Corps - Dr Hecker

"CONFIDENTIAL"

Civil Affairs Division
APO 403, c/o PM, NY NY

December 20, 1948

TO: World Jewish Congress
American Joint Distribution Committee
Jewish Agency for Palestine
American Jewish Committee
American Jewish Conference

Gentlemen:

Since this is the last of my reports from Germany, I shall make it rather full. In it I shall attempt to summarize the developments of the past ten months, indicate what the current problems are and project what issues may have to be faced in the future.

The table below outlines the contents of this letter:

I. Introduction - General Estimate of Situation

II. Progress on DP Problem during 1948
1. Reduction in Size of Problem
2. Emigration Destination of Jews from Germany
3. Health of the DPs
4. Resistance to Extension of German Control Over DP Camps
5. Morale of the DPs
6. Reduction in Number of Search and Seizure on Camps
7. Change in Attitude Toward Black Market
8. Improvement of Army's Attitude Toward DPs
9. Formation of Jewish Construction Company
10. Cessation of Further Infiltration Into Germany and Austria
11. Operation of Jewish Restitution Successor Organization

III. Current Problems:
1. Camp Consolidation
2. German Indemnification Law
3. Cultural Jewish Property

318233

III. Current Problems (continued)

4. Inspection of Israel Bound Baggage
5. France's Suspension of Transit Visas for Israel Bound DPs
6. IRO's Refusal to Support Emigration to Israel
7. Slowness in Implementation of United States DP Bill
8. "Admission of Pogromists and Collaborators Under DP Bill"
9. Anti-Semitism

IV. Re-evaluation of Policy Issues Posed in Earlier Reports

V. Problems That Lie Ahead:
1. Occupation Statute for Western Germany
2. Outlook for Camp Consolidation
3. Restitution and Indemnification Problems
4. Ultimate Liquidation of DP Problem
   a. Emigration Opportunities
   b. Extent that the Emigration Opportunities Will Be Used
   c. Who Will Constitute the "Hard Core"?
   d. Recommendations With Respect to the "Hard Core".

Personal Note

I. INTRODUCTION - GENERAL ESTIMATE OF SITUATION

When I entered upon my duties the latter part of January, the situation in Germany was anything but encouraging. Although the United Nation's decision on partition had been reached, the countries that supported it, including our own, were vacillating on this issue and for a while it appeared that the victory achieved at Lake Success was an illusory one. I recall the mood of the DPs. It was one approaching despondency. Jewish Palestine was engaged in war with the Arabs and the only people in whom the Jewish Agency for Palestine, operating in Germany, were interested, were those who could readily be integrated into the fighting forces. Immigration had bogged down to insignificant figures for the prospect of going to Cyprus rather than to Palestine was not very inviting. In addition to this, the status of the Roumanian Jewish infiltrees was not determined. They were being threatened with eviction from the camps in which they were illegally absorbed.

This situation was not only disheartening to the DPs but was disquieting to the military authorities. With little to occupy their time, the DPs engaged altogether too openly in the black market and the authorities countered with frequent search raids on the camps. One of my first impressions that there was a sense of crisis about the entire situation was reported to you in my first letter, dated February 24.

The picture changed as conditions in Palestine improved. It took on a radically different aspect when on May 15 Israel came into being and the United States and other countries hastened to give it recognition. This was followed by a brief period of uncertainty in which the DPs wondered whether the Arab challenge to Israel would succeed. When the Jews not only stood their ground but took the initiative away from the Arabs, the picture changed completely. People began to flock to the Jewish Agency offices for the early opportunity to migrate to Israel. They dropped their complaints that they were "trapped" and "imprisoned" in Germany and Austria and went about their business of preparing themselves for migration to that country.

The U. S. Immigration bill convinced many people that their hope to migrate to the States was illusory, but it helped to crystallize the thinking of these people as to where they <u>had</u> to go.

At the same time that the prevailing mood of the DPs changed, the attitude of the military authorities softened. The constant criticism of the DPs that one would hear on the highest levels yielded to an intense interest in helping the migration out of Germany. Thus, when IRO took the position that it could not sponsor or participate in

the movement to Israel, the Army stepped into the breach and lent the migration logistic support. This metamorphosis was of course not inspired by any suddenly developed love for the DPs. The change merely emphasized what my predecessors, Judge Rifkind, Rabbi Bernstein and Judge Levinthal consistently maintained; namely, that the DPs are an irritant to the Army and that the only thing that could improve the unwilling marriage between the two is to divorce one from the other. The Army proved its eagerness to hasten this separation as will be seen later in this letter. The mass movement of people out of the camps has actually been under way for the past several months.

II. PROGRESS ON DP PROBLEM DURING 1948

1. Reduction in Size of Problem

Beyond doubt the greatest single advance made in the Jewish DP problem during the current year is the shrinkage in the population during that period. You are already aware of the fact that accurate, up to date population figures are not available. Neither the Army nor the IRO has succeeded in developing the techniques for an accurate statistical count of camp population and the measure of the number of Jewish people living on the "German economy" is even less satisfactory. The figures used below therefore, represent the best estimates, based on such quantative data as is available. The chart below indicates the extent to which there has been a reduction from the beginning to the end of the year 1948:

	US Zones		British Zones		French Zones	
	Germany	Austria	Germany	Austria	Germany	Austria
January 1 1948	129,500	22,700	17,500	1,000	2,700	500
December 31 1948 (Estimated)	75,000	9,700	6,500	300	1,200	400
SHRINKAGE	54,500	13,000	11,000	700	1,500	100

It is our view that as of the end of this year there are approximately 75,000 Jewish displaced persons in and out of camp in the U.S. Zone, Germany; about 9,700 in the U.S. Zone, Austria; about 6,500 in

the British Zones of Germany and Austria; and about 1,600 in the French Zones of Germany and Austria. Thus the total number of Jewish displaced persons in all zones of Germany and Austria, as of the end of 1948 is estimated at 93,800.

The estimate of 93,800 Jewish displaced persons, in and out of camp in all zones of Germany and Austria does not include the German Jewish communities in these countries. You will be interested to know that at the end of 1948 there are estimated to be about 25,000 German and Austrian Jews living in the following communities:

Berlin	7,900
US Zone	3,000
British Zone.....	3,500
Vienna	10,500
Remainder of Austria	500
T o t a l	25,400

It should be indicated that these communities of German and Austrian Jews contain a considerable number of Jewish displaced persons from eastern countries who have become a part of these communities. I am told, for example, that of the 10,500 people in the Vienna community, no less than 2,000 are not really Austrian Jews but they consider themselves a part of the Jewish community in Vienna and are so considered by the community.

The reduction in the population cannot be accounted for wholly by the extent of resettlement during the period in question. Actually the official figures as of January 1, 1948 were inflated and represented so-called "malochim" whose departure in previous periods was not reflected in the population estimates. Moreover, any number of people left the zones during this period without any official sponsorship. By way of illustration, the actual resettlement figures from the U.S. Zone Germany, for the period under consideration, will reach only 37,572, as against the indicated reduction of 54,500 for this area.

2. Emigration Destination of Jews from Germany

You may be interested in the destination of the 37,572 Jewish people who left Germany during the year:

318237

Country	Number	Country	Number
Barbados	3	Holland	135
Argentina	1	Ireland	2
Australia	401	Mexico	1
Belgium	3	New Zealand	15
Bolivia	85	Nicaragua	6
Brazil	9	Norway	2
Canada	3,239	**Palestine	24,219
Chile	24	Paraguay	194
Colombia	18	Peru	19
Costa Rica	32	Rhodesia	2
Cuba	56	Sweden	100
Ecuador	4	Switzerland	1,460
*France	4,594	United States	2,836
Guatemala	2	Union South Africa	29
Haiti	1	United Kingdom	22
Honduras	2	Uruguay	48
		Venezuela	9
Total			37,572

*It should be noted that the vast majority of those with visas from Germany to France probably went to Israel.

**This figure includes the estimated emigration for the month of December of 6,000. The "official" figure for emigration to Palestine is somewhat lower than indicated above as such official figures do not include those who left "illegally" between January 1 and May 30, 1948.

3. Health of the DPs

Without a complete medical survey of the camp population and the DPs who live in German communities, comments concerning the health situation must be in general terms. There is some evidence which justifies a rather favorable and optimistic report on this problem. To begin with, the JAFP and the AJDC have made rather extensive health surveys in many camps. In addition, the medical authorities for the Jewish Agency have provided a medical checkup for every emigrant destined for Israel. This was particularly thorough for the younger men who were being "recruited" for the giyus. The rejection rate in connection with giyus was about 10% ... which signifies relatively little since the physical standards were exceptionally flexible.

318238

Nevertheless, one is impressed by the general appearance and health among the DPs and those who are familiar with the situation which prevailed a year ago and earlier attest to the fact that this represents an amazing improvement.

Except for the group that we call the "medical hard core", to whom I shall refer later, the Jewish DPs look like any normal, healthy group of people. The health and appearance of their children are particularly outstanding.

4. Morale of the DPs

I have casually alluded to the present morale of the DPs. I should like to elaborate on this point.

The spiritual health and the collective morale of the DPs have manifested themselves as a sensitive phenomena, capable of achieving high points and sinking to dangerous depression. During the course of the past year the group morale of the Jewish displaced persons has assumed various levels.

Basic to an understanding of the present character of DP morale and its development during the past year is an awareness of the factors which control and determine it. They are: (a) the fate of Israel; (b) the outlook for emigration to other countries; (c) the prospects of war; (d) the conditions of DP life.

Practically all the DPs, whether they are personally interested in emigration to Israel or not, recognize that they have a stake in the fate of that country and that their present status and their future are affected to a greater or lesser degree by what happens to the Jewish community in Israel. With the vast majority of the DPs the fate of Israel has been a crucial, personal question. They know that they must ultimately settle in Israel or go homeless for the rest of their days. They are concerned with the destiny of their friends and family who preceded them to Israel. It is clear that the events leading up to the establishment of the State, the military struggle and the political maneuvers that are still taking place, have had and will have a profound effect on the morale of the DPs.

It is obvious by now that a considerable part of the DP population came originally to the U.S. Zone Germany and Austria with the hope of joining relatives in the United States and other countries. While they fled from Poland and their other native lands because of fear, they certainly took many risks when they decided to gamble on the big hope of getting to the west. Increased movement to Canada

318239

had a good effect on DP morale. The DP Immigration bill produced mixed results; it quickened the hopes of those who were eligible under the law and quickly killed the hopes of the ineligible. Although there was some disappointment in the unsatisfactory character of the DP bill, no depression of morale followed in its wake, or at least it was not discernible. The people were preoccupied with the giyus (recruitment for military service in Israel) and their elation over the establishment of the Jewish state and its military victories. While there is no overwhelming interest in the proposed liberalization of the DP Immigration law, I am certain that many DPs would welcome such a step. Many who had definitely concluded to go to Israel because they felt there was no chance of getting to the United States in the foreseeable future, are inclined to postpone their departure in the hope that if they remain a while longer in Germany, an amended DP immigration bill will make it possible for them to emigrate to the States. This feeling may postpone the solution of our problem. At least from the standpoint of the Jewish DPs, it were far better if Congress acted quickly one way or the other.

While in the main, the DPs have felt that in the event of war between east and west they would be ground to dust, some felt secure all along, maintaining a peculiar faith that the Jewish organizations would rescue them in the event of hostilities. They reasoned that they lived through one war and would live through another. The vast majority of the DPs however, have sporadically been plunged into mortal fear of the ugly prospects of war and their morale has certainly reacted to the easing and tightening of tensions between the east and west. Early in the year 1948, just before and immediately after the Berlin blockade began, the mood was one of panic because it was taken for granted by the DPs that war was inevitable and that it would come soon. Today the mood has leveled off. There is an undercurrent of anxiety but they believe that war is a long way off, and this factor does not significantly affect the morale of the DPs at this particular moment.

Their morale is in a large way also influenced by external conditions. The wave of raids on Jewish DP camps at the beginning of the year, the desecration of Jewish cemetaries, other anti-Semitic incidents, and the currency reform in June 1948 has a serious effect on the morale of the DPs. The little security and satisfaction which they had enjoyed from their successes in the economic struggle for simple subsistence in the land of starvation, were being dealt one blow after another. However, as the supply of the new currency became available and German production increased, buying and selling by Jews became profitable again.

318240

During the past year there was also a decided improvement in housing conditions. Although thousands departed from the camps, very little housing space was taken away and the DPs were able to spread out and live somewhat more comfortably. While two or three families at the beginning of the year were still living in a single room, and large numbers of men, women and children lived together in large rooms or dormitories, this condition is not as prevalent. Today most every family has at least one room. Pressure has been removed from the frayed nerves of the people who literally lived on top of one another, in a condition of congestion which caused serious outbreaks of hysteria and bitter contention among the DPs.

In brief, the morale of the people today is much improved. Because the Jewish DPs feel that they have a place to which they can go and because their creature comforts have improved considerably, their morale is probably higher today than it has ever been since the end of the war.

5. Resistance to Extension of German Control Over DP Camps

An issue that kept bobbing up constantly is the extension of the control of German police authority over the DP camps. The immunity against surveillance by the German police was the only differential that the Jewish DPs enjoyed and constant pressure was exerted by the Germans to bring all in-camp DPs under their control. They maintained that in the face of the extra-territoriality extended to the Jewish DPs the German authorities were powerless to enforce the law. In this argument they were supported by a substantial number of influential Army officers, particularly in Military Government circles. The issue was raised squarely in several staff studies that recommended the use of German police in DP camps in varying degrees. Thus far, we have been successful in warding off this threat. I count this among the favorable developments because in the contest for the retention of the status quo, I think we succeeded in convincing the members of the Civil Affairs Division, who were pressing for the change, that it would be imprudent to turn the German police loose on the DPs before the size of the problem had been substantially reduced. I have already reported that on this matter General Clay supported our position throughout and he has also indicated that even when a western German state is created, responsibility for displaced persons will be retained by the occupation authorities.

6. Reduction in Number of Search and Seizure Raids on Camps

Related to the issue of the jurisdiction of German police over

the DPs is that of raids on the camps. In line with the position taken by my predecessors, we maintained that the mass raids were an indictment of an entire camp community and that the DPs were entitled to the safeguards against unreasonable search and seizure that the Army had extended to the Germans. Each time this argument was advanced the military authorities maintained that they did not have adequate personnel to patrol the camps and that as long as German police would be excluded from the camps the extraordinary methods of enforcing the law would have to be pursued. We finally succeeded in bringing our Headquarters around to the view that independent of the question of the use of German police in camps, the mass raids should be abolished. This position was taken in a Staff Study which had unanimous endorsement in EUCOM but, which, I am informed, was shelved by OMGUS in Berlin, pending the adoption of the Occupation Statute for Western Germany. Notwithstanding the fact that our views have not as yet found their way into any directive, I believe that our discussions of the problem have borne fruit. Within recent months there have been almost no raids, and I should be surprised if large scale mass raids will be conducted in the future. The effect of this development is to increase the sense of security on the part of the DPs, to decrease the possibilities of serious incidents and perhaps improve the attitude of the average soldier toward the DPs. The only contact our soldiers have had with Jewish displaced persons has often been as members of a raiding party.

7. Change in Attitude Toward Black Market

I believe that it is important to note that within recent months the authorities have matured on the problem of the black market and that this attitude has inured to the benefit of the Jewish DPs. In their joint report on certain aspects of the DP problem, Harry Greenstein and Major Hyman pointed out that in the disturbed economy of Germany and Austria, the prevalence of the black market was inevitable and that while members of all groups were involved in this traffic, a certain percentage of Jewish DPs were quite prominent in the large scale operations, and that nothing but the increase in the flow of concumer goods could remove the props that support the black market. There was never any doubt in my mind as to the accuracy of this analysis. There has been some increase in the flow of consumer goods either through local production or through importation from abroad. This has somewhat reduced the magnitude of black market operations. In addition, however, the military authorities have taken a more realistic view of black market activities. Since the DPs were more conspicuous in these activities than any other group, the change in the Army's attitude towards the whole problem has gone a long way toward minimizing the blanket indictment of all Jewish DPs.

318242

8. Improvement of Army's Attitude Toward DPs

I should like to enlarge on the improvement in the attitude of the military authorities toward the DPs. Obviously, as I indicated above, the fact that the problem has entered the liquidation phase is largely responsible for this healthy development. I should like to believe that my very cordial relations with General Clay were another contributing factor. However, I believe that of greatest importance in this connection is the development in Israel and the awareness that most of the Jewish DPs are headed for that country. I do not believe it is possible to over-emphasize the psychological impact of the strength shown by the new state of Israel, both upon the DPs and upon the military authorities. At least with respect to the Jewish DPs I have the feeling that the authorities realize they are not dealing with pariahs but rather with potential citizens of a dynamic state. In this connection, I believe that the presence of General Clay and Ambassador Murphy at the farewell banquet for David Treger, Chairman of the Central Committee for Liberated Jews, in Munich on October 27, was of considerable significance, aside from the impression it made on the General's subordinates and incidentally on the Germans. The visit gave a tremendous lift to the morale of the DPs. On the whole, because of the present relationship between the Army and the DPs, the entire atmosphere is infinitely less tense and much healthier than it was in the early part of the year.

9. Formation of Jewish Construction Company

You will recall the scepticism with which I reported the plans to form an all Jewish labor company. This construction company was organized in May 1948 and its performance has won the respect of the military authorities. During the initial months of its life the company was on probation, especially because of the dissatisfaction with the men who were assigned to non-skilled labor. The company finally hit its stride however under the vigorous leadership of several DP engineers and has been doing remarkably well. Its present strength is 223 men. All together 335 men have from time to time served as members of this company. As men leave for permanent resettlement, replacements fill the vacancies. During the past seven months the company has participated in road construction, renovation of military buildings and dependents' quarters, drainage work and similar miscellaneous engineering activities. The fact that this company continued as a going concern, despite the dire predictions every one made, has been a factor in the improvement of public relations vis a vis the Army and has made it easier for us to dispel the easily made generalization that among Jewish DPs there are no men who can do skilled work with their hands.

10. Cessation of Further Infiltration Into Germany and Austria

The Jewish DP population in Germany and Austria was constantly

318243

swelled during 1946 and 1947 by infiltration of new groups from Poland, Roumania, Hungary and other areas. That infiltration seems to have come to an end late in 1947. No substantial infiltration of Jews into Germany took place during the past ten months -- the longest period since the end of the war.

The political upheaval in Czechoslovakia precipitated only a slight exodus of Jews from that country. It is estimated that only eleven hundred persons arrived and of this number eight hundred promptly left for Palestine. In a re-registration program carried out by the Army in March 1948, Roumanian Jewish infiltrees who were discovered to be living in the camps, contrary to the directive barring DP care and maintenance to arrivals in the zones of occupation after April 21, 1947, were evicted. However, I am reasonably sure that somehow they again found their way into the camps. At least their eviction did not create the hardships that were predicted.

It is reported to me that in the past three months approximately 1,500 Jews have come in the U.S. Zone Austria from Hungary, Czechoslovakia and Roumania. While I do not have direct knowledge about this group, I am reliably informed that on the whole they are people of means, who in their flight from these "Satellite" countries, were able to salvage considerable means. They are reported to be interested in reaching Switzerland or other countries in western Europe, where they might resume business activities.

The cessation in the flow of new arrivals in the zone is an important factor in the present optimistic outlook. There is nevertheless every likelihood that a substantial movement of people from the Balkan countries may be resumed. We are informed that there is considerable resentment among Jews in the Balkan states, who are finding it difficult to emigrate to Israel. Negotiations between the Israeli authorities and Roumania, for example, concerning the movement of Roumanian Jews to Israel are still in progress. We are advised that if these are not successfully concluded and if legal exits from that country and other Balkan countries are not possible, we should anticipate a substantial underground movement into Austria during the early spring months. Needless to say, this should be avoided if at all possible. The sooner we get the DPs out of Germany and close shop here the better it will be for the Jewish DPs and for Jews everywhere.

11. Operation of Jewish Restitution Successor Organization

It is still too early to judge the success of the restitution law in Germany. The restitution laws in Austria have been in effect for a much longer period of time; however, I confess that because of our preoccupation with Germany, it has been difficult to keep our fingers on the situation in Austria to the extent that I should have

preferred. During my recent visit to that country I learned from meetings with representatives of the Vienna community that they are greatly dissatisfied with the way restitution is working in Austria. It is my plan to send Major Hyman into Austria for a week, for the purpose of studying the matter. I shall make my recommendations on the basis of his analysis. I am not particularly sanguine about my ability to influence the situation in Austria to any appreciable degree, especially in matters relating to laws passed and implemented by the Austrian Government. As a liberated state, headed by her own government and parliament, Austria is free to do pretty much as she pleases and the United States authorities are very reluctant to suggest anything that might either offend the Austrians of that might suggest that Austria's sovereignty is not complete.

As for Germany, I believe that the interested organizations in the States are sufficiently posted on restitution through the reports submitted by Benjamin Ferencz, Director General of the Jewish Restitution Successor Organization. I merely wish to assure you that the interest of the Jewish community in the heirless and unclaimed property is in excellent hands. Mr. Ferencz is a very wise choice for the position he holds. Already he has demonstrated his fine administrative talent in addition to his legal abilities. In a very limited time he assembled a staff and geared the work of his organization to a tempo that will enable the organization to meet the deadline of December 31, 1948 for the filing of some 100,000 claims.

Mr. Ferencz has reviewed with me his ideas for the rapid liquidation of these claims. He is of the opinion that an endless and costly process of litigation will face the restitution organization if these claims must be adjudicated on an individual basis in German courts. The political atmosphere will become less friendly to the liquidation of these claims with every passing month. There is already an organization of Germans, organized to fight these claims publicly in the courts. As the influence of the occupation wanes, the prospect of generous settlements and favorable decisions is bound to decline. Mr. Ferencz is therefore exploring the possibility of a collective settlement of these claims by the German Laender. He has asked me to review it in a most tentative form with General Clay which I shall do at the earliest opportunity.

Mr. Ferencz will undoubtedly outline his plan for the consideration of the parent organization in the States at an early moment.

III. CURRENT PROBLEMS

1. Camp Consolidation

Before the mass emigration of Jewish DPs to Israel began it was anticipated that when large numbers of people would begin to leave the camps it would become increasingly difficult to satisfactorily maintain and to justify the existence of installations not used to full capacity. We recognized that the Army needed and wanted for military purposes, some of the installations which are being used to house the DPs. In addition, the Army wished to vacate installations for which rent was being paid to the Germans. The IRO is also interested in reducing the number of installations in order to economize on administrative and operational costs. We realized further that as the population of the camps thinned out we would be left with a shortage of able DP leadership and an inadequate number of professional people such as doctors, nurses and teachers, upon whom the efficient operation of the camps depend. The Central Committee, the Voluntary agencies and my staff were agreed that a reasonable program of camp consolidation was essential. This would serve the interest of the Army and the IRO and it would be beneficial to the DPs that a planned and orderly merging of the camp population should parallel the movement of the Jewish DPs out of the Zone. Thus as the DP population of Germany is reduced, there should be a reasonable equivalent reduction in the number of DP installations.

The first step in the consolidation program was the closing of the camps in Berlin. About 5,500 Jewish DPs were transferred to camps in the U.S. Zone Germany. The next stop in the program was the closing of the Zeilsheim camp. Approximately 2,000 Zeilsheim residents were transferred to other camps, in addition to about 600 who decided to remain "on the Germany economy".

Early in November, IRO and the Army worked out a consolidation plan based on existing vacancies and on vacancies that would accrue due to anticipated emigration. I proposed that representatives of the Civil Affairs Division, Headquarters EUCOM, IRO, the Voluntary agencies and the Central Committee meet to discuss that plan and to formulate a schedule of camp consolidation which might receive endorsement of all the interested parties. On November 22 a meeting attended by representatives of these groups, my assistants and me, took place. The plan was reviewed and tentative dates for the evacuation of specific installations were decided upon. Some differences were reconciled and the meeting concluded with a calendar of camp consolidations.

Three camps in the Kassel area; namely, Gold Cup, Herzog and

Fritzlar and six small installations in the Regenzburg area will be closed by December 31, 1948. Three camps in the Kassel area; namely, Hasenhecke, Rochelle and Hof Geizmar and Pocking, in the Regenzburg area will be closed January 31, 1949. Alte Kaserne, Neue Kaserne in Deggendorf will be closed as of February 15, 1949. Wetzlar will be closed April 1, 1949 and Stuttgart West in June 1949. The rest of the schedule will be formulated as the DP population decreases.

Before closing a camp every effort will be made by the JAFP to accept all those who are interested in emigration to Israel. The rest of the population who are not prepared to go to Israel by the time the camp is closed and who intend to emigrate to other countries, will be moved to the more permanent camps in order to avoid the hardship of a double movement. Although all responsible Jewish agencies and the Central Committee recognize the desirability and necessity of consolidation, it is anticipated that the DPs will not passively accept the closing of the camps. There is an understandable reluctance on their part to move from one camp to another. They maintain that in view of the fact that their final resettlement is imminent it is cruel to force them to make an additional move to temporary quarters. As painful and inconvenient as it may be, I am convinced that consolidation is absolutely essential from the viewpoint of the Army and the IRO. It is also highly desirable for those who would serve the interests of the Jewish organizations, particularly the JAFP and the AJDC. I am convinced further that it would serve in the long run the interests of the DPs themselves.

2. German Indemnification Law

By this time you have received my memorandum on the proposed German indemnification law. The views expressed there were not only mine but represented the combined judgment of the local German communities, of the Jewish agency, the AJDC and of the Jewish Restitution Successor Organization. IRO also filed a memorandum interposing major objections but, at least for the time being, is not prepared to ask the authorities to veto the law in the event the German Laenderrat is unwilling to remove the objections. We succeeded in having the Civil Affairs Division of EUCOM go along with us in their recommendations to General Clay. At the present time the law is pending before the Legislative Review Board of Military Government. Because the proposed law represents the final word on restitution of non-identifiable property, I consider it as one of great importance. I propose to meet with the Review Board in Berlin, and, if necessary, follow it up with General Clay. I shall be interested in the views of the organizations in New York as to the course that should be followed and I strongly urge all of you to write to us about this at the earliest opportunity. The basic question on which I want to be reinforced by your opinion is whether I am on solid ground when I recommended that General Clay veto the proposed law if the major objections are not removed. You may wish to refer to my

memorandum addressed to Dr. Edward A. Litchfield, Director of Civilian Administration Division, dated December 10, a copy of which was sent to you, in which the major objections to this proposed law are outlined.

3. Cultural Jewish Property

Very little progress has been made in the disposition of the heriless cultural property in the U.S. Zone Germany. As you know, most of this consists of the Judaica at the Offenbach Archival Depot. Dr. Joshua Starr of the Cultural Reconstruction Corporation did what is reported to me to have been a splendid job in assisting in the direction of the cataloguing and classifying of the books. General Clay was prepared to turn over the entire library to the Cultural Reconstruction Corporation; he so advised the Department of the Army in Washington, which was directed by the Department of State, to advise him to delay taking such action until authorized to do so. This was in September.

It was not until last week that OMGUS received a reply to this request. Washington advised that the cultural property definitely identified as originating in Germany, may be turned over outright to the Cultural Reconstruction Corporation. As to property coming from outside of Germany, the instructions were that this property should be turned over to the Cultural Reconstruction Corporation against a custodian's receipt. Washington has requested OMGUS to submit its recommendations on the terms of the custodianship. I understand that in the absence of Dr. Starr, the Jewish Restitution Successor Organization has taken hold of this problem and has presented its views on the terms of such custodianship. I am also informed that Mr. Ferencz has submitted his views on this matter to the American Joint Distribution Committee.

The terms of the custodianship are to be submitted by OMGUS for the approval of the Department of State. It would be most unfortunate if the Department took as much time to pass on this formula as it took to respond to General Clay's September inquiry. I therefore urge that every effort be made in the States to bring this matter to an early conclusion and thus prevent the dissipation of the valuable items in the Offenbach collection.

4. Inspection of Israel Bound Baggage

Backed by some elements in Military Government, the German customs officials have been giving the people, leaving for Israel, considerable trouble in removing their personal belongings. The problem has arisen particularly in connection with the shipment of

unaccompanied baggage. The Germans have insisted that this baggage is subject to inspection by their customs and to the payment of export duties. This problem has been tossed around between our headquarters and Military Government. The other day an interim arrangement was reached that would permit the most important items of household furniture (refrigerators, stoves, washing machines, suites of furniture) to be shipped without inspection. The temporary directive also permits the removal of hand tools used by the emigrant in his trade. Special licenses have to be secured for machines. There is, I should make it clear to you, no trouble whatsoever with the baggage that accompanies the emigrant. Such baggage is certified to by the Jewish Agency as being in proper order and goes without any inspection whatever.

The Military Government officials are of course primarily interested in Germany's economic recovery. Accordingly they are eager to avoid any export of items which are in short supply here or which if sold abroad by the Joint Export Import Agency would bring in hard currency into Germany. They are aware of the plans and desires of prospective emigrants to Israel to take with them small tools and machinery and urge that such movement be controlled by export licenses. The entire matter is, however, now under study by Military Government, and the information that reaches me leads me to believe that the problem is going to give us considerable trouble.

5. France's Suspension of Transit Visas for Israel Bound DPs

Several weeks ago the French Consul in Munich suddenly announced that he had been instructed by the Political Adviser to the French occupation authorities in Baden-Baden (Headquarters) to discontinue issuing transit visas for the DPs leaving for Israel. This change in policy was alleged to have been the result of information transmitted by the Political Adviser to the French occupation authorities by the IRO. In brief, it was suggested that since IRO was not sponsoring emigration to Israel, because such emigration was in violation of the UNO truce, there was no justification for the French aiding such emigration by the issuance of transit visas to the Jewish DPs leaving Germany.

Whatever the origin of this change in operation may have been it threatened to play havoc with the mass movement from Munich to Marseilles to Haifa now in progress. I am pleased to advise that the U. S. Military authorities sought the aid of our embassy in Paris to clear up this matter with the French Foreign Office. Through the intervention of our embassy and strong representations made by the JAFP, the matter has for the time being at least been satisfactorily settled. Except for the movement by air, direct from Munich to Haifa, the Jewish DPs from Germany leave for Haifa

through France (Marselles). That avenue must be kept open if the present mass exodus is not to bog down.

6. IRO Support of Emigration to Israel

The contents of the cable from Mr. Ryan, Director of IRO's operations in Germany, sent to Mr. Tuck, attending the Rome session of the IRO Executive Committee, was already transmitted to you. As you will recall, Mr. Ryan strongly urged that the present IRO policy which refuses to sponsor and provide financial support for emigration should be reversed.

Through press reports and other sources I learned that the matter was fully reviewed at the Rome Executive Committee meeting, with the French and American delegations supporting such a reversal. The subject is to be resolved at the next meeting of the Executive Committee which will take place in Montreal on January 26. It is imperative that the strongest representation be made to the American delegation before that time. When I was in Washington, in November, I reviewed this matter with Under-secretary Draper and Assistant Secretary Saltzman, and urged upon them the importance of reversing the present IRO position on this subject. I am of the opinion that this is the best opportunity we have had to secure IRO logistic and financial support, to emigration to Israel. With world opinion accepting the view that Israel is a going concern, I cannot see how IRO can postpone much longer retreating from its present untenable position.

7. Slowness In Implementation of United States DP Bill

The implementation of the U.S. DP Immigration act of 1948 leaves much to be desired. The work in Germany has had an exceedingly slow start and in my judgment, the Commission will be way below its schedule for some months to come. The optimistic plans which called for the departure of 4,000 U.S. bound emigrants in December, for 6,000 monthly from January through June and for 12,000 monthly thereafter cannot be achieved without a radical change in the method of operation.

Thus far only three boats, carrying somewhat over 2,000 DPs from Germany have departed. It now appears that no more than 1500 to 2000 will leave here during the month of January. The February figure, in my judgment will be under 3,000, and I doubt whether a figure of 5,000 to 6,000 monthly will be reached before June. If these estimates are correct, it will be seen that less than 25,000 emigrants will enter the United States during this fiscal year, imposing a terrific load on the Commission for the

318250

second fiscal year, if the goal of 200,000 over two years is to be realized.

I have spent some time with Mr. Carusi and Mr. Squadrilli, the co-ordinator for Germany and have inquired as to the explanation for this slow start. Part of the difficulties is understandable. The undertaking is a complicated one; four departments of the government are involved, the congressional restrictions - geographical and occupational, make for cumbersome administration, the delays in setting up an organization "from scratch" cannot be avoided. In my judgment, however, the Commission is itself responsible for some of the difficulties. I refer particularly to the unwillingness of the Commission to use the Voluntary agencies which have had substantial experience in emigration under earlier programs.

There may be some explanation for this view. In the past when the Truman program was being implemented and the number of visas were scarce, the zealousness of our organizations, working with immigration, often got the best of them and some showed no reluctance in sponsoring people whose eligibility for migration was questionable. This elastic conscience, particularly of Vaad Hatzalah, in sponsoring rabbinical students and rabbis who were neither, was a matter of common knowledge among the American consuls and when Carusi was here in 1947 he got an earful on this subject. Obviously, the situation has changed and I believe it is time that the authorities dealing with immigration be made to understand that these pressures do not exist. For the duration of my stay I shall make this problem one of first priority and do what I can to dissipate the present attitude towards the Jewish organizations.

Any attempt to estimate the number of Jewish DPs who will be included in the above total during the next six months would be a pure guess. There are an adequate number of assurances and if the Jewish Voluntary agencies were utilized to aid in documentation, a substantial proportion of the Jewish DPs who are eligible under the law could be prepared for emigration in the months immediately ahead. However, the Commission is apparently following a policy which seeks to maintain a balance among the various national and religious groups. Accordingly, I learn that Catholic and Jewish cases are being held back because there are an inadequate number of Protestant cases.

There are alleged to be public relations' advantages in this procedure. I doubt however whether we ought to look with favor upon the Commission establishing what are in effect, religious and racial restrictions beyond those imposed by the Congress itself. I hope the American organization will review this problem and make appropriate representation if in their judgment such a policy is undesirable.

318251

There is considerable disappointment with the action of the Commission in not utilizing Voluntary agencies to aid in documentation. The Commission relies exclusively on the IRO and I have been informed that the IRO resettlement workers have in effect been instructed not to consult the Voluntary agencies concerning documentation. The National Catholic Welfare Council has filed strong objections to this practice and some of the Jewish agencies have also indicated their disappointment.

I am particularly distressed by the fact that this procedure is alleged to have originated in Washington as a result of Mr. Carusi's conviction that the Jewish Voluntary agencies "cannot be trusted" with such documentation. The Jewish organization are said to have collaborated with the DPs in filing false documents with the American consulates in the U.S. Zone or at least not to have made any effort to distinguish the false from the true. Mr. Carusi is said to have been told by the Army that it would be a serious error to utilize the Jewish organizations in connection with any documentation for U.S. immigration.

Whatever the explanation for this situation may be, I think it exceedingly important that Mr. Carusi be set straight on this matter. The damage is already substantial and if unchallenged can be incalculable. I urge the organizations involved in emigration assistance to DPs to review this matter and agree on the representation to be made to the DP Commission in order to correct the present unfavorable position of Jewish emigration organizations. We shall do whatever is possible from this end. I am convinced however that the difficulty here stems from Washington.

8. "Admission of Pogromists and Collaborators Under the DP Bill"

The articles by Ducker and Nussbaum against the present DP bill have been called to my attention. Although neither of the articles present sufficient evidence to substantiate the generalizations that the bill would permit the entry into the United States of fascists, collaborators, pro-Nazis and murderers, the generalizations are nevertheless important enough to justify some comment.

There is no doubt in my mind that under the present bill and under any amendments that may be adopted, some collaborators and Nazi sympathizers and even criminals may be admitted. Laws are not self-executing and human beings, even with the best of intentions, make errors in applying the best laws.

The current DP bill requires that the prospective immigrant have DP status as established by the IRO. IRO in turn, by its

constitution, is not authorized to grant DP status to the people falling within the categories that the critics of the bill maintain, have a carte blanche to our country.

A serious effor to screen out objectionable elements from the DP camps has been made during the past three years. The screening programs were conducted by UNRRA and later by the Army and by IRO. Many thousands were disqualified and removed from the camps. Mr. Max Brande, a former Jewish Chaplain in this Command and now a high administrative official with IRO in Germany, informs me that more than 25,000 appeals were filed by people evacuated from the camps and that very few of the rejectees were reinstituted.

There is in addition, the Central Filing System in Berlin which is consulted with every application for emigration to the United States. The DPs themselves have had an opportunity within the past three years to denounce their former persecutors and in many instances these denouncements have resulted in evictions from the camps. In many cases however, the accusations were vague and could not be sustained.

Finally, reference should be made to the proposed amendment which would declare uneligible for United States emigration anyone who advocated or participated in the persecution of any racial or religious group. I am informed that EUCOM has cabled its approval and endorsement of this proposed amendment, to the Department of the Army.

That there are fascist minded individuals and perhaps Nazi collaborators in some of the non-Jewish DP camps is in my judgment not subject to question. The blank indictment of all or most non-Jewish DPs as fascists and collaborators is a dangerous generalization. Perhaps with the exception of the Baltic group, there is no evidence to support it, and I doubt seriously whether even the expenditure of tens of thousands of dollars for case studies will provide such evidence.

We should support every effort to amend the law, to the end that collaborators and Nazi minded people would not be admitted as immigrants to the United States. The legislative mandate can be squarely indicated in imposing a specific responsibility upon the Army and the consular officials to reject such cases. I would however, not begin with the assumption that the vast majority or "most of the DPs" as Mr. Ducker says, fall in that category. If the purpose is to prevent persons who are anti-Semitic from entering the United States, then we had better prohibit all emigrants for most emigrants from Europe have a good deal of anti-Semitism.

318253

9. Anti-Semitism

In ever present and beyond doubt the most stubborn problem in Germany is anti-Semitism. I do not propose to provide a detailed analysis on this subject in this report. I merely wish to share some of my conclusions. I have reached the point where I believe it is all but hopeless to expect such progress in this field within the foreseeable future. During the past ten months I have sounded out many people on this subject, including Germans in the different economic strata, trade unionists and professional people, and am convinced that the anti-Jewish psychosis is so thoroughly imbedded in the German mind that it will take generations of re-education to make such headway with this problem. Most people maintain that anti-Semitism is now more deep seated than in Hitler's day and that it has spread to the working class which was relatively cooler than most German groups to Hitler's anti-Semitism.

Invariably any reference to this subject leads to a discussion of the Jewish DPs and their relationship to persistence and intensity of present anti-Semitism in Germany. It is pointed out that the DPs have complicated the problem, that the Germans resent being responsible for their maintenance, the displacement of Germans from their homes to make room for the DPs and the offensive "kaftans" worn by the eastern European Jew, etc. The Hitler trained element that has known no Jews finds in the few "kaftan" robed Jews a confirmation of Hitler's description of the Jew, and is, I am informed prepared to accept everything about Jews that the Nazi education provided.

It goes without saying that no progress has been made in developing a more "tolerant" attitude on the part of the Germans. Perhaps this is in part due to the fact that very little progress - if any - has been made in developing democratic institutions or support for democratic ideas. It may well be that until general support for such democratic principles develop in Germany, very little can be done about the problem of anti-Semitism. I am personally quite pessimistic as the progress with the present generation. All the bombs that fell on the Germans have not shaken them out of their dreams and those dreams have not included devotion to democratic ideals. Little is to be gained therefore by investing money and effort in fighting anti-Semitism in Germany. It must be part of the larger program of democratic education and training. A large investment by the occupation authorities in that area of activity will no doubt pay dividends in the next generation.

As long as Germany will not repudiate National Socialism in general it will not renounce anti-Semitism in particular.

German labor leaders tell me there is no room in the German

economy for the Jews who may want to remain here, and most people are agreed that when the American forces leave Germany, overt acts would be directed against Jews. This analysis would force many to the conclusion that the only practicable solution for anti-Semitism in Germany is to seek to make Germany "Judenrein" to the fullest extent possible.

IV. RE-EVALUATION OF POLICY ISSUES POSED IN EARLIER REPORTS

At this point I should like to refer to several policy issues I raised in my April 1st report. One concerned the application of the means test in the administration of the AJDC's relief program. The other was related to the problem raised by the refusal of Jewish DPs to work in the German and Austrian economics. Both of these issues are treated in the Greenstein-Hyman report, already sent to you. I agree with the conclusions these men reached. The application of the means test is apparently either impracticable for sociological reasons or prohibitive for financial reasons. As to encouraging our DPs to work in the local economies, the present situation is so fluid that even if we considered the employment of the DPs in the economies desirable, any campaign in this direction would be abortive. Moreover, the whole matter has become academic. There are not enough work opportunities in Germany and Austria to provide full employment for the native population. When I raised these and similar issues the situation appeared stable and there was no immediate prospect of large scale migration out of the zone. Except for the residual element that will remain after the opportunities for mass migration have been exhausted, there are in my opinion, no basic changes in the operating programs of the Jewish organizations here which should be introduced at this time. Radical innovations in operating programs, if they are to be made, must be related and applied primarily to the "hard core" that will remain after the mass movement has come to a halt.

V. PROBLEMS THAT LIE AHEAD

Obviously some of the past and current problems will reoccur in the months ahead:

1. Occupation Statute for Western Germany

The establishement of a western German state and the adoption of an Occupation Statute now under consideration at the Bonn meetings and by the military governors are bound to introduce significant

changes in German political life. Whether these changes will seriously affect the position of Jewish DPs cannot at this moment be determined. I have not had the opportunity to examine the preliminary drafts of the Occupation Statute nor am I posted on the proposed Constitution for Western Germany. It is important that these be carefully studied, to determine whether adequate protection for minority rights and for the position occupied by the displaced persons are provided therein.

The specific issues likely to affect Jewish displaced persons have been alluded to in earlier reports. The Bonn conference is considering the proposal that the western powers relinquish all control over the western zones except those directly concerning the occupation. This would of course extend German control over the DPs.

General Clay has to date been opposed to placing the DPs under the jurisdiction of the Germans. In fact, he authorized me to so inform the Secretary of the Army in my Interim Report. However, I do not know to what extent he may have to give ground on this issue in the process of arriving at an Occupation Statute that will meet with the approval of the other powers. This problem will certainly bear watching. In my opinion, the Jewish organizations in the States should do everything within their power to see that the status quo is maintained for the year 1949.

2. Outlook for Camp Consolidation

The problem of camp consolidation will bear constant vigilance on the part of the Jewish organizations and the Adviser's office. There is already the feeling among the people that the Jewish organizations, especially the Jewish Agency and the Central Committee, are engineering the consolidation program in order to accelerate the movement to Israel. There will be resistance to each move. The task of the organizations and the Adviser's office will be to emphasize the necessity for this move by the Army and its desirability for the good of the people themselves. I feel that there is enough understanding of the issue on the part of the Army and the IRO to justify the prediction that no move will be urged by the Army if its effect will cause serious hardship for the people. Because of the natural reluctance to move from one camp to another, the people will exaggerate their inconvenience. It will be the job of the Jewish organizations to see that no unpleasant incidents develop. Once the Jewish organizations, the Central Committee and the Adviser's office concur on the desirability and necessity of a particular consolidation move, the liquidation of the camp in question must be seen through. I mention this because I anticipate that the individual

313256

camp committees may flood the Jewish organizations in the States with complaints that the consolidation program is cruel and inhuman. It would be my advice to disregard these complaints and to accept the judgment of those on the spot.

3. Restitution and Indemnification Problems

The problems of restitution, of identifiable property, the return of the Jewish cultural property, and the German Indemnification law will certainly crystallize during the coming months. My thinking on these closely related matters is that we should insist that Germany pass a decent indemnification law or none.

