OBJECTS OF THE COMMITTEE

"The objects of this corporation shall be, to prevent the infrac-
tion of the civil and religious rights of Jews, in any part of the
world; to render all lawful assistance and to take appropriate
remedial action in the event of threatened or actual invasion or
restriction of such rights, or of unfavorable discrimination with
respect thereto; to secure for Jews equality of economic, social and
educational opportunity; to alleviate the consequences of persecu-
tion and to afford relief from calamities affecting Jews, wherever
they may occur; and to compass these ends to administer any
relief fund which shall come into its possession or which may be
received by it, in trust or otherwise, for any of the aforesaid objects
or for purposes comprehended therein."

—Extract from the Charter
OFFICERS AND EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Officers

President, JOSEPH M. PROSKAUER

Chairman, General Committee, JACOB BLAUSTEIN

Chairman, Administrative Committee, ALAN M. STROOCK

Honorary Vice-Presidents

IRVING LEHMAN

ABRAM I. ELKUS

Lessing J. Rosenwald

Carl J. Austrian

Victor S. Riesenfeld

James H. Becker

Monte M. Lemann

Jesse H. Steinhardt

Treasurer, IRA M. YOUNKER

Associate Treasurer, NATHAN M. OHRBACH

Executive Vice-President, MORRIS D. WALDMAN

Executive Committee

FRANK ALTSCHUL (1946)*..........................New York, N. Y.

Carl J. Austrian (1945)..........................New York, N. Y.

George Backer (1946)............................New York, N. Y.

James H. Becker (1946)...........................Chicago, Ill.

John L. Bernstein (1946).........................New York, N. Y.

Milton Biow (1945)................................New York, N. Y.

Jacob Blaustein (1944)...........................Baltimore, Md.

Herbert R. Bloch (1944)..........................Cincinnati, Ohio

Mrs. Sidney C. Borg (1945)........................New York, N. Y.

Fred M. Butzel (1944).............................Detroit, Mich.

*The year given after each name is the date on which member’s term expires.
Leo M. Butzel (1946) .................. Detroit, Mich.
**James Davis (1944) .................. Chicago, Ill.
Abram I. Elkus (1946) ................. New York, N. Y.
Louis Finkelstein (1945) ............. New York, N. Y.
Phillip Forman (1945) ................. Trenton, N. J.
Eli Frank (1946) ...................... Baltimore, Md.
Mrs. Maurice L. Goldman (1946) ...... San Francisco, Cal.
Arthur J. Goldsmith (1945) .......... New York, N. Y.
Leo Gottlieb (1944) ................... New York, N. Y.
Henry Ittleson (1946) ................. New York, N. Y.
Milton W. King (1946) ................. Washington, D. C.
Sidney Lansburgh (1945) .............. Baltimore, Md.
Albert D. Lasker (1946) .............. New York, N. Y.
Edward Lazansky (1945) ............... New York, N. Y.
Fred Lazarus, Jr. (1944) ............. Columbus, Ohio
Irving Lehman (1946) ................. New York, N. Y.
Samuel D. Leidesdorff (1944) ......... New York, N. Y.
Monte M. Lemann (1944) .............. New Orleans, La.
James Marshall (1945) ................. New York, N. Y.
Louis B. Mayer (1946) ................. Culver City, Cal.
George Z. Medalie (1944) ............. New York, N. Y.
Walter Mendelsohn (1945) ............. New York, N. Y.
Leonard R. Minster (1944) ............ Cincinnati, Ohio
Louis J. Moss (1946) .................. Brooklyn, N. Y.
Edward A. Norman (1945) ............. New York, N. Y.
Samuel Null (1945) ................... New York, N. Y.
Nathan M. Ohrbach (1944) ............. New York, N. Y.
Mrs. David de Sola Pool (1946) ...... New York, N. Y.
Joseph M. Proskauer (1945) .......... New York, N. Y.
Victor S. Riesenfeld (1945) .......... New York, N. Y.

**Deceased
JAMES N. ROSENBERG (1945) .................................. New York, N. Y.
DAVID ROSENBLUM (1945) .................................. New York, N. Y.
SAMUEL I. ROSENMAN (1945) ................................. New York, N. Y.
LESSING J. ROSENWALD (1944) .............................. Jenkintown, Pa.
WILLIAM ROSENWALD (1946) ................................ Greenwich, Conn.
WALTER N. ROTHSCHILD (1944) .............................. Brooklyn, N. Y.
SAMUEL SALZMAN (1944) .................................... Brooklyn, N. Y.
RALPH E. SAMUEL (1945) .................................... New York, N. Y.
SAMUEL SCHULMAN (1944) ................................... New York, N. Y.
MURRAY SEASONGOOD (1944) ................................ Cincinnati, Ohio
DAVID SHER (1945) ............................................ New York, N. Y.
MENDEL B. SILBERBERG (1944) .............................. Los Angeles, Cal.
JESSE H. STEINHART (1945) ................................ San Francisco, Cal.
EDGAR B. STERN (1945) ..................................... New Orleans, La.
ROGER W. STRAUS (1945) .................................... New York, N. Y.
LEWIS L. STRAUSS (1945) .................................... New York, N. Y.
ALAN M. STROOCK (1944) .................................... New York, N. Y.
DAMIEN H. SULZBERGER (1946) .............................. New York, N. Y.
WILLIAM B. THALHIMER (1946) .............................. Richmond, Va.
MORRIS D. WALDMAN (1944) ................................ New York, N. Y.
FREDERICK M. WARBURG (1944) .............................. New York, N. Y.
SIDNEY J. WEINBERG (1946) ................................ New York, N. Y.
WILLIAM WEISS (1944) ....................................... New York, N. Y.
MAURICE WERTHEIM (1946) .................................. New York, N. Y.
JOSEPH WILLENE (1946) ...................................... New York, N. Y.
HENRY WINEMAN (1946) ...................................... Detroit, Mich.
IRA M. YOUNKER (1944) ..................................... New York, N. Y.

Assistant Secretary
HARRY SCHNEIDERMAN
386 Fourth Avenue, New York, N. Y.
THIRTY-SIXTH ANNUAL MEETING
January 31, 1943

The Thirty-Sixth Annual Meeting of the American Jewish Committee was held at the Hotel Astor, New York City, on January 31, 1943. Mr. Maurice Wertheim, President of the Committee, called the meeting to order.

The following Corporate Members were present:

Community Representatives

CONNECTICUT
Hartford: Isidore Wise

MARYLAND
Baltimore: Jacob Blaustein; Sidney Lansburgh

NEW JERSEY
Bayonne: William Rubin
Plainfield: William Newcorn
Trenton: Phillip Forman

NEW YORK
New York City: Carl J. Austrian; Mrs. Sidney C. Borg; David A. Brown; William Fischman; Norman S. Goetz; Arthur J. Goldsmith; Leo Gottlieb; Henry S. Hendricks; Maurice B. Hexter; Stanley M. Isaacs; Henry Ittleson; Arthur K. Kuhn; Irving Lehman; William Liebermann; Alexander Marx; Edward A. Norman; Joseph M. Proskauer; Victor S. Riesenfeld; A. J. Rongy; James N. Rosenberg; David Rosenblum; Samuel I. Rosenman; Walter N. Rothschild; Samuel Schulman; Bernard Semel; David Sher; Alan M. Stroock; Morris D. Waldman
Utica: S. Joshua Kohn

NORTH CAROLINA:
Goldsboro: Lionel Weil

OHIO
Columbus: Fred Lazarus, Jr.
Pennsylvania
   Philadelphia: Jacob Billikopf
   Wilkes Barre: Reuben H. Levy

Rhode Island
   Providence: Archibald Silverman

Wisconsin
   Madison: S. B. Schein

Members-at-Large

John L. Bernstein, New York City; S. D. Leidesdorf, New York City; Louis E. Levinthal, Philadelphia, Pa.; George Z. Medalie, New York City; William Rosenwald, Greenwich, Conn.; Max M. Warburg, New York City; William Weiss, New York City; Maurice Wertheim, New York City; Joseph Willen, New York City

Delegates from Affiliated Organizations

Hadassah: Mrs. Julia A. Dushkin; Mrs. Moses P. Epstein; Mrs. S. W. Halprin; Mrs. Edward Jacobs; Mrs. David de Sola Pool; Mrs. B. I. Schoolman

Hebrew Sheltering and Immigrant Aid Society: Solomon Dingol; Abraham Herman; Samuel A. Telsey

Independent Order B’rith Abraham: Herman Hoffman; Max Silverstein

National Jewish Welfare Board: Joseph Rosenzweig

Union of Orthodox Jewish Congregations of America: B. Koenigsberg

United Synagogue of America: Louis J. Moss

Women’s Branch of the Union of Orthodox Jewish Congregations of America: Mrs. Joseph Mayor Asher; Mrs. Isidor Freedman; Mrs. Herbert S. Goldstein

Women’s League of the United Synagogue of America: Mrs. David Kass; Miss Sarah Kussy; Mrs. Samuel Spiegel
The following guests were also present:
Paul Baerwald, Jacob Landau, Mrs. Irving Lehman, Nathan M. Ohrbach, David de Sola Pool, Mrs. Joseph M. Proskauer, Ralph E. Samuel, Ira M. Younker, all of New York City; and Mrs. S. B. Schein, Madison, Wis.

MORNING SESSION

Presentation of Annual Report

The President called upon Morris D. Waldman, General Secretary, to present the Annual Report of the Executive Committee. (For text of Report, see p. 628.)

Upon motion, duly seconded, the Report of the Executive Committee was accepted.

Report of Chairman of Standing Committee on Overseas Affairs

Mr. George Z. Medalie, Chairman of the Standing Committee on Overseas Affairs, presented a report on behalf of that committee. This report is appended hereto. (For text, see p. 646.)

Address of the President

The President delivered an address, at the close of which he asked for discussion on the statement which was being submitted by the Executive Committee for the consideration of the Annual Meeting. The text of the President’s address will be found on page 634 of this report.

Following is the statement referred to:

Statement of Views with Respect to the Present Situation in Jewish Life

At this time when our country is engaged in an epoch-making war, we, who are united with our brethren of all faiths in the common bond of American citizenship, pledge every effort and every sacrifice to the winning of the war, the achievement for the whole world of the Four Freedoms and the blessings of the Atlantic Charter and the establishment of a just and enduring peace.
We reaffirm our devotion to our religion and pledge ourselves to maintain and perpetuate the vitality of the Jewish religious community, confident that its teachings have constituted and will continue to constitute a basic contribution to the development of civilization and of democracy.

We join with our brethren of all creeds in the continued fight against those who through bigotry and prejudice endeavor in any way to imperil the rights of any group of American citizens and thus to divide our country and undermine the foundations of American liberty.

We urge upon the United Nations and upon those who shall frame the terms of peace the relief from the havoc and ruin inflicted by Axis barbarism on millions of unoffending human beings, especially Jews, their repatriation, rehabilitation and the complete restoration and safeguarding of their equal civil and religious rights.

To the extent that economic conditions in the war torn lands shall make emigration therefrom of their nationals necessary, we ask the implementation by those who shall frame the terms of peace of a program which shall under international supervision facilitate voluntary settlement elsewhere under the most favorable conditions.

We ask of the United Nations and those who shall frame the terms of peace, reaffirmation of the fundamental principle that Jewish citizens of every land, fulfilling their obligation of complete loyalty to their respective countries, shall be guaranteed the correlative right of complete equality. We applaud the recent statement of the Secretary of State, that we must have a world in which Jews like all others “are free to abide in peace and in honor.”

Thus, while associating ourselves fully with all the purposes of human freedom and betterment proclaimed by the President of the United States, we have special concern with the two objectives, salvation of these suffering people and the preservation of the Jewish community as a spiritual force.

We recognize that there are now more than half a million Jews in Palestine who have built up a sound and flourishing economic life and a satisfying spiritual and cultural life, and who now constitute substantially one-third of the population, and that while this Palestinian immigration has been a blessed amelioration of the condition of this large number of Jews, and
has helped to bring about a great development of the country itself, settlement in Palestine although an important factor, cannot alone furnish and should not be expected to furnish the solution of the problem of post-war Jewish rehabilitation.

We affirm our deep sympathy with and our desire to cooperate with those Jews who wish to settle in Palestine.

With respect to the government of Palestine, we recognize wide divergence of opinion and that under existing conditions there should be no preconceived formula at this time as to the permanent political structure which shall obtain there. Since we hold that in the United States as in all other countries Jews, like all others of their citizens are nationals of those nations and of no other, there can be no political identification of Jews outside of Palestine with whatever government may there be instituted.

We endorse the policy of friendship and cooperation between Jews and Arabs in Palestine and urge that every possible avenue be followed to establish good will and active collaboration between them.

We approve for Palestine an international trusteeship responsible to the United Nations for the following purposes:

(a) to safeguard the Jewish settlement in and Jewish immigration into Palestine and to guarantee adequate scope for future growth and development to the full extent of the economic absorptive capacity of the country.

(b) To safeguard and protect the fundamental rights of all inhabitants.

(c) To safeguard and protect the holy places of all faiths.

(d) To prepare the country to become, within a reasonable period of years, a self-governing Commonwealth under a Constitution and a bill of rights that will safeguard and protect these purposes and basic rights for all.

The foregoing statement was discussed by the following members: Judge Louis E. Levinthal, Judge Joseph M. Proskauer, Mrs. Rose G. Jacobs, Judge Irving Lehman, and Rev. Dr. Samuel Schulman.

On motion of Dr. Schulman, duly seconded, the foregoing statement was unanimously adopted.* The remarks of Judge Joseph M. Proskauer, chairman of the committee which drafted the statement, are printed as an appendix to this Report. (See p. 638.)

*Following the vote on the adoption of the Statements, Judge Louis E. Levinthal asked that he be recorded as not voting.
Corporate Membership

It was reported that the Committee had suffered the loss of the following members since last year's meeting:

Louis E. Kirstein, Boston, Mass., December 10, 1942
David M. Bressler, New York City, December 16, 1942
Samuel Ach, Cincinnati, Ohio, August 8, 1942
George E. Kuh, Chicago, Ill., August 8, 1942

Minutes expressing the Committee's grief and sense of loss had been adopted by the Executive Committee.

