

# Central Europe

## DISPLACED PERSONS

THE PERIOD from June 30, 1948, to June 30, 1949, saw the greatest activity in the resettlement of the Jewish displaced persons (DP's) since the end of the war. However, the flow was not entirely in one direction. There continued to be some infiltration from the countries within the Russian orbit. During this period approximately 9,000 Jews, most of whom came from Hungary and some from Rumania, made their way to the United States sector of Vienna. A combination of factors induced this clandestine migration. Most of the people left these countries because they could not adjust to Communism; many, to elude the ban on migration to Israel; and all, in a large measure, because of the feeling that in these "satellite" countries they were permanently cut off from the rest of Jewry. The Austrian government supplied the basic ration, and the American Joint Distribution Committee (JDC), supplementary relief, for the needy element of this group. Most of the newcomers appeared to have some resources and those who did not leave promptly for Israel were able to maintain themselves in Vienna while waiting to resettle in other countries.

TABLE 1<sup>a</sup>

GEOGRAPHICAL DISTRIBUTION OF JEWISH DP'S, DECEMBER, 1946-JULY, 1949

| Area                       | December, 1946 | June 30, 1948 | June 30, 1949 |
|----------------------------|----------------|---------------|---------------|
| Germany                    |                |               |               |
| United States Zone . . . . | 126,563        | 91,396        | 30,408        |
| British Zone . . . . .     | 12,809         | 8,208         | 3,881         |
| French Zone . . . . .      | 3,475          | 516           | 293           |
| Austria                    |                |               |               |
| United States Zone . . . . | 29,158         | 15,701        | 5,844         |
| British Zone . . . . .     | —              | 810           | —             |
| French Zone . . . . .      | —              | —             | 1             |
| Italy . . . . .            | 25,000         | 18,249        | 5,578         |
| Far East . . . . .         | not available  | 4,256         | 835           |
| Middle East . . . . .      | " "            | 20            | 40            |
| Other Areas . . . . .      | " "            | 3,780         | 5,518         |
| TOTALS . . . . .           | 197,005        | 142,936       | 52,398        |

<sup>a</sup> The figures given are the official estimates of the International Refugee Organization (IRO). Due to the fluid character of the DP population, departures from camps were not always reported in time to be reflected in the official records. It is estimated that the official IRO figures are 10 to 20 per cent in excess of the actual population.

The peak of this movement was reached during the month of April, 1949, when over 1,900 people arrived in the American sector of Vienna. A closer surveillance of Hungary's borders, the threat of severe penalties for attempted

illegal border crossings, and the trial in June, 1949, of the six Zionists accused of stimulating the exodus of Israel-bound Jews, resulted in the tapering off of this unauthorized movement. By July, 1949, this infiltration had been reduced to 300 per month. It appeared then that there would be little future infiltration either from Hungary or Rumania.

### *Population: Size and Distribution*

On June 30, 1949, the total number of DP's receiving care and maintenance from the International Refugee Organization (IRO) was 418,271, distributed as shown in Table 3. Of these, 52,398, or 12 per cent, were Jewish. On June 1, 1948, the Jewish DP's represented 27 per cent of the total DP population. Table 1 shows the geographical distribution of the 52,398 Jewish DP's and the decline in their number from December, 1946, when the Jewish DP population was at its highest.

The major countries of citizenship or ethnic groups of the non-Jewish DP's are shown in Table 2.

TABLE 2  
COUNTRIES OF CITIZENSHIP OR ETHNIC GROUPS OF THE NON-JEWISH DP'S

| <i>Country or Ethnic Group</i> | <i>Number</i> |
|--------------------------------|---------------|
| Poland .....                   | 113,900       |
| Baltic Countries .....         | 93,686        |
| Ukrainians .....               | 60,342        |
| Yugoslavia .....               | 21,271        |
| Nansen Status .....            | 17,975        |
| Spain .....                    | 11,621        |
| Czechoslovakia .....           | 11,263        |
| Hungary .....                  | 11,088        |
| Soviet Union .....             | 8,441         |
| Rumania .....                  | 3,228         |
| All others .....               | 13,058        |
| TOTAL .....                    | 365,873       |

The 418,271 DP's, Jewish and non-Jewish, receiving care and maintenance on June 30, 1949, were dispersed as shown in Table 3.

TABLE 3  
GEOGRAPHIC DISTRIBUTION OF ALL DP'S, JUNE 30, 1949

| <i>Country or Area</i>     | <i>Number</i> |
|----------------------------|---------------|
| Austria .....              | 28,254        |
| Far East                   |               |
| Shanghai (estimated) ..... | 3,000         |
| Philippines .....          | 5,041         |
| France .....               | 22,461        |
| Germany                    |               |
| British Zone .....         | 123,573       |
| French Zone .....          | 20,384        |
| United States Zone .....   | 181,318       |
| Italy .....                | 23,659        |
| Middle East .....          | 5,592         |
| Other areas .....          | 4,989         |
| TOTAL .....                | 418,271       |

In addition to the 52,398 Jewish DP's (see Table 1) there were approximately 20,000 Jewish DP's, as of June 30, 1949, who, though eligible under the IRO mandate for care and maintenance, preferred to live in the local communities and support themselves. Having made that choice, they were entitled to receive from the IRO only resettlement assistance and legal protection.

### *Birth Rate*

The birth rate among the Jewish DP's, which had been 50.2 per thousand in the Fall of 1947, was among the highest in the world. It leveled off to 31.1 per thousand by the Summer of 1949. One of the most characteristic features of a Jewish DP camp from 1947 on was the presence of many infants and expectant mothers. The children were either the first born to the parents or children whom either parent or both parents had lost under the Nazi regime and later recovered. More than one child was born in only a relatively small number of Jewish DP families during the four-year period following their liberation in 1945.

### *Camp Consolidation*

As the population contracted, the number of DP camps was correspondingly reduced. Table 4 reflects this reduction.

TABLE 4  
REDUCTION IN NUMBER OF DP CAMPS, DECEMBER, 1946-JUNE 30, 1949

| <i>Period</i>     | <i>Germany</i> | <i>Austria</i> | <i>Italy</i> |
|-------------------|----------------|----------------|--------------|
| December 31, 1946 | 65             | 17             | 8            |
| June 30, 1948     | 53             | 12             | 7            |
| June 30, 1949     | 17             | 7              | 5            |

In addition to these major installations, there were in Germany, as of June 30, 1949, four exclusively Jewish DP hospitals, one TB sanatorium for children, and three rehabilitation centers.

In Italy the *hachsharot* centers where prospective immigrants were prepared for life in Israel housed on the average 50 per cent of the resident Jewish DP population. These small camps played an essential role in aiding refugees to make their way across Italy on their way to Israel, and were the rallying points for the DP's in Italy who were determined to get to Israel. With the legalization of movement to Israel, most of these installations were able to close. In June, 1948, there were 72 such camps housing 7,300 Jewish DP's. By June, 1949, the number had been reduced to 16, with an aggregate population of 760 persons.

