ANNUAL REPORTS
American Jewish Committee

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* Elected at the 50th Annual Meeting, April 1957.

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OBJECTS OF THE COMMITTEE

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

—Extract from the Charter
This is the Fiftieth Annual Report of the American Jewish Committee. Founded in November 1906, the Committee has completed a half-century of service.

During 1956, as in every year since its founding, the Committee conducted a world-wide program to further the objectives embodied in its charter—to protect the civil and religious rights of Jews and to secure equality of opportunity for all. It sought, as always, to meet crises and challenges as they arose, while continuing to pursue a long-range program of education and social action.

The year closed as it had opened—with the United States at peace. Economic activity remained at a high level and the American people were on the whole prosperous. There was also a continuation of the mobility so characteristic of Americans, especially in the past decade. They were constantly on the move, particularly from the cities to the suburbs. Yet, while demonstrating a strong desire to improve their economic and social environment, the people were genuinely satisfied with the status quo, as demonstrated, for example, by their election of President Eisenhower to a second term.

The climate of freedom continued to improve, thanks to the vigilance of the courts and the growing confidence of the American people in their ability to deal rationally with domestic communism.

The prevailing temper of contentment proved beneficial to intergroup relations, with the notable exception of tensions provoked by the desegregation issue. There was the usual upsurge of election-year appeals to bigotry, but their impact was less than in 1952. The American people had grown more alert to divisive agitation.

The programs of numerous state and municipal commissions for fair employment practices, human relations and civic unity, supplemented by the efforts of private agencies, doubtless contributed to this improvement.

The year, however, also was marked by a number of portentous developments attended with a host of problems. The following are among the most noteworthy:

1. In Soviet Russia and the satellites, the year began with denunciation of Stalin and relaxation of totalitarian controls. It ended with a reversion to the worst features of Stalinism and the brutal crushing of Hungary's spontaneous uprising. Meanwhile, the Jews in the Soviet Union were revealed to be in desperate straits.

2. The Middle East tinderbox, which smoldered throughout the year, once again broke into flames at the end of October, with the invasion of Egypt by Israel, Great Britain and France. Soviet penetration into the Middle East scored a marked success; the Western alliance was temporarily disrupted; United States influence was greatly weakened and its strategic interests imperiled; and the basic issues in the Arab-Israel controversy, which had led to Israel's march into Sinai, remained unresolved.

3. The Egyptian Government launched a series of anti-Jewish acts which threatened to impoverish, if not destroy, the Jewish community and gave rise to a new exodus from that country.

4. The Arab nations surrounding Israel intensified their anti-Israel and anti-Jewish boycott, which included denial of entry visas to American Jews, boycotts against American firms classified as Jewish by Arab definition, and indignities im-
posed upon American Jews seeking transit through Arab lands. Most disturbing was Washington's continued acquiescence in the long-standing Saudi-Arabian ban against American Jewish military personnel, and lesser restrictions upon Catholic and Protestant religious practices.

5. A new refugee problem was in the making, caused by the forced emigration of Jews from Egypt, North Africa, Poland and Hungary.

6. In France a new political force, Poujadism, revealing fascistic and anti-Semitic tendencies, sprang suddenly into prominence.

7. At home, a major problem was the impact of the Middle East crisis. This necessitated campaigns to interpret the issues, to win a reversal of American policy toward Arab discrimination against American Jews, and to help Egyptian Jewry.

8. Race tensions and outbreaks throughout the South indicated plainly that harmonious and full implementation of the Supreme Court decisions on school desegregation was not yet in sight. The injection of anti-Semitism into some of the pro-segregationist propaganda made the situation even more disturbing. However, considerable progress was discernible as the year passed.

9. Church-state issues were in the forefront of the domestic scene, especially in the public schools.

Many other problems, scarcely less crucial, bore on the Committee's program. At home, for example, the continued shortage of college facilities in the face of vastly increasing demand posed the possibility of a revival of discriminatory admissions practices. Abroad, particularly in Western Europe, the need of Jewish communities for the means to rebuild their communal, cultural and religious institutions still remained unfulfilled. There were, in addition, the Committee's long-range educational activities, conducted outside the framework of crises and daily headlines.

Beyond all of these pressures, there was the need to take stock, evaluate past trends and future directions, and provide for growth. Self-examination and planning deserved and received special priority, for the occasion was the Committee's Golden Anniversary. Accordingly, a special Conference on Group Life in America was convoked, a gala Golden Celebration was planned, and a campaign for a new building to house the Committee and serve as an Institute for Human Relations was launched. Hand in hand with its program came an expansion of the role of Committee members in more than 500 communities, through Committee chapters and units, and their growing involvement in the Committee's national policymaking and programming.

This report will review these activities and problems.

The Foreign Scene

By far the largest Jewish population outside of the United States resides in the countries of Eastern Europe within the Soviet orbit. Russia itself contains more than 2,000,000 Jews, for whose welfare the Committee has long been deeply concerned.

The Soviet Union

During the postwar Stalin era, an extensive program of research and information on the situation of Soviet Jewry was carried on by the Committee. Its findings found grim confirmation during the past year. Indeed, Khrushchev's exposure of Stalinism, the reports of visiting delegations, one of which included a member of the Committee's staff, and the testimony of Jewish repatriates from Soviet Russia to Poland, surpassed the worst fears. Moreover, at a time when the Soviet "collective leadership" seemed to be softening its policies in many fields, it continued to discriminate against Jews, banning virtually all forms of Jewish communal life and expression, and countenancing—even encouraging—anti-Semitism.

The Committee carefully considered all the possibilities of intercession on behalf
of Soviet Jewry that might be appropriate for an American voluntary association concerned with the welfare of co-religionists overseas. But international conditions and the situation within the Soviet Union made such action inadvisable. Nevertheless, the Committee appealed to the Soviet Union to alter its anti-Jewish policies.

The Committee requested that victims of anti-Semitic purges be released and rehabilitated, that anti-Semitic charges be publicly retracted; that effective measures against the spread of anti-Semitism be initiated; that all discriminatory limitations on the opportunity of Jews to obtain education and employment be removed; and that genuine freedom for religious, cultural and communal expression be permitted.

The Committee also publicized the Soviet record in a fact sheet, *The Jews Under Stalin's Successors*, and a pamphlet, *Now They Admit It*. The latter compared earlier Soviet denials of the Committee's disclosures with the recent Soviet admissions of anti-Jewish crimes perpetrated by the Stalin regime.

**The Soviet Satellites**

The brutal suppression of the Hungarian fight for freedom dramatically revealed the hollowness of Soviet pretensions to discountenance excesses. At the Committee's initiative a tri-faith statement of tribute to the Hungarian people was released in the United States in December 1956.

An investigation conducted by the Committee's European Office established the falsity of rumors spread by the Communist press that anti-Semitism was rife among participants in the Hungarian uprising. The Committee's study revealed that during the fighting no anti-Semitic manifestations took place. This picture was marred to some extent by anti-Semitic incidents in the Hungarian escapee camps in Austria, attributed mainly to agitation on the part of Hungarian Nazis who had migrated to the West during and after World War II. The Committee immediately proceeded with plans for counteraction which were undertaken early in 1957.

The Committee has long maintained that communism, like any other form of totalitarianism, is by its very nature inclined to anti-Semitism. This was borne out by political developments in Poland. In the face of mounting popular demands for greater freedom, the orthodox (Stalinist) wing of the Communist Party, at the inspiration of the Kremlin, became the instigator and spearhead of an anti-Semitic campaign. Despite outspoken opposition to such tactics by moderate party elements and by party leader Władysław Gomułka himself, the resulting flare-up of anti-Semitism immediately became unmanageable. Poland, it will be remembered, is a country where indigenous anti-Semitism is traditionally responsive to political agitation.

Unable to cope with the situation, the Gomułka regime soon adopted the only way out which it considered workable—acquiescence in the emigration of all Jews wishing to leave. A large-scale exodus promptly started, but the situation was further complicated almost at the outset by a growing repatriation movement of Jews from the Soviet Union to Poland. After the crushing of the Hungarian revolution, similar emigration policies were inaugurated in that country, resulting in a limited migration to Israel.

Several attempts to engage ranking Polish representatives in the United States in a search for ways of counteracting anti-Semitism in their country proved fruitless. However, the Committee did succeed in calling the attention of the State Secretariat of the Vatican to the participation of Polish Catholics in communist-fomented anti-Semitism, and to the continuation of anti-Semitic disturbances in Hungarian refugee camps.

**Western Europe**

In France, the leading democratic country on the Continent, a disturbing and wholly unforeseen change took place. This was the spectacular success scored by the
anti-democratic and anti-Semitic Poujade movement in the national elections in January 1956. The Committee maintained careful watch over this situation and avoided any steps which might help Poujadism become a rallying ground for anti-Semites on the Continent. By the end of 1956, the movement showed definite signs of decline; its leaders were endeavoring to disavow anti-Semitic tendencies, and it had failed to become a nucleus for the revival of a fascistic “third force” on the Continent.

The outlook for democratic forces in West Germany was viewed with increasing anxiety. Would the prospect of eventual reunification produce a revival of political nationalism strong enough to overthrow West Germany’s democratic system of government? At the Committee’s suggestion the Ford Foundation assigned a qualified observer to study this problem under the auspices of the American Council for Germany. The findings, while not fully conclusive, indicated the likelihood that existing democratic institutions would be safe for the foreseeable future, provided the Soviet Union were prevented from using the issue of reunification as a lever for the gradual “national bolshevization” of German political life.

The Committee was therefore particularly concerned with the marked increase, early in 1956, of anti-democratic and anti-Semitic literature in Germany. With the help of the U. S. Department of State, German authorities were alerted to this development, and a fairly effective voluntary campaign was launched to halt the production of such materials. The Committee, for its part, made public in Paris a comprehensive Survey of the Status of Anti-Semitism in Europe, which dwelled especially on Poujadism and neo-Nazism.

Meanwhile, West Germany continued to cooperate with the free world in foreign policy and in the political and economic integration of Western Europe. An important development was the enactment in June 1956 of a federal indemnification law, which the Committee supported within the framework of the Conference on Jewish Material Claims Against Germany. Total benefits expected to accrue to individual victims of Nazi action are estimated at billions of dollars.

In addition, a modest indemnification settlement was reached with Austria in January 1956. The result of these lengthy negotiations, in which the Committee played a leading role, was the establishment by Austria of a special fund of Schilling 550,000,000 ($22,000,000), from which indemnities are being paid to certain categories of Jewish victims of Nazism in Austria who now live outside that country.

