

PART TWO: FOREIGN COUNTRIES

I. BRITISH COMMONWEALTH

1. Great Britain

By WILLIAM FRANKEL*

BREAKING the lull which followed the Blitz of 1940-41, the year under review saw the resumption of the air assault against London by the Nazi robot V-1 and V-2 weapons. In June 1944, the appearance of flying bombs brought about a recurrence of air-raid problems and the disruption of evacuation. Within the metropolis itself, after the first shock of the new form of attack, the communal organizations went on functioning much as usual. The principal organizations remained in London throughout the flying bomb and rocket onslaughts.

The achievement of victory in Europe made the year 1945 memorable and, after celebration and thanksgiving, the community settled down to consider its new and heavy tasks in the immediate future—both at home and in assisting the surviving Jews in Europe.

Against this background, the internal troubles of the Community continued without apparent diminution. The dissolution of the Joint Foreign Committee of the Board of Deputies and Anglo-Jewish Association in 1943 left a legacy of disunity, and the rift between the two points of view represented by these organizations continued to hamper unity of communal purpose. During 1944 and 1945, both the Anglo-Jewish Association and the Board of Deputies formulated and presented to the Government their policies on Palestine and, in addition, the Board also published its post-war policy on foreign affairs. During the year too, policies and plans for the post-war organization of the community were discussed, particularly in the educational sphere in view of the possibilities opened up by the new Education Act.

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Polish-Jewish Relations

At the beginning of the year, this problem had become sufficiently important to have been the subject of debates in the House of Commons, during the course of which leading members of the War Cabinet intervened. It will be recalled that early in 1944, over one hundred Polish Jewish soldiers left their units in Scotland and came to London. Anti-Semitism in the Polish army, they said, had made their lives unendurable. They had come to London resolved never to return to the Polish army, yet eager to take their full part in the fight against Hitlerism within the British armed forces. Negotiations then took place between the British and Polish Governments and the Jewish organizations, resulting in the transfer of this group of soldiers to the British army.

The successful outcome of this adventure encouraged another large group of Jewish soldiers in the Polish army to take the same step.

Mr. Anthony Eden, Foreign Secretary, announced in Parliament that the Government would not accept these men into the British army. The Polish Government, for its part, was anxious to do nothing which might be considered as an implied admission of the widespread existence of anti-Semitism in its army. The men were ordered back to their units. When they refused to return, they were apprehended, court-martialed, and severely sentenced as deserters. Mr. Tom Driberg, Independent M.P., and other prominent public figures were tireless in impressing upon the Government and upon public opinion that what these men wanted was to fight against Nazism under conditions of self-respect, not among comrades who were alleged to be bitter anti-Semites.

After discussions extending over a period of months, the men were amnestied and released from the Polish army. They were not permitted to serve as combatants in the war, but volunteered for mining and other dangerous civilian occupations.

As a result of this publicity, the Polish military authorities undertook an educational program within their army to imbue officers and men with the ideals of democracy and

to make them aware of the injury that anti-Semitic propaganda had done to Poland. A commission of inquiry into the prevalence of anti-Semitism in the Polish army was set up. Exception was taken to it at the outset, for at least one of its members was known to belong to the National Democratic (Endek) party which included anti-Semitism in its program. However, this commission soon became moribund and no record of its investigations or report is available.

Communal Policy

After the termination by the Board of Deputies of its agreement with the Anglo-Jewish Association, the president of the Board, Professor Selig Brodetsky, aware of the necessity for co-operation, began a series of discussions with the Association and the British Section of the World Jewish Congress, with the object of co-ordinating activities in the realm of "foreign affairs." These efforts were successful to a certain extent in that arrangements were made for regular consultation and exchange of information between the Board and the Anglo-Jewish Association on the one hand and the Board and the World Jewish Congress on the other. Whatever the result of the Board-Congress association, and there were complaints from both sides, full co-operation between the Board and the Anglo-Jewish Association was not possible because of the fundamental difference in their approach to the Palestine question. This divergence formed the main subject of consultation between these two bodies for almost a year. Although no agreement was reached, both the president of the Board and Mr. Leonard Stein, president of the Anglo-Jewish Association, publicly expressed the view that these consultations had been of mutual advantage. Professor Brodetsky went so far as to say that the policy of the Anglo-Jewish Association, while not coincident with that of the Board, was nevertheless a very considerable advance upon the view which, it had been thought, the Association would put forward in regard to Palestine.

Difficulties arose when the Association announced its intention of submitting its Palestine policy to the Government. The Board of Deputies protested that this action had not been the subject of prior consultation, and the Anglo-Jewish

Association deferred the submission of its document to the Colonial Office. It eventually did submit it in December 1944 upon a vote of the Council by a majority of 24 to 9. The minority issued its own statement of policy on Palestine, which was on similar lines to that of the Board of Deputies.

The policy of the Anglo-Jewish Association recommends that the Government of Palestine shall be so conducted as to further the development of the Jewish National Home in an undivided Palestine and to create conditions conducive to the attainment by Palestine of the status of a self-governing territory. Immigration is to remain in the hands of the Mandatory in consultation with the Jewish Agency for Palestine. The Board of Deputies in its policy looks to His Majesty's Government to declare that undivided Palestine be designated to become, after a transitional period, a Jewish state or commonwealth. It expresses the hope that the Jewish state or commonwealth will find a place within the British Commonwealth of Nations, and proposes that, during the transitional period, the Jewish Agency be vested with authority, *inter alia*, to direct and regulate immigration.

The foreign policy of the Board of Deputies contains proposals on the protection of human rights, statelessness, equality of citizenship, freedom of association, international protection, specific treatment of the Jewish question, relief during transitional period, restitution and compensation, and war crimes. In presenting this policy, the president paid a tribute to the assistance that had been received from the British Section of the World Jewish Congress with which the Board had consulted on these problems.

In October 1944, the Board of Deputies announced that its secretary, Mr. A. G. Brotman, would shortly visit the United States to discuss post-war problems with American Jewish organizations. At about the same time, a large British delegation left for the United States to attend the War Emergency Conference of the World Jewish Congress. The Anglo-Jewish Association thought it advisable to point out that this delegation did not represent Anglo-Jewry but merely the membership of the British Section of the World Jewish Congress. In December 1944, Professor Brodetsky left for a short visit to the United States and on his return said that he had found American Jews divided to a similar

degree and on similar lines as Jews in this country. His talks with leaders of the community had been most profitable and he was strongly in favor of some *ad hoc* body to continue co-operation between the two communities.

After these contacts with American Jewry, the Board in February 1945 adopted a resolution setting up a committee of representatives of the American Jewish Conference, Board of Deputies, and World Jewish Congress to work out means whereby co-ordination among themselves and such other bodies as were in agreement with their general policy might be most effectively secured. This tripartite alignment provoked considerable controversy at the Board, and two honorary officers opposed the plan. The president assuaged some of the criticism by stating that Mr. Brotman, who was making his second visit to the United States together with Councilor Abraham Moss for inter-Jewish talks in connection with the San Francisco United Nations Conference on International Organization, had been instructed to try to include every Jewish organization in order to get the greatest possible co-ordination. The Anglo-Jewish Association also sent a representative to the United States in the person of Sir Robert Waley Cohen, who paid a short visit at the time of the opening of the San Francisco Conference.