The obvious reason for camp consolidation was to shorten the lines of supply, to reduce administrative costs, and otherwise to effect economies for the IRO, the occupation authorities, and the voluntary agencies serving the DP's. An additional and by no means secondary reason was the conviction that the closing of camps would result in the advancing of the date of the ultimate resettlement of many occupants. Instead of exchanging the known in-

adequacies of one camp for the unknown discomforts of another camp, a substantial percentage of the residents of each camp closed did, in fact, take immediate advantage of their resettlement opportunities.

The closing of the camps was not accomplished without some difficulty. In the early stages of the consolidation program, the camp population generally associated the closing with their concentration camp experience and maintained that they would resist the "liquidation" of their homes. However, as the program gained momentum and the camp population realized that camp consolidation was inevitable, they cooperated, and the camp closings were effected within the prearranged time table.

In the United States Zone of Germany, where the greatest number of camps were involved, the Office of Adviser on Jewish Affairs, the Jewish organizations, and the DP leadership progressively mapped out the consolidation plans which were accepted in every instance by the Army and the IRO.

The most spectacular instance of camp consolidation was the air-lift evacuation of all of the DP's from Berlin. Between July 23 and August 1, 1948, 5,546 DP's, of whom all but 90 were Jewish, were flown from Berlin to be absorbed in the existing camps in the United States Zone. When the DP camp at Zeilsheim was closed in November, 1948, the teaching staff and fifty-two students of the yeshiva which had been in that camp, were transferred as a group to Lyon, France.

As the camps closed in the United States Zone of occupation in Germany, the former residents were segregated into four categories: the Israel-bound, the medical "hard core" and family members, the America-bound, and those who, being ineligible or unprepared to go to the country of their choice, were listed as "undecided." Each of these groups was then moved into a separate camp, in order to establish homogeneous groups where their unique problems could most efficiently be handled.

Concomitant with the reduction of the DP population and the closing of the camps, the voluntary agencies and the DP leadership curtailed their activities. The Central Committee of Liberated Jews in Germany determined at the end of 1948 to hold no future annual congresses; the regional committees were abolished; the number of DP newspapers and other publications was sharply reduced; all of the JDC workshops were closed by the Spring of 1949; nearly all of the ORT vocational schools were discontinued. The general retrenchment in all but the indispensable services to the DP's, and the dedication of the DP leadership and of the Jewish organizations to the task of assisting in emigration, however, did not in any way interfere with the intensity with which the education of the children was pursued.

### *Care and Maintenance*

In general the DP's were provided with a diet which approximated that of the indigenous population. This was, in a measure, regulated by the United States Foreign Aid Appropriation Act of 1948-49 which provided for the United States' subvention to the IRO and at the same time specified that the caloric diet of DP's in IRO camps in Europe should be no higher than that prevailing for the local population. The daily caloric ration scale by

categories of consumers in effect in Germany from October 1, 1948, is indicated in Table 5.

TABLE 5  
CALORIC RATIONS OF JEWISH DP CONSUMERS IN GERMANY  
OCTOBER 1, 1948-JUNE 30, 1949

| <i>Consumers</i>                 | <i>Caloric Rations</i> |
|----------------------------------|------------------------|
| Normal consumers .....           | 2,000                  |
| Children:                        |                        |
| 0-1 .....                        | 1,140                  |
| 1-3 .....                        | 1,217                  |
| 3-6 .....                        | 1,525                  |
| 6-10 .....                       | 1,989                  |
| 10-20 .....                      | 2,681                  |
| Pregnant and nursing women ..... | 2,800                  |
| Heavy workers .....              | 3,106                  |
| General hospitals .....          | 2,873                  |
| TB hospitals .....               | 3,640                  |
| TB hospital workers .....        | 3,640                  |

With slight variation this schedule was applied in other areas where the IRO operated. At the same time the diet was improved through the partial replacement of an overbalance of starches by an increased quantity of fat and sugar. In addition to the ration they received from the IRO, the Jewish DP's who were either employed in the DP program, engaged in ORT or in university studies, or fell into certain social categories (pregnant and nursing women, children, persons over fifty-five), received a special supplementary ration from the JDC. The currency conversion in the Western zones of Germany on June 20, 1948, created some hardships for the Jewish DP's living within the German economy. This inconvenience, however, was only of a temporary nature. On the whole, the displaced persons were provided with a balanced diet which was sufficient to insure the maintenance of the standards of good health.

TABLE 6  
RESETTLEMENT OF JEWISH DP's, JULY 1, 1948-JUNE 30, 1949

| <i>Country of Destination</i> | <i>July 1, 1948 to<br/>June 30, 1949</i> |
|-------------------------------|--|
| Israel .....                  | 86,356 <sup>a</sup>                      |
| United States .....           | 15,322 <sup>b</sup>                      |
| Canada .....                  | 6,009                                    |
| Australia .....               | 2,287                                    |
| Other countries .....         | 10,325 <sup>c</sup>                      |
| TOTAL RESETTLED .....         | 120,299                                  |

<sup>a</sup> This figure does not include the Cyprus evacuation, mentioned elsewhere in this article. The immigration to Israel from the DP countries during this period was 53,388 from Germany, 17,683 from Austria, and 15,285 from Italy.

<sup>b</sup> This figure includes 11,953 processed under the United States DP Act of 1948.

<sup>c</sup> Approximately 7,000 of those included in this figure represented a known decrease in population whose migration from the DP countries was not reported.

## Emigration

During the period covered by this survey the rate of resettlement of Jewish DP's was higher than the corresponding rate of any other DP national group.

Table 6 shows the number of Jewish DP's resettled between July 1, 1948, and June 30, 1949, and the countries of destination.

### EMIGRATION TO THE UNITED STATES

When the United States DP Act of 1948 was passed, it was estimated that a maximum of 20,000 Jewish DP's would eventually qualify under this law. By June, 1949, it was evident that this prediction had been far too conservative. It was then fairly certain that before the expiration date of the law, about 40,000 Jewish DP's would be admitted to the United States under this measure. There were three factors which converted the act, generally condemned as discriminatory against Jewish and Catholic DP's, into a measure which gave the Jewish DP's an equitable share of the visas issued. The first was the liberal implementation of the law by the Displaced Persons Commission. The second was the efficiency of the Jewish organizations—JDC, the Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society (HIAS), and the United Service for New Americans (USNA)—in procuring community assurances for the DP's and in making available their broad experience in handling immigration. The third, and a completely unanticipated development, was the construction placed upon the act, to the effect that the territory turned over to Poland for administration under the Potsdam Agreement, notably Silesia, would, for the purpose of determining residence eligibility, be considered part of Germany. Apparently, a large number of Jewish DP's were in Silesia prior to December 22, 1945.

