There Are Still Refugees

1957 ANNUAL REPORT
An Egyptian family of nine arrives in Greece, en route to a haven in Israel.
Toward the end of 1957, I found myself once more participating in the United Jewish Appeal Study Mission. We did much, saw much, and spoke with a great many people in the short weeks that elapsed.

The annual Country Directors' Conference of the Joint Distribution Committee has become an extraordinary occasion. For all of us at the JDC it is an opportunity to see each other not only in the official sessions, but in the corridors and the ante-rooms, in somebody's hotel room, or in a restaurant, to get a sense of what really is going on. As I have often said, the team of the JDC is what makes it so exciting. Few businesses, if any, can command men of the calibre of those who are involved in this work. Certainly no business can command such loyalty and willingness to make sacrifices—in time and in health—to the terrific demands that are constantly being put on them.

But beyond the JDC family itself there is the larger family, which includes the European leadership; and more and more this group and its problems are becoming more intimately known to us.

Lastly, there is the American delegation, and this almost always includes a lot of new people who meet for the first time the impact of the JDC and in fact, of the operational end of the United Jewish Appeal. Most of them have been identified with the fund-raising aspects of UJA and have rarely been given a detailed account of programs painstakingly devised in so many aspects of the welfare field.

The impact on the American visitor never ceases to be explosive. The 1957 UJA delegation was no exception.

But, impressive as was the JDC Country Directors' Conference, the impression of Israel itself is overwhelming. Israel to all of us has the quality of never being disappointing. Of course, the first visit is the most exciting, but from then on one can have the additional excitement of comparing and watching the country grow.

To me one of the most exciting aspects of the country was its sense of confidence. Not that there was any military swaggering. They knew that they were secure against any action by their neighbors—the remaining fear was the one in which the whole world is involved, namely the East-West struggle itself. The shops were full of merchandise, everything was bustling and the predominant feeling was not so much one of anxiety this time as of excitement and activity, so much being done and so much needing to be done.

I think the Mission came away with a tremendous desire to see the job done which had been left unfinished by the enlarged but still inadequate giving of last year. They realized they were facing a difficult campaign year because of conditions in this country, but they all seemed unified in their desire to be helpful. To that extent the Mission was a success.

But more important than anything else, I am sure that all who took part came back with their spirits soaring, not only because of Israel but from seeing the quality and the calibre of the work being done by so many devoted people. They found new meaning in the funds which we raise each year.
1957: There Are Still Refugees

Moses A. Leavitt, Executive Vice-Chairman

It is for the conscience of the world to note: there are still refugees. Men, women and children are still crossing the borders.

In the more than twelve and a half years since V-E Day, hundreds of thousands of Jews, uprooted by Nazism and war, have managed to resume their lives, to integrate themselves into the economy of postwar Europe, to take up once more the livelihoods which had been interrupted or destroyed, or to embark upon new careers.

During these same years more than 900,000 men, women and children found haven in the state of Israel. The Joint Distribution Committee alone aided more than 623,000, principally from Europe and Moslem areas, to find new homes, not only in Israel, but in the United States, Canada, Australia, South America and other hospitable lands.

In these years entire Jewish communities have disappeared and new ones sprung up. Countries which once sheltered hundreds of thousands of Jews, in which religious and cultural life flourished, are now virtually judenrein, while other lands now harbor new and thriving Jewish communities.

To sum up: World War II and its aftermath left hundreds of thousands of Jewish survivors homeless and rootless; a name: “DP”—“Displaced Person”—gave many of them the only status they had. But in the years since, they have found homes, they have sunk new roots, they have integrated in the old lands, or emigrated joyfully to new ones.

It is ironic then: they still cross the borders. They flee—from tyranny, from anti-Semitism, from economic harassment. They seek: a haven, a refuge, a land of opportunity and freedom.

They seek what has been denied them up to now. For this they are willing to leave the place in which they have lived all their lives, and their fathers and grandfathers before them.