A new organization, which made a somewhat inauspicious debut in the latter part of 1944, was the Jewish Fellowship. Containing representatives of many of the Anglo-Jewish families of ancient lineage, the Fellowship announced itself as primarily a religious body but, whether intended or not, came to be recognized as an avowed anti-Zionist movement. Addressing the Parliamentary Middle East Committee in March 1945, one of its sponsors, Mr. Basil Henriques, said that the basic principles of the Fellowship excluded the view that the Jews are a political national group. The Fellowship was opposed to the creation of a Jewish political state anywhere, but would seek the largest immigration into Palestine. When asked by a member whether it was a fact that the views of the Fellowship were overwhelmingly opposed by the Board of Deputies, Mr. Henriques, himself a member of the Board, said: "The Board of Deputies does not represent British Jewry."

Jews in Europe

About halfway through 1944, news began to reach London of a drastic turn in the plight of Jews in Hungary. Reports indicated widespread deportations to murder camps in Poland. On July 4, Mr. S. S. Silverman, M.P., asked the Foreign Secretary in the House of Commons whether he had any information on this matter and whether there were any steps which the United Nations could take to prevent, in the moment of victory, the total annihilation of European Jewry by Hitlerite Germany. Mr. Anthony Eden replied that there were strong indications from reliable sources that these barbarous deportations were taking place, and that there were unfortunately no signs that the repeated warnings of the United Nations had abated the fury of persecution. He concluded by saying that "the principal hope of preventing this tragic state of affairs must remain the speedy victory of the Allied Nations." At a luncheon organized by the Brigadier Kisch Memorial Committee, Mr. Brendan Bracken, then Minister of Information, said: "I cannot exaggerate the brutality of the Germans in Hungary." It was, he continued, the biggest scandal in the history of crime, and responsibility rested on the German people. He said that at that moment, there were two urgent problems confronting the Government—the flying bomb menace and the situation of the Jews in Hungary.

Mr. Eden received a deputation from the National Committee for Rescue from the Nazi Terror, a representative and influential body led and inspired by Miss Eleanor Rathbone, M.P. The Board of Deputies convened a conference attended by all organizations dealing with political and relief work, to consider what could be done in relation to the situation in Hungary. At the ordinary meeting of the Board, a resolution was passed urging the United Nations to succor the persecuted. Dr. Chaim Weizmann addressed the Board for the first time in a speech supporting this resolution. This meeting took place on the first Sunday of the flying bomb attack and the proceedings, including Dr. Weizmann's speech, were punctuated by anti-aircraft gunfire.

In August 1944, the Council of the Central British Fund

for German Jewry and the Executive of the Central Council for Jewish Refugees made a statement on relief and assistance to surviving Jews in Europe. Experience in refugee work since 1933 had made the Central British Fund for German Jewry the body best fitted to co-ordinate the work of Jewish organizations in this field. It was decided to change the name of the organization to the Central British Fund for Relief and Rehabilitation. The Council of this new body was headed by Viscount Samuel as president and Mr. Anthony de Rothschild as chairman. The membership of the Council, though not based on representation of organizations, was divided almost equally between Zionists and non-Zionists. In March 1945, a million pound appeal was launched by the Fund for the reconstitution of the Jewish communities in liberated Europe.

Following the liberation of the German murder-camps by the Allied armies, the revelations in April and May 1945 of the indescribable conditions in them, evoked widespread horror and condemnation. At the invitation of General Dwight D. Eisenhower, supreme commander of the Allied Expeditionary Force, a deputation from Parliament visited some of the camps, and its report was published as a Government White Paper. Motion picture films showing the horrors of the camps were exhibited throughout the country, and public opinion was brought to realize that the atrocity reports publicized since 1933 were more than pro-Jewish sympathy propaganda.

Refugees

The first plenary session of the Intergovernmental Committee on Refugees since its reorganization in 1943 took place in London in August 1944. The session was opened by Earl Winterton; Sir Herbert Emerson, the director of the Committee, in his report surveyed the organizational position and differentiated the functions of the Intergovernmental Committee from those of the United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration (UNRRA). No Jewish representatives took part in the session in an official capacity, but numerous Jewish organizations were permitted to send observers whose functions were strictly limited by their

designation. The realities of the Jewish situation in Europe appeared remote from the conference hall and no concrete proposals for dealing with the problem emerged. A mention of Palestine as a haven for Jewish refugees was sidetracked by Sir Herbert Emerson, and the one practical decision of the Conference appeared to be the setting up of a committee to consider the problem of providing documents of identification and travel for stateless persons.

The refugee question was raised in the House of Lords in May 1945 by Lord Ailwyn. Disclaiming any anti-Semitism, he asked why aliens had been given government appointments. No less than 40,000 Germans, he alleged, were taking up housing accommodations which were urgently required by returning British fighting men. There was no room for parasites in this country, the speaker concluded. An effective reply was given by the Marquess of Reading. Skilfully marshaling the facts, he pointed out the great contribution of the "parasites" to the military and industrial strength of Great Britain. In his reply for the Government, the Earl of Munster, Under Secretary to the Home Office, said that Lord Ailwyn had made grossly exaggerated statements. A less verbose but perhaps more disquieting suggestion was made in the House of Commons on May 15, when Mr. Austin Hopkinson, M.P., asked the Prime Minister whether arrangements could be made for the immediate repatriation of all Jewish refugees. Mr. Churchill replied that, apart from all other considerations, there were many practical difficulties in the way of carrying out this proposal. When it was pointed out that it would be most cruel to return people who had been deprived of everything they possessed to the places where they had been victimized, Mr. Churchill replied that he shared that attitude. Earl Winterton, M.P., who is the British representative on the Intergovernmental Committee on Refugees, declared that he was particularly anxious that Jewish refugees should not be given more favorable treatment than other refugees.

According to Mr. Otto Schiff, there were in Britain in 1945 about 50,000 refugees, approximately 14,000 of whom desired to emigrate, most of them to the United States.

On the more positive side, there was widespread satisfaction when, in September 1944, the War Office announced

the formation of a Jewish Brigade Group, which would consist of stateless Jews and other categories not liable to compulsory military service. Brigadier Ernest Frank Benjamin, son of a former official of the United Synagogue, was appointed to command the group which went into action in Italy early in 1945 and earned high praise for its valor in the field.

Education

A new venture in Hebrew education is the "Hebrew for all" scheme, launched by the Joint Emergency Council for Jewish Religious Education in Great Britain and consisting of correspondence courses, graded for elementary and advanced students. The object is to teach students Hebrew as a living language and make them familiar with the style and literature of the three periods: the biblical, the rabbinic, and the modern. The general editor for the series is Dr. Nathan Morris, education officer of the Joint Emergency Committee. The courses are intended to cover a period of four years divided into eighteen lessons in three terms each year.

Within three months of the announcement of this scheme, over a thousand applications for participation were received from men and women, civilians and members of the armed forces. By November 1944, the number of enrollments had reached 1,600, which, in a Jewish community the size of that in Great Britain, was indicative of an increasing interest in Hebrew studies. Another symptom of this interest was the appearance during the year of two new Hebrew periodicals, both of a high literary standard. The first to be issued was *Metsudah* (Fortress), under the editorship of Dr. S. Rawidowicz, lecturer in Hebrew at Leeds University. This was followed by *Melilah* (Expression), edited by Professor Robertson and Dr. Wallenstein, both of Manchester.