It was announced that, in accordance with the provision of the by-laws, the following Nominating Committee, empowered to name candidates to succeed those Community Representatives whose terms expire today, and fill existing vacancies, had been appointed: David M. Bressler, Chairman (since deceased); James H. Becker, Jacob Blaustein, James Davis, A. Richard Frank, Leo Gottlieb, Stanley M. Isaacs, Edgar J. Kaufmann, Sidney Lansburgh, Samuel M. Levy, Harold Riegelman, Walter N. Rothschild, Samuel Salzmann, Frank L. Sulzberger, and Nathan Sweedler.

Following is a list of the nominees of the Nominating Committee:

**New York**

**New York City**

Frank Altschul
G. M. Bernknopf
Milton Biow
Mrs. Sidney C. Borg
Abram I. Elkus
William Fischman
Norman S. Goetz
Samuel H. Goldenson
Arthur J. Goldsmith
Henry S. Hendricks
Jacob Landau
Edward Lazansky
Irving Lehman
Arthur I. LeVine
Oscar A. Lewis
Walter Mendelsohn
Edward A. Norman
Samuel Null
Carl H. Pforzheimer
Joseph M. Proskauer
A. J. Rongy

James N. Rosenberg
David Rosenblum
Samuel I. Rosenman
Ralph E. Samuel
Wolfgang S. Schwabacher
David Sher
Fred M. Stein
Lewis L. Strauss
Jonah B. Wise

**Connecticut**

**Norwich**

Abner Schwartz

**District of Columbia**

**Washington**

Joseph D. Kaufman
Milton W. King

**Florida**

**Pensacola**

J. Morton Edreihi
Opportunity was afforded to the sustaining members in these communities to make independent nominations, but no such nominations were offered.

In the following communities from which the Committee receives its support from local federations and welfare funds, nominations were made by the Boards of those organizations, as follows:

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<tr>
<th>State</th>
<th>Community and Nominees</th>
<th>Nominating Agency</th>
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<td>Alabama</td>
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<td>Jewish Welfare Fund</td>
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<td>Illinois</td>
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<td>Massachusetts</td>
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<td>Simon Horwitz</td>
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The following national organizations affiliated with the Committee have named the delegates listed, to represent them during 1943:

**American Jewish Historical Society, A. S. W. Rosenbach**

**Conference Committee of National Jewish Women's Organizations, Mrs. Benjamin Spitzer**

**Free Sons of Israel, Hermann Stern**

**Hadassah, Mrs. Alexander M. Dushkin, Mrs. Samuel W. Halprin, Mrs. Edward Jacobs, Mrs. David de Sola Pool, Mrs. A. P. Schoolman**

**Hebrew Sheltering and Immigrant Aid Society, Solomon Dingol, Harry Fischel, Abraham Herman, Jacob Massel, Albert Rosenblatt, Samuel A. Telsey**

**Independent Order Brith Abraham, Herman Hoffman, Max L. Hollander,* Max Silverstein**

**Independent Order Brith Sholom, Louis I. Gilgor, Alex. F. Stanton**

**National Conference of Jewish Social Welfare, Samuel A. Goldsmith**

**National Council of Jewish Women, Mrs. Maurice L. Goldman, Mrs. Karl J. Kaufmann**

*Deceased
National Jewish Welfare Board, Joseph Rosenzweig
Order of United Hebrew Brothers, Max E. Greenberg
Progressive Order of the West, Carl M. Dubinsky
Rabbinical Assembly of America, Louis M. Levitsky
Union of Orthodox Jewish Congregations of America,
   Benjamin Koenigsberg, Samuel Nirenstein
United Synagogue of America, Louis J. Moss
Women's Branch of the Union of Orthodox Jewish Congregations of America, Mrs. Joseph Mayor Asher, Mrs. Isidor Freedman, Mrs. Herbert S. Goldstein
Women's League of the United Synagogue of America, Mrs. David Kass, Miss Sarah Kussy, Mrs. Samuel Spiegel
Young People's League of the United Synagogue of America,
   Samuel Melnick

The following Members-at-Large were nominated by the Executive Committee to serve for the year 1943:

George Backer, New York
Louis Bamberger, Newark
John L. Bernstein, New York
Jacob Billikopf, Philadelphia
Herbert R. Bloch, Cincinnati
Leo M. Brown, Mobile
Fred M. Butzel, Detroit
Leo M. Butzel, Detroit
Solomon Elsner, Hartford
Jacob Epstein, Baltimore
Leo Falk, Jr., Pittsburgh
Eli Frank, Baltimore
Solomon B. Freehof, Pittsburgh
Edward S. Greenbaum, New York
Hiram J. Halle, New York
Herbert J. Hannoch, Newark
Walter S. Hilborn, Los Angeles
William L. Holzman, Beverly Hills
Jacob J. Kaplan, Boston
J. J. Kiser, Indianapolis
Albert D. Lasker, New York
Samuel D. Leidesdorf, New York
Monte M. Lemann, New Orleans
Louis E. Levinthal, Philadelphia
Charles J. Liebman, New York
Julian W. Mack, New York
Louis B. Mayer, Culver City
George Z. Medalie, New York
Leonard R. Minster, Cincinnati
Henry Morgenthau, Sr., New York
Nathan M. Ohrbach, New York
Reuben Oppenheimer, Baltimore
David Philipson, Cincinnati
Milton J. Rosenau, Chapel Hill
Lessing J. Rosenwald, Philadelphia
William Rosenwald, Greenwich
Morris Rothenberg, New York
Henry Sachs, Colorado Springs
David H. Sulzberger, New York
William B. Thalhimer, Richmond
F. Frank Vorenberg, Boston
Frederick M. Warburg, New York
Max M. Warburg, New York
Sidney J. Weinberg, New York
William Weiss, New York
Maurice Wertheim, New York
Joseph Willen, New York
Henry Wineman, Detroit
Ira M. Younker, New York

Upon motion, the Secretary was requested to cast one ballot for the nominees to succeed Community representatives whose terms expire, as presented by the Nominating Committee, and also for the nominees for Members-at-Large presented by the Executive Committee. He so did, and announced the election of the several nominees.

**Amendment to the By-Laws**

The President submitted for the vote of the membership various amendments to the by-laws required for the establishment of the new office of Executive Vice-President and the abolition of the office of General Secretary. The text of these amendments had been sent to the Corporate members in advance of this meeting, as required by the by-laws.

Upon motion duly seconded, the proposed amendments to the by-laws were unanimously adopted.

**Executive Committee and Officers**

Mr. Fred Lazarus, Jr., Chairman, presented the following report of the Nominating Committee which had been appointed by the Executive Committee to submit the names of persons to succeed the officers and those members of the Executive Committee whose terms expire at this meeting and to fill existing vacancies.
As you were informed by the General Secretary in a communication he mailed to the Corporate Members on October 30, 1942, the Nominating Committee was prevented from submitting to you a full slate of candidates to fill the existing vacancies in our offices. This was largely due to the unexpected decision of Mr. Maurice Wertheim not to accept renomination as President, as reflected in the following interchange of letters between Judge Proskauer, the then Chairman of the Nominating Committee and himself.

October 6, 1942

Mr. Maurice Wertheim
Shoreham Hotel
Washington, D. C.
Dear Mr. Wertheim:

I take great pleasure in informing you that at a meeting of the Nominating Committee held on October 5th, it was unanimously decided to tender you re-nomination for the office of President.

The spontaneous unanimity with which this action was taken reflects the deep appreciation by my colleagues and myself of the service you have already rendered in your short incumbency of that high office, and their recognition of the marked ability and fine devotion of which you have given ample evidence.

We earnestly trust you will find it possible to accept the re-nomination and so insure the continuation of a stable and able administration during these critical times.

As notification of the Committee's candidates must be circulated among the corporate membership before November 1st, I shall appreciate receiving your acceptance at your earliest convenience.

Sincerely yours,

(signed) Joseph M. Proskauer

Chairman, Nominating Committee
October 14, 1942

Judge Joseph M. Proskauer
Chairman, Nominating Committee
The American Jewish Committee
386 Fourth Avenue
New York, New York

My dear Judge Proskauer:

It is needless to say how deeply honored I am by the receipt of your letter of the 6th instant advising me of the unanimous action of the Nominating Committee in tendering me re-nomination for the office of President of the American Jewish Committee. Please accept for yourself and your colleagues my sincere appreciation of this mark of confidence and the kind words which accompanied it.

However, after the most profound consideration and deepest reflection, I must regretfully state that I cannot see my way clear to accept. The reason is entirely due to the war and the duties to which I have been called in the War Production Board.

When I first became President in November 1941, it was before the United States entered the war. When I was re-elected in January, I had already accepted duties in Washington, but had arranged them on a part-time basis, an arrangement which I had expected would continue. In recent weeks however it has become necessary for me to agree to give my full time to government work and I know that you and all our membership will agree that it is my primary obligation to perform this patriotic duty. Were the office of President one which I felt I could properly perform in such spare time as my government work permitted, naturally no sacrifice of leisure would be too great. I feel, however, that it would be entirely unfair to the work of the Committee to attempt such a course, particularly as I have recently had to move to Washington and am now living there.

The situation, therefore, presents no alternative for me. I am sure you realize the deep reluctance and regret with which I relinquish the opportunity of being of service in Jewish affairs, but in this total war, which among other things will decide the fate of Jews, I feel that there is no more fitting thing for the President of the American Jewish Committee to do than to place his services at the disposal of his country.

Very sincerely yours,

(Signed) Maurice Wertheim

Needless to say, we deeply regretted Mr. Wertheim's decision. We tried to prevail upon him to reconsider. But a setback to his health resulting from the heavy strain of his dual activities with the Government and the Committee persuaded us to realize that his decision was irrevocable.

At that time, the Nominating Committee was confronted with
another difficulty in the resignation of Judge Proskauer, its Chairman. At this point, in discussing persons for the office of President, the Committee became convinced that we could not name a candidate unless the Committee had a set of principles upon the basis of which he could lead the organization. Therefore, we urged upon Mr. Wertheim and his colleagues the importance of the formulation by the Committee of the principles for which it was prepared to stand.

After adoption by the Executive Committee of the “statement of views” ratified by you earlier today, to the preparation of which the genial, gray-haired gentleman whom you heard this morning contributed a great deal, the Nominating Committee was absolutely confident that the leadership of the American Jewish Committee could not be better placed than in the hands of Judge Proskauer, and we prevailed upon him, with a great deal of argument, to accept that responsibility.

The Committee has, therefore, the privilege of nominating Judge Proskauer for the office of President.

The promise of Jacob Blaustein, our unanimous nominee for the high office of Chairman of the General Committee to succeed our deceased friend, Louis E. Kirstein, to assist Judge Proskauer in his presidential duties encouraged the latter to accept.

Mr. Victor Riesenfeld, who gave unstinted and devoted service as Chairman of the Administrative Committee, indicated to your Nominating Committee that his preoccupation with his duties in connection with the service he is rendering the government in the war effort, made it impossible for him to accept renomination for this office. Your Committee's choice for a successor to Mr. Riesenfeld as Chairman of the Administrative Committee is Alan M. Stroock, a worthy son of our lamented friend and leader, the late Sol M. Stroock.

These candidates for the most important offices in the gift of the Committee have all been actively identified with the Committee's affairs and are familiar with its problems.

The candidates for the six vice-presidencies are the following:

Lessing J. Rosenwald
Carl J. Austrian
Victor S. Riesenfeld
James H. Becker
Monte M. Lemann
Jesse H. Steinhart
Mr. Rosenwald and Mr. Austrian are re-nominees. The other four vacancies were created by change in our by-laws last year. It is unnecessary, we are sure, to enlarge upon the high standing all these gentlemen enjoy in the sections of the country in which they live and which, in a sense, they are intended to represent. They too have been associated with the Committee for years and have rendered, each in his own way, substantial service to the organization.

Mr. Leidesdorf who has been the perfect treasurer for over a decade, whose indefatigable and exceptional work has evoked our admiration, affection and gratitude, has insisted that he be relieved from the responsibilities of that office. We have found a candidate for the treasurership in the person of Ira M. Younker who has been actively engaged in the philanthropic field for over a quarter century notably as a trustee of the New York Federation, for some time President of the Jewish Social Service Association of New York and at this time Treasurer of the Council of Jewish Federations and Welfare Funds, thus, we believe, qualified by long experience to carry on in the fine traditions of his predecessor. Our nominee for Associate Treasurer is Nathan M. Ohrbach.

The office of Executive Vice-President is a new office not provided for previously in the By-Laws. On March 30, 1942 your Executive Committee unanimously decided to create this office, and elevated our General Secretary, Mr. Waldman, to that office. Its functions were described in a resolution which was conveyed in our first communication to the Corporate Members. In accordance with that resolution, Mr. Waldman has since that date exercised the functions described, without the formality of the title. The Committee nominates Mr. Waldman for this office.

Your Nominating Committee recommends the re-election of the following members of the Executive Committee whose terms expire today:

George Baoker, New York, N. Y.
James H. Becker, Chicago, Ill.
John L. Bernstein, New York, N. Y.
Milton Biow, New York, N. Y.
Jacob Blaustein, Baltimore, Md.
Mrs. Sidney C. Borg, New York, N. Y.
Leo M. Butzel, Detroit, Mich.
Abram I. Elkus, New York, N. Y.
Leo Falk, Jr., Pittsburgh, Pa.
Eli Frank, Baltimore, Md.
Mrs. Maurice L. Goldman, San Francisco, Calif.
Arthur J. Goldsmith, New York, N. Y.
Henry Ittleson, New York, N. Y.
Milton W. King, Washington, D. C.
Albert D. Lasker, New York, N. Y.
Irving Lehman, New York, N. Y.
Louis B. Mayer, Culver City, Calif.
Walter Mendelsohn, New York, N. Y.
Louis J. Moss, New York, N. Y.
Edward A. Norman, New York, N. Y.
Mrs. David de Sola Pool, New York, N. Y.
David Rosenblum, New York, N. Y.
Lessing J. Rosenwald, Jenkintown, Pa.
William Rosenwald, Greenwich, Conn.
David Sher, New York, N. Y.
Alan M. Stroock, New York, N. Y.
David H. Sulzberger, New York, N. Y.
William B. Thalhimer, Richmond, Va.
Morris D. Waldman, New York, N. Y.
Sidney J. Weinberg, New York, N. Y.
Maurice Wertheim, New York, N. Y.
Joseph Willen, New York, N. Y.
Henry Wineman, Detroit, Mich.

