Ein Shemer, Israel: Patients and nurses alike enjoy the afternoon sun on the grounds of the hospital established here by Malben, the JDC welfare program on behalf of aged, ill and handicapped newcomers to the Jewish state.
Each year JDC adds a new chapter to one of the most extraordinary stories of human engineering. Now again we can recall with pride a year of solid accomplishments in the face of danger, darkness and deprivation.

Late last year, I listened with wonderment to the extraordinary story told by our JDC staff, gathered in Paris for the annual Country Directors’ Conference. They spoke not only of victories gained in the last twelve months, but of things yet to be accomplished. There are some 200,000 Jews in 25 countries who will benefit by the care we supply in 1956. But the human element behind those statistics is what is vibrant and meaningful — whether it be Baruch Nissim from the Isle of Djerba who will be reunited with his four children in Israel; or Rene, orphaned by the war, who will be warm in the winter days at a JDC children’s home in France; or Bracha, who will bring forth her first-born unafraid in the newly-built clinic in Tehran; or Joseph, blind since birth, who will continue to live as a productive citizen of Israel, because he has been taught to weave baskets and earn his own livelihood.

From Paris I went on with the United Jewish Appeal Study Mission to Israel. There we saw unfolded yet another phase of this remarkable chapter of life-saving and life-giving. I stood at a high point in the now famous Lachish area, the identical spot where last year we had looked over the beautiful yet forbidding terrain. At that time they told me that this was an area to which North African immigrants would be brought. This time, standing there, I marvelled at the 18 new colonies that had sprung up from nowhere; I saw the beginning of a new productive area for Israel and for those from North Africa for whom there had been no future, but for whom now, with our help, there is boundless opportunity.

Everywhere I went I ran into old friends; some had been the actual walking skeletons whom I helped care for in Belgium when they arrived in their striped uniforms from Dachau and Bergen Belsen. Today they are no longer pathetic DP’s, but strong and confident DI’s — Defenders of Israel.

In the Malben institutions in the Jewish state, the people are slowly but surely making their fight back to self-sufficiency. It is not only the excellent care they receive, but the human understanding and personal interest which gets them back on their own feet, and out into the general community as productive citizens.

Despite the tensions of the international scene, now so sharply focused on the Near East, Israel is keeping its doors open to those who must and want to come, particularly from North Africa, and a special fund to aid these individuals is part of the UJA program. Unquestionably it will mean greater responsibility for us in JDC as well. Wherever Jews have been exposed to persecution or poverty or disease, JDC, backed by UJA and American Jewry, has rushed to the scene. The story continues to be written. The chapter of North Africa may well be next. And I am confident that it will be written eloquently.
Ten Years Later
Moses A. Leavitt, Executive Vice-Chairman

In May, 1955, the world celebrated the tenth anniversary of the ending of World War II. Across mankind’s collective memory there flitted for a moment recollections of the swastika, the concentration camps and the mass graves, as well as scenes of thanksgiving and the joy of the liberated.

For JDC the end of World War II had had a special significance. Horror was yet to follow upon horror, as the fuller story of atrocity and brutality came to be revealed, but V-E Day meant that one era of aid had ended and another was to begin. We geared ourselves singlemindedly for the succor of those whose sufferings were unparalleled in history.

In 1945, it was no more than fitting that the focus of all attention be upon Europe, and upon the pitiful remnant of European Jewry which had survived. It hardly seemed possible, hardly credible, that the succession of events in the ten years which followed would so rapidly turn our thoughts and our efforts successively to so many Jewish communities in so many lands.

In the past decade we have had to turn our energies toward aiding DP’s, toward Jews fleeing from Eastern Europe, toward Cyprus, toward the victims of riots in Aden and in Libya, toward Israel. V-E Day ended a war; it did not end, or even interrupt, suffering and need.

In the past ten years we have been forced by events to look closely upon many places. And so it came to pass that in the summer of 1955 the eyes of the world turned once again to North Africa.

In North Africa, year by year since 1948, JDC activities had been increasing, had expanded to reach more and more of the needy thousands of Jews living in Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia.