This is a moral oblication which must be given priority by the occupation authorities and we should reject as inadmissible, the contention that Germany cannot afford a decent indemnification law. We should not permit the Germans to satisfy their conscience before the world by passing an act which merely gives lip service to the principle of reparations and indemnification.

As to the Jewish Restitution Successor Organization, every effort should be made to liquidate its claims at the earliest possible time even at a substantial sacrifice. The longer the liquidation of the restitution problem is postponed, the more will the resistance against the implementation of the restitution laws mount, and, by the same token, the claims will become more worthless. Considerations of expediency and not justice will, as I see it, have to govern our thinking on this problem. The Successor Organization should get out of Germany as much as possible, as quickly as possible, and consider the mission accomplished. This, of course, is also true of the Cultural Reconstruction Corporation with respect to cultural property.

4. Ultimate Liquidation of DP Problem.

There is one major issue on which I should like to expand and to which the Jewish organizations in the States will have to give the most serious thought in the very near future. I have reference to our attitude toward the people who remain here after the mass movement has tapered off, and what type of assistance American Jewry should underwrite for the residual population.

This problem should be considered in relation to (a) emigration opportunities, (b) the extent to which the people will take advantage of these opportunities, (c) the type of people who will constitute the "hard core", (d) recommendations with respect to this group.

318257

(a). Emigration Opportunities

At the present time the rate of emigration from the U.S. Zone, Germany to Israel is about 4,000 per month. To be sure, over 5,000 left in November and the figure for December may reach 6,000. These are two exceptional months, and it would be wiser to anticipate a monthly emigration of 4,000 or perhaps somewhat less, from January on.

The Jewish Agency for Palestine advises me that on the basis of the Israeli government immigration plan, Israel will be able to absorb all DPs who desire to emigrate to that country by September 1949. In fact they suggest that by the end of 1949, they could absorb in Israel all Jewish DPs now in Germany, if they were willing to go there.

In addition to emigration to Israel, it is estimated that during 1949 approximately 10,000 Jewish displaced persons will be eligible to emigrate to the United States under the present DP bill. Finally, emigration to other countries, principally Canada, Australia and some of the South American countries may also absorb about 5,000 Jewish DPs, during 1949.

(b). Extent that the Emigration Opportunities Will Be Used.

The best opinion is that virtually every available visa to the United States, Canada, Australia and the other countries, exclusive of Israel, will be used when it is tendered. The figure that is in dispute is the number that will avail themselves of the opportunity to go to Israel. The JAFP's most optimistic guess is that about 45,000 of the 75,000 now in the U.S. Zone, Germany, will want to go there in 1949. On the other hand, there is respectable opinion that the bulk of the people who wanted to go to Israel have already done so and that the JAFP will be able to syphon off only 25,000 from the present DP population in the zone. I am inclined to agree with this opinion. If the JAFP estimate is proved to be correct, there will be approximately 10,000 Jewish DPs in the zone by the end of 1949. If the other prediction materializes, the number will be 30,000. These figures are exclusive of the 10,900 Gemeinde Jews in Berlin and in the zone. These estimates are, of course, subject to revision, depending upon such additional opportunities as may open up by the liberalization of the United States DP bill and by the removal of the immigration barriers to other countries. I do not consider it crucial to arrive at an accurate estimate of the residual population as of any given date.

(c). Who Will Constitute the "Hard Core"?

Since my reference to the potential residual elemant may surprise you, I should like to indicate the composition of the "hard core". First, there is the "medical hard core". The deletorious effects of the concentration camps, of furtive living under indescribable war conditions in the forests of Poland and of hard labor in the cold wasteland of Russia, have not been completely erased by the excellent medical work of rehabilitation done by the IRO and by the AJDC. Among the DPs there is a groups of people ineligible for emigration to any country because of physical or other handicaps. They are "technically" eligible for emigration to Israel and the medical department of the AJDC is making every effort to rehabilitate them.

Approximately 1,000 of the Jewish DP population of Germany are afflicted with tuberculosis. A small proportion of these are light cases which will require short periods of treatment. Most of the patients are now located in rehabilitation centers at Passau and Bayrisch Gmain, Bavaria, where they are receiving care and vocational training to equip them for emigration to Israel within a short time. Most T.B. patients however, will require from one to five years' treatment before they will be fit for emigration.

In addition, there are about 2,170 invalids, the victims of the war and concentration camps. Of these about 1,000 are complicated cases which will not be able to meet the requirements for emigration to any country other than Israel. They are receiving the best possible medical treatment. Most of them are receiving occupational training in CRT schools, designed to qualify them for self-support.

About 200 cases involve loss of limbs and about 100 are total invalids. There are also about 500 to 600 cases of chronic illness and a group of about 100 unaccompanied old people. There are about 75 cases of insanity, now confined in institutions for the care of the mentally sick. All these categories are ineligible for emigration except to Israel, which may be willing to receive them if the cost of their maintenance and care can be underwritten by the world Jewish community.

The second group consists of the economic "hard core". That is, the DPs who intend to remain in Germany. There are at the present time in the U.S. Zone, Germany alone about 20,00 so-called "free living Jews". They have been assigned living quarters in German houses, by the German housing authorities; they pay rent and buy their own food and except that certain automatic categories receive AJDC aid, they live very much like the rest of the German population. Some of these people are "free living" because they entered

the zone too late to receive permission to live in a camp. Most of them rejected camp life because of economic or personal reasons, business connections, employment and opportunities for better housing. The majority of these DPs manage to live on the fringe of the economy by engaging in barter on a petty scale. Some have built for themselves profitable businesses. The vast majority are financially able to support themselves and would not relinquish their present position for all the attractions of free rent and free food and the other services offered in the camps.

The cultural and religious life of these people, their Zionist activity and their community organization, are not as strong and idealogically meaningful as that of the people in the camps. They maintain that their ultimate aim is to emigrate as soon as possible. There is however a significant discrepancy between their professed intentions and their behavior. A far smaller proportion of the free living Jewish DPs have taken advantage of emigration opportunities thus far than is true of the camp population. They may emigrate slowly and perhaps a substantial number will remain indefinitely, with some vague intention neatly tucked away in the subconscious, to migrate when they have made their fortune. For the moment they have accommodated themselves to the economic situation in Germany and are not prepared to abandon their economic position and take risks elsewhere. Some may in fact delude themselves into thinking that they may integrate among the German Jews and become acceptable as permanent residents to the Germans. In the main, the duration of stay of the bulk of this group will be determined by factors such as (a) the economic conditions in Israel, (b) emigration opportunities to other countries, (c) the ability to cash in on Germany's disturbed economy (d) the state of affairs and tensions between the west and east, and (e) the degree of physical security that the German scene will afford the "foreign element."

(d). Recommendations With Respect to the "Hard Core".

As to the "medical hard core" every effort should be made during the coming year to advance the state of rehabilitation of these people as far as possible. I am sure it is less costly to accomplish this in Germany than it would be in Israel. At the conclusion of this period I believe that all the people who comprise this group, except perhaps, the insane, should be extended the opportunity to migrate to Israel. I do not believe that we should permanently consign anyone to the beneficense of the Germans. If these people refuse that offer, do not take advantage of such emigration offers, it is my opinion that all aid to them, stemming from Jewish organizations outside of Germany, should be withdrawn.

318260

As to the "economic hard core" my thinking is influenced by the fact that there is no possibility for a permanent adjustment of Jewish displaced persons to life in Germany. The objective of all Jewish social agencies in Germany has been predicated on the belief that these people who find themselves in Germany against their will must be rehabilitated and eventually resettled in countries where they have the best prospects of happy adjustment. If these organizations, after a long and arduous experience arrive at the conclusion that permanent residence in Germany offers no such prospects, American Jewry, has no responsibility for helping to perpetuate the basically unhealthy condition. There may be many inequities in this approach. It is however, in my judgment, realistic. The DPs do not belong here. Their presence is an accident. They were brought here by force. Their status here is basically insecure and their life among the Germans is abnormal and artifical. A realistic program therefore requires that we do nothing to make it possible for this group to perpetuate what is inherently an abnormal, artifical condition.

It is my judgment therefore that after the mass emigration to Israel has been largely completed, a comprehensive survey should be made of the residual population. It should be the major object of this survey to determine the emigration desires of these people. Every effort to encourage emigration to Israel and other countries should be made and such effort should be supplemented by denial of assistance from Jewish agencies for those who have chosen for private reasons to prolong their stay in Germany.

I should emphasize that we should defend our right to live and work in an country in which we find ourselves. If my recommendations above appear to run counter to this philosophy, it is only because Germany can at this time at least be considered a special case. Were we convinced that there is a practical possibility for Jewish displaced persons to establish for themselves a dignified social, cultural and economic existence in Germany, I would urge that we defend their right to remain and protect them in every way. Since I am convinced that this is not possible for this particular group, sound policy seems to encourage their emigration at the earliest possible time.

These views should probably not be extended to include the German Jews now in the several gemeinden. There is a basic difference between this group and the east European DPs. The German Jews are thoroughly rooted in Germany and if, despite the brutal behavior of the Germans towards the Jews some of them feel that they cannot pull up stakes and leave Germany, it is fairly certain that this element will be unable to accomodate itself in any other country. This group should also be encouraged to leave Germany but should not be penalized for the failure to do so. The German Jews should be

treated as any normal community with respect to assistance from American organizations, as well as with regard to protection of their civil, economic and religious rights, on the basis of equality with all other citizens. It will be the duty of the large Jewish organizations to bring about the guaranty of such rights in the basic laws of any future Germany and to secure their execution in daily life.

A Personal Note.

I am leaving Germany on January 15 to return to Michigan and resume my work at the University. In taking leave of this important undertaking in Germany I wish to express my deep personal appreciation and gratitude for the devoted help provided by Major Abraham S. Hyman and Chaplain Louis Barish. Chaplain Barish joined our office in May and has been of great assistance in dealing with the developing situation. Major Hyman has not only provided continuity in the work of our office, having now served with three Advisers but has deep insight into the complex which make up the DP problem facing our people, and his judgment has been invaluable. I am grateful also for the unfailing cooperation and help that was extended to me at all times by the Voluntary organizations. In a very real sense, the American community has had a team here, each member of which was carrying out a very important segment of the total job. The groups composing that team have come to look for certain guidance and leadership from the Adviser on Jewish Affairs and the net result of this collaboration has helped not only the work of the agencies and the displaced persons but also the relationship with the Army and with the other governmental agencies.

Sincerely,

WILLIAM HABER
Adviser on Jewish Affairs
to the Commander in Chief

318262

Greenstein Rep

CROSS-REFERENCE SHEET

DATE: 10/6/1948

NAME OR SUBJECT REPORT

FROM: ABRAHAM S. HYMAN & HARRY GREENSTEIN

TO:

REGARDING: "CERTAIN ASPECTS OF JEWISH DP PROBLEMS IN THE US ZONE, GERMANY AND AUSTRIA

Camps, folder: Reports of Jewish Advisers

SEE: ONLY TWO COPIES AVAILABLE GIVEN TO MR. GROSSMAN ON 11/24/1948

233- 11/5/46-500-EM:fh
ADM-2046

318263

Camps - Greenstein's Report

October 28, 1948

MEMO

To : Executive Committee, WJC (American Branch)

From: Political Department (Relief Desk)

The five cooperating organizations, it will be recalled, decided some time ago that Prof. W. Haber should ask Mr. Harry Greenstein, Executive Director of the Associated Jewish Charities of Baltimore, to make a survey of certain aspects of Jewish DP problems in the U.S. Zone. Mr. Greenstein and Major Abraham S. Hyman, the permanent member of the staff of Prof. W. Haber, have now submitted a "Report on Certain Aspects of Jewish DP Problems in the U.S.Zones, Germany and Austria", from which I give short excerpts below. The report is dated September 15, 1948, and says in its introduction that everyone agrees "that the only effective solution of the DP problem is to get the Jews out of Germany and Austria and to close the camps as quickly as possible. On the basis of the present outlook this may take from 1½ to 2 years."

In the section entitled "Estimate of Jewish DP Population" Messrs. Greenstein and Hyman report that it is the opinion of individuals connected with the voluntary agencies that the number of DPs is far below the official estimates. "It is generally conceded that the official figures are inflated by at least 10%."

As of August 15, 1948, it was officially estimated that there were approximately 165,000 Jewish DPs in the DP countries, distributed as follows:

	Germany		Austria		Italy		
	In Camp	Out of Camp	In Camp	Out of Camp	In Camp	Out of Camp	Total
U.S.Zone	90,000	20,000	16,350	2,600	18,000	4,000	
Br. Zone	7,000	4,500	800	0			
Fr. Zone	300	900	0	500			
	97,300	25,400	17,150	3,100	18,000	4,000	164,950

These figures, the report states, "do not, of course, include Jews living in Germany and Austria who cannot be regarded as DPs."

The third chapter discusses the emigration outlook. It states that "visits to Czechoslovakia and Poland establish the fact that despite the favorable attitude of the governments of these countries, the majority of the local Jews are eager to migrate to Israel. In brief, the Jewish DPs have neither nostalgia nor appetite for their countries of origin."

Concerning the possibilities of emigration to countries other than Israel and the U.S., the report estimates that about 15,000 Jewish DPs will migrate in the next two years to Australia, Canada and South America.

318264

6 October, 1948

SUBJECT: REPORT ON CERTAIN ASPECTS OF JEWISH DP PROBLEMS IN THE US ZONE, GERMANY AND AUSTRIA.

TO: Mr. Kurt R. Grossman

The attached report on certain aspects of the Jewish displaced persons's problem in Germany and Austria was prepared by Mr. Harry Greenstein and Major Abraham S. Hyman. Mr. Greenstein is Executive Director of the Associated Jewish Charities of Baltimore. He came to Germany at my invitation to survey the general situation and to give his judgment with respect to several specific problems I submitted to him. Major Hyman, one of my assistants, collaborated with Mr. Greenstein in the investigation and preparation of the report. I have found their report exceedingly helpful. I am sending you a copy since I know of your interest in this problem.

Cordially yours,

WILLIAM HABER
Adviser on Jewish Affairs
to the Commander in Chief

Encl.

313265

Chrono - Dr Haber
9/5/48

REPORT ON CERTAIN ASPECTS OF JEWISH DP PROBLEMS Carl
IN THE US ZONES, GERMANY AND AUSTRIA.

1. Introduction. No one can review the Jewish DP operations in Germany and Austria without being impressed with the problems and complexities that these operations involve. There are matters of immigration, of morale, of care and maintenance, of supply and distribution, of work and vocational training projects, of black marketing, of relations with the U.S. Army, with the IRO and with other agencies.

Everyone is agreed that the only effective solution is to get the Jews out of Germany and Austria and to close the camps as quickly as possible. On the basis of the present outlook, this may take from one and a half to two years. Meanwhile, it would seem desirable to give thought to immediate and long range planning, looking towards the ultimate liquidation of the camps. With this in mind, this survey was undertaken at the request of Dr. William Haber, Adviser on Jewish Affairs to Generals Lucius D. Clay and Geoffrey Keyes. No attempt was made to evaluate the entire DP program in all its ramifications. This study is confined primarily to the lines of inquiry suggested by Dr. Haber.

During the course of the survey, discussions were held with military authorities working with displaced persons in the U.S. occupation zones, with representatives of IRO, the AJDC, the Jewish Agency for Palestine, the ORT, and of the HIAS, both on the administrative and operating levels, with the State Commissioner of Bavaria for Racial, Religious and Political Persecutees, with the Economic Secretary of the Bavarian Trade Union, with the Central Committee of Liberated Jews in the U.S. Zones of occupation, with camp committees, and with representatives of the DPs living outside the camps.

The following camps in the U.S. Zones, Germany and Austria, were visited: Bensheim, Lindenfels, Zeilsheim, Landsberg, Neue Freimann, Geretsried, Fohrenwald, Feldafing, Bad Reichenhall, Regensburg, Beth Bialik, New Palestine, Wels, Wegscheid, and Ebensberg. The ORT schools in these camps, as well as the central ORT schools in Munich, Linz and Salzburg, were examined. The IRO non-Jewish camps, Lain and Warner Kasserne, and the IRO regional trade school at Ingolstadt were also inspected.

2. Size of the Problem - Estimate of Jewish DP Population. There are no accurate statistics available on the Jewish DP population. At best, the official figures, based on Army, IRO and voluntary agency sources of information, are approximations. Individuals connected with the voluntary agencies expressed opinions which placed the number of DPs far below the official estimates. It is generally conceded that the official figures are inflated by at least ten percent.

10%

310266

As of August 15, 1946, it was officially estimated that there were approximately 165,000 Jewish DPs in the DP countries, distributed as follows.

	Germany		Austria		Italy		
	In Camp	Out of Camp	In Camp	Out of Camp	In Camp	Out of Camp	Total
US Zone	90,000	20,000	16,350	2,600	18,000	4,000	
Br Zone	7,000	4,500	800	0			
Fr Zone	300	900	0	500			
	97,300	25,400	17,150	3,100	18,000	4,000	164,950

Applying the ten percent inflation factor to these estimates, it is fairly safe to assume that the total Jewish DP population in the DP countries is not in excess of 150,000. These figures do not, of course, include Jews living in Germany and Austria who cannot be regarded as DPs.

It is noted that 32,500, equivalent to twenty percent of the Jewish DPs, live in the economies of the DP countries. These so-called "free living" Jews concede that the ideological level of their life is not as high as that of the people in the camps, but convincingly enough maintain that their ultimate aim is the same as that of the camp residents; namely, to quit Germany and Austria at the earliest opportunity. There appears to be no basis for the assumption made in some quarters that a substantial percentage of this group will integrate into the German or Austrian communities. Although these people left or refrained from entering the camps, in search of superior living accommodations and more favorable economic opportunities, only relatively few have succeeded in gaining any economic foothold in Germany and Austria. Most of the DPs in this group have merely managed to live on the fringe of the economy by engaging in barter on a petty scale. Hardly any of them, including those who have been fairly successful, care to sink roots in German or Austrian soil. Even Germans, Austrians and the U.S. military personnel consulted concede that there is no future for the Jewish DPs in terms of ultimate settlement in Germany and Austria. It was never assumed that the in-camp Jewish DPs would integrate into the German and Austrian economies, and this survey established the fact that in this respect there is no distinction between the in-camp and out-of camp DPs. It logically follows that all the thinking on the Jewish DP problem must be in terms of a population of approximately 150,000 people.

318267

3. Emigration Outlook.

a. Attitude Towards Repatriation. If there is one thing that is crystal clear about the mentality of the Jewish DPs, it is that they have ruled out repatriation as an alternative solution for their problem, just as they have excluded the possibility of permanently establishing themselves in Germany and Austria. The question whether, under any circumstances, they would return to Poland or to any other country of origin was consistently met with a chorus of negative replies. A few were encountered who had recently arrived from Roumania. These reported that only a tight border control has contained the Jews in Roumania. A substantial number of these would leave Roumania if they could do so without placing their very lives in jeopardy. Visits to Czechoslovakia and Poland established the fact that, despite the favorable attitude of the governments of these countries, the majority of the local Jews are eager to migrate to Israel. In brief, the Jewish DPs have neither nostalgia nor appetite for their countries of origin.

b. Emigration to Countries other than Israel and the U.S. There are two, and only two, prospects for large-scale resettlement of the Jewish DPs. One is Israel, and the other is the United States. It is estimated that only about 15,000 Jewish DPs will be resettled in other countries during the forthcoming two years. Most of these 15,000 will migrate to Australia, Canada, and to South America. There is nothing in sight that would indicate that any country other than Israel and the United States is prepared to accept Jewish DPs on any mass scale.

c. Emigration to the United States. The prospects for Jewish DP immigration to the United States under the current DP bill have been the subject of much debate. The discussion has centered about the effect of the provision fixing December 22, 1945, as the deadline for determining eligibility. It has heretofore been assumed that those who were not in the zones of occupation between 1939 and December 22, 1945, would be ineligible under the DP bill. A closer examination, however, suggests that those who were in what was Germany in 1939 are eligible. As a result, the number of Jewish DPs who would be eligible for emigration under the new U.S. bill is, perhaps, larger than originally calculated. A survey made by IRO showed that, as of May 31, 1948, there was an aggregate of 34,654 Jewish DPs in the U.S. Zone, Germany, who had either entered or were born to those who had entered the zones of occupation prior to December 22, 1945.

Notwithstanding the more favorable situation, it is likely that the absence of proper documentary proof and similar requirements will lead to many rejections. The experts on this subject who

318268

were consulted expressed different opinions as to the number who would actually be admitted under the bill. These estimates ranged from 15,000 to 30,000. It would probably be safe to assume that about 20,000 Jewish DPs will eventually reach the United States under the DP bill.

Apropos this subject, it is believed that interest in migration to the United States is not one of the unknowns. Despite the earnest enthusiasm for Israel, it is morally certain that among the Jewish DPs the number of candidates for visas to the United States will exceed the number that will eventually be issued to people within this category. There may be many who, though eligible, will elect present migration opportunities to Israel in preference to waiting several years to reach the States. However, since, under the most optimistic conditions, it will take the better part of a year and a half for Israel to absorb the DPs, there will be DPs who will consider it to their advantage to wait the necessary period for U.S. visas, in sufficient numbers to absorb the entire quota allowed to the Jewish DPs. Consequently, allowing for the 15,000 that may be resettled in countries other than the United States and Israel and the 20,000 who may be admitted to the United States in the forthcoming two years, there is a residual problem of approximately 115,000 who will have to be resettled in Israel.

d. Emigration to Israel. The prospects of immigration to Israel are also surrounded by a number of unknowns. Much obviously, depends upon the international situation and upon the economic developments in Israel. The determining factors will be whether there is peace or a succession of truces and whether the Mediator succeeds in his present attempt to stop all migration of men of military age. Israel's official immigration plans now call for the admission of a minimum of 125,000 during the twelve calendar months commencing August 1, 1948. Of this number, 60,000 will come from the DP countries, with a quota of 50,000 for Germany and 10,000 for Italy. It is estimated that between August 1, 1948, and the end of the year 20,000 will have been removed from Germany, 5,000 from Austria, and 5,000 from Italy. The uncertainties on the political scene make accurate prediction on the rate of flow beyond the end of the year a practical impossibility. If the obstacles in the way of legal migration to Israel are removed, it is fairly certain that the estimated 115,000 DPs whom Israel will have to absorb can be taken in by the end of 1949, leaving only about 10,000, who will then be waiting for migration to the United States and to other countries. The closing of the DP camps by the end of 1949 must be the goal of every one working on behalf of the Jewish DPs.

4. Health of the DPs. The overall health of the Jewish DPs was found to be good. In view of the crowded and, in some instances, even primitive conditions under which they live, it is remarkable that there has been no serious outbreak of any disease among them during their stay in Germany and Austria. Particularly impressive is the appearance of the children. In every camp visited, the children seem to be robust and in splendid physical condition. Discussions with the camp doctors and nurses corroborated this impression. Recent mass examinations made by the medical staff of the AJDC confirm the fact that the general health of the DPs has not deteriorated as a result of their protracted stay in the camps.

313269

There are approximately 4,250 invalids, tubercular and chronically ill Jewish DPs in the U.S. Zone in Germany. Their disabilities, however, were not caused by conditions under which they lived in the camps but, rather, are the result of experiences in and out of the concentration camps during the war years. Special medical and hospital care is being provided by the AJDC, which will restore many of them to good health.

5. Morale of the DPs. One of the most amazing aspects of life in the DP camps is the mental outlook of the people. The three years of vegetating in the camps have not broken their spirit. The people are resilient, despite the grimness of their surroundings, their crowded quarters, their lack of privacy, their general idleness and their endless waiting for the chance at normal living. They are aware of what the U.S. Army and American Jewry has done to sustain them and, it appears, are prepared to accept, if necessary, reductions in the quantity of relief, in deference to the needs in Israel. There is no doubt that the largest single factor responsible for the high morale of the people is the hope they pin on their early migration to Israel. They have been profoundly impressed by Israel's vitality and, in their identification with the new state, reflect something of the spirit of that state. One of the most convincing experiences that indicated the impact of Israel upon the people was the visit to Geretsried, the assembly point for the Aliyah to Israel. There the people seemed alive, were cheerful and showed that they have confidence in themselves and in their future. All in all, it is to the everlasting credit of the people, to the U.S. Army, to IRO, to the AJDC and to other voluntary agencies that have served them, that the Jewish DPs are emerging from their ordeals not only in fairly good health but with a mental outlook that promises a rapid adjustment to normal living in Israel or in any other country to which they may migrate.

6. Black Market. The Jewish DPs have been subjected to a great deal of criticism because in the minds of many they are identified with the traffic in the black market. Any cursory survey would reveal that the black market envelops people on all strata and in every walk of life in Germany and Austria. This includes the native population, the occupation forces and the DPs. There is no group that is exempt from its temtations. It is not a question of whether but, rather, to what degree individuals or any specific group is involved.

Without exception the Jewish DPs who were approached on the subject admitted that they supplemented their IRO and AJDC rations by purchasing in the rationed German economy. They maintained that what they receive from IRO and the AJDC are sufficient only to sustain life. The barter in the German economy for items in which their diet is deficient provides the difference between bare survival and some assurance of comfort and good health. It is not possible to dispute this fact. In the two non-Jewish camps that were inspected, the same situation prevails. There the people were equally frank in admitting participation in the black market, and for the same reasons assigned by the Jewish DPs.

318270

There is, however, an area of activity in which the Jewish DPs are more conspicuous than any other DP group. It is the black market of the large scale character. This is especially true of the camps that are located near large population centers, such as Zeilsheim(near Frankfurt) and Neue Freimann (in Munich). Obviously, the large Jewish operators do not work in a vacuum. Their activities involve either the indigenous people, the occupation personnel, or both. However, the Jewish element in this combination is singled out as sustaining the black market because, in general, DP camp life is subject to closer surveillance and receives greater coverage in the press.

There is little point in arguing the merits of the problem. It is irrelevant that only a small percentage of the Jewish DPs are involved in large scale operations. What is important is that there is a general impression that the Jewish DPs are the principal offenders; that this feeling has placed all Jewish DPs in a very unfavorable light; and that it is responsible for increasing anti-semitism among the Germans and among the occupation forces.

The problem of the black market is a very stubborn one. Apparently, the succession of raids directed against the Jewish camps in the U.S. Zone, Germany, has not discouraged the large scale operators. They appear to be too firmly entrenched and are too calloused to fear the consequences of raids or any other law enforcement measures. Experience during the past decade indicates that the black market thrives in every economy of scarcity, despite the measures taken to curtail it. There is, apparently, no solution for the problem, except an increase in the flow of consumers goods in the German and Austrian economies. In the meantime, no effort must be spared to remove from the camps that element which is bringing the entire Jewish DP population into disrepute.

7. Employment of the DPs.

a. Camp Administration and Construction Company. As of August 1, 1948, there were approximately 19,600 Jewish DPs employed in camp administration in the U.S. Zone, Germany. These included the camp, regional and Central committees, the camp police, teachers, medical personnel and others performing miscellaneous services in connection with the operation of the Jewish camps and communities. In addition to these, there are 225 Jewish DPs who comprise a labor company, organized by and working for the U.S. Army on military construction projects. These 19,825 receive supplementary rations from the AJDC, according to the specific category of their work. In the way of monetary compensation, the labor company receives from the Army the regular continental wages and, of the 19,600 employed in camp administration, approximately 9,000 receive from IRO a net of 110 marks monthly, after deductions have been made for taxes, social insurance, and 70 marks for their care and maintenance.

In the U.S. Zone, Austria, as of August 1st, there were 1,600 engaged in camp administration, of whom 1,200 received a net of 350 shillings per month after deductions for taxes and social insurance. All DP wage earners in Austria are required to pay for the care and maintenance of themselves and their dependents at the rate of 40 shillings for one person, 67 for two, and 90 shillings for three or more.

318271

The IRO budget is such that only a fixed and limited percentage of the number of people employed in camp administration may be on the IRO payroll for either mark or shilling compensation. It was found that the camps are more than adequately serviced from the standpoint of the numbers employed and that there is neither need nor possibility for expanding work opportunities in the field of camp administration.

b. AJDC Workshops - Germany. As of July 31, 1948, there were 2,794 workers employed in 78 workshops, located in 35 camps and three communities in the ~~U.S. Zone in~~ Germany. The following products are manufactured: sweaters, gloves, mittens, shawls, socks, caps, coats, jackets, overalls, raincoats, trousers, dresses, shorts, shirts, shoes, tables, chairs, boxes, ashtrays, menorahs, drinking mugs, baby carriages, electric irons, and other miscellaneous items. Most of the workers are employed in their previous skills. Morale in the shops is high. There is little absenteeism, and the workers take great pride in their craftsmanship. The workers are carefully supervised. Deductions in pay are made for time lost. The quality of the articles is good. Everything produced is for Jewish DP consumption. Workers employed are divided into different categories according to their skills, and are paid in marks by IRO and in supplementary food rations by the AJDC. Approximately 60% of the workers are engaged in tailoring, 20% in knitting, and 15% in shoe-making. The balance are employed in various trades.

Discussions with AJDC officials reveal that there is more clothing on hand than the DPs can use for some time to come. Approximately 25,000 overcoats alone will be distributed this coming winter, and the supply of clothing in stock is so large that no clothing requisition has been included in the budget for the coming year, except for certain fill-in items. Since this surplus of clothing inventory threatened the maintenance of the level of employment, the possibility of greater diversification in the products manufactured was explored. The workshops in the camps revolve around the skills of the workers employed. It would, therefore, be difficult to revamp production to any marked degree.

The next possibility considered was that of manufacturing for sale in the German economy. This is impossible for many reasons. First and foremost, the DPs will not produce articles for German consumption. Second, DP products cannot compete with mass production in the open market. Third, the present wages supplied by IRO could not be made available for projects that are not for DP use. Finally, as a voluntary organization, the AJDC could not be expected to import raw materials to be processed for ultimate distribution in the German economy.

Another alternative considered was that of persuading IRO to permit the AJDC workshops to produce clothing for the non-Jewish camps. This effort has been made, but without success.

The final possibility studied was the utilization of the DP workshops to manufacture clothing and other articles for distribution in other countries of AJDC operations. This was ruled out on the ground that similar projects were in operation in these countries for meeting local needs and for rehabilitation purposes.

318272

The major difficulty with the AJDC work projects is the continuing substantial reduction in camp population, due to emigration. The better skilled people are leaving, and there is no skilled labor reservoir upon which to draw for replacements. At present, the real problem is to maintain the current level of employment. Already in process is a project involving the sorting and repairing of SOS clothing. There are approximately 25,000 bales of SOS clothing in the AJDC warehouses. This will help to make up some of the employment lag, but this project cannot be kept going for more than about six months. The AJDC and the DP leaders are deeply concerned about the problem of idleness and are alert to every opportunity that presents itself for employing the maximum number of persons in the camps. However, in the light of all existing circumstances, there seems little hope of maintaining the present rate of employment.

c. AJDC Workshops - Austria. The type of workshops in Austria is essentially the same as in Germany, but the manner and method of payment for work done is different. Instead of compensation in the form of food rations, the AJDC in Austria has devised a unit currency and ration system. Approximately one-half of the workers are engaged in men's and women's needle trades. In recent months the number of workers has declined. It will continue to decrease as emigration to Israel and other countries gains momentum. In Austria, for the same reasons as in Germany, it will be impossible to maintain the current level of employment.

d. Work in the German and Austrian Economy. At the present time there are practically no Jewish DPs employed in the German and Austrian economies. The reasons are well known. There is an aversion and resistance on the part of the Jewish DPs to making any contribution to the economies of these two countries. This, however, is only part of the picture. The fact is, that, even if the Jewish DPs were not so inclined and if they actually sought employment, they would find very few work opportunities. Aside from the general unemployment which prevails, especially in Germany, the feeling against Jews, shared by management and labor alike, precludes the possibility of any substantial employment of Jewish DPs. This conclusion was confirmed by interviews with military authorities, thoroughly conversant with the problem, and with German labor officials.

8. Practicability of Introducing a Means Test. Any organization such as the AJDC, spending as much money as it does in Germany and Austria, must necessarily be concerned with developing an equitable basis for granting assistance. In the camps in the U.S. Zone in Germany, approximately two-thirds of those receiving relief are in the automatic welfare categories; namely, children, aged persons, the sick, pregnant and nursing mothers, and other welfare groups. The rest are workers employed in the AJDC workshops, the ORT vocational training schools, camp and community administration and maintenance. Only those who are employed or who come within one of the welfare categories receives an AJDC ration. In Austria, at present there is a general supplementation by the AJDC of from 600 to 800 calories a day to every person in the camps. This policy has just been revised. Henceforth, supplementation will be given only to those persons who are willing to accept some form of employment, or undergo training, or who are in one of the welfare categories. This policy will equalize the basis of granting AJDC assistance in both of the occupied countries.

318273

In considering the application of a means test, it is important to bear in mind the structure of the camps and the manner in which they are administered. It is the DPs who occupy the posts of leadership, who make up the camp committees, and who, to all intents and purposes, are in charge of the camps, subject, of course, to general supervision by IRO. In the past, it has been impossible to secure even an accurate camp census. How much more difficult would it be to expect any staff composed of DPs to pass upon the eligibility of persons entitled to AJDC assistance. At best, most of the DPs live a marginal existence, crowded together, in many instances sharing the same room, with only temporary partitions separating one family unit from another. Under these circumstances, it would be unrealistic to expect the detachment and objectivity necessary to administer a means test. This is only possible in a stable community where those administering eligibility requirements are not themselves the beneficiaries of the relief program. No staff of DPs could be recruited who would be willing to accept such a responsibility, and it would, therefore, be necessary for the AJDC to enlarge its own staff to perform such a function.

There are, undoubtedly, some receiving AJDC supplementary rations who should be stricken from the rolls, but it was found that only a comparatively small percentage of those in the camps being helped by the AJDC could get along without such assistance. Of the 20,000 Jewish DPs who live in the U.S. Zone, Germany, outside of the camps, approximately 25% to 30% receive AJDC rations, either through the Kultusgemeinde for German Jews or through the Central Committee of Liberated Jews. The recent currency reform has had a serious effect on all DPs living in the German communities, and those who are not receiving AJDC assistance are finding it increasingly difficult to get along without that help

Because of the reasons mentioned above, the application of a means test, either in or out of the camps, would result in little saving. The added expense to the AJDC in recruiting the necessary staff to accomplish this could hardly be justified.

9. Evaluation of the ORT Program. The ORT reports indicate that, as of August 1, 1948, there were 6,015 students registered in its schools in the U.S. Zone in Germany and 800 in the U.S. Zone, Austria. In any evaluation of the ORT program, it is necessary to keep in mind the difficulties inherent in the attempt to carry out a vocational program in the DP countries. The uncertain future, the feeling that their resettlement was imminent, the fluid character of the population, the lack of real incentive, the ever-present temptation to take the easier path by trading in the local economy, are factors that were not easy to overcome. Only in the light of these difficulties can the strengths and weaknesses of the present ORT program be properly appraised.

The ORT has made a decided contribution in developing certain skills among the DPs and in helping to maintain morale. Some of the ORT schools are doing an excellent job, notably the Central Schools in Munich, Salzburg and Linz. The equipment in these schools is good, the instructors are competent, and the students in these institutions are seriously interested in their training. There is a general sense of direction and accomplishment. On the other hand, many of the ORT schools visited presented a totally different picture. The enrollment in these schools is small, there is considerable absenteeism, instructors are mediocre, and

318274

courses are not well planned. There has been too much emphasis on the quantitative, rather than on the qualitative, aspects of the program. Moreover, the courses have not been related to the countries where the DPs are destined to go and, especially, to Israel's economy. The curriculum includes courses which offer little opportunity of earning a livelihood.

There are two schools of thought on the question of attempting, at this late date, to develop a more effective vocational training program in the DP camps. One group feels that, with Israel now beginning to absorb large numbers of DPs at an increasingly accelerated rate, it is a sheer waste of time and money to do anything in the way of revamping the vocational training program.

The other point of view is that it will take from one and a half years to two years before all of the DP camps can be closed, and that it would be short-sighted policy not to make the most of this waiting period by helping the DPs acquire skills which will improve their chances of gainful employment. In this connection it should be noted that Israel, which will take the great majority of the Jewish DPs, has already determined upon immigration priorities. Top priority will be given to persons between the ages of 18 and 45. The last to go will be the older persons, the sick and the physically handicapped. There are, in the U.S. Zone, Germany, alone, approximately 10,000 DPs of 55 years of age and over, TB cases, invalids and physically handicapped persons. A representative of the Israeli government indicated the importance of developing a training program for these people and for children of from 14 to 17. Some such courses have already been started. In the future, increasing emphasis should be given to the organization of training courses for these groups.

Up to the present time, the Jewish Agency for Palestine has taken no active part or displayed any particular interest in the training of the DPs. It has been primarily preoccupied with maintaining an interest in and sponsoring immigration to Israel. Now, with Israel established and its needs known, it is important that thought be given to the occupational training of the DPs, who will, necessarily, constitute so large a part of Israel's population. Representatives of Israel in Germany and Austria should take the initiative and assume responsibility in helping to organize an ORT training program that will be primarily geared to Israel's economy. In addition, a properly qualified person, expert in the field of occupational training for Israel, should be appointed by the Israeli government to act as an Adviser to ORT in planning and supervising such a program.

This program might well give weight to the following suggestions:

a. consolidation of schools should take place wherever possible;
b. only competent and properly qualified instructors should be employed;
c. courses given should be primarily related to the needs of Israel;
d. attention might also be given to the development of skills related to the United States;

318275

e. the qualitative aspects of the program should be the major consideration.

10. Critique of IRO. Under its charter, the IRO has two major responsibilities: (1) Care and maintenance of displaced persons and (2) resettlement and repatriation wherever possible. The IRO operates and maintains the DP camps, provides the basic food rations, medical supplies and medical care. It also assumes the costs of moving the DPs to the countries of their destination. The program of the AJDC is intended to be supplementary to, and not a substitute for, the IRO. In all fairness, it should be noted that IRO has been quite cooperative in providing administrative resources, such as transport, indigenous personnel, etc., to the AJDC and to other voluntary agencies. It also pays for certain phases of the work and training program. Unfortunately, the AJDC has found it necessary to pay for certain items which rightfully should be a charge on the IRO. In the field of vocational training and work projects, for example, the IRO provides practically no material, equipment, tools or machinery in the Jewish camps and communities in Germany and Austria, with the result that the bulk of the expenses must be borne by the AJDC. In the area of resettlement, the AJDC and other Jewish agencies have, likewise, been compelled to pay too large a proportion of the costs. The IRO has also failed to take care of a large number of Jewish DPs living in France and Belgium. There is nothing in its charter, nor does the financial position of IRO justify denial of assistance to the Jewish DPs living in these countries. IRO does, in fact, take care of some of them now but has a fixed and arbitrary limitation beyond which it does not go.

The officials of the AJDC in the Paris office and the directors of the German and Austrian AJDC operations are conscious of the problem, and have been vigorous in their efforts to secure payment or reimbursement for those items which should be the responsibility of the IRO. These efforts need to be pursued even more actively not only in the DP countries, but also in Geneva and Washington on the highest possible levels, in order to enlighten the financial burden on the AJDC and other Jewish organizations.

11. Suggestion Relative to Future Consolidation of Camps. It is inevitable that, as emigration is stepped up and the number of DPs decrease, the DP camps will be consolidated. Although the authorities in the U.S. Zone of occupation have given some thought to basic principles that will govern the consolidation program, no definite plans in this field have been formulated in either command.

It is noted that up to the present time the Jewish DP camps in Germany have been relatively free from the general consolidation of the DP camps that has been in progress for the past year. As a result, the number of vacancies in the camps, as determined by allowing a maximum of forty-six square feet per person, has been on the increase. When the 5,500 DPs from Berlin were moved, they were readily integrated into the existing installations.

310276

An inspection of the camps in both zones of occupation indicates that the type of accommodations varies from camp to camp. In some camps the people are fairly comfortable, while in others, especially several situated in Austria, the DPs live in unspeakably congested quarters. In formulating a consolidation program, the welfare of the DPs should be given primary consideration. This welfare must be measured not only by the physical accommodations, but by the moral climate of the camps involved. If the greater interest of the DPs is served by consolidating camps whose housing accommodations are good, it would be prudent to urge that the sacrifice of the favorable housing be made.

An analysis of all of the factors involved leads to the following conclusions about camp consolidation:

a. The camps with the least favorable housing accommodations should be the first to be liquidated.

b. In exceptional cases, camps whose existence prejudice the position of the Jewish DPs in general should be dissolved at an early date.

c. The entire program of consolidation should be staggered at about three-month intervals, commencing with January 1, 1949.

d. The number of moves that any single DP is required to make before he is permanently resettled should, in any event, be kept down to the very minimum.

SUMMARY

Three years have passed since the DPs were liberated from the concentration camps. Most of them are still in the camps, waiting to go to Israel, to the United States and to other countries. They have not had an easy time of it. True, there is little under-nourishment today; health is good; quarters are less crowded; living conditions have improved. Nevertheless, it takes a fairly sturdy person to rise above the barren life in a DP camp with its lack of privacy, with no opportunity for gainful employment, waiting every day to be released from artificial and unnatural surroundings.

In recent months there has been a tendency to criticize the DPs in rather harsh terms. Too many generalizations have been made. In any appraisal of the DPs it is necessary to maintain a proper perspective and to look at the total picture. On the whole, the DPs have given a good account of themselves. Morale has held up surprisingly well under trying conditions. There is a vitality about the men and women in the camps which augurs well for their future. Indeed, the best proof that there has been no serious deterioration in the camps is the facility with which they have been able to adjust to the life and economy of the countries in which they have been resettled. Fortunately, Israel now offers the possibility of large scale immigration, and this has had its effect in the camps. There is a stir and excitement and an optimism with regard to the future, which did not exist before.

318277

As the movement of the DPs to Israel and to other countries continues, the morale is bound to increase. In the final analysis, however, it must be underscored that emigration is the only answer to the DP problem.

In evaluating the program of the voluntary agencies dealing with DPs in Germany and Austria, it was found that they have effectively met a very challenging situation under the most trying conditions during the past three years. At this stage, when the total program is of a diminishing nature and the whole atmosphere is one of movement, it is difficult to suggest any radical changes in program or policy.

In the course of this study, consideration was given to the possibility of introducing a means test. This was ruled out on the ground that the very structure of DP camp life makes this impracticable and, in the alternative, the cost to the AJDC of employing additional staff to administer a means test itself would be prohibitive.

Consideration was also given to the possibility of expanding the work program. It was found that the real problem was not one of expansion but of maintaining the present level of employment. The workshops must produce exclusive y for the Jewish DP economy and, with the continuing substantial reduction of camp population, there is a diminishing number of skilled workers and a decreasing need for the goods produced.

It was also found that there is virtually no opportunity for Jews to be integrated into the German and Austrian economies.

In examining the vocational training in the camps, it is felt that, although the ORT has made a noteworthy contribution, the following suggestions, if put into effect, should decidedly increase the ORT's effectiveness:

a. Israel should participate more actively in working with the ORT in developing a program related to its economic needs.

b. Schools should be consolidated wherever possible.

c. More attention should be given to the employment of properly qualified instructors.

d. Emphasis should be placed on the qualitative, rather than the quantitative, aspects of the program.

e. Particular attention should be given to the training of the older age group and the physically handicapped, as well as to the younger group between 14 and 17.

f. Courses which have no practical value should be eliminated.

318278

Consideration was given to the role of the IRO and its failure fully to meet its responsibilities to the DPs. The AJDC and other voluntary agencies should make more vigorous efforts in getting the IRO to meet its obligations under its charter.

