

STATISTICS OF JEWS

STATISTICS OF JEWS

A. JEWISH POPULATION

Summary

Estimates of the world Jewish population have been assembled by the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee (except for the United States and Canada) and are probably the most authentic available at the present time.¹ The figures reveal that the total Jewish population of the world has decreased by one-third, from about 16,600,000 in 1939 to about 11,000,000 in 1946, as a result of the annihilation by the Nazis of more than five and a half million European Jews.

In Europe only an estimated 3,642,000 remain of the total Jewish pre-war population of approximately 9,740,000. The major part of the present world Jewish population—about 5,176,000—lives in the United States and Canada. The two continents have thus reversed their order of 1939, when Europe was the greatest center of Jewish population. Asia now has a Jewish population of about 892,000, compared with a pre-war estimate of 771,000. The Jewish populations in Africa and Latin America have increased slightly since 1939. The estimated number of Jews now in Africa is 640,000; in 1939 the Jewish population was 610,000. South and Central America have an estimated Jewish population of 578,000, as compared with the 1939 total of 524,000. The total Jewish population in Australia has risen from 33,000 in 1939 to an estimated 35,000 in 1946. (Table 1).

Western Hemisphere

There are approximately 5,756,000 Jews in the Western Hemisphere of whom about 5,000,000 reside in the United States.² Canada had a total of 176,500 Jews in 1945, according to the estimate of

¹ The effective date of the J.D.C. estimates used in this section is May 1946.

² According to an estimate made by Dr. H. S. Linfield, Special Agent of the U. S. Bureau of the Census in connection with the 1937 Census of Religious Bodies, the U. S. Jewish population in that year was 4,770,000. In the absence of any later estimate, the figure in this table is a generally accepted approximation of the present Jewish population.

the Canadian Jewish Congress. In Latin America, Argentina with 350,000 Jews, has the largest community. Brazil follows with a Jewish population of 100,000. Chile and Uruguay have Jewish populations of 25,000 and 37,000 respectively. Mexico has 16,000 and Cuba somewhat more than 10,000. Smaller Jewish communities exist throughout Latin America. (Table 2).

Because of limitation of space, and the fact that the government is now making plans for the 1947 Census of Religious Bodies, of which the Census of Jewish Congregations is a part, the detailed statistical tables on the Jewish population of the United States are being omitted from the present volume of the *American Jewish Year Book*. Two summary tables are included, however. (Tables 3 and 4). Those who desire further information are referred to volume 47, which contains more detailed tables, with an introduction by Dr. H. S. Linfield, Director of the Jewish Statistical Bureau.

Europe

The Jewish population remaining in Europe is in a constant state of flux; migrations westward and repatriations occur every day. The figures printed here are estimates based on reports received by the J.D.C. from European sources. From 1939 to the close of the war the Jewish population losses are estimated at 5,814,000; this figure may be lowered somewhat by an undetermined number of Jewish survivors in the Russian zone in Germany. There are at present approximately 3,642,000 Jews in all of Europe, as compared with 9,740,000 in 1939.

Outside the Soviet Union there are an estimated 1,609,000 Jews. The British Jewish population of 350,000 is the largest of any single country in Europe with the exception of the Soviet Union. On the Continent, there are about 330,000 Jews in Western Europe, including approximately 180,000 in France, 76,000 in the Low Countries, 35,000 in Switzerland, 30,000 in Italy (not including displaced persons), 28,000 in the Scandinavian countries, and 7,500 in Spain and Portugal. In the East European countries of Czechoslovakia, Poland, and the Soviet Union there are approximately 2,208,000 Jews, of which over 2,000,000 live in Soviet territory. In the Southern European countries of Hungary, Rumania, Yugoslavia, Bulgaria, Greece, and Turkey there is a total Jewish population of about 650,000.

In the early part of 1946 there were approximately 106,000 displaced and refugee Jews living in the American, British and French zones in Germany, in all of Austria, and in Italy. (Table 5).

Asia and Australasia

Two-thirds of the Jewish population on the continent of Asia lives in Palestine. Thus, the Yishuv numbered about 600,000 at the end of 1945, out of a total Jewish population of almost 900,000. Of the remaining third the principal centers of Jewish population are: Iraq (90,000), Iran (50,000), Yemen (45,000), India (30,000) and China (25,000). There are about 35,000 Jews in Australia and New Zealand. (Table 6).

Palestine

While Palestine was under Turkish rule there were enumerations of population, but the results were not organized in the manner of a modern census, so that during that period there are merely estimates of population. It was estimated that in 1839 there were 12,000 Jews in Palestine; in 1880, 35,000; in 1900, 70,000, and at the outbreak of World War I, about 85,000. The first census was taken in October 1922, and the published results give a complete picture of the population of Palestine. In November 1931, a second census was taken. A summary of this census is given in the *American Jewish Year Book*, Vol. 35, pages 272-278.

The population of Palestine according to the censuses of 1922 and 1931 and government estimates of *settled* population made since then are given below (Table 7). Since the census of 1931, estimates of population have been prepared by adding to census figures the *recorded* excess of arrivals over departures, and the natural increase (excess of births over deaths). Such estimates, however, leave out of account some of the "illegal" or unrecorded immigration.

The Palestine Government estimated the Jewish population to be 547,346 as of September 30, 1945. An estimate by the Jewish Agency for the same date is not available. However, we do have the Jewish Agency estimates of the Jewish population at the end of 1945, taking into account the unrecorded immigration.

According to the Statistical Department of the Jewish Agency, the number of Jews in Palestine at the end of 1945 was 592,000.

This estimate is derived from the sources mentioned above as well as the estimates of the "illegal" immigration. Of this total, 174,600 represents the 1931 census figure (29.5%), 313,400, the total net immigration (52.8%) and 104,400, the natural increase (17.7%).

The proportion of Jews to the total population of Palestine was 11.1% in 1922, 16.9% in 1931, 27.2% in 1935, 31% in 1939 and 32% at the end of 1945.

According to the Jewish Agency, the Jewish population is about evenly divided as between male and female, 50.8% for the former and 49.2% for the latter. Slightly over 36% are under the age of 20; half of the population (50.9%) is between 20 and 49; and the rest, or 13%, are 50 and over. Details on the age structure of the population will be found in Table 8.

More than three fourths of the Jewish community belong to the Ashkenazic group. The rest are Sephardim, Yemenites or members of the Oriental groups (Sephardim, 9.6%; Yemenites, 4.9%).

Three fourths of the Jewish population (439,000) live in cities or urban settlements, and one fourth (153,000) live in rural areas. The number of cities and urban settlements is 27 and the number of rural settlements is 266; the total number of Jewish settlements in Palestine is 293. Details are given in Table 9.

Africa

The African Jewish population has increased from an estimated 610,000 in 1939 to approximately 640,000 in 1945. Most of the Jewish population resides in the northern countries bordering on the Mediterranean. French Morocco has the largest Jewish community, numbering 175,000 in 1945 as compared with 161,000 in 1939. Next in size is Algeria, with 120,000 Jews in 1945, representing an increase of 10,000 since 1939. The Jewish population of Egypt is third largest in northern Africa (75,000) and Tunisia fourth (66,000). The population figures given for these two countries are the same for 1945 and 1939. In other parts of the continent, the sizeable Jewish communities are those of the Union of South Africa, numbering 98,000, and the Falasha community of Abyssinia, numbering about 50,000. (Table 10).

TABLE 1
ESTIMATED WORLD JEWISH POPULATION

| | 1939 | 1946 |
|-------------------------------------|------------------------|-------------------|
| United States and Canada | 4,965,620 ¹ | 5,176,500 |
| South and Central America | 524,000 | 578,000 |
| Europe | 9,739,200 | 3,642,100 |
| Asia | 771,500 | 892,500 |
| Australasia | 33,000 | 35,000 |
| Africa | 609,800 | 639,500 |
| TOTAL | 16,643,120 | 11,123,800 |

¹ The Jewish population of Canada was 165,620 in 1939 and 176,500 in 1945, according to the estimates of the Canadian Jewish Congress.