Your Nominating Committee recommends the election of the following persons to membership on the Executive Committee to fill existing vacancies:

Frank Altschul, New York, N. Y.
Herbert Bloch, Cincinnati, Ohio
Solomon B. Freehof, Pittsburgh, Pa.
Leo Gottlieb, New York, N. Y.
Monte M. Lemann, New Orleans, La.
Leonard R. Minster, Cincinnati, Ohio
Samuel Null, New York, N. Y.
Nathan M. Ohrbach, New York, N. Y.
Samuel Salzman, Brooklyn, N. Y.
Ralph E. Samuel, New York, N. Y.
Samuel Schulman, New York, N. Y.
Ira M. Younker, New York, N. Y.

The adoption of the amendments to the Committee's charter by the New York State Legislature on April 6, 1942, sets the maximum limit of members in the Executive Committee at 150. If the 47 persons named above for re-election or to fill vacancies are elected by you, the total membership of the Executive Committee will be 70. There will still remain 80 places on this Committee. The Nominating Committee is carefully canvassing the leadership
throughout the country and has assembled a very considerable number of names of additional persons whom we regard as eligible. In order to insure maximum strength for the Executive Committee, we believe that it would be wiser to leave the selection of additional members to the Executive Committee which has the authority to fill vacancies in its own ranks in the interim between meetings of the General Committee.

Respectfully submitted,

THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE
Fred Lazarus, Jr., Chairman
James H. Becker
Phillip Forman
George Z. Medalie
Samuel I. Rosenman
Henry Wineman

January 31, 1943

After discussion, upon motion regularly made and seconded, the report of the Nominating Committee was unanimously adopted, and the secretary was requested to cast one ballot for the nominees of the Nominating Committee, which he did, and announced the election of the several nominees.

A recess was declared for luncheon.

AFTERNOON SESSION

Following luncheon, the meeting was called to order by Mr. Joseph M. Proskauer, newly elected President, who delivered a brief address, the text of which follows:

Ladies and Gentlemen: Having been duly fortified since I last spoke here and knowing that you are fortified, I still propose to temper the wind of oratory to the shorn lamb. My first pleasure as I take over this gavel from my predecessor is to speak in your name what I am sure all of you feel, an expression of our gratitude to him for his constant assiduousness and his labors on behalf of this Committee in the cause of Jewry, and I will ask you all to rise as a tribute of affection and respect to our retiring President.
When in the course of human events it seemed probable that I might win this election one of our very good friends said to me, “You must be very careful indeed to write a considered and potent and significant oration of acceptance.” I chose to disregard that advice for the reason that I preferred to look in my heart and speak. I am, however, in the curious position of already having spoken most of what I intended to say in my acceptance. I take your leadership with profound thanks and with a deep realization of the responsibility which it imposes. No man can assume that responsibility in this time of crisis when man’s inhumanity to man is making countless millions mourn without realizing that he must cleanse his soul by fire of everything that is small or mean or petty; that he must keep his eyes on the stars and his feet on the earth; that he must motivate this Committee into a leadership of Jewish opinion and Jewish conduct that will tend to achieve the objectives which are announced in this statement. And the task which you have given me is lightened by your generous conduct in handing me this chart by which to steer my course. I shall adhere to it loyally and faithfully, because I believe that by steering our course according to that chart we shall achieve for world Jewry, for the Jews of our own beloved country, the legitimate objectives which are a part of the faith of each and every one of us. I ask your support. I need it. There are perilous times ahead and difficult problems to solve, but I am sure that, if I get from you that aid and that loyalty which I know will be mine, we will all advance well forward on that thorny path that leads to the time when there shall be “one God, one law, one element, and one far-off Divine event to which the whole creation moves.” To that high and noble purpose I summon you and all Jewry to my aid.

Reports of Standing Committees

At the request of the President, Mr. David Rosenblum, Chairman of the Standing Committee on Public Relations, submitted a report on the work of that committee. (For text of this report see page 653.)

Mr. Rosenblum’s report was discussed by Mr. William Newcorn, who called attention to the establishment in the State of New Jersey of a Good Will Mission which has been operating with considerable success for several years. Mr. Newcorn suggested
that the Committee on Public Relations look into the work of this Commission and consider the advisability of bringing about the establishment of similar bodies in other states.

Mr. Alan M. Stroock, Chairman of the Standing Committee on Community Service, made an oral statement, in which he announced that the report of his committee would be circulated to those present at the close of the meeting.

The President announced that reports of the Research Institute for Peace and Post-War Problems and of the Department of Library, Research and Publications (Library of Jewish Information) would be circulated among those present at the close of the meeting.

On motion, adjourned.

Morris D. Waldman,

Executive Vice-President
ANNUAL REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

To the Members of the American Jewish Committee:

Again we meet in the shadow of a great loss. Louis E. Kirstein, one of the most active and devoted members of your Executive Committee, has gone from our midst. Mr. Kirstein died in Boston on December 10, 1942. On the same day a resolution expressing our sense of loss was prepared by the officers and made public. It reads:

The Executive Committee of the American Jewish Committee record their profound sorrow at the passing of their beloved colleague, Louis E. Kirstein.

Mr. Kirstein was a distinguished and beloved leader in the Jewish community. He was ever mindful of his Jewish heritage and brought his diversified talents to the solution of perplexing Jewish problems, locally, regionally and nationally.

He was for almost two decades an active and generous supporter of the American Jewish Committee and a leader in its councils. He was a member of its Executive Committee since 1930. He was elected Vice-President in 1933, and Chairman of the General Committee in 1941. In these positions he gave generously of his time and energy and demonstrated great qualities of leadership, a deep wisdom and a sympathetic understanding of the Committee's problems. During recent years, as the beloved "first citizen" of Boston, he was very closely associated with the Committee's New England Regional Office, which benefited immeasurably from his guidance. In recent months, he accepted the chairmanship of an important sub-committee of the American Jewish Committee, in which capacity he was making a vital contribution to the solution of issues of broad communal implications.

Mr. Kirstein was a distinguished leader in the general as well as in the Jewish community. His national eminence in the field of commerce and finance was due not merely to his material success and his great ability in the business world, but to his broad social outlook and deep human sympathy. Having achieved his distinguished position the hard way, in typically American pioneering fashion, he was always deeply conscious of his responsibilities to his fellow-men, regardless of race or creed, and his philanthropic and humanitarian activities have contributed greatly to the general welfare.

The passing of Mr. Kirstein will be widely mourned. His colleagues on the Executive Committee of the American Jewish Committee, who had come to love and admire him and to lean heavily upon his counsel,
feel a deep sense of loss in being deprived of his genial company and his able leadership.

To his family we extend our sincerest sympathy in their bereavement.

Your Committee has lost another active collaborator and valued colleague in the person of David M. Bressler who died suddenly on December 16th. Tribute is paid to Mr. Bressler’s lifelong service to our people including membership in our organization for the past two decades.

The executive committee of the American Jewish Committee is deeply grieved to learn of the death of their friend and colleague, David M. Bressler.

Mr. Bressler’s passing is a great loss to the American Jewish community, which he served with loyalty and distinction, for more than four decades. His humanitarian interests were varied, embracing as they did immigrant welfare — wherein he pioneered — overseas relief, the defense of civil rights for all people regardless of race or creed, and public welfare. These interests were naturally prompted by a strong religious spirit that was reflected also in his long activity in synagogue affairs. To all of these activities he devoted his time and energy unstintingly and often at great personal sacrifice.

For the past twenty years, Mr. Bressler was closely identified with the work of the American Jewish Committee, first as a corporate member, and since 1925, as a member of the Executive Committee. His broad understanding of communal problems, his vision and sound judgment stood the American Jewish Committee in good stead. With his passing our country has lost a useful and patriotic citizen and the committee a valuable co-worker and beloved friend.

The American Jewish Committee extends to the family the heartfelt expression of its deepest sympathy.

Since your last meeting a year ago a number of changes have been made in our organizational structure in pursuance of the authority granted by you when you approved of amendments to the by-laws submitted by the Executive Committee.

You will recall that an increase in the membership of the Executive Committee from the former maximum of fifty to one hundred and fifty was approved and your Executive Committee was authorized to secure from the Legislature of the State of New York an amendment to the charter granted to the American Jewish Committee in 1911 with a view to the legalization of this increase. This amendment was adopted by the legislature on April 6, 1942.

You will recall that the by-laws as amended provide for the setting up of an administrative committee to act between meetings of the Executive Committee.
This Committee held frequent meetings during the year and gave close supervision to the affairs of your organization. Under its supervision the standing committees authorized in the by-laws performed the special functions assigned to them. At the present time these standing committees are:

Committee on Overseas Affairs, Committee on Library, Legal Committee, Committee on Community Relations, and Public Relations Committee.

Your Executive Committee is glad to avail itself of this occasion to extend to the members of these standing committees expression of its grateful appreciation for the devoted attention which they have given to the work entrusted to them.

You will recall that at your last meeting announcement was made of the fact that an arrangement had been entered into between the Committee and the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith for joint fund-raising, as well as for closer cooperation and coordination of the work of the two bodies in the direction of domestic defense. During the past year efforts in the latter direction were formalized. At a meeting held in Chicago on April 11th, the joint Committee of Six, which had been provided for in the agreement between the two organizations, met and implemented the decision for coordination by the establishment of several joint functioning committees.

The only joint Committee which has functioned has been the joint Public Relations Committee. Mr. David Rosenblum has been chairman of this Committee with Phillip Haberman of the Anti-Defamation League as co-chairman. The Joint Public Relations Committee met regularly for the discussion and coordination of the public relations programs of both organizations. Though these meetings have been useful, our experience leads us to believe that effective functional collaboration cannot be achieved in this field so long as the organizations continue each to retain complete autonomy in regard to staff activities and budgets.

At the end of July last your committee received notification from B'nai B'rith of its intention to terminate the agreement for joint fund-raising at the end of the fiscal year February 28, 1943. At the same time we were informed the central administrative board of the B'nai B'rith had authorized the negotiation of a new agreement involving a number of specific changes in the existing arrangements. Subsequently our Administrative Committee reached the
decision that negotiations between the two organizations for a new agreement would be suspended, pending the election of officers at this meeting.

In the meantime a widespread feeling in local communities in favor of joint fund-raising by, and closer coordination of effort between, the national organizations working in the field of domestic protection of the rights of Jews, was given expression at the general assembly of the Council of Jewish Federations and Welfare Funds held at Chicago on February 1, 1942. A committee on problems in the civic protective field submitted a report to the assembly recommending a definite program for achieving these ends, and a sub-committee was appointed to implement the proposed program. During the past year this sub-committee has held many conferences with representatives of the civic protective agencies and worked out a plan for the creation of a single agency to which the existing national defence organizations would turn over their activities and facilities in this field of work. Both our Executive and Administrative Committees have, since June 1940, repeatedly expressed their approval of the principles underlying plans for a single central operating agency which would divorce the defense work in the United States from the other activities of the four civic-protective organizations. At the General Assembly of the Council of Federations and Welfare Funds, held in Chicago, a report to this effect was made on behalf of your Committee, coupled, however, with the statement that the particular plan recently submitted by the Council's sub-committee is being referred to our incoming administration.

Your Committee has continued during the past year its active participation in the General Jewish Council in which the B'nai B'rith and the Jewish Labor Committee are also represented. The emphasis of the Council's work was laid on efforts to alleviate the plight of the Jews in Nazi-dominated countries. To this end the Council cooperated with other Jewish and non-sectarian agencies. The Council's Public Relations Committee also continued its active interest in the legal aspects of group libel and discrimination in employment.

In his Presidential address at your last Annual Meeting a year ago, Mr. Wertheim referred to discussions between Zionist leaders and representative non-Zionists, which had been initiated early in 1941 jointly by Dr. Chaim Weizmann, the President of the World Zionist Organization, and the late Sol M. Stroock, President of
this Committee. These discussions, which were expressly understood to be private and unofficial, had for their purpose the exploration of the differences between the respective viewpoints of Zionists and non-Zionists, with a view, if possible, to find common ground for concerted representation at the Peace Conferences and closer collaboration between the two groups in the work of developing the Jewish settlement in Palestine. The non-Zionists participating in these studies, though members of the American Jewish Committee, did not act as representatives of the Committee. Your President, however, felt that, because the outcome of these discussions was likely to have an important bearing upon the work in which we are engaged, the Committee should take official cognizance of the Zionist-non-Zionist conversations. Upon his recommendation, the Executive Committee, at their meeting last January, voted the establishment of a special sub-committee to be headed by the late Louis E. Kirstein of Boston, charged with the duty of receiving from the non-Zionist group reports of the discussions as they progressed, and of, in turn, submitting to the Executive Committee their recommendations for such action in respect of these negotiations.

Mr. Wertheim will later in the forenoon report in detail on these developments.