### EMIGRATION TO ISRAEL

The enthusiasm for Israel which permeated all of the Jewish DP camps was sustained throughout the year following the creation of Israel in May, 1948. Several months before the fighting started in Israel, the DP leadership placarded the camps with posters calling upon all men and women of military age to join in the defense of the new state. Sanctions of varying degrees were applied by the leadership against those who could give no legitimate reason for failing to join the *Giyus* (mobilization for Israel). This mobilization effort resulted in the departure for Israel of approximately 13,000 Jewish DP's in the period from February, 1948, to August, 1948.

Of the 86,356 persons moved to Israel from the DP countries, approximately 6,500 were transported by air. These were mostly pregnant women, families with infants, and the ill. To expedite travel by land and sea, the port of Bari, Italy, was made available in June, 1949.

By the Summer of 1949 it appeared that the mass immigration of DP's to Israel would run its course before the year ended. Thousands who gave Israel as their ultimate resettlement goal still remained in the camps and communities. They were discouraged, however, by the gloomy reports of unemployment and housing shortages in Israel, and preferred to wait until these conditions should improve.

## IRO SUPPORT OF EMIGRATION TO ISRAEL

On May 18, 1948, almost immediately after hostilities in Israel broke out, the IRO withdrew its support of DP immigration to Israel, on the stated ground that it was contrary to the spirit of the IRO constitution to participate in the resettlement of DP's in a country at war. With the single exception of the emergency air evacuation of approximately 1,800 Jewish refugees from Shanghai to Israel, which took place between December 24, 1948, and January 1, 1949, the IRO abided by this policy until January 28, 1949. On that date the IRO authorized the reimbursement to the JDC, which was financing the movement to Israel, of amounts advanced during the period from December 18, 1948, to January 31, 1949, up to a maximum of \$4,000,000. The decision did not go beyond the latter date because the United Nations Palestine Conciliation Commission was then in the process of settling the dispute over Israel, and the IRO did not wish to take any step which might prejudice this inquiry. On April 5, 1949, after receiving word from the Conciliation Commission that the question of the support of emigration to Israel was not within its competence, the IRO authorized full resumption of IRO logistic and financial support for the movement to Israel. At the same time it allocated a total of \$9,000,000 to the JDC, and left for a later date the determination of the per capita reimbursement for Jewish DP's within the IRO mandate involved in the movement to Israel. This tentative declaration of policy ultimately took the shape of a specific agreement reached between the IRO and the JDC on May 5, 1949, in which the IRO agreed to pay the JDC at the rate of \$120 per person for the first 35,000 Jewish DP's shipped to Israel after May 15, 1948, \$90 for the next 30,000 and \$70 and \$61 per capita for the next 35,000 and 20,000, respectively. The IRO also placed all of its facilities at the disposal of the Jewish Agency for Palestine on the same basis as it offered them to the other agencies engaged in resettlement work.

## EVACUATION OF CYPRUS

Jewish DP's who had been intercepted en route to Palestine, were interned on the island of Cyprus by the British government beginning in April, 1946. Up to the time of the creation of the state of Israel, the evacuation from the island was gradual. The British regulations permitted the departure of approximately 750 persons per month; the number was charged against the quota fixed by the White Paper of 1939. After the establishment of Israel the evacuation was increased and by August, 1948, every one who was not of military age had been permitted to leave Cyprus. The ban on men in that category was lifted on January 24, 1949. Between that date and February 11, 1949, the remainder of the internees, 10,201 in all, completed the last lap of their journey to Israel.

*Assistance Rendered by Organizations*<sup>1</sup>

The IRO had the basic responsibility for feeding, clothing, providing medical care, and paying the cost of resettling the DP's. In this program the

<sup>1</sup> For assistance rendered by American overseas agencies, see p. 175 ff.

Jewish DP's shared the facilities and services of the IRO on an equal footing with the DP's of other national groups. The conspicuous differential between the care which the Jewish DP's and other DP's received was made possible by the wide range of activities of the Jewish voluntary agencies which worked among the Jewish DP's. The Jewish Agency for Palestine provided the key personnel in the teaching staff of the DP schools, stimulated interest in migration to Israel, and organized and superintended this migration.

The Central Committees of Liberated Jews in Germany and Austria, the Merkaz Haplitim in Italy, and the Merkaz Hechalutz in Italy and in France, and their subordinate committees, served as spokesmen for the Jewish DP's, indoctrinated the people with a zeal for Israel, and assisted the IRO and the voluntary agencies in the administration of the DP camps.

### *Attitude of the Occupation Authorities and of Italy*

Within the framework of the primary occupation mission, the generals commanding the United States forces in Germany and Austria, Generals Dwight D. Eisenhower, Joseph T. McNarney, Lucius D. Clay, Clarence E. Huebner, Mark W. Clark, and Geoffrey Keyes, and their immediate subordinates, were consistently helpful in decisions affecting the Jewish displaced persons.

The Adviser on Jewish Affairs, a post occupied successively by Simon H. Rifkind, Rabbi Philip S. Bernstein, Louis Levinthal, William Haber and Harry Greenstein, in the United States occupation zones, helped in shaping policy affecting the Jewish DP's. As the Jewish DP problem entered its liquidation phase, the impatience which had previously prevailed at the operational level yielded to a general feeling of pride in being identified with the United States Army's role in extending a haven to the Jewish DP's who passed through the United States occupation zones.

At the insistence of the United States authorities, the Occupation Statute for Western Germany, which became effective on September 21, 1949, provided that the control over the DP's would be reserved to the occupation powers. This was done chiefly because the United States authorities felt that the time had not arrived when the Germans could be trusted with the impartial treatment of the DP's.

On May 13, 1949, General Clay's office in Berlin was the scene of an historic occasion. There, the Adviser on Jewish Affairs, the representatives of the major Jewish organizations working in Germany, and a member of the DP rabbinate, presented General Clay with a volume of the Talmud. The book was from an edition of the Talmud, published in April, 1949, which General McNarney had ordered to be printed by the Army on the soil where all other editions had been burned. The set was dedicated by the DP rabbinate to the United States Army of Occupation. The dedication read:

This edition of the Talmud is dedicated to the United States Army. This Army played a major role in the rescue of the Jewish people from total annihilation, and after the defeat of Hitler bore the major burden of sustaining the DP's of the Jewish faith. This special edition of the Talmud published in the very land where, but a short time ago, everything Jewish and of Jewish inspiration was anathema, will remain a symbol of the in-

destructibility of the Torah. The Jewish DP's will never forget the generous impulse and the unprecedented humanitarianism of the American forces, to whom they owe so much.

Although the British and French authorities had a comparatively smaller Jewish DP problem in their occupation zones, they, too, pursued a liberal policy with respect to the Jewish DP's.

In May, 1949, the Italian government introduced a curfew measure which had the effect of restricting the movement of all in-camp DP's. Although this naturally displeased the DP's it did not lessen their appreciation for the generous asylum they had found in Italy. In permitting freedom of movement across their borders, Italy and France played an unforgettable role in the migration of Jewish DP's to Israel, both before and after the creation of the Jewish state.

### *IRO "Phase-Out" Plans*

With the notification to the member nations on August 28, 1948, that on August 20 Denmark had become the fifteenth country to ratify the IRO constitution, the IRO officially came into being. On September 10, the Preparatory Commission of the International Refugee Organization (PCIRO) formally dissolved itself as trustee for the IRO.

