A — The Road Ahead
   Edward M. M. Warburg, Chairman

B — The New Geography
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C — JDC — 1954 Budget
   Moses W. Beckelman
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D — A Sense of Obligation
   Dr. Joseph J. Schwartz
   Director-General on leave

E — The Community Responds
   Judge Maurice Bernon
   Chairman, National Council

F — Report of the Treasurer

In 1954, JDC Needs $26,186,00
Annual Meeting Program

6:30 P.M. — Board of Directors Meeting
   Election of Officers
8:00 P.M. — Annual Meeting
   Edward M. M. Warburg, Chairman

Speakers

Robert F. Wagner
   Mayor-Elect, City of New York
Moses A. Leavitt  Moses W. Beckelman
   Judge Maurice Bernon

0 to Aid 165,000 Jews Overseas
JDC is a Constituent Agency of United Jewish Appeal
1953 ANNUAL REPORT

The New Geography

THE AMERICAN JEWISH JOINT DISTRIBUTION COMMITTEE
Tunis: Boys and girls of the hara (ghetto) line up for chest x-rays at JDC-supported OSE medical center.

The New Geography
1953 ANNUAL REPORT OF THE JOINT DISTRIBUTION COMMITTEE

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Late last year I sat in a conference room in Paris, listening once more to JDC's field leadership report on the needs, the fears and the hopes of Jews in widely-separated areas of Europe, Africa and Asia. I had found myself in this room, listening to similar reports on other occasions—for I have had the moving experience of attending most of the eight JDC Country Directors' Conferences since the end of World War II.

It is one thing to read of the construction of a new hospital, a school, an old-age home, a sanatorium for tuberculous boys and girls. It is another to hear how every brick of every building represented a difficulty overcome, another blow struck against poverty, sickness or ignorance.

It is heartening to read, as we all have, of the progress JDC has achieved in meeting the needs of Jews in Moslem areas. It is far more moving to hear of little Raphael, who will not lose his sight, because a JDC-subsidized OSE clinic treated his trachoma in time; to hear of Shalom, whose shoe-repair "business" was carried on in the streets of the ghetto, and who now has opened a real shop because a new loan fund, partly sponsored by JDC, made it possible.

But just as such a conference has its optimistic moments, it also has its moments of sadness and depression.

There should no longer be a problem with the so-called "hard core" cases in Germany or Italy, barred from emigration, unable to care for themselves without outside help—but there is. There should no longer be Jews living on the edge of a volcano, helplessly waiting for a sudden turn in world events which may cause the volcano to erupt—but there are, hundreds of thousands of them. We have invested ourselves, our funds, our energies in a worldwide battle against hunger and suffering—and we find that we have won some notable skirmishes, but that the battle must yet continue.

From Paris I went on to another conference, in Jerusalem, where the Government of Israel laid before a group of 150 Jewish leaders from many parts of the world its report on five and a half years of the existence of the Jewish state. And, as I had found many of JDC's achievements bordering on the miraculous, so I found the very existence of Israel a miracle.

I found another striking parallel. The discussion, the perspective, was of the future. We have not yet reached the time for looking back down the road with any real satisfaction. Rather it is the road ahead, and how we are to overcome the obstacles in that road, which occupied us.

Though we have worked hard, we must work harder. Though the American Jewish community has already given much, in particular through the United Jewish Appeal, it must be asked to give even more. Only in that way may we some day reach the happy end of the road.
The New Geography
Moses A. Leavitt, Executive Vice-Chairman

In 1946—the peak year of emergency postwar need—JDC aid was extended almost entirely for those in the DP camps and for other victims of the Nazis on the continent of Europe. By 1953 the geography of need had changed, so that during this past year JDC relief, resettlement and reconstruction assistance went to some 160,000 persons in 20 countries on four continents.

In 1953 JDC appropriated $22,187,540 to meet overseas needs. Included in JDC's assistance was medical care for some 72,000 men, women and children; cash relief for 14,300; educational assistance for more than 80,000; feeding aid for 44,500; vocational training, through ORT, for more than 13,000; and, despite increasingly rigid immigration laws in most countries of the world, resettlement aid for some 3,500 homeless Jews.

