

The Gazette

PUBLISHED MONTHLY BY THE
MAINE JEWISH COUNCIL

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JUNE, 1947

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UJA Emergency Conference

Calls on Communities to Fill Quotas; General McNarney Warns of D P Uprising

On June 7-8, an emergency conference of some three hundred representatives, called by Henry Morgenthau, Jr., national chairman of UJA, issued a call to the Jewish communities in America "to raise at least the total amount of the national goal."

General Joseph T. McNarney, former Commander of U.S. forces in Europe, speaking of the crisis in the D.P. camps, stated: "A human being can stand just so much and then there comes the straw that breaks the camel's back We must prevent that last straw from being added to their burden. We must move heaven and earth to avoid the irritations and the frictions that this last straw would induce. We cannot afford to wait until a despairing man or a despairing group of men, in frantic, unconsidered action, create an incident or a series of incidents between them and some of the German population or

even between them and soldiers of the American Army."

The Conference recommended: "Regardless of precedent or time lag, every Jewish community in the United States should continue its campaign for the United Jewish Appeal and resolicit wherever possible until at least the quota requested as its share of the national responsibility is realized. We urge that even where campaigns have been declared officially closed, a new effort, inspired by the gravity of the need, should be undertaken at the earliest possible moment."

"We solemnly stress the importance of converting pledges into cash for prompt remittance to the United Jewish Appeal. The lives of many are being made unbearable and even being lost daily because adequate cash resources are not being made available for desperate current needs."

CAMP LOWN OPENS

SECOND SEASON JUNE 29th

Preparations have been completed for the opening of the second season of Camp Lown with an enrollment of eighty-five boys and girls, coming from all sections of the State of Maine and including two campers from Massachusetts.

Following the original policies adopted by the Camp Committee, the program of the second season is based on the same principles of Jewish educational camping that were instituted last year. With the experience that most of the present campers gained at Camp Lown the preceding summer, the program will now be intensified and will have greater variety of content.

A trained, competent staff of counselors has been engaged and will be headed by Joel Zion, educational consultant of the Jewish Education Committee of New York. Dr. A. S. Ko-

hanski, executive director of the Maine Jewish Council, is Camp Director. Officers of the Camp Board of Directors are: Philip W. Lown, president; Moses J. Byer and Abraham S. Levey, vice-presidents; Israel A. Miller, treasurer; Saul G. Chason, chairman and Edward I. Saperstein, vice-chairman of the Camp Committee.

Visiting Days

The Camp season starts on Sunday, June 29th and extends over a period of eight weeks until August 24th. Visiting days for parents and their friends are limited to three Sundays during the season, namely, July 13th and 27th and August 10th, from 12 noon to 5 p.m. DST. The Camp Committee also extends a cordial invitation to all those interested in the development of Camp Lown to visit the camp on those dates.

EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM OF THE MAINE JEWISH COUNCIL

by Jacob Lown
Chairman, Education Committee

Presented at the Annual Meeting of the American Association for Jewish Education, May 29-30, 1947, in Baltimore, Maryland

The Jewish population in Maine numbers about 8,000 souls, most of whom are concentrated in the three larger communities - Portland (3,800), Lewiston-Auburn (1,100) and Bangor (1,100). Some 700 live in four middle-size communities - Biddeford-Saco (250), Bath (100), Rockland (100) and Waterville (250). The rest are scattered in small towns and rural sections, throughout the state over an area of 33,000 square miles.

Each of the three larger cities has a five-day-a-week Hebrew School, a Jewish Community Center, a synagogue and a rabbi. Recently, Biddeford-Saco, too, has secured a rabbi who is also to teach Hebrew classes; and there is a rabbi in Calais. In our state as a whole, with the exception of the three bigger centers, Jewish education has been woefully neglected in the past. As a result, the young generation has grown up in total ignorance of Jewish life and lore. The Bar-Mitzvah ceremony was the only tie that bound Jewish boys to their people - and even this very tenuous bond was not given to many a boy in the rural sections. In the past two years the Maine Jewish Council has instituted a system of Jewish education, which has tried to

remedy the situation, at least in part.