In its report to you last year, your Committee expressed the view that entrance of our country into the war would undoubtedly require a reorientation of our program and possibly changes in methods and procedures. During the past year, close study has been given to changes in general conditions affecting our work, and modifications in our program are being considered to meet these changes. However, as we pointed out last year, despite overwhelming evidence of the close tie between anti-Jewish agitation and Nazi-Fascist efforts to sow discord in the ranks of the American people, those elements which have been playing the Nazi game have not changed their views and have not given up their determination to spread them. It is gratifying that federal authorities early recognized the menace to our war effort of the propaganda promoted by these individuals and groups and have taken steps to suspend their activities as seditious. It should be borne in mind, however, that the decade of widespread and intensive propaganda supported by the Nazi regime has not been without effect on considerable parts of the American population and that the task of destroying the noxious agitation is a huge one, requiring energetic effort by all
those recognizing the dangers of divisiveness to our country. This propaganda, moreover, has unfortunately also fertilized the soil for the planting of new seeds of prejudice and hatred in the future in the event of economic dislocation or social unrest, when, as past experience has shown, mischievous rabble-rousers and misguided fanatics would be prone to seek a scapegoat to be blamed for such unfavorable developments. It is therefore clear that in common with all Americans who recognize the need for continued national unity, not only during the war emergency but also during the period of reconstruction which will follow and in which our country will play a leading role, our Committee must not relax its efforts to counteract with all resources at our disposal the pernicious efforts of those who would seek to gain power by destroying us through the now universally recognized Nazi device of creating dissension by setting group against group. The overwhelming mass of the American people are solidly supporting the national war effort and are making sacrifices to speed the day of victory, because they are hoping and expecting that that day will usher in an era of freedom, justice and peace for all mankind. We are sure that the American people are fully aware of the fact that efforts to incite hostility toward any group of the population on the basis of racial or religious prejudice will be an obstacle to the achievement of that goal.

Respectfully submitted,

THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
ADDRESS OF MAURICE WERTHEIM

Before I present for your consideration the proposed “Statement of Views” of the American Jewish Committee, which has been referred to in the report of the Executive Committee, I cannot refrain from expressing to you the very sad feeling that I have today in looking about this room and not seeing my dear friend and our former chairman, Louis Kirstein in his accustomed seat. There was no man for whom I felt a higher regard and a warmer admiration because he was the kind of man who inspired warmth of feeling by his own genuine and rugged personality. Boldly and forthrightly, he stood for the cause of the Jew and whether men liked his opinions or not, he was never chary in their utterance. As everyone knows, he stood for the liberal point of view in Jewish life, tolerant of every Jewish attitude and devoted himself unremittingly to the task of bringing harmony out of the discord that has characterized Jewish life in this country through the past few decades. It is with a sense of great personal sorrow that I pass now to the consideration of a statement which carries out at least in a measure, I am sure, that which he would have desired, in the progress it makes towards the achievement of a united stand of American Jewry.

This proposed “Statement of Views” which has already been circulated among you, had its origin in negotiations between non-Zionists and Zionists to which I had occasion to refer when I addressed you a year ago. Since our last Annual Meeting, these negotiations proceeded in various ways. Further plenary sessions were held with large numbers of people of either side until a great deal of underbrush was cut away and the issues came to be better understood and crystallized.

Although originally these negotiations were started by men who were acting in their individual capacity on the non-Zionist side they were later adopted by your Executive Committee as official American Jewish Committee negotiations. Following the plenary sessions, innumerable Committee meetings were held and an attempt was made to achieve a common statement of principles to which all Jewish organizations could subscribe. It was found,
however, that the time was not yet ripe for such an ambitious attempt which might tend to produce more disunity than existed before. In fact, it might have produced it in this very Committee. During the past year I adhered closely to the position for which I coined a phrase early in the year, namely that I did not propose “to exchange one kind of disunity in Jewish life for another.”

Hence it was quite apparent that before proceeding with negotiations further it was necessary for this Committee to determine exactly what it felt on the subject of Palestine, in order that the negotiations might proceed from a sound base. Examination of our Committee’s past record did not help much in this regard because the action taken on various occasions was not always clearly defined nor had the subject been so completely aired within this Committee as to make its position unmistakable. It was this that was found to be necessary.

After the Committee meetings referred to above and after many personal conferences that I had with leaders of the Zionist movement, there followed a period of self-examination by this Committee through the medium of the Kirstein Committee, whose appointment I reported to you at our last Annual Meeting, as the Committee delegated to receive the report of the negotiators.

This Committee had many meetings and the subject was fully discussed and completely aired. The very fact that it took so long for this Committee to arrive at a statement of its position proved the great necessity for doing so. Finally, the job was done and in the doing of it, we are beholden very much not only to Mr. Fred Lazarus, who acted as Chairman of the Kirstein Committee when Mr. Kirstein’s last illness prevented him from attending, but also to the Drafting Committee, consisting of Mr. Medalie, Judge Proskauer and Judge Rosenman, who undertook the task of putting on paper the views that had been finally accepted by the Committee.

The idea of a unilateral statement by this Committee and possibly by the Zionists, did not spring full-blown from the head of Jove, but actually was an idea that arose in our many discussions as an alternative to a joint statement, and it was there that the idea first occurred to me. It became apparent that it would be futile to attempt to arrive at any agreement with the Zionists before each side clarified their own beliefs.

Since the program of American Zionists has recently been stated — at the Extraordinary Zionist Conference in May, 1942 — they have not issued a statement that would correspond to ours. Some-
thing approaching it, however, appears to be reflected in what one of their prominent spokesmen, Dr. Nahum Goldmann, said on that occasion on the subject of universal Jewish nationalism, the point on which we desired most clarification from them. I quote from Dr. Goldmann’s address: “I want to make it clear that Zionism has never conceived the Jewish people in the diaspora as one political nation with allegiance due to any kind of Jewish authority... Political allegiance to a Jewish State, Commonwealth, or any other autonomous unit, will be owed only by those who are members and citizens of this Jewish Palestine... Zionism certainly does not mean and never has meant, that Zionists will be legally and politically tied up with the Jewish Commonwealth in Palestine.”

Dr. Goldmann’s statement certainly arose from the negotiations described above and naturally our statement has similarly arisen from them. I am sure that you will agree with me that both, taken together, show an ever-narrowing gulf which it is my fervent hope may some day be bridged forever.

I believe that the statement before you voices the views of the overwhelming majority of the members of this Committee, even though they continue to entertain differing views on Jewish life. It is a good thing that this diversity of view prevails. The objects of the American Jewish Committee are not those of a political party. This Committee, welcoming all American Jews within its fold regardless of their religious or political views, is intended to represent a cross section of American Jewry. Our effort to find common ground on this vexed question seems to me to be indicative of what all Jewish direction should be, namely, in line with the American motto, “United We Stand, and Divided We Fall.”

A way must be found for all, as it has been for us in the document before you, and I am confident that it can be found, particularly as the objective is joint action and not a joint ideology.

When I put to you the question on the adoption of this statement I should like you to consider that at the same time I am asking you to vote on a Resolution passed and recommended at last night’s meeting of the Executive Committee, namely, “That for the purpose of achieving the largest possible measure of cooperation with other Jewish organizations, the President be authorized to appoint a committee to confer with them and to conduct with them conversations which may be useful in implementing the purposes and the effect of this declaration.”
It goes without saying that it is a matter of great regret to me that I cannot lead the further discussions myself, since as you have all been advised by letter, my public duties in Washington have proved so onerous and time-consuming that after deepest thought and measuring every responsibility, I felt that I could not in justice to the Committee and to myself, accept the re-nomination that was so kindly tendered me.

I cannot, however, drop my work without expressing my deep sense of personal gratitude and thanks to many of my associates who have labored with me during this arduous year. The list is too long for me to mention all, but outstanding in their help have been Judge Rosenman, Judge Proskauer, Mr. Medalie, Mr. Lazarus, Mr. Leidesdorf, Mr. Blaustein, Mr. Willen, Mr. Morris Wolf, and the ever sustaining support of my late friend Mr. Kirstein. Finally, may I take this opportunity to extend my sincere thanks to those of our staff who have made possible the progress of the past year. Again the list is too long to mention all, but certainly outstanding were the contributions of Mr. David Rosenblum, Mr. Richard Rothschild, Mr. George Hexter, Mr. Harry Schneiderman, Mr. Frank Trager, and last but not least that fine and devoted man whom I call “the rock of the American Jewish Committee” and whom I am happy and proud to call my friend, Mr. Morris D. Waldman.
ADDRESS OF THE HONORABLE
JOSEPH M. PROSKAUER

In Support of Motion to Adopt Statement of Views on Jewish Problems, Submitted by the Executive Committee

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen:

With your permission I wish to talk with great earnestness and complete frankness.

It is no secret to anyone within the sound of my voice that I have not supported the Zionist position, Judge Levinthal, and it is equally no secret that the membership of this Committee has included Zionists and non-Zionists alike. Last spring when the negotiations of this Committee with the Zionist organization came to a head, I was distressed beyond words by what I regarded as a perfectly futile endeavor — and I rather think Judge Levinthal would agree with me on this — an endeavor to affect a compromise on ideologies or principles.

I stated frankly to our President that if that attempt was made it would split this American Jewish Committee into bits and destroy its usefulness as a factor for the achievement of good of Jewry.

I have no mere chauvinistic loyalty to the American Jewish Committee. It is no secret to any of you that I have been called by the Nominating Committee to the Presidency, and I have intimated that if it be the will of this body to ratify that invitation, I shall accept it on the basis of this paper and on no other basis. Therefore, I am going to anticipate some of the things that I intended to say in an acceptance speech and try to give you the faith that is in me as a Jew feeling the deep responsibility of acting wisely and earnestly in the terrible crisis which threatens the Jewry of the world today.

My fundamental thought, Judge Levinthal — if I may address you — was that you and I could never agree on a Zionist or anti-Zionist ideology, but that that was no reason why you and I
shouldn't agree on a course of conduct, remembering always that the compromises of history have not been compromises on principles. Statesmanship has always used compromises on conduct to effectuate immediate and worthy ends. And I therefore took the position, in which my colleagues finally acquiesced, that we should draw a declaration of the immediate course of conduct of the American Jewish Committee — a committee as I have said made up of Zionists and anti-Zionists alike.

We hear much call for Jewish unity. Jews seek no unity, if they remain in character, on their fundamental principles where they differ. We have passed from the day when the Jewish authorities excommunicated a Spinoza; but no one can be blind to the passionate yearning of the Jews of America for unity on conduct in this crisis. And this paper gives the basis for that desired and proper unity.

This paper does not represent the extreme in my personal views, no more than it does yours, but I want to analyze it to show you why such changes in it as you have suggested would be a curse and a misfortune to the suffering Jews of this world.

You start out by saying that these things which are axiomatic are platitudes, or words to that effect. I say they are of the essence. Take them and what are they? At a time like this it behooves us to do what all other people do and reaffirm our obligation to our country. There are times of dedication and concentration where one expresses the fundamental things of human character. If in the history of God's world there ever was such a time that time is now, and I propose that we stand up here today and reaffirm our devotion as we do in the first paragraph — not only to the sacrifices which this war entails on us, but to the great principles of the Atlantic Charter and the Four Freedoms which have made President Roosevelt and Mr. Churchill the leading advocates of human freedom that this world has ever seen. I make no apology for asking this Committee to reassert that.

Pardon me. The interruption prompts me to say that I have never striven harder in my life to extend the hand of brotherhood to men who disagree with me on a fundamental. In the three weeks since I have been the President Nominate of this Committee, I have conferred with Zionist after Zionist in confidential talks. I think I violate no confidence when I say I spent two hours Friday with Dr. Weizmann. I have spent hours with men who like myself do not believe in the ultimate of Zionism — and several of the
leading ones have threatened to resign from this Committee, because they believed that this document did not go far enough in denouncing the whole Zionist program.

I have conferred with the editorial staffs of newspapers, with leading officials in Washington — I cannot breach the confidences, but I can assure this Committee that from sources which if I could disclose them would strike you as almost conclusively authoritative, this paper was described as the most statesmanlike document that certain people in authority had ever seen emanate from a Jewish source. And as I proceed, Judge Levinthal, I am going to tell you why I think it is a statesmanlike document.

I have said I had no chauvinistic allegiance to this Committee, but I viewed it as a great agency for Jewish good. And what is Jewish good? The contribution of Jewry to civilization to my way of thinking is a spiritual contribution; whether you be Zionist, or non-Zionist, or anti-Zionist, you will have to pin your faith in the great statement of Matthew Arnold that the man who is interested in morals can no more ignore the Jewish Scripture than the man interested in sculpture can ignore the Elgin marbles.

I seek no preservation of Jewry as a political force or as a financial or industrial or commercial unit. I seek it, and I think every man and woman within the sound of my voice seeks it, as a potent contributor, past and future, to the spirit, the morality, and the culture of a democratic civilization. I propose that this Committee declare it, and this is the time to declare it, and we do it in that next paragraph.

The next paragraph is a statement of our rights as citizens of America, placed on the broader ground, however, that the combat of bigotries and prejudices is an American fight and not merely a Jewish fight.

I had the fortune in 1928 to go through this country with Al Smith. I saw the blazing crosses of the Ku Klux Klan light up the skies as the train pulled into town after town. I saw a virulence of religious bigotry the like of which I never dreamed could exist, and an intensity that I think was far greater than anything that we Jews in America have ever had to encounter. I remember one night as we pulled into Oklahoma City turning to the Governor and saying, "Al, Thank God for the Constitution of the United States and the spirit of decency in America which implements it." And I propose to declare that.
I now come to the sections of this paper which deal with the problems that will confront a peace conference, and I confess, Judge Levinthal — if I may address you personally in the intimacy of this gathering — I am rather appalled at your suggestion. What you really mean, if you will let me suggest it, is that they are non-controversial as between you and me.

But that doesn't mean that you and I as co-workers should not assert them. And I am glad to say that I think Judge Levinthal’s suggestion of “Axis” for “Nazis” is an admirable suggestion — and when I finish I shall ask unanimous consent to that change. We demand redress for Jews. We demand their repatriation; we demand their rehabilitation. And we demand more than that. We demand the complete restoration and safeguarding of their equal civil and religious rights, and as we point out in the next paragraph here, we join with that a plea for a reaffirmation of the fundamental principle that Jewish citizens of every land, fulfilling their obligation of complete loyalty to their respective countries, shall be guaranteed the correlative right of complete equality. We applaud the recent statement of the Secretary of State that we must have a world in which Jews like all others may abide in peace and in honor.

