The Secretary of War, the Honorable Robert P. Patterson, has asked me to present his greetings to the first post-war conference of the Jewish Labor Committee, and to convey his regrets at his inability to be present here today. He wishes to express his interest in the successful achievement of the Jewish Labor Committee's program of education for democracy, promotion of racial tolerance and understanding in the United States, and assistance to the victims of Axis aggression abroad.

Judge Patterson has asked me to talk to you on "The War Department's Program for Displaced Persons in Occupied Areas", and I want to give you first, a straight factual report on our present DP program in Germany and Austria, and second, a summary of our plans for DPs in the future. I am here today because I am the staff officer in charge of the DP and refugee program for the War Department in Washington, and I wish to amplify Mr. Patterson's remarks of November 30th before the United Jewish Appeal here in Atlantic City.

First, what do we do for DPs now?

General Joseph T. McNarney in Germany, and General Mark W. Clark in Austria, as theater commanders are responsible for the care, maintenance and security of DPs, for the duration of military government under the War Department and pending the repatriation of DPs to their homelands, their resettlement to other countries, or their assimilation into the domestic economies of occupied territories. Theater commanders receive instructions from the War Department, which looks for policy guidance to the Department of State, the "SWNCC" or State-War-Navy Coordinating Committee, the White House, and the Congress. The War Department and its commanders abroad thus are the instruments for the execution of the wishes of the American people as expressed in the policies of the United States Government. General McNarney in Germany and General Clark in Austria must give DPs the basic supplies sufficient to maintain an adequate standard of living and sufficient to prevent that "disease and unrest" which might endanger the occupation mission. The United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration (UNRRA), by agreement with our theater commander, administers over 450 DP camps and centers in the American Zone of Germany, and more than 80 camps in the American Zone of Austria, conducting the educational, health social, and work programs in the camps. UNRRA also coordinates the work of accredited private voluntary agencies such as the Joint Distribution Committee. Upon UNRRA's termination on June thirtieth, the proposed International Refugee Organisation (the "IRO") of the United Nations is expected to assume UNRRA's job of running the camps and supervising the voluntary agencies.
How many DPs are there? In the American Zone of Germany there are now 518,000 United Nations DPs, of which 153,000 are Jewish. Other major groups are Poles, and Balts (Lithuanians, Latvians, and Estonians). In the American Zone of Austria there are 70,000 United Nations DPs, of which 31,000 are Jewish. Both zones have thousands of ex-enemy nationals who are technically classified as DPs, but who are being forcibly repatriated to their former homelands in Axis countries as rapidly as circumstances permit. In addition, there are a few thousand DPs in Italy under joint American-British control and others in Italy under UNRRA control (of the UNRRA group, about 20,000 are Jewish). There are negligible numbers of DPs in Japan and the American Zone of Korea, for General MacArthur's repatriation program in the Pacific is approaching completion.

I want to emphasize that the War Department program for the care and maintenance of displaced persons is an interim and emergency program. It anticipates long-range solutions that must be worked out by the United States Government on a national and international basis.

Basic supplies provided DPs by the Army include food, clothing, organic equipment, expendable supplies, medical supplies and shelter.

What about food? In the American Zone of Germany, our military authorities supply 2000 calories a day to DP normal consumers, and 2200 calories a day to persecute normal consumers. (A persecutee DP is one who has been persecuted by the Axis or has been threatened with persecution for reasons associated with the War, because of his race, religion, nationality, or assistance to the United Nations during the War).

A basic ration based upon need is provided other DP consumer categories, such as children, pregnant and lactating women, workers, hospitalized and special care cases. The normal DP ration of 2000 calories may be compared with the German civilian ration of 1550 calories, the 3000 to 3500 calorie intake of the American civilian at home, and the 3900 calorie ration of the American soldier in Germany.

DPs of course do not receive a luxury diet; their fare is simple. Limited food supplies and limited funds permit a basic ration that the theater surgeon-general describes as "nutritionally adequate". Since November 1st, the DP ration in the American Zone of Germany has come chiefly from indigenous German foodstocks. Major components are wheat, flour, whole grain cereals, potatoes, beans, and skim milk, with some fish, meat, cheese, fats, fresh fruits, and fresh vegetables. Here is a typical day's menu of 2000 calories for the DP normal consumer:

Breakfast: Coffee, skimmed milk, sugar, bread, fats;
Dinner: Soup, fresh meat, bread, potatoes, fresh vegetables;
Supper: Skimmed milk, bread, potatoes, fresh vegetables.

The persecutee normal consumer gets his additional 200 calories from 50 grams of flour and 50 grams of potatoes.

In the American Zone of Austria, the basic ration of DPs and Austrian civilians is identical; the normal consumer ration has been 1550 calories, except that native Austrian persecutee DPs have been receiving 2000 calories. Additional foodstocks now are being shipped to General Clark in Austria to enable him to push the basic ration for civilians, ordinary United Nations DPs, and Jewish refugees from Poland, up toward a goal of 2000 calories a day.
As for other DP supplies, I mention the American Zone of Germany as typical. There, our military authorities supply the minimum clothing needs for DPs, including outer garments such as suit, trousers, and jacket; dyed Army uniform, or dress; overcoat; shoes; stockings; shirt; underwear; gloves; blankets. Our military authorities also provide medical equipment and supplies. They provide organic equipment for camp operation and maintenance, and expendable supplies - such items as eating utensils, kitchen facilities, brooms, mops, buckets, rakes, axes, disinfectants, matches - about 70 items in all. They house DPs in camps, barracks, requisitioned public buildings, and private dwellings when necessary.