The Maine Jewish Council

Originally, the Maine Jewish Council was formed (in 1938) to coordinate fund-raising for overseas needs in the State of Maine. But once the Council was organized, it started also to think in terms of educational and cultural needs of the local Jewish communities. As formulated in the preamble to its Constitution, revised and adopted two years ago, the Maine Jewish Council aims "to preserve and enhance Jewish ideals and values, to develop culture and education, to advance the American way of life in group relationships, and to share in the common responsibilities of American Jewry toward the Jewish people in other parts of the world." Thus the Council started with "Gmilut Hasadim" and expanded into the field of "Torah".

Prior to launching its educational program, the Council requested the American Association for Jewish Education to survey the field in Maine. Such a survey, made by Dr. Zalman Slesinger, revealed some pertinent data, which together with Dr. Slesinger's recommendations, served as a basis for the educational work later instituted by the Council. Subsequently, in August, 1945, the Council, with the aid of Dr. Israel S. Chipkin, secured Dr. Alexander S. Kohanski as its executive director, and with his coming to Maine, the educational activities began on a state-wide basis.

Scope of the Program

The educational program of the Maine Jewish Council covers: 1. Sunday Schools; 2. Home Study Courses; 3. Coordination of the Hebrew Schools; 4. Summer Camp; 5. Adult Study Groups; 6. Lecture Series; 7. Monthly Publication; 8. Spreading Books of Jewish Interest.

The Sunday Schools

As a first step in meeting the immediate needs of the small towns and rural sections, the Council established, in the fall of 1945, a series of Sunday Schools. The first year eight such schools were operated in as many communities, one of the schools serving a rural section of about 40 miles in radius. During the present year, one school was converted into a week-day Hebrew School under the direction and teaching of the local rabbi, leaving 7 Sunday Schools in the other communities. These seven Schools comprise sixteen groups with a total of 82 pupils (34 boys, 48 girls) ranging between 5-15 years in age. The teachers - one for each group - are volunteer lay men and women, except in Waterville where three students of Colby College are engaged at a nominal fee. The Sunday School session is two hours, from 10 - 12 a.m. This year, the term was from October 13, 1946 to May 25, 1947, or a total of 31 sessions. Due to

local conditions, some schools closed two or three weeks earlier.

The curriculum, prepared in detail by the Executive Director, covers Jewish History, Bible reading, customs and ceremonies, songs, celebration of holidays, assembly programs, current events and Keren Ami. The executive director visits the schools as far as his time permits, meets with the teachers and with the school committees. The teachers submit periodic reports. State-wide uniform tests are given to the pupils at the end of the season. Classes are held in synagogues, F a n a i B'rith club rooms and some at teachers' homes. A local school committee looks after the physical facilities and financial needs of each school. The pupils pay for their own books and materials and the school committee supplies the teachers' books and materials.

Home Study Course

There are children living in rural sections where they have no access to a Jewish school. For them, the Council started a home study course in Jewish history and holidays, based on the Sunday School curriculum. This season, there were six children studying this course, with the aid of their parents. It will require further elaboration and closer follow-up than the Council is at present able to give, in order to develop these courses more effectively.

Coordination of Hebrew Schools

The Hebrew Schools in the three larger cities are autonomous, each with its own Board of Education, principal and teachers, who design the curriculum and guide the program. Nowever, due to frequent changes in teaching personnel, these schools had suffered in the past from lack of continuity in
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Tel. Lewiston 3591

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Executive Director, Editor
DECEMBER 1946

June 1947

Editorials

General McNarney's Warning

"A human being can stand just so much and then there comes the straw that breaks the camel's back." This is the condition in which the displaced Jews of Europe find themselves now, General Joseph T. McNarney warned and he advised: "We must move heaven and earth to avoid the irritations and frictions that this last straw would induce."

To avoid utter despair that may set in among the DP's — to avoid desperate acts of revolt on their part, that may result from hunger, disillusionment, hopelessness — American Jewry must meet at least the 1947 goal of \$170,000,000 for the United Jewish Appeal.

The UJA drive in the State of Maine has not yet brought the necessary results. We are still in the midst of this campaign, and we must bend all our efforts to bring it to a successful conclusion.

The needs of our people overseas are now greater even than what we thought they were at the start of the drive. We must do our full share in meeting these needs. Let us heed General McNarney's warning before it is too late. For, ultimately the life and acts of the DP's are our responsibility as well.

