

NEWS

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JDC LAUNCHES 1941 DRIVE, SETTING \$11,250,000 GOAL

NEW YORK, Feb. 3. (JTA) -- The Joint Distribution Committee today inaugurated its 1941 fund-raising campaign, announcing a quota of \$11,250,000. Chairman Paul Baerwald said in a message to Jewish community leaders that the relatively low figure was set because the JDC recognized the Jewish communities were faced with many demands on their generosity, although JDC needs for the first six months of this year alone totalled \$12,600,000.

Baerwald's message follows, in part: "It cannot be too strongly emphasized that the problem is not merely one of relief, important as that is. A disaster of such proportions as has overtaken the Jews of Europe cannot be confined to a country or a continent. Its effects ignore national boundaries, natural barriers and even oceans. They are felt around the world. It is simple logic to say that the well-being of every Jew on earth, not excepting the Jews of America, is bound up with the fate of European Jewry. If they are allowed to perish, we will be the weaker. They must be strengthened and preserved for the day when they will once again be free to rebuild their lives in security...

"The Jews of Europe must be helped. Not every individual can be sheltered or rescued from the horror that reigns on the Continent, but the great mass of the people can be enabled to survive until a better day. Most vital, their will to live and spirit of hope can be maintained. This is the task which the Jews of America have recognized as confronting their accredited overseas relief agency, the J.D.C.....

"All that is necessary is an adequate supply of funds with which to continue the work of relief, reconstruction and emigration in fifty countries of Europe, the Near and Far East and Latin America. The J.D.C. is not establishing an annual budget for 1941. We have before us requirements for the first six months of the year only, totalling \$12,600,000. These represent actual emergency needs for feeding, clothing, sheltering, medical aid, child care and emigration. They do not include funds for long-range settlement programs or capital investments.

"All of this money can be spent by the J.D.C. within six months in complete conformity with U.S. Government regulations and American public opinion, without assisting the economy of the totalitarian countries or violating the British blockade. Unless there is a radical, fundamental change in Europe, we may reasonably anticipate that requirements for the last six months of 1941 will be at least equal to \$12,600,000.

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"However, the J.D.C. has had long years of experience in fund-raising through organized Jewish communities. It recognizes that \$25,000,000 is not realizable in the light of the many other obligations, domestic and foreign, that Jewish communities face. The J.D.C. is therefore adopting the attitude that communities can and should allot to the J.D.C. sums which are in line with their past giving history and their fair share of responsibility in the present crisis. Quotas are being requested from communities aggregating \$11,250,000. This sum represents a realistic approach to the problem from the point of view of giving potentialities and at the same time is on a par with the rate of expenditure of the J.D.C. during the early months of the war, which aggregated \$1,000,000 a month.

"In accordance with its established policy, the J.D.C. relies entirely on the Jewish communities of America for its resources. It has no other source of revenue, no parallel or auxiliary agencies raising funds to relieve it of any part of its burdens. The J.D.C. will make its appeals through welfare funds and local campaigns."

FUNDS PARLEY CALLS REFERENDUM ON BUDGETING PLAN; OFFICERS REELECTED

ATLANTA, Feb. 3. (JTA) -- The plan to establish a national advisory budgeting service to assist local communities in allocating funds to national and overseas agencies will be submitted to a referendum of the 205 groups holding membership in the Council of Jewish Federations and Welfare Funds, following approval by the council's board of directors.

The plan was advanced by Sidney Hollander, reelected president of the council, after dissolution of the United Jewish Appeal. Representatives of the three erstwhile UJA agencies--the Joint Distribution Committee, United Palestine Appeal and National Refugee Service--have given assurances that they will not undertake independent campaigns in welfare fund cities in 1941, Board Chairman William J. Shroder announced yesterday.

The member agencies of the council, located in 167 cities, will receive the budgeting service plan with the supporting majority report of the council's Committee on National Budgeting Proposals and an opposing minority report. Action by April 1 will be asked.

The majority report also recommended immediate steps toward reestablishment of the United Jewish Appeal in 1941 in response to "the overwhelming desire of the welfare funds and their contributors" throughout the country. Although no united fund may materialize this year, local communities should continue to do their utmost in support of overseas and refugee agencies, the report declared. The committee was headed by Jacob Blaustein of Baltimore.

Following a report on the status of the General Jewish Council, the assembly passed a resolution authorizing the president to appoint a committee "to determine how the council can be helpful in working out joint fund-raising in the civic-protective field." In his report on efforts by the American Jewish Congress, American Jewish Committee, B'nai B'rith and Jewish Labor Committee to coordinate their activities and financing, Amos P. Deinard, of Minneapolis, urged patience with the rate of progress so far made.

The business session, in addition to reelecting Hollander as president, also re-elected Shroder chairman of the board; William Rosenwald, Greenwich, Conn., Henry Wineman, Detroit, and Ira M. Younker, New York, vice-presidents; Elias Mayer, Chicago, secretary, and Dr. Solomon Lowenstein, New York, treasurer. Albert Lieberman, Philadelphia, was added to the board.

Today's session at the Biltmore Hotel was devoted to "auxiliary meetings" under the sponsorship of the American Association for Jewish Education, Joint Distribution Committee, Hebrew Sheltering and Immigrant Aid Society, United Palestine Appeal, American ORT Federation, Hadassah, National Council of Jewish Women, National Refugee Service and American Jewish Congress.

Morris C. Troper, chairman of the JDC European council, stressed that it was the duty of private agencies to save lives while governments were seeking to save civilization. "Every life salvaged is a victory won," he said, "and an asset preserved for the upbuilding of a new Europe which must follow war's holocaust."