TABLE 2
ESTIMATED JEWISH POPULATION OF WESTERN HEMISPHERE

| | General Population ² | Jewish Population | Per Cent |
|---|---------------------------------|-------------------|----------|
| All Countries | 286,718,214 | 5,756,711 | 2.00 |
| North America and West Indies | 182,946,244 | 5,208,596 | 2.85 |
| United States (Continental) | 136,485,262 | 5,000,000 | 3.66 |
| Alaska | 72,524 | 600 | 0.83 |
| Canada | 11,506,655 | 176,500 | 1.53 |
| Mexico | 21,153,321 | 16,000 | 0.08 |
| Cuba | 4,778,583 | 10,900 | 0.23 |
| Curacao | 122,540 | 650 | 0.53 |
| Dominican Republic | 1,969,773 | 930 | 0.05 |
| Haiti | 3,000,000 | 160 | 0.01 |
| Jamaica | 1,237,063 | 2,200 | 0.18 |
| Puerto Rico | 2,017,789 | 150 | 0.01 |
| Trinidad | 535,499 | 370 | 0.07 |
| Virgin Islands | 24,889 | 62 | 0.25 |
| Panama Canal Zone | 42,346 | 74 | 0.18 |
| South and Central America | 103,771,970 | 548,115 | .05 |
| Argentina | 13,708,386 | 350,000 | 2.56 |
| Bolivia | 3,533,900 | 5,150 | .01 |
| Brazil | 44,460,000 | 110,750 | 0.25 |
| Chile | 5,237,432 | 25,000 | 0.48 |
| Colombia | 9,523,200 | 5,800 | 0.06 |
| Costa Rica | 705,000 | 70 | 0.01 |
| Ecuador | 3,105,541 | 3,200 | 0.10 |
| Guatemala | 3,450,752 | 895 | 0.03 |
| Guiana (British) | 354,219 | 1,000 | 0.28 |
| Honduras | 1,154,388 | 130 | 0.01 |
| Nicaragua | 1,380,000 | 135 | 0.01 |
| Panama | 631,637 | 750 | 0.12 |
| Paraguay | 1,040,420 | 3,000 | 0.29 |
| Peru | 7,271,654 | 2,500 | 0.03 |
| Salvador | 1,862,980 | 160 | 0.01 |
| Surinam | 183,730 | 975 | 0.53 |
| Uruguay | 2,164,000 | 37,000 | 1.71 |
| Venezuela | 4,004,731 | 1,600 | 0.04 |

² The general population figures are taken from the Pan American Yearbook, 1945 and the Statesman's Year Book, 1945.

TABLE 3

ESTIMATED NUMBER OF JEWS OF UNITED STATES, PRINCIPAL COMMUNITIES, AND CONGREGATIONS, 1850-1937¹

| | Total Population | Jews | P. C. | Increase in ten years | Princi- pal Com- munities | Congre- gations |
|------|---------------------|-----------|-------|-----------------------------|---------------------------------|--------------------|
| 1850 | 23,191,876 | 250,000 | 0.22 | — | 44 | 77 |
| 1877 | 43,661,968 | 250,000 | 0.52 | — | 174 | 277 |
| 1897 | 72,106,120 | 937,800 | 1.31 | — | 336 | 850 |
| 1907 | 88,787,058 | 1,776,885 | 2.00 | 89.47 | 426 | 1,769 |
| 1917 | 103,690,473 | 3,388,951 | 3.27 | 90.72 | 580 | 1,901 |
| 1927 | 118,140,645 | 4,228,029 | 3.58 | 24.76 | 871 | 3,118 |
| 1937 | 128,823,308 | 4,770,647 | 3.70 | 12.83 | 967 | 3,728 |

¹ See H. S. Linfield, "The Jewish Population of the United States," vol. 47, p. 641 ff.

* 1848.

* 1900.

TABLE 4

ESTIMATED NUMBER OF JEWS OF UNITED STATES, PRINCIPAL COMMUNITIES AND CONGREGATIONS, BY STATES, 1937¹

| State | Total Population 1940 | Jews 1937 | Principal Communities 1937 | Congregations 1937 | P. C. of Jews 1937 ² | Distribution of Jews 1937 |
|------------------------|------------------------|-----------|----------------------------|--------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------|
| UNITED STATES..... | 131,669,275 | 4,770,647 | 967 | 3,728 | 3.70 | 100.00 |
| Alabama..... | 2,832,961 | 12,148 | 13 | 20 | 0.44 | 0.25 |
| Arizona..... | 499,261 | 1,847 | 2 | 4 | 0.38 | 0.04 |
| Arkansas..... | 1,949,387 | 6,510 | 11 | 12 | 0.34 | 0.14 |
| California..... | 6,907,387 ^a | 157,471 | 31 | 101 | 2.40 | 3.31 |
| Colorado..... | 1,123,296 | 21,375 | 6 | 23 | 1.95 | 0.45 |
| Connecticut..... | 1,709,242 | 93,080 | 38 | 92 | 5.54 | 1.95 |
| Delaware..... | 266,505 | 6,587 | 2 | 6 | 2.55 | 0.14 |
| Dist. of Columbia..... | 663,091 | 18,350 | 1 | 15 | 2.99 | 0.38 |
| Florida..... | 1,897,414 | 21,276 | 19 | 30 | 1.22 | 0.45 |
| Georgia..... | 3,123,723 | 23,781 | 17 | 27 | 0.78 | 0.50 |
| Idaho..... | 524,873 | 1,138 | 1 | 2 | 0.23 | 0.02 |
| Illinois..... | 7,897,241 | 387,330 | 29 | 189 | 4.96 | 8.12 |
| Indiana..... | 3,427,796 | 28,155 | 23 | 44 | 0.83 | 0.59 |
| Iowa..... | 2,538,268 | 14,089 | 17 | 26 | 0.56 | 0.30 |
| Kansas..... | 1,801,028 | 8,287 | 4 | 8 | 0.46 | 0.17 |
| Kentucky..... | 2,845,627 | 17,894 | 10 | 17 | 0.64 | 0.38 |
| Louisiana..... | 2,363,880 | 14,942 | 14 | 21 | 0.65 | 0.31 |
| Maine..... | 847,226 | 9,000 | 15 | 23 | 1.08 | 0.19 |
| Maryland..... | 1,821,244 | 76,124 | 8 | 67 | 4.31 | 1.60 |
| Massachusetts..... | 4,316,721 | 262,945 | 57 | 186 | 6.07 | 5.51 |
| Michigan..... | 5,256,106 | 105,201 | 24 | 83 | 2.13 | 2.20 |
| Minnesota..... | 2,792,300 | 41,728 | 8 | 35 | 1.53 | 0.87 |
| Mississippi..... | 2,183,796 | 4,603 | 16 | 18 | 0.22 | 0.10 |
| Missouri..... | 3,784,664 | 86,572 | 12 | 61 | 2.32 | 1.81 |
| Montana..... | 559,456 | 1,729 | 3 | 4 | 0.31 | 0.04 |
| Nebraska..... | 1,315,834 | 14,579 | 5 | 12 | 1.10 | 0.30 |
| Nevada..... | 110,247 | 379 | 1 | 1 | 0.36 | 0.01 |
| New Hampshire..... | 491,524 | 3,328 | 12 | 13 | 0.69 | 0.07 |
| New Jersey..... | 4,160,165 | 267,970 | 99 | 236 | 6.50 | 5.62 |
| New Mexico..... | 531,818 | 1,179 | 3 | 4 | 0.23 | 0.02 |
| New York..... | 13,479,142 | 2,206,328 | 110 | 1,560 | 16.70 | 46.25 |
| North Carolina..... | 3,571,623 | 7,333 | 20 | 24 | 0.21 | 0.15 |
| North Dakota..... | 641,935 | 2,744 | 8 | 8 | 4.21 | 0.06 |
| Ohio..... | 6,907,612 | 183,570 | 39 | 125 | 2.69 | 3.85 |
| Oklahoma..... | 2,336,434 | 7,371 | 7 | 10 | 0.31 | 0.15 |
| Oregon..... | 1,089,684 | 11,649 | 3 | 11 | 1.11 | 0.24 |
| Pennsylvania..... | 9,900,180 | 434,616 | 132 | 350 | 4.43 | 9.11 |
| Rhode Island..... | 713,346 | 27,813 | 8 | 27 | 4.02 | 0.58 |
| South Carolina..... | 1,899,804 | 5,905 | 15 | 19 | 0.32 | 0.12 |
| South Dakota..... | 642,961 | 1,963 | 2 | 3 | 0.30 | 0.04 |
| Tennessee..... | 2,915,841 | 25,811 | 7 | 18 | 0.91 | 0.54 |
| Texas..... | 6,414,824 | 49,196 | 37 | 60 | 0.79 | 1.03 |
| Utah..... | 550,310 | 3,166 | 2 | 4 | 0.59 | 0.07 |
| Vermont..... | 359,231 | 2,000 | 9 | 10 | 0.56 | 0.04 |
| Virginia..... | 2,677,773 | 25,066 | 19 | 34 | 0.96 | 0.53 |
| Washington..... | 1,736,191 | 18,422 | 8 | 16 | 1.09 | 0.39 |
| West Virginia..... | 1,901,974 | 7,213 | 16 | 22 | 0.39 | 0.15 |
| Wisconsin..... | 3,137,587 | 39,917 | 22 | 45 | 1.30 | 0.84 |
| Wyoming..... | 250,742 | 967 | 2 | 2 | 0.40 | 0.02 |

¹ See footnote to Table 3.² The percentages for the Jewish population are based on the total population for 1937 as estimated by the United States Bureau of the Census.