JDC's assistance programs shifted with the movement of hundreds of thousands of men, women and children. The largest overseas Jewish community in which JDC is now carrying on its programs—the community in the state of Israel—has assumed ever greater importance.

JDC's medical and welfare program on behalf of aged, ill and handicapped newcomers to the Holy Land.

Many in Malben old-age homes, custodial-care centers, hospitals and other installations had required JDC's aid from the very day of liberation; others had turned to JDC for help four and five years ago in Morocco, in Libya, in Iran and other parts of the Moslem world, and had received help—food, clothing, medical care, even assistance in emigrating to Israel.

Bulking large also in the JDC geography, as it had ever since 1948, was the Moslem world, where JDC programs were at last beginning to make real headway against poverty, ignorance and disease. Despite the fact that each relief dollar bought far more in Moslem areas than anywhere else in the world, the depths of need were so great that it was a major achievement to find even the glimmerings of daylight in the distance ahead. Perhaps for the bulk of adults in these countries the daylight might come too late; but for the young people, for the boys and girls, JDC meant a hope for life and a decent future which had never been theirs before.

But while in 1953 JDC could note continuing and heartening progress in providing aid to the helpless in Israel, in combating the ravages of poverty, hunger and disease among the Jews of the Moslem world, in Europe JDC came face to face with the realization that here only a long-term program of aid could continue to advance Jewish survivors toward a peaceful and prosperous future.

It became clear, too, that while some of these needy men, women and children would be independent of JDC aid in a relatively short time, others in this group would almost certainly require JDC assistance for many years to come, perhaps for the rest of their lives.

It was a tragedy compounded because many were so-called "hard core" cases and their dependents, to whom nearly all avenues of emigration had hitherto been barred and who, because of illness, disability, old age or physical handicaps found themselves unable to earn their own livelihoods, unable to survive without outside economic assistance.

The year 1953 saw JDC beginning the attack on the problem of the "hard cores" through a variety of emigration schemes and through a number of specialized rehabilitation and reconstruction programs, all aimed at finding a final solution to the tragic circumstances in which so many still found themselves throughout Central and Western Europe.
Hungary: The End

JDC had continued to operate in Hungary long after it had withdrawn or been asked to leave other East European countries. As late as 1952, when there were about 150,000 Jews still in Hungary, an average of 26,000 per month benefited from JDC activities, including assistance to the aged and to dependent children, medical care, cash relief, feeding cantines and religious and educational assistance.

As a result of fantastic charges leveled against JDC in many parts of Eastern Europe early in 1953, and particularly as a result of the grave situation which developed in Hungary, where a number of those who had been associated with JDC were arrested, on January 22, JDC Chairman Edward M. M. Warburg issued the following statement:

"JDC in its work of relief and rehabilitation of Jewish victims of war and persecution has scrupulously refrained from political activities and has never deviated from its principle of exclusive adherence to its humanitarian role. In the program of aid in Hungary, carried on in behalf of the aged and the sick, of widows and children since the end of World War II, JDC has remained faithful to these principles. In the light of present developments in Hungary, it is no longer possible for JDC to continue to operate and it is therefore ceasing its relief activities in that country as of this date.

"However, JDC as the representative agency of American Jews will continue to manifest its deep concern on behalf of Hungarian Jewry as well as on behalf of other Jewish victims wherever they may be."

Thus ended, at least for the time, a JDC program which had for years been one of its largest, a program which had meant care and hope and survival for tens of thousands.
Preparing for the Future: Left, study hour at a JDC-supported orphans’ home in La Varenne, France; and (right) a group of newcomers to Norway from German and Austrian DP camps work hard to learn the language of their new homeland.