Dr. Bernard Joseph, legal adviser of the Jewish Agency, speaking at the UPA meeting, urged support of the UPA \$12,000,000 campaign in order to make possible mass immigration and colonization in Palestine of Jews from Europe at the end of the war. "There is only one country in the world that can solve the problem of the Jews, and that is Palestine," he said.

At the NRS meeting, Executive Director William Heber declared "it is up to American Jews to answer with dollars if the service of NRS is to continue." Brig. Gen. Eugene Oberdorfer, retired, of the Georgia National Guard and president of the Georgia Farm School and Resettlement Bureau, emphasized the part each community must play in relieving the burden of port cities.

SCHWEITZER NAMED TO DIRECT WORK AT SOSUA; TRONCOSO DECORATES SIX

CIUDAD TRUJILLO, Feb. 3. (JTA) -- Six Americans were decorated today by President Troncoso of the Dominican Republic for their activities in the founding of the Sosua colony. The ceremony took place at the presidential palace.

Those decorated are James N. Rosenberg, president of the Dominican Republic Settlement Association; Leon Falk Jr., chairman of its executive committee; David J. Schweitzer, who yesterday was named head of DORSA activities in the Dominican Republic; Harold F. Linder of the Coordinating Foundation; George Warren, secretary of the President's Advisory Committee on Political Refugees, and Stephen H.P. Pell, father of Robert Pell, head of the American delegation.

Pell received a military decoration as a lifelong friend of the Dominican President. Robert Pell and Alfred Wagg, secretary of the Intergovernmental Committee, were obliged to turn down decorations offered them because of United States governmental regulations.

In his new post, Schweitzer will take active charge in the absence of Dr. Joseph Rosen, now in the United States. He will act as director both in Sosua and Ciudad Trujillo.

Yesterday the Intergovernmental Committee delegates inspected the Sosua colony. Pell expressed himself as highly pleased with the progress achieved by the colonists. A sports field was opened at the colony yesterday, dedicated to Paul Baerwald, chairman of the Joint Distribution Committee.

SOAP, EGGS BARRED TO JEWS IN NAZI POLAND

ZURICH, Feb. 3. (JTA) -- Jews in the Nazi-held Government-General area of Poland are barred from receiving soap, eggs and fruit juice under a new official rationing regulation, the Krakauer Zeitung, official Nazi organ, reports.

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Other rations for the first week of February, according to the newspaper, were as follows: bread--"Aryans," 1,750 grams; Jews 1,400; sugar--"Aryans," 400 grams; Jews 20; jam--,"Aryans," 250; Jews 200.

AID FOR RUMANIAN JEWS URGED

TEL AVIV, Feb. 3. (JTA) -- A meeting of leaders of the Rumanian Settlers Association, attended by Isaac Gruenbaum of the Jewish Agency, today cabled Dr. Chaim Weizmann and Dr. Stephen S. Wise urging that they do their utmost to rescue the Rumanian Jews.

DRIVE FOR PALESTINE YESHIVAS LAUNCHED

JERUSALEM, Feb. 3. (JTA) -- The Mizrahi Central Committee today proclaimed a world-wide drive for funds to maintain yeshivas and other religious institutions in Palestine.

DR. WEIZMANN STILL IN LONDON

LONDON, Feb. 3. (JTA) -- A Lisbon report that Dr. Chaim Weizmann had arrived there en route to the United States was ascertained today to be erroneous. Reached by the JTA here, Dr. Weizmann said: "You see, I am still here." He is expected to leave for New York soon.

J.N.F. WINS LAND SUIT AFTER TWENTY YEARS

LONDON, Jan. 17. (JTA-By Mail) -- The Court of Appeal in Jerusalem has dismissed an appeal by the heirs of Mustapha Kaabani, descendants of Ahmed Bami Bey Kaabani (who died in 1878), against the decision of the Land Settlement Officer to transfer an area of 8,000 dunams of land in Zmek Hefer to the Jewish National Fund, the Jerusalem correspondent of The Jewish Chronicle reports.

Litigation began in Turkish times and continued through twenty years of British administration. Saad Ed Din Kaabani's eldest son sold the land, but the sale was contested by the heirs, who contended that their rights in it had not lapsed.

Legal arguments lasted for three days, at the end of which the Court dismissed the appeal, declaring that a reasoned judgment would be issued at a later date. M. Eliash appeared for the Jewish National Fund.

WARSAW JEWISH COMMUNITY SPENT 2,800,000 ZLOTYS FOR LABOR BATTALIONS

ZURICH, Jan. 20. (JTA-Airmail) -- More than 2,800,000 zlotys were spent during nine months by the Jewish community of Warsaw to maintain the Jewish labor battalions ordered by the Nazi authorities for forced labor, a financial report of the community reveals.

The report establishes that the expenditures of the Community during the first nine months of 1940 amounted to 8,000,000 zlotys, of which some 6,500,000 zlotys were obtained by taxing those elements of the Jewish population who are still in a position to pay taxes, and from income derived from selling lots in Jewish cemeteries. A deficit of 1,500,000 zlotys was covered by a loan secured with the permission of the Nazi authorities raised from among wealthy Jews to facilitate eventual Jewish mass emigration from occupied Poland. The loan was to be repaid within several months.

In addition to the sums spent by the Community on maintaining the Jewish labor battalions, over 2,500,000 zlotys was spent by the Warsaw community on hospital and sanitary work. The sum of 600,000 zlotys was spent in maintaining the Jewish police which has been organized in the Warsaw ghetto under German supervision.