The new Education Act of 1944 had effected a considerable change in the educational system of the country and this, in turn, had its repercussions on Jewish education. At a meeting of Jewish ministers of religion in October 1944, plans were discussed for the creation of a great new Jewish secondary school which would provide for all three forms of

secondary education, namely, grammar school (classical), technical, and modern (commercial). The London County Council suggested to the Jewish authorities that one such large school be built instead of a number of smaller ones. Under the new Act, 50% of the cost would be provided by the state and there was a promise that the Government would loan the other 50% if the sum could not otherwise be found. These plans did not go beyond the theoretical stage but they were being actively pursued by the Jewish educational bodies.

The Joint Emergency Committee, to which reference has already been made, was created at the outbreak of war by a fusion of the three chief organizations concerned with Jewish education. Once the period of emergency had passed, the split-up of the Joint Emergency Committee into its three component parts was contemplated. Such a move was regarded as unfortunate by the community, in view of the high standing the Emergency Committee had achieved. By the end of the period under review, no concrete action had been taken.

Religious Affairs

In the religious life of the community, more attention was paid to the youth. In July 1944, the Council of the United Synagogue adopted for a five-year experimental period a Youth Fellowship scheme, to attract young men and women to the religious and recreational activities of the Jewish community, with the synagogue as its center. A new effort at unity in the same field was the creation of the Union of Jewish Literary Societies comprising youth societies all over the country.

From the financial point of view, the United Synagogue could report progress. In spite of the war, its treasurer was able to announce at the 1944 budget meeting that the United Synagogue had received the highest income in its history, a total revenue of £113,000. The United Synagogue also discussed the position of the refugee and other ministers who had been appointed to temporary posts in the absence of the regular ministers, as chaplains to the armed forces. It was agreed that these temporary incumbents should all

keep their posts open and that the United Synagogue should be able to take any step it chose, either to end the minister's service or to confirm him in his post. This arrangement was subject to a great deal of criticism at the meeting of the United Synagogue Council, on the grounds that it was a summary treatment of the ministers who had given loyal service during the war period.

The other important synagogal body, the Federation of Synagogues, an association of numerous London synagogues, mainly in the East End, was engaged during the year in a constitutional controversy. At the end of 1944, an energetic campaign succeeded in superseding the officers, who were charged with having conducted affairs undemocratically and without elections for fourteen years. A prominent Zionist, Mr. Aaron Wright, was elected president and one of the first proposals of the new administration was that a spiritual head of the Federation be appointed; this post had been vacant since the death of Rabbi Dr. Meir Jung in 1921.

The Palestine Movement

The main political activity of the Anglo-Jewish community in this sphere was the formulation of the Palestine policy of the Board of Deputies and the Anglo-Jewish Association, which has been referred to above. In support of the Board of Deputies policy favoring a Jewish state or commonwealth, communal conferences were organized throughout the country. Votes taken at these meetings gave this program the endorsement of several London and provincial communities.

Zionist fund-raising efforts were not relaxed. The United Palestine Appeal fixed its goal at one million pounds for 1944; and the 1945 campaign was launched on May 15 for the same amount. It was announced that a delegation of guest speakers from the United States was expected in Britain to assist in furthering the appeal. The main effort of the Jewish National Fund was an appeal for a memorial in Palestine for the late Brigadier Kisch, chief engineer of the famous Eighth Army, who was killed during the North African campaign. The memorial was to take the form of

a colony in Palestine for settlement by ex-soldiers. Field Marshal Jan Christian Smuts and Field Marshal Sir Bernard Montgomery were among the patrons of this appeal.

A Palestine trade delegation consisting of both Arabs and Jews, arrived in London early in 1945. The delegation, which undertook the visit at the invitation of the Colonial Office, represented on the Jewish side both private enterprise and the trade unions. The object of the visit was to discuss with British industrialists the possibilities for the post-war economic development of Palestine.

Air Raids

It was a tragic footnote to Jewish suffering in the war that the last rocket to fall in London exploded in the densely populated Jewish quarter off Whitechapel Road. On the Tuesday before Passover, a missile hit a tenement house in Vallance Road, Stepney, killing 130 persons, all but 28 of them Jews. Whole families were wiped out, and the 1945 Passover was one of mourning to the East End.

Among Jewish institutions hit by the robot weapons was the Jewish Home of Rest, which suffered a direct hit in which 12 members of the staff were killed. The Home for Aged Jews was made uninhabitable. Five young people training as *halutzim* for emigration to Palestine were killed when a flying bomb hit a *halutz* hostel in Hampstead. The Jewish Free Reading Room was damaged, and among synagogues affected were those of East London, West Ham, Walthamstow and Leyton, Notting Hill, Fulham, Clapton, and Shadwell and St. George's. The United Synagogue Cemetery at Plashet was also hit by a flying bomb.

The main problem occasioned by this renewed air assault was evacuation. As soon as this question became acute, the Central Jewish Committee for Problems of Evacuation (under the auspices of the Board of Deputies) convened a special conference which was attended by about twenty organizations. In view of the acute housing shortage, special attention was given to the provision of accommodations for

the aged and the infirm. Serious problems also arose in the educational field. Of the 7,000 children who, before the emergency, were receiving Jewish education in London, less than 1,000 remained after seven weeks of the attack. The Joint Emergency Committee, profiting from its experiences of evacuation in 1939 and 1940, soon made arrangements for the resumption of educational facilities in the reception areas. Funds were again a constant source of anxiety, but, although they were not forthcoming in the required volume, the work was not on that account neglected; and, wherever possible, classes were arranged and facilities provided for the continuance of Jewish observances in the areas receiving the evacuees.

Anti-Semitic Propaganda and Jewish Defense

Until the announcement of V-E Day, several of the leading British protagonists of anti-Semitism as a political platform were still detained under Regulation 18B, which empowered the Home Secretary to intern persons whom he had reasonable cause to suspect of acts dangerous to national security. In June 1944, a debate on 18B took place in Parliament, particularly in reference to the detention under that order of Captain Archibald Ramsay, M.P., a friend of the Fascists and a notorious anti-Semite. Sir Irving Albery and Sir Archibald Southby sought to amend the regulation and transfer the Home Secretary's powers to a tribunal. Mr. Herbert Morrison, Home Secretary, said that the Law Officers of the Crown had considered whether Ramsay should be prosecuted but were of the opinion that the evidence available did not clearly establish a criminal offense. Mr. Morrison stated: "It is because activities dangerous to national security may be carried on without the commission of any criminal offense that Regulation 18B was made."

On May 9, 1945, Regulation 18B was revoked and the release of all persons detained under it was ordered. But well before that date, persons who had been interned were being gradually released; and some of those who had been detained under 18B founded a body known as the League

of Ex-Service Men and Women. Meetings they held in Hyde Park were reminiscent of some of the pre-war Fascist gatherings. There has been, so far, no overt anti-Semitism in the policy of this new body, but a statement made by one of the promoters that "I shall vote against anybody who is not 100% British by race," gives a fairly clear indication of its tendencies.

The Church of Scotland appointed one of its ministers to establish closer relations between Christians and Jews in Scotland. Announcing this at a meeting of the Synod, the Rev. G. A. F. Knight said that anti-Semitism in Scotland was increasing daily. The Board of Deputies' Jewish Defense Committee was reorganized to meet the anticipated post-war situation and, in addition to administrative changes, a considerable decentralization was achieved by the formation of area defense committees to deal with situations as they arise in the various localities and to promote racial and religious toleration.