That is something to fight for. That is something that fires me, and I believe it fires you, Judge Levinthal.

I understand that. But as you are in hearty accord with what I regard as the major program that confronts us you, trying as hard as you can to escape the implementation of your official position as the head of the ZOA, come here and in the best of good faith make suggestions which I am satisfied destroy that unity of action, and which as far as I am concerned — I tell you this frankly — will destroy it, when I am giving almost of my life's blood to postpone this Zionist controversy, to hold out the hand of friendship and fellowship to the most ardent Zionist and say to him, “For Heaven's sake, forget the agency for a little while. We will talk about the agency hereafter. We will realistically ask of the Peace Conference what we can possibly get and reserve controversy over what we cannot get.”

If I undertook to give the history of the agency and the reasons which animated us to make no reference to it, I would be trying to summarize not an hour of discussion, not a day of discussion, but weeks of discussion, and I think I violate no confidence when I
say that when Dr. Weizmann put that question to me on Friday, as you have raised it here today, I said to him that the omission of reference to the agency in this document is no final determination of what position this Committee will take on the agency.

Let's talk about it hereafter. I am not indulging in a foreclosure action before Judge Levinthal. I am simply asking Judge Levinthal and his Zionist associates if I may lapse into the vernacular to forget for a moment that they are Zionists, as I want to forget for a moment that I am not a Zionist, and play ball with us to do the greatest service for the Jews of the world that any group of people in God's world have a chance of doing.

That is what I say to you and all your brother Zionists, and I say to you, sir, that when you ask for Jewish unity and when I ask for Jewish unity, this document poses a platform of conduct on which we stand and we hold out our hand to you and say, in the interest of the suffering Jews of the world join with us in this huge area which is not controversial. And the issue of peace or war rests not on us; it rests on you. If your conscience requires you to precipitate the controversy which your remarks here have suggested, and this body should choose to follow you, the destruction of that limited Jewish unity for which I plead so earnestly has been achieved by you, not by us. And as I never pleaded for anything in my life before, I plead with you in the name of a suffering mass of downtrodden and persecuted Jews to make it possible for us to act in accord on this huge area of vital and non-controversial matter.

I will now come to a very brief consideration of the part of this paper which deals with Palestine, and I am not going to debate it with you. If we start debating what the Balfour Declaration means and what the adherence of that might mean, we shall be here long after midnight tonight and midnight of several other nights. You referred to the declarations of this committee. If I were debating with you, I would say I have read the Churchill White Paper of 1922 and I have read contained in there a formal resolution of the Zionist organization that in substance it abandoned any claim of a political state in Palestine. Then you would come back to me and give the classic answer to that and say that that resolution was adopted under duress, and we would get into one of these typically Jewish discussions probably going back to quotations from Moses Maimonides and the leading Talmudic commentators of the Middle Ages.
I am interested in precedent as every lawyer is. I can distinguish authorities and precedents just as you can and just as every lawyer can. Meet me half-way. Let’s forget this digging into ambiguous declarations. Take the Jewish Agency for a moment. It was supposed to be composed of an equal number of Zionists and anti-Zionists. It was not supposed to be a Zionist body, and as always happens when a negative group is wedded to a positive group, the positive group ate up the negative group, and to all intents and purposes, the Jewish Agency became a pro-Zionist activity.

Now, let’s be practical and honest with each other. We all know that. Doesn’t that suggest to you how I would find it probably utterly impracticable consistently with the principles of many of this Committee to put in a declaration now about a Jewish Agency, or baldly to suggest what I think would be fatal from the Zionist as well as the anti-Zionist point of view, that Jewish immigration should be under Jewish auspices?

Now, I see you frown, and I may not have stated it with accuracy, what you said, but that is the purport of it.

Now, ladies and gentlemen, when it came to the drawing of the last part of this document, a very strong pro-Zionist was asked to draw a plank that would represent not his creed or my creed but a working basis to achieve the great measure of unity for which I plead, and that last part was drawn word for word, not by me, and not by either Judge Rosenman or Mr. Medalie, it was drawn by an ardent Zionist who successfully, Judge Levinthal, divorced himself from the channeling of the Zionist ideology.

I have told you that I have been assured that it is a splendid working hypothesis, I’ll call it, a way to go ahead. The one thing that you criticize was the one thing that one of the men — if I could disclose his name to you, you would say that you would follow him till the cows come home — said to me was the master stroke, and that was the declaration for an international trusteeship.

The phrase is elastic. I don’t know whether it is going to be an international trusteeship delegated to a small nation or to whom, but I think it is a splendid thing for us to recognize, that the Jewish position must be placed in the lap of the United Nations to deal with as a united trusteeship.

I am purposely refraining from joining issue with you on other suggestions. I have indicated to you what my own attitude must
necessarily be with respect to a mention of the Jewish Agency. I will accept for myself no reference to a Jewish Agency in this paper and I say that not in the spirit of obstinacy or dictatorship; I say it to you appealing again not to force the point but to rest on the assurance that you and I are friends. Though we differ on an important thing, let's talk it over. Nobody ever lost anything by approaching the solution of a problem in that way.

In conclusion, my friends, let me say this: This paper has been the subject of the longest, the most earnest and the most loyal consideration that I have ever seen given to any document. We sat around on an Executive Committee that had on it Zionists as ardent as you are, discussed this thing in a detail which is impossible in an assemblage of this size.

You made some reference to verbiage here and there. The verbiage isn't mine. If you think that the English halts and limps in places, you know that that is what always happens when you sit around the table and make these things. One person says he would like this changed and another says he would like that changed and when the promoter of the enterprise is a genial, gray-haired old man like me who wants everybody to keep to the essentials and forget the unessentials, he concedes point after point after point of that sort, and I have conceded and conceded and conceded to a point where those who know me as a somewhat combative person, have expressed their amazement.

After all that turmoil and anguish and labor, this paper was approved by your Executive Committee, not by a majority vote but unanimously. It comes here with the unanimous recommendation of that Committee.

Whether I shall have the honor of heading you or not, depends on your acceptance of this paper. I have no interest in undertaking an enterprise under conditions that I do not think make it possible to succeed. I implore you to bury the hatchet, to take the unanimous recommendation of your Executive Committee, and if you give me the commission to go forward leading this Committee, to take the leadership of orienting community of Jewish action on these vital things, I pledge you that I will never close my eyes or ears or mind to a consideration of any suggestion that may emanate from any source, Zionist or anti-Zionist, and believe me, Judge Levinthal, that I have wrestled in the last week with some anti-Zionist suggestions that would make your blood freeze in your veins.
This paper is to me a great compromise because it represents no surrender of principle on anybody's part. It is a great compromise because it sets the stage for Jews, orthodox and reformed, radical and conservative, Zionist and anti-Zionist alike to join in a common, brotherhood to achieve the salvation of the Jewry of the world and in that spirit I implore you to ratify it.
REPORT OF THE CHAIRMAN OF THE OVERSEAS COMMITTEE

To the Members of the American Jewish Committee:

The overseas problems affecting Jews are still in many ways those that existed before the outbreak of the war. They are the old problems now most aggravated and acute. Their solution is necessarily deferred until the end of hostilities. When we met one year ago, that date seemed remote indeed. Recent events indicate the certainty of ultimate victory and, though the time is uncertain, the day rapidly approaches when the devastations of war will be replaced by the conflicts of peace.

The Jew in Europe suffered untold misery and humiliation for most of the decade that preceded the war. These were trifles indeed compared to what he has endured in the planned brutalities that have shocked the world since September, 1939. To restore him to a life of dignity and usefulness calls for the planning of programs capable of being carried out with a certainty that better than lip-service will be given to pronouncements and blueprints. The responsibility for decision is with the Allied Nations. But no small part of this is with the Jews themselves who, throughout the world, are called upon to help solve the most challenging problems in history. We in America must play our part in this, insist upon justice and take the responsibility of presenting this much of the practical formulas of peace. Once convinced that we have a program of amelioration and justice, we must not be content simply to present it, but must urge it and insist upon it beyond the point of merely securing a hearing at the so-called peace table. The minimum that will suffice for our tortured brethren in Europe is the reality of relief and permanent restoration. Soothing diplomatic diversion from this objective must never be accepted. Insofar as it is at all conceivable, we of the American Jewish Committee must make it possible for ourselves and others to cooperate to this end, pooling knowledge, information, experience and wisdom, and evincing a willingness, in the quest for greater objectives, to forget minor and mere ideological differences.
During the course of this year, it is hoped that in this Committee and elsewhere, and with such unity as is possible, that the Jews of America may find expression for these worthy ends. Throughout the world the Jew seeks equality with his fellowman. This is an equality not only of rights but of responsibilities. He can live and work only in an atmosphere of freedom. Where democracy is a term of derision or where it exists in form only, his lot is a sad one. Not only out of self-interest but by tradition and doctrine, the Jews of the world see hope only in the triumph of democracy. Only then can they look for the restoration of their full civic rights in every country of which they are citizens. In every land in which they live they are entitled to citizenship of the same quality accorded to their fellow-countrymen. It is a necessary implication of the doctrine of the Four Freedoms that a healthy civilization can be re-established only by democracy's victory.

There will be little value in the setting up of formal democratic governments and paper bills of rights if they are not based on something better than the grudging acceptance of treaty provisions. A democratic government in form, without democratic traditions and with a popular outlook hostile to equality, can hardly be expected to pay a genuine respect and give effect to such treaty provisions; but we have the right to entertain the hope that the war time ordeals of worker and peasant in such countries will create a new mood and that the statesmen of the new governments will be impelled, from conviction arising from the sufferings of a war fought for human rights, to give humane guidance to their people. Nor is it a vain hope that both the peoples and their leaders will find direction after this war, from the attitude of the United States, Great Britain and the Soviet Union, in their sincere desire that the peace shall not stultify the aims for which all of the Allied Nations have made their great sacrifices. It is not hoping for too much to look forward to a peace which shall have as its cornerstone an international bill of rights respected throughout the world and supported by suitable international machinery, by which the democracies of the world may bring for it a deserved respect.

A most difficult problem will present itself after the war. The granting of civil rights alone will not give bread and a home. Those Jews who have managed to survive in their own lands in the war-torn countries, those who have been scattered and torn from their families by Nazi thugs, will seek to find new abodes; but most of the suitable countries are closed to immigration. This is true of
the United States and at present also of Palestine. It is true also of many countries in South America. The opening of the closed doors is primarily a political problem. There is little prospect of substantial change in the American policy. The question of Palestine immigration is closely tied up with the general question of a Jewish national home. This I shall leave for discussion at another phase of our meeting. In South America, the problem of relaxing restrictions on immigration is economic as well as political. But if there is an organized international effort to further the development of countries with potential and hitherto unexploited wealth, it may well be that a program can be worked out acceptable to some of our South American neighbors where Jewish immigration will be received under conditions that will enable Jews to participate in the further and needed development of these countries.

The destitution and disease which will follow in the wake of the war will create problems which are fully recognized by President Roosevelt in setting up an organization under former Governor Herbert H. Lehman. This will challenge the attention of other Jewish organizations primarily concerned with Jewish relief.

During the year, the Committee has availed itself of every opportunity to focus public attention on the tragic situation of Jews oversea and to bring whatever relief was possible through representations to our government. Thus, on March 19th last, your Committee joined with the American Emergency Committee for Zionist Affairs, the American Jewish Congress, and B'nai B'rith in sending a delegation to the Department of State, and submitted information to it regarding the tragic sinking of the S. S. Struma, with 769 Jewish passengers aboard, who had fled Nazi occupied or controlled countries and were on their way to Palestine. It will be recalled how the entry of these unfortunates into Palestine was refused; the ship ordered out of a Turkish port, in spite of the captain's insistence that it was unseaworthy; and how it went to pieces in the open sea, with but one survivor. The delegation to the State Department in which your Committee was represented by President Wertheim, presented instances which, in its opinion, indicated a treatment of Jewish refugees seeking a haven in Palestine incompatible with human rights and out of harmony with the spirit of the mandate for Palestine and Britain's moral obligations. The delegation requested the State Department to use the good offices of our Government to the end that these policies and practices be modified and that several hundred refugees interned in Palestine for over
a year under threat of deportation be released, and that almost 2,000 of them deported to the island of Mauritius be enabled to return to Palestine. Under-Secretary Welles informed the delegation that his Department had already taken action and that it would continue to do what it could to avoid a repetition of these unhappy occurrences.

Last August the Committee joined with the American Jewish Congress, B'nai B'rith and the Jewish Labor Committee in presenting to the State Department a statement regarding the actual and threatened arrest of Jews in then unoccupied France and their deportation to Nazi Germany and occupied countries, and asking that the Government of the United States take appropriate action to secure the suspension of these arrests. Mr. Welles said, "It is deeply regretted that these measures should be taken in a country traditionally noted for adherence to the principles of equality, freedom and tolerance," and stated that the American Embassy in Vichy, on instructions from the State Department, had made the most vigorous representations possible to the highest authorities there.

In March, 1941, our General Secretary addressed a communication to the Department of State, calling attention to the fact that the Vichy Government had extended to Morocco the application of decrees denying to Jews all participation in public service, civil and military, and in all public enterprises such as motion pictures and radio broadcasting. The State Department expressed itself as sympathetically alert to the situation, though it was clear that it could not legally intervene.

We all recall the noble declaration of President Roosevelt on November 17th, at a press conference, when he said

"I have requested the liberation of all persons in Northern Africa who had been imprisoned because they opposed the efforts of the Nazi to dominate the world and I have asked for the abrogation of all laws and decrees inspired by Nazi governments or Nazi ideologists."

With other organizations, the American Jewish Committee greeted this declaration with grateful satisfaction and took the liberty, through its General Secretary, of expressing itself in a telegram to the President on November 19th.