It was recognized that the consolidation of the camps is both desirable and inevitable. Humane principles have governed their operation, and similar principles should control their liquidation. The camps providing the least favorable housing should be the first to be closed, along with those that, in general, are no credit to the Jewish DPs, and the consolidations should be so staggered that the number of transfers of the DPs to other camps should be kept to the very minimum.

HARRY GREENSTEIN

MAJ. ABRAHAM S. WYMAN

September 15, 1948

310279

September 17,1948

MEMO

to : Members of the Office Committee
from: K. R. Grossman

Attached please find the latest report submitted by Prof. William Haber, the Jewish Adviser to General Clay. The report is dated August 31, 1948. I would like to call your particular attention to the following:

1.) Page ii --
Re : Paragraph on Selective Immigration to Israel.

Here Prof. Haber takes issue with the statement Dr. N. Goldmann made at a meeting of the 5 cooperating organizations.

2.) Page iv --

I have suggested to the working committee of the 5 cooperating organizations to take issue with the proposal of Prof. Haber to remove the bottleneck for emigration of Jewish DPs between the age of 18 and 45 .

3.) Page ix --

The contents of the paragraph 'IRO proposals requiring able-bodied DPs to be employed' has been communicated some days ago to our office in Geneva with the request to use this material for any intervention with the Council of IRO now deliberating in Geneva.

4.) The same applies to the paragraph 'inadequacy of liaison with PCIRO'.

5.) Page xi --

May I call to your special attention under MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS paragraph 1) World Jewish Congress.

4443-9/17-48-40-KRG:ia
REL 4714

313260

HEADQUARTERS
EUROPEAN COMMAND
Office of the Commander in Chief
Civil Affairs Division
APO 403, c/o Postmaster
New York, New York

August 31, 1948

Mr. Abram Rothfeld
Acting Executive Secretary
American Jewish Conference
521 Fifth Avenue
New York 17, New York

For transmission to: American Jewish Committee
American Jewish Conference
American Joint Distribution Committee
Jewish Agency for Palestine
World Jewish Congress

Dear Mr. Rothfeld:

Since my last report of June 10th there have been a number of developments which have had an important bearing upon the DP picture. The first is the adoption of the U.S. DP immigration bill. If this law, with its exclusionary features, has been a signal disappointment, it has at least served the useful purpose of clearing the air by removing any shadow of doubt that Israel must be considered as the only real hope for the solution of the Jewish DP problem. The reaction of the Jewish DPs to this bill is interesting. Although it must be assumed that many who entertained hopes of migrating to the United States were saddened and disheartened, the disappointment took no articulate form. This is due in part to the exclusively pro-Israel ideology that pervades the camps and in part to the fact that the Jewish DPs have a very realistic attitude towards the world. They were not surprised to learn that they were not wanted in our country. A significant and not altogether unanticipated by-product of the U.S. immigration law is that it has helped the DPs to resolve their personal doubts about where their future lies. Our Congress did for many what they could not do for themselves. It made them make up their minds to think in terms of one possibility, instead of in terms of alternatives.

The second development which has had a definite impact upon the people is the phenomenal success of Israel in maintaining itself as a "going concern". The fact that, when the current truce went into effect, Israel's forces were on the offensive has at least partially neutralized the disappointment stemming from the slow-down of emigration to Israel. I believe that the morale of the people is, on the whole, higher than it has been at any time since my arrival. All reports that reach me indicate that, despite the disappointment in their emigration, imposed by the truces, the people have confidence in their future. The recognition of Israel's representative in the Zone and the visaed legal movement of people from the camps has given the DPs the feeling that the solution of their individual problems is in sight. This general attitude is not altogether without its drawbacks. There are

313281

day to day problems that arise, the solutions of which are complicated by the feeling that the liquidation of the Jewish DP problem is imminent. For example, consolidation of camps meets with resistance bacause the people insist that it is inhumane to move them to another camp when they are virtually waiting for port-call to Israel. Moreover, this general optimism, unless dispelled by information that will paint the picture as it really is, may seriously interfere with long-range planning for the estimated several years that it may, in fact, take to remove the people from the DP countries.

The third development, on which I will expand in this report, is the German currency reform, which took place on June 20th. I should say very frankly that the inflated currency condition in Germany worked to the advantage of the Jewish DPs. This is especially true of the some 20,000 who found their way into the German communities. With the devaluation of the German currency, the true position of these so-called "free living" Jews was exposed. They had not, as some believed, integrated into the German economy, and it has now become more apparent than ever that, for all practical purposes, they must be considered on a par with the in-camp population. I mention this to dispel the notion that there is likely to be a residual Jewish community in Germany, composed of DPs, after those desiring to migrate have been resettled. In this connection, it is significant that, even after the evacuation of the Jews from Berlin, the Jewish Agency did not close shop in that city. So strong is the pro-Israel sentiment in Germany, or at least so potent is the urge to get out of Germany, that most of the young gemeinde people in Berlin have registered for migration to Israel.

My relationship with General Clay and with his staff continues to be very cordial. I have seen the General as often as problems require conferences with him. With no exception I have found him sympathetically disposed to any suggestion I make, provided it is consistent with Occupation Policy and does not run counter to instructions from his superiors in Washington. This is particularly applicable to his attitude towards movement to Israel. You should be gratified to learn that when, before my change in plans, I told him of my intention to leave early this Fall and asked him for his appraisal of the necessity for a Jewish Adviser, he reacted promptly, stating that he would not be without one.

EMIGRATION OUTLOOK - PROSPECTS FOR EMIGRATION TO U.S.

There is no way of determining the number of Jewish DPs in Germany and Austria who will actually be eligible under the U.S. immigration law.

It is my impression that the estimates made in the United States during the Congressional discussion of the DP legislation understate their number. At my request, PCIRO checked camp records to determine the number of Jewish DPs whose records indicate that they entered the U.S. Zone before December 22, 1945. The result of this inquiry indicates that about 41,000 Jews now in Germany claim, on their records, that they can qualify under the December 22nd requirement. This includes about 29,000 people in DP camps, about 4,000 Jewish DPs living outside of camps, and about 8,000 German Jews.

Although I believe these figures are high, I have no basis for disputing them. The estimate of 4,000 Jews who live in the communities is the least reliable. It is obviously not possible to determine how many of those who claim a qualifying date of entry will be rejected in the screening process, nor is it pos-

sible to determine the number of eligible Jewish DPs who may wish to go to the States. If I were forced to hazard a guess, I would say that a minimum of about 30,000 Jews now in Germany will qualify under the law and that most of them will seek to go to the United States within the next two years. I do not have similar estimates for Austria.

Mr. Harry Rosenfeld, the Jewish member of the new DP Commission, has been in Geneva, attending the conference of the United Nations Social and Economic Council. Representatives of Jewish organizations in Europe have conferred with him, and I am scheduled to see him in Paris before his departure. Many suggestions for simplifying the administration of the new law have been presented to him for consideration in connection with the rules and regulations soon to be announced. I hope that the experts on the new law, working for USNA, the AJDC, and other organizations, will bring to the Commission's attention Major Hyman's letter of July 13, which urges that the DPs who, on December 22, 1945, were in that part of Germany released to Poland for administration under the Potsdam Agreement be declared eligible under the law.

EMIGRATION TO ISRAEL - FUTURE PLANS

Since May 15th an increasing number of Jewish DPs havebeen going to Israel. Only 296 left during May and 606 in June. The number increased to 1,952 in July. The schedule for August, which is being met, is 3,200, and the plans for September call for from 3,500 to 4,000. In my opinion, barring resumption of serious warfare or interference by the mediator, the emigration schedule from the U.S. Zone, Germany, to Israel will continue at between 3,000 and 4,000 per month for the balance of the year. It would be most unfortunate if the truce conditions were interpreted in a manner as to seriously interfere with this flow. If the DPs in the U.S. Zones, Germany and Austria, are barred because of a narrow interpretation of the truce restrictions, it would mean that the quota to Israel would be filled with Jews from other lands, and the "liquidation" of the DP camps would be postponed. This, of course, must be avoided at all cost.

SELECTIVE EMIGRATION TO ISRAEL

I feel impelled to comment briefly on the minutes of the cooperating organizations, assembled to discuss Rabbi Klausner's report of May 2, 1948. I was quite chagrined and, frankly, distressed with Dr. Nahum Goldmann's viewpoint, as reported in these minutes. Dr. Goldmann, accepting Rabbi Klausner's analysis, indicated that the Jewish DP problem would have to be solved "independently from Palestine interests": that, since the problem cannot be solved overnight and the DPs constitute a burden on the Jewish budget, it would be wise to "gradually transfer the DPs into the German economy"; that "the DPs in general do not represent the human material Eretz Yisroel needs today"; that "infinitely more desirable material" is available at Cyprus, eastern Europe, and in the Moslem countries; and that "we have reached the brutal phase where the interests of the State count alone".

I am aware of the fact that, at this meeting, Dr. Stephen Wise pointed out that Dr. Goldmann was expressing his own personal opinion. I am also aware that Dr. Goldmann himself referred, although not explicitly, to the fact that the restrictions against DPs would result either from the rigid requirements of the truce or from the requirements imposed upon the young state fighting for its existence. Nevertheless, I think it important to indicate that the adoption of any policy by the provisional government which would limit

or restrict immigration of DPs would be a shocking reversal of stated policy and a definite breach of faith. The immigration policy of the provisional government provides definite reassurance that such a danger does not exist. I refer to it in this report, however, because any change in that policy which would deliberately discriminate against the DPs would have consequences, the seriousness of which cannot be overrated.

RESTRICTIONS ON EMIGRATION AS A RESULT OF TRUCE

The limitations of the UN truce have raised serious difficulties with regard to the movement to Israel. The truce prohibits the entry of "fighting men", construed here to mean members of fighting units. It provides, further, that the number of men of military age to be admitted shall be determined by the mediator. As a result of instructions from Washington, the local authorities took the position that, until the mediator has made such a determination, visas could not be issued to men of military age in the U.S. Zone, Germany. Accordingly, it has not been possible for men from 18 to 45 to "legally" leave the U.S. Zone.

I made strong representations to the Army that the procedure followed here, and approved by the State Department, was too rigid and would, in effect, prohibit or seriously restrict the movement of people to Israel, since it is not likely that the women and children would go on legal visas via train to Marseilles and that the men, the heads of these families, would remain behind or travel via Aliyah Bet to Marseilles.

As a result of these representations, the mediator was urged to send a representative to the U.S. Zone, so that he could determine on the spot the number of individuals in the fighting-age bracket who could leave. The mediator replied that he would not send such a representative but, instead, outlined the procedure for handling migration to Israel. This procedure was relayed to the local authorities in a cable that arrived on August 27th. According to the instructions contained in this cable, men of military age may not legally be visaed until lists, certified by the local authorities as containing non-fighting personnel, have been submitted to the mediator by Israel, and Israel has received clearance from the mediator. The cable from Washington indicates that the State Department has under consideration an alternative plan which the local authorities submitted at my request. Under this plan, the mediator would be advised of the anticipated movement a month in advance and would be notified that, unless a disapproval is received from him by a stated date, the movement would proceed.

Obviously, the mediator's procedure is cumbersome and, if adhered to, emigration movement to Israel will be seriously restricted. It took five weeks to get an answer to the Army's request that the mediator send a representative to the Zone. Such delays will play havoc with any scheduled emigration program.

It is my opinion that the period for "underground" emigration is about over. The DPs in Germany wish to travel with their families and, if it becomes necessary for the men to travel separately by trucks in the night and be reunited with their families in Marseilles, it is very likely that thousands will prefer to wait until legal emigration is authorized. I strongly urge the agencies in the States to review this entire matter with the Israeli

representative in Washington and to have him make the strongest representations to the State Department, with the view of removing the bottleneck in the movement of men from 18 to 45.

RECOGNITION OF ISRAELI REPRESENTATIVE

Shortly after the 15th of May, I urged upon Generals Clay and Harrold the formal recognition of Dr. Chaim Hoffman as a special representative of Israel in the U.S. Zone, Germany. After clearance with the State Department and the Department of the Army in Washington, such recognition was secured in June. To avoid the implications incident to consular status, the Israeli representative is recognized only for the purpose of issuing visas for emigration to Israel. In other words, he has a status similar to the head of a resettlement mission in the U.S. Zone. As such, he is authorized to issue visas to Israel under the UN truce conditions.

STATUS OF DPS UNDER A WESTERN GERMAN STATE

In earlier reports I have called attention to the fact that expansion of German administrative and police control over displaced persons was inevitable. It was my conviction that, as the Allied occupation authorities approve the establishment of relatively independent German political institutions, they would, as a matter of course, grant to the German state increasing responsibility over matters of the internal economy. The 150,000 DPs, of whom about 25,000 are Jewish, who live outside of camps have always been under German jurisdiction, except that they have not been amenable to trial by German courts. When it was announced a few months ago that the Military Governors had approved the establishment of a Western German State, the issue of control over displaced persons became of practical importance. It was my opinion that we would, undoubtedly, lose something of the preferred position the DPs now occupy in Germany.

I am pleased to report, therefore, that at a press conference held in Frankfurt on July 15th, General Clay, in response to a specific question as to the status of DPs in the new occupation statute, replied that their position would be unchanged. Mr. Jack Raymond of THE NEW YORK TIMES put the question, "Sir, if a Western Government, or something resembling a government is created, and more responsibility and authority is put into German hands, would the special consideration for the DPs that are now being maintained by IRO and our Government be changed?", to which General Clay replied, "No, I don't think it would. It would be very clearly stated in the occupation statute what the provisions would be that would be made for the safeguarding of the Displaced Persons until they are moved out of Germany." In answer to a series of questions from a German reporter, General Clay emphasized this view even more strongly. You may be interested in the questions and answers on this issue:

> Question: "Are you familiar with the fact that during the last few weeks 155 million cigarettes were illegally imported into Germany, and illegally reexported into Czechoslovakia with forged custom stamps, and that all traces lead to the DP camps at Bergen-Belsen and Zeilsheim, and therefore it is necessary to change the extra-territorial privileges of these DP camps?"
>
> General Clay: "Are you asking a question or making a statement?"

Question: "I am asking you first whether you are familiar with the fact, and secondly, what measures will be taken to enable the German authorities to continue prosecuting and following up such cases and not to be stopped at the borders of the DP camps. I am referring in this respect to a question put by CDU in the Economic Council."

General Clay: "There won't be anything done about it. Displaced Persons will still be subject to Military Government courts and Military Government jurisdiction. We shall continue to work with the German police, as we have done in the past, and with our own people to do everything we can to stop black marketing everywhere. We certainly have no intention of removing the extra-territorial privileges now enjoyed by the Displaced Persons - and I must admit that in some respects the way you have asked your question is the reason why."

This exchange was reported in the STARS AND STRIPES and may, perhaps, have been referred to in the American press. In view of the significance of the issue, I reviewed the matter with General Clay at my weekly conference with him in Frankfurt on August 11th. He indicated to me that, while the German officials, in the many conferences on the problem of a Western German State, had not pressed this particular issue, they did indicate that the problem of internal administration would be simplified if the German officials and courts were given jurisdiction over displaced persons. The General indicated that he has reached a definite conclusion to deny this request and that, in his opinion, granting it would be a violation of the obligations we have assumed to maintain authority over the displaced persons for as long as they remain here. Needless to say, I am relieved that General Clay has made such a strong statement on this matter.

EXTENSION OF GERMAN POLICE AUTHORITY OVER DP CAMPS

I have repeatedly urged that the Army discontinue mass raids on DP camps. Of the last nine such operations, eight were directed against Jewish assembly centers. The study I had made of these raids convinced me that they do not promote law and order; that they fail to achieve their objectives and, in general, serve no purpose except to indict an entire camp community for the illegal activities of the few.

As is indicated in my previous report, the authorities have gradually gotten around to our point of view on this problem. However, in the staff study abolishing raids and providing for inspections on the basis of individual warrants, it is proposed that armed German police may be used in effecting arrests or executing search warrants in DP camps. I have addressed a strong non-concurrence to this phase of the staff study.

I reviewed this matter with General Clay in a conference with him in Frankfurt on August 17th. I outlined my objections, indicating that, in my judgment, it would be a serious blunder for the Army to endanger its excellent record in dealing with DPs by creating a situation which is bound to lead to serious incidents. I got the impression that General Clay is not inclined to approve this change. I know, however, that it is being vigorously advanced by General Hayes, the Deputy Military Governor, and by General Harrold, in charge of the Army's DP operations. This problem bears careful watching. Nothing has happened here to soften the attitude of the Jewish

DPs to the German police, and I am fearful that the entry of German police into Jewish camps will have serious consequences.

CLOSING OF THE BERLIN CAMPS

You will recall my previous reference to the closing of the two camps in Berlin. During the early part of July, General Clay concluded that the removal of the DPs would be generally interpreted as the beginning of a total capitulation on the Berlin issue. Obviously, he would not take a step that would further such an impression. I considered the matter a dead issue until July 20th, when the General reversed his position and ordered the immediate evacuation of all of the DPs. According to official instructions, those who did not want to move, either because they preferred to live in the German economy or because they would not accept air travel, would be permitted to remain in Berlin. However, IRO care and maintenance for all who remained behind would be withdrawn. The move was made to reduce the number of mouths that had to be fed in Berlin. The planes engaged in "Operation Vittles" were returning empty and, since there was space in the Zone to absorb the DPs, it was natural to remove from Berlin the people who were not identified with the German population.

The evacuation started on July 23rd and was completed on August 1st. In all, 5,536 DPs were removed, of whom all but about 90 were Jewish. Only about 150 elected to remain in the city and, I am informed, approximately 200 subsequently returned to engage in dubious enterprises. No new camps were set up to receive these people. They were assigned to established centers on the basis of a study of existing vacancies in the camps, which had just been completed by Chaplain Barish of my office.

Whatever the reasons may have been for the move, the net result is highly desirable from the public relations standpoint, from the administrative standpoint of the voluntary agencies, and from the point of view of facilitating the ultimate resettlement of these people.

EFFECT OF CURRENCY CONVERSION

As an economic measure, the currency reform has been highly successful. The value of the mark has gone up at least twenty-five times, even on the black market. The immediate effect of the reform was to reduce the quantity of marks in circulation to approximately one-tenth of its former volume. So far - a period of two months - the mark has remained relatively stable.

The effect of the currency conversion upon the DPs was instantaneous. In the first place, no DP was in possession of more than forty marks, the maximum given to anybody during the first week. Secondly, ninety percent of the mark holdings were wiped out. Thirdly, the DP black market disappeared overnight and, while it has since been revived, it is on a far smaller scale than heretofore. As I indicated at the outset, the DPs living outside of the camps were most seriously affected by the currency reform. They were without funds to pay their rent, streetcar fares, medical costs and other incidentals.

The reform also had a serious effect upon the agencies working with Jewish DPs. These organizations could procure marks only through official

channels at the rate of thirty cents per mark. The cost is prohibitive, and it resulted in a contraction of such programs as were financed with German marks. The Central Committee in Munich was also compelled to curtail its activities, since its expenditures were heretofore financed almost entirely with marks.

Dr. Phillip Auerbach, the State Commissioner for Persecutees in Bavaria, was exceedingly helpful during this period. Some 12,000,000 marks, representing ten percent of the 120,000,000 marks in his account, were made available to him, and he came to the aid of the free living DPs in Bavaria, of the Central Committee, and of other organizations, with advances and funds for the payment of rent and other essentials.

Another immediate effect of a highly desirable character proved to be short-lived. Those engaged in camp administration and on camp work projects received, in addition to the AJDC supplementation, payment in marks from the Buergermeister. Before June 20th those marks were of little value. On an average, they had the worth of about two packages of cigarettes. Under the new value, the camp worker who receives 250 marks is, by prevailing standards, "well off". The camp committees and the Central Committee were, in fact, seeking ways and means of getting the fortunate few who were on the Buergermeister's payroll to "disgorge" their newly acquired wealth and share it with the committees and the less fortunate people in the camp who were not engaged on work projects or in camp administration. Since the total payroll for Jewish DPs exceeded 250,000 marks per month, the possibilities of such "sharing" or " contributions" to the committees were considerable. The problem has suddenly become academic. As a direct result of the currency reform, the German wage scale is being radically revised. The DPs, who are on the Buergermeister's payroll, are paid according to that wage scale. In some classifications the wage reductions are as high as fifty percent. The second development is much more significant. The IRO and Military Government have worked out an arrangement whereby, effective now and retroactive to July 1st, all DPs who are employed by the Buergermeister are required to pay for their food and room in the camp. It has accordingly been decided to take from each paid worker a minimum of seventy marks, of which fifty marks are returned to the German economy and twenty are held in a blocked account for the IRO. When Social Security deductions (which have been taken from DP payrolls from the beginning)and income taxes, which are also deducted from such payrolls, are added to the IRO deduction of seventy marks, the average worker will have very little left. It is my opinion that the incentive to work, insofar as it is provided by German marks, will be substantially affected by this development.

The DPs, the camp committees, and the Central Committee, have, as you can well imagine, reacted unfavorably to this innovation. Frankly, it is my candid opinion that there is no basis for any complaint on this score. To begin with, the real incentive for Jewish DP employment was, until now, provided by the AJDC supplementation. The worthless marks were of little consequence. The marks have suddenly become valuable and, because of their value, the payment in marks is being seriously curtailed. The AJDC supplementation, however, remains and, while it is not as valuable, measured in marks, as it once was, it still should serve as a substantial incentive.

IRO PROPOSAL REQUIRING ABLE-BODIED DPS TO BE EMPLOYED

When I called to IRO's attention that the deduction of seventy marks from every employed worker in camp administration and productive work projects, coupled with the reduction in compensation, would destroy the incentive to work and that IRO would have difficulty finding an adequate number of people to manage the camps, I learned that it is proposed to require that all able-bodied persons must accept offered employment as a condition for continuing to receive IRO care. I see no objection to such a program, if the offered employment is confined to work within the camp. While such a program will not be popular with the DPs, it is, in my judgment, desirable from every point of view. Able-bodied people should be required to perform useful work for the camp community for pay, and it is not unjust to require them to pay with such income for their care. I learned, however, that the work requirement program is not to be confined to employment within the camp and that it is quite possible that IRO may require DPs to accept employment outside of the camp, if offered. I pointed out to IRO that the issue was academic, since the currency reform has resulted in a substantial increase in unemployment and that the German Labor Office is not likely to offer jobs to DPs, Jewish or non-Jewish. Nevertheless, I emphasized that, should economic conditions change and jobs be available to DPs, a work program must be surrounded with certain safeguards particularly designed to protect Jewish DPs against being required to repair war damage and to do other work of a demeaning character. I made no progress in having my point of view accepted thus far. The Army, at least, takes the position that it is the official policy of the American Government to revive Germany, to clean up its war damage, and to increase the productivity of its industries. In view of that, the DPs ought to be willing to cooperate in carrying out what the Government considers to be the major objectives of the occupation.

At the moment I still consider this issue theoretical, but it bears watching to make certain that a "work for maintenance" program has adequate safeguards.

JEWISH LABOR COMPANY

I am pleased to report that the Jewish Labor Company, which was organized some three months ago, is still a going concern. After some difficulties and a probationary period, the group has been accepted as part of the Army's regular DP labor company. I am sure that, if there were an interest in establishing another group, theArmy would welcome it. At this time I do not consider it desirable to urge an expansion of this program.

INADEQUACY OF LIAISON WITH PCIRO

I have come to the conclusion that the Jewish agencies operating in DP countries are not exploiting to the fullest the opportunities of getting the IRO to assume its full responsibility in meeting the costs of providing for Jewish DPs. As I see the situation, the IRO has developed, in recent months, a rather unfriendly attitude toward the Jewish DPs. Its origin is in Geneva, and it is primarily an outgrowth of the political situation involving emigration to Israel. As a result, IRO has been exceedingly uncooperative in facilitating the most simple arrangements for

official movements of Jewish DPs out of Austria and in making it possible for the representatives of the JAFP to operate effectively in that area. The impression here is that the British members of the IRO executive staff wield a tremendous influence and are largely responsible for the cold attitude toward Jewish interests in DP emigration.

In addition, it has also been my observation that "budget consciousness" on the part of IRO top officials has resulted in serious curtailment in important segments of DP programs. The accumulation of a substantial surplus at the end of the last fiscal year is quite reprehensible when considered in relation to the shortcomings in medical care and, especially, in the IRO provided diet. In order to avoid privation and suffering, the voluntary agencies have often been compelled to make outlays which, in the first instance, should have been made by the IRO.

A capable person assigned to Geneva for the purpose of "influencing" IRO policy would, within a short time, pay substantial dividends. In addition to such representations in Geneva, it is also my opinion that very strong representations need to be made to the American officials in Washington responsible for IRO policy.

DESECRATION OF JEWISH CEMETERIES

Largely as a result of representations we made to General Clay, Military Government in Bavaria has made an intensive study of the extent to which Jewish cemeteries have been desecrated in recent months. Dr. Auerbach, the State Commissioner in Bavaria, and others have given considerable publicity to such vandalism. I urged upon General Clay that the matter be thoroughly investigated and that it may represent not the action of irresponsible youth, as has been charged, but an organized program of resurgent Nazi elements.

The investigation, copies of which are enclosed for the cooperating organizations, failed to establish deliberate desecration. I have no way of disputing the findings of this study. It seems to have been carefully made and can be refuted only by an independent inquiry, which we are not prepared to do. Please note that the copies of the report are marked "Restricted."

DEVELOPMENTS IN AUSTRIA.

Since my last report of June 17th, I have made three visits to Austria and conferred with Generals Keyes and Balmer and members of the General Staff in Vienna, and with General Kendall and his group in Salzburg. The situation in Austria is quite stable. The number of DPs in Vienna is rapidly being reduced, and it has already been suggested that the Rotkschild Hospital be returned to the local community and reestablished as a medical center. Such a step would in itself mark a turning point in the Jewish DP problem. Nearly 150,000 Jews from Poland, Rumania, and other countries, have passed through the halls of this institution. When I was there two weeks ago, the building was half empty, and infiltration from bordering countries had come to a complete standstill. For a brief period I thought that the recent anti-Semitic outburst in Slovakia might touch off a mass exodus of the 5,000 Jews in that country and that Vienna would again be forced to play the role that it did in the mass flights from Poland and Rumania. Fortunately, this

did not materialize. First-hand reports that have reached me on the situation in Slovakia indicate that the Communists will do everything to prevent the situation from deteriorating. It would seem that they cannot afford the "public relations" aspect of pogroms within their sphere of influence.

In the U.S. Zone, Austria, no serious problems appear to be in the offing. Dr. Kurt Lewin has been recognized, subject to the approval of the State Department, as the Israeli representative for the purpose of issuing visas. He advises me that he hopes to be able to move between 500 and 1,000 persons per month either through Italy or Germany. At that rate, the Austrian Jewish DP problem could be liquidated in a relatively short time, since, in my judgment, there are no more than 13,000 people in the Austrian DP camps.

MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS

1. World Jewish Congress. I attended the sessions of the World Jewish Congress for two days in Montreux. It gave me an opportunity to confer with DP representatives from the British Zone and Italy and to appear before the Special Commission selected by the Congress to draft resolutions on these problems. Several delegates to the Congress came to Germany after the sessions to confer with the Central Committee and, in general, to survey the DP situation.

2. Camp Surveys. Chaplain Louis Barish, who has been added to my staff, visited about thirty-five Jewish DP camps in the past six weeks. He conferred with the camp committees and brought back a realistic picture of the actual situation in each of the installations he visited. I have requested him to complete the survey and to visit all of the installations within the next couple of weeks. A copy of his notes containing his observations can be made available, if you are interested.

3. Jewish Restitution Successor Organization. On June 23rd, Military Government formally recognized the Jewish Restitution Successor Organization as the successor agency for Jewish property under the Restitution Law. Due to the absence of Irwin Mason, who had accepted its directorship, the Organization remained inactive until the end of July. When it became known that Mr. Mason would not return to Germany to assume his duties, Mr. Joel Fisher, General European Counsel for the AJDC, came in and, in the span of about three weeks, made considerable progress in putting the organization on a working basis. He has been succeeded by Mr. Benjamin Ferencz, former Executive Counsel to General Telford Taylor at the Nurnberg War Crimes trials. Mr. Ferencz will serve as the Director.

The delay in getting the Organization recognized and started in its operations is most unfortunate, in view of the fact that all claims must be filed before December 31st of this year. It is my impression that General Clay will have to be urged to extend the date for filing claims. I raised this matter with him about three months ago, and he did not look with favor upon it at that time.

4. Jewish Cultural Property. Together with Dr. Joshua Starr, representing Jewish Cultural Reconstruction, Inc., I reviewed with General Clay the disposition of the cultural property at the Offenbach Archival Depot. I presented to the General a memorandum prepared by Dr. Starr, requesting that

the cultural property at the Depot be turned over to the Jewish Cultural Reconstruction for distribution to Jewish institutions in Israel and elsewhere. The General looked with favor upon this procedure but would not undertake to transfer title to this organization, or to the Successor Organization, until the State Department specifically approved such an arrangement. At our request, he is cabling the State Department, asking for their approval. It is my fear that the State Department will raise many questions, and the solution of this problem willtake about as long as it took to set up the Successor Organization.

5. Agencies Session - June 21, 1948. The heads of all the Jewish agencies operating in Germany met in Heidelberg. Eighteen people, representing the several agencies, participated in an all day discussion of the current situation and the outlook. The agenda listed below will give you an idea of the subject matters discussed.

1. Review of Current Developments in Influencing Jewish DP Situation

2. Immigration Outlook Next Twelve Months
   a. Effect of United States Legislation
   b. Prospects for Movement to Israel
   c. Other countries

3. IRO and Immigration to Israel

4. Program Implications of Immigration Picture
   What changes in Emphasis in Agencies' Programs are Suggested by Immigration Outlook - on Vocational Training - on Increase in Work Opportunities - on "Means Test" - on "Public Relations"

5. Currency Reform and DPs

6. Special Problems
   a. "Recruitment" in Camps
   b. Camp Consolidation
   c. Restitution
   d. Jewish Labor Company
   e. Press Relations
   f. Anti-Semitism in Germany

6. IRO Appropriation and DP Calories. The U.S. Appropriation Bill, containing IRO funds, provided that after January 1, 1949, IRO could not make available to DPs, a greater number of calories than is available to the indigenous population. At the time when the bill was under discussion, it was anticipated that after January 1st there would be a reduction of about 300 calories per person per day, since IRO DP calory distribution was that much higher than the prevailing number of calories, available to Germans. According to my present information, it is now estimated that the average caloric value a German will get next year will be about 2230. If this materializes, it will not be necessary for the DP ration to be cut, since that ration is now about 2200.

7. Special Surveys. Dr. Herman Gray of the American Jewish Committee has been in Germany for about three weeks and has conferred with officials of Military Government in German governmental departments, DP camp committees,

the Central Committee, and agency heads. I have suggested to him certain areas of inquiry, which he has explored during his stay here.

At my request, Mr. Harry Greenstein, Executive Director of the Baltimore Jewish Welfare Federation, came to Germany for an intensive inquiry into several aspects of the DP situation. Mr. Greenstein will be here for a period of about six weeks and, with Major Hyman's collaboration, is making a thorough analysis of the vocational training program, the work projects, the emigration outlook, and other significant phases of the DP problem in Germany and Austria. He is to prepare a report for me which will, in my opinion, serve as the basis for program recommendations for the ensuing twelve months. As soon as this is completed, about the middle of September, it will be reviewed with the agency heads in Germany and Austria and the European directors of these organizations located in Paris. After such a review, I will submit it to the five cooperating organizations as part of my next report.

A PERSONAL NOTE

I am sure that by now the cooperating agencies are aware of the change in my plans to return home in time for the University term late in September. I have set my personal plans aside and have agreed to stay on until the opening of the second term of the University in February. I shall definitely return to the States sometime in January. I hope, therefore, that the agencies will give serious consideration, and preferably without waiting until the end of the year, to the selection of my successor.

Sincerely yours,

(signed)

WILLIAM HABER
Adviser on Jewish Affairs

318293

OFFICE OF MILITARY GOVERNMENT FOR BAVARIA
INTELLIGENCE DIVISION
MUNICH, GERMANY APO 407 US ARMY

MBGI 30 June 1948

SUBJECT: Inspection of Jewish Cemeteries

TO: The Land Director, OMGB RESTRICTED

1. LIST OF REPORTED DESECRATION OF JEWISH CEMETERIES 1948:

HOCHBERG	(LK Wuerzburg)	19 March
BAD NEUSTADT	(LK Neustadt)	25 March
KOENIGSHOFEN	(LK Koenigshofen)	25 March
HEIDINGSFELD	(SK Wuerzburg)	29 March
ANSBACH	(LK Ansbach)	1 April
ZECKERN	(LK Hoechstadt)	9 April
SCHOHFLOCH	(LK Dinkelsbuehl)	17 April
KARBACH	(LK Marktheidenfeld)	21 April
WILLMARS	(LK Mellrichstadt)	25 April
*ROEDELSEE	(LK Kitzingen)	5 May
*LAUDENBACH	(LK Karstadt)	5 May
*HARBURG	(LK Donauwoerth)	9 May
THALMESSING	(LK Hilpoltstein)	11 May
*HOERSTEIN	(LK Alzenau)	13 May
*BAD NEUSTADT	(LK Neustadt)	6 June
*HASSFURT	(LK Hassfurt)	6 June

2. SCOPE: On 11 and 12 June the undersigned visited six of the cemeteries as a spot check. His findings (memo 15 June, attached) failing to substantiate the reports, he inspected the remaining cemeteries except HOERSTEIN which was inspected by the Deputy Director of the Division. This report is confined to evidence revealed at the sites. Local opinion is excluded.

3. GENERAL: Jewish cemeteries in Franconia and Swabia are typically several centuries old, wholly uncared for, and isolated from their communities. That these conditions are not unrelated to damaged headstones is evident from the Jewish cemetery at Wuerzburg, which is atypical in every respect. This modern cemetery, to which access can be obtained only via the resident custodian, suffered no desecration, even under the Nazis. One result of recent publicity of "desecrations" is an improvement in protection of the cemeteries.

4. HEADSTONES: In the Jewish cemeteries headstones were formerly a single slab, commonly of sandstone. An approximate type would measure 4' - 0" x 1' - 6" x 6". About 1/4 of the length was set below grade and the soft earth tamped around it for support. As rains settled the earth the stone would shift and once off the verticle its eventual declination was assured. During the last century the use of foundation stones became general. The headstone - now more frequently of "composition" - was set flush on the foundation with cement or with short dowel pins, or in a shallow mortise. While the foundation stone (still without adequate bedding) might itself have been more stable, once off the verticle its headstone's position was critical. At this point any additional settling,

* Based on reports from Dr. P. AUERBACH, Bavarian State Commissioner for racial and political persecutees.

318294

pressure from wind or encouragement from a child would overthrow it. Headstones falling in neglected Jewish cemeteries may therefore be considered a continuous process involving no human agency. This condition has been elaborated because such suggestions from the Landpolizei have met bitter resentment in emotionally-sensitive quarters. (See AUERBACH's letters, attached.)

5. FORMER NAZI DESCRATIONS were in several cases reported as recent. It was observed where desecration occurred under the Nazis smashed name plaques and defaced inscriptions invariably accompanied upset headstones. Malignant violence is so consistently evident that it is referred to, in this report, as the Nazi technique of desecration. This Nazi technique of desecration generally involved the application of considerable force: stabile modern headstones with wide bases are also upset. Unless evidence of one of these characteristics accompanies evidence of recent disturbance, it must be assumed that some less malignant agency is present.

6. THE RESTORATION OF DESECRATED JEWISH CEMETERIES IN 1945, as ordered by Military Government, was variously accomplished. At best, fallen headstones were set up on any foundation stones without the meagre stability originally enjoyed (para 5) and are easily unbalanced. There are cases where these have fallen and been reported as desecrations. There are also cases where the 1945 Mil. Gov. order was ignored and the former desecrations are now rediscovered, and reported as recent.

7. EVIDENCE FROM THE CEMETERIES: (In chronological order of reported descrations.

HOCHBERG (LK Wuerzburg), reported 9-19 March 1948.

The cemetery is on high ground approximately 100 yards from the community. It is possibly two acres in area, surrounded by a 5' wall in good repair but easy to climb, being wide and flat on top. The iron gate is padlocked.

The cemetery was extensively desecrated by the Nazis and is one of the rare examples where base stones were upset. Even the wider type of headstone in this cemetery is apt to be very unstable. Some have been strengthened by supports of 3/4" iron pipe or 1/4" iron rods, weighted at the ground and cemented into the back of the headstone slab at the top. In spite of this, one headstone has fallen and could have done so through settling of the foundation stone. This cemetery (the first reported) is one of the few which appears to show evidence of recently-fallen stones: in the pits uncovered by two upset foundation blocks, there is no sign of plant life although a lush growth is found immediately surrounding. Though this is not conclusive, it should be noted that the condition was not encountered in any of the other fourteen cemeteries. This evidence is unaccompanied by recent defacing or evidence of the use of instruments. It must be concluded that the stones could have fallen without human agency. Reports that from 70 to 108 headstones were overturned in March could not be substantiated from a study of the site.

BAD NEUSTADT (LK Neustadt), reported 25 March, 6 June 1948.

The cemetery is about 1/2 mile from the community and was totally unfenced at the time of the reported desecration (a fence has since been erected by the local Buergermeister). It is on a path taken by children on their way to school. The cemetery was desecrated by Nazis in 1938 and "restored" on MG order in 1945. Some examples of insecure headstones were still standing at the time of this inspection but a majority of the most accessible had fallen as if systematically upset. Youthful offenders have been reported apprehended and awaiting trial for this offense.

The cemetery has since been restored. The circumstances in this case indicated children from the beginning. There is no physical proof of anti-Semitic motive on the part of the offenders. Nazi techniques of defacement are absent.

KOENIGSHOFEN (LK Koenigshofen), reported 25 March 1948:

This is a small cemetery (not more than 45 headstones) approximately ½ mile from the community, surrounded by a cypress hedge which affords no barrier. The gate, however, is kept locked. Most of the headstones are of this century and imprints on the ground show where several had reposed for a considerable period before being recently replaced. There is no evidence here of human agency concerned in upsetting stones and no trace of the Nazi defacing techniques.

HEIDINGSFELD (LK Wuerzburg), reported 29 March 1948.

This cemetery is in the community and is surrounded by a high stone wall in good repair, surmounted by three strands of barbed wire. It is kept locked and the key is obtained from an adjacent gardner through whose walled premises it is necessary to pass. At the rear of the cemetery, however, a partially concealed path mounts from the RR-Station and where it joins the wall the latter is but 5'0" high. At this point a sapling with convenient branches grows and scars in its form indicate its common use as a step.

Directly under this low point in the wall a series of upset headstones begins. The Kriminalpolizei assert that these stones were standing in February of this year but the evidence of moss and overgrowth and the manner in which the fallen slabs have settled into the ground, strongly contradicts that assertion and (in the undersigned's opinion) is more convincing than testimony. The Stadtpolizei's conclusion, "obviously politically motivated", is unsubstantiated by any evidence on the site. However, access to this cemetery, if not with the knowledge of the key custodian, would have to be very cautious to avoid observation.

In a garden on the opposite side of the cemetery from the entrance, half a dozen headstones and one name-plaque were discovered in use as the margin of a garden walk. Their origin from the adjacent cemetery would be obvious to any one and it is believed that such flaunted contumacy warrants early prosecution. (The MG Coordinator and Inspector of Branch "A" has been informed.)

ANSBACH (LK Ansbach), reported 1 April 1948

This cemetery, entirely exposed and on the edge of a lage community, seems to have been long regarded by the neighbors as a source of cut stone and it is alleged by US personnel that at least one headstone cutter commonly resorted to this quarry. There are few headstones left in what was once a large cemetery, and few evidences that others were ever here. On this investigation it was found that Dr. AUERBACH's action following the April report had obtained results: the former stone wall was being rebuilt; a US witness stated that he had recently seen monuments lying in pieces on the ground, which had now been restored with great skill. Recent restoration in this cemetery has destroyed what evidence of desecration may have existed.

ZECKERN (LK Hoechstadt), reported 9 April 1948.

This cemetery is approximately ½ mile from the nearest small community, and about 6 miles from a community of any size. It is exceptionally large, containing some 4,000 graves. Probably due to its solitary location it was little

disturbed in the Nazi period.

It is partly surrounded by an old wall, partly by wire fence, but mostly unenclosed although the approach leads through an iron gate to which a "custodian" who lives 50 yds away maintains the key. Two headstones, accessible with difficulty through thick undergrowth, show evidence of recent breakage. Foundation settling appears the most likely cause. It is noteworthy that the attached morgue of three rooms which offer wall surfaces to slogan writers has not been defaced in any way. There is no evidence of recent desecration. (This "case" was reported on the radio; a butcher was taken into custody, "confessed" damaging headstones in order to obtain the custodianship and later withdrew the "confession". Evidence is lacking on the site.)

SCHOHFLOCH (LK Dinkelsbuehl), reported 17 April 1948

The cemetery of about 5 acres is surrounded by a high stone wall (recently repaired), surmounted by barbed wire. It is adjacent to the village and though the gate is not locked, a conspicuous warning to trespassers is posted. There are numerous headstones since 1900 as well as the older ones in derelict condition. Many of the newer headstones suffered Nazi desecration but have been more competently replaced than in most other cemeteries. There is no evidence of recent desecration. Possibly it was erased by recent and thorough restorations as in the case of ANSBACH, above.

KARBACH (LK Marktheidenfeld), reported 21 April 1948

The cemetery is approximately a mile from the community but only 2 miles from Marktheidenfeld. It is surrounded by a 5'0" wall broken at one point where steps have been placed to afford easy access. Apparently no restoration has been undertaken since Nazi desecrations, nor any check of German implementation of the 1945-MG-order was made. While there is no positive evidence of recently overthrown headstones, many of those standing are far off verticle. The evidence of twenty headstones upset by Nazis and left thus, as of no concern, would afford a poor example to small boys overflowing from the nearby football ground. Nine juveniles were apprehended for the desecrations reported here. In the list of neglected cemeteries this is outstanding.

WILLMARS (LK Mellrichtstadt), reported 25 April 1948

The cemetery is 3/4 mile from the comparatively isolated community, and only a few hundred yards from the Sovzone border. In spite of fairly competent restoration, evidences of Nazi desecration are visible: spasmodic defacing and heavy blows. Four name plaques are down. Since the reports a new gate has been fitted (no lock) and a no-trespassing warning posted. A group of local children, accusing one another, have admitted pushing over headstones, prior to the April report. Restoration has removed evidence of this. The cemetery is now relatively intact.

ROEDELSEE (LK Kitzingen), reported 5 May 1948

A cemetery of about 8 acres surrounded by an intact stone wall and gate. It is nearly two miles removed from the community and has had caretakers since 1861. In 1938 a thorough desecration took place. Even fallen stones were not infrequently broken into small pieces. Work of repair is proceeding in the cemetery but there was not much restoration in 1945. Pieces of headstones roughly piled rather than replaced. There is no evidence of recent damage. The

caretaker (who works on the grounds) maintains that there has been no recent damage. It would seem likely that recent report was based on the 1938 desecrations.

LAUDENBACH (LK Karstadt), reported 5 May 1948

A very early cemetery several miles from the nearest community, half enclosed by the remains of a stone wall. This cemetery has not been damaged. The Landpolizei in explanation state that the report originated from an individual now undergoing examination as a mental case who habitually makes false reports to the local police.