Little by little there had begun to appear signs that JDC’s programs were taking effect. One could tell which youngsters were attending JDC-subsidized schools, or eating at JDC canteens. Infant mortality decreased; trachoma was appearing less often, resulted less often in blindness.

Physiotherapist helps 70-year-old newcomer from Kurdistan at Malben hospital.

But among those who knew North Africa there were no illusions. Rather, there was the feeling that this might well be a race against time. For throughout the area the tide of nationalism was rising, and though the Jewish population was not directly involved in the fight between nationalists and government authorities, it became obvious long ago that they must inevitably bear their share of the suffering.

The Explosions

Then came the summer of 1955, and the explosions. Particularly in Morocco, the months of July and August were marked by such outbreaks of violence throughout the country that martial law had to be declared to insure the safety of the population.

The political crisis began to develop early in the summer of 1955, when Arabs, in protest against the French, closed their shops in Casablanca and forced Jews to do likewise, thereby creating an almost complete economic standstill. On July 14, following a bomb explosion in the heart of Casablanca’s European quarters, groups of Arabs roamed through the mellah (ghetto) attacking Jews and looting their stores. To prevent the worst, 500 Jewish residents of the most exposed part of the ghetto were transferred to the Talmud Torah, where JDC made arrangements for their feeding and medical care, and also supplied mattresses and blankets.

The July agitations had not yet subsided when in August new incidents occurred which turned into excesses against Jews in Boujad, Khouribga, Mazagan, Ouezzane, Safi, Tamlelt and especially Oued Zem. In these outbreaks five Jews were killed (three in Oued Zem, one in Boujad, one in Tamlelt), thirteen seriously wounded, scores of houses destroyed by fire and many stores ransacked. Hundreds of Jews in these areas were evacuated to centrally lo-
cated buildings for protection; JDC rushed supplies, including food and blankets, and provided emergency cash grants for the hardest-hit.

What was the effect of these events upon the Jews of Morocco? Largely it took the form of pressure for emigration.

In the first seven months of 1954 only about 160 Jews left French Morocco monthly. In the year which followed the attack upon Jews at Petitjean on August 5, 1954, this number leaped to more than 1,830 per month. Since the riots of July and August 1955, the monthly average has been well over 3,100.

Upon JDC this placed a special burden: what kind of program for North Africa?

It was true that thousands of Jews were leaving, nearly all of them for Israel, and that other thousands would follow. But for every single one who left, ten would remain, at least for the present. And many of those remaining would continue to need food and clothing and medical care simply in order to survive, and educational and vocational training in order to achieve a decent future.

Thus the clouded future of North African Jewry posed a series of questions for JDC's overseas planners; whether to establish new programs and new buildings, or not; to plan new dispensaries and hospitals, or rather expanded embarkation centers; to encourage the teaching of French, or of Arabic, or of Hebrew.

For JDC as an organization there was yet another dilemma: while this was, at the moment, the sorest in a world full of sore spots, attention could not be diverted entirely from the other areas in which JDC's aid, given perhaps under less dramatic circumstances, was nonetheless vital. For in Europe, in Israel and elsewhere there were still tens of thousands
who looked to JDC, as did the Jews of North Africa, as virtually their only hope of a happy future.

In 1955, JDC's aid was required by more than 164,000 men, women and children in 25 countries, nearly 100,000 of them in the Moslem world. Not only did this aid cover all parts of the world, it covered virtually every type of need: for each month it included cash relief for 16,925; feeding assistance to 55,925; care for 3,935 aged; medical aid for 38,700; institutional care for some 10,000 children; educational aid to 64,000; cultural assistance to 25,000; and vocational training aid during the year for some 18,700.

Among the more notable developments of the year were:

1. The continued expansion in the number of men and women, particularly the aged, receiving care from Malben, JDC's welfare program in Israel. This included particularly the taking over of responsibility by JDC on November 1 for about 1,450 still in the immigrant camp at Pardess Hanna.

2. The invigoration of existing Jewish communities in Europe, largely with funds provided by the Conference on Jewish Material Claims Against Germany. Building programs were initiated for community centers, children's homes, homes for the aged and other communal institutions.

