

R E P O R T

of the
World Jewish Congress Organization Department
August 1949 - August 1951

by

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WORLD JEWISH CONGRESS
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ERRATA

Page 4, line 18 (from bottom):

After the word Brazil insert, parenthetically, the words "in this case, for reaffiliation."

Page 4, line 3 (from bottom):

Instead of "Hungarian Congregation" read "Hungarian and Sephardic Congregations."

Page 7, line 20 (from top):

Instead of "last years" read "last two years!"

Page 8, line 13 (from bottom):

After Finland, instead of "Ellen Hilb" read "Rabbi Kopul Rosen, Ellen Hilb."

Page 9, line 7 (from bottom):

Instead of "to the strictly internal concerns of the WJC" read "to strictly internal concerns."

Page 24, lines 19 and 20 (from bottom):

Instead of "which have led" read "which would have led."

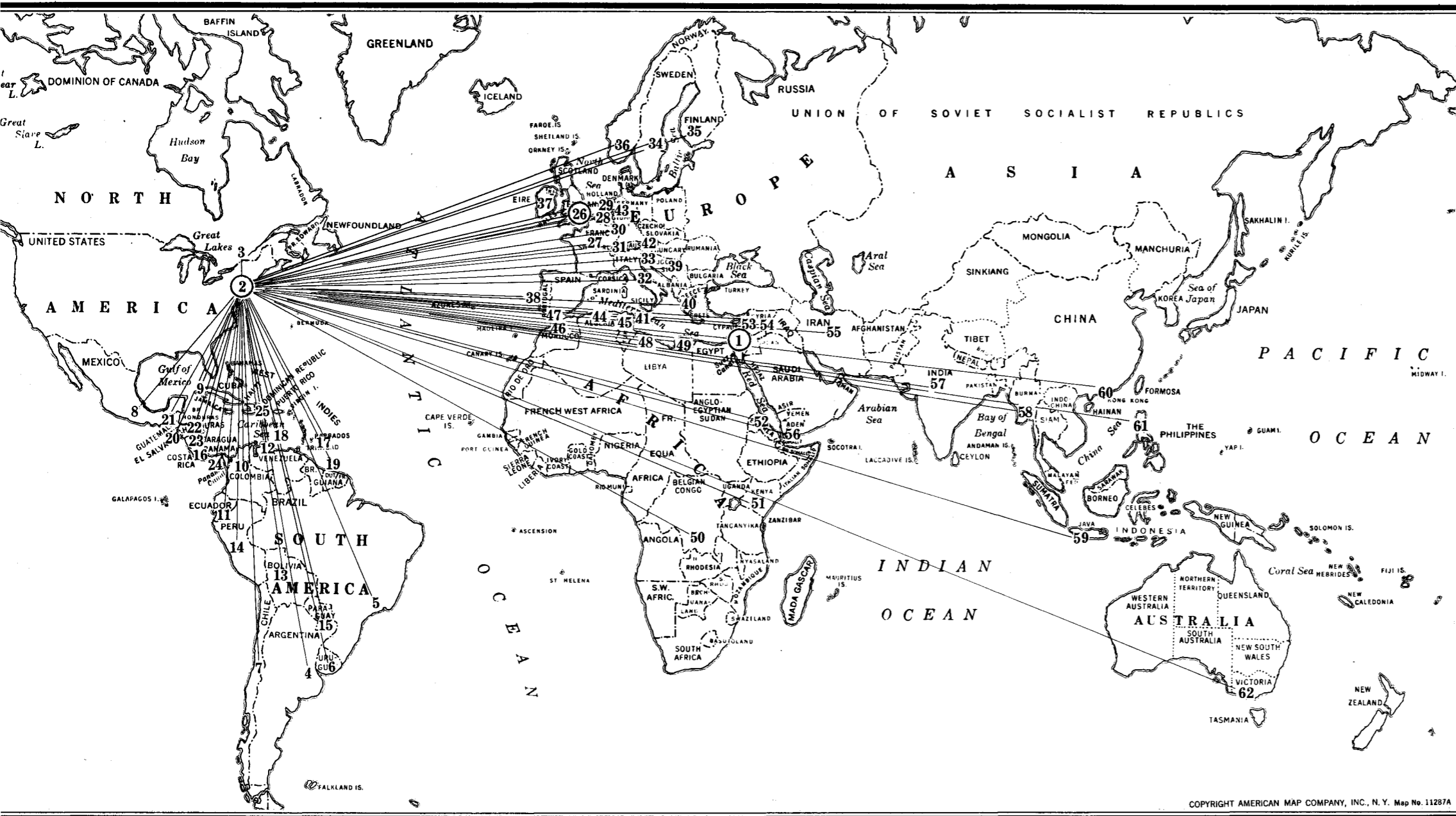
Page 56, line 10 (from top):

Instead of "this closing" read "thus closing."

Page 64, line 17 (from top):

After the word affiliation, add the following sentence in parenthesis:
"The particular position of the Jewish community of Brazil was already explained."

MAP SHOWING NETWORK OF WORLD JEWISH CONGRESS AFFILIATES *)
 (As of August 15, 1951)
 Prepared by the Organization Department, World Jewish Congress, Central Office, New York



19. Dutch Guiana: Central Committee for Jewish Affairs, Paramaribo
20. El Salvador: World Jewish Congress Committee
21. Guatemala: Centro Hebreo de Guatemala
22. Honduras: Centro Israelita en Honduras
23. Nicaragua: Union Israelita
24. Panama: (a) Centro Israelita Cultural, Colon
(b) Beneficencia Israelita de Panama
25. Dominican Republic: Parroquia Israelita, Trujillo
26. Great Britain: World Jewish Congress British Section
27. France: Comite Francais du Congres Juif Mondial
28. Belgium: Conseil des Associations Juives de Belgique
29. Netherlands: Dutch Advisory Committee of the World Jewish Congress
30. Luxembourg: Consistoire Israelite de Luxembourg
31. Switzerland: Schweizerischer Israelitischer Gemeindebund
32. Italy: Unione della Comunita Israelitica Italiana
33. Trieste, Free Territory of: Jewish Community, Trieste
34. Sweden: WJC Swedish Section
35. Finland: Central Council of Jewish Communities in Finland
36. Norway: (a) Jewish Community, Oslo
(b) Jewish Community, Trondheim
37. Eire: Jewish Representative Council of Eire
38. Portugal: Comunidade Israelita, Lisbon
39. Yugoslavia: Federation des Communautes, Belgrade
40. Greece: Central Board of the Jewish Communities of Greece
41. Malta: Jewish Community, Malta
42. Austria: Jewish Community, Vienna
43. Germany: All communal bodies
44. Algeria: Federation des Communautes Israelites d'Algerie
45. Tunisia: Federation des Communautes Juives de Tunisie
46. French Morocco: Comite Central Marocain du CJM
47. Tangiers, International Zone: Comunidad Israelita de Tanger
48. Tripolitania: Comunita Israelitica della Tripolitania
49. Cyrenaica: Jewish Community of Cyrenaica
50. Belgian Congo: Congregation Israelite du Katanga
51. Kenya: Board of Kenya Jewry
52. Eritrea: Eritrea Jewish Community
53. Lebanon: Conseil Communal Israelite
54. Syria: Conseil Communal Israelite
55. Iran: Comite du CJM
56. Aden: Jewish Community of Aden
57. India: (a) Central Jewish Board of Bombay
(b) Jewish Association of Calcutta
(c) The South Indian Jews Association, Cochin
58. Burma: Masmhea Yeshua Synagogue, Rangoon
59. Indonesia: Vereniging Voor Joodse Belangen in Indonesia
60. Hong Kong: Jewish Community of Hong Kong
61. Philippines: Jewish Community of the Philippines
62. Australia: Executive Council of Australian Jewry

*) The several communities or organizations listed as cooperative bodies (A - O) in our report, are not marked on this map.

- Executive Branches:**
- Western Hemisphere** - New York. (The Organization Department at Central Office has jurisdiction over the whole area except the regions listed below.)
 - European Branch** - London. (The European Executive is in charge of organizational work in countries of Europe and French North Africa.)
 - Israel Branch** - Tel Aviv. (Contacts with Near East.)

1. Israel: World Jewish Congress Israel Branch
2. U.S.A.: American Jewish Congress
3. Canada: Canadian Jewish Congress
4. Argentina: Delegacion de Asociaciones Israelitas Argentinas (DAIA)
5. Brazil: Centro Hebreo Brasileiro in Rio and Sao Paulo. (In the process of replacement by affiliation of Federations)
6. Uruguay: Comite Central Israelita de Uruguay
7. Chile: (a) Comite Representativo de La Colectividad Israelita
(b) Federacion Sionista
8. Mexico: Comite Central Israelita de Mexico
9. Cuba: Consejo Central de Sociedades Israelitas de Cuba
10. Colombia: (a) Comite Central Hebreo de Colombia, Barranquilla
(b) Union Federal Hebrea de Occidente, Cali
(c) Centro Israelita de Bogota
11. Ecuador: (a) Centro Israelita, Guayaquil
(b) Asociacion de Beneficencia Israelita, Quito
12. Venezuela: (a) Union Israelita de Caracas
(b) Asociacion Israelita de Venezuela
13. Bolivia: Comite Central Judio de Bolivia
14. Peru: Asociacion de Sociedades Israelitas del Peru
15. Paraguay: Congreso Judio Mundial
16. Costa Rica: Centro Israelita Sionista
17. British West Indies: (a) Barbados Jewish Community
(b) Trinidad Jewish Council
18. Dutch West Indies: (a) Jewish Community, Curacao
(b) Nederlandsch Israelitische Gemeente, Aruba

IN MEMORIAM DR. STEPHEN S. WISE AND LOUISE WATERMAN WISE

In April, 1950 and 1951 the first and second anniversary of our first President's passing away was commemorated not only in New York but by many of our affiliates. As time passes, the personality and great stature of Dr. Stephen S. Wise assumes ever greater dimensions, and makes the World Jewish Congress and the Jewish communities here in the U.S.A. and elsewhere increasingly conscious of the extent of the loss we suffered by his demise. The autobiography of Dr. Stephen S. Wise, "Challenging Years," published posthumously in New York, gives the outlines of the rich and colorful life of our first President.

On January 28, 1950, the site for "Yad Shemuel" near Jerusalem was solemnly dedicated to commemorate forever Stephen Wise's life and work.

On April 15, 1951, the Stephen Wise Congress House was dedicated in New York City in the presence of representatives of many Jewish communities as well as of representatives of the European and Israeli Branches of the World Jewish Congress Executive. The house was formally opened by Judge Justine Wise Polier. The solemn and impressive ceremony, the wide echo from Jewish communities affiliated with the World Jewish Congress the world over, the repercussion in the press, and the response from the widest circles of the great Jewish community of New York bore witness to the reverence and affection in which the memory of Dr. Stephen S. Wise is held by our people.

A book, "Legend of Louise," tells of the life and work of this unusual and highly gifted woman; it was published in New York about two years ago. On January 22, 1951 there was laid the cornerstone of the Louise Waterman Wise Youth Center for Israel, near Herzl's Tomb in Jerusalem, as a memorial to the first President of the Women's Division of the American Jewish Congress, and the helpmate of Dr. Stephen S. Wise.

INTRODUCTION

In June, 1948, the Organization Department submitted to the Second Assembly of the World Jewish Congress, then in session in Montreux, a report on the "Activities and Problems of the Organization Department of the WJC for the Period of May 15, 1946 to June 10, 1948."

In July, 1949, the Organization Department submitted its second report covering the period from July, 1948 to July, 1949.

In September, 1950, the Organization Department submitted to the members of the Executive on the occasion of the Executive Meeting in New York "Some Remarks on the Problem of Strengthening the World Jewish Congress," which was not a chronological report but a survey of organizational problems directly and indirectly connected with the activities of the WJC.

From time to time between the dates mentioned above, the Organization Department forwarded to members of the Executive, to members of the General Council, and also to our affiliates various reports dealing with special problems or projects. These are so numerous that I refrain from listing them here.

All these reports were written mainly in English but frequently also in Spanish and in Yiddish.

Mention should also be made of specific reports on organizational problems issued occasionally either by the European Executive Branch, the Israel Executive Branch, or by the various regional or local offices of the WJC.

The present report is merely a sequel to all previous reports. It does not pretend to be an over-all exhaustive review covering ab ovo all problems of the organizational structure of the WJC previously dealt with. This report should therefore be read in conjunction with the previous accounts.

* * *

The material of the present report is divided into three sections. The first section deals briefly with organizational problems of the WJC irrespective of countries, as they occurred during the said period. It is obvious that these problems have to be reported not as isolated WJC affairs but against the background of events in the Jewish world and in connection with them. The second section surveys developments in the activities of our affiliates and the efforts and achievements of the WJC Organization Department with regard to each affiliate, but without the statistical data already given in our previous reports unless there have substantial changes which justify further elaboration. This time more emphasis has been given to the work carried on by the affiliates themselves. The third and last section sets forth some conclusions from past experience as well as ways and means for future action. It should be underscored at once, however, that this third section of the report represents the rather personal views of the director of the Organization Department, for which he alone can be held responsible. They are intended merely as a contribution to the discussion of the Executive meeting.

SECTION I

A. THE CENTRAL BODIES OF THE WORLD JEWISH CONGRESS

- (a) Composition of the Executive - Some changes occurred in the composition of our Executive during the two years in review. Dr. Robert S. Marcus, the Political Director of the World Jewish Congress' Western Hemisphere Section; Dr. Jacob Hellmann, director of our South American Office for a period of 10 years; Isaac Najditch, one of the founders of the WJC and veteran Zionist leader; Abraham Bialopolski, of Tel Aviv, one of the leaders of MAPAM in Israel - all of them members of our Executive - passed away during this period. The WJC Executive paid fitting tribute to their memory in special commemorations.

The two seats reserved for our Argentine affiliate, the Daia, were filled, as was the seat for our Chilean affiliate, the Comite Representativo. The member of our Executive for the Central Committee in Mexico was replaced in accordance with the right vested in the Comite Central in Mexico, our affiliate. A new member representing the Mizrachi Organization of America was coopted. The member of the Executive from Algeria, being the office-holding president of the Federation of Jewish Communities in Algeria, was replaced. One member, representing the Progressive Group of the General Zionists was coopted to the WJC Executive - Israel Branch. A member representing the Executive Council of Australian Jewry was likewise coopted.

A chairman of the Western Hemisphere Executive Branch was elected from the members there,

Thus, the present composition of the Executive of the WJC is as follows;
Dr. Nahum Goldmann, Acting President and Chairman of the Entire Executive.

Western Hemisphere Executive Branch: Dr. Israel Goldstein, chairman. In July, 1950, Dr. Israel Goldstein, member of the Executive of the WJC, was unanimously elected chairman of the Western Hemisphere Branch of the WJC.

Members - U.S.A.: Rabbi Philip Bernstein; Rabbi Dr. Simon Federbush, Leon Gellman (moved to Israel); Rabbi M. Kirschblum; Judge L. Levinthal; Rabbi Irving Miller; Dr. Maurice L. Perlzweig; Dr. David Petegorsky; Shad Polier; Rabbi Dr. Joachim Prinz; Dr. Isaac I. Schwarzbart; Louis Segal; Dr. Joseph Tenenbaum; Baruch Zuckerman; Louis Lipsky. The Institute of Jewish Affairs is directed by Dr. Nehemiah Robinson.

Canada: Samuel Bronfman (Montreal).

Argentina: Prof. Dr. Ricardo Dubrovsky (Buenos Aires); Dr. Moise Goldmann (Buenos Aires.)

Chile: Isidore Dimant (Santiago).

Mexico: E. Bor Mitrani (Mexico City).

Australia: I Ashkanasy, K.C. (Melbourne).

Altogether 23 members.

European Executive Branch: Dr. Noah Barou, Chairman.

Members - Great Britain: Dr. F. R. Bienenfeld; Mr. Alex L. Easterman (acting chairman); Dr. S. Levenberg; the Marchioness of Reading; Rabbi Kopul Rosen; Mrs. Rebecca Siefert; Mr. Sidney S. Silverman; Dr. A. Steinberg.

France: Marc Jarblum; Israel Jefroykin; Rabbi R. Kapel; Dr. M. Modiano; Mordecai Oren (moved to Israel); Dr. G. Rogner (Paris-Geneva); Dr. Moshe Sneh (moved to Israel).

Italy: Dr. Raffaele Cantoni (Rome)

Sweden: Hillel Storch (Stockholm)

Algeria: Benjamin Heler (Algiers)

Tunisia: Elie Nataf (Tunis)

Altogether 20 members.

Israel Executive Branch: Dr. Arie Tartakower, chairman

Members - Joseph Heftman; Dr. Michael Landau; Dr. Mordechai Nurock; Anselm Reiss.

Altogether 5 members.

In all, the Executive is today composed of 48 members from 13 countries. This composition of the WJC Executive, not limited to one country, is unique when compared with the composition of any other Jewish organization except the Zionist. In it the credo of the WJC that we are one people bound by historical ties is symbolized.

The work of the Executive of the WJC is carried on by Departments which operate in New York, London (with a special section in Paris), and Tel Aviv.

The Departments are:

International Relations Department (formerly known as the
Political Department)

Organization Department

Department of Culture and Education

Public Relations and Information Department

Ways and Means Department

Institute of Jewish Affairs

The administrative work of the Executive is done by special Administrative Secretariats in New York, London, and Tel Aviv.

- (b) Meetings of the Executive - This composition of the Executive, of course, makes it inevitable that the Executive meets by way of branch meetings. During the period in question, the Western Hemisphere Branch held 34 meetings. The European Branch of the Executive held 3 types of meetings, viz.: (1) meetings of the London Members of the Executive, 55; (2) meetings of the Paris members of the Executive, 18; and (3) full European Executive meetings. The Israel Branch of the Executive met 27 times.

Seven of the meetings of the Western Hemisphere Executive were gatherings enlarged by the attendance of some members of the European and Israel Executive Branches. One of the European Executive meetings was of a similar character.

The forthcoming plenary meeting of the Executive is scheduled to take place in Geneva on September 10.

- (c) General Council - The chairman of the General Council, Dr. A. L. Kubowitzki (now changed to Kubovy) was in May, 1951, granted a leave of absence in view of his appointment as Minister Plenipotentiary of the Israel Government to the Governments of Czechoslovakia and Poland. A number of affiliates nominated their members to the General Council, the composition of which is now almost complete. A plenary meeting of the General Council was technically not feasible during the period under review but several informal meetings of members of the General Council were held both in Europe and in Israel.

- (d) Plenary Assembly of the World Jewish Congress and Constitution - The provisions of Article 7, paragraph 2 of our Constitution as well as of Article 13, stating the time for calling the Assembly and the General Council, respectively will have to be reconsidered at the next General Assembly. This applies, likewise, to some other provisions of the Constitution. They will have to be reconsidered in the light of past experience and some provisions of a more elastic character for exceptional situations or times of emergency will have to be inserted, if we wish our Constitution to keep abreast of the realities.

B. THE ORGANIZATIONAL TASKS OF THE WJC

True to its guiding ideal of holding together as far as possible the scattered parts of the Jewish people as equal partners in a common effort for the continued existence and security of our people, the WJC tries, through its Organization Department, to attain this end by various ways.

The first way is that of widening the scope of and deepening the cohesion between the WJC affiliates. To begin with, there are the internal organizational activities in the strict sense of the word. These include first of all the efforts of the Organization Department to convince Jewish communities to join the WJC. It is sometimes a long and arduous way to make communities rise above the local horizon of responsibility, particularly if they themselves are in no immediate need, feeling secure and comfortable and given to purely selfish and local concerns. As if a branch of a tree could live long after being cut off from the tree. They do not deny being a branch of the Jewish tree, but they prefer not to remain on the tree. Their fate will be sealed. Sooner or later they will vanish from the midst of Jewry.

Let us give you an insight if not into the sometimes difficult road of winning, at least into the last step on the road toward:

- (a) New Affiliations: In a previous report we enumerated a list of 65 countries where the WJC had its affiliates. During the last two years several affiliates in Eastern Europe seceded from the WJC. Others, in the Arabic world of the Near East, were cut off from any contacts, or reached a stage of near-liquidation. This last pertains to the Jewish community in China. On the other hand, we continued our persistent efforts to prepare the ground for the affiliation of the Jewish communities of Brazil, South Africa, Rhodesia, New Zealand, and Singapore. Knowledge and appreciation of the activities of the WJC have grown in these countries, and it is hoped that this will bear fruit in the near future. Turkey constitutes a special case. Here the formal consent of the Government is still pending. Our contact and exchange of views with the Jewish community of Turkey are very cordial. At the same time, the Organization Department did not neglect the smaller Jewish communities, even the tiniest. The Jewish communities of Malta, Eritrea, and Burma were added to the more than 60 affiliates of the WJC. The Jewish communities of Spanish Morocco with its 13,000 Jews offered to affiliate with the WJC, and this matter will come up for consideration at the plenary meeting in September. In addition, the growing though small Jewish community of Japan with which the Organization Department maintains close contact, informed us of its readiness to affiliate with the WJC. The affiliation of the Jewish community of Cyprus is forthcoming. As for Latin America, we had to perform a twofold task in Uruguay: first to achieve the affiliation of the Hungarian Congregation in Montevideo, the only one not yet affiliated with the WJC, and secondly, to secure the formal adherence of the Comité Central which had been held up because of the non-affiliation of the Hungarian

Jewish group. We were successful in both respects (Fall 1949). In some countries, again, where there is as yet no central representative body, we have to proceed by gaining local affiliations and - thus pave the way for a central body and a central affiliate. In this category belong the new affiliations of the Jewish Community of Maracaibo, Venezuela (June 1951), the Jewish Community of Quito, the capital of Ecuador (December 1949), and the "Club Union," the Ashkenazic group in Curacao (May 1950), which were added to the other local affiliations we had previously gained in these countries. In all three countries, Venezuela, Ecuador, and Curacao, the local affiliations have by this action been completed. In India, the Jewish Community of Cochin, centralized in the South Indian Jews' Association, affiliated formally with the WJC in October, 1949, in consequence of our previous efforts.

- (b) Organizing communities and strengthening existing affiliations: By "organizing Jewish communities" and "strengthening the existing affiliations" is meant: (i) to foster the establishment of national central representative bodies, where the Jewish communities are lacking in them and have little contact with one another; (ii) to help unite Jewish organizations locally where they are not part of one organized local community; (iii) to give the affiliated community or communities a program of activities and to strengthen their spiritual ties with the WJC.

This was done during the period under review by the Organization Department with no small success. The first task as outlined in the preceding paragraph was performed in Brazil during the last two years under the specific local conditions prevalent in Rio and Sao Paulo through our Brazilian office directed by Dr. V. Winterstein, through visits and correspondence. A similar though not so clearcut problem faces the WJC in Cuba, Colombia, Venezuela, Ecuador, and Panama. The problem here is different since, unlike Brazil, the overwhelming majority of the Jewish population lives in one city, the capital, while the provincial communities are very small. Thus the Jewish community in the capital if it is not itself disorganized, has de facto though not formally the power to speak on behalf of the whole Jewry of the country.

The Organization Department endeavored to pave the way for the establishment of a central body, including even the smallest Jewish communities, as only then can every segment of the community live up to its duties as a part of a whole. But in doing so the Organization Department cannot employ a uniform system, as local conditions vary.