Renewed consideration was given to the possibility of a reform of the English law of libel to cover community defamation. Impetus was given to the proposal by the resumption of meetings, at the end of the European War, of the Lord Chancellor's Committee on Law Reform, which was to deal, *inter alia*, with the law of libel. The proposed reform was an amendment of the law in such a manner as to give a recognized community the power to sue where a defamatory statement is made about that community. At the present moment, an action for libel or slander is open only to individuals or to small and well-defined groups. This proposal, simple as it may sound, is beset by complex legal problems, and a representative standing committee was appointed by the Board of Deputies to investigate the whole problem thoroughly. The committee at first reported negatively on the proposal but, in view of the criticism of its report at a full meeting of the Board, it was asked to reconsider the matter.

2. Canada

By DAVID ROME*

IN CANADA, as in other countries of the United Nations, the past year was highlighted by the victory in Europe, the regearing for the achievement of victory in the Pacific, and the reconversion of the country's economy to peace. On V-E Day Michael Garber, K. C., issued a statement to the press pledging the full co-operation of the Jewish community of the Dominion for the national program in these spheres. The Jewish community of Canada totaled its war effort to date and counted 701 casualties: 199 killed, 68 missing, 77 presumed dead, 50 died, 9 prisoners of war, 298 wounded, all but some half dozen of these in the European theater of operations. The number of Jews decorated for war services rose to 122.

War Activity

Official recognition of Jewish war service was implied in the unprecedented Rosh Hashonah messages which the Dominion ministers of national defense for the army, navy, and air force issued through the Canadian Jewish Congress. These statements were widely echoed in editorials in the press across the country which also continued to give prominence to individual Jewish servicemen as well as to the community war program.

In Europe, as the Canadian forces fought gallantly in Italy, northern France, Belgium, Holland and Germany, the Jewish servicemen were accompanied by Jewish chaplains who reconsecrated ravaged synagogues in those countries. Major S. Gershon Levi and Captains Samuel Cass and Isaac Bertram Rose officiated in such liberation services. Canadian Army motion picture photographers and newspapermen recorded these historic events which were widely featured in the Dominion press. On his thirty day leave to Canada, Major Levi was warmly welcomed by the Jewish community.

As war interest in the Dominion turned to the Pacific,

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greater interest attached to the arrangements made with the Jewish communities in India for hospitality and religious services for the Jewish men in the area. The Jewish communities of Delhi, Karachi, Calcutta, Bombay, and Colombo (Ceylon) cooperated with the Jewish chaplains in providing these services, and the Royal Canadian Air Force recognized this work by issuing photographs and a statement on it.

The community tightened its contact with the Jewish servicemen overseas by continuing the regular monthly shipment of cigarettes and comfort boxes, the sending of reading matter, and the publication of "Jews in Uniform." A personal letter went to every serviceman overseas informing him of the community's problems and activities and soliciting his views. On the other hand, thousands of letters from men overseas were received by the Canadian Jewish Congress, mostly letters of appreciation for the community's auxiliary war services program. There was also a flow of mail from officers and enlisted men overseas who displayed an intense interest in the plight of the Jews of Europe and in the efforts which are being made by the community back home to assist the survivors. These letters constitute a promise that the demobilized Jewish servicemen will take a devoted and intelligent part in community activities after victory.

With the changing trend of the war there was a reorientation of the civilian war effort of the community. The servicemen's centers which the Congress had established and operated, especially those at embarkation points on the east coast, declined in importance and several of them suspended operation as did the Ottawa community center. Nevertheless, the program as a whole was continued and, on its third birthday, the Toronto Center welcomed its five hundred thousandth visitor. Patients in military hospitals throughout the country are not being forgotten by the Jewish community and a program is being developed by the Congress for regular visiting to these hospitals by the women of the community. The unexcelled records of the Jewish community were maintained and even supplemented by the War Efforts Committee of the Canadian Jewish Congress, and preparations were made for the publication of a definitive history of the Canadian Jewish contribution to victory.

The rehabilitation program, which had long been planned, was put into effect as local committees were established for the purpose by the Canadian Jewish Congress. These Rehabilitation Committees in no sense relieve the government authorities of their responsibility to demobilized servicemen, but offer supplementary services of great value such as guidance in employment and vocational training, filing of pension and gratuity claims, location of housing facilities, social reintegration, etc. These committees enjoy the cooperation of the Jewish branches of the Canadian Legion, Y. M. H. A.'s and local social service organizations. The case load of these Rehabilitation Committees is rising with the increased repatriation and demobilization of servicemen and the emerging complexities of readjustment to civilian life.

In Montreal, the first Jewish Vocational Service in Canada was established under the direction of Dr. Jacob Tuckman. This bureau cooperates very closely with the Congress Rehabilitation Committee and handles much of its employment and training problems. The Rehabilitation Committee of Montreal is under the direction of Irving Berlin and that of Toronto under Al Pearlstein.

The veterans' groups are increasing in importance in the community scene. Jewish branches have been established in Montreal, Vancouver, and Hamilton in addition to the existing Jewish branches of the Canadian Legion in Toronto and Winnipeg, and hundreds of the demobilized servicemen have enrolled. The election of A. C. Solomon of Montreal to the national body of the Canadian Legion as the first Jew on that committee highlights this recognition. The dedication of colors, a memorial parade, and the consecration of a Jewish plot in a veterans' cemetery by the Brigadier Frederick Kisch Branch, Canadian Legion, in Montreal highlighted the increasing importance of this type of organization.

Refugee Relief and Rehabilitation

During the year the refugee admission project, under which the Government gave asylum in the Dominion to war refugees from Spain, Portugal, and Tangier, was concluded with the entry of a group of 75, most of whom had been in

Tangier since 1940. This group, as well as the 350 earlier arrivals under this project, were satisfactorily absorbed in the communal and economic life of the country.

With the liberation of one after another of the countries of Europe, the problem of bringing relief to the surviving Jews there gained in emergency and scope. In the fall of 1944, an urgent appeal from Dr. Emil Sommerstein of the Lublin Committee in Poland reached the Canadian Jewish Congress with an intimation that it might be possible to meet the emergency. A delegation of the Congress visited Mr. George Zarubin, the envoy of the Soviet Government in Canada, and enlisted his cooperation in the transmission of relief supplies for the surviving Jews of Poland. Arrangements were made for transportation on Soviet ships and assurance was received that the supplies sent by the United Jewish Refugee and War Relief Agencies would be received by the Jewish relief committee and would be distributed to Jewish war survivors. Within a few weeks shipments valued at over \$50,000, including 10,500 pairs of shoes, 2,000 overcoats, 100 cases of soap, 7,500 pairs of trousers and 7,500 shirts, were sent off, mostly from the surplus assets of the Canadian army. The cooperation of UNRRA was secured for the release of some of these supplies. Later other shipments, including over 300,000 boxes of sardine paste, were sent to Poland. As soon as cable communications with Poland were restored, the Congress sent fraternal greetings to the Jews of that country.

In the same manner, shipments were made to France of 3000 woolen blankets and 1000 ladies' coats. When domestic supply conditions made it possible for the Dominion Government to permit a collection of used clothing for overseas relief, the Canadian Jewish Congress secured permission to collect 52,000 garments. In spite of restrictions on publicity, the garments sought — suits, overcoats, windbreakers, and blankets — were collected in a swift campaign and were shipped overseas, to a large extent to France and Poland. The Canadian ORT organization was enabled by the United Jewish Refugee and War Relief Agencies to rush to Poland a considerable quantity of dominion-made tools and machinery to assist in the rehabilitation of surviving Jews in that country.