Throughout the year, the Jewish communities of Western Europe struggled with great shortcomings in their religious, educational and cultural facilities. In accord with the findings of the Consultative Conference of Jewish Organizations, held in London in 1955, the Committee’s European Office continued its efforts to institute a limited program of cultural and educational assistance to these communities, particularly in the field of adult Jewish education. The intent is to conduct this program on the Continent under the joint sponsorship of the American Jewish Committee, the Alliance Israélite Universelle and the Anglo-Jewish Association. To expedite the initiation of this important project, a specialist was added to the Committee’s European office. His duties also include the more intensive cultivation of Jewish community relations.

NORTH AFRICA

The policies established by the Committee in 1954 with regard to the situation of Jews in Morocco and Tunisia seemed amply justified by the trend of developments in those countries. From the outset, the Committee expressed the belief that economic and social conditions in Morocco and Tunisia might well necessitate a sizeable volume of Jewish emigration, on an individual basis, but that the political outlook did not call for any organized mass evacuation of Jews. Therefore, in frequent contacts with North African leaders, including Premier Habib Bourguiba of Tunisia and the Crown Prince of Morocco, the Committee has consistently pressed
not only for the right of emigration, but also for assurance of equal status and equal rights for Jews in the promised basic laws of both countries.

By the end of the year, the willingness of Tunisia and Morocco to protect the security and assert the equality of their Jewish citizens became manifest. At the height of the armed clash between Israel and Egypt, the North African governments made clear that the status of their Jewish citizens would not be jeopardized by this conflict.

In discussions with Moroccan and Tunisian leaders, the Committee urged both governments to permit the Jewish communities to maintain their long-established communal institutions of education and welfare, instead of prematurely "merging" them with underdeveloped national systems. The issue, however, is still unsettled.

In Algeria, in the second half of 1956, increasingly bitter armed conflict led to a number of atrocities by Moslems against Jews, particularly in remote districts. As a result, tens of thousands of Jews fled to the larger cities. In December 1956, it became clear that these excesses had a definite political purpose: to compel the Jewish communities of Algeria to take an open, official and collective stand on the side of the Algerian Liberation Front, against French rule. During 1956, no avenues were open to the Committee for the treatment of this serious problem.

**Latin America**

The Committee's office in Latin America continued to help the Instituto Judio Argentino develop its pro-democratic educational activities. The Committee also carried on its own public relations program for the benefit of the Jewish community and for the advancement of democracy in Argentina. Instituto leaders, through statements in the press and over the radio, sought to publicize Jewish attachment to democratic principles and to the new democratic regime. The Instituto also played an important role in securing ratification of the United Nations Genocide Convention by Argentina, Chile and Uruguay.

Among the promising projects launched by the Committee or given Committee assistance during the year were: an Interfaith Committee of Catholics, Protestants and Jews in Argentina; a "Study of Prejudice, Ethnocentrism and Anti-Semitism in South America," by Dr. Gino Germani of the University of Buenos Aires; a study of social work sponsored by the Council of Jewish Women; a successful campaign to secure 1,000 visas for the immigration of Egyptian Jewish refugees to Brazil; a program co-sponsored with the Jewish Theological Seminary of America for the education of Latin American religious leaders in the United States; and a program co-sponsored with the Federation of Jewish Philanthropies of New York for the training of Latin American Jewish physicians in New York hospitals. The Committee and the Instituto also carried on an extensive publications program which included the magazine Comentario, now recognized as a leading Spanish-language intellectual journal.

The Committee played a leading role in the establishment of an Instituto in Brazil, along the lines of the Argentine group. This new organization already has some solid achievements to its credit, notably 1,000 visas for Egyptian Jewish refugees, already mentioned, and a change in the Portuguese dictionary's definition of "Jew." With the cooperation of the Academy of Languages in Brazil, all derogatory connotation was removed.

Leaders of the Institutos in Argentina and Brazil have urged Committee officers in New York to visit their countries in 1958; plans for such a visit are under consideration.

**The Middle East Crisis**

The most serious threat to world peace since the Korean war occurred in the fall of 1956. Armed conflict broke out in the Middle East following Israel's invasion of
Gaza and the Sinai Peninsula, and attempts by Britain and France to seize the Suez Canal. The outbreak climaxed a series of critical developments too recent to require detailed review here. Most crucial, from the long-range point of view, were the growth of Soviet influence in the Middle East through offers of arms and economic assistance, and the strengthening of Arab anti-Western sentiment. These developments not only placed Israel in serious jeopardy, but also threatened to disrupt the Western alliance and weaken American security.

Throughout the year, the Committee gave sustained and prayerful consideration to the problem of developing a constructive Middle East program which would help bring peace and stability to that area. Four needs were uppermost in the Committee's view: (1) to preserve the peace; (2) to protect and maintain American interests; (3) to combat communist influence; and (4) to assure security for Israel.

In conversations with State Department and Israeli Government officials, officers of the Committee urged that the United States should offer security pacts to all nations in the Middle East willing to renounce aggression, and that pending such pacts it should offer defensive arms to Israel.

The Arab Refugee Problem

The Committee's awareness of the serious and explosive character of the refugee problem was underscored by Irving M. Engel in his presidential address at the Forty-ninth Annual Meeting (January 1956): "We as Jews know only too well the tragedy contained in the human wastelands known as refugee camps: the erosion of hope, the spread of bitterness and despair." Mr. Engel pledged the Committee to an intensified search for solutions—a task requiring the joint and harmonious effort of Americans of all faiths and constituting, in Mr. Engel's words, "the greatest contribution the American Jewish Committee can make to the peace of the Middle East and of the world."

The problem was given intensified study throughout the year by officers and staff, and especially by the Committee on Israel. Among the policies urged upon the Government was the implementation of the proposal advanced by Secretary of State John Foster Dulles on August 26, 1955, for substantial United States participation in an international loan to help Israel compensate refugees, and economic and technical assistance to combat distress in the Middle East. The Committee's fact sheet, The Arab Refugee Dilemma, examined these and other recommendations.

Pending economic and political solutions, Mr Engel, at the Executive Board meeting in October 1956, set forth a humanitarian program to alleviate the plight of the refugees. He recommended the formation of a citizens' group composed of representative individuals, to help meet the educational needs of Arab refugees, especially for vocational training, and with particular emphasis on the young. This organization, Mr. Engel emphasized, would be nongovernmental, intersectarian and nonpartisan. It would, he believed, regardless of ultimate political solutions, help ease turmoil among the refugees and tension among Middle East countries. He reported that informal discussions were held with spokesmen of interested organizations who viewed the idea as fruitful.

The proposal was referred to the Administrative Board for further development and active consideration so that it might again be taken up by the Executive Board. However, the outbreak of hostilities in the Middle East had the inevitable effect of side-tracking an undertaking which, even under comparatively peaceful conditions, was admittedly most difficult to launch. The Committee remains convinced that unless constructive approaches to the Arab refugee problem are developed, a lasting peace will not come to the Middle East.
SEARCH FOR BASIC SOLUTIONS

As tensions mounted, mainly due to the Egyptian fedayeen raids and Israel’s retaliatory acts, the Committee conferred with spokesmen of other national organizations in hope of finding ways to arrest the drift towards war. From one such meeting under the auspices of the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, in which many distinguished Americans participated, there emerged a recommendation that the United States call for a frontal approach by the U.N. to the entire Arab-Israel problem. Subsequently, the United States introduced a resolution which led to Secretary General Hammarskjold’s mission to the Middle East. This mission temporarily relieved the tensions along the demarcation lines.

In an attempt to define the long-range and short-range factors, and to arrive at a policy that would protect American interests and achieve Middle East stability, the Committee undertook a detailed analysis of the entire situation. The results were incorporated in a publication, *Steps to Middle East Peace*, which was presented by Mr. Engel to Secretary Dulles.

The Committee’s study pointed to a number of long-range factors, in addition to the Arab-Israel dispute, that needed to be dealt with. These included: Soviet psychological and economic penetration; failure of the United States foreign-aid program to win friends; Asian neutralism; and tensions among the peoples of the Middle East.

On the basis of this analysis the Committee urged that two basic policy lines be pursued: (1) economic and technical assistance to combat poverty and disease and raise productivity and living standards, with special concern for the Arab refugees; (2) acceleration of the process of accommodation between the Arab states and Israel, and encouragement of constructive social change. As short-range objectives the Committee stressed greater discipline along the Arab-Israel border under U.N. supervision; correction of the arms imbalance; and conversion of the Baghdad Pact into an instrument primarily of economic importance.

In a conference with Secretary of State Dulles following Nasser’s seizure of the Suez Canal, Mr. Engel recommended that the Secretary assure Israel that her continued existence as a sovereign state is part of American policy; that any settlement of the Canal situation should assure freedom of navigation for all nations without exception; that Israel be given some of the defensive arms promised her; and that she be aided in the development of her water resources. The latter, it was pointed out, should be achieved either through American support for further work on the Huleh project, provided it did not involve taking more water from the Jordan than was contemplated by the Johnston Plan, or through support of Israel’s application for a $75,000,000 loan from the Export-Import Bank for water developments.

Following Israel’s entry into the Sinai peninsula, the Committee’s representatives met with the Israeli Ambassador and emphasized the need for his country to mend the rift with the United States and to cooperate with the U.N. The Committee’s Steering Committee, meeting in emergency sessions on November 2 and 3, drafted a message on the conflict to Secretary of State Dulles.

The Committee expressed the view that “Israel has no aggressive aims” and that “incursion into Egypt was forced upon it in the exercise of the inalienable right to self-protection.” The U.N. call for a cease-fire was welcomed as “the opportunity to exercise statesmanship. Failing such exercise the temporary halting of hostilities presages only greater violence.”

The Committee stressed that a return to the status quo was unthinkable; it would “restore the very conditions which have caused bloodshed, misery and turmoil. A cease-fire which does no more than preserve those explosive ingredients does not promote peace; it builds up pressures for a more disastrous war.” To document this
assertion the Committee reviewed the highlights of the Arab record of hostilities against Israel.

The Committee concluded its message with the following three-point program for the Secretary of State's consideration:

1. The United States should propose that the U.N. General Assembly, before recessing, require the Arab States and the State of Israel to enter into direct negotiations for a just and durable peace.