The WJC tried to carry out this idea (see our Report 1948/1949) in regard to dispersed Jewish communities in a vast country like China, but recent political developments in that area resulted in the disintegration and almost liquidation of this Jewry, thus automatically nullifying our efforts, which were already in an advanced stage.

In yet another vast country, India - almost a continent by itself - the WJC continued, under the new conditions of an independent India, its efforts to prevail upon at least the 3 largest and far-apart communities of Bombay, Calcutta, and Cochin to establish a Council of Jews in India. Difficulties were put in the way by the Jewish Community of Bombay. We are glad to say that thanks to our perseverance an understanding in principle between Bombay and Calcutta was achieved. The ancient community of Cochin in the South of India with which we have also been in touch during the last two years, is an interesting, though not the only example, of how the great new trend of events in Jewish history influences the ways of our organizational planning. This

Jewish community, which boasts a history of 2,000 years on Indian soil, is now waiting to emigrate to Israel in a body!

Turning to point (ii) - to help unite Jewish organizations locally - we are glad to state that here, too, the WJC scored some successes in its efforts to introduce more order in the life of the relatively new and heterogeneous Jewish local communities in Latin America. These efforts were specifically made in the very dissimilar local communities of Bogota, Cali, and Barranquilla in Colombia.

The task mentioned in point (iii) is one of the indispensable preconditions to the strengthening of the existing affiliations - namely, by giving them a program of activities. Thousands of Zionist local committees all over the world, it will be remembered, were kept active all the time, thus creating a well-organized network of units and a growing number of activities which finally resulted in the upbuilding of Eretz Israel. A similar pattern must be followed by the WJC if we are to turn the affiliations into a living organism imbued with the creative will to preserve unity in action and responsibility among the Jewish communities outside Israel. Ours is mainly the coordinating influence. The WJC, while leaving the affiliated communities in the enjoyment of their full autonomy, is anxious to hold them together in performing a higher task in behalf of our people. Here the same organizational idea applies that we have already stressed in speaking of the work of organizing central representative bodies. Taking into consideration the variety of local conditions, the different degree of social maturity of these communities, one cannot but conclude that no uniform program of activities can be prescribed for all the communities affiliated with the WJC. This necessarily renders the work of the Organization Department even more complex. The WJC through our envoys, the Organization Department's circulars, and individual correspondence, continued persistently this task of transforming a formal affiliation into an active affiliation - i.e., one that is marked by a sense of duty not only to the local or territorial community but to the Jewish people as a whole. In many cases the response was one of joy and gratitude to have been included by the WJC in its worldwide laboratory laboring to safeguard the Jewish future. We sought to achieve this by the following methods:

- (1) Inducing our affiliates to set up their own provincial branches, liaisons or representatives for WJC affairs in as many communities of the respective country as possible.
- (2) Steadily increasing the number of organizations and individuals that receive the information material on the various fields of activities of the WJC Departments, and urging the setting up of a proper apparatus by the affiliates for bringing this educational material to the widest possible circles of the Jewish community.
- (3) Familiarizing the Jewish youth, especially also the Jewish student youth with the WJC's services to our people, since no organization or movement can endure without ensuring its continuation from generation to generation.
- (4) Keeping in touch with the affiliated communities and organizations through WJC emissaries. Further on in this report there is an account of the missions of these WJC delegates. I shall merely point out that, as a rule, the emissaries of the WJC serve the interests of all branches of our activity, including that of organization.
- (5) Keeping up a correspondence both with organizations and individuals. This correspondence is actuated mainly by the idea of effecting an exchange of views.
- (6) Initiating national conferences, representing even the smallest Jewish communities or affiliated organizations, in order to instil in every

Jewish community the consciousness of its duty to play a role not only locally but also nationally, as a responsible part of the Jewish people. We shall see later on, in Section II, that this idea was favorably received. In our next report we hope to include information about these conferences.

- (7) Suggesting that the exchange of visitors among Jewish communities in various lands, now taking place in an unorganized way, be organized into a permanent institution for the purpose not only of bringing about closer relations but of stimulating help, especially in the cultural field, by the more fortunate communities to sister communities which are doomed to decline and decay without such help. This is the function of an organism, and this is the task of an Organization Department. Here, we have not yet advanced beyond the stage of suggesting the idea itself.

We may thus say without exaggeration that all branches of our Executive and all our offices, guided by the Organization Department in organizational matters, have done much to implement these tasks, but that still more remains to be done.

- (c) Visits by our emissaries: It may be worthwhile to present a more detailed picture of the visits to our affiliates and cooperating organizations below. The visits listed give a full account of the number of personal contacts during the last years with Jewish communities by members of the Executive of the WJC and its other emissaries, no matter what branch of the activities they were devoted to. With very few exceptions every visit served also, directly or indirectly, to strengthen the organizational setup.

Here is the list of countries that we visited:

Western Hemisphere: United States of America, Argentina, Aruba, Canada, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Curacao, Ecuador, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Peru, Trinidad, Uruguay, Venezuela.

Europe: Austria, Belgium, Cyprus, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Great Britain, Italy, Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, Sweden, Switzerland.

Africa: Algeria, Tunisia, French Morocco, Tangiers, Belgian Congo, Kenya, Libya (Tripolitania), Rhodesia, and South Africa.

The last two countries were visited though we have as yet only contacts there and no formal affiliations.

Asia: Singapore.

Australia:

It may be interesting to show here in detail how often the Jewish communities were visited by Executive members of the WJC and its officials.

Israel: Israel was visited by nearly all members of the Executive listed on pp. 2 & 3. Some of them went there more than once. Many of these visits were undertaken not in behalf of the WJC. But most of the members of the Executive, while in Israel, naturally gave their attention to WJC affairs. Also, visitors others than Executive members closely connected with WJC activities attended as guests meetings of our Israel Executive Branch and other gatherings devoted to WJC matters. The ties thus established between the WJC centers and Israel in the period under review may be regarded as very promising.

Western Hemisphere

United States:- Of the members of the WJC Executive residing outside the States, the following attended both meetings of the WJC here as well as certain meetings and functions of the AJC: Dr. Nesh Barou, Dr. F. L. Bienenfeld, Mr. Isidore Dimant, Leon Dultzin, A. L. Easterman, Dr. Moise Goldman, the late Dr. Jacob Hellmann, Dr. Arieh L. Kubowitzki, Dr. S. Levenberg, Anselm Reiss, Dr. Gerhart M. Riegner, Dr. Aaron Steinberg, Dr. A. L. Tartakower. Also Mr. Michael Garber, and Mr. Saul Hayes, of the Canadian Jewish Congress, as special envoys representing the CJC.

Canada - Dr. Nahum Goldmann, Dr. N. Barou, Alex L. Easterman, Dr. S. Federbush, Rabbi Irving Miller, Dr. Maurice L. Perlzweig, Dr. David Petegorsky.

Argentina. - Dr. S. Federbush, the late Dr. Robert S. Marcus, Dr. M. L. Perlzweig, Dr. J. Prinz, Dr. S. Sokal.

Brazil. - Dr. S. Federbush, Dr. J. Prinz, Dr. I. Schwarzbart, I. Gotlib.

Aruba, Dr. S. Sokal; Bolivia, I. Gotlib (twice); Colombia, Dr. S. Federbush, I. Gotlib (3 times); Chile, the late Dr. Robert S. Marcus, Dr. M.L. Perlzweig, Dr. J. Prinz, Dr. Sokal (twice); Costa Rica, I. Gotlib (twice); Cuba, Victor Mitrani, I. Gotlib (3 times), Dr. Sokal; Curacao, I. Gotlib, Dr. Sokal; Ecuador, I. Gotlib (3 times); Guyaquil & Quito, Dr. S. Federbush; Honduras, I. Gotlib; Mexico, Dr. S. Federbush, Baruch Zuckerman, I. Gotlib; Nicaragua, I. Gotlib; Panama, Dr. S. Federbush, I. Gotlib (twice); Peru, I. Gotlib, Dr. Sokal (twice); Trinidad, Dr. M. L. Perlzweig, Dr. I. Schwarzbart (stopover); Uruguay, Dr. S. Federbush, Dr. S. Sokal; Venezuela, Dr. S. Federbush, I. Gotlib, Dr. Sokal (twice).

Europe

Austria. - Dr. F. R. Bienenfeld (several times), Dr. S. Roth.

Belgium. - Dr. Nahum Goldmann, Dr. A. L. Kubowitzki, Dr. Gerhart M. Riegner, Dr. S. Roth.

Denmark. - Dr. F. R. Bienenfeld, A. L. Easterman, Lady Reading, Dr. I. Schwarzbart, Hillel Storch, Dr. S. Roth, Ellen Hilb.

Finland. - Ellen Hilb.

France. - Dr. Nahum Goldmann (several times), Dr. Israel Goldstein, Dr. S. Federbush, the late Dr. Jacob Hellmann, Dr. A. L. Kubowitzki, the late Dr. Robert S. Marcus, Dr. M. L. Perlzweig, Dr. D. Petegorsky, A. Reiss, Dr. I. Schwarzbart, Dr. Arieh Tartakower - in addition, of course, to the members of the European Branch of the WJC Executive which frequently held meetings in Paris,

Germany. - Dr. Nahum Goldmann, Dr. F. R. Bienenfeld, A. L. Easterman, Dr. G. Riegner, Dr. F. Brassloff, Dr. Gerhard Jacoby, Dr. S. Roth, Dr. B. Sagalowitz.

Great Britain. - Dr. Nahum Goldmann, Dr. A. L. Kubowitzki, Dr. M. L. Perlzweig, Dr. D. Petegorsky, A. Reiss, Dr. G. Riegner, Dr. I. Schwarzbart, Hillel Storch, Dr. A. Tartakower.

Italy. - Dr. G. M. Riegner, Dr. A. Steinberg.

Netherlands. - Dr. I. Schwarzbart (stopover), Dr. S. Roth.

Norway. - Dr. A. Steinberg, Ellen Hilb.

Portugal. - A. L. Easterman.

Sweden. - Dr. Bienenfeld, Lady Reading, Dr. G. Riegner, Dr. I. Schwarzbart, Dr. A. Steinberg.

Switzerland. - Dr. Nahum Goldmann, Dr. I. Schwarzbart.

Africa

Algeria. - Dr. D. Petegorsky, Dr. G. M. Riegner, Mr. Andre Dreyfus.

Tunisia. - Dr. D. Petegorsky, Dr. G. M. Riegner, Andre Dreyfus, Jacques Lazarus, (several times).

French Morocco. - Dr. D. Petegorsky, Andre Dreyfus, Salomon Grumbach, Jacques Lazarus.

Tangiers. - Jacques Lazarus.

Belgian Congo. - A. L. Easterman.

Kenya. - A. L. Easterman.

Libya (Tripolitania). - Dr. Raffaele Cantoni, Dr. M. L. Perlzweig.

Rhodesia. - A. L. Easterman.

South Africa. - Dr. Nahum Goldmann, A. L. Easterman.

Asia

Singapore. - Dr. M. L. Perlzweig who was also scheduled to visit at the same time Indonesia, India, and Hong Kong, but whose trip was unexpectedly cut short.

Australia

Australia. - Dr. M. L. Perlzweig.

The foregoing list of visits shows that the personal contacts with numerous countries were frequent. The number of countries visited was 46.

But apart from the strictly internal scene of the WJC, there are problems with which the WJC, in its endeavor to measure up to its duties toward the Jewish people, is confronted. No Organization Department can allow itself to be limited to the strictly internal concerns of the WJC, if only for the reason that every Jewish organization, and certainly an organization of such scope and justified ambition as the WJC, is only part of a wider complex of ever changing problems arising from the fluctuating forces of the Jewish people in its entirety. Without attention to these problems and without an effort to cope with them, the work of any Organization Department must degenerate into mere routine.

It is for this reason that the WJC and hence its Organization Department should always be concerned with problems outside its proper scope. These comprise a number of developments. One is strongly tempted to dwell on them exhaustively, the more so as this is a report covering a period of two years of WJC activities; but I will limit myself to only very few. Here I will consider them from the viewpoint of the interest and work of the Organization Department, though they also have political, cultural, and other aspects.

C. CHANGES IN JEWISH LIFE AND WJC ORGANIZATIONAL TASKS

(a) The Sephardic world reappears on the stage of Jewish history

Today about $1\frac{1}{2}$ million Jews out of about $11\frac{1}{2}$ million belong to the Sephardic branch of our people. This by itself indicates the extent and importance of the Sephardic community. Separated for centuries from the so-called Ashkenazim, who constitute the bulk of the Jewish people, the Sephardic Jews are now confronted with the necessity of choosing either to continue the separation or to join forces with the rest of the Jewish people and help pave the way for real unity between the Sephardic and Ashkenazic world. It is the latter approach - the idea of amalgamating the Ashkenazim and the Sephardim - which the WJC as the unifying force of the Jewish people is promoting constantly and vigorously. Therefore, the WJC could not remain indifferent to so major an event as that of Sephardic Jewry emerging from inertia and backwardness to activity and progress. The moment it became clear that the Sephardic world, though disrupted internally, was trying to organize its ranks on an international scale and to crystallize its organizational forms permanently through a World Conference of Sephardic Jews, the WJC had to react to this fact. And it did so through its Organization Department.

The WJC, through its affiliates, already has in its ranks segments of Sephardic Jewry. No little energy was expended by us to bring the Sephardic communities, locally, into cooperation with other local Jewish communities in various countries. For a long time the WJC maintained friendly contacts with the Executive of the World Federation of Sephardic Communities in the United States, especially with its president, Dr. Simon S. Nessim, and its executive secretary, Mr. Vitalis Nachmias. The WJC repeatedly called meetings of representatives of Sephardic Jewish communities in the Near East. The WJC was instrumental not only in organizing but doing substantial political work on the North African scene of the Sephardic world, and gave its constant attention to the situation of Sephardic Jewish communities in Latin America. Indeed, there can be no better illustration of our approach to our Sephardic brethren than the fact that the WJC Executive already numbers among its members 4 outstanding and representative Sephardic Jews. Therefore the Organization Department's action to heed the call of the times and take a stand on the emerging and crystallizing idea of a World Conference of Sephardic Jews was a logical consequence of our old interest in this vital problem. Sometimes it seems as though Destiny itself was calling our Sephardic brethren to renewed activity both in Israel and outside Israel, this time after the extinction of six million Jews, almost all of them of Ashkenazic origin.

We do not intend to rehearse here what the Organization Department did in this field during the past two years, referring you instead to our periodic reports on this very matter, especially those of April 17, 1950, December 12, 1950, and March 29, 1951. However, we should like to relate the preliminary results of our endeavors.

It can now be stated that the WJC has substantially strengthened - and we have proof of it - the tendency among the Sephardic Jews towards unity with the rest of Jewish

people. This is all the more important as the inclination to turn the future executive of a World Sephardic Organization - should such an organization materialize - into a political or semi-political body would constitute a serious threat to the idea of unity of concern and action for our people, so badly needed at this critical juncture in our history. We are glad to say that not only our information about the distribution of Sephardic Jews but also our views as set forth in the reports of the Organization Department were quoted by a considerable part of the Jewish press the world over. This will prove to be a not inconsiderable contribution to the solution of a problem of such magnitude.

We brought about quite frequent and valuable exchanges of views between representatives of the Organization Department, our European Executive Branch, our Israel Executive Branch, and our Paris and North African Offices on the one hand, and leaders of the Sephardic world on the other, and we are pleased to note that these conversations, too, contributed to the strengthening of the ties between the Sephardic world and WJC.

And last but not least, we stirred up the interest of our affiliates in the respective countries in this question in connection with the problems of the agenda of the proposed Sephardic World Congress, which is now scheduled to open in Paris on November 4, 1951.

The whole problem, however, needs further attention by our Executive Branches and our affiliates. The Organization Department feels therefore called upon to continue its work with the Sephardic centers.

(b) Relations of the WJC with other Jewish galuth organizations

After a period of passivity during and immediately after World War II, certain Jewish defense and aid organizations, both in the Western Hemisphere and in Europe, intensified their efforts during the last two years to carry out their ends based on a philosophy different from that of the WJC, namely, a philosophy which still denies the existence of a Jewish people and promotes the idea of supporting Jewries in need in pretty much the same manner as a rich man helps a beggar. The WJC has always abhorred this condescending attitude toward Jewish communities in distress or peril.

Now, we can observe that these organizations are gradually adopting the ways of the WJC, in approaching the masses of our people; but they are still doing it by "stooping down" to the people, not by working with the people on an equal footing. In theory they still stick to their old philosophy of helping their "unfortunate brethren." Anyhow, a change is taking place in their way of acting, though not yet in their way of thinking.

From time to time these Jewish organizations of national scope try to cooperate with the WJC, which is an inter-territorial body. This happens in the field of the U.N. and in dealings with certain governments.

These changes and contacts found expression in a desire, voiced here and there, to bring about a new representative Jewish body for the Golah which would include the WJC and some other international Jewish organizations. Similar efforts were made on a national scale which proved to be futile in practice in the U.S.A. but the longing for unity is so deep-seated and persistent in Jewish ranks that no past experience can check this longing. Taking this into consideration, the "Key People's Conference" of the WJC which met in New York in September, 1950, adopted a resolution favoring the exploration of the possibilities for wider unity among our people,

should such a desire become manifest in the other organizations concerned.

It is obvious that such an attempt, if successful, could affect the present organizational structure of the WJC. It is, therefore, worth while to mention it here in this report on organizational problems. During the last two years, especially during the last few months, the Organization Department watched the progress of this tendency in various countries, especially in Latin America.

(c) Relations between the WJC and the World Zionist Organizations

Another major problem, arising from the fact that the main political aim of the World Zionist movement - the establishment of the State of Israel - has been realized concerns the mutual relations between the victorious World Zionist movement under the new conditions and the WJC. Hitherto, these relations have been marked by friendly cooperation, with both organizations remaining separate and independent. Now, here and there, in the Jewish press and among some Zionist leaders, a suggestion has been put forth and is gaining ground to broaden the scope of activities of the Zionist organization outside Israel by including in its program such as heretofore have been the province of the WJC; viz. the work for the protection and welfare of those sections of the Jewish people in the Diaspora whose rights or conditions of life are or may be threatened. Should this idea be accepted by both the World Zionist Organization and the World Jewish Congress, this would, of course, radically affect the whole organizational setup of the WJC. It is for that reason that I touch upon this problem here. The branches of the Executive of the WJC have already in a preliminary way, of course - discussed this question. In the press, too, writers representing the WJC have taken issue with the supporters of the idea of a merger. There are two main trends visible in WJC circles: one, that the suggestion is absolutely premature even if it were debatable in principle; the other, that the implementation of this suggestion would be bad both for the World Zionist Organization and for the vital interests of the Jewish communities the world over. The opinions expressed in Zionist circles thus far are too few, though they may be important ones, to justify any conclusion as to the sentiment prevailing in the Zionist organization. Up to now this very interesting controversy has made no progress towards crystallization. The Twenty-Third World Zionist Congress, the first after the creation of the State of Israel which is about to open in Jerusalem, may make some contribution to the clarification of this issue. So may the plenary meeting of the WJC Executive scheduled to take place in September, 1951, almost immediately after the World Zionist Congress. At any rate, this is a problem which will certainly claim our attention until clarification has been achieved.

✓ (d) Agreement with the Jewish Agency

In the preceding subsection I said that the relationship between the WJC and the WZO had been one of harmonious cooperation from the very beginning of the formal establishment of the WJC in 1936. This claim was borne out again by a renewed affirmation of this cordial relationship, which found expression in the agreement concluded between the Jewish Agency and the WJC in November, 1950. It may be assumed that this agreement is more in keeping with the realities of the Jewish scene of today than the discussion mentioned in the preceding subsection. All branches and all departments of the Executive, of course, gave their full attention to this issue, but the lion's share of the credit for having brought this agreement about must go to the acting president of the WJC, Dr. Nahum Goldmann. The reaction on the part of our affiliates and of the Zionist Organization in many countries to this agreement has been quite favorable and is one more proof that the agreement has met the expectations of many circles of our people. But in circles outside the influence of the WJC and the World Zionist Organization the agreement has evoked some critical

remarks. These have their source partly in a renewed discussion about the relations between the World Zionist Organization and a new Jewish Agency. The outcome of this discussion may affect the future organizational structure of the WJC. This is another reason for giving our constant attention to the question.

(e) The State of Israel

It is quite natural that every important phenomenon in Jewish life today is more or less influenced by the creation and existence of the State of Israel. Even some important organizations which for a long time fought Zionism and the Zionist Organization and opposed the idea of a Jewish State, have changed their attitude to the State. They still vacillate sometimes in respect of their ideological approach to this revolutionary phenomenon in our history, but, their deeds clearly support the State.

Turning to the WJC, I should like to say that the existence of the State of Israel has affected and is affecting the WJC in many ways. First of all, there is the question whether the State of Israel, being a full-fledged member of the United Nations and having its diplomatic and consular representations in many countries, will not be in a position to supersede largely the work of the WJC and, of course, the political work of some minor Jewish organizations dealing with the problems of Jewish life outside of Israel. It is not within the purview of this report to examine this problem minutely since it is a political matter. What is germane to this report, however, is the question how, directly or indirectly, the existence of the State of Israel affects the organizational setup and future structure of the WJC. This it certainly does. To begin with, the existence of the State of Israel means the creation, for the first time since the destruction of the Second Jewish Commonwealth, nearly nineteen centuries ago, of an area of free immigration for every Jew in the world. This is the case not only because of moral considerations and Israel's emotional power of attraction, but also by virtue of a law, adopted by the first parliament of the State of Israel, which opened the door to every Jew in the world wishing to settle in Israel. Without immigration certificates, without quotas, even without any health certificates, as the "hard core" operation proves. Consequently, this tiny State has succeeded in a little over 3 years to absorb nearly 600,000 Jews. During the period covered by this report, that is, in the last two years alone, more than 450,000 Jews immigrated into Israel. This means an average of 225,000 a year. Even the peak years of the Jewish immigration to the U.S.A., from 1899 to 1914, did not average more than 100,000 Jewish immigrants per annum. This is a tremendous achievement, taking into account the time, the difficult agricultural conditions, and the political, military, and economic burdens of this small country. It could only be achieved, of course, by a process of winding up Jewish communities in several countries - entirely or to a large extent. This process has only just gotten under way. Assuming that there is going to be peace, this trend will possibly even increase. As a result of narrowing of the area of the Golah, the area of the WJC's concern is shrinking automatically and so, of course, is the area of organizational work. In consequence, the liquidation of some of our affiliated communities has to be recorded.

This process reminds one of a demonstration in physics: namely, the flow of a liquid in a U-shaped vessel. Like the latter, the State of Israel grows by being fed from sources in the Golah and thus the reserves in the Diaspora decrease. It is the constructive feature of this process that the sum total of the Jewish forces not only remain undiminished in quantity but they even gain in strength by increased concentration in the Jewish State. But, though constructive in its final outcome, it makes a revision and adjustment of organizational planning in some areas of prospective mass emigration absolutely urgent. It is for this reason that I included

this momentous phenomenon in modern Jewish history in an analysis of WJC organizational problems.