HARBURG (LK Donauwoerth), reported 9 May 1948

The cemetery encloses approximately 5 acres and contains several hundred stones of an early period. It is 3/4 mile from the nearest community, surrounded by an effective wall and a stout door which is kept locked. Among the newer monuments (dating to 1941) there are still some examples of Nazi desecration: name plaque defacing and smashing. One misplaced plaque on the ground has been in its present position for a long time. The cemetery is in relatively good condition without evidence of recent desecration and some evidence that care was shown in the 1945 restoration.

THALMESSING (LK Hilpoltstein), reported 11 May 1948.

The cemetery is about ½ mile from the small community and is surrounded by a wall, partly broken. The desecration under the Nazis was not great but in the 1946 restoration a number of headstones were placed on the wrong foundation stones. These stones are very unstable. Some attempt was made to wedge them to a verticle position by using chips of sandstone. They expose a wide surface to the prevailing wind, could easily be upset by a gust, and the three which were reported down (they had been replaced at the time of the investigation) were in fact the three most windward stones. The report of desecration here is evidently false.

HOERSTEIN (LK Alzenau), reported 13 May 1948

(This cemetery was visited by the Deputy Director of the Intelligence Division).

The cemetery is about a mile from the community and contains about two hundred graves. Four stones might have been upset by wind or pushed over by children, one even recently. One headstone has a corner missing, the exposed surface indicating a break one to five years old. There is no evidence of deliberate desecration in the cemetery, the upset stones appearing to have fallen possibly - but not evidently - with the aid of children. One one headstone could have been damaged within the last year and this might also have occurred through natural causes or children.

HASSFURT (LK Hassfurt), reported 6 June 1948

The cemetery is several miles from the community and partially enclosed by the remains of a wall now in disrepair. In the old part there is a thick brush and no evidence of any desecration. In the newer part there are a few evidences of Nazi desecration but not of recent date. The morgue adjoining is in disrepair but unmarred by Nazi graffiti. However, there is recent evidence of cattle sheltering in this building, a type of desecration not elsewhere encountered. So long as the cemetery remains only partially enclosed or without

318298

guardianship, deliberate intention on the part of the owner of the cattle might be hard to prove.

8. CONCLUSION: From the evidence of the cemeteries it will be seen that malignant desecration of the Nazi pattern is not proved to have occurred since 1945. Where damage is actually recent it may - where a human agency is required have been caused by children. In most of the sites, however, no human agency would have been necessary to cause the damage (if any) reported as desecration. The state of disrepair into which these Jewish cemeteries have been permitted to lapse is suggested as the chief cause of the recent desecration reports. The secondary cause is considered to lie in inadequate implementation of the 1945 MG Restoration Order. In numerous cases the unrestored Nazi desecrations were reported as recent. In most cases the example of fallen headstones was given to children. In rare cases restoration was carefully conducted. In a few recent cases restoration may have removed evidence of deliberate desecration.

This report fails to establish deliberate desecrations. It finds generally serious neglect by German communities of their responsibility toward Jewish cemeteries, and in most cases a sudden recognition of their responsibility, since the desecration reports.

9. RECOMMENDATION:

a. That a copy of this report be forwarded, for information, to L & S Officers in the areas in which desecrations were reported.

b. That all L & S Officers be requested to familiarize themselves with Jewish cemeteries in their areas, and to see plans showing the present state of each cemetery which Landpolizei posts are preparing. (In the event of future allegations this should aid L & S Officers in reporting on the basis of a second, or comparative, personal visit.)

c. L & S. Officers should observe progress in repairing cemetery enclosures. Where this appears inadequate the cause should be determined and assistance rendered the community in completing the project.

d. Local Landpolizei posts should be appraised by Military Government interest and encouraged to keep the L & S Officers informed. Reports of the Landpolizei are consistently objective and generally reliable.

e. The 1945 MG Restoration Order should be enforced. Restorations should be checked by L & S Officers until completed. The poor example of cemeteries permitted to continue in a desecrated state can be considered responsible for some of the actions of children.

f. Consideration should be given to releasing a few stories for German press and radio on the restoration of the cemeteries, their historic background and interest, and the moral reflection of desecrations upon a community or people.

310299

10. RECOMMENDATION FOR COMMENDATION, etc.

a. That the Landpolizei be specifically commended for their reporting of this subject.

b. That Dr. AUERBACH be commended for his part in the present restoration of cemeteries rather than for the accuracy of his reporting.

(signed)

R. C. MARTINDALE
Director
Intelligence Division

RESTRICTED

4443-9/14/48-40-KRG:ew
REL 4714

310300

COPY

HEADQUARTERS
EUROPEAN COMMAND
Office of the Commander in Chief
Civil Affairs Division
APO 403, c/o Postmaster
New York, New York

August 31, 1948

Mr. Abram Rothfeld
Acting Executive Secretary
American Jewish Conference
521 Fifth Avenue
New York 17, New York

For transmission to: American Jewish Committee
American Jewish Conference
American Joint Distribution Committee
Jewish Agency for Palestine
World Jewish Congress

Dear Mr. Rothfeld:

Since my last report of June 10th there have been a number of developments which have had an important bearing upon the DP picture. The first is the adoption of the U. S. DP immigration bill. If this law, with its exclusionary features, has been a signal disappointment, it has at least served the useful purpose of clearing the air by removing any shadow of doubt that Israel must be considered as the only real hope for the solution of the Jewish DP problem. The reaction of the Jewish DPs to this bill is interesting. Although it must be assumed that many who entertained hopes of migrating to the United States were saddened and disheartened, the disappointment took no articulate form. This is due in part to the exclusively pro-Israel ideology that pervades the camps and in part to the fact that the Jewish DPs have a very realistic attitude towards the world. They were not surprised to learn that they were not wanted in our country. A significant and not altogether unanticipated by-product of the U. S. immigration law is that it has helped the DPs to resolve their personal doubts about where their future lies. Our Congress did for many what they could not do for themselves. It made them make up their minds to think in terms of one possibility, instead of in terms of alternatives.

The second development which has had a definite impact upon the people is the phenomenal success of Israel in maintaining itself as a "going concern". The fact that, when the current truce went into effect, Israel's forces were on the offensive has at least partially neutralized the disappointment stemming from the slow-down of emigration to Israel. I believe that the

310301

& 24 Camps
& 24 Camps - Working Committee (Fitzpatrick)

morale of the people is, on the whole, higher than it has been at any time since my arrival. All reports that reach me indicate that, despite the disappointment in their emigration, imposed by the truces, the people have confidence in their future. The recognition of Israel's representative in the Zone and the vigaed legal movement of people from the camps has given the DPs the feeling that the solution of their individual problems is in sight. This general attitude is not altogether without its drawbacks. There are day to day problems that arise, the solutions of which are complicated by the feeling that the liquidation of the Jewish DP problem is imminent. For example, consolidation of camps meets with resistance because the people insist that it is inhumane to move them to another camp when ~~ex~~ they are virtually waiting for port-call to Israel. Moreover, this general optimism, unless dispelled by information that will paint the picture as it really is, may seriously interfere with long-range planning for the estimated several years that it may, in fact, take to remove the people from the DP countries.

The third development, on which I will expand in this report, is the German currency reform, which took place on June 20th. I should say very frankly that the inflated currency condition in Germany worked to the advantage of the Jewish DPs. This is especially true of the some 20,000 who found their way into the German communities. With the devaluation of the German currency, the true position of these so-called "free living" Jews was exposed. They had not, as some believed, integrated into the German economy, and it has now become more apparent than ever that, for all practical purposes, they must be considered on a par with the in-camp population. I mention this to dispel the notion that there is likely to be a residual Jewish community in Germany, composed of DPs, after those desiring to migrate have been resettled. In this connection, it is significant that, even after the evacuation of the Jews from Berlin, the Jewish Agency did not close shop in that city. So strong is the pro-Israel sentiment in Germany, or at least so potent is the urge to get out of Germany, that most of the young gemeinde people in Berlin have registered for migration to Israel.

My relationship with General Clay and with his staff continues to be very cordial. I have seen the General as often as problems require conferences with him. With no exception I have found him sympathetically disposed to any suggestion I make, provided it is consistent with Occupation Policy and does not run counter to instructions from his superiors in Washington. This is particularly applicable to his attitude towards movement to Israel. You should be gratified to learn that when, before my change in plans, I told him of my intention to ~~l~~have early this Fall and asked him for his appraisal of the necessity for a Jewish Adviser, he reacted promptly, stating that he would not be without one.

IMMIGRATION OUTLOOK - PROSPECTS FOR IMMIGRATION TO U. S.

There is no way of determining the number of Jewish DPs in Germany and Austria who will actually be eligible under the U. S. immigration law.

It is my impression that the estimates made in the United States during the Congressional discussion of the DP legislation understate their number. At my request, PCIRO checked camp records to determine the number of Jewish DPs whose records indicate that they entered the U. S. Zone before December 22, 1945. The result of this inquiry indicates that about 41,000 Jews now in

316302

Germany claim, on their records, that they can qualify under the December 22nd requirement. This includes about 29,000 people in DP camps, about 4,000 Jewish DPs living outside of camps, and about 8,000 German Jews.

Although I believe these figures are high, I have no basis for disputing them. The estimate of 4,000 Jews who live in the communities is the least reliable. It is obviously not possible to determine how many of those who claim a qualifying date of entry will be rejected in the screening process, nor is it possible to determine the number of eligible Jewish DP's who may wishto go to the States. If I were forced to hazard a guess, I would say that a minimum of about 30,000 Jews now in Germany will qualify under the law and that most of them will seek to go to the United States within the next two years. I do not have similar estimates for Austria.

Mr. Harry Rosenfield, the Jewish member of the new DP Commission, has been in Geneva, attending the conference of the United Nations Social and Economic Council. Representatives of Jewish organizations in Europe have conferred with him, and I am scheduled to see him in Paris before his departure. Many suggestions for simplifying the administration of the new law have been presented to him for consideration in connection with the rules and regulations soon to be announced. I hope that the experts on the new law, working for UNRA, the AJDC, and other organizations, will bring to the Commission's attention Major Hyman's letter of July 13, which urges that the DPs who, on December 22, 1945, were in that part of Germany released to Poland for administration under the Potsdam Agreement be declared eligible under the law.

IMMIGRATION TO ISRAEL - FUTURE PLANS

Since May 15th an increasing number of Jewish DPs have been going to Israel. Only 296 left during May and 606 in June. The number increased to 1,952 in July. The schedule for August, which is being met, is 3,200, and the plans for September call for from 3,500 to 4,000. In my opinion, barring resumption of serious warfare or interference by the mediator, the emigration schedule from the U. S. Zone, Germany, to Israel will continue at between 3,000 and 4,000 per month for the balance of the year. It would be most unfortunate if the truce conditions were interpreted in a manner as to seriously interfere with this flow. If the dps in the U. S. Zones, Germany and Austria, are barred because of a narrow interpretation of the truce restrictions, it would mean that the quota to Israel would be filled with Jews from other lands, and the "liquidation" of the DP camps would be postponed. This, of course, must be avoided at all cost.

RESTRICTIVE IMMIGRATION TO ISRAEL

I feel impelled to comment briefly on the minutes of the cooperating organizations, assembled to discuss Rabbi Klausner's report of May 2, 1948. I was quite chagrined and, frankly, distressed with Dr. Nahum Goldmann's viewpoint, as reported in these minutes. Dr. Goldmann, accepting Rabbi Klausner's analysis, indicated that the Jewish DP problem would have to be solved "independently from Palestine interests"; that, since the problem cannot be solved overnight and the DPs constitute a burden on the Jewish budget, it would be wise to "gradually transfer the DPs into the German economy"; that "the DPs in general do not represent the human material Eretz Yisroel needs today"; that "infinitely more desirable material" is available in Cyprus, eastern Europe, and in the Moslem countries; and that "we have reached the brutal phase where the interests of the State count alone".

I am aware of the fact that, at this meeting, Dr. Stephen Wise pointed out that Dr. Goldmann was expressing his own personal opinion. I am also aware that Dr. Goldmann himself referred, although not explicitly, to the fact that the restrictions against DPs would result either from the rigid requirements of the truce or from the require-

ments imposed upon the young state fighting for its existence. Nevertheless, I think it important to indicate that the adoption of any policy by the provisional government which would limit or restrict immigration of DPs would be a shocking reversal of stated policy and a definite breach of faith. The immigration policy of the provisional government provides definite reassurance that such a danger does not exist. I refer to it in this report, however, because any change in that policy which would deliberately discriminate against the DPs would have consequences, the seriousness of which cannot be overrated.

RESTRICTIONS ON EMIGRATION AS A RESULT OF TRUCE

The limitations of the UN truce have raised serious difficulties with regard to the movement to Israel. The truce prohibits the entry of "fighting men", construed here to mean members of fighting units. It provides, further, that the number of men of military age to be admitted shall be determined by the mediator. As a result of instructions from Washington, the local authorities took the position that, until the mediator has made such a determination, visas could not be issued to men of military age in the U. S. Zone, Germany. Accordingly, it has not been possible for men from 18 to 45 to "legally" leave the U. S. Zone.

I made strong representations to the Army that the procedure followed here, and approved by the State Department, was too rigid and would, in effect, prohibit or seriously restrict the movement of people to Israel, since it is not likely that the women and children would go on legal visas via train to Marseilles and that the men, the heads of these families, would remain behind or travel via Aliyah Bet to Marseilles.

As a result of these representations, the mediator was urged to send a representative to the U. S. Zone, so that he could determine on the spot the number of individuals in the fighting-age bracket who could leave. The mediator replied that he would not send such a representative but, instead, outlined the procedure for handling migration to Israel. This procedure was relayed to the local authorities in a cable that arrived on August 27th. According to the instructions contained in this cable, men of military age may not legally be visaed until lists, certified by the local authorities as containing non-fighting personnel, have been submitted to the mediator ~~in~~ by Israel, and Israel has received clearance from the mediator. The cable from Washington indicates that State Department has under consideration an alternative plan which the local authorities submitted at my request. Under this plan, the mediator would be advised of the anticipated movement a month in advance and would be notified that, unless a disapproval is received from him by a stated date, the movement would proceed.

Obviously, the mediator's procedure is cumbersome and, if adhered to, emigration movement to Israel will be seriously restricted. It took five weeks to get an answer to the Army's request that the mediator send a representative to the Zone. Such delays will play havoc with any scheduled emigration program.

It is my opinion that the period for "underground" emigration is about over. The DPs in Germany wish to travel with their families and, if it becomes necessary for the men to travel separately by trucks in the night and be reunited with their families in Marseilles, it is very likely that thousands will prefer to wait until legal emigration is authorized. I strongly urge the agencies in the States to review this entire matter with the Israeli representative in Washington and to have him make the strongest representations to the State Department, with the view of removing the bottleneck in the movement of men from 18 to 45.

318304

RECOGNITION OF ISRAELI REPRESENTATIVE

Shortly after the 15th of May, I urged upon Generals Clay and Harrold the formal recognition of Dr. Chaim Hoffman as a special representative of Israel in the U. S. Zone, Germany. After clearance with the State Department and the Department of the Army in Washington, such recognition was secured in June. To avoid the implications incident to consular status, the Israeli representative is recognized only for the purpose of issuing visas for emigration to Israel. In other words, he has a status similar to the head of a resettlement mission in the U. S. Zone. As such, he is authorized to issue visas to Israel under the UN truce conditions.

STATUS OF DPs UNDER A WESTERN GERMAN STATE

In earlier reports I have called attention to the fact that expansion of German administrative and police control over displaced persons was inevitable. It was my conviction that, as the Allied occupation authorities approve the establishment of relatively independent German political institutions, they would, as a matter of course, grant to the German state increasing responsibility over matters of the internal economy. The 150,000 DPs, of whom about 25,000 are Jewish, who live outside of camps have always been under German jurisdiction, except that they have not been amenable to trial by German courts. When it was announced a few months ago that the Military Governors had approved the establishment of a Western German State, the issue of control over displaced persons became of practical importance. It was my opinion that we would, undoubtedly, lose something of the preferred position the DPs now occupy in Germany.

I am pleased to report, therefore, that at a press conference held in Frankfurt on July 15th, General Clay, in response to a specific question as to the status of DPs in the new occupation statute, replied that their position would be unchanged. Mr. Jack Raymond of THE NEW YORK TIMES put the question, "Sir, if a Western Government, or something resembling a government is created, and more responsibility and authority is put into German hands, would the special consideration for the DPs that are now being maintained by IRO and our Government be changed?", to which General Clay replied, "No, I don't think it would. It would be very clearly stated in the occupation statute what the provisions would be that would be made for the safeguarding of the Displaced Persons until they are moved out of Germany." In answer to a series of questions from a German reporter, General Clay emphasized this view even more strongly. You may be interested in the questions and answers on this issue:

Question: "Are you familiar with the fact that during the last few weeks 155 million cigarettes were illegally imported into Germany, and illegally reimported into Czechoslovakia with forged custom stamps, and that all traces lead to the DP camps at Bergen-Belsen and Zeilsheim, and therefore it is necessary to change the extra-territorial privileges of these DP camps?"

General Clay: "Are you asking a question or making a statement?"

Question: "I am asking you first whether you are familiar with the fact, and secondly, what measures will be taken to enable the German authorities to continue prosecuting and following up such cases and not to be stopped at the borders of the DP camps. I am referring in this respect to a question put by CDU in the Economic Council."

General Clay: "There won't be anything done about it. Displaced Persons will still be subject to Military Government courts and Military Government jurisdiction. We shall continue to work with the German police, as we have in the past, and with our own people to do everything we can to stop black marketing everywhere. We certainly have no intention of removing the extra-territorial privileges now enjoyed by the Displaced Persons - and I must admit that in some respects the way you have asked your question is the reason why."

318305

This exchange was reported in the STARS AND STRIPES and may, perhaps, have been referred to in the American press. In view of the significance of the issue, I reviewed the matter with General Clay at my weekly conference with him in Frankfurt on August 11th. He indicated to me that, while the German officials, in the many conferences on the problem of a Western German State, had not pressed this particular issue, they did indicate that the problem of internal administration would be simplified if the German officials and courts were given jurisdiction over displaced persons. The General indicated that he has reached a definite conclusion to deny this request and that, in his opinion, granting it would be a violation of the obligations we have assumed to maintain authority over the displaced persons for as long as they remain here. Needless to say, I am relieved that General Clay has made such a strong statement on this matter.

EXTENSION OF GERMAN POLICE AUTHORITY OVER DP CAMPS

I have repeatedly urged that the Army discontinue mass raids on DP camps. Of the last nine such operations, eight were directed against Jewish assembly centers. The study I had made of these raids convinced me that they do not promote law and order; that they fail to achieve their objectives and, in general, serve no purpose except to indict an entire camp community for the illegal activities of the few.

As is indicated in my previous report, the authorities have gradually gotten around to our point of view on this problem. However, in the staff study abolishing raids and providing for inspections on the basis of individual warrants, it is proposed that armed German police may be used in effecting arrests or executing search warrants in DP camps. I have addressed a strong non-concurrence to this phase of the staff study.

I reviewed this matter with General Clay in a conference with him in Frankfurt on August 17th. I outlined my objections, indicating that, in my ~~dis~~ judgment, it would be a serious blunder for the Army to endanger its excellent record in dealing with DPs by creating a situation which is bound to lead to serious incidents. I got the impression that General Clay is not inclined to approve this change. I know, however, that it is being vigorously advanced by General Hays, the Deputy Military Governor, and by General Harrold, in charge of the Army's DP operations. This problem bears careful watching. Nothing has happened here to soften the attitude of the Jewish DPs to the German police, and I am fearful that the entry of German police into Jewish camps will have serious consequences.

CLOSING OF THE BERLIN CAMPS

You will recall my previous reference to the closing of the two camps in Berlin. During the early part of July, General Clay concluded that the removal of the DPs would be generally interpreted as the beginning of a total capitulation on the Berlin issue. Obviously, he would not take a step that would further such an impression. I considered the matter a dead issue until July 20th, when the General reversed his position and ordered the immediate evacuation of all of the DPs. According to official instructions, those who did not want to move, either because they preferred to live in the German economy or because they would not accept air travel, would be permitted to remain in Berlin. However, IRO care and maintenance for all who remained behind would be withdrawn. The move was made to reduce the number of mouths that had to be fed in Berlin. The planes engaged in "Operations Vittles" were returning empty and, since there was space in the Zone to absorb the DPs, it was natural to remove from Berlin the people who were not identified with the German population.

The evacuation started on July 23rd and was completed on August 1st. In all, 5,536 DPs were removed, of whom all but about 90 were Jewish. Only about 150 elected to remain in the city and, I am informed, approximately 200 subsequently returned to engage in

dubious enterprises. No new camps were set up to receive these people. They were assigned to established centers on the basis of a study of existing vacancies in the camps, which had just been completed by Chaplain Burich of my office.

Whatever the reasons may have been for the move, the net result is highly desirable from the public relations standpoint, from the administrative standpoint of the voluntary agencies, and from the point of view of facilitating the ultimate resettlement of these people.

EFFECT OF CURRENCY CONVERSION

As an economic measure, the currency reform has been highly successful. The value of the mark has gone up at least twenty-five times, even on the black market. The immediate effect of the reform was to reduce the quantity of marks in circulation to approximately one-tenth of its former volume. So far - a period of two months - the mark has remained relatively stable.

The effect of the currency conversion upon the DPs was instantaneous. In the first place, no DP was in possession of more than forty marks, the maximum given to anybody during the first week. Secondly, ninety percent of the mark holdings were wiped out. Thirdly, the DP black market disappeared overnight and, while it has since been revived, it is on a far smaller scale than heretofore. As I indicated at the outset, the DPs living outside of the camps were most seriously affected by the currency reform. They were without funds to pay their rent, streetcar fares, medical costs, and other incidentals.

The reform also had a serious effect upon the agencies working with Jewish DPs. These organizations could procure marks only through official channels at the rate of thirty cents per mark. The cost is prohibitive, and it resulted in a contraction of such programs as were financed with German marks. The Central Committee in Munich was also compelled to curtail its activities, since its expenditures were heretofore financed almost entirely with marks.

Dr. Philip Auerbach, the State Commissioner for Persecutees in Bavaria, was exceedingly helpful during this period. Some 12,000,000 marks, representing ten percent of the 120,000,000 marks in his account, were made available to him, and he came to the aid of the free living DPs in Bavaria, of the Central Committee, and of other organizations, with advances and funds for the payment of rent and other essentials.

Another immediate effect of a highly desirable character proved to be short-lived. Those engaged in camp administration and on camp work projects received, in addition to the AJDC supplementation, payment in marks from the Buergermeister. Before June 20th these marks were of little value. On an average, they had the worth of about two packages of cigarettes. Under the new value, the camp worker who receives 250 marks is, by prevailing standards here, "well off". The camp committees and the Central Committee were, in fact, seeking ways and means of getting the fortunate few who were on the Buergermeister's payroll to "disgorge" their newly acquired wealth and share it with the committees and the less fortunate people in the camp who were not engaged on work projects or in camp administration. Since the total payroll for Jewish DPs exceeded 250,000 marks per month, the possibilities of such "sharing" or "contributions" to the committees were considerable. The problem has suddenly become academic. As a direct result of the currency reform, the German wage scale is being radically revised. The DPs, who are on the Buergermeister's payroll, are paid according to that wage scale. In some classifications the wage reductions are as high as fifty percent. The second development is much more significant. The IRO AND Military Government have worked out an arrangement whereby, effective now and retroactive to July 1st, all DPs who are employed by the Buergermeister are required to pay for their food and room in the camp. It has accordingly been decided to take from each paid worker a minimum of seventy marks, of which fifty marks are returned to the

German economy and twenty are held in a blocked account for the IRO. When Social Security deductions (which have been taken from DP payrolls from the beginning and income taxes, which are also deducted from such payrolls, are added to the IRO deduction of seventy marks, the average worker will have very little left. It is my opinion that the incentive to work, insofar as it is provided by German marks, will be substantially affected by this development.

The DPs, the camp committees, and the Central Committee, have, as you can well imagine, reacted unfavorably to this innovation. Frankly, it is my candid opinion that there is no basis for any complaint on this score. To begin with, the real incentive for Jewish DP employment was, until now, provided by the AJDC supplementation. The worthless marks were of little consequence. The marks have suddenly became valuable and, because of their value, the payment in marks is being seriously curtailed. The AJDC supplementation, however, remains and, while it is not as valuable, measured in marks, as it once was, it still should serve as a substantial incentive.

IRO PROPOSAL REQUIRING ABLE-BODIED DPS TO BE EMPLOYED

When I called to IRO's attention that the deduction of seventy marks from every employed worker in camp administration and productive work projects, coupled with the reduction in compensation, would destroy the incentive to work and that IRO would have difficulty finding an adequate number of people to manage the camps, I learned that it is proposed to require that all able-bodied persons must accept offered employment as a condition for continuing to receive IRO care. I see no objection to such a program, if the offered employment is confined to work within the camp. While such a program will not be popular with the DPs, it is, in my judgment, desirable from every point of view. Able-bodied people should be required to perform useful work for the camp community for pay, and it is not unjust to require them to pay with such income for their care. I learned, however, that the work requirement program is not to be confined to employment within the camp and that it is quite possible that IRO may require DPs to accept employment outside of the camp, if offered. I pointed out to IRO that the issue was academic, since the currency reform has resulted in a substantial increase in unemployment and that the German Labor Office is not likely to offer jobs to DPs, Jewish or non-Jewish. Nevertheless, I emphasized that, should economic conditions change and jobs be available to DPs, a work program must be surrounded with certain safeguards particularly designed to protect Jewish DPs against being required to repair war damage and to do other work of a demeaning character. I made no progress in having my point of view accepted thus far. The Army, at least, takes the position that it is the official policy of the American Government to revive Germany, to clean up its war damage, and to increase the productivity of its industries. In view of that, the DPs ought to be willing to cooperate in carrying out what the Government considers to be the major objectives of the occupation.

At the moment I still consider this issue theoretical, but it bears watching to make certain that a "work for maintenance" program has adequate safeguards.

JEWISH LABOR COMPANY

I am pleased to report that the Jewish Labor Company, which was organized some three months ago, is still a going concern. After some difficulties and a probationary period, the group has been accepted as part of the Army's regular DP labor company. I am sure that, if there were an interest in establishing another group, the Army would welcome it. At this time I do not consider it desirable to urge an expansion of this program.

INADEQUACY OF LIAISON WITH PCIRO

I have come to the conclusion that the Jewish agencies operating in DP countries are not exploiting to the fullest the opportunities of getting the IRO to assume its full responsibility in meeting the costs of providing for Jewish DPs. As I see the situation, the IRO has developed, in recent months, a rather unfriendly attitude toward the Jewish DPs. Its origin is in Geneva, and it is primarily an outgrowth of the political situation involving emigration to Israel. As a result, IRO has been exceedingly uncooperative in facilitating the most simple arrangements for official movements of Jewish DPs out of Austria and in making it possible for the representatives of the JAFP to operate effectively in that area. The impression here is that the British members of the IRO executive staff wield a tremendous influence and are largely responsible for the cold attitude toward Jewish interests in DP emigration.

In addition, it has also been my observation that "budget consciousness" on the part of IRO top officials has resulted in serious curtailment in important segments of DP programs. The accumulation of a substantial surplus at the end of the last fiscal year is quite reprehensible when considered in relation to the shortcomings in medical care and, especially, in the IRO provided diet. In order to avoid privation and suffering, the voluntary agencies have often been compelled to make outlays which, in the first instance, should have been made by the IRO.

A capable person assigned to Geneva for the purpose of "influencing" IRO policy would, within a short time, pay substantial dividends. In addition to such representations in Geneva, it is also my opinion that very strong representations need to be made to the American officials in Washington responsible for IRO policy.

DESECRATION OF JEWISH CEMETERIES

Largely as a result of representations we made to General Clay, Military Government in Bavaria has made an intensive study of the extent to which Jewish cemeteries have been desecrated in recent months. Dr. Auerbach, the State Commissioner in Bavaria, and others have given considerable publicity to such vandalism. I urged upon General Clay that the matter be thoroughly investigated and that it may represent not the action of irresponsible youth, as has been charged, but an organized program of resurgent Nazi elements.

The investigation, copies of which are enclosed for the cooperating organizations, failed to establish deliberate desecration. I have no way of disputing the findings of this study. It seems to have been carefully made and can be refuted only by an independent inquiry, which we are not prepared to do. Please note that the copies of the report are marked "Restricted."

DEVELOPMENTS IN AUSTRIA

Since my last report of June 17th, I have made three visits to Austria and conferred with Generals Keyes and Balmer and members of the General Staff in Vienna, and with General Kendall and his group in Salzburg. The situation in Austria is quite stable. The number of DPs in Vienna is rapidly being reduced, and it has already been suggested that the Rothschild Hospital be returned to the local community and reestablished as a medical center. Such a step would in itself mark a turning point in the Jewish DP problem. Nearly 150,000 Jews from Poland, Roumania, and other countries, have passed through the halls of this institution. When I was there two weeks ago, the building was half empty, and infiltration from bordering countries had come to a complete standstill. For a brief period I thought that the recent anti-Semitic outburst in Slovakia might touch off a mass exodus of the 5,000 Jews in that country and that Vienna would again be forced to play the role that it did in the mass flights from Poland and Roumania. Fortunately, this did not materialize. First-hand reports that have reached me on the situation in Slovakia indicate that the Communists will do everything to pre-

318309

vent the situation from deteriorating. It would seem that they cannot afford the "public relations" aspect of pogroms within their sphere of influence.

In the U. S. Zone, Austria, no serious problems appear to be in the offing. Dr. Kurt Levin has been recognized, subject to the approval of the State Department, as the Israeli representative for the purpose of issuing visas. He advises me that he hopes to be able to move between 500 and 1,000 persons per month either through Italy or Germany. At that rate, the Austrian Jewish DP problem could be liquidated in a relatively short time, since, in my ~~the~~ judgment, there are no more than 13,000 people in the Austrian DP camps.

MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS

1. World Jewish Congress. I attended the sessions of the World Jewish Congress for two days in Montreux. It gave me an opportunity to confer with DP representatives from the British Zone and Italy and to appear before the Special Commission selected by the Congress to draft resolutions on these problems. Several delegates to the Congress came to Germany after the sessions to confer with the Central Committee and, in general, to survey the DP situation.

2. Camp Surveys. Captain Louis Barish, who has been added to my staff, visited about thirty-five Jewish DP camps in the past six weeks. He conferred with the camp committees and brought back a realistic picture of the actual situation in each of the installations he visited. I have requested him to complete the survey and to visit all of the installations within the next couple of weeks. A copy of his notes containing his observations can be made available, if you are interested.

3. Jewish Restitution Successor Organization. On June 23rd, Military Government formally recognized the Jewish Restitution Successor Organization as the successor agency for Jewish property under the Restitution Law. Due to the absence of Irwin Mason, who had accepted its directorship, the Organization remained inactive until the end of July. When it became known that Mr. Mason would not return to Germany to assume his duties, Mr. Joel Fisher, General European Counsel for the AJDC, came in and, in the span of about three weeks, made considerable progress in putting the organization on a working basis. He has been succeeded by Mr. Benjamin Ferencz, former Executive Counsel to General Telford Taylor at the Nurnberg War Crimes trials. Mr. Ferencz will serve as the Director.

The delay in getting the Organization recognized and started in its operations is most unfortunate, in view of the fact that all claims must be filed before December 31st of this year. It is my impression that General Clay will have to be urged to extend the date for filing claims. I raised this matter with him about three months ago, and he did not look with favor upon it at that time.

4. Jewish Cultural Property. Together with Dr. Joshua Starr, representing Jewish Cultural Reconstruction, Inc., I reviewed with General Clay the disposition of the cultural property at the Offenbach Archival Depot. I presented to the General a memorandum prepared by Dr. Starr, requesting that the cultural property at the Depot be turned over to the Jewish Cultural Reconstruction for distribution to Jewish institutions in Israel and elsewhere. The General looked with favor upon this procedure but would not undertake to transfer title to this organization, or to the Successor Organization, until the State Department specifically approved such an arrangement. At our request, he is cabling the State Department, asking for their approval. It is my fear that the State Department will raise many questions, and the solution of this problem will take about as long as it took to set up the Successor Organization.

318310

5. Agencies Session - June 21, 1948. The heads of all of the Jewish agencies operating in Germany met in Heidelberg. Eighteen people, representing the several agencies, participated in an all day discussion of the current situation and the outlook. The agenda listed below will give you an idea of the subject matters discussed:

1. Review of Current Developments in Influencing Jewish DP Situation

2. Immigration Outlook Next Twelve Months
   a. Effect of United States Legislation
   b. Prospects for Movement to Israel
   c. Other countries

3. IRO and Immigration to Israel

4. Program Implications of Immigration Picture
   What changes in Emphasis in Agencies' Programs are Suggested by Immigration Outlook - on Vocational Training - on Increase in Work Opportunities - on "Means Test" - on "Public Relations"

5. Currency Reform and DPs

6. Special Problems
   a. "Recruitment" in Camps
   b. Camp Consolidation
   c. Restitution
   d. Jewish Labor Company
   e. Press Relations
   f. Anti-Semitism in Germany

6. IRO Appropriation and DP Calories. The U. S. Appropriation Bill, containing IRO funds, provided that after January 1, 1949, IRO could not make available to DPs, a greater number of calories than is available to the indigenous population. At the time when the bill was under discussion, it was anticipated that after January 1st there would be a reduction of about 300 calories per person per day, since the IRO DP calory distribution was that much higher than the prevailing number of calories available to Germans. According to my present information, it is now estimated that the average caloric value a German will get next year will be about 2300. If this materializes, it will not be necessary for the DP ration to be cut, since that ration is now about 2200.

7. Special Surveys. Dr. Herman Gray of the American Jewish Committee has been in Germany for about three weeks and has conferred with officials of Military Government in German governmental departments, DP camp committees, the Central Committee, and agency heads. I have suggested to him certain areas of inquiry, which he has explored during his stay here.

At my request Mr. Harry Greenstein, Executive Director of the Baltimore Jewish Welfare Federation, came to Germany for an intensive inquiry into several aspects of the DP situation. Mr. Greenstein will be here for a period of about six weeks and, with Major Hyman's collaboration, is making a thorough analysis of the vocational training program, the work projects, the emigration outlook, and other significant phases of the DP problem in Germany and Austria. He is to prepare a report for me which will, in my opinion, serve as the basis for program recommendations for the ensuing twelve months. As soon as this is completed, about the middle of September, it will be reviewed with the agency heads in Germany and Austria and the European directors of these organizations located in Paris. After such a review, I will submit it to the five cooperating organizations as part of my next report.

318311

A PERSONAL NOTE

I am sure that by now the cooperating agencies are aware of the change in my plans to return home in time for the University term late in September. I have set my personal plans aside and have agreed to stay on until the opening of the second term of the University in February. I shall definitely return to the States sometime in January. I hope, therefore, that the agencies will give serious consideration, and preferably without waiting until the end of the year, to the selection of my successor.

Sincerely yours,

(signed)

WILLIAM HARRER
Adviser on Jewish Affairs

WH/mf
Encl

318312

MEMO June 18, 1948

To : The Members of the Office Committee
From : Kurt R. Grossman

Attached please find the latest report from Prof. William Haber, dated June 6, submitted to the 5 organizations. This report is of importance in view of the fact that it was written after the creation of Israel.

4297-6/18/48-30-KRG:iw
REL 4709

310313

C O P Y

APO 403, c/o Postmaster
New York, New York

June 10, 1948

Mr. Meir Grossman
Director of Department of Overseas Relations
American Jewish Conference
521 Fifth Avenue
New York 17, New York

For transmission to: American Jewish Committee
American Jewish Conference
American Joint Distribution Committee
Jewish Agency for Palestine
World Jewish Congress

Dear Mr. Grossman:

Although it was my plan to submit to you monthly a survey of the situation here, I concluded that I could wait with this report until several weeks had passed beyond the declaration of the Jewish State. In the final analysis, the approach to our problem and its ultimate solution rests almost entirely upon what takes place in Palestine, and I thought I could be more concrete after the situation in Palestine had crystallized.

1. The Situation in General

Obviously, the most significant development in the total picture is the emergence of Israel as a Jewish State and the impact that this has had on the people. Judging from the earnest and spontaneous celebrations that greeted this event and from the interest in and the day to day reactions to the progress of events in Palestine, I am convinced that it is foolish to pursue the inquiry whether the DP's do or do not want to go to Palestine. In the first place, I find that there is an overwhelming enthusiasm for Palestine, reflected in the registration of over seventy percent of the people and in the increasing tempo of the recruitment program. In the second place, when it finally becomes clear that there are no resettlement opportunities outside of Palestine - and if the Senate immigration bill is sustained by the House, it will surely have that effect - most of the people will accept that fact as inescapable and will cast their lot with those who by choice want to go to Palestine.

The above may serve as further comment on the Klausner report. In the past few weeks, members of my staff and I have "unofficially" attended a number of farewell gatherings for men who have volunteered for military service in Israel. When we see entire camps turn out for such events and hear recruits, who are identified as black market operators exhort their fellow Jews to "abandon their golden calf and join in the defense of their country", we feel that, even under existing conditions, the DP's will emigrate to Israel as rapidly as the new State will accept them.

I am happy to be able to report that there is a good deal of sympathy and support for Israel among the local military authorities. On May 15 I had a conference with General Clay. It was an unusually warm conference. The General expressed his profound interest in the new State, was happy that it had come into being, and stated that he was always for an independent national homeland for the Jewish people. He told me that he wanted to participate in the celebration of the event sponsored by the Central Committee and scheduled to be held in Munich on 18 May, but was precluded from doing so by a meeting that he had to attend in London. The only misgiving that he had about the declaration of the State was one of timing and suggested that some form of trusteeship might have been more advisable under existing conditions. He felt that, while the Jews could achieve an immediate military victory over the Arabs, they would not succeed in a long war of attrition. In any event he, as well as his subordinates, have assured me that they would do everything within their power to assist in the migration of Jewish DP's to Palestine.

Since my last report, I have had periodic sessions with Generals Clay, Huebner, and Harrold, and have also conferred with Generals White (before his departure from the Zone), Hays (the Deputy Military Governor in Berlin), and with Military Government officials. These conferences indicate certain attitudes and trends with regard to camp consolidation, anti-Semitism, immigration, and extension of German police control over DP camps. These and similar problems are referred to in this report.

You may be interested in the aspect of the current situation in the camps. During the past few months, the leadership in many camps has been seriously weakened because the most capable and disciplined people have left for Palestine. There has been a substantial turnover in camp committee membership, in camp police, and in camp administration. In some camps, most of the nurses have left for Palestine. The same is true of many doctors. The IRO is seriously concerned about this and is beginning to question whether self-administration of the Jewish DP camps can be maintained if the drain of camp leadership and specialized personnel continues. We have reviewed this problem with the Director of the Jewish Agency for Palestine and emphasized the importance of some "deferment" for such personnel in connection with the current "mobilization". It is my impression that most of the young men are already gone and that such "reserves" as remain will go in the next four to six weeks. The drain will then come to an end. Nevertheless, it is our view that, as a result of this loss of key people in Munich and in the camps, the Shearith Hapleita has been weakened in leadership and discipline. How serious this is will depend upon the speed with which general immigration gets under way.

3. Consolidation of Camps.

Ever since my arrival, the closing of Zeilsheim, one of the oldest as well as one of the best camps, has been a subject of frequent discussion. Its proximity to our Headquarters in Frankfurt made it particularly vulnerable to attack. The camp became synonymous with large-scale black market operations.

918315

Even a man as sympathetic and as soft-spoken as General White once referred to this camp before me in very bitter terms. Right or wrong, the attitude here has been that this camp is no credit to the Command. Finally, about the middle of April, General Huebner ordered the camp closed. In spite of its reputation, I was prepared to put up a fight to retain it, largely because I felt that the place offered the people a degree of comfort and because I was convinced that its general reputation was exaggerated.

However, when the proposition was put to me that the camp had to be closed as a "military necessity" and that its 250 housing units were to be occupied by American dependents, I had no choice but to yield. Thereupon, I suggested a program of liquidation that I thought was humane and that I believed could be effected without running into serious resistance on the part of the people. According to my proposal, (a) the announcement of the closing of the camp would be postponed until several weeks after 15 May; (b) about 15 June, the camp residents would be told that military necessity demanded that the camp be closed by 1 September; (c) the camp would be gradually liquidated by permitting the people to choose any camp in the Zone where they might find space to accommodate them; and (d) on 1 September, the camp would be closed. General Huebner thought this proposal reasonable and conferences followed with the view of implementing it. It did not take long to learn that the people bitterly resented the suggestion that they move this fall. The only Aliyah in which they were interested is one from Zeilsheim to Israel. They considered it cruel for the Army to cause them to search for quarters in other camps in Germany while they are now engaged in making final preparations to leave Germany for good. They refused to believe that military necessity dictated the move, insisted that the liquidation of the camp had become an issue in the local German election campaign, and were certain that the houses were going to be returned to their former German occupants as a further concession to the "over-coddled" Germans. In any event, they threatened that the people were in such a mood that they would raze the houses to the ground and would move only if evicted bodily by the troops, and climaxed their arguments with the prediction, "England had its Exodus, the Americans will have their Zeilsheim". On a more rational level, they suggested that a substantial part of the camp would, or could, by 1 January 1949, be emptied by migration to Israel and urged that I intervene with the authorities to get an extension to that date.

Although I was not particularly sanguine about getting the move postponed beyond 1 September, I felt that it was my duty to report to the authorities what they might expect in the way of resistance. In the meantime, Major Hyman, who represented me at a meeting in Heidelberg, where the final plans for the liquidation of the camp were to take shape, reported to me that the plans called for the closing of Zeilsheim by 30 June and that, following this liquidation, and at 15 day intervals, Stuttgart West, Lampertsheim, and Heidenheim would be closed.

I was not too greatly exercised over the date of 30 June for Zeilsheim because I felt, as was later confirmed, that this was an error on the part of a member of General Harrold's staff.

910316

I was also prepared for the news on Stuttgart West because that camp, situated in the capital of Land Wuerttemberg-Baden, where the Constabulary has recently moved, shares the unsavory reputation of Zeilsheim as a black market center. However, the extension of the consolidation plans to include Lampertheim and Heidenheim put the program into an entirely new light. These four camps, placed on the block, happen to be four of only six good camps in the entire Zone. Although I felt that some consolidation is necessary and logical, in view of the shrinkage of the DP population, I thought that this type of consolidation was consolidation with a vengeance. I promptly conferred with General Huebner and advised strongly against the simultaneous liquidation of the best camps in the Zone, pointing out that such a move was not only oppressive, but that it would injure the good reputation the Army had acquired in dealing humanely with this problem. General Huebner indicated that the plans for the liquidation of Lampertheim and Heidenheim were in the most tentative stage. As to my report on the attitude of the people in Zeilsheim, although he was obviously angry and disappointed, he announced that he would, under no circumstances, use troops to get the people out of Zeilsheim. "By God", said he, "I'll have no Jewish incident on my conscience." General Harrold subsequently told me that the liquidation of Lampertheim and Heidenheim was still in the talking stage.

The closing of Zeilsheim was left in abeyance. By the middle of this week, I am to hear from General Harrold the final thinking on this matter. However, regardless of what the authorities decree, I am definitely of the opinion that the people in the camp must take the initiative in making a proposal which is reasonable and to which they will eventually adhere. My present thinking is to get the people to accept 1 November as the date for the closing of the camp.

