

Bess Leiken

THE AMERICAN JEWISH COMMITTEE

MEMORANDUM

June 27, 1950.

To members of the staff involved in the Program on Germany. This will give you an overall picture of AJC activities in this field.

June 20, 1950.

To: John Slawson - Arthur Mayer
From: S. Andhil Fineberg
Subject: Setup for Administering AJC's Operation - Germany

This memorandum is intended to indicate the arrangements developed since April 15th for facilitating the program on Germany. Practically all departments and divisions are now engaged in the program.

I - Cooperation with Other Agencies

The Coordinating Council for German Democracy was reorganized in May. It now consists of key individuals with cooperating agencies seeking to promote democracy in Germany. Its name has been changed to the Citizens' Council for a Democratic Germany.

Arthur L. Mayer, chairman of the AJC Committee on Germany, is the AJC representative on the Executive Board of the Council. Telford Taylor, a member of our Committee, is one of the three vice-chairmen of the Council. The AJC is one of the cooperating agencies.

There is an unofficial group which meets frequently at the NCRAC to carry on the day-to-day work of the Council. All NCRAC agencies participate in it. I have attended all meetings. Three persons, loaned by their agencies to the Council, form the official executive staff of the council; - Joseph Lichten (ADL) is Executive Secretary. I am serving as Director of Education and Will Maslow is the Director of Public Relations. Lichten's major duty is to increase the Council's membership. I am assisting him on this score thru Arthur Goldsmith and others, because it is assumed by all in the planning group that AJC has the best contacts. My major responsibility is for the production of literature to be distributed by the Council in its own name. Maslow's duties are legislative and relate mainly to such projects as the proposed Presidential inquiry. Lacking funds for an office, the Council's address and phone number are those of the NCRAC. A fund has been provided by contributions of \$250. each from the ADL, the Congress and the AJC. Joseph Willen is securing \$250 from individuals and this is being contributed in the name of the AJC.

The Council in addition to working on the national level (with national agencies, thru national media etc.) will seek to stimulate and service local councils in Germany, which will include the AJC chapters.

II - AJC Literature in Germany

The AJC, the American Jewish Congress and the ADL have been publishing various items of their own on Germany, such as reports on developments there. Differences of Emphasis, interpretation, etc. make it inadvisable for the Council to sponsor such items. AJC is producing items of its own. Beginning with the Letter to the New York Times on behalf of the requested appropriation for Education in Germany and Arthur L. Mayer's report to the Executive Committee, printed as a pamphlet (The New Threat from Germany) the AJC is preparing and circulating items in which the other agencies do not share. Both of the above mentioned items, incidentally, have appeared in The Congressional Record.

The AJC has also prepared and distributed in mimeographed form during the past week: Reorientation, The Nazi Underground and 5 pages of information on the Requested Budget. These are educational items for persons who need factual information and provide deeper insights into the problems involved. They are issued with AJC imprints.

III - AJC-ADL Reprints

The system of reprinting whereby AJC and ADL scan magazines and newspapers for items of merit should be available for targeted distribution, is now applied to articles on Germany. They are reprinted in quantity with copies bearing ADL imprint and Community Relations imprint. Correspondents choose which imprint they prefer for their local distribution. Three such reprints have been made and were sent out on the indicated dates: -

- February 15, 1950 - The Renazification of Germany..... Drew Middleton
- March 1, 1950 - McCloy's Address at Opening of the
New Amerika Haus in Stuttgart. . . .
- March 23, 1950 - The Struggle For the German Mind. . . Telford Taylor

IV - Literature for the Citizens' Council

The AJC Department of Public Information and Education is now preparing a Fact Sheet on Germany for AJC use and also for the use of others. It will bear the imprint of the Citizens' Council and is subject to approval by all members of the Council's Executive Board before publication. Similarly, I have undertaken to produce a promotional leaflet for the Council. This literature will be printed at the expense of the Citizens' Council. The Council will likewise need other items of its own. It will also promote some printed literature issued by AJC and other agencies, such as the AJC-ADL Reprints.