The appeal from the restored Jewish communities of Europe for Sifrei Torah was met in a reverent manner by Canadian synagogues which presented fifty Scrolls from their arks for congregations overseas through the Canadian Jewish Congress.

This entire United Jewish Refugee and War Relief Agencies' program was geared very closely to the international relief program of the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee and overseas shipments were made in close coordination with that body. In addition to the expenditures incurred in these shipments, the Jews of Canada continued their cash transmissions overseas to help finance the relief work of the Joint Distribution Committee. The United Jewish Refugee and War Relief Agencies overseas transmissions made to Palestine, England, and Iran during 1944 totaled approximately \$366,150. After the January 1945 plenary session of the Canadian Jewish Congress the relief program was stepped up so that expenditures during the first half of the year were at the rate of one million dollars a year.

Canadian Jewish relief efforts were not confined to the shipment of supplies and the transmission of funds. A large number of Canadian Jews showed great eagerness to participate personally in the reconstruction program by proceeding overseas, and when the United Jewish Refugee and War Relief Agencies announced that it would receive applications for overseas relief service, the response was very gratifying, both in the number of applications and in the calibre of the men and women who offered their time and experience. Miss Lottie Levinson of Vancouver was engaged by the Canadian Jewish Congress for service overseas with the UNRRA and Philip Stuchen of Ottawa left federal employ to go overseas with the Joint Distribution Committee under arrangements made by the United Jewish Refugee and War Relief Agencies. Miss Ethel Ostry, who had acted as executive director of the Canadian Jewish Congress, Central Division, also joined the staff of UNRRA.

The reestablishment of contact between Canadian Jews and their relatives overseas was another task to which the Jewish community devoted itself. Raymond Arthur Davies, a Canadian foreign correspondent, who proceeded to Soviet

Russia in 1944, transmitted to the Canadian Jewish Congress valuable lists of surviving Jews in Poland before the World Jewish Congress completed its arrangements with the Jewish Anti-Fascist Committee of Moscow to receive regular lists from Russia, Poland, and other liberated areas. At the same time the location service of the Joint Distribution Committee and of other organizations were utilized by the Canadian Jewish Congress. Parallel to the organization in the United States of the Central Location Index, steps were taken to establish a central location service in Canada with the participation of the Congress, the Jewish Immigrant Aid Society of Canada, the Canadian chapters of the National Council of Jewish Women, and the Canadian National Committee on Refugees. This institution, which coordinates the search for overseas relatives of Canadian Jews, under the chairmanship of Saul Hayes and the executive leadership of M. Solkin, has its offices in Montreal.

International Jewish Problems

International Jewish problems absorbed much of the energies of the community, which was in a fortunate position to contribute considerably to their solution. In September 1944, Montreal was the seat of the second session of the Council of UNRRA and therefore became the focus of activities of the representative Jewish organizations of the entire world which have been attempting to introduce certain modifications in UNRRA policy since the establishment of this international organization. The first UNRRA regulations precluded assistance to Jewish war victims who happened to be of enemy nationality and there was no formal contact between UNRRA and Jewish organizations interested in relief work except insofar as some of them were members of councils of voluntary agencies formed in some countries to assist UNRRA. Before the opening of the UNRRA sessions in Montreal, representations had been made to UNRRA for correction of this situation, but UNRRA had refused to allow a Jewish representative even to appear before it. The Agudas Israel World Organization, the American Jewish Committee, the American Jewish Conference, and the World Jewish Congress sent delegates to

Montreal and the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee had an observer on the scene. At first efforts to coordinate the activities of these groups came to nothing with the result that several of them, as well as the Hebrew Committee of National Liberation, made separate representations to UNRRA. However, the resulting confusion made it evident that united action was essential to advance Jewish interests. At a meeting called by the Canadian Jewish Congress, the Jewish representatives unanimously decided to coordinate their activities and chose Saul Hayes, the national executive director of the Canadian Jewish Congress, to speak on behalf of Jewish groups before UNRRA. After some negotiations, Mr. Hayes was invited to appear before a joint select committee of UNRRA composed of the Committees on Health, on Welfare, and on Displaced Persons. The statement which Mr. Hayes presented before this committee and which was signed by all the organizations represented, except the Hebrew Committee of National Liberation, was the first since Versailles presented to an international organization by a single spokesman on behalf of all Jewish delegations represented.¹

The convening of the United Nations Conference on International Organization at San Francisco was the second opportunity within the year for the Jewish community to act on the international arena. In view of the breadth of interest attaching to the agenda, the Canadian Jewish Congress and the Zionist organizations of Canada decided that a joint delegation headed by Samuel Bronfman, national president of the Congress, submit to officials of the Department of External Affairs memoranda on questions of interest to Jews which might arise from the discussions at San Francisco. The memoranda which were also distributed to the Canadian delegates and experts at the conference, urged that Jewish property be restored, that the stateless be given protection, that an international Bill of Rights include provisions protective of Jews, and that a Jewish commonwealth in Palestine be set up. The Zionist memorandum declared that a Jewish Palestine was essential for the solution of the

¹ For further discussion of the Montreal meeting of UNRRA, see article below, "International Events," by Sydney H. Zebel.

problems which the war had raised for the Jewish people. A delegation consisting of Mr. Bronfman, A. B. Bennett, S. J. Zacks, and Saul Hayes proceeded to San Francisco and spent several weeks there. The delegation was received by the Rt. Hon. Wm. Lyon Mackenzie King, Prime Minister of Canada, as well as by representatives of other governments. The Canadian delegates maintained very close contact with the Jewish consultants to the American delegation and with the representatives of the Board of Deputies of British Jews, and participated in the efforts which resulted in the recognition of human rights by the conference and the protection of Jewish interests in Palestine in the event of a change of that country from a mandate to United Nations Organization trusteeship.

The War Emergency Conference of the World Jewish Congress held in Atlantic City, N. J., in November 1944 was attended by a number of Canadians, including Samuel Bronfman and A. B. Bennett.

Anti-Semitism

On the domestic scene, anti-Semitism remained dormant. There was an incident in Montreal when several tombstones in a Jewish cemetery were damaged, but there was no evidence that this vandalism was an organized act. The campaign against race hatred and anti-Semitism continued vigorously and the Canadian Jewish war effort remained the unanswerable argument against the spirit of anti-Semitism in the Dominion. The press has continued to condemn group bias and the radio has carried a number of programs to the same effect, notably a radio play entitled "Anti-Semitism" over the nation-wide facilities of the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation. In the province of Quebec, too, there has been a diminution of anti-Jewish agitation and there have even emerged the beginnings of intergroup activity with the participation of the dominant Catholic Church. In Toronto, legislation in effect against certain overt manifestations of anti-Semitism has proved helpful in causing the removal of signs barring Jews from public places, after court action was initiated. An effort has been made to expunge clauses in

some property deeds which would bar the transfer of properties to Jews. One such action was lost in the courts when the plaintiffs based their case on the anti-discrimination act which was held by the court not to cover this form of discrimination. However, another case which was sponsored by the Workers Education Association and the Canadian Jewish Congress in Toronto is still before the courts at the time of writing. The Jewish group is basing its claim on the fact that such discriminatory clauses are contrary to general interest.