2. Refusal by any nation so to negotiate in good faith for a durable peace should be branded by the United Nations as an act incompatible with the Charter; if deemed necessary, such sanctions as the Charter contemplates should be invoked against those who disturb the peace of the world.

3. The treaties so arrived at should be guaranteed, with the United States as one of the guarantors.

The Committee's statement was widely noted by the press.

EGYPTIAN ANTI-JEWISH POLICIES

A tragic aftermath of the Egypt-Israel conflict toward the close of the year was the adoption by the Egyptian Government of a series of severe anti-Jewish measures. These included: mass internments; sequestration of Jewish business enterprises with all assets of the owners; extortion of commitments to emigrate without assets; enforced surrender of citizenship; and other ruthless measures which spelled ruin for Egypt's once prosperous Jewish community.

In the face of Egyptian denials, the Committee's European Office placed at the disposal of the international press full documentary proof of these excesses. At the urging of the Committee, the U. S. State Department made repeated diplomatic representations in Egypt against these outrages; steps were also initiated at the close of the year to secure action by the U.N. General Assembly.

Early in 1957 the AJC and other Jewish organizations, in conversations with officials of the Justice Department, the State Department and the White House, urged that the United States admit a fair share of refugees from Egypt on the same basis as refugees from Hungary—namely, under the parole provisions of the McCarran-Walter Act. The Committee also sought to alert public opinion to this situation and to encourage public support of the Administration in adopting this policy. This activity will be continued.

During 1956, the Committee made repeated representations to the Department of State against the oppressive treatment of the small remaining Jewish population of Syria. It also issued a number of protests on discrimination against American citizens of the Jewish faith by Saudi Arabia, described later in this report.

Domestic Impact of the Middle East Crisis

The Committee was obliged to give early and continuous attention to the serious repercussions of the Middle East crisis on the domestic scene. America's stake in the Middle East had to be clarified, so that the turn of events in that section of the world might be seen as an American problem. Of utmost importance, the Committee felt, was the question of Middle East independence from Soviet domination. Moreover, representatives of Arab countries in the United States and American groups and individuals sympathetic to the Arab cause were circulating misleading information about Israel and her position—information that frequently reflected adversely on American Jews. Finally, there was evidence that Arab agents often utilized anti-Semitic propaganda to further their ends.

Accordingly, at the Committee's Forty-ninth Annual Meeting, a Special Committee on the Domestic Impact of the Middle East Crisis was appointed to plan and supervise a broad campaign of public education. The activities of the Committee included the publication and distribution of fact sheets, discussions with
other agencies in the field of international affairs, public opinion research, work with the general and religious press and magazines, encouragement of radio and TV programs, and day-to-day work by AJC chapters in communities throughout the country, under the policy guidance of the national office.

The Committee's fact sheet, *Middle East Ferment*, provided an authoritative review of Arab-Israel tensions and some of the major issues behind them. It also set forth the main facts about Soviet penetration into the Middle East and exposed the propaganda activities of Arab diplomats in the United States. It concluded with several specific recommendations for achieving peace and stability. A total of 40,000 copies were printed and widely distributed to editors and commentators, government officials, Committee members, and others. In addition, magazine articles that dealt with the situation constructively were reprinted and circulated.

Representatives of American citizens of Middle East descent were alerted to misleading propaganda of Arab agents, and Catholic and Protestant church leaders were kept informed on matters of deep concern to them, such as Israel's treatment of her Christian community. Conversely, the Committee was kept advised of the attitudes of Christian leaders toward religious issues in the Middle East.

Inaccurate statements that appeared from time to time in newspapers and general magazines were refuted by factual information. An illustration is the letter by Irving M. Engel in *Life*, May, 1956, replying to Sir John Glubb's charges in an earlier *Life* article that Israel was to blame for the plight of Arab refugees.

Local problems arising from the Middle East conflict were high on the list of program priorities of AJC chapters. Among the major difficulties were anti-Semitic talks by Arab spokesmen and the activities of the American Council for Judaism. Chapter experiences in handling anti-Israel attacks were analyzed at regional and national meetings, and through newsletters and correspondence. In accordance with the Committee's view that Middle East questions were important not to Jews alone, but to all Americans, chapters in a number of communities succeeded in persuading other Jewish groups to broaden the auspices of "protest" meetings.

Reports from various localities indicated sound attitudes among the general public toward the crisis overseas and a desire to minimize its effects on intergroup and community relations. This remained true even after the October outbreak in the Middle East. Some six months earlier, one of the Committee's public opinion polls had revealed a heightened awareness of the situation. Although the proportion of the population opposing United States shipment of arms to Israel and favoring cooperation with the Arab states had increased, the poll showed a continued high reservoir of good will toward Israel. The Committee's next poll, taken a month after the Israeli invasion of Gaza and the Sinai Peninsula, and the British-French attack on Suez, revealed an increase in the proportion blaming Israel for the trouble. But it also revealed a substantially higher proportion blaming Egypt; and, more significantly, no increase in the proportion that held American Jews responsible for what had transpired overseas.

**ARAB DISCRIMINATION AGAINST AMERICAN CITIZENS**

One of the most urgent domestic aspects of the Middle East crisis was our Government's continued acquiescence in discriminatory measures imposed on American Jews by Arab governments. Chief among these measures was Saudi Arabia's exclusion of American Jewish military personnel from the Dharan Air Base, built in 1951 under special treaty arrangements. Other measures included Arab denial of visas to American Jews and boycotts against American business firms characterized as "Jewish." The entire problem was intensively explored by the Administrative Board at its March and April meetings, by the Executive Board at its May meeting, and by officers of the Committee throughout the year.

In an address at the May Meeting of the Executive Board on "Violations of American Citizenship Rights," Irving M. Engel reviewed the record of our Gov-
ernment's acquiescence in, and indirect cooperation with, these anti-Jewish measures. Contrasting this situation with America's vigorous defense of citizenship rights in the past, notably the abrogation of the commercial treaty with Czarist Russia in 1911, he called upon the United States Government, on the grounds of morality and Constitutional obligation, to protect the rights of all its citizens and uphold its own dignity in the eyes of the world.

Responding to Mr. Engel's call for action, extensive educational activities were initiated by the Committee. First was the publication of a scholarly brief, The Assault on American Citizenship. It presented the facts of the situation and detailed the precedents in both American history and international law for the right of American citizens to be protected against discrimination by foreign governments. The Committee's brief appeared in the Congressional Record and was sent to members of the House and Senate, and to political writers and commentators. In addition, 22,500 copies of Mr. Engel's address were distributed.

Testimony on the injuries suffered by American citizens because of Arab discrimination was submitted to the President's Committee on Government Employment Policy and to the President's Committee on Government Contracts.

The principle of nondiscrimination, which was also vigorously advanced by many other organizations, was embodied in a Resolution adopted by the U. S. Senate on July 26, 1956, which urged that "in all negotiations between the United States and any foreign state every effort should be made to maintain this principle ... that there shall be no distinction among United States citizens based on their individual religious affiliations.

On the international level, the problem was discussed at the Ninth General Conference of UNESCO, of which the United States is a member, held in New Delhi in November. The U. S. National Commission for UNESCO, as a result of efforts spearheaded by the Committee and supported by Catholic and Protestant spokesmen, had previously taken a position against the United States policy. Although the U.S. delegation at the Ninth General Conference raised the question and urged action, UNESCO did not adopt a formal resolution. (This was understandable in view of the influence of the Arab-Asian bloc in all U.N. bodies.) However, after the UNESCO discussion, the Government of Lebanon announced it had revised its entry regulations to provide for the exclusion of "known Zionists" instead of "persons of the Jewish faith."

One favorable development was the elimination from the Air Force Handbook of reference to the fact that Jews were barred from Saudi Arabia. But it appeared that our Government did not find it possible to make a more thoroughgoing change in policy, despite increasing pressure from many quarters that it do so and its own openly expressed sympathy with this pressure. The Committee will continue to press for a basic change.

Organized Anti-Semitism

Organized anti-Semitism in this country is now in its 25th year. Launched with Nazi inspiration and financing, its purpose was to soften up America through "divide and conquer" techniques. In the 1930's there were hundreds of groups. They remained in evidence until the advent of World War II, when most took to cover for the duration.

In 1956, as in recent postwar years, hatemongers concentrated on publications instead of meetings. Capitalizing on desegregation tensions in the South, their writings charged Jews with taking part in a Red conspiracy to "mongrelize the nation," and with fomenting racial strife. White Supremacy groups in the South received great quantities of anti-Semitic literature produced by such anti-Semites as Gerald L. K. Smith, Conde McGinley, Frank L. Britton, Kenneth Goff and John Kasper. Curiously enough, these agitators hailed from areas of the country where desegregation was hardly an issue, such as Los Angeles, New Jersey, Denver and St. Louis.
The Klan grew during the year. Its leaders emphasized anti-Semitism even more than anti-Negro bias in their speeches, and made extensive use of flyers and pamphlets distributed by non-Southern hatemongers.

Anti-Semites also espoused the Arab cause and helped distribute official Arab propaganda, much of which carried allegations of "dual loyalty of Jews."

According to Committee polls, public opinion has thus far shown healthy resistance to this agitation. Nevertheless, the situation continues to receive close surveillance and counteraction.

Combating Discrimination

In line with the philosophy that full equality for Jews can be achieved only where full civil rights are assured for all, the Committee has been deeply involved in the effort to implement the Supreme Court's decision on school desegregation. It will be recalled that in May 1954 the Supreme Court in its decision cited with approval Dr. Kenneth B. Clark's study, "Effect of Prejudice and Discrimination on Personality Development," which examined the psychological damage inflicted on segregated children. This study, sponsored by the Committee, had been prepared for the Midcentury White House Conference on Children and Youth in 1950.

School Desegregation

In studying the problem of desegregation, the Committee came to realize that the intensity of the reaction evoked by the Court's decision called for new approaches, different from those applied to other civil rights problems. This was made abundantly evident in the following developments: (1) the increase of racial tensions throughout the South, as seen in such incidents as the Autherine Lucy case at the University of Alabama, the riots in Montgomery, Ala., and the violence that erupted in Clay and Sturgis, Ky., Clinton, Tenn., and other localities when schools opened in September 1956; (2) the rise of the White Citizens Councils and their resort to threats and actual economic reprisal against those who favored desegregation; (3) the revival of the Ku Klux Klan, referred to above; (4) the threats to freedom of association resulting from the enactment of local measures to harass or impair the activities of the NAACP and the Urban League; and (5) the gradual immobilization of middle-of-the-road groups, especially in the deep South.