As in many other years, the beginning of the year 1957 found the Joint Distribution Committee faced once again with a major refugee emergency. And as the year ended, there were still thousands of refugees—men, women and children—who had fled to safety, whose lives were in JDC’s hands.

In all, there were during 1957 more than 100,000 Jewish migrants—from Hungary, from Egypt, from Poland, from North Africa and elsewhere. Of these, more than half were at one time or another the direct concern of JDC, which had to feed them, clothe them, shelter them and provide medical care and comfort. All this JDC—and the American Jewish community—had to give while at the same time maintaining a regular program of assistance to nearly 180,000 others in some 25 countries of the world.

In Israel, 1957 saw more than 16,600 aged, ill and handicapped newcomers and their families receive the aid of Malben, the JDC welfare program in the Jewish state. JDC aid was particularly important in the field of care for the aged, which accounted for more than 70 per cent of the agency’s institutional caseload.

In Moslem countries, the picture was uneven, as newly independent nations made the lot of Jews in certain areas even more precarious. In most areas, JDC aid became more important, more vital than ever before.

In Europe, JDC-supported agencies entrusted with the functioning of local programs were suddenly swamped with the influx of refugees, but fought to provide needed care for everyone.

On the chart, the mountain of statistics continued to grow: preliminary figures reveal that JDC aid reached some 195,000 persons, 99,290 in Moslem countries alone. JDC aid included: cash relief for 28,455; feeding aid for 75,860; medical aid for 37,895; care in homes for the aged for 5,855; aid to 5,855 children and young people; educational assistance to 67,475 and other cultural assistance to 35,785.

Other major developments on the JDC scene included:

- During the year, 29 JDC-sponsored loan institutions gave 6,198 loans, amounting to $2,490,437. In cooperation with the Jewish Colonization Association, JDC allocated funds to establish a new loan institution in Santiago, Chile, to facilitate the integration of new immigrants.

- JDC distributed 12,319,107 pounds of U. S. Department of Agriculture supplies to 111,450 persons monthly in Austria, Belgium, France, Germany, Greece, Iran, Israel, Italy, Morocco, Tunisia and Yugoslavia.

- ORT—with JDC funds—gave vocational training to 25,546 persons, including 10,889 in Europe, 7,910 in Moslem countries and 6,747 in Israel. JDC’s allocation to ORT for 1957 was $1,500,000; during the ten years past JDC has granted ORT a total of $13,390,000.

- With the financial assistance of the Conference on Jewish Material Claims Against Germany, work continued on Jewish centers, housing projects and other institutions all over Europe; this year, Jewish community or youth centers were opened in Belleville, Montpellier and St. Fons, France; in Berlin and Munich, Germany; and in Halkis, Janina and Volos, Greece; and a low-cost housing project for earthquake victims in Volos, Greece.
In Israel, Malben's already heavy caseload felt the effects of the influx of some 72,000 newcomers to Israel during the year. An agreement between Malben and the Israel Ministry of Health provided for the transfer of all TB care to the Ministry over a period of four years.

JDC continued to give specialized assistance in various fields, including special grants for Passover relief and the provision for summer vacations for youngsters. Passover relief included 472,480 pounds of matzoth and 121,930 pounds of matzoh meal as well as other supplies, distributed among Jews in 14 European countries. In Israel and Moslem countries, Passover supplies were purchased locally. In ten European and four Moslem countries, 17,655 children spent vacations in camps sponsored by JDC, 4,000 more than in 1956.

**Refugees from Hungary**

Early in 1957 the influx of refugees from Hungary came to a standstill, but not until some 18,000 to 20,000 Jews had escaped from that country, almost all of them to Austria, and all of them in desperate need of help. This group, which represented about 14 per cent of Hungary's 1956 Jewish population, was chiefly young people—only 3 per cent were over 60.