Our Publication

With this issue, the Gazette completes its second year of publication. As the organ of the Maine Jewish Council, the Gazette has reflected the Council's ravieged activities in the past two years — in the field of education, camping, community organization, fund raising for our people's causes and the general development of the communal life of Maine Jewry. We have also endeavored to present to our readers some phases of the rich Jewish cultural heritage, events that affect our present-day life and a variety of topics of general interest.

In this past year, our own local talents have made fine contributions to the contents of this publication. We express our appreciation of their excellent cooperation, and we trust that next year more contributions of a similar nature will be made from among the communities in our state.

The Gazette will not be published during July, August and September. As we sign off, we wish our readers a very pleasant summer vacation.

Europe's Jews Rebuild

Based on a Special Report to the J.D.C. Executive Committee

by Dr. Joseph J. Schwartz

Chairman, European Executive Council, Joint Distribution Committee

A period of comparative stabilization characterizes Europe today. It is a period in which the Jewish populations of Europe have decided that for one reason or another they will, for the present at least, remain where they are.

One reason for this realization is the fact that there is no place where most of the Jews of Europe can go today. The Jews of Rumania or Hungary, for example, knowing the conditions in the displaced persons' camps of Germany, Austria and Italy—their only alternative—have no great desire to leave their own countries and to take their chances on a long stay in a D.P. camp.

Another reason is that the situation, so far as the Jews are concerned, has become more peaceful and tranquil. In Poland, for example, the physical safety of the Jews has improved tremendously and

Jews are no longer afraid to remain. But should there be a repetition of the Kielce pogrom or similar incidents in any country, the exodus will begin again.

Under the present condition of relative stability, we of the Joint Distribution Committee can now think in terms of economic reconstruction rather than in terms of emergency relief and of helping people in flight.

For the future, we must think in terms of limiting our relief programs to certain definite categories such as children, the aged, the sick and the unemployable (including transients who do not have permission to work). For all other groups of Jews in Europe today, employment and other economic reconstruction measures must be the goal.

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MJC Educational Program

(Continued from page 1)

program, and method and from changes in general approach to the problems of Jewish education. Last fall the Council convened the principals, teachers, rabbis and lay representatives of the Hebrew Schools to discuss coordination of curriculum and other common standards of Jewish education. Such a curriculum is now in the process of being formulated and will be submitted to the schools for their approval and adoption. A uniform curriculum is also essential for our summer camp, which aims to integrate its educational program with that of the Hebrew Schools.

Another service rendered by the Council to the Hebrew Schools was a recent survey of the Bangor Hebrew School made by the Council's executive director at the school's request. As in the program as a whole, the recommendations in this survey aimed to intensify Jewish education in the State of Maine and to raise its standards on a higher level.

Summer Camp

We take special pride in our summer camp. In 1945 the Maine Jewish Council bought a beautiful camp located on one of the Belgrade Lakes. It opened its first season last year, with 105 campers (75 full season and 30 half season). The camp is called Camp Lown, in honor of my brother, Philip W. Lown, the president of the Council. The campers enjoyed all accommodations and recreational facilities that may be offered in the best camps, plus Jewish education. This the children acquired not only through the various study courses and beautiful observances of Jewish traditions, but also, and perhaps mainly, through living a full and highly inspired Jewish life. A great Jewish rabbi is quoted as having said that a Jew may sometimes be more Jewish in his meals than in his prayers. The campers were Jewish in everything

they did in camp. It may be of interest to note that 90 per cent of the campers studied Hebrew voluntarily. They liked it and, as far as I know, they will continue it next season.

We entertain many great plans in connection with the camp. It is the first piece of ground that Maine Jewry as a whole has acquired for the planting of Jewish cultural values, and we want to make the most of it. But the needs of our brothers overseas do not permit us to carry out these plans for the time being.

Adult Study Groups

The study groups form the nucleus of the Council's adult educational program. It was started last year in some of the smaller and middle size communities, where it has survived the test of a second year. This season there were five such groups functioning (3 in their second year and 2 recently formed), each consisting of 10-15 men and women, and meeting every other week for about 6-7 months. They studied American and modern Jewish history, Bible, literary topics and reviewed current events. The course is outlined by the executive director, who also supplies the material. Members of the groups lead in the discussions. Other study groups, sponsored by local organizations also avail themselves of the advice and guidance offered by the Council's executive director.