The Committee explored this situation with its Southern constituencies at regional meetings held in New Orleans, Atlanta and Dallas, with chapter leaders from all over the country, and with other voluntary associations interested in civil rights problems. The program finally adopted was adjusted to differences in attitudes among the Southern states. In the deep South, where the ratio of Negroes to whites is high and the situation was most tense, the Committee sought to encourage Southern leadership groups to maintain law and order, rather than permit the situation to degenerate into violence and disrespect for legal and orderly processes. In other Southern and border states where tensions were less acute and orderly implementation was under way, as in Kentucky, the Committee sought, in concert with other groups, to foster understanding of community relations and educational techniques designed to induce changes in community behavior patterns.

With the cooperation of Southern chapters, the Committee intensified its fact-finding activities in the South. It also opened a regional office in Atlanta, in order to work more closely with its Southern constituency on community relations problems. Educational programs were conducted with a variety of civic agencies, especially in helping to resist attacks on the NAACP and the Urban League.

Nationally, the Committee participated in setting up the Consultative Conference on Desegregation, a clearing house of more than forty national organizations—religious, labor, educational and civic—committed to school desegregation.

The Committee formally urged the President to summon, at the earliest possible
moment, the most influential citizens from all parts of the country and all walks of life, to confer on the desegregation problem in all its aspects. It also urged the enactment of the President's civil rights program, including the establishment of a Civil Rights Commission, the creation of a Civil Rights Division in the Department of Justice, and the strengthening of current civil rights statutes by enlarging the enforcement provisions.

CIVIL RIGHTS PROGRESS

Many civic and educational projects to promote equality of opportunity were undertaken by the Committee's chapters. For example: the Chicago Chapter joined nineteen other agencies in a Merit Employment Conference sponsored by the Council Against Discrimination at which a ten-point program against bias in hiring and upgrading was adopted. It also furnished educational material to the Council Against Discrimination in its successful campaign for a city ordinance outlawing discrimination in hospitals. The New York Chapter assisted the State Commission Against Discrimination in a survey of discriminatory hiring practices by private employment agencies. It also participated in conferences on the rehabilitation of New York's West Side. The Miami Chapter was active in community relations situations arising from Negro efforts to secure equal access to public accommodations. The Los Angeles Chapter cooperated with the Los Angeles Committee for Equal Employment Opportunity in an educational program to reduce discrimination in employment. The San Francisco Chapter carried on educational activities to the same end.

Typical of the Committee's educational approach to civil rights problems was its publication of the eighth annual issue of *The People Take the Lead*, a record of nationwide progress since 1948. During this period, the survey pointed out, there have been 298 separate, solid, significant actions—judicial, legislative, administrative and voluntary—taken by Federal, state, municipal and private agencies, all advancing and securing equality of opportunity.

In the field of desegregation, despite all the setbacks and tensions, moves toward compliance with the Supreme Court decisions were initiated in close to 1,000 school districts and units in Southern and border states. By October 1956, desegregation was under way in 797 school districts affecting 319,000 Negro and 2,000 white children.

Commenting on *The People Take the Lead*, Roscoe Drummond wrote in his nationally syndicated column (New York *Herald Tribune*, January 4, 1957), that the Committee "has performed a valuable public service in helping us all to see this problem in perspective."

SOCIAL DISCRIMINATION

Although social discrimination affects primarily the Jewish group, it is nevertheless a serious problem of our society, for it gives overt, sanctioned expression to deeply held prejudice and induces discrimination against Jews in business, industry and the professions. The Committee believes that the impact of social discrimination far transcends any individual offense or personal embarrassment; indeed it is central to the problem of anti-Semitism. It may be a symptom of deep hostility, temporarily suppressed or modified to fit the temper of the time, but nevertheless potentially explosive.

In 1955, therefore, the Executive Board adopted a statement of concern with this problem. Thereafter, surveys of practices of social discrimination in twenty-seven of the major cities of the country were undertaken by AJC chapters. These surveys, which revealed that exclusionary practices were widely prevalent, provided a basis for national and local programs.

Three historical studies were also conducted to analyze experiences in the United
States, Britain and France. The American analysis prepared by Professor John Hig- ham, a noted historian, proved most rewarding. It indicated that the circumstances which gave rise to social discrimination in the latter part of the nineteenth century have altered considerably and that with greater current readiness for change, appro- priate actions should be able to modify practices.

This finding was borne out by first moves undertaken in AJC chapters. One ex- ample was the Seattle Chapter's handling of a situation in the Laurelhurst section of that city, where changes were brought about quickly once Christians were aroused and exerted leadership to reform local practices.

In the special field of college fraternity discrimination there has been a quicken- ing of change. The Committee prepared materials for a pioneer study, *Fraternities Without Brotherhood*, by Professor Alfred McClung Lee. Over 5,000 copies have been sold since early in 1956. The book has been used effectively by college ad- ministrators, student organizations and fraternities. Jews are now accepted by all national college fraternities with but a few exceptions. The problem is to achieve successful integration of Jewish and Christian students into the same fraternity. This is proving difficult because of the tendency of Jewish students to continue to join along sectarian lines, even though no formal barriers exist. Programs to change these segregative practices, initiated in 1956, continue to be a major Committee emphasis in this area.

**Defending Free Institutions**

As part of its program to uphold America's free institutions, the Committee con- tinued to concentrate on the following objectives: church-state separation, fair practices in election campaigns, civil liberties, and liberal immigration policy.

**Church-State Separation**

Church-state problems came increasingly to the fore during the year, especially in the field of education. There was a marked intensification of efforts to impose on the public schools the task of inculcating a religious commitment. The Com- mittee's opposition to this campaign may be summed up on two grounds: (1) Sepa- ration of church and state, as defined by the United States Supreme Court in inter- preting the First Amendment, offers a sound foundation for maintaining religious freedom; and (2) The public school, traditionally free of sectarian divisions, is one of the chief instruments for developing an informed citizenry and achieving the goals of American democracy.

These convictions, together with an analysis of the controversy and recommenda- tions for sound educational policy, are set forth in the Committee's publication, *Religion in Public Education; a Statement of Views*, which reached its fifth print- ing since May 1955. This pamphlet has been read by thousands of educators, clergymen, parents and civic leaders.

Another fruitful effort was the Committee's collaboration with the Kentucky Department of Education in the preparation of *Kentucky Pioneers*, a brochure briefly describing Kentucky's program of instruction in moral and spiritual values. This booklet has been generously acclaimed and has had a considerable impact in educational circles.

The Committee did much to expose the contradictions and inadequacies of the Reavis Plan for teaching moral and spiritual values, prepared for the Association of Superintendents of Large City Schools. The superintendents eventually refused to accept this proposal. There is little doubt that its adoption would have given rise to similar plans across the country. Committee chapters were also active in community discussions in a number of localities on the teaching of moral and spiritual values, and in situations involving the distribution of Gideon Bibles, notably in Philadelphia and San Francisco.
It is noteworthy that community conflicts stemming from Christmas observances in the schools, while not yet at an end, abated materially during the year. This may be due in some measure to the Committee's counsel that all attempts to deal with the problem during the Christmas season be abandoned. Communities which felt impelled to take up the issue were advised to: (1) undertake a study of current school practices, rather than act on hearsay information; (2) initiate intensive discussion within the Jewish community in order to avoid action that might be rash, ill-considered or unsupported by concurrence of the whole Jewish community; and (3) conduct a quiet, year-round program of education to familiarize Christian clergy, school personnel and others with the views held by Jewish organizations. In this way, the Committee felt, the issue would be placed in the larger context of church-state relations.

BIGOTRY IN THE ELECTION CAMPAIGN

In the 1956 Presidential campaign, the Committee took great pains to guard against appeals to prejudice and bigotry. It again produced a Statement Against Bigotry in Election Campaigns, which was endorsed by leading clergymen and laymen, and by the national chairmen of the Republican and Democratic parties. The statement received wide publicity and was commented on editorially in connection with local campaigns. In addition, Committee leaders were quick to call attention to appeals to "bloc voting." It was gratifying that, in the main, the 1956 campaign was free of anti-Semitic agitation and appeals to anti-Jewish prejudice.

CIVIL LIBERTIES

Civil liberties continued to improve during the year. The courts of the nation, especially the Supreme Court, were in large measure responsible for the change. Many notable decisions protected individual rights from arbitrary acts of legislative bodies. Also contributing to the favorable climate were the programs of private agencies which continued to disseminate education on the problems of internal security and civil liberties.

Following its earlier comprehensive survey, American Security and Freedom, the Committee went on to clarify some of the problems in the area of industrial security. This was done through the National Labor Service publication, Security, Civil Liberties and Unions. Over 30,000 copies were distributed by the unions to their own members, and to management and government circles.

Committee chapters were extremely active in providing local support to Freedom Agenda programs sponsored nationally by the League of Women Voters under a grant from the Fund for the Republic. The purpose was to foster community discussions of Constitutional freedoms and their relation to national security. The Committee's assistance proved useful in helping the League to resist unjustified attacks on the Freedom Agenda programs by a few local and national groups.

IMMIGRATION POLICY

In close cooperation with important civic and religious organizations, efforts to correct inequities in our country's basic immigration policy were carried forward. Although no significant changes came about, the Committee's point of view made headway among leaders of both major political parties and among the public as a whole. President Eisenhower's immigration message of January 1957, which fell somewhat short of the Committee's proposals, still represented substantial acceptance of the liberal viewpoint.

The past year witnessed a notable modification of immigration practices as the result of Government action following the Soviet suppression of the Hungarian rebellion. The Administration interpreted the so-called "parole" provision of the im-
migration law to permit the entry of thousands of Hungarian refugees on an emergency basis. This humanitarian action, which incidentally highlighted the rigidity of the basic law, was hailed by the Committee.

*Improving Intergroup Understanding*

A long-standing objective of the Committee's educational work is the eradication of false and prejudicial stereotypes and the promotion of wholesome intergroup attitudes.

*Survey of Religious Texts*

For some time, the major religious faiths have been encouraged to engage in critical self-examination of their teachings about one another. Chief among these projects is the survey of Christian textbooks proceeding at Yale Divinity School. The year brought to completion one phase of the Yale Study, a content analysis of the texts used by three of the major Protestant denominations. The preliminary findings revealed much negative material pertaining to Jewish and other groups. However, the content also included many positive references showing a high regard for the communicants of other faiths and their religious perspectives. Plans were made for a conference of editors and publishers at the beginning of 1958 to consider these findings and take whatever steps might be deemed appropriate.