3. The extraordinary expansion of JDC loan institutions throughout the world, which in 1955 granted $1,948,500 in low-interest loans to artisans, professionals and others.

4. The continued attempt by JDC to find a solution to the problem of former DP's, which found small numbers leaving Germany and Austria for Norway, Sweden, Great Britain and other countries. This brought closer, too, the day when Camp Fohrenwald, the last Jewish DP camp in Germany, might finally be closed.

5. A successful solution to the problem of hundreds of new immigrants in Sao Paulo, Brazil. Where in October 1954 there were 650 new arrivals in need of JDC aid, by August 1955 this number had been reduced to 12.

6. The allocation by JDC, in commemoration of its 40th anniversary, of $500,000 for the expansion of facilities for social service training in Israel, in partnership with the Hebrew University and the Israel Ministry of Social Welfare. Linked to this, the establishment, as a permanent part of JDC's Paris headquarters office, of the Paul Baerwald Department of Personnel Development and Training, in order to continue in-service training of the personnel of cooperating Jewish welfare agencies.

7. The continuance of specialized assistance in various fields, including the provision of summer vacations for underprivileged children and special grants for Passover relief. About 12,500 boys and girls in Europe and North Africa were once again given summer vacations, including 250 in Austria, 4,500 in France, 5,500 in Morocco, 2,000 in Tunisia, and 260 in Yugoslavia. JDC sent approximately 340,000 pounds of matzot, matzah meal and other Passover food, as well as Passover wine, to Jews in more than ten countries.

8. The distribution during the year of more than 2,222,000 pounds of U. S. Department of Agriculture surplus food to a monthly average of 78,945 men, women and children in France, Germany, Israel, Italy, Morocco, Tunisia and Yugoslavia. This food, worth more than $614,750, welcome as it was, represented only a portion of JDC shipments — in ten months, JDC shipped from New York more than 4,632,530 pounds of supplies, valued at over $1,178,395.

9. Continued cooperation with other Jewish organizations. This included a grant of $1,390,000 to the worldwide vocational training activities of ORT; a sum of up to $1,000,000 for the migration work of United Hias Service; a sizeable contribution for the budget of Alliance Israelite Universelle's 121 schools in Moslem countries; cooperation with JCA (Jewish Colonization Association) for the support of credit institutions in Australia, Brazil, French Morocco, Tunisia and Uruguay; and the establishment of an even closer and more harmonious relationship between JDC and the OSE medical organization.

JDC in Israel

Israel, largely as a result of the JDC medical and welfare program on behalf of aged, ill and handicapped newcomers there, known as...
Malben, continued to represent the single largest field of JDC operations in 1955, accounting for nearly 49 percent of JDC’s expenditures. During the year more than 35,000 men, women and children received JDC aid in Israel in one form or another, the vast majority of them in a network of nearly 100 Malben old-age homes, hospitals, sanitariums, clinics, sheltered workshops and other installations throughout the Holy Land, or through Malben rehabilitation loans.

As of October 1, Malben employed 1,963 persons, including 104 physicians, 505 nurses and nurses’ aides, and 20 social workers.

The number of patients in Malben institutions continued to increase during the year—from 5,081 on January 1, 1955 to 6,879 on December 31. The type of care which these patients received included:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type of Institution</th>
<th>Number</th>
<th>Patients</th>
<th>Per Cent</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>TB Hospitals</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>1,140</td>
<td>16.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General Hospitals</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>54</td>
<td>0.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chronic Disease Hospitals</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>535</td>
<td>7.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mental Hospitals</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>447</td>
<td>6.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Children’s Institutions</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>126</td>
<td>1.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Institutions for the Infirm</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>346</td>
<td>5.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Homes for the Aged</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>4,231</td>
<td>61.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>81</td>
<td>6,879</td>
<td>100.0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

For the first time since the establishment of Malben in 1949 the continued expansion of its program of care for the aged produced a situation where nearly two-thirds of those in Malben institutions are now aged men and women. It is worth noting that today Malben is probably one of the largest agencies in all the world caring for the aged. It will rank even higher, of course, with the completion of its building program at the end of next year, when there will be over 5,500 beds available for the aged.