TABLE 5
ESTIMATED JEWISH POPULATION OF EUROPE

| Country | 1939 | 1946 | |
|--|----------------------|---------------------|------------------------|
| Albania | 200 | — | 300 |
| Austria | — | — | — |
| Displaced Persons in U. S., British, French and Russian zones. | — | 11,000 | — |
| Others | — | 5,000 | — |
| Total | 60,000 | — | 16,000 |
| Belgium | 100,000 | — | 30,000 |
| Bulgaria | 50,000 | — | 46,500 |
| Czechoslovakia | — | — | — |
| Bohemia, Moravia and Silesia | — | 23,500 | — |
| Slovakia | — | 31,500 | — |
| Total | 360,000 | — | 55,000 ¹ |
| Denmark | 7,000 | — | 5,500 |
| England | 340,000 | — | 350,000 |
| Estonia (U. S. S. R.) | 5,000 | — | 500 |
| Finland | 2,000 | — | 1,800 |
| France | 320,000 | — | 180,000 ² |
| Germany | — | — | — |
| Displaced Persons in U. S., British and French zones | — | 73,000 ³ | — |
| Others | — | 12,000 | — |
| Total | 240,000 | — | 85,000 |
| Greece | 75,000 | — | 10,500 |
| Holland | 150,000 | — | 30,000 |
| Hungary | 403,000 ⁴ | — | 200,000 |
| Irish Free State | 4,000 | — | 4,500 |
| Italy | — | — | — |
| Nationals | — | 30,000 | — |
| Displaced Persons and Refugees | — | 22,000 | — |
| Total | 51,000 | — | 52,000 |
| Latvia (U. S. S. R.) | 95,000 | — | 12,000 |
| Lithuania (U. S. S. R.) | 155,000 | — | 20,000 |
| Luxembourg | 3,500 | — | 500 |
| Norway | 3,000 | — | 1,000 |
| Poland | 3,250,000 | — | 120,000 ⁵ |
| Portugal | 3,500 | — | 4,000 |
| Rumania | 850,000 | — | 300,000 ⁶ |
| Soviet Union | 3,020,000 | — | 2,000,000 ⁷ |
| Spain | 4,500 | — | 3,500 |
| Sweden | 7,500 | — | 22,000 ⁸ |
| Switzerland | 25,000 | — | 35,000 ⁹ |
| Turkey | 80,000 | — | 80,000 ¹⁰ |
| Yugoslavia | 75,000 | — | 10,500 |
| TOTAL | 9,739,200 | — | 3,642,100 |

¹ Figure in column 1939 refers to the Jewish population within pre-Munich boundaries. Figure for 1946 includes about 11,000 refugees from Ruthenia and Poland.

² Figures refer to European France.

³ In addition to the 73,000 Jewish displaced persons in the U. S., British and French zones of Germany, there is an undetermined number in the Russian zone.

⁴ These figures refer to Hungary within 1938 frontiers. After 1938, the Jewish population in Hungary increased to 745,000 due to the annexation of Czechoslovak and Rumanian territory and some influx of Jews from Poland and other Nazi areas.

⁵ The figure for 1946 is based on the systematic enumeration made by the Central Jewish Committee of Poland in January 1946. It must be borne in mind that numbers of Jews are migrating westward, but the losses are largely compensated by the repatriation of 160,000 Polish Jews from Russia which is being carried out.

⁶ The figure for 1939 refers to Greater Rumania which included Bessarabia, Bucovina and Transylvania. The figure for 1946 refers to the present boundaries, thus excluding Bessarabia, Northern Bucovina and Northern Transylvania. The 1946 figure includes repatriates from Soviet territory; this repatriation is still continuing.

⁷ Including Asiatic provinces. The figure for 1946 includes some 200,000 refugees from Poland and other neighboring countries.

⁸ Including 15,000 refugees and displaced persons.

⁹ Including 17,000 refugees and displaced persons.

¹⁰ Including Asiatic Turkey.

TABLE 6
ESTIMATED JEWISH POPULATION OF
ASIA AND AUSTRALASIA¹

| Country | 1939 | 1945 |
|-------------------------|----------------|----------------|
| Aden..... | 5,000 | 6,000 |
| Afghanistan..... | 5,000 | 5,000 |
| China..... | 25,000 | 25,000 |
| D. East Indies..... | 2,000 | 2,000 |
| India..... | 30,000 | 30,000 |
| F. Indo-China..... | 1,500 | 1,500 |
| Iran..... | 50,000 | 50,000 |
| Iraq..... | 90,000 | 90,000 |
| Japan..... | 2,000 | 2,000 |
| Manchukuo..... | 10,000 | 10,000 |
| Palestine..... | 475,000 | 600,000 |
| Philippines..... | 1,000 | 1,000 |
| Syria-Lebanon..... | 25,000 | 25,000 |
| Yemen..... | 50,000 | 45,000 |
| TOTAL..... | 771,500 | 892,500 |
| Australia..... | 30,000 | 32,000 |
| New Zealand..... | 3,000 | 3,000 |
| TOTAL..... | 33,000 | 35,000 |
| GRAND TOTAL..... | 804,500 | 927,500 |

¹ Excluding Asiatic Provinces of U. S. S. R. and Turkey.

TABLE 7

POPULATION OF PALESTINE
CENSUSES OF 1922 AND 1931, AND OFFICIAL ESTIMATES FOR
1943, 1944, AND 1945

| | Total | Moslems | | Jews | | Christians | | Others | |
|--|-----------|-----------|-------|---------|-------|------------|------|--------|------|
| | | Number | % | Number | % | Number | % | Number | % |
| Census 1922... | 752,048 | 590,890 | 78.04 | 83,794 | 11.07 | 73,024 | 9.64 | 9,474 | 1.25 |
| Census 1931 ¹ ... | 1,035,821 | 759,712 | 73.34 | 174,610 | 16.86 | 91,398 | 8.82 | 9,680 | 0.93 |
| Estimate 1943 ² | 1,676,571 | 1,128,715 | 60.76 | 502,912 | 29.99 | 131,281 | 7.83 | 13,663 | 0.80 |
| Estimate 1944 ³ | 1,764,520 | 1,061,270 | 60.1 | 553,600 | 31.3 | 135,550 | 7.6 | 14,100 | 0.80 |
| Estimate 1945 ³ (Sept. 30) | 1,788,826 | 1,088,897 | 60.9 | 547,346 | 30.6 | 137,805 | 7.7 | 14,778 | 0.80 |

¹ These figures are quoted from Handbook of Palestine, London 1934, by Luke and Keith-Roach.

² Palestine Statistical Abstract, 1943.

³ General Monthly Bulletin of Current Statistics of the Palestine Government, Jan.-Mar., 1946.

TABLE 8

JEWISH POPULATION OF PALESTINE BY AGE GROUPS¹

| Age Group | Total No. | Per cent | Male | Female |
|------------------|-----------|----------|---------|---------|
| Under 10..... | 117,000 | 19.7 | 60,200 | 56,800 |
| 10-19 | 96,700 | 16.4 | 50,500 | 46,200 |
| 20-29 | 98,400 | 16.6 | 49,300 | 49,100 |
| 30-39 | 116,400 | 19.7 | 59,000 | 57,400 |
| 40-49 | 86,300 | 14.6 | 44,000 | 42,300 |
| 50 and over..... | 77,200 | 13.0 | 38,000 | 39,200 |
| TOTAL..... | 592,000 | 100.0 | 301,000 | 291,000 |

¹ Prepared by the Statistical Department of the Jewish Agency for Palestine.

TABLE 9
 JEWISH POPULATION OF PALESTINE BY URBAN AND
 RURAL AREAS¹

| Urban Areas | No. of Settlements | Population | Per cent |
|----------------------------------|--------------------|------------|----------|
| Cities..... | 6 | 380,400 | 64.3 |
| Urban Settlements..... | 21 | 58,800 | 9.9 |
| Urban Total..... | 27 | 439,200 | 74.2 |
| Large rural settlements..... | 8 | 61,500 | 10.4 |
| Private villages..... | 36 | 19,200 | 3.2 |
| Cooperative villages..... | 35 | 13,200 | 2.2 |
| Workers' cooperatives..... | 63 | 18,000 | 3.1 |
| Collective farm settlements..... | 116 | 37,400 | 6.3 |
| School-farms..... | 8 | 3,500 | 0.6 |
| Rural Total..... | 266 | 152,800 | 25.8 |
| GENERAL TOTAL..... | 293 | 592,000 | 100.0 |

¹ See footnote to Table 8.