Other Major Developments

JDC’s departure from Hungary early in 1953 brought to a close all of its operations in Eastern Europe, with the exception of Yugoslavia. JDC ended operations in Rumania in March 1949; in Bulgaria in May 1949; in Poland in December 1949 and in Czechoslovakia in January 1950. At various times after the end of World War II, JDC aid went to 65,000 in Poland, 200,000 in Rumania, 120,000 in Hungary, 10,500 in Czechoslovakia and 15,000 in Bulgaria.

August of 1953 saw the closing of the headquarters of the Paul Baerwald School of Social Work in Versailles, France, and the transformation of the school into an in-service training institution. During its four years at Versailles, the Paul Baerwald School had graduated nearly 100 students, preparing them for future efforts on behalf of the Jewish populations of their native communities. So impressive had been its record of achievement that governmental and semi-governmental institutions in France, Belgium and other countries had asked permission to send social workers to study there. In bringing knowledge of modern American social work techniques to its students, the Paul Baerwald School had helped to raise social work standards and levels of aid in virtually all of the countries in which JDC operates.

As a result of experimental in-service seminars in North Africa, where Paul Baerwald School teachers had helped to train local teachers in their own communities, the school will now reverse the classic procedure and “go to the students.” The teachers are already conducting training courses in Morocco, Tunisia and Israel.

During 1953 JDC continued to expand its rehabilitation and reconstruction efforts. For the first time, JDC, which had previously underwritten the bulk of ORT vocational training schools in Europe and Moslem areas, expanded its assistance to include aid for ORT schools in Israel.

To provide direct assistance to needy artisans and professionals in Moslem areas, JDC helped to found, in cooperation with the Jewish Colonization Association, one new loan fund in Casablanca, French Morocco, and another in Tunis. This brought to 11 the number of JDC-supported credit institutions now functioning in eight countries. By the end of the year, these credit institutions had extended $6,500,000 in loans. Through this type of assistance, JDC has since the war provided some 23,000 loans, in the process aiding many thousands of men, women and children on the road toward economic independence.

JDC also continued its specialized as-
sistance in various fields, notably in providing summer vacations for underprivileged children and through special grants for Passover relief. More than 13,000 boys and girls in six countries of Europe and North Africa were once again given summer vacations. JDC sent approximately 270,000 pounds of matzoh, matzo meal and other Passover foods, as well as Passover wine, to Jews in seven countries.

**JDC in Israel**

From every point of view JDC's medical welfare program for aged, sick and handicapped newcomers to the Jewish state, known as *Malben*, continued to show substantial achievements during 1953. In its network of 90 old-age homes, custodial care centers, hospitals, sanitariums, clinics, sheltered workshops and other installations throughout the Holy Land, through its out-patient clinics and the provision of prostheses, through rehabilitation loans and other forms of reconstruction assistance, Malben aided between 23,000 and 25,000 men, women and children.

Because in so many instances Malben provided full care and maintenance for its wards, while JDC programs in other countries chiefly supplemented welfare services rendered by local authorities, Malben beneficiaries, though constituting only some 15% of the total number of persons assisted by JDC in 1953, received more than 52% of all JDC appropriations for the year.

In the fourth year of Malben's existence, and as a direct result of its efforts, the problem of tuberculosis in Israel has been substantially reduced. At the same time care for the aged has become Malben's major task, and its network of facilities has been so expanded that more than 70% of its institutionalized patients are now in installations which it owns or operates.

At the end of December, those in Malben institutions included:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type of Care</th>
<th>Number of Patients</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tuberculosis</td>
<td>1,165</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Homes for Aged</td>
<td>1,766</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Custodial Care</td>
<td>567</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chronic Diseases</td>
<td>167</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mental Diseases</td>
<td>390</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Children's Care</td>
<td>177</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rest Homes</td>
<td>27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>4,259</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

It is in the field of tubercular care that Malben's achievements were most startling. In January a survey revealed that more than 3,000 TB's had been treated by Malben from 1950 to 1952, of whom 2,000 had already been discharged and 1,000 were still hospitalized. While in May 1948 there were only 450 beds for TB's in all of Israel, Malben alone today has 770 beds for TB's. Among Malben's newer installations is a home for aged TB's at Pardessiya, which now has 80 residents, and will eventually have 130.