(f) East and West

Of a completely different nature is the impact of the conflict between East and West on the organizational scope of the WJC. This I should like to call the "Montreux chapter," for it was at Montreux that the WJC, true to the idea of unity, made a sincere effort to maintain relations with the Jewish communities behind the Iron Curtain out of a purely and exclusively Jewish concern to keep these communities in touch with the free Jewish life of other communities affiliated with the WJC. This chapter is now practically closed. Mention has already been made on page 4 that during the last two years several East European Jewish communities ceased to be affiliated with the WJC. The disbanding of Jewish communities mentioned in the preceding subsection naturally spells a narrowing of the WJC's area of activity but is a constructive development from a general Jewish viewpoint. The bottling up of Jewish communities behind the Iron Curtain, on the other hand, is an absolute loss for the Jewish people. The Jewish collectivities are inevitably subject to a process of decline and extinction as a whole. In the former case we have a transplantation; in the latter, a process of falling down and away like leaves from a tree.

But this phenomenon, being an integral part of a much broader problem, naturally received the full attention of all 3 Executive Branches and will certainly be considered at the Plenary meeting of the Executive in Geneva.

* * *

These are the main issues which in the last two years confronted the WJC in general and the Organization Department in particular. They show the magnitude of the changes which occurred and are still taking place in Jewish life. There are many more than those enumerated, but these do not belong in this limited appraisal of organizational problems of the WJC, tempting as it is to embark on such an evaluation.

* * *

How the Organization Department works

The work of the Organization Department increased considerably during the last two years but its staff remained unchanged. Besides the director of the Organization Department who is in charge of general organizational supervision in the whole area of organizational work of the WJC, and who directs the contacts with other departments, there is only one full-time secretary, Mrs. Nina Kaplan, who is in charge of the entire administration of the department as well as all the secretarial work connected directly with the supervisory activities of the director of the Department; in addition, she attends to the English and some German correspondence. The three other members of the staff are on part-time (half-day) duty. They are: Dr. Robert Serebrenik, Assistant, who is in charge of all contacts of an organizational character with the European affiliates where such direct contact is deemed necessary, contacts with our Paris office, with our affiliates in Africa whenever necessary, with our affiliates in Asia and Australia, and our Israel Executive Branch. He conducts the entire correspondence in French, and partly in English and Hebrew. Mrs. Yetta Bickel, Assistant-Aide, is in charge of the whole Latin American area and contacts with the Public Relations Department. She conducts the entire correspondence of the Department in Yiddish, and part of its correspondence in German and

English. Mrs. Lucy Bardach, secretary, helps with the French, German and English correspondence and works mainly with Dr. Serebrenik. Recently she has been put in charge of collecting information on the activities of the Canadian Jewish Congress and on Jewish life in Germany. She also helps with the administrative work. Spanish translations are done by the special Spanish Desk under Mr. M. Glikowski, with Miss Liane Kayser as secretary. Dr. Wolf Blattberg also helps with our Hebrew translations. And, of course, we always have the cooperation of Mr. Maximilian Hurwitz, the editor of the World Jewish Congress and of the Institute of Jewish Affairs.

I feel it my pleasant duty to express in this report to the Executive my genuine appreciation of the conscientious, efficient and devoted work of Dr. Robert Serebrenik, Mrs. Yetta Bickel, Mrs. Nina Kaplan, and Mrs. Lucy Bardach.

* * *

The next section of our report will try to show how the organizational work of the WJC and its affiliates developed country by country and in many respects with no little success despite the fundamental changes in Jewish life which materially affected the WJC.

But before embarking on this more detailed part of the report, I should like to dwell separately on one event which will, I think, become a permanent national institution, namely:

The commemoration of the 7th and 8th anniversaries of the Warsaw Ghetto uprising

In compliance with a solemn resolution passed by the Montreux Assembly of the WJC in July, 1948, the Organization Department has during the last two years also initiated commemorations by our affiliates of the heroic uprising of the Warsaw Ghetto in April, 1943. The members of our Executive duly received the respective appeals of the WJC Organization Department as well as the reports about the commemorations themselves. We refer you to them. Here we shall merely summarize. This year the commemorations had a much wider radius of observance than in previous years. The WJC has certainly succeeded in stirring up and deepening Jewish feelings about this event. In 30 countries the world over our affiliates arranged these commemorations in response to our appeal, here and there in a much bigger and more solemn way than previously. Youth organizations participated in some countries. These memorial meetings united in some instances groups and organizations of mutually antagonistic camps. It will be left to next year to further increase the scope and observance of the commemorations.

Next year, too, the WJC will adjust the date of what promises to become a Jewish Memorial Day to the date proclaimed by a special resolution of the Knesset, the parliament of Israel, namely, the 27th of Nissan.

SECTION II

THE WORK OF THE ORGANIZATION DEPARTMENT AND
THAT OF OUR AFFILIATES WITH SPECIAL EMPHASIS
ON THE ORGANIZATIONAL FIELD

A. GENERAL

This part of our report will give you information about the organizational work as it was carried out by the Organization Department and by our affiliates. *) But quite often it seemed advisable also to touch, however lightly, on other branches of the activities of our affiliates, since it is very interesting to note how these affiliates are measuring up to their duties as members of the WJC family.

- (a) The Executive Branches - The organizational work of the Executive was, during this two-year period also, carried on by the 3 Executive Branches in their respective areas; but the whole of this organizational work was under the supervision of the Organization Department with its seat in New York. It is for this reason that an overall picture is given in this report, irrespective of the branch areas and notwithstanding any report which may be submitted by the European and Israel Executive Branches covering their respective fields of activities in detail. I should like to state here with real satisfaction that the organizational work, despite a considerable decentralization in execution, was harmonious in policy. Not only is unity in this work symbolized by the central character of the Organization Department, but the necessity and usefulness of a center for organizational work have been borne out by facts and experience. In discharging his duties, the director of the Organization Department was ably and effectively aided by those in charge of organizational work in the European and Israel Executive Branches.
- (b) The offices of the World Jewish Congress - All WJC offices supported the initiative and work of the WJC Organization Department. It is proper to list here these offices as they exist at present:

Western Hemisphere

The South American Office - After the sudden death of Dr. Jacob Hellmann, a member of the WJC Executive, and for many years the director of the South American Office, Dr. Saul Sokal, long associated with the New York office of the WJC, took over the direction of the Buenos Aires office three months ago.

The Brazil Office - Since June, 1949 Dr. V. Winterstein, a former leader of Slovakian Jewry, has been in charge of our Brazil office, located in Rio de Janeiro.

The Uruguay Office - Mr. I. Burstejn, for many years in charge of WJC affairs in Uruguay, was recently succeeded by Dr. N. Röst-Suesskind, former secretary of the Swedish Section of the WJC.

*) Unlike previous reports we include in this organizational report also some organizational activities of our affiliates and not merely those of the Organization Department. I think this is necessary in order to show how the affiliates work. This, of course, will tend to make our report somewhat larger than usual.

The Mexico Office - Our office in Mexico serves simultaneously as the secretariat of the WJC Committee, the latter being a sub-committee of the Comité Central, our Mexican affiliate. The office of the secretariat was run by Mrs. Renee Goldfein during the period in question.

Europe

The London Office - This office is now functioning as the office of the European Branch of the WJC Executive as well as that of the British Section of the WJC. Dr. S. Roth has been secretary of the European Branch of the Executive and recently he also assumed the duties of secretary general of the British Section of the WJC. In both capacities he is in charge of organizational work as well.

The Geneva Office - Dr. Gerhart M. Riegner, member of the WJC Executive, has for many years been directing this office, which has a wide scope of activities. In his capacity he is also concerned with the organizational problems of our Paris and Algerian Offices.

The Paris Office - Mr. Armand Kaplan is in charge of organizational matters, both of the Comité Français du Congrès Juif Mondial as well as of the office of the Paris members of the Executive of the WJC.

The Swedish Office - The WJC office in Sweden is part of our Swedish Section. Miss Ellen Hilb recently succeeded Dr. Nella Rost-Suesskind as secretary for the respective area. Organizational matters are handled by the secretariat.

Germany - A WJC office for information was established during the said period. It was directed by Dr. Gerhard Jacoby, of the WJC New York office. His successor is Dr. F. Brassloff of the WJC London office. The office serves Western Germany and has its seat in Frankfurt.

Austria - The WJC Information Office in Austria, under E. Stiasny, is now being wound up.

Italy - In addition to the above-mentioned, Mr. Fritz Becker is the person especially in charge of WJC affairs within the secretariat of the Unione, the Italian affiliate of the WJC.

Africa

North African Office - In our last report we mentioned that a new office of the WJC was being set up for the North African area. Shortly thereafter this office started to function, with Mr. Jacques Lazarus as director. It handles also the organizational work in the area of Algeria, Tunisia, and French Morocco.

Israel

The Israel Branch of our Executive has its office in Tel Aviv. Anselm Reiss, of the Israel Executive Branch, supervises the organizational work of the branch. Dr. L. Bernstein is the executive director.

In Jerusalem there is a small office with one secretary to assist Dr. Arich Tartakower, the chairman of the Israel Branch, in his work for the WJC.

B. INDIVIDUAL COUNTRIES

1. ISRAEL

In our 1949 report, we concluded our brief historical review of the WJC position in Eretz Israel since 1936 by saying: "We are now in the middle of organizational developments in Israel which we hope will lead to a permanent WJC stronghold in Israel."

Two years have elapsed since then, two years of miraculous achievements by the State of Israel. Israel, supported by the better part of mankind, carries the burden of repairing the greatest loss, in our people's history by building up the new State and rejuvenating and restoring our people as an equal member in the family of free nations.

The new State is still confronted with the greatest tasks in our history, and will probably for many years to come be occupied with the ingathering of the exiles, and endeavoring to bring about the harmonious cooperation of the most divergent elements of our people, physically separated for thousands of years. New economic ideas, a new constitution, a new search for a compromise between religion and science combined with the everyday elementary concerns of a people who want to turn a desert again into a land of milk and honey; all these issues great and small claim the full attention and energies of the people and the Government of Israel.

It is therefore only natural that there was no leisure in the great laboratory of our national rebirth in Israel, no quiet corner, for the establishment of a "permanent WJC stronghold in Israel," as we wishfully expected in our previous report.

But our Israel Executive fulfilled the role of a pioneer seeking this goal of a WJC stronghold during the last two years.

Under the chairmanship of Prof. Dr. A. Tartakower, one of the WJC's most devoted leaders, the Israel Branch, maintaining permanent contact with the Organization Department, carried on being greatly aided by the experience and knowledge of the chairman of the General Council, Dr. A. L. Kubowitzki (now on a leave of absence in connection with his new diplomatic post) and by the zealous service of Anselm Reiss, an active figure in the WJC since its inception. Our Israeli leaders sought to stir and deepen popular interest in the WJC. Educational work was done among party leaders, among the people, in the press, thereby laying the groundwork for the future WJC stronghold in Israel.

In addition to the general, vital problems enumerated above - Israel's Jewish population is now discussing and considering the paramount Jewish problem: Israel and the Golah. The most diverse opinions are advanced and hotly debated. Between the diametrical poles of writing off the Galuth and the deepest concern for the Golah, various shades of opinion are emerging and struggling for mastery. Caught in this clash of ideas and opinions is the question of the need and usefulness of the WJC.

Bearing these realities in mind, we shall better understand why for the time being we have to be satisfied with the present setup of the WJC representation in Israel, namely, our Executive Branch comprising delegates or representatives of the main parties.

The Organization Department was in frequent communication with the Israel Branch as to ways and means of stimulating popular interest in the WJC even in the complex of problems and worries prevalent in Israel.

Wherever the Israel Executive Branch could be helpful in promoting our ideas in the Near East, it did so. So did members of the WJC Executive and WJC friends on their visits to Israel, especially the acting president of the WJC, Dr. Nahum Goldmann. In the negotiation of the agreement between the Jewish Agency and the WJC - so vital for the organizational work of the WJC in many countries - the Israel Branch was most helpful.

But from all I said above, it is clear that the problem with which the WJC is confronted in Israel should claim all our attention until it is satisfactorily solved. For what is at stake is much more than the allegiance of the Jewish population of this or that country in the Golah. It is, practically speaking, the harmonious solution of the problem of "one people." In our 1949 report we said in reporting on Israel: "There is only one Jewish people bound together by a common destiny; and although politically the Jews of the Galuth are clearly separated from the Jews in Israel, there are eternal, spiritual ties making for that UNITY IN DISPERSION which WJC embodies and symbolizes." It is one of the historic tasks of the WJC to make this unity a lasting reality.

WESTERN HEMI SPHERE

2. UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Affiliate: American Jewish Congress. President, Rabbi Irving Miller; chairman of the Executive, Dr. Alfred J. Marrow; chairman of the Administrative Committee, Rabbi Morton M. Berman; Executive Director, Dr. David W. Petegorsky; president of the Women's Division, Judge Justine Wise Polier.

The great Jewish community of the United States of America is now in the stage of seeking new organizational forms of Jewish life. There is no central Jewish body to represent the entirety of American Jewry, numbering 5 million. Nothing of the kind is contemplated; you can not even find centralized local Jewish communities. However, there is a tendency toward setting up something like an overall local kehillah. Our affiliate, the American Jewish Congress, is one of the leading forces in American Jewry stimulating the trend toward new forms of internal Jewish organization and its activities must be viewed from this angle and against the very interesting and most colorful process toward crystallization of the vigorous Jewish community in the United States. It is obvious that the Jewish people the world over is following this development with the keenest interest, for American Jewry is, together with the Jews of Israel, the greatest hope of the Jewish people. - The cooperation of the American Jewish Congress with the WJC and its Organization Department is very close. Suffice it to say that the leading men on the Executive of the American Jewish Congress are also members of the Executive of the WJC.

The course of the American Jewish Congress during the past two years was anything but easy, in view of the powerful fermentation of Jewish life in the United States, mentioned above. Nevertheless, a major step in the reactivation of the national affiliates of the American Jewish Congress and in the endeavor to achieve cooperation by like-minded American Jewish groups took place. The Labor Zionist Organization and the Farband, Labor Zionist Order, announced that they would henceforth play a more active role in the work of the American

Jewish Congress. Similar negotiations took place with other national organizations. A detailed study of the activities of the chapters and the divisions of the American Jewish Congress throughout the USA revealed much more effective planning and execution of programs and a growing concern with the fundamental problems of the Jewish community. There are gratifying indications of the emergence of new and qualified leaders in many local areas. A complete membership report was prepared. The active membership of the American Jewish Congress increased. The promotion of uniform regional bodies proceeded apace. In accordance with the national constitution of the American Jewish Congress its chapters were directed to conform their local constitutions to that of the parent body. The chapters of the Women's Division of the American Jewish Congress continued to play a very active part.

When we said above that it might be advisable in the reports on the activities of some of our affiliates to overstep the boundaries of strictly organizational work, we primarily had in mind the American Jewish Congress. Its activities in many fields of national American and world Jewish affairs are manifold. Some of them deserve mention here, however brief.

Members and chapters of the American Jewish Congress continued their active participation in every phase of the endeavors in behalf of Israel. Three specific Congress projects redound to the credit to the American Jewish Congress: The Louise Waterman Wise Youth Center, the Overseas Edition of Congress Weekly, and the Women's Division workrooms where thousands of garments were made and sent to Israel.

The problem of Germany continued to occupy much of the time and energy of the American Jewish Congress. In cooperation with the WJC and in consultation with other American groups, the American Jewish Congress continued to put its point of view before the American Government and to promote general awareness of the problem through public meetings in many communities and through widespread dissemination of information and data about sinister developments in Germany. The president of the American Jewish Congress, Rabbi Irving Miller, spoke out on behalf of the American Jewish Congress on several occasions against any revision of American policy on Germany. In many political and social questions in the USA, the American Jewish Congress played a leading and inspiring part. Among these were the relations between Church and State, the Sunday Law and Sabbath observance, discrimination in housing projects on racial or religious grounds, and many other vital issues. In cooperation with other organizations the American Jewish Congress advocated the liberalization of the immigration laws and opposed legislation which sought to restrict still further entry into this country.

A Commission of Jewish Living addressed itself to three major problems: the stimulation of original and creative thinking on the application of Jewish values to contemporary problems, adult Jewish education, and the role of the home as a factor in Jewish living.

The American Jewish Congress, together with the WJC, is now housed in the Stephen Wise Congress House, which was acquired in the latter part of 1950 and in April, 1951, formally dedicated to the memory of Stephen S. Wise.

3. CANADA

On the Jewish world scene, Canadian Jewry stands out as one of the best organized and most Jewishly conscious and active Jewish communities in the Golah. The pyramid of its organizational structure, with its base stretching across the vast Canadian land, its communal centers in Montreal, Toronto, Ottawa, Winnipeg, and Vancouver, has its apex in the Canadian Jewish Congress, our affiliate, which is recognized as the representative central body of the whole of Canadian Jewry. Samuel Bronfman is its National President; Saul Hayes, its Executive Director. It acts through an Executive Committee, and a Dominion Council, with regional and local branches. The growing prestige of Canadian Jewry is evidenced not only by its achievements on the home front but also on the international Jewish scene. It is therefore worth while to enumerate some of the factors contributing to our affiliate's efficiency and success.

It is estimated that the Jewish population of Canada is now 200,000, which represents an increase of 15,000 over 1949. This growth is due not only to the natural increase but to a great extent to immigration. In order to accelerate the rate of Jewish immigration, the Canadian Jewish Congress devised numerous projects for the admission of skilled workers and special groups. Thus it succeeded in securing permission from the Federal Government Commission to bring to Canada DP dressmakers from Sweden, family groups from Central European refugee camps, and 280 transmigrants from Shanghai. During the past two years the Canadian Jewish Congress intensified its program of local communal development, which extended to the smallest settlements from coast to coast, especially through its Congress Youth and Religious Welfare Committees. The Jewish Family and Child Service in Toronto handles the Canadian Jewish Congress's War Orphan Project, with 475 children under its care by March 1951. Following a report on Jewish education which gave the total number of Jewish children of school age as 27,400, of whom only 13,326, or 48.6 per cent, receive a Jewish education, the Canadian Jewish Congress devised ways and means to extend the benefit of its educational facilities to an ever-growing number of Jewish children. In the field of fighting against discrimination and obtaining fair employment practices, the Canadian Jewish Congress scored many a success. A very valuable brochure, entitled Jewish Education in Montreal, by Levy M. Becker and Louis Rosenberg of the Canadian Jewish Congress, contains a very instructive survey of Jewish education facilities. In these positive day-by-day efforts, which cover the whole garment of Jewish and general progress, the Canadian Jewish Congress is supported by the instructive publications of its Research Bureau, such as "Jews in the Professions of Canada," "Jews and Arson," etc. The international network of the CBS had a series of 13 broadcasts in the fall of 1950 on Jewish problems in Canada.

On the international Jewish scene we note its defense of democracy, its contribution to the establishment of the State of Israel, and the assistance which the Canadian Jewish Congress gives to the WJC's fight for safeguards of human rights such as the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the Conventions on Genocide, the status of refugees, the Declaration of Death of Missing Persons, etc. The Canadian Jewish Congress urged the strictest investigation by the Canadian authorities of Germans and Ukrainians applying for entry to Canada, and aided 2,424 Canadian Jews in registering their claims against Germany. The close cooperation which exists between the Canadian Jewish Congress and the WJC finds its expression also in the fact that chief spokesmen of each body attend the Executive meetings and conferences of the other. Thus, Dr. Nahum Goldmann,

acting president of the WJC, was one of the principal guest speakers at the Canadian Jewish Congress's National Conference for Israel and Jewish Rehabilitation on March 24-26, 1951, and Dr. Maurice L. Perlzweig, Political Director of the WJC, reported to the Canadian Jewish Congress's Executive Meeting of April 29, 1951 on the current actions of the WJC. On the other hand, representatives of the Canadian Jewish Congress participated twice in our Executive meetings.

Space considerations force us to confine our account to the highlights of the manifold and variegated activities of the Canadian Jewish Congress. But we feel that even this brief enumeration will serve as a source of inspiration and emulation to our other affiliates. Our suggestion of mutual visits by delegations of our affiliates was intended, among other things, to facilitate the exchange of ideas and experiences and thus to instil in our affiliates a sense of belonging together in one family dedicated to the service of the Jewish people in the Diaspora.

LATIN AMERICA

GENERAL REMARKS

This is a tremendous area, a colorful variety of countries ranging from very large to tiny lands, with Brazil alone being larger than the United States. This vast area of Latin America is inhabited by only about 150,000,000 people.

The Jewish communities of this vast macrocosm constitute a kind of microcosm, comprising only about 650,000 Jews. This is less than one-third of the Jewish population of New York City, or less than the combined Jewish population of Great Britain and France and only half of the present Jewish population of the State of Israel. But even these 650,000 are not homogeneous. They differ in origin, composition, habits, and traditions as well as in numerical strength in the various countries. Whereas we have a Jewish community numbering 400,000 in Argentina, the Jewish population of Honduras is less than 100. But even in one and the same country each Jewish community presents a different picture and there are kehilloth of different origin, divided first of all into Sephardim and Ashkenazim. The latter are further sub-divided by country of origin, resulting in Polish, German and Hungarian, Bessarabian, Lithuanian, and other congregations. And even the Sephardic community, although a separate unit in relation to the Ashkenazim, is split into two or three groups. On the credit side, the rivalries and fear of loss of independence led to the building of a network of Jewish communal institutions, but on the debit side they presented a stumbling block on the road toward unification of the diverse elements and making them realize that they belonged to one people. In addition we have the special features of the political structure and the immaturity of the countries themselves. We have backwardness combined with great ambitions to speed up the process of civilization, which can be achieved in a hurry only on the surface; we have the instability of governments, creating an atmosphere of insecurity; we have dictatorial tendencies combined here and there with an ambition to be or at least to appear democratic; we find efforts toward a welfare state but also religious or racial discrimination, especially a bias against Jews. All these factors call for a very complicated adjustment on the part of the Jewish communities - a particular one in each country - and a special effort to solve the problem of integrating the new community into the life of the country, to which it is very loyal, and at the same time helping it preserve and develop its Jewishness and position within the Jewish people, now confronted with the greatest issues in our history.

After the destruction of the 6,000,000 Jews in Europe, these 650,000 Jews in Latin America, most of whom stem from Europe, increased in importance when viewed from the angle of our continued existence as an ethnic group in the Golah. But the pressure of everyday life, the struggle for existence under such fluctuating conditions, the streak of opportunism inherent in every human being, - all this often leads to assimilation and consequently to disappearance instead of union and willingness to sacrifice and struggle for preservation of one's identity and collective responsibility in our communal struggle for survival and growth.

Thus, though constituting only one-third of the Jewish population of New York City, Latin American Jewry presents an incomparably more difficult and more complicated series of tasks than would be the case in dealing with an equal number of New York Jews or the problem of the continued existence of such two Jewish communities as those of Great Britain and France.

The WJC has from its very inception, and especially during World War II, rendered great services in many fields of Jewish interest and endeavor in Latin America. It is not the purpose of this report to give a historic review of all the numerous activities of the WJC. Yet one of them should be singled out here. This is the task of helping to organize these communities and giving them a consciousness of the role that Latin American Jewry is expected to play. It was not an easy task, considering the difficulties outlined above. Many of the Jewish communities in Latin America are growing in maturity. Their sense of solidarity is increasing, although there are some weak spots here and there.