A similar project at Southern Methodist University also took shape during the year. Plans were developed to examine the curriculum program involved in leadership training, starting with an analysis of teacher programs in 800 Methodist training schools. This is to be part of a larger research project involving the entire faculty of the Perkins School of Theology for which foundation funds will be sought.

Parallel with these undertakings was a study at St. Louis University of references to other groups that appear in Catholic materials. To round out the whole program, the Committee is also sponsoring a study launched by the Dropsie College for Hebrew and Cognate Learning, of references to Christian groups appearing in Jewish religious textbooks.

*Human Relations Education*

Increasingly, Committee chapters in various parts of the country have become involved in the encouragement of human relations education in colleges and universities. Thus, in Los Angeles, a course entitled "Introduction to Human Relations," initiated and conducted by the Los Angeles area director, was made a part of the curriculum of Marymount College, a Catholic college for girls. Interest aroused by this course was intensified by the presence of consultants from the Los Angeles Police Department, University of California at Los Angeles, and Los Angeles City Schools. The Los Angeles Chapter also helped promote the Loyola University Summer Workshop on Human Relations.

The Chicago Chapter participated in the sixth state-wide Conference on Human Relations at Bradley University, Peoria, Ill. The Essex County (N. J.) and Washington, D. C., Chapters sponsored scholarships for human relations training. These are by no means all of the chapter activities.

Among the strongest potential forces for sound human relations are the nation's voluntary associations, embracing tens of millions of Americans in varied categories of age and special interest, such as youth, labor, and veterans. In its work with these agencies the Committee has stimulated them to assume increased responsibility for developing wholesome intergroup attitudes among their own members.

The labor unions, for example, have established a network of intergroup education programs with which the Committee's National Labor Service has cooperated.
closely. Experience amassed by the unions in perfecting techniques to overcome discrimination was judged so extensive and valuable as to merit publication in a case book. This project, conducted by the National Labor Service under a grant of $5,000 from the Fund for the Republic, is now approaching completion.

The Youth Division of the Committee works in close collaboration with the National Social Welfare Assembly, coordinating agency for over seventy national welfare organizations. The Assembly has sponsored workshops on methods in intergroup relations and has incorporated intergroup materials in its bulletins and program aids.

Several new forward steps in the youth field resulted from the Committee's recommendations. One was the creation by the Boys Clubs of America of a National Program Committee on Intergroup Relations. Another is the establishment by Springfield College in Massachusetts, a school specializing in training of recreation leaders, of a "Community Intergroup Relations Project" for undergraduate and graduate students. The Committee also stimulated the establishment of a human relations workshop conducted by New York University for directors of recreation programs, and served as consultant to that workshop. Jointly with NYU, the Committee is currently preparing a guide in intergroup relations for recreation workers.

The director of the Committee's Veterans Affairs Division again served as Director of "Know Your America Week," sponsored by the All-American Conference to Combat Communism, of which the Committee is a member. This celebration, which fosters appreciation of fundamental democratic principles, started in Buffalo six years ago, spreading to over 4,000 communities in 1956, with fifty national organizations and thousands of local affiliates participating. A number of AJC chapters have taken part, especially San Francisco, which received a citation for its program.

Encouraged by successful cooperation with voluntary associations, the Committee's Administrative Board authorized two new areas of work—with women's organizations and with leaders of business and industry. The objectives are to interest these groups in human relations and intergroup relations programs, and to provide them with help, guidance and educational materials.

The year brought significant changes in the structure and operations of the Panel of Americans. This organization, long nurtured by the Committee, has finally secured its own professional staff, offices, and independent lay board. Although the Committee, particularly through its chapters, still maintains a close fraternal relationship, the Panel has now become fully autonomous. This development is in line with the Committee's original objectives and typifies its catalytic role in so many fields over the past fifty years.

The acute and alarming shortage of higher educational facilities, which poses a mounting threat to Jewish students seeking admission to colleges and universities, caused new activity in this area over the year. The Committee communicated its concern to those groups—professional and lay—which are in a position to help alleviate the situation, such as The President's Committee on Education Beyond the High School. This problem will receive special attention in the year ahead.

MASS MEDIA EDUCATION

Complementing its collaboration with special-interest groups and its own publications program (twenty-nine new publications were issued during the year, totaling almost a half-million copies, and forty-three titles were reprinted or reordered, totaling 350,000 copies) is the Committee's work with the mass media, especially radio and television.

A pioneer in religious television, the Committee again made TV history in sponsoring the first religious broadcast in color, the Day of Atonement program, "The Red Box," which was telecast over CBS-TV.
Through its work with this medium the Committee has brought to millions of people an appreciation of Judaism and a clearer understanding of many of the issues of the day. Kinescope and record reproductions have made it possible to multiply the influence of educational programs. Thus, ninety record albums of the 1955 "The People Take the Lead" radio series were distributed to stations throughout the country. With the help of the Ford Foundation, fifty kinescopes of a TV program on fraternity discrimination were distributed. In securing local bookings for this material, the assistance of Committee chapters has been indispensable.

Two other TV projects initiated by the Committee scored new successes during the year. One was the Rabbinical TV Workshop co-sponsored by the New York Chapter of the Committee and the New York Board of Rabbis; the fourth annual session, attended by forty-five rabbis and consultants from the television industry, was given wide publicity in the general and trade press. The other was a TV spot announcement telecast over the NBC network during the world series. This was one of a series of visual "spots" on intergroup relations developed by the Committee and disseminated to vast listening and viewing audiences during the past several years.

Through the generosity of the J. M. Kaplan Fund, Inc., the Committee completed its second intergroup relations film at the close of 1956—*The Princess in the Tower*, dealing with youth and prejudice. The first film, *Make Way for Youth*, has been seen by millions here and abroad since its production in 1947.

**The United Nations and Human Rights**

The Committee and its cooperating organizations in the Consultative Council of Jewish Organizations, the Alliance Israélite Universelle and the Anglo-Jewish Association, continued their efforts to give meaning to the human rights provisions of the U.N. Charter. Previously, the Committee had focused on the drive for legally binding Covenants on Human Rights. When—partly because of our own Government's decision not to support the treaty approach in human rights—it became clear that little, if any, progress could be anticipated, the Committee turned to other phases of the U.N.'s human rights program.

Important activities included cooperation with the U.N. Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities in its current global studies of discrimination. Having already contributed to the study of discrimination in education, the Committee embarked upon a major research project on discrimination in religious rights and practices which will be made available to the Sub-Commission. The Committee also supported the Action Program for Human Rights, embracing research, reporting and advisory services.

Looking to the forthcoming (1958) Tenth Anniversary Celebration of the adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the Committee plans to initiate an extensive program of activities centered around public hearings on the Declaration, with the hope that other American organizations, national and local, will take part.

The Committee continued to play an active role in the U. S. National Commission for UNESCO and to cooperate with the U.N. in bringing the world's moral conscience to bear on human rights violations, such as the persecution of Egyptian Jews.

The Consultative Council of Jewish Organizations, by applying for consultative status to the Council of Europe and the International Labor Organization, paved the way for the Committee's cooperation in the human rights programs of these bodies. Of particular interest are the European Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and the ILO activity relating to discrimination in employment and forced labor.
Within the Jewish Community

The Committee has sought to convey to American Jews a better understanding of the problems of Jewish integration into American life. To this end, it sponsored the Riverton Study, a sociological investigation of a middle-sized Atlantic seaboard Jewish community, and the “This Is Our Home” pamphlet series, designed to convey a better understanding of the Jewish heritage and the consonance of Jewish values with American democracy.

During the year, the findings of the Riverton Study evoked much interest among scholars and selected Jewish groups. As a result, arrangements were made to issue a popular edition containing the principal findings and to conduct a follow-up study in the Midwest.

The fourteenth and final pamphlet in the “This Is Our Home” series, entitled Bread to the Hungry, dealt with Jewish concepts of philanthropy and the development of Jewish philanthropic institutions in America. This series was effectively used in Jewish educational circles.

The Committee continued to make available information on developments affecting Jews abroad and trends in the American Jewish community. This work was carried on through Commentary, the AMERICAN JEWISH YEAR BOOK, and special publications.

The Committee was again moved to deplore the public relations activities of the American Council for Judaism, especially its dissemination of material tending to perpetuate in the public mind the false impression of “dual loyalty” of American Jews. On the constructive side was the reaffirmation by Prime Minister David Ben-Gurion of Israel, in a letter to Jacob Blaustein, AJC’s honorary president, of the principles set forth in the Prime Minister’s 1950 statement to Mr. Blaustein. In the recent letter, Mr. Ben-Gurion said: “The Jews of the United States, and the community as individuals, have only one political attachment and that is to the United States of America. They owe no political allegiance to Israel.”

The Committee also issued a policy statement in June 1956, opposing the effort by the World Jewish Congress to form a new organization which would claim to speak for Jews everywhere on matters affecting their civil status. The Committee’s statement, sent to Jewish organizations here and abroad, was laid before local forums of Jewish opinion by Committee chapters.

Chapters in general began giving major emphasis to the educational aspects of their various meetings and functions, recognizing that only an adequately informed membership could inform the Jewish community at large about the Committee’s program and outlook. One consequence was the successful development by the Cleveland Chapter of a Membership Information Program, which used audio-visual materials at a series of carefully planned “home” meetings designed to reach a maximum number of members and prospective members. This program will be made available to all chapters.

At the same time, the Committee moved to establish a Department of Jewish Communal Affairs, designed to extend education on Jewish communal issues, the Jewish heritage, and Jewish integration into American life.

Arden House Conference on Group Life in America

The Committee, ever since its inception, has furthered the integration of Jews into American life, while at the same time urging the retention of Jewish identity. The conviction that these two aims are compatible has led to extensive exploration of problems arising from the integration of ethnic and religious groups in America. Several years ago the Committee felt that the time had come for a comprehensive consideration of these problems from both the theoretical and practical points of view. Accordingly, it laid careful plans for a Conference on Group Life in America, which convened at Arden House in Harriman, N. Y., November 9-12, 1956. This
Conference marked the opening of the Committee's Fiftieth Anniversary celebration. Some thirty scholars and practitioners attended three and one-half days of intensive and continuous sessions. The conferees, drawn for the most part from the academic field, also included distinguished persons from the fields of journalism, social welfare, industry, labor, law and government. They sought to evaluate present trends in the light of America's historic experience with diversity, and to suggest possible and appropriate patterns for the future of religious and ethnic group life in this country.