With regard to Malben's program for TB care, it is important to note that hundreds of new immigrants have left reception and transit camps without proper examination, and post-TB cases always present a certain danger of reactivation or reinfection.

Major Malben expansion of the year was in its assistance to aged men and women. In two years the number of aged receiving Malben care nearly doubled. Early in 1953 Malben opened the Village for the Aged (Kfar Zkenim) at Ein Shemer. Today the village has more than 1,000 residents and, when completed, will accommodate 1,200. During the summer, another home for the aged was opened at Nathanya, with an ultimate capacity of 500 beds. Malben also pur-
chased the entire village of Givat Hashlosha, which is to be converted into a home for 500 aged.

Despite the expansion of Malben facilities for the aged, however, the waiting list continued to grow, from 1,500 at the beginning of 1952 to 2,000 at the beginning of 1953 and 2,355 in August 1953. Most urgent also is the need for assistance to some 2,700 aged men and women still living chiefly in the Pardess Hannah reception camp, and forced to wait until Malben can expand its facilities to care for them.

In its out-patient department Malben today treats between 350 and 450 persons a month. For those who need other types of assistance, Malben has supplied such varied items as four motorized wheelchairs, 400 pairs of eyeglasses, 43 hearing aids, 31 artificial limbs and more than 430 orthopedic appliances, belts, shoes and supports.

Malben's rehabilitation program is equally varied. Its rehabilitation centers, such as the one for TB cases at Nevei Chaim, help to prepare and train post-TB's for productive life. Its Village for the Blind, which has seized the imagination of all who have seen it, has provided 400 newcomers with an opportunity for self-support. In its 22 sheltered workshops more than 650 persons, invalids and physically handicapped, are today able to compete on nearly equal terms in the Israel economy. Malben, working with the local labor exchanges, has placed more than 1,000 persons since its inception. Its Constructive Loan Department has granted more than 2,450 loans to former patients, aiding nearly 10,000 men, women and children to leave relief rolls and make their own way in the economic life of the Holy Land.

But, in addition to its widespread Malben operations, JDC maintains still another sizeable program in Israel, which aids more than 11,600. In its traditional assistance to cultural and religious institutions, JDC is today supporting some 80 yeshivot, six teachers' seminaries and six research projects. It is also extending assistance to some 2,000 refugee rabbis, cantors and their families.

### Aid in Moslem Countries

As a result of the falling off of emigration to Israel from Moslem areas, the Jewish population has remained fairly stable. Today in six countries of North Africa and in Iran JDC is aiding some 98,000 men, women and children.

JDC's basic programs have been concentrated in three areas: medical aid, feeding programs (primarily for children) and educational assistance. Some 60,000 persons a month are currently receiving medical aid in Moslem countries, largely through the facilities of OSE: Algeria—4,000; Spanish Morocco—250; French Morocco—25,000; Tangier—3,000; Tunisia—17,800; Iran—10,000.

During 1953 there were a number of important developments in JDC's battle against trachoma, tinea (ringworm of the scalp) and tuberculosis. On February 1, a medical team undertook a pilot project in the treatment of an entire square block in the mellah of Casablanca. More than 3,000 men, women and children, including a number of Arabs, were examined; most of them were found to be suffering from trachoma. The results of treatment were so satisfactory that similar schemes are now being readied for other cities in French Morocco and Tunisia.
are given two and even three meals a day. JDC has received major assistance in this program from contributions of dairy foods by the United States Department of Agriculture.

May of 1953 saw the opening of a modern milk bottling plant in Casablanca. More than 1,200 bottles of milk are already being distributed daily for infants, and this number will soon rise to 2,000.

In the field of educational assistance, JDC is today providing support to schools for Jewish children throughout the Moslem world with 55,000 students.

