JVS SERVICES FOR EUROPE AND PALESTINE*

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in the U. S. and Canada have been serving emigres, since the beginning of migration from Hitler Germany in the 1930's, with job placement, vocational counseling, retraining, and related vocational adjustment services. Reports from JVS's to their national agency, the Jewish Occupational Council, indicate deficiencies in the preparation overseas of emigres for employment in this country. The three chief criticisms are:

- Failure of the emigres to learn the English language which complicates the difficulties in counseling and placement.
- 2. Lack of orientation to the American industrial scene relative to the kinds of job opportunities available, salaries to be expected, methods of work, etc. Unprepared for the conditions which they will have to face in their search for job adjustment in the U. S., many become disillusioned and demoralized with the result that a satisfactory job adjustment for them becomes more difficult.
- 3. Vocational training received in Europe is generally inadequate. It is too narrow; it is insufficiently related to the job opportunities available in this country; and does not utilize fully previous skills possessed by the emigres.

The Jewish community in this country has taken the wrong attitude towards the DP problem by assuming that its job was basically one of supplying relief. Uninformed people in this country will assume further that the problem of the DPs will be solved by the establishment of the Jewish State in Israel, which is by no means true. The DPs will not immediately be liberated to Palestine. Their essential need is one of adjustment and vocational training to fit them for normal living in the United States, in Palestine or elsewhere.

The problem of preparing emigres for employment is particularly difficult since DPs have no desire to contribute to the German economy, which is understandable. The basic problem in any vocational program which may be set up in Europe to meet their needs is to supply them with the motivation that is lacking.

Thus far, the Joint Distribution Committee and ORT have failed to call upon the Jewish Occupational Council and its constituent JVS agencies to aid in the formulation of their vocational training and rehabilitation programs overseas. Around JOC are gathered the professional skills in vocational services for Jews, experiences in serving emigre job adjustment needs, and knowledge of vocational opportunities in America for emigres. We need a coordinated effort to achieve proper planning, and JOC and the JVS agencies can help in this regard.

agreement with the Hechalutz Organization of America whereby JVS's will serve Hechalutz members who are preparing for employment in Israel. JVS's are rendering three services to members of Hechalutz: (1) counseling in the selection of a work objective in Palestine; (2) information and referral service regarding vocational education schools and other training resources; and (3) placement in industry as further preparation for employment in Israel.

IOC and its constituent JVS agen-

cies are non-partisan professional groups concerned solely with the professional aspects of vocational counseling. The JOC can integrate the work of preparing those who wish to go to Israel in line with the industrial needs of the country. The American Jewish community must expand its professional vocational guidance services and create new ones where they do not now exist to further the adjustment of immigrants as well as Americans in anticipation of increased migration and a possible future reduction in employment.

^{*} This summary of Dr. Gray's speech was prepared by Alfred Feintuch, USNA, New York City.