At the beginning of the emergency situation the Vienna kultusgemeinde assumed the responsibility, with JDC support, for the care of the Hungarian refugees. But when the influx surpassed all expectations, JDC was forced to take over direct responsibility. It reopened its offices in Linz and Salzburg, increased its staff from 12 to about 100, mobilized workers throughout Europe and enlisted the help of family members of its employees as well as the services of the Austrian Jewish community.

Order was quickly achieved: bus services were organized, cars moved daily from the borders to Vienna and other cities, where new-
...and from Egypt

Following the outbreak of hostilities in Egypt in November 1956, the Egyptian authorities carried out a series of actions against the Jews in the country, estimated at 45,000 to 50,000. These anti-Jewish measures included economic restrictions, internments, arrests and expulsion orders. Deprived of their normal livelihood and pressed by the authorities to leave the country, more than 20,000 Jews emigrated between November 22, 1956 and June 30, 1957. In all, between 23,000 and 25,000 Jews are estimated to have left Egypt.

These included more than 6,000 persons who left on ships chartered by the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) with funds provided by the United Jewish Appeal. The ICRC rendered valuable service in evacuating Jews unable to pay for their passage as well as in assisting needy Jews still in Egypt.

By the middle of 1957 the pressure on Jews remaining in Egypt had begun to wear off, and the “Egyptianization” of the country’s economy had become less drastic. This, together with the limited resettlement possibilities, resulted in a gradual slowing down of the Jewish exodus. Nevertheless, the emigration of Jews from Egypt has continued and ICRC is still assisting those unable to pay for their passage.

Up to October 31, 1957 Israel had admitted nearly 13,500 Egyptian refugees; Latin American countries absorbed 2,440 during the year. It is hoped that the United States will admit Jewish refugees from Egypt under laws recently adopted.

At the present time there are still some 5,000 refugees in France, 1,100 in England and smaller numbers in Greece and Italy. The Intergovernmental Committee for European Migration has agreed to finance the movement of Egyptian refugees, and the UN High Commissioner for Refugees early in 1957 declared that escapes from Egypt come under the mandate of his office. The Commissioner has agreed to contribute funds, together with JDC, for the placement of 100 Jewish aged and disabled persons still to be taken out of Egypt.

In France the government supports most of the stateless refugees from Egypt. Holders of foreign passports, however, received assistance from JDC-financed French Jewish agencies, which were providing cash relief to an average of 1,275 a month.

To meet the most difficult problem, that of housing, JDC contributed 15,000,000 francs to a housing fund, with the French Government and the UNHCR contributing like sums.

Inside Egypt, the departure of so many, including the most vital elements of the community, has threatened the very existence of many Jewish institutions of long standing. The community itself is beginning to suffer seriously from the decline in communal activities; financing of these activities is but one of the many problems which beset them.

Repatriates in Poland

At the urging of the Polish authorities, a JDC mission headed by Charles H. Jordan, JDC Director-General, went to Poland at the end of September 1957 to discuss the setting up of an assistance program for the 9,000 to 10,000 Jews recently repatriated from Russia. During their discussions, Prime Minister Josef...
Cyrankiewicz promised that JDC would be able to work with the repatriates without government interference.

Until early March 1957, repatriated Jews were able to leave Poland and it is estimated that some 4,000 of them left for Israel. Since the Polish-Russian repatriation agreement does not expire until the end of 1958, thousands more are expected to return. The Jewish repatriates are being settled by the Polish Government in small localities, chiefly in Lower Silesia, but are experiencing great difficulty in adjusting themselves to the new conditions. Housing assigned to them is inadequate; most are unemployed; their children—who do not speak Polish—need special preparation to enter Polish schools.

Including repatriates, the Jewish population in Poland is estimated at 40,000 to 45,000. The main Jewish organizations in Poland are the Cultural-Social Association, supported by the Government, and the Union of Religious Congregations, representing 23 local religious communities. In mid-October 1957, a Jewish Aid Committee was established, with representatives of these two organizations and of repatriated Jews, in order to direct JDC assistance where it is most needed.