While JDC's programs in Moslem areas are still directed primarily toward aiding children and young people, a major new avenue of assistance for adults was opened this year with the establishment of loan funds in Casablanca and Tunis. Functioning as a joint undertaking of the Jewish Colonization Association and JDC, these funds grant loans of up to 50,000 francs to artisans and shopkeepers to help them buy raw materials, tools and goods. For many of them, this may well be the means toward achieving a decent standard of living for the first time in their lives.

Again in 1953 it was noteworthy that the JDC dollar went much further in the Moslem world than in any other area. But, despite the relatively great achievements at relatively small cost, JDC is still at the stage where it can be said only to have laid the foundation for the program of aid which must be constructed for the unfortunate Jews of these countries.

**JDC in Europe**

Shrinking emigration possibilities and an influx of nearly 600 Jewish refugees from Eastern Germany in the early part of 1953 prevented any decrease in the total number of Jews in Germany, Austria and Italy. In the three countries there are today some 65,000 Jews, with JDC providing assistance of one kind or another to between 10,000 and 11,000, chiefly DP's.

To deal with their situation, JDC undertook at the end of 1952 to send a team of case workers, medical social workers and vocational counsellors to study the situation of the more than 3,000 still living in the five remaining DP camps. Small but heartening progress was made in the field of emigration assistance.

However, hundreds still receive varied types of assistance, including cash relief, medical and hospital care, feeding aid, and educational and cultural assistance. In Germany and Austria much of this aid is distributed through the local Gemeinden; in Italy medical aid is rendered by OSE, with JDC financial assistance. In Italy, also, where the local campaign for funds is still weak, JDC's assistance to religious and cultural institutions includes aid to the Union of Jewish Communities, the Rabbinical College, schools in Rome, Venice and Milan, and a contribution of 3,000,000 lire, during the past four years, for the restoration of five synagogues in Venice which were destroyed during the war.

Of the 591 refugees from Eastern Germany who were registered with the Berlin Gemeinde, more than half have been flown to West Germany, with the rest remaining in Berlin. Virtually all of this group, without opportunity for emigration, still requires JDC support. And, for those Jews who have remained in the Russian sector of Berlin, JDC inaugurated an emergency relief program, aiding some 200 persons monthly.

Undoubtedly the most difficult problem in all of DP Europe revolves around Camp Foehrenwald, the last remaining Jewish DP camp in Germany, a problem which has become substantially more difficult with the influx of sizeable groups from Israel. Threats of imprisonment and deportation have been made by the West German Government against these so-called "illegals," threats which, in the main, have so far not been carried out.

That this group is, however, a complicating factor may be noted from the fact that Camp Foehrenwald, in addition to about 1,400 "legal" residents, has some 500 men, women and children who have registered with the German Government as so-called "illegals."
JDC has maintained the position that the closing of the camp depends upon emigration and the integration of those unable or unwilling to leave Germany. Currently, a program is under consideration under which the German authorities will provide funds for the housing of camp residents who decide on permanent settlement in Germany, with JDC providing financial assistance for the purchase of furniture and other household equipment.

In addition to DP Europe, JDC is still operating today in Belgium, France, Portugal, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland and Yugoslavia—countries with a population of nearly 400,000 Jews. In most of these countries, JDC's activities are carried on almost exclusively on behalf of refugees.

In the others, JDC provides various types of assistance to the settled Jewish population. In Greece, for example, JDC was called upon to provide emergency relief during 1953 to the members of the Jewish community of Zakynthos following the earthquake there.

The total number of beneficiaries in these countries amounts to about 18,000 men, women and children per month. By far the largest of these programs is in France, where JDC is currently assisting 14,000 beneficiaries.

The French Jewish community has made noteworthy advances toward providing for its own needs through a combined fund-raising agency, the Fonds Social Juif Unifie, which raised nearly 36% of the necessary funds in 1953. However, JDC still was called upon to provide the balance of the funds. Its aid encompassed cash grants, medical aid, assistance to the Youth Aliyah program, vocational training aid, hospital and sanatorial care, feeding assistance and educational aid. During 1953, 3,250 persons received cash relief, 360 were fed in canteens, 2,750 received medical aid, 1,200 children were maintained in 12 children's homes and 1,350 received educational assistance.