During the two years of the operation of the Preparatory Commission of the IRO, the organization, assisted by the voluntary agencies, had, in addition to its welfare, rehabilitation, and medical and legal protection activities, succeeded in resettling 538,035 individuals: 348,328 by mass resettlement and 189,707 by individual migration.

At a special session of the IRO's General Council, which convened in Geneva June 28, 1949, the organization put final approval on a series of date lines for the termination of the agency, in the following three stages:

1. August 31, 1949:—the deadline for registration by refugees for aid from the IRO. This deadline was not applicable
  - a. to unaccompanied children located by the Child Search Branch of the International Tracing Service;
  - b. to refugees leaving their country of origin after August 31, 1949, (these were eligible to register up to October 15, 1949); and
  - c. to refugees who wished to register only for legal and political protection.
2. December 31, 1949: No persons would be admitted to DP camps after that date, and after March 31, 1950, no more persons would be admitted to cash assistance programs in the areas where IRO operated no camps.
3. June 30, 1950: Care and maintenance would be discontinued, except for the refugees in the process of repatriation or resettlement and for those who required permanent assistance, such as institutional care, and for whom no other satisfactory arrangements could have been made.

At the same session a counseling plan was agreed upon. Under this plan all persons receiving care and maintenance in Germany, Austria, and Italy, were required to be interviewed by November 1, 1949, to determine what

plans, if any, they had. Each displaced person would be asked to make a choice from among the three alternatives: repatriation, resettlement, or integration in the local economy. The choice would be appraised in the light of existing possibilities, and those who refused to indicate their plans or proposed an alternative which was obviously unrealistic would be denied further care and maintenance by the IRO.

The news of IRO's determination to "phase out" by June, 1950, caused great concern among the representatives of the voluntary agencies working with DP's. It was generally felt that even after 1950 there would be need for some international organization, preferably working within the framework of the United Nations, to extend legal protection to DP's who would not then be resettled and, particularly, to care for those who were in the medical "hard core" category.

### *The Medical "Hard Core" Problem*

The "hard core" was a term applied to the tubercular, the chronically ill, the physically handicapped, and the aged, who, because of these disabilities, were ineligible for emigration to any country. Mass examinations conducted in the Spring of 1949 by the JDC and IRO in Germany, Austria, and Italy, revealed that approximately 3,300 people fell within this category. Together with their families, who either could not or would not emigrate without them, they numbered about 6,500 persons.

The IRO was cognizant of the gravity of the problem and at the session of the General Council on June 28, 1949, weighed the four possibilities, which it determined to consider: the absorption of this group on a "fair share" basis by the nations of the world, an alternative which would require, in most countries, the relaxation of existing physical requirements; the permanent care of this group in the country of residence, to be underwritten by several governments on a "fair share" basis; the division of the responsibility for permanent care among the IRO, the indigenous authorities of the country of refuge, and other interested agencies or governments; and the placing of the complete responsibility for the maintenance of this group with the countries of present residence.

While some of these alternatives might be workable in the cases of the non-Jewish DP's, it was unthinkable to the responsible Jewish leadership that the aged, the sick, and the handicapped Jewish DP's should be consigned to the Germans or Austrians. Israel was willing to accept the Jewish DP's who fell into the medical "hard core" category, but, in view of the formidable problems it faced, Israel was not prepared to do so without outside material assistance in the rehabilitation and future care of this group. Negotiations between the Israeli government and the IRO led to the written assurance, which Israel received from the IRO on July 18, 1949, that in any allocation which would eventually be made by the IRO for this purpose, the Israeli government would be reimbursed for the "hard core" cases admitted to Israel from July 1, 1949, until the close of the IRO program.

ABRAHAM S. HYMAN

## GERMANY AND AUSTRIA

AFTER the failure of many attempts by the Big Four to reach an agreement on all of Germany, a conference of six nations (the United States, Great Britain, France, Belgium, Holland, and Luxembourg), held in London in June, 1948, adopted a policy for Western Germany. This program was gradually implemented.

The Parliamentary Council of the eleven Western German *Laender* (states), which convened in Bonn, prepared a draft of a constitution for a German "federal republic," and elections to the National Assembly of the federal republic were slated for August 14, 1949. A Tri-Partite Military Security Board and an International Authority for the Control of the Ruhr were established to prevent a revival of aggressive and militarist forces in Germany. An occupation statute for Germany providing for the establishment of an Allied High Commission as the supreme Allied agency of control in Germany was agreed upon by the occupation authorities of the United States, Great Britain, and France.

In May, 1949, General Lucius D. Clay, United States Military Governor in Germany since 1946, resigned, and John J. McCloy was named by President Harry Truman as United States High Commissioner for Germany to work under the immediate supervision of the Secretary of State. Great Britain appointed as its High Commissioner General Sir Brian Robertson, former British Military Governor in Germany, and France appointed M. François Poncet, former French ambassador in Berlin.

The new system was to go into effect as soon as a government of the German federal republic was established.

The Soviet government denounced the formation of the Western German state, and a "People's Congress" was elected in the Eastern zone on May 15, 1949. It met in Berlin the same month and ratified a constitution for a German "democratic republic."

The reform of currency in the three Western zones which replaced the almost valueless Reichsmark by the Deutsche Mark in June, 1948, brought about a change in the economic condition of the country. In December, 1948, industrial production in the United States and British zones of occupation was approximately 78 per cent of the 1936 output. A year earlier this percentage was 44. On the other hand, the currency reform resulted in unemployment: in the Spring of 1949 the unemployed numbered more than one million persons.

The blockade of Berlin, instituted by the Soviet Union in 1948, was lifted early in the Summer of 1949. On May 23, 1949, a conference of the Big Four convened in Paris to discuss the German problem once again, and again no agreement could be reached. The conference also discussed the Austrian peace treaty and succeeded in resolving the main issues which had hindered the preparation of this instrument. At the time of this writing a special commission of the four occupation powers was attempting to formulate a draft of a peace treaty with Austria.

## GERMANY

*Population*

The results of the census of German population conducted on October 29, 1946, were published early in 1949.<sup>1</sup> In the total population of 65,195,200, there were 156,705 persons of Jewish faith: 112,013 in displaced persons' camps, and 44,692 in communities. Their distribution by zones of occupation are shown in Table 1.