The most notable development in this connection was the passage of responsibility from the Jewish Agency to JDC for some 1,450 residents in the transient camp at Pardess Hanna. Although this took place at the beginning of November, the lack of vacancies in Malben institutions has as yet made it impossible to move any sizeable number of the aged out of their “temporary” shelters at Pardess Hanna.

What is perhaps most tragic is that the vast majority of the aged under Malben care are healthy and would under “normal” circumstances—had their families not been exterminated by Nazism and war—not have been compelled to live in institutions at all. Equally important with the care which JDC is providing, therefore, is the atmosphere which Malben has succeeded in creating in its homes, through the establishment of extensive recreational, educational and occupational programs. One such Malben project was the establishment of a club for old people in Acre, where aged men and women do odd jobs for three or four hours daily and enjoy various forms of recreation the rest of the day. One interesting note: the death rate among the aged in Malben homes is lower than that among corresponding age groups in Israel.

Of Malben’s purely medical activities, perhaps the most important are in the field of tuberculosis care and treatment. As a result of the establishment of a committee coordinating all TB agencies, Malben is today responsible for the screening of all new TB patients in Israel. This in turn has led to the more efficient utilization of TB beds in the country and has virtually eliminated the waiting list for TB hospitals.

As a result, Malben has been able to convert its Gedera TB hospital into a home for the infirm aged, and the TB coordinating committee is now able to pay more attention to the setting up of chest clinics and the prevention of TB.

Not only TB’s, but thousands of other chronically ill patients have benefited from Malben’s care during its five and a half years of existence. Some 14,000 sufferers from chronic ailments have been treated, and partially or totally rehabilitated. A new 220-bed installation for chronic care is scheduled to begin functioning at Nahariya in the spring of 1956. An important development in this field is a survey of the chronically ill now being conducted by the Israeli Ministry of Health, in cooperation with the World Health Organization and JDC. The results of this survey will be used for planning the aid programs of the coun-
Also to be included in the survey are mental patients; basic data will be sought for the reorganization and expansion of existing mental hospitals. In the meantime JDC has decided to set up a 50-bed institution for TB’s suffering from mental ailments near Be’er Yaacov.

In addition to hospital care, Malben provides treatment in dispensaries and clinics to nearly 300 persons per month and dental services to 135 monthly. It also conducts a nurses’ training program for some 150 students. In October it opened a center for retarded children in Jerusalem.

As outstanding as is Malben’s medical and institutional program, its rehabilitation program is equally so. This program has a notable aim: to help handicapped newcomers become once again useful members of society. In this endeavor it incorporates various forms of therapy, the provision of prostheses and special equipment, vocational training and even job placements.

During the year Malben issued 496 special medical appliances; nearly 600 persons monthly benefited from occupational therapy, mainly in TB and chronic disease hospitals; some 700 a month, mostly residents in homes for the aged, were engaged in handicrafts.

In addition, 19 sheltered workshops employed 550 persons, including 125 blind, post-TB or cardiac cases, or handicapped men and women. The production of these workshops is valued at about £2,500,000 a year. Though the level of productivity in the sheltered workshops is still below normal standards and the shops must therefore be subsidized financially by JDC, their product is becoming increasingly known and accepted. A Malben furniture shop last summer supplied a considerable part of the furnishings for the most modern luxury hotel in Israel.

Since Israel has a great need for skilled manpower, Malben is now planning three rehabilitation centers for training handicapped immigrants for jobs in fields in which there is a critical shortage of workers. In these centers one-year courses will be given in cooperation with the Ministry of Labor and the labor exchanges, which will place the handicapped in jobs for which they are fitted and for which they have been trained.

However, Malben also has its own employment agency: in 1955, 229 persons were placed on jobs.

The Malben rehabilitation loan fund which began functioning in June 1950 continued to provide extraordinarily valuable aid. In 1955 alone, 1,119 new businesses were set up with these loans. In five and a half years, these loans have helped in the opening of 4,579 small businesses, providing an independent income for 19,053 persons.