We can thus state that during the two years covered by this report the WJC succeeded, through its Organization Department, in stimulating, widening, and deepening the work of activation and organization of the Jewish communities in Latin America. This task is not yet fulfilled. But we are progressing, as will be seen in the analysis we are giving, country by country. We stress this development all the more since self-respect and perseverance are very often needed in complex situations arising here and there. By propagating the idea of belonging together and of real democracy, the WJC strengthened these communities in their organizational efforts and administration. This was necessary during the last two years even more than before, because the American Jewish Committee with its habit of exploiting difficulties stepped in to further its own ends. The AJCommittee tried and is still trying to make headway in Latin America; it does so by persuading the weaker elements of the Jewish community to adopt a policy of the least resistance, along the lines of the old methods, the methods of the assimilationist camp which propagated the idea of the dismemberment of the Jewish people, the idea of the many "Judentuemer" - the different kinds of Jewry - as against the belief in one Jewish people.

It is the first time that such an attempt was made in Latin America. We who believe in one Jewish people with equal responsibility and mutual respect among its dispersed parts fought repeatedly and successfully similar tendencies which have led inevitably to the disappearance of the bulk of Jewry in many a country.

We accepted this new challenge in Latin America. It meant yet another hard struggle for us during the last two years but undaunted, we went on with the fulfillment of our duties.

We shall now proceed to give a picture, country by country, of some of our efforts and of the situation in the Latin American area, which is the special concern of the Western Hemisphere Executive Branch now under the chairmanship of Dr. Israel Goldstein.

4. ARGENTINA

The DAIA (Delegacion de Asociaciones Israelitas Argentinas), our affiliate, is beyond any doubt more deeply rooted than ever before in the hearts and affections of the 400,000 Jews in Argentina, the great majority of whom live in the capital, Buenos Aires. It is the DAIA which created or inspired many of the admirable institutions of Argentine Jewry, constituting almost two-thirds of the entire Jewish population of Latin America, zealous in its Jewishness, and determined to share in the struggle of the Jewish people, as well as in the wellbeing and prestige of Argentina in the world. The incumbent president of the DAIA is Prof. Ricardo Dubrovsky, and its secretary is Dr. Benjamin Rinsky. There is a Consultative Council of the WJC with its own Executive, which cooperates with the DAIA and, of course, with the WJC.

Mr. Carlos Chervin is its president, while Dr. Leon Lapaco and Mr. Marco Regalsky are its secretaries. In addition, there is a South American Office of the WJC which operates in Argentina and in some of the neighboring countries. As already mentioned, its present director is Dr. Sokal.

In line with the DAIA's efforts to reorganize its affiliates throughout the country, a meeting was held on June 17, 1950, in Parana for this purpose.

The trend to organize a network of kehilloth with a view to centralizing them afterwards, is now gaining momentum. This plan is being pushed by the chairman of the Kehillah in Buenos Aires, Dr. M. Slinin, though practically speaking the DAIA is the central representative body of Argentine Jewry. This movement naturally creates complications for the work of DAIA within the community. The background of this rival movement is very interesting, but in view of the conflicting views as to the chances of this plan to succeed, it seems advisable to postpone a detailed account of it until our next organizational report, when the situation will probably be clearer.

It is also worth mentioning here, that for the first time in the history of the ICA (Jewish Colonization Association) in Argentina a representative of Argentine Jewry was coopted to the Board of the ICA. The president of the DAIA, Prof. Dr. Ricardo Dubrovsky, now represents the DAIA on this Board.

It should also be noted here that in response to our appeals to commemorate the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising as well as to observe the anniversary of Dr.

Stephen S. Wise's death, the DAIA arranged appropriate meetings and write-ups in the press. A special declaration was published on the first anniversary of Dr. Wise's death which was carried by the press and sent by the DAIA to its affiliates.

During the period under review the DAIA arranged receptions for various guests from Israel and other countries, which further cemented the ties of Argentine Jewry with Jewish communities in other lands.

It was likewise DAIA which raised its voice in many matters involving the fate of Jews and Jewish interests, and which in the last two years backed up such actions of the WJC as interventions on Germany and Iraq, and protested the clemency shown to Nazi war criminals and the sheltering of former Nazi war criminals in Argentina.

Furthermore, to name only some of its actions, the DAIA interceded with the Argentine Government urging it to support and adhere to the Genocide Convention. DAIA also appealed to Virgilio Debenedetti, the Intendent of Buenos Aires, to prohibit the printing and circulation of anti-Jewish books.

The DAIA is held in great esteem abroad as well as in Argentina. It is regarded as the truly representative body of Argentina's vigorous and creative Jewry.

During the period covered by this report the Organization Department was in constant touch with our affiliate, mostly through our South American office and our envoys. The main organizational problems which were the subjects of frequent exchanges of views between the Organization Department and our South American Office were: the setting up of special liaisons within the DAIA's network of provincial branches for disseminating information on WJC activities,

the establishment of closer relations between the WJC and the strong Sephardic community, and the promotion of a better understanding of our ideology in view of the forthcoming World Sephardic Conference; the calling of a Latin American Conference of our affiliates; the reorganization of our South American Office and of the Advisory Council of the WJC; the contacts of our office with neighboring Jewish communities such as Chile, Uruguay, Paraguay, and Peru; the representation of the DAIA on our Executive and on our General Council. The work of winning a friendly press for the WJC and the publication of Spanish translations of the brochures of the American Jewish Congress and the WJC, which form a very successful part of the activities of our South American Office, do not strictly speaking belong in the report of the Organization Department, but are none the less worth noting here.

Finally, I wish to record in particular the visit of Dr. Moises Goldman, the hon. president of the DAIA and member of our Executive, to New York on the occasion of our last Key People Conference as well as the visit which the late Dr. Robert S. Marcus paid to Buenos Aires after the death of Dr. Jacob Hellman. Both these visits were devoted largely to organizational problems and showed how intimate and friendly the relations between the WJC Executive and the DAIA are. Recently, too, the director of the Political Department of the Western Hemisphere Branch and Coordinator of the New York Office, Dr. M.L. Perlzweig, paid a visit to the Argentine Jewish community and met there with its leaders and especially with the officers of the DAIA.

5. BRAZIL

The Jewish community of Brazil is second largest in Latin America, numbering about 110,000 souls. During the last two years the Jewish population of Brazil was but slightly increased by newcomers owing to a policy which does not favor Jewish immigration. However, the general position of Brazilian Jewry, like that of the rest of the middle class, may be considered good. During my visit in Brazil in 1950 I heard no complaints anywhere about anti-Semitism. On the contrary, the Jews I met and spoke to - men in various walks of life - expressed gratitude to the country, shared its joys and woes, and felt quite at home.

When our 1949 report was written, the work of our newly established Brazilian office under Dr. Vojtech Winterstein had just begun. Dr. Winterstein had just entered upon his duties and we said in our report: "The result of all these endeavors may become evident in the period ahead of us." This has materialized to a certain degree, though not fully.

The story of our activities in Brazil during these two years is told in twenty exhaustive reports of Dr. Winterstein as well as in several reports of the Organization Department. Also, exhaustive correspondence was carried on by the Organization Department with our office and a number of prominent Jewish leaders in Brazil. However, not until the final result is known do we intend to report about the rather thorny way our efforts had to travel to remove certain inhibitions stemming from the particular history of Brazilian Jewry despite the recognition and appreciation generally accorded to the WJC work in Brazil.

But here is an interim summary of the chief results of the organizational work of our Brazilian office under the supervision of the Organization Department:

The influential German-speaking Jewish community in Rio, called ARI, decided in favor of affiliation with the WJC.

The Unificacada of Zionist Groups in Rio and in Sao Paulo was won over to the idea of affiliation.

The Federations in Rio and Sao Paulo (the latter still lacks the adherence of the German-speaking congregation) under the leadership of Prof. Dr. Fritz Feigl, president, and Mr. Leonas Zeigarnikas, acting president, in Rio, and of Dr. Moises Hoff, our old supporter, in Sao Paulo, resumed negotiations with a view to the creation of a real Confederation of all Brazilian Jews.

Consultations between the Federation in Rio and our Political Department took place in a spirit of friendly cooperation, and our appeal to commemorate the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising was acted upon by both Federations. Further proof of our close cooperation was the participation of Prof. Feigl, Nathan Jaffe, and Saul Saubel, in meetings of our Executive here in New York.

The Jewish community of Porto Allegre, the third in size, turned from indifference to an understanding of the WJC's constructive work. The position of the WJC in the Jewish press of Rio and Sao Paulo was immeasurably strengthened through a permanent press service arranged by our Brazilian office.

A bulletin in Portuguese has been published, with but a short interruption, for the last two years. It contributes considerably to the enlightening of wide circles of Jewish organizations and individuals about WJC activities and the need for Brazilian Jewry to share fully in the work of the WJC.

The Sephardic community, which had kept aloof for a long time, was brought much closer to the WJC both in matters relating to the projected Sephardic World Conference as well as in Jewish matters of a general nature.

It was a period of plowing and sowing, with especially intensive work done between February and July, 1951. The harvest of these activities, still expected, will be a functioning Confederation of Brazilian Jewry affiliated with the WJC, working in common with us in behalf of the Jewish people.

To achieve this important goal we have held back a plan to establish a Brazilian Section of the WJC, as suggested to us by some circles of Brazilian Jewry.

6. URUGUAY

The present Jewish population of Uruguay is estimated at 35,000 to 40,000. It is the third largest Jewish community in Latin America. Its representative body is the Comite Central, which comprises four kehilloth: the Ashkenazic, Sephardic, German, and Hungarian. Its president is Samuel Kobrin, and its secretary Dr. Moises Mizraji.

Our primary organizational tasks during this period were first to achieve the affiliation of the Sephardic and Hungarian kehilloth, and then to gain the formal affiliation of the entire Comite Central. We attained both of these ends thanks to persistent action and thanks to the political maturity of Uruguayan Jewry.

Having achieved this, we must next address ourselves to the following tasks:

- (a) To establish a closer exchange of views between the affiliated Comité Central and our one-man Uruguayan office, which had been run capably by Mr. I. Burstein and which was recently taken over by Dr. Nella Rost-Suesskind. Mrs. Rost has made a very good start. She also is in frequent consultation with Mr. Mauricio Veiroj, the member of the WJC General Council from Uruguay. The Organization Department has submitted to her an over-all plan for work in Uruguay.
- (b) To popularize the activities of the WJC among wider circles of the Jewish population, primarily through the press.
- (c) To induce the Comité Central to call a national conference of all local communities. The overwhelming majority of the Jewish population lives in Montevideo, with only very small numbers in several provincial towns. The reason for suggesting this conference is mainly to enhance the interest of this very Jewishly-minded community in the WJC affairs and to integrate even the smallest communities into the orbit of this interest by establishing liaisons for WJC affairs in these communities.

During Mr. Elias Seroussi's chairmanship of the Comité Central, the first task was only partly achieved. But at present our ties with the Comité Central under the chairmanship of Mr. Samuel Kobrin are quite satisfactory. The secretary of our office is invited to Executive meetings of our affiliate; an advisory committee to assist our office, being at the same time a sub-committee of the Comité Central, is in process of formation. Direct contact between the Comité Central and the Organization Department has been reestablished.

As to the second task, Mrs. Rost is efficiently continuing the building up of our position begun by Mr. Burstein.

Our suggestion mentioned in point (c) above has been officially accepted by the Executive of the Comité Central and preparations for the conference are under way.

The response to our appeal regarding the commemoration of the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising and the observance of the anniversary of Dr. Wise's passing was proper and fitting.

The Organization Department paid special attention to the Sephardic problem in connection with the forthcoming World Sephardic Congress.

The standing of the Comité Central is high. Its activities embrace all phases of Jewish life, with a special emphasis on cultural matters, such as the establishment of a new school for several hundred students. The Comité Central's energies are also directed toward strengthening the position of the community vis-a-vis the Government of this truly democratic and liberal state, where the Jews freely and fully participate in the life and development of the country. On April 27 the Comité Central arranged a reception for high governmental circles. The then president of the Comité Central, Mr. Elias Seroussi, delivered the opening address; the Uruguayan Foreign Minister, Dr. Caesar Charlano and our staunch friend, Dr. Enrique Fabregat, expressed the highest regard and friendship of the Uruguayan Government and people for the Jews.

The late Dr. Jacob Hellman was in frequent touch with the Uruguayan Jewish community. So is Dr. S. Sokal.

Late in 1949 Uruguay was visited by Dr. S. Federbusch. My plans to visit the Uruguayan Jewish community at the same time I went to Brazil in November 1950 and to become personally acquainted with the excellent work of this affiliate of ours could unfortunately not be realized. At the time this report is being written, Dr. Joachim Prinz, a member of our Executive, is in Brazil, whence he is scheduled to proceed to Uruguay, a visit which will certainly be beneficial to the Uruguayan community as well as to the WJC.

7. CHILE

The Jewish community of Chile is the fourth largest in Latin America, numbering about 30,000. Though Chilean Jewry is well organized in a central representative body, the *Comite Representativo de la Colectividad Israelita*, the main constituent of the *Comite Representativo*, the *Federacion Sionista*, has preserved its autonomy and is consequently directly affiliated with the WJC, as is, of course, the *Comite Representativo* itself. The president of the *Comite Representativo* is Mr. Isidoro Dimant who has just been elected to a new term at the annual assembly of the *Comite* on July 3, 1951. Mr. Dimant also serves as member of the WJC Executive for Chile. The secretary general of the *Comite Representativo* is Mr. Robert Levy. Mr. Gil Sinay is the president of the *Federacion Sionista*. The *Comite Representativo*, well-known for its excellent work in every field of Jewish communal life, celebrated its tenth anniversary in 1950.

The ties between our Chilean affiliates and the WJC were in the last two years as strong as before. The Jewish community of Chile is a WJC stronghold. The repeated visits of such WJC representatives and envoys as the late Dr. Robert S. Marcus, Dr. M.L. Perlzweig, Dr. J. Prinz, and Dr. S. Sokal, all of New York, as well as of Dr. Moises Goldman, member of the WJC Executive, of Buenos Aires, helped to cement further the relations between the WJC and Chilean Jewry.

The *Comite Representativo* has a radio hour and publishes regularly press and radio information bulletins which contain all the news of its own activities, of Jewish life in Chile, and frequently also of the work of the WJC. Mr. Robert Levy, secretary general of the *Comite Representativo*, is in charge of all the publicity.

The *Comite Representativo* was instrumental in establishing contacts between the *Asociacion de Jovenes Israelitas*, Santiago, (a Jewish youth group) and the World Union of Students.

The Organization Department kept up a regular exchange of views with our affiliates in Chile, especially in regard to a national conference on Golah affairs, the role of the Sephardic community, the spreading of information about WJC activities among the Jewish population, and the anniversary of the Warsaw Ghetto uprising.

Mr. Isidoro Dimant participated in meetings of the Western Hemisphere Executive Branch while visiting New York in the spring of 1951.

8. MEXICO

This is the fifth largest Jewish community in Latin America, numbering nearly 20,000. The manner of its affiliation with the WJC is a special one - I had almost said an ideal one - and may serve as an example to other communities affiliated with the WJC. The Comite Central Israelita de Mexico is a central body speaking for the entire Jewish population of the country. It is affiliated with the WJC. But for concentrated and intensified activities in behalf of the WJC, a special WJC Committee, functioning as a sub-committee of the Comite Central and responsible to the Comite Central, was established. It has the right of cooption. The Organization Department is trying to convince other affiliates to follow this example, since this solution combines a formal affiliation, with all the prestige that goes with it, and a permanent working committee for the WJC.

Both the Comite Central and the WJC Committee are doing excellent work; the former in behalf of the entire community and the latter in behalf of the WJC. Of their many activities we shall mention here only a few.

On November 27, 1949, the Comite Central elected a new Executive, with Mr. Gregorio Shimanovich as president and Mr. Victor Mitrani as vice-president. Simultaneously the new WJC Committee was constituted, with Mr. Moises Cojuc as chairman. New elections took place in 1951, and as a result Mr. F. Sviadosh is now president of the Comite Central while Dr. I. Bibring heads the WJC Committee. Mrs. Renee Goldfein efficiently directs the secretariat of the WJC Committee. Following the new elections the seat allotted to Mexico on the WJC Executive was occupied by Victor Mitrani. Outstanding activities of our affiliate in Mexico are the cultural work, centering around the Jewish schools (of which there are five in Mexico) and the fight against discrimination or anti-Semitism, which is carried on jointly with the Anti-Defamation League of the B'nai Brith.

The WJC Committee, in compliance with our request, set up provincial branches in the towns of Tijuana (January 1950), Guadalajara, and Vera Cruz (June 1950). According to word reaching us this has already had a beneficial effect on the small Jewish communities of these towns. Moreover, we have just been informed that the Comite Central called a meeting of all presidents of Jewish organizations in Mexico for July 10. At that meeting, Mr. Mitrani took the first steps to organize a conference with delegates from all sectors of Mexico City and the provincial communities. The conference will deal with local and world problems affecting Jewry. The WJC office is doing good work in the field of public relations as well as in arousing the interest of Jewish women in WJC work. It is continuing its endeavors to have the Jewish youth take an active part in Jewish affairs and the aims and activities of the WJC. It is also furthering the plan of a national conference outlined above.

A yearbook is being prepared by the WJC office in Spanish and Yiddish which is scheduled to be published shortly.

Mr. Mitrani is especially instrumental in keeping the Sephardic community well informed about WJC affairs.

Dr. S. Federbusch, Baruch Zuckerman, and I. Gotlib visited Mexico on behalf of the WJC. And when in New York, prominent members of the Mexican Jewish community, among them Messrs. F. Sviadosh and M. Cojuc, called at WJC head -

quarters. A further stimulus toward closer ties between Mexican Jewry and the WJC was the regular exchange of views carried on by the Organization Department with the WJC Committee in Mexico with special reference to plans and programs of activities and this helped to make our relations with Mexican Jewry very satisfactory. We also received periodical reports from the WJC Committee. Our request for a fitting observance of the eighth anniversary of the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising met with a fine response. Even the Jewish schools and the radio network devoted time to retelling the heroic saga of the Ghetto fighters.

9. CUBA

Our Cuban affiliate is the Consejo Central de Sociedades Israelitas de Cuba, headed by a presidium of which Dr. Dionisio Castiel is the secretary. Cuban Jewry numbers approximately 11,000. The last two years saw the reactivation of the Consejo Central, a process which was greatly helped by the WJC, both by correspondence as well as by personal emissaries who visited Cuba on behalf of the WJC. Personal visits on behalf of the WJC were made by Mr. Mitrani, member of our Executive for Mexico, as well as by Mr. Gotlib and Dr. Sokal. A number of prominent Cuban Jews also visited the office of the WJC while in New York.

A further step toward the consolidation of the WJC position in Cuba was the establishment, in October, 1950, of the Committee for WJC Affairs (Comite del Congreso Judio Mundial, president, Charles Bloch) which has as its officers and on its Executive committee representatives of communal and Zionist organizations, the former comprising both Ashkenazim and Sephardim. In 1950 some leaders of the Jewish community in Havana founded the Patronate for the purpose of erecting a building to serve as a community center and a synagogue. In June, 1951, Mr. Gotlib attended, on behalf of the WJC, the ceremony of the laying of the cornerstone for the Jewish Community Center in Havana.

In connection with the forthcoming Sephardic World Conference, the Organization Department contacted the Asociacion Chevet-Achim, representative body of the Sephardic community.

We are glad to report that on the occasion of the eighth anniversary of the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising a memorial meeting was arranged.

The Organization Department is thinking of having Cuba visited again this September in order to pave the way for a national conference. Among the Jewish communities of Latin America, Cuba ranks sixth in size, coming after Argentina, Brazil, Uruguay, Chile, and Mexico, and occupies an important place on the Jewish scene of Latin America.

Smaller Jewish Communities in Latin America (Jewish population from 1,000 up to 10,000)

10. COLOMBIA

There is still no central organization representing the entire Jewish community of Colombia which numbers about 8,000, although keen interest in Jewish affairs is displayed by the Jews of the four principal cities, Bogota, Barranquilla, Cali, and Medellin. Each of these cities has its own Jewish organization striving to set up a united front for Jewish activities. Some measure of success in this respect may be noted in the cities of Cali, Barranquilla, and Medellin. In Bogota, which has the largest Jewish population, the Organization Department made many attempts to establish a central

organization. The main reason for the absence of a central body is the rivalry - in a good sense - among the four communities. The Centro Israelita de Bogota, our affiliate, is the leading organization. Its president is Salomon Zundel and the secretaries are David Lederman and Jaime Glogower. To our suggestion to call a national conference of Colombian Jewry and to consider our concrete program for such a conference the Centro Israelita de Bogota replied in the affirmative but postponed the implementation to a later date in view of its present campaigns.

I. Gotlib visited Colombia at the end of 1949 and again in April, 1950, and took up organizational matters with leaders of the Jewish community. Dr. S. Federbusch's visit to Colombia took place in January, 1951. He visited the three largest Jewish communities. In Barranquilla the Federacion de Asociaciones Hebreas de Barranquilla, comprising the East European, Sephardic, and German-speaking Jews, was founded under the presidency of David Levy and re-affirmed its affiliation with the WJC.

The response of all four Jewish communities in Colombia to our circular asking that the anniversary of the Warsaw Ghetto Battle be observed was very good.

Much was achieved by the WJC in its endeavor to unite Colombian Jewry and to enhance Jewish life in that country by the visits of our emissaries and the constant correspondence of the Organization Department with WJC constituents in Colombia. Our principal objective there at present is to establish a representative body for the entire community and we hope that the national conference mentioned above will bring us nearer to reaching this goal. In June, 1951, the Organization Department urged anew that the calling of the conference be speeded up.

On the whole our relations with Colombian Jewry were satisfactory during the last two years.

The Organization Department gave full attention to the Sephardic group in Colombia, one of whose outstanding leaders is Dr. Aron Benchetrit.

11. ECUADOR

There is a gratifying change in the WJC's position in Ecuador since our last report. While only the smaller of the two principal Jewish communities in Ecuador, the Centro Israelita in Guayaquil (president, Gustav Gumpel; secretary, A. Fischler) had previously been affiliated with the WJC, during the period covered by this report the affiliation of the Asociacion de Beneficencia Israelita in Quito, directed by an executive of which Jose Eisler is the president and Dr. Ernst Wellisch the secretary, was decided upon at a meeting of the Asociacion on December 10, 1949, and confirmed by the meeting of the American Branch of our Executive held on December 12, as well as by the European and Israeli Branches. This was the harvest of efforts that had been going on for two years. But there is still no central body in Ecuador elected by all the Jewish communities there. The Comite Coordinatar (Coordinating Committee of Jewish Organizations of Quito), founded several years ago, has for its object only intercessions in behalf of new arrivals and not overall representation. According to a census conducted by the Comite Coordinatar at the beginning of 1950, there were then 1790 Jews in Ecuador, of whom 1,200 lived in Quito, 300 in Guayaquil, 120 in

Ambato, 80 in Riobamba, 60 in Cuenca, and the remainder was dispersed throughout the country. The Asociacion de Beneficencia Israelita in Quito can thus be regarded as the de facto representative body of Ecuadorian Jewry.

Mr. Gotlib visited Ecuador in December, 1949, and during his visit achieved the affiliation of the Asociacion Beneficencia. He again spent some time in Ecuador in April-May, 1950. In January, 1951, Ecuador was visited by Dr. S. Federbusch. Dr. Federbusch had several meetings with the leaders of the Beneficencia and of the Zionist Federation in Quito and with Jewish leaders in Guayaquil. Both visits strengthened the ties of the community with the WJC.