The North African situation today is frankly distressing, notwithstanding the sincerity of our government in its declared purposes with respect to Jews who reside there. Newspaper accounts
of the last few days indicated that civil rights have not been fully restored to Jewish inhabitants of Morocco, Algiers and Tunisia, and what they lost under Nazi pressure and the Vichy government of France remains largely unredeemed. We do not turn lightly to criticism. But if the reports in the press of the last day or two are correct, General Giraud has indicated that progress in this respect is slow indeed. He is reported to have made the amazing statement that the Jewish question was "an internal one in which the world as a whole has no interest." Throughout the United States the editorial expression of our leading journals reflects a sense of deep shock. The keen disappointment expressed throughout the country has great justification indeed. This is a situation which, with the development of events, we have a right to watch. It is our duty to do so, and it is our duty, too, with other Americans, to insist that what we fight for throughout the world shall not be mocked in one part of it under our own control. We would rather believe that we have been mis-informed, but I fear that that is not the fact.

This report need not repeat what all the world knows about the deliberate Hitler-led extermination of Jews in occupied countries. At least one million Jews have perished in mass murders and through disease and starvation, deliberately accomplished by Nazi policy. The American Jewish Committee has participated with other organizations in bringing specific information on this to the attention of the United States government. We joined with a number of other Jewish organizations last July, at a mass meeting protest against these horrors, and expressed the views of our organization in a message signed by President Wertheim. In a message to this meeting, President Roosevelt said:

"The American people do not only sympathize with the victims of Nazi crimes, but will hold the perpetrators of these crimes to strict accountability on the day of reckoning which will surely come."

The revelation of the atrocities had its impact on both the public and the State Department. On December 17th the State Department issued a declaration by the United Nations which read:

"The United Nations...condemn in the strongest possible terms the bestial policy of cold blooded extermination. They declare that such events can only strengthen the resolve of all freedom-loving peoples to overthrow the barbarous Hitlerite tyranny. They reaffirm their solemn resolution to insure that those responsible for these crimes shall not escape retribution and to press on with the necessary practical measures to this end."
Many expressions of shock followed the knowledge of these frightful events. December 2nd was set aside as a day of mourning for Jews. On December 8th President Roosevelt received a delegation of five representatives of the major Jewish organizations in this country, the American Jewish Committee being represented by President Wertheim. On receiving a memorandum from this delegation asking that evidence of these barbarities be submitted “to the bar of public opinion and to the conscience of the world,” President Roosevelt said, “We are doing everything possible to determine who are personally guilty.”

We have participated in an effort to alleviate the desperate situation of the Jews in Poland, as far as their food problem was concerned. The General Jewish Council, of which we are a constituent, invited the collaboration of the American Jewish Congress. Together we have approached the Friends Service Committee, the Federal Council of Churches, as well as representatives of Polish-American groups, the Polish National Council, and the Polish Bishops’ Committee. As a result, this non-sectarian committee has taken up with the State Department a request for its cooperation and the organization of food shipments to Poland. While no settlement has been reached, the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee, with the backing of the General Jewish Council, obtained a license to transfer monthly $12,000 to Portugal for food packages to be sent to Jews in Poland. This is little indeed, but at least it is a token to revive the hopes of suffering Jews.

During the war, many Poles, including Jews, entered the Soviet Union. The Polish government considers it its duty to provide food for these refugees. Our Committee was informed that there was some discrimination in the conduct of these relief activities. Our General Secretary took the matter up with the Polish authorities and was recently informed by Prime Minister Sikorski that no such discrimination exists at present.

About 7,000 Jews fled to Spain from unoccupied France to escape deportation. Many are interned in camps or prisons. With Spain’s critical food situation and the danger of Nazi invasion, the situation becomes difficult indeed. The American Jewish Committee is following this situation closely, with a view to finding a method of transferring these people to the Western Hemisphere.

In South America, there is a Jewish population of recent origin, striving to find a place for itself. The Overseas Committee has received authority to place a representative in South America to
aid the Jewish communities in combatting anti-Semitism, to develop their moral and financial resources so as to become suitably integrated into their respective countries, to become self-sufficient communities and thus to encourage a receptive attitude on the part of the South American governments toward liberal immigration policies.

In attempts to protect themselves against enemy-alien activities, some of the Latin-American countries have taken measures which made no distinction between Jews who were loyal to the country in which they now reside and unfriendly enemy-aliens. We called the attention of the State Department to this situation, and while we do not attribute the action that followed solely to this representation, thereafter the Rio de Janeiro conference, held in January, 1942, recommended that measures of a commercial and financial nature taken against enemy aliens should not apply to persons who were originally nationals of Axis powers but who are loyal to the country in which they now reside. The Jews would naturally fall into this category. Some countries have followed the recommendation. The Committee has received complaints from Jews in those countries that have not followed it and has brought the matter to the attention of the State Department, which has been very cooperative. The matter was taken up again at the Inter-American Conference on Systems of Economic and Financial Control, held in Washington on June 30, 1942. With the help of the State Department, the condition has become very much improved.

The Jews of America, with their fellow-citizens of other faiths, turn their eyes to a future with hope for the oppressed human beings of every race and creed throughout the world. They are aware that they do not fulfill their tasks with the mere utterance of platitudes and generalities, and are ever conscious that freedom, human dignity, equality represent achievements frequently fought for bitterly against forces of hate, oppression and greed. They know that for the cherishing and maintenance of these most prized of human possessions, constant effort and watchfulness is ever necessary, and that against their invasion they must ever be ready to speak out and to fight.

Respectfully submitted,

GEORGE Z. MEDALIE,

Chairman
REPORT OF PUBLIC RELATIONS COMMITTEE

To the Members of the American Jewish Committee:

Since our meeting a year ago, we have made progress in the fight on anti-Semitism. Our entrance into the war made the American public more keenly aware of the true nature of the type of anti-Semitism which the Nazis were trying to introduce into this country. They recognized that it was essentially a Nazi device, used here, as in the Nazi conquered countries of Europe, to create disunity — to set one group of citizens against another group — and by that disunity to obstruct the war effort. Government agencies found many links between anti-Semitic agitators and seditionists, and took the necessary steps to stop their activities. As a result, early in 1942 many of the most notorious anti-Semitic leaders were sent to prison; others are under indictment. Most of their strident organizations have been disbanded or have been lying low. The scurrilous anti-Semitic sheets that many of them issued have been suspended or have been denied mailing privileges.

I think it is fair to say that our Legal and Investigative Committee and our Public Relations Committee have been very helpful in bringing this about, the former by collecting and making available information about the activities of anti-Semitic leaders and their organizations, and the latter by exposing those activities and by pointing out how they interfered with our war effort.

The third group, that large group which is open-minded, is the group with which we are most concerned in our public relations work. That group, in common with the rest of the world, has been subjected for the past ten years to the most wide-spread and most vicious campaign of anti-Semitic propaganda in history, in which the Nazis refurbished old myths and invented new lies about the Jews, and used the resources of a powerful state to make the Jews, Public Enemy No. 1 and Public Problem No. 1 everywhere. They have certainly succeeded in making all of us in this country — Jew and Gentile alike — more aware of that problem than ever before.

Our job in the Public Relations Committee has been to attack
and to discredit the whole basis of anti-Semitism in all its forms, to destroy the misconceptions about Jews that have been spread by Nazi propaganda, to enlist the cooperation of non-Jewish as well as Jewish organizations in counteracting the effects of that propaganda, and to create a better understanding about Jews.

To wipe out the effects of that propaganda, our campaign of education must reach many millions of people all over the country. In carrying it on, we use all the available mass media of communication. We prepare and distribute articles for newspapers and magazines. We prepare programs for radio network presentation. We have recorded programs for presentation over local radio stations. Our message has even appeared in the syndicated comic strips, which are followed by adults and children alike. We have not sought institutional publicity in these undertakings, and fortunately we have been able to get valuable cooperation and widespread coverage because anti-Semitism is increasingly regarded as a distinctly anti-American activity.

In addition to this extensive campaign through mass media, we carry on intensive campaigns with influential organizations among the religious groups, educational groups, labor groups, women's organizations, youth groups, and others interested in the objectives for which we are working.

In the field of religion, for example, we work closely with a number of Christian denominational and interdenominational bodies as well as with Jewish religious organizations. I shall not try to indicate all the ways in which we collaborate with them. One example must suffice — the matter of religious textbooks. It is important to keep such books, which teach young people during impressionable years, free from passages which create prejudice between different faiths. We have done a great deal toward that end, through continued collaboration with Christian and Jewish religious organizations over a period of many years.

The first step, ten years ago, was when the Committee helped carry through the project of Drew Theological Seminary to have a committee of religious teachers go through teaching materials used in Protestant religious schools, to eliminate passages prejudicial to Jews. That was a three-year project, at the conclusion of which the attention of denominational publishers and authors were called to such prejudicial passages, and their cooperation was secured in making the necessary changes. We are continuing that work currently by cooperating with committees of religious leaders and
educators, who are supervising the preparation of new texts for Protestant religious schools, which are intended not merely to avoid prejudicial passages, but to be a positive factor in developing better understanding between different religious groups.

The American Jewish Committee some time ago initiated and financed a study of teaching materials used in Jewish religious schools, to eliminate passages prejudicial to Christians. The report of the committee in charge, headed by Rabbi Leo Jung, has just been published. I am glad to be able to report to you that the number of prejudicial passages found was small, and steps are now being taken to have those few passages eliminated or changed.

In the case of the Catholics, the Catholic University of America has brought out a new series of readers for parochial schools, which aim to develop better understanding between all groups, and we are still discussing with Catholic authorities additional cooperation along these lines.

In the case of educational groups, there is also time for only one illustration of the sort of collaboration which the Committee maintains. This year we have carried forward our work with an organization of important educators who have been working for a number of years in preparing texts, manuals and technical material to assist teachers, particularly in our public schools, to get the children of different backgrounds, races and faiths in those schools, to work together, to play together, and to understand one another better. That is an important objective not only for Jews, but for all who love America. This organization with which we are working has done excellent work in this field to date, although its scope has been limited by a restricted budget. We are hopeful that we may be able, during the coming year, to assist in putting its work on a more far-reaching basis.

You have probably noticed that in most of the larger activities in which the Committee is engaged — the recent appeal to the President to get the United Nations to take action against plans of Nazi Germany to exterminate the Jews in Europe, is one example — it has the support of the large national labor organizations. The American Jewish Committee works closely with the Jewish Labor Committee and with the national labor organizations, because we are interested with them in all movements which promote better understanding between Americans of different national origins and
faiths as a necessary step in building a better America. During the past year we have, by many specific undertakings, helped to strengthen that collaboration. One field in which we are currently interested is that of securing effective enforcement of the executive order for fair employment practice, which makes discrimination on racial or religious grounds illegal in defense industries. We have cooperated during the past year with the President's Committee on Fair Employment Practice, and we are trying to use all proper means to get employer organizations and labor organizations to recognize that the essential principle of non-discrimination in employment is necessary and desirable, not only during the present war emergency when the full productive strength of the nation is urgently needed, but during the post-war period, when we shall be trying to achieve the realization of the essential principles of democracy for which we are fighting.

Another special group with which we are working is the foreign language group. Most foreign language groups live in our larger cities, generally near large Jewish populations. They come from European countries, many of which have had a tradition of anti-Semitism. They are obviously the sort of groups that anti-Semitic rabble-rousers are likely to try to reach. For that reason we have been working closely, wherever possible, with representative organizations of these groups, and with the organizations that serve them in the field of citizenship and Americanization, with the object of insulating them against anti-Semitic propaganda and activity.

I could say much more about the intensive work with special groups which supplements our general extensive educational campaigns in the fight on anti-Semitic trends and activities, but this is probably not the time or place to go into detail as to methods. In all cases the basis of our collaboration is our joint interest with these groups in eliminating prejudice and misunderstanding, and in creating better understanding between Americans of all faiths. An important phase of this part of our work is that once we enlist the cooperation of the groups and organizations such as those to which I have referred — and there are many others — we can count on their continued activity in working for the objectives in which we are both interested.

We also, of course, work with many Jewish organizations in our public relations work. Here again, one example must suffice.
During the past year we have worked closely with the Public Relations Committee of the Army and Navy Division of the Jewish Welfare Board to give publicity to the part played by Jews in our armed services and in the war effort generally, and to counteract the many unfounded and malicious rumors about Jews and the war which are being spread by anti-Semites.

I should like to refer to one other problem which has been a matter of concern to the Public Relations Committee. Ten years of world-wide anti-Semitic propaganda, of destruction of rights of Jews in many countries, and of massacres of Jews in Nazi-dominated lands, has done much to break down the sense of security and the confidence of Jews, here as well as in other countries. Constant preoccupation with anti-Semitism has not been good for the Jewish soul. Just what can be done to restore the hope and the courage of Jews to meet the difficult problems ahead, is a difficult matter of constructive public relations. We have not found an adequate answer, but it is a matter on which we must continue to work.

While emphasizing the difficulties created for us by the past ten years, it is only proper to point out that there are certain hopeful factors in the present situation. The bluntness with which the Jewish problem has been posed by the anti-Semitic propaganda of recent years, is forcing the people of the world to face that problem frankly. It is becoming more and more clear that the attack on the rights and on the security and on the equality of opportunity of Jews, must be defeated if the rights and the security of other groups are to be maintained. Moreover, the threat of anti-Semitism to America is becoming increasingly clear as we realize that unity here is essential under war conditions; that anything that sets one group of citizens against another group is endangering the war effort; that in the forces that are in conflict in this war, anti-Semitism is opposed to all the things for which we are fighting; that in fighting anti-Semitism, we are fighting for the best traditions of America. The realization of these things has brought many valuable collaborators to our side today in our fight against anti-Semitism, and one of the aims of our public relations work is to do all we can to hold their continued cooperation in that fight.

During the past year, the Public Relations Committee has worked closely with representatives of the Anti-Defamation League. Our meetings, which have been held regularly during the past six
months, have provided an opportunity to review and coordinate the public relations programs of both agencies, to eliminate some duplication, and to bring about closer cooperation.

In closing I wish to express my thanks and appreciation to the members of the Public Relations Committee who have been devoted and faithful in dealing with the problems which have come before us, and to the members of the Public Relations staff who are doing intelligent and effective work from day to day in combatting anti-Semitism, and in developing better understanding between Jews and Christians to help make a better America.