At this juncture, I want to take the liberty of commenting on a letter I just received from Harold Glasser, in which he suggests that the camp at Zeilsheim should be liquidated by transferring a substantial number of the people to Italy where, Glasser says, both the Italian and Jewish communities would welcome them and where living conditions are, on the whole, very favorable. I have explored this proposal with the local IRO authorities, with the Agency representatives, and with the camp leaders. I believe that I am now safe in stating that the plan would be feasible only if the people were issued visas to Israel and were transferred to Italy as merely a stop-over point while en route to Israel. They are not interested in exchanging the certainties of life in Germany for the uncertainties that they may encounter in Italy. With justification, the people argue that they are tired of being moved as DP's. They want their next move to be either direct to Palestine or to some other country of their choice, or to a transit point on the way to their ultimate destination. They do not consider an indiscriminate move to Italy as falling within either category. I have consulted with the Jewish Agency for Palestine Director and learned that no proposal to favor one camp in expediting emigration to Palestine can be entertained. I think that we shall have to conclude that Glasser's proposal is unworkable.

The liquidation of Zeilsheim, of course, raises the entire issue of consolidation. The authorities point out that the Jewish in-camp populationhas in the past year shrunk substantially, while the number of camp installations has remained fairly constant. On the basis of IRO reports, they claim that there are approximately 14,000 vacant "spaces" in the existing installations. They are prepared to concede that these figures are high and estimate that only half that number are actually available. On the other hand, I have personally visited more than twenty camps since my arrival, five of them in the Kassel area within the past month, and find that, except in rare instances, the people are still living under crowded conditions.

In a conference with General Clay in Berlin on 9 June, I learned that Army concentration in certain areas will seriously increase the demand for dependents' quarters and that the proposal to liquidate the four camps mentioned above was related to this development. General Clay was disturbed to learn that these four camps represent the best facilities for Jewish DP's in the U.S. Zone. Nevertheless, it is my judgment that, in view of the Army's needs, plus the fact that at least two of the camps are located in crowded urban areas, we may have to be prepared for serious difficulties if these camps are to be closed.

I believe that there is merit in consolidation. It is both logical and inevitable. However, in its implementation, I shall urge two principles: (1)that the worst camps be liquidated first and (2) that the saturation point of any installation be judged by the standards of a fairly stable camp, instead of a norm applicable to transient centers. At this stage, I feel that an impartial and scientific study of camp capacity should be made by the IRO and the Jewish organizations serving the DP's and that this study should be made the basis for negotiating with the Army on an overall consolidation program, both present and prospective.

3. Closing the Berlin Camps

General Clay agreed to the closing of the two Berlin Jewish camps "as soon as the move can be facilitated". I have urged this action for some time. It is eagerly sought by the people in the camps and it is favored by the IRO and the AGENCY. The move cannot be implemented immediately. As you know, there are no trains leaving Berlin and General Clay, of course, will not request the Russians for permission to pass such a train in order to move the camps. The move by truck is likely to be difficult and expensive. The camps hold over 6.500 people, of whom about eighty percent are likely to be involved in the transfer to the Zone. It was agreed that, as soon as the Jewish Agency is granted the right to issue visas, it should negotiate such a move directly with the Russian representatives in Berlin.

If the Agency should receive permission for the train or trucks to pass, General Clay would authorize the liquidation of these camps.

The Berlin camps have long presented special difficulties. Their proximity to the Russian Zone provided to many of the people in the

camps profitable opportunities for trade between the Russian and American Zones. Such business connections have, at times, been exceedingly embarrassing to all of us. It is my fear that after the financial reform, now under discussion, is completed, the opportunity for such transactions will increase. In addition, emigration out of Berlin is especially difficult, and the people ought to be in the Zone, where they can be processed more easily.

4. Jewish Civilian Engineer Construction Company

The fears that I expressed in my 1 April report, relative to the formation of the proposed Jewish construction company, have not materialized. With relatively little effort, several enterprising and aggressive Jewish DP engineers, backed by the Zonal Employment Board (on which sit representatives of the AJDC, JAFP, and the Central Committee), succeeded in recruiting the 225 men necessary to form the company. The men combine all of the required building skills. They range in ages from 18 to 45. About half of the group are married men, whose wives and children continue to live in the camps. The men get permission to spend Saturdays and Sundays with their families. At the present time, the group is stationed in Hanau, about 20 miles east of Frankfurt, where they live in a tent camp that they set up, pending their construction of permanent barracks. The initial reports on the attitude and performance of this group are highly favorable. General Huebner is well pleased with the project and has promised to inspect it officially at an early date. General Clay told me that he thought the idea was an excellent one.

Since the initial success of the project runs counter to some of our conclusions that we have regarded almost as axiomatic, particularly with respect to the reactions of the DPs to a work program, I think you might be interested in knowing the inducements that have attracted the men to this company. From the Army they receive the continental worker's ration of about 3,500 calories per day, an average of 200 marks per month, five U.S. Dollars per month which they may use in the purchase of PX items, and the right to purchase one-half the U.S. Army cigarette ration per month. In addition, they receive from the AJDC the ration for the category assigned to the work in which they are engaged. The average is category five, which provides for substantial supplementation (18 packages of cigarettes, 1 package of tobacco, 2 cans of meat, 2 cans of milk, 700 grams sugar, 650 grams coffee, 3 kilos flour, 24 ounces fat, 1 can powdered milk (12 ounces), 1 package cheese). The individual is furnished a complete uniform, which is paid for by deductions from the marks payment he receives.

The argument has been advanced that the primary reason for the enthusiastic response to this project is the desire to escape from the pressure for the "Giyus". While that may apply to some of the men, I would discount it as an explanation for the company as a group. It certainly is not applicable to the married men who have children and who are, therefore, automatically ineligible for the Giyus, and those who are eligible could successfully resist the pressure, as thousands in the camps are doing, without joining the company.

I am inclined to give credence to the simple explanation that the men themselves offered. They joined the company because of the material rewards they receive. Most of the people barely got along on what they received from IRO and the AJDC, and seized the opportunity to improve their lot. If the response of this group is typical of those who are not entrenched in some prosperous"enterprise", and I am inclined to believe it is, we have material from which we can draw some valuable conclusions and formulate policy in the event we conclude that the early liquidation of the DP problem through mass resettlement is not possible.

I should add that the labor company has had some problems that have required the constant attention of my office. The men are under the supervision of several officers who have had no experienc in working with Jewish DPs. These officers needed proper orientation. Today, the chief obstacle is to get the workers accepted by the people in the camps. The men complain that, when they return to the camps for the week-ends, they are abused and called traitors. Dressed in a distinct uniform, they are an easy target for public calumny. I am doing everything I can to neutralize this reaction on the part of the people. Realizing the public relations importance of this project, I have assigned Chaplain Barish, who recently joined my staff, to make this company and its problems his primary interest. He has been meeting with the men, has been conferring with the officers in charge of the company, and has been in touch with the Central Committee and the camp committees, whose affirmative support is indispensable to the company's success.

5. Giyus

Beginning in February of this year, the recruitment for Haganah began in the camps. The Agency people in the U.S.Zone, Germany, tell me that when this program started about 9,000 people were eligible for this Aliyah. To qualify, a person must be between the ages of 17 and 35 and, if married, must be childless. Every camp established its own Giyus department and, through posters and other propaganda media, issued a general call to the people. When this means was exhausted, the Giyus leaders examined the cases of those who had not responded and used "persuasive" measures of different degrees to get the men to enlist. To date, approximately 3,000 men and women have left the Zone on this Aliyah About one-third of the number are women. Approximately 500 left after 15 May. I am also informed that an additional 1200 are "in the mill", now being processed for early departure. The Agency people and the camp leaders are greatly encouraged by the response that this program has been receiving. The men who leave are given farewell parties by the camp communities, and the occasions are used to extol the candidates, to wish them well and to whip up sentiment for additional enlistment. At first, the form of pressure exerted upon the men was crude, often reflecting techniques which the people had learned from their own oppressors. This activity was bound, as it did, to come to the attention of the military authorities, who made it known that they would not countenance coercion in any form.

318320

Quite frequently, the type of pressure that was used interfered with AJDC operations. However, like many other problems, adjustments are being made and some of the more flagrant abuses are being discarded. The recruitment program seems to be in full swing and, yet, the military authorities have not found it necessary, as they did in the earlier stages, to call the coercion aspect of it to my attention. I am convinced that most of the people who are responding are doing so of their own free will. Naturally, there are moral pressures at work in any camp. It is the kind of pressure that was present in the normal American community and that induced men to volunteer for the service, instead of waiting to be called up under the draft law.

6. Extension of German Authority over DP Camps

Within the past two months, there have been several proposals to permit the use of German police in DP camps. Under current directives, German police may enter a Jewish camp only when accompanied by military personnel, for the sole purpose of identifying a DP who has committed an offense outside of the assembly center. The directives further provide that, on such missions, the German police must be unarmed. In the first attempt to broaden German police authority, OMGJS, during the early part of May, pointed out that 140,000 DPs were living in the German economy who were under the jurisdiction of the German police and who had, evidently, accommodated themselves to this control. I succeeded in persuading the Civil Affairs Division to oppose this change and to adopt the view that there is a vital distinction between DPs who live outside of the assembly centers, where they encounter the German policemen as individuals, and those who live in camps, where mass feeling plays a dominant role. Last week, the Civil Affairs Division submitted for my approval a revision of current regulations on law enforcement in the DP camps, which would permit (a) pre-trial confinement in German jails and (b) the use of unarmed German police in "pinpoint searches". A pinpoint search was defined as a search and seizure operation against specifically named individuals, in which no more than fifty law enforcement personnel could be used. The proposed directive would authorize the employment of Germans, provided they would be accompanied by an equal number of U.S. military personnel. Because of the experience with post-trial confinement of Jewish DPs in German jails, I indicated my approval of the change with respect to pre-trial confinement, but protested against the use of German police in pinpoint searches. This, I felt, was being used as an initial wedge, to be followed by further extension of German police authority over the Jewish camps. I succeeded in persuading the section in Civil Affairs Division responsible for drafting the circular that Jewish installations should be exempt from any provision that contemplates the extension of German police authority over DP camps.

While to this date we have been successful in postponing the full employment of German police in Jewish camps, we should expect that the day will come when we will have to yield to the pressure on this score that emanates both from German and from U.S. Military Government sources.

318321

My recent conferences with top level people convince me that it may be possible to maintain the status quo until after the mass movement of the people is fully under way, provided, of course, that this movement materializes within the next 6 months. After that, surely after the situation has become stable, we will, I feel, be compelled to yield on this, as well as on many other issues.

7. IRO Policy of Abstaining from Aiding Migration to Israel

I have already sent you the statements, reflecting IRO's official views on assisting migration to Israel. As a result of various representations, particularly the intervention of Mr. George Warren of the U.S. State Department, the IRO policy has already been partially modified. The IRO will assist with processing, trucks, and rations, and will keep a record of the numbers so aided for possible later negotiations. I am confident that, in the event IRO were to withdraw its help altogether, the Army would step into the breach and supply the necessary personnel and transport to move the people up to the zonal borders. I am advised that this policy of the IRO and its modification suggests a serious rift between the British and United States viewpoints in the IRO administration. The fullest representations should be made to the State Department in order to secure a complete reversal of this policy. This is necessary in order to makeIRO assume the financial burden of moving the people from Germany to Israel.

8. Recognition of Agency Personnel as Consular Officials

Prior to our country's de facto recognition of Israel, the Agency people and I speculated on the tenuous position of the Agency's representatives in the Zones of Occupation in the event the United States withheld its recognition from the new state. This, of course, was resolved by the instantaneous action taken by our country on 14 May. However, there still are technical problems that await solution. EUCOM cabled the Department of the Army, proposing to recognize the JAFP personnel as official representatives of the State of Israel in this area, to recognize all entry permits issued by such personnel, and to support the processing and movement of such persons as long as IRO refrains from extending assistance. The Department of the Army, after consulting with State, in the reply approved the proposal for planning purposes, but requested that no action to implement the program be undertaken until after the truce is in effect and to await further advice from Washington. Since the truce is now in effect, we hope that such authorization will be announced.

9. Economic Consequences of Proposed Devaluation of the German Currency

Plans are now developed for a radical monetary reform of German currency. The specific details and the date when it will occur are, of course, not known to me. I am aware, however, of enough of the details and I understand the economic implications of the reform to be able to indicate that the costs of carrying on the German operation by the agencies, especially the AJDC, will increase considerably. It will not be possible to purchase supplementary supplies for work projects, nor to pay local workers with marks, which cost relatively little in American dollars or

318322

in commodities. The reform will, obviously, also affect the economic position of DPs who depend upon the black market, for, in addition to stabilizing the value of the mark, the reform is to be accompanied by a substantial importation of consumers' goods, such as cigarettes, into Germany. It is, in fact, suggested by some that many of the DPs living outside of the camps will find their economic position seriously hurt.

10. Curtailment in Chaplains Program

A combination of circumstances have forced a considerable curtailment in the assignment of Jewish chaplains to work among the DPs. From a peak number of nine that were assigned to this work, there are now six, of whom four are being redeployed or transferred to other assignments. One of the two remaining is Chaplain Louis Barish, who, as I indicated, is now assigned to my office. One replacement, a chaplain of considerable experience and tested in DP work, is expected to arrive this month. Under my arrangement with the military, we will be allowed two itinerant chaplains to work in the field and one to work out of my office. I have written Rabbi Lev of the Jewish Welfare Board a detailed explanation for this reduction in the DP chaplains program and sent Rabbi Bernstein and Judge Levinthal, who were instrumental in promoting the idea of using chaplains among DPs, copies of my letter. In brief, the Army officer strength was being reduced, and I could not, in good conscience, make a case for retaining some of the men who had either developed outside interests or were generally ineffective in their work. I share my predecessor's views that there is a job for chaplains of ability and have left the matter in such shape that I am free to recommend an increase in the number of DP chaplains, provided the candidates for this type of work are of such caliber that they can be of real service to the DPs.

11. Restitution

Undoubtedly, you know that the State Department has authorized General Clay to recognize the successor organization incorporated in the States, with a subsidiary corporation to be set up in Germany. Mr. Mason has been after the people in OMGUS to get this decision implemented. I reviewed the problem with General Clay in Berlin on 9 June and was advised that the order activating the successor corporation will be issued in a few days. I also suggested that the date for filing claims will have to be extended beyond 31 December 1948. He rejected that possibility, and I propose to raise it again at a later date. In view of the great delay in getting the law approved and the successor organization recognized, it may be necessary to insist upon a six months' extension of the filing date, so as to bring the statute of limitations for the filing of claims to 30 June 1949, instead of 31 December 1948, as the restitution law now provides. I may write you later and ask that you intervene in this matter with the appropriate authorities in Washington.

I am convinced that only the most aggressive leadership and forceful representation by the executive head of the successor organization will produce any results when this work gets under way.

Due to some misunderstanding, Joshua Starr, who represents Cultural Reconstruction Incorporated, was not permitted to come into this Zone. After several abortive attempts on Mr. Mason's part to get him admitted, I finally became interested in the matter and succeeded in getting Starr's application for an entry permit approved for a period of fifteen days. This has since been extended for another month. I am sure that after the successor organization gets functioning in Germany, Cultural Reconstruction Incorporated will also be recognized, and its personnel will be able to pursue their work in the Offenbach Depot and other collecting points, where Jewish cultural objects are now deposited.

12. Anti-Semitism

Although a recent Army survey indicates that there is a slight improvement in the German attitude toward the Jews, overt acts of anti-Semitism, reflected especially in the desecration of Jewish cemeteries, go unabated. Records indicate that hundreds of tombstones throughout the Zone have either been overturned or otherwise defiled. While no area is exempt from these outrages, Protestant Upper Bavaria (Franconia), the fortress of Streicher's brand of Nazism, appears to show the greatest amount of activity of this nature. After bringing this to General Clay's attention, the General asked me to assemble the facts, promising to take such reasonable measures as are necessary to meet the problem. As part of my investigation, I met with that section of Military Governor Van Wagener's staff in Munich, whose work is related to this problem. Frankly, I was amazed to learn that reports that I had been receiving actually understated the problem. The actual number of incidents would justify one in calling the vandalism epidemic in nature. The only comforting aspect of my two-hour conference with Van Wagener's staff was the pleasant discovery that they had an intelligent appraisal of the problem and viewed it in its proper perspective. To them it was not only a manifestation of anti-Semitism but was a brazen challenge to the authority of the United States Occupation Forces. The desecration of the cemeteries is considered unofficially by some as a trial balloon launched by the Germans to see how far they can go without inviting reprisals on the part of the Army.

The problem is, of course, a stubborn one, and the presence in Germany of our DPs in any substantial number, by no means helps the situation. While I have serious doubts whether any concrete good may result from my proposals, I have prepared a memorandum for General Clay, in which I am urging the following measures:

a. That the General issue a public statement, denouncing the wanton destruction of these cemeteries;

b. That, in his conferences with the Presidents of the Laender, the General review the situation and explain the need for vigorous action on the part of the German authorities;

c. That the Laender be required to repair the damages to the tombstones and graveyards and be further required to post adequate guards to protect these places;

d. That, until such time as the German authorities show that they are prepared to apprehend the offenders and mete out punishment commensurate with gravity of the offenses, Military Government investigate the cases and try the offenders.

I am enclosing one copy of the Information Control Division study on anti-Semitism.

13. Situation in Austria

I regret that I have not been able to give Austria much of my time. The pressure of work in Germany has kept me from getting there as often as I should like. I have, however, kept in touch with General Keyes by letter and am planning to go to Vienna next week.

The liquidation of Camp New Palestine in Salzburg appears to be progressing according to schedule.

In accordance with my promise to General Keyes, I had Major Hyman make a speaking tour of all the camps in Austria between 1 April and 8 April. He addressed about 8000 of the 20000 DPs, appraising the total DP problem as we see it today. He stressed the need for cooperation with the Occupation forces, explained the Army's primary mission in Austria and the necessity for accommodating ourselves to the objectives that this mission involves, urged vigorous group action against notorious black market offenders, and appraised the immigration opportunities to countries other than Palestine. As I did at the Third Congress of Liberated Jews in Bad Reichenhall on 30 March, the Major gave the people little encouragement for migration to any country outside of Palestine.

The tour was well received by the people and the Austrian military authorities. The Civil Affairs Division has asked that we duplicate it in Germany.

14. Miscellaneous Items

a. Trip to Poland. With General Clay's permission and after clearing with the Office of the Political Adviser, Major Hyman and I went to Warsaw on 17-20 April to attend the dedication of the monument to the Warsaw Ghetto uprising. This is not the place to describe the terrific experience and its emotional effect upon the Major and me. I should, however, like to indicate some of the conclusions we were able to formulate as a result of our contact with representative Jews that we met in Warsaw. They are: (1) Although the government has the support of a maximum of only fifteen percent of the people, backed as it is by Russia, it is solidly entrenched. (2) Poland is working feverishly to repair the physical destruction caused by the war. (3) The Jews appreciate the government for its vigorous and forthright policy against anti-Semitism, but have little or no faith in the goodwill of the Polish people. (4) Of the 80000 Jews remaining in Poland, about eighty percent are eager to leave Poland. (5) There is an overwhelming sentiment for Palestine among the remnant of Polish Jewry.

(6) Even if given freedom of movement, the Jews will not elect to go to Israel via the DP camps of Central Europe. (7)The people are not in immediate danger. While they are secure and have economic opportunity, they have a real fear of the future.

b. Raids. Since my last report there have been no raids on Jewish camps. I believe that the military authorities are themselves beginning to realize that there is nothing to commend raids as a law enforcement technique. For example, in the raid on Zeilsheim, made for the ostensible purpose of finding caches of dynamite, not only were no explosives uncovered but, of the half dozen people who were arrested for the possession of alleged black market items, only three were brought to trial. Two men were acquitted, and one wound up with a minor sentence. The Provost Marshal, who conducted the raid, told us confidentially that he thought the mass raids were not "worth a damn".

In April, Standard Operating Procedure No.96 was promulgated by EUCOM, in which the Germans were given the full benefit of the Anglo-American safeguards in search and seizure. In brief, mass raids on Germans were strictly forbidden, and German homes could be entered and searched only when fortified with a warrant issued on reasonable grounds. DP camps were excluded from the benefit of this directive.

In spite of the waning resort to raids, I believe that, on principle, the discrimination against DPs inherent in this directive is without justification. Quite a number of top level people, involved both directly and indirectly in law enforcement, have told me and members of my staff that they personally resent the second-class status to which the DPs are relegated by this directive and cite the regulation as an outstanding example of confused thinking on the part of some of our people charged with implementing our Occupation policy. I am having a study made of this problem and, in the near future, will discuss this matter with General Clay.

c. UJA Campaign. During my 15 May conference with General Clay, he authorized us to proceed with a campaign for UJA among the military and civilian personnel in this Zone. Before our recognition of the provisional government of Israel, he had disapproved an Allied Jewish Appeal which, in its publicity, had laid emphasis on the collection of funds for Palestine.

d. Press and Public Relations. "Stars and Stripes", the most widely read newspaper in the Zone, has been giving a great deal of space to the situation in Palestine. On the whole, this publicity, showing Jews slugging it out with the Arabs and standing up for their rights, and the news highlighting the enlistment of Jewish DPs in the Haganah, has been very good. I like to believe that such publicity will redound to the benefit of the DPs, both in their relations with the military and with the Germans.

Recently, Information Central Division, the branch that publishes the Information and Education Bulletins that are used in the orientation of our troops, has been submitting for my comments and recommendations its proposed Bulletins that may have a bearing on our problem.

As a result, we have succeeded in having vital corrections and additions accepted and incorporated in a Bulletin on "Prejudice", already in circulation, and another Bulletin on "Displaced Persons", about to be published. The latter Bulletin has an entire division devoted to the Jewish DPs, which was prepared in my office.

15. Policy Issues

In view of the impasse in Palestine and its bearing upon the outlook for immigration, I can add little to the analysis contained in my report of 1 April. At that time I raised several crucial policy issues for your consideration. Nothing has happened, as of this moment, to decrease the importance of these issues. I am, therefore, exceedingly grateful to the agencies for the careful review, which these issues received in New York. Rabbi Bernstein's letter of 26 May summarizes the conclusions of the agencies in New York, and I appreciate his clear statement on each of the problems which I submitted for your review. I find myself in substantial agreement on all of the issues, and I will proceed in accordance with your views. At a meeting of all of the agencies in Germany and Austria, which is to take place in my office on 21 June, I will review the issues and your conclusions and seek a meeting of minds as to how best to strengthen those elements of the program, which need strengthening.

For the present, I am sure we can resist any pressure to compel the DPs to work in the German economy. There is no immediate danger of liquidating the camps. That problem may be serious six or eight months hence. For the present, the camp community will be retained. As to expansion of German administrative authority over DP operations, the issue here is not limited to Jewish camps. I consider such expansion quite inevitable. It can be resisted now, but not for long. I note that you wish advice from me as to what you should do about it in Washington. Do nothing for the present. I shall write specifically about this later. The expansion of work activity and vocational training will be exceedingly difficult and the problem may, in fact, be made more complicated by the monetary reform referred to above. Nevertheless, this problem represents a challenge and an opportunity, and we shall explore it fully at our 21 June meeting and in private consultations with the agencies.

I have noted the favorable actions of the committee with respect to my recommendations as to public relations and anti-Semitism, and I await developments and suggestions as to personnel.

Obviously, if large scale immigration were actually to get under way in the next sixty to ninety days, our views about such problems as vocational training, as well as on other issues, would have to be radically changed. Our observations and recommendations thus far have been based on certain assumptions respecting immigration to Palestine and the United States.

The formulation of both a long and short range program is contingent upon a cold analysis of the size and the nature of our problem. That, of course, cannot be determined until we realistically

appraise and definitely establish as our inflexible guide the rate at which the people can be gotten out of Germany and Austria.

Apropos this subject, I should like to comment on a UJA press release that has just reached me, reporting Goldie Meyerson's announcement of 23 May that "homeless Jews are now entering the new State of Israel at the rate of 15000 a month and, before the end of 1948, the total number of immigrants to Palestine will exceed 120000." I do not know whether this statement was made for campaign purposes. I have been unable to get a confirmation of its accuracy and, in view of the news that there are still about 25000 people on Cyprus, I am inclined to discount the report and to consider it as a wish, rather than as a statement of fact.

In my opinion, we should not hesitate for one second to face the truth the moment the truth can be determined. It is sufficient that the DP camps, containing the most conspicuous concentration of Jews, pressing for a new home, have served their historic purpose in emphasizing the need for a Jewish homeland. From now on the DPs must be treated as people and, for their own good, must at the earliest date be told what they, as individuals, may expect in terms of migration to Palestine in the light of all known circumstances, including absorbtive capacity and the need for satisfying the demands of Jews seeking to migrate to Palestine from other than DP countries. Not only do we owe this obligation to the DP's but, until this step is taken, we shall permit matters in Germany and Austria to drift and deny the people wholesome and constructive leadership during their enforced period of waiting.

16. A Personal Note

It is perhaps not too early to insert a few lines concerning my personal plans. In negotiating my leave from the University of Michigan last December, I found it necessary to assure the University that I would definitely return to Ann Arbor in time for the opening of the fall term. I advised Rabbi Bernstein of this fact when he called in December to tell me that the cooperating agencies were prepared to recommend me to Secretary Royall. While I am still to be here nearly four months, I feel obliged to formally advise you of my plans, so that you may have adequate time to consider the selection of my successor.

Frankly, I shall be sorry to leave here next fall. The work here is not only important but, from the personal standpoint, it is interesting and exciting in the extreme. One quickly becomes a part of the complex economic, administrative, and human problems which affect our people and identifies himself with their lives and aspirations. In addition, many problems now under discussion, such as camp consolidation, immigration to the United States and Palestine, expansion of German administrative control over DPs, the intensification of vocational training and work projects, and similar developments, are not likely to come to a head until late in the year, and I recognize that it would be desirable, for the sake of the continuity, to be here and see this problem through to a conclusion.

318328

I want you to know that, while I would be happier if I felt it possible to extend my stay here beyond September, I feel that my promise to the University was definite and firm. Accordingly, I am planning to return to Ann Arbor in time for classes next fall.

When I came here in January, we were all hopeful that the liquidation of the Jewish DP problem would be under way by early spring and that I might, perhaps, be the last of the Advisers on Jewish Affairs to the American Commanders in Europe. Had that development materialized, I would have urged that the appointment of my successor was not imperative and that Major Hyman could effectively and successfully carry on and wind up the work of the Adviser's Office during such period as it was necessary to function beyond next fall. Since that has not materialized and since it appears that, even under the most optimistic appraisal of the future, the size of the problem in Germany and Austria will still be substantial for at least six months after next October, it is my judgment that a successor should be named. The late fall and spring months are bound to present sensitive and difficult problems, which call for careful handling with the top level authorities.

Sincerely yours,
signed: William Haber
Adviser on Jewish Affair

WH/mf
Encl

4297/6-18-48/30 -KRG/ek
REL 4709

318329

APO 403, c/o Postmaster
New York, New York

June 10, 1948

Mr. Meir Grossman
Director of Department of Overseas Relations
American Jewish Conference
521 Fifth Avenue
New York 17, New York

For transmission to: American Jewish Committee
American Jewish Conference
American Joint Distribution Committee
Jewish Agency for Palestine
World Jewish Congress

Dear Mr. Grossman:

Although it was my plan to submit to you monthly a survey of the situation here, I concluded that I could wait with this report until several weeks had passed beyond the declaration of the Jewish State. In the final analysis, the approach to our problem and its ultimate solution rests almost entirely upon what takes place in Palestine, and I thought I could be more concrete after the situation in Palestine had crystallized.

1. The Situation in General

Obviously, the most significant development in the total picture is the emergence of Israel as a Jewish State and the impact that this has had on the people. Judging from the earnest and spontaneous celebrations that greeted this event and from the interest in and the day to day reactions to the progress of events in Palestine, I am convinced that it is foolish to pursue the inquiry whether the DPs do or do not want to go to Palestine. In the first place, I find that there is an overwhelming enthusiasm for Palestine, reflected in the registration of over seventy percent of the people and in the increasing tempo of the recruitment program. In the second place, when it finally becomes clear that there are no resettlement opportunities outside of Palestine - and if the Senate immigration bill is sustained by the House it will surely have that effect - most of the people will accept that fact as inescapable and will cast their lot with those who by choice want to go to Palestine.

The above may serve as further comment on the Klaumner report. In the past few weeks, members of my staff and I have "unofficially" attended a

313330

number of farewell gatherings for men who have volunteered for military service in Israel. When we see entire camps turn out for such events and hear recruits who are identified as black market operators exhort their fellow Jews to "abandon their golden calf and join in the defense of their country", we feel that, even under existing conditions, the DPs will emigrate to Israel as rapidly as the new State will accept them.

I am happy to be able to report that there is a good deal of sympathy and support for Israel among the local military authorities. On 15 May I had a conference with General Clay. It was an unusually warm conference. The General expressed his profound interest in the new State, was happy that it had come into being, and stated that he was always for an independent national homeland for the Jewish people. He told me that he wanted to participate in the celebration of the event sponsored by the Central Committee and scheduled to be held in Munich on 18 May, but was precluded from doing do by a meeting that he had to attend in London. The only misgiving that he had about the declaration of the State was one of timing and suggested that some form of trusteeship might have been more advisable under existing conditions. He felt that, while the Jews could achieve an immediate military victory over the Arabs, they would not succeed in a long war of attrition. In any event he, as well as his subordinates, have assured me that they would do everything within their powers to assist in the migration of Jewish DPs to Palestine.

Since my last report, I have had periodic sessions with Generals Clay, Huebner, and Harrold, and have also conferred with Generals White (before his departure from the Zone), Hays (the Deputy Military Governor in Berlin), and with Military Government officials. These conferences indicate certain attitudes and trends with regard to camp consolidation, anti-semitism, immigration, and extension of German police control over DP camps. These and similar problems are referred to in this report.

You may be interested in the aspect of the current situation in the camps. During the past few months, the leadership in many camps has been seriously weakened because the most capable and disciplined people have left for Palestine. There has been a substantial turnover in camp committee membership, in camp police, and in camp administration. In some camps, most of the nurses have left for Palestine. The same is true of many doctors. The IRO is seriously concerned about this and is beginning to question whether self-administration of the Jewish DP camps can be maintained if the drain of camp leadership and specialized personnel continues. We have reviewed this problem with the Director of the Jewish Agency for Palestine and emphasized the importance of some "deferment" for such personnel in connection with the current "mobilization". It is my impression that most of the young men are already gone and that such "reserves" as remain will go in the next four to six weeks. The drain will then cease to an end. Nevertheless, it is our view that, as a result of this loss of key people in Munich and in the camps, the Sheerith Hapleita has been weakened in leadership and discipline. How serious this is will depend upon the speed with which general immigration gets under way.

318331

2. Consolidation of Camps

Ever since my arrival, the closing of Zeilsheim, one of the oldest as well as one of the best camps, has been a subject of frequent discussion. Its proximity to our Headquarters in Frankfurt made it particularly vulnerable to attack. The camp became synonymous with large-scale black market operations. Even a man as sympathetic and as soft-spoken as General White once referred to this camp before me in very bitter terms. Right or wrong, the attitude here has been that this camp is no credit to the Command. Finally, about the middle of April, General Huebner ordered the camp closed. In spite of its reputation, I was prepared to put up a fight to retain it, largely because I felt that the place offered the people a degree of comfort and because I was convinced that its general reputation was exaggerated.

However, when the proposition was put to me that the camp had to be closed as a "military necessity" and that its 230 housing units were to be occupied by American dependents, I had no choice but to yield. Thereupon, I suggested a program of liquidation that I thought was humane and that I believed would be effected without running into serious resistance on the part of the people. According to my proposal, (a) the announcement of the closing of the camp would be postponed until several weeks after 15 May; (b) about 15 June, the camp residents would be told that military necessity demanded that the camp be closed by 1 September; (c) the camp would be gradually liquidated by permitting the people to choose any camp in the Zone where they might find space to accommodate them; and (d) on 1 September, the camp would be closed. General Huebner thought this proposal reasonable and conferences followed with the view of implementing it. It did not take long to learn that the people bitterly resented the suggestion that they move this fall. The only Aliyah in which they were interested is one from Zeilsheim to Israel. They considered it cruel for the Army to cause them to search for quarters in other camps in Germany while they are now engaged in making final preparations to leave Germany for good. They refused to believe that military necessity dictated the move, insisted that the liquidation of the camp had become an issue in the local German election campaign, and were certain that the houses were going to be returned to their former German occupants as a further concession to the "over-coddled" Germans. In any event, they threatened that the people were in such a mood that they would raze the houses to the ground and would move only if evicted bodily by the troops, and climaxed their arguments with the prediction, "England had its Exodus, the Americans will have their Zeilsheim." On a more rational level, they suggested that a substantial part of the camp would, or could, by 1 January 1949, be emptied by migration to Israel and urged that I intervene with the authorities to get an extension to that date.

Although I was not particularly sanguine about getting the move postponed beyond 1 September, I felt that it was my duty to report to the authorities what they might expect in the way of resistance. In the meantime, Major Ryan, who represented me at a meeting in Heidelberg, where the final plans for the liquidation of the camp were to take shape, reported

318332

to me that the plans called for the closing of Zeilsheim by 30 June and that, following this liquidation, and at fifteen day intervals, Stuttgart West, Lampertheim, and Heidenheim, would be closed.

I was not too greatly surprised over the date of 30 June for Zeilsheim because I felt, as was later confirmed, that this was an error on the part of a member of General Harrold's staff. I was also prepared for the news on Stuttgart West because that camp, situated in the capitol of Land Wurttemberg-Baden, where the Constabulary has recently moved, shares the unsavory reputation of Zeilsheim as a black market center. However, the extension of the consolidation plans to include Lampertheim and Heidenheim put the program into an entirely new light. These four camps, placed on the block, happen to be four of only six good camps in the entire Zone. Although I felt that some consolidation is necessary and logical, in view of the shrinkage in the DP population, I thought that this type of consolidation was consolidation with a vengeance. I promptly conferred with General Huebner and advised strongly against the simultaneous liquidation of the best camps in the Zone, pointing out that such a move was not only oppressive, but that it would injure the good reputation the Army had acquired in dealing humanely with this problem. General Huebner indicated that the plans for the liquidation of Lampertheim and Heidenheim were in the most tentative stage. As to my report on the attitude of the people in Zeilsheim, although he was obviously angry and disappointed, he announced that he would, under no circumstances, use troops to get the people out of Zeilsheim. "By God", said he, "I'll have no Jewish incident on my conscience." General Harrold subsequently told me that the liquidation of Lampertheim and Heidenheim was still in the talking stage.

The closing of Zeilsheim was left in abeyance. By the middle of this week, I am to hear from General Harrold the final thinking on this matter. However, regardless of what the authorities decree, I am definitely of the opinion that the people in the camp must take the initiative in making a proposal which is reasonable and to which they will eventually adhere. My present thinking is to get the people to accept 1 November as the date for the closing of the camp.

At this juncture, I want to take the liberty of commenting on a letter I just received from Harold Glasser, in which he suggests that the camp at Zeilsheim should be liquidated by transferring a substantial number of the people to Italy where, Glasser says, both the Italian and Jewish communities would welcome them and where living conditions are, on the whole, very favorable. I have explored this proposal with the local IRO authorities, with the Agency representatives, and with the camp leaders. I believe that I am now safe in stating that the plan would be feasible only if the people were issued visas to Israel and were transferred to Italy as merely a stop-over point while en route to Israel. They are not interested in exchanging the certainties of life in Germany for the uncertainties that they may encounter in Italy. With justification, the people argue that they are tired of being moved as DPs. They want their next move to be either direct to Palestine or to some other country of their choice, or to a transit point on the way to their ultimate destination.

316333

They do not consider an indiscriminate move to Italy as falling within either category. I have consulted with the Jewish Agency for Palestine Director and learned that no proposal to favor one camp in expediting emigration to Palestine can be entertained. I think that we shall have to conclude that Glasser's proposal is unworkable.

The liquidation of Zeilsheim, of course, raises the entire issue of consolidation. The authorities point out that the Jewish in-camp population has in the past year shrunk substantially, while the number of camp installations has remained fairly constant. On the basis of IRO reports, they claim that there are approximately 14,000 vacant "spaces" in the existing installations. They are prepared to concede that these figures are high and estimate that only half that number are actually available. On the other hand, I have personally visited more than twenty camps since my arrival, five of them in the Kassel area within the past month, and find that, except in rare instances, the people are still living under crowded conditions.

In a conference with General Clay in Berlin on 9 June, I learned that Army concentration in certain areas will seriously increase the demand for dependents' quarters and that the proposal to liquidate the four camps mentioned above was related to this development. General Clay was disturbed to learn that these four camps represent the best facilities for Jewish DPs in the U. S. Zone. Nevertheless, it is my judgment that, in view of the Army's needs, plus the fact that at least two of the camps are located in crowded urban areas, we may have to be prepared for serious difficulties if these camps are to be closed.

I believe that there is merit in consolidation. It is both logical and inevitable. However, in its implementation, I shall urge two principles: (1) that the worst camps be liquidated first and (2) that the saturation point of any installation be judged by the standards of a fairly stable camp, instead of a norm applicable to transient centers. At this stage, I feel that an impartial and scientific study of camp capacity should be made by the IRO and the Jewish organizations serving the DPs and that this study should be made the basis for negotiating with the Army on an overall consolidation program, both present and prospective.

3. Closing the Berlin Camps

General Clay agreed to the closing of the two Berlin Jewish camps "as soon as the move can be facilitated". I have urged this action for some time. It is eagerly sought by the people in the camps and it is favored by the IRO and the Agency. The move cannot be implemented immediately. As you know, there are no trains leaving Berlin and General Clay, of course, will not request the Russians for permission to pass such a train in order to move the camps. The move by truck is likely to be difficult and expensive. The camps hold over 6,500 people, of whom about eighty percent are likely to be involved in the transfer to the Zone. It was agreed that, as soon as the Jewish Agency is granted the right to issue visas, it should negotiate such a move directly with the Russian representatives in Berlin.

318334

If the Agency should receive permission for the train or trucks to pass, General Clay would authorize the liquidation of these camps.

The Berlin camps have long presented special difficulties. Their proximity to the Russian Zone provided to many of the people in the camps profitable opportunities for trade between the Russian and American Zones. Such business connections have, at times, been exceedingly embarrassing to all of us. It is my fear that after the financial reform, now under discussion, is completed, the opportunity for such transactions will increase. In addition, emigration out of Berlin is especially difficult, and the people ought to be in the Zone, where they can be processed more easily.

4. Jewish Civilian Engineer Construction Company

The fears that I expressed in my 1 April report, relative to the formation of the proposed Jewish construction company, have not materialized. With relatively little effort, several enterprising and aggressive Jewish DP engineers, backed by the Zonal Employment Board (on which sit representatives of the AJDC, JAFP, and the Central Committee), succeeded in recruiting the 225 men necessary to form the company. The men combine all of the required building skills. They range in ages from 18 to 45. About half of the group is married men, whose wives and children continue to live in the camps. The men get permission to spend Saturdays and Sundays with their families. At the present time, the group is stationed in Hanau, about twenty miles east of Frankfurt, where they live in a tent camp that they set up, pending their construction of permanent barracks. The initial reports on the attitude and performance of this group are highly favorable. General Huebner is well pleased with the project and has promised to inspect it officially at an early date. General Clay told me that he thought the idea was an excellent one.

Since the initial success of the project runs counter to some of our conclusions that we have regarded almost as axiomatic, particularly with respect to the reactions of the DPs to a work program, I think you might be interested in knowing the inducements that have attracted the men to this company. From the Army they receive the continental worker's ration of about 3,500 calories per day, an average of 200 marks per month, five U. S. dollars per month which they may use in the purchase of PX items, and the right to purchase one-half the U. S. Army cigarette ration per month. In addition, they receive from the AJDC the ration for the category assigned to the work in which they are engaged. The average is category five, which provides for substantial supplementation (18 packages of cigarettes, 1 package of tobacco, 2 cans of meat, 2 cans of milk, 700 grams sugar, 650 grams coffee, 3 kilos flour, 24 ounces fat, 1 can powdered milk (12 ounces), 1 package cheese). The individual is furnished a complete uniform, which is paid for by deductions from the marks payment he receives.

The argument has been advanced that the primary reason for the enthusiastic response to this project is the desire to escape from the pressure for the "Giyus". While that may apply to some of the men, I would discount it as an explanation for the company as a group. It certainly is not applicable

318335

to the married men who have children and who are, therefore, automatically ineligible for the Giyus, and those who are eligible could successfully resist the pressure, as thousands in the camps are doing, without joining the company. / I am inclined to give credence to the simple explanation that the men themselves offered. They joined the company because of the material rewards they receive. Most of the people barely got along on what they received from IRO and the AJDC, and seized the opportunity to improve their lot. If the response of this group is typical of those who are not entrenched in some prosperous "enterprise", and I am inclined to believe it is, we have material from which we can draw some valuable conclusions and formulate policy in the event we conclude that the early liquidation of the DP problem through mass resettlement is not possible.

I should add that the labor company has had some problems that have required the constant attention of my office. The men are under the supervision of several officers who have had no experience in working with Jewish DPs. These officers needed proper orientation. Today, the chief obstacle is to get the workers accepted by the people in the camps. The men complain that, when they return to the camps for the week-ends, they are abused and called traitors. Dressed in a distinct uniform, they are an easy target for public calumny. I am doing everything I can to neutralize this reaction on the part of the people. Realizing the public relations importance of this project, I have assigned Chaplain Barish, who recently joined my staff, to make this company and its problems his primary interest. He has been meeting with the men, has been conferring with the officers in charge of the company, and has been in touch with the Central Committee and the camp committees, whose affirmative support is indispensable to the company's success.

5. Giyus

Beginning in February of this year, the recruitment for Hagganah began in the camps. The Agency people in the U. S. Zone, Germany, tell me that when this program started about 9,000 people were eligible for this Aliyah. To qualify, a person must be between the ages of 17 and 35 and, if married, must be childless. Every camp established its own Giyus department and, through posters and other propaganda media, issued a general call to the people. When this means was exhausted, the Giyus leaders examined the cases of those who had not responded and used "persuasive" measures of different degrees to get the men to enlist. To date, approximately 3,000 men and women have left the Zone on this Aliyah. About one-third of the number are women. Approximately 500 left after 15 May. I am also informed that an additional 1,200 are "in the mill", now being processed for early departure. The Agency people and the camp leaders are greatly encouraged by the response that this program has been receiving. The men who leave are given farewell parties by the camp committees, and the occasions are used to extol the candidates, to wish them well, and to whip up sentiment for additional enlistment. At first, the form of pressure exerted upon the men was crude, often reflecting techniques which the people had learned from their own oppressors. This activity was bound, as it did, to come to the attention of the military authorities, who made it known that they would not countenance coercion in any form.

318336

Quite frequently, the type of pressure that was used interfered with AJDC operations. However, like many other problems, adjustments are being made and some of the more flagrant abuses are being discarded. The recruitment program seems to be in full swing and, yet, the military authorities have not found it necessary, as they did in the earlier stages, to call the coercion aspect of it to my attention. I am convinced that most of the people who are responding are doing so of their own free will. Naturally, there are moral pressures at work in any camp. It is the kind of pressure that was present in the normal American community and that induced men to volunteer for the service, instead of waiting to be called up under the draft law.