The present situation of the WJC in Ecuador is satisfactory, and we are glad to state this. It is especially good from the organizational point of view. As is the case of visits to other countries, the Organization Department supplied the WJC emissaries with the necessary informational material. The efforts to keep this community active and interested in Jewish life must, however, be continued. The calling of a national conference of Ecuadorian Jewry will be advocated by the Organization Department, with a view to creating a Council on which representatives of all communities will sit, which will naturally be under the leadership of the Beneficencia in Quito, and whose function will be to centralize Jewish endeavor in Ecuador.

12. VENEZUELA

This is one of the very few Jewish communities in Latin America which is not yet unified, but it is steadily moving towards this goal. It is the heterogeneous composition of this young community of about 4,000 which slows up the process of its unification. During the past two years Venezuelan Jewry was visited by Dr. Federbusch, Dr. Sokal, and, recently, by I. Gotlib. There was also a constant stream of suggestions in the correspondence carried on by the Organization Department with this community. Both factors helped to bring the community much closer to a centralization of its efforts, centered especially around controversial cultural issues. We are glad to state that the last two years were years of growing consolidation and unification, and we are sure that the suggestion of the Organization Department to call a national conference of the Jewish communities of Venezuela (already accepted by the main Jewish community in Caracas, the Union Israelita de Caracas) will eventually lead to the complete consolidation of Venezuelan Jewry and more effective participation in the affairs of our global people.

For the time being, however, we have to be satisfied with increasing the number of separate affiliations. Our chief affiliate is the Union Israelita de Caracas, representing the majority of the Jewish population of the capital city, and presided over by our good friend and supporter, Isaac Kohn. In the same city the WJC has yet another affiliate, the Asociacion Israelita de Venezuela, representing the Sephardim and headed by Jose Sabal who was recently elected president, succeeding Leon Taurel. In June, 1951, during a visit of the WJC's envoy, I. Gotlib, the Sociedad Israelita de Maracaibo (president, Salomon Wigosky) affiliated with the WJC. Thereby the unification fostered by the WJC made another step forward. The number of WJC adherents in Venezuela is growing steadily. The communities of Valencia (about 250 Jews) and Maracay (about 200 Jews), both only a short distance from Caracas, follow in all practical matters the lead of the Jewish community of Caracas. With Maracaibo (about 300 Ashkenazic and Sephardic Jews) now affiliated with us,

practically the whole of Venezuelan Jewry is in the orbit of the WJC. There is only one other small community, that of Barquisimeto, numbering 8 families.

13. BOLIVIA

The WJC position in Bolivia remained basically unchanged. There are about 4,000 Jews living there, and the ties of the community with the WJC tended to become stronger.

The representative body, Comité Central Judío de Bolivia, is affiliated with us. It comprises all Jewish organizations and is headed by the presidents of these, namely, Arturo Weil (Comunidad Israelita), Salomon Cymerman, (Círculo Israelita) H.B. Lederman (Federación Sionista Unida). The Comité Central works quite satisfactorily and approaches the WJC in all important Jewish matters and events. In August, 1950, the Federación Sionista Unida of La Paz held its seventh annual convention and our Executive sent messages of greeting on this occasion. An old aspiration of the Bolivian Jewish community to have its own building was fulfilled, and the opening of the new building in January, 1951, was made the occasion for a great celebration, in which the entire community participated.

Mr. Gotlib visited Bolivia at the end of 1949 and gave his attention to organizational matters also. The holding of a national conference of Bolivian Jewry would enhance interest in the wider issues of the WJC and of Jewish life of the Golah in general. The Organization Department took steps toward this end. About the very important help recently given to Bolivian Jewry by the WJC in matters profoundly affecting their conditions of life the director of the Political Department, Dr. M. L. Perlzweig, will no doubt report. It is mentioned here as one more proof of the mutual cordial ties between the WJC and the Jewish community of Bolivia.

14. PERU

The Asociación de Sociedades Israelitas del Perú is the representative organization of Peruvian Jewry, including the Sephardic elements. Its president is Max Heller. The community numbers about 4,000. Its activities are carried on at a slow pace and rather concern local issues. The Asociación is a devoted affiliate of the WJC, but is not taking too great an interest in the broader features of Jewish affairs. However, it is willing to have a permanent WJC representative and give him all the necessary assistance.

A bulletin dealing with current WJC matters was published over a certain period by the temporary representative of our South American Office in Lima, Jose Lemor.

Mr. Gotlib paid a short visit to Peru in the fall of 1949, and Dr. S. Sokal visited the country twice - in the summer of 1949 and again in April, 1950. Both emissaries concerned themselves with organizational matters, too. On his way to the UNESCO meeting in Chile, Dr. Perlzweig made a short stopover in Lima, the capital city. The reception accorded him as a member of the WJC Executive by the whole Jewish community is proof of the Asociación's feeling of solidarity with and devotion to the WJC.

We approached the Asociación concerning a national conference and wrote about it also to Dr. Wecselman, a friend of the WJC who was a delegate to the

Atlantic City Conference of the WJC in November, 1944. We hope to realize this plan, whose object is not only to deepen the interest in local Jewish affairs, but also to stimulate the concern of Peruvian Jewry with the fate of our people in the golah.

It should also be noted here that our Warsaw Ghetto circular met with the proper response.

15. PARAGUAY

The Jewish community of Paraguay occupies a somewhat peculiar position. It has been affiliated with the WJC for many years and the Organization Department has tried to make this affiliation an active and living one, but so far we have not succeeded in overcoming its indifference and general inertia, which strongly contrasts with the vigor and activity of the majority of the Jewish communities in Latin America. Even our efforts to get reliable information about the number of Jews in Paraguay were unseccessful. We were given to understand that it could be anything from 900 to 3,000. Repeatedly, especially during the last two years, we wrote to the Union Hebraica del Paraguay in Asuncion as well as to the Union Sionista del Paraguay about various Jewish problems. Since our letters met with no reponse, the Organization Department asked our South American Office some months ago to delegate a special envoy to this country in order to investigate and remedy the situation. Dr. L. Lapaco, who is very active in our South American Office, was supposed to visit Paraguay at the time when Dr. Hellman was still in charge of that office. However, the trip did not materialize for technical reasons. The Organization Department now has received an assurance from Dr. Sokal, the new director of our S. American Office, that a special delegate will visit the Jewish community of Paraguay on behalf of the WJC and report about the situation there and about the steps to be taken to activate this community. We are confident that we shall be successful as we have been in so many other cases.

16. COSTA RICA

The Centro Israelita Sionista of San Jose, affiliated with the WJC, is headed by Idel Steinberg. Costa Rican Jewry numbers about 1,200 and is fairly well informed about the activities of the WJC. The Jewish community of San Jose, the capital, owns a building which houses several modest institutions: a synagogue, a library, and a Jewish school. There is also a small Jewish community in the provincial town of Cartago. The Jewish Center in Cartago belongs to the Centro Israelita in San Jose, which is the central body of Costa Rican Jewry. We maintain fairly good contacts with this community. Mr. Gotlib visited Costa Rica at the end of 1949 and again in the summer of 1950. A Yiddish monthly, called Central America, started to appear in San Jose under the editorship of Abraham Waldman. The political work of the WJC in matters concerning Costa Rican Jewry will be reported by the Political Department. We are glad to state that the WJC's relations with this community are steadily growing closer. This community deserves special mention for its Jewish efforts, and the visits of our envoys have helped considerably to keep its interest in Jewish affairs alive.

The Smallest Jewish Communities in Latin America
(Jewish population of 1,000 or less)

17. BRITISH WEST INDIES

(a) Barbados - This small community of 100 Jews has a Jewish Center and a WIZO organization. It contributes about \$1,000 yearly to Zionist funds. Jewish activities are very restricted. The young receive no Jewish education. The community has no Jewish teacher, for it can pay only very little. The Jews of Barbados attend divine services only on holidays. The Organization Department keeps in touch with this community.

(b) Trinidad - This island has a Jewish population of about 230, which is declining through emigration. The Jewish community of Trinidad is affiliated with us. Though very small, it has several Jewish organizations: General Zionists, WIZO, Histadruth, Keren Kayemeth, the leading organization being the Jewish Council of Trinidad. On his return trip from Brazil in January, 1951, Dr. I. Schwarzbart stopped in Trinidad and conferred with the representatives of the community at the airport. In 1951 Dr. M. Perlzweig visited Trinidad on his way back from Argentina and Chile. He, too, conferred with representatives of the Jewish community and with the Governor of the island.

18. DUTCH WEST INDIES

(a) Curacao - The Jewish community of Curacao, numbering about 600, is interested in Jewish affairs. Its leader is Rabbi Is. Jessurun Cardozo. It has a monthly bulletin Mikve Israel. The Jewish community and Club "Union", (president, Shlomo Milstein), are affiliated with the WJC and maintain contact with us. The eighth anniversary of the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising was fittingly observed. Curacao was visited by Mr. Gotlib at the end of 1949, and by Dr. Sokal in the summer of 1950.

(b) Aruba - Our affiliated organization in this small Jewish community of about 40 families is the Nederlandsch Israelitische Gemeente, whose present leader is Mr. Adolph Groder. Dr. Sokal visited Aruba in May, 1950. The response to our endeavors to activate this community is unsatisfactory due, it seems, to the fact that the Jews did not succeed in establishing themselves firmly on this small island. However, the Organization Department keeps in touch with this community which receives our informational material regularly.

19. DUTCH GUIANA (SURINAM)

The Central Committee for Jewish Affairs is affiliated with the WJC and keeps in touch with us. According to the last report, the Jewish community numbers about 400 souls and is mostly assimilated, which makes our effort to stimulate Jewish life there very difficult. Jewish school attendance is very poor. There is, however, a Zionist organization in Surinam. The Freeland Movement advocating a Jewish settlement in Surinam was doomed from the very start to complete failure.

20. EL SALVADOR

The Jewish community of El Salvador numbers about 220. The Comunidad Israelita de El Salvador is affiliated with us. Its president is Eugenio Liebes and its secretary Edgar Schoenig. This small Jewish community keeps up a Jewish

religious and cultural life; it has erected a new synagogue and has a Jewish teacher. We keep in touch with this tiny community, which appreciates the informational material we send to it.

21. GUATEMALA

The Jewish community of Guatemala numbers about 800 persons, 10 per cent of whom live in Quezaltenango and the remainder in Guatemala City. Only the Centro Hebreo de Guatemala (composed of Ashkenazic Jews) is affiliated with the WJC. Since the late Dr. Robert S. Marcus' visit to Guatemala, at the beginning of 1949, no WJC delegate has visited that country. It is our plan to have this community visited again in order to strengthen its ties with us.

22. HONDURAS

Jews started to come to Honduras in 1930. Many have since then left the country. At present there are 6 Jewish families (44 persons, including 6 children) in the capital city of Tegucigalpa. The second largest city is San Pedro Sula, where there are 8 Jewish families. The Centro Israelita in Tegucigalpa is affiliated with the WJC and receives our material. There is no synagogue, and religious services are held on the High holidays in a private house. Mr. Gotlib visited Honduras in the summer of 1950. We do not overlook even such small communities.

23. NICARAGUA

There are 35 Jewish families in Nicaragua (about 125 souls). Ninety-five per cent of them live in Managua. The Union Israelita, with 40 members, is affiliated with us. There is a Jewish school. Mr. Gotlib visited Nicaragua in the summer of 1950. Our informational material serves to stimulate the interest of Nicaraguan Jewry in Jewish affairs and events.

24. PANAMA

The Jewish population of Panama is about 1,000. The Ashkenazim and Sephardim in Panama City and Colon as well as the Dutch and Portuguese Jews in Panama City have their separate organizations. The Jewish organizations of Colon and the Ashkenazic Beneficencia Israelita of Panama City are affiliated with us. They are led by Harry Kris (Centro Israelita, Colon), Paltiel S. Abbo (Union Israelita, Colon) and Aron Eisen (Beneficencia, Panama City). Many efforts were made to achieve the affiliation of the Sephardim of Panama City and there are good prospects for success during the next visit of our delegate. There is a Jewish club in Panama City, but there are few social activities. The Organization Department maintains contact with the community. Mr. Gotlib visited Panama in the fall of 1949 and in the summer of 1950, and Dr. S. Federbusch in January, 1951. In May, 1950, the "Consejo de las Congregaciones Hebreas de Panama" (president, A. J. Lindo) was formed by the Jewish communities of Panama City, Colon, and the Canal Zone for the purpose of dealing with internal Jewish questions. We are continuing our contacts with the Consejo and hope to give you final results in our next report.

25. DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

It is worthwhile to make a few remarks here about the interesting experiment involving a Jewish settlement in the Republic of San Domingo. ~~This new~~

On various occasions the WJC conferred with Jews from there and also with representatives of the Dominican Government.

Four years ago there were about 600 - 700 Jews from various countries living in the Dominican Republic. The Government of the Republic favored Jewish immigration. Today there are only 200 - 250 Jews in what proved to be a very expensive settlement, that of Sosua. The settlement is organized, has a synagogue, a Jewish school and a hospital. Altogether there are about 65 families grouped around the center of Sosua. In Ciudad Trujillo, the capital, and in Santiago de los Caballeros, there are several more Jewish families. The once grandiose and bold settlement scheme may be regarded as abandoned. Most of the immigrants have sought permanent homes in more congenial Jewish surroundings, such as Israel, and the USA, but the remaining Jewish population is generally regarded as more or less permanently settled, though the problem of opportunities to earn a living is not yet solved. It is for this reason that more attention will have to be given to this community, which has hitherto borne a transitory character.

EUROPE

26. GREAT BRITAIN

The Jewish community of Great Britain, numbering over 400,000 souls, is the strongest in Western Europe not only numerically, but also on account of its social cohesion, institutional development, and political maturity and influence. In its internal life and problems, its concern with the affairs and interests of the Jewish people as a whole, and its leadership and guidance of the Jewish communities on the European Continent, the British Section of the WJC plays a distinct and distinguished role. The Marchioness of Reading is president, and Sidney S. Silverman, M.P., chairman, of the British Section. Dr. S. Roth is the secretary general. The British Section formulates its final policies and acts through an Executive Committee and a National Council. The British Section has among its affiliates numerous Jewish synagogues, organizations and societies; it has built up a network of Provincial Branches in the Greater London area - of which we shall mention here only these of North London, North-West London, Palmers Green, Brighton-Hove, and Southgate and District - and throughout the country; and it succeeded in establishing a WJC Youth Group with branches in a number of points in the London area, whose Central Committee is led by L. Gamsa as chairman and L. Snow as secretary. They are all integrated into the structure of the WJC British Section for joint action in major political, cultural, and communal matters and the enlistment of public opinion, Jewish and general, in the Jewish course. To this end, various Regional Conferences were held in the past two years, the most important of them having been that in Manchester on March 5, 1950, that in Leeds on November 12, 1950, and the Emergency Conference on Germany in London on February 25, 1951. In its primary task of winning the backing and active support of the widest possible circles of Anglo-Jewry, our British Section receives most valuable help from its Information Department, under the directorship of K. Baum, and from its publications such as the monthly Jewish Affairs, the weekly W.J.A. Bulletin, the Press Survey, News-Letter, Special Feature Service, etc., which are of high caliber and are widely read both in Britain and abroad. A report of the many political activities of the British Section, though extremely interesting, is not within the province of this report.

Our British Section is called upon to play an ever greater and more conspicuous role in the life and growth of British Jewry and in the cooperative texture of the WJC as caretaker of the Golah. From an organizational viewpoint, the work of our British Section has to be directed toward a paramount goal: to achieve the eventual affiliation of the Board of Deputies of British Jews as the representative body of Anglo-Jewry. The recent agreement between the Board of Deputies and the Spanish and Portuguese Synagogue regarding the latter's return to the Board, laid down the terms on which the affiliation of the Board to the WJC would be favored. The terms are stiff and complicated, but the principle of affiliation is accepted. There is another phenomenon to be considered: the role of the Anglo-Jewish Association. This organization of notables, judged by its history and select composition, constitutes another obstacle to a bold decision of the Board to espouse the idea of cooperating with the Jewish communities of the world as represented by the WJC.

But the courageous call of the Executive Council of Australian Jewry, which represents one of the Jewish communities of the British Commonwealth, urging the affiliation of the Board of Deputies of British Jews with the WJC, proves that here, too, a new trend is in the making. The traditional conservatism of British Jews, however, does not permit of a speedy development of a tendency

toward closer cooperation on equal footing with the Jewish communities and organizations affiliated with the WJC, though these bodies retain full autonomy within the WJC framework. Consequently, as long as the Board of Deputies has not formalized its ties with the WJC, the British Section must exist and carry on as an Anglo-Jewish organization in its own right. To this end, it must strengthen its structure and galvanize its many constituent bodies. A promising spirit of initiative became evident with the assumption of the office of secretary general by Dr. S. Roth. The Executive Committee, as well as the National Council of the British Section, dealt in recent meetings with an elaborate program, on the basis of proposals formulated by Dr. Roth. As to the content of future work, the followers of the British Section, both individuals and collective bodies, are to be afforded more opportunity for active participation, which will give them the feeling that they are performing a useful function in the Congress. And as to the form of future work, it was decided to set up Standing Committees for Organization, Culture, Political-Legal Matters, Community Relations, Functions, etc., to assist the Executive Committee and the National Council; to reorganize and revive the branches and to establish a London Council as well as Local Councils in all the major provincial communities with a view to coordinating and crystallizing the Congress activities of our branches and affiliated congregations, organizations, and societies; to replace the WJC Youth Group by a Youth Council of the existing organizations in order to extend the participation of this most important and promising sector of British Jewry; and to increase the number of propaganda and informational publications. It is also contemplated to declare November, 1951, which marks the 15th anniversary of the British Section, Membership Month.

27. FRANCE

The Jewish community of France, numbering about 300,000 souls, is, after that of Great Britain, the largest in Western Europe. It could and should become a beacon of light for the remnants of Jewry on the European continent. Let us give here a resume of our revived organizational work in France.

In close consultation with the Organization Department, the European Executive, and particularly its French members, are giving more and more attention to the need of organizing more centrally the atomized Jewish communities in France. The Consistoire Central des Israelites de France et d'Algerie embraces only a small section of the Jews of France, mainly those isolationist Jews who call themselves proudly the real French Jews. Of a high degree of culture, this segment of French Jewry manifested no understanding of the great issues involving the continued existence and future of the Jews as a people, though it was just in France - curiously enough, long before the advent of political Zionism - that the first "universal" Jewish organization, the Alliance Israelite Universelle, with its noble slogans, was born.

What then is the main organizational task of the WJC in France? To pave the way for unity and to deepen the sense of responsibility for Jewish interests in the Golah, in conformity with the WJC philosophy and its program of action.

The long history of this very interesting part of our people, and, what is more, the present composition of French Jewry, which consists largely of escapees from our appalling tragedy in Europe, make it very difficult but none the less worthwhile to bring about common counsel and action for revival.

Did the WJC make any progress in France during the last two years?

I am inclined to answer: Yes. It was a period of tangible progress; and though only a beginning was made, it was a good beginning.

The French members of our European Executive direct the work of the French Section of the WJC and of its Paris office. The latter publishes a monthly, La Vie Juive, a most valuable informative and propogandistic vehicle which is circulated among the French-speaking Jewish communities of Europe, Africa, and Asia. They also supervise the work of our North African Bureau in Algiers. Rabbi R. Kapel is in charge of North African affairs; Mr. Andre Dreyfus is the secretary. In implementation of a plan initiated and fostered by the Organization Department, Mr. Armand Kaplan, of our Paris office, has made gratifying progress in enlarging the network of provincial branches of the WJC which already exist all over France. Dr. G. Riegner, member of the Executive, supervises this work. This network of Congress branches embraces Regional Sections, Departmental Branches, and Local Committees in the following communities: Nantes, Tours, Orleans, Rennes, Le Mans, Angers, La Baule, St. Nazaire (Western Region); Bordeaux and Toulouse (Southwestern Region); Strasbourg, Mulhouse, Metz, Nancy, Colmar, Belfort (Eastern Region); Lyon, Grenoble, Nimes, St. Etienne (Central and Southeastern Region); Marseille, Toulon, Nice including the Cote d'Azur (Southeastern Region); Lille, Lens, Valenciennes (Northern Region); Limoges and Roanne (Central Region); altogether 28 Provincial Branches. Of the Regional Conferences in 1950 mention should be made of those in Angers on January 15, in Marseille from March 10 to 13, in Belfort on June 28, and in Lyon on July 9.

Both in conversations held with the leaders of the Federation des Societes Juives de France, our main French affiliate, and at the Executive Meeting in Paris on May 16, 1950, in which Drs. Goldmann and Schwarzbart participated, the groundwork was laid for the creation of a more representative working body of the Congress in France. As a result, the Constituent Meeting of the French Consultative Council of the WJC was held in Paris on October 22, 1950, with Dr. A. Leon Kubowitzki, chairman of the WJC General Council, participating, and the French Consultative Council was established. Salomon Grumbach, member of the French Senate and chairman of its Foreign Affairs Commission, and Mr. Dreyfus-Schmidt, member of the French National Assembly, participate in the work of the Consultative Council. The Consultative Council has set up three commissions: a political commission with Mr. Dreyfus-Schmidt as chairman; an organizational commission, with Mrs. L. Roubach as chairman; and a cultural commission, with Mr. Israel Jefroykin as chairman. All three commissions have since proved their usefulness by the volume of important work they have done.

The Consultative Council is entrusted with the task of preparing for the long over-due National Conference of our organization in France.

From the organizational angle we should like to mention the agreement existing between our organization in France and the CRIF (Comite Representatif des Israelites de France) and providing for a division of representation in political matters affecting French Jewry either on the international or the national level. In July, 1951, a newly-formed commission of the French Section of the WJC and the Alliance for joint consultations regarding action for the good of Moroccan Jewry was formed by Dr. Nahum Goldmann, acting president of the WJC, and Mr. Rene Cassin, president of the Alliance Israelite Universelle. This is another effort - one of the many - to coordinate Jewish activities in France.

Lack of space renders it impossible to give here a more comprehensive picture of the strenuous efforts and research work conducted during the past two years by the Organization Department and our European Executive to find an organizational solution to the complex question of how to organize the bulk of French Jewry so as to enable it to measure up to its great duties and opportunities. But even in a very concise report mention may be made of a new plan initiated recently by Mr. I. Jefroykin, member of the WJC Executive and President of the Zionist Federation of France, to set up a kehillah in France, a kind of democratic union of French Jewry. This plan provides for the establishment of a Committee of Social Action to comprise the Federation des Societes Juives de France, the Federation Sioniste de France, and the Sephardic communities. It seeks to found nuclei of a kehillah in all the communities, help fuse together the aforesaid three groups, and rally them around the WJC for common action on Golah problems.

We have a long way to go to bring about a solution as simple and fruitful as were the kehilloth in prewar Poland or Austria. We have a long distance to go even to unite the local Jewish communities of France voluntarily in the same way as the Union of Jewish Communities of Italy or Union of Jewish Communities of Switzerland.