The federal election campaign in June 1945, was not marked by any widespread anti-Jewish agitation. Only one campaign document, an anti-Co-operative Commonwealth Federation pamphlet entitled "Social Suicide," carried objectionable material: a paragraph on the Russian-Jewish origin of David Lewis, the national secretary of the C.C.F. party. Fred Rose was re-elected on the Labor Progressive ticket in Montreal-Cartier and Lieut.-Col. David Croll won the Toronto-Spadina seat on the Liberal ticket, succeeding Samuel Factor who had been appointed to the federal judiciary some months earlier. The election campaign in Quebec, late in the summer of 1944, was marked by more anti-Jewish statements. Maurice Hartt, K.C., was re-elected to the provincial legislature on the Liberal ticket by the voters of Montreal-St. Louis. The Ontario provincial campaign of June 1945 was not marked by any special Jewish issue. J. B. Salsberg was re-elected on the Labor Progressive ticket in the Toronto-St. Andrew riding. In the summer of 1945, the Union National Government of the province of Quebec passed a redistribution measure which greatly expanded the limits of the Montreal-St. Louis riding, adding many thousands of French Canadian voters to the division, which has been returning Jewish representatives for several sessions.

The problem of religion in the schools has been giving concern to the Jews of Ontario where legislation has been enacted introducing the teaching of non-denominational Christianity which is in effect a composite Protestantism. The Canadian Jewish Congress has vigorously opposed this on the ground that the separation of church and state is fundamental to the Canadian approach. The Congress has

also appealed to Jewish parents to avail themselves of their privilege to withdraw their children from the religious instruction classes.

In Montreal, an education problem of a different character arose. In the province of Quebec, education lies constitutionally in the hands of the Catholic and Protestant authorities. Jewish children attend Protestant schools by contractual agreement. The fifteen-year old contract in Montreal which expired on June 30, 1945, was automatically renewed for another fifteen year period, failing notice by either party two years ago of intention not to renew. The existing state of affairs is considered satisfactory to all parties. However, in the municipality of Outremont, a suburb of Montreal, where a similar contract existed between the Jewish School Commissioners and the Protestant School Board, the latter took steps to void the contract and refused to give any formal assurance of continuity in the education of the Jewish pupils. Anxiety in the Jewish community ran high and a public meeting of protest of Outremont Jewish citizens was convened at which Michael Garber, K.C., spoke. Several days after the meeting, the Prime Minister of the province, the Hon. Maurice Duplessis, announced that the Government would institute a thorough study of the school-finances of the province and that in the meantime it had prevailed upon the School Board of Outremont to extend existing arrangements for the education of the Jewish children of the municipality for another year. The Jewish committee which is acting in the matter announced its gratification at this development.

In this connection it is interesting to note a study on the financial aspect of the education of Jewish children in the Protestant schools of Greater Montreal, which was published by Father Stephane Valiquette, S.J., in the influential Jesuit periodical *Relations*. It showed that there was considerable income accruing to the Protestant School authorities as a result of their arrangements with the Jewish community and that much of it was at the expense of the Catholic school system, which was consequently deriving a minimum of income from the neutral panel of corporations' school taxes as a result of the high costs of the education of Jewish children which the Protestants presented.

Other Communal Activities

One of the prime events of the year in the Jewish community was the convening of the Sixth Plenary Session of the Canadian Jewish Congress in Toronto in January, 1945, the first such conference since 1942. The conference was attended by 350 delegates from every Jewish community in the country as well as by guests from beyond the borders of the Dominion including S. S. Silverman, British M.P., Professor S. Brodetsky and A. G. Brotman of London, president and secretary respectively of the Board of Deputies of British Jews, Dr. Ellen Hellman of Johannesburg, Moses Leavitt of the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee, Louis Kraft of the U. S. National Jewish Welfare Board, and Baruch Zukerman and Dr. Nahum Goldmann of the World Jewish Congress. To facilitate the proceedings no oral report was given; instead Saul Hayes, the national executive director of the Congress, released his summary report of 53 pages which in effect contained the record of Canadian Jewry for the preceding three years. The convention sessions were forums on public relations, overseas relief, fund-raising, women's work, community problems, war effort, youth activities and education. The resolutions included an undertaking to raise a million and a half dollars for refugee assistance (triple the 1944 budget), a decision to seek to coordinate the relief activities of the Joint Distribution Committee and the World Jewish Congress; a decision to expand the public relations and the education programs of the Congress; and a request that the Dominion admit more Jewish refugees. Samuel Bronfman was re-elected national president for his third term, with Michael Garber, K.C., of Montreal, A. B. Bennett of Toronto, and A. H. Aronovitch of Winnipeg as divisional presidents and national vice-presidents. The Dominion Council of the Congress was enlarged to over 300.

The United Jewish People's Order was constituted as a national organization at a convention in Toronto in April 1945. Captain Sam Schneiderman was elected national president. The order has branches in Montreal, Toronto, Winnipeg, Vancouver, and in several smaller communities.

Very active Jewish youth councils were set up in Toronto, Montreal, and Winnipeg by the Canadian Jewish Congress. In Toronto a council of religious Jews was established as a department of the Canadian Jewish Congress with the support of the local welfare fund.

The year was marked by noteworthy activity in the literary field in Hebrew and Yiddish as well as in English. A. M. Klein published two volumes of poetry, *The Hitleriad* (New Directions) and *Poems* (Jewish Publication Society of America). M. H. Myerson published *Germany's War Crimes and Punishment* (Macmillan), and Vladimir Grossman published *Germany's Pan-American Web* (Macmillan). J. I. Segal published another volume of poems in Yiddish *Lieder und Loiben* and S. Petrushka published two volumes of his *Jewish Popular Encyclopaedia* and the first of his six-volume Yiddish translation of the Mishnah, containing the Order Zeraim, the Hebrew text accompanied by translation and commentary in Yiddish. The Hebrew Culture Fund of Montreal has commenced an ambitious publishing venture in Hebrew and has published the volume *Giborai Yamainu* (The Heroes of our Day) and four volumes of *Amenu Beovar Ubahoveh* by Y. Weingarten and M. Tauber as well as a Hebrew quarterly *Tadpis*. The Canadian Jewish Congress is publishing the first volume of the *History of the Jews of Canada* by B. G. Sack. The Congress has established a research department under the direction of Louis Rosenberg, who has been relieved of his duties as executive director of the Western region to enable him to devote himself to this work. The most useful essay on Canadian Jewry to appear during the year was Mr. Rosenberg's article "The Jews of Canada" in the *Jewish Review* of New York of July-October, 1944.

Solemn memorial observances for Jewish war victims overseas were sponsored by the Canadian Jewish Congress in Montreal, Toronto, and Winnipeg. The rabbinate of Montreal declared a day of mourning and fasting on the occasion.

3. South Africa

By EDGAR BERNSTEIN*

THE past year has been an important one for South African Jewry and has recorded substantial progress in communal consolidation. The 15th biennial congress of the South African Jewish Board of Deputies (the representative body of the South African Jewish community) in May 1945, coming as it did so soon after the close of the war in Europe, provided a valuable occasion for communal stock-taking. The war service of the country's Jews and the post-war problems facing the community were brought under comprehensive review, and many far-reaching decisions were taken.