JDC is also helping to subsidize the construction of new markets and shops, which will be operated by Malben clients.

In addition to its Malben program, JDC supports another sizeable program in Israel, which provides aid to some 12,700. JDC’s traditional aid to cultural and religious institutions today includes support for 78 yeshivot, with a student body of nearly 7,400; six research projects, and aid to some 1,600 refugee rabbis, cantors and their families. An innovation recently initiated by JDC is the introduction of vocational training for yeshivah students; in 1955 several yeshivot established trade schools for their students. JDC also provided financial aid to the Israel programs of ORT, with nearly 4,800 students.

JDC in Europe

Immediately after the end of World War II JDC provided direct aid in one form or another to hundreds of thousands of men, women and children throughout Europe, including refugees or DP’s, and native Jews. In 1955, while there was still a sizeable group requiring aid (as a matter of fact, it showed a slight in-
crease over the previous year's total) this aid was being channeled almost entirely through the agencies of the Jewish communities. By the end of 1955 JDC's direct responsibility was limited almost exclusively to the residents of five camps — three in Austria, one each in Germany and Italy — and to certain groups of refugees living in countries where the local community is still not strong enough to care for its needy.

Because of the small volume of emigration from Europe, as well as the influx of Jewish refugees from North Africa, the number of those needing JDC aid increased in 1955 to over 29,000, as against 27,820 in 1954. Those assisted included a little over 1,150 to whom the term "DP" could still be applied, of whom some 800 were in Camp Foehrenwald, Germany, the last remaining all-Jewish DP camp in the world.

Foehrenwald's total Jewish population of 1,072 at the end of the year contrasts with the 1,559 in the camp on January 1, 1955; it represents the remnants of the 170,000 Jewish DP's who were in Germany at the beginning of 1947. In most cases, those who left the camp during the year emigrated to other countries; 123 were integrated in Germany. JDC emigration or integration grants were given to all those who left the camp, in addition to similar grants provided by the German authorities.

The number of those aided by JDC in Germany, including many living in communities and in homes for the aged and other installations, totalled some 4,800 per month.

In Austria the granting of sovereignty in 1955 meant a change in the status of refugees, who became the legal responsibility of the Austrian Government. More than 2,000 require help, either directly or through such institutions as a JDC-subsidized canteen, Hebrew school and kindergarten, as well as a community-operated home for the aged and hospital.

In France, with the largest number of Jews requiring aid in all Western Europe — 13,000 — the community's welfare services are financed largely by the Fonds Social Juif Unifié, which derives more than 60 percent of its budget from JDC. More than 4,000 in Paris, Marseilles and Strasbourg receive cash relief; in addition there are 18 homes for children and young people, six OSE and other medical institutions with some 3,000 patients, and a number of other institutions of various kinds.

In Italy, JDC provides direct assistance to about 600 refugees a month. Altogether, 4,400 men, women and children require aid in this country, among them 3,000 who receive medical care or treatment monthly. Other types of aid include assistance to schools and a lunch program reaching more than 600 school children.

Smaller JDC assistance programs of one kind or another, but chiefly for refugees, are still being continued on behalf of 2,000 in Belgium, 500 in Greece, 50 in Norway, 125 in Portugal and Spain, 1,000 in Sweden, 700 in Switzerland and 650 in Yugoslavia.

It should be noted finally that recent studies in France and Switzerland show a characteristic picture of those requiring aid; about 40 percent are 65 years of age and over; an equal number are chronically ill; the rest consist of widows with small children and others in similar straits. It is a picture which does not promise to change radically in the near future.

Aid in Moslem Countries

What was perhaps most remarkable about JDC's entire program of activities in North Africa during 1955 was that, despite unrest and sporadic disturbances, it was possible to continue any part of it. Not only were these activities continued, however, but increasing needs required urgent expansions in many areas; and even this was accomplished.