Lecture Series

The Council sponsors a public lecture and concert series on a state wide basis. In addition, the local Centers or Federations sponsor lectures of their own, thus presenting to the Jewish, and sometimes also to the general public, a literary and artistic program of Jewish interest. To this series should also be added the lectures delivered by our executive director in many communities in the state.

Monthly Publication

The Council issues a monthly publication of 4-8 pages, called "The Gazette", which is sent free of charge to some 2200 readers in the state. Be-

sides reflecting the activities of the Council, the Gazette includes a review of Jewish events and popular articles on education, literature and other treasures of our rich cultural heritage.

Spreading Books

The habit of reading Jewish books has been further developed to some extent among our people in the state since the Council started its library and bookstore two years ago. To date, some \$1350 worth of books have been sold to the schools, adult study groups and individuals. It should be mentioned that among the adults, interest has been primarily in reference and study material. This is due to the fact that stimulation in reading was directed in connection with the study groups.

Evaluation

All these activities introduced by the Maine Jewish Council in the past two years should be regarded as a beginning of Jewish education which, we hope, will be intensified in the course of time. At this stage, one cannot even gauge adequately their degree of success. The most we can say is that the program has taken root and met with a ready response on the part of the children as well as the parents.

Nor is our program devoid of difficulties, some of which are inherent in the nature of small communities and, if you will, in the climate and vast expanses of Maine. Our teaching personnel in the Sunday Schools, for example, has had a 50 per cent turnover within two years. Since the teachers are laymen, much valuable training and experience that they acquired the first year, was thus lost to the schools. Our state being very large and sparsely populated, it is difficult to hold frequent central meetings of teachers and lay leaders, especially during the winter season when the roads may become impassable.

Perhaps the greatest obstacle in our educational program for children is that we have to limit it to the Sunday School. Most of the small communities cannot sustain a Hebrew teacher. However in the middle size cities we hope to establish week-day Hebrew schools as time goes on, as teachers become more available and as the communities feel ready to undertake the full program. The Sunday Schools are not our goal; for we are not satisfied with raising "Sunday Jews". What we want is a generation of full blooded "all week" Jews.

Another problem is that of personnel. We have now an executive director who guides and supervises the entire educational program, in addition to his other duties in the Council and in directing the summer camp. We had hoped last year to engage an assistant who would spend most of his time on educational work. Financial considerations forced us to postpone this plan for the time being. From the point of view of our educational needs, we can ill afford to postpone the full development of our program. But, bearing in mind that we were so late in starting, and furthermore, that what we have started is promising of bearing great results, we are confident that our program will expand in the near future, embracing the full scope which we have set as our goal.



Iola R. Schipler



Natalie Gordon



Mrs. Daisie Shea



Judith Gordon



Gladys R. Weiner



Joyce Rachel Medwed

Camp Lown Staff -- 1947

Joel Y. Zion
Head CounselorAlexander S. Kohanski
Director

Rosita Bader



Ursula Pels



Helen Barbara Bernstein



Frank Tonkonow



Hyman I. Sky



Julian White



Albert Silver



Howard Berg

Rosita Bader

Dancing, Hebrew

Senior at Brooklyn College; Florence Marshall Hebrew High School; dancing instructor Educational Alliance Hebrew School; completed playground course at college.

Howard Berg

Junior Counselor

Freshman University of Maine; attended Bangor Hebrew School; Junior Life Saving Certificate.

Helen Barbara Bernstein

Junior Counselor

Graduate Deering High School, Portland, Me.; Portland Hebrew School, 2 yrs.; volunteer worker at Portland Day Nursery and at Children's Trailer Theatre.

Nathan Fish

Hebrew Department

Principal Bangor Hebrew School; former youth leader in Palestine; now working on MA at Harvard University.

Marcia Fish

Dancing

Teacher at Bangor Hebrew School; graduate Teachers' Training School in Palestine.

Judith Gordon

Athletics, Hebrew

Sophomore at Radcliffe College; Sophomore at Hebrew Teachers College in Boston; taught baseball and basketball and conducted playground

Natalie Gordon

Nurse

Graduate (RN) Beth Israel Hospital School of Nursing in Boston; attended courses for advanced nursing at Boston University; First Aid Instructor Certificate ARC; practicing nurse.