Respectfully submitted,

DAVID ROSENBLUM

Chairman
REPORT OF THE COMMUNITY SERVICE UNIT

To the Members of the American Jewish Committee:

As the liaison department between the Committee and the Jewish communities, the task of the Community Service Unit is to effect and maintain contact with the local communities, and to transmit to them materials, information and advice reflecting the program of our organization. This task it performs through the following means:

1. Community visits;
2. Periodic conferences with the Community Relations Conference and other professional groups;
3. Circular letters to appropriate mailing lists;
4. Regular services to appropriate mailing lists;
5. Individual correspondence;
6. Literature distribution by means of:
   a) sample distribution of new pamphlets, reprints, mimeographs, etc.
   b) quantity distribution on order from the communities.

The principles by which the Community Service Unit is guided are the following:

1. The entire Jewish community, rather than any segment of it, has an interest in the maintenance of good public relations. We therefore favor broadly based local agencies for the furtherance thereof.
2. Recognizing the complete autonomy of these local agencies, we service and advise, but do not command or instruct them.
3. Our primary objective is to stimulate and further local programs, not to aggrandize the American Jewish Committee.
4. Having found that effective local programs normally presuppose professional direction, we work wherever possible directly with the local professional, and only indirectly through him with the lay leadership.
Four years of operation have proved the foregoing methods to be effective and the principles sound. Our disinterested readiness to be of service and our realistic understanding of the idiosyncrasies of local situations have won the appreciation of local people. The speed and thoroughness with which requests coming from the communities are filled, together with the excellence of the materials, suggestions and counsel provided, have given the Community Service Unit, and, through it, the American Jewish Committee an enviable reputation among local groups. In a word, we have secured splendid local cooperation, and achieved to a very considerable extent the purpose for which the Unit was originally established — namely, the supplementation on the local scene of our national program.

There has been no expansion of personnel during the last year. George J. Hexter continues to direct the work, with Dorothy M. Nathan as his administrative assistant, while Dr. Solomon A. Fineberg serves as community consultant. In 1942 Dr. Fineberg visited approximately 60 communities, a number of them more than once. Mr. Hexter participated in three meetings of the Community Relations Conference, the association of full-time professionals in fifteen of the largest cities of the country, and attended the National Conference of Jewish Social Work and the Annual Assembly of the Council of Jewish Federations and Welfare Funds, as well as the meeting of the Southwestern Region of that organization. All of these gatherings offered opportunities for personal consultation with community professionals and leading laymen. There has been an encouraging increase in the number of these professionals and lay leaders who have come to the office to familiarize themselves with our facilities and to confer on local problems.

As heretofore, and as must necessarily continue to be the case, the degree of collaboration with the communities is largely dependent on local facilities. In the Community Relations Conference cities, such as Philadelphia, Cincinnati, Detroit, St. Louis, Cleveland, San Francisco, and a number of other metropolitan centers, which maintain well-staffed and adequately budgeted public relations offices, working relations are exceptionally close. While they do not turn exclusively to the Committee, and, indeed, are encouraged to seek materials and guidance from all available agencies, they cooperate very closely with us.

In the moderate-sized and smaller cities, the ability of local groups and individuals to utilize the materials and to act on the
suggestions sent to them is limited by considerations of budget and manpower. In some of them, nevertheless, there are to be found active and intelligent Community Relations Committees which, particularly where they can draw on at least the part-time services of a professional worker, make possible the extension to the local scene of projects sponsored by us.

Although our primary purpose in establishing the Community Service Unit was to facilitate an extension of our program to the local scene, a secondary result of almost equal significance has accrued. In addition to serving as a channel for disseminating to the communities the views, materials and projects assembled at, or created by, our office, the Unit has siphoned into the office a large amount of information, program materials and devices, originating in the communities. It serves, in other words, as a two-way clearing house; namely, from the Committee to the communities; and from them in turn to the Committee.

However, the basic function of the Unit continues to be, of course, to sluice out to the communities printed and mimeographed materials, project suggestions, and information of national interest. This data is disseminated in the form of circular letters, of which 134 were sent out during the year 1942. These letters go to something over 200 individuals in nearly 150 communities. In addition to circular letter correspondence, there is a heavy flow of individual correspondence between the Unit and its local correspondents. Over 3,500 individual letters went out during the year. The Community Service Unit also handles the distribution of the literature which we are interested in seeing disseminated. Upwards of 230,000 pieces went to the communities last year, and were re-distributed locally. Several items were fairly widely reprinted in local papers, thereby securing an aggregate readership running into millions.

During 1942 increased emphasis was put on long-range activities, such as constructive programs in the public schools. In this connection the Unit prepared a bibliography of educational materials stressing the theme of cultural pluralism, which is being utilized in a number of important communities by people concerned with teaching, designed to inculcate essential democracy. The Unit also emphasized the importance of post-war problems affecting Jews, and has stimulated the use of materials prepared by our Research Institute on Peace and Post-War Problems.

It should be emphasized that heretofore the Community Service Unit has worked wherever possible with the organized local group,
and primarily with its paid executive. From the point of view of getting work done locally, this concentration on the professionals has fully justified itself. From another point of view, however, it is far from ideal. Since no other department is charged with the responsibility of maintaining contact with our Community Representatives, an anomaly has resulted whereby, in a considerable number of cases, our members have been kept much less well informed of the Committee's views and activities than have non-members who, by virtue of their participation in local programs, are in touch with the Committee through the Community Service Unit. The desirability of drawing our Community Representatives more actively within our orbit of operations is obvious. In the coming year it is hoped that the Community Service Unit will be authorized to work out methods of approach to our membership which, without complicating local relationships, will give them a sense of closer affiliation with the Committee than most of them have heretofore enjoyed.

Respectfully submitted,

Alan M. Stroock,

Chairman
REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON LIBRARY, RESEARCH AND PUBLICATIONS

To the Members of the American Jewish Committee:

In the latter part of 1941, the work of the Library of Jewish Information was placed under the supervision of a sub-committee, consisting of the late Dr. Solomon Lowenstein, as chairman, and Mr. Morton D. Webster. After the untimely death of Dr. Lowenstein and Mr. Webster's joining the armed forces, the president of the American Jewish Committee, Mr. Maurice Wertheim, appointed a new sub-committee, consisting of Miss Jennie Flexner, Dr. Harry G. Friedman, Miss Ethel Wise, and the undersigned as chairman. Subsequently, another member was added in the person of Professor Marcus Nadler. This sub-committee, named "Committee on Library, Research and Publications," held its first meeting on May 28, at which time Mr. Wertheim outlined its functions as consisting of "the formulation of policies regarding the work of the department known as the Library of Jewish Information and the periodic review of the work with a view to assuring its efficiency." This Committee was not charged with any administrative responsibilities but was expected from time to time to make recommendations to the administrative staff regarding personnel and organization of the department. Your Committee was able to hold only three meetings during the year, but it has assiduously sought to carry out these directives.

The report of the first Library Committee for 1941, presented at your last annual meeting, discussed the work of the Library of Jewish Information in some detail. It gave a brief history of the department, a description of its specialized collections, and a summary of the work of the research staff, as well as of the Library's publications — the American Jewish Year Book and the Contemporary Jewish Record. This report pointed out that the material accumulated by the library proper and the data compiled by the research staff were basic to the work of the other departments of the American Jewish Committee. For the year now ending, your Committee has substantially the same report to make. The books,
pamphlets, periodicals and other source material that have been added to the library during 1942 deal with the several subjects of current interest to the American Jewish Committee, especially post-war problems, conditions in Germany and occupied Europe, Nazi propaganda, problems of democracy and contemporary Jewish affairs. The accessions of books and larger pamphlets totalled 883 for the year, exclusive of smaller pamphlets, releases, bulletins, etc. which come in at the rate of about 850 items per month, and of periodicals and newspapers, of which about 3,200 separate items are received monthly, representing 560 different titles. The research staff has been occupied during the year in processing this material in the form of memoranda, compilations, outlines and bibliographies, for the use of the National Promotions Department, the Community Service Unit, the executives of the organization, the publications of the Library of Jewish Information, and outside inquirers.

One development noted in 1941, which was continued during the past year, was the increasing use of the Library reading room by persons coming to consult its collection of contemporary anti-Semitic, Nazi publications, and material dealing with Nazi-Fascist world-wide propaganda. This source material has proved indispensable to government agencies, national organizations, journalists and publicists. Over 1,000 persons visited the Library during the year, while over 500 additional inquiries were answered by telephone and about 200 by correspondence.

The activities of the library proper and the research staff were reviewed by two members of your Committee, who reported that this work was proceeding satisfactorily. Attention was also given to the publications of the Library of Jewish Information — the American Jewish Year Book and the Contemporary Jewish Record. Volume 44 of the Year Book appeared as usual in the fall of the year, being the 24th under the editorship of the Library's Director, Mr. Harry Schneiderman. This issue showed the effects of wartime economies, having been reduced in size from almost 900 pages to less than 600. Nevertheless, these reductions, made after careful planning, did not necessitate the omission of any important feature. The volume contains several special anniversary and obituary articles, including a study on Saadia Gaon and an appreciation of the late Justice Louis D. Brandeis; a review of the events of the year of Jewish interest, prepared by outside specialists and staff members; and the usual reference features, such as directories,
lists and statistics. The Contemporary Jewish Record completed its fifth volume with the December issue, marking four and a half years of publication. The magazine underwent changes in format and typography for the purpose of making it more attractive and readable. Both of these publications are being given serious thought and discussion by your Committee with a view toward recommending possible modifications or improvements in the coming year.

No organizational report at the present time can omit mention of personnel, whose ranks are being depleted by the demands of the armed forces. To date, four members of the Library staff have been called into service — two from the research staff and two from the library proper. Three of the vacancies thus created have been filled. In research, the Library has secured the services of Dr. Moses Jung, formerly research director of the Anti-Defamation League of B’nai B’rith, and Dr. Albert Lippman, formerly on the faculty of New York University. In the library proper the assistant librarian, Miss Iva Cohen, has been named acting librarian, and another experienced library worker, Mrs. Therese S. Benston, has been added to the staff.

The library has been singularly fortunate in obtaining the full-time services of Dr. Adolph S. Oko, formerly librarian at Hebrew Union College, who had been living in retirement for a number of years. A bibliophile and philosopher of distinction, Dr. Oko is also an editor and man of letters of recognized talent and wide experience, having played an important role in American Jewish literary circles as one of the founders of the Menorah Journal, of which he was for many years an associate editor and frequent contributor. He joins our staff in the capacity of Editorial Consultant to the Library of Jewish Information and Associate Editor of the Contemporary Jewish Record. Your Committee is confident that Dr. Oko has a unique contribution to make to our institution and looks forward with pleasure to his association with us.

There were several other personnel developments of interest. Mr. Morris T. Fine, who for the past few years has assisted the Director in the administration of the Library of Jewish Information and in the editing of the American Jewish Year Book, has been named Assistant Director of the Library and Assistant Editor of the Year Book. Mr. Allen Lesser, formerly Assistant Editor of the Contemporary Jewish Record, has been named Managing Editor, and Mr. Harold J. Jonas, formerly Book Editor, has been named Assistant Editor of the magazine.
The American Jewish Committee has been making contributions, as it did in the past, to the support of outside research agencies whose work supplements in some directions that of the Library of Jewish Information. These are the Jewish Central Information Office of London, from which the Library receives important foreign publications, and the Statistical Bureau of the Synagogue Council of America, which prepares the statistics of the Jewish population of the United States published in the American Jewish Year Book, and, of course, important for any social and economic research into the American Jewish community. The views of your Committee with regard to the advisability of continuing the American Jewish Committee's subsidies to these agencies for 1943 were communicated to the Administrative Committee of our organization.

Since the Library of Jewish Information is a repository of materials and worked up information indispensable to the functioning of the entire organization, it must naturally continue to grow and keep pace with the development of the American Jewish Committee and, therefore, with world events. The Library must gather authoritative and up-to-date material on a vast variety of subjects touching upon all the activities in which the Committee is engaged. The Library, accordingly, must not stand still, but the extent and direction of its growth necessarily depends on the orientation of the work of the American Jewish Committee as a whole.

In addition to this aspect of the work of the Library — i.e., its service as the "resource center" of the Committee — there is another. Your Committee has in mind the fact that one of the purposes of the reorganization of the Library of Jewish Information in 1939 was to make it a channel through which the American Jewish Committee would carry on its function of disseminating authoritative information about Jews and Jewish life in the Jewish community, as well as among educators, authors, editors, clergymen, and others who influence public opinion. This is in keeping with the primary and time-honored objective of the American Jewish Committee which has sought to combat falsehood and slander with the truth — to bring about a positive and enlightened attitude toward Jews and Jewish efforts and to induce the public, Jewish and non-Jewish, to consider "Jewish problems" rationally.

It is this consideration which prompts your Committee to review the scope and usefulness not only of the Library's publications, but
also of its entire program. Specifically, your Committee has been asked by the Director to consider a number of concrete suggestions for expanding the research and publication activities of the Library of Jewish Information, with a view to increasing its usefulness along the lines indicated above. This program your Committee proposes to consider in the coming year.

Respectfully submitted,

Louis Finkelstein,

Chairman
REPORT OF RESEARCH INSTITUTE ON PEACE AND POST-WAR PROBLEMS

To the Members of the American Jewish Committee:

When in the early fall of 1940 the American Jewish Committee decided to establish an institute for the study of peace and post-war problems, the situation of the Allies was extremely precarious. France had collapsed; most of the other European countries were being occupied by the Nazis; England was undergoing terrific aerial bombardment and was menaced by invasion; and the German-Soviet pact was still in force. The future of the Jews of Europe looked desperately dark. Yet, the American Jewish Committee had faith in the ultimate defeat of the dictatorships. We could not conceive that, in an age which had seen such tremendous technological and scientific progress, the elementary principles of humanity and decency could be for long trampled underfoot.