I want to emphasize, however, that the military supply program for DPs is able to provide only minimum essentials. The assistance of American individuals and organizations is required if displaced persons are to receive the type of care that their terrible misfortunes and fundamental human considerations demand.

DP health in the American Zone of Germany is good. There has been a surprising snap-back from the Nazi ordeal. DPs weigh fifteen to twenty pounds more than comparable civilians. Little malnutrition has been discovered in recent surveys.

You may ask "what is the effect upon DPs of the agreement for economic unity of the American and British Zones in Germany." The answer is that the bizonal agreement, which has been operative since January first, does not change the level of DP care in either zone. The agreement states that in both zones the minimum maintenance of DPs from the German economy shall not exceed the maintenance of Germany civilians from the native economy, but that supplementary DP supplies above the level provided Germans must be imported without cost to the Germany economy. This means that the War Department budget must bear the cost of foodstrokes imported to the American Zone of Germany to continue the DP ration at 2000 calories per day.

Our theater commanders in Germany and Austria also must maintain law and order in DP camps. The United States Constabulary is authorized to conduct searches and seizures in DP camps in Germany in order to enforce adequate security standards. The German civil police are virtually excluded from the Jewish camps, and are admitted to other camps only under careful control of our Military Police. The relations of American soldiers with DPs, both in camps and outside, have received considerable attention in the War Department and in our theater headquarters overseas. A current indoctrination program seeks to establish among our GIs a full comprehension of DP circumstances and existence. The Information and Education Division of the War Department has worked out lectures, discussions, radio talks, and pamphlets, to develop our troops' appreciation of the DP problem.

All this is expensive. The direct cost to the War Department for a DP in the American Zone of Germany is about sixty cents a day. In Austria, the cost is thirty-two cents a day for the ordinary DP, and forty-three cents for the Jewish refugee from Poland. The indirect cost of DPs, in terms of War Department overhead, and pay and maintenance of soldiers engaged in DP activities, has not been estimated but is substantial, and must be covered in the War Department budget. The War Department deficiency appropriation request for Government and Relief of Occupied Areas during the present fiscal year (1947), asks Congress for over $50,000,000 for the DPs in Germany and approximately $5,000,000 for DPs in Austria, to finance the DP program between January and June 1947. The transfer of unexpectedly large surplus military supplies to the DP account, without charge to the Civil Affairs budget, has enabled the War Department to pare these requests to present levels. Since a DP load of the present magnitude was not anticipated when the 1947 War Department budget was prepared a year ago, favorable action by the Congress upon the DP portion of the 1947 Supplemental...
Appropriation request will enable us to continue the care and maintenance of DPs during the remainder of the fiscal year. I am not authorized to discuss the Fiscal Year 1948 budget request for DP activities of the War Department, since this item has not yet been presented to the Congress.

What are the War Department's plans for DPs in the future?

Our plans hinge upon future United States policy for DPs, and upon the appropriations that Congress chooses to grant this Spring for the remainder of 1947 and for 1948. For the rest of the current fiscal year (until June '47), the War Department hopes to continue DP care and maintenance at present levels. We hope to maintain the status quo until long-range solutions can be worked out by the Department of State, the White House and Congress. Meanwhile, we plan to expand the voluntary work program for DPs. About thirty percent of the DPs in the American Zone of Germany now are working, and another ten to twenty percent are believed to be employable. Theater headquarters in Frankfort is considering adoption of a comprehensive and varied work program that will stimulate maximum employment of DPs on a voluntary basis, and will enable many thousands of DPs to become economically self-sufficient.

We are developing plans, too, for the more extensive use of DPs in camp administration. Representatives of the War Department, State Department and UNRRA are working on a program under which DP camps will approach self-administration, thereby creating more opportunity for employment and self-support for our displaced persons.

Of the long-range programs for DPs, only repatriation is well advanced, and repatriation is a solution for only a portion of the DPs. I am able to report that fifty-one thousand Polish DPs accepted voluntary repatriation from the American Zone of Germany to Poland during the months of October-November-December '46, thus reducing our Polish DP load by one-fourth. Assimilation into the German and Austrian economies may be a solution for some DPs - notably Balts. But for many thousands of DPs we admit that resettlement is the only satisfactory solution. This is true of course for the Jews.

The Secretary of War already has endorsed the recommendations of President Truman and the Anglo-American Committee that Jewish Displaced Persons be resettled in Palestine. Mr. Patterson told the United Jewish Appeal on November thirtieth: "I subscribe to the President's proposal for the speedy admission of 100,000 Jewish displaced persons to Palestine." Mr. Patterson at the same time said: "I also hope that his (Mr. Truman's) proposal to authorize a limited number of displaced persons - Poles, Balts, Jews and others - to be admitted to the United States will be approved by Congress." He pointed out that "Resettlement will not aggravate unemployment. These people make their own way. They will unfold new activities and by their labor will contribute to national wealth".

The Assistant Secretary of War, Howard C. Patterson, also has said that "The real solution (to the DP problem) is for every member of the United Nations, including the United States, to take its fair share of these peoples."

In closing let me say that the War Department earnestly desires a solution to the DP problem in occupied areas. The Department fully appreciates the substantial contributions that UNRRA and voluntary agencies such as the Joint Distribution Committee are making to the DP program. The Department welcomes the expansion of the Intergovernmental Committee for Refugees (the IICR), to re-settle nonrepatriable DPs. We expect the International Refugee Organization (the IRO), once activated, to take over the major job of care and maintenance, repatriation and resettlement of DPs. For the present, the War Department and our theater commanders abroad, as part of our occupation mission, continue to do our best to take care of the DPs. I ask your tolerant and sympathetic understanding of our handling of this most difficult problem and I hope that all of us can help to achieve the ultimate solution.