War Effort

South Africa's war effort was conducted on a volunteer, not a conscription basis. The Register of Jewish War Services compiled by the Board of Deputies disclosed that, out of a total Jewish community of 100,000 souls, approximately 10,000 enlisted in the armed forces. The percentage of Jewish enlistments corresponded to that of other sections of the population.

There was a total of 1,128 Jewish casualties: 283 deaths, 309 wounded or injured, 27 missing, 509 prisoners of war. Jews received 170 decorations and commendations for war service, the great majority of them being for bravery in action. The work of Jewish soldiers received the commendation of high-ranking officers in the field.

The Jewish soldiers were ministered to by fourteen full-time and 13 part-time chaplains. In addition to service in the field, Jews made an imposing contribution to all other aspects of the war effort — home front service, War Fund work, gifts and comforts, Red Cross work, hospitality to soldiers, and entertainment of troops.

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The Board of Deputies established special committees to deal with a host of matters arising out of the war — advice and assistance for the dependents of Jewish soldiers, the furnishing of various religious requisites to Jewish troops, etc. It sent Festival parcels to Jews at the front and rendered valuable aid to the Jewish chaplains. It organized the collection and dispatch of books for men on active service, an average of 25,000 books, newspapers, and magazines having been sent in this way each year to men in the armed forces.

In reviewing this record of service at the Board of Deputies Congress, leading speakers stressed the community's obligations completely to rehabilitate all soldiers, irrespective of race or creed, after their demobilization. Resolutions were adopted pledging maximum support to the Government's demobilization scheme and to all phases of the work of soldiers' rehabilitation.

Jewish War Appeal

The work of the South African Jewish War Appeal, (sponsored by the Board of Deputies as the community's instrument for participation in the relief and rehabilitation of European Jews) also came up for review at the Congress. The collection of funds by this body proceeded apace throughout the year and reached a very substantial total. During the past year, the War Appeal sent funds for the relief of Jewish war victims in North Africa, Switzerland, Spain, Portugal, Greece, and elsewhere, and helped many refugees to reach Palestine. The War Appeal worked in close collaboration with the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee (J. D. C.) and the Jewish Agency for Palestine. As soon as it was possible to make contact with Poland, the War Appeal made arrangements for a shipment of clothing and food to that country.

In April 1945, Mr. Leo Feit, honorary treasurer of the War Appeal, made a special air journey to Palestine to confer with representatives of the J. D. C. and the Jewish Agency on the coordination of relief work in Europe and the scope of the South African community's participation in the common task. The Board of Deputies was also responsible for sending three members of South Africa's contingent of

relief workers to the United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration (UNRRA) in the Middle East.

In common with Jewry elsewhere, a day of mourning for martyred European Jews was observed by the Jewish community throughout South Africa on March 14, 1945. A fast was proclaimed by the rabbinate, business premises were closed, and impressive memorial services were held in all centers.

Valuable work toward the assistance and ultimate release of the Jewish refugees detained by the British Government on the island of Mauritius was done by the Council for Refugee Settlement (sponsored by the Board of Deputies) which created a special subcommittee for the purpose.

The South African fund-raising campaign in response to an appeal from Jews in Soviet Russia was wound up at a special conference in February 1945, a substantial total being recorded. The fund handed over a convoy of ambulances as a gift to the Red Army in October 1944.

Jewish Education

The needs of Jewish education in South Africa received closer attention during the past year than ever before. Restricted Jewish immigration and the growing consolidation of the community alike demanded greater reliance on local resources, the improvement of educational machinery, and the establishment of institutions for the training of Jewish ministers and teachers. In October 1944, the South African Board of Jewish Education sent its director, Rabbi J. L. Zlotnik, to Palestine to investigate the possibility of engaging competent teachers for the staffing of a South African Jewish seminary. In March 1945, a national conference of the Board of Education was held in Johannesburg, at which Rabbi Zlotnik reported and outlined plans for the establishment of the appropriate institutions. Delegates from all parts of South Africa approved the plans and authorized the Board to proceed with them. Suitable grounds have been acquired, a hostel for Jewish children from rural areas has been opened, and the nucleus of a seminary is already functioning.

An important event in the religious affairs of the community

was the arrival in February 1945 of Rabbi Dr. L. Rabinowitz (formerly Senior Jewish Chaplain to the British forces in the Middle East and the invasion forces in Europe) to take up the post of Chief Rabbi of the United Hebrew Congregation of Johannesburg in succession to the late Chief Rabbi, Dr. J. L. Landau. Rabbi Rabinowitz made a deep impression on the Jewish community from the time of his arrival and, within a few months, was appointed Professor of Hebrew at the Witwatersrand University, joint Rav (with Rabbi I. Kossowsky) of the Federation of Synagogues of the Transvaal, and a member of the local Beth Din.

Zionist Activities

Zionist activities occupied a major position in the affairs of South African Jewry during the period under review. In April 1944, a number of pro-Zionist Members of Parliament established a South African pro-Palestine parliamentary committee, of which Senator Edgar H. Brookes was elected chairman. The Committee was received by the Prime Minister, Field-Marshal Jan Christian Smuts, shortly after its formation. Field-Marshal Smuts assured it of his continued interest in Palestine and his firm support of the policy of the Jewish National Home. This Committee took the initiative in framing a declaration against anti-Semitism which was signed by all members of the pro-Government parties in Johannesburg and on the Witwatersrand.

In August 1944, Dr. Bernard Joseph, legal adviser to the Jewish Agency, came from Palestine on a brief political mission to the Union. He was received by the Prime Minister, who accorded him a most friendly interview and, during his stay in the Union, met ministers of the cabinet, addressed members of Parliament, and conferred with the South African Zionist Federation and the pro-Palestine parliamentary committee.

During April 1944, a record fund-raising campaign was held for the Keren Hayesod, and during the current year a campaign has been in progress for the Jewish National Fund.

Public meetings were held in November 1944 at leading centers in connection with the 27th anniversary of the Balfour Declaration. In Johannesburg, the Minister of

Justice, Dr. Colin Steyn, was the guest speaker at a meeting which was attended by representatives of the diplomatic corps.

Anti-Semitism

Anti-Semitic agitation continued to be a disquieting feature during the year under review. The problem of anti-Semitism in South Africa can be understood only against the country's complicated political background, with its legacy of racial and color prejudices and problems. The war exacerbated some of these prejudices and led to a sharp division among the Afrikaner (Boer) section of the population. The English and Jewish sections stood firmly behind Field-Marshal Smuts and the war effort, and a considerable section of the Afrikaners did likewise. However, the Republican section of the Afrikaners (which has always been anti-British and has urged secession from the British Commonwealth) opposed the war effort, accusing Smuts of "tying South Africa to Britain's apron strings." Their opposition, particularly in the early years of the war, led them into a sympathy — at times open and at times veiled — with Germany. This sympathy, and the Jewish community's unequivocal stand on the war issue, led the Republican section into anti-Semitic agitation, tied to anti-British and anti-Communist propaganda. Such phrases as "British-Jewish imperialism," "the British-Jewish money power," and "Jewish communism" became frequent slogans. One Republican group, the Ossewa Brandwag, openly espoused the transformation of the Union into a National Socialist State and adopted the Nazi anti-Jewish line.