TABLE 10
 ESTIMATED JEWISH POPULATION OF AFRICA

| Country | 1939 | 1945 |
|-------------------------|---------|---------|
| Abyssinia..... | 51,000 | 51,000 |
| Algeria..... | 110,000 | 120,000 |
| Egypt..... | 75,000 | 75,000 |
| French Morocco..... | 161,300 | 175,000 |
| Libya..... | 26,000 | 26,000 |
| Southern Rhodesia..... | 3,500 | 3,500 |
| Spanish Morocco..... | 12,000 | 15,000 |
| Tangier..... | 10,000 | 10,000 |
| Tunisia..... | 66,000 | 66,000 |
| Union of S. Africa..... | 95,000 | 98,000 |
| TOTAL..... | 609,800 | 639,500 |

B. IMMIGRATION OF JEWS TO THE UNITED STATES

1. Present Status

In 1943 Earl G. Harrison, then Commissioner of the Immigration and Naturalization Service of the Department of Justice, ordered the elimination of the term "Hebrew" from the classification of immigrants by race or people, and from the manifests used by transportation companies and from the statistical forms used by the United States Government. According to this order, the "race designation of persons formerly recorded as Hebrew will now be governed by the country of their origin."

As a result of this ruling, no official statistics are available regarding the number of Jewish immigrants who came to the United States after June 30, 1943. The following estimate, however, has been prepared for the *American Jewish Year Book* by Mrs. Dorothy F. Tate, Supervisor of the Division of Statistics of the National Refugee Service.

"Total immigration to the United States July 1943-December 1945 was 93,465 (28,551 in the Government fiscal year 1944; 38,119 in 1945 and 26,795 in the first half of the fiscal year 1946). If we estimate the percentage of Jewish immigration on the basis of the ratio of Jewish to total immigration which prevailed from 1933 through 1943 (33.6%), the result is approximately 31,400 Jewish immigrants arriving from July 1, 1943 through December 31, 1945.

"It may be argued that this is too high or too low. There were two years within this eleven year period when the ratio of "Hebrew" to total immigration was over 50%, and we do know that many Jews may have declared themselves German or Polish rather than "Hebrew" by "race" or "people." However, for the last three years used as the base, the trend of Jewish to total immigration was decidedly downward, having reached 19.8% in 1943, and until 1939, it was below the 33.6% figure used as the average."

2. From 1881 to 1943

A summary of Jewish immigration to the United States from 1881 through 1943 is presented in the tables that follow. The net increase in Jewish immigration, admissions minus departures, dur-

ing this period was 2,499,154. The detailed figures by periods and individual years are shown in Tables 11 and 12 respectively. Of the earlier periods of Jewish immigration to the United States, which were made up chiefly of immigrants from Spain, Portugal, and Holland, and from Germany, no reliable statistics are available. Such statistics were recorded only beginning in 1881, but these are not complete for the entire period since then. For the seventeen years from 1881 to 1898, we have statistics only for the number of Jews admitted at the ports of New York, Philadelphia, and Baltimore. For the next eight years (1899-1907) we have figures for the number of Jews admitted at all ports. It is only since 1908 that statistics of departure as well as of arrivals have been recorded.

Notwithstanding these deficiencies and gaps, we are in a position to arrive at an approximate figure for the total Jewish immigration since 1881. From 1908, when the number of departures began to be recorded, up to 1914, after which the World War and restrictive legislation interrupted the free flow of immigration, the percentage of Jews departing to those admitted was 7.14%. We may assume that the same percentage held good during the period 1899-1907 for which we have complete figures for Jewish admissions. If this assumption is correct, the number of Jews admitted during those years totalled 829,244. For the period from 1881-1898 we have figures only for Jews admitted at the ports of New York, Philadelphia, and Baltimore. We may perhaps assume that the number of departures during those years equalled the number of admissions at other ports; in other words, that the total number of Jews admitted at all ports equalled the number admitted at the three ports mentioned, namely, 533, 478. Adding the net increases for these two periods, thus arrived at, to the net increase from 1908 to 1943, for which official statistics are available, we find that the total net increase of the Jewish population of the United States as a result of immigration was 2,499,154 for the sixty-three years from 1881 to 1943.

Table 12, which is a summary of the immigration and emigration, to and from the United States, since 1881, shows the fluctuations in the annual averages of the number of Jews who arrived, caused in turn by the World War, the postwar condition of European Jews, the operation of the several quota restriction laws and the executive order of 1931 for the strict application of the "likely to become a public charge" provision of the immigration law, and the expulsive force of persecution in Germany.

TABLE 11
SUMMARY OF JEWISH IMMIGRATION TO THE UNITED STATES, 1881-1943

| Period | Admissions | | | | Departures | | | Net Increase | | |
|-----------|------------|-----------|------------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|-----------|---------------------|--------------|----------------------|---------------------|
| | Total | Jews | Average No. of Jews per Year | P. C. Jews to Total | Total | Jews | P. C. to Admissions | Total | Jews | P. C. Jews to Total |
| | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1881-1898 | 8,175,890 | | | | | | | | | |
| 1899-1907 | 6,974,447 | 829,244 | 92.138 | 11.89 | 59,208 ¹ | 46,838 | 33.55 | 4,645,590 | 533,478 ¹ | 13.12 |
| 1908-1914 | 6,709,357 | 656,397 | 93.771 | 9.78 | 3,470 | 3,470 | 30.76 | 609,559 | 770,036 ¹ | 10.98 |
| 1915-1920 | 1,602,680 | 79,921 | 13,320 | 4.99 | 483 | 483 | 56.56 | 696,142 | 76,451 | 10.98 |
| 1921 | 805,228 | 119,036 | 119,036 | 14.78 | 1,503 | 483 | 30.76 | 557,510 | 118,553 | 21.26 |
| 1922-1924 | 1,539,371 | 153,232 | 51,077 | 9.95 | 1,503 | 1,503 | 23.19 | 1,182,420 | 151,729 | 12.83 |
| 1925-1930 | 1,762,610 | 67,686 | 11,281 | 3.84 | 1,597 | 440,407 | 24.99 | 1,322,203 | 66,089 | 5.00 |
| 1931-1936 | 256,538 | 26,027 | 4,338 | 10.14 | 2,112 | 359,680 | 140.20 | 1,103,142 | 23,915 | — |
| 1937-1943 | 376,175 | 150,533 | 21,507 | 40.02 | 1,204 | 129,643 | 34.33 | 246,532 | 149,344 | 60.58 |
| 1908-1943 | 13,051,959 | 1,252,832 | — | 9.60 | 57,207 | 4,504,704 | 34.51 | 8,547,255 | 1,195,640 | 13.99 |
| 1881-1943 | 28,200,296 | | | | | | | | 2,499,154 | |

¹ Admission at the ports of New York, Philadelphia, and Baltimore. Estimated. See p. 651.

STATISTICS OF JEWS

613

TABLE 12
SUMMARY OF JEWISH IMMIGRATION TO THE UNITED STATES, 1908-1943

| Year | Admissions | | | Departures | | | Net Increase | | |
|--------------|------------|-----------|---------------------|------------|--------|---------------------|--------------|-----------|---------------------|
| | Total | Jews | P. C. Jews to Total | Total | Jews | P. C. to Admissions | Total | Jews | P. C. Jews to Total |
| | | | | | | | | | |
| 1908-1914... | 6,709,357 | 656,397 | 9.78 | 2,063,767 | 46,838 | 30.76 | 4,645,590 | 609,559 | 13.12 |
| 1915-1920... | 1,602,680 | 79,921 | 4.99 | 906,538 | 3,470 | 56.56 | 696,142 | 76,451 | 10.98 |
| 1921..... | 805,228 | 119,036 | 14.7 | 247,718 | 483 | 30.76 | 557,510 | 118,553 | 21.2 |
| 1922..... | 309,556 | 53,524 | 17.3 | 198,712 | 830 | 64.2 | 110,844 | 52,694 | 47.5 |
| 1923..... | 522,919 | 49,719 | 9.5 | 81,450 | 413 | 15.57 | 441,469 | 49,306 | 11.16 |
| 1924..... | 706,896 | 49,989 | 7.07 | 76,789 | 260 | 10.8 | 630,107 | 49,729 | 7.89 |
| 1925..... | 294,314 | 10,292 | 3.5 | 92,728 | 291 | 31.51 | 201,586 | 10,001 | 4.96 |
| 1926..... | 304,488 | 10,267 | 3.3 | 76,992 | 341 | 25.2 | 227,496 | 9,926 | 4.3 |
| 1927..... | 335,175 | 11,483 | 3.4 | 73,366 | 224 | 21.8 | 261,809 | 11,259 | 4.3 |
| 1928..... | 307,255 | 11,639 | 3.8 | 77,437 | 253 | 25.21 | 229,798 | 11,386 | 4.95 |
| 1929..... | 279,678 | 12,479 | 4.46 | 69,203 | 189 | 24.74 | 210,475 | 12,290 | 5.84 |
| 1930..... | 241,700 | 11,526 | 4.77 | 50,661 | 299 | 20.96 | 191,039 | 11,227 | 5.88 |
| 1931..... | 97,139 | 5,692 | 5.86 | 61,882 | 319 | 63.70 | 35,257 | 5,373 | 15.24 |
| 1932..... | 35,576 | 2,755 | 7.74 | 103,295 | 452 | 290.35 | -67,719 | 2,303 | - |
| 1933..... | 23,068 | 2,372 | 10.28 | 80,081 | 384 | 347.15 | -57,013 | 1,988 | - |
| 1934..... | 29,470 | 4,134 | 14.03 | 39,771 | 319 | 134.96 | -10,301 | 3,815 | - |
| 1935..... | 34,956 | 4,837 | 13.84 | 38,834 | 330 | 111.09 | - | 4,507 | - |
| 1936..... | 36,329 | 6,252 | 17.21 | 35,817 | 308 | 98.59 | - | 5,944 | - |
| 1937..... | 50,244 | 11,352 | 22.59 | 26,736 | 232 | 53.21 | 23,508 | 11,120 | 47.30 |
| 1938..... | 67,895 | 19,736 | 29.07 | 25,210 | 255 | 37.13 | 42,685 | 19,481 | 45.64 |
| 1939..... | 82,998 | 43,450 | 52.35 | 26,651 | 176 | 32.11 | 56,347 | 43,274 | 76.80 |
| 1940..... | 70,756 | 36,945 | 52.21 | 21,461 | 150 | 30.33 | 49,295 | 36,795 | 74.64 |
| 1941..... | 51,776 | 23,737 | 45.85 | 17,115 | 186 | 33.06 | 34,661 | 23,551 | 67.95 |
| 1942..... | 28,781 | 10,608 | 36.86 | 7,363 | 117 | 25.58 | 21,418 | 10,491 | 48.98 |
| 1943..... | 23,725 | 4,705 | 19.83 | 5,107 | 88 | 21.53 | 18,618 | 4,617 | 24.80 |
| Total.... | 13,051,959 | 1,252,847 | 9.60 | 4,504,704 | 57,207 | 34.51 | 8,547,255 | 1,195,640 | 13.99 |