**Emigration**

For many thousands of refugees, both in DP Europe and in Western Europe, the major hope of a decent future still lies in emigration. But 1953 saw a continuation of the trend of previous years—continuing and increased limitation of emigration opportunities.

During the year JDC assisted only some 3,500 men, women and children to find new homes: Australia and New Zealand—159; Canada—430; the United States—1,966; Latin America—424; Israel—319, and other countries—189.

However, in 1953 JDC carried on a vigorous attempt on many fronts to open up new opportunities for emigration, particularly in behalf of those who had been barred for medical reasons, to such countries as Norway, Sweden, Ireland and Latin America.

Some successes were scored as a result of the cooperative attitude of the governments of Norway and Sweden, which passed special legislation permitting “hard core” cases, chiefly post-TB’s, and their families to enter as permanent residents.

In its assistance to refugees JDC cooperated with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR); the Intergovernmental Committee for European Migration (ICEM); the United States Escapee Program (USEP) and other voluntary and governmental agencies. JDC received $320,000 from the Ford Foundation, with the UNHCR acting as Foundation trustee in administering the funds, and used its share for the resettlement of refugees in Germany and Austria. For projects submitted by JDC on behalf of those eligible under the USEP, JDC has already completed projects for $115,000 and has submitted other projects costing $65,000.
Contributions to JDC

Funds from the United Jewish Appeal continued as in other years to be the financial mainstay of JDC’s overseas relief, reconstruction and resettlement programs in 1953. By the end of the year the American Jewish community had contributed an estimated $18,900,000 to JDC through the UJA, or some 85% of the $22,187,000 appropriated by JDC for its operations. Campaigns in Latin America yielded about $125,000. Continued support has also been forthcoming from Canada.

During the year JDC also received nearly $3,000,000 from a number of other sources, including Swiss reparations, the Jewish Restitution Successor Organization (the body designated to receive unclaimed and heirless property confiscated by the Nazis in the Western Zone of Germany), the Ford Foundation and a number of governmental and intergovernmental agencies. At the present time, no funds have yet been forthcoming from the Conference on Jewish Material Claims Against Germany, which reached agreement with the West German government last year in The Netherlands for compensation to Nazi victims.

The Long Road

In at least one major respect, an analysis of JDC’s programs in 1953 points up the slowness of the progress which has been made in the past few years in liquidating the remaining areas of Jewish need. In 1953, aid of various types reached an estimated 162,700 men, women and children in some 20 countries of Europe, North Africa and the Near East, including Israel.

In 1952 this aid went to 178,175; in 1951 to 171,400.

This represents a vast decrease from the peak year of post-war need—1946—when JDC’s aid reached 750,000, the vast majority of them victims of Nazism and war in Europe.

But it is an indication that those who still rely upon JDC for aid, those who have not been reestablished economically—through emigration, through vocational training or reconstruction assistance—have remained a constant factor during this recent period.

In many cases JDC is spending far more per individual than in previous years, for those who today depend upon JDC are in most cases those who suffered most, those most in need of aid. Many have been JDC beneficiaries for more than eight years. Some may require aid for the rest of their lives. Among them are men and women who, for various reasons, have been barred from virtually every country which they sought to enter.

As far back as 1946 many of this group were designated as the “hard core” of the refugee problem. They are still the “hard core.”

Today, however, there are hopeful signs that a new era is approaching. In many communities, particularly in France, local fund-raising campaigns may soon reach the point where each Jewish community can care for its own needy. The continued expansion of JDC reconstruction programs, through vocational training and rehabilitation loans, is continually increasing the number of those who are being given an opportunity to stand on their own feet. The small groups of DP’s who have left for Norway and Sweden, as well as the exploratory talks which JDC has been carrying on with other countries, offer hope that a new life may soon begin for those who cannot remain in the countries where they now are.

During the past nine years JDC’s geography has undergone radical changes. It is, however, still a geography of need. And, as in the past, JDC will continue to meet this need, wherever it exists.