THE BENELUX COUNTRIES

In this area, which geographically and historically forms a bloc and has been welded together also politically and economically through postwar treaties, the Jewish communities are confronted with similar problems which affect their very existence. With the departure to Israel of the leading Zionists and most of the active elements, the Jews are exposed to assimilationist trends and to a process of absorption into the general population partly through mixed marriages. These tendencies, fostered by relative prosperity, find their expression in a fatal lessening of the interest of these Jews in Jewish affairs in general. In the past two years our affiliates in the area - the Conseil des Associations Juives de Belgique, the Dutch Advisory Committee of the WJC, and the Consistoire Israelite de Luxembourg - lapsed into a state of apathy and uncooperativeness in spite of repeated and sustained efforts on the part of our European Executive, and especially of its Executive Secretary, Dr. S. Roth, to revive their interest in world Jewish affairs. The Organization Department is alert to the need of making these communities realize the seriousness of their local problems and share in the responsibility for the fate of our people throughout the world, and to this end is in constant consultation with our European Executive. The problem is all the more important because of the numbers involved and calls therefore for persistent vigilance on our part.

28. BELGIUM

In Belgium there are between 35,000 and 40,000 Jews, of whom over 90 per cent foreign-born. We have outlined their situation and problems in previous reports. The administrative difficulties encountered by these foreign-born Jews, difficulties which reflect unfavorably on their political status and economic opportunities and were surveyed on the occasion of visits by Dr. A. Leon Kubowitzki and Dr. S. Roth, demand action on the part of the Conseil, our affiliate, on which 21 Jewish organizations and groups are represented and which is led by Prof. Nico Gunzburg as president and J. Rosenberg as secretary general. Efforts are being made to set its Legal Commission working and to inject new life into the provincial branches of the Conseil (whose seat is in Brussels) in Antwerp, Charleroi, and Liege. An increase in emigration, especially to the U.S.A., is noticeable.

29. NETHERLANDS

In the Netherlands the present number of Jews is estimated at about 22,000, of whom 12,000 live in Amsterdam. In April, 1950, the director of the Organization Department, during a short stopover in Amsterdam on his way to Israel, made an effort to encourage our representative to organize a national conference of Jewish communities in the Netherlands for World Jewish affairs, but this plan has not yet materialized. Our Dutch Consultative Committee, to which Dr. T. P. van Raalte is attached as legal adviser, is called upon to tackle the most urgent internal problems, such as the recovery of the Jewish war orphans, defections from the Jewish fold, cooperation of the national Jewish representative body with world Jewry, etc.

30. LUXEMBOURG

In Luxembourg a recent census put the number of Jews at 870, of whom 383 are foreign-born. Our affiliate, the Consistoire, is presided over by Edmond Marx, Honorary Consul of Israel, with Dr. Henri Cerf acting as WJC liaison.

31. SWITZERLAND

Although the official figures of the census taken at the end of 1950 are not yet available, it is estimated that there are 20,000 to 22,000 Jews - including 3,000 refugees - in this democracy. They are affiliated with the WJC through the Schweizerischer Israelitischer Gemeindebund (S.I.G.), an umbrella organization of the 27 communities whose object is to safeguard and promote the common interests of the Swiss Jews and to represent them before the authorities and Jewish organizations. Its Central Committee of 15 to 20 members is headed by Dr. Georges Brunschvig, president, and Alfred Goetschel, vice-president. A supporter of the Zionist movement since its inception, the S.I.G. is confronted with the problem of finding permanent homes for the refugees. The Verband Schweizerischer Juedischer Fluechtlingshilfen (Federation of Swiss Jewish Societies for the Aid of Refugees), under the chairmanship of Otto H. Heim, copes with all aspects of the practical problems involved in the care of the refugees. Permanent asylum rights were obtained in 896 cases; more than 300 refugees were treated in hospitals and sanatoria, and a few hundred more were placed in homes for the aged. In combatting anti-Semitism and fighting discrimination, new methods were employed by the S.I.G. which founded a Press Service to inform the public about Jewish life and demands and to counteract defamatory allegations and discriminatory practices. At the 45th Annual Assembly of the S.I.G. in Lucerne on May 17 and 18, 1950, Dr. I. Schwarzbart and Dr. G. M. Riegner represented the WJC and urged Swiss Jewry to be mindful of its privileged situation and to come to the aid of less privileged communities through closer cooperation with the Congress and representation on its Executive. At the 46th Annual Assembly in 1951, Dr. G. M. Riegner again represented the WJC.

32. ITALY

The situation of the approximately 33,000 Jews in Italy, of whom 12,000 live in Rome, remained substantially the same during the past two years. The Jews are well organized in a central representative body. This body is our affiliate the Union of Italian Jewish Communities, which was under the energetic and devoted leadership of its president Dr. Raffaele Cantoni, a member of the WJC Executive. Dr. Renzo Levi, President of the Zionist Federation of Italy, acted as secretary general. Mr. Lelio Vittorio Valobra, a member of the WJC General

Council, has been appointed Israel Consul for the Genoa area. The Unione is in close touch with the European Branch of our Executive. The Organization Department maintains its contacts with the Unione generally through our European Executive Branch. The loyalty and devotion of the Unione to the WJC was strikingly demonstrated at the Fourth Congress of the Unione in March, 1951, which was attended by Dr. Gerhart M. Riegner on behalf of the WJC Executive. Tribute to the WJC for its vigorous and successful defense of the menaced rights of Jewish communities was paid by the official representative body of Italian Jewry at this Congress. More than that, in a special resolution the Unione invited the Jewish communities and representative bodies not yet affiliated with the WJC to participate in its work. A special message to this effect was sent by Dr. Cantoni to Mr. A. Cohen in his capacity as president of the Board of Deputies of British Jews.

The Unione maintains a Department of WJC Affairs. This office, under the direction of Fritz Becker, publishes a monthly, Bollettino, which has the largest circulation of any Jewish paper in Italy. On the whole, the organizational position of the WJC in Italy is quite satisfactory. The WJC respects the full autonomy of the Unione in accordance with Art. 3 of our Constitution; the Unione, for its part, is in its entirety officially affiliated with the WJC. This affiliation is not a mere formality; through its aforesaid Department of WJC Affairs the Unione regularly carries on WJC work, both organizationally and whenever the situation of some Jewish communities in the world calls for political or other help. Thus the Unione plays an active part in the WJC, living up to the principle of co-responsibility for the fate of the whole Jewish people. It vigorously combats indifference of large sections of Italian Jewry through the Bollettino and with the help of friends of the WJC in the provincial communities, where groups of WJC sympathizers were organized in the previous period (see p. 28 of our Report of July, 1949) as branches of the WJC Department of the Unione. Imbued with an exemplary spirit of responsibility toward the Jewish people, the leadership of the Unione urged larger contributions by the Jewish communities in Italy for the cultural and educational work within the Jewish communities in order to foster and develop Jewishness among the Jewish youth. When in June, 1951, this demand was not supported by a majority of the all-important Jewish Community of Rome during the election of the Executive of this community, both Dr. Cantoni and Dr. Levi resigned their posts.

At this writing, the situation is still not clear. Despite their resignations, Dr. Cantoni and Dr. Levi have not interrupted their work as responsible leaders of the Unione's Department of WJC Affairs.

33. TRIESTE, FREE TERRITORY OF

Conditions remained stationary in the local Jewish community, an affiliate of Congress, which numbers about 1,500 souls. Dr. Mario Stock and Gustavo Treves are president and secretary, respectively, of the Jewish Community of Trieste.

THE SCANDINAVIAN COUNTRIES

The center of Congress activities in Scandinavia is situated in Stockholm, where we have a well-organized and active section: the Swedish Section of the WJC, administered by an Executive Committee which consists of Akin G. Spivak, chairman; Hillel Storch, who is a member of the WJC Executive; Carl Berman; Fritz Hollander; Rabbi A. J. Jacobson; and Leo Lapidus. Miss Ellen Hilb is secretary general, having succeeded Dr. Nella Rost-Suesskind, who deserves to be commended for her excellent organizational work.

In addition to the Yediot in Yiddish, the Swedish Section publishes the Var Rost in Swedish, whose circulation has already risen to 15,000 and is distributed throughout the four Scandinavian countries, where it has become the foremost vehicle of information on developments in the Jewish world in general and on WJC activities in particular. The Swedish Section, our European Executive, and the Organization Department are in close touch with the Scandinavian Jewish Youth Federation, an associate member of the WJC, which has its headquarters in Copenhagen for the current year. At its 25th Annual Conference held in Stockholm in 1950, Dr. Aron Steinberg, director of the WJC Cultural Department, delivered the keynote address, while Rabbi Kopul Rosen, member of the WJC Executive, was the main speaker at its 26th Annual Meeting held in Helsinki in 1951.

34. SWEDEN

The number of Jews in Sweden is put at 16,500, of whom 12,000 are Swedish citizens, 500 refugees who came before 1945, and 4,000 who arrived after 1945. The Swedish Section is in touch with the Mosaiska Foersamlingen of Stockholm. The WJC congratulated the Mosaiska upon its 175th anniversary in 1950; Dr. Kurt Wilhelm, Chief Rabbi of Sweden, is a staunch sympathizer of the WJC. The Jewish Community in Malmoe is affiliated with our Swedish Section, which has a branch there under the leadership of Dir. Albert Marlow.

To show the organizational efficiency of our Swedish Section, I would like to list some its activities, which will certainly be more exhaustively described by the proper WJC departments. Our Swedish Section gives continued attention to the dangerous world-wide anti-Jewish activities of Einar Aberg in Stockholm; it has interceded with the authorities with a view to the prohibition of Nazi films likely to incite race hatred; it has established a Textbook Commission; it is represented on a special committee in support of the Paris Centre de Documentation Juive Contemporaine; it has formed a representative Working Committee with delegates of 25 non-governmental organizations and relief agencies to help indigent aliens. It is in regular touch with the refugee groups throughout the country and provides them with speakers for their meetings and other functions. Also worthy of note is its charitable work for the sick in the sanatoria. Wider circles of the Jewish community were stirred to a more active interest and participation in Congress work by visits of Lady Reading, Dr. R. Bienenfeld, Dr. Aron Steinberg, and Dr. I. Schwarzbart. The last-named called on Mr. Mossberg, Swedish Minister of Interior Affairs, in May, 1950 in the matter of Jewish transmigrants and Polish refugees.

35. FINLAND

There are about 1,800 Jews in Finland, of whom three quarters live in the capital Helsinki and the rest in Abo and Tammerfors. They are united in the Central Council of Jewish Communities in Finland, our affiliate, now under the presidency of I. Dawidkin, who was congratulated upon the assumption of his office by our acting president, Dr. Nahum Goldmann. Among the cultural institutions, the Jewish School in Helsingfors stands out for its positive educational record. Miss Hilb visited the Jewish Community in Helsinki in June, 1950.

36. NORWAY

The bulk of the approximately 1,000 Jews live in the capital Oslo, with only 40 Jewish families residing in Trondheim. Both communities are affiliated with the WJC; the former is led by Harry Koritzinsky and the latter by Leif Hirsch. As a result of Miss Hilb's visit in May, 1950, the Mosaiske Trossamfund of

Oslo set up an office for WJC Affairs, with Dr. Alexander H. Koritz in charge of coordinating Congress activities. The Trondheim community, where Rabbi Max Rubinstein is building a fuller Jewish life, appealed to Congress for cultural help and sought its advice on how to secure modification of existing Norwegian legislation which compels the Jews to import kosher meat.

A. *) DENMARK

The approximately 6,000 Jews of Denmark are well organized in the Jewish Community of Copenhagen, whose president is Karl Lachmann. In consultation with the Organization Department our European Executive and Swedish Section have been trying to bring this prosperous Jewry into the orbit of our work and to enlist its cooperation for the good of less privileged Jewish communities by WJC leaders and workers. Visits were intended to enlarge the area of understanding and succeeded in achieving a more positive attitude on the part of the community leaders and of Chief Rabbi Dr. M. Melchior. Some progress may be seen in the setting up, by the Jewish Community of Copenhagen, of a sub-committee, which is likely to deal also with WJC affairs.

37. EIRE

Our European Executive Branch is in close contact with the Jewish Representative Council of Eire (an affiliate of the WJC), whose president is Prof. Dr. L. Abrahamson. Estimates put the Jewish population in 1951 at about 5,000. In the spring of 1951 L. Keye and S. Lynn were elected chairman and honorary secretary, respectively, of the Representative Council's WJC Committee, which is now at work on plans to stimulate the participation of Irish Jewry in WJC affairs.

38. PORTUGAL

There are about 2,000 Jews in Portugal, more than half of whom live in Lisbon, the capital, where they form the Comunidade Israelita de Lisboa, an affiliate of the WJC, under the leadership of Prof. M. B. Amzalak, the famous scientist. On the occasion of a recent visit to Lisbon, Alex L. Easterman, Political Director of the European Executive, met with several outstanding Jews representing the community. The community pledged anew to close association with our work and to contribution toward our cooperative activities. Our European Executive gave the community the requested political support.

As far as internal matters are concerned, Portuguese Jewry is trying hard to halt the process of dissolution resulting from assimilationist tendencies, and partly also due to defections to Catholicism. It looks at times as if the zeal and loyalty to Judaism and to the Jewish people manifested by the Portuguese Jewish community at the end of the 15th century are flagging in the middle of the 20th century.

Among the many gratifying developments in the life of our dispersed people, this is one of the discouraging spots. It behooves us to concern ourselves with this situation and to endeavor to remedy it.

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- *) Cooperative bodies are listed in this report in alphabetical order within their respective geographical area.

B. SPAIN

There are about 3,500 Jews in Barcelona, 500 in Madrid, and small Jewish settlements in Valencia and Sevilla. The authorities granted these four communities official recognition as of December 3, 1949, giving them the status of public law bodies; in addition, they rescinded the burial restrictions and authorized Schechita. The principal Jewish community is that of Barcelona of which Enrique Bennaroya and Salomon Romano are president and secretary, respectively. The Jewish communities in Spain are not organized centrally. They are not affiliated with the WJC. Nevertheless, they are mentioned here, because the Organization Department communicates with them from time to time on matters of Jewish concern, in line with the WJC's interest in the fate of every segment of our people.

39. YUGOSLAVIA

Through its officially recognized representative body, the Federation of Jewish Communities in Yugoslavia (a constituent member of the WJC), Yugoslav Jewry does its share in seeking solutions for our people's problems in a spirit of advancement and humanitarianism. Toward the end of last year and early this year, Dr. Albert Vays and Dr. Lavoslav Kadelburg, president and vice-president, respectively, of the Federation, visited London and Tel Aviv and addressed special meetings of our European and Israel Executive Branches. From the regular and enlightening exchange of information it appears that as a result of four mass Aliyot, rendered possible through governmental cooperation, the Jewish population has further declined to about 7,000 souls scattered over 56 communities and settlements, with Belgrade (1,180), Zagreb (1,397), and Subotica (643) forming the largest centers. 6,244 Jews are registered with communal organizations, while about 700 more are not enrolled in Jewish communities. It should be stressed that the present Government of Yugoslavia, unlike some other governments of Eastern European countries, permits Jews emigrating to Israel to take with them their movable assets, and thereby facilitating their new life in Israel. Faced with new conditions and aspirations which have radically altered the social and economic structure of the Jewish community, the Federation continues to reshape the Jewish cultural life and work of the remaining Jews in the country, and keeps in touch with our European Executive.

40. GREECE

In the period under consideration the number of Jews declined from 9,000 to about 7,000, as a result of emigration to Israel. Our European Executive Branch maintains close contact with our affiliate, the Central Board of the Jewish Communities of Greece. Minos Levy and Abraham Sarfatty are, respectively, president and secretary general of the Board. Greek Jewry expressed its confidence in the WJC in a special resolution adopted at the Annual Assemblies of the delegates of its communities in 1950 and 1951. The Board cooperates with the WJC in all actions of common interest. Noteworthy is the Foundation for the Rehabilitation and Relief of Greek Jewry set up by the Government to administer the heirless property of Jews who died or disappeared during the Nazi occupation. The 9-men Administrative Council of this purely Jewish body, called O.P.A.I.E., is headed by Frederic Korniker who succeeded Ascher Moissis now Israel Consul in Greece.

41. MALTA

In keeping with the policy of the WJC not to forget even about the smallest Jewish communities, Rabbi Dr. Robert Serebrenik, of the Organization Department, while en route to Israel in July, 1949, paid a visit to the Jewish community in Malta. As a result of his visit and further correspondence of the Organization Department, Maltese Jewry affiliated with the WJC as of February 22, 1950. The affairs of the Jewish community, which is recognized by the Government, are administered by a Committee of Five, with Fortunato Habib as president and George D. Tayar as secretary. It is significant that it is the interest on the bequest of the late Chaim Pelischi, a Maltese Jew, which defrays the expenses of the synagogue, the cemetery, and the officiating rabbi. This small Jewry, believed to be the oldest in the British Commonwealth, numbers 72 - 61 Sephardim and 11 Ashkenazim - who live either in the capital Valetta or in the town of Sliema. The economic lot of the Jews, who are engaged in commerce, is that of the British lower middle class. They enjoy the respect of the general population, press, and authorities, who frustrated fascist incitements against the Jews before the war. Our European Executive Branch and the Organization Department keep in touch with Maltese Jewry.

The affiliation with the WJC removed from its isolation this small community, which readily responds to our appeals for cooperation.

C. CYPRUS

Our Israel Executive, acting in consultation with the Organization Department, contacted the Jewish Council of Cyprus led by Leo Saraph as president, Gavriel Brody as secretary, and Ezra Ginzburg as treasurer. About this tiny little community, which recently reentered Jewish history through the dramatic events during the so-called "illegal aliya" to Eretz Israel, a few words are in order. There are at present 168 Jews on the island, of whom 54 live in Larnaca, 64 in the capital Nicosia, and the remainder in Limsul and Famagusta. A synagogue and meeting house around which Jewish religious, social and cultural life will center, is - though probably only temporary - to be erected in Nicosia. The Jewish Council of Cyprus expressed its desire to become affiliated with the WJC. The director of the Organization Department has sent them an official invitation. Anselm Reiss, member of our Israel Executive, is giving special attention to this matter.

42. AUSTRIA

The position of the Jews in Austria, basically not different from that in Germany, continued to engage the attention of the agencies of Congress, which is giving them assistance by backing their claims and watching over their interests. The Union of Austrian Jewish Communities acts as a central consultative body in matters affecting the common interests of the Jews in Austria. The International Committee for Jewish Refugees and Former Concentration Camp Inmates concerns itself with aid to transmigrants. Our principal affiliate is the Jewish Community of Vienna, whose incumbent president is Dr. Wolf Herzberg. The Jewish Community of Vienna is gradually taking over the work of the WJC Office for Austria. According to reports submitted to our European Executive, which is in close touch with our Austrian affiliates and deals directly with their problems, there are about 8,000 Jewish residents in Vienna, in addition, there are 486 Jews in Salzburg, 350 in Innsbruck, 298 in Graz, and 260 in Linz.

43. GERMANY

The establishment of the Western German Federal Republic with the blessings of the Allies and of the Eastern German People's Democracy under the sponsorship of Soviet Russia cannot but deeply affect the ultimate fate of the Jews who are still in that country. The changes in the Occupation Statute, the plans for German rearmament and the gradual granting of full sovereignty to Germany have let loose a new and alarming wave of neo-Nazism and violent anti-Semitism which reduce the prospects of future Jewish life in Germany to nil. These developments led the WJC to open an office in Frankfort-on-Main as a listening post and center of information. Dr. Gerhard Jacoby, of the research staff of the WJC office in New York, was in charge from April, 1950 to January, 1951, when he was succeeded by Dr. F. L. Brassloff. This office also performs the task of reconciling the differences among the Jewish communities, communal bodies and organizations. In the performance of this task Dr. Jacoby was singularly successful. Under the auspices of the WJC a conference of our affiliates took place in Frankfort on July 8 and 9, 1950, with Dr. Jacoby presiding and Alex L. Easterman and Dr. S. Roth participating on behalf of our European Executive. A "Central Council of Jews in Germany" was formed on July 19, 1950, consisting of a Board of Four and an Advisory Committee of Fifteen, whose meetings are attended by the WJC, JDC, and JA representatives and the Israel Consul. Our European Executive Branch is in direct touch with the WJC office in Frankfort on all questions, including WJC organizational problems.

The growing deterioration of the entire Jewish situation in Germany has accelerated the emigration of Jews. In 1950 the Central Committees of Liberated Jews in the three Western Zones of Occupation wound up their affairs, after most of the camps had been closed. It is assumed that there are still about 30,000 Jews in Germany: 15,000 permanent residents, of whom 6,800 live in the two sectors of Berlin, 3,800 in the U.S. Zone, 3,000 in the British Zone, 200 in the French Zone, and 1,200 in the Soviet Zone; and 15,000 DP's, of whom 4,000 hard-core cases. It may be assumed that sooner or later the Jews will leave Germany with the exception of the old and sick and the mixed-marriage families that are a withered branch on the Jewish tree.

The political situation in Germany will be reported by the Political Department. The whole problem of Germany with its increasing wave of neo-Nazism and anti-Semitism will be included on the agenda of the September meeting of our Executive.

AFRICA

NORTH AFRICA

General Remarks

The suggestion of the Organization Department to establish a permanent WJC Office in North Africa, materialized in September, 1949, when it was opened under the directorship of Jacques Lazarus. This office recently came under the direct authority of the European Branch of the WJC Executive and notably its Paris members. However, it maintains direct communications with the Organization Department, which is thus enabled to arrange an exchange of views between the Organization Department, the European Branch of the Executive and our Paris Office in regard to the planning and implementation of our organizational program in French North Africa. Thus, a number of recommendations of

the Organization Department were successfully put into effect, such as establishing a network of local committees of our three affiliates in the French North African sphere, organizing propaganda and information tours at regular intervals, holding solemn meetings annually to commemorate the heroes of the Warsaw Ghetto uprising, etc.

On June 30, 1950, the office published the first issue of Informations Nord-Africaines which has appeared regularly ever since and is increasingly proving its value as a means of enlightening the Jews in North Africa about the activities of the Congress, and of stimulating their active participation in our work. We make it a point to commend the able and efficient direction of Mr. Jacques Lazarus.

We are glad to report that the central representative bodies of the Jewish communities in North Africa are now affiliated with the WJC and solidly behind our cause, with the exception of Egypt, where no WJC activities can be carried on at present. For French Morocco and Spanish Morocco, see the information on these countries.

The growing deterioration of the position of the Jews in North Africa caused Congress to be on the alert and to plan appropriate action for this new danger area of the Golan. This aspect will be dealt with at length in the report of the Political Department. Here we would like to stress only one factor which has a direct effect on the organizational work, namely, the growing trend to immigrate to Israel under the influence of the threatening political situation combined with an ideological desire to return to Israel. This movement can not yet attain its full volume because priority in the matter of aliyah has now to be given to directly imperiled or sorely distressed communities in the Near East, Eastern Europe, and the Balkans.

During the past two years the WJC intensified the system of sending special envoys to North Africa, which in the period under review was visited by Mr. Salomon Grumbach, Dr. Maurice L. Perlzweig, Rabbi Kapel, Dr. Riegner, and Dr. Petegorsky. Furthermore, efforts were made to hasten the setting up of provincial Congress branches in communities where they did not yet exist: to strengthen our educational efforts, and to sponsor a North African conference of Jewish communities with a view to establishing a federation of the representative Jewish bodies as a coordinating agency. I. Shebabo in Tunis and James A. Nahon in Tangiers are correspondents of our Algiers office.