Where this meant simply a stepping-up of existing activities to reach a larger number, this was done; in some cases, however, new types of assistance had to be undertaken. Because of
emigration pressures, for example, JDC agreed to finance a program of OSE health services to emigrants in French Morocco and Tunisia, which had previously been provided by the Jewish Agency. Similarly, a special scheme was introduced in the area around Marrakesh, Morocco: those evacuated from native villages, who cannot for medical or other reasons be granted Israeli visas, are to receive loans of up to 50,000 francs per family from JDC toward their integration in the local economy. There is little doubt that increased emigration from North Africa during the coming year will in all likelihood mean an increase, rather than a decrease, in the number and kind of problems with which JDC must cope in this area.

The largest single program in the entire Moslem world continued in 1955 to be that in French Morocco, where some 51,000 men, women and children received aid. This, despite the fact that the country was throughout much of the year on the brink of civil war. Nevertheless, the number of children who received food in various JDC-supported canteens reached 23,100 a month during the school year; OSE treated 8,500 persons; 17 kindergartens (including two newly opened), five infant feeding centers and two other child care institutions aided a total of 5,300 children. Some 180 JDC-subsidized schools operated by the Alliance Israélite Universelle, Ozar Hatorah and the Lubavitcher, were attended by 37,900 pupils; an additional 6,400 persons, mainly youths, benefited from educational and cultural activities, including courses in modern Hebrew. In addition, JDC provided clothing for some 20,000 pupils in Alliance schools.

The other North African country in which JDC carries on a major program is Tunisia, where 22,500 received assistance during the past year in one form or another. This aid included feeding in canteens for 5,900 children per month; OSE and other medical aid for 4,275 patients; aid in 21 child-care institutions, including baby centers, for 2,000 children; educational assistance, in 20 schools of the Alliance and the local communities attended by 5,725 pupils; and courses in modern Hebrew for 3,820 students.

Smaller but still important programs were carried on in Tangier for 3,300, in Spanish Morocco for 2,000, and in Algeria for 1,300.

In Iran, the only Moslem country outside of North Africa in which JDC maintains a country director and a country program, the situation was far different. Benefiting from the marked political calm which reigned during the past year, JDC made great strides in consolidating and extending its assistance to the country's needy Jews.

Notable was the aid to children: the number of youngsters fed in school canteens neared the 5,000 mark monthly during the school year, and was maintained at over 3,200 during the vacation period. Out of a total enrollment of 11,300 students in the JDC-supported schools of the Alliance and Ozar Hatorah, 5,500 received shoes and clothing.

The main stress, however, was placed upon medical and public health activities in some 22 institutions, with 10,500 persons receiving treatment monthly.

Around the World

In addition to programs already detailed, there were a number of others in 1955 which were international in scope and in significance. One such was the program of loan institutions which JDC undertook in a number of countries on four continents. In all, during 1955 JDC-financed loan institutions numbered 22: in Europe these were in Vienna, Austria; Ant-
and Brussels, Belgium; Berlin, Frankfurt, Munich and Hamburg, Germany; Milan and Rome, Italy; Athens, Greece; Paris, France; Amsterdam, Holland; Stockholm, Sweden; and Zurich, Switzerland; in North Africa they were in Casablanca and Fez, Morocco, and in Tunis and Sfax, Tunisia; in South America in Montevideo, Uruguay, and Sao Paulo, Brazil; in Sydney, Australia, and in Israel.

In the loan institutions outside of Europe, JDC had the close and continuing cooperation of the Jewish Colonization Association (ICA). This was, and is, characteristic of JDC's efforts to cooperate as closely as possible with the effective organizations in every field — voluntary, semi-governmental and governmental. Other voluntary organizations with which JDC has been working most closely are OSE, the world-wide Jewish medical organization; ORT, vocational training agency, and such educational agencies as the Alliance Israelite Universelle and Ozar Hatorah in Moslem countries.

In addition, close and amicable relationships have been established between JDC headquarters and a number of governments, notably Norway and Sweden, particularly in relation to refugee integration. JDC also cooperates closely in seeking solutions for the problems of refugees with such agencies as the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), the Intergovernmental Committee for European Migration (ICEM), and the United States Escapee Program (USEP).