C. JEWISH IMMIGRATION TO OTHER AMERICAN COUNTRIES

Canada.—During the year ending March 31, 1944, a total of 238 Jews entered Canada (182 from the United States), 2.63% of the total.

Other American Countries.—Through the good offices of the HIAS, we have figures for Jewish immigration to Brazil, Uruguay and Argentina.

Brazil.—During 1942, 108 Jews entered Brazil, and during 1943, 11. No information is available for 1944, but during 1945 there were 50 immigrants. The number of Jewish immigrants to Brazil from 1925 to 1945 totalled 50,943.

Uruguay.—During 1943, 17 Jews entered Uruguay. From 1927 to 1943, the number of Jewish immigrants to Uruguay totalled 19,535.

Argentina.—Complete figures are available of immigration to Argentina from 1901 to 1944. From 1901 to 1924, 133,461 Jews entered the country. In the years that followed, as our table indicates, we find that the the number of Jews admitted varied from 7,805 in 1930, to 384 in 1944; the number admitted in 1943 was 524 and in 1945, 728. The total number of Jewish immigrants to Argentina in the forty-five years from 1901 to 1945 was 208,678.

TABLE 13
SUMMARY OF JEWISH IMMIGRATION TO CANADA, 1901-1944

| Year | Total | Jews ¹ | Per Cent Jews to Total | Year | Total | Jews ¹ | Per Cent Jews to Total |
|------|---------|-------------------|---------------------------|-------|-----------|-------------------|---------------------------|
| 1901 | 49,149 | 2,765 | 5.6 | 1924 | 148,560 | 4,255 | 2.8 |
| 1902 | 67,379 | 1,015 | 1.5 | 1925 | 111,362 | 4,459 | 4. |
| 1903 | 128,364 | 2,066 | 1.6 | 1926 | 96,064 | 4,014 | 4.18 |
| 1904 | 130,331 | 3,727 | 2.8 | 1927 | 143,991 | 4,863 | 3.38 |
| 1905 | 146,266 | 7,715 | 5.2 | 1928 | 151,597 | 4,766 | 3.14 |
| 1906 | 189,064 | 7,127 | 3.8 | 1929 | 167,722 | 3,848 | 2.29 |
| 1907 | 124,667 | 6,584 | 5.2 | 1930 | 163,288 | 4,164 | 2.55 |
| 1908 | 262,469 | 7,712 | 2.9 | 1931 | 88,223 | 3,421 | 3.88 |
| 1909 | 146,908 | 1,636 | 1.1 | 1932 | 25,752 | 649 | 2.52 |
| 1910 | 208,794 | 3,182 | 1.5 | 1933 | 19,782 | 772 | 3.90 |
| 1911 | 311,084 | 5,146 | 1.6 | 1934 | 13,903 | 943 | 6.06 |
| 1912 | 354,237 | 5,322 | 1.5 | 1935 | 12,136 | 624 | 5.14 |
| 1913 | 402,432 | 7,387 | 1.8 | 1936 | 11,103 | 880 | 7.93 |
| 1914 | 384,878 | 11,252 | 2.9 | 1937 | 12,023 | 619 | 5.15 |
| 1915 | 144,789 | 3,107 | 2.1 | 1938 | 15,645 | 584 | 3.73 |
| 1916 | 48,537 | 65 | .1 | 1939 | 17,128 | 890 | 5.20 |
| 1917 | 75,374 | 136 | .1 | 1940 | 16,205 | 1,623 | 10.02 |
| 1918 | 79,074 | 32 | 0.4 | 1941 | 11,496 | 626 | 5.45 |
| 1919 | 57,702 | 22 | 0.04 | 1942 | 8,865 | 388 | 4.38 |
| 1920 | 117,336 | 116 | .09 | 1943 | 7,445 | 270 | 3.63 |
| 1921 | 148,477 | 2,763 | 1.9 | 1944 | 9,040 | 238 | 2.63 |
| 1922 | 89,999 | 8,404 | 9.3 | | | | |
| 1923 | 72,887 | 2,793 | 3.8 | Total | 5,991,527 | 132,970 | 2.22 |

¹ The figures for the Jews entering Canada during 1901-1925 are exclusive of those who entered from the United States.

TABLE 14

JEWISH IMMIGRATION TO BRAZIL, URUGUAY, AND ARGENTINA

| Year | Number of Jewish Immigrants | | |
|--------------------|-----------------------------|---------|-----------|
| | Brazil | Uruguay | Argentina |
| 01-1924..... | — | — | 133,461 |
| 1925..... | 2,624 | — | 6,920 |
| 1926..... | 3,901 | — | 7,534 |
| 1927..... | 4,167 | 771 | 5,584 |
| 1928..... | 3,193 | 1,500 | 6,812 |
| 1929..... | 5,610 | 2,400 | 5,986 |
| 1930..... | 3,558 | 1,600 | 7,805 |
| 1931..... | 1,985 | 1,250 | 3,692 |
| 1932..... | 2,049 | 1,083 | 2,755 |
| 1933..... | 3,317 | 411 | 1,962 |
| 1934..... | 3,794 | 500 | 2,215 |
| 1935..... | 1,758 | 776 | 3,159 |
| 1936..... | 3,418 | 1,262 | 4,261 |
| 1937..... | 2,003 | 1,530 | 4,178 |
| 1938..... | 530 | 3,115 | 1,050 |
| 1939..... | 4,601 | 2,170 | 4,300 |
| 1940..... | 2,416 | 373 | 1,850 |
| 1941..... | 1,500 | 639 | 2,200 |
| 1942..... | 108 | 138 | 1,318 |
| 1943..... | 11 | 17 | 524 |
| 1944..... | — | — | 384 |
| 1945..... | 50 | — | 728 |
| Total 1901-1945... | 50,943 | 19,535 | 208,678 |

D. JEWISH IMMIGRATION TO PALESTINE

The last full year for which figures of net Jewish and non-Jewish immigration to Palestine were given was 1941 (Vol. 45, pp. 596-599). Herewith are presented comparable immigration figures for the years 1942, 1943, and 1944 and up to November 30, 1945. These figures are derived from the Palestine Statistical Abstract, 1943, and the Palestine General Monthly Bulletin of Current Statistics, February 1945 and January-March 1946, published in Jerusalem by the Palestine Government.

TABLE 15
IMMIGRATION TO PALESTINE, 1942-1945

| Year | Total | Jews | P. C. Jews to Total |
|----------------------|--------|--------|---------------------|
| 1942..... | 3,052 | 2,194 | 71.8 |
| 1943..... | 9,867 | 8,507 | 86. |
| 1944..... | 24,093 | 20,848 | 86.5 |
| 1945 (Nov. 30) | 13,408 | 11,835 | 88.2 |

From 1917 to 1944

From the date of the British occupation of Palestine, December 9, 1917, to the end of 1944, a total of 366,419 Jews entered the country, the yearly number varying between 61,854 in 1935 and 2,178 in 1928. The number of Jews that departed between December 9, 1917 and the end of 1921, was small. But, during the decade from 1922 to 1931, a total of 27,809 Jews emigrated, or 29.53% of the number admitted. Figures for emigration during the second half of 1932 and the years 1933-1935 are not available. During the ten years 1922-1931, the yearly emigration of Jews varied between 666 in 1931 and 7,365 in 1926; and the percentage of Jewish emigration to Jewish immigration varied between 6.36% in 1925 and 99.54% in 1928, (in 1936 it was 2.60%) while in 1927, Jewish emigration exceeded Jewish immigration by 86.92%. The net immigration of Jews during 1922-1931 was 66,353. One year, 1927, shows a decrease of 2,358 Jews, but all other years witnessed an increase of Jewish immigration over emigration, varying between 10 in 1928 and 31,650 in 1925.