For JDC’s assistance, which first began nearly 40 years ago, today still means life and hope for those who cannot help themselves, who can look to no other source for aid.
A Sense of Obligation

Dr. Joseph J. Schwartz, JDC Director-General (on leave) and UJA Executive Vice-Chairman

There was a time when JDC raised some $20,000,000 in a single year, and it was far and away the greatest fund-raising effort on behalf of needy Jews overseas which had ever been conceived or carried out. In recent years JDC has received over $20,000,000 annually for its programs, and this represents less than a third of the total sums collected through the United Jewish Appeal.

Again in 1954 JDC will require more than $26,000,000 for its activities. We have come a long way since the days immediately following the end of World War II, when JDC’s field staff was engaged in an almost superhuman effort to bring emergency aid, food, clothing, medical care and other assistance to the desperate. But though the needs have changed, though nine years have passed since V-E Day, I am happy to find, throughout American Jewry, complete support, just as strong today as it was then, for JDC’s programs.

I think it is clear that there have been at least two major developments since the war which have created unexpected difficulties for Jews overseas:

1) World conditions have prevented us from solving many of the problems for which we envisaged speedy solutions. Increasingly restrictive immigration laws in many countries, for instance, have seriously crippled our attempts to find homes for the homeless.

2) New and grave problems have developed. The creation of the State of Israel meant not only triumph, as well as all the difficulties involved in the building of a new state, but also greatly increased pressure and hardship on Jews throughout the Moslem world.

But despite these continuing difficulties it seems to me that we can with pride point to one happy development. For increasingly we of the American Jewish community have acquired, have grown into, a new and greater sense of responsibility for the plight of Jews overseas which does not permit us to forget, to relax, so long as they are in urgent need of aid which we are in a position to provide.

It is our developing understanding which has brought to us this increased sense of responsibility. All over the United States, on every level of the economic scale, we have placed upon ourselves a voluntary tax, both in terms of effort and in terms of financial assistance, which is all the more an obligation for its being voluntary.

It is because this sense of obligation exists, and because we of JDC have had a major role in creating it, that we have made our plans for 1954 in full certainty that whatever help is required in the battle against poverty and need will be forthcoming.
To aid 165,000 Jews overseas in 1954, JDC needs a minimum of $26,186,000.
The Community Responds
Judge Maurice Bernon, Chairman, National Council

Early in 1953 JDC was subjected to a series of fantastic charges perhaps unparalleled in our entire 39-year history. The charges undoubtedly received currency throughout the United States, as they did elsewhere in the world.

Frankly, I did not expect that any great credence would be given to these charges. It was only natural to expect, however, that in various communities there would be some questions raised—and basically it would have to be the mission of our Council members to answer them. For it is the members of our Council who are the representatives of JDC throughout our country, who took upon themselves voluntarily, when they agreed to serve, the mission of education and interpretation of Jewish needs overseas, a mission which no one else can today fulfill.

It was heartening to me, therefore, not only to see the response of the American Jewish community to the charges, but to see the magnificence of this response. It brought home to me as never before the degree to which American Jewry recognizes JDC as its own alter ego, as the instrument which it devised and maintains to guarantee that the battle against need, against poverty, misery and disease shall continue.

Throughout 1953, long after the loud outcries against us had stilled, when new dangers suddenly appeared for the Jews of various Moslem countries, for the Jews of DP Camp Foehrenwald and elsewhere, I continued to find this response forthcoming.

And each time, with each new community which I visited, with each new meeting at which I spoke, I emerged with new appreciation for the devotion and understanding of our National Council, as a result of whose efforts the answer was forthcoming, not only through countless organizational resolutions and newspaper editorials, but through concrete support for JDC and the campaigns of the United Jewish Appeal.

I know that to you, as to me, there must have come many times during the year a feeling of deep satisfaction that this organization, to which we have dedicated so much of ourselves, should have succeeded to an almost unbelievable degree in arousing in the Jews of America so profound and abiding a sense of loyalty.

I know that to you belongs the credit. I know that through you it will endure.