In this connection, a continuing program, which lies geographically outside of Europe but deals with small groups of European refugees, is the continued JDC aid provided in such farflung areas as China, the Dominican Republic, Brazil, Haiti, the Philippines and Uruguay. The most sizeable such program is being conducted in China, where some 125 out of 679 Jews received assistance of some kind through the Council of the Jewish Community of Shanghai. A considerable number of this group holds visas for Israel; others are seeking exit permits from the Chinese authorities for a number of European countries.

Contributions to JDC

Funds from the United Jewish Appeal continued to provide the financial mainstays of JDC's overseas programs in 1955. Final figures will of course not be available for some time, but by the end of the year it is estimated that American Jews contributed about $16,434,000 to JDC through the nationwide campaigns of the UJA. This represents nearly 65 percent of the $25,500,000 appropriated by JDC for its 1955 operations.

The Conference on Jewish Material Claims Against Germany for the second 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 $6,700,000 which the Claims Conference provided during 1955 represented slightly more than 26 percent 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.

In Europe these funds were used in part in 1955 to invigorate existing Jewish communities. Community centers and centers of the YMHA type were established in Bussum and The Hague, Holland; Trondheim, Norway; Lyons and Paris, France; and Rome, Italy. A student home was opened in Paris; in Belgium the Guy Mansbach Children's Home opened its doors to 35 children and young people in Brussels; the cornerstone was laid for a home for the aged in Antwerp; the existing JDC can-
teen in Vienna is being turned into a kosher kitchen; in Italy, a school feeding program — introduced at the end of 1954 — provided lunches for more than 600 children a month. All these projects, as well as others in Latin America, were made possible largely by Claims Conference funds; in addition these funds helped to finance the four JDC credit cooperatives now operating in Germany.

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 provided approximately $400,000 by year’s end, and Latin American communities. JDC also received considerable funds from other sources, including the Jewish Restoration Successor Organization and the Jewish Trust Corporation (over $600,000); governmental and intergovernmental agencies ($770,000); and the Jewish Agency, which provided about $738,000 for the Pardess Hanna program.

Questions for Tomorrow

Ten years after V-E Day it is a matter of considerable note that JDC’s aid should still be required by Jewish communities in 25 countries of the world. It is equally remarkable that in 1955 the number of men, women and children dependent upon JDC for full or partial support should still be counted in the tens of thousands.

For some time it has been obvious that this would be so. During the past five years the number of those requiring JDC assistance has varied between 180,000 and 160,000 each year, the number varying only slightly as new disturbances caught up in their wake smaller or larger groups in Eastern Europe, in Germany, in North Africa or elsewhere.

While each of the several areas in which JDC is today operating represents its own kind of problem, which must be met with a different kind of program, they are alike in that for each a realistic prediction can be made that aid will be required for some time to come.

The area which in 1945 encompassed virtually the entire map of need — Western and Central Europe — today continues to merit attention, but in nowhere near the proportions of those early post-war days. The vast majority of those who suffered and survived have by now found the refuge for which they yearned, and an opportunity to sink new roots in place of those which Nazism and war destroyed.

The pitiful minority are those who were left without roots, without even the ability to stay alive unaided. Where JDC once assisted nearly 750,000 in Europe, there are today only 30,000. But these 30,000 encompass the most helpless, and for them there must be a continuing program of cash relief, of institutional care and medical aid for many years. Perhaps it is more realistic to hope that European Jewish communities will be so strengthened as to be able to care for their own needy rather than to believe that these needs will disappear.

In Israel the program which JDC now administers is certainly unique of its kind anywhere in the world. Through Malben, JDC has opened vistas of hope for the hopeless; it has earned the gratitude not only of those whom it has aided, but of the Government of Israel and its people. But it will be some time before the responsibility for the thousands of Malben patients can be relinquished to other hands.

The third major area of JDC operations, North Africa, is, particularly today, the most unpredictable. Here JDC’s programs are coming to be more and more the lifeblood of a people. The nature of these programs varies with the daily headlines, and even the most conservative estimates and predictions may be valid for no longer than a day.