The creation of the Research Institute on Peace and Post-War Problems was thus an act of faith; for an Axis victory would obviously have rendered futile any study of post-war Jewish problems. Hitler would then have decided the fate of the Jews. After the holocaust which is now ravaging the world, a new world will be born, which will in many ways be different from the old. This war is called the "Peoples War"; and the world to come should be the "Peoples World" — one in which men shall be given an equal opportunity to live their lives in freedom and security. The new world order issuing from the victory of the democracies, it is thought, may not entirely solve the endemic Jewish problems. Moreover, the Jews themselves will have to propose solutions. And so the Research Institute was founded by the American Jewish Committee to study these special problems and to aid in the preparation of their solutions.

Since the presentation of the plan for the work of the Institute, submitted by Professor Morris R. Cohen at the annual meeting of the American Jewish Committee on January 25, 1941, the situation of the Jews in Europe has deteriorated drastically. Although absolutely reliable information is not always available, there is
no doubt whatsoever that hundreds of thousands of Jews in Poland and Rumania have been massacred, and that hundreds of thousands have been deported from these and the other Nazi-occupied countries to, generally, unknown destinations. Families have been ruthlessly broken up; husbands have been separated from their wives; children have been torn away from their parents. The deportees are put into concentration camps or set to forced labor. Others are confined to ghettos and, in most cases, deprived of all means of earning a living.

Tragic as this situation is, it differs only in the magnitude and not in the nature of the problems we faced previously. Our principal concern, therefore, still is that Jews, as individuals, should be guaranteed, in fact as well as in law, equal rights in all countries, and that, as a group, they should be permitted to lead and develop their own religious and cultural life. The problem of Palestine, too, has still to be settled. We are seeking adequate answers to these questions.

No less urgent are the more temporary problems which will confront us immediately when the fighting ceases. Our brethren in Europe will be in dire need of relief. Furthermore, it is generally reckoned that large masses will want to emigrate. This means facing many other problems.

These are, in a very summary way, the questions around which the Institute has centered its activities. The data and information gathered and organized by the Institute will be placed at the disposal of those persons who will speak for the Jews when the time to formulate proposals has arrived.

To fulfill its assignment the Institute operates along various lines. It is obvious that the Jewish difficulties will not be resolved in a vacuum but will depend very largely on the general political, economic and social conditions prevailing in the post-war world. Therefore, the Institute must keep itself informed of the various plans and proposals which are outlined by governments, public and private agencies, and outstanding individuals. It intends, from time to time, to incorporate the most important projects in special memoranda for internal use. Two such memoranda have already been prepared by Moses Moskowitz: one on “Principles, Plans and Proposals of Post-War Reconstruction in Reference to Jewish Questions,” and another on “The Christian Churches and the Post-War World Order.”
Likewise, the Institute has been in close touch with the foremost government and private agencies dealing with post-war problems: the Department of State; Board of Economic Warfare; Office of the Coordinator of Inter-American Affairs; National Planning Association; Commission to Study the Organization of Peace; Commission to Study the Bases for a Just and Durable Peace; Coordinating Foundation; American Law Institute; International Labor Office; League of Nations — Economic Section, Princeton; Royal Institute of International Affairs, London; and many others. We have also taken part in meetings, conferences, round table discussions, etc. We receive information concerning the work done by other agencies, acquaint them with our activities, establish whenever possible close collaboration and enlist their good will. Our publications are, naturally, the best way to introduce ourselves to these organizations and to maintain contact with them.

Of course, we follow most closely the activities of Jewish bodies in the United States and in those countries where important Jewish organizations can still express freely their views: Great Britain, Palestine, Canada and South Africa. We are in contact with the Institute of Jewish Affairs, the Research Institute of the Jewish Labor Committee, the Research Institute of Post-War Problems of Religious Jewry of the Agudas Israel, the Hadassah — all in New York; the British Board of Deputies and the World Agudas Israel in London; the Economic Research Institute of the Jewish Agency in Palestine; the South African Board of Deputies; and the recently created Office for Post-War Problems of the Canadian Jewish Congress. We are kept informed of their special spheres of interest and refrain from engaging in studies which would duplicate theirs.

The findings of the Institute and the studies by outside experts collaborating with us are embodied in memoranda, pamphlets or books. Those in memorandum form are sent to a limited number of persons. The pamphlets are intended, in the words of Professor Cohen, to "develop the inner strength to face the difficulties which lacking omnipotence, we cannot evade." They will show the inner forces in Judaism, the support they can find in other human groups and the essential conditions for their survival. The books contain stores of knowledge of generally permanent value, of interest also to a large section of the public, Jewish and non-Jewish. These different studies correspond, of course, to the points of the program outlined above. Let us consider them individually.
Political Rights. To be able to propose a formula concerning Jewish rights we must know exactly what the situation was prior to the war in those countries where the rights generally existed on paper but had not become a reality. This was true particularly of Poland and Rumania. Besides maintaining a routine day to day compilation of information of the status of Jews throughout the world, we have assigned a number of special studies to outside experts.

Dr. Simon Segal, a member of our staff, is the author of the book, The New Order in Poland, published under our auspices by Alfred A. Knopf. It describes the system of government established by the Nazis and its effect on the general and Jewish population. It was exceedingly well received by the press and was the object of great attention. A British edition is now in preparation.

A group of specialists has been entrusted with the preparation of studies on the Jewish problem in Poland. They are dealing with the legal, economic and cultural aspects. Concerning Rumania, we have on hand an important manuscript describing the situation in that country since the days when the first Jewish communities were there established. We also thought it advisable to profit by Dr. Arnold Margolin’s good will and have him give us his views on the attitude of the various parties and movements toward the problem of the Jews in the Ukraine.

We have a valuable memorandum concerning “Nazi Plans for the Economic Reconstruction of Europe,” by Joachim Haniel. Dr. Franz Neumann prepared for us a study on “Germany’s New Order” which he included as a chapter in his recent, much discussed book, Behemoth. Mr. Moses Moskowitz, a member of our staff now serving in the United States Army, studied the situation in the Nazi Protectorate of Bohemia-Moravia. The Jewish section of the study was published in Jewish Social Studies, and the general situation was described in an article published in the September, 1942 issue of the Political Science Quarterly.

Dr. Kurt Stillenschweig, an authority on Eastern European affairs, has prepared a study on the “Experiences in National Autonomy in Eastern Europe,” to be published soon in pamphlet form.

The situation of the Jews in Soviet Russia is, as we know, of a very special character. Its interest for us derives mainly from the fact that we hope that the situation there will change for the better after the war and that Jews will be enabled to live in accordance with their cultural aims and religious beliefs. A pamphlet dealing
with "Documents on Soviet Policy Concerning Jews" by Abraham G. Duker is in active preparation.

The last decades have seen a great increase in the number of stateless persons. It will be one of the tasks of the peace conference to give them a new status. Dr. Vishniak, who lectured on this problem before the Academie de Droit International at The Hague, has prepared a study of the stateless which will appear soon.

Special attention has been given to the effect of the war on the religious and cultural life of Jews in Europe. Dr. Isaac Lewin, director of the Research Institute on Post-War Problems of Religious Jewry of the Agudas Israel, is preparing a study on the "New Order and Its Effect on the Cultural and Religious Life of Jews."

Dr. Hermann Oppenheim, a former leader in the Jewish community of Vienna, has written a study on "The Social and Economic Life of the Jews in Austria: 1918-1938."

When the time comes to present our case, we shall have to enlist the support of world public opinion. The study of the attitude toward the Jewish problems of the major religious and social groups is therefore of great importance. To date we have initiated studies on the Catholic Church, the Labor Movement (Dr. Ignaz Kandel) and the Middle Classes (Prof. Michael Heilperin). These studies will be available soon.

While the introduction of democratic principles throughout the world should in theory guarantee the equality of Jews everywhere, experience has demonstrated that additional guarantees may be needed in some countries where anti-Semitism has been deeply rooted. These guarantees can be made effective through international machinery in the form of minority treaties or otherwise. It has also been widely suggested that in the future an International Bill of Rights should be proclaimed. Knowing that other organizations are concentrating their efforts on the question of minority guarantees, we have limited ourselves up to the present to asking the well known authority on international law, Professor Hersch Lauterpacht of Cambridge University, to outline an "International Bill of Rights and Its Effect on Jews and Jewish Problems." We are confident that this will be an important contribution. It will be ready for publication in the summer of 1943.

Migration. Most authorities agree that there will be an extensive Jewish migration after the war. Although some differ with this view, we cannot neglect the thorough study of this problem, for
The preparation for migration and the transportation of migrants has, of course, always been a very important problem. It includes the political efforts to open countries to immigration, the obtaining of visas, the transportation as such, and the reception in the countries of immigration. With a view to coordinated action in the future, Dr. Mark Wischnitzer is preparing a comprehensive study on the "Attempts to Regulate Jewish Migrations in the 19th and 20th Centuries."

Relief and Rehabilitation. As we have noted, immediately after the cessation of hostilities some problems of special urgency will face Jews. Like the rest of the inhabitants of the occupied territories, the Jews will be in dire need of relief in all its forms. They will, of course, receive their share in the general relief, but it will probably not cover their special needs. These will have to be met to some extent by Jewish organizations.

In the last quarter of a century, several organizations, of which the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee is the most outstanding, have brought relief to Jews all over the world. Their experience will serve as a guide for the future. Mr. Alexander Shapiro is preparing a study of these experiences to be called "A Quarter of a Century of Relief."

The rehabilitation of uprooted Jews will need particular attention. While some, as we have said, will emigrate, others will prefer to remain in their homes, but will be compelled to adapt themselves to new professions and trades. That Jews are at the same time assets to the countries to which they migrate, and that they are able to adapt themselves to new economic conditions abroad as well as in their former homes, is shown in a study by Ben Halpern on "Jewish Adjustment to Agriculture and Other Pioneer Tasks in Palestine," which will be published soon in book form.

The rehabilitation of the European Jews will likewise entail many other problems. Solutions would be much easier if Jews should receive compensation for the loss or damage they have suffered. This possibility is today very problematical, at least as regards the Jews of Germany and Italy, who are not included in the recent declaration of the United Nations concerning restoration of property. Even if a system of reparations should be adopted at the peace conference, the problem would still exist as to the right of
German Jews to make claims for damages against their national government. Dr. Siegfried Goldschmidt has prepared a legal study on this subject which will be published shortly.

Serial Publications. The following pamphlets have been published:

- Jewish Migrations — Eugene M. Kulischer
- Jewish Emancipation — Raphael Mahler
- Jewish Emancipation Under Attack — Bernard D. Weinryb
- Governments-in-Exile on Jewish Rights

In addition to the unpublished manuscripts already mentioned, the following are on hand for publication in pamphlet form:

- Jews in Agriculture — Raphael Mahler
- Bibliography on Jewish Post-War Problems — Abraham G. Duker
- Preparation by Jews for the Paris Peace Conference — Moses Moskowitz

The Institute has been requested by several Jewish organizations to furnish them with material suitable for study groups. To comply with this request, and at the same time to meet the increasing interest shown by the Jewish public at large in post-war problems, we have decided to make this a major project.

The Study Course was planned to be published in eight units, as follows:

- Why Study Post-War Problems
- The Two World Wars — A Comparison and Contrast
- How the Jewish Communities Prepared for Peace During the First World War
- Between the Two Wars
- The Position of Jews in the World To Be
- Palestine in the New World
- Economic Reconstruction and Migration
- Jewish Survival in the Democracy of the Future

Four units have already been published, and the remaining four will appear in the following weeks.

The finished product does not indicate the tremendous amount of work and effort on the part of the staff that went into its preparation. The chief difficulty lies in the necessity of condensing into a few pages the considerable array of facts which each unit contains.

Lecture-Outline and Handbook. The training courses in the various universities for administrators in territories to be occupied by the American Army and Navy have made us cognizant of the
importance of informing these future administrators about the peculiar problems which will confront them in countries with large Jewish populations. Mr. Duker has prepared a memorandum on this subject, which was favorably received and utilized by a number of authorities in charge of training courses to be given to these administrators. The Institute is also planning reference materials for the use of the future administrators and relief workers in Europe. In addition to posing a set of possible problems which the administrator may face and presenting suggestions as to how they can be met, these materials will also contain historical and statistical data on Jewish populations, languages, religious customs, leading groups and personalities.

Staff. To the original number of five members of the staff, only one person has been added. The present staff consists of:

Abraham G. Duker  
Eugene Hevesi  
Milton Himmelfarb  
Simon Segal  
Louis Shub

Mr. Moses Moskowitz, who was one of the original members and who has been very devoted to the Institute and its work, has recently joined the armed forces. The staff benefited from his excellent work and warm cooperation; it looks forwards to his return.

In addition to their activities in connection with the work of the Institute, the members of the staff, in view of their particular fields of interest, have been called upon by other departments of the American Jewish Committee for special tasks. The staff of the Institute has contributed to the "Review of the Year" of the American Jewish Year Book, and has prepared material for the Overseas Committee, of which the director is secretary.

Committee on Peace Studies. The Committee on Peace Studies has been informed from time to time of the progress of our activities. It greatly regrets that for the past year it has been deprived of the close cooperation and leadership of Professor Cohen, first because of a serious illness, and later because of his removal to Washington, D. C.

The Committee on Peace Studies lost one of its most esteemed members in the death of Dr. Solomon Lowenstein. He had shown
much interest in the work of the Institute since its inception and had acted as chairman in the absence of Professor Cohen.

Mr. Harry Schneiderman, a member of the Committee, has continuously cooperated with the staff and has given it the benefit of his wisdom and experience, for which we are indeed grateful.

That our Institute is already beginning to harvest the results of its efforts, could not have been possible without the sympathetic understanding, advice and support given us by Mr. Waldman. We thank him warmly.

Despite a first impression of the "academic," perhaps because of the titles of some of the studies, they severally have been undertaken with a view to their practical value.

And it will continue to be the policy of the Institute to carry on such work as will prove to be a realistic contribution to the solution of the problems of the Jews in the future.

Respectfully submitted,

Max Gottschalk,
Director