Bernard N. Gotlib

Junior Counselor

Freshman University of Maine; attended Bangor Hebrew School; swimming, canoeing, Scout Craft merit badge; photography.

Joyce Rachel Medwed

Junior Counselor

Graduate High School, Bangor, Me.; attended Bangor Hebrew School 5 yrs.

Marilyn Nimowitz

Assistant Arts & Crafts

Teacher in Arts and Crafts in Hebrew School in New York.

Ursula Pels

Junior Counselor

Senior at Bangor High School; assistant leader Young Judea; Jr. Lt. Girls Scout; assistant counselor Center Day Camp.

Hyman I. Sky

Dramatics

B.A. Yeshiva University; Rabbinical School of Yeshiva University; teacher at Temple B'nai Israel, Irvington, N.J.; (formerly at Camp Cejwin, Camp Hadar - general counselor, dramatics and all camp entertainment, advisor

Iola R. Schipler

Music

B.S. (Cum Laude in music) School of Education New York University; M.A. Graduate School of Education NYU, major in music and minor in Hebrew; leader of Choral Group, Jewish Culture Foundation at NYU; teacher instrumental and vocal music, all grade levels, at Hillside, N.J., public schools; music teacher Hebrew Schools NYC.

Mrs. Daisie Shea

Camp Mother

Teacher in New York public school.

Albert Silver

Assistant Waterfront

Freshman, College of the City of New York; Life Guard, Department of Parks, N.Y.C.; Red Cross Senior Life Saving Certificate; New York City Life Guard Training Course Certificate.

Frank Tonkonow

Swimming Instructor

Second year at Boston University Medical School; Red Cross Instructor's certificate; taught swimming at Harvard and at camps.

Julian White

Athletics

Student at Jewish Theological Seminary; BA University of Chicago; former student Hebrew Theological College in Chicago; club director and teacher Anshe Emeth, Chicago; athletic direct-

Allen Turtel

Swimming Assistant

ARC Senior Life Saving certificate; instructed swimming at camps; Patrol leader, Boy Scouts of America.

Gladys R. Weiner

Assistant in Dramatics

High School graduate; enrolled at Hunter College fall term 1947; completing Hebrew High School (Boston); entering Jewish Theological Seminary next fall; leader of Young Israel group; humor editor and artist for High School magazine; acted in plays; made stage costumes.

Frances Zellick

Assistant Head Counselor

B.A., Brooklyn College; B.H.P., Teachers Institute of the Jewish Theological Seminary of America. Teacher and group worker.

Harriett Zion

Arts & Crafts

Assistant to Art Director, Jewish Education Committee of New York; attended Art Institute of Chicago; studying painting with Morris Davidson.

Joel Y. Zion

Head Counselor

Educational Consultant, Jewish Education Committee of New York. Majored in group work at New York School for Social Work; Bachelor of Hebrew letters from College of Jewish Studies, Chicago; ordained rabbi at JIR; now working on doctorate at

Europe's Jews Rebuild

(Continued from page 2)

Reconstruction Measures

In this direction the J.D.C. has undertaken a series of producers' cooperatives on a large scale. In Poland alone, 150 producers' cooperatives are now in operation—125 of them Jewish cooperatives organized by the J.D.C. in cooperation with the Central Committee of Polish Jews. This type of development is expanding rapidly, not only in Poland but also in Czechoslovakia, Rumania and other countries. More and more it will be J.D.C.'s function to expand these producers' cooperatives and to bring as many people as possible into them, because it is clear that in Eastern and Southeastern Europe the trend is more and more in the direction of the cooperative form of production. . . .

The history of the cooperatives already established by J. D. C. in Europe proves that more has been accomplished with the funds provided for cooperative loans than had the same monies been distributed in the form of outright relief.

In Germany and Austria, J. D. C. is also turning more and more toward constructive and productive activities. The Jewish D.P.'s themselves have come to the realization (which they did not have six months ago) that they are likely to stay in Germany and Austria for a much longer time than they previously believed. As a result, they are anxious to get to work. They have come to us with various proposals to develop work projects for them and with them. . . .

Work Projects

The J.D.C. has embarked on a program which we hope will ultimately give employment to between 30,000 and 40,000 Jewish displaced persons. The program calls for the development of work projects such as clothing factories, shoe factories, various carpentry shops and facilities for the manufacture and production of various kinds of novelties which, it is believed, can be successfully promoted at this time.