TABLE 1

## TOTAL AND JEWISH POPULATION IN GERMANY, OCTOBER 29, 1946

|                                  | <i>U.S.<br/>Zone</i> | <i>British<br/>Zone</i> | <i>French<br/>Zone</i> | <i>Soviet<br/>Zone</i> | <i>Greater<br/>Berlin</i> | <i>Total</i> |
|----------------------------------|----------------------|-------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|---------------------------|--------------|
| Total population...              | 17,258,856           | 22,344,866              | 5,077,806              | 17,313,734             | 3,199,938                 | 65,195,200   |
| in DP camps ....                 | 376,799              | 283,304                 | 24,628                 | .....                  | 8,712                     | 693,443      |
| in communities ..                | 16,882,057           | 22,061,562              | 5,053,178              | 17,313,734             | 3,191,226                 | 64,501,757   |
| Jewish population <sup>a</sup> . | 126,695              | 18,795                  | 1,536                  | 2,094                  | 7,585                     | 156,705      |
| in DP camps .....                | 98,684               | 12,474                  | 855                    | .....                  | .....                     | 112,013      |
| in communities ..                | 28,011               | 6,321                   | 681                    | 2,094                  | 7,585                     | 44,692       |

<sup>a</sup> The Jewish population figures are included in the figures of the total population above.

The census unfortunately did not indicate the citizenship of the Jewish population living outside of camps; thus, the number of German Jews among the 44,692 persons of Jewish faith registered in the communities was not determined. However, both DP's and native Jews were included in the total.

An attempt was made by a German Jewish newspaper<sup>2</sup> on December 24, 1948, to compute data on Jews in Germany on the basis of the memberships of local *Gemeinden* (communities). According to the periodical, in the Spring of 1948 there were 24,632 Jews in towns with functioning *Gemeinden* (United States Zone 9,097, British Zone 4,994, French Zone 1,372, Soviet Zone 1,169, and Greater Berlin 8,000).

The survey, however, also failed to show the number of German Jews, since it included many DP's living in the towns. This was particularly true of the United States Zone where, according to a statement made in the Bavarian parliament, only 1,632 German Jews resided in 1948.<sup>3</sup>

Indications of the proportion of displaced Jews among the members of the *Gemeinden* were contained in statements made by some communal leaders at the conference held in the Office of the Advisor on Jewish Affairs to the United States Army in Germany and Austria on March 13 and 14, 1949. These indications are summarized in Table 2.

<sup>1</sup> *Volks- und Berufszaehlung vom 29 Oktober 1946 in den vier Besatzungszonen und Gross-Berlin* (Berlin-Munich, 1949).

<sup>2</sup> *Juedisches Gemeindeblatt, Allgemeine Wochenzeitung der Juden in Deutschland*, Duesseldorf.

<sup>3</sup> *Neue Welt*, Munich, August 12, 1948.

TABLE 2  
DISTRIBUTION OF GERMAN JEWS AND DP'S IN GEMEINDEN (MARCH, 1949)

| <i>Gemeinde</i>   | <i>Total</i> | <i>German Jews</i> |                 | <i>Displaced Jews</i> |                 |
|---|--------------|--------------------|-----------------|-----------------------|-----------------|
|   |              | <i>Number</i>      | <i>Per Cent</i> | <i>Number</i>         | <i>Per Cent</i> |
| Baden .....   | 600          | 300                | 50.0            | 300                   | 50.0            |
| Bavaria .....   | 4,800        | 300                | 6.3             | 4,500                 | 93.7            |
| Hesse (including Frankfort-on-the-Main and ten other Gemeinden) | 2,005        | 526                | 26.2            | 1,479                 | 73.8            |
| Wuerttemberg .....  | 1,441        | 265                | 18.4            | 1,176                 | 81.6            |

The only Gemeinde to publish data on its membership regularly was Berlin. Table 3 describes the membership of the Berlin Gemeinde in June, 1949.

TABLE 3  
MEMBERSHIP OF THE BERLIN GEMEINDE,<sup>a</sup> JUNE 27, 1949

| <i>Age Group</i> | <i>Male</i>  | <i>Female</i> | <i>Total</i> |
|------------------|--------------|---------------|--------------|
| 0-14             | 293          | 298           | 591          |
| 15-18            | 113          | 38            | 151          |
| 19-35            | 626          | 622           | 1,248        |
| 36-55            | 1,220        | 1,446         | 2,666        |
| 56 & over        | 1,264        | 1,124         | 2,388        |
| <b>Total</b>     | <b>3,516</b> | <b>3,528</b>  | <b>7,044</b> |

<sup>a</sup> *Der Weg*, July 15, 1949.

Estimates of the number of native Jews in Germany depended upon observations by local leaders and overseas welfare workers, who were in agreement that in May, 1949, there were some 16,000 German Jews living in Germany.

The census of 1946 and the survey published in *Juedisches Gemeindeblatt* on December 24, 1948, although inadequate for the purpose of accurately establishing the size of the German Jewish population, offered an indication of the future of the Jewish community in Germany. Many of the displaced Jews who joined the Gemeinden were expected to remain in Germany and become a part of postwar German Jewry.

### *Displaced Jews*

A striking feature of the period under review was the mass emigration of Jewish DP's from Germany,<sup>4</sup> mainly to Israel and the United States. According to reports of the American Joint Distribution Committee (JDC), since the establishment of the Jewish state (May 14, 1948) and up to June 30, 1949, 57,033 Jewish DP's left Germany for Israel. From October, 1948, through June 30, 1949, 12,950 Jews departed from Germany for the United States under the United States Displaced Persons Act of 1948. It may be taken for granted that almost all of them were DP's. The total number of Jewish DP's who left Germany between June, 1948, and June, 1949, was estimated at more than 70,000.

<sup>4</sup> See *Displaced Persons*, p. 320.

It was difficult to forecast the number of displaced Jews who would remain in Germany after the current wave of emigration. The Office of the Advisor on Jewish Affairs to the United States Army in Germany and Austria estimated this number at approximately 15,000 (*JDC Review*, V, May, 1949). At any rate, as a result of the mass emigration the system of self-government of displaced Jews, which functioned since 1944-45, was on the threshold of virtual liquidation. Jewish DP's who remained in Germany after the emptying of the camps were expected to be absorbed by the *Gemeinden*. Negotiations toward a merger of the committees of displaced Jews and the *Gemeinden* in the United States Zone were initiated during the period under review. The *Gemeinde* and the DP committee in Frankfort-on-the-Main merged in May, 1949.

### *Gemeinden*

According to the previously mentioned survey published in *Juedisches Gemeindeblatt*, there were 102 *Gemeinden* in all zones of Germany in the Spring of 1948, with 24 in the United States Zone, 51 in the British Zone, 15 in the French Zone, 11 in the Soviet Zone, and 1 in Greater Berlin.

Thirty-two of the *Gemeinden* had memberships of more than 100, five exceeded 500, and three exceeded 1,000. Those with memberships of 250 or more are listed in Table 4.

TABLE 4  
MEMBERSHIP IN GERMAN GEMEINDEN, 1948 <sup>a</sup>

| <i>Gemeinde</i>             | Membership<br>1948 | Number of Jews <sup>b</sup><br>1939 |
|-----------------------------|--------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Berlin .....                | 8,000              | 159,878                             |
| Munich .....                | 3,300-3,400        | 4,407                               |
| Hamburg .....               | 1,350              | 8,175                               |
| Frankfort-on-the-Main ..... | 700                | 13,508                              |
| Cologne .....               | 650                | 7,818                               |
| Leipzig .....               | 355                | 4,113                               |
| Heidelberg .....            | 290                | 459                                 |
| Karlsruhe .....             | 290                | 1,347                               |
| Wiesbaden .....             | 260                | 1,201                               |
| Hanover .....               | 255                | 2,214                               |
| Lueneburg .....             | 250                | (Unknown)                           |

<sup>a</sup> The membership includes German and displaced Jews. The *Gemeinde* in Stuttgart was not listed separately.