A detailed agenda was developed by a Planning Committee under the chairmanship of Donald Young, President of Russell Sage Foundation, and including Professor Otto Klineberg of Columbia University; Dr. Mordecai M. Kaplan of the Jewish Theological Seminary of America; Professor Robin Williams of Cornell University; and Professor Oscar Handlin of Harvard University, who served as study director of the Conference. Among the subjects explored were the psychological and social factors in group identification; the political behavior of ethnic groups, and their health and welfare activities; the entire problem of religious and ethnic education, including the effects of parochial education; the meaning of religious identification; and the problems of future survival of ethnic-religious groups in America.

It is still too early to assess the full significance of this conference. Most of the discussion papers, together with an extensive interpretation of the findings by Dr. Handlin, will be published by Harvard University Press late in 1957. In the meantime, an interim report is under preparation. This report, together with the full volume, may stimulate further thought and study, just as the Committee-sponsored Conference on Prejudice some years ago led to an extensive research program culminating in the five-volume Studies in Prejudice.

This Conference was made possible through the generosity of the Eli Lilly Endowment, Inc.

Fiftieth Anniversary Celebration

The Fiftieth Anniversary celebration, which opened with the Arden House Conference, culminated five months later at the Waldorf-Astoria Hotel in New York, April 10-14, 1957. Throughout 1956, a committee under the chairmanship of Jacob Blaustein carried forward plans for this event, as well as for chapter observances. It selected as the governing theme of the anniversary program "The Pursuit of Equality at Home and Abroad"—an appropriate keynote for evaluation of past achievements, appraisal of present trends, and consideration of future directions. The Committee planned a program rich in information and inspiration, centering around the great issues of human freedom both here and abroad. As a backdrop for the meeting, a new publication, Of Freedom and Faith, summarizing the Committee's philosophy and program, was released in October, and a pictorial history of AJC, The Pursuit of Equality, was undertaken.

Institute of Human Relations

A notable event of the Committee's anniversary year was the launching of plans for its own building, for which a site was purchased at the corner of Manhattan's Third Avenue and 56th Street. The building was envisioned as an Institute of Human Relations—"a hub for research combined with practical experience," offering facilities to American scholars and foreign students alike, as well as to journalists, social scientists and religious leaders of all faiths. Present plans call for the Institute to be divided functionally into five major "Centers" dealing with Research, Social Action, Foreign Affairs, Mass Communications and Jewish Community Services.

As the year came to a close, plans to raise $2,000,000 were well under way, supervised by a special committee with A. M. Sonnabend, prominent Boston industrialist,
as chairman. In the meantime, a Building Committee of which Julius S. Loewenthal and Erwin S. Wolfson were co-chairmen, was at work with a firm of architects on blueprints for the building itself.

Clearly, none of the accomplishments described in this report would have been possible without the American Jewish Committee's working lay membership, especially its national committees. In the fullest sense, the Committee is its membership. During the year the roster of members continued its steady increase, with many chapters making special efforts to bring in younger community leadership. The national committees, particularly, were re-invigorated as a result of the reorganization adopted the previous year. Some 650 members, of whom about two-thirds reside outside New York, comprise the AJC's ten major national program committees and five institutional committees.

The Committee looks to its members for a community viewpoint and focus. The extent to which this role is performed depends on continual expansion of chapter activities, and active participation of members in the affairs of the national organization.

The American Jewish Committee at fifty continues to pursue its primary goal: to defend the rights of Jews and ensure equality of opportunity for all. Its objectives continue to be:
—To foster mutual respect among all groups in America.
—To protect and defend American institutions.
—To achieve full equality for all Americans.
—To promote self-understanding and self-acceptance among Jews.
—To help Jews in other lands live in the full enjoyment of their rights as citizens of their countries and with full opportunity to maintain their religious and communal institutions.
—To advance human rights the world over.

The Committee's experience over the past half-century in pursuit of these objectives has been extensive. It has sought to meet the challenges of Czarist oppression, World War upheavals, Nazi persecution, anti-Semitism and discrimination at home, Jewish migration, the upbuilding of Palestine, the creation of Israel. With this background the Committee is fortified to meet the crises and challenges of the present: Communist oppression, turbulence and instability in the Middle East, Egyptian cruelties, discrimination and inequality, Jewish cultural rehabilitation abroad, struggle for human rights.

The American Jewish Committee recognizes that security and equality will not be achieved until man learns to understand and deal with his social world just as in the past he has learned to understand and modify his physical environment. Intense cultivation of the new science of human relations is required. It is to this task that the Committee dedicates itself as it commences its second half-century of service.
Jewish Publication Society of America

REPORT OF THE SIXTY-NINTH YEAR

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3 Term expires in 1960.
THE SIXTY-NINTH ANNUAL MEETING

The sixty-ninth annual membership meeting of The Jewish Publication Society of America was held on May 5, 1957, at the Warwick Hotel, 17th and Locust Streets, Philadelphia, Pa., at 3:30 p.m. Edwin Wolf, 2nd, President of the Society, presided, with members and officials in attendance.

Opening remarks were made and greetings extended by the President, after which reports covering the year 1956 were presented.

Treasurer’s Report

Mr. Myer Feinstein, Treasurer, reported as follows:

This is my fourth report as Treasurer, and I am very pleased to be able to maintain the positive tone of preceding years.

Financially, 1956 was a good year for the Society. (It was good in other directions too, but I’m now reporting on the financial aspects.) The highlight of the year was clearance and termination of the mortgage on our building, and we are no longer
burdened with this obligation. Also, we reduced other external debts, so that our costs for interest payments are substantially lower, and we can now use more of our available funds to publish good books instead of paying off debts.

In 1956, our costs of conducting the Society's program amounted to $343,474, of which $214,858 was spent for publishing and royalties, while $128,616 was spent for other expenses. This compares with total costs of $322,993 in 1955, of which $199,189 went for publishing and royalties, with $123,804 spent for other expenses. Thus, nearly $16,000 went to meet increased costs of typesetting, paper, printing, binding, and royalties, and nearly $6,000 was needed to meet rising costs of administration and distribution.

Our income was also increased substantially, with a total of $341,472. $88,808 came from dues payments, $200,902 from sales of Bibles and other books, $35,840 from donations and allocations (including $19,249 from the Jacob R. Schiff Fund), and the balance from miscellaneous sources such as royalties, rent, etc. This income came within $2,000 of expenditures, so that we show a small deficit for the year.

1955 income, by comparison, amounted to a total of $324,008, of which $93,475 came from dues payments, $183,315 from sale of Bibles and other books, $40,462 from donations and allocations (including $22,030 from the Jacob R. Schiff Fund), and the balance from miscellaneous sources.

The decrease apparent in dues income when 1956 is compared with 1955 was caused by a change in bookkeeping method and not by a shrinkage in enrollment. We actually enrolled more members in 1956 than in 1955.

In general, the financial picture of the Society is improved. We do owe nearly $25,000 on internal borrowings from funds, but we hope to repay this in the next few years—now that we are free of external debt. As in past years, we remain troubled by a lack of working capital, but here also we hope that increased income will help correct this situation. Our work is very important to the cultural life of our people, and I am confident that they will not let us down.

Executive Secretary's Report

Mr. Lesser Zussman, Executive Secretary, made an informal report in which he discussed the increased activity on the part of local chapters and committees organized for the purpose of enrolling members and sponsors for the Bible translation. He paid special tribute to Mrs. Pearl Forster, membership representative in the Metropolitan New York region, who has enrolled nearly 200 Bible sponsors during the past eighteen months.

Publication Committee Report

Judge Louis E. Levinthal, Chairman of the Publication Committee, reported as follows:

I am pleased to have the opportunity to greet you and to present this report on behalf of the Publication Committee.

Since our meeting a year ago we sustained the loss of two distinguished members of our Committee, Leo Honor and Ralph Marcus, both comparatively young men, each outstanding in his field of culture and scholarly endeavor.

On the other hand, we were fortunate in being able to add two new members, both of whom, I am confident, will prove most helpful in the development of our work. They are Professor Nahum N. Glatzer, of Brandeis University, and Professor Ellis Rivkin, of the Hebrew Union College at Cincinnati.

At the last annual meeting, my report dwelt upon the difficult problem of continuing the publication program of our Society in such a way as to satisfy both our scholarly members and those interested in popular and belles-lettres works. I pointed out that the time had come for a comprehensive review of the Society's policies and to adjust its publication to the contemporary conditions and needs of the American
JEWISH PUBLICATION SOCIETY OF AMERICA

Jewish community. At the meeting of the Publication Committee in New York last October, on motion of Professor Eli Ginzberg, a Survey Committee was appointed consisting of Harry Starr and Doctors Shalom Spiegel, Bertram Korn and Felix Levy, with Professor Ginzberg as Chairman. In a preliminary memorandum prepared by Professor Ginzberg, the following are among numerous questions which his Committee is planning to explore:

What are the implications for the Society of the current interest of commercial publishers in books of Jewish interest?
To what extent is the Society spreading itself over too many fields in its effort to produce scholarly books, fiction, juveniles, and specialty volumes?
Why have there been no recent additions to the Schiff Classics?
Could the Society profitably publish new volumes incorporating selections from its own earlier books grouped around an author such as Schechter or a particular theme such as Medieval Jewry?

We may confidently expect that this subcommittee's findings and recommendations will merit the serious consideration of both our Publication Committee and the Board of Trustees.

In my opinion, the ten volumes we are publishing this year illustrate the general objectives of our Society. Each of our current books represents an aspect of JPS activity which we cannot abandon without denying the very principles on which we have been founded and by which we have achieved a reputation for cultural integrity. I should, however, like to call special attention to the work of Yitzhak Ben-Zvi, the President of Israel, with its dramatic portrayal of those Jewish oriental communities lost to our people, most of which the State of Israel has reclaimed and redeemed. This translation into English of a volume which has made a deep impression on modern Israel should prove a significant contribution to the cultural bond between the Israel and American Jewish communities.

In seeking to publish books of current Jewish interest we must not overlook the paramount need of preserving and transmitting our classics, those literary and scholarly works of the past which reflect the eternal spirit of our people. We realize, of course, that the Society has but scratched the surface in producing only seventeen volumes in our excellent Schiff Library. There are many additional works of the highest order that we should publish in the original Hebrew, with scholarly and readable translations. Unfortunately, however, it is extremely difficult, if not almost impossible, through the process of mere translation, to make some of the literary treasures of our past relevant and meaningful for Jewish readers of the present generation. What is often needed today is not a mere transference from the Hebrew to the English language, but rather a reinterpretation of an ancient classic and its adaptation to modern life and thought.