In December, 979 families were helped to furnish their living quarters; cash grants were given to 879 families, to invalids, the aged and the chronically ill. More than 1,700 school children in nine localities received daily meals, and assistance went also to 67 residents of a home for the aged in Lodz.

**JDC in Israel**

In all, JDC aided 36,670 persons in Israel, with a little fewer than half of them beneficiaries of *Malben*, the JDC welfare program there. The increased immigration into Israel which resulted from the new waves of refugees...
was reflected in Malben's caseload. In the first nine months of the year 547 newcomers from Poland, Egypt and Hungary received direct aid from Malben.

However, in numbers the new refugees represented a small part of the total Malben caseload:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type of Institution</th>
<th>Number of Persons</th>
<th>Percent</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>TB Hospitals</td>
<td>526</td>
<td>8.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General Hospitals</td>
<td>82</td>
<td>1.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chronic Disease Hospitals</td>
<td>337</td>
<td>5.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mental Institutions</td>
<td>516</td>
<td>8.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Institutions for Retarded Children</td>
<td>164</td>
<td>2.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Institutions for the Infirm</td>
<td>399</td>
<td>6.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Homes for the Aged</td>
<td>4,130</td>
<td>65.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>6,354</td>
<td>100.0</td>
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As of the end of December, Malben employed 2,015 persons, including 104 physicians, 478 nurses and nurses' aides and 30 social workers. Malben training courses for nurses were attended by 190 persons per month.

In addition to the transfer of Malben's TB program over a period of four years to the Ministry of Health, the Ministry has also taken over the administration of the TB Coordination Committee, which has been administered by Malben since 1953. The Ministry will gradually take over Beer Yaacov and the Pardessia hospital for aged TB's, both of them now under Malben control.

At the moment, however, these are subsidiary programs, because more than 73 per cent of Malben's entire institutionalized caseload are aged men and women. This includes 4,130 healthy aged, 399 bedridden and 113 aged TB's. What is most interesting is that more than 60 per cent of the healthy aged are now engaged in some useful occupation: handicrafts, institutional services or general housework.

Malben services continue to be varied. In 1957, 412 medical appliances were issued, 175 handicapped newcomers placed on jobs, 561 persons a month were employed in 25 sheltered workshops, including 125 blind men and women. Occupational therapy was given to 544 monthly, including patients at the TB hospital and the four hospitals for chronic diseases; 1,034 persons monthly were engaged in handicrafts, mainly in the homes for healthy aged; and 951 rendered institutional services and 800 housework. In addition, a cultural program reached 3,500 persons per month.

In one of Malben's major programs, during the year reconstruction loans were issued to 803 family heads (3,418 beneficiaries). This program was initiated in June 1950, and since that time the total number of loans granted has been 6,170, aiding a total of 25,661 persons.

Besides the Malben program, JDC continues to support another sizeable 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 84 yeshivoth with 6,935 students; research projects, and assistance to some 1,670 refugee rabbis, cantors and their families. In addition, during the first six months of the year, JDC aided the ORT vocational training program in Israel with 6,747 trainees.

JDC in Europe

It is interesting to note that the JDC report for 1956 declared: "By the beginning of 1956 the once sizeable problem of refugees and transients in Europe had largely been solved. Of all JDC beneficiaries receiving cash relief in Europe, only 3 per cent were considered transients."

The year 1956 changed this picture considerably. The Hungarian and Egyptian emergency situation confronted JDC with all of the problems with which it had been struggling in the postwar years. Once again high on the agenda was the integration of large groups of refugees, and the absorption of so-called "hard-core" cases. This was true not only in Europe, but in such areas as Australia and Latin America, where JDC was called in to assist local Jewish agencies dealing with the resettlement of newcomers.