6. Extension of German Authority Over DP Camps

Within the past two months, there have been several proposals to permit the use of German police in DP camps. Under current directives, German police may enter a Jewish camp only when accompanied by military personnel, for the sole purpose of identifying a DP who has committed an offense outside of the assembly center. The directives further provide that, on such missions, the German police must be unarmed. In the first attempt to broaden German police authority, OMGUS, during the early part of May, pointed out that 140,000 DPs were living in the German economy who were under the jurisdiction of the German police and who had, evidently, accommodated themselves to this control. I succeeded in persuading the Civil Affairs Division to oppose this change and to adopt the view that there is a vital distinction between DPs who live outside of the assembly centers, where they encounter the German policeman as individuals, and those who live in camps, where mass feeling plays a dominant role. Last week, the Civil Affairs Division submitted for my approval a revision of current regulations on law enforcement in the DP camps, which would permit (a) pre-trial confinement in German jails and (b) the use of unarmed German police in "pinpoint searches". A pinpoint search was defined as a search and seizure operation against specifically named individuals, in which no more than fifty law enforcement personnel could be used. The proposed directive would authorize the employment of Germans, provided they would be accompanied by an equal number of U. S. military personnel. Because of the experience with post-trial confinement of Jewish DPs in German jails, I indicated my approval of the change with respect to pre-trial confinement, but protested against the use of German police in pinpoint searches. This, I felt, was being used as an initial wedge, to be followed by further extension of German police authority over the Jewish camps. I succeeded in persuading the section in Civil Affairs Division responsible for drafting the circular that Jewish installations should be exempt from any provision that contemplates the extension of German police authority over DP camps.

While to this date we have been successful in postponing the full employment of German police in Jewish camps, we should expect that the day will come when we will have to yield to the pressure on this score that emanates both from German and from U. S. Military Government sources. [illegible]ly recent conferences with top level people convince me that it may be possible to maintain the status quo until after the mass movement of the people is fully under way, provided, of course, that this movement materializes

318337

within the next six months. After that, surely after the situation has become stable, we will, I feel, be compelled to yield on this, as well as on many other, issues.

7. IRO Policy of Abstaining from Aiding Migration to Israel

I have already sent you the statements, reflecting IRO's official views on assisting migration to Israel. As a result of various representations, particularly the intervention of Mr. George Warren of the U. S. State Department, the IRO policy has already been partially modified. The IRO will assist with processing, trucks, and rations, and will keep a record of the members so aided for possible later negotiations. I am confident that, in the event IRO were to withdraw its help altogether, the Army would step into the breach and supply the necessary personnel and transport to move the people up to the zonal borders. I am advised that this policy of the IRO and its modification suggests a serious rift between the British and United States viewpoints in the IRO administration. The fullest representations should be made to the State Department in order to secure a complete reversal of this policy. This is necessary in order to make IRO assume the financial burden of moving the people from Germany to Israel.

8. Recognition of Agency Personnel as Consular Officials

Prior to our country's de facto recognition of Israel, the Agency people and I speculated on the tenuous position of the Agency's representatives in the Zones of Occupation in the event the United States withheld its recognition from the new state. This, of course, was resolved by the instantaneous action taken by our country on 14 May. However, there still are technical problems that await solution. EUCOM cabled the Department of the Army, proposing to recognize the JAFP personnel as official representatives of the State of Israel in this area, to recognize all entry permits issued by such personnel, and to support the processing and movement of such persons as long as IRO refrains from extending assistance. The Department of the Army, after consulting with State, in the reply approved the proposal for planning purposes, but requested that no action to implement the program be undertaken until after the truce is in effect and to await further advice from Washington. Since the truce is now in effect, we hope that such authorization will be announced.

9. Economic Consequences of Proposed Devaluation of the German Currency

Plans are now developed for a radical monetary reform of German currency. The specific details and the date when it will occur are, of course, not known to me. I am aware, however, of enough of the details and I understand the economic implications of the reform to be able to indicate that the costs of carrying on the German operation by the agencies, especially the AJDC, will increase considerably. It will not be possible to purchase supplementary supplies for work projects, nor to pay local workers with marks, which cost relatively little in American dollars or in commodities. The reform will, obviously, also affect the economic position of DPs who depend upon the black market, for, in addition to stabilizing the value of

318338

the mark, the reform is to be accompanied by a substantial importation of consumers' goods, such as cigarettes, into Germany. It is, in fact, suggested by some that many of the DPs living outside of the camps will find their economic position seriously hurt.

10. Curtailment in Chaplains Program

A combination of circumstances have forced a considerable curtailment in the assignment of Jewish chaplains to work among the DPs. From a peak number of nine that were assigned to this work, there are now six, of whom four are being redeployed or transferred to other assignments. One of the two remaining is Chaplain Louis Barish who, as I indicated, is now assigned to my office. One replacement, a chaplain of considerable experience and tested in DP work, is expected to arrive this month. Under my arrangement with the military, we will be allowed two itinerant chaplains to work in the field and one to work out of my office. I have written Rabbi Lev of the Jewish Welfare Board a detailed explanation for this reduction in the DP chaplains program and sent Rabbi Bernstein and Judge Levinthal, who were instrumental in promoting the idea of using chaplains among DPs, copies of my letter. In brief, the Army officer strength was being reduced, and I could not, in good conscience, make a case for retaining some of the men who had either developed outside interests or were generally ineffective in their work. I share my predecessors' views that there is a job for chaplains of ability and have left the matter in such shape that I am free to recommend an increase in the number of DP chaplains, provided the candidates for this type of work are of such caliber that they can be of real service to the DPs.

11. Restitution

Undoubtedly, you know that the State Department has authorized General Clay to recognize the successor organization incorporated in the States, with a subsidiary corporation to be set up in Germany. Mr. Mason has been after the people in OMGUS to get this decision implemented. I reviewed the problem with General Clay in Berlin on 9 June and was advised that the order activating the successor corporation will be issued in a few days. I also suggested that the date for filing claims will have to be extended beyond 31 December 1948. He rejected that possibility, and I propose to raise it again at a later date. In view of the great delay in getting the law approved and the successor organization recognized, it may be necessary to insist upon a six months' extension of the filing date, so as to bring the statute of limitations for the filing of claims to 30 June 1949, instead of 31 December 1948, as the restitution law now provides. I may write you later and ask that you intervene in this matter with the appropriate authorities in Washington

I am convinced that only the most aggressive leadership and forceful representation by the executive head of the successor organization will produce any results when this work gets under way.

313339

Due to some misunderstanding, Joshua Starr, who represents Cultural Reconstruction Incorporated, was not permitted to come into this Zone. After several abortive attempts on Mr. Mason's part to get him admitted, I finally became interested in the matter and succeeded in getting Starr's application for an entry permit approved for a period of fifteen days. This has since been extended for another month. I am sure that after the successor organization gets functioning in Germany, Cultural Reconstruction, Incorporated, will also be recognized, and its personnel will be able to pursue their work in the Offenbach Depot and other collecting points, where Jewish cultural objects are now deposited.

12. Anti-Semitism

Although a recent Army survey indicates that there is a slight improvement in the German attitude toward the Jews, overt acts of anti-Semitism, reflected especially in the desecration of Jewish cemeteries, go unabated. Records indicate that hundreds of tombstones throughout the Zone have either been overturned or otherwise defiled. While no area is exempt from these outrages, Protestant Upper Bavaria (Franconia), the fortress of Streicher's brand of Nazism, appears to show the greatest amount of activity of this nature. After bringing this to General Clay's attention, the General asked me to assemble the facts, promising to take such reasonable measures as are necessary to meet the problem. As part of my investigation, I met with that section of Military Governor Van Wagoner's staff in Munich, whose work is related to this problem. Frankly, I was amazed to learn that reports that I had been receiving actually understated the problem. The actual number of incidents would justify one in calling the vandalism epidemic in nature. The only comforting aspect of my two-hour conference with Van Wagoner's staff was the pleasant discovery that they had an intelligent appraisal of the problem and viewed it in its proper perspective. To them it was not only a manifestation of anti-Semitism but was a brazen challenge to the authority of the United States Occupation Forces. The desecration of the cemeteries is considered unofficially by some as a trial balloon launched by the Germans to see how far they can go without inviting reprisals on the part of the Army.

The problem is, of course, a stubborn one, and the presence in Germany of our DPs in any substantial number, by no means helps the situation. While I have serious doubts whether any concrete good may result from my proposals, I have prepared a memorandum for General Clay, in which I am urging the following measures:

a. That the General issue a public statement, denouncing the wanton destruction of these cemeteries;

b. That, in his conferences with the Presidents of the Laender, the General review the situation and explain the need for vigorous action on the part of the German authorities;

c. That the Laender be required to repair the damages to the tombstones and graveyards and be further required to post adequate guards to protect these places;

318340

d. That, until such time as the German authorities show that they are prepared to apprehend the offenders and mete out punishment commensurate with the gravity of the offenses, Military Government investigate the cases and try the offenders.

I am enclosing one copy of the Information Control Division study on anti-Semitism.

13. Situation in Austria

I regret that I have not been able to give Austria much of my time. The pressure of work in Germany has kept me from getting there as often as I should like. I have, however, kept in touch with General Keyes by letter and am planning to go to Vienna next week.

The liquidation of Camp New Palestine in Salzburg appears to be progressing according to schedule.

In accordance with my promise to General Keyes, I had Major Hyman make a speaking tour of all the camps in Austria between 1 April and 8 April. He addressed about 8,000 of the 20,000 DPs, appraising the total DP problem as we see it today. He stressed the need for cooperation with the Occupation forces, explained the Army's primary mission in Austria and the necessity for accommodating ourselves to the objectives that this mission involves, urged vigorous group action against notorious black market offenders, and appraised the immigration opportunities to countries other than Palestine. As I did at the Third Congress of Liberated Jews in Bad Reichenhall on 30 March, the Major gave the people little encouragement for migration to any country outside of Palestine.

The tour was well received by the people and the Austrian military authorities. The Civil Affairs Division has asked that we duplicate it in Germany.

14. Miscellaneous Items

a. Trip to Poland. With General Clay's permission and after clearing with the Office of the Political Adviser, Major Hyman and I went to Warsaw on 17 to 20 April to attend the dedication of the monument to the Warsaw Ghetto uprising. This is not the place to describe the terrific experience and its emotional effect upon the Major and me. I should, however, like to indicate some of the conclusions we were able to formulate as a result of our contact with representative Jews that we met in Warsaw. They are: (1) Although the government has the support of a maximum of only fifteen percent of the people, backed as it is by Russia, it is solidly entrenched. (2) Poland is working feverishly to repair the physical destruction caused by the war. (3) The Jews appreciate the government for its vigorous and forthright policy against anti-Semitism, but have little or no faith in the goodwill of the Polish people. (4) Of the 80,000 Jews remaining in Poland, about eighty percent are eager to leave

318341

Poland. (5) There is an overwhelming sentiment for Palestine among the remnant of Polish Jewry. (6) Even if given freedom of movement, the Jews will not elect to go to Israel via the DP camps of Central Europe. (7) The people are not in immediate danger. While they are secure and have economic opportunity, they have a real fear of the future.

b. Raids. Since my last report, there have been no raids on Jewish camps. I believe that the military authorities are themselves beginning to realize that there is nothing to commend raids as a law enforcement technique. For example, in the raid on Zeilsheim, made for the ostensible purpose of finding caches of dynamite, not only were no explosives uncovered but, of the half dozen people who were arrested for the possession of alleged black market items, only three were brought to trial. Two men were acquitted, and one wound up with a minor sentence. The Provost Marshal, who conducted the raid, told us confidentially that he thought the mass raids were not "worth a damn".

In April, Standard Operating Procedure No. 96 was promulgated by EUCOM, in which the Germans were given the full benefit of the Anglo-American safeguards in search and seizure. In brief, mass raids on Germans were strictly forbidden, and German homes could be entered and searched only when fortified with a warrant issued on reasonable grounds. DP camps were excluded from the benefit of this directive.

In spite of the waning resort to raids, I believe that, on principle, the discrimination against DPs inherent in this directive is without justification. Quite a number of top level people, involved both directly and indirectly in law enforcement, have told me and members of my staff that they personally resent the second-class status to which the DPs are relegated by this directive and cite the regulation as an outstanding example of confused thinking on the part of some of our people charged with implementing our Occupation policy. I am having a study made of this problem and, in the near future, will discuss this matter with General Clay.

c. UJA Campaign. During my 15 May conference with General Clay, he authorized us to proceed with a campaign for UJA among the military and civilian personnel in this Zone. Before our recognition of the provisional government of Israel, he had disapproved an Allied Jewish Appeal which, in its publicity, had laid emphasis on the collection of funds for Palestine.

d. Press and Public Relations. "Stars and Stripes", the most widely read newspaper in the Zone, has been giving a great deal of space to the situation in Palestine. On the whole, this publicity, showing Jews slugging it out with the Arabs and standing up for their rights, and the news highlighting the enlistment of Jewish DPs in the Haganah, has been very good. I like to believe that such publicity will redound to the benefit of the DPs, both in their relations with the military and with the Germans.

310342

Recently, Information Control Division, the branch that publishes the Information and Education Bulletins that are used in the orientation of our troops, has been submitting for my comments and recommendations its proposed Bulletins that may have a bearing on our problem. As a result, we have succeeded in having vital corrections and additions accepted and incorporated in a Bulletin on "Prejudice", already in circulation, and another Bulletin on "Displaced Persons", about to be published. The latter Bulletin has an entire division devoted to the Jewish DPs, which was prepared in my office.

15. Policy Issues

In view of the impasse in Palestine and its bearing upon the outlook for immigration, I can add little to the analysis contained in my report of 1 April. At that time I raised several crucial policy issues for your consideration. Nothing has happened, as of this moment, to decrease the importance of these issues. I am, therefore, exceedingly grateful to the agencies for the careful review which these issues received in New York. Rabbi Bernstein's letter of 26 May summarizes the conclusions of the agencies in New York, and I appreciate his clear statement on each of the problems which I submitted for your review. I find myself in substantial agreement on all of the issues, and I will proceed in accordance with your views. At a meeting of all of the agencies in Germany and Austria, which is to take place in my office on 21 June, I will review the issues and your conclusions and seek a meeting of minds as to how best to strengthen those elements of the program which need strengthening.

For the present, I am sure we can resist any pressure to compel the DPs to work in the German economy. There is no immediate danger of liquidating the camps. That problem may be serious six or eight months hence. For the present, the camp community will be retained. As to expansion of German administrative authority over DP operations, the issue here is not limited to Jewish camps. I consider such expansion quite inevitable. It can be resisted now, but not for long. I note that you wish advice from me as to what you should do about it in Washington. Do nothing for the present. I shall write specifically about this later. The expansion of work activity and vocational training will be exceedingly difficult and the problem may, in fact, be made more complicated by the monetary reform referred to above. Nevertheless, this problem represents a challenge and an opportunity, and we shall explore it fully at our 21 June meeting and in private consultations with the agencies.

I have noted the favorable actions of the committee with respect to my recommendations as to public relations and anti-semitism, and I await developments and suggestions as to personnel.

Obviously, if large scale immigration were actually to get under way in the next sixty to ninety days, our views about such problems as vocational training, as well as on other issues, would have to be radically changed. Our observations and recommendations thus far have been based on certain assumptions respecting immigration to Palestine and the United States.

318343

The formulation of both a long and short range program is contingent upon a cold analysis of the size and nature of our problem. That, of course, cannot be determined until we realistically appraise and definitely establish as our inflexible guide the rate at which the people can be gotten out of Germany and Austria.

Apropos this subject, I should like to comment on a UJA press release that has just reached me, reporting Golda Meyerson's announcement of 23 May that "homeless Jews are now entering the new State of Israel at the rate of 15,000 a month and, before the end of 1948, the total number of immigrants to Palestine will exceed 120,000". I do not know whether this statement was made for campaign purposes. I have been unable to get a confirmation of its accuracy and, in view of the news that there are still about 25,000 people on Cyprus, I am inclined to discount the report and to consider it as a wish, rather than as a statement of fact.

In my opinion, we should not hesitate for one second to face the truth the moment the truth can be determined. It is sufficient that the DP camps, containing the most conspicuous concentration of Jews, pressing for a new home, have served their historic purpose in emphasizing the need for a Jewish homeland. From now on, the DPs must be treated as people and, for their own good, must at the earliest date be told what they, as individuals, may expect in terms of migration to Palestine in the light of all known circumstances, including absorbtive capacity and the need for satisfying the demands of Jews seeking to migrate to Palestine from other than DP countries. Not only do we owe this obligation to the DPs but, until this step is taken, we shall permit matters in Germany and Austria to drift and deny the people wholesome and constructive leadership during their enforced period of waiting.

16. A Personal Note

It is perhaps not too early to insert a few lines concerning my personal plans. In negotiating my leave from the University of Michigan last December, I found it necessary to assure the University that I would definitely return to Ann Arbor in time for the opening of the fall term. I advised Rabbi Bernstein of this fact when he called in December to tell me that the cooperating agencies were prepared to recommend me to Secretary Royall. While I am still to be here nearly four months, I feel obliged to formally advise you of my plans, so that you may have adequate time to consider the selection of my successor.

Frankly, I shall be sorry to leave here next fall. The work here is not only important but, from the personal standpoint, it is interesting and exciting in the extreme. One quickly becomes a part of the complex economic, administrative, and human problems which affect our people and identifies himself with their lives and aspirations. In addition, many problems now under discussion, such as camp consolidation, immigration to the United States and Palestine, expansion of German administrative control over DPs, the intensification of vocational training and work projects, and similar developments, are not likely to come to a head until

318344

late in the year, and I recognize that it would be desirable, for the sake of continuity, to be here and see this problem through to a conclusion.

I want you to know that, while I would be happier if I felt it possible to extend my stay here beyond September, I feel that my promise to the University was definite and firm. Accordingly, I am planning to return to Ann Arbor in time for classes next fall.

When I came here in January, we were all hopeful that the liquidation of the Jewish DP problem would be under way by early spring and that I might, perhaps, be the last of the Advisers on Jewish Affairs to the American Commanders in Europe. Had that development materialized, I would have urged that the appointment of my successor was not imperative and that Major Hyman could effectively and successfully carry on and wind up the work of the Adviser's Office during such period as it was necessary to function beyond next fall. Since that has not materialized and since it appears that, even under the most optimistic appraisal of the future, the size of the problem in Germany and Austria will still be substantial for at least six months after next October, it is my judgment that a successor should be named. The late fall and spring months are bound to present sensitive and difficult problems, which call for careful handling with the top level authorities.

Sincerely yours,

William Haber

WILLIAM HABER
Adviser on Jewish Affairs

WH/mf
Encl

4297 6/18/48 - 3P KROOK REL 4709

318345

Paris

April 7, 1948

Mr. Meir Grossman,
Director of Department of Overseas Relations,
American Jewish Conference
521 Fifth Avenue,
New York 17, New York

For transmission to: American Jewish Conference
Jewish Agency for Palestine
American Joint Distribution Committee
American Jewish Committee
World Jewish Congress

My dear Mr. Grossman,

I am enclosing my second report for consideration by the cooperating agencies. In addition to my report, I have included a substantial number of attachments dealing with my memorandum to General Keyes in Austria, the Raid on the Assembly Center at Eschwege, and the one at Zeilsheim, my rather lengthy memorandum of February 25th to General Clay on the Rumanian infiltration and his reply to me, dated March 2nd, a memorandum on the deposit of foreign currency assets by DP's, a press release which was used as a basis for a press conference at Frankfurt on Wednesday, April 2nd, and a copy of my talk before the third Congress of the Central Committee at Bad Reichenau. In addition, I am taking the liberty of sending you the minutes of the meeting of the agencies which met in my office on March 15th. These minutes have not been carefully edited and should of course, together with all of this material, be considered confidential.

With warmest regards.

William Haber
Adviser on Jewish Affairs

WH/Y

318346

April 1, 1948

Mr. Meir Grossman
Director of Department of Overseas Relations
American Jewish Conference
521 Fifth Avenue
New York 17, New York

For transmission to: American Jewish Conference
Jewish Agency for Palestine
American Joint Distribution Committee
American Jewish Committee
World Jewish Congress

My dear Mr. Grossman:

My first report to the cooperating agencies was sent on February 24th, over a month ago. Since that time, what has happened at Lake Success, in Washington and in Palestine, has been much more significant than what has occurred here. These events have had a devastating effect upon the morale of the Jewish DPs in Germany and Austria. If it should develop that their effect is to postpone large-scale migration for an indefinite period, it may be necessary for all of us to reappraise the programs now operating here and to determine whether their basic character and major emphasis need to be changed.

In this, my second report, I wish to call attention to the major events which have occurred here to indicate the trends and special issues, as I see them, and what might be done about them here and in the States.

1. The Situation in General

Since my last report, I have visited the two camps in Berlin, some of the camps around Munich and Stuttgart and, also, in the Salzburg and Linz areas in Austria. I have also had a long session with the Central Committee in Munich, with several camp committees during my field visits, and with the heads of all of the agencies working with Jewish DPs. In addition, I have conferred with members of the military staffs, particularly with Generals Collins and Haynes in Salzburg and Linz, respectively, with General Funk in Stuttgart, and I have had regular sessions with Generals Clay, Huebner, and Harrold in Frankfurt. I have, in addition, conferred with the Military Governors Van Wagoner of Bavaria in Munich, Newman of Hesse in Wiesbaden, and LaFollette of Wuerttemberg-Baden in Stuttgart.

The impressions which result from the conferences with the military people can readily be summarized. From now on the issues affecting Jewish DPs are not likely to be made on their merits. Other considerations, such as the cold war between the United States and the East, the plan to enlarge the scope of German governmental authority, the revival of the German and Austrian economy and similar objectives will materially influence the decisions affecting the DPs in Germany. I learn from highest authority of the very real probability that a western German state may be set up before the end of the year. Such a state will, inevitably have greater autonomy, even though occupied, and the demand for German administration over DPs will certainly be pressed more vigorously than heretofore. Even without such an eventuality, there is already substantial evidence that the sympathetic, and at times generous, attitude on the part of the Military Government and European Command has already been replaced by a firmer and colder approach. For example, when during a conference with one of our highest officials, I referred to the fact that I have

318347

been disturbed to discover that military people in the field consider the DPs a nuisance and an interference with the more important work of the occupation authorities, the official replied that my observation was not only correct, but I should not confine it to the military folks in the field. "In fact, this is our attitude from top to bottom. The people have been here a long time, and we are tired of them." I did point out that he was guilty of a common psychological pitfall and that, instead of resenting the hard-boiled and calloussed world which has prevented the people from leaving here, he was expressing his anger at the people for still being around.

Nevertheless, what this top general said happens to be tragically true and explains the actions one finds in his day to day experiences with the lower schelons.

This situation, coupled with events in Palestine and Lake Success, explains why the morale of the DP camps is exceedingly low. The physical conditions of life, measured in terms of housing and the quality and quantity of food, has steadily improved. It has, perhaps, not been better at any time since liberation. The deterioration which has taken place is psychological. The people feel trapped. The United States proposal to repudiate partition, coupled with the talk of another war, and the effects of these two developments upon the outlook for emigration have combined to impress upon the leaders and the masses the tragic fact that their stay in Germany is not likely to come to an end this year or next. The prospects of war, particularly, are responsible for a depression of spirit, difficult to exaggerate. Many expressed themselves in the most despairing terms, indicating that those few who escaped the last holocaust will be finished in the one which they consider just around the corner. This feeling of an ominous situation obviously influences their day to day activities and complicates any program for constructive work.

Particularly significant is the impression, generally prevailing among the military and the agencies, that the number of Jewish DPs twelve months hence will be substantially as large as the present number. This conclusion does not rule out some emigration to the United States, to Palestine and, perhaps, in small numbers, to some other countries. It is assumed, however, that the volume will be relatively small and, when considered in relation to the birth rate in the Jewish DP camps and to the present and prospective infiltration (from Roumania, Hungary and Czechoslovakia), the total Jewish population in Germany will not be reduced. If this conclusion is based on accurate assumptions, then it behooves the agencies to carefully review the programs in operation and to plan in terms other than transitional activities.

2. <u>Conference of Jewish Agencies</u>

On March 15th I assembled in my office the directors of all of the Jewish agencies operating in Germany - the JAFP, AJDC, HIAS, ORT, VAAD HATZALA, together with the Central Committee of Liberated Jews and Dr. Auerbach, Staatskommissar for Bavaria. The purpose of this meeting was to survey the present situation, to seek a common understanding of the underlying problems and the outlook and, if possible, to develop, in an informal manner, some coordination of the activities of the several agencies. If the meeting took a constructive turn, I was prepared to consider this an advisory group to be consulted about the more significant policy problems which come to my attention.

The agenda called for an indication by each agency head of what he considered to be the most important problem facing the Jewish DP in the months immediately ahead, a review of the outlook for emigration, advice as to the position to be taken with regard to the then proposed transfer of responsibility from the military to the State Department, and a discussion of pressing current issues in the camps. Among these, reference was made to (a) the black market, (b) the employment of Germans in Jewish

DP camps, (c) the threatened strike of Jewish DP police, (d) the increasing number of search and seizure raids by the Constabulary, (e) the law for the deposit of foreign exchange by the DPs, (f) press relations, and (g) methods of increasing the employment of DPs.

The meeting lasted an entire day and evening and, in my judgment, was exceedingly worthwhile and constructive. I am happy to report that the agency heads saw the issues in large terms and did not confine their discussion to the organizational interests they happen to represent.

It was the consensus of the group that:

a. there is an indispensable need for coordinating the work of all the Jewish organizations serving the DPs and that overlapping and duplication of functions should be removed;

b. my office ought to take the initiative to improve relations with the press; that there are too many organizations that seem to speak for the DPs; and that the DPs suffer because the problems are inadequately or improperly interpreted. They urged that a press officer be attached to my office;

c. aggressive action was needed to overcome lethargy and apathy prevailing in the camps;

d. more effort should be concentrated on the rehabilitation program for the large number of unemployable or semi-employable DPs, or those whose physical deficiencies will block their emigration;

e. bold efforts needed to be made to re-win the goodwill of the Army;

f. employment and training projects occupy too many young and able-bodied men who are much more needed in Haganah and that such projects ought to be reviewed with that objective in mind;

g. a more realistic interpretation of the Palestine program among the DPs should be fostered to overcome the romantic view which, until now, has been emphasized and to familiarize them with the type of life that awaits the DPs in Palestine.

There was a full review of these propositions and substantial agreement as to their implications. I should report to you that I found this conference of very real value to me, personally, for it not only established a close working relationship between the agencies and me, but also provided me with guidance concerning the representations I should make with respect to many aspects of the programs. I propose to continue such conferences periodically, and I am sure that, apart from specific issues which we shall review, the bi-product will be better coordination and a closer working together among the agencies.

3. <u>Improvement of Press Relations</u>

The press situation in respect to Jewish DPs is exceedingly bad. There is seldom a reference to the constructive activities in the camps. That is not news. But there is much news about black market, raids, arrests, prosecutions, and the like. This situation is contributing materially to the anti-Jewish DP attitude generally prevailing among military and civilian personnel.

310349

Something can be done to deal with this situation. I conferred with the editor of "Stars and Stripes" and found him quite sympathetic, but with the view that the initiative to improve the situation must be taken by us. He agreed, for example, to assign a friendly reporter to accompany me on certain field trips where the more wholesome and constructive life of the DPs could be seen. He agreed, further, to publicize in "Stars and Stripes", and their weekly supplement, information concerning the adjustment of DPs who have emigrated to the United States. The United Service for New Americans, Inc., have already provided me with excellent information concerning such adjustment. This will shortly appear in the English press here. What is needed, however, is someone who is devoting himself to the matter of press relations. Major Hyman and I are on the alert for such developments but are far too occupied to take advantage of all the opportunities for favorable publicity, or to correct unfavorable reports.

A good illustration of this problem occurred the other day. The March 28th issue of "Troop Information and Education Bulletin", an official publication of the Army and heavily relied upon for troop orientation purposes, carried a story, entitled "Anything to Sell". That story describes how the Soviet Union acquires "hard money". It describes restaurant and hotel services in the Soviet Zone, in which payment only in American dollars or other sound foreign currency is accepted. Then the item proceeds with the following, which I am quoting:

> "Their greatest source of dollars has been from individuals who, throughout Europe, make a business of "buying" American dollars which they sell to the Soviets at a profit. The Joint Distribution Committee in Paris imports huge sums of American dollars each month."

The article, after describing how an individual sells his dollars to the Russians, continues with the following devastating paragraph:

> "If the individual is working for an organization, instead of himself, it is possible that the Soviets pay for his dollars with arms and ammunition instead of marks. This armament is then absorbed into whatever revolutionary movement the group happens to be interested in."

JDC was properly exercised about this piece in an official Army publication. Its potential consequences are serious. A colonel, who is in charge of this publication, defended the piece by insisting that the only reference to JDC, namely that it imports huge sums of "money", is correct and has been "fully checked". That is obviously true. I had to convince him, however, that the implication of the story, since JDC is the only organization named, does lead to the conclusion that the money it imports gets to the Russians and that the Russians pay in arms and ammunition for subversive purposes.

I am pleased to report that, during the same day that the matter was called to our attention by the JDC, a cablegram from the colonel in charge was sent to all agencies and departments receiving this publication, explaining that no inference is to be drawn from the reference to the JDC in that article, that other organizations, Jewish and non-Jewish, also import substantial amounts of dollars; and that it is not intended to suggest that such sums are designed for the purposes referred to in the article. In addition, the next issue of the "Bulletin" will contain a full explanation of its operations. I have asked the JDC to prepare it, and I am sure that it will be printed.

4. <u>Continuation of Army Control After July</u>

Before the White House announced the withdrawal of the plan to transfer the occupation responsibility to the State Department, I reviewed the implications for Jewish

DPs. I conferred with Assistant Secretary of State, Charles Saltzman, who was in Germany, and with other representatives of War and State sent here to develop the administrative organization. The Jewish agencies which met with me on March 15th reached the unanimous conclusion that the Adviser should urge the continuance of Army Control over DP operations. The group felt that, even though the Army is tough and less friendly than a year ago, it has learned a great deal and is generally more sympathetic than Military Government. The White House announcement that the State Department is not coming over left the problem as at present. I am pleased with this development, although I should point out that it does not indicate any slowing down of the trend to transfer increasing administrative responsibility to German officials.

5. Proposed Jewish Labor Battalions

General Huebner, in a conference with me and General Harrold on Friday, March 26, advised us that he wishes to organize a labor battalion composed of Jewish DPs working in the building crafts and related occupations. Some three thousand non-Jewish DPs are at present organized in so-called labor companies. They work exclusively for the U.S. Army, are billetted and messed together, and are paid, in addition to such compensation in marks as is customary for such work, five dollars per month in military scrip, with the privilege to buy in PX stores up to the amount of such scrip. General Huebner indicated that, since the Jewish DPs are likely to be here for a long time, we had to find ways and means for increasing employment for them. The Army needs help in construction and building repair, and he wishes me to explore whether a beginning can be made with a company of two hundred such workers from Jewish DP camps.

Frankly, I think the idea is excellent. It would provide an opportunity for experience and training for a considerable number of Jewish workmen in the building craft. Since that represents a real labor shortage in Palestine, this would be a very constructive program. The matter is to be studied by General Harrold's staff, and he asked me not to discuss it with the Jewish organizations until such studies are completed. I mention it to you for two reasons:

1. This proposal in itself suggests that it may be time for us to review the attitude of the Jewish DPs toward working in the German economy. This work, to be sure, will be for the Army, but, while they work for the Army, they will be building warehouses, repairing buildings, maintaining grounds and, in other ways, improving property. As a result, there will be, in my judgment, considerable resistance to this proposal. If it should fail-that is, if it should be discovered that two hundred people are not available for an initial work group - the result would be most unfortunate. I fear it would have an extremely bad effect upon the Army leadership and upon the public, generally, when it becomes known.

2. I should tell you that I am exceedingly sceptical as to whether it will succeed. People in the camps do not want to take manual labor jobs. Those who would be asked to volunteer for such a company would, in fact, be asked to separate themselves from the camp community and from such personal and "business" relationships, as they may have established. In addition, Jewish DPs are not interested in being paid in marks. Two packages of cigarettes, which are not difficult to procure, since the JDC supplementation is partly in that form, will sell for somewhat more than the total sum of marks earned per month by the average German worker.

I shall follow up this development and review it with the agencies. I report it to you as illustrative of the general trend to which I referred above.

318351

6. Results of the Camp Elections

You will be interested in the results of the elections held in the camps last month for the Congress of the Central Committee of Liberated Jews. A total of 61,415 participated in the elections. In our judgment, this represents about 90% of those who are eligible to vote; namely, men and women of 18 years and over. (The Central Committee indicates to me that this represents only 65% of those eligible to vote. They tend to overstate the number of Jewish DPs in the camps.) The table below indicates the numerical strength of the several parties as represented by the votes cast:

Mizrachi	5,773	9%
General Zionists	5,921	10%
Agudath Israel	6,176	10%
Revisionists	12,999	21%
Mapai	11,891	20%
Labor Group	18,655	30%
	61,415	

I am advised that the campaigning this year was more intense. There was much more interest shown in this year's elections. Both the right and the left made substantial gains. The table above was prepared for General Harrold of the Civil Affairs Division. I should indicate to you that the classification of Labor Group includes, of course, the several splinters on the extreme left, such as Hashomer Hatzair and Poalei Cion (C.S.).

7. Registration for Palestine Immigration

The Jewish Agency for Palestine has been conducting in the camps in Germany and Austria a zone-wide registration for immigration to Palestine. I do not have the results of the registration in sufficient detail. It is, in fact, being completed now. While I have not reviewed the results with the representatives of the Agency in Germany, it is my impression that the fighting in Palestine and the doubts about the United States position on support of partition, coupled with the relative sense of security and "business connections" which many of the DPs have established for themselves here, may compel us to revise our impressions as to the proportion of Jewish DPs who "intend" to go to Palestine. The issue is, of course, academic, and the actual test cannot be made until legal emigration becomes available. There are, nevertheless, "straws in the wind" which suggest that there is nothing static about the direction of emigration. Frankly, I have been told by responsible officials in the work here that, in spite of the hardships and the ominous outlook, many, perhaps a very large number of Jewish DPs, have accommodated themselves to the prevailing situation here and are not inclined to go to places where the risks are very great. This is a significant development only if actual emigration becomes possible, for it might indicate that the high hopes that the DPs already in Germany and Austria will be a source of substantial movement to Palestine may be misplaced. The Jews in Roumania, Hungary, and other places in the east may be a more likely source. I need not, at this time, elaborate the significance of these observations, should later developments prove them to be correct.

8. Special Problems

In this section I wish to call attention to several developments either in process or in the offing which are, in my judgment, significant and about which you should be posted.

a. Deposits of Foreign Exchange. Between April 1st and 15th every DP is required to deposit all foreign exchange in his possession. The Military

Government order provides that it shall be assumed that he came to such sums, as he brings in, legally. The money will be kept in an envelope, deposited in the German Land Bank, receipted for by Military Government, and returnable to the depositor within thirty days before he leaves the country or, at request, after he leaves the country. Military Government "guarantees" to return dollar for dollar, pound for pound, bullion for bullion, if the money should be stolen or burned while on deposit with the bank. After April 15th any DP found in possession of foreign currency will have it confiscated and be subject to fine and imprisonment for possessing it illegally.

I am in accord with the objectives of this law. This office has been consulted about it and our suggestions have been incorporated in its provisions. Foreign currency which the DP now possesses can be picked up in search and seizure raids and excessive amounts may subject him to prosecution for black market operations. This law makes it possible for him to legalize the holdings by the mere process of deposit. It would also take the sums out of the control of the DP and, to that extent, would reduce the available sums for black market operations.

Our first concern was that the effect of the law would indicate that Jewish DPs have deposited very huge sums. This, it was felt, would present a serious public relations risk. But I, nevertheless, continued to urge the law and its support by our people. No one knows how much is available for such deposit. I am told, however, that, while only a relatively small proportion of our people in the camps have funds - that is to say perhaps less than five to ten percent - the amount of such funds is quite substantial.

Our present concern is in the opposite direction. The Jewish DPs are very cold toward this law. In spite of our advice, many of them will not deposit such funds as they may have. They do not trust the German banks, even though they have a Military Government receipt. They have had tragic experiences with having their money taken away from them in slave labor camps and concentration camps. Many suspect that their money will, also, not be returned this time. Accordingly, they are willing to take the risk of fire, theft, raids, confiscation and jail. I am concerned, particularly, about the latter, for I fear that, after April 15th, many of our people found with foreign currency will lose whatever they possess and suffer imprisonment in addition. I plan to emphasize this hazard at the meeting of the Central Committee Congress in Bad Reichenhall.

b. Raids. My first report dealt with a raid at Heidenheim. Since then two large-scale "search and seizure operations" took place at the Jewish DP camps in Eschwege and Zeilsheim. The Eschwege raid involved the use of over one thousand troops. On the basis of reports we received from the camp committee, I sent Major Hyman to the scene within a few hours after the raid. His report, a copy of which I am attaching, was extremely critical of the conduct of the military. As you will note, he reported considerable damage to the offices of the committee, destruction of records, and cited other evidence of ruthless conduct. His report, which I transmitted to General Huebner, created quite a stir and led to an Inspector General's investigation of the entire incident. The military feel that our charges are too harsh and are now suggesting that some of the damage was deliberately done by our own people in order to discredit the military. The investigation is not completed, and we shall hear more about it.

The raid in Zeilsheim was of a different character. Here, also over a thousand soldiers were employed, and a considerable quantity of material for black

market activities and some foreign currency was found. The raid, however, was well conducted and not a single charge of abuse on the part of the troops has been cited. On the contrary, Major Hyman, who was present, wrote a report quite complimentary to the military for their conduct during the raid. A copy of our report on this raid, also, is attached.

These two incidents are in themselves not especially significant. As long as our people continue to engage in black market activities of one kind or another, raids will take place. There will be more of them, for the camp leaders and the Central Committee leaders do not wish to assume any responsibility for curtailing or controlling such activities on the part of the Jewish DPs. It has been my observation that the military is relatively uninterested in black market activities which are designed primarily to provide "Lebensmittel". Their main concern, it appears to me, arises from the fact that some camps are used as a base for large-scale black market activities. I have taken the position that the camp leadership and the Central Committee leadership must root out these activities or take the responsibility for such raids as take place. The raids are extremely costly to our people, for such few possessions as they accumulate are taken away from them, unless they can provide evidence that they have been legally acquired.

We are urging that, as a general policy, the military should make regular inspections of DP camps to discover illegal activities, to arrest and punish the individuals involved, but not to engage in wholesale raids which indict the entire community because of the flagrant violation of a handful of people. This recommendation will be prepared as soon as Major Hyman returns from Austria. I shall present it to General Clay and hope it will receive favorable consideration.

c. Search of Transports. You have inquired concerning reports that transports containing Jewish DPs, bound for ports of embarkation, were being stopped and personal bagage searched. These reports are correct. Representatives of CIC have entered railroad cars in Munich and Frankfurt, and German police have done so in other cities. We have made strong representations and have, in fact, pointed out that this is in violation of existing regulations. I am assured that this practice is already curtailed and clarifying instructions are being issued.

d. Eviction of Roumanians. Since my last report, the Army has carried out its plan to evict from the camps those who entered after April 21, 1947. Such evictions have been carried out in many areas, with some hardship in several places. The AJDC has done an excellent job in providing for those people and in accompanying them out of the camps to their new locations, as well as in other ways administering to their needs and morale. Many have already been moved, and about three thousand Jews are involved. I have already advised you of my discussion with General Clay on this subject, and you have a copy of his letter to me declining to reverse the implementation of this policy.

e. Czechoslovakian Infiltration. Earlier reports that we may expect from Czechoslovakia ten to twelve thousand Czechoslovakian Jews to infiltrate in the American Zone have not materialized. Several hundred have come in. They are not eligible for campcare and are assigned to German refugee centers, as in the case of the Roumanians. General Clay has made a public statement to the effect that people, fleeing Czechoslovakia, will find a haven in the American Zone. He has specifically indicated, however, that no new camps will be set up and that they are not admissable to existing camps. To the extent, therefore, that such infiltration is substantial, either from Czechoslovakia or elsewhere, the relief burden of the AJDC is bound to increase.

9. Developments in Austria

I have been to Austria since my last report and spent several days around Salzburg and Linz, visiting camps and conferring with military authorities. A summary of our problems there is contained in the two memorandums to General Keyes, both of which are attached.

You will see from these reports that the problem in Austria is considerably more difficult than that in Germany, particularly because the camps are exceedingly overcrowded and living conditions are far less favorable than here.

It is my conclusion, on the basis of the conferences which have been held, that the military is determined to close the camp at New Palestine and plans are under way to do so without too much consultation with me. I am officially advised that my recommendations concerning New Palestine will be given "very serious consideration." Nevertheless, the move is likely to get under way within a week or ten days.

10. Policy Issues and Suggestions

In this report, attention has been called to the major developments I have observed in the nine weeks since I arrived. I have checked my impressions with many people. Future events will have to determine whether they are entirely correct. On the assumption that I have accurately interpreted what is afoot in Germany, I wish to pose a number of issues which should be kept in mind. Some are already pressing current problems. Others will present themselves in the months ahead. Among these are the following:

a. To what extend should the programs, now in operation, be recast in the light of the present and prospective situations? Should the vocational training program, for example, be substantially expanded? Should the relief program be more specifically related to a "means test" than is true at the present time?

b. Should able-bodied people without other responsibility be required to work as a condition for receiving aid?

c. Should efforts be made to reverse the present attitude of Jewish DPs concerning work "in the German economy"? When the IRO appropriation is reduced or disappears altogether, or when AJDC funds are not as adequate as at present, this issue will become of crucial importance. I am convinced that the present attitude on this subject is partly "forced". There would be less aversion to working in the German economy if payment were in some medium other than German marks.

d. What position should we take, if it should be urged during the course of this year, that the camps should be closed altogether and the people live in the German communities? This is not a fantastic idea. While it is not proposed at this moment, I know that it is being considered and has the support of important individuals in the Civil Affairs Division. If emigration is slow, it may be formally considered. Are we to be against it?

e. Can anything be done in Washington to check the trend in expansion of German administrative control - or in exempting DPs from such control? Should anything be done? I have reference to the demands of German authorities to permit German police to enter the camps. That can be resisted now. It will be more difficult to resist it later.

f. What should be done to deal with anti-Semitism in Germany? Most observers agree that the situation is far more serious than at any time since the end of the

war. I am also told that the German labor unions, strong opponents of anti-Semitic agitation in the pre-Hitler period, do not represent such a bulwark today. On the contrary, German trade union members are more anti-Semitic than was true even during the Nazi regime. I cannot check these observations, but there is substantial evidence of increasing anti-Semitism everywhere. Should anything be done to aid liberal groups who wish to organize for the purpose of preaching tolerance, fighting anti-Semitism and, in other ways, bringing to the attention of the German people literature, films and other material that would increase their effectiveness as a democratic force?

I can assure you that I am, personally, giving serious consideration to these issues and, needless to say, I have some views as to what our course ought to be. These views will be transmitted at a later time when the situation develops when the problems are more clearly discernable.

In submitting these issues to the Committee, it is not my intention that the Committee reach a conclusion with respect to the several problems presented. Some of these problems obviously fall exclusively within the purview of one or another of the cooperating organizations. I merely indicate them in question form in order to suggest the nature of the developing problems and the policy issues which follow therefrom.

My immediate suggestions are the following:

1. Can a person, to aid in press relations, be made available? He will have to be hired by one of the cooperating agencies and he will have to be placed on the staff of an organization now authorized to work in Germany. I can use such a person on a part or fulltime basis.

2. Can the Committee agree that it would be desirable to undertake some work designed to deal with anti-Semitism in Germany? Should a person be made available to work on this problem? Or should a team or two or three survey the situation in order to agree on the kind of program that may be helpful? If the latter, such a group selected on some basis agreeable to the Committee could properly devote thirty to sixty days and advise not only on the problem of anti-Semitism, but perhaps with regard to some of the other issues listed in this report. I have no suggestions as to the method of selecting the group, nor do I have any specific names in mind.