TABLE 16
SUMMARY OF JEWISH IMMIGRATION TO PALESTINE, 1917-1944

| YEAR | Immigration | | | Emigration | | | Net Increase or Decrease | | | P. C. Jewish Immigrants to Total | Jewish Emigrants Per 1000 Immigrants |
|---------------------------|-------------|---------|----------|------------|--------|----------|--------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|----------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| | Total | Jews | Non-Jews | Total | Jews | Non-Jews | Total | Jews | Non-Jews | | |
| | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Dec. 9, 1917, to May 1921 | 14,101 | 14,101 | * | * | * | * | * | * | * | * | * |
| June to Dec. 1921 | 4,861 | 4,784 | 77 | * | * | * | * | * | * | * | * |
| 1922 | 8,128 | 7,844 | 284 | 2,939 | 1,503 | 1,436 | 5,189 | 6,341 | -1,152 ¹ | 96.51 | 192 |
| 1923 | 7,991 | 7,421 | 570 | 4,947 | 3,466 | 1,481 | 3,044 | 3,955 | -911 ¹ | 92.87 | 467 |
| 1924 | 13,553 | 12,856 | 697 | 2,511 | 2,037 | 474 | 11,042 | 10,819 | 223 | 94.86 | 158 |
| 1925 | 34,641 | 33,801 | 840 | 4,100 | 2,151 | 1,949 | 30,541 | 31,650 | -1,109 ¹ | 97.58 | 64 |
| 1926 | 13,910 | 13,081 | 829 | 9,429 | 7,365 | 2,064 | 4,481 | 5,716 | -1,235 ¹ | 94.04 | 563 |
| 1927 | 3,595 | 2,713 | 882 | 6,978 | 5,071 | 1,907 | -3,383 ¹ | -2,358 ¹ | -1,025 ¹ | 75.47 | 1,869 |
| 1928 | 3,086 | 2,178 | 908 | 3,122 | 2,168 | 954 | -361 ¹ | 10 | -461 ¹ | 70.58 | 995 |
| 1929 | 6,566 | 5,249 | 1,317 | 2,835 | 1,746 | 1,089 | 3,731 | 3,503 | 228 | 79.94 | 333 |
| 1930 | 6,433 | 4,944 | 1,489 | 2,911 | 1,636 | 1,275 | 3,522 | 3,308 | 214 | 76.85 | 331 |
| 1931 | 5,533 | 4,075 | 1,458 | 1,346 | 666 | 680 | 4,187 | 3,409 | 778 | 73.65 | 163 |
| 1922-1931 | 103,436 | 94,162 | 9,274 | 41,118 | 27,809 | 13,309 | 62,318 | 66,353 | -4,035 ¹ | 91.03 | 295 |
| 1932-1935 | 151,555 | 144,093 | 7,462 | * | * | * | * | * | * | 95.08 | — |
| 1936 | 31,671 | 29,727 | 1,944 | 1,178 | 773 | 405 | 30,493 | 28,954 | 1,541 | 93.86 | 26 |
| 1937 | 12,475 | 10,536 | 1,939 | 1,528 | 889 | 639 | 10,947 | 9,647 | 1,300 | 84.46 | 84 |
| 1938 | 15,263 | 12,868 | 2,395 | 1,811 | 1,095 | 716 | 13,452 | 11,773 | 1,679 | 84.31 | 85 |
| 1939 | 18,433 | 16,405 | 2,028 | 1,996 | 1,019 | 977 | 16,437 | 15,386 | 1,051 | 89.00 | 62 |
| 1940 | 5,611 | 4,547 | 1,064 | 1,185 | 693 | 492 | 4,426 | 3,854 | 572 | 81.04 | 152 |
| 1941 | 4,270 | 3,647 | 623 | 1,216 | 426 | 790 | 3,054 | 3,221 | -167 ¹ | 85.41 | 117 |
| 1942 | 3,052 | 2,194 | 858 | | | | | | | | |
| 1943 | 9,867 | 8,507 | 1,360 | | | | | | | | |
| 1944 | 24,093 | 20,848 | 3,245 | | | | | | | | |
| 1917-1944 | 398,688 | 366,419 | 32,269 | | | | | | | | |

¹Decrease.

* Figures not available.

THE
AMERICAN JEWISH COMMITTEE

THIRTY-NINTH ANNUAL REPORT



Offices: 386 Fourth Avenue
New York 16, N. Y.

Cable Address: "WISHCOM, N. Y."

1946

OBJECTS OF THE COMMITTEE

“The objects of this corporation shall be, to prevent the infraction 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 persecution and to afford relief from calamities affecting Jews, wherever they may occur; and to compass these ends to administer any relief fund which shall come into its possession or which may be received by it, in trust or otherwise, for any of the aforesaid objects or for purposes comprehended therein.”

—*Extract from the Charter*

OFFICERS

President

JOSEPH M. PROSKAUER

Chairman, Executive Committee

JACOB BLAUSTEIN

Vice-Chairman, Executive Committee

ALAN M. STROOCK

Chairman, Administrative Committee

DAVID SHER

Honorary Vice-Presidents

HERBERT H. LEHMAN

ABRAM I. ELKUS

Vice-Presidents

JACOB J. KAPLAN

M. C. SLOSS

EDWARD LAZANSKY

HORACE STERN

FRED LAZARUS, JR.

HENRY WINEMAN

Treasurer

NATHAN M. OHRBACH

Associate Treasurer

ALBERT H. LIEBERMAN

Secretary

VICTOR S. RIESENFELD

Executive Vice-President

JOHN SLAWSON

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Presented by JACOB BLAUSTEIN, *Chairman*

To the Members of the American Jewish Committee:

The past year spanned two distinct periods in contemporary history—the final months of World War II and the early months of a most difficult struggle for peace. The activities of the American Jewish Committee during 1945—the 39th and perhaps the most momentous year in its history—reflected this division of periods.

To us, fortunate to be citizens of a great nation and blessed with a firmly established tradition of freedom and a zeal to bring freedom to all mankind, the events presented a crucial challenge and a precious opportunity. Your Committee believes that it accepted the challenge courageously and utilized the opportunity wisely.

Organizational Matters

Splendid progress was made during the year in strengthening our organizational structure at both the lay and the staff levels. The establishment of local chapters of the American Jewish Committee, which has now been accomplished in twenty-eight of the most important communities in the country, has broadened our membership base and is assuring us an informed constituency. The men and women who compose these chapters have indicated by joining them their agreement with the principles and policies of the national organization, and their willingness to participate in our program. Chapter members are kept regularly informed of our activities through the medium of our monthly publication, the *Committee Reporter*, supplemented by timely memoranda on important subjects.

Twenty-five lay advisory committees and subcommittees guide our staff. Their activities are reported periodically to the Administrative Committee which, under the able chairmanship of Mr. David Sher, meets monthly in the intervals between meetings of your Executive Committee. To all those serving on these committees, your Executive Committee wishes to express its grateful appreciation for their helpful guidance.

Progress has been made in expanding our staff to meet our growing and highly ramified responsibilities. There are now nine de-

partments, in addition to our Washington office. To coordinate the functions of these various departments is a task requiring exceptional administrative ability. Fortunately this ability is possessed by our Executive Vice-President, Dr. John Slawson. Despite the complexity of the organization and its rapid growth within the past two years—a growth in no small measure due to his vision and tireless energy—the staff operates as a well integrated whole.

Cooperation with Other Jewish Organizations

Your Committee continues to strive for better coordination of its efforts with those of other organizations, and especially of the Anti-Defamation League. Mr. Samuel D. Leidesdorf has been particularly helpful in this connection. It is good to report that our members and staff increased their participation last year in behalf of the Joint Defense Appeal, through which funds are raised for the support of your Committee and of the Anti-Defamation League. Our treasurer, Mr. Nathan M. Ohrbach, served as National Chairman of the 1945 campaign, and Mr. Alan M. Stroock as New York Campaign Chairman.

Our members and staff also participate in the deliberations of the National Community Relations Council, whose function it is to prevent conflict and duplication between all of the national defense agencies, and to dove-tail their activities with those of local defense agencies.