But the Nationalist Party, led by Dr. D. F. Malan, the largest Republican group and the only alternative government, affirmed its loyalty to democracy, though at the same time opposing the war. Its concept of democracy was sometimes rather peculiar. In the early years of the war, when the Nazis were in the ascendant, Nationalist spokesmen wanted a government in which "authority would be vested solely in the hands of those who had shown by word and deed that they would give undivided loyalty to the Republic This automatically excludes Jews and

Jingoes." During the past year, however, as the Nazi collapse became clearer, this policy was changed. The Nationalists disclaimed what they called "foreign ideologies," and they professed themselves to be "neither pro-German nor anti-British, but only pro-Afrikaans." During April 1945, Nationalists reaffirmed their policy on the Jewish question to be: prohibition of Jewish immigration, repatriation of Jewish refugees, and a quota system for the issue of trading and professional licenses to Jews and their admission to universities, medical schools, etc. Many political observers believe that now, with the end of the war, the Nationalists will change their policy in many important respects. Whether these changes will affect their attitude on the Jewish question is something only time can tell.

Defense work against anti-Semitic propaganda is mainly in the hands of the Jewish Board of Deputies, which has a special public relations staff to perform this task. The Board conducts its defense activities on the principle that the fight against anti-Semitism is an integral part of the general fight against fascism, and during the past year issued a number of publications stressing this point.

The Government remained steadfast in its traditional democratic policy. It refused to be intimidated by the anti-Semitic agitation of opposition elements. Several ministers of the cabinet spoke, during the past year, from Jewish platforms and voiced their sympathy with suffering Jews and their endorsement of Jewish claims to equal citizenship all over the world and national rights in Palestine. In January 1945, the Deputy Prime Minister, Mr. J. H. Hofmeyr, devoted considerable attention to the evils of anti-Semitism when he delivered the Hoernle Memorial Lecture in Capetown. Mr. Hofmeyr spoke on "Race Relations in South Africa," and in dealing with the relations between Jew and non-Jew, said: "Anti-Semitism is not a natural growth in South Africa. The seed of this evil was blown over the oceans (from Germany) . . . Christianity cannot, any more than Judaism, accept the doctrine of the totalitarian state, and the Christian community which toys [with anti-Semitism] . . . is planting the seeds of destruction in its own body." He described present anti-Semitic agitation as "a grave danger to South Africa's national future."

Before he left for the United Nations Conference on International Organization, the Prime Minister, Field-Marshal Smuts, made two important statements on the Jewish question, one in the House of Assembly, one in the Senate. He was asked in the Lower House whether the minority problem would be dealt with in San Francisco. He expressed his belief that it would, and stated: "I look on the Jewish question as the most serious minority question, and for this reason I am what you may call a Palestinian. I would like to see the Jewish people have their own national home to which those of their people who are unwelcome in other countries may go. In many parts of the world they are unwelcome. They are not unwelcome in South Africa. They are not unwelcome among people possessing large human outlook. But with many peoples who are intolerant and inhuman the Jewish question has become urgent." He stressed the need for that universal declaration affirming the fundamental requirements and protections of Western civilization, which he later persuaded the delegates to the San Francisco Conference to incorporate into its Charter.

In the Upper House, replying to a request that he should press the Jewish case at San Francisco, Field-Marshal Smuts reaffirmed his stand on the Jewish issue, and in regard to Palestine, said: "At the last Peace Conference we determined upon Palestine for the Jewish people. That decision must be carried out."

Another important statement was that contained in the message addressed by Mr. J. H. Hofmeyr, then Acting Prime Minister, to the Board of Deputies Congress in May 1945. After extending greetings on behalf of Field-Marshal Smuts, then at San Francisco, and expressing gratification at the liberation of European Jews, he said: "I have no doubt that the Jews of South Africa, ever generous, will play a big part in ministering to the need of those who have escaped from the Nazi terror with their lives. To that task no doubt the Congress will give its attention, and also to the wider problems of building a happier future for the Jewish people. I wish it good success in its deliberations."

4. Australia

By AUGUSTA COHEN

Rejection of the proposal to settle Jews in the Kimberley district of Western Australia, announced by acting Prime Minister Francis M. Forde on November 17, 1944, closed the door, at least for the present, on the possibility of territorial colonization in Australia as a solution for uprooted European Jewry. The Government's decision was based on a recommendation by the Committee on Immigration of the Department of Interior which opposed establishment of a separate Jewish community on the ground that it might create a minority problem. It was stated that Jews will be welcomed to Australia on the same basis as other immigrants, in accordance with the general policy on immigration.

The Freeland League, sponsor of the Kimberley project, and Dr. I. N. Steinberg, its leader and motivating force, had held high hopes for fulfillment of their plan in view of repeated announcements by the Government regarding Australia's need for population increase. The Kimberley project had been approved by two provincial governments, those of Western Australia and Tasmania, by the Australasian Council of Trade Unions, by the three major churches of the country, and by many civic and social groups as well as by numerous prominent public figures. (See *American Jewish Year Book*, Vol. 45, p. 224 and Vol. 46, p. 207.)

Consistent with the attitude of organized labor toward the Kimberley project from the beginning, the Australasian Council of Trade Unions, soon after the announcement of the Government's rejection was made by Mr. Forde, addressed a request to the Government to change its position. In reply, Senator J. S. Collings, Minister of the Interior, issued a statement to the effect that the Government was opposed to establishing large groups of nationals in any one place and that there was little chance that the Government would reconsider its position. He indicated, however, that Australia was still seeking to add to its population, and that consultations were being held with all foreign governments from which suitable migrants could be obtained.

Senator Collings also said that the most important section of the Australian Jewish community was opposed to the Kimberley plan. This opinion was apparently based

on a statement made by Mr. A. Masel, president of the Zionists' Federation of Australia and New Zealand, who, in the November 18 issue of the *Melbourne Sun* expressed agreement with the Government's action, contending that Palestine was the only place for large-scale Jewish immigration. Previously, the Kimberley region had been condemned by the *Zionist*, organ of the Zionist organization, as unsuitable for colonization. The Australian *Jewish Forum*, "non-party" Jewish publication, on the other hand, criticized the Government's action, pointing out that "it is indeed a strange paradox that organized labor supports the scheme while a Labor government rejects it." Meanwhile the Jewish Freeland League announced that it would continue its efforts to secure a settlement area in Kimberley. Dr. Steinberg stated that he was certain that the Government's action was not the final decision of the Australian people, who, he said, had shown they were "most sympathetic."

As the year progressed, the Commonwealth Government partly clarified its post-war immigration policy. British migrants were to receive preference over all others; men of the American armed forces who wished to settle in Australia were to be welcomed; and the Government announced its decision to accept 51,000 child immigrants during the next three years, most of them to be war orphans from Europe. Preference was to be given to children from Britain, Italy, Greece, and Germany. On December 11, 1944, the Government gave the Australian Jewish Society permission to bring 300 Jewish refugee children into the country.

An attempt at unification of organized Jewish life in Australia was made at a conference of representatives from every state (except Queensland) held in Melbourne in August 1944. This resulted in the formation of an Executive Council of Australian Jews which was authorized to serve as the representative body of all Jewish communities. This body adopted a resolution, supporting the Jewish Agency in its efforts to establish Palestine as a Jewish Commonwealth, calling for cooperation with the Arabs of Palestine and the entire Middle East, and urging the intensification of rescue activities on behalf of European Jews. During the year, Australian Jews pledged \$400,000 to the Palestine Foundation Fund.