An example of what I have in mind is the Talmud, that vast compilation of Jewish law and lore which exerted such an overwhelming influence upon our ancestors throughout the centuries. From 1896 to 1904 Michael L. Rodkinson undertook a translation of the Talmud into English. It is not unkind to say that that pioneering and rather primitive effort was of little if any value in helping the American Jew to understand or appreciate the Talmud. The more recent excellent translation, beautifully produced, which bears the imprint of the British firm Soncino, has been better received. But I venture to suggest that even it has not resulted in effecting any substantial improvement in the American Jew's awareness of the nature of the Mishna and the Gemara. More than sixty years ago the Society published two little volumes concerning the Talmud, one by Emanuel Deutsch, in 1895, and the other by Arsène Darmesteter, in 1897. Aside from Henry Malter's edition of The Tractate Ta'anit in the Schiff Series, and Max L. Margolis's translation of Hermann L. Strack's Introduction to the Talmud and Midrash, the Society has not undertaken to provide the English reader with any books concerning that unique body of literature which has been the accepted authority of the Jewish people for almost two
thousand years. We hope that the Society may find it possible in the near future to produce one or more volumes treating the Talmud somewhat as our popular Pathways Through the Bible dealt with our Holy Scriptures.

There are any number of areas which call for similar treatment. Many are the precious Jewish classics which, even if they cannot be preserved intact and in translation, we dare not allow to slip out of the consciousness of our people. To transmit an appreciation of our rich cultural heritage is our primary task, along with the other publishing obligations that naturally fall to us. We require and have the right to ask that the Jews of America extend to us the moral support and the financial aid so essential to make our activities possible.

That the public is becoming increasingly aware of the achievements and potentialities of the Society may happily be seen in the tribute recently paid by the National Jewish Welfare Board in conferring one of its 1957 Awards on our distinguished Editor and Secretary of the Publication Committee, Dr. Solomon Grayzel. We are thankful to him for his dedicated services beyond the call of duty throughout his long and intimate association with us. We are proud of the reference to the Society in the richly deserved citation of award bestowed upon him by the NJWB:

Dr. Solomon Grayzel—educator, author, historian, lecturer and editor, whose entire career has been devoted to advancing the cause of Jewish culture in America. Creative scholar and distinguished author of significant Jewish works, he has been a sustaining cultural force as editor of the Jewish Publication Society of America, as founder, and for six years president, of the Jewish Book Council of America; as co-editor of the Jewish Book Annual; and as editor of In Jewish Bookland. Guide and mentor to countless Jewish authors whose writings have enriched Jewish literature, he has made an enduring contribution to strengthening and interpreting Jewish cultural life in America.

Dr. Grayzel has ever been true to the ideals of the founders of the JPS. In reading the just published letters of Louis Marshall, that constant and staunch friend of our Society, I was struck by his reply to Israel Zangwill's offer to dedicate one of his books to him. Under date of August 4, 1920, Mr. Marshall feelingly expressed his gratitude for the compliment:

It is a high honor which I greatly appreciate. I never dreamed that my name would be connected with yours in literary work. It certainly is an indication of the blindness of friendship that you have given this evidence of partiality.

He continued:

I thank you further for your thoughtfulness in enabling me to elect between your book of essays, containing controversial matter, and your translation of Ibn Gabirol.

It is not surprising that Louis Marshall, being Louis Marshall, should have preferred to have his name associated with the classic poetry of the author of the Kether Malchuth rather than with the more popular and exciting Voice of Jerusalem, also a literary work of the highest order. Is this not a striking indication of how a good and fervent Jew appreciates the true significance of a Sefer in the life of our people? It is this traditional attitude of reverence for our cultural and spiritual heritage which the Jewish Publication Society must continue to strive to foster.

Report of the Nominating Committee

Mr. Sol Satinsky, Chairman of the Nominating Committee, presented the following report:

The Nominating Committee takes pleasure in presenting this report.

We unanimously recommend the following as officers, honorary officers, and trustees of the Society—the officers and honorary officers for terms of one year, and trustees for terms as indicated.
OFFICERS

EDWIN WOLF, 2nd, President (4th term)
CHIEF JUSTICE HORACE STERN, 1st Vice President (46th term)
SOL SATINSKY, 2nd Vice President (5th term)
DR. JACOB R. MARCUS, 3rd Vice President (4th term)
MYER FEINSTEIN, Treasurer (5th term)
LESSER ZUSSMAN, Secretary & Executive Secretary (8th term)
JUDGE LOUIS E. LEVINTHAL, Chairman, Publication Committee (14th term)
DR. SOLOMON GRAYZEL, Editor (19th term)

HONORARY PRESIDENT

J. SOLIS-COHEN, Jr.

HONORARY VICE PRESIDENTS

SAMUEL BRONFMAN, Montreal
LEE M. FRIEDMAN, Boston
JAMES MARSHALL, New York
SAMUEL I. ROSENMAN, New York
PHILIP SLOMOVITZ, Detroit
MICHAEL A. STAVITSKY, Newark
LEWIS L. STRAUSS, New York

TRUSTEES

The following trustees have completed their terms of office and are recommended for reelection to three-year terms:

PHILIP W. AMRAM, Washington
HERBERT D. COHEN, York
ABRAHAM L. FREEDMAN, Philadelphia
JUDGE BENJAMIN LENCHER, Pittsburgh
JUDGE THEODORE LEVIN, Detroit
PHILIP W. LOWN, Boston
MRS. MAX L. MARGOLIS, Philadelphia
JOSEPH MEYERHOFF, Baltimore
JEROME J. SHESTACK, Philadelphia
LEONARD N. SIMONS, Detroit
MORTON H. WILNER, Washington
BEN D. ZEVIN, Cleveland

For election as trustees for a one-year term, we recommend:

ROBERT J. BLOCK, Seattle
LEO GUZIK, New York
JUDGE SIMON SOBELOFF, Baltimore

Respectfully submitted,
SOL SATINSKY, Chairman
RABBI MORTIMER J. COHEN
JOSEPH FIRST
BERNARD L. FRANKEL
JEROME J. SHESTACK
The report of the Nominating Committee was approved unanimously.

Mr. Edwin Wolf, 2nd, President, submitted his annual report (as printed below).

Dr. E. A. Speiser, Professor of Bible and chairman of the Department of Oriental Studies at the University of Pennsylvania, delivered an address on the subject “New Light on the Eternal Book,” which was warmly received and fully discussed through questions from the audience. (The address is being reprinted for distribution to members of the Society.)

The membership meeting was adjourned at 5:30 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

LESSER ZUSSMAN, Secretary

THE ANNUAL REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT
FOR THE YEAR 1956

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN:

It is the custom of presidents in presenting annual reports to their shareholders, constituents or members to paint the year gone by in glowing, colorful tints, reflecting optimism and pride in accomplishment. If the year has been a good one, promises are glibly given that the coming year will be even better. If the year has been disappointing, the unfortunate lapses are explained away and assurances made that the unforeseen difficulties have been overcome. We Americans only want to read success stories.

I could give such a report this year, because the statistics of our membership growth, our book sales, our Bible sponsorships, our welfare fund support, and that mysterious intangible, goodwill, all show a rising trend. It would be satisfying to point to our officers and trustees, our Publication Committee, and our Bible Translation Committee, to Lesser Zussman, our efficient and imaginative executive secretary, to Dr. Solomon Grayzel, our scholarly editor, and to our loyal staff and say, “Well done, you good and faithful servants.” And then, I would smile expectantly to await your applause.

Yes, our membership has risen—a little. But there are still not thousands but hundreds of thousands of Jewish homes in this country which are empty of Jewish culture in the four-square form of books. Over a hundred years ago, Isaac Mayer Wise wrote, “Judaism has to struggle against two adversaries, viz., Ignorance and Prejudice. The Jew who is ignorant of the principles and doctrines of Judaism and its history cannot be a pious Jew.” In the past hundred years, American Jewry has done much to eliminate prejudice; can it say that it has done equally well in combating Jewish ignorance of Judaism and Jews?

We consider ourselves to be in the forefront of those institutions which are dedicated to the preservation and strengthening of Judaism through knowledge. It is gratifying to announce to you that our own estimation of ourselves has been seconded by the National Jewish Welfare Board, which this year chose Dr. Grayzel, that quintessence of our corporate being, to receive the Frank L. Weil award for having done the most to promote the cause of Jewish culture. And yet, our purpose is not to receive acclaim, but to publish and disseminate books on Jewish subjects in the English language. Our publication program produces books—good books—books capable of teaching, inspiring, edifying, exciting, diverting, and being read; but neither our Society, its members, nor the American Jewish communities have produced the readers.
However, we may now be planting the seeds which will produce them. Our Bible project has not only captured the imagination of the editors who are working on it, but also that of a large number of individuals who have already agreed to sponsor it. *Genesis*, in its final draft, but probably in its not final state, is finished and will be printed in a proof version for the sponsors, as a kind of report of a work in progress. The hope that this new translation would represent a major contribution of American Jewry to the culture of our times is being realized in the scholarly and creative labors of Dr. Orlinsky and his associates. We once felt that this would be the best and most accurate translation into English ever achieved; we now believe that it will be the best and most accurate translation of the original Hebrew into any language.

This year we went out to Los Angeles to tell the large Jewish community of that growing city the story of the Bible translation and the needs of the Society. Through the warm and understanding leadership of a group of friends, including Cyrus Levinthal, Aaron Riche, Philip Seman, and Abraham Goldfeld—to mention but a few—a gratifying number of Bible sponsors was obtained, and a gratifying number of friends for the Society made. We are always surprised—perhaps, we should not be—at the devotion of our old members throughout the country and the interest with which the newly converted embrace our aims and purposes.

In New York and on Long Island, again with the valuable help of Leo Guzik, Rabbis Sandrow, Cahn, and Lipman, Benjamin Fine, Dr. Schwartz, Harry Baumgarten, Charles Bensley, and Solomon Heiferman, we have secured a most gratifying response to our appeal. In Philadelphia, largely through the efforts of our officers and trustees, we have done equally well. I can report to you that of 1,500 sponsors whom we are seeking to enable the six-year project of translation and publication to come to fruition, we have obtained 792. This is an indication that a vision of sufficient importance can become a reality. We feel sure that these sponsors, many of whom had never heard of the Society before, will become our regular supporters.