Believing that, as regards many of the post-war problems affecting Jews, there is mutuality of views among a number of the American Jewish organizations, and that cooperation with respect to these should therefore be feasible, your Committee, shortly after the call for the United Nations Conference in San Francisco, invited the Agudath Israel of America, the American Jewish Conference, the American Jewish Congress, and the Jewish Labor Committee to an informal conference in the hope of effecting concerted action within the area of our agreements. The Agudath Israel and the Jewish Labor Committee accepted and agreed that, while no formal joint program should be submitted, there would be cooperation in urging certain fundamental provisions. The American Jewish Conference and the American Jewish Congress declined to meet with us, taking the position that the former must be sole representative of American Jewish opinion. Nevertheless, we were faced on the scene at San Francisco with some practical problems about which there were

little differences of opinion and we informally worked together with respect to them.

As you know, the American Jewish Committee has a global responsibility, being concerned with the welfare of the Jews wherever they may be, not only in the United States, not only in Palestine, but in every country throughout the world. Our activities roughly divide themselves into three broad categories: (1) domestic, including the fight against anti-Semitism; (2) foreign, including Palestine; and (3) general, or overall. They will be treated herein in that order.

Domestic Activities

While anti-Semitism is not our only domestic problem, it is our most urgent one. Upon our success in coping with it largely depends our future happiness or woe. The past year has been marked by great intensification of the Committee's work in combatting anti-Semitism.

To the mass approach, long skilfully employed by our Department of Public Education (formerly Department of Public Relations), has been added the class approach. Suggestions and materials—articles, speeches, cartoons, posters, etc.—continue to go in a steady stream from our Public Education Department via newspapers, magazines and radio, alerting the public at large to the threat of anti-Semitism to American institutions.

But that is not enough. It is also necessary to impress the fact that anti-Semitism is a direct threat to the self-interest of the individual members of the various class groups that make up our population. The Public Education Department has accordingly engaged a corps of specialists, through whose efforts our message, couched in terms appropriate for these groups, is disseminated to them. To the experts already working a year ago in the fields of women's organizations and labor, have now been added experts on war veterans, youth, and religious groups. A lay committee, under the chairmanship of Mr. Walter Mendelsohn, advises the department as a whole; and several subcommittees, composed partly of our members and partly of outside recognized authorities in the various fields, guide the work of the class specialists.

Our Department of Scientific Research is now embarked on a number of projects engaging the cooperation of university and other scientific groups. These projects are designed to probe deeply into the psychology of anti-Semitism, with a view to the formulation

of a scientific approach to the handling of these problems. Some of these projects will require as much as three years for completion. Meanwhile, the department is proving of great immediate value to our work by testing our current materials, and, on the basis of these tests, pointing the way to their improvement. The department is guided as to policy by a lay committee, under the chairmanship of Mr. Ira M. Younker, and, on its technical problems, by an advisory group of social scientists.

Our Legal and Investigative Department continues to keep the Committee informed of the activities of anti-Semitic agitators and their organizations. The information gleaned by it is often drawn upon and effectively used by law-enforcement agencies and by journalists bent on exposing subversive movements. A lay committee, whose chairman is Mr. Victor S. Riesenfeld, meets fortnightly to advise the staff of this department.

The Department of Library, Research and Publications is still unrivaled in its special field for the completeness of its collections, pamphlets, magazines, and newspaper clippings. Its research facilities and services are essential to the other departments of the Committee, and are much used by outsiders, as well. This department is also responsible for compiling the *American Jewish Year Book*.

The Community Service Department, which Mr. Jerome J. Rothschild serves as adviser, is the indispensable link between our organization and local community agencies and key individuals concerned with combatting anti-Semitism throughout the country.

Great as is our concern with the problem of anti-Semitism, we do not conceive that our responsibility to the American Jewish community is confined alone to combatting that menace. We also have an obligation to strengthen the Jewish community from within and to further the adjustment of Jews to the American scene. A feature of the Executive Committee meeting a year ago was the address of your Executive Vice-President, who urged us to take leadership along these lines. Your Executive Committee gave its enthusiastic endorsement and thereby in effect authorized the addition of a new dimension to the Committee's domestic program.

As an initial step, a Conference on Jewish Adjustment in the United States, the first of its kind ever held here, was arranged with the cooperation of Professors Salo W. Baron of Columbia University, Louis Wirth of the University of Chicago, I. L. Kandel of Teachers College, and Dr. Abraham A. Neuman, President of Dropsie College. The thirty participants in the conference con-

curred in the belief that there are rich possibilities of affirmative Jewish life in this country, but that our cultural heritage requires reinterpretation and reinvigoration. A Jewish educator, long concerned with the problem of cultural integration, joined our staff last fall, and will help us evolve a program, for which no pattern currently exists. The lay committee assisting in the development of this program is under the chairmanship of Mr. Alan M. Stroock.

Your Committee is making a notable contribution to Jewish culture in America through its new monthly periodical *Commentary*, which has replaced the *Contemporary Jewish Record*. The first number appeared in November, 1945, and the enthusiastic reception accorded it demonstrates that it fills a genuine need. Mr. Ralph E. Samuel heads the new publication's advisory committee.

Foreign Affairs

The need of our European brethren for sympathy, encouragement, and assistance is greater perhaps than at any time in the history of man. The diabolical plan of the Nazis completely to exterminate the Jews of Europe was almost carried out. Earlier estimates of a death toll of four out of nine million, were increased to five and then to six million.

Of the survivors, several hundred thousand were far from their former homes, to which most of them were unable or understandably unwilling to return. Nor was the lot of those who managed to remain in, or to return to, the countries of which they were citizens, lacking in most serious complications. The situation of the Jewish survivors in Europe presented and continues to present a complex of economic, social, political and spiritual problems of staggering difficulty, imposing on the Jewish community of the United States tasks of unprecedented magnitude.

Measures for succoring the victims of the Nazi terror were quickly undertaken by the relief agencies. To the American Jewish Committee, whose responsibility it is to protect the civil, political, and religious rights of Jews, fell the task of working for restoration of these rights. How the American Jewish Committee discharged its responsibilities in behalf of our brethren abroad is told in detail in the report of the Foreign Affairs Department. In view, however, of the unusual importance of many of these activities and, since the

present report is the only one to be presented at this meeting, your Committee deems it both proper and useful briefly to summarize them.

Direct contact with Europe was resumed several months before V-E Day, when the Director of our Department of Foreign Affairs, Dr. Max Gottschalk, went first to London and then to France, Belgium, and the Netherlands, where he conferred both with Jewish leaders and government officials, and was successful in promoting a better understanding of the needs and problems of the Jews in those countries with resultant benefit to them. An office of the Committee has been established in London, and correspondents secured in a number of countries who are keeping our Foreign Affairs Department currently informed of the situation in their respective lands.

In July of 1945, the Chairman of your Executive Committee and Judge George Z. Medalie, then Chairman of your Foreign Affairs Committee, had interviews with the Hon. Joseph C. Grew, at that time Acting Secretary of State, and with Mr. A. Feller, then general counsel of UNRRA. We requested that Jewish organizations be permitted to designate experts to be accredited by UNRRA to visit Germany and to work in behalf of the displaced Jews there. This request was approved, and among others, a team of four representatives of the American Jewish Committee spent several months in Germany.

At the same interview with Mr. Grew, your representatives suggested the appointment of a Jewish layman to advise army headquarters in the American zone in Germany regarding problems arising in connection with the displaced Jews in that zone. This suggestion eventuated in the designation of Federal District Judge Simon H. Rifkind to serve in that capacity. Representatives of your Committee met with Judge Rifkind before his departure and informed him of the steps taken and contemplated by us in behalf of the displaced Jews.

A number of other steps were also taken in behalf of the displaced, especially the most unfortunate groups among them—the stateless and non-repatriable. Before President Truman left for Potsdam, your Committee sent him a memorandum, a feature of which was the request that he urge at the Potsdam Conference substantial liberalization of the policy affecting immigration into

Palestine. Last September, Judge Proskauer, your President, and Mr. Blaustein, the Chairman of your Executive Committee, had a conference with President Truman. We reiterated the request that Great Britain permit large immigration into Palestine and importuned particularly that he persevere in his efforts for 100,000 emergency visas. Your officers pointed out that, irrespective of the ultimate political solution for Palestine, this was a stark matter of saving the lives of certain of the remnants of European Jewry.

Several weeks later, the Chairman of your Executive Committee and Dr. Slawson, your Executive Vice-President, called on the Hon. Dean C. Acheson, Under-Secretary of State, upon whom they urged the following suggestions: (1) that the United States maintain its position, at the forthcoming meeting of the UNRRA Council, that aid be continued to all displaced persons including those "who have suffered because of racial discrimination and who have refused to return to their countries of origin"; (2) that the Intergovernmental Committee on Refugees be given the necessary means and authority to promote immediate emigration plans for displaced and stateless Jews; (3) that the refugees without visas at Oswego not be sent back to Europe; and (4) that the State Department immediately establish American consulates in Germany to facilitate the emigration of displaced persons to the United States. Your representatives were assured earnest consideration of each of these suggestions and, as you know, some have since been effectuated.