During 1957, 5,845 Egyptian and Hungarian refugees received cash relief monthly from JDC in eight European countries, ranging from Belgium and Sweden to Greece and Yugoslavia. In addition there were at least 1,000 migrants from North Africa and more than 250 from Poland in need of aid.

In Austria, the whole life of the Gemeinden was affected by the influx of Hungarian refugees. To the 2,000 beneficiaries from earlier years were suddenly added an additional caseload of 12,000 refugees from Hungary who had not moved on. Many of the community installations were used as makeshift shelters, kitchens and other units for the new refugees. Only after emigration had thinned the ranks of the refugees were the Gemeinden able to take up their usual functions. In Vienna and Linz, the planned transfer of certain aspects of the JDC welfare program to the local communities had to be postponed.

The Vienna Gemeinde has been providing assistance for 540 persons monthly, including a home for the aged with 150 residents and a hospital with 50 patients. The monthly average of 600 "old" refugees (as contrasted to the "new" Hungarian refugees) received direct assistance from JDC, which financed a kosher kitchen, five schools and five kindergartens. In Vienna 400 school children attended religious classes organized by the Gemeinde, and for the first time since 1938, religious classes were introduced for 20 Jewish children in Salzburg.

In Belgium, JDC-supported agencies in Brussels and Antwerp assist 2,150 persons. This aid includes a cash relief load of 1,330
persons and medical aid for 665. There are also two children's homes, a home for the aged and a feeding canteen.

In France, the caseload of Jewish agencies granting direct relief almost doubled during the year: 11,000 new cases in need of assistance were registered in a little more than a year. These included not only the new refugees from Egypt, Hungary and Poland, but considerable numbers from North Africa.

Arriving from Algeria, Morocco and Tunisia, where they had been harassed by economic difficulties and uncertainties about the future, this group accumulated in France in great numbers. They were welcomed in France, which has a severe lack of manpower, especially laborers. The most difficult problem for them was the extreme housing shortage in France—it is almost impossible to find a place for recent arrivals in the low income brackets. Special committees to provide housing for North African refugees received a total of 45,000,000 francs from JDC as well as considerable sums from the Jewish Trust Corporation, the Jewish Colonization Association and local sources.

JDC-aided agencies are still called upon to help some 4,000 persons in Paris, Marseille and Strasbourg, in addition to the newcomers. They maintain 15 children's and youth homes for 920 persons, eight full-time schools for 850 students, supplementary schools for 1,000 students, two canteens serving more than 15,500 meals per month, medical aid for 2,500 persons monthly and cultural and educational activities, including a successful youth center in Paris. In addition, JDC aided 400 persons monthly as well as two schools with 170 pupils.

In Germany, during 1957 the membership of the Gemeinden increased by 2,532 persons, mostly on account of immigration. The caseload of the Zentralwohlfahrtsstelle (ZWST), a national Jewish welfare agency, decreased from an average of 2,000 persons in 1956 to 1,690 persons and medical aid for 665. There are also two children's homes, a home for the aged and a feeding canteen.

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in 1957, since more and more people received indemnification. The ZWST, which is financed by JDC, supports 13 homes for the aged, with 560 residents, and 11 kindergartens for 260 children.

The end of an era came very quietly—and also ended JDC's direct activities in Germany—with the closing of Camp Foehrenwald, last remaining all-Jewish DP camp in Europe, at the end of February 1957. The 120 remaining residents were transferred to four general camps near Munich. By year's end, 71 of them were either resettled or integrated in Germany.

In Italy, JDC assisted some 2,975 persons a month financially, including 1,700 Italian Jews, 390 "old" refugees and 885 new refugees. Meals are provided for 780 school children. JDC-financed OSE institutions treat 2,690 patients a month. A rabbinical seminary, Jewish schools, kindergartens and other children's institutions benefit from JDC contributions.

In Greece, 335 persons a month receive cash relief, 170 medical aid and 135 children get meals in school canteens. JDC assistance programs of one kind or another are still being continued on behalf of 1,260 in Sweden, 1,150 in Yugoslavia, 810 in Switzerland, 100 in Portugal and Spain and 100 in Norway.