<sup>b</sup> These figures are from the German census of 1939.

Although small and weak, the *Gemeinden* were drawn into the political turmoil in postwar Germany. Particularly involved was the *Gemeinde* in Berlin, where the Soviet Union clashed directly with the Western allies. The Berlin *Gemeinde* tried to preserve a neutral attitude. Its point of view was expressed in an article published by Heinz Galinski <sup>5</sup> in *Der Weg* on December 3, 1948. The Jewish community in Berlin, he wrote, was a non-political body and beyond political party struggles. In conformity with this attitude,

<sup>5</sup> Galinski took over the chairmanship of the Berlin *Gemeinde* in May, 1949, after his predecessor, Hans-Erich Fabian, emigrated to the United States.

Galinski resigned the chairmanship of the Berlin section of the *Vereinigung der Verfolgten des Naziregimes (VVN)*, the Union of Persecutees of the Nazi Regime, because this organization became involved in political campaigns under Communist leadership (AMERICAN JEWISH YEAR BOOK, Vol. 50, p. 378).

The split between East and West hindered the activities of the *Arbeitsgemeinschaft Juedischer Gemeinden Deutschlands*, (Coordinating Committee of the Jewish Communities of Germany), established in June, 1947 (AMERICAN JEWISH YEAR BOOK, Vol. 50, pp. 381-82). The executive committee of the *Arbeitsgemeinschaft* met only once during the period under review, on May 30, 1948 (*Juedisches Gemeindeblatt*, June 9, 1948). There were conferences of the *Gemeinden* in the British Zone on May 16, 1949, and in Bavaria in September, 1948.

The establishment of the Jewish state strengthened the Zionist sympathies of the official leadership of the *Gemeinden*. This attitude was warmly supported by all German Jewish publications.<sup>6</sup> There was no important opposition to the Zionist views of the official *Gemeinde* leadership. The German Jewish press, however, mentioned the existence of a union in Hamburg called *Die aus Theresienstadt* (Those from Theresienstadt) under the chairmanship of Dr. Leopold, who allegedly was refused membership in the Hamburg *Gemeinde* (*Juedisches Gemeindeblatt*, May 6, 1949).

While accurate data on the number of institutions supported by the *Gemeinden* was not available, it was known that they maintained five hospitals, one convalescent home, nine homes for the aged, two children's homes, two kindergartens, and three schools.

### *Education and Religion*

A majority of the Jewish children attended general schools. The three Jewish schools in Berlin held only supplementary weekly religious classes and were attended by some 150 children. There were few children among German Jewish families. Centers of worship existed in every Jewish community; there were several in Berlin. During 1948-49, synagogues and houses of worship in Cologne, Duesseldorf, Essen, and Frankfurt-on-the-Main were restored. The *Gemeinden* were responsible for the restoration of cemeteries, and the Berlin *Gemeinde* was supervising three cemeteries, including the one on the Grosse Hamburger Strasse which dated back to 1827.

Religious life was handicapped by a lack of rabbis. All of the rabbis officiating were either of foreign origin or residents of foreign countries in Germany on temporary assignments. Altogether, there were five rabbis in the Western zones of occupation: one in the British Zone, one in Bavaria, one in Wuerttemberg, one in Hesse, and one in Berlin. They were Rabbis Schwarzschild (Berlin), Broch (British Zone), Ohrenstein (Bavaria), Guttman (Wuerttemberg), and Weinberg (Hesse). In place of Rabbi Simon G. Kramer, who terminated his service early in 1949, Rabbi Isaac Klein of the Synagogue

<sup>6</sup> Only two German Jewish periodicals were published in Germany at the time of this review: *Juedisches Gemeindeblatt* in Duesseldorf, and *Der Weg* in Berlin. *Neue Welt*, Munich, and *Zwischen den Zeiten*, Coblenz, ceased publication in 1948. The *Juedische Verlagsgesellschaft* (Jewish Publication Society), set up in Wiesbaden in March, 1948, was liquidated in the same year.

Council of America was appointed the Jewish Religious Adviser on the staff of the American Military Government (AMG) in Germany.

### *Economic Life*

Early in 1949 the Union of Jewish Merchants and Handicraftsmen was set up in Hanover and Frankfurt-on-the-Main, and in June of the same year the *Centralverband juedischer Gewerbetreibender in West-deutschland* was founded in Frankfurt-on-the-Main.

Taxes did not contribute any substantial amount to the budget of the *Gemeinden*. The activities of the communities were dependent upon the assistance of Jewish overseas welfare organizations, among whom the most important role was played by JDC, which supported almost all communal institutions and *Gemeinde* members in need. The Jewish Committee for Relief Abroad operated in the British Zone and in Berlin, while ORT was responsible for initiating vocational training courses in Berlin and Hamburg.

During 1948 two German governmental offices dealing mostly with Jewish affairs were reorganized. In Bavaria, the office of Philip Auerbach, State Commissioner to Protect Racial, Religious, and Political Persecutees, became the Office of Attorney General for Restitution and Indemnification. In Hesse, the office of Curt Epstein, former State Commissioner for the Regulation of Jewish Affairs, became the Section for Indemnification within the Liberation Department, the *Wiedergutmachungsabteilung im Befreiungsministerium*.

There were no surveys of the occupations of German Jews. The impression obtained from casual information was that the economic status of Jews in Germany resembled that of the period before Hitler. There was, however, one important difference. A larger percentage of Jews than formerly was in the higher age bracket and dependent upon pensions granted to victims of the Nazi regime. The data on Jewish lawyers (*Juedisches Gemeindeblatt*, April 15, 1949) revealed 91 Jewish lawyers in all the zones of occupation: 38 in Berlin, 19 in the British Zone, 15 in the United States Zone, 14 in the French Zone, and 5 in the Soviet Zone. The same newspaper published the following figures on Jews in governmental agencies: one minister (Kiel), one chief of police (Saarbruecken), one member of the Bavarian senate, twelve high court justices, and six high governmental officials.

Most of the *Gemeinden* regained their public law corporation status. In the British Zone the Military Government was reluctant to restore the pre-Hitler legal status of the *Gemeinden* because the latter were affiliated with the Central Committee of Liberated Jews in the British Zone, which in the eyes of the British represented only displaced Jews who were unwilling to remain in Germany. In December, 1948, however, the Lord Mayor of Hamburg, Max Brauer, with the approval of the British Military Government, presented the Hamburg *Gemeinde* with a charter recognizing it as a public law corporation.