44. ALGERIA

Following the opening of our North African office, the Algerian Commission of the WJC was constituted on October 23, 1949, which includes the leading personalities of Algerian Jewry and deals at its meetings with the current work of Congress. As a result of Lazarus' tours and informative conferences, local WJC committees working within the frame of the respective communities have so far been established - apart from the Algerian Commission comprising the Jewish leaders of Algiers, Oran, and Constantine - in Boghari, Duperre, Affreville, Blida, Medea, Miliana, Djelfa, Setif, Marengo, Bougie, Batna, Bone, Laghouat, Tlemcen, Biskra, Guelma, and Mostaganem, making a total of 18. This is certainly a gratifying achievement. Whether it was the Congress Week of February, 1950, public meetings organized by our Algiers office, memorial services, or visits of our envoys, the WJC always received full support from our Algerian affiliate, the Federation of Jewish Communities of Algeria, whose president, Benjamin Heler, is a member of the WJC Executive, while Algerian

Jewry is represented on our General Council by two democratically elected delegates. The Algerian Federation, which represents the 140,000 Jews of the country, reaffirmed its loyalty to the Congress and its stand by our organization's leadership in the defense of Jewish rights everywhere on the occasion of its general assemblies, and made provision in its budget for an annual allocation to the WJC. A similar resolution was adopted by the Comite Juif Algerien d'Etudes Sociales on the occasion of its annual meeting.

Our Algerian Commission is watching the precarious situation of the 2,500 Jews in the M'zab, Southern Algeria, who are still deprived of French citizenship and are therefore emigrating more and more to Israel.

45. TUNISIA

Of the North African Jewish communities the WJC has met with a particularly warm response and enjoys great prestige among the Jews of Tunisia. Our current work is regularly planned and its effect surveyed by the Tunisian Commission of the WJC, which is in constant touch with our central office in Algiers and with I. Shebabo, its correspondent on the spot.*) The WJC receives vigorous support by our affiliate, the Federation of Jewish Communities of Tunisia, which represents the 110,000 Jews of the country, three-fifths of whom live in the capital city, Tunis. At the last General Assembly, Mr. Charles Saada, head of the Jewish Community of Sfax and a member of the Grand Conseil de Tunisie, was elected president; Me Elie Nataf as member of the WJC Executive as well as two delegates to our General Council represent Tunisia on the policy-making bodies of the Congress. The Jewish community of Tunis, the largest in the country, elected Me Charles Haddad as its president. Differences between this important community and the over-all Federation are being ironed out now. In its resolutions the Federation underlined repeatedly the role of the WJC as a unifying force in Diaspora Jewry, and laid down principles for close cooperation with our organization in all fields. The work of the Federation is now facilitated by a yearly subsidy of forty million francs which it receives from the Tunisian Government. The fact that the Tunisians have begun to claim autonomy does not immediately affect the Jews; their leaders maintain very good relations with the French and the Tunisian authorities, both of whom vie for the support of the Jews. Yet the poor denizens of the Mellah of Tunis and especially the Jews of the deep South are on the move and turning their eyes to the beacon light of Israel because the growing Arab nationalism is depriving them more and more of jobs, markets for their products, and means of self-support. Particularly the Jews of the Island of Djerba off the southernmost tip of Tunisia's East Coast, allegedly the most ancient Jewish community in the Diaspora, have only one desire: to emigrate to the Jewish State as quickly as possible.

*) Their support, and especially that of Me Elie Nataf, enabled Jacques Lazarus, on his various visits to Tunisia, to set up communal branches of the WJC in Sfax, Sousse, Kef, and Ferryville. A first group of "Friends of the Congress" who pay individual membership dues, was established in Sousse. In addition, Mr. Felix Allouche, director of the Hebrew Hour of the State Post "Radio-Tunis," and the Jewish and non-Jewish press carry the message of the WJC to the wider public.

46. FRENCH MOROCCO

The specific conditions in this French Protectorate, which still denies its 225,000 Jews full equality of rights, have occupied the attention of the Organization Department for years. With the establishment of the North African office in Algiers, we devised, after consultation with the European Executive and its Paris members, the principles of a vigorous course of action to broaden the basis of the Congress position in this country, where we previously had a WJC Committee only in Casablanca, founded on the morrow of our War Emergency Conference of November, 1944. In the wake of several visits undertaken by the director of our Algiers bureau, more local Congress branches were established in Fes, Rabat, Meknes, Marrakech, Sefrou, Port-Lyautey, Oujda, and Safi. In the presence of Jacques Lazarus, delegates of these local WJC committees met in Casablanca on December 17, 1950, for their General Assembly, established the Central Moroccan Committee of the WJC, elected Is. D. Abbou as its secretary general and liaison with Algiers and Paris, and introduced the system of individual membership. On December 19, 1950, Salomon Grumbach arrived as a special envoy of the WJC, was received in Casablanca by a delegation of the newly formed Central Moroccan Committee, discussed the main features of a "Cahier de Revendications" with the responsible Jewish leaders of Casablanca, Rabat, Meknes, Fes, and Marrakech, where he was first accompanied by Jacques Lazarus and later by Andre Dreyfus of our Paris office, and on December 25 saw General Juin, the French Resident General in Rabat, thus inaugurating the action of Congress for the improvement of the legal and juridical status of Moroccan Jewry. To give the final touch to the "Cahier de Revendications," on whose first draft special sub-committees had been working, the Central Moroccan Committee met in Casablanca on February 25, 1951. On the basis of these proposals our Paris Office prepared a summary of our demands in behalf of Moroccan Jewry; since then conversations took place between representatives of the WJC, especially Dr. Nahum Goldmann and Salomon Grumbach, and Mr. Rene Cassin, president of the Alliance Israelite Universelle and others of its leaders, with a view to joint action in Morocco.

While we consider it our immediate objective to make our Central Moroccan Committee more and more representative, we are not losing sight of our ultimate goal to achieve the affiliation of the Conseil des Communautes Israelites du Maroc, the officially recognized representative body of the approximately 50 Jewish communities, which is still dominated by the Alliance. As for immigration to Israel, the largest contingent of the 10,000 immigrants from the countries of the French sphere last year came from Morocco.

D. SPANISH MOROCCO

We refer you to our previous report on this community. The Jewish population of Spanish Morocco dropped from 15,000 to less than 14,000 as a result of aliyah, which is tolerated by the authorities and channelled through Tangiers. The main impetus to emigration comes from the desperate poverty of most of the Jews. In the various communities 40 to 70 per cent are living on charity or are supported by public funds; the remainder are poor middle-class, while only a small group can be termed as well-to-do or even wealthy. Skin ailments and tuberculosis are common; some government help is extended by means of medical assistance and milk for school children. The Jewish community of Tetuan, the capital of Spanish Morocco, is led by Isaac R. Benarroch and Moises A. Hassan, president and vice-president respectively. The leadership of the community is subject to confirmation by the authorities. There are some Spanish-Hebrew schools, but they suffer from a lack of qualified Hebrew, Bible, and Talmud

teachers. Last year, the Government founded the Maimonides Rabbinical Seminary in Tetuan. A vocational school called "Or Hayeladim," receives support from the Jews in Venezuela. In a letter of May 10, 1950, the Jewish Community Council of Tetuan applied for affiliation with the WJC. The Organization Department, in conformity with our preliminary decision, informed the Tetuan Community Council that the matter would be discussed at the next plenary meeting of our Executive, and suggested that in the meantime they keep in touch with the WJC in Jewish matters. Acting on our advice, the Tetuan Community Council declared its readiness to form a central Jewish representative body which would include delegates of the seven major communities of the Spanish Zone. - In view of the recent change in the attitude of the United Nations in regard to diplomatic relations with Spain, the Organization Department invited the European and Israel Branches of the Executive to give us the benefit of their opinion on the whole matter. In accordance with our previous stand, the matter will now be reviewed by the Plenary Meeting of the Executive scheduled for September.

47. TANGIERS, INTERNATIONAL ZONE OF

The Jewish Community of Tangiers, an affiliate of the WJC, stands out in that it is the only one among the three parts of Morocco where the Jews elect their representatives in a free democratic way and have their delegates in the Legislative Assembly of the Zone, in accordance with the International Agreements of 1924. The Committee of the Community is led by Joe Hassan and James M. Nahon, president and vice president, respectively, while Carlos Nesry assists the latter as local correspondent for our North African office. Regular contact is maintained with our Tangiers affiliate by the Organization Department and our North African bureau whose director, Jacques Lazarus, visited the Jewish Community in the International Zone in November, 1949, and is planning to go there again in the near future with a view to strengthening the position of Congress. For 80 per cent of the Jews in the International Zone who are practically without stable means, Israel is the only solution. To date their number has decreased through aliyah from 12,000 to 10,000. The Tangiers community, which has preserved intact the Sephardic rites and traditions, needs help to maintain its essential educational and charitable institutions, such as the Jewish Elementary School with an enrollment of 1,200 boys and girls, the Jewish Hospital, which is open also to Moslems, the anti-tubercular dispensary, the Rabbinical School, etc.

LIBYA

The last two years witnessed the unification of Tripolitania and Cyrenaica into the state of Libya and the proclamation of the Emir of the Senoussis as King of this new independent Moslem country. This development confronted the central representative Jewish bodies in both parts of Libya, which are affiliated with the WJC, with a completely changed situation. The Organization Department, which is in frequent communication with them, puts on record the understanding and cooperation that mark the relations between our Libyan affiliates and this department. Both communities often use the Organization Department as a channel to pass on their various requests to other WJC departments and to the Israeli authorities. A few remarks about the communities themselves, now going through one of the most radical changes in their history.

48. TRIPOLITANIA

In the period under consideration the number of Jews declined from 28,000 to about 9,000 as of April, 1951. The 14 communities of the Interior, which comprised about 7,000 Jews, have been dissolved, and of the remaining 9,000 who are concentrated in Tripoli, the capital city, thousands are registered for emigration to Israel. It is estimated that by the end of 1951 about 2,000 will remain, which figure includes 750 families representing the hard core of the old and sick. The Comunita Israelitica della Tripolitania, which is presided over by Moshe Nahum and led by him and a small band of co-workers in a spirit of praiseworthy devotion, maintains good relations with the Libyan Government and was represented at the proclamation of the King of Libya. The community requested Dr. I. Schwarzbart to represent Tripolitanian Jewry at the forthcoming Sephardic World Congress, to which it addressed a report lauding the WJC for the work it had done and was doing through Dr. Maurice L. Perlzweig, its Political Director and Special U.N. Consultant, to uphold and safeguard the interests and rights of the Jewish minority before the General Assembly of the U.N. and its agencies as well as in approaches to its member states.

49. CYRENAICA

Not more than about 330 Jews are left of the original 5,400. They are now living in the capital Benghazi, with the exception of 2 families in Derna and one in Barce. The Comunita Israelitica della Cyrenaica, whose president is Saul Legziel, maintains a public school with Arabic, Hebrew and English as languages of instruction. Its teachers are, like the lone Dayan, paid by the Government, but those teaching religious subjects are paid by the community. The Olim are allowed to transfer their capital to Tripoli whence they proceed to Israel.

The great historic process of the "ingathering of the exiles," mentioned earlier in this report as one of the phenomena affecting the WJC structure has had its full impact on these two Jewish communities, too.

Central and South Africa

50. BELGIAN CONGO

Most of the approximately 1,500 Jews in Belgian Congo are immigrants from the Isle of Rhodes, proud of their origin, true to the Sephardic traditions, economically well off, and playing a leading part in the business life of this Belgian colony. They are represented by the Congregation Israelite du Katanga, our affiliate in Elizabethville, under the presidency of Elie Alazraki. Although geographically isolated from world Jewry, they manifest in their outlook and contributions a keen interest in the development of the State of Israel and in world Jewish affairs. During the visit of Alex L. Easterman to Belgian Congo in the fall of 1949 it became evident that they intend to make their association with the WJC a reality. The Organization Department is in regular communication with our Belgian Congo affiliate and supplies its leaders with informative material likely to stimulate their participation in certain Congress actions. Maintaining good relations with the authorities, they intervened in several instances successfully in favor of the admission of Jewish girls from Rhodes who had survived the Nazi concentration camps, and in behalf of Jews of Egyptian origin who were confronted with residence difficulties during the War of Liberation in Israel.

51. KENYA

There are about 800 Jews, many of them settlers dating from the days of the Uganda Project, in this part of British East Africa. There are Jewish communities in Nairobi, the capital, Mombasa, Nakuru, and the Eldoret-Kitale district, which are organized in a representative body, the Board for Kenya Jewry, an affiliate of the WJC. Its president, I. Somen, is also acting as Honorary Consul of Israel and its Immigration Officer for East Africa. The efforts of the Organization Department to obtain more active participation on the part of Kenya Jewry in the work of the Congress, have been greatly helped by a visit of Alex E. Easterman, member of the WJC European Executive.

52. ERITREA

Following a visit by Dr. A. Leon Kubowitzki in March, 1949, the Organization Department contacted the leaders of the Jewish community of Asmara and after frequent correspondence and fruitful exchange of views was able to bring about the entry of this remote and long forgotten community into the organizational structure and cooperative effort of the WJC. The affiliation of the Eritrean Jewish Community was ratified as of January 3, 1951. Since the establishment of the State of Israel, 280 Jews left for the country that had always been for them the Land of Promise. In this former Italian colony there are now about 220 Jews, of whom 160 are of Adenite origin, 145 Sephardim and 15 Ashkenazim, all residing in the capital city, Asmara. They are mostly small merchants, traders, and goldsmiths, at present facing a serious economic crisis which turns their eyes more and more toward Israel. The Community, whose president is Shoa Menahem Joseph, maintains a synagogue, a Beth Din, and the King George VI Jewish School with an enrollment of 15 pupils. Cultural life is centered in the Israeli Club in Asmara, which is led by Yahudah S. M. Joseph and receives help from the WJC in the form of Hebrew books, newspapers, and magazines. According to Mr. Joseph, the Jews are pleased with the resolution of the U.N. General Assembly which made the federation of Eritrea and Ethiopia effective. His reports to the Organization Department stress the support given by the religious and political leaders of the Coptic Church to the Jews during the War of Liberation in Israel and following the proclamation of the Jewish State, which support helped eliminate the threats of the Arabs in Eritrea.

E. ETHIOPIA

The Organization Department is in constant touch with H. M. Howard, president of the Jewish Community Addis Ababa, who represents the Jews before the authorities. The Yemenite Jews, who in former years constituted the bulk of the community, have left for Israel while those remaining - not more than 100 in all - are about 70% Sephardim of Adenite origin and 30% Ashkenazim, living in Addis Ababa, the capital, and in Dire Dowa. The Adenite Jews maintain the "Succat Rahamim" Synagogue and administer the affairs of the tiny settlement, in which work they hardly have any support from the Jews of European extraction who reside in different parts of the capital. The Jewish Community of Addis Ababa is about to follow the example of its sister community of Eritrea and affiliate with the WJC.

As for the Falashas, whose number is variously estimated at 10,000 to 60,000 - they live in the mountainous northern part of the country around Gondar. In its concern for this ancient tribe of our people, the Organization Department in the fall of 1949 contacted prominent Falashas, among them Prof. Taamrat Emanuel, Economic Adviser to the Ethiopian Legation in Paris, and Tadesse Yacob,

Director of the Tax Department in Addis Ababa. On the basis of the documentation obtained, Dr. Schwarzbart initiated conversations on the Falasha problem in New York with Dr. Jacques Faitlovitch, who is well known for his pioneering work among the Falashas and serves as Director of the American Pro-Falasha Committee. In Israel Dr. Faitlovitch was joined in the spring of 1951 by H. M. Howard, our Addis Ababa contact, in negotiations with the Israeli authorities for the wholesale transfer of the Falashas to the Jewish State.

Italian and British Somaliland

Both small Jewish communities are no more. During 1949-1951 the last remnants left for Israel, this closing an exotic chapter of Jewish wanderings. The same may be noted in regard to

French Djebouti

The last three Jews left for Israel during this period.

F. RHODESIA

The approximately 4,000 Jews in Southern and Northern Rhodesia are united in the representative Rhodesian Jewish Board of Deputies, with headquarters in Bulawayo. This community is very active in Jewish affairs. Although independent, the Board is closely connected with the South African Jewish Board of Deputies and follows it in Jewish matters. This state of affairs explains why Rhodesian Jewry has not yet entered into formal association with the WJC although its leaders, among them C. Jacobs, president of the Board, have expressed themselves in favor of affiliation with the WJC, as they did during the visit of Alex L. Easterman. Recognition, however, has been given to the WJC through financial support. Through a regular supply of informative material the Organization Department keeps in touch with the representation of Rhodesian Jewry.

Tanganyika and Nyasaland

The emigration of Jewish refugees from Nazism who had found an asylum in these territories during the war, was completed during the last two years. They left, mainly for Israel. There are no more Jews in Tanganyika and Nyasaland.

G. UNION OF SOUTH AFRICA

In origin and positive Jewish outlook the approximately 104,000 Jews of South Africa constitute one of the most cohesive Jewish communities in the Diaspora, and in their economic standing, deep attachment to the historic objectives of the Jewish people, self-assurance, and spirit of sacrifice they are one of the most valuable segments of Jewry. Having their principal communities in Johannesburg (30,000), Capetown (12,000), and Durban (5,000), they have created a vast network of religious, social, cultural, and charitable institutions, and have achieved unity of organization and representation in a central body, the South African Jewish Board of Deputies, of which B. Ettlinger is president and S. Kuper chairman. The South African Jewish Board of Deputies is not, or rather is not yet, affiliated with the WJC, the main reason being the specific local conditions. The Organization Department maintains contact with the Board on a basis of exchange of information, as well as with the major Jewish institutions and the Jewish press in the country with a view to promoting more knowledge and understanding of the Congress and of its work for the good of

the Jewish people on an international scale. In 1949, Alex L. Easterman spent two months in South Africa on a mission for the WJC. In our 1949 report, we said: At this writing, Mr. Easterman's efforts are still in "progress." Here we can state with satisfaction that his visit not only served to bring the message of the WJC to large circles of the Jewish community and the press, but succeeded in substantially enlarging the number of our friends among the leaders of the Board.

The relations of the WJC with some of the leaders of the South African Jewish Board of Deputies were further cemented in conversations with our British Section on the occasion of the above-mentioned Conference of Jewish Communities of the British Commonwealth.

In a special resolution the South African Jewish Board of Deputies recognized the important contribution of the WJC in promoting the welfare and security of the Jewish people and, in accordance with its established policy of cooperation in the pursuit of this object, increased substantially its allocation to WJC. In August, 1950, Dr. Nahum Goldmann, our acting president, had the opportunity of widening the area of understanding and sympathy for the WJC among South African Jewry.

Yet our organizational task in South Africa remains essentially the same, namely to continue unswervingly our efforts to bring about the affiliation of the South African Jewish Board of Deputies. It is one of the main objectives of the Organization Department.

ASIA

H. TURKEY

Profound changes took place in the life of this ancient Jewish community during the past two years. One factor responsible for these changes is of an external nature: the emergence of the State of Israel. Since the founding of the Jewish State approximately 33,000 Turkish Jews have immigrated to Israel, of whom 20,000 came from Istanbul, 8,000 from Izmir, and the rest from the provinces. According to most recent reports, dated June 8, June 16, and July 3, 1951, received by the Organization Department, the Grand Rabbinate of Turkey estimates the number of the remaining Jews at about 60,000 to 65,000, of whom 50,000 to 55,000 live in Istanbul, 6,000 in Izmir, 1,000 in Ankara, 1,000 in Edirna, and 2,000 more in the provinces. The other factor which has its impact on Jewish life in Turkey, is of an internal nature: the election of a democratic government. The effect of this democratization made itself felt on the Jewish scene, too. The Grand Rabbinate, which is recognized as the official representative body of Turkish Jewry, filled the vacancies in its Lay and Religious Councils by means of democratic elections; its General Council is now composed of a Lay Council of 60, with Dr. Samuel Abrevaya as president and Yusuf Salman as secretary general, and a Religious Council of 20 headed by Rabbi Raphael Saban. The important post of chief rabbi has been vacant for about 20 years. Acting on the work and findings of a Special Commission entrusted with the task of elaborating a modern statute for the position and attributes of the future Grand Rabbi, the WJC through its Organization Department helped the Grand Rabbinate by supplying it with information on the organization of religious life in other countries. The Jewish Communal Councils were reorganized in 1950/51 and held their first democratic elections.

In the field of education the Turkish authorities have permitted optional religious instruction in Jewish public schools, and are now considering the demand for increasing the number of hours assigned to the teaching of Hebrew. In letters to the Turkish Ambassadors in New York and London the WJC has expressed its appreciation of the liberal measures enacted by the Turkish Government. The Grand Rabbinate is continuing informal conversations with the authorities in an effort to obtain the approval of the Government for its affiliation with the WJC, the consummation of which is still held up by existing legislation forbidding local institutions to affiliate with organizations having their seat abroad.

The Organization Department maintains most friendly relations with the Grand Rabbinate and regularly exchanges views with it on all current problems. The three Jewish weeklies in Istanbul Le Chalom, La Luz, and L'Etoile du Levant publish news of Congress actions in defense of threatened Jewish rights and interests, and thus help to acquaint wider circles of Turkish Jewry with Jewish problems and needs throughout the Diaspora. The Organization Department is following with particular interest the progress of this community of growing importance to the fate of our people.

The Near East Countries - For the Jews in this area Shivat Zion, the ingathering of the exiles that began with the creation of the State of Israel, has become a greater reality than for any other part of our people. For them whose hearts and minds were always turned to the Promised Land, the hour has struck after 2000 years which were frequently darkened by suffering and degradation. They are all on the move toward Jerusalem; most of them have already attained freedom and security in the Jewish State; the others will follow in the near future and, thus bring to a conclusion the historic process of homecoming which will spell the virtual liquidation of the ancient Jewish communities of the Near East. After the 5th of Iyar, 5708 (1948) when the State of Israel was proclaimed and the War of Liberation began, a wave of insecurity and actual danger to life and property enveloped these Jews for whom our Political Department spoke up before the United Nations and in continuous submissions to and interventions with its leading member states. This state of affairs, which is still prevalent in this area, explains why the direct contacts of the Organization Department with the WJC affiliates in the Near East were few and slight in the period under consideration. Where contact was maintained, this was possible because of the good offices of the Jewish Agency and especially thanks to the sustained efforts of our Israel Executive Branch, which also established close relations with the landmannschaft organizations of the Jews from Near Eastern countries now in Israel.

53. In LEBANON about 5,000 Jews are left, who are represented by our affiliate, the Conseil Communal Israelite de Beyrouth, with Joseph Dishy and Dr. J. Attie serving as president and vice-president, respectively.
54. In SYRIA where the Conseil Communal Israelite de Damas, presided over by Elie Mizrahi, is a constituent member of Congress, the number of the remaining Jews is estimated at about 4,000. Of the ancient and historic Jewish community in IRAQ, numbering 140,000 in 1948, more than 105,000 have already been removed to Israel, and the tempo of transfer is being accelerated.
55. The 100,000 Jews of IRAN in whose capital Teheran we have a WJC Committee led by M. Senehi and Dov Adiv as chairman and secretary, respectively, are getting ready for aliya to Israel. After the magic-carpet transfer of more than 53,000 Jews from YEMEN, only a few thousand are left in that country.