North Africa and Iran

For the Jews of Morocco, Tunisia and Algeria, 1957 meant not only continuing insecurity but a threat of catastrophe which never quite materialized. The 400,000 Jews living in the Maghreb countries found their economic position worsening, their opportunities limited. Many of them have come to consider emigration as the only solution to their problems.

In Morocco and Tunisia, governmental contributions to the Jewish agencies which had been paid out under the French rule are either not being granted at all, or on a diminished scale. In Morocco the former central body of the communities disintegrated and there is today no organized group to represent Moroccan Jews. In Tunisia such a group does exist—the Federation of Jewish Communities—but it is not too effective.

In Morocco and Tunisia, Jewish white collar workers, artisans and others are finding it almost impossible to get employment. In Algeria the Jews are caught up helplessly in the revolt of the Arab nationalists against the French administration. In April, the rabbi of the community in Medea was killed by terrorists. Arab nationalists have been sending intimidating letters to wealthy Jews demanding financial support. On the other side, the situation is aggravated because many of the French settlers in Algeria (colons) are anti-Semitic. Within all three countries there is a movement of Jewish population—residents of small and isolated places are moving to larger towns where they feel themselves more secure.

Mass emigration to Israel was finally stopped in Morocco around the middle of 1956. During all of 1957, 863 Jews from Algeria and 2,727 from Tunisia left for Israel. There has also been a sizeable Jewish emigration to France, and a small one to other countries.

In Morocco, hundreds of Jews flocked to Tangier, hoping to be able to reach Israel via Gibraltar. Their departure has, however, been blocked by Moroccan authorities. Reports indicated that in November 1957 between 700 and 800 migrants were in Tangier, and some 250 in Ceuta, and unable to move further.

The greatest number of beneficiaries in any one country of the world are to be found in Morocco, which now includes the former French Morocco, Spanish Morocco and Tangier, with a total of 60,250 beneficiaries. The JDC feeding program here provides meals for 27,000 a month, mostly to school children. A food parcel distribution, started in 1956, reached nearly 10,000 a month; OSE institu-
tions provided medical aid for 10,000; baby bottle centers served 950 children a month; the 183 schools and kindergartens of the Alliance Israelite Universelle (AIU), Ozar Hatorah, Lubavitcher and other Jewish organizations were attended by 39,310 students; and there were 16,125 beneficiaries from JDC-supported cultural and educational activities, including Hebrew classes.

In Tunisia, with 15,500 beneficiaries, some 4,365 children received their food in canteens. OSE and two other dispensaries treated 5,400 a month. Child care institutions had 800 children monthly under their care, 29 schools and kindergartens of the AIU and other organizations were attended by 6,000 students, and Hebrew courses by 2,810. In Algeria, there were a total of 3,500 beneficiaries in a program which had not had a JDC country director running it until February 1957, when one was assigned to the area.

The situation in Iran was quite different, where there were 18,000 beneficiaries of JDC programs. There JDC achieved notable success in the field of public health, working chiefly through the schools. During the year, a monthly average of 12,500 persons were treated in JDC-supported medical institutions, as against a monthly average of 9,825 in 1956. School canteens provided meals for 5,775 children a month; and 50 schools of the AIU and Ozar Hatorah, as well as kindergartens, were attended by 12,790 students.

**Other Countries**

JDC continued, as in previous years, to provide assistance to refugees in widely scattered parts of the world, including Australia, China, the Dominican Republic, Haiti, the Philippines, Brazil and Uruguay. In all, this group numbered 3,510, the largest number of them in Australia, where 2,711 Jewish immigrants, mostly refugees from Hungary sponsored by the United Hias Service, arrived during the year. In that country, local JDC-supported Jewish organizations helped 540 persons monthly with funds.