### *Restitution and Indemnification*

The most important legal acts adopted during the year under review in the field of compensation for losses suffered under the Hitler regime were the

following: In the United States Zone the Military Government, on June 23, 1948, recognized the Jewish Restitution Successor Organization (JRSO), and on August 5, 1949, approved the General Claims Law. In the British Zone (May 23, 1949) and in the Western sectors of Berlin (July 26, 1949) laws relating to restitution of identifiable property were enacted by occupation authorities, and all Laender of the British Zone passed laws on indemnification for imprisonment (*Haftentschaedigungsgesetz*).

Thus, all the Western zones of occupation and all the Western sectors of Berlin possessed laws relating to restitution of identifiable property enacted by the respective occupation authorities. As of December 31, 1948—the time limit for filing restitution claims under Law 59 in the United States Zone—JRSO filed more than 163,000 claims. It was estimated that as of June 30, 1949—the special time limit allowed JRSO to file claims under the same law—the number of claims filed was some 200,000.

The closing date for filing claims under British Restitution Law 59 was set as December 31, 1949; under French *Verordnung* 120, August 15, 1949; and under the Berlin Restitution Law, June 30, 1950.

As to indemnification, the most inclusive regulation was that incorporated into the General Claims Law approved in the United States Zone on August 5, 1949, which granted compensation in almost all cases not covered by Restitution Law 59. A first draft of the General Claims Law was passed by the *Laenderrat*, the Council of States, of the United States Zone on September 28, 1948, and subsequently submitted to AMG for approval. Mainly because it did not include DP's living in camps as beneficiaries and did accept the principle of escheat with respect to heirless claims, this draft was returned to the *Laenderrat* by AMG. The *Laenderrat* revised the draft in conformity with the wishes of the Military Government and, on April 26, 1949, a final text was adopted which was submitted to AMG. On June 6, 1949, AMG sent the new draft back to the *Laenderrat* and indicated that it should be up to the German Federal Republic to enact it. On August 5, 1949, however, United States High Commissioner McCloy reversed the decision of the American Military Government and approved the draft.

With the approval of the British Military Government, partial indemnification laws (*Haftentschaedigungsgesetz*) were adopted by the parliaments of Nordrhein-Westfalen, Niedersachsen, Schleswig-Holstein, and Hamburg, i.e., all the Laender in the British Zone. In addition, there were other laws approved in these Laender which provided for compensation of victims of the Nazi regime.

On June 29, 1948, the Military Government of the French Zone promulgated in *Verordnung* 164 a program for indemnification of victims of National Socialism. The Laender of the French Zone had not acted upon this measure at the time of writing.

### *Intergroup Relations*

Many contradictory features characterized the attitude of Germans to their Jewish fellow-citizens. Several groups were seeking to bridge the abyss created by Hitler between Jews and non-Jews.

In Duesseldorf, the congress of one of the strongest of Germany's political parties, the Social Democrats, unanimously passed a resolution in September, 1948, urging the German authorities to extend assistance to persons persecuted during the rule of the Third Reich because of their race, religion, or political opinion. Kurt Schumacher, leader of that party, in an address to the congress, deplored the lack of humanity in the legislation concerning restitution and indemnification of Jews by German authorities (*Juedisches Gemeindeblatt*, September 17, 1948).

The seventy-second congress of German Catholics (*Katholikentag*), held in Mainz in 1948, condemned the crimes committed against Jewish individuals and emphasized that these crimes were not openly opposed within Germany (*Juedisches Gemeindeblatt*, September 17, 1948). To commemorate the tragic events of 1938, when hundreds of synagogues were set on fire and tens of thousands of German Jews put in concentration camps, the *Evangelische Hilfsstelle fuer ehemals Rasseverfolgten; Buero Pfarrer Grueber*, Evangelical Relief Office for Former Racial Persecutees, organized a special meeting in Berlin at which Christian and Jewish clergymen denounced the crimes committed against Jews during the Hitler period (*Der Weg*, November 12, 1948).

The *Deutscher Koordinierungsrat der Christen und Juden*, German Coordinating Council of Christians and Jews, together with the *Gesellschaften fuer Christlich-Juedische Zusammenarbeit*, Societies for Christian-Jewish Cooperation, in Munich, Weisbaden, Stuttgart, and Frankfort-on-the-Main, and supported by the International Council of Christians and Jews, held a congress in Munich on May 30-31, 1949 (*Juedisches Gemeindeblatt*, June 10, 1949; *The New York Times*, June 28, 1949).

On the other hand, expressions of anti-Semitism were reported in German Jewish newspapers, and there was no abatement of acts of desecration against Jewish cemeteries. *Juedisches Gemeindeblatt* recorded thirteen acts of vandalism against Jewish cemeteries. Certain decisions of the denazification courts shocked democratic opinion in Germany. For example, Veit Harlan, producer of the anti-Semitic film, *Jud Suess*, who was charged with a crime against humanity, was acquitted by the court. Another instance should be mentioned. In Memmingen, Upper Bavaria, a landlady who wanted to get rid of her Jewish tenant, permitted her lawyer to accuse the tenant of a ritual crime. The landlady and her lawyer were brought before the court in Memmingen in April, 1949, and were found not guilty. Making use of legal niceties, the court decided that the Bavarian law against race hatred could not be applied. On appeal, a superior court in Munich annulled the decision of the lower court and in July, 1949, the landlady and her lawyer were sentenced on a charge of slander.

The anti-Semitism still virulent in Germany was encouraged by the attitude of certain members of the AMG. General Lucius D. Clay stated in response to a question at a press conference that he had become aware of anti-Semitic inclinations on the part of some members of the Military Government, including high officials, which he then vigorously denounced (*The New York Times*, February 16, 1949).

Before leaving Germany for Israel, Hermann Helfgott, the former chief rabbi in the British Zone, wrote to his congregation: "Do not forget that Ger-

many for us is nothing more than a cemetery where no Jewish life can or may develop" (*Juedisches Gemeindeblatt*, September 17, 1948). About a year later, the chief rabbi in Berlin, Stephen S. Schwarzschild, expressed a completely different opinion: "We should prepare ourselves and others to accept the fact that there will be a German Jewry for an unlimited period of time" (*Der Weg*, June 8, 1949).

Only the future will show who was right.

## AUSTRIA

*Population*

As of March 31, 1949, 11,801 Jews were registered with the Gemeinden of Austria. Table 5 is a breakdown of membership in the Gemeinden on March 31, 1949, as published in *Die Gemeinde* of Vienna in April, 1949.

TABLE 5  
GEMEINDEN MEMBERSHIP IN AUSTRIA <sup>a</sup>

| <i>Gemeinde</i> | <i>Number</i> |
|-----------------|---------------|
| Vienna .....    | 10,717        |
| Graz .....      | 392           |
| Salzburg .....  | 253           |
| Linz .....      | 238           |
| Innsbruck ..... | 69            |
| Bregenz .....   | 58            |
| Steyr .....     | 43            |
| Bad Ischl. .... | 31            |

<sup>a</sup> As of March 31, 1949.