In October, in a letter to Secretary of State James F. Byrnes, the Chairman of your Executive Committee suggested that a certain percentage of the reparations exacted from Germany should be set aside for the partial compensation of damages suffered by stateless, non-repatriable, and German Jews, and others who have been expropriated on grounds of racial discrimination. It was proposed that a United Nations Trusteeship on Indemnification be set up to handle the claims of the persons in these special categories, just as the claims of other victims will be filed with, and handled by, their own governments.

Early in November, prior to Prime Minister Attlee's visit to Washington, your Committee deemed it necessary to press again for our Government's zealous furtherance of President Truman's proposal for the immediate entry of 100,000 Jews to Palestine. In a letter to Secretary Byrnes, your officers stated that this request expressed the will of substantially all American Jews, however they may differ otherwise on the Palestine question.

On November 13, it was announced that an Anglo-American Committee of Inquiry would soon be appointed to study and report on the Palestine question and the situation of Jews in Europe. On November 23, the Chairman of your Executive Committee and your Executive Vice-President conferred with Secretary Byrnes and vigorously urged that the appointment of the Committee "should in no way preclude or delay the granting of President Truman's request for the admission of 100,000 displaced Jews into Palestine." In addition, your representatives expressed satisfaction with the broad directives given to the Anglo-American Committee. We particularly commended the instruction that it consider the possibilities of immigration to countries outside of Europe, and expressed the hope that the United States would share the responsibility for providing immigration opportunities for the stateless and non-repatriable.

Mr. Byrnes invited your representatives to submit additional information on the subject. This was done in a letter calling attention to the fact that during the war years only a small fraction of the established quotas for immigration into the United States from the countries involved has been used, and urging that steps be taken to facilitate the early issuance and use of visas available under existing law. Directives to that effect were issued by President Truman a few weeks later.

Your Committee's emergency activities in overseas affairs were not restricted to the Old World. Since August there have been reports, growing in frequency and gravity, that leaves no doubt but that the followers of Col. Peron in Argentina are emulating their Nazi models by fomenting anti-Semitic agitation and attacking the persons and property of Jews. In letters dated November 27 to Secretary of State Byrnes and to Hon. Spruille Braden, Assistant Secretary of State for Latin American Affairs, your President urged that, in concert with other American republics or with the United Nations, the government of the United States take vigorous action to bring about the cessation of such outrages.

We are in constant and frequent touch with correspondents in Argentina, who keep your Committee fully informed of events and trends of special interest to us. The staff of our Foreign Affairs Department now includes an expert on Latin America, who until recently was a resident of Buenos Aires. Moreover, a field representative has also been engaged. At present in Mexico, he is expected to go to South America later.

San Francisco Conference

In 1944, foreseeing the probability of Allied victory some time in 1945, we appointed a Committee on Peace Problems, composed of recognized authorities in social science and international relations, as well as outstanding jurists and other men of affairs. The task of this Committee on Peace Problems was to work out specific suggestions in anticipation of a Peace Conference, which was then expected to be convened shortly after the cessation of hostilities. Basing its deliberations largely on the painstaking factual studies made by our Research Institute on Peace and Post-War Problems, established as long ago as 1940, the Peace Problems Committee submitted a report to your Executive Committee just a year ago, which was adopted. These recommendations on the problems of repatriation, migration, reparation, Palestine, etc., were reflected in the steps taken by us to meet the many emergency situations which arose last year, as already reported to you, and were embodied in a brief, *To the Counsellors of Peace*, which was submitted to the delegates at the San Francisco Conference and to other interested parties, including yourselves.

Transcending all of these steps in ultimate importance was our successful advocacy in San Francisco last spring of another recommendation of our Peace Problems Committee; namely, inclusion in the United Nations Charter of provision for a Commission on Human Rights within the United Nations Organization. Respect for the dignity of every human being and the protection of basic human rights, regardless of race, language, religion, or sex, are absolute prerequisites to a better world. That is basic and fundamental. Our conviction as to this was shared by the late President Roosevelt, with whom your President and the Chairman of your Executive Committee had an extended conference on March 24 last, when we submitted to and discussed with him the proposals of our Peace Problems Committee. Expressing a warm interest in our program, President Roosevelt particularly emphasized that in the creation and implementation of a Commission on Human Rights lay the real hope of future security for *all* people, including Jews. The President told us to go to San Francisco and work for that proposal.

A formal invitation to send representatives there to serve as consultants to the United States delegation to the United Nations Conference was received from the State Department shortly there-

after. For the first time in the history of international relations, there was seen at San Francisco an expression of democracy in action where the representatives of the people really collaborated with the governmental delegation of their country.

The purpose of the Conference was to establish a permanent world organization, within the framework of the Dumbarton Oaks agreement. The international protection of human rights was accordingly the only item on your Committee's program falling strictly within the Conference's scope. Your representatives, Judge Proskauer and Mr. Blaustein, therefore concentrated their main effort with their fellow-consultants and with the American and other delegations toward ensuring that the world organization being created in San Francisco would include adequate machinery for this purpose, in the form of a permanent Commission to draft an International Bill of Human Rights and to make provision for its implementation and enforcement.

Although this proposal was also sponsored by consultants representing other important American organizations, it appeared for a time that the official Conference delegates were indisposed to go, or did not see how they practically could go, beyond the abstract, inadequate formulation on the subject of human rights adopted at Dumbarton Oaks. To translate it into a concrete provision in the Charter of the United Nations, vigorous action at the eleventh hour became necessary. On the initiative of your representatives, a group of consultants met with members of the American delegation, including its chairman, the Hon. Edward R. Stettinius, Jr., then Secretary of State, and his principal adviser on the subject, Dr. Isaiah Bowman, President of Johns Hopkins University. Responding to the brilliant presentation of your President and to certain practical suggestions offered by the Chairman of your Executive Committee, in which other consultants concurred, Mr. Stettinius and Dr. Bowman pledged support of the proposal with the American delegation and undertook to urge it upon the other delegations. As a result, the United Nations Charter establishes the international protection of human rights as a cardinal objective of the United Nations Organization, and provides specific means for achieving this all-important end.

Also at San Francisco, your representatives successfully supported the efforts of the Zionist organizations to prevent action being taken under the trusteeship system set up there which would prejudice the existing rights of Jews concerning Palestine.

Testimony Before Anglo-American Committee

As already indicated, the San Francisco Conference was concerned exclusively with permanent international machinery for the solution of the world's problems, and not with actually solving these problems there. Many of the situations in which Jews are particularly involved, come within the purview of the Anglo-American Committee of Inquiry before which Judge Proskauer appeared in Washington on January 9. He there submitted our comprehensive program for dealing with the Jewish situation in Europe as well as in Palestine. There is being mailed to you a copy of his testimony, newspaper accounts of which provoked excellent reactions from both the Jewish and the general public, and the particulars are therefore not being included in this report.

Suffice it to say here that the many questions with which the members of the Committee plied your President at the conclusion of his argument, not only demonstrated how sympathetically they had followed his masterly presentation of this difficult and complex subject, but afforded him an opportunity to reenforce the strong impression already made. We trust that our recommendations will be favorably acted on.

Conclusion

No review of the year could be complete that did not take note of the irreparable loss suffered by your Committee in the passing of your Honorary Vice-President, Judge Irving Lehman. It was to him that your officers turned, particularly in times of crisis, for the sage counsel which, with his profound feeling for his fellow-Jews and his wide knowledge of men and affairs, was uniquely his to give.

Few of our members have given themselves more unstintingly to our work than Judge George Z. Medalie, recently appointed to the New York State Court of Appeals. The well-merited honor that has come to him is also an honor to the Committee. By accepting the Honorary Vice-Presidency to which you have elected him today, he has signified that he will continue to be identified with us.

After seventeen years of service to the American Jewish Committee, Mr. Morris D. Waldman, Vice-Chairman of your Executive Committee and former Executive Vice-President, requested retire-

ment for reasons of health. This was granted as of October 1, 1945. Your Executive Committee takes this occasion to pay tribute to the fine contributions made by Mr. Waldman to the cause of Jewry the world over both before and during his association with your Committee. He will continue to be a member of our Executive and Administrative Committees, where we trust that we may have the benefit of his wisdom and counsel for a long time to come.

In the year now beginning, we shall round out the fourth decade of our corporate existence. This new year is almost certain to confront us with problems as numerous and as serious as those with which we have latterly been faced. The world has still far to go before the aftermath of war, so gravely affecting our surviving fellow-Jews abroad, subsides into true peace. We must also be prepared to cope with a substantial increase in anti-Semitic agitation, now that war-time restraints are being lifted.

To these sacred duties, your Committee solemnly re-dedicates itself. Given the seasoned judgment of our old members, the fresh thinking of those newly joining our ranks, and the devotion of both, we may hope to meet successfully the problems that face us.

Respectfully submitted,

THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE