schools of the Alliance Israelite, Ozar Hatorah and others, including nearly 1,500 children enrolled in five kindergartens. In addition, small family welfare programs reached 278 families a month in Tehran and Hamadan.

With regard to Egypt, JDC does not have any direct contact with the Jewish communities in that country but has nonetheless followed developments there. The most recent information indicates that there are some 16,000 to 18,000 Jews in Egypt, of whom 11,000 are in Cairo and 5,000 to 6,000 in Alexandria. Cairo has a large Sephardic community, and a small Ashkenazic community with about 200 families; each conducts its own welfare program for needy Jews.

Of great importance to the Jewish population in Egypt has been the presence of a delegation of the International Committee of the Red Cross which has helped the Jewish communities to maintain their welfare programs, and has also dealt with emigration problems.

From January 1 to July 31, 1958, 1,250 Jewish refugees arrived in Australia. Local Jewish agencies supported by JDC assist 830 newcomers monthly with cash grants, accommodate 175 in hostels, maintain a home for 45 aged persons and a sheltered workshop for 40 old people, and have under their care 130 chil-
children. Under a continuing program, they provide loans for housing and for other purposes. More than 1,000 persons are continuing to benefit from JDC activities in China, the Philippines and in four South American countries. This group consists of the remnants of refugees from Nazi Europe, as well as small groups of immigrants who arrived after World War II.

**Contributions to JDC**

Funds from the United Jewish Appeal continued to provide the financial mainstay of JDC's overseas programs in 1958. Final figures will of course not be available for some time, but it is estimated that during the year American Jews contributed $15,850,000 to JDC through the nationwide campaigns of the UJA. This represents more than 56% of the $27,703,400 appropriated by JDC for its 1958 operations.

The Conference on Jewish Material Claims Against Germany for the fourth year provided a substantial source of income for JDC's efforts, specifically on behalf of individuals who suffered at the hands of the Nazis. The $6,910,500 which the Claims Conference provided during 1958 represented almost 25% of JDC's total budget.

These funds, which the Claims Conference receives under its agreement with the German Government, are earmarked for the relief and rehabilitation of Jewish victims of Nazism.

There were also a number of communities outside of the United States which provided financial assistance to JDC programs during the past year. These included Canada, which had provided $443,000 by the end of the year, and Latin American communities. JDC also received considerable funds from other sources, including the Jewish Restitution Successor Organization, the Jewish Trust Corporation and governmental and intergovernmental agencies.

**The "Last" Emergency?**

Perhaps the single quality for which JDC has been most noted, throughout its history, has been its ability to react quickly and effectively in the face of emergency. Many times since 1914 prompt and massive help has meant the difference between life and death—and JDC has given it.

It is true that there was some degree of insight involved in each crisis; but to a far greater degree the quality of JDC which manifested itself in these situations was its experience and its technical know-how.

It is under other circumstances that a deeper insight has manifested itself, not only on the part of JDC but even more on the part of the American Jewish community.

We react to the news of a pogrom—almost by reflex. No one needs to tell us what is required of us when suddenly a long-barred border springs open—and may clamp shut at any moment. No one needs to tell us, when thousands of Jews flee in panic from tyranny, that a haven must be prepared for them, that someone must be waiting to welcome and to care for them.

These are indeed emergencies we can recognize. And to which we can respond. And to which we have responded.

But there are other dangers, and other needs. And if we have reacted to these, it is an indication that we have indeed achieved a deeper insight.

For even when the world is at peace, there are Jews oppressed, and afraid. And even when there is prosperity, there are many who are hungry and need to be fed. And even when the very echoes of World War II have faded into the past, and all the world has recovered, there are men and women still wounded and sick and in need of our aid.

These too are emergencies—of a different nature, but emergencies.

It may be that one day the last of these will have arrived, and been met and conquered. Surely the world will be a finer place then.

But meanwhile there is work to be done. It is the work which the American Jewish community gave to JDC nearly 45 years ago, and in which their understanding has supported us ever since.
Once again I find myself reflecting on the National Council of the JDC, and on the men and women who are its members. It is my opinion that the National Council—precisely because of the way in which its membership is chosen—is a unique and distinctive body in the American Jewish community.

Men and women are elected to membership in the Council upon the recommendation of the campaign leadership of their own communities. They are nominated upon the basis of their support and activity in the campaigns of the United Jewish Appeal.

More than this, they are chosen because of the qualities of leadership which they have displayed in these efforts. As a result, the very fact of membership on our National Council may be taken as an indication of achievement and of proven leadership. It is no accident that members of our Council are often leaders in a host of other community efforts, not only on behalf of needy Jews, but on behalf of the community generally.

For the truth is that seldom in any age are there enough able and devoted people to do all that must be done.

By the same token, the members of the National Council are all the more valuable to JDC in performing their function. We have spoken often, through the years, of the reliance which JDC must place upon its Council members for telling its story, for interpreting and explaining the needs and problems of Jews the world over.

To borrow a term from the communications industry, the Council is JDC's own "coast-to-coast network."

I think that the membership of our Council is to a major degree responsible for the continued and warm acceptance by American Jewry of the programs which JDC places before them. Of course, implicit in this acceptance is a basic agreement with JDC's assessment of the needs, and with JDC's approach, with JDC's program for meeting these needs.

Many years ago the American Jewish community assigned to us the establishment of a lifeline of aid to the needy Jews of overseas communities. In that day they assigned to us a mission of mercy, and at the same time gave to us the responsibility for meeting the needs quickly and without hesitation. For JDC to meet its responsibilities under this mandate, it has been necessary at times to make and act upon decisions on an emergency basis, and to seek specific approval later, after the crisis has been successfully met.

It is all the more heartwarming, when this needs to be done, to know that in every community, from coast to coast, there are men and women who have enlisted in this endeavor with us, upon whom we may depend. For these are men and women who have accepted an additional task, an additional mandate: to convey to every Jewish family the inspiring story of what JDC has done and is doing to save and restore Jewish lives, and to preserve Jewish communities overseas.