56. In ADEN, British Arabia, the Jewish community, led by Armando Nassim and B. J. Yaich as president and secretary, respectively, is affiliated with the WJC. The approximately 1,000 Jews in Aden and a similar number in the Western Protectorate, who have been assisted by the WJC in their claims for protection and restitution after the tragic pogroms, are all that is left of the original 7,100.

57. INDIA

Since 1949 the number of Jews in this vast sub-continent has decreased, as a result of aliyah to Israel, from 25,000 to 22,000, of whom 16,000 live in Bombay and Province, 4,000 in Calcutta and the Bengal, and 2,000 in the Cochin and Travancore States. As regards origin, the Jewish population is clearly divided into three sections: the native Bene-Israels, who form the overwhelming majority (about 70%) and are mostly poor; the Baghdadi Jews, wealthy merchants and industrialists, who immigrated during the last 80 years; and the Continental Jews (about 1,000) who came to India from Germany and Poland in the wake of Nazims. But as regards Jewish consciousness and cooperation these three sections are getting together in their communal bodies for a common search for ways and means of preserving their particular way of life and protecting their rights and interests. All the three representative bodies are affiliated with the WJC, to wit: the Central Jewish Board of Bombay, with Dr. E. Moses as president, Meyer Nissim as chairman, and P. S. Gourgey as honorary secretary; the Jewish Association of Calcutta, with Lady Rachel Ezra as president and E. Gubbay as honorary secretary; and the South Indian Jews Association of Cochin, with S. S. Koder as president and K. N. Simon as general secretary. They cooperate regularly and most understandingly with the Organization Department in all matters of general concern. Thanks to their arrangements, WJC activities are reported frequently in the Jewish press, of which we single out The Jewish Advocate, the oldest Jewish paper in India, published by the Zionist Association with seat in Bombay; the Shema, organ of our Calcutta affiliate, edited by M. S. Elias; and India and Israel founded after the proclamation of the State of Israel and edited by W. F. Pollack.

Two years ago, the Organization Department took the initiative in calling for the creation of a unified central representative body and requested Bombay, Calcutta, and Cochin to take appropriate steps to achieve this paramount organizational objective. A long correspondence ensued. There were difficulties in the way. But as a result, consultations have been held among our three affiliates which reached an agreement in principle; at this moment, they are making preparations to convene the constituent assembly of an "All-India Jewish Council." We are glad to state the cordial character of our mutual relations and the identity of our views in regard to the "All-India Jewish Council."

I. PAKISTAN

After an interruption of 2 years, made inevitable by the repercussions of the rise of Israel on this Moslem state, the Organization Department recently resumed contact with the Jews in this country, of whom only 400 are left in Karachi, where they form a community, the Synagogue Magen Shalome, headed by Simon A. Reuben. Our Bombay affiliate and the London Office are assisting the Organization Department in its endeavor to bring about the eventual affiliation of the Pakistani Jewish community.

J. AFGHANISTAN

The 5,000 Jews in this bottle-neck country - most of them Afghan citizens - were compelled, a few years ago, to concentrate in the capital Kabul and in Harat. In keeping with their deeply religious outlook and traditions, they have maintained ties with the Land of Israel. While the Organization Department could not establish direct contact with our brethren in this far-away land, the Political Department made repeated representations to the Afghan diplomatic representatives in Washington and London to have the ban on Jewish emigration removed, and to the Pakistani authorities to have transit visas granted to Afghan Jewish transmigrants en route to Israel. Mr. H. Cynowicz' good offices deserve mention.

58. BURMA

The Musmhea Yeshua Synagogue Committee of Rangoon, the only Jewish community in the country, has been affiliated with the WJC since February 16, 1950. Its Board of Trustees consists of E. S. Meyer, president; J. S. Meyer, treasurer; and S. Jacob, secretary. The Musmhea Yeshua Committee, which represents all the Jews in the country and maintains good relations with the authorities, endeavors to strengthen the religious life of the community and to improve the educational facilities for Jewish children. The Israeli Club is the center of social activities. Of the originally 550 Jews - all Sephardim stemming mainly from Near and Middle East countries - about 200 have left for Israel and other parts. Aliyah to Israel has been temporarily stopped except for the 18 - 25 age group. The Jews are engaged in trade and are in fairly good circumstances. Difficulties arise from what might be termed an anti-white and anti-alien policy which makes it practically impossible for the Jews to find jobs with governmental institutions and enterprises; yet, there is no question of anti-Semitism. The Far Eastern situation, which is a source of anxiety, gives further incentive to emigration. The remaining Jews - the trustees of our Burmese affiliate are planning to take a new census - hope to take advantage of the prospect that the trade relations between Burma and Israel will be put on a firmer basis. - The Organization Department keeps in constant touch with this, one of our most recent affiliates.

59. INDONESIA

Another shrinking community among our affiliates is that of Indonesia. The 1,700 Jews, forming local communities in Djarkarta, Bandung, and Soerabaia, are organized in the Vereniging voor Joodse Belangen, with E. Keller zealously in charge of the difficult work. The president of the Vereniging is Dr. I. Abram. Recently a tendency became apparent in non-Indonesian circles - and not only among the Europeans but the Chinese and Hindus as well - to leave the country. Some anti-alien feelings together with increasing economic difficulties

are responsible for the growing exodus, though among a population of nearly 60,000,000 the exodus is numerically negligible. Some of the resident Jews are going to Israel. Since leading members of the Jewish community tend to emigrate more and more, the difficulties which the Board of the Vereniging encounters in the performance of its religious, social, cultural and administrative tasks are naturally growing. The Organization Department maintains contact with E. Keller, the treasurer of the Vereniging, to help in the reorganization of the community and in the establishment of a working agreement between the Vereniging and the Zionistenbond. A joint publication of the Vereniging and the Zionistenbond is planned.

60. HONG KONG

In the period under consideration no significant changes have occurred in this Jewish community of about 100 souls. The administration of the Jewish community, a WJC affiliate, is headed by the trustees Albert Raymond and Sir Lawrence Kadoorie. The "Ohel Leah" Synagogue is the scene of religious life while the Jewish Club, rebuilt 1½ years ago, is functioning as a center for cultural and social affairs. Political developments, however, are creating a lack of confidence in business, and many are thinking of sending their families away, should matters reach a more acute stage. The last groups of Jewish emigrants from China are being processed in Hong Kong, where the Israel Government has opened an Emigration Authority for this purpose with Lawrence Kadoorie and W. Citrin, former director of the Palestine Office in Shanghai, in charge. - The Organization Department maintains an exchange of views with the Hong Kong community on various matters including the Sephardic World Congress, and Commemoration of the Warsaw Ghetto uprising.

K. THAILAND

Dr. F. Jacobsohn, our contact in Thailand, succeeded in forming a Jewish community in Bangkok, the capital, and was elected chairman of its Provisional Committee. The older nucleus of the community is made up of Jews from Near East countries, mostly Iraqis and Syrians, as well as of Russian Jews, and German Jewish refugees of the Hitler period. The community was successful in straightening out with the authorities the passport difficulties of the White Russian Jews from Shanghai in transit to Israel. Because of trade difficulties and the political situation the trend toward emigration is continuing. The number of Jews has shrunk from 105 to 65, including about 10 American Jewish traders of temporary residence. Dr. Jacobsohn is also in charge of the work of the Relief Committee for European Refugees. - Without its ties with the WJC this community would feel lonely and isolated.

L. SINGAPORE

There are about 1,000 Jews in this British Crown Colony, with a few more Jewish families living in Penang and Negri Sembilan, two major cities in the Malay States. D. S. Marshall was successful in his efforts to unite all the synagogues, educational institutions, and charitable societies and to form for the first time in the history of this community an over-all representative body under the name of "Jewish Welfare Board, Singapore," which obtained official recognition. Upon its creation this body began the publication of a periodical, ~~the~~ J.W.B. Bulletin, which gives a fair picture of local conditions and carries news of the worldwide Jewish scene. Also worth mentioning is the "Habonim" in Singapore, a Zionist youth organization, much along the lines of

the Habonim movement in England and South Africa; it publishes a news sheet Kadimah, and has sent the first groups of Olim (emigrants) from Singapore to Israel.

The Organization Department is in frequent touch with the Jewish Welfare Board to which it directs a steady stream of informative and documentary material to be channeled to wider circles through the J.W.B. Bulletin and other media of popularizing our organization, its aims, and activities. Stressing the need of Singapore Jewry to establish closer ties with the Congress, the director of the Organization Department initiated an exchange of views with D. S. Marshall, president of the Jewish Welfare Board, who is sympathetic to affiliation.

During a stopover on his way to Australia in December, 1950, Dr. Maurice L. Perlzweig, met with the leaders of the Singapore community, to whom he briefly reported on the current actions of the Congress.

M. CHINA

The Organization Department spent a good deal of energy in organizing the scattered Jewish communities in China after 1946. With no small success. But in the course of well-known events by the middle of 1949 the disintegration of Chinese Jewry became ever more pronounced; the total Jewish population dropped to about 5,500 through emigration to Israel and other countries. Around that time the China Section of the World Jewish Congress automatically ceased to exist. Subsequently, the Council of the Jewish Community in Shanghai, a newly formed body representing all sections of the Jewish population, took over the responsibility for the care of the remaining Jews with funds supplied by the IRO, the JDC, and the local communities themselves. The Organization Department was in close touch with The Far Eastern Palestine Office of the Jewish Agency which wound up its affairs in January, 1951, and is now in contact with the Council of the Jewish Community in Shanghai, which comprises 3 representatives of the Juedische Gemeinde, 3 of the Ashkenazic Jewish Communal Association, 1 of the Sephardic Jewish Communal Association, 4 representatives at large, and 1 of the Israel Government ex officio, with R. D. Abraham serving as chairman. In a recent report to the Organization Department the Council estimates that there are at present about 1,090 Jews in Shanghai, 400 in Tientsin, 90 in Dairen, and 300 in Harbin. Assuming no major international change a further 400 persons will emigrate through the port city of Tientsin, while the remainder either have no chance of resettlement or intend to stay on in China. - The task here is to help Chinese Jewry within the limits of our means.

N. JAPAN

Shortly after the cessation of hostilities the Organization Department turned its attention to the Jews who emerged from refuge or confinement in some parts of the war-stricken country, and encouraged them to reorganize Jewish life. In these efforts they were and are most helpfully assisted by the U.S. Army Chaplains, particularly the Rabbis Meyer J. Goldman and Kalman L. Levitan, and by our friend Dr. M. Moiseeff, with whom we have maintained a constant exchange of advice and information. It is estimated that there are at present about 1,000 Jews in Japan, and their number is still growing, partly through the influx of refugees from North China and Shanghai. They have succeeded in reconstituting Jewish communities in Tokyo, Yokohama, Kobe, and Osaka. The Tokyo community, the most important among them, is led by Sam Rosentool, president, and Leon Greenberg, secretary; it maintains a club for social

gatherings and cultural affairs, and conducts services in the Army Chapel Center, but is on the point of acquiring its own building. At the suggestion of the Organization Department, the 4 communities on April 26, 1950, established a central representative body, the Jewish Community of Japan. To demonstrate that the Jews in Japan are conscious of their ties with world Jewry, the Executive Board of the Jewish Community of Japan, headed by Sam Rosentool, decided unanimously in June, 1951, to affiliate with the WJC and to move at its forthcoming full membership meeting in September for the ratification of the affiliation. - The Organization Department is also in contact with the Japan-Israel Cultural Association one of whose directors recently visited the United States and saw leaders of the World and the American Jewish Congress.

61. PHILIPPINES

The Organization Department receives close and constructive cooperation from our affiliate, the Jewish Community of the Philippines. Its administration is led by president Hyman M. Levine, vice president Ezra H. Toeg, and secretary treasurer Ernest E. Simke, the Honorary Consul and Immigration Officer of Israel in the Philippines. With the money received as a result of a claim for war damage to its property caused during the Battle of Manila, the Temple Emil Congregation rebuilt the Bachrach Memorial Hall as a center of social and cultural activities. Since 1949 the Jewish population has decreased from 530 to 370 registered members of the community. In addition, there are about 100 more Jews living in the Philippines who either do not wish to belong to the community because they are married to non-Jews and have no interest in Jewish life, or those who, like many American businessmen do not expect to stay in the Islands permanently. Import and Exchange Control restrictions are causing hardship to business and prompting many Jews to leave the country and go mainly to Australia and Israel.

Our affiliate issues a monthly Information Bulletin which gives a fair picture of the various facets of Jewish life and work, reports regularly about Congress activities, and thus strengthens the ties of the Filipino Jews with the affairs concerns, and tasks of the Jewish people. Worthy of note is the moral and material support given by this small community to all Israeli causes.

AUSTRALIA

62. COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA

By December, 1950, according to recent estimates, there were 51,345 Jews in the Commonwealth of Australia, of whom 25,000 lived in Victoria, 21,000 in New South Wales, 3,000 in Western Australia, 1,500 in Queensland, 600 in South Australia, 200 in Tasmania, and 45 in the rest of the Federal Territory. This means an increase of 46 per cent over 1946, when Australian Jewry numbered 35,000. But along with the numerical increase during the past five years, there was an even greater growth in terms of Jewish consciousness, self-assertion on the national plan, and active participation in shaping the fate of our people as a whole. It was able to achieve this position thanks to the energetic and inspiring leadership of its central representative body, the Executive Council of Australian Jewry, which is officially recognized by the authorities and has for its constituents the well-organized and over-all Jewish State Boards in the aforesaid six parts of the Commonwealth. The present administration of the Executive Council of Australian Jewry, whose headquarters

are in Melbourne, is led by Ben M. Green, who has succeeded H. B. Newman and M. I. Ashkenasy as president, and by W. M. Lippmann, the honorary secretary. The Executive Council of Australian Jewry has not only rendered notable service in helping to strengthen and develop the ideals of Australian democracy, but has made a distinguished contribution to the advancement of the Jewish cause in Israel and elsewhere. It is playing a creative role as a loyal affiliate of the WJC in maintaining and expanding our voluntary association of autonomous communities which is based on a common faith in the common destiny of the Jewish people the world over. The Executive Council of Australian Jewry, which is represented on the WJC Executive by M. I. Ashkenasy, is eager to render assistance to the WJC through approaches to the Australian Government and in matters involving public relations generally. In closest cooperation with the WJC, the E.C.A.J. asked the Australian Government to use its good offices to have the right of petition included in the International Bill of Human Rights, and to ratify the Genocide Convention; it is setting an inspiring example by its endeavors to help safeguard the foundations of democratic life and by its determined fight against the admission of "Volksdeutsche" into Australia. The services of the E.C.A.J. in respect of facilitating Jewish immigration to Australia have won wide recognition. During his visit to Australia in November, 1950, Dr. M. L. Perlzweig discussed with the E.C.A.J. all major questions covered by the work of the WJC in the U.N. Appreciation of his visit was expressed in a special resolution at the last Annual Conference of the E.C.A.J.

Reaffirming the stand taken at its Annual Conference of June 10/12, 1950, E.C.A.J.'s Federal Assembly of June 23/25, 1951, adopted a resolution expressing admiration for the work carried on by the WJC and urging the continuation of close and regular contacts between Australian Jewry and the Congress.

The Organization Department of the WJC satisfied this desire by maintaining a continuous exchange of reports and information. In its more recent letters it conveyed to the E.C.A.J. the idea of setting up in each of the six Jewish State Boards a liaison or a sub-committee to propagate information on Congress activities and thus to popularize our program and work among the Jews of Australia. In its Monthly Gazette, whose first issue appeared in August, 1950, the E.C.A.J. devotes ample space to the WJC and its activities on the international level. But the other Australian Jewish publications, such as the Australian Jewish Herald, Australian Jewish Review, The Hebrew Standard, Ivriah, The New Citizen, Sydney Jewish News, Yarchon, The Zionist, and YMHA News also publish Congress news.

A striking proof of Australian Jewry's devotion to the WJC and its understanding of the leading place which the Congress occupies in world Jewry is afforded by the fact that the delegates of the E.C.A.J. to the Conference of Jewish Communities in the British Commonwealth in London, July 16/28, 1950, endeavored to bring about a rapprochement between the British Board of Jewish Deputies and the WJC with a view to the Board's affiliation with the latter.

O. NEW ZEALAND

The Organization Department continued its contacts with New Zealand Jewry. There are about 5,000 Jews in this British Dominion, comprising two major communities in Wellington and Auckland and two smaller ones in Dunedin and Christchurch. The Council of Wellington Jewry, headed by Charles Weinstein as president and J. Benjamin as secretary, did excellent work in the period under review, but did not succeed in achieving its main objective, viz., the forma-

tion of an over-all representative body of New Zealand Jewry, because of the continued opposition of the Auckland community, which is different in its composition and approach to Jewish affairs. Responding to the call of the Organization Department, the Executive Council of Australian Jewry used its good offices in trying to bring about unity among New Zealand Jewry and to achieve its affiliation with the WJC. At present the Organization Department is concentrating on the task of bringing the Council of Wellington Jewry into the fold of Congress as a first step toward the formal association of this privileged Jewish community with the WJC for the good of New Zealand Jewry itself and of the wider Jewish interest represented by the WJC.

Pending Affiliations

The foregoing detailed account of our organizational activities with regard to and in each individual country shows that as a result of our efforts it can safely be expected that the Jewish communities of Brazil, Japan, Cyprus, Ethiopia, and Spanish Morocco will enter into formal association with the WJC before long while those of South Africa, Rhodesia, New Zealand, Singapore, Denmark and Spain remain the target of our endeavors to secure their eventual affiliation.

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Circular Letters by the Organization Department (July 1949 - July 1951)

In addition to the day-by-day special correspondence with affiliates and individuals, the Organization Department sends out from time to time general circulars. Their topics reflect the multi-faceted activities and concerns of the Organization Department, and it is for this reason that they are listed in this report. As regards our affiliates in Europe, these circular letters are as a rule sent to them through the European Executive Branch, which is in charge of that area.

1. October 4, 1949. Request to all affiliates for a report on their activities. (Sent also in Yiddish, Spanish, French, and Hebrew)
2. November 28, 1949. Letter to the members of the WJC Executive and WJC General Council, including the Graphic Report, 1948-1949 and "Achievement and Challenge" of the American Jewish Congress.
3. February 27, 1950. Request to our affiliates to make preparations for the commemoration of the seventh anniversary of the Warsaw Ghetto uprising.
4. April 10, 1950. Request to our affiliates to apprise Jewish women and youth organizations of Congress activities.
5. May, 1950. Circular letters to the smaller Jewish communities in Latin America regarding their specific needs.
6. June 26, 1950. Request to our affiliates to use inter-affiliate visits as a means of strengthening inter-affiliate relations.

7. July 21, 1950. Information on preparations for the Sephardic World Congress to the Executive Branches and the officers of the WJC, including the minutes of the meeting on the same day with Simon S. Nessim, President of the World Federation of Sepharadi Communities.
8. November 3, 1950. Letter to our affiliates re the Sephardic World Congress. (Also in Spanish and French)
9. December 28, 1950. Second request to our affiliates to acquaint Jewish Youth organizations with the work of Congress, as well as to contact our offices when on visit to the U.S.A., and to keep us advised about the results of elections to the governing bodies of our affiliated communities or organizations.
10. February 19, 1951. Two circulars concerning the observance of the 8th anniversary of the Warsaw Ghetto revolt, and urging our affiliates to explore the possibilities of having non-Jewish organizations join in the memorial exercises.
11. March 16, 1951. Copies of the report of our European Tracing Office sent in Spanish and English to our affiliates.
12. April 18, 1951. Circular re the agreement between World Jewish Congress and Jewish Agency, sent to our affiliates.
13. April 18, 1951. Request to our affiliates to make known the names of their delegates to the Sephardic World Congress.

SECTION III

CONCLUSIONS AND SUGGESTIONS

A. CONCLUSIONS

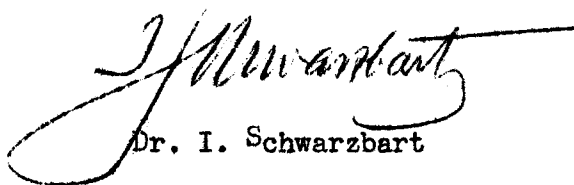
1. Despite the events and changes outlined above (pp.10-12) the WJC continued to be the leading Jewish inter-territorial organization. None can compare with it in size or in variety of activities, in achievements and worldwide recognition. But the changes outlined still have their impact on WJC's work. Nor is it only those changes outlined above. For example many individuals from Jewish communities, especially from the large new immigrant-centers in Northern and Western Europe, are emigrating from that continent, thus joining the movement already in progress from Africa and most of Asia. Even the Jewish community of France, but recently a center of Jewish immigration from Eastern and Central Europe, manifests tendencies toward emigration. The reasons for it are manifold. This phenomenon constitutes one more factor which complicates the organizational work of the WJC in behalf of the Jewish people.
2. But the philosophy of the WJC remains valid as the great cohesive force for the scattered fragments of the Jewish people in the Golah.
3. The WJC was and continues to be a vital necessity for the Jewish people.
4. Today more than in the last two years it is incumbent upon the WJC, especially upon its Israel Executive Branch, to propagate among the Jewish population of the State of Israel the firm, unshakable, and lasting awareness that the Jewish people is one. It is the Congress' paramount duty not to permit a cleavage or estrangement between Israel and the Golah, with its glorious past, I empasize the word "past". This, of course, can be achieved not by slogans, but by the fulfillment of the WJC's mission, through a well-elaborated program of action.
5. The widening and deepening of the WJC organizational structure depends mainly on the following:
 - (a) An increase in WJC activities in behalf of the Jewish communities outside Israel in the political field, such as the prevention and warding off of dangers to Jewish groups and interests as far as this is possible; and an increase in our work in the cultural field with a view not only of preserving Jewishness through institutions built mainly by the communities themselves but also of sustaining the feeling of Jewishness and the spirit of solidarity as well as of organizing and channeling cultural help from large and rich Jewish communities to those which are destitute and isolated.
 - (b) Success in arousing in communities living in satisfactory conditions a sense of duty to help improve the material and cultural lot of less fortunate communities.
 - (c) Better understanding and active support by the World Zionist Organization and its constituent bodies of the aims and activities of the World Jewish

Congress as the leading body functioning in the Golah for the security and welfare of the Jewish people. No rivalry, no conflict between the idea of Kibbutz Galuyoth - the ingathering of the exiles - and the idea of strengthening the positions of Jewish communities in the Diaspora should be tolerated, let alone fostered. The development not only of these communities but also of the State of Israel depends on strong Jewish communities in the Golah, and no weakening or hasty or panicky liquidation should be encouraged. More than ever before there is need of harmonious cooperation of the Zionist organizations and the WJC affiliates. The process of Israel's numerical growth, which can, of course, develop mainly through the ingathering of the exiles should proceed normally, naturally, by way of ideological conviction and not by way of Katastrophenpolitik advocated by some elements in the Zionist movement.

- (d) Devising regular and dependable sources of income to implement these WJC ends. These sources will grow parallel with vigorous and persistent propaganda and action by us in regard to the tasks mentioned in the three previous points.

I belong to those who believe - B'emuna Shlema (with perfect faith) - in the raison d'etre and the great mission of the World Jewish Congress and in the possibility of the World Jewish Congress continuing as the great constructive factor in the Golah. There is one condition only: to change optimistically and resolutely from a defensive role to a positive and vigorous offensive.

The Jewish people is ripe for it.


Dr. I. Schwarzbart

New York, August 15, 1951

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