V - AJC Chapter Participation

The Community Activities Department has launched a Chapter program on Germany. A program book on the German problem was developed and distributed to all AJC Chapters and field representatives. This book presents the details of a Chapter program for the development of community-wide, non-partisan organizations or coalitions of organizations to deal with the situation on both the educational and legislative levels.

In connection with this Chapter work on Germany, a speaking tour for Arthur L. Mayer was arranged in the following cities: Chicago, Los Angeles, Portland (Oregon), Minneapolis, Detroit and Cleveland. Mr. Mayer sparked the development of Chapter activities on Germany at meetings in which representatives of non-Jewish groups also participated. Mr. Mayer was also extensively booked to address a number of non-Jewish organizations and on radio and television.

VI - Mass Media Into Germany

Thus far AJC has not been furnishing material for the mass media read and heard in Germany. I ascertained that items for Radio Berlin, German periodicals and other channels into Germany will be welcome by the American agency which handles this material. A great deal of information (such as examples of good group relations in the U. S.) which the Department of Public Information and Education prepares for use in the United States, can likewise be utilized by Amerika Dienst. Ralph Bass, who will be in Washington on other matters a few days hence, will discuss these possibilities with the U. S. officials and systematic servicing will be undertaken.

Similarly, Robert Disraeli has been studying the possibility of films for use in Germany. Make Way for Youth has been shown there with good result. Vigorous promotion of that film and others in Germany is possible. With films as with other materials, (books, pamphlets, etc.) the U. S. Government and private agencies are expending relatively large sums and the facilities, literature, etc. of AJC is so well related to U. S. objectives, that the financing of their use in Germany may be done by the Office of the High Commissioner for Germany.) AJC lay and staff personnel may even be sent to Germany by the State Department. The AJC lay committee will be asked to study these possibilities.

We shall give increasing thought to making AJC's methods of combatting anti-Semitism and promoting democracy known to U. S. officials and democratic elements in Germany thru direct contact with them. Our series of Studies in Prejudice have already been placed in eight offices of the German counterpart of the National Conference of Christians and Jews. We were recently informed that staff of the Public Affairs Division of HICOG in Germany has complained of a dearth of informative literature concerning the Jews and we have been asked to meet that need. Here again the expense need not devolve upon the AJC but we should furnish suggestions, guidance and evaluative judgment.

VII - Staff Responsibilities

A - Coordination

For the present it is necessary for some member of the staff thoroughly informed on Germany, to head up, coordinate and direct the AJC program by occupying a central position on:

- 1 - The AJC lay committee by serving as its secretary.
- 2 - The Citizens' Council for a Democratic Germany, by attending all meetings of the Council, its executive committee and the special NCRAC committee and by being a member of the secretariat.
- 3 - Supervising the AJC staff Committee on Germany: At Dr. Hevesi's request I have assumed this chairmanship. Dr. Hevesi is now secretary of the Committee.

To keep abreast of the situation and to read the voluminous current materials pertinent to the subject is a necessary part of the coordinator's work. This in itself has been a very time-consuming job. Apart from any individual's efforts, coordination is a function of all who participate in the program. The staff Committee on Germany meets on call two or three times a month. (Timing is dependent on the time the Citizens' Council meets, AJC lay committee meetings, etc). The Committee consists of designated members of each department. It considers work in process and plans new activities. Various jobs are assigned to specific departments, divisions and individuals. The present members of the staff Committee on Germany are: A. Bernheim, L. Breier, D. Danzig, M. Fine, S. A. Fineberg, J. Gordon, G. Hexter, S. Hirsh, M. Jung, B. Hanft, G. Kellman, E. Phillips, S. Segal, D. Sigman, E. Hevesi.

I trust that before long I shall be relieved of the manifold tasks involved in my multiple post. Someone who can give full time to the work should receive these assignments.