In North Africa JDC must continue to act as though its programs could continue without end, with full knowledge that the end may appear with tomorrow’s sun.

In Europe, in Israel, in North Africa, the cries for JDC’s help are voiced in many ways, in many languages. But the cry is easy to recognize, for the language of need is everywhere the same. In every tongue and every dialect there is a word — or one can be found — for bread and shoes and even penicillin. But for those thousands who need, and cannot get, bread and shoes and penicillin, no tomorrow is sure, no day dawns without a new measure of anxiety and of questions. For more than 40 years JDC has — with the support of the American Jewish community — continued its search for the answers. In the days to come the search will go on.
A year ago I was honored by election to the chairmanship of the JDC National Council. It was a responsibility which I accepted gladly; the forty years during which I have been associated with JDC and its worldwide efforts on behalf of the needy are a cherished part of my life.

May I say also that, while I was among those honored last year as a founder of this agency, my feeling was and is that it was rather for me to pay my respects and to express my admiration for those who have taken up the heaviest part of the burden in recent years and have carried it forward so ably and proudly.

We of the JDC National Council understand that ours is a two-fold task. Not only must we act to bring relief to our unfortunate fellow-Jews wherever and whenever they need our aid. We must continue to tell the story of overseas needs in our communities, to serve as a perennial reminder of the work that must still be done.

That our National Council members are bearing the brunt of community campaigns, I know full well from my own experience. In every community throughout the United States you will find our JDC leaders doing yeoman work in local campaigns, doing their utmost to insure that sizeable sums are provided to meet overseas needs.

I can testify also to the skill and devotion with which the members of the Council have through all the years of JDC’s existence helped to tell the story of overseas needs — the dramatic rescue work of the Nazi era, the DP episode and the Cyprus story, the period of immigration to Israel, the story of crisis and emergency and rescue.

Today the call, the cry for help, comes in the first place from North Africa where tens of thousands of men, women and children are caught in an economic and political maelstrom. Only the names and places are new — the story is precisely the same as that which more than forty years ago brought JDC into being. And because at no time during these many years has the cry for help gone unheard, I can be confident that this call too will find in the American Jewish community an answer and new hope.
In Memoriam

MOSES W. BECKELMAN

Dr. Joseph J. Schwartz,
Director-General (on leave)

(Moe Beckelman devoted all of his adult life to Jewish communal service. He came to JDC in 1938. Except for service in the United States Army, with UNRRA and with the Inter-Governmental Committee, he devoted all the rest of his lifetime to JDC.

I recall that one of his very first assignments was in Eastern Europe. He went first to Poland, in those very difficult days, and then to Lithuania and Latvia, where he performed in a heroic manner a work of rescue and relief which stands out even in the long history of the JDC. His tact, his diplomacy, his manner of dealing with people and with governments provided an example to all his colleagues. Through his efforts, we were able to save a significant number of people from Lithuania and Latvia.

After the war, Moe Beckelman came back to JDC, as Assistant to the Chairman of the European Executive Council. As I look back on those difficult years of mass emigration, years of complicated medical services and rehabilitative and reconstructive services — I begin to appreciate how much it meant to me, personally, to have a man like Moe Beckelman at my side.

Moe Beckelman was erudite and scholarly. He had an encyclopedic knowledge on a vast variety of subjects, and he could organize and marshal his vast store of information with amazing speed.

Moe Beckelman loved life. He loved books and chess, he loved poetry and detective stories, he loved music and good food, he loved the ballet and gadgets. But, above all, he loved his friends, and he was devoted to his family. His friends found comfort in his company.

On one occasion Justice Brandeis made this statement: "I am sick and tired of men of talent; give me men who care." Moe Beckelman was a rare combination of both. He was a man of outstanding talent and ability and possession of abundant skills, but at the same time he was a man who cared. He cared for the people who worked with him, he cared for the organization which he served with a loyalty and with a devotion and with a conscientiousness almost unequalled, and, above all, he cared for the people for whom he worked and whom he served.

Humbly and devoutly, we bless his memory. The JDC will never forget him, and in the annals of Jewish history his memory will remain green and fresh.)