Another plan in the process of maturation is the “Covenant Books” series, juvenile biographies written and produced in the best popular style of the day, which we are sponsoring together with Farrar, Straus, and Cudahy. Aimed at a young audience, these books should bring life and new blood into our membership list.

I have no intention of apologizing for the books we published last year, nor for those being issued currently. Without commenting on a certain title on American Jewish history which came out over our imprint, I state emphatically that the quality was excellent, the variety pleasing, and the physical appearance consistently at a level never before attained by the Society. I find that most of the complaints about our “dull” books come from people who have not opened them, or from pseudo-scholars whose own work we have chosen not to publish. We suffer from a kind of adverse psychology inherited from the past: if it’s JPS, admire it from the outside only. Without prejudice, to single out only two: the Picard stories titled *The Marked One*, had they been hailed by the avant garde press as a great European discovery, would have enjoyed the reception and acclaim of the Italian novellettes of the same period. Bieber’s *Heinrich Heine* biographical anthology, so skillfully and sensitively strung together by Moses Hadas, is on a par with any of the many current, extremely popular rediscoveries of romantics of a former age. But it is not easy to find really good books such as these. Our Publication Committee and our editor deserve high commendation.

**Publication Program**

For 1956:

The first title, published in January, was the new edition of *The Holy Scriptures*, completely reset in a modern and larger format. 4,669 volumes were distributed during the year.
The second title, published in March, was *My Jewish Roots*, by Solomon Simon. 3,700 volumes were printed, of which 2,199 were distributed during the year.

The third title, also published in March, was *Volume III of Memoirs of American Jews*, by Jacob R. Marcus. 4,000 volumes were printed and 2,312 distributed during the year.

In June, we published as our fourth title *The Marked One and Other Stories*, by Jacob Picard. 4,850 volumes were printed and 2,183 distributed during the year.

The fifth title, issued in October, was *Legends of the Bible*, by Louis Ginzberg, co-published with Simon and Schuster. Our edition consisted of 6,000 volumes, of which 3,623 were distributed by the end of the year.

In December, we published our sixth new book—a juvenile titled *The Mystery of the Silver Fish and Other Stories of Adventure*, by Eleazar Freed. 4,000 volumes were printed, of which 1,410 were distributed during the month.

Also in December, we published our seventh book titled *Heinrich Heine; A Biographical Anthology*, by Hugo Bieber and Moses Hadas. 5,000 volumes were printed and 2,543 distributed during the month.

The eighth title published in February 1957, was *The History of the Jews of Philadelphia*, by Edwin Wolf, 2nd and Maxwell Whiteman. 4,000 volumes were printed and 1,674 distributed upon publication.

In March 1957, Volume 58 of the *American Jewish Year Book*, edited by Morris Fine, was co-published with the American Jewish Committee as the ninth title. Our edition consisted of 3,000 volumes, of which 2,554 were distributed upon publication.

In May 1957, our tenth and final book of the 1956 list was published. Its title was *Hebrew: The Eternal Language*, by William Chomsky. 5,000 volumes were printed, and 2,520 were distributed upon publication.

For 1957:

Our list for 1957 includes ten books in the fields of history, biography, religion and art. Their subject matter is varied and should provide our members with a wide and interesting selection.

*The Exiled and the Redeemed*, by Yitzhak Ben-Zvi, translated from the Hebrew by Isaac A. Abbady, is interesting because of its contents and also because its author is President of the State of Israel. The book deals with the Jews who have been living off the beaten track of western civilization for the past two thousand years. Those who could be brought back to the mainstream of Jewry are now gathered in Israel. Others, beyond redemption, have been absorbed by their religious and cultural environment.

*Louis Marshall: Champion of Liberty*, in two volumes, presents a selection of letters and addresses by a great American Jew. The material was edited and selections made by Charles Reznikoff. A biographical introduction was written by Oscar Handlin. Marshall was a lawyer who rose to the top of his profession; an ardent patriot who defended his American ideals at great personal sacrifice; a good Jew who became an outstanding leader of his people. The selected letters and addresses illustrate these manifold activities and the quality of Marshall's mind and spirit. (The manuscript was prepared in cooperation with the Marshall family and the American Jewish Committee, and publication will be subventioned by the Jacob R. Schiff Fund.)

*Where Judaism Differed*, by Abba Hillel Silver, co-published with The Macmillan Company, is a history of Judaism which goes down to fundamentals and presents the basic spiritual issues involved between Judaism and Christianity.

*A Social and Religious History of the Jews*, by Salo W. Baron, continues the profound and challenging interpretation of Jewish history which began with the publication of Volumes I and II in 1952. Volumes III, IV, and V, under the general title of "The High Middle Ages," will cover the Medieval period, through the Crusades, from 500 to 1200 C.E. It will be co-published with Columbia University Press.
Prayer, Humility and Compassion, by Samuel H. Dresner, is meant for all those who want religion to play a vital role in their lives. It presents three ways in which God enters the life of man: prayer, in terms of our relation to heaven; humility, in terms of our relation to ourselves; compassion, in terms of our relation to our fellowman.

The Book of Ruth, with woodcuts by Jacob Steinhardt, and Hebrew and English calligraphy by Franziska Baruch, is a companion volume to The Book of Jonah which was published in 1953. Beautifully printed and bound, the book fittingly represents this idyllic Bible story.

The American Jewish Year Book, 1958, Volume 59, edited by Morris Fine and Jacob Sloan, and co-published with the American Jewish Committee, will contain the feature and reference material which have given distinction to this annual publication for many years.

Reprints
During the year 1956, we reprinted twelve titles as follows: 61,000 volumes of the Bible, making a total of 699,789 in print; 11,800 volumes of Pathways Through the Bible, making a total of 107,550 in print; 6,000 volumes of Grayzel’s A History of the Jews, making a total of 39,950 in print; 2,000 volumes of Awakened, making 6,579 in print; 4,200 volumes of The Book of Psalms, making an estimated total (since exact records for the early years are not available) of 25,200 in print; 2,300 volumes of History of the Jewish People, by Margolis and Marx, making a total of 38,600 in print; 2,850 sets of History of the Jews, by Graetz, making an estimated total (since exact records for the early years are not available) of 62,850 sets in print; 2,000 volumes of Let Laughter Ring, making a total of 15,500 in print; 1,000 volumes of The Last Revolt, making a total of 5,000 in print; 1,030 volumes of Man is Not Alone, making a total (JPS edition) of 7,030 in print; 200 sets of A Social and Religious History of the Jews, making a total (JPS edition) of 3,194 sets in print; and 4,000 volumes of Stories of King David, making 8,800 volumes in print.

Publication Distribution
The year 1956 sustained the upward trend of the several preceding years. A total of 124,571 volumes were distributed, compared with 114,064 volumes in 1955. Of the total, 39,684 volumes were selected by members; 82,412 volumes sold to members and the trade; and 2,475 volumes distributed free.

Bible sales continue to increase, with total sales of 47,232 volumes in 1956. Of this total, 42,889 were sold directly by the JPS and the balance by trade distributors. In 1955, total sales were 41,271, so that a substantial gain was made.

Pathways Through the Bible was also sold in slightly greater numbers. In 1956, a total of 12,683 volumes were sold as compared with 12,347 in 1955.

Membership Statistics
We are gratified by the fact that our membership continues to increase, and can only hope that this upward trend will be sustained as a reflection of American Jewry’s increasing concern with its culture and heritage.

During the year 1956, we enrolled a total of 9,419 members as compared with 8,874 in 1955—a gain of 545. Of the total enrolled, 2,517 were new members and 6,902 renewals. As to classification of membership, 5,162 were enrolled at $5.00; 3,334 at $11.25; 411 at $22.50; and 512 at $25.00 and over.

Community Welfare Funds
It is good to be able to report that an increasing number of communities now include the Society in their local campaigns. In 1955, we received $9,575.90 from
sixty-eight communities. This was increased to $11,160.00 from seventy-six communities in 1956. Not a large gain—but one which maintains the upward trend. Our goal remains inclusion in every welfare fund and federation in the country, and we are working toward that end. In this area, members of the Society who live in communities where we are not included can be very helpful by urging their local welfare fund officials to reconsider our request—since applications have been filed with every community in the U.S. and Canada.

**JPS Bookmark**

Now in its fourth year, with four issues in 1956, the *JPS Bookmark* is meeting our most optimistic hopes as a means of communication between the Society's administration and its members. As concrete proof of the interest with which this little publication is being read, we can point to the number of sponsors for the Bible translation project who were enrolled through a coupon printed in several issues last year. In all, sixty-six members pledged $9,850.00 by sending in this coupon. Truly a gratifying and heart-warming demonstration of interest.

**Necrology**

It is my sad duty to report the loss of four valuable co-workers during the past year. One was a valued trustee, two were devoted members of our Publication Committee, and the fourth was a learned author.

Louis M. Rabinowitz, who died ten days ago, was a member of the Board of Trustees since 1949. He was a distinguished bibliophile and philanthropist.

Leo L. Honor, who died last October, had been a member of the Publication Committee since 1949. He was Professor of Education at the Dropsie College.

Ralph Marcus, who died last December, had also been a member of the Publication Committee since 1949. He was Professor of Oriental Studies at the University of Chicago.

Leon Huhner, who died in February, wrote *The Life of Judah Touro*, published by the Society in 1946. He was long the curator of the American Jewish Historical Society.

May their memories inspire us and be for a blessing.

And finally, some good news. During the year the Jacob R. Schiff Fund granted the JPS $100,000 for the specific purpose of refurnishing our present building on North 15th Street or acquiring another building better suited to our needs. For some years we have been concerned about the crowded quarters, the lack of space for an editorial reference library, or even space to display our own books properly. Our clerical staff is huddled together desk to desk. I have appointed a committee to study the problem and make recommendations as to the advisability of staying where we are and fixing up the building or of moving elsewhere, and if elsewhere, where. Hopefully, during the course of the coming year, we shall begin work in accordance with the decision.

Institutions never rest at dead center. They progress, or gradually disintegrate. If the Jewish Publication Society, presently known to and joined by a tiny fraction of the American Jewish community, does not expand, it will have proved that there is no demand for it in modern American Jewish life. The lamp of culture does not burn high in many places in the world; is it not a part of the eternal mission of Israel to nurture and brighten the flame?