In China, the JDC-supported Council of the Jewish Community of Shanghai provides cash relief for 110 a month, medical aid for 50 persons and maintains a small home for the aged. The total number of Jews registered with all Jewish communities in China amounted to 347 persons as of December 31.

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**Contributions to JDC**

Funds from the United Jewish Appeal continued to provide the financial mainstay of JDC's overseas programs in 1957. Final figures will of course not be available for some time, but by the end of the year it is estimated that American Jews had contributed $17,860,500 to JDC through the nationwide campaigns of the UJA. This represents more than 65 per cent of the $27,398,000 appropriated by JDC for its 1957 operations.

The Conference on Jewish Material Claims Against Germany for the third 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 $6,515,600 which the Claims Conference provided during 1957 represented almost 24 per cent of JDC's total budget.

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 $541,400 by the year's end, and Latin American communities. Before the year was over, JDC had also received considerable funds from other sources, including the Jewish Restitution Successor Organization ($1,222,700) and the Jewish Trust Corpora-
tion ($628,600); governmental and intergovern-ernmental agencies ($277,400); and the Paris reparations agreement, through the trusteeship of the International Refugee Organization, which provided $680,700.

For How Long?

Each year, as JDC calls in its field directors from all parts of the world, as it hears their reports on the year just passed and their predictions for the year ahead, there are always the same questions:

What emergencies this year? These plans, will this be a year in which they can be carried out—or will they be interrupted?

And in this decade when so many tens of thousands have crossed the borders, leaving behind all that was, in a frantic desire to find safety, there has over and over again been the question:

How long will the borders be open?

The plans must be made, as though this were a world in which plans could always be carried out. For many lives depend on the planning.

But those who make the plans have learned that quiet and normalcy are the exceptions and that emergency and upheaval are the rule. Each year, as they look back upon the 12 months just passed, it seems almost a miracle that so much should have been done.

But this one miracle is composed of many miracles—the selflessness of those entrusted with the mission of mercy, the heroism of those who crossed the borders, the equal heroism of those who suffer from the cruelties which the world has and continues to inflict upon them.

And high on the list of the miracles is the way in which year after year American Jewry continues to provide the sinews, the trust and the encouragement without which there would be no food, no medicines, no answers to the questions which each year brings.

To Malben they come—
the harassed and the helpless,
the aged and the handicapped—to be welcomed ...
to enter upon a life of peace and security, to enjoy the golden years
As I take stock of the accomplishments of the Joint Distribution Committee during the past year, and of its National Council, it suddenly comes to me that I have been associated with JDC and with its leadership almost continuously for more than 43 years.

And immediately upon the heels of that thought there flashes through my mind the realization that a considerable number of JDC's officers are also veterans of 20 and 30 and 40 years of service.

I think that there is something extraordinary in this situation. I think that it reflects on the uniqueness of JDC and its mission that the organization and its work could have successfully commanded our loyalty over so long a period of time, and despite all the other appeals to our time and energies.

I cannot recall that there was much thought at JDC's inception beyond meeting the emergency—providing an efficient and trustworthy method for channeling the aid of the American Jewish community to needy Jews in Palestine, and then in Poland, and then in other parts of the world. This is in itself no mean undertaking, and this assignment has, in my opinion, been most successfully accomplished over the years.

But in the process there developed a plus quality, something as real as the food and the clothing and the medicines that we provide. Those of us who are a part of JDC are now bound to it by chains of loyalty, as strongly as any of the millions of men, women and children who have been its beneficiaries down through the years.

We have given JDC a task to perform. But we ourselves have undertaken to carry out our part of this task. This is equally true of those with long years of service and those who have been elected to the JDC National Council only in recent years.

The American Jewish community has asked us to carry out an assignment on its behalf. We have done so and we are continuing to do so. But we owe it to those who have given us our assignment to report to them on the manner in which it is being done, to account for our stewardship.

If we do this in the future as we have done in the past, we can be certain that we will at all times have the means to carry out our mission of mercy.