TABLE 6  
NEW MEMBERS OF THE VIENNA GEMEINDE, JANUARY-APRIL, 1949

| <i>Source</i>  | <i>Repatriates</i> | <i>Refugees</i> | <i>Total</i> |
|--|--------------------|-----------------|--------------|
| U. S. and Canada .....   | 27                 | —               | 27           |
| Latin America .....  | 16                 | —               | 16           |
| Israel and Cyprus .....  | 55                 | —               | 55           |
| Western Europe .....   | 108                | —               | 108          |
| Czechoslovakia .....   | 10                 | 303             | 313          |
| Hungary .....  | 38                 | 857             | 895          |
| Poland .....   | 1                  | 89              | 90           |
| Rumania .....  | 21                 | 182             | 203          |
| China .....  | 250                | —               | 250          |
| Other .....  | 15                 | —               | 15           |
| TOTAL .....  | 541                | 1,431           | 1,972        |
| Infants, Austrian Jews from other cities, and persons returning to the Jewish Gemeinde ..... | —                  | —               | 65           |
| GRAND TOTAL .....  |                    |                 | 2,037        |

Not all of these were native Jews. In Vienna, for instance, some 2,000 of the Gemeinde members were foreigners. More than 90 per cent of the Austrian Jewish population resided in Vienna. The membership of the Vienna

Gemeinde was increasing as a result of repatriation and infiltration. As of April 30, 1949, the Vienna *Kultusgemeinde*, the religious community, listed 11,716 members—an increase of nearly 1,000 over March 31, 1949—and of the total, 981 were under thirteen years of age; 344 between the ages of thirteen and eighteen; 4,849 between nineteen and forty-five; and 5,542 over forty-six years of age (*Die Gemeinde*, June, 1948).

According to the reports of the Vienna Gemeinde, 2,037 new members entered the community during the first four months of 1949. Of this number, as shown in Table 6, 541 were repatriates, 1,431 were refugees, and 65 were infants, Austrian Jews from other cities, and persons returning to the Jewish Gemeinde.

There were more than 9,000 displaced Jews in Austria as of April 30, 1949. During the period between July, 1948, and June 30, 1949, some 11,800 Jewish DP's left Austria. Almost all of them went to Israel. The infiltration of DP's from Eastern Europe did not cease during the period under review. It reached its lowest point in October, 1948, began to increase in November of the same year, and totaled about 8,000 for the first five months of 1949. In June, 1949, infiltration declined.

### *Community Life*

The change in leadership within the Vienna Gemeinde which resulted from the April, 1948, elections to the Gemeinde council (AMERICAN JEWISH YEAR BOOK, Vol. 50, p. 386) did not bring about a resolution of the internal struggles. The left-wing group adhering to the Gemeinde president, which was defeated in the 1948 elections, formed an organization called *Juedische Einigkeit*, Jewish Unity, and continued to publish the magazine *Der neue Weg* during 1948.

On May 18, 1949, a new presidium of the Gemeinde was elected. *Juedische Einigkeit* won three seats, the Jewish Federation (Zionist) three, and the Jewish Socialists (Social Democrats) two. The coalition of Zionists and Socialists retained the majority in the presidium.

The Vienna Gemeinde started publication of its official organ *Die Gemeinde* in September, 1948. Another Austrian Jewish magazine, *Stimme Israels*, organ of Agudat Israel, began publication in February, 1949.

More than 50 per cent of the Vienna Gemeinde budget was covered by JDC subsidies, the rest by donations, fees for various services, and, to a small extent, by taxes. A substantial number of the members found it difficult to make ends meet. For each of the months February through June, 1949, on an average the Vienna Gemeinde gave cash relief to more than 1,500 persons, served some 165 persons in two canteens, cared for 107 aged, accepted 86 in reception centers, admitted 88 patients to the Vienna Jewish Hospital, and provided scholarships to 260 university and professional school students. In addition, it maintained a synagogue (*Seitenstettengasse*) and a cemetery, recorded births, deaths, and marriages, and conducted a locator service. To enable it to cover current expenditures, to finance repairs on Jewish homes damaged during the war, to set up a Jewish rehabilitation fund, and to re-establish the Rothschild Hospital, the Vienna Gemeinde sought a loan from

the Austrian government. Heirless Jewish property was expected to be offered as security for the loan. Negotiations with the government were still in process at the time of writing.

On the initiative of the Gemeinde and with the assistance of JDC, a credit cooperative, *Juedische Spar- und Kreditgenossenschaft*, was established in Vienna. The organizational meeting of the cooperative was held on March 14, 1949, at which time a board of directors and a control committee were elected. One hundred and thirty members subscribed 100,000 Austrian schillings as share capital.

An important contribution to the welfare of the Austrian Jewish population were the JDC parcels distributed monthly throughout the Vienna Gemeinde. Through April, 1949, 12,000 of these parcels, each of which contained between 12,000 and 15,000 calories, were distributed monthly; after May 1, 1949, 8,000 were distributed a month. (The daily ration in Austria was 2,100 calories.)

Education of children presented a complicated problem because of the small number of youngsters and the fact that they were widely dispersed throughout the city. The Gemeinde tried to organize supplementary classes on religious and general Jewish subjects, to meet two or three times a week.

Like the Jews in Germany, Austrian Jews faced anti-Semitism. In connection with the elections slated for the Fall of 1949, attempts were made to introduce a fourth political party into the country's political life. (Only three political parties, Catholic, Socialist, and Communist, were recognized by the occupation authorities.) A group called *Vereinigung der Unabhaengigen*, the Union of Independents, attempted to develop support among former Nazis, and exploited anti-Semitic feelings among some segments of the population as a weapon in its political struggle. This group published several anti-Semitic newspapers (*Der Weg*, May 27, 1949).

The *Verband der Rueckstellungsbetroffenen*, Union of the Acquirers of Jewish Goods, was established in Vienna on June 17, 1948, to oppose restitution of property taken from Jews during the Nazi regime. The group issued a publication, *Unser Recht* ("Our Right"). A rally of Vienna Jews, held under the auspices of the Gemeinde on November 18, 1948, urged the government to revoke the charter of the organization and demanded an active policy to compensate victims of the Nazi regime.

Austria did not have a general law on restitution or indemnification. Instead, the government envisaged a series of laws dealing with special aspects of compensation for losses suffered during the Hitler regime. Four such restitution laws (*Rueckstellungsgesetze*) were enacted in 1946 and 1947 (AMERICAN JEWISH YEAR BOOK, Vol. 49, p. 379; Vol. 50, p. 387). A fifth restitution law had been pending for approximately two years. In view of the scheduled election, it was considered doubtful that the parliament would act on the legislation. Three additional restitution laws were also under consideration. The time limit for filing claims under the third restitution law (Law 54, March 27, 1947) was extended until December 31, 1949. The *Opferfuersorgegesetz* (AMERICAN JEWISH YEAR BOOK, Vol. 50, p. 387) was amended early in 1949 to give persons who were persecuted because of their race or religion the same privileges as political persecutees.