In order to work out this program and make it effective, it will be necessary for the J.D.C. to furnish most of the raw material and a good part of the tools and machinery required. Such machinery as is available to the Army from seized enemy supplies will be turned over for this purpose, but a large quantity of machines and tools will have to be brought from outside.

In order to make any work program succeed, it is necessary to give the workers an incentive. After careful consultation with the D.P.'s themselves, we have come to the conclusion that the only practical way is to set up a system of J.D.C. scrip and points. With these points, Jewish workers can go to J.D.C. stores, which are now being organ-

ized, and purchase any of the commodities which are available.

The work project is already under way. Its board of management consists of three people, representatives of the J. D. C., the Jewish Agency for Palestine and the Central Committee of Liberated Jews. This board is now working out a budget of money, raw materials and machines.

Side by side with the work program, J. D. C. and O.R.T. are developing a whole series of vocational training schools in the camps of Germany, Austria and Italy. It is hoped that thousands of young people who do not possess any skills will receive vocational training in these schools and that some of the graduates will be absorbed into the work projects.

On UNRRA

The fact that UNRRA is going out of existence poses a very serious problem for the J.D.C., both in the liberated and in the occupied countries. With the withdrawal of UNRRA, J.D.C. will remain as the only American organization still bringing relief in many areas.

As far as Germany is concerned, the situation has already become very serious for the J.D.C. as well as for other voluntary agencies. It has become serious because there has been a tremendous reduction of UNRRA personnel in the D.P. camps. I think that UNRRA personnel has been reduced to a point at which it is no longer able to function efficiently.

On Rumania

Rumania, whose 400,000 Jews comprise the largest Jewish community in Europe outside the Soviet Union, is going through a period of

wild inflation. 100,000 of them are either returnees from deportation or repatriates from Bessarabia or Northern Bukovina. Some 30,000 of them have not yet received Rumanian citizenship and with this uncertain legal status find it difficult to find work, to settle down or to become absorbed in the economy of the country. . . .

On the Future

I believe that there are elements of hope in the various liberated countries of Europe. I think that in France, Belgium and the Netherlands, in the countries of Eastern and Southeastern Europe, we will arrive at a period of real stabilization. The Jews will become absorbed more and more into the economic life of those countries. In Western Europe, if it were not for the infiltrates who are coming into France and Belgium and Italy, our financial problems would already have been greatly reduced.

But I also think that as long as there are 250,000 Jews who are homeless or who are in D.P. camps, we will continue to have a tremendous problem. It is a problem that deserves the attention of governments and of intergovernmental agencies. It is a problem that will have to be tackled very seriously because there can be no solution to the problem of Europe's Jews so long as 250,000 are still homeless, still displaced.

Every Jew Can Understand

UNRRA is out of business on June 30th.

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Financial responsibility of United States Army for care of displaced persons ends July 1st.

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Governments and intergovernmental agencies are not helping. Most European governments are bankrupt.

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Who will provide food and shelter; clothing and medicines?

* * * * *

Who will sustain their hope — equip them for jobs, life in Palestine, the United States or other countries when they can get to lands of freedom?

* * * * *

June 30th is the day of crisis for 250,000 Jewish displaced persons. Will you permit it to be their day of doom?

Read General McNarney's Warning
on Page 1

Adding to your gift means adding life!

Please pay your pledge today.

Please Read This and Act Today

Dear Friend:

In the Spring phase of the United Jewish Appeal, \$115,000,000 has been raised toward the \$170,000,000 national goal for the year 1947. We must raise not one penny less than \$127,500,000 by July 15th to maintain the minimum program of relief and reconstruction. This means we must absolutely raise \$12,500,000 additional from the Jews of America by July 15th. It can be done! It must be done!

If you have contributed to your local campaign, I personally and sincerely urge that you contribute more — all you can — more than you think you can.

If you have not contributed to your local campaign, I urge that you do so immediately and with unprecedented generosity.

I know the Jews of America will not disappoint those fine surviving men, women and children overseas who are depending on you for very life itself.

Sincerely yours,
Henry Morgenthau, Jr.
General Chairman

UNITED JEWISH APPEAL

for \$170,000,000

Sponsored by

The Maine Jewish Council