Evolving and implementing a program on Germany and making the impact of that program felt nationally, locally and in Germany, requires the participation of many members of AJC staff, employing the resources and skills of their various departments. This involvement is now well under way. The work is carried on according to various program needs:

B - Assembling Information

- 1 - AJC reports from Germany: These arrive from abroad and are processed by the Foreign Affairs Department and the Library of Information.
- 2 - Government reports come to us from our Washington office.
- 3 - Current news, magazine articles, etc: The Library of Information gathers and supplies this information.

C - Issuing Information

- 1 - The Community Service Department after consultation with the Foreign Affairs Department and staff members helpful in the case of each item, determines what to reprint for circulation. The production division takes care of actual production.
- 2 - The Department of Public Information and Education will process material for mass media and direct it into mass media channels in the U. S. as well as in Germany.
- 3 - The Publicity Department is responsible for informing the public thru the press and the Committee Reporter of AJC's activities in relation to the German problem. Publicity should be geared to what the AJC Committee on Germany aims to accomplish by publicity.

D - Channeling

One of the most difficult problems in this area of operation is getting the right information and materials to the right people with the minimum of expense and waste. I am asking Dorothy Nathan to serve as chairman of a Field Analysis Committee, which will include Isaiah Terman, Louis Breier and others. This Committee will examine the various mailing lists of the AJC and other outlets and will consider the desirability of a small special list. They will need to determine how to put our materials on Germany to greatest use with minimal cost for printing, mimeographing, postage, etc.

A difficult time-consuming and thus far unsatisfactory part of AJC's Operation-Germany is cooperation with the State Department's Exchange Program. Practically every department of the AJC has already been host to some very small groups of visitors from Germany who have been sent for orientation by one of the volunteer organizations that shares the overall task of sponsoring the Exchange Program. Were we to become more involved in this process of meeting for discussions with the German visitors on this basis and meet a third or even a tenth of them, it would consume inordinate amounts of staff time. David Sigman is now exploring the possibility of getting our influence to bear on the Exchange Program at a much higher point and systematizing our efforts in this connection.

Moreover, there has been no studied approach to the possibilities of influencing the exchange visitors. Each interview has been an isolated experience for the visitor and for the instructing staff member. We need a careful analysis of the many subjects that might be discussed with them, bearing in mind that they are chosen from various fields (journalists, lawyers, youth, agriculture, etc). All who deal with them on behalf of AJC should know more about the Exchange Program and its total plan for the visitors. We need a committee on "Orienting Individuals in the Exchange Program."

E - Speakers

When the summer lull has passed there will be a great demand for speakers on Germany. Thus far only a few persons have proved themselves capable of drawing audiences and successfully addressing major gatherings in the promotion of AJC's objectives in regard to Germany. Telford Taylor and Arthur L. Mayer will not be able, for lack of time, to fill the many engagements which they will be asked to take. In addition to large public gatherings, there will be AJC meetings and various other occasions where "a speaker on Germany" will be wanted. Eleanor Ulmann will make the arrangements for speakers for AJC. All requests should be addressed to her. But she will need advice, suggestions, etc. in reference to speakers. If the AJC viewpoint on this subject is to prevail - namely, a critical attitude (without hurtful, unwarranted denunciations) and a constructive approach, we shall probably have to train some speakers and make them available.

F - Civil Rights

Roger Baldwin is attempting to set up in Germany an organization similar to the Civil Liberties Union. AJC Civil Rights Department has met with a group of German exchange persons especially concerned with Civil Rights. There is a major opportunity here thru direct negotiation by Edwin J. Lukas and his staff with Roger Baldwin and others concerned with civil rights in Germany.

G - In Conclusion

If any staff member of the AJC already engaged in the program on Germany can spare more time for it, the time can be put to very good use. Anyone not yet involved in the program can be readily and advantageously involved. Suggestions along these lines will be appreciated.