This is not a report of day to day activities of the Adviser's Office. That would, in itself, be an interesting record. It is, rather, a report of observations or impressions, problems and issues. I shall be very much disappointed if it is not acknowledged either by each of the cooperating agencies or by the Committee as a group. If there is any value in sending it, it should be a two-way affair. I want to know your reactions to these comments and observations and your criticisms and suggestions, as well.

With warmest greetings to all,

Cordially yours,
WILLIAM HABER
Adviser on Jewish Affairs

WH/mf
Encls.

318356

OFFICE OF THE ADVISER ON JEWISH AFFAIRS

25 February 1948

General Lucius D. Clay
Commander in Chief
Headquarters European Command

Dear General Clay:

Since our brief discussion of the proposed eviction of those who have no legal right to live in the DP assembly centers in our zone of occupation, I have given a great deal of thought to the problem, particularly as it relates to the Roumanian Jews who entered the camps after 21 April 1947. Even at the risk of appearing to reopen a question on which you have reached a definite decision, which is in the process of implementation, I should like to give you my analysis of the problem as I view it in the light of the recent trend in the Roumanian Jewish infiltration.

During and since my recent visit to Austria, I made a special effort to learn the factors that are at the root of the mass exodus from Roumania and to determine what may be expected in terms of further migration from that country. In Vienna I conferred with the staff at the Rothschild Hospital, the installation where the new arrivals are admitted and also spoke with dozens of the infiltrees in one of the DP camps in Salzburg. Several days ago I discussed the problem telephonically with Dr. Joseph Schwartz, European Director of AJDC Operations, who as recently as a week ago returned from Roumania where he personally explored the problem. From these sources of information I was able to reach a number of conclusions that are pertinent to a decision on the appropriate handling of the Roumanian Jews who have illegally entered the assembly centers. These conclusions are underscored in the discussion that follows.

I am convinced that at the present time the movement of Jews from Roumania is neither inspired, stimulated nor directed by any Jewish organization working either within or outside of Roumania. There may be some local leaders who, having despaired of any hope for the Jews of that country, urge them to leave. However, those who respond to these exhortations leave in no organized groups. They liquidate their belongings and stake out for themselves, and those who succeed in reaching Austria and eventually Germany do so against great odds.

There are four basic reasons for the mass migration from Roumania: They are

1. The fear that the economic plight of Roumania will inevitably lead to violence against the Jews;

2. The desire to escape the effect of the liquidation of the middle class in Roumania;

3. The general lack of sympathy for communism that is penetrating every phase of life in Roumania;

4. The overall loss of faith in the countries of Central Europe, resulting in the irresistable drive to get to Palestine or to some other western country where a substantial Jewish community exists and where Jews may live in relative security.

The precipitous drop in migration from Roumania is due almost solely to the rigid local measures recently adopted against further unauthorized emigration. From

21 April 1947 to 23 February 1948,19,434 Jews entered US Zone, Austria. The following represents their rate of arrival during that period:

1947		1948	
April 21-30	322	January	552
May	892	February 1-22	179
June	1712		
July	4108		
August	4186		
September	1600		
October	2561		
November	2066		
December	1256		

Until recently most of the infiltrees were those who originally stemmed from Bukovina and Bessarabia, that part of Roumania that was incorporated into the Soviet Union. All the inhabitants of this area were given the option to become Soviet citizens. Most of the Jews, fearing that they would be withdrawn from Roumania and transhipped into the interior of Russia, left for Roumania proper. There they lived on the very fringe of the economy and were kept from starvation by AJDC relief. The Roumanian government was pleased to be relieved of this element, and their emigration was an easy solution. However, more recently the emigration panic began to reach the indigenous Roumanian Jews who were solidly rooted in the country's economic life. This migration had a "public relations" aspect that Roumania found embarassing and threatening to her prestige as a member of a new economic order. Determined to stem the tide, Roumania adopted a law providing for sentences up to ten years for attempting to cross the border without specific authority. Simultaneously the border control was so tightened that the people who now manage to squeeze through do so at the risk of their lives. In Vienna I talked to a woman whose husband was killed by a Roumanian sentry while attempting to cross the border.

At the present time there are about 200,000 to 250,000 Jews left in Roumania. The best estimate is that approximately 50,000 are eager to leave that country. In my opinion the migration of these people into Austria and, eventually, into Germany is basically not contingent upon the measures that are taken against the Roumanian Jews already here. We may accept them on a par with those who entered the camps prior to 21 April 1947, we may place them in separate refugee camps within the German economy, or we may, as your directives now contemplate, disperse them among the Germans. The result will be the same. So long as we pursue our haven policy, we may expect some immigration into the U.S. Zones to continue, unless the Roumanian-Hungarian border continues to remain sealed.

The present outlook is that because Roumania is resolved to spare no effort to prevent it, there will be no further appreciable immigration of Jews from Roumania into Austria. If the numbers present in the U.S. Zone, Germany, swell to any extent, the increase will come from the reservoir of Roumanian Jews already present in Austria. In view of this, I believe it is safe to think of the Roumanian Jewish problem exclusively in terms of those who are already here and those still likely to come from the camps in Austria. That number will be determined at the conclusion of the registration now in progress.

I am fully aware of your decision to direct these people into the German economy. I would not question that decision if I felt that its implementation had a reasonable chance of succeeding and did not present some misgivings that I have not been able to resolve.

Even on the basis of my limited experience in my assignment, I am presumptuous enough to suggest that the Roumanian Jews, as a group, cannot against their will be

310358

dispersed. There is a cohesion among these people that will not yield to the best accomodations that they may be offered in Germany. Undoubtedly, a small fraction of them will find their way into the German economy, as did the Jews who came in on the wave of migration from Poland. However, in the main, they will tend to converge in groups and will, even after eviction, return under some guise to the establised assembly centers. The task of keeping them permanently away from the assembly centers, where they can share in the cultural and religious life of the centers, where they can send their children to school, and not feel that they are among strangers, is so formidable, that I am unable to see how the army with its limited staff can undertake to effectively implement your directive. The same motives that induced the Polish Jews to remain in the DP assembly centers, despite the fact that in these places they sacrificed the right of privacy, will draw the Roumanian Jews to some form of organized life. I envisage a constant tug of war between these people and the army if the army insists upon keeping them from the places to which they will naturally gravitate.

Assuming, however, that the Roumanian Jews could be kept out of the present assembly centers, there is yet another aspect of this problem that merits your consideration. Under your directive it is contemplated that those found ineligible for DP care in the assembly centers will be processed as German refugees. In implementing this plan countless difficulties will be encountered. Regardless of the country of origin of the other refugees that are assembled in the German centers, these people form basically a homogenous group, sharing a common faith, a common language, common ideologies and, in a large measure, common customs. The introduction of the Jewish refugees into the refugee centers where, I presume, the principle of segregation will not be adopted, may lead to physical clashes between the two groups, and certainly will invite frictions which, in turn, will serve only to fan into flames the embers of anti-Semitism in Germany. While some of the Roumanian Jews, as some of their Polish co-religionists, could establish easy rapport with Germans, as a class they have absolutely nothing in common with the Germans with whom they would be thrown together. In language, religion, appearance, dietary habits, and even in dress they differ from the Germans. Many of the Jewish refugees observe the orthodox dietary laws and will not eat food that is not prepared as these laws prescribe. To satisfy this element some form of segregation would be immediately necessary. More than likely the assistance of one of the voluntary Jewish agencies would have to be invited to aid in the feeding problem. This could only lead to preferential treatment of the Jewish refugees which, in turn, would draw the resentment of the Germans equally in need. At the present time, the Germans are inclined to hold the DPs responsible for many of Germany's present troubles and especially for its slow recovery. At best they consider the DPs, and especially those of the Jewish faiths, as parasites. The dispersion of the Roumanian Jews among the Germans would only serve to unduly magnify the DP problem in their eyes and would greatly accelerate the growing tensions between the Germans and all the Jewish DPs in our zone.

The situation in Berlin is especially unique. Attracted by our haven policy, a small number of Jews have come from Poland into the American Sector in Berlin. These people, I understand, largely consist of those who, for diverse reasons, have incurred the displeasure of the constituted authorities in Poland. Transfer of these people into the German centers that, I am informed, straddles the American-Russian Sector boundary, would amount to the forcible repatriation of these people into the very area from which they fled. In my opinion, the only way these people can enjoy a haven in that part of Germany that is under our control is to absorb them in the zone proper.

The whole problem is admittedly a vexatious one. Yet, I believe that its scope in terms of the ultimate solution of the DP problem in Germany has been greatly exaggerated. Moreover, I am convinced that the benefits that will accrue from the evictions will be more than offset by the repercussions they may invite and by

definite hardships they will create. Should the evictions lead to clashes between our troops and the Jewish DPs, the publicity that a series of eruptions may receive will certainly prejudice the present efforts to liberalize our immigration laws.

I am convinced that the Roumanian Jews already in the zone and the few Polish Jews in the American Sector of Berlin are essentially innocent of any design to further complicate the primary mission of the American Army in Germany. The plight of these people in the established assembly centers is a pitiful one; they live in want and in daily fear of being thrown out on the streets and left to the mercy of a hostile German population. The prospects of being forced into close association with Germans in German refugee centers not only offers them no comfort but suggests a myriad of problems for which they see no solution.

Because I am convinced

1. that the directive of 21 April 1947 has played an insignificant role in discouraging the mass migration from Roumania;

2. that the Roumanian Jewish migration into Germany has come to an end;

3. that once evicted from the established centers, the Roumanian Jews will return to these places unless some installation is established that will enable them to enjoy some form of communal life;

4. that because of the great cultural, social and religious chasm between the Germans and the mass of Roumanian Jews, the absorption of the Roumanian Jews by the German communities is not possible;

5. that the dispersion of the Roumanian Jews among the Germans will greatly heighten the tensions already existing between the two mutually antagonistic elements;

6. that those evicted from the assembly centers in Berlin can find a haven only in the US Zone proper;

7. that the implementation of your directive may weaken the position of those who advocate the liberalization of our immigration laws;

I make the following recommendations:

1. that the German authorities be encouraged to set aside one or several refugee camps to accomodate exclusively those Jewish DPs who entered the existing assembly centers after 21 April 1947;

2. that those declared ineligible for care and maintenance in the assembly centers in Berlin be permitted to enter the US Zone, Germany, where they shall be treated on the par with the Roumanian Jewish infiltrees;

3. that until such time as the refugee camp or camps suggested in recommendation 1, supra, is established , those ineligible to be registered in the existing assembly centers be permitted to remain where they now live.

In my opinion these recommendations do not contemplate a reversal of your final directive on this issue but rather suggests an application that is humane and because of the full support that it will receive from all who participate in the DP program on the operational level, has promise of being strictly enforced.

Faithfully yours,
WILLIAM HABER
Adviser on Jewish Affairs
to the Commander in Chief

318360

C O P Y
EUROPEAN COMMAND
Office of the Commander in Chief
Berlin, Germany, APO 742

2 March 1948

Mr. William Haber
Adviser on Jewish Affairs
to the Commander in Chief
Headquarters European Command
APO 757

Dear Bill:

I have your letter of 25 February and I understand fully why you ask that special refugee camps be established to care for the Roumanian Jews who entered the United States Zone of Germany after the expiration date for the receipt of addition refugees in the displaced persons' centers.

As you know, these Roumanian Jewish refugees are not eligible for IRO care. For many months, the United States Zone was not only open to all Jewish refugees but also special care was made available to them in these centers. Continuing new arrivals and limited funds to care for them made it necessary to close the centers to further arrivals except under extreme and special hardship conditions.

At that time, it was announced widely that this action had been taken. However, unwilling to refuse safe haven completely, we did not close the borders to new arrivals. We did state clearly that new arrivals would be eligible to receive German ration cards and to live in the German economy.

I do not see now how we can require the Germans to establish special refugee camps for those who illegally entered into displaced persons centers in violation of United States Military Government regulations nor do I feel that such camps would be generally desirable. In fact, it would be difficult to establish such camps where the refugee could work to earn his living in the zonal economy.

I regret very much to have to adhere to my original decision. These refugees who came in full knowledge of the regulations and who are not eligible to special care must seek their living in the zonal economy. I shall see that they receive fair and equitable treatment in this economy until they have opportunity to resettle in a new and permanent home more to their liking. I join you in the hopes that this will be soon so that these unfortunate people may again have hope and happiness.

Sincerely yours,

/s/ Lucius D. Clay
General, U.S. Army
Commander in Chief.

APO 757, c/o Postmaster
New York, New York

March 5, 1948

MEMORANDUM TO: The Adviser on Jewish Affairs
SUBJECT: Raid on the Assembly Center in Eschwege

1. At approximately 1630 hours, 2 March, our office received several reports that the Jewish Assembly Center at Eschwege (population 2515) had just been raided by the

Constabulary and that, in the course of the operation, the troops had committed sundry acts of vandalism and, particularly, had done considerable damage in the camp administration building. The reports were partially verified by Mr. Natel Simpson, the IRO-designated Jewish camp leader, whom I called at about 1700 hours. The situation seemed to warrant an immediate visit to the camp. Consequently, in my conversation with the camp leader, I asked him to see that none of the rooms, in which the troops had done the things that were the basis for the complaints, were disturbed.

2. At 0900 hours, 3 March, I arrived at the Center and spent the balance of the morning speaking with the camp leaders and inspecting the buildings in which the excesses were alleged to have taken place. In my inspection I was accompanied by an AJDC field representative, Mr. Michael Englard, who had gone through the camp immediately after the searching operation was completed. He assured me that the rooms that I was shown by the camp leader were substantially as the raiding party had left them.

3. I found nothing to support the original reports that the quarters occupied by the people were abused by the troops. There were the usual complaints of looting and insulting remarks of an anti-Semitic flavor but, in my opinion, these complaints were neither serious nor general enough to warrant investigation. There was, of course, general resentment that, during the ten hours in which the raid was staged, Germans were permitted to line up on the parimeter of the camp and enjoy the spectacle of watching the camp being besieged and searched.

4. In sharp contrast to the apparent orderliness with which the troops conducted the raid in the living quarters were the marks of vandalism, if not of sheer vindictiveness, that they left on the camp administration building, on the theater, and on the school. In ten of the rooms of the administration building that houses the IRO and the Camp Committee Offices, the doors were forced and sections of the inner casings were ripped from the walls. The records in thirteen of the rooms were either churned in the filing cabinets and scattered over the floors, or torn to shreds. In approximately six of the offices I found that the desk and cabinet drawers were either ripped open or smashed. The furniture in several of the rooms was turned upside down and, in the community mail room, the sectional fixture in which the mail is assorted was removed from the wall. In the projection room of the camp theater, several reels of film were unravelled and, in the dressing room of this building, the cabinet containing the theater props was partially smashed and the clothes scattered over the cement floor. The school building was apparently entered through a window that was removed. The desks and benches in one of the rooms in this building were overturned. Pictures of the rooms in the administration building, taken by the camp photographer immediately after the raid, are attached to this report.

5. I was baffled by the concentration of the damage done in the administration building. In my search for the explanation, I interrogated the camp leader and Mr. Lemel Karolensky, the Chairman of the Camp Committee. The camp leader stated that at 0645 hours, he was awakened by a SIS agent and a camp policeman. The agent asked him for the keys to his offices. He promptly complied with this request. Fifteen minutes later, another agent called for him in a vehicle and escorted him to his offices, where he found a large group of Constabulary officers. The officers asked him for the keys to the other rooms. He replied that these keys were in the possession of the individuals in charge of the offices and volunteered to round up these people. He also told the officers that a set of keys to all the offices was in possession of a janitor who lives outside of the camp and that he was probably beeing barred by the troops from entering the camp. He received no reply to his offer to help. Later, during the course of the day, he was asked to accompany officers on inspections of the farm, the pharmacy, and the supply office of the Camp Committee. However, there was no further conversation about the keys to the offices.

6. I found the people of the camp disconsolate and depressed. I utilized this occasion to address several hundred of the camp residents. I reminded them of the Army's mission in Germany and told them that, as a general rule, raids such as they had experienced were made on fairly reliable information that illegal activities are carried on in the camps. I concluded by warning them that, unless the decent people of all the DP camps took the initiative to clean their own house and rid themselves of the small lawless element within their midst, they may expect others to clean their house for them by methods that could bring them only fear, discomfort, and humiliation.

7. I do not believe that I succeeded in dissipating the confusion in which the people were thrown as a result of seeing the wilful destruction of their communal property and the insult to their camp leadership. These are things they could not associate with American troops. I, too, found it difficult to reconcile what I saw in the administration building with my concept of a search made with the avowed aim to enforce law and order. Even assuming that, under the circumstances, the troops were justified in forcing the doors, what they did in the administration building after they had gained admission in the rooms cannot, in my opinion, be defended on any ground. Such wanton destruction of property as I saw may succeed in striking terror in the hearts of the people; it certainly does not gain for our troops the respect that I would want American soldiers to inspire, even when called upon to perform an unpleasant task.

ABRAHAM S. HYMAN
Major JAGD
Assistant to the
Adviser on Jewish Affairs

ASH/mf
Encls.
cc: Dir CAD

March 18, 1948

My dear General Keyes:

In my memorandum of 16 February I indicated that, with regard to the New Palestine proposal, I was in no position to offer any final advice, since I did not have sufficient facts on which to base an intelligent appraisal of the projected move. I refer, particularly, to the availability of alternative housing accomodations in other installations to which the more than five hundred residents of New Palestine were to be moved.

During my recent brief visit in the Salzburg and Linz areas on March 8-9, I was struck by the large number of displaced persons whose housing accomodations are far below any standard of decency, even under conditions of camp life. In Camp Riedenberg, for example, I saw over forty people in a basement room in the hospital building. In another building in the same center, nearly forty men, women and children, were crowded in a large attic room. No privacy, whatsoever, was possible. The ventilation was inadequate and the air was stifling. It is not necessary to dwell on the effect of such overcrowding upon the morale and health of the people.

At Camp Wells, the overall impression was better, but hardly one that suggests that the center has room for additional people. The situation at Camp Wegscheid, where the people live under the most primitive conditions, is well known to members of your staff. They have very real concern about it. Only at Ebelsberg did I find reasonably adequate and decent living conditions. Yet, even there, I observed several instances where more than ten people, representing unrelated families, were quartered in one room.

Obviously, my present information on the absorptive capacity of the Jewish DP camps is incomplete. However, if what I encountered in the camps I visited is typical, I fail to see how the people now housed at New Palestine can be placed in the existing installations.

These observations compel me to the conclusion that, before the proposal to close New Palestine is adopted, the Army should satisfy itself fully that there are, in fact, reasonably acceptable facilities to absorb the people to be evicted.

I am informed that in the past the figure of thirty-six square feet per person has been used as a gauge for determining whether vacancies exist in any camp. Perhaps the application of this standard would disclose that the established centers are able to accomodate the New Palestine population. I would not quarrel with this figure if it were limited to transient centers, where temporary overcrowding presents no serious problem. However, with the exception of Wegscheid, all of the camps in Austria represent relatively permanent quarters for the people they contain. Surely, the minimum standards of comfort in stabilized situations call for more space per person than the quoted figure would provide.

The United States Army in Austria has an enviable record in its handling of the Jewish DPs. This is recognized by the DPs themselves, by the voluntary agencies and by the principal Jewish organizations in the United States. I am sure that the Army wishes to preserve this reputation.

I am fully cognizant of the factors which are responsible for the proposal to liquidate New Palestine, and I wish to reassure you that my office is prepared to cooperate in implementing it. On the basis of my contact with the people at New Palestine, it appears to me that it will require everyone's cooperation, if the move is to be made without incident. Somehow, the people feel that, because they are a group composed almost exclusively of ex-concentration camp inmates, they have a moral claim to conditions better than those able only to sustain life. To have influence with these people, I wish to be in a position to state to them that I have surveyed the situation; that the Army's needs are primary; that adequate alternative housing facilities are available; and that their full cooperation is not only expected but must be offered. I hope, therefore, that before a final decision is reached you will permit either Major Hyman or me to accompany an officer of your choice on an inspection of the places to which the people from New Palestine are to be moved. Such an inspection could readily determine whether adequate accomodations for the people are, in fact, available. If the findings warrant that conclusion, my task in aiding the implementation of the move will be rendered much easier.

If this is acceptable to you, Major Hyman could be available immediately. Should you prefer that I, personally, participate in this inquiry, I shall be pleased to adjust my schedule to make myself available upon three or four days advance notice.

Cordially yours,

WILLIAM HABER
Adviser on Jewish Affairs

WH/mf

APO 757, U.S. Army

Lieutenant General Geoffrey Keyes
Commanding General
United States Forces, Austria
APO 777, U.S. Army

310364

March 24, 1948

MEMORANDUM TO: The Director of Civil Affairs Division

SUBJECT: Search and Seizure Operation in the DP Camp at Zeilsheim

1. This morning at approximately 0830 hours, I learned that a raid was in progressat the DP Camp in Zeilsheim. With your permission, I went out to the camp to observe the operation. I arrived there at approximately 1000 hours and remained in the camp the balance of the morning, until the raid was completed.

2. From Colonel Woods, Security Officer in charge of the raid, I learned that approximately 1,200 18th Infantry troops and a small number of MPs were employed in making the search. The raid was not confined to the camp but included the entire Zeilsheim community.

3. The raid seems to have been supremely well organized and the men exceedingly well briefed. The operation started at approximately 0630 hours and was completed by 1200 hours. I am informed that every house in the Zeilsheim community was searched. I am also informed that an undetermined excessive quantity of currency, food, cigarettes, leather,and other miscellaneous items were found in the raid.

4. I was primarily interested in the reaction of the people to what was taking place. I, personally, had found the conduct of the troops to be exemplary from every standpoint. In the course of the two hours I spent in the camp, I talked with at least three hundred of the people who reside in the camp community. These DPs had nothing but praise for the officers and troops who participated in the raid. They were especially effusive in their praise of Colonel Woods, who seemed to exercise extraordinary patience in talking to people who represented that individual items had been taken from them. The people were literally amazed at the delicacy with which the troops handled them. When one person would speak up and pay the soldiers tribute for the way in which they conducted themselves, others would vie with that person in the use of superlatives. Of course, what pleased the people above all was the fact that the raid was not confined to them, but included the German residents of Zeilsheim, as well.

5. I do not know whether from the security standpoint the raid was successful. However, if I were to speak for the Jewish DPs at Zeilsheim, I would say that they are profundly grateful that in an operation as extensive as this, the troops, without exception, treated them with respect and dignity and, yet with military firmness. In my opinion, every person responsible for this operation is deserving of the highest commendation. This was the finest example I have seen of an operation involving the enforcement of law and order.

ABRAHAM S. HYMAN
MAJOR JAGD
Assistant to the
Adviser on Jewish Affairs

ASH/mf

310365

Lt. Gen. Geoffrey Keyes
Commanding General
U.S. Forces Austria
APO 777, US Army

March 26, 1948

My dear General Keyes:

I should like to report to you on my visit to your Command between 8 and 11 March.

I spent several days, conferring with General Collins and with General Haynes and members of their staffs in the Salzburg and Linz areas, respectively. I visited a considerable number of installations, including the vocational training ORT school project in Mulln, the Riedenburg Camp, the camps at Wegschied and Eblesburg and the DP hospital in Linz. I also conferred with the Central Committee, with representatives of the voluntary agencies, and the committee leaders in several camps.

Constructive Activities:

I was exceedingly impressed with the evidence of wholesome and constructive activities in many of the installations. The vocational training projects in Austria compare with the best I have seen in Germany. In the Eblesburg Camp, over 20% of the camp population is enrolled in the many training courses available in the ORT school. On the basis of my experience, the projects appeared to be well organized under competent direction, and the graduates are able to move into the productive work projects conducted by the AJDC in several of the camps. The value of this work in maintaining the morale of the people and in increasing their future usefulness as citizens of any country to which they may emigrate cannot be exaggerated.

Equally constructive and quite inspiring is the excellent work in the education of the young children. I was greatly impressed with the morale of both the pupils and the teachers and their highminded devotion to the educational objectives. I have nothing but praise for the leadership in the DP camps which recognizes the paramount importance of a sound educational base for the young children.

The work projects maintained in most of the camps by the AJDC provide an excellent outlet for productive labor for many men and women. Considering the limitations of the equipment and the shortage of raw materials, the products are of a good quality. They are made available to the camp population in the entire zone, on "sale" in return for "points" earned while at work. Needless to say, such projects increase the available supplies to the people, who live in the camps and contribute materially to their comfort.

Austrian Work Law. From conversations with the Central Committee in Salzburg and with some of the camp committees, I formed the impression that the Jewish DPs in the camp are cooperating in registering, as required by the Austrian work law. There has been no experience so far with its actual application. However, I do not anticipate any difficulties, unless the day to day application of this work program departs substantially from the

principles to which I referred in my last memorandum.

New Palestine. I have submitted to you a special memorandum, concerning the proposal to close this installation and to transfer the people to other camps.

Black Market. I learned from members of your staff in Salzburg and, also, from the Chairman and members of the Central Committee that considerable effort is being exerted in order to reduce black market activities on the part of the population of the Jewish DP camps. In connection with this program, Major Hyman is making himself available after March 31st to the Central Committee and to your staff for meetings with camp committees and with the camp residents for the purpose of impressing upon them the importance of controlling this problem.

Police Training School. I visited briefly the police training school at Eblesberg and I was exceedingly impressed with the constructive program for training camp police.

Camp Wegscheid. Wegscheid, in my opinion, is a substandard installation, even as a transient center. If there were adequate facilities to transfer the people to other camps or to a new camp, I would strongly urge that Wegscheid be closed. Such facilities do not exist at this time and to crowd the present population of Wegscheid into other camps would lead to a deterioration of housing conditions everywhere. In addition, it is important that we be prepared for such infiltration from Czechoslovakia or elsewhere as may occur in the months immediately ahead. My suggestion, therefore, is that, instead of closing Wegscheid, as has been suggested, the camp should be reduced in size and improved with such materials as could be made available, perhaps from such barracks as may be vacated.

General Observations: a. The morale of the people is exceedingly low. This is in part due to their fear of war and to the long delay in their emigration to Palestine and other places. Any improvement in their prospects for emigration would provide an immediate tonic and their present apathetic state of mind would be corrected.

b. With but a few exceptions, the camps are overcrowded and living conditions in general are hard. Were infiltration completely at an end and some emigration taking place, this problem would correct itself. Some infiltration, however, will continue, even without any flow from Czechoslovakia and the emigration outlook is too uncertain at this moment. The camps are therefore likely to remain in a crowded condition and proposals of closing of any camps or of consolidation should be examined most carefully.

c. I am not sanguine about the prospects for immigration of Jewish DPs to the U.S. The Bill, now reported out by the Senate Judiciary Committee, will provide no aid to any DPs who entered the U.S. zone after December 22, 1945. Most of the Jewish DPs entered after that date. This Bill will, no doubt, be amended before final passage, if it should be passed at all. However, under the best Bill now expected, it is not anticipated that more than 10,000 Jewish DPs will be admitted to the U.S. from Germany and Austria during the second half of 1948.

318367

d. The outlook of immigration to Palestine is quite uncertain at this writing. The confused political situation is, no doubt, going to affect the amount and the timing of legal immigration of Jewish DPs to the Holy Land. It can be indicated, however, that there will be a substantial expansion of unofficial immigration to Palestine beginning in May. While the number is not definitely determinable, the Austrian camps will, no doubt, participate in this movement.

I again want to express my appreciation for the courtesy with which your officers received me and for their efficiency in handling my itinerary.

Cordially yours,

WILLIAM HABER
Adviser on Jewish Affairs

WH/eh
APO 757, U.S. Army

29 March 1948

MEMORANDUM FOR DISSEMINATION TO DISPLACED PERSONS

SUBJECT: Deposit of Foreign Currency Assets by Displaced Persons

With reference to the program of Military Government to authorize displaced persons in the US Zone of Germany to deposit with the German Central Land Bank under control of Military Government such foreign currency as they have in their possession, a plan has been devised whereby those persons residing in assembly centers will be given the opportunity on a specified date and time to turn their currency assets over to a team consisting of representatives of the Army, Military Government and the German bank. Those persons residing outside of camps have the same privilege, with the exception that they will make their deposits personally at the nearest Central Land Bank. This plan to legalize the monetary assets of displaced persons and to protect them against confiscation has the full concurrence of PCIRO and voluntary agencies connected with displaced persons as well as the personal endorsement of Dr. Haber, Advisor to General Clay on Jewish Affairs.

As many questions have been presented by displaced persons concerning this project, the most pertinent of these queries and official answers are presented here to insure full understanding of the program.

"What does the displaced person gain by making this deposit?" By depositing during the amnesty period of 1 April to 15 April he will be insured security and safeguarding of his assets during his stay in Germany and the return to him of those assets on his departure. On the other hand, if the deposit is not made prior to 15 April, 1948, he is subject to prosecution and confiscation of all foreign currency found in his possession. After 15 April no displaced person who has made a deposit will be allowed to make another deposit for any reason, as the possession of and transactions in, such currency will be illegal after that date.

"What will happen to the assets if the bank burns down or if the money is stolen?" The answer is that the assets will be refunded upon proper application to Military Government. The German Government will not have use of the monies deposited as each bill will be registered by number and the individual making the deposit will receive the identical bill or other valuables from his personal storage envelope on the date he is authorized to repossess such items.

"Is it possible to make deposits after 15 April 1948?" No, except in the rare instances of new arrivals being authorized displaced persons care. Such persons must personally make deposits within 72 hours of their arrival, to the nearest Central Land Bank. It is emphasized that a displaced person once having made a deposit will not be able to make a second deposit even if funds are received from outside the US Zone or from other countries by mail, as this in itself is illegal.

"Is it possible for a person other than the one who made the deposit to withdraw all or any part of the deposit?" No, it is not possible for anyone to claim the deposit of another, except in the event of the death of the individual who made the deposit. In such cases, the person whom the deceased had named as beneficiary would have the privileges which were originally the deceased's.

"If a person leaves the US Zone for any reason without the knowledge of the authorities, will he lose the deposit?" Provision is made whereby upon the arrival in the new country the deposit will be shipped to the individual by Military Government.

"Is it possible to make partial withdrawals and leave the remainder in the bank?" It is possible to make a withdrawal at the authorized time (30 days prior to departure) and to redeposit the balance with instructions to ship the remainder on request to the place of designation.

Proper depositing now by the displaced person will insure him against difficulty or confiscation of his assets by customs during his final clearance from Germany. The receipt he used to redeem the deposit from the bank will act as an "Export License" for the amount of currency authorized when passing through German and American customs.

The displaced persons are assured that all transactions will be handled with the same amount of privacy as is normally afforded customers in a private bank.

Minutes of a Meeting Held in the Office of the
Jewish Adviser on Monday, March 15, 1948

The following people attended this meeting:

Jewish Agency for Palestine - Dr. Chaim Hoffman, Mrs. Rachel Adiv
American Joint Distribution Committee - Mr. Abraham Cohen
Central Committee of Liberated Jews - Messrs. Davis Traeger
Schwartzblatt, Shlomovitz
Hebrew Immigration Aid Society - Messrs. Lewis Neikrug, Max
Newman, Henry Ortner

318369

Vaad Hatzala - Rabbi Nathan Baruch
World ORT Union - Messrs. Louis J. Walinsky, Melcher
International Refugee Organization - Mr. Adelson
Dr. Philipp Auerbach, Staatkommissar, and Mr. Joseph
Dr. William Haber, Adviser on Jewish Affairs
Major Abraham S. Hyman, Assistant Adviser on Jewish Affairs

Dr. Haber stated that he felt it was time for the heads of all the voluntary agencies and the leaders of the Jewish DPs of this zone to assemble and survey the present situation of the Jewish DPs. He felt that out of this meeting some common approach and some program might be developed and, perhaps, meetings of ths nature could be held at regular intervals for similar purposes. Dr. Haber's opinion was that, even under the most optimistic conditions, taking into consideration the probable infiltration into the U.S. Zone, Germany, and the present birth rate among the DPs, there would probably be as many Jewish DPs in the zone at the end of the year as there are at the present time. In view of this static situation, he wondered whether a long range program should not be developed to deal with the situation. Accordingly, he suggested the following agenda for the meeting:

1. An expression of opinion from each agency head as to what that agency deemed the most important problems involving the Jewish DPs.

2. A discussion of the outlook for emigration.

3. An expression of opinion as to what position should be taken with reference to the assumption of the functions of Military Government by the State Department on 1 July of this year. Specifically, should we favor the shifting of responsibility for the DPs from the Army to the State Department, or should the status quo be maintained?

4. A discussion of the following specific problems:

   a. Black market
   b. Employment
   c. Press Relations
   d. Raids
   e. Employment of Germans in Camps
   f. Consolidation of Camps
   g. Future Infiltration
   h. The Threatened Police Strike
   i. Projected Law Requiring Deposit of Foreign Exchange

MOST VITAL PROBLEMS

Neikrug: (1) There is an indispensable need for the coordination of the work of all the Jewish organizations serving the DPs. In view of the slow pace of emigration, both to Palestine and to other lands, the number of problems relating to the DPs are bound to increase. There is no sense in the overlapping of services and the duplication of functions in dealing with

the DPs; for example, at the present time there are four organizations - namely, AJDC, HIAS, JAFP and the Vaad Hatzala - that are dealing with the problems of emigration. This is typical of the problems that could be handled more efficiently by fewer organizations than are now dealing with them. (2) Another vital matter is that of appropriate press relations. There are altogether too many organizations that seem to speak for the DPs. The result is that conflicting interpretations appear in the press and the DPs suffer because their problems are either inadequately or improperly interpreted. To meet this situation, a publicity director should be attached to the Office of the Jewish Adviser. It would be his duty to coordinate all publicity on the Jewish DPs. (3) The Office of the Adviser on Jewish Affairs could play a more significant role if there were a closer liaison between the voluntary agencies and the Adviser's Office.

Hoffman: (1) A most significant, as well as a most disheartening recent development, is the indifference of the Jewish DPs in the camps and in the communities. The chief problem facing the voluntary agencies and the leadership of the Jewish DPs is to stir the people up and to rescue them from this appalling apathy. The Jewish voluntary agencies should offer less institutional help and should place more emphasis on the imperative need for getting out of Germany. (2) The rehabilitation program should not be geared to look after the needs of the able-bodied man, but, rather, should be developed in view of rehabilitating the sick, the weak, and the disabled.

Auerbach: (1) A closer coordination of the work of all Jewish organizations is very necessary. (2) The meeting in progress might well become a permanent organization. (3) There has been a marked deterioration in the attitude of the Army toward the Jewish DPs. The goodwill of the Army must be reclaimed. (4) There is an obvious need for a central coordinating press relations agency.

Cohen: Overriding all other problems is the question of the morale of the people. The material situation is probably the best that it has ever been. However, by the same token, their morale is at its lowest ebb since liberation. This deterioration of morale is reflected in every facet of DP life. It is expressed in bitter party conflicts, in camp stabbings, and, what is most distressing, in the slowdown of movement to Palestine. There is no doubt about the merit of Dr. Hoffman's position that more than anything else there is a great need for awakening the people from their lethargy.

Traeger: (1) Without minimizing the points made by the other representatives, Mr. Traeger expressed the view that it is the political aspect of the DP problem that is most vital today. It should be the primary role and responsibility of the Jewish Adviser's Office to forcefully impress upon Washington that the Jewish DPs must have free migration to Palestine. (2) The Camps must be shaken up and the people must be reminded of their mission with respect to Palestine. The Central Committee is endeavoring to work along this line. (3) Everything must be done to prevent the people from vegetating in the camps. (4) The apathy of the Jewish DPs is somewhat exaggerated. The fact that approximately 90% of those eligible to vote participated in the election for the Congress of the Central Committee shows the dynamic interest of the people in Palestine. (5) At the present time there are a large number

315371

of young men who are enrolled in the ORT schools. Steps should be taken to deny vocational training to men of the ages from seventeen to thirty. These men must go to Palestine at once. Only those who are physically, or for other reasons, unable to leave should be permitted to pursue their studies in the ORT vocational schools. Neither ORT nor the AJDC should be permitted to support any man who is eligible for emigration to Palestine. If 40,000 Jews migrate to Palestine from this zone, the position of the Jew, both in Central Europe and in Palestine, will be strengthened.

Neikrug: The DP problem is, in fact, a problem that involves all of Europe. Two and a half years ago there were only 55,000 DPs in Germany and approximately 10,000 in Austria. Most of these people have left Germany and Austria. Those who are in Germany and Austria today fled here as a result of a chaotic situation in Central Europe.

Walinsky: The problem of the morale of the people is of the utmost importance. That is the reason the ORT concentrated on the training of the men and women in the DP camps and in the communities. (2) People have a romantic view of Palestine. This view must be replaced by a more realistic approach to the life awaiting the DPs in Palestine. (3) There is a great need for developing a more intensive and extensive employment program. ORT has been waiting since 1947 for this program to take shape.

Baruch: No good can come out of a situation where people are idle. The religious spirit must be breathed into the bodies of the DPs. It is the religious Jew who is the bulwark of the movement toward Palestine. The religious Jew never fails to mention in his prayers the ultimate return to Palestine. (At this juncture Mr. Traeger very casually observed, "Yes, and they migrate to America.")

Hoffman: When America offered the Jewish DPs a haven in Germany, this carried a concomitant responsibility to assist the Jews to reach their goal, which is Palestine. There is a change in the Army's attitude toward the Jewish DPs. This change is particularly noticeable in contrasting the attitude of the Army toward the Jews who came from Poland and those who came from Communist dominated countries. Polish Jews were welcomed, while those fleeing from Communist controlled countries are prejudged as Soviet agents. The Army should be informed as to the causes for the infiltration of Jews from Communist dominated countries.

SURVEY OF EMIGRATION

Dr. Haber gave a brief summary of the bill approved by the majority of the Senate Judiciary Committee. The substance of this bill provides for the admission of 100,000 DPs into the U.S. in two years. Fifty percent of these immigrants must be people with training as agricultural workers. The bill has a very unfavorable exclusionary feature, since it offers no emigration opportunities to those who came into the U.S. Zone after 22 December 1945. Dr. Haber expressed the opinion that he thinks that the bill will be amended to permit 200,000 to enter the U.S. and that the deadline will be shifted from 22 December 1945 to 21 April 1947. However, even under the most favorable circumstances, only 15% of those admitted will be Jews.

Hoffman: (1) It is clear that, if permitted, the JAFP will not reject any Jew for migration to Palestine. Of necessity, however, priorities will have to be established. On the assumption that the UN decision will go into effect on May 15, it is contemplated that, in 1948, 75,000 to 100,000 Jews will be moved into Palestine; that, in 1949, 100,000 to 150,000 will be accepted in Palestine. Furthermore, the plans for 1948 call for the complete liquidation of the camps on Cyprus (estimated population 32,000) and for the selection of 43,000 from all other countries. It is estimated that two-thirds of the 43,000 (28,000) will be allocated to the DP countries; namely, Germany, Austria and Italy. Moreover, because of the present emergency in Palestine and because of the country's immediate future needs, first priority will be given to those who can serve in the army, who can perform indispensable manual labor, and to unaccompanied children. (2) Not so long ago Dr. Hoffman was certain that at least two-thirds of the Jewish DPs would want to stake out for Palestine. He is not so sure at the present time. The uncertainty exists largely because it is not at all certain that the Jewish State will come into being. There are definite indications that their support for the UN decision will be withdrawn by the great powers or that the decision will, somehow, be weakened and diluted. At the present time 90% of the new candidates for Aliyah Beth come from the new infiltrees. It is estimated that 35,000 Jewish DPs left from this zone, of whom only 5,000 had ceritificates for Palestine. (3) No further infiltration into the American Zone of Occupation is expected. There are approximately 1,000 Jews who are leaving Poland. However, these people have been very carefully selected and will not use the U.S. Zones of Occupation as a stopover place in their effort to reach Palestine. (4) Under the most favorable conditions, 20,000 Jews may leave the U.S. Zone, Germany, for Palestine this year.

Neikrug: (1) The following represents the 1947 migration of Jews from and to all countries: 1200 to Canada; 2200 to Australia; 12,000 to 14,000 to South America; 200 to South Africa; 15,000 to the United States. (2) In 1948 there will be a reduction in the number of people who will migrate to the above mentioned countries. However, if the Ferguson Bill passes, more than likely the Central American countries will relax their immigration laws.

Auerbach: Approximately 10,000 will infiltrate into our zone this year.

Walinsky: Under the most optimistic conditions, approximately 50,000 Jewish DPs will leave Germany in 1948. However, during the same period, 10,000 new infiltrees will enter Germany. Consequently, the net total loss will be only 40,000.

STATE DEPARTMENT ASSUMPTION OF MILITARY GOVERNMENT'S FUNCTIONS

Dr. Haber announced that, on 1 July, General Clay will be leaving Germany and that he will be replaced by a High Commissioner. He posed the problem, "What are the implications of this change?"

Auerbach: There are rumors that the DPs will be placed under the jurisdiction of the State Department. However, there is a real fear that they will be completely turned over to the German authorities.

Hoffman: Military Government has always shown great sympathy for the Germans. The Army's attitude toward the DPs has, on the whole, been very salutary. It would be imprudent to place the DPs under the jurisdiction of the State Department.

Haber: Clay reports that it is his view that the Army should retain control over the DPs but admits that no one in a position of authority shares his views.

Walinsky: At the present time there is a reluctance to criticize the Army's handling of the DP problem because of a natural respect that the people have for the general Army officers. This psychological barrier will disappear in the event that the State Department takes over. It will be much easier to establish cordial relations with the civilian members of the State Department than it is now with the Army generals in uniform.

Neikrug: The State Department is by nature evasive and takes ages to make up its mind about anything. By contrast, the Army is quick in reaching its decisions.

Schwartzblatt: There is no question but that in any conflict between the interests of the Germans and those of the DPs, the State Department would resolve the conflict in favor of the Germans. He strongly advocates that the Adviser's Office represent to the appropriate authorities that the status quo be maintained.

DEPOSIT OF FOREIGN EXCHANGE

Major Hyman, in a brief resume of the forthcoming amnesty notice under Law No.53, announced that, about 1 April, a notice will be published by Military Government, extending amnesty to all people who deposit their foreign exchange, gold, etc. in banking institutions in Germany to be designated by Military Government, and that no questions will be asked as to the sources from which the foreign exchange, etc., were acquired. He further stated that he and Mr. Carter, the IRO Legal Counsel, were working on a joint memorandum, to be addressed to Military Government, recommending that in those cases where it is legally possible, money confiscated from a DP for the sole reason that the DP failed to deposit the money under Law No.53, be returned to the DP, so that he may deposit his funds. In stating the particulars of the forthcoming law, the Major said that, within thirty days prior to the depositor's migration from Germany, he would be able to receive his funds in the form in which he deposited them. Likewise, those leaving the country illegally may mail their receipts to a designated agency and will receive the funds they deposited.

Hoffman: As soon as the Jewish DPs learn that they have to deposit their funds in a Reichsbank, they will not take advantage of the amnesty notice. Notwithstanding this expected reaction, the Jewish voluntary agencies and the DP leadership should support the plan for two reasons: (a) The effect of depositing the funds will be to curtail black market operations; (b) The people will profit by the deposit, since their funds will be secure and the depositors will be able to plan for the ultimate legitimate expenditure and investment of the funds.

Traeger: Everyone should encourage the people to deposit their money. At

the present time the people live in dread of being raided and of not only suffering prison sentences, but of being deprived of everything they have. At least the deposit of the funds will mean that the individual is sure that he is secure in what he has.

Neikrug: The only serious aspect of this problem is the public relations angle. What will the world think, should it develop that Jewish DPs have considerable funds?

Cohen: Everyone should be encouraged to deposit his funds.

Haber: The Central Committee must use whatever influence it has with the people to persuade them to take advantage of the amnesty provision.

INSPECTION OF BAGGAGE

The practice of both the Germans and the military of inspecting baggage of group movements was raised by someone, and the information given was that at the present time the provisions of Travel Control Instruction No. 21, Standard Operating Procedure No. 99 (Travel Control Directive for the European Theatre, 14 March 1947), was the sole authority for searching baggage of people involved in a group movement. Under this directive, the baggage may be searched only by an IRO representative. The recent departures from this SOP have been called to the attention of the Civil Affairs Division and General Harrold has indicated that, as long as SOP No. 99 represents the policy of this Command, the provisions of that SOP will govern.

SEARCH AND SEIZURE OPERATIONS (Raids)

Shlomovitz described the raid at Eschwege and, particularly, the excesses of the Constabulary troops who participated in this operation. Major Hyman reported that he was at Eschwege on the morning following the raid and that he had prepared a report on what he saw. The Major corrected some of the statements made by Shlomovitz, pointing out that the raid would have been perfectly executed, had it not been for the damage that appeared to have been done in the administration building. The Major further raised the question as to whether the Jewish leadership should oppose the use of raids. An argument might be presented in their favor, since they serve to shake people from their complacent attitude. The general consensus was that the harm they do overbalances the good that might result from the raids and, therefore, their use should be discouraged. The chief objection to raids is that they result in holding the entire community collectively responsible for the illegal conduct of the few.

EMPLOYMENT

Someone stated that between 5% and 50% of the camp workers are Germans. Some of these Germans are indispensable, since they have certain technical skills that are not found in the camps. It was generally conceded by all who participated in the discussion that all Germans whose work could be dispensed with should not be permitted to work for the Jewish DPs in the camps. In support of the thesis that most employable Jewish DPs were employed, Mr. Shlomovitz presented the following statistics:

3,000	AJDC work projects
15,000	Camp administration and maintenance
8,000	ORT students and instructors
22,000	children
5,000	Nursing mothers
3,000	Invalids
4,000	Sick
2,500	Over 55 years of age
3,500	Mothers with children, 0 to 1
2,000	Instructors and assistants in "kibbutzim" and schools
890	Miscellaneous
68,890	Total

Since the total DP camp population is approximately 85,000, there is a net of approximately 16,000 employables who are unemployed. In contrast with this figure, approximately 90% of the people who live in the communities are engaged in the black market. To channelize people into the communities may not prove catastrophic from the Zionist standpoint, but it would certainly serve to demoralize the people and involve them even more deeply in the black market. Shlomovitz further asserted that the problem of the Jewish DP cannot be solved by any extensive work program. The Germans are not working in greater numbers, percentage-wise, than are the Jews. The only solution to the DP problem is emigration and, therefore, instead of concentrating on a program to be implemented among the Jewish DPs, our efforts must be directed toward securing from the world a better understanding of the problem of the Jewish DP.

GENERAL DISCUSSION

Mr. Schwartzblatt expressed the opinion that, heretofore, the policies of the voluntary agencies have been defensive in nature. He felt that the agencies and the other Jewish leadership should wage an aggressive campaign against camp raids and against anti-Semitism. He stated that, in the interest of law and order, the executive power over the DP camp police should be taken from IRO and turned over to the Central Committee. Mr. Schwartzblatt added that 50% of the people have barely just enough to eat and that the discontinuance of AJDC help would result in their slow starvation.

Mr. Walinsky agreed with Mr. Schwartzblatt's description of the physical plight of the people and that the petty black market trading could be morally justified.

Dr. Hoffman announced that there are terrorists in the camps who are using the police as instruments of terror and recommended that the Central Committee should take steps to see that these police are replaced by police who would have respect for law and order.

In the discussion of the impending police strike, Mr. Shlomovitz took the position that the demands of the police were just, since, in fixing Category 5 for the police, the fact was overlooked that, instead of working six hours a day, as do other camp employees, the DP police work eight hours a day. What the police actually wanted was a retention of their category

318376

with an increase of 25% of their category for the two hours overtime.

Dr. Haber questioned the tenability of this position, reminding Mr. Shlomovitz that only recently had the category system been established and, in this overall situation, the Central Committee had agreed that the amenities represented by Category 5 were adequate for the DP police. Moreover, Dr. Haber argued that, if the 25% increase were allowed, it would conclusively prove General Herrold's contention that the amenities distributed by the AJDC are not, in fact, amenities but, rather, compensation. This might lead to the withdrawal of the license now enjoyed by the AJDC to import cigarettes into the zone. It was generally agreed that no support should be given to the strike and that IRO should be encouraged to dismiss permanently all DP police who participate in the strike. Dr. Haber assumed the responsibility for getting in touch with the IRO authorities to implement this decision.

At the conclusion of the discussion, Dr. Haber asked for expressions of opinion as to what the participants thought of a meeting of this nature. All agreed that the meeting served a very useful purpose and, while it was not determined how frequently similar meetings should be held, it was felt that they should be called about every month.

The meeting lasted from 10:00 A.M. to 12:45 P.M., was resumed at 2:00 P.M. and adjourned at 6:00 P.M.

ABRAHAM S. HYMAN
Major JAGD
Recorder

ASH/mf

memo CONFIDENTIAL September 5, 1947

to: Dr. Kubowitzki
from: Dr. Stein

I carefully studied Judge Louis E. Levinthal's letter written to the American Jewish Conference.

I. The following points struck me in reading this paper:

a. It seems that at the meeting between the Central Committee and General Clay, the whole economic situation of the DP's wasn't even mentioned.

b. Judge Levinthal (who advised us to withdraw our application for recognition in Germany because of his alleged fear that the American Jewish Committee might come into Germany) deals extensively with the visit of the American Jewish Committee Mission in Germany. He encloses a letter written by Joel D. Wolfsohn, European Director of the American Jewish Committee, in which thanks are expressed for expediting of the entry of the representatives of the Committee into the U. S. Zone.

c. It seems that the American military authorities are contemplating resettlement of the Jewish DP's from their present camps in other camps.

When Bernstein was here the last time, he informed the five organizations about the contemplated resettlement of people living near Frankfurt. In his last letter, Levinthal informs us about the proposed consolidation of Badgastein, Bad Ischl, and Braunau camps into camp "Star of David" at Edelsberg.

d. From the documentation, it is evident that Rabbi Bernstein's memo dealing with the Rumanian infiltrees in Vienna could endanger their status as bona fide refugees and DP's eligible for aid from IRO. It is characteristic that Levinthal had to make an additional move to save the situation.

II. On the basis of Levinthal's letter, I would suggest:

a. We should give more attention to the whole problem of anti-Semitism in Germany. We should not leave the field entirely to the American Jewish Committee and I am sure that we are better equipped than they to make constructive suggestions. I draw your special attention to the fact that it seems that discussions are going on in Germany to create a special office of Executive Director who would be in charge of the whole problem in the American Zone of Occupation. The American Jewish Committee offered to present some names of persons suitable for this post. I think that we should be ready to present our candidate if such an office should be created.

b. We must investigate the purpose of the various proposals to consolidate the camps in Germany and we should try to influence the American military authorities to drop the whole scheme since this may become a source of trouble and also a weapon used against the DP's.

318378

c. As you know the main difficulty in connection with the Rumanian infiltrees arises from the fact that a Directive of April 15, 1947, closed the camps to new infiltrees. As you also know, I have urged the five organizations many times and I have made it clear to Mr. Fierst that this order must be revoked. But we are always told by the five organizations and by Rabbi Bernstein that we cannot expect any change of policy from the military authorities.

Now I see from Levithal's letter that he is concerned about the same matter and that he expresses the hope "that Washington will see the wisdom of clarifying its Directive of April 15." I would suggest that in view of this statement, we should take up this matter with the War Department without waiting for the formal agreement of the other organizations. If we succeed, then the matter of the Rumanian infiltrees will be eased to a great extent.

d. In view of the gave blunder made by Rabbi Bernstein in dealing with the whole matter of the Rumanian infiltrees, some measure should be taken by the five organizations to avoid a possible recurrence of such a situation in the future. I wonder whether it would be advisable to adopt the principle that the Jewish Advisor should consult with the five organizations before presenting any papers having a vital bearing upon the future of the DP's.

I herewith return Judge Levinthal's letter.

ex
Enc.

318379

HEADQUARTERS
EUROPEAN COMMAND
Office of the Commander in Chief
APO 757, c/o Postmaster
New York, New York

19 August 1947

Mr. Meir Grossman
American Jewish Conference
521 Fifth Avenue
New York 17, N. Y.

Dear Mr. Grossman:

CONFIDENTIAL -FOR THE REPRESENTATIVES OF THE FIVE ORGANIZATIONS.

It is now four weeks since I arrived in Frankfurt. As you know, Rabbi Bernstein remained until the 9th of August to testify before the subcommittee of the UNSCOP, so that I had the benefit of his counsel and guidance during my first three weeks here. I am also fortunate in having the continuing services of Major Abraham S. Hyman, and I now have Captain William Dalin, Chaplain of the Air Corps, assigned to this office.

Rabbi Bernstein has undoubtedly reported to the five organizations in full concerning the major problems confronting us. I shall briefly outline the highlights of some of the recent developments.

1. The Central Committee in Germany.

A. Visit to General Clay

The Central Committee, under the leadership of Chairman Treger, desired an opportunity to meet with General Clay. Such a meeting was arranged for 14 August and was duly held. The General spent about an hour with the four representatives of the Committee and patiently listened to several of its proposals. He commented at length on each of the matters discussed, and promised to give them further consideration.

Briefly, the Central Committee proposed:

a. That General Clay should promulgate a law expressly prohibiting and punishing anti-Semitic actions and utterances;

b. That the Jewish DP camps should be vested with the power to imprison petty offenders within the camp for terms not exceeding six months, with the right of appeal by defendants to the Military Government guaranteed; and

c. That a portable hospital be established by the DP's in the name of General Clay, with the ultimate object of transporting the hospital to Palestine when all camps will have been liquidated.

General Clay indicated that there were serious objections to the promulgation of a law prohibiting anti-Semitism, but he promised to study the matter more fully.

As to the disciplinary powers sought by the Central Committee, the General made it clear that he did not want to have "a state within a state" and that he did not see how it was possible to have courts of justice without a code of laws to be administered therein. After further discussion, the General proposed that a representative of the Central Committee meet with Mr. Alvin Rockwell, the General's Legal Adviser in Berlin, to see whether a practicable plan should be devised. It should be noted that Col. Mickelsen had, sometime ago, proposed such local camp courts for petty offenses and that General Clay's opposition was then quite definite and determined.

318380

As to the hospital, the General said that an architect should be consulted and plans drawn for such a portable institution in distinct units, so that if the entire plan could not be completed, each unit could be utilized when constructed. No publicity was to be given to this project until the plans were drawn and the necessary building materials and equipment provided for. General Clay smilingly observed that his only interest is in the hospital in Germany, and that it is all right to have it as a portable structure, but he is not concerned with its ultimate disposition.

In the course of the interview, the General was asked about the Restitution Law for this Zone. He replied that he was still waiting for instructions from Washington as to whether it was deemed desirable to have a unilateral law promulgated, or whether a quadripartite law was deemed essential. (Irwin Mason has kept me informed of his conversations with Col. Bernstein, and I assume that the five organizations are fully aware of the most recent developments on this subject.)

B. Central Committee and the Rabbinate

The Vaad Harabanim, headed by Rabbi Samuel A. Snieg, called to see me twice to complain that the Central Committee had improperly ignored the Rabbinate's status and authority and had supported a rump Vaad Harabanim set up by a group of malcontents and dissidents, most of whom were alleged not to be qualified Rabbis at all.

Finally, I arranged for a conference in this office attended by three of the Rabbis and four of the leaders of the Central Committee. It was ultimately agreed that the entire controversy be arbitrated by a special Committee consisting of Mr. Charles Passman of the JDC, Rabbi Shapiro, formerly of Poland now in Fuerth, and Chaplain Dalin of my office. I succeeded in persuading the Rabbinate to refrain from sending a communication, which they had prepared, addressed to General Clay seeking recognition as an "autonomous and independent corporation."

I hope that the arbitration will prove effective in ending a dispute which might have proved extremely harmful.

C. Central Committee and Dr. Auerbach

The relationship between Dr. Philipp Auerbach, State Commissioner for Bavaria, and the Central Committee fluctuates from open hostility to feigned cordiality. At the moment, after a long private conference with Dr. Auerbach in this office, during which he kept insisting that the Central Committee sought to become a "state within a state," the situation is apparently under control.

2. The Problem of Anti-Semitism.

Dr. Slawson has undoubtedly reported to the five organizations on his recent visit to the Zone. Mr. Joel Wolfsohn sent me a letter, dated 11 August, but unfortunately it did not arrive until the 18th. I am enclosing a copy of Mr. Wolfsohn's communication. *I.

In the course of the conference General Clay had with the representatives of the Central Committee, the General stated that in his opinion there has not been any increase in anti-Semitism among the GI's. He also said that he had asked Rabbi Bernstein to review the material used by the Army in its indoctrination courses here and to make suggestions for their improvement. I have asked Major Hyman to see that this material is made available to me as soon as possible.

The Ansbach incident was referred to by General Clay as indicating that our Jewish DP's require proper education no less than do the GI's. He referred to the understandable Jewish hyper-sensitivity. He suggested that the Central Committee and all local Camp Committees should teach their constituents that a trivial offensive remark coming from a slightly inebriated GI is not to be magnified into a momentous issue.

318381

He repeated the assurance previously given by General Huebner that all the GI's involved in the Ansbach incident would be courtmartialed. He graciously acknowledged that our office, through Major Hyman's effective intervention, had helped to secure the cooperation of the DP's with the Army in reestablishing order and security. You will be interested to learn that theJewish DP's will be defended in their trial by two American lawyers, now engaged in Nurnberg in the War Crime Trials. Our office secured their services.

I have just had a visit from Martin Nischalke, the Regierungspresident of this district with headquarters in Wiesbaden. He is very eager to cooperate in an educational program to combat all forms of racial and religious prejudices. He feels that the future is not hopeless in Germany. As he put it, 30% of the population are still ardent Nazis; 30% are decent tolerant human beings, and that 40% are altogether indifferent and can be won over to decency and tolerance by a process of education. At any rate, he is very anxious to cooperate and has offered to submit to me a list of about 25 or 30 outstanding German Christians who are similarly minded. Hermann Kriedemann, a Social Democratic Party leader, of Hannover, has just given me similar assurances of cooperation.

3. Proposed Consolidation of Badgastein, Bad Ischl and Braunau Camps into Camp "Star of David" at Ebelsberg.

I am enclosing Major General Collins' proposal as set forth under date of 25 July 1947. I am also enclosing the petition of the Jews at Camp Badgastein to General Collins, dated 29 July 1947, on this subject. *II. *III.

Major Hyman and I visited Camp Ebelsberg and found the physical conditions to be quite satisfactory, indeed, far superior to those in most camps in the American Zone.

Last Sunday we visited Badgastein, interviewed the military authorities there, the local Camp Committee, and then addressed about 1,000 of the DP's specially assembled. The opposition to the evacuation of Badgastein was vehement and highly emotional, and for obvious and understandable reasons. The position, however, of the American Army in seeking to consolidate the three isolated and scattered camps was readily understood by the leaders of the camps, and the objection to the continuance of Badgastein particularly was appreciated.

It is not necessary to enter into all of the detailed arguments pro and con, but as the result of a subsequent meeting which I had in Salzburg with representatives of all three camps, a compromise solution is now being considered. It contemplates the consolidation of the three camps at Bad Ischl. I shall visit Bad Ischl and Braunau on Thursday and Friday of this week, and shall then discuss with General Collins the compromise plan, if I deem it advisable. In that event, it is hoped that the camp at Ebelsberg will be utilized for the resettlement of the sub-standard camp at Wegscheid, where living conditions especially in the winter are very poor.

The Army authorities have been extremely considerate in dealing with this very complicated problem. No ultimata, no peremptory orders, have been issued. In accordance with the recommendations previously made by Rabbi Bernstein, General Collins has personally met with the representatives of the Jewish Agencies and of the Central Committee to discuss the proposal and any counter-proposals that may be forthcoming.

I have been informed that certain elements in the three camps are planning to stage demonstrations of protest. I shall, of course, do whatever I can to prevent such an unfortunate development.

4. Infiltration of Romanian Jews in Vienna, and Austrian Government's Assumption of Responsibility for Feeding of Jewish DP's.

318382

The enclosed *IV. memorandum on this subject, prepared by Rabbi Bernstein, after a visit we jointly made together with Major Hyman to Vienna, was handed by me to General Keyes and Minister Erhardt when I met them in Vienna on the 8th of August. (Rabbi Bernstein was then in Munich, waiting to meet the UNSCOP.) I informed the General and the Minister

that while I personally concurred in all the recommendations made by Rabbi Bernstein, I did not agree with his statement that the chief cause of the Romanian Jewish exodus was hunger. I told them that my own impression, from our conversations with the people in the Rothschild Hospital, was that hunger was an incidental and contributing factor, but that the primary motivating force was the fear of the rising tide of anti-Semitism in Romania.

That same night an official dinner was tendered in my honor by Col. McFeeley. It was attended, among others, by Col. Miller, the Director of PCIRO in the American Zone of Austria. Col. Miller casually said that he had informed his superiors that the infiltrees, in his opinion, were religious and racial persecutees and that he was surprised when one of his Chiefs informed him that, on the basis of a report by Rabbi Bernstein, the Jews in Vienna would not be eligible for IRO relief since they are economic refugees, rather than persecutees.

On the 11th of August, I met with Dr. Joseph Schwartz, and as a result of our discussion, I decided that a correction of the Rabbi's report was essential. This will explain the memorandum, dated 13 August, copy of which I am enclosing. *V.

Subsequently, Mr. Tuck, the newly elected Secretary General of PCIRO, visited Frankfurt. I spent an hour with him and General Wood, discussing the situation of his organization as relating to the DP's. You must have read the statement which Mr. Tuck issued as to the lack of IRO resources and its inability to take on the obligation of feeding the Romanian Jewish infiltrees.

The JDC has assumed and borne the total responsibility for the feeding of these infiltrees. There are about 9400 of them now in Vienna. The rate of the influx has decreased somewhat in the last week. About 100 a day continue to come in and about the same number leave Vienna daily, probably making their way into the American Zone of Austria. As Rabbi Bernstein pointed out in his memorandum, the Austrian Government has undertaken to feed the Jewish DP's, beginning 18 August. I am enclosing the exchange of correspondence between General Balmer and Chancellor Figl. Subsequently, Minister Helmer clarified the undertaking of the Austrian Government to include the Romanian Jews in Vienna among the beneficiaries. *VI *VII

How effectively the government will implement this new policy is doubtful. General Collins urged me to make sure that the JDC would have a sufficient reserve of food supplies for all Jewish DP's in the Austrian Zone for at least seven days, to provide against the danger of a breakdown in the Austrian Government's distribution. I have conveyed this message to Dr. Schwartz and I am assured that so far as possible, General Collins' admonition will be heeded. I have just been informed by Mr. Trobe of JDC in Austria that the Austrian Government had not yet distributed the food and that the Army had done so and charged the quantity against commitments to the Austrians.

From present indications, the Austrian Government is faithfully trying to carry out its obligation. To the extent that the JDC is relieved of sole responsibility for the feeding of the 9400 Romanian Jewsin Vienna, this new arrangement is of course extremely helpful. To the extent, however, that the American Army is completely relieving itself of the responsibility for the feeding of Jewish DP's and is shifting this obligation to the Austrian Government, whose stability and efficiency are quite dubious, the picture is of course not at all a bright one.

As you probably know, the Soviet has just consented to permit 3,000 Jewish refugees to pass through the Russian Zone. None of the other governments as yet consented to admit them to their Zone.

318383

The American authorities are forbidden, under Part 2A (1) of the directive of 15 April 1947 to give assistance, billeting, food, etc. for illegal entrants arring in the Zone after 21 April. As a practical matter, however, since 10 of the 15 Jewish camps in the

U.S. Zone are under direct military administration, and will so continue until after the IRO Agreement is signed, and since the Army considers that it has no authority to bar entrance into the Zone of additional refugees, the inescapable fact is that the Romanian Jews who manage to filtrate into the American Zone do gain admission to existing displaced persons camps. It is to be hoped that Washington will see the wisdom therefore of clarifying its directive of 15 April.

I am sending a copy of this letter to Rabbi Bernstein. I hope that he will advise you as to which of these matters, in his opinion, need to be taken up by the representatives at the present time and which may be deferred to await further developments.

Faithfully yours,

(signed) LOUIS E. LEVINTHAL
Adviser on Jewish Affairs to the
Commander in Chief, European Command

P.S. I am also attaching copy of letter to JWB about need for "DP Chaplains" - This is important! *VIII

318384

ENCLOSURES

I.

THE AMERICAN JEWISH COMMITTEE

Paris Office:
30 rue La Boetie, VIII
Tel: ELY 7117

August 11, 1947

Dear Judge Levinthal:

Having just returned to Paris, I hasten to send you, so that you may have them before your conferences in Berlin this week, our views with regard to the problems of anti-Semitism in Germany, and the reeducation of its people for democratic living.

First, however, I want on behalf of Dr. John Slawson, Mr. Sachariah Shuster and myself, to thank you and the members of your staff for the many courtesies which were granted to us, from the expediting of our entry into the U. S. Zone, to the extended consultations with you and Rabbi Philip S. Bernstein.

We are all in essential agreement, I believe, that anti-Semitism in Germany is still a live and large force of evil. Also, that while efforts are being made toward the reeducation of Germany for a democratic way, these efforts need to be multiplied now by many fold if the process is to have any worthwhile effect. We believe that unless totalitarian doctrines are eradicated and an essential tolerance replaces them, Germany will again become a menace to the United States and its people. Instead of being a bulwark of western ideology, it may develop into a cancerous sore which will harm rather than help.

The program which Rabbi Bernstein has suggested to General Clay, and in which you concur, seems to us to represent a fine approach to the twin problems. In connection with its implementation, we would like to restate the suggestions made orally on last Thursday:

1. It is quite clear, from discussions with the persons involved, that a foremost need is integration and coordination of the several OMGUS programs for reeducation.

a. We propose for your discussion, that there be created a committee on reeducation to be composed of the chiefs of Information Control Division (UCD), Internal Affairs and Communications (IAC) and G-3, with the heads of the branches, such as Press, Radio, Research, Education and Religion, Troop Attitudes, etc., as members.

b. This committee should have as its Executive Director, a competent civilian, who should be attached directly to the staff of General Clay. The importance of this is clear and cannot be over-emphasized.

c. This committee should be charged with the task of developing a joint and unified program of reeducation against anti-Semitism and for democracy. It should cover all elements of communication - press, radio, theaters, movies, youth organizations, churches, adult groups and so on, and should place growing and ever increasing emphasis on anti-totalitarian and pro-democratic programs.

2. The formation of a liberal group of Germans who themselves, and with the support of OMGUS will carry forward an active and intelligent campaign for liberalism and against Hitlerism, thinking, including, of course, anti-Semitism in all its forms, should be undertaken. The suggestion that a committee of fifteen or twenty truly democratic Germans should be fostered is a desirable step in the right direction. As we informed you, in Frankfurt we learned of the beginnings of such a group. No doubt one can be formed for the entire U.S. Zone, a group that will be accepted by the mass of the German people and whose leadership will serve as the spearhead of an attack on anti-Semitism and other

318385

forms of anti-democratic activity. We believe that there would be advantages in such a group being created by Germans themselves and not on invitation.

In connection with both these efforts, I want to reiterate the statement made by Dr. Slawson, that the American Jewish Committee is eager to be of every assistance. When you are ready for them, we will be glad to suggest names of persons suitable for the position of Executive Director of the Committee discussed above. Also, we are ready to discuss details of program, should you wish us to do so.

Good luck in your mission. It is a tremendously important one.

I hope we may hear from you after you've talked with General Clay.

Sincerely yours,

(Signed) JOEL D. WOLFSOHN

European Director

Hon. Louis E. Levinthal
Adviser on Jewish Affairs, OMGUS
Frankfurt aM, Germany

- - - - - - - - - - -

II.

HEADQUARTERS
ZONE COMMAND AUSTRIA

APO 541, US Army
25 July 1947

AG 383.7 GNMHG

SUBJECT: Consolidation of Displaced Persons Camps at Badgastein, Bad Ischl and Braunau

TO: The Jewish people of Displaced Persons Camps concerned.

1. Jewish Displaced Persons camps at Badgastein, Bad Ischl and Braunau, will be consolidated at Camp "Star of David" at Ebelsberg, Upper Austria. The United States Army, with respect to administration to Displaced Persons, has changed with the advent of the International Refugee Organizaton, War Department "pay-as-you-go" in Austria, and the camp consolidation plans.

2. a. The consolidation of these camps will afford for a more efficient administration and operation. The facilities of the new installation surpass the combined attributes of the liquidated camps. It is the opinion of the United States Army, that Camp Mogen-David at Ebelsberg lends itself to more adequate and complete family living. Other features of this camp afford shorter supply lines insuring distribution of critical supplies on a more economical basis. Life in this Community will afford a fuller development of cultural, religious, educational and social expression.

b. This is in keeping with the sympathetic policies and good-will that the United States Army has displayed to the persecuted persons of the Jewish faith. During the initial period of concentration camp liberation, emergency facilities were utilized to provide refuge. Since then many basic changes have taken place. Military obligations call for a crystallization of facilities to be within budgetary capabilities. The Army must operate on a planned economy. Obligations to the Austrian Government and its economy are an American responsibility. We must keep faith with all.

3. It is thus, that the aforementioned order has been issued. Careful study and work have gone into the new project. The primary concern of the US Army is your comfort and welfare. The attached charts and plans will give you additional facts.

313386

4. The tenants of the liquidated camps will have the choice of the following alternative actions:

a. They may move to Camp "Mogen-David" and continue their tenancy as previously.
b. They may secede from camp jurisdiction and become totally dependent upon Austrian economy.
c. They may be transferred into a Jewish Refugee Camp and assume a transitory status.

5. The Commanding General extends a cordial invitation to the camp committees directly concerned to inspect the facilities of Camp "Mogen-David" to better evaluate the installation as well as to fully realize its potentialities.

BY COMMAND OF MAJOR GENERAL COLLINS,

MYRAN M. MURPHY

1st Lt Inf
Camp Commander
Camp Mogen-David.

- - - - - - - - - -

III.

TO: Major General Harry W. Collins, Zone Commander
From: All Jews residing at DP Camp Badgastein

July 29th, 1947

Sir:

We, Jews of the DP Camp Badgastein, by miracle and by accident survivors of all sorrows, pains and horrors of Ghettoes and various concentration and exterminations camps in Austria, like Mauthausen, Gusen I, Gusen II, Gusen III, Steyer, Melk, Ebensee, Amstaetten, Linz, Wels, Lambach, Wiener Neustadt, etc.

We, invalids, who struggled in the ranks of Allied Armies against the common enemy, and contributed greatly to the fight against the wildest and most horrible barbarians in history of mankind.

We, a small part of remains of a people that within six years of the last war gave the greatest duty of blood and heroism, are taking the liberty of applying to you, sir, with following call:

Sir:

In the month of May 1945 we were liberated by the heroic and victorious American Army. The democratic, noble American people, immediately after our liberation showed a great interest, bringing us financial and moral help.

We remember, and with respect mention the names of the great and noble sons of the American people, President Truman and General Eisenhower, who have shown special interest and warm sympathy to us, Jewish ex-Concentration Camp Inmates.

In October 1945 it was ordered to provide us with better livings, we were taken out of the bad camps like Wels-Lichtenegg I and Wels-Lichtenegg II, Alepenjaegerkaserne, Leonding, Hart, Kammer-Schoerfling, Lambach, Hag and others. We were really secured with more human living conditions. We have been for twenty-two months at Badgastein, we have never had the

intention to change our temporary, present lodging into a permanent one. The European earth, where 40 % of the Jewish People were destroyed, awakens disgust in our hearts and minds. Every piece of this land is imbued with blood of our dearest. Every corner, here, of the bloody Austrian earth reminds us the tragical reality of death and extermination. The majority of the native population assisted Hitler in his ruin-work, or, in best case, indifferently observed the horrors, keeping passive.

Therefore we cannot and do not want to stay here. We take the camps in Austria, among them Badgastein, for temporary homes on our further way to our National Home, Palestine. The American Authorities have understood our position giving us shelter and care.

With great regret and pain we must confirm that the connections between the Americans and the unhappy Jewish DPs, under the influence of Austrian, have turned worse.

The Austrian People was injected with anti-Semitism which has remained till now. For long months it has been noticed an organized and systematic action to remove the Jewish DPs from certain places, among them Badgastein. And according to Austrian radio and press reports, our camp is to be liquidated. Even the date of moving out is given, namely, the beginning of August, this year. This message is a great surprise for us, as no official statement from American sources has been heard. In order to avoid all kinds of surprising and misunderstandings in that question, we are applying to you, Sir, in the name of all Jewish DPs residing at Badgastein to do everything in your power to annul all the propositions and plans concerning the liquidation of Camp Badgastein. We cannot and do not want to move into any other camp, where the conditions do not suit the fundamental needs of men, especially for us, who have been constitutionally and morally broken, and suffered some years from starvation and terror.

250 persons of our camp suffer from chronic diseases, 48 invalids, 146 infants not over 3 years of age, 93 pregnant women, a great number of our population are over 50 years of age and are weak.

We know that the liquidation of the camp will not turn good for us and will only satisfy those ones who still hate us.

The all kinds of Nazis cannot have a rest at Badgastein, only because of the fear of being recognized by the survived victims of Austrian Concentration Camps. Not true is the statement of Austrians that at Badgastein there is a lack of places for persons following cure. Only five of the ninety-five hotels and cure-houses are occupied by the Jewish DPs. The most of the remaining hotels are entirely vacant.

We agree to leave the camp only when the American Authorities will use their influence to send all persons who want to go to Palestine, over to Italy, and to Germany all those ones who wish to emigrate to America, considering our way of sufferings and desire of building up an own home at last.

Please, Sir, give those people help and do not increase their sufferings.

We believe, hope and are sure that you, Sir, as the representative of the American Army which has brought us the liberation, and as the representative of the American People which is supporting us, and as a honest politician with human conscience and heart, will, surely, continue the glorious tradition of great American Presidents, Washington, Jefferson, Lincoln and Roosevelt. You will understand our tragical situation, inclining to our urgent call.
We are thankful, in advance, for your favourable settlement and remain respectfully, Yours

All Jews residing at DP Camp Badgastein

318388

IV.

5 August 1947

MEMORANDUM TO: The Commander in Chief, European Command
and
The Commanding General, United States Forces, Austria

SUBJECT: Infiltration of Romanian Jews.

1. Reports of a growing infiltration of Romanian Jews into Vienna led the Office of the Adviser on Jewish Affairs to make an investigation. On three occasions in the pastmonth we interrogated these infiltrees in Vienna concerning the reasons and circumstances of their movement. We have discussed the attendant problems with the responsible officers of the American Joint Distribution Committee and the Jewish Agency for Palestine. We have also consulted the military authorities and the representatives of IRO who have some connection with these developments. The following is a summary of our findings.

2. There are today, according to AJDC reports, 7984 of these recent Romanian Jewish infiltrees in Vienna. The movement began very slowly in March and mounted to approximately 400 on 10 May. At the end of July the numbers increased to approximately 100 per day. The Jewish organizations are informed that there are at present about 2000 Romanian Jews in Hungary who expect to move into Vienna.

3. According to conversations with hundreds of these people, the chief reason for the movement is hunger. With few exceptions they are thin and hungry looking. For the most part, they came from former Romanian territory taken over by the Russians. They were given a choice and chose to resettle in Romania, where it later developed they could find no economic foothold. Anti-Semitism, although not taking the violent form of pogroms, as in Poland in the summer of 1946, is rife and constitutes the second motive for movement. Next is the fear that the iron curtain will completely close down upon them and hold them entrapped for the rest of their lives. Finally, most of them wish to go to Palestine and seek to reach such places in Europe from which they believe the desired movement is possible.

4. We found no evidence of any organized stimulation or support of this movement from Romania. Although it is evident that this migration could not take place without the consent of the Russians, there was no evidence to support the suspicion that the Russians are organizing it. It is quite possible that the Soviet government is indifferent to the movement but that the Romanian and Hungarian governments permit it either to have fewer mouths to feed or to relieve themselves of Jewish problems.

a. From the highest policy levels to the lowest operational levels, the representatives of the AJDC and the JAFP deny any connection with this movement in Romania. I place credence in their denials. The AJDC is spending large sums of money to feed and rehabilitate Jews in Romania. The care of large numbers of Romanian Jews elsewhere imposes insupportable burdens on these limited resources. The Jewish Agency people see no sense in moving Jews from Romania to Austria in order to get them to Palestine. Their views are incorporated in an official policy decision, which has been confirmed by their representatives in the field.

b. In Romania itself the movement seems to be either individually and spontaneously motivated or stimulated by local Jewish groups. Letters from the refugees in Vienna indicating that they have received food and protection under the United States flag move others to flee.

318389

c. In Hungary the Romanian Jews receive help from Jewish organizations. The Hungarian government assumes no responsibility, except to see that the refugees move without delay. When they reach the Austrian border, the Austrian authorities call upon Jewish organizations to transport them to Jewish institutions in Vienna.

5. Until the present time the AJDC has assumed full responsibility for th of these people. They were sheltered in three Jewish institutions in Vienna, available by the Austrian government. The Army felt that it was precluded by t April 21st directive from offering DP care to these infiltrees. IRO, in its e stages, was not yet ready to make commitments. As a result, the limited reso the AJDC, which is giving support to over a million Jews throughout the world, seriously strained. It would probably not be able to carry on much longer. housing facilities were strained beyond capacity. Buildings capable of accomm 2000 people were housing nearly 8000. People were sleeping two and three in a They were sleeping in corridors and alleyways, and on floors. There were grav of epidemics, of serious social and security problems. It became clear that, present and prospective numbers, fundamental steps would have to be taken to d this problem.

6. a. The Austrian government, through Minister Helmer, agreed to inclu recent refugees in its feeding program for all displaced persons. The will provide the necessary supplementary feeding.

b. The Austrian government undertook to move 3000 of these refugees into Austria. It is attempting to secure permission from the Russians for movement and to find camp space in upper Austria.

7. It is not possible to foretell how large this movement will be. In li the fact that the summer is well advanced and that there have been no violent in Romania, it is not likely this year to take the mass form which the Polish took last year. Nevertheless, it is possible that a total of 10,000 to 20,000 refugees from Romania may seek U.S. protection in 1947.

8. Therefore, the following additional steps should be undertaken:

a. The Jewish organizations should do everything possible to discourage t movement at its source. The AJDC has agreed to increase its budget f Romania. The Jewish Agency has given assurances that it will seek so direct routes from Romania to Palestine, so as to discourage the idea that the people must go to Germany or Austria in order to get to Pale In addition, both organizations are instructing their representatives Romania, and will, if possible, send special representatives, in order dissuade the people from movement into Austria and Germany at this ti If possible, the Jewish Adviser or his aide should go to Romania to s the situation and to attempt to discourage movement westward.

b. IRO should instruct its representatives in Austria to assume the same responsibility for these refugees as for others. I have made represe to IRO accordingly.

c. If the numbers coming into Austria should be beyond the capacity of t country to absorb, U. S. Zone, Germany, should be prepared to take it

9. Although this current movement from Romania is to be deplored and, if possible, to be discouraged, it remains an inescapable fact. Under the circumstances, there seems to be no alternative but for all responsible parties to cooperate in an overall plan to take care of these people until permanent resettlement is possible.

RABBI PHILIP S. BERNSTEIN
Adviser on Jewish Affairs to the
Commander in Chief, European Command

PSB/mf
cc: C/S
Dir CAD

- - - - - - - - - -

V.

13 August 1947

MEMORANDUM TO: The Commander in Chief, European Command
and
The Commanding General, United States Forces, Austria

SUBJECT: Rabbi Bernstein's Report, dated 5 August 1947, on Infiltration of Romanian Jews.

1. Further inquiry as to the causes inducing the Romanian Jews to leave their homes leads me to the conclusion that the statement contained in Rabbi Bernstein's memorandum dated 5 August 1947, to the effect that "the chief reason for the movement is hunger", is not accurate and should be corrected.

2. While it is true that most of these men, women and children in Vienna appear to be "thin and hungry looking", they did not leave Romania primarily because of the famine in that land, but rather because of the rising tide of rabid anti-Semitism among the masses of the population.

3. Not a few of the men among the infiltrees stated that they had disposed of fairly lucrative businesses rather than remain to be persecuted and victimized by their anti-Semitic neighbors. One young man had quite a valuable violin which he was playing to raise the spirits of his fellow refugees. The fact that all these infiltrees are Jews, and that Romanian non-Jews are not fleeing, indicates that the chief reason for the movement is fear of racial and religious persecution.

4. It is my conviction that the infiltrees now in Vienna are, for the most part, persecutees and not economic refugees. This opinion is supported by the findings of Dr. Joseph Schwartz, the European Director of the American Joint Distribution Committee. Dr. Schwartz recently made a first hand, on the spot analysis of the conditions in Romania, in addition to a study of the situation among the infiltrees in Vienna.

JUDGE LOUIS E. LEVINTHAL
Adviser on Jewish Affairs to the
Commander in Chief, European Command

LEL/rls

- - - - - - - - - -

VI.

14 July 1947

His Excellency
Ing. Leopold Figl
Federal Chancellor
I, Ballhausplatz 2
Vienna, Austria

Dear Mr. Chancellor:

As you know, the U. S. Army Civilian Relief Program came to an end on 30 June 1947. A few small shipments are still arriving, but they are not sufficient for extensive relief. Until the small stocks are completely exhausted we will, upon your request, render help in emergencies.

In place of UNRRA and the U. S. Military Government stocks used in the past, there has been substituted the State Department Grant to Austria, and we are now existing on a day to day basis and making every effort to get the ships in on time during this critical period preceding the next harvest. As late as Saturday, we sent our representatives to Paris in an effort to divert two flour ships from Germany to Austria in order to meet the food plan for the 30th ration period which starts 21 July. I am happy to report that the ships have been promised us.

Last month, at a meeting with Minister Sagmeister I raised the question of feeding the Jewish displaced persons. All displaced persons except about 17,000 Jews have been included in the Austrian food plan. In the past, these Jews have been fed from the same stocks as other displaced persons, but the difference has been that the U.S.Army distributed the food to them.

Commencing with the 30th ration period, 8-11 - the remaining Jewish displaced persons should be included in the food plan the same as all other displaced persons. There is no source at present from which to feed them, other than indigenous production and the food stock coming from the United States under the State Department Grant. This will require that a small food distribution plan be established for these additional displaced persons. We will continue to assist your officials until they have their plan worked out and it becomes operational.

The International Relief Organization, when it becomes completely operative, will we hope, be of considerable assistance to the Austrian Government in handling the displaced persons problem which should lead to its eventual liquidation.

Please be so kind as to acknowledge receipt of this letter which will indicate to us that the Austrian Government recognizes the fact the U. S. Army has relinquished all responsibility for feeding displaced persons in Austria.

FOR THE HIGH COMMISSIONER:

JESMOND D. BALMER
Brigadier General, USA
Deputy Commissioner

- - - - - - - -

VII.

TRANSLATION ex GERMAN

AUSTRIAN REPUBLIC

THE FEDERAL CHANCELLOR

Vienna, 29th July 1947
B.M.f.V.1/3-11 989/47

To: Headquarters United States
Forces in Austria,
Office of the Deputy Commissioner,
attention Brigadier General, USA.
Jesmond D. BALMER

Vienna, IX.

Dear General,

In reply to your letter dated 14th July 1947 I have the honour to inform you that the feeding of the Jewish displaced persons in the U.S. Zone will be taken over, commencing with the 31st ration period, i.e. 18th August 1947, by the Austrian Landes-Food Offices ("Landesernahrungsamter") in Upper Austria South and Salzburg.

The displaced persons will receive ration cards with the same daily ration-scales as the Austrian people. Displaced persons who attend to some work will receive an additional card ("Zusatzkarte") corresponding to the kind of their employment.

Assuring you of my highest personal esteem, I am, dear General,

Sincerely yours,

sgd. F i g l

Responsible for the
correct translation:

(initialed)

30th July 1947

- - - - - - - - - -

VIII.

Adviser on Jewish Affairs

APO 757, c/o Postmaster
New York New York

19 August 1947

Rabbi Aryel Lev, Director
Committee on Army and Navy Religious Activities,
National Army and Navy Committee,
145 East 32nd Street
New York 16, New York.

Dear Rabbi Lev:

During the four weeks I have already spent in the American zone of Germany and Austria, I have been particularly impressed by the remarkably effective and constructive service rendered by the few Jewish chaplains-- alas, far too few -- now in the Theater.

As you know, official authorization has been given by all unit commanders for the use of Jewish chaplains for DP work. There are several key areas in Germany and Austria where Jewish chaplains could be of tremendous value, but unfortunately not enough rabbis have volunteered to serve in this capacity. I find it difficult to believe that after the military authorities have requested ten additional chaplains for this Theater, primarily for DP work, there should be a failure on the part of American Israel to meet the minimum needs.

There are at present at least five additional Jewish chaplains required. Besides ministering to the spiritual and cultural needs of the DPs, these chaplains will have to work with the Commanding Officers in the following capacities:

a. To advise on all matters pertaining to the Jewish men, women and children in the DP centers, thus interpreting the DPs to the Army.

b. To orient Jewish displaced persons with regard to all military directives relating to them, thus interpreting the Army to the DPs; and

c. To inspect and utilize the facilities available in Jewish assembly centers for religious worship and for religious education.

Chaplains volunteering their services to meet the above needs will be declared "surplus" and made available for release at the end of a six-month period of service in the Theater, unless additional service is mutually agreed upon. Due to such limited period of service it will not be possible for these chaplains to bring their families with them. However, in the event that individual chaplains may later extend their service, a satisfactory arrangement may be worked out in this respect.

The approaching winter, the third since liberation, will undoubtedly be a grim and bitter one. In addition to the drab and barren life the displaced persons have already experienced, the long delay in their resettlement and the uncertainty of emigration possibilities will bring further disappointment and disillusionment to them. Moreover, we are now faced with a new infiltree movement from Romania to Austria. About 9000 of these Romanian Jews have already arrived in Vienna during the past month and are living in indescribably wretched conditions. Their plight can be best

318394

described by the words of the Uruguayan delegate to the United Nations Special Committee on Palestine, who, upon returning from a visit to the Rothschild Hospital in Vienna, where he observed the sleeping and messing conditions of the people, made the following entry in his diary:

"I have been in Hell, Can this be the year 1947?"

Under these circumstances the question of the morale of our people is of vital significance. It is with this in mind that I feel the extreme need for additional chaplains who would give their time and energy to this all important cause. As rabbis and United States Army Officers they combine within themselves the most essential qualifications for helping our unhappy "remnant of Israel".

I appeal to individual rabbis, especially to those who have formerly served in the Chaplain Corps, to volunteer as chaplains during the critical months ahead, and urge their respective congregations to release them for this significant and necessary service to our people. I know of no finer way to give expression to their Americanism and to their Jewishness.

Faithfully yours,

JUDGE LOUIS E. LEVINTHAL
Adviser on Jewish Affairs to the
Commander in Chief, European